



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

2024 Summer

ODF Sponsors Hunter Safety Instructor Certification Class

On March 23rd ODF hosted, at the clubhouse, a Certification Class for adults wanting to become a Hunter Safety instructor. The class was put on by the DNR training team from Eau Claire. Linda Xiong from the DNR was the lead instructor coordinating the event for us.

We had 11 local participants plus some additional attendees from around the state. Hunter Safety classes for kids and adults are something ODF has hosted in the past. With Covid, the classes have fallen by the wayside in recent years. The instructor class is an effort to get a group of local certified instructors so we can resurrect the general Hunter Safety class. ODF views offering Hunter Safety classes as part of our youth and conservation mission.

The expectation is for ODF to offer Hunter Safety classes this summer or early fall. If you were born after January 1st, 1973 you are required to have Hunter Safety certification in order to hunt in the State of Wisconsin. If you are interested in taking a Hunter Safety class, continue to watch our Facebook page or periodically check our website for more information about future classes. As soon as we get something scheduled, we will announce dates, times, and location.

Happy Hunting!

Wood Duck Nesting Boxes

Wood duck nesting boxes were built from logs sawn at the Outdoors Forever Hwy N property. Members Bill Duckwitz, Bruce Dix, Bill Taylor and Dave Laridaen were hard at work on a 2024 spring day. These were available at the annual banquet. Thank You to all that supported this project.



Youth Committee Report

Students from Lemonweir Academy in the Mauston School District tapped maple trees on the Lemonweir Farm to collect sap and make maple syrup. The sap was running early this year and this activity occurred in February. This was the first time for the students and some of the teachers so everyone learned from the experience. Outdoors Forever was grateful for this opportunity to partner with the Mauston School District to help the students experience a memorable outdoor adventure!

Kids Day

The annual Kids Outdoor Day will be held at the Lemonweir Farm on Saturday April 27 from 9:00 am-12:00PM. The kids will learn archery skills, learn about pollinator habitat, how to plant a tree, build a bird house, and look for shed antlers. Each kid can take home a bird house and a spruce tree. Lunch will be provided.

Larson Road Habitat Project

Outdoors Forever habitat committee has been working with the USDA to set up food plots and pollinator seedings, on this 20 acre field. This will start in the year 2025, as the field has been rented for 2024. This will be a 10 year, 11 month commitment. There will be 4 food plots of one acre each and a hedgerow of 1 acre, consisting of high bush cranberries, dog wood and ninebark. This will be a great addition to the Duffy Road land and will become a pheasant and quail haven.

The Men's Shed

Since the kick-off in August of 2022, The Juneau County Men's Shed has continued to grow, create both community and personal connections for attendees as well as offer a place that attendees look forward to coming to. Each month offers another opportunity for attendees to learn from local talent, share in conversation, laughter and of course a meal! The ADRC of Juneau County has been grateful for the partnerships that have made The Men's Shed possible. Many thanks are extended to Outdoors Forever Conservation Club as well as the Juneau County Land and Water Department.

Not only has the average attendance at the monthly Men's Shed events grown from an average of 25 to 60, but many attendees have reported to have created new connections to other community groups, services and resources. One of the core values of The Juneau County Men's Shed is to cultivate a safe place for men to gather and make connections and combat isolation. With each passing month, it is evident that attendees have and continue to fulfill this value. For questions or to register for an upcoming Men's Shed event, please contact Abby Heckman at the ADRC at 608-847-9371.



Habitat

OUTDOORS FOREVER members Jeff Scully, Dave Laridaen and Bill Taylor were recycling Christmas trees to be used for habitat. The trees were placed along the hedge row on the County road N property. They will be used for winter cover for pheasant, quail, rabbits and song birds.



Pheasant Program

The heavy wet snow took a toll on our pheasant pens this past winter. Much work will need to be done before the pheasants are put into the large runs.

Pheasant Program Update

This winter was mild in temperature generally speaking but we did still get hit with one large storm carrying wet heavy snow. That storm damaged the pens but not quite to the same extent as last years winter storms. With that being said, repairs are under way and anyone who's willing to help would certainly be put to work. Work days are Wednesday afternoons starting around 3:30. Beginning work days earlier in the year gives us the opportunity to put up flight netting without having too much grass growing through it. The crew has already taken down an entire net and will soon begin hanging the new ones! We have a couple upgrades we would like to make this year to help improve life for the pheasants at the pens and reduce the physical labor needed to maintain things. As spring progresses we will continue to prepare for the chicks which will be arriving in June. I'm also excited to say that there has been numerous reports of pheasant sightings around the area meaning some of the birds from last year made it through the winter. We are looking forward to raising another batch of birds and hope that continued habitat improvements on the landscape combined with healthy birds will benefit the area for many years to come. Thanks for the continued support.





