



# Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.

Where History and Nature Meet at the Door!

Founded in 2007

## Forum: Fall 2024

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FOPPI *Forum* back issues can be found at the Washington Island Archives, WI Marine Historical Society, WI Maritime Museum, Egg Harbor Public Library, Sturgeon Bay Public Library, and the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

Hello, Friends and Supporters,

My grandson called the other day, wanting to come over to rake the leaves in my yard. I thought that odd, but picked him up and handed him the rake. He went to work gathering them into a huge pile, ran and jumped into them, laughed, gathered them once again, and repeated this joyous activity a couple of times. I was delighted watching him and, for a moment, thought about joining him. His joy reminded me of how much fun we have on Plum Island, collaborating on tasks that would otherwise seem like work. I hope that you'll be able to join us next field season, volunteering on Plum Island. I can't guarantee that there will be jumping involved, but there will certainly be a copious amount of laughter and fun!

We are planning some awesome events for next season, which include learning about the little brown bats who are denizens of Plum Island and building new quarters for them, identifying invasive species and reporting them to the biologists, and understanding the Native American history of those who frequented the island on their travels. We'll also be hosting a workshop on area shipwrecks by famed diver Jim Robinson and another on Great Lakes fog signals by FOPPI member Jake Heffernan. Watch our website for the confirmed dates, and come on out and spend time with us!

I'd like to thank you for your support of the Rear Range Light restoration project! Together we raised \$405K to restore the tower, abate the lead paint, and brighten this landmark seen by thousands of Door County visitors. Historic Preservation and Restoration team leader, Chuck Scheckel, said it was difficult to get a good picture of the tower due to the glare from the new paint! Our next restoration project is the roof on the boathouse. This project is estimated to cost \$350K and will replace the tired roof with a red-stained cedar shake shingle covering like the 1939 original. According to Google, a red roof symbolizes energy, passion, and vitality. *Psychologically, red is associated with strength, excitement, and warmth. It can create a dynamic and stimulating environment, adding a sense of drama and intensity to your home's (aka boathouse) exterior.* The architects of old certainly knew what they were doing-there is much energy, passion, and vitality in that building, especially when it's filled with a group of FOPPI volunteers!

We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

—Mary Beth

## Plum Island Restoration Work by Tim Sweet



Billy Winkleback of Mihm and Chuck Sheckel, FOPPI Historic Preservation team leader, inspect the paint job on the rear range light.

Members of the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI) met with Billy Winkleback of Mihm Enterprises on August 21, 2024, to inspect and discuss progress on the rear range light painting project. At that time, a three-man crew had been working on the lighthouse for nearly two months.

Scaffolding was erected in late June. Then, the structure was shrouded to contain lead paint that was sandblasted and collected from all of the metal surfaces.

“We used a product called ‘Blastox.’ It makes the lead inert,” Winkleback explained. The waste product is then hauled away to a certified landfill that accepts such material.

Once the old paint had been removed down to bare metal, a zinc-based primer was applied. That was followed by an intermediate paint layer, and then two more coats of finish paint were rolled or brushed onto the surfaces.

The men stayed on Plum Island in a trailer for most of the time.

“I love being on the water. This is the kind of place I like to be. I’ve even gotten used to taking a bath in the lake, although it’s a little cold at first,” said Winkleback.

Mihm Enterprises has done restoration work on several other Great Lakes lighthouses, including South Manitou Island and North Manitou Island Shoal in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. They do a very professional job, and they take pride in their work.

FOPPI funded the \$178,600-project with grants from the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region and the Great Lakes Foundation. Several FOPPI supporters also contributed private donations.



Rear range light with temporary dayboard shrouded to contain hazardous waste.



Architrave above the range light doors.



The rear range light with fresh paint and surrounded by scaffolding.



Repainted support post.

*Oh! you won't know why and you can't say how  
Such a change upon you came,  
But once you have slept on an island,  
You'll never be quite the same.*

*—Rachel Field, from her poem  
“If Once You Have Slept on an Island”*

With a sense of purpose in his voice, Winkleback stated, “We’re helping to restore and preserve historic landmarks.”

Indeed they are.

Photos by Tim Sweet.

For more information on FOPPI and how you can make a donation or volunteer your time and talents, visit [www.plumandpilot.org](http://www.plumandpilot.org).

## Great Lakes' Water Levels Dropping submitted by Jim Robinson

Autumn in Michigan not only means falling leaves, it also marks the start of the seasonal drop in water levels on the Great Lakes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in a report issued recently, said that by the second week in November, it expects water levels to drop 5-6" on Lakes Erie and Ontario and 2-3" on Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Huron. New estimates are due to be released in the coming days.

According to the agency, water levels tend to drop in fall and early winter "due to an increase in evaporation as temperatures decline and cold air moves over the relatively warm lake waters." Low water levels can create access issues for certain boats. Recreational boating, for example, may be difficult because some vessels are not suited for lower water levels.

