



**The 2023 Annual Report
for the
Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.**



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A Message from our President

Hello Friends,

This year we celebrated the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands' 15-year anniversary! We have so much to be proud of, not only the restoration work that we have completed, but the relationships we have built. Many of our members have faithfully renewed their membership and regularly attend our annual membership meeting on Plum Island. We have become a leader in the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Friends and maritime communities, worked to preserve the memories of those who served on the islands, and along the way have made some memories ourselves.

Our former President, Tim Sweet built the organization on the passion that he had for lighthouses and historic preservation. That passion continues to be within the hearts and minds of our volunteers and members like you.

Throughout the 15 years we have worked diligently to support our US Fish & Wildlife Service partnership and honor our mission. We have grown in membership numbers and revenue, added a boat and a shipwreck; all while never losing sight of our humble beginnings when we groomed the Patrol Trail with weed whackers and brought our own tools to repair the dock.

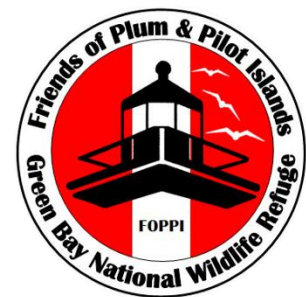
With your help, we have built a strong foundation to continue preserving the historic structures on Plum and Pilot Islands and introduce others to the natural beauty of the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In 2023 we welcomed over 750 guests to Plum Island! We have developed new onboarding training workshops for volunteers, so they too can advocate for the refuge and historic preservation. We have continued to build partnerships with other organizations to protect our natural resources and have begun a series of photography workshops to celebrate the refuge's beauty.

We are excited to dream about what the next 15 years might look like. What would you like the refuge to look like in 2038? Let us know!



Thank you for supporting FOPPI!

Mary Beth Volmer
President, Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands
friendsofplumandpilot@gmail.com



We are The Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands

The Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands has grown and achieved success through the support of our members, donors, and supporters like you. Our business framework is built upon the foundation of our Mission, Vision, Core Values, and the Impact to our community.

Our Mission

The mission of the 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.

Our Vision

Preserving the memories of those who came before us.

Our Core Values

1. We believe that preserving and restoring the historic maritime structures on Plum and Pilot Islands is important to Door County to preserve this community's culture and heritage.
2. We support US Fish & Wildlife's BIG SIX priority public uses: Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife Photography, Wildlife Observation, Environmental Interpretation and Environmental Education.
3. We believe that volunteering is important to improve community life, to give back, to learn, to get connected to other people, and to enhance the human spirit of giving.
4. We believe it is vital to sustain the unique ecosystem of the island through conservation and educational efforts.
5. We value our members, donors and volunteers and strive to use these resources responsibly.



Our Impact

Our mission goes beyond the work that we do on the islands. We are a member of the greater Door County community and do our part to protect the environment and be a responsible member of this fine community.

We advocate for environmental sustainability by:

- Following the 'Leave no Trace' principles (<https://lnt.org/>).
- Shopping locally whenever necessary for our merchandise.
- Valuing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Protecting our waters by using special paint on the *Shoreline's* boat hull to prevent the attachment and spread of aquatic organisms, including invasive species.
- Conducting regular Beach Patrol hikes to collect and properly dispose of flotsam that washes up along the shoreline.
- Stationing boot brush stands at areas of contact to raise awareness about invasive species and to reduce the spread and establishment of new infestations of invasive species.
- Planting a pollinator plot to enhance our pollinator friendly habitat on Plum Island.

We value our community by being a part of these events:

- Canoecopia
- Door County Festival of Nature
- Door County Maritime Museum's Lighthouse Festivals
- Door County Maritime Museum's Wooden Boat Festival

We are invested in the future of our community by working with the Washington Island School as they develop their STEM program, by bringing the children to Plum Island to learn about the Monarch butterfly migration.



