



OUTDOORS FOREVER

Conservation Club

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



Newsletter

f **Outdoors Forever Club**
P.O. Box 361 • Mauston, WI 53948
www.OutdoorsForeverClub.com

2023 Winter

2024 Membership Registration

Due by January 1, 2024 (Nonrefundable or transferable based on calendar year).

These forms are available at www.outdoorsforeverclub.com and at our online store

Individual @ \$25.00 x _____ \$ _____

Husband & Wife @ \$40.00 x _____ \$ _____

Youth (Under 18) @ FREE _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Newsletter email address: _____

Optional: If you would like to donate* to the following programs

Trout Rearing Project \$ _____

Duffy Road Restoration/Land Acquisition \$ _____

Upland Bird Rearing Project \$ _____

Kid's Day \$ _____

Total Membership and Donation \$ _____

Banquet registration on reverse. Please fill out and return to Outdoors Forever, PO Box 361, Mauston WI, 53948-0361 and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Membership is required to attend the banquet.

*Your donations are tax deductible as ODF is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

2024 Banquet Registration

**Banquet Date: March 2, 2024
New Lisbon Community Center**

General Information:

The banquet will be held at the New Lisbon Community Center. **You must be a member to attend. Minors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.** If your child does not want the youth meal, or they are 15 years old or more, they must register as an adult and pay the adult price.

Social hour begins at 4:30pm and Dinner will be served starting at 6:30pm.

Costs:

Adults (16 +) _____ @ \$50.00 each* \$ _____

Youth (15 and under) _____ @ \$25.00 each (Meal: Chicken Breast) \$ _____

Adult Meal Choices:

Prime Rib: _____

Chicken Breast: _____

Optional:

Table Reservation for 8-10 (Circle One): _____ @ \$25.00 \$ _____

Name: _____

\$100 Envelope x _____ \$ _____

\$200 Envelope x _____ \$ _____

Banquet Total \$ _____

Membership Total (from reverse) \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Any questions about membership, banquet, donations or helping, please call John Soderholm at 608-807-6115.

Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment to: Outdoors Forever, PO Box 361, Mauston, WI 53948.

*INCLUDE CHOICE OF ENTREE, PLEASE SPECIFY UNDER MEAL CHOICE.

REGISTRATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 16, 2024 - NO EXCEPTIONS

Quail

This past fall Outdoors Forever started a pilot quail program with 150 quail on 3 parcels of land in Juneau County. On each property the quail were held in Johnny houses for approximately 4 weeks. Each week around 15 were released. Quail have a tendency to recall, so many would show back up in the houses after a few days.

We had caretakers that fed and kept clean water in the houses, thank you Dennis Gosda, Paul Brown, and Dave Laridaen.

At the end of October all doors on the quail houses were opened and the quail were free to leave and hopefully stay around where they had been housed.

We are hoping to have a 5 year commitment from the board of directors to keep this program going.

Outdoors Forever would like to broaden the scope of our habitat to keep the quail and our pheasants on said properties.

A good habitat consists of a diverse mix of vegetation. Approximately, one-third forbs and legumes, one-third grasses, and one-third low, woody species. Bobwhites require frequently burned open pine savannas and grasslands for foraging, nesting, brood-rearing and escape cover. A properly managed timber stand with an open canopy allows sunlight on the ground to grow the appropriate mix of plants. Clumps of bunch grasses such as bluestems, Indian grass, and wiregrass make excellent nesting sites. Forbs such as ragweed, partridge pea and beggar tick provide food, cover and the bare ground essential for travel and finding seed.



Habitat Report

The mowing of the CRP buffers at the Nelson property is complete. Thanks go out to Dave Laridaen. A plan is being discussed to create habitat on the Larson Road property, by planting prairie grasses, conifers, wildlife shrubs and food plots.

Pheasant Program



As winter chill is in the air pheasant releases have wrapped up for the year. I'd like to give a big thanks to all the dedicated folks who volunteered to make repairs at the pens and raise birds throughout the summer and fall. This year we tried a new bird supplier. The pheasants faired well with low mortality rate and grew excellent plumage. Any feedback on the birds is welcome. The pens are slowly but surely coming along after last years big ice storm, we will need extra hands this spring while we continue to make a couple big improvements. The pheasant program appreciates the continued support from the club and membership to provide unique hunting and recreation opportunities to Juneau County. We hope you have had a great hunting season, and happy holidays!

Pheasant

Outdoors Forever had applied for a \$10,000 grant through the state pheasant stamp program, for the purchase of a 6' no-till grain drill. Unfortunately we were not selected, so the funds went elsewhere in the state. We can only apply every two years, our next chance will not be until 2025. We will apply again at this time.

Lemonweir River Watershed

Weed Harvesting: The 2023 weed harvesting numbers are in! In total, 154.5 loads of weeds were removed, compared to 62.5 loads in 2022. That equates to 309,000 pounds of wet material, which breaks down further to 954 pounds of Nitrogen, 111 pounds of Phosphorus, and 670 pounds of Potassium. The City of Mauston park board recently approved budgeting \$9,000 to hire a seasonal employee to operate the weed harvester full time in 2024. Juneau County Land & Water is working on a grant that could potentially match that contribution as well.

Nine Key Element Plan: The process continues to move along, with a majority of the plan drafted and several sections already reviewed and approved by the City of Mauston, Juneau County, and the WI DNR. GOLD will soon have more information available on its Facebook page and the 2024 Lake Decorah Ice Fishing Tournament.