According to Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments—a joint project of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University—high or low water levels can impact fisheries, commercial shipping, hydropower generation, recreational boating, shoreline flooding, and coastal erosion. "The variability of Great Lakes water levels is necessary for the continued health of the Lakes but can create challenges for waterfront communities and homeowners," the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy explains on its website.

### Historical Perspective

Water levels in the Great Lakes have declined in recent years, but experts say it's not as bad as it seems. Precipitation is the main determinant of water levels in the Great Lakes. This year, Michigan experienced drier-than-normal conditions due to a lack of rainfall, causing abnormally dry and even drought conditions in some parts of the region.

But lake levels don't just depend on rainfall totals in a specific area. Many of the rivers and streams across the region that feed into the Lakes also impact lake levels.

"The more areas that have drainage channels into the Lakes, the more those areas are below average or in drought conditions, generally, the greater tendency for those lake levels to slowly decline over long periods of time," said Kevin Kacan, meteorologist of the National Weather Service's Detroit office.

Low precipitation has had a slight impact on water levels in the Great Lakes, but long-term data show that the current lake levels are about average.

"While the levels have dropped significantly in the last four or five years, they're not quite to a place where we would call them low yet," said Keith Kompoltowicz chief of hydraulics for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit district. "They're near average, and that's just simply because it's been so dry, especially recently."

The water levels in the Great Lakes are just about the same as they were this time last year, except for Lake Superior, where the average water level is down. As of October 11, the average water levels were approximately as follow:

601 feet for Lake Superior  
579 feet for Lakes Michigan and Huron  
572 feet for Lake Erie  
245 feet for Lake Ontario

Water levels in the Great Lakes dropped to record lows beginning in 2012 and 2013. However, the levels began to quickly increase in 2022 and are now starting to average out.

"This stretch of weather that we've had across the Great Lakes, with the exception of a couple of rainy days here and there, has been just remarkable with tons of sun," Kompoltowicz said. "Very dry conditions have allowed the lakes to decline because of the lack of water being put into the system and that's a natural thing."

Typically, the Lakes reach low levels during the winter but will rise again once the snow melts and spring rain occurs. But when there are consecutive dry seasons, water levels will decline to below-average levels.

"If we see a very healthy snowpack on the ground in the Great Lakes followed by a very wet spring that would lead us to believe that levels might increase from where they were a year ago," Kompoltowicz said. "But if we continue these very dry conditions with very minimal snow, very minimal spring rains next year, then levels would continue to maybe even dip a little bit further and fall below average."

Written by Janelle D. James and first published in *Bridge Michigan* at [www.bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/great-lakes-water-levels-dropping-still-just-about-average](http://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-environment-watch/great-lakes-water-levels-dropping-still-just-about-average).

## History, Habitat, and Personal Passion by Lynn Malchow

History, habitat, and personal passion. These are the three core reasons I joined FOPPI. My first visit to Plum Island was on a Lighthouse Festival tour and I was hooked!



FOPPI member,  
Lynn Malchow.

I am a docent at Eagle Bluff Lighthouse in Fish Creek. We aren't the tallest lighthouse in Door County because we are on a bluff, but we have a story. When the Door County Historical Society decided to restore Eagle Bluff in the early 1960s, an old gent became a frequent visitor. Someone commented he seemed very interested in the lighthouse and he replied, "I grew up in that lighthouse." It was

Walter Duclon, the youngest of the seven Duclon brothers raised in Eagle Bluff, with the family residing there for 35 years. Walter donated original furniture, pictures, and other artifacts. He was also a docent for a year at the age of 91. If you visit Eagle Bluff Lighthouse, you will be stunned with its physical beauty but more importantly, you will leave feeling like you actually met the Duclon family.

This is what draws me to FOPPI, the possibility of not only knowing the history of the islands and their people, but bringing their lives and experiences to life. I want to embrace their stories, walk in their footsteps, feel their joys and disappointments. FOPPI provides the foundation to move this possibility into a reality for both Plum and Pilot Islands.

Natural habitat is also very important to me. I champion FOPPI for their sensitive handling of the little brown bat population on Plum Island. I am proud to be part of an organization that took the steps necessary to support a sensitive and vital species. We should also take pride in the work being done to support monarch migration. Both Plum and Pilot Islands are vital stopover locations for the monarch journey south as well as several migratory bird species.

I reside in Jacksonport, the "quiet side." I love the cooler weather, Cave Point in winter and an edgy Nor'Easter every now and then. These are some of my personal passions. Yes, I enjoy a good restaurant, an occasional play, or family and friends at a festival in autumn, but I treasure the little moments on the paths less traveled. Plum Island is a place of tranquil beauty and offers an environment of quiet exploration. The grace of a pelican gliding over the water, the disciplined navigation of car ferries, a moment of reflection at the ruins of a failed lighthouse and lessons learned, a lone wild raspberry on the edge of a trail, the two-mile trek along escarpment rock with breathtaking views of Pilot Island framed in pines. We are the keepers of these sacred islands, paving the way for future generations to experience this rich history and rugged beauty. It is a privilege to uncover and share the stories of Plum and Pilot Islands and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for both of these treasured destinations.