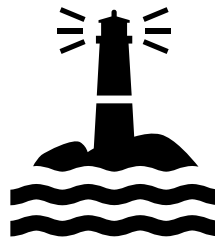
A Special Donor Thank You!

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization we can only accomplish the things that you will read about in this report through the continued generous support of our members, volunteers, foundations, donors and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We deeply appreciate the support we receive. Your support directly allows us to achieve our mission of supporting the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge (GBNWR).

A special thank you to these donors:

Karen Ellery, Rodney Waage, Lucy Klug, Merlin Lang, Roxanne Jungwirth, TAT Collectibles, Jennifer Carr, Gregg & Mary Beth Volmer, Steve & Laretta Lambert, Fair Isle Books LLC, Anonymous, Joyce Olin & Chris Nelson, Steve & Marjorie Karges, Community Foundation of Fox Valley, Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Richard Fletcher, Detroit Harbor Ladies Aid, David Hoyem, Merlin Lang, Stiles Meredith, Alison Tatlow, Gregory Morris, Joseph Rakoczy, Steven Hintz, Scott Lindgren, Sally Dery, Jim Robinson, Sandy & Ed Miller, John & Joni Pagel, Carson & Lisa Mettel, Thrivent Financial, PayPal Giving Fund, Colleen Pilat, Paul & Jude Kuenn, Daniel Brandel and Joanne Jessen, Twin Cities United Way, Amazon Smile, John & Ronda Liebmann, Danielle Ware, Mike & Judy Brodd, Washington Island Ferry Line, Jack & Marcia Fry, Kit Keane & Duncan Alexander, Baileys Harbor Community Association, Caroline Moes, Daryle Wragge & Joan Anderson, Rob & Jane Hostetler, Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith, Paul Roberts, John & Elizabeth Ward, Jack Travis & Diane Morgan, Gerald F. Harris, Door County Community Foundation, Karen A. Case, Helen Roberts

Thank you for making this all happen!



Environmental Education

Our Monarch tagging program with the Washington Island School students has continued to be met with enthusiasm. The school has developed a curriculum to support the program and the students are excited to participate and learn about the Monarch Butterfly and her migration.

Over the past two decades, Monarch numbers in North America have declined, prompting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to join state agencies, tribes, other federal agencies, and non-government groups to identify threats to the monarch and take steps to conserve monarchs throughout their range.

The primary drivers affecting the health of the migratory populations are changes in breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitat (due to conversion of grasslands to agriculture, urban development, widespread use of herbicides, logging/thinning at overwintering sites in Mexico, and drought), continued exposure to insecticides, and effects of climate change.

The Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands are doing our part to help the Monarchs and other pollinators.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Detroit Harbor Ladies Aid Society, we have developed a wildflower plot to enhance our pollinator friendly habitat on Plum Island.

You can help too by planting native wildflowers in your backyard or a container on your porch. Come to our native plant sale in August and we'll help you choose the best plants to attract pollinators!



Financial Picture

We had a change in Treasurer this year and moved the QuickBooks program from a standalone laptop to the cloud for transparency and ease in reporting.

In past years we have not reviewed the Retained Earnings account, and with the help of our new Treasurer, we learned how to manage this fund going forward. We will be reclassifying a portion of the restricted donations to the rear range light historic preservation project in 2024.

Unfortunately, we did not make a profit with the *Shoreline* business this year. We do have funds in retained earnings from the 2022 operation, so we were able to continue operating. We analyzed the expenditures and decided to move the boat back to Gills Rock, forego the additional handling when she comes out of storage, and change our insurance carrier. Moving back to Gills Rock will eliminate the ferry cost that was incurred when crew and captains traveled to Washington Island to meet the boat.