Trout Rearing Program

The trout that arrived past mid July were approximately 3" long. At the end of this March trout are looking good! With what's been observed, lengths are 9-11". There's over a month to go with the feeding, done daily, thank you to Rick Dogs.

The trout will be stocked in the Outdoors Forever fishing pond on Meyer Rd just outside of Mauston , before the opening of trout season, May 4th.

DNR rules are in place for fishing trout there.

Stewards to Sportsman

A Learn to Waterfowl Hunt hosted is sponsored by Outdoors Forever Conservation Club. We welcome youth hunters as well as novice hunters to experience a hands on, interactive opportunity to get out and participate in both duck and goose hunting. This event will be a full day of both classroom as well as in the field education where we will go over the basics of waterfowl identification, hunting rules and regulations, gun safety and handling, how to set up decoys, duck and goose calling, hunting ethics and more! After completion of the classroom date, we will match the students with the mentors to get them out and try field hunting for geese, hunting ducks in the marsh or on the river and possibly even some big water hunting! If you or someone you know is interested, please have them contact Taylor Finger via phone (608-548-4358) or email (Taylor.A.Finger@gmail.com).

Bird Food

On a cold day in February, Outdoors Forever members handed out 2,000 lbs of bird seeds for anyone that would feed wild birds.

Thank you to all that feed the wild birds during the cold months of winter.



Facebook Page & Website

Facebook

Our page is outdoorsforeverclub and is followed by 924 at the moment. As of now, we have five editors contributing to the page. We average around ten (10) posts per week which are a mix of Club events, conservation related articles, area events that are pertinent to our clubs' interests and occasionally a little humor. It is probably the best way to stay informed about what's going on with ODF. If anyone out there is interested in being an editor or contributor, please contact us through our email address: outdoorsforeverclub@gmail.com

Website

The website address is www.outdoorsforeverclub.com and is hosted by GoDaddy. We have a rating of 92 out of 100 which puts us in the top 10 Conservation Websites of GoDaddy. The "Home" page is dedicated to current events, calendar if events and projects that are going on or just completed. The "Shop" page is where you can purchase memberships, banquet tickets, table reservations and club branded drinkware. We are no longer able to sell our banquet raffle ticket envelopes due to Wisconsin state law prohibiting the sale of raffle tickets by credit card and also that the banquet is run under a class "B" raffle license. You will, however, be able to RESERVE your envelopes and pay for them at the banquet.

The "About Us" page contains some history and scholarship guidelines and application form. There are more pages and check out the website to see what else is available!

If you would like to communicate with the club here are the avenues available: Come to the monthly meetings (1st. Monday of the month unless a holiday), email: outdoorsforeverclub@gmail.com and by mail at PO Box 361, Mauston, WI 53948-0361

March 2, 2024 Banquet

We had a great banquet with 209 attendees. The location change to the New Lisbon Community Center proved to be a great success. The choice of Prime Rib from the Cook Shack went over great. The games, bucket raffles, cheat your neighbor and kids raffle was a huge success. Everyone walked away with a door prizes and night full of fun! We hope to add more year after year as this brings our club more fund raising efforts for future projects and events throughout the year. As always, thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and all that attended and supported the evening.

We've expanded the banquet committee and will be looking at improving/changing up some things possibly for next year.

We look forward to seeing everyone at next years banquet, March 1, 2025 at the New Lisbon Community Center!

www.outdoorsforeverclub.com

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 \$ _____

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.

Duffy Road Trout Stream Project Update

On March 6, 2024 Jennifer Bergman and Dustin Ladd from the DNR met with Dave Puhl, Dave Laridaen, Paul Brown and Jeff Scully from ODF at the Duffy Road property and discussed some of the concerns of the two groups with the project. After great collaboration and a bit of negotiation we came together to move the project forward, deciding that we need to build at least 2 more wood structures and 2 more rock ripples in the stream and remove the beaver dams and potentially the beaver den. In the early months of summer we should see some progress and hopefully the completion of this project. In the end we may have some shrubs and shorter trees along the stream bank for erosion control and stream temperature stabilization. Below are some pictures of one of at least 5 unlucky beavers that we evicted and collaboration photos of the group walking the stream. You might not see them in the pictures but yes there were trout in the stream!!



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



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 **Outdoors Forever Club**



**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.*

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