

COMMUNITY

## Little Lady Liberty is on track for October unveiling at Warner Park

Lots of progress has been made in the effort to restore the Statue of Liberty replica that local Boy Scouts installed at Warner Park 40 years ago.

Fundraising has been successful and totals in mid-May surpassed \$19,000. A \$5,000 donation from Liberty Mutual Insurance gave a boost to the account created for the restoration. The Glacier's Edge Boy Scout Council has sold out the first order of 500 collector patches they created to raise funds and has ordered more.

The Statue of Liberty Restoration Committee has a goal of \$21,000 to have the statue and pedestal repaired. They hope to establish an endowment with another \$10,000 in donations for a perpetual care fund, assuring future cleaning and upkeep.

The raised arm, which fell off when the statue was removed from Warner Park last year, is "in the art hospital, undergoing skin grafts and repair," according to Tony Rajer, a conservator working on the statue. The arm will be reattached and the body will

undergo conservation this summer.

The park site will be prepared and an Honor Court held when the statue is dedicated in October, coinciding with the 125th anniversary of the original Statue of Liberty in New York. Tony Rajer commented, "This is an exciting step in the conservation of this important community-owned statue."



Tax-deductible donations to the project can be made through the Madison Community Foundation. Send a check with "Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund" on the memo line to:

Madison Community Foundation  
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For more information contact Statue of Liberty Restoration Committee Co-Chair Sue Peck: [suepeck19@gmail.com](mailto:suepeck19@gmail.com).

## The River Food Pantry's Summertime Benefit Brunch at Northside Farmers Market

By Betsy Ezell

On Sunday, June 12, The River Food Pantry will host the Summertime Benefit Brunch, with all proceeds going towards providing food for needy families from the Northside, Greater Madison and all of Dane County. The benefit will be held at the Northside Farmers Market at the Northside TownCenter (on the corner of Northport Drive and North Sherman Avenue) from 9 am to 1 pm.

For \$7, guests will enjoy a generous portion of classic breakfast fare, juice and coffee.

Maynard G. Mallard, the Madison Mallard's mascot will make an appearance at the Brunch from 10-11 am. And, brunch goers can enter to win a family-4-pack or a two-pack of tickets to a Mallards game.

Not only will guests enjoy a filling breakfast, but they can also shop for fresh, locally grown produce, organics, meats and eggs from the vendors at the Northside Farmers Market.

For every \$10 the event raises, The River will be able to provide \$100 worth of food to its clients. In 2010, The River gave away \$1.3 million worth of food.

The Summertime Benefit Brunch comes at a crucial time for The River as it tries to prepare for a season of food scarcity. August through No-

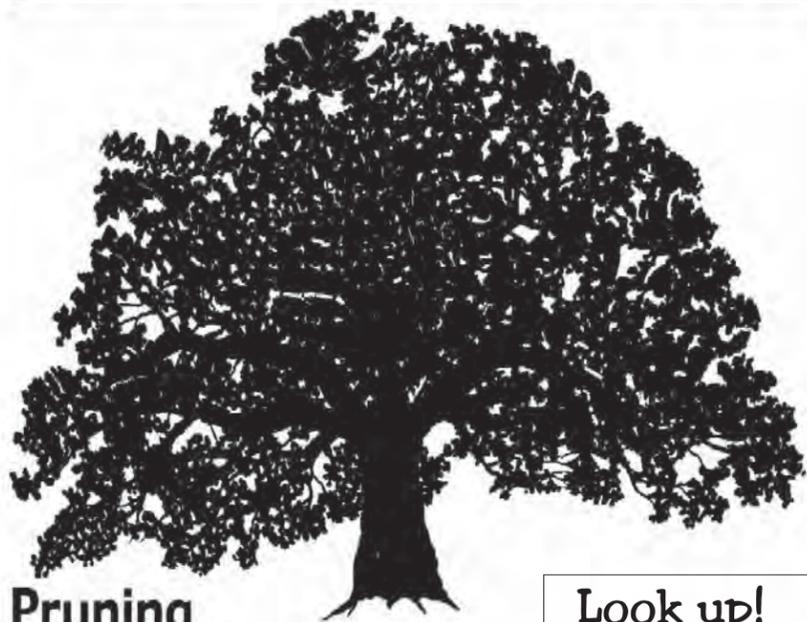
vember are typically months during which low cost food is hard to come by and food donations are down for The River. In years past, The River has had to rely on costly wholesale food purchases to ensure that their shelves were stocked for the hundreds of families coming for help during these months. Proceeds from this event will help the River prepare for the lean months to come.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at The River Food Pantry (2201 Darwin Rd., Madison). In case of bad weather, the event will be held at The River Food Pantry. Contact Betsy Ezell at [betsyezell@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:betsyezell@riverfoodpantry.org) with questions.