Following are basic statements and visuals to help you see where your donations are going:

Profit & Loss

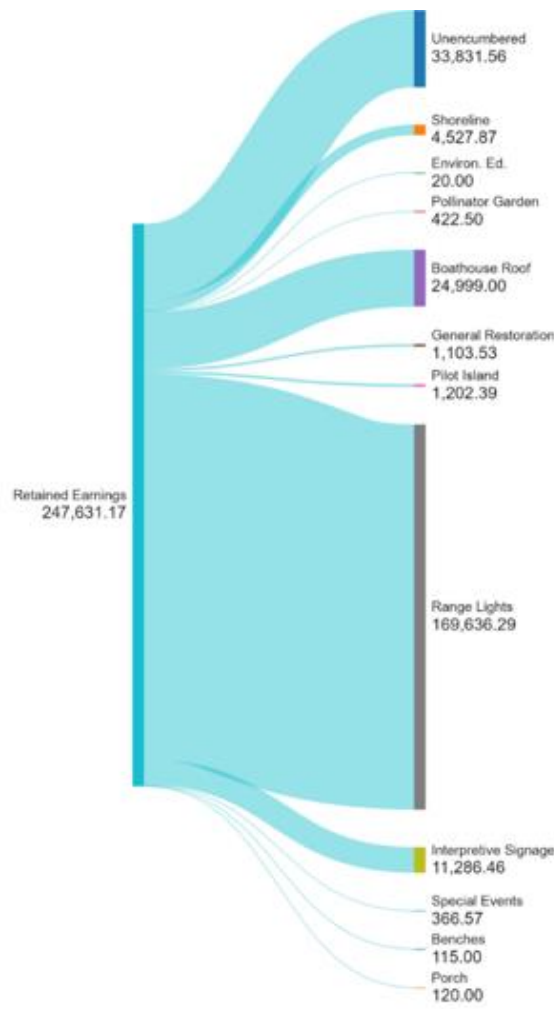
Total Revenue	238,064.39
Total Expenditures	<u>- 56,539.56</u>
Net Income	181,524.83

Balance Sheet

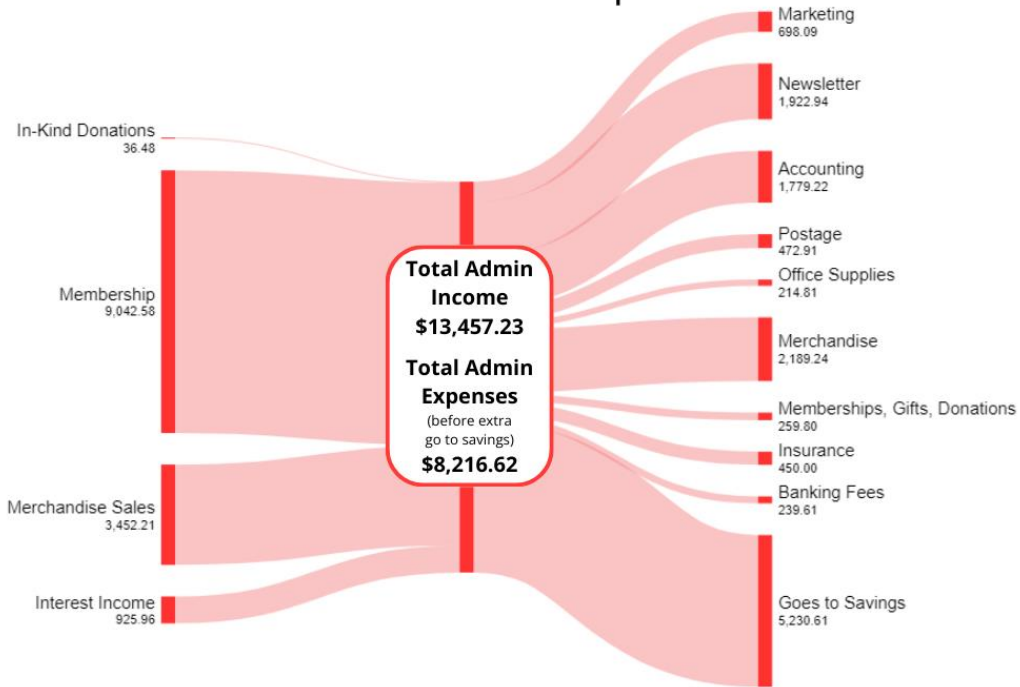
Total Assets	247,653.57
Total Liabilities	<u>- 22.40</u>
Total Equity	247,631.17



