



From the Executive Director

As you know, CLCF’s mission is to protect the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region. Over time, you’ve heard a lot about our efforts to protect land, especially this year with our focus on the Race to Protect Open Space. We hope you will join us at Fox Hill Nature Preserve for our inaugural 5K and 10K trail run and 1 mile walk on October 16, 2022!

To date, CLCF has protected 2,598 acres of land. Since our Spring 2022 newsletter, CLCF has purchased the Wiebrecht parcel, which we’ll discuss inside (see page 6). CLCF’s Strategic Plan goal is to protect 3,000 acres by 2024. We currently have four transactions in the pipeline totaling over 200 acres. Behind those transactions are two more that are in an early stage. If we are able to close all of these, we will be very close to our Strategic Plan Goal.



The four transactions in the pipeline will have a net cost to CLCF of over \$1.5 million – so we truly appreciate your support. *Somewhere in Time 2022 – Race to Protect Open Space*, raised over \$400,000 net of expenses. Thank you! Your contributions truly make a difference.

Thanks also to Mary Beth Carr and all the *Somewhere in Time* volunteers for making *Somewhere in Time 2022* a success. Lastly, we thank West Bend Mutual Insurance Company for allowing us to host the event at the Prairie Center. It turned out to be a gorgeous June evening.

So, rest assured that with regard to land protection, we are continuing to work hard!

Another big priority at CLCF is stewarding the land that we own. Under the leadership of PT Ziegler, Chair of CLCF’s Stewardship Committee, our stewardship efforts over the past few years have grown considerably – supported by Mackenzie Franz, our Stewardship Manager and our amazing Stew Crew Volunteers.

Year to date, CLCF stewardship activities have included (among other things): monitoring all fee simple and easement properties, performing tree tube maintenance and removal, cutting and treating invasive species, breeding Cella beetles for release, planting native trees and perennials, as well as mowing and trail maintenance.

Overall, CLCF’s Stew Crew has had 39 stewardship activities with over 41 dedicated Stew Crew members volunteering on a regular basis. Stew Crew volunteer hours are up 42% versus 2021 and other volunteer hours (including events and office work) are up 13%.

We are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers—we couldn’t do the work we do without you!

Volunteer Activities YTD	2021	2022	% Chg
Stewardship Hours	369	525	42%
Other Hours	532	601	13%
Total Hours	901	1,126	25%
Number of Activities	19	39	105%
Pounds of Garlic Mustard	590	2,535	330%

On the following pages, you will read about some of CLCF’s recent stewardship efforts.

If you have an interest in joining CLCF’s Stew Crew, we’d sure welcome your help. Feel free to contact Mackenzie Franz if you’d like to get started!

Prairie Burns at Pick and Klingler

If you saw smoke this spring at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve and at the Klingler Prairie at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve, we hope that you weren't alarmed.

Spring is a prime time for prairie burns. This past April, the weather and wind cooperated, allowing CLCF to perform a prescribed burn on the southern portion of the Pick Prairie as well as the Klingler Prairie at Fox Hill. EC3 Environmental Consulting Group performed both burns.



Prairie Burn at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve

At Pick, EC3 only burned the southern prairie so that wildlife living in the burned portion could move to the northern prairie for habitat. The Klingler Prairie, being smaller and surrounded by forest, was burned entirely.

Indigenous people in North America have used fire to sustain the ecosystem of prairies for hundreds of years. These fires covered thousands of acres and were primarily used to control woody plants, to promote vegetation growth and to migrate bison and deer for hunting.

Today, prescribed burns replenish the soil, kill off unwanted weeds and woody species, and stimulate the growth of many native grasses and wildflowers. CLCF and EC3 hope to burn the northern portion of the Pick Prairie in the spring of 2023.

Come and visit the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve, as well as the Klingler Prairie, to see the rejuvenated prairies covered with Big Blue Stem, Rattlesnake Master, Prairie Dock and many other native species.

Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon Champions!

The final score: Garlic Mustard: 0 and CLCF: 2,535

For the past five years, CLCF has participated in the annual Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon of the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium (SEWISC). The Pull-A-Thon started in 2013 to spread awareness and to create a fun competition and fundraiser to help keep our natural areas clear of these invasive invaders.

