



The White Pine Gazette

A Quarterly Publication for the Friends of Toft Point

<https://www.uwgb.edu/natural-areas/toft-point-natural-area/friends-of-toft-point/>

Volume 78

Spring 2025

Dear Friends,

The eagle's nest is down. In early April, I went for a hike at Toft Point and, as usual, stopped on the trail near the gate to search out the eagle's nest in the tall white pine. I checked and rechecked. Perhaps I was in the wrong spot to see it. But no, strong winds apparently pushed the nest down. Now what? Will the eagles return and rebuild? Move? Were they injured in the storm? What?

In searching for the eagle's nest, I noticed some new structure high in a nearby white pine. This seemed to be more than just a dead branch or two. Perhaps the eagles were building a new nest nearby -- a few trees to the right of the old nest. We will see what happens.

Roy and Charlotte Lukes had once written in the July 2009 edition of *Door County Living*:

"My initiation to wildlife in Door County, including both plants and animals, began in the summer of 1964. My friend and outstanding mentor, Miss Emma Toft, sadly informed me that the Bald Eagles no longer nested after the late 1950s at Toft Point near Baileys Harbor as they had for many years. Similar to what had happened in many areas of North America, the eagles had been killed by DDT..."

"What provided members of the Toft family, and others, with great pride and satisfaction is knowing that the Toft Point White Pine forest was the last known successful nesting site for the Bald Eagles in Door County in the late 1950s and also the very first known successful site to be re-established in the early 1990s in Door County."

Fortunately, DDT is banned and the eagles have returned to Toft Point—free to nest in the tall white pines.

The storms had also knocked down a few trees across the trail, which we reported to UW-GB. Andrew LaPlante and his crew from the UW-GB Cofrin Center have already cleared those trees.

Overall, the trail was in great shape. Soon, perhaps right now, the spring ephemerals will appear.

...Continued on page 2

Save the date!

Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch
will be
Saturday, August 16th
at the
Baileys Harbor Town Hall

Please mark your calendars
to join us for a
noon potluck
with our annual meeting
immediately following.

More details in the summer newsletter.

President's Message

Continued from page 1...

The FOTP Stewardship Board held its first meeting on April 15. We welcomed two new directors to the Stewardship Board: Sam Hoffman and Paul Schumacher. We now have a full crew of committed volunteers. I am grateful for the diverse backgrounds of our Stewardship Board directors. All share a deep abiding interest in caring for Toft Point.

Sandy Miller is organizing the docents to start their work of providing a "caring presence" at Toft Point, but we have room for more docents. Some docents commit to a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. Others volunteer when their schedule permits. So, if you would like to serve as a docent, please let us know. No special expertise is required. As a bonus, Dr. Keir Wefferling from UWGB-CCB, leads docents on a nature hike to learn more.

Other volunteers will be needed when we tackle some additional painting and maintenance on the cabins later this year. Contact me at 414.332.6201 or james.cauley@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Finally, the Annual Potluck and Meeting of the Friends of Toft Point is set for Saturday, August 16 at Baileys Harbor Town Hall.

Thanks for being a Friend of Toft Point.

Jim Cauley, President, Friends of Toft Point Stewardship Board

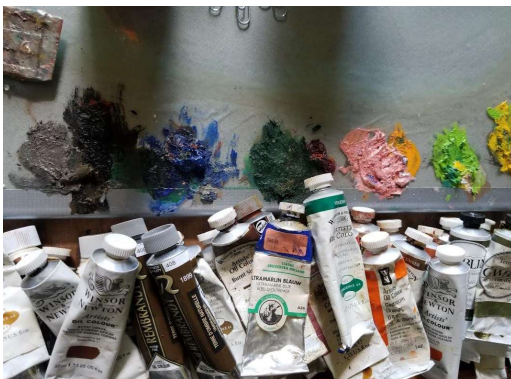
Remembering Jim Ingwersen

Jim Ingwersen was a nationally renowned portrait artist. He passed away in April at the age of 96.

Jim wanted me to attend the ceremony at The Ridges Sanctuary in 2019 when he donated his painting of Miss Emma Toft to The Ridges. He became a Life Member of the Friends of Toft Point that day when I told him about our organization.

Roy and I had lunch at the Ingwersen home on January 1, 1972, the day we became engaged to marry!

Charlotte Lukes



I visited Jim Ingwersen's Door County studio in July 2019 and found his pallet ready to use!

Jude Kuenn



Welcome New Stewardship Board Members

Welcome to our two new Stewardship Board members!
Here are their replies to the questions:

1. When was your first visit to Toft Point?
2. What's your favorite thing about Toft Point?
3. Why and/or how did you become involved with The Friends of Toft Point?



