



HE CARVED A NAME FOR HIMSELF HERE *by Libby Cameron*

As a child, the late Ron Tepley's teacher yelled at him for whittling away in the school room on Douglas Avenue. Luckily, he didn't outgrow that habit! Ron donated wood carvings to our Conservancy auction and picnic. He was a true and talented craftsman who made chainsaw carvings of bears and eagles, and hand-carved award-winning waterfowl decoys and birds of prey. He took 3rd in the World competition at Ocean City, Maryland with a golden eagle carving. He spent 32 years as a Racine Firefighter, and carved in his niche there during time off. His work was in the Denver Wildlife Museum and sold through a rep in Michigan and elsewhere. Metal work, welding, painting; he could do anything.

Ron also supported the CC by mowing the Trout Ponds/Prairie every year. He faithfully mowed the land adjacent to his on Five Mile Road. That property was recently donated by the Ehrlich daughters in memory of their parents, so is now part of the Caledonia Conservancy Greenspace Trail. We locals also knew Ron for the tall wooden totem pole,

Cowboy, and larger-than-life Sea Captain sculptures that were seen from the trail. Over on Highway 31, Ron lovingly crafted the big Racine County Pony Club sign, since his granddaughters Randi and Jamie both ride, and his daughter Sharon Bradshaw continues to volunteer there. People support the Conservancy in many ways, and we appreciate all of it! Ron and his late wife Margo were friends to many, and we'll miss them.



*Left: Bird of Prey carving
Right: Kestrel carving; Ron was a falconer and kept a live kestrel.*



*Above: Tiny Sea Captains
Right: Ron's colorful carving shack*





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The winter to spring transition is especially welcome this year. The challenges of winter are melting away as our enthusiasm grows for warmer days and more activity. This is fortunately much like our pandemic “winter” that is also in transition as we see brighter days are not quite in hand but growing closer. Our gratitude and appreciation for spring and the revival of life that comes with it, is shaped by the challenges and absences that winter brought before it. I am

grateful to take part in an organization that has prevailed through hardships as a result of all of you. Dedicated, skilled, and passionate volunteers; generous contributors; and our amazing executive director.

Until we meet again, best wishes and good health to all.

Matt Johnsrud



Sandy DeWalt reunites Cindy Weiss with her quilt.

THEY QUACKED THE CASE! *Lost & Found Quilt Saga*

Last fall Jeff & Jorga Kania found a handmade quilt mysteriously out in the Trout Ponds/Prairie. It was all wet and full of mud so it must have been there awhile. They brought it back to the parking lot and placed it on the kiosk bench. It sat there for some time until local quilter Nancy Pierce stopped by to take a look at it. Nancy was happy to find a tag on the quilt saying: “Windowpane quilt made especially for my Dad Nick

Capuano by Cindy Weiss Christmas 2004.” Sandy DeWalt took it home, washed it and did some mending on it. Nancy got on Facebook and found that Sandy’s daughter Terri was a friend of Cindy Weiss. Terri contacted the Cindy she knew but found out there are two Cindy Weiss’s in Racine. Sandy tracked down the Cindy that made the quilt. She had not known it was missing! Her daughter had taken it out of the closet,

CC Event Calendar

Mr. T Owl Contest
May 1 – Oct 31, 2021

Bird Walk
May 1, 2021

Spring Flower Walk
May 29, 2021

Spring Online Auction
June 4 - 13, 2021

Equine Trail Sports Obstacle Event
July 24, 2021

Mane Event
August 28, 2021

Equine Trail Sports Obstacle Event
September 18, 2021

Find-the-Fairy-Door in Tabor Woods Year Round

Visit our website to stay up-to-date:
caledoniaconservancy.org

went for a walk at the Trout Ponds with her child and didn’t realize that the quilt had fallen out of the stroller. Cindy was so excited to get it back!!! Thanks to all of the people that went out of their way to help a lost quilt find its way home.



WHAT'S UP AT KING'S CORNER *by Wendy McCalvy*

There was a lot of change last fall at Kings Corner. Having received a generous donation from Susan Smith, daughter of King and Toni Ehrlich who had long owned this land, the committee planned a Memorial Garden in honor of Terry Tollaksen. Terry was very active in our horse community and with the Conservancy. After he passed away last spring, Susan wanted to honor him. We first hired Josh of Environmental Trees to clear brush, buckthorn, and dead ash trees from behind the parking area.