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

*—Mahatma Gandhi*

To learn more about Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and other lighthouses, check out these websites:

[doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org/eagle-bluff-lighthouse/](http://doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org/eagle-bluff-lighthouse/)

[dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/peninsula/lighthouse](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/peninsula/lighthouse)

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

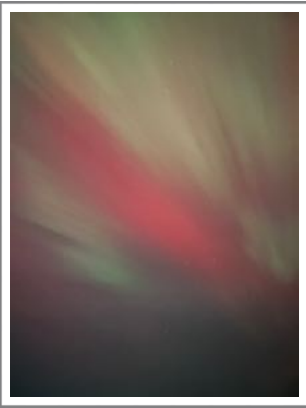


Eagle Bluff Lighthouse. Photo courtesy of Door County Historical Society.

## The Northern Lights by Nancy Hoefs Leisgang

On a visit to Washington Island in 1981, at a singalong at the Red Barn, I first heard Julian Hagen sing what has become the Island anthem, his song "Northern Lights." I was an impressionable 15-year-old and immediately enthralled—the intimacy of the space, the words and melody of the song, Julian's smooth voice rising above the choir of the crowd. It was a singular moment and one that has led the way for countless more as I have been pulled back to the Island again and again. But those lights that Julian sang about? They have eluded me on every visit. It's been more than 40 years—and about 100 Death's Door crossings—since that warm summer evening, and I have yet to experience the northern lights on Washington Island.

\* \* \*



When I began to hear the buzz that the aurora borealis would be visible in my part of south central Wisconsin on October 10, 2024, I was a bit skeptical—partly because I had searched the sky for them upon such previous reports and partly because it had been a long day, and I wasn't sure I could stay awake late enough to catch a glimpse. As darkness fell, I stepped out onto our back porch. My family lives in a small city in a rural area, so light pollution isn't extreme, but it exists. I snapped a pic with my phone and held my breath. Color! It was faint but visibly pink and green. I called to my son to come take a look and hinted that I hoped he would go with me for a

drive outside the city. He was exhausted after a 14-hour day at work, but he didn't hesitate in his reply, "Let's go!"

We tried a couple locations on the outskirts of town, but the view was not quite right, so we headed to a familiar county park. I sighed as my eyes made out the silhouettes of a dozen or more cars in the parking lot; I feared the experience—if there was to be one—would be filled with the chatter of other gazers and flashes from their phones. But it was not. If I had not seen their vehicles, I would not have even known that others were scattered around the park grounds (save for the occasional glow of a phone as a photo was taken). There was an absolute reverence to the event, as we all peered skyward to see what many of us had never seen before: the northern lights.



*Because we'll never have this time to live again, so why not live it up while we can  
For there's less time than before, and I don't know how much more  
But I know we'll never have this time again*

*—Julian Hagen, from his song "Northern Lights"*

To learn more about the aurora borealis and when you might have the chance to view them, visit:

[www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-30-minute-forecast)

[www.spaceweather.gov/communities/aurora-dashboard-experimental](http://www.spaceweather.gov/communities/aurora-dashboard-experimental)

[www.mtu.edu/tour/copper-country/northern-lights/](http://www.mtu.edu/tour/copper-country/northern-lights/)

*Pilot Island & Her Keepers* submitted by Kyle Smart

After their critically acclaimed fifth season, The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC) returns with the highly anticipated world premiere of *Pilot Island & Her Keepers*, a haunting new play by ITC ensemble member Kayla Belec, directed by ITC Artistic Director Stefan Roseen.

Inspired by the true stories of lighthouse keepers whose lives were changed by the treacherous waters of Death's Door, this evocative production transports the audience to the heart of the Great Lakes, where the real-life Pilot Island lighthouse still stands sentinel over dangerous waters. *Pilot Island & Her Keepers* runs from November 8 to November 23, 2024, at ITC's resident home, The Den Theatre, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622.

Deep in the heart of the Great Lakes, where Lake Michigan waters intersect with Green Bay, a lighthouse stands watch over the narrow, treacherous passage known to those in her reach as Porte des Morts, or Death's Door. Hailed as a haven by some and posed as a prison by others, Pilot Island hosts a number of faithful and



reluctant keepers alike. As the only checkpoint standing between a ship's safe passage and an unknown alternative, the island and its light play a vital role in the lives of both the passersby beholden to its reaches, and its inhabitants-saviors to those whose brush with death is close and indelible.

Where once carefully crafted routines guided by human hands give way to automated processes, there lives an impression. Each soul Pilot Island hosts treads a deeper footpath and leaves behind a new story to haunt her shores—a young pair of immigrants with no lighthouse keeping experience and the mercurial second assistant

burrowing under their skins; a beloved pet becoming an unlikely martyr; a Keeper who saved enough lives to create a legacy, and more.