### About The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry was created in 2006 to serve the low income neighborhoods concentrated along Northport Drive and the northeast side of Madison, but the pantry is open to all Dane County residents. They are located in an 11,000 square foot warehouse at the end of Northport Drive, at 2201 Darwin Rd., Madison. The River provides pantry assistance, hot nutritious meals, clothing and household goods and furniture. Serving over 2500 families per month, The River is Dane County's busiest food pantry. For more information visit [www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org).

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COMMUNITY

## Vera Court adds new coordinator for after-school programs

The Vera Court Neighborhood Center (VCNC) announces the hiring of Melissa Reeder. Reeder will coordinate the Center's middle and high school after-school programs.

When she is not working with the youth, Melissa will be working to increase the Center's development/fundraising capacity. "My main goal working for VCNC, outside of working with our youth, is to raise awareness about the important services we provide. These services are essential to the health of



Photo by Joi Ito

Melissa Reeder

the Northside community. As we serve more and more families, our hope is that the wider Northside community will support our growth."

Reeder is well-suited to tackle this task. Before love brought her to Madison, she spent almost five years building the development department for a start-up non-profit in San Francisco. Her passion for youth and community development has taken her from Texas, to Rhode Island, to California, and now to Wisconsin, where she hopes to stay.

## Call for Northside artists

By David Carpenter

The Northside Artists Group (NSAG) invites artists living or working on Madison's Northside to enter a show of two and three dimensional art to be held at Warner Park. The theme of the show, called "Warner's Wonders," will be some aspect of Warner Park itself. The show will be presented in the Warner Park Community Recreation Center from Sept. 19–Nov. 19. It will then move to the Lakeview Library through the end of the year.

Artists may enter one or two works in the show. Applications, which

will be provided, are due no later than Sept. 7. The show will be juried for number, size and subject by the NSAG Show Subcommittee. An exhibition fee of \$5.00 will be assessed for each accepted artwork. Accepted art will be delivered to Warner Park on Sunday, Sept. 18.

To receive an application and participate in this community art exhibit, please contact David Carpenter at [dcarpenter3@charter.net](mailto:dcarpenter3@charter.net), (608) 442-6958 or (608) 239-1310 (cell). We look forward to sharing this experience with you.

## Pounding the pavement for the Warner pool

By Dorothy Borchardt

By the time you read this article the Golf Outing at Bridges will be a fun memory. Mark your calendars, we are getting ready for the second half of the golf/walk fundraiser. On Saturday, Aug. 27 join us for the seventh annual Pounding the Pavement for the Warner Pool. This event is sponsored by Madison Park Foundation (MPF) and the Warner Park's Circle Of Friends (COF.) Walk around the Warner lagoon to raise funds and awareness for Madison's second pool, slated to be in Warner Park.

Don't be left out! Make sure your neighborhood, business, family or friends are listed on the 2011 walk t-shirt. All it takes is \$100 or 10 walkers to form a team. That's \$10 for each team member. Teams must be registered and have paid the \$100 by August 1. Once your team is registered, you can continue to add to your team right up to the time of the walk, but after August 15 they can't be counted as additional team members. Strive to have the largest team and win the traveling trophy!

