



**FRIENDS *of the*
BLACK RIVER**

A Citizens' watershed
conservation organization

Reading the River



Volume 21 Issue 1 ~ Spring 2024

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What's happening here?



For the answer to what's happening in the photo, see page.

President's Greetings

I'm still waiting for winter. I look forward to snow activities and it seems we had one week of winter so far.

I just hope that we don't have

our snow in April when we do want to see spring weather. And do we ever need moisture but hopefully not a huge amount in a short time.

Greetings, continued on page 3

Vision

The Friends of the Black River is a citizen-led organization that is a well-informed, respected, active contributor to projects and decision-making enhancing the river and its watershed.

Mission

The Friends of the Black River will foster community appreciation, understanding, and sustainable use of the river and its watershed by hosting educational and enjoyable programs, events and conservation projects and by promoting wise decision-making when issues affect the health of the Black River Basin.

Upcoming meetings and events for 2024

Wednesday, April 10: Erika Segerson-Mueller and/or Mackenzie Manicki will be available to present information about Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMAs), 6:30 p.m., Lunda Community Center

Saturday, April 20: Annual Earth Day cleanup, Castle Mound State Park, meet at 8 a.m. at the park shelter. Lunch provided. Free admission for cleanup volunteers, RSVP

Tuesday, April 23: Highway K cleanup, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of State Highway 54 East and County Highway K, RSVP

Saturday, May 11: Annual spring wildflower walk, 10 a.m. Those wishing to carpool or caravan to Pettibone Pass can meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Black River Falls Chamber of Commerce. A self-guided hike with signage along the trail will be available from Thursday, May 8 through Sunday, May 12.

Wednesday, May 15: Joe Tope will present a program about the April 8 eclipse and stargazing, 6:30 p.m., Lunda Community Center

Wednesday, June 12: Brandon Knudtson of Hilltopper Refuse will present a program about the grant his company received to research recycling Styrofoam as well as other recycling efforts and waste management, etc., 6:30 p.m., Lunda Community Center

Saturday, July 6: Paddle in the Park, Lunda Community Park Pond, 4 p.m.—6p.m., boats and paddling equipment provided

Tuesday, July 16: Annual prairie wildflower walk, site to be determined. (Rain date: Wednesday, July 17)

Saturday, August 24: Annual River Cleanup, 8 a.m. to noon, Sam Young Park, Black River Falls

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Programs subject to change.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Wednesday evening programs are held at 6:30 p.m. in The Hub meeting room at the Lunda Community Center. The community center is located at 405 State Highway 54, Black River Falls.

Meetings and events subject to change. For up-to-date announcements of future events, check messages sent to your email in-box.

Announcements about FBR activities are also posted on FBR's Facebook page and website, Black River Area Chamber of Commerce's calendar of events, broadcasted on WWIS and WCCN Radio and published in the Banner Journal and Clark County Press.

Upcoming paddles

Saturday, March 30, Robinson Creek: 10 a.m., meet at Old CTH I bridge, approximately 2 miles north of Evergreen Supper Club. RSVP

Sunday, March 31, Halls or Morrison: 9 a.m., location dependent on water levels. RSVP

Saturday, July 6: Paddle in the Park, Lunda Community Park Pond, 4 p.m.—6p.m. No RSVP needed, boats and equipment provided

Thursday, July 18, Snyder Lake, Clark County, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. (tentative)

Hatfield Dam releases: Meet at Clay School Rd. Please RSVP

Saturday, June 8, Hatfield Dam whitewater release, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, July 13, Hatfield Dam whitewater release, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, August 10, Hatfield Dam whitewater release, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 14, Hatfield Dam whitewater release, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



*To RSVP, contact Jeff Polzin at 715-896-5534 and to confirm details and water conditions
ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

Enjoying winter



Matt, Carver and Molly Jacobson were among the family groups taking part in Winter Fest held January 27 at Skyline Golf Course in Black River Falls. The event encouraged people to get outdoors during the winter time. An estimate of about 100 people attended the winter festival and around 250 people took part in the state park candle light hike at Millston.

Answer to page 1 photo question:

Jackson County royal courts gathered around the fire to roast marshmallows when they took part in Winter Fest held January 27 at Skyline Golf Course in Black River Falls. The event was a partnership between FBR and Jackson in Action.

Greetings, continued from page 1

With spring coming FBR is looking at our usual activities which include some paddles and of course our clean-up. We always do our clean-up around Earth Day where we pick-up trash on public lands. We meet at Castle Mound Park and always need volunteers. It will be April 20 at 8 a.m. and we do like people to let us know if they are coming. If at-

Research on wake boats

The Wisconsin legislature has agreed to authorize research into how enhanced wakes impact waterways. The Lakes at Stakes Wisconsin organization has pushed for the study to be conducted by the University of Wisconsin System to study and measure wave energy from wake boats and assess the effect enhanced wakes have on shorelines and lake bottoms.

The bill, authored by Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen, will be conducted over a two year period and will compare the wakes from boats in wake sport mode with those made by various, similarly sized watercraft without ballast and wave-shaping technology.