Next we hired Drew Ballantyne to plant about 100 all-native trees and bushes, according to Susan's wishes. They were thoughtfully selected by Marcia Wensing of the committee to fit our soil and area. We then over-seeded the plantings with oats and some prairie seed to avoid erosion and further naturalize the area. Thanks go to Mariani Nursery who donated to Marcia a large and unusual Chinquapin Oak. A large Maple came from Thomas Tree Plantation, planted

and cared for by Randy himself. We engaged Milaegers to water everything a couple of times before frost. This year we will be adding educational signage to identify these natural plantings. Watch this spring for many of the bushes to bloom.

Plans are progressing well on child-play installations in many places on King's Corner. Barb Hugier is using a lot of ingenuity as she leads this part of the subcommittee's work.

The Board has approved making a Master Plan for King's Corner to guide us in future work. Many past materials like the Stewardship Plan, the development plan accepted by the Caledonia Village Board, the wetland delineation, and a study by Parkside students will be compiled into an overall plan to complete an element of CC's strategic plan for each property. It will begin with a focus group to spell out Conservancy's goals for this property. Anyone interested in providing their input

into this stage of the plan should call Wendy McCalvy at 262-639-5749. The subcommittee is seeking all the input it can. (Just remember, King's Corner is not a park, but a preserve so that we will not consider things like ball diamonds, or swing sets.)

A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush



We protect nearly 291 acres of Caledonia Conservancy lands and easements!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS FROM THE SNOWY TRAILS

This year has seen an unusual amount of snow for us and that has proven to be a challenge but also an opportunity. The challenge for us was keeping the parking areas open so people could come out and enjoy the trails and the snow.

The opportunity was seeing everyone out hiking in the new snow, looking for animal tracks, and enjoying nature covered in white. Many thanks to those using their snowshoes on the trails and making it easier for the rest of us to walk.

Marcia Wensing, a member of the stewardship committee for many years, plowed the Trout Ponds and King's Corner parking lots multiple times after working at her full-time job all day. Chad Ishman has kept the Short Road

Trailhead parking lot open all winter. With 291 acres of preserved land that has walking and horse trails on all of them, volunteers are so important. This last year we asked committee members to be the "point" person for a specific piece of land. Trout Ponds/Prairie: Jessica Orlofske & Chris Tyrell, Tabor Woods: Barb Hugier, King's Corner: Wendy McCalvy, and the Short Road Trailhead: Vanessa Luther. They know the land and will be able to let us know what projects need to be done on it.

Our first trail cleaning of the year will be Saturday, April 10. We will meet at the King's Corner parking lot 4813 5 Mile Rd. at 8:45, divide into small work groups, and work from 9:00-12:00. If you want to be put on the volunteer list for

helping out, please call Sandy DeWalt at 262-909-4440 or email her at sdewalt@wi.rr.com. Many hands make light work!



Alfredo DeWalt on snowy picnic table



SCHOOL TO NATURE

This is the first time in over 10 years that we haven't been able to hold our spring and fall field trips for the School To Nature program. The virus has caused all of us to make many changes in our lives and most of us, including S2N, have had to make some adjustments. This year, instead of organizing volunteer-led student field trips, our committee members spent time organizing and setting up scavenger hunts and question/answer flip charts to encourage parents to bring their children out onto the Caledonia Conservancy lands to get some exercise and learn about nature. Many families had been cooped up at home quarantining and this was a great way to relieve some of that stress.

While we won't be holding our 2021 spring program, we are working on setting up a self-guided tour so that one of our schools can take their 6th grade students on a field trip to Tabor Woods. We will be putting out some of our nature exhibits, information sheets and giving the teachers and their parent volunteers lesson plans so that they can share the information our

program provides each spring. We are also planning to invite the families from Gifford, Starbuck and St. Rita's schools, who usually participate in our spring program, to come out for a self-guided tour on their own since these schools are not allowing field trips during the school day.

Now that the vaccine is starting to be available to our residents, we are hopeful that the S2N program will be back to normal this fall. We won't know if Unified will allow field trips at that time as students will probably have some post-virus makeup work and the district may not have available funds for busing. S2N gives money towards each bus but the district pays the rest.

Please consider joining our group of S2N volunteers and contact Jill Baranowski at jcbaranowski@sbcglobal.net or 262-681-2043.