For those that don't have a team? Not to worry, you can still participate. You too can register right up to the time of the walk! If you want to make sure you receive a shirt in your size it is better to register by Aug. 1.

For more information and registration forms stop in at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center or go to

our web page at [friendsofwarner.com](http://friendsofwarner.com) or email [dborchardt1@charter.net](mailto:dborchardt1@charter.net) or [steve@onelly.com](mailto:steve@onelly.com).

A huge Thanks to our 2011 Golf Scramble and Walk Sponsors! Please patronize these businesses to thank them for their commitment to our community! We couldn't do it without their support.

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COMMUNITY

# Northside families overcome obstacles to realize American dream of home ownership

Four families who overcame obstacles of single parenthood, living in unsafe neighborhoods and frequent moves will begin a new chapter in their lives as they celebrate the completion of their new homes. The single family homes were blessed in Habitat for Humanity of Dane County's development on Madison's Northside on Saturday, May 14 at 533, 537, 541 and 545 Moose Lake Tr. in Madison.

The families include the Chandler, Mitchell, Schlafer and Pruitt families.

"It is very important to me that my children get a chance to grow up in a good neighborhood in a safe environment. Where we live now, it is very difficult to take my children outside without seeing police in and out of our neighbor's homes, hearing loud music and seeing some type of violence," said Renee Schlafer. "In the past eight years of my daughter's life we have moved more than seven times. We have finally had enough."

Schlafer said she is "very excited for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is truly a blessing for my family and I would like to thank the Habitat volunteers and also my family for all their support."

Shavone Chandler said she is looking forward to growing flowers in the front of her home and "a little vegetable garden in the backyard with green peppers, tomatoes, jalapenos. Anybody can live in or build a home, but it's the love and joy you put into the home that makes it a home."

Katie Pruitt said she is looking forward



Photo submitted by Habitat for Humanity

Future homeowner LaDeidra Mitchell and two of her three children enjoy a moment in their kitchen. Mitchell was one of four families that blessed their homes located on Moose Trail off Northport Drive.

to a having more room to host sleepovers and birthday parties for her two children. "Habitat for Humanity and its volunteers and sponsors have made owning a home possible for my family."

Nearly four years ago, Habitat for Humanity of Dane County purchased 5.8 acres of land off Northport Drive, with plans to construct 20 affordable homes and town homes. Housing on the property is targeted for families who earn 30 to 60 percent of the Dane County medium income level.

A generous \$1 million lead gift from long-time Habitat volunteers Bill and Jan DeAtley combined with \$1 million in additional funds raised by Habitat for Humanity Dane County helped build

these homes. Habitat will finance the home purchase through its unique program of zero percent mortgages, sweat equity and volunteer labor and donations. Their monthly payments are expected to be equal or less than they are currently paying for housing.



## From the Hill

Char Tortorice

To spread out our activities, the Lake View Hill Neighborhood Association will host its annual summer picnic a bit later this year. After the May plant sale and July's Rhythm and Booms, and before our fall event, the Picnic Potluck in the Park will be Sunday, July 31 from noon-2 pm at Lake View Heights Park, 1621 Sunfield St.

Bring a dish to share and chairs or a blanket to settle in for a while and reconnect with friends and neighbors. The Association will provide plates, flatware, napkins, cups and beverages. Food, friends, and frolic — there is no better way to enjoy a warm summer day.

This event will be the first to cover our expanded boundaries which run from Troy Drive (north of Northport Drive), up Sherman Avenue to Wheeler Road, Wheeler Road to School Road, then down School Road to Northport Drive and back to the northern jog of Troy Drive. Hope to see you there!

## New community happenings in Brentwood Village

By David Meyer

A weekly dinner has begun for Brentwood Village families. The Thursday night dinner is held at St. Paul's Church on Sherman Avenue. Typically, there is a supper followed by a variety of

family activities. Upcoming events will include family game nights, disk golf, nature and bird watching walks in Warner Park and more.