CLCF had five volunteer events at three different sites. A total of 45 volunteers came out to pull this biennial bad guy. In the end, CLCF's volunteers pulled 2,535 pounds of Garlic Mustard. Think of all the Garlic Mustard Pesto that we could have made! After all was said and done, SEWISC awarded CLCF with the title of 2022 Garlic Mustard Pull-a-Thon Champions!



CLCF Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon Champions

Garlic Mustard made its way to the United States from Europe at the end of the 1800s and was used as an herb and medicine. It's a biennial plant, meaning it has two growing seasons: the first as a rosette that over winters and the second as a plant with a white flower bloom. Garlic Mustard is one of the first plants we see in spring, competing with our other native spring species.

The biggest concern with Garlic Mustard is that not only do the seeds have the potential to stay dormant in soil for up to seven years, but also the roots release a chemical into the soil that disrupts the relationship between native plants and mycorrhizal fungi, stunting the growth of native plants. The key piece to eradicating this species is to make sure that we pull as much as possible before it goes to seed.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who participated and to SEWISC staff for hosting the competition!

Volunteer Spotlight: Doug and Mary Agard

All Stew Crew and other volunteers deserve a hearty thanks for their time and energy in helping CLCF achieve its mission of protecting the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region.

CLCF would like to recognize Doug and Mary Agard, who have made a tremendous impact in the garden in front of CLCF's office. Doug and Mary have been active CLCF volunteers for a number of years and always show their support, especially when it comes to Stew Crew events and to getting their hands dirty.



In August, Doug and Mary volunteered their time to enhance the front pollinator garden at CLCF's office at the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve. The garden is filled with beautiful native species such as Prairie Blazing Star, Wild Bergamot, and Grey-Headed Coneflower. CLCF Board Member Joe Mantoan and his son Joseph originally planted the pollinator garden back in 2020.

Doug and Mary removed invasive weeds and grasses, staked top-heavy plants that needed a lift, and re-mulched the area. The pollinator garden is in astounding shape. The monarchs, swallowtails and hummingbirds can't get enough!

Thank you, Doug, and Mary, for volunteering your time and enhancing the pollinator garden. CLCF is truly grateful for all that you do.

Lockman Parking Lot Expansion

The parking lot at the West Bend Segment of the Ice Age Trail has been expanded! Due to an increase in the number of people utilizing this trailhead at CLCF's Lockman Property, CLCF decided that it was important to add more parking spaces.

With a generous grant from the West Bend Mutual Insurance Company Charitable Fund, CLCF was able to expand the lot from six parking spots to twelve, including the addition of a handicap accessible parking stall. Weiland Excavating completed the project in July.

We hope that you enjoy the newly enlarged parking lot, and we look forward to seeing you on the trail!



The Newly Enlarged Lockman Parking Lot

Salamanders at Fox Hill Nature Preserve

There was a hint of spring in the air, the snow was beginning to melt, and the salamanders were beginning to breed! This past March and April, CLCF staff searched the Fox Hill Nature Preserve for ephemeral ponds to monitor for the presence or absence of native salamanders.

Ephemeral Ponds are pools of water that hold water for a short period of time, usually drying out by mid-summer. Salamanders use these ponds to breed, lay eggs and live out their larvae stage. A group of salamanders called Mole Salamanders are among the first amphibians to breed in the spring. Mole Salamanders include the Tiger Salamander, the Spotted Salamander, and the Blue-Spotted Salamander, which are all found in Wisconsin.

CLCF staff set up one to three funnel traps at the seven different ephemeral ponds at Fox Hill Nature Preserve. Staff and volunteers then checked the traps every day from March 17 to April 17 looking for the presence of salamanders, the type of salamanders, and egg masses.



Blue-Spotted Salamander Egg Mass

Species noted included the Blue-Spotted Salamander, the Spotted Salamander, and the Tiger Salamander. CLCF's findings were significant and are included in the table below:

Type	Blue- Spotted	Spotted	Tiger
Adults	81	6	3
Eggs Mass	62	6	1
Totals	143	12	4

In 2002, salamanders were surveyed at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve. It was reported that Blue-Spotted Salamanders, Tiger Salamanders and Spotted

Salamanders were found during this initial monitoring. In 2002, this was the first time that the Spotted Salamander was reported in Washington County, and lucky for CLCF, we still have them today.