Now that the weather is getting nicer and the days longer, you might want to venture out onto some of the Caledonia

Conservancy trails. Tabor Woods, Trout Ponds and King's Corner all have signs to help you find your way to discovering nature in our backyard. Stop at each of the kiosks to see what each property has to offer.

Jill Baranowski
School to Nature Chair



Students with mushroom log

CARPENTER SAW THE CONSERVANCY NEEDED HELP

Bob Milkie has been volunteering his carpenter skills to the CC for our King's Corner plans. So far he has made 13 mini display boxes, six large display boxes, a "What Shape Are You In" for young kids, and four boards using flaps to identify different bugs for Barb Hugier's inventive projects. Barb paints and finishes these.

Bob will also be making Barb's mini-horse silhouette for kids to measure themselves in "hands" the way you measure horses, and a huge display board where you compare your height to different flowers.

These will be set out in the Nature Learning Landscape section of King's Corner, and the mini display boxes will be in Tabor Woods during the School to Nature program. Barb supplied most of the materials and the ideas. Bob worked at ACE Kortendick for many years and is now retired. Thank you Bob for lending

your talents to the Conservancy cause; and thank you to Kortendick's for giving Bob the space to work on CC projects there!



*Above: Bob Milkie with horse cutout
Left: Flap board Bob made for Barb Hugier's project.*



WE'RE "RAVEN" ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS

2020 ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**OUTSTANDING
BUSINESS SPONSOR:**
Julie & Chris Becker
(Trademark Graphics)



The Beckers, as owners of Trademark Graphics created any sign or banner that the Conservancy would need to support public engagement, events, and safety for the last 14 years! For things like our business sponsors and the Mane Event, we are able to utilize the banners over and over. Sadly, the Becker's have sold the sign and banner portion of their business, yet they made sure the Conservancy had digital copies of all the work they have done for us.

**OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER
AWARD:**
Marcia Wensing



Marcia is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and has shared that expertise with the Conservancy in so many ways and over so many years. Her knowledge and teaching skills have enabled other volunteers to fight the good fight against plant invasives, restore degraded areas on our properties like at the Neighborhood Central Walk property. She has helped the Conservancy acquire grants that resulted in improvements on several properties.

**OUTSTANDING
SUPPORTER
AWARD:**
Chad Ishman



Over the last few years, Chad has quietly and consistently made access to the Short Road Trail Head better, improved the usage of our resource shed and helped us take care of the trail area for the benefit of everyone. His donation of gravel for the parking lot was a huge improvement for everyone using the trail. He mows in the summer, plows in the winter, steps in to help when there are tree issues, donating not just his time, but his equipment and expertise.

*For more details and to get to know these volunteers better, visit our website
www.caledoniaconservancy.org/2020-volunteer-awards*

Photos taken by Roy Bohn

WE ARE BATTY ABOUT OUR BATS!!!

2020 was a great year for the bats that live on Conservancy land. Bob Starr and all his family put up a new bat house at the edge of the Tabor Woods pond. CC board member and UW Parkside professor Jessica Orlofske bought four new bat houses to replace the old ones at the Trout Ponds/Prairie. It was quite a production. We could not have done it without all of the hard work and

organizational skills from Jeff Kania. He got scaffolding, a trailer, an ATV, paint, etc. to take down the old ones and put up the new ones. Many thanks go to Ryan and R.J. Smalkoski, Barb Hugier, Roy Bohn, and Bill and Sandy DeWalt for providing the manpower to move the scaffolding and equipment. It takes so many volunteers to take care of the land and the animals that live on it.





BIRDS ENLIVEN CALEDONIA CONSERVANCY

by Jo Stys

It has been said that everybody has a bird story. Just think about how often birds are seen - ducks and geese flying overhead as they migrate, song birds at a feeder or in a shrub outside your home, or the “first Robin of spring” being sighted. They brighten our day with color and song. Birds are also an indicator that we are good stewards of the land. When they thrive it means they are sheltered, fed and protected on our lands. There are dozens of species that visit our Conservancy lands during migration and breeding season as well as some who are year-round inhabitants.

Whether you are a birder or you just like birds because they sing and catch insects, there are simple ways you can help them right on your own property - even just planting yellow, orange or red flowers such as coneflower, bee balm, petunia or salvia.

Bird houses (with removable panels for annual cleaning) and bird feeders can help the feathered ones that choose your home as theirs.