For information, please contact David Meyer at 249-3665 or dma@chorus.net.

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COMMUNITY

# Vera Court Neighborhood Center teams with Mallards to host Baseball and BBQ event

By Melissa Reeder

In celebration of the Northside community, the Madison Mallards and the Vera Court Neighborhood Center (VCNC) come together every year to host the annual Baseball and BBQ event. This year the event will be held on June 9, when the Mallards take on the Waterloo Bucks.

The Vera Court Neighborhood Center is a cornerstone of the vibrant Northside community. Our free programs are offered to low income families to help meet their basic needs and enrich their lives. Our afterschool programs for elementary, middle and high school are well respected among the community as they provide quality learning and enrichment activities to children who would otherwise not be able to afford afterschool programming. Our vital meal program feeds over 200 children and adults weekly — without these meal programs, many would go without dinner. In addition, we provide computer education classes for youth, adults and

seniors to help them better prepare for employment in the 21st century. Lastly, our Latino Family Resource Center provides information and assistance to the large Northside Latino population.

These quality programs are made available thanks to the United Way, the City of Madison and through other grants. Now that VCNC programming is well established, it is imperative to both sustain our current programming through diversifying our fundraising and to make sure we continue to meet the needs of the growing Northside community. One such need the VCNC aims to meet this year is to reach out and provide services to the growing Brentwood neighborhood.

In these difficult times, when funds are scarce, yet the need for resources is high, it is important that we, as a community, all come together to make sure that all community members' basic needs are met. Our community is only as strong as its members. You can invest in the Vera Court Neighborhood Center by:



Photo submitted by Vera Court Neighborhood Center

Three young boys play soccer at the Vera Court Neighborhood Center.

- Purchasing tickets for the Baseball and BBQ event. Contact Melissa Reeder at [melissa@veracourt.org](mailto:melissa@veracourt.org) for ticket information. All proceeds from this event will go to the Vera Court Neighborhood Center's child and youth programming.
- Volunteer for one of our evening programs: Leadership, Girl Power or Life as a Boy
- Volunteer for our Latino Family Resource Center or our Latino Academy of Workforce Development.
- Volunteer to be a Reading Buddy for 2011 Summer Camp.



Photo submitted by Jenny Czerkas

Andy and Jenney Czerkas, founders of The River Food Pantry, were awarded a United Way award in April.

# Northside organizations take top United Way volunteer awards

By Marlene Hardick  
*Northside News*

Of 85 volunteers nominated for an annual award at the April United Way Community Volunteer Awards, two Northside organizations won top awards.

Winning top awards were Andy Czerkas, founder of The River Food Pantry non-profit and Lydia Auner of NESCO and East High ENJOY club. Also nominated for an award was Mary Beth Welch of NESCO and the Latino Academy which is based at Vera Court Neighborhood Center.

### Distinguished service award

Andy Czerkas was recognized for his work with the The River, a faith-based nonprofit which he founded five years ago with his wife Jenny. While working full time as an instructor at Madison College, Andy volunteers 30 hours a week at The River, 2201 Darwin Rd, or gives speeches to promote it. The pantry has grown rapidly, currently serving over 2500 families per month. The large program is planning an expansion. The River distributes 25,000

pounds of food a week at a food pantry and Friday free meal site. It provides a library, personal hygiene supplies, rent assistance, health care, fuel assistance and free clothing. In March, 175 new families came to The River for help. The River set a record of 2,528 client visits in that one month and distributed over 50 tons of food.

"Andy is a remarkable combination cook, cherub and Christian. With good humor, tolerance and gritty commitment to human rights, he and his wife Jenny have knitted a vital safety net for people in need in north Madison. Out of little more than faith and hard work, they have created an economic and social system of recycled food and hope," stated Jim Carrier, a volunteer cook and member of the Board of The River.