The Friends of the Black River has designated monitoring the wake boat activity as the research proceeds as one of its tasks in its strategic plan.

The bill to conduct the research was initiated by Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, a grassroots organization committed to protecting Wisconsin lakes from enhanced wakes.

The proposed legislation would fund research to -

- Measure wave energy and height of waves generated by the boats at various distances from shore.
- Analyze the impact of wake-enhanced waves at various distances from other boaters, kayakers, paddleboarders, fishing boats, and other water users to understand any safety challenges they may present.
- Study the impact of enhanced wakes and downward propwash on lake bottoms, fish nesting, aquatic vegetation, and sediment disruption at various depths and lake bottom topographies.
- Examine the effects of disrupted sediment, including the release of toxins and impacts on aquatic vegetation.
- Assess the energy of waves generated by winds and storms compared to the energy of enhanced wakes.
- Determine the potential impact of enhanced wakes on shoreline erosion

tending, please email info_fbr@yahoo.com, or call me at 715-284-2087.

So enjoy the weather while it is nice because it can change quickly. Remember that the ticks are out on the warmer days...

Steve Rake
FBR President

Former Taylor resident talks about Master Naturalist program

Pam McDonald Bowe believes her love of nature was instilled when she was growing up on a Taylor area farm. As an adult, she fosters that passion as a certified Master Naturalist Volunteer.

Through her education and training in the program, she explores the wonders of plants, animals and waterways of Wisconsin and then volunteers to share that knowledge with young folk and adults.

One of the ways she's shared the information was her recent presentation to the members and guests of the Friends of the Black River. Her presentation was given March 13 in the Lunda Community Center.

To illustrate how she became a naturalist early in her life, Bowe compared the activities she and her siblings engaged in as youngsters on the family farm comparing it with the activities many current day youth engage in. The two side-by-side photos compared the activities of youngsters playing in the outdoors with that of pre-teens engrossed in their cellphones. In the first photo, the youngsters were playing in a stream; in the second photo, the youth weren't aware of their surroundings or engaging with the environment.

To earn her Master Naturalist Volunteer certification, Bowe received 40 hours of instruction in various environmental areas. Educational session topics include glacial geology, weather, soil, water, plants, wildlife and insects.

"It was a summer camp for adults," said Bowe. "You get a lot of information about a lot of different topics. I'm not really a master of anything. I know a little bit about a lot of things."

Launched in 2013, the Wisconsin Master Naturalist Volunteer program supports a network of well-informed volunteers and instructors dedicated to conservation service along with leadership and lifelong learning. The volunteers undergo expert-led training sessions at various locations around the state.

The sessions are arranged by the University of Wisconsin Extension who partners with various organizations such as the Ho-Chunk Nation's Department of Natural



Master Naturalist Pam Bowe (left) talks with Friends of the Black River President Steve Rake when she presented a program about the process to become certified as a Master Naturalist.

Resources, Beaver Creek Reserve and the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.

Master Naturalist Volunteers are expected to continue their education with eight hours of advanced training each year. To keep their certification, they need to volunteer in such activities as trail building in state and national parks and giving educational programs to school and other groups. Bowe has volunteered on the Ice Age Trail and other state and national trails as well as nature camps for students.

Bowe assured those attending her presentation they would be good candidates for the Master Naturalist Volunteer program. Their attendance at the presentation indicates they are engaged in their communities' natural world.

"Volunteering is the key," said Bowe. "If you weren't volunteering you wouldn't be here."

Master Naturalist Volunteers can be found in every Wisconsin county. In the 10 years since the program started, 1,694 participants have completed the program. Volunteers have reported providing 227,198 hours of service to more than 1,000 organizations. Records show their work is worth \$6.8 million in education and volunteer efforts.

Information for enrolling in the Master Naturalist Volunteer program can be found on the program's website located at wimasternaturalist.org.

Bowe's presentation was part of FBR's ongoing mission to bring educational programs about the environment and conservation issues to the community.

For more information about FBR, email info_fbr@yahoo.com or log onto FBR's Facebook page or website at www.friendsoftheblackriver.org.

Ways to support FBR's mission

You can help support the mission of the Friends of the Black River by remembering FBR in your will or with memorials or honorariums. Checks can be made out to Friends of the Black River and contributions should be sent to PO Box 475, Black River Falls, WI 54615 or on the FBR website at www.friendsoftheblackriver.org. It is also possible to start a membership or renew a membership on the FBR website.

FBR sincerely thanks our members and other supporters for their continued dedication to FBR's mission to preserve and enhance the sustainable use of the Black River and its watershed.

New and renewing memberships always welcome

Memberships help Friends of the Black River continue its mission to preserve and care for the Black River.

Show your support for that mission by renewing your membership.

If you are renewing your membership, you do not need to send in a membership form unless there's been a change in your contact information.

Please help us stay current

Please help us keep in touch by letting us know your new e-mail and/or postal addresses when they change.

Send your e-mail address changes to info_fbr@yahoo.com

To become a new member via the postal system, fill out the membership form below and mail it with dues to the address listed on the form. Renewing members do not need to submit a membership form unless there area changes .

