



# OUTDOORS FOREVER

## Conservation Club

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



# Newsletter



**Outdoors Forever Club**

P.O. Box 361 • Mauston, WI 53948

[www.OutdoorsForeverClub.com](http://www.OutdoorsForeverClub.com)

## 2025 Fall

### Pheasant Rearing

As we enter the fall season, the pheasants are growing as fast as the weeds in the pens! The rainy weather plagued our Wednesday work nights week after week this year. It also created a challenging environment for accomplishing all the tasks that were scheduled. We have made satisfactory progress all things considered and hope to wrap up flight pen #2 as the weather cools. Despite Mother Nature doing her best to stop us, the great crew helped get these birds from tiny day-old chicks to the teenage phase they are currently in. Nearing the end of August the birds are maturing well. The hens look like small versions of mature adults, and the roosters have started to grow their colorful plumage. In the coming weeks, their tails will lengthen, and they will finish growing all the colorful feathers that we all recognize. We are excited for October and the upcoming release season, it will be here before we know it! Thanks to the numerous member volunteers that help make this happen and to clubs support!!



## Youth Report

In late April as usual, we held our Free Kid's Day Event. Approximately 65 kids and their chaperones attended the Lemonweir Farm. The kids rotated through archery, BB guns, fishing, pollinator planting, tree planting and care, shed antler hunt and bird house building. Each participant got to take home a fishing pole, Balsam Fir tree, a shed antler (if they found one) and lastly a bird house. For a change the weather was cooperative.

In early May, the Mauston high school wildlife class helped put on tree protectors on the swamp white oak that we planted earlier. They also toured the habitat on the Lemonweir Farm learning about the benefits to wildlife and our natural resources.



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## Hunter Safety Course

After a long hiatus, we were able to host a hunters' safety course this August. With the help of the following certified instructors that are members of ODF: Bob Nicksic (lead), John Morris, Dave Pharo, Randy Schwerin, Scott Baum and Jeff Scully. 28 individuals completed the course that was held at the Lemonwier Farm with the field day hosted by New Lisbon Sports Club.

The plan is to continue this next year and to provide one yearly. Sign up is done through the WI DNR website and we will announce when available to do so on our Facebook Page and Website.



## Trout program

On August 7th, the DNR and Juneau County Land & Water shocked the One Mile Creek on Outdoors Forever property on Duffy Road. Many trout were measured with the largest being 13.7 inches long. After many years of work on this portion of the stream the DNR is going to classify this part as a Class A trout stream.

On April 24, Meyer Road received approximately 475 Rainbow Trout that were purchased by ODF. This is different than years past as we partnered with WI DNR to raise and release Brown Trout. This trout program was discontinued by the DNR due to budgetary concerns.



*Article and photo courtesy of Dave Laridaen*



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## Facebook & Website

Our Facebook followers continue to grow to almost 1200 followers. Website visits place us in the top ten percent of conservation type websites. Thanks to all of you. Our Facebook page will continue to be our medium to announce events with the webpage backing that up on the upcoming events area on the home page. The website will have more expanded stories on given topics. Please use these tools to stay in touch if you cannot attend the meetings.

**Facebook:** [outdoorsforeverclub](#)

**Website:** [www.outdoorsforeverclub.com](http://www.outdoorsforeverclub.com)

## Long Tern Planning Report

LTP's most recent project was presenting a Member Survey at the annual banquet in March. Our goal was to get feedback from as much of the membership as possible on various subjects, as well as invite constructive comments and questions from members. Included in this newsletter is a summary of the responses to the questions. We invite you to review the results and we welcome any additional comments you may have as a member after reviewing these results.

The summary of the results is as follows:

- The pheasant raising program, the annual banquet, and sponsoring youth activities continue to be the top priorities for members filling out the survey.
- The vast majority of surveys indicated that purchasing more property, assuming proper location and price, is a good idea.
- Every survey respondent was in favor of learning to hunt education opportunities.
- On the education front, there was also a large majority of surveys that supported more hunter education targeted directly toward women with handgun and rifle being the lead subjects to offer.

We also received other comments and ideas that will be discussed and considered as we move forward as a club.

Thank you to those who filled out the surveys! Your feedback is important in the Club to continue to operate and plan into the future. The survey results and hopefully some action plans on some of these subjects will be discussed at future Board Meetings.