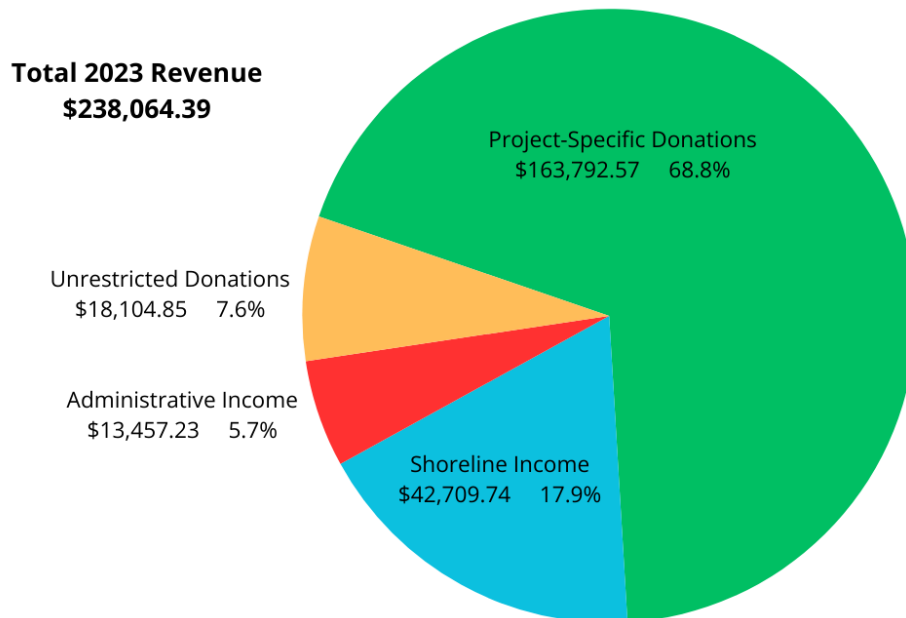
Click on this QR Code to view our financial statements at your leisure.



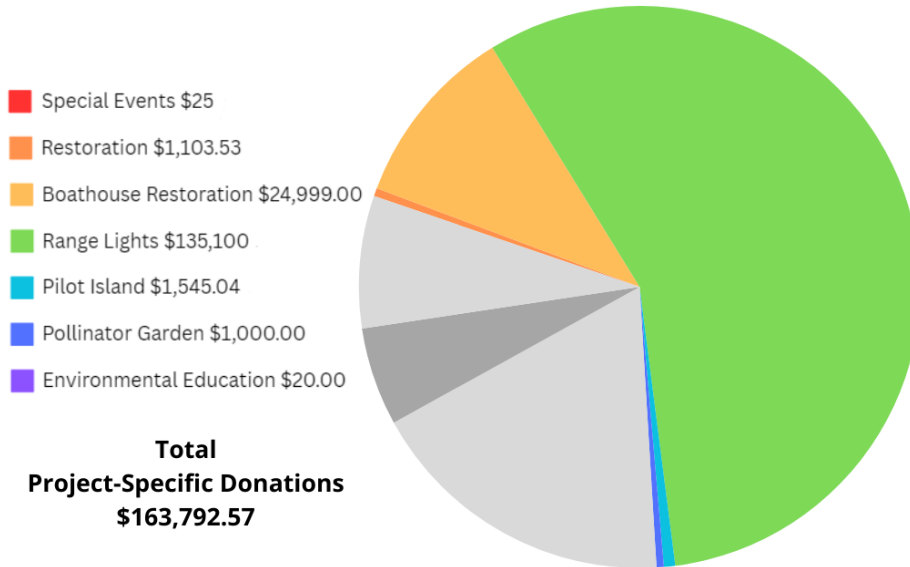
2023 FOPPI Expenses Administrative Expenses