Sam Hoffman
FOTP Secretary
Term expires 2025

My first visit to Toft Point was in 2018 when I was a graduate student at UW-Green Bay working as a restoration assistant with the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity. I had the opportunity to visit first as part

of a bioblitz survey, and then several more times to work on ecological projects such as invasive species removal.

The forest. It's a magical feeling walking amongst the towering trees that were intentionally preserved in such an incredibly scenic location on the shores of Lake Michigan. The combination of ecological diversity and beauty are stunning, and it truly feels like you are transported back in time.

My familiarity with Toft Point and the people involved there has grown since my first visit in 2018. My role as Land

Manager at The Ridges Sanctuary has inherently increased my interest in the preservation and stewardship of the broader landscape. I believe Toft Point is an incredibly special cultural and natural resource that deserves protection, but also to be seen and experienced by others. For that reason, I am honored to be able to serve to support the mission of the FOTP Stewardship Board.

Paul Schumacher
FOTP Board member
Term expires 2025



My first visit to Toft Point was in the early 1980s and involved a scouting trip for deer hunting. My buddy, who knows the Point very well and I spent at least four hours hiking about.

My favorite things about the Point are the awesome hemlock and white pine trees, and the mossy ground cover. The boreal forest and underlying rock substrate are great.

I became involved with the Friends group through an acquaintance. I've previously worked with the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, and I treasure the historic buildings at Toft Point. They are a glimpse into our past.

Spring Azure by Julie Roenigk



Spring walk at Toft Point, just the kind of day we yearn for
while we wait with hope for the air to have a hint of warmth.

Just a hint, enough to bring a shy smile.

Azure blue, like the sky, like the water, only it's the sky in the water.

Like the butterfly who lands in a patch of
sunlight on my path.

He has clouds, illusions, on his wings.

He carries the sky with him.

And I imagine the butterflies are smiling, too.



Thanks for your beautiful poem, Julie!
(See page 6 for
another delightful read.)

Herbarium Collects Biodiversity by Jude Kuenn and Dr. Keir Wefferling

Your local library is a treasure trove of resources for community learning. An herbarium is remarkably similar. Instead of books, it is a collection of dried plants that are pressed flat, mount-

ed onto archival paper, curated, studied, and stored in a temperature-controlled environment for research and teaching. More exclusive than a library, there were just over 3,500 herbaria in the world as of 2023.⁽¹⁾ These are exceptional assets for scientific study and reference, usually affiliated with universities,

museums, or botanical gardens. Historically, some were private collections. The oldest herbarium dates to the 1540s when Luca Ghini, a doctor and botanist who taught at the University of Pisa, Italy, started pressing and preserving plants. Today, the world's largest herbarium is at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England, started in 1759.

An herbarium is a repository of plant samples (or vouchers) preserved for long-term study, usually in the form of pressed and dried specimens. A collection can include loose seeds, wood sections, DNA extractions, cones, ferns, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, algae, fungi, and lichens.⁽²⁾ Each specimen has information about its



Organized filing is critical in sample cabinets.

identity or name, collection locality, collection date, ecological notes, environmental niche, and notes on whether it is threatened or endangered. Each specimen is assigned an accession number, which functions like a

catalog number. An herbarium collection captures biodiversity, which is especially important as climate changes are impacting species and their environments.

Why is biological diversity essential? Referring to all earth's living organisms, biodiversity encompasses the precious variety of life - from plants, animals, fungi, and micro-organisms - to the complementary ecosystems they form. Each component plays a role in life's intricate web, as it interacts in its environment and with other species. An ecosystem is most stable when all its parts are intact and thriving.

The Cofrin Center for Biodiversity on the UW-Green Bay campus was established in 1999 and— in addition to managing several natural areas in northeastern Wisconsin— houses the Richter Museum of Natural History and the Fewless Herbarium.



Mary Ann Cofrin Hall, home to CCB UWGB Campus photo

The Herbarium is named after Gary A. Fewless, an emeriti curator whose career spanned 33 years. His commitment and dedication mentored hundreds of students in Plant Taxonomy, Wetland Ecology and Field Botany. Fewless helped to build the collection, which is comprised of over 90% native to Wisconsin. With over 45,000 vascular plant specimens and a growing bryophyte collection (mosses and liverworts), the Fewless Herbarium is described as one of Northeastern Wisconsin's most important botanical research centers.⁽³⁾

Today's Herbarium Curator is Dr. Keir Wefferling, Assistant Professor and Botanist at UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity. He continues the tradition of mentoring students in the field of botany. One of the current projects in the Fewless Herbarium is digitizing specimens. This huge undertaking makes exchanging or loaning specimens with other herbaria easier and allows users to quickly search for a specific plant specimen online. Other CCB colleagues are Dr. Mandy Banet, Director; Sam Betancur, Camps and Outreach Coordinator; Erin Giese, Associate Director; Andrew LaPlant, Natural Areas Manager; and Dan Meinhardt, Richter Museum Curator.