In a kaleidoscope of new, imaginative storytelling colliding with factual records of life on Pilot Island between the 1880s-1910s, *Pilot Island & Her Keepers* holds a beveled pane of glass over the meeting of fact and fiction—where memory passes down to legacy, and history transforms into lore.

To learn more about The Den Theatre and to purchase tickets for this play and other events, visit [thedentheatre.com](http://thedentheatre.com).

**VOTE: Let Your Voice Be Heard in 2024 and Beyond**

In every election across the country, National Wildlife Refuges are on the ballot. From establishing appropriate budgets to securing environmental protections, our collective power to elect representatives who will support our irreplaceable National Wildlife Refuge System is more important now than ever.

Our wildlife refuges provide all Americans with numerous benefits including protecting biodiversity, cleaning our water and air, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and helping stem the worst of climate change. Yet these lands, and in particular their wildlife, cannot vote for their own protection. We have to be their voice.

A warming climate is forcing wildlife to migrate and adapt at rapid rates. Our societal needs are placing an undue burden on the last of their habitats as industry continues to remove and extract from their fragile environment. The sobering fact is that most species will not be able to adapt, or find a new home, quickly enough.

We encourage you to register to vote, research your candidates in every election and Vote As If Your Wildlife Depended On It.



## Cruise on *The Shoreline*

### CRUISE ON *THE SHORELINE*!

Are you ready for a unique Door County adventure?

Nor'Door Cruises by *The Shoreline* offers our premier **Death's Door Lighthouse Cruise with a stop on Plum Island**. See the remote Pilot Island Lighthouse and Plum Island Range Lights. Docents tell the tales of the area shipwrecks and share stories about the lighthouse keepers and coasties who were stationed on the islands. You'll also learn about the islands' natural history and the work the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands are doing to preserve this history.



We also offer cruises to these destinations:

- Rock Island State Park** cruise to lovely Rock Island, home of the Pottawatomie Lighthouse, with time to hike, picnic, or swim before your return cruise.
- Fayette State Park** in Upper Michigan's Garden Peninsula. Bring a picnic lunch, explore preserved sites in this mining-settlement-turned-ghost-town, hike the trails and enjoy the outstanding views.
- Out-Island** cruise to see Boyers Bluff Light Tower on Washington Island, Pottawatomie Lighthouse on Rock Island, and St. Martin Island and Poverty Island Lighthouses. This is a water-only tour—be sure to pack a lunch!

Contact us if you'd like to create your own cruise to best fit your interests.

*The Shoreline* can comfortably accommodate 14 guests. And, we're dog friendly!

All cruises depart from Gills Rock at The Shoreline Resort Marina. For charter rates and more information, visit [www.plumandpilot.org/the-shoreline.html](http://www.plumandpilot.org/the-shoreline.html).



Tours are provided by the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands to support preservation and restoration of the historic maritime structures on these islands.



If you have already enjoyed a cruise on *The Shoreline*, we would love to hear from you! Please share your experience and your photos with us at [friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com).

## Door County Lighthouse Quiz by Ken and Barb Wardius

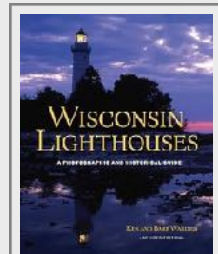
### How much do you know about Door County lighthouses?

From *Wisconsin Lighthouses* by Ken and Barb Wardius

1. What is the light sequence for the Pilot Island light?
  - A. One-second flash, one-second darkness, one-second flash, dark for three seconds, repeat
  - B. Two-second flash, two-second darkness, repeat
  - C. One-second flash, two-second darkness, one-second flash, two second darkness, repeat
2. How many lighthouses are there in Door County (currently)?
  - A. 10
  - B. 11
  - C. 13
3. What makes the Sherwood Point lighthouse different than any of the other lights?
  - A. Her tower is round
  - B. She stands on federal property
  - C. She is built of red bricks
4. 3-1/2 order lights were only installed on the Great Lakes. Which light has a 3-1/2 order?
  - A. Eagle Bluff
  - B. Cana Island
  - C. Old Baileys Harbor
5. Which light is said to be haunted by the wife of the head light keeper?
  - A. Pottawatomie
  - B. Chambers Island
  - C. Sherwood Point
6. Which light has the highest focal point?
  - A. Pilot Island
  - B. Cana Island
  - C. Pottawatomie
7. Which light holds the record for the most shipwrecks?
  - A. Cana Island
  - B. Pilot Island
  - C. Chambers Island
8. Which light has the oldest Fresnel lens still in operation?
  - A. Cana Island
  - B. Sherwood Point
  - C. Chambers Island
9. This light had to be moved, which one was it?
  - A. Baileys Harbor Front Range Light
  - B. Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal North Pierhead
  - C. Old Baileys Harbor Lighthouse
10. What order lens was in the Plum Island Rear Range Light?
  - A. Third
  - B. Fourth
  - C. Fifth

Answers: 1. A, 2. B, 3. C, 4. A, 5. C, 6. C, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. B

Visit Wisconsin Historical Society at [shop.wisconsinhistory.org/wisconsin-lighthouses-a-photographic-and-historical-guide-revised-ed-3](https://shop.wisconsinhistory.org/wisconsin-lighthouses-a-photographic-and-historical-guide-revised-ed-3) to purchase Ken and Barb Wardius's gorgeous book, *Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide*.