The idea that you can help the

Conservancy and birds on your property is based on making a large area of food and shelter available rather than just the acres we protect with our Land Trust. The more we offer, the better our crops are because birds can fertilize crops with the pollen they carry on their feet much as the bee does when it feeds on nectar in a flower. The Ruby Throated Hummingbird is familiar in Wisconsin and it feeds on nectar, too.

The better the shelter and food situation the more song birds we will see. Some have had a devastating loss of habitat in the past 50 years due to development and change of land from agricultural to housing and commercial space. But there are other factors and we can all help. The Cornell University Ornithology Lab has loads of information available to us. There is a short article and video you should watch - go to cornell.box.com/v/3BillionBirds Three billion birds have disappeared from the North American Continent since 1970! The article includes seven ways we can help reverse the trend.

One of the biggest trends in birding is to use one of the several FREE apps that can be downloaded to your laptop, eBird ebird.org/home and Merlin <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org> are available for both Apple and Android phones. They will provide you with help in the field to identify birds you have sighted. There are checklists which you can submit as a “citizen scientist” to aid in the collection of data on which lands are being used for nesting and stop over during migration, as well as how many birds are making their year round home in Wisconsin. These apps will also give you lists of birds you might see even if they are shy or infrequent visitors.

There will be short articles on birds coming to you through Caledonia Conservancy’s website and Facebook.

Note: Jo Stys does CC trail maintenance and shares point person duties with Matt Johnsrud at the Neighborhood Central Walk. As such, she has gotten interested in birding and took four webinars from the big bird mothership AKA Cornell University Ornithology Labs.

THESE DUCKS HAVE CLAWS!

by Libby Cameron

Wildly colorful Wood Ducks are our favorite bird to see on our pond. So much so that I made a hooked footstool for Kjell. I first became aware of them ages ago when riding on the CC Greenspace Trail; I saw a duck in a tree. I was so surprised that I went home and looked it up. Sure enough these ducks have claws that let them climb trees!

They pair up in January and are also unique in having two broods in one year. If nest boxes are too close together they will lay eggs in the nests of other females. Where natural cavities are scarce they readily use nest boxes if you provide one. The water can even be a mile away. It’s amazing that ducklings may jump from a nest height of over 50 feet high but not be injured.

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wood_Duck/overview





Stinky Stuff Suet Cake Recipe

This will beckon beaks!
(Did you know birds find this treat mostly by smell?!)

2 cups vegetable shortening
2 cups peanut butter (crunchy)
2 cups oatmeal
2 cups cornmeal
Additions: chopped nuts and raisins

Using a mixer, blend shortening with peanut butter in short pulses. Add oatmeal and cornmeal a small amount at a time so the mixer doesn't bog down. Add a handful of mixed nuts and/or raisins or dried cranberries.

Line bottom of 8" x 8" square pan with parchment or waxed paper. Dump mixture into the pan. Put it in the freezer to firm up. Once lightly frozen, use knife to separate cake from sides of pan, upend onto paper and cut into four quarters. These will fit in a standard metal grid suet holder.

You may also form into a log shape and stuff into a plastic mesh bag such as onions are sold in. Suspend by wire from tree limb or shepherd's hook hanger. Or obtain a small log about a foot long and drill holes in it (about 1-1/4" diam.) Using suet mixture that is cold but not frozen, push suet into the holes with a spatula. A large metal ring or hook screwed into the log at the top makes it ready to hang.

This recipe is from a YouTube demonstration: "How to Make Suet: A Fat and Calcium Rich Bird Food" by Josh's Frogs. Contributed here by Jo Stys.

THE STUFF OF LEGENDS

by Wendy McCalvy

I was sitting in my lower living room, heard a loud sound, and turned to see a little bird lying on the ground. He shook his head and seemed to recover. But later, walking outside, I saw him lying in my garden. I had never seen a little guy like him before and decided we could use him in our School to Nature program. Kathy Trentadue recommended a taxidermist, Todd Suiter, out in Waterford. After driving around in the dark, I found his home.

He called me the next day--we needed a DNR permit to preserve the bird. Zack Ferst of the Racine DNR office obliged. It took several months, but Todd finally called me. He explained: We have a yellow-bellied sapsucker. They're a woodpecker seen often up north, but he had never seen one here!



photo of sapsucker

EAGLE-EYED!

by Michelle Luczak

In January 2020, we had a pair of eagles in our west tree line for about two weeks. A deer had been hit by a car and the carcass lay in the front field of Triple H, which drew them to the area. Korey first noticed them while out in the barn when he heard their call, which he said sounded like no other bird he'd ever heard*. They came every day and typically roosted in the trees for quite some time, so we were

able to get some pretty good pictures of them. It was pretty exciting to watch and we were heartbroken when they eventually "flew the coop". I have heard that people have seen them along the river, but I haven't seen any on my rides.