Herbarium Collects Biodiversity *(continued)*

Don't be surprised when you see these folks with students at Toft Point, studying and documenting the natural area's rich biodiversity.



The Cofrins

Photo courtesy of UWGB

Philanthropists and friends to UWGB, David A. (1923-2009) and Mary Ann (1924-2022) Cofrin made several financial gifts allowing the University to create the campus Cofrin Memorial Arboretum, library, performing arts center, and

a School of Business Endowed Chair. They were close friends with UWGB's founding chancellor, Edward Weidner (1921-2007).

The campus named a special building in honor of Mary Ann in September of 2001. The Mary Ann Cofrin Hall was considered one of the 'greenest' buildings ever constructed with state funds, combining the best in sustainability and energy-generating technology. Its foyer plaque reads: "Mary Ann Harn Cofrin: friend of education, the arts, and the environment." The building is the destination for the Carl Richter Museum of Natural History, the Fewless Herbarium and is headquarters for the Cofrin Center of Biodiversity.⁽⁴⁾ CCB's mission: "... to promote education, scientific research, land protection and stewardship, and community services that contribute to conservation of the western Great Lakes fauna and flora."

The Friends are grateful for our strong partnership with the CCB Team, and the ongoing scientific support they provide to Toft Point's ecosystems.

Sources:

- (1) University of Florida Herbarium: <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/herbarium/>
- (2) Purdue University Herbaria: <https://ag.purdue.edu/departments/btny/herbaria/index.html>
- (3) University of Wisconsin Green Bay: <https://www.uwgb.edu/herbarium/>
- (4) UWGB: <https://news.uwgb.edu>



Dr. Keir Wefferling walked a group from The Ridges through the Fewless Herbarium in March as part of an educational day's excursion.



This 1904 photo of the Thomas Toft family was taken on the unfinished front porch steps of their home in Baileys Harbor.

All of the children except the youngest (Elsie) were born at Toft Point.

Top row, L to R: Olive, Samuel, Mary and William.

Bottom row, L to R: Ludy, father Thomas, Elsie, mother Juleyanne and Emma.

More News, FOTP Stewardship Board and Membership Report

UWGB student and CCB Natural Areas crew Leader

Sam Gerarden will be working on his capstone project this upcoming field season to complete his master's degree in Biodiversity Conservation and Management. Sam's project aims to gain a better understanding of invasive species' presence and distribution at Toft Point.

More specifically, Sam will be focusing on upland plant communities and species like garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), and garden valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), a few species that we know to exist at Toft, but not the full extent of their presence. Sam will also be monitoring for other invasive species that may exist at the Point, but have not yet been identified.

Andrew LaPlant, *Natural Area Manager*

Do you enjoy meeting people and making them feel welcome? Do you have a special place in your heart for Toft Point? Are you a history buff who would enjoy sharing the history of Toft Point? Or are you looking to spend more time at Toft Point to enjoy its nature, peace and serenity? If you said 'yes' to any of the above, being a Toft Point docent is for you!



Whether you volunteer once a week or once a month, this is the perfect opportunity for you to share your knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for Toft Point. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Friends of Toft Point docent, contact Jim Cauley at james.cauley@gmail.com or Sandy Miller at millesj27@gmail.com. On-site training and written materials are provided to all persons who volunteer as a docent. And you can start any time during the season, May through October.

Sandy Miller, *Docent Coordinator*

Spring Hummers *by Julie Roenigk*

Born naked, cupped in a small, soft bed made with such tender care. A nesting place prepared in advance of birth; moss, plant down, feathers, and spider silk to bind the parts together, connecting it to a safe and secure foundation for the start of life. Tiny and dependent, nurtured to stretch and grow, to spread wings and take flight. To hum with the delight of discovery, of scent and sight and taste of the vast variety of life; of trumpet creeper, cardinal flowers, bee balm. To stretch again and savor the rich array of other sources of nourishment, gnats, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders. Building resiliency for what lies ahead in a future full of settings that will nurture as this one has. To move beyond this place of beginning hidden in the dense woodlands of Toft Point, to open fields, blossoming meadows. To cross a map of coral, yellow, and blue, from prairie to plains to desert to tropics. Flying from the mountains to the seas, Mauka to Makai, showing us that everything is connected and interdependent, that variety is vital and enlivening for all life and our earth-island we all call home.