### Goodman Gemstone Youth Award

This new Award was presented to Lydia Auner, age 17, for participation at East High's ENJOY (East Neighbors Joining Old and Young) club. (See page 33 for more on Lydia's nomination.)



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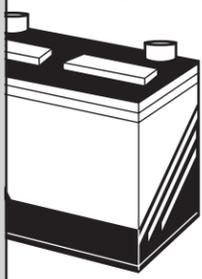



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COMMUNITY

# Workshops for homeowners facing foreclosure held twice each month

By Ellen Bernards

Dane County homeowners facing foreclosure have access to a free legal clinic staffed by volunteer lawyers and law students. The Foreclosure Answer Clinic is held the first and third Thursdays of each month from 11 am-1 pm on the third floor of the City-County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Madison. The clinic operates on a walk-in basis, no appointments are necessary. Homeowners should bring their Summons and Complaint as well as any other relevant paperwork.

The purpose of the clinic is to provide homeowners in foreclosure with basic legal information. Time is of the essence as homeowners generally have only 20 calendar days from the date they receive the initial lawsuit papers to file a formal response.

The Foreclosure Answer Clinic is a collaborative effort of the Dane County Foreclosure Prevention Taskforce, the Dane County Bar Association and the UW Law School, with grant funding provided by the State Bar of Wisconsin and other support provided by Dane County.

**WHAT:** Foreclosure Answer Clinic - a FREE walk-in legal clinic  
**WHO:** For homeowners who have received a Foreclosure Summons and Complaint  
**WHEN:** 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Thursday, May 5  
**WHERE:** City-County Building, Rm. 354, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

## Redistricting, from page 2

crafting potential configurations for the new aldermanic districts. In early June, the committee will select a preferred aldermanic district plan and forward it to the Common Council for their review and adoption. The new wards and aldermanic districts will then be used for the next decade.

The City will utilize this general timeline for redistricting: [www.cityofmadison.com/cityHall/redistricting/documents/timeline.pdf](http://www.cityofmadison.com/cityHall/redistricting/documents/timeline.pdf)

**March:** The state officially releases the 2010 census data.

**May:** Dane County adopts the tentative supervisory district plan.

**July:** The City adopts the ward plan, list of polling places and the aldermanic district plan.

**September:** Dane County adopts the final supervisory district plan.

For more information go to [www.cityofmadison.com/cityhall/redistricting](http://www.cityofmadison.com/cityhall/redistricting).

From  
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**NORTH DISTRICT POLICE**

## Greetings from the North Police District!

Spring, and the roadway construction season are both in full bloom! Most of you are probably painfully aware that the entire length of Packers Avenue and Northport Drive are undergoing major reconstruction. This project is projected to be completed very late this year. This will have a significant impact on traffic flow, and potentially, on traffic safety in the North District.

The number of traffic crashes often increase sharply in construction zones. As a result, officers of the North Police District and the Madison Police Department Traffic Enforcement Safety Team will be conducting increased enforcement in the construction zones. We will also be doing enforcement in the surrounding residential areas that will see increased traffic, as frustrated motorists attempt to by-pass the construction area.

When driving in construction zones, it is important that motorists slow down significantly, increase the following distance from the vehicle in front of them,

and increase their attentiveness to pedestrians and construction workers/vehicles that might come from unanticipated directions. Our officers will be taking a pro-citation posture for violations in the construction zones due to the increased risks to safety in these areas. Be aware that the fines double for such tickets. It would be our preference to write fewer citations and have a safe summer with high levels of voluntary compliance. Our enforcement efforts will be there to help increase the likelihood of generating such voluntary compliance!

This construction will, of course, have an impact on traffic flow for Rhythm and Booms event this year. Traffic Engineering has assured me that they have a good plan, which they are confident will minimize the inconveniences and delays. It is inevitable, however, that the construction will result in delays for people coming to the event, particularly at the last minute, and for those leaving at the end of the event. For this reason, we will be urging motorists to make use of the bus shuttle from MATC, and/or to park further from the park, outside of the construction area. Most importantly, we will be urging everyone to come early enough to allow for any delays, enjoy the event, and exercise patience on their way home.