***Editor's note:** typically when an eagle cry is dubbed in a movie, it is actually a dramatic hawk call that is used.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER WALK TOGETHER

Rick Fare will lead a bird walk for the Conservancy the first Saturday in May. Rick has been birding for 40 years and is a past president and current Education Chair for the Hoy Audubon Society. He's also a lifetime member of the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

A couple of years ago, he wasn't asked early enough so we did not get him. Rick books up quickly and does walks almost every weekend starting in May. He will decide where he wants to go depending on what birds are migrating through.

Please contact Sandy DeWalt at 262-909-4440 or sdewalt@wi.rr.com to reserve your place. Due to Covid the group is limited and masks are encouraged.





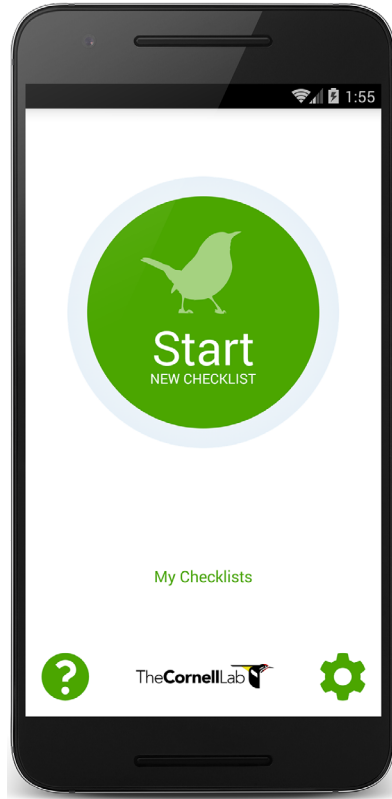
EBIRD: IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S AN APP!

Hotspots will be your new favorite thing... No, it's not some horse or dog skin problem, it's a whole new rabbit hole! Hotspots are public birding locations created by users of eBird. It doesn't mean the area is an outstanding location for bird watching, it's simply a set of public locations visited by multiple eBird users over time.

WOW who knew you could actually spy on birds!!! Apparently, there's a million of them flying around all the time unseen and unknown to many of us. It's a whole parallel universe!

However, being the epicenter of what's happening in Caledonia of course the Conservancy already has several hotspots. By golly this is neat!

Now I know Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are not as exotic as their racy names sound. They have been seen at King's Corner, Tabor Woods, the Trout Ponds, and Short Road to name just a few local hangouts. Three Great Horned owls were spotted at Short Road as well.



Hah! Those birds can't hide from us techno-wizards whose only skill needs to be clicking a link on these CC hot spots. Indulge your curiosity about what's out there and up there! Use these links:

Caledonia Conservancy:
Trout Ponds
ebird.org/hotspot/L423252

Caledonia Conservancy:
Kings Corner
ebird.org/hotspot/L622621

Caledonia Conservancy:
Tabor Woods
ebird.org/hotspot/L622671

Caledonia Conservancy:
Short Rd/East River Rd Trail
ebird.org/hotspot/L1333158

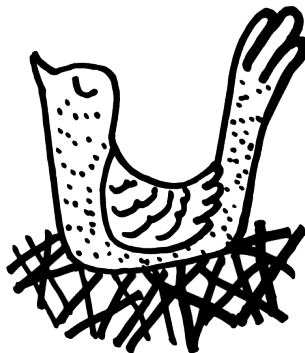
Caledonia Conservancy:
7 Mile to County Line Road Pathway
ebird.org/hotspot/L2781393

CIRCLE YOUR FLOCK

Disabled, elderly, unwilling or unable to go out where the birds are? "The Big Sit" is a way to participate in bird watching no matter if you are disabled or can't get out on the trails. You sit in a chair and observe the number and type of birds that you see in a prescribed time. How many birds can you identify while staying in a 17 foot diameter circle? That's the challenge.

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. This year the event will be hosted on a new website:
www.thebigsit.org.

