



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

2023 Summer

Watershed News

SEH and Limnotech are working hard on the Nine Key Element Plan, using computer models to look at different types of land use to determine the sediment and nutrient loads, and understand how much sediment and nutrients are running off of the land during rainstorms. This helps identify the best locations to implement best management practices that can retain sediments and nutrients on the land, which will help to improve the water quality of the Lemonweir River and Lake Decorah.

SEH is also developing a list of best management practices that can be implemented to reduce sediment and nutrient loading. These practices can include street sweeping, urban stormwater retention, buffer strips for farm fields, and cover crops. Cost estimates for these practices are being developed and will be included in the Nine Key Element Plan, which is an important factor in obtaining future funding for implementation.

Free Kids' Ice Fisheree

The annual Free Kids' Ice Fisheree was held on Saturday, February 4th at Bires' Pond. It had a great turnout of 152 kids, who caught lots of bluegills and crappie!

Quail Johnny Houses

Outdoors Forever has a new quail program that aims to reestablish a small population in Juneau County. Three quail houses are completed and in the fields! Members Bill Taylor and Dave Laridaen constructed the units. Greg Stalsberg donated the plywood and Jeff Scully donated the tin for the roofs. We plan on getting 150 quail at the beginning of October, which will be looked after by three volunteer caretakers. ODF respectfully asks that members do not disturb the Johnny houses while visiting the properties.



2023 Banquet

Our 37th annual banquet was a big success again due to our member support! It was held at the Lodge in Mauston with 185 members attending. Our raffles and games were well received and will go down as one of the most profitable years ever. If you missed this one, make sure you attend in 2024!

Our banquet chair, John Soderholm, is taking on a reduced roll. Your new committee will consist of Jenn and Eric Rittenhouse, and Vince and Janice Kelley. They have been a big help the last five years and will carry on our tradition of being one of the best outdoor club banquets in the area. Jenn Rittenhouse will be the chair.

The 2024 banquet will be March 2, 2024, so mark your calendar. Information will be posted on the Outdoors Forever Facebook page and website as it becomes available. You may register by mail or online (no upcharge for online registrations.)

John Soderholm would like to thank everyone for their support and will see you at next year's banquet! And the Club thanks John for all of the years he's dedicated to organizing this spectacular event.

The Men's Shed

The Juneau County Men's Shed Program has been a huge success. The latest event at the ODF Clubhouse was the Men's Shed Big Toy and Car Show. What a turnout! For those who are not aware, the Juneau County ADRC started this program last August. The goal is to help improve the health and well-being of men age 60 and older in Juneau County through social connection, shared interests, skills and companionship.

Meetings are held at the ODF Clubhouse on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 10 AM to 12 PM. Registration is required as lunch is provided. The one-year anniversary event is scheduled for August 22nd. Kevin Buttner from Kwik Trip will be joining and supplying the food.



Nelson Property Clean Up

On April 6th, students from the Mauston High School and representatives from the Bank of Mauston once again volunteered their time to help ODF members clear invasive species and brush out at the Carl Nelson property. Many thanks to all who participated! Your efforts help make our natural spaces that much more enjoyable.

Conservation Field Day

Outdoors Forever hosted a conservation field day for Mauston 5th grade students at the Lemonweir farm on May 4th. The purpose of this event is to teach kids about outdoor safety and natural resource management.

Trout Program

This year's trout raising was a success with over 900 trout stocked in the fishing pond on Meyer Road. Last winter we had two heavy snowstorms that took down netting and trees at the

rearing pond. The repairs were completed with the help from ODF members. The trout did very well with some ranging up to 12 inches. It takes approximately 300 days from 3" to 12" with a caretaker feeding them every day. There is still trout in the fishing pond waiting to be caught on Meyer Road! The 2023-24 trout arrived at the end of June. Once again, Rick Dogs will be the caretaker for the upcoming season.

Pheasant Program

This winter the pheasant pens took a beating from an unusually bad winter storm. An excellent crew of people have been working hard to get the pens functional again and are doing a great job! This year's birds arrived as day old chicks on June 19th. The program is trying something new - raising 1700 birds at 75% roosters and 25% hens rather than straight run, which comes out closer to 50/50. At a month old they are a fast growing and rambunctious

flock. The birds are growing plumage quickly and some are starting to make short flights already. So far, the birds have been healthy and doing well (knock on wood). As we continue to make repairs along the way it won't be long before the pheasants can be outside full time. If anyone is looking to get involved, feel free to ask how at the next meeting. Hope to see you in the field this fall!

Planting at Highway N Farm

On June 13th ODF planted grain sorghum at the Highway N farm using Juneau County's new no till grain drill. Many thanks to Jeff Scully for volunteering his time and tractor to get the job done!



Kids' Day

The annual Kids' Outdoor Day was held on April 29th with over 80 kids enjoying bird house making, shed antler hunting, archery demonstrations, learning about wildlife management, tree planting, lunch and door prizes. Each child brought home a blue bird house and a tree to plant at home. Thank you sponsors, volunteers, parents/grandparents and of course the KIDS for a great morning of outdoor fun!





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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. Long Term Planning	Open
8. Trout & Memorial	Dave Puhl
9. Audit	Dave Pharo
10. 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**