Adult Spotted Salamander

Salamander monitoring and surveys are also a key indicator of the health of a specific area or ecosystem. Salamanders have permeable skin and take up a lot of moisture from their surroundings. When a habitat is too dry or contains chemicals or pollutants, it can greatly affect whether a salamander will remain in the area. This is important because if salamanders are not present, it could potentially mean that an ecosystem's health is degrading.

Salamanders are incredibly sensitive and avoid unhealthy habitats at all costs, so the fact that CLCF has them here at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve tells us that our conservation efforts are well worth it.



Adult Blue-Spotted Salamander

If you are interested in learning more about salamanders or wish to help CLCF with its monitoring in 2023, please contact CLCF's Stewardship Manager Mackenzie Franz for details!

Purple Loosestrife Update

Purple Loosestrife is an aggressive, invasive species that originated from Europe and Asia and is commonly found along many wetland and lakeside properties. It is known for its vibrant pinkish-purple standing flowers that bloom in summer. Purple Loosestrife was brought to America to increase the beauty of gardens in the 1800s. Little did we know that this plant was going to take over our properties, roadsides, and wetlands. Purple Loosestrife threatens the health of our native wetlands the most. Wetlands are biologically diverse in plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish. This non-native plant chokes out other species and reproduces at a high frequency; however, this species can be managed successfully.



Purple Loosestrife

Scientists have been studying Purple Loosestrife since its attack on our wetlands, and in the 1980s, an insect, the Galerucella “Cella” beetle, was found to feed exclusively on Purple Loosestrife. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) implemented the Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol program in 1994. This program entails collecting, raising, and rearing a beetle population and then releasing the beetles on a Purple Loosestrife infestation. CLCF has been working on Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol for over 20 years. If you look back to the Spring 2001 CLCF Newsletter (in case you still have one hanging around!), Lee Krueger wrote an article about Purple Loosestrife and the biocontrol being done at that time by students from Slinger High School and the Future Farmers of America.

Spring 2021 was the first time that CLCF staff and volunteers collected, reared, and released Cella beetles. Previously Lee and Mary Krueger had been raising the beetles and graciously releasing them on some of CLCF’s properties. In 2021, Jaron Cook released the Cella beetles at Gilbert Lake and Paradise Valley Lake. In 2022, Abby Brostrom and Mackenzie Franz collected beetles and Purple Loosestrife, which they placed in a secure tent on the Pick Property. The beetles mated, laid eggs on the leaves, and the eggs hatched into larvae and eventually grew to become adult beetles. Once most of the eggs were hatched and the number of adults had increased, the Cella beetles were ready. Abby and Mackenzie then released the beetles along the wetlands at Gilbert and Little Cedar Lake. This is only the beginning of biocontrol efforts for CLCF staff, and we are excited to collect and rear Cella beetles in the years to come!



Adult Cella Beetle

Staff Update – Abby Brostrom

We were sad to see Abby leave CLCF in August, but we are excited for her as she embarks on her next adventure. Abby has accepted an AmeriCorps position with the Lummi Island Heritage Trust (LIHT) -- a land trust in Washington State. At LIHT, she will be working on stewardship and GIS projects. We will miss her and wish her all the



Abby Transferring Cella Beetles

best.

The Wiebrecht Property (Aug 2022)

We are excited to announce that on August 30, 2022, CLCF closed on the purchase of 8.449 acres from the James A. Wiebrecht Sr. Family Trust. The Wiebrecht parcel lies east of Big Cedar Lake, at the corner of German Village and Oak Lodge Road. The property is in the Primary Environmental Corridor and contains mature hardwoods.

CLCF is very grateful for the generous support of donors for the purchase of this property. Overall, CLCF received donations to cover the entire cost of this acquisition.

Michael Voss and Ross Anderson, members of CLCF's Stew Crew, who live near the Wiebrecht Property, have generously volunteered to help steward the parcel through CLCF's Adopt-A-Preserve Program.

The Adopt-A-Preserve Program allows for volunteers to help CLCF implement its land management plans as stewards on a particular property. Michael and Ross will be maintaining the trails, cutting and treating invasive



The Woods at the Wiebrecht Property

species, and picking up sticks and debris so that people can enjoy hiking on the Wiebrecht Property.

If you'd like to go on a guided hike or learn more about CLCF's Adopt-A-Preserve Program, please don't hesitate to contact Mackenzie Franz.