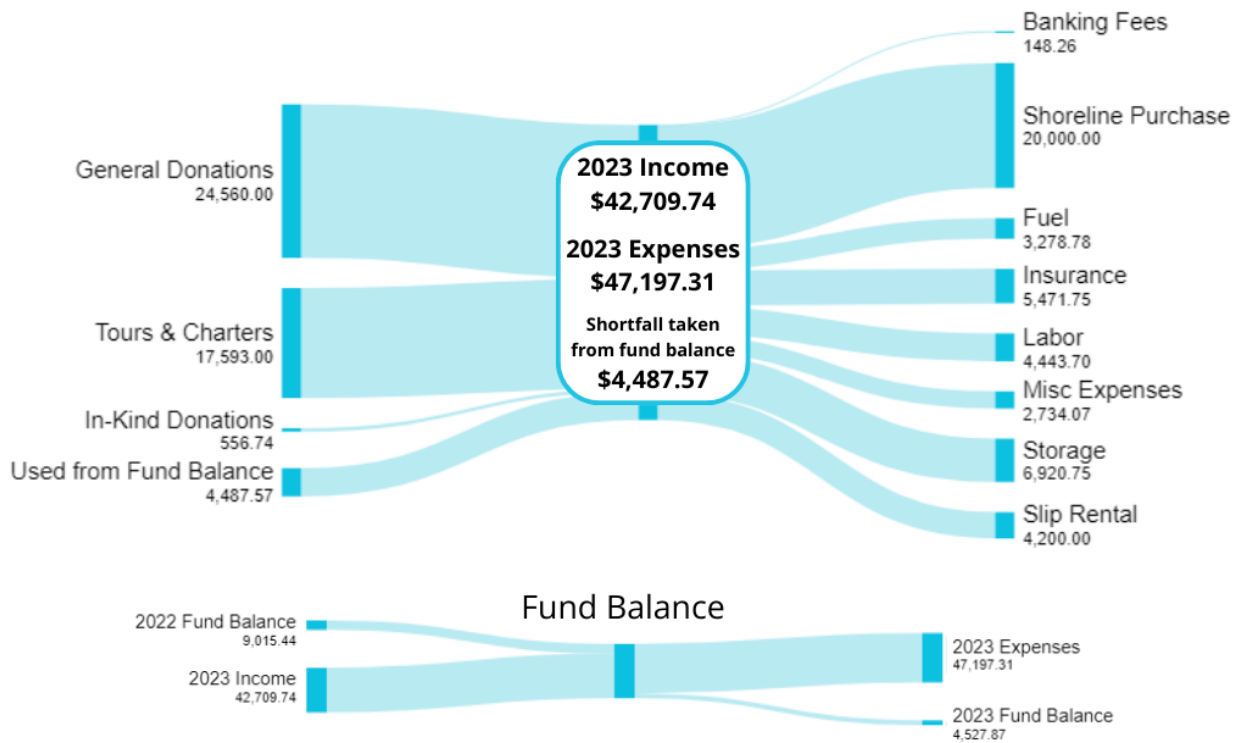
2023 FOPPI Revenue Four Main Categories



2023 FOPPI Revenue Restricted Donations Breakdown



2023 FOPPI Expenses Shoreline Expenses



Fiscal Development / Fundraising

We did not host a Sunset Cruise this year due to volunteer unavailability. Plans are in place to host a Sunset Cruise once again in 2024.

Fundraising activities we worked on this year included:

- Lambeau Field (home of the Green Bay Packers), assisting with clean-up after football games.
- Stone Silo Prairie Gardens native plant sale.
- Baileys Harbor Community Association concessions.
- Summer and Fall photography workshops on Plum Island



We were awarded \$10,000 from the Great Lakes Foundation to be used for the rear range light restoration that will be completed in 2024.