## Native Plant Sale and Pollinator Garden Success



Justin Kroening, owner of Stone Silo, and Jude Kuenn, FOPPI volunteer.

### Third Annual FOPPI Native Plant Sale a Success

FOPPI extends a heartfelt thank you to all the native plant enthusiasts who visited the FOPPI plant sale! We enjoyed a perfect August day on the beautiful grounds of Stone Silo Prairie Gardens in DePere, Wisconsin, chatting with FOPPI members and sharing FOPPI's mission with many new friends.

Stone Silo's owner, Justin Kroening, generously donates a portion of the plant sales on that day to FOPPI. Thank you, Justin, for your third year of support to FOPPI!

Purchasing your plants at Stone Silo is a win for us and the environment as native plants offer four times the nutritional value for birds, bees, and other wildlife than exotic plants, making them the perfect choice for our gardens!

Save the date for 2025! August 9 is the day to shop for plants or volunteer... or better yet—both! Contact Sally Dery at [saderyrdh@gmail.com](mailto:saderyrdh@gmail.com) for more information.



Jude Kuenn, FOPPI volunteer, assisting at the plant sale.



Patti Zarling, FOPPI volunteer, assisting at the plant sale.

### Detroit Harbor Ladies Aid, Thank You!

A special thanks to the Detroit Harbor Ladies Aid for continuing to support our pollinator plot project on Plum Island.

This last spring and summer we were busy weeding, and watching for seedlings from the previous fall seeding of 2023. As we expected, yellow coneflowers as well as some asters, milkweed, little bluestem and lavender hyssop came up and bloomed. Next spring, we expect that more of our seedlings will be mature and begin blooming.

This fall of 2024 we spread more seeds of the same plant varieties to thicken the flowers as they mature. Our goal for next spring (2025) is to plant small actual plants that will grow through the summer months and hopefully be strong enough to survive the first winter on the Island. Conditions on the Island can be challenging, but we are hopeful that with some help from Mother Nature and FOPPI volunteers, we will be successful.



Sue Scheckel, FOPPI volunteer, is ready to plant!

*Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.*

*—Robert Louis Stevenson*

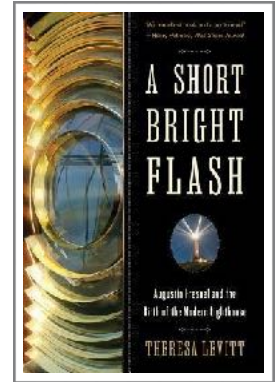


Kimberly Wells, FOPPI volunteer, with a bag of seeds from Prairie Nursery.



Sue Scheckel spreads seeds in the pollinator plot.

**A Short Bright Flash:  
Augustin Fresnel and the Birth of the Modern Lighthouse**  
by Theresa Levitt



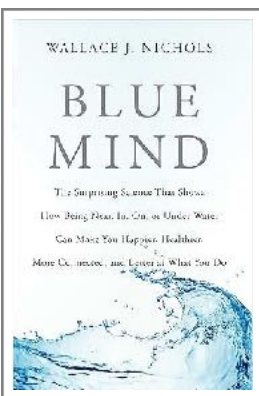
I have gazed at the beauty of a Fresnel lens in many lighthouses and now have an even greater appreciation for the wonder of them. Augustin Fresnel was a man before his time and understood the difficulty of projecting the lighthouses' presence with the technology of the day (early 1800s). He had this crazy idea to create a giant lens, constructed in steps. His design revolutionized the glass, glue, lamp, and lighthouse construction and multiple other industries.

While the Fresnel lens was adopted in Europe, the United States was slow to accept it. This was mainly due to the decisions made by the U.S. auditor Stephen Pleasanton. Pleasanton was ruthless in cutting costs; those of us who are lighthouse preservationists can attest to this! Not only was he a spendthrift, but also he was friends with Winslow Lewis, the man who held contracts with the government to supply the lights. Lewis's light was cheap to install and operate, but the projection was limited to a single beam of light whereas the Fresnel lens projected a circular beam.

Mariners were unimpressed with the Lewis light and voiced their concerns to anyone who would listen. Word reached Congress, and Congress moved the decision-making to the U.S. Navy, which soon upgraded the 50+ lights to Fresnel's lamps and continued to use this lamp on future lights until they were automated.

The author does a fine job of explaining the decision, the competition and the partnerships that were built in the manufacture of a man's dream. She also inserts a bit of history on Pleasanton, which may have alluded to the respect he received from government officials.

Have you read a wonderful book that you'd like to tell other FOPPI members about? We'd love to hear from you! Please send your book reviews to [friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com).



**Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected and Better at What You Do**  
by Wallace J. Nichols

I usually don't dog-ear the pages in my books, but this one deserved the exception! The author spoke to me and cemented some of the thoughts that I had about the spiritual power water brings to us. Swimming champion Bruckner Chase was quoted as saying, "Something profound happened to me when I started getting into the ocean; it keeps driving me to help others discover and embrace their own personal connection to water." Songwriters have sung her virtue, artists have painted her beauty, and men have ventured out to her depths to better understand her. Nichols writes of them all.

Early Greek and Roman physicians prescribed the waters for healing; therapists are seeing the healing powers of surfing, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing; a warm shower first thing in the morning invigorates us. So, what does that say about how water affects the brain? Plenty. We began life floating in the womb and perhaps water brings us back to that place of serenity and security. Benjamin Franklin was said to do much of his writing while sitting in his bathtub!

Nichols also writes about scientific studies that examine how the brain reacts to being exposed to water in an interesting way that doesn't bore readers and might just move them to sit along the shore and learn a bit more.

## Volunteer of the Year / Volunteering



Dallas Greetham and USFWS staff member Frank Gercz.

### Volunteer of the Year: Dallas Greetham

On September 9, 2024, Dallas Greetham was recognized as the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge's 2023-2024 Volunteer of the Year. Dallas found FOPPI about 5 years ago and eagerly jumps at the chance to do whatever task is needed, from restoring crumbling pilasters on the boathouse in 90-degree weather (while wearing a Tyvek suit!) to joining in on a bat count. We are very thankful for volunteers like Dallas. The restoration and preservation of the historic buildings on Plum and Pilot Islands would not happen without those who volunteer for FOPPI and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Congratulations, Dallas! Your commitment to FOPPI and the work you do is greatly appreciated!**

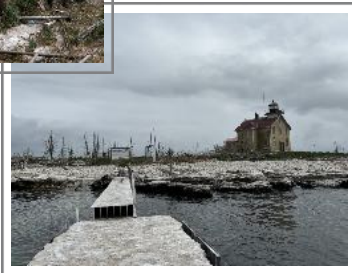
### Lambeau Cleanup: Score!

Do you want to help fellow FOPPI members clean the concourse at Lambeau Field after a Packers game? The work is light (no heavy lifting), it is considered “outdoor” work as the concourse is the same temperature as the outdoors, and it takes only 2-4 hours. For our efforts, the Packers make a donation to FOPPI based on how many hours our volunteers work. It is very interesting to get to see what happens behind the scenes at Lambeau! If you are interested, we can always use more help! Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Schwartz, at [jrschwartz@new.rr.com](mailto:jrschwartz@new.rr.com) or (920) 606-0171 for more information.

Below are the dates FOPPI is scheduled to clean the concourse at Lambeau Field:

- ✦ Monday, November 25
- ✦ Friday, November 29
- ✦ Tuesday, December 23

Come join us! Have fun, make new friends, and help raise money to support FOPPI's mission!



**Work Days:** Due to staffing changes with FOPPI's official partner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our volunteer work days were limited in 2024. But there was still work to do. From retrieving the trail cams put up on Pilot Island by USFWS to being on-hand when the U.S. Coast Guard reinstalled the day board on the freshly painted range light to nurturing the pollinator garden—thank you to the FOPPI members who volunteered to get it done!



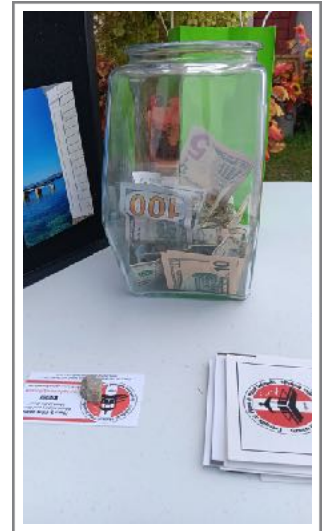
## Supporting FOPPI

On September 21 and 22, FOPPI was invited to the Fine Art & Antiques at the Barn in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, as their non-profit beneficiary. At first we were surprised that they should select us, but after chatting with the organizers we were honored to learn that they had been following our story and felt that we best fit their goal of preserving the history of Door County and our environment.

We set up a table and told our story to many people who left with much more than beautiful artwork in their hands. They learned how important restoration is to our history and how important having a National Wildlife Refuge in their backyard is to wildlife.

Let us know if you would like FOPPI to come to your event and share our story. Email us as [friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com).

Follow Fine Art & Antiques at the Barn on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/fineartandantiquesattheBARN/](https://www.facebook.com/fineartandantiquesattheBARN/)



Thank you, Donors and Fine Art & Antiques at the Barn!