Our officers are committed to making this a safe summer and a safe construction season, and ask that you each do your part to help!

Take care and be safe. ...

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COMMUNITY

## Madison Parks Commission approves geese reduction plan

Madison's Parks Commission approved a wide-ranging plan on May 11 to reduce the number of Canada geese throughout the city. Solutions recommended by Parks Department Russ Hefty range from new shrubs to roundup killings.

Hefty's goal for Warner Park is six adult geese, a drastic reduction from current populations.

The plan outlined by Hefty for Warner Park recommends the reduction of the giant Canada goose population to three nesting pairs (approximately 24 birds). This allows the public to enjoy seeing geese but will reduce their impact on the human and natural environment.

To read Hefty's strategies, go to <http://wildwarnerpark.org>.

### Troy storage from page 1

A community meeting to discuss the proposal was just recently held on May 5. Over 50 people attended, and the consensus suggestion of those participating was to locate the new facility elsewhere on the Mendota Mental Health Center grounds. Residents were vocal that there are better state-owned sites nearby for such a large structure that would not eradicate green

space or have a negative impact on the existing neighborhood.

State officials stated that they are willing to provide more information, however declined to restart the process. They hope to put the project out for bids in July, break ground around October and complete the building by April 2013. Interested residents are encouraged to become informed and contact their alder to learn more.

### Seed Loans, from page 1

resource for small businesses, "This is an extremely exciting program for the Northside! Six months ago, the Northside Planning Council was proud to develop a new partnership with WWBIC, to help strengthen and foster supportive programs for our Northside businesses and entrepreneurs. WWBIC immediately brought experienced mentoring and technical assistance to our small business owners. And now, with the addition of WWBIC's low interest capital seed loans, Northside entrepreneurs and small businesses will have the additional resources they require to invest in their dreams, as well as our community."

Barbara Eckblad, Director of Lending for WWBIC, explained, "These loans are meant to help businesses that need a boost for hiring a new employee, buying a new piece of equipment, additional resources for marketing, whatever is best for the business owner. Interested applicants should contact Ruth Rohlich, WWBIC Project Director, to begin the process. We

are excited to be working with the Northside Planning Council to get the word out to Northside Businesses."

WWBIC Project Director Ruth Rohlich, explained her personal interest in this program, "As a resident of the Northside I know what a strong group of businesses we have access to and have always been so impressed with the Northside News and the Northside Business Association. As Project Director of WWBIC I am so excited to be able to work with Northside businesses and the Northside Planning Council to help our strong and diverse business community."

WWBIC will delay the application fees until the loan has been approved and can help you with the application if you call our office.

Please contact Scott Heinig at 608-661-0060 if you have Northside business questions, or contact Ruth Rohlich at 608-257-5450 for information on how to apply for a WWBIC seed loans. *Hablamos Espanol!*

### FEED Kitchen from page 1

FEED Kitchens project closer to achieving its capital campaign goal, and leaders are optimistic they will begin breaking ground on the project in Fall of this year.

FEED Kitchens is seeking more volunteers to help with events and fundraising requests, as well as potential users interested in starting a food business or participating in business training and planning classes to be offered by the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation

(WWBIC). If interested, please contact Ellen Barnard at [ellenb@feedmadison.com](mailto:ellenb@feedmadison.com), or call 608-576-3734.

Plan to attend the next FEED Kitchens event: Summer Solstice Sampler, at Capital Brewery in Middleton, June 21 from 5:30 pm to sunset. There will be a wonderful silent auction, bluegrass music by Sweetwater band, food donated from local restaurants and individuals, and of course, beer. See the FEED website for more details and to purchase tickets: [www.feed-kitchens.org](http://www.feed-kitchens.org). Please come join us!

### Community Briefs



#### Garage sale website connection

BuySellMadison.com is a website made in Madison for Madison, dedicated to providing the community with an online social market place. This new free community resource has added a garage sale section to the website. Users can post personal or neighborhood garage sales for free local exposure.