Governance

We reviewed our Board of Directors structure in 2023 and reduced our number of voting members to eight. The current board consists of volunteers who have a fiscal responsibility to our members and donors. They lead our Membership, Merchandising, Historic Preservation, Volunteer Coordination, Shoreline teams and include our President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Volunteer Team Leaders work with the Board of Directors to help make decisions in partnership with the USFWS, supporting our mission. The Volunteer Team Leaders do not have fiscal responsibility nor voting rights. They lead our Environmental Education, Marketing and Newsletter teams.

We meet monthly with USFWS to discuss our current and future projects. Each quarter we meet in person for training, team building and bonding.

We extend our invitation for you to attend any of these meetings, just reach out to us via email for the agenda.



Historic Preservation and Restoration

Restoring the historic maritime structures on Plum and Pilot Islands that are on the National Register of Historic Places takes a lot of planning. Any restoration that we do must be approved by USFWS and the Wisconsin Historical Society - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to assure that the restoration complies with their rules and regulations.

This year we focused on raising the funds for the Rear Range Light restoration and strategic planning for the next series of projects listed on our five-year matrix, which include:

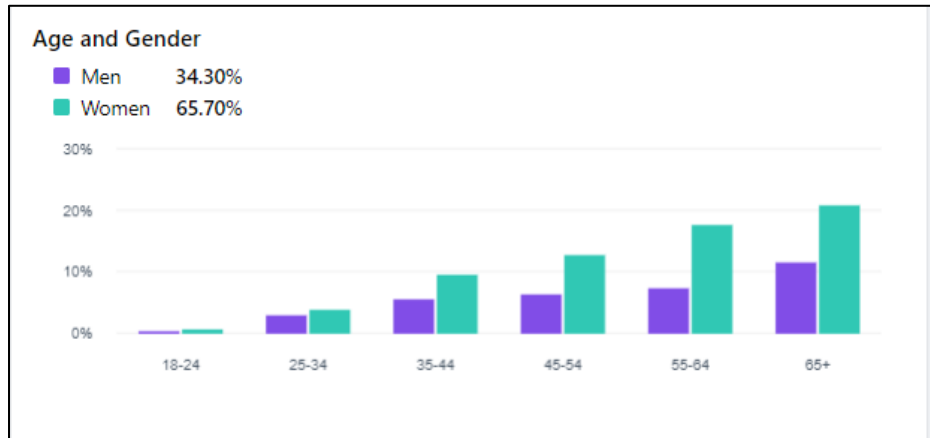
- Boathouse Garage Door Replacements – the lower sections were blown out in a winter storm. We have the sections fabricated and now need to locate an artisan who is familiar with the hardware used in 1939 to support these doors.
- Boathouse Roof Restoration – the shingles are cedar shake and must be replaced ‘like for like’ (or as close as possible) to meet SHPO’s requirements.
- Crews Quarters Front and Rear Porch restoration
- Keepers House brick and mortar repair
- Lead Paint Abatement of multiple buildings, both interior and exterior
- Interpretive signage
- Complete painting crews’ quarters front porch lattice
- Bat condominium (see picture below from Trempleau NWR)
- Pilot Island Keepers House Light Tower restoration
- Pilot Island debris cleanup
- Pilot Island roof replacement
- Pilot Island brick repair



Marketing

We continued posting 'On This Day in History' to social media and created a daily post of gratitude for the month of November. At the end of the year we had over 3600 followers, with a 136,000-post reach!

Our audience is mainly (older) women from Door County, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago.



Website: www.plumandpilot.org / Facebook: www.facebook.com/plumandpilot.org

This year we were invited to record a segment of the 'Light Hearted', the U.S. Lighthouse Society podcast (episode 238) [Light Hearted ep 238 – Mary Beth Volmer, Friends of Plum & Pilot Islands, Wisconsin – U.S. Lighthouse Society News \(uslhs.org\)](#)

Porte des ~~Mors~~ **Mors**, from the French meaning "door of the dead," is a strait that connects Lake Michigan to Green Bay, Wisconsin. A lighthouse was established in the strait on Plum Island in 1849, later replaced by a lighthouse on Pilot Island. In 1897 a pair of range lights was established on Plum Island. The rear range lighthouse, a 65-foot-tall skeletal-type tower, remains standing.