Support your watershed - Join the Friends of the Black River

- ☐ **Enroll me as a member**
☐ **I would like to give this membership as a gift**
(Card will be sent to recipient)

Occasion _____

Your name _____

Membership Categories (check one)

- ☐ Free Youth (up to age 18)
☐ \$20.00 Individual
☐ \$25.00 Family
☐ \$30.00 Business
☐ \$50.00 Cornerstone Member

I would like to make an additional contribution in the amount of \$ _____

I'm interested in serving on a committee:

- ☐ Land Preservation and Advocacy
☐ Fundraising and Membership Recruitment
☐ Programming
☐ Clean ups and Special Events
☐ Landings
☐ **I am Interested in becoming a board member**

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

___ Jackson County Chapter

___ Clark County Chapter

Return registration form and checks payable to:

Friends of the Black River
PO Box 475
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Please check here ___ if you would like to receive a receipt.

Memberships are being gratefully accepted for 2024!

We depend on your support to keep Friends of the Black River a strong effective protector of the watershed.

We want to keep this newsletter coming to your e-mail or mail box!

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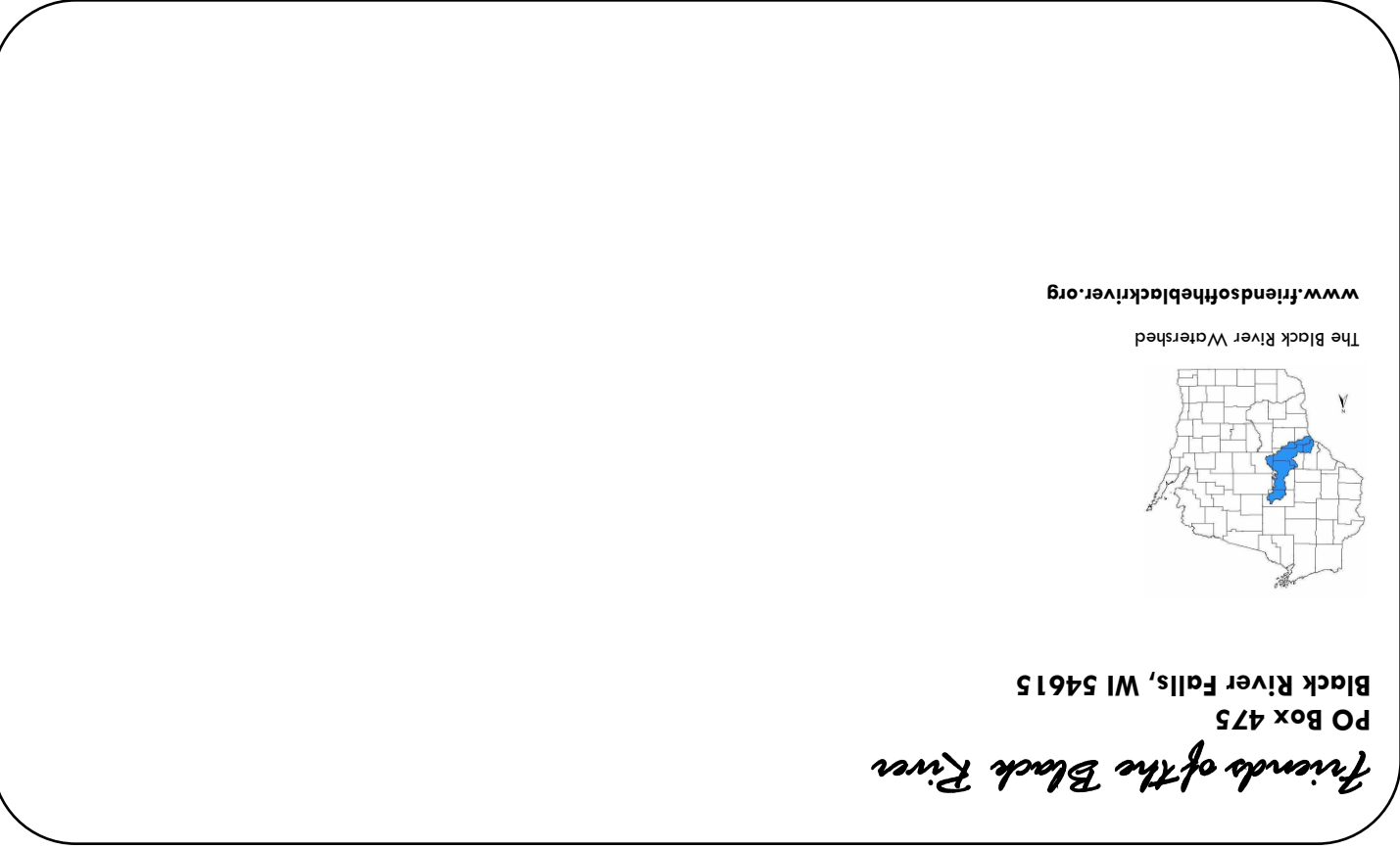
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