Legacy Circle Donors – Kathy and Ken Klein

Shortly after we moved to the lake in 1987, someone invited us to plant trees along Hwy 144 and NN. Little did we know how important this grassroots organization would become in our lives. We grew up hiking, skiing, fishing, and boating in this area. Our children had their most meaningful friendships and adventures develop on the water, trails, and in the woods. We simply want the same for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren (when they arrive!).

The saplings we once planted are now 30-40 feet tall and stunningly gorgeous in contrast to other areas, where development has paved formerly natural areas.

When considering becoming a Legacy Circle member, it was an easy and natural decision for us both. With six grandchildren and the seventh on the way, the demands for our current cash flow are plenty. However, at our death, knowing a portion of our IRA is going to support CLCF is comforting. It's reassuring to us that the good work of CLCF will continue into the future.

We know that CLCF's conservation efforts are working, as we often see the soaring eagles that nest at Timmer's, and bats have returned to our yard after a long absence. We look forward to building more family memories in this nature rich community.

You recently received a Legacy Circle brochure from CLCF asking you to consider making a planned gift. Linda Mutschler and I would welcome a chance to answer any questions you might have. Feel free to call us anytime on 414-614-5084 and 414-614-4698, respectively.



Race for Open Space – 5K and 10K Trail Run and 1 Mile Walk

Get outdoors and help CLCF in its inaugural *Race for Open Space*! On Sunday, October 16, 2022, CLCF will be hosting a 5K trail run, 10K trail run and 1 mile walk at the Fox Hill Nature Preserve. We hope that you will bring your family and join us out at the Preserve for this fun fall event.

Your participation will help support CLCF's mission to protect the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region. Every registration counts and will help CLCF in its race to protect open space!

All 5K and 10K runners will receive a participation award. The top male and female finishers will receive a special additional award.

Register now at:

www.conservecedarlakes.org/activitiesevents/raceforopenspace/

CLCF is very grateful to the following sponsors for their commitment to this exciting family-fun event. There are still sponsorship opportunities available. If you would like to be a sponsor, help with planning or volunteer on race day, please contact Traci Cooper on 262-353-4866.



Please Renew Your Support of CLCF and Join Us in the Race to Protect Open Space

CLCF's mission is to conserve the natural environment of the Cedar Lakes region for generations to come.

Because of your passion and commitment to this mission, CLCF has been able to grow the number of protected acres to nearly 2,600.

There are currently a number of properties that are in the fourth and fifth generation of families who originally settled this area. A number of these families are facing decisions about the future of their land.

Please help us to conserve these vital parcels. With your help, we can win this race for open space.

Please use the enclosed envelope to submit your donation. If you prefer to donate online, please visit our website at:

www.conservecedarlakes.org

Thank you in advance for your support. You are critical to our success!



The History of Baruch Schleisinger Weil and the Weil Family of Big Cedar Lake



CLCF's Annual History Talk and Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, October 20, 2022 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the West Bend Country Club.** Program and dinner are \$75 per person. Seating is limited. To register go to: www.conservecedarlakes.org/activitiesevents/historytalk

Baruch Schleisinger came from France to Washington County in about 1843. Baruch added Weil to his last name when he married into the Celestine and Moses Weil family of West Bend. Over the next 50 years, Baruch was by turns a farmer, a merchant, a real estate agent, a politician, and a brigadier general in the Wisconsin Militia. He is best remembered today as the founder of Schleisingerville, better known as Slinger. While controversy often followed Baruch in his political career, he was considered "the grand old man of the Assembly" when he retired from elected office in 1881 at the age of 78.

Please join us on October 20th to hear Steve Simon, Baruch's great-great-grandson, present the history of Baruch Schleisinger Weil and the Weil Family of Big Cedar Lake.

This event is sponsored by:





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Annual Meeting Notice

CLCF's 2022 Annual Meeting will be on December 3rd from 9:00-11:00 AM at Cedar Lodge on Cedar Community's Cedar Lake Campus at 5595 County Road Z, West Bend.

This event is sponsored by:



For more information, please visit
www.conservecedarlakes.org

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CLCF's office is located on the grounds of the Joan M. Pick Nature Preserve at 5975 County Road Z, West Bend, WI.

Hope to see you on the trails!