Plum and Pilot islands were made part of the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 2007, and Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands was formed to work for the preservation of the historic properties. Mary Beth Volmer is the president of Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands.

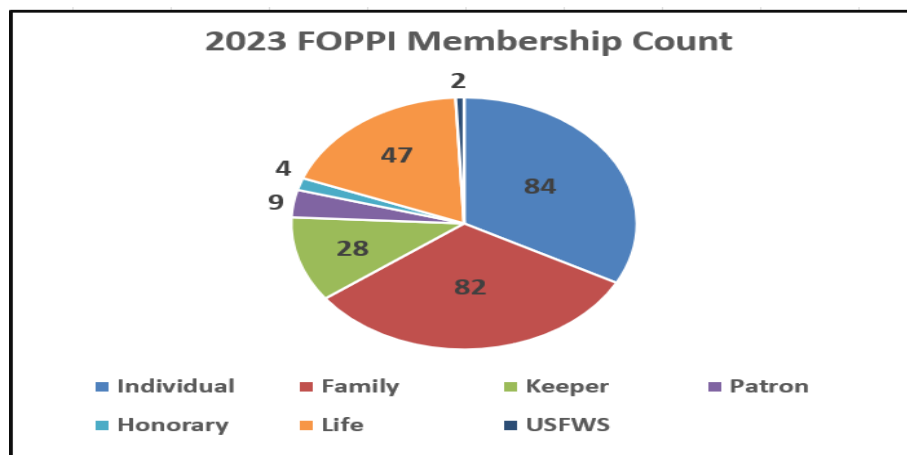
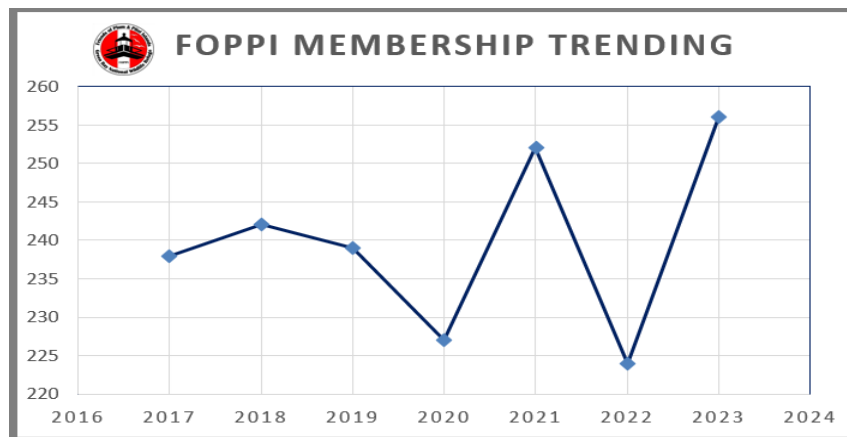
Membership

What does it mean to be a Friend of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI)? Individual members and supporters of FOPPI are the very foundation on which our organization is built upon to pursue FOPPI’s mission, “to partner with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to support the preservation, restoration maintenance and contemporary use of the historic resource on Plum and Pilot Islands, and to conserve and protect wildlife resources, while providing opportunities for quality wildlife-dependent recreation.”

This year we added a 10% discount for in-person merchandise sales to our list of membership perks, which has increased merchandise sales and membership renewals.

Reminders to renew membership are sent by email three times during the year (a month apart). Those who do not have email receive their notice by USPS mail (twice if needed).