#### Food pantry donations needed — even in the summer

Local food pantries still need food and your support this summer. With a regular supply of food and necessities, they are better able to manage times when donations are lean.

Lakeview Food Pantry has had a great call for toilet paper recently and the supply is depleted. Bring donations to the Lakeview Lutheran Church, corner of Northport Drive and Mandrake Road.

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OUTDOORS

**Bird Buddies discover bird species #100**

*Seven More Species Found Since April — Number now is 107*

by **Trish O’Kane and Marlene Hardick**

A magical thing happened in Warner Park one afternoon this April. A nationally-renowned ornithologist helped Sherman Middle School students and UW-Madison college students find the 100th bird species — a yellow-bellied sapsucker — in Madison’s largest urban park.

“There it is,” said ornithologist John Robinson, pointing to the colorful woodpecker on the trunk of a black walnut tree on Monterey Drive. Robinson, author of “Birding for Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers,” came to Madison specifically to work with the Bird Buddies program. This program is a community partnership between Wild Warner, the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and Sherman Middle School. Robinson also gave a public lecture at UW-Madison on outdoor recreation and human diversity.

It’s taken nearly three years for the Wild Warner bird list to hit the magic number of 100. Trish O’Kane, members of the Madison Audubon Society, UW-Madison ornithology students, Wild Warner members and local residents have also helped compile the list.

“When I first started, I did not expect to find over 100 bird species in such a seemingly urbanized park,” O’Kane said. “But I kept finding more and more and then the list stalled at bird number 95 this winter. And then Robinson stepped into the park



Photo by Jolene Griffin

This picture of a Hooded Merganser was taken behind the Nau-Ti-Gal by the bridge that goes over Hwy. 113.

with the kids and hit 100. What a thrilling moment that was.”

O’Kane added, “Our park is a giant bird nursery. Over 40 percent of these 100 species breed in Wild Warner.”

According to the species list, Wild Warner is home, fueling station or playground for birds as varied as the ground-nesting American Woodcock and a Bald Eagle that thrills park users with its hunting antics. Many of these birds are also long-distance migrators. Some travel as far as South America to spend the winter.

Trish O’Kane, a UW-Madison Ph.D. student in Environmental Studies, began compiling this list in 2008 as part of her research. Part of her research focuses on the migration of catbirds, who nest in Wild Warner. See the species list, now numbering 107 different species in Warner Park, at [www.wild-warnerpark.org](http://www.wild-warnerpark.org).

**Lake View Hill Park bird survey and conservation project**

By **Mike Bacsi**

Members of The Friends of Lake View Hill gathered in the wee hours of May 14 to participate in the Annual Audobon Bird Survey in the park. The variety of birds that pass through is quite impressive. Surveys in past years have noted over 30 species in a single morning.

In other news, the Pack 127 Cub Scouts came to Lake View Hill Park on April 30 to work with Friends of Lake View Hill Park volunteers. Cub Master Steve Kimball brought his troops to work on their conservation project on a brisk, spring Saturday morning. Volunteers are always welcome to help us on a variety of efforts within the park. Please visit us on Facebook for details.



Photo by Jeffrey Lee Affeldt

Annual burning of the understory in Lake View Woods helps promote growth of native plants and maintains the oak savannah habitat for wildlife in the park.

**Wild Warner summer events**

By **Marlene Hardick**

*Northside News*

These free events will all meet at the Rainbow Shelter in Warner Park, except as noted. They are sponsored by NESCO and Wild Warner. All are designed to be wheelchair accessible and for all ages. Cars can drive up to the shelter for drop offs. Walking and biking to events is encouraged.