7th annual Lake Decorah Ice Fishing Tournamant: January 20, 2024 at Riverside Park in Mauston. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/LakeDecorah/> for event details.

Board of Directors Contact Information

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Paul Brown
608-547-6995
Term Exp 2026

VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Pharo
608-547-5035
Term Exp 2025

SECRETARY

Tom Jodarski
608-847-4979
Term Exp 2024

TREASURER

Debra Priest
608-548-1596
Term Exp 2026

Board Members

Derek Brown

608-548-0556
Term Exp 2024

Taylor Finger

608-548-4358
Term Exp 2025

Dennis Hazel

608-354-1665
Term Exp 2026

Tom Heindl

608-548-5195
Term Exp 2025

Jeff Scully

608-666-2662
Term Exp 2024



Membership & Banquet News

Memberships are based on the calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) so please have your memberships in by the first part of January. There is no grace period so if you hunt on ODF property, you should have your next year's membership in by December 31st. Prices are the same as before. We encourage you to sign up for delivery of the newsletter via the email option to help reduce the costs of producing and mailing. We understand not all have email so we will still provide normal mail delivery also.

To sign up you may use the membership form in the newsletter, or one is available on our website. Also available on the website in our online store are memberships, banquet registrations, table reservations, and raffle ticket envelopes. The advantage of registering online is you will receive your membership card along with banquet tickets without having to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Raffle tickets as always will be handed out at the banquet. You must be a member to register for the banquet.

You can sign up on our web store at

<https://outdoorsforeverclub.com/shop/ols/products?page=1> There will also be another "early bird contest" for those that sign up by January 15, 2024.

The Banquet Date is March 2, 2024, and will be at the New Lisbon Community Center in New Lisbon, WI. A buffet meal with choice of prime rib or chicken will be served at 6:30pm with Social Hour beginning at 4:30pm. Please reserve your meat choice when registering! We are putting together another great banquet with many high-end raffles, and everyone in attendance will be receiving a door prize. Banquet registrations are due no later than February 16, 2024.

New this year, we will be serving cheese, sausage & snacks throughout the night made locally. If you have extra venison you wish to donate to put towards the sausage please reach out to Jenn.

Any questions please contact Jenn Rittenhouse at (608) 462-3808 or by email at odfbanquet@gmail.com.

Mentors to Sportsmen

The committee is planning something new for the upcoming year and more will be available on our website and Facebook at a later date.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Board of Directors (BOD) of ODF has been discussing putting in place a long-term planning committee for some time. In August the club took formal action to create this committee. We had our first meeting on November 6, 2023. The first meeting we discussed what we felt our purpose was and brainstormed on some subjects that may need attention in the future. We felt our main purpose was to look at current programs and future ideas or concerns BEYOND the current fiscal year. In general, looking out 2-5 years. We are NOT in existence to replace any of the current committees. Our intent is to work with current committees to look longer term at concerns they may have. We will also seek input from the general membership on ideas they may have about the future of the Club's programs or any new efforts they feel may be worthwhile.

Another item we discussed that we felt might be a good task for us, is to review current contracts, history of programs, etc. to better document why we do what we do and what future requirements our contracts may have (i.e. primarily land use government programs). The goal of this is to better educate our current membership that does not regularly attend meetings.

We discussed briefly a few of the programs that may need a long-term perspective. Not necessarily changing anything currently but identifying questions that may need to be asked, long term.

Items identified in our first meeting with brief discussion only were the Pheasant Program, Quail Program, building needs if any, goal of possibly purchasing additional land for the club, and Habitat Restoration programs.

Any ideas we think need further consideration will always go to the BOD and the Committee in charge for their input and approval before bringing it to the general membership.

As stated above this committee is brand new and we will better define its purpose and goals as we communicate with the BOD, Committees, and general membership.

Current members of the committee are: Dave Pharo, Tom Jodarski, Dave Laridaen, Jeff Scully, and Paul Schaller, (Committee Chairman). Feel free to reach out to any of us if you have something you think Long Range Planning should consider.

Youth Report

The Kids' Ice Fisheree will be held Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Bire's Pond. Sign up will begin January 2024. Contact Jim Bires, jdbires@gmail.com or 608-547-3983 for more information.

The Kids' Outdoor Day will be held Saturday, April 27, 2024 starting at 9:00am at the Lemonweir Farm. Activities will include archery, BB gun target practice, trees and tree planting, pollinator habitat, bird house building, and shed antler hunting. If anyone has antlers they want to donate, they can be dropped off at the clubhouse or bring them to a meeting.



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**Watch our Facebook page or website
for important updates!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Brown	President
Dave Pharo	Vice President
Tom Jodarski	Secretary
Deb Priest	Treasurer
Derek Brown	Director
Dennis Hazel	Director
Tom Heindl	Director
Jeff Scully	Director
Taylor Finger	Director

ODF COMMITTEES

CHAIRS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Youth | Tom Jodarski/Jim Bires |
| 2. Club House | Derek Brown |
| 3. Pheasant | Corbin Czynscon |
| 4. Banquet | Jenn Rittenhouse |
| 5. Habitat | Tom Jodarski |
| 6. Signs | Tom Heindl |
| 7. Newsletter | Barb Scervino |
| 8. Long Term Planning | Paul Schaller |
| 9. Trout & Memorial | Dave Puhl |
| 10. Audit | Dave Pharo |
| 11. Stewards to Sportsman | Taylor Finger |

*If you want to help or have an idea for a project
contact the committee Chair.*

REMINDERS

2024 Membership Dues are Due January 2024

Annual Banquet is March 2, 2024