2023 Total number of FOPPI Members = 256.



Merchandising

Many events were held on Plum Island during 2023 making for robust sales of FOPPI merchandise in the Boathouse Boutique. Thank you goes out to USFWS for providing FOPPI with dedicated space in the boathouse. Plans are in progress to enhance this space over the next few years.

In 2023 FOPPI introduced the following new items to our product selection:

- An exclusive custom candle from Door County Candle Co.
- Pint and wine glasses etched with the Plum Island Rear Range Light
- *The Shoreline* hats
- Death's Door graphic novel for our young and young at heart readers



Looking ahead to 2024 we plan to continue to source new items, reduce inventory on older items, begin a new campaign, “Candles Creating Change”, with Door County Candle Company and search for a graphic design volunteer.

Total FOPPI merchandise sales 2023	\$3,452.92
Total spent on merchandise 2023	<u>\$2,189.24</u>
Profit toward FOPPIs mission	\$1,262.97

Newsletter

Our newsletter continues to be a membership benefit that folks look forward to receiving. Many times members want to meet the editor to give them a bit of praise.

Two hundred printed newsletters are sent through the US Postal Service. Most of these newsletters are sent to members and institutions that archive the newsletter; the remainder are sent to volunteers who provide them to potential members during our outreach events. This is to maintain the bulk mailing cost of \$.06 per newsletter.



Friends of Plum & Pilot Islands, Inc.

Where History and Nature Meet at the Door!
Founded in 2007

Forum: Winter 2023

Hello, Friends,

Folks often ask me how I found FOPPI. Truly, I think FOPPI found me. My daughters were settled in their lives, and I was ready for a new outlet for my creativity. Some days I wonder if I should have chosen knitting, but then there are days when I open my email to find a donation from someone who believes in our mission or from someone who has been following our historic preservation progress

In this issue...

Feature Articles

- ◆ Refuge Manager's Corner
- ◆ Historic Preservation and Restoration

The Shoreline

In 2023 we increased our charter options by adding weekly 2-hour trips around Plum and Pilot Islands with an optional stop-over on Plum Island. These trips were well attended and enjoyed by our guests.

We implemented an online booking application that greatly increased our visibility and provided an easy way for guests to book a cruise and the team to manage bookings. The application connected directly to our website and handled the payment processing.



Volunteer Coordination

One of the greatest benefits of being a member of the FOPPI community is the opportunity to volunteer our time, treasure, and talents to support the FOPPI and USFWS mission.

We had an exciting 2023! Besides the paperwork and "bureaucratic" tasks of operating a robust non-profit organization, we had several events and projects requiring the help of our awesome volunteers. Some of these include several workdays on Plum Island; operation of our tour boat (M/V *The Shoreline*); specific historical preservation tasks on our historic buildings; sharing our islands with the community through the Door County Festival of Nature, Washington Island Birding Festival and the Door County Maritime Museum's Spring and Fall Lighthouse Festivals; our Annual Meeting and many, many other events and projects.

Our volunteers donated a total of 4742.25 hours of their time! Kudos to all who volunteer to help make our mission a reality!



2023 Volunteer of the year – Mary Beth Volmer (huge surprise!!)



Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands Inc.
2023 Board of Directors, Volunteer Leaders, and Shoreline Crew

President: Mary Beth Volmer
Vice President / Shoreline Director: Mike Repp
Treasurer: Kimberly Wells
Secretary: Karen Ellery

Board of Members:

Laura Chappell
Sally Dery
Chuck Scheckel
Jim Schwartz

Emeritus Directors:

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

Volunteer Leaders:

Jean Fox	Cheryl Lenz
Sue Scheckel	Bob & Sue Griem
Jake Heffernan	Ginnie Harney
Colleen Pilat	Nancy Leisgang

The Shoreline Captains and Crew:

Dallas Greetham	Pete LeMere	Jon Wall
Todd Harris	Deb Meredith	Scott Nelson
Barb Jacobs	Stiles Meredith	Doug Smith
Kim Krueger	Jim Robinson	Jason Albertson