Register today and submit your results after the event! Free and open to anyone — individuals and teams — all over the world. It kicks off Saturday, October 9, 2021



at 12 a.m. midnight and closes Sunday, October 10, at 11:59 p.m. Could be a fun way to fundraise for the conservancy too! You could take pledges for how many people participate, or for each species seen. For example, if 20 people pledged \$0.20 per species and their team tallies 50 species during The Big Sit!, the team could generate \$200 for the Conservancy. Take the initiative and flock your friends and family together!

A Little Birdie Told Me



Did you know caterpillars lead the list of bird's favorite foods? Songbirds hang out at the tops of trees and that's where the insects go. Makes sense. Birds eat seeds and berries, but not all songbirds eat berries. Here's a pamphlet that tells 20 basics to get started in birding basics.
birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/tips-for-easy-bird-identification.php



CROWING ABOUT THE NEW NODDING TRILLIUM

What a “trilling” find! We thought we’d remind you to look for this unusual trillium Wendy McCaivy discovered on our lands last year. She found it while clearing garlic mustard. Volunteer Kay McClelland identified it and reported this unknown-until-then habitat to the Wisconsin wildflower registry. Kay believes it exists in the Renak-Pollack Woods on the other side of the Right of Way as well. It will be smothered if we don’t control garlic mustard. To see it, walk the Right of Way from 5 or 6 Mile Road to the bridge, turn east coming over the bridge and go onto the right (straight) fork of the wooded trail.



Above: Kay McClelland, a very active and nature-knowledgeable volunteer. Right: images of Nodding Trillium



QR CODES TAKE FLIGHT

Look for QR codes out on CC properties. Scan them with your phone and they give you information about many things so you don’t have to hunt and peck!

We thank our young volunteer and new board member Allison Kurzynski who hatched the idea and has the tech-chops-know-how to do these!



Learn More

If Not Too Much of a “Birden”

1) Sign up for pain free giving to CC via Amazon Smile shopping. Since when was gifting this painless?! They’re taking your money anyhow, might as well chip off a bit of it for a good cause!



Go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1822368

2) Volunteer in ANY way. You know you want to.

3) You didn’t know you wanted to volunteer? You will when you find out it’s fun!

4) Skip the gym, become a trail clearing helper. The most active committee, these kids have a license to tear down the forest. Ok kidding, they use loppers and chainsaws though!

5) Take your Horses and Trails of Caledonia Calendar photos soon. Make yours stand out. Don’t wait til summer or fall when eveeeeeerybody else has the same background!

6) Send us any interesting tidbits about the area. We’d like gossip, but we’ll settle for historical stuff.

7) Tell us about unusual things you’ve seen on the land. No, paranormal things are not what we meant.



MANE EVENT SCAVENGER HUNT ON HORSES

The 19th Mane Event equestrian scavenger hunt will be held at the Caledonia Neubauer Farm on Saturday, August 28. Teams of riders go out and follow a marked trail through the beautiful Caledonia Conservancy trails, and also on private trails and woods looking for different items placed near the trails. One rider on each team will take a picture of the item, and when they all return each rider will get one raffle ticket for each item found. They then choose what prize bucket to place their tickets in for a chance to win the prize.

The ride is not timed, but can take 2-3 hours to complete depending on the speed you ride. There are crossing guards to help you cross 5 Mile Road, and they will show you pictures of the items you need to look for.



Once you return, there will be an obstacle course on the ground in an enclosed arena. The cost is \$5 per ride and the rider/horse combination will get points based on how well they complete the obstacle and how fast they go. Ribbons are awarded for the top 4 riders. You do not have to enter the scavenger hunt to try your hand at the obstacles.

Box lunches will be sold on the grounds. Your horse does need a current negative Coggins test- (those are now good for 12 months from the date drawn).

For more information, email: Sandy DeWalt at sdewalt@wi.rr.com



*Left: pool noodle obstacle
Above: group of riders*

Local Rides are “Poultry in Motion”



Informal neighborhood rides happen often in Caledonia. Once the trails dry up, Wendy McCalvy and Michelle Luczak lead riders along the local horse trails. Rides are typically about two hours and give riders an opportunity to learn the different areas of our extensive trail system. Watch for posts on the Caledonia Etree Facebook group and don't be chicken to join them!

OBSTACLE EVENTS COMING! CALLING ALL EQUESTRIANS!!

The Equestrian Committee of the Conservancy is arranging two equine obstacle events this year in collaboration with Equine Trail Sports, a national organization whose motto is “Ride for fun, Ride to learn”. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Caledonia Conservancy as a fundraiser. These events will give the everyday rider and/or competitor an opportunity to enjoy obstacle challenges on the trail and/or in a controlled setting, where they can compete mounted or in hand, or both.