**Saturday, June 4, 8 am Audubon Birding Walk and Roll**

UW Environmental Studies Ph.D. student Trish O’Kane is conducting geolocation research on catbirds in Warner Park to find out their migration routes. Catbirds raise their families in Warner Park and then fly to Central America and the Caribbean for the winter. During this walk we

*continued on page 23*

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OUTDOOR

# An early-summer stroll through Token Creek County Park

By Jeffrey Lee Affeldt  
Northside News

With this year's cold, wet, and protracted Spring, many Northsiders have grumbled that warmer days might never come. Someone suggested that we may not need to fire up the lawnmowers until sometime in July. Or perhaps August.

So when the sun recently made an unexpected appearance, I took advantage of the rare event to enjoy a ramble at nearby Token Creek County Park.

The namesake creek greets visitors entering the park, as it meanders aimlessly down from its spring-fed source on its way to join the Upper Yahara River. One can park here and enjoy views of the broad pond just below the bridge, and a number of lazy frogs and painted turtles seemed as surprised and grateful for the sun's warmth as I.

Just past the bridge, a boardwalk leads walkers through the sedge meadow marshlands surrounding Token Creek, and birders will find a variety of both migratory and permanent residents here.

Though special in its own right, the creek occupies only a small corner of the park, and there are 427 acres of largely open space to enjoy. Miles of dedicated and multi-use trails — hiking, cross country skiing and horseback riding — thread the perimeter and interior of the park. Canine visitors are invited to run themselves silly at the attached dog exercise area.

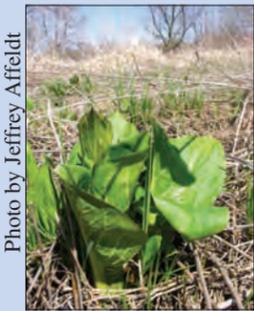


Photo by Jeffrey Affeldt  
Skunk cabbage is a thermogenesis plant.

Several park shelters may be reserved for parties, cook-outs, and other large groups, and a 43-unit campground (plus group camp) offer a shady place to pitch your tent, just 20 minutes

from our state capitol.

Token Creek Park also boasts one of the region's best 18-hole disc golf courses. With its long, green fairways, concrete tee pads and well-maintained pin greens, this facility is considered by aficionados to be a 'country club-style course'.

Strolling down the mowed paths, between rows of stately white pines, past the stands of sumac and through the open meadows, I am finally reassured of the arrival of warmer weather, and I reluctantly return to my car. I suppose now I'll have to sharpen the mower blades. ...

Directions: From Warner Park, head east on Northport/Hwy 113 to the junction with Cty. Hwy CV; continue north on Hwy CV 3.9 miles and turn left onto US-51 North. Drive north one mile, past I-90/94, and turn right onto Token Creek Lane to enter the park.



Photo by Justin Sargent

To celebrate Earth Day, the Friends of Cherokee Marsh and volunteers from the Triple M Green Team scattered grass and flower seeds under the oaks in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park.

## Tour Cherokee Marsh on land and water this summer

By Jan Axelson

Everyone is welcome at these summer events in Cherokee Marsh!

### Cherokee Marsh Butterfly Walk June 25 (Saturday), 10 am-noon

Seek out butterflies, dragonflies and other interesting small creatures in Cherokee Marsh. In recent years, this walk has turned up over a dozen different types of butterflies. The tour leader is conservation biologist and grasshopper expert Kathy Kirk. A few pairs of binoculars will be available for lending but bring your own if you have them. Wear long pants and a hat for sun protection. This is a joint trip with the Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, Madison Audubon, and the Friends of Cherokee Marsh.

### Cherokee Marsh and Upper Yahara River Tour, Aug. 6 (Saturday), 8-11 am

Join Conservation Resources Supervisor Russ Hefty on a tour of Madison Parks' wetland restoration project on the upper Yahara River at Cherokee Marsh. This is joint tour with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Madison Audubon, and Madison Parks.

Bring your own canoe or kayak and meet at the School Road boat landing, 5002 School Rd. Heading north on Northport Drive/HWY 113, turn right on School Rd. Where the road curves right onto Wheeler Rd. take an immediate left into Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park. Follow the gravel road to the boat landing.

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