### ODF Survey - Spring 2025 - Total of 97 Surveys Collected

*Question 1:* Please rank the following items in order of importance regarding you being a member of the ODF Club. (1 most important, 7 least important)

Rank	1	2	3	Total of top 3	4	5	6	7
Annual Banquet	20	17	11	48	19	6	15	0
Pheasant Raising								
Hunting	35	14	10	59	2	18	3	3
Hunting Other								
Than Pheasants	6	15	16	37	11	14	15	4
Fishing on								
Club Properties	6	14	20	40	11	17	14	2
Hike/Canoe/Kayak	7	14	14	35	18	17	14	2
Youth Activities	27	12	9	48	15	12	10	0

Other filled in with highest rank - Men's Shed, Conservation/Community/Great Club, Fellowship/Social Interaction

*Question 2:* Do you use ODF property too: (check all that apply)

Pheasant Hunting - 54  
Fishing - 36  
Hiking - 31  
Other hunting - 23  
Canoeing/Boating/Kyaking - 16  
No Response - 11  
Other - Education Events - 1  
Men's Shed - 2

*Question 3:* Assuming proper location and price made sense, would you be in favor of ODF purchasing more recreational property?

Yes - 92      No - 1

*Question 4:* Would you like to see ODF sponsor more learning to hunt education opportunities? (i.e. Turkey, Deer, Archery, Duck, Trapping)

Yes - 94      No - 0

*Question 5:* Would you or someone you know be interested in Woman in the Outdoors hunting education opportunities? If so, please check all that you think might apply below:

Handgun - 43  
Rifle - 35  
Compound Bow - 34  
Shotgun - 32  
Crossbow - 23

*Question 6:* Is there any particular issue that you like to see the club address or change? (Individual comments below.)

Want a gun safety program for those that win guns  
Bigger gathering area for Banquet - 2  
Increase Member price  
More prizes for Banquet  
Label property boundaries - 2  
Expand focus beyond Pheasant/Birds - (Deer, Bear, Predators)

*Question 7:* Please share something that you would like the club to offer or improve on.

More youth projects - 4  
More female prizes - 3  
Purchase additional lands - 2  
Improve/more pheasants - 3  
Continue working on invasive shrubs  
Improve shooting lanes on hunting properties (mow lanes?)  
Beginner adult hunting classes  
Give warning before closing Banquet games are closed  
Don't sell raffle tickets right before drawing - takes too long.

## **The New “Learning Center”**

Our new clubhouse is starting to take shape as it was started back in 2024 and is optimistic of completion sometime in the future. The outside shell has been erected, and the inside walls are in the process of being completed by Rick Hoffman and Jeff Scully. Dave Laridaen has been busy securing building materials such as doors and insulation. Soon we will start to see other subcontractors begin their work. If you are interested in donating time and / or money to this ongoing effort, please reach out to Dave Laridean at 608-567-1071.



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## **Habitat Improvements**

This Spring members Glen Priest, Dave Laridaen, John Morris, Dave Anderson and Tom Jodarski planted 300 swamp white oak on the Lemonweir Farm as a part of our CSP contract with NRCS. In addition to this, Glenn Priest, Jeff Scully and Dave Laridaen are preparing a one and half acre pollinator patch across the road from the clubhouse (southside of N) to be planted later this fall.

We continue to maintain our other property planting in accordance with practices in place on CRP plantings and tree harvesting to be scheduled down the road.



## 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 2028

#### ***SECRETARY***

Tom Jodarski  
608-847-4979  
Term Exp 2027

#### ***TREASURER***

Debra Priest  
608-548-1596  
Term Exp 2026

### Board Members

#### ***Derek Brown***

608-548-0556  
Term Exp 2027

#### ***Taylor Finger***

608-548-4358  
Term Exp 2028

#### ***Dennis Hazel***

608-354-1665  
Term Exp 2026

#### ***Tom Heindl***

608-548-5195  
Term Exp 2028

#### ***Jeff Scully***

608-666-2662  
Term Exp 2027



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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 . . . . .	
8. Long Term Planning . . . . .	Paul Schaller
9. Trout & Memorial . . . . .	Dave Puhl
10. Audit . . . . .	Dave Pharo
11. Stewards to Sportsman . . . . .	Taylor Finger
12. Building Committee . . . . .	Dave Laridaen

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

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