Stewardship Board

Jim Cauley	President	2026
Mitch Leavitt	Vice President	2025
Tom Hollingshead	Treasurer	2026
Sam Hoffman	Secretary	2025
Kurt Kiefer		2027
Dave Link		2027
Sandy Miller		2027
Paul Schumacher		2025
Marsha Wilson		2026

Dr. Mandy Banet, Director

UWGB Cofrin Center for Biodiversity

Andrew LaPlant, Natural Areas Manager, CCB

Dr. Keir Wefferling, Assistant Professor and Botanist,

Curator of the Gary Fewless Herbarium, CCB

Charlotte Lukes, Membership

Jude Kuenn, Newsletter

Membership Report

as of 4/30/25

Annual Members	205
Life Members	191
Total	396

New Annual Members

- Sam Hoffman, Sturgeon Bay, WI
- David and Jane Raben, Sturgeon Bay, WI
- Paul Schumacher and Deb Logerquist, Sturgeon Bay, WI



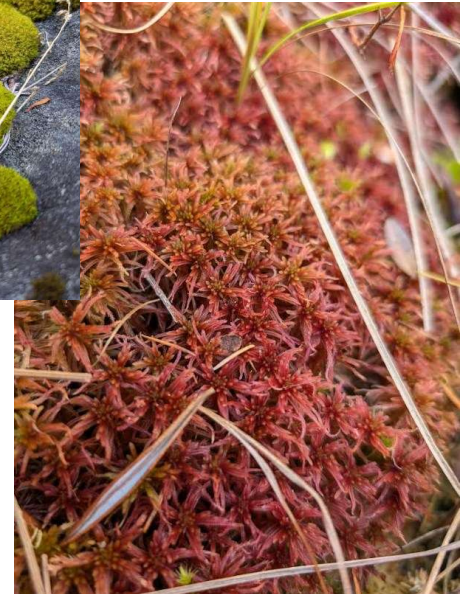
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Roy Lukes photo

Friends of Toft Point Membership Form

Are you interested in helping to preserve this important natural area? Consider joining the Friends of Toft Point. This group provides docents to monitor trails and assists visitors. They also remove invasive plants and help in the maintenance of trails and historic cabins on the grounds. The organization raises money to fund projects and offer a research scholarship for UW-Green Bay students to study site biodiversity.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help with annual August meeting and potluck _____
- Invasive plant removal _____
- Serve on Stewardship Board _____
(six meetings per year)
- Trail docent (training provided) _____
- Trail maintenance (supervised crew) _____



Return with membership form, or contact Jim Cauley at 414.332.6201 or james.cauley@gmail.com if interested in helping.

*Above: Tortella tortuosa (moss)
Right: Sphagnum warnstorffii (peatmoss)
Both found in Door County
Photos provided by Keir Wefferling*



Your membership includes:

- The quarterly *White Pine Gazette* Newsletter
- An Invitation to the Annual Meeting
- Opportunities to volunteer

UW-Green Bay Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit organiza-

tion.

All dues and donations are tax deductible, as provided by law.

Please make check payable to:
UW-Green Bay Foundation—FOTP
Mail to:
UW-Green Bay Foundation
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311-7001

Date _____ Email Newsletter? _____ Yes

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Membership Categories:

- \$ 10 Single Annual
- \$ 20 Family Annual
- \$250 Single Life (payable in two annual installments)
- \$400 Family Life (payable in two annual installments)

Additional Contribution \$ _____ **

** Please select category for gift to be applied:

- _____ Annual Fund
- _____ Invasives Endowment
- _____ Operating Endowment
- _____ Student Research



Friends of Toft Point
 c/o C. Lukes
 3962 Hillside Road
 Egg Harbor, WI 54209

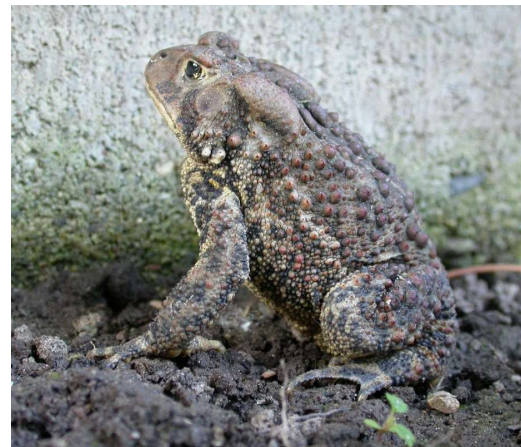
Mission Statement: To support the management plan of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to help preserve the flora and fauna of this property and to help educate visitors about the natural history and the Toft family history of this State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark.

This is a pristine and fragile area with rare plants and biota. Because of this, please do not bring dogs or other pets, drive beyond the designated parking area, wander outside the trail, camp/picnic, smoke or build a campfire, or bike. Parking is very limited so if the lot is full, please carpool from Baileys Harbor Town Hall to help minimize visitor impact to the site.



Spring peeper. The hand helps show the size of this small amphibian.
Roy Lukes photo

Other Friends of Toft Point!



American Toad. *Roy Lukes photo*



Left: Leopard Frog. *Roy Lukes photo*