**NOR'DOOR CRUISES** by "The Shoreline"

**BOOK NOW** **10% OFF**

**FOR 2025 CRUISES**

**WWW.PLUMANDPILOT.ORG/CRUISES**

### Looking for a special holiday gift? Cruises aboard *M/V The Shoreline*

Take advantage of a **10% discount** until May 15, 2025, on a Death's Door cruise on *The Shoreline*, which includes a stop on Plum Island and a close-up water view of remote Pilot Island! Numerous private tour options are also available: Visit Rock Island State Park and Fayette Historic State Park, or cruise by the Poverty Island and St. Martin Island lighthouses. All profits generated from the trips will be put into the continued restoration and preservation of the historic maritime structures found on Plum and Pilot Islands. Visit [fareharbor.com/embeds/book/plumandpilot/items/](https://fareharbor.com/embeds/book/plumandpilot/items/) to buy the gift that is sure to make waves!

### If a cruise is not your speed...

Click over to our store at [www.plumandpilot.org/store](https://www.plumandpilot.org/store) to find a variety of other fun FOPPI gifts for friends and family:

- Caps and beanies
- Tee shirts and hoodies
- Plum Island prints and cards
- And so much more!

*Give the gift that gives back to future generations.*

## Supporting FOPPI / Volunteering

### Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands welcomes these new members:

- ◆ Kenny Gabel, Ellison Bay, WI
- ◆ Suzi Hammer, Washington Island, WI
- ◆ Andrew Jenkins, Green Bay, WI
- ◆ Kathy Jerry, Green Bay, WI
- ◆ Michael Nast, West Bend, WI
- ◆ Terri Racine, Green Bay, WI
- ◆ Chris Smithka, Madison, WI

To view FOPPI's financial records,  
scan the QR code below.



Follow FOPPI on social media!  
Download our audio tours at  
[www.plumandpilot.org/audio-tour](http://www.plumandpilot.org/audio-tour).

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc. (FOPPI) was established in 2007 to preserve the unique island ecosystems and foster partnerships to preserve their heritage for future generations.

Your membership dues and charitable gifts help to restore and preserve the historical maritime structures on these island and support education in the areas of conservation, natural history, and environmental protection.

Members who receive our quarterly newsletter, *FOPPI Forum*, are invited to attend the annual meeting and to join us seasonal cleanup, trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and light repair work.

Whatever your interest, there are events and projects that will benefit from your talent and support! Visit [www.plumandpilot.org/foppi-volunteer](http://www.plumandpilot.org/foppi-volunteer) to learn more.

### President's Volunteer Service Award

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands is excited to announce our association with the President's Volunteer Service Award. This program is administered by AmeriCorps and Points of Light. The President's Volunteer Service Award is an opportunity for FOPPI to recognize our most outstanding volunteers. This program is open to individuals of almost all ranges and provides Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Lifetime awards based on the service benchmarks outlined below.

Age Group	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Lifetime Achievement
Teens (age 11-15)	50-74 hours	75-99 hours	100+ hours	4,000+ hours
Young Adults (16-25)	100-174 hours	175-249 hours	250+ hours	4,000+ hours
Adults (age 26+)	100-249 hours	250-499 hours	500+ hours	4,000+ hours

Award winners receive the following:

- The official President's Volunteer Service Award pin, coin, or medallion.
- A personalized certificate of achievement and letter signed by the President of the United States.

Please go to [presidentalserviceawards.gov](http://presidentalserviceawards.gov) for more information. As the certifying organization, FOPPI began this program retroactively on January 1, 2023. All volunteer hours must be submitted to the FOPPI Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Schwartz, at [jrschwartz@new.rr.com](mailto:jrschwartz@new.rr.com).

## Supporting FOPPI

FOPPI is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Historical Society ([wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org)), members of Washington Island Chamber of Commerce ([washingtongisland.com](http://washingtongisland.com)), Door County Historical Society ([doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://doorcountyhistoricalsociety.org)), U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association ([uslife-savingservice.org](http://uslife-savingservice.org)), Door County Visitor Bureau ([doorcounty.com](http://doorcounty.com)), and a partner with Wisconsin Marine Historical Society ([wmhs.org](http://wmhs.org)).

FOPPI thanks its distinguished  
community and business associates!



*In a gentle way, you can shake the world.*  
—Mahatma Gandhi

### A Note of Thanks

A FOPPI volunteer recently wrote to share how good it feels to be part of Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands:

*You all are the most incredible people. I am blessed to have FOPPI in my life. I would have never dreamed my life would be so enriched by this fabulous group of people after attending my first work day! Which, by the way, was a spur of the moment decision. I do believe we are often put in certain places at certain times in our lives for a reason!*

### Thank you, Donors!

The work done on the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge is funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands. The projects and programs we have worked on would not be possible without your financial support. Your donations and inspiration help us to preserve and restore this important part of our heritage within the Green Bay and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuge. Our gratitude is great.

Karen Ellery  
Doug & Renea Heinrich  
Elizabeth Kohl  
Janet Lordahl  
Stiles Meredith  
Caroline Moes  
Jim Robinson  
George D Smith  
Richard and Mary Smythe  
Rosemary Stine  
Mary Beth Volmer  
Washington Island Ferry Line  
Marty Wickersheim

Thanks to Jeff Heal of Washington Island for assisting with FOPPI's mail pickup!

*Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.*  
—Barack Obama

# Membership Form



## FOPPI Membership/Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name as I wish it to appear in your appreciation materials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please do not list my name in your materials.  
 Do you have a connection to the islands? \_\_\_\_\_

*Where History and Nature Meet at the Door!*

Please choose a Membership to join us in our mission to preserve and protect Plum and Pilot Islands!

\$30 Individual  
 \$50 Family - 2 or more family members  
 \$75 Patron  
 \$100 Keeper  
 \$1000 Lifetime

**\*\*Gift Memberships are available as well! Please use the below section to mark this membership as a gift.**

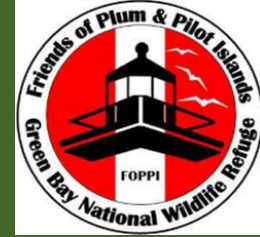
Gift Membership for:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to donate to a certain FOPPI cause, please let us know by filling out the section below. Thank you!**

Your support is critical to the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI). Restoration and preservation of these beautiful WI islands and their buildings takes a group like FOPPI to make it happen. **Fun Fact:** Plum Island is home to the only Duluth-style Life Saving Station on the Great Lakes!

Environmental Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Historic Preservation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 "Float the Boat" Shoreline Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Events \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Expenses as Needed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift Membership \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands is a 501c(3) Charitable Organization. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.




### FOPPI Members receive:

- ❖ The FOPPI Forum Newsletter
- ❖ An invitation to the FOPPI Annual Meeting
- ❖ 10% off in-person merchandise sales
- ❖ Opportunities to volunteer on the wildlife refuge!

**MAIL TO:**  
 FRIENDS OF PLUM & PILOT ISLANDS  
 PO Box 61  
 Washington Island, WI  
 54246

**OR GO ONLINE TO:**  
[www.plumandpilot.org/membership](http://www.plumandpilot.org/membership)

**We also have a QR code!**



Become A Member

**Is it time to renew your membership?**

Mailing label includes membership expiration date above your name. If membership has expired, please renew using the form on page 15. Mail it along with your payment to: FOPPI, P.O. Box 61, Washington Island, WI 54246. If you receive the *Forum* electronically, watch for an email that tells you it's time to renew. For membership questions call Mary Beth Volmer: (262) 613-4680.



Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.  
P.O. Box 61  
Washington Island, WI 54246

**Help Us Be Green!**

To help save paper, printing, and postage expenses, please consider receiving your newsletter via email. Just contact Laura Chappell at coastieg1@yahoo.com.

Previous issues of the *Forum* are available on our website to download or read.



The mission of Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands is to partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the preservation, restoration, maintenance, and contemporary use of the historic resources on Plum and Pilot Islands, and to conserve and protect wildlife resources while providing opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation.

**Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.**

**President:** Mary Beth Volmer, 2026  
**Vice President/*The Shoreline* Director:**  
Open  
**Treasurer:** Kimberly Wells, 2026  
**Secretary:** Karen Ellery, 2026

**Board of Directors**

**Historic Preservation & Restoration:**  
Chuck Scheckel, 2025  
**Membership:** Laura Chappell, 2026  
**Merchandising:** Sally Dery, 2026  
**Volunteer Coordinator:** Jim Schwartz, 2025

**Emeritus Directors**

Mike Brodd	Dan Olson
Lew Clark	Hoyt Purinton
Amanda Danforth	John Sawyer
Frank Forkert	Paul Schumacher
Matt Foss	Tim Sweet
Eric Greenfeldt	Gordon Vieth
Jude Kuenn	Gary Wilson
Scott Nelson	Patti Zarling

**Volunteer Team Members**

**Environmental Education:** Ginnie Harney\*, Sue Scheckel  
**Fundraising:** Karen Ellery\*, huck Scheckel, Jim Schwartz, Tim Sweet, Mary Beth Volmer  
**Governance:** Open  
**Historic Preservation & Restoration:** Jude Kuenn, Paul Kuenn, Chuck Scheckel\*, Tim Sweet, Kimberly Wells  
**Marketing:** Jake Heffernan\*, Colleen Pilat  
**Membership:** Laura Chappell\*, Bob and Sue Griem, Cheryl Lenz  
**Merchandising:** Sally Dery\*, Patti Zarling  
**Newsletter:** Nancy Hoefs Leisgang\*, Lynn Malchow, Jim Robinson, Tim Sweet, Mary Beth Volmer  
**Special Events:** Sally Dery, Mary Beth Volmer  
***The Shoreline*:** Sally Dery, Ginnie Harney, Todd Harris, Barb Jacobs, Kim Krueger, Nancy Hoefs Leisgang, Pete LeMere, Deb Meredith, Stiles Meredith\*, Colleen Pilat, Mike Repp, Jim Robinson, Jim Schwartz, Jon Wall  
**Volunteer Coordinators:** Sally Dery, Bob and Sue Griem, Jim Schwartz\*  
*\*Denotes team leader*