Participants are able to select the challenge level for each obstacle that best fits their and their horse's ability and skills, and are judged based on the partnership the rider has with the horse.

Obstacles are categorized by confidence, ground manners, horsemanship, and precision and range from opening and closing a gate to fancy footwork and lead changes. Events are open to all breeds of horses, donkeys and mules.

Riders can register on line at www.equinetrailsports.com/event/12610 for the July 24 event to be held at Kathryn Scheer's Senne Farm, and www.equinetrailsports.com/event/12594 for the September 18 event held at Kjell and Libby Erlandsson's Scania Lochiel Farm.

We are so looking forward to offering this unique opportunity to the riders in our community and beyond.



Kjell Erlandsson and Dancer practicing



ABOUT ANTLERS: TEN TRUTHS

- 1) Antler tissue can grow up to one inch a day!
- 2) Antlers start growing in spring, harden in fall, and fall off here around February-March.
- 3) While growing they are covered in a soft hairy layer called velvet.
- 4) They are dry by the time deer fight at mating time and six times stronger than a femur bone!
- 5) Antlers don't have nerve cells, so deer don't feel pain in them.
- 6) Antler size is related to diet and heredity, age can only be told by a deer's teeth.



The elusive Poodeer

- 7) Two-year-old bucks with good genetics and nutrition have 8 or more points, but a yearling can as well.
- 8) In white tail deer only the males grow antlers. In Santa's reindeer, both male and female grow a set.
- 9) Fallen antlers are called sheds, and are most readily found near roads, ditches, fences or low hanging branches, because it only takes a little jarring to dislodge them when they are ready to fall off.
- 10) If a four-year-old deer eats 8% protein and another deer gets 16%, there could be a 20" antler size difference.

LORRIE LOVES

Lorrie Burrows nature lover and botanist at Boerner Botanical Gardens has several book worm recommendations:

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard

By Douglas W. Tallamy

www.amazon.com/Natures-Best-Hope-Approach-Conservation/dp/1604699000/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

Winter World by Bernd Heinrich

www.amazon.com/Winter-World-Ingenuity-Animal-Survival/dp/0061129070/

North With the Spring

by Edwin Way Teale

www.amazon.com/North-Spring-Naturalists-000-Mile-American/dp/0312044577

Winter Tree Finder Pocket Guide by Morton Arboretum

<https://shop.mortonarb.org/SelectSKU.aspx?skuid=1000719>

Tree Finder Pocket Guide

<https://shop.mortonarb.org/SelectSKU.aspx?skuid=1000715>

Tracking & the Art Of Seeing by Paul Rezendes

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0062735241/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0

Animal Tracking: A Waterproof Pocket Guide to Animal Tracking and Behavior

www.acornnaturalists.com/products/tracking-resources/tracking-guides-references/animal-tracking-a-waterproof-pocket-guide-to-animal-tracking-and-behavior-duraguide.html

Lorrie also recommends Hummingbird Central to see the little darlings as they migrate in real time. You'll know when to set those feeders out to greet them.

www.hummingbirdcentral.com

Who even knew there was an albino hummer?!

Send Us Your Bird Story! Check out our Facebook page, we'd love to hear yours!

Coy-O-Tease: What's All That Yipping About?

Coyotes are busy mating from January to March. The female picks a partner and often keeps him for a number of years. Coyotes can have two litters a year with as many as 19 pups in each! The average litter is six; gestation is two months. They hold their droopy tail below their backs when running. Coyotes eat rabbits, mice and other small mammals, yes including small pets. Coyotes can easily jump over 6' fences and swim well, but no they don't climb trees. They generally live about 4-10 years old in the wild, 18 in captivity.



SEE OUR VIDEO STARS!

Milwaukee's morning news anchor Meghan Reistad of television station (CBS 58) WDJT found us! Interviews for the program Racine & Me were a delight to see and are now available to view on our website.

In the first one, Meghan Reistad speaks with well-known past president and enthusiastic volunteer Sandy DeWalt. They talk about what the Conservancy offers to the area. Sandy highlights the unique Horses & Trails Calendar that is a fundraiser for our group and it is a lively chat about the conservancy's non-profit history and goals.



Next enjoy avid conservancy volunteer and supporter Kim Hoover as she shows the trails behind her farm and her love of the area. Sharing ideas to get outside and enjoy the winter season on the various lands of the conservancy, Kim talks about the friendship and fun available and how to get involved. Her energy and joy in the lifestyle shine through.

Please visit our website to view the videos:
www.caledoniaconservancy.org

AND FINALLY, JUST AN ASK.....

Hope you've enjoyed this bird-centric issue of the Willow Times! DYK? Birds are the most diversely colored of any animal species. Please help feather the Conservancy nest for future generations. The Conservancy welcomes green so we don't have to wing it.

**Click to
Donate**

Special thanks to graphic designer Zari Kunesh for volunteering her skills to create the layout for the Willow Times!

Anytime is a Good Time for Cookies!



Do you have your copy of the Caledonia Conservancy Cookie Collection recipe book? Professionally published, this book will add more than 115 delicious and different cookies to your recipe repertoire – all family-favorites submitted by Caledonia Conservancy supporters like you. And we didn't forget our 4-legged friends; there are treat recipes for horses, goats, dogs and even donkeys.

Best of all – the cookies will not only taste good but do good. All proceeds go directly to the Conservancy and will be used to maintain our trails and properties.

Click here to order your cookie book for just \$25...free (local) delivery included!
Or contact Suzi Zierten at 262-498-4993.



WE NEED AUCTION ITEMS



**Please help the
Caledonia Conservancy
by submitting items
for our online auction.**

*From works of **A**rt to a hanging
basket with **Z**innias, people love
auction items like restaurant or gift
certificates, horse-themed baskets/
items, local products or services,
homemade or home-baked goods~
we need something for everyone!*

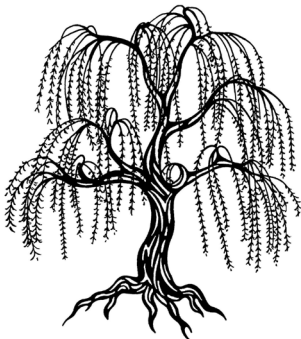
Caledonia Conservancy
Online Auction:
June 4th-13th, 2021

For more information, please contact:
Jennifer Kanter
phone: 414-364-6420
email: tyky00@yahoo.com



CALEDONIA CONSERVANCY

Caledonia Conservancy
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Racine, WI 53404-7015
www.caledoniaconservancy.org



Thank you- Volunteers & Supporters!

MISSION

Building community by connecting people to Caledonia's trails and greenspace.

VISION

The Caledonia Conservancy is committed to preserving land for future use. We connect people to nature education, enhancing quality of life through public access to equestrian and recreational trails. We strive to build a sustainable community through conservation, stewardship, education, outreach and partnerships with neighborhoods, schools, businesses and government.

[Link to map of properties.](#)



Caledonia Conservancy Committee Chairs

<i>Executive</i> Matt Johnsrud	<i>Governance</i> Jill Baranowski	<i>School to Nature</i> Jill Baranowski	<i>Stewardship</i> Sandy DeWalt
<i>Finance</i> Jennifer Kanter	<i>Preservation</i> Greg Berg	<i>Outreach</i> Nancy Pierce	<i>Holiday Fundraiser</i> Jennifer Kanter

Board of Directors

Matt Johnsrud
President

Kjell Erlandsson
Vice President

Greg Berg
Penny Griffiths
Dave Higgins

David Klokowski
Allison Kurzynski
Dr. Jessica Orlofske
Dr. Deb Palmer

Jennifer Kanter
Treasurer

Deidre Vergeer
Secretary

Barbara Hugier
Chuck Kamakian

Addresses for CC Public Access Lands

McCalvy Tabor Woods & Cameron Erlandsson Tabor Woods
5131 Tabor Road, Racine, WI 53402

Gordon Tabor Woods
5118 Pine Tree Circle, Racine, WI 53402

King's Corner (Ehrlich)
4813 Five Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

Neighborhood Central Walk
1934 4 1/2 Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

Short Road Trail Head
6111 Short Road, Racine, WI 53402

Trout Ponds/Prairie
4819 4 Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

Erlich Family Ltd. Partnership
4810 Four Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402

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- Like us on Facebook
- Email our Executive Director, Suzi Zierten at suzi.caledoniaconservancy@gmail.com
- Phone 262-498-4993
- Write to the editor, Libby Cameron at elcam4@gmail.com
- Visit our webpage: www.caledoniaconservancy.org