



Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.

Where History and Nature Meet at the Door!

Founded in 2007

Forum: Summer 2023

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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,

On July 22, we celebrated our Annual Membership Meeting and the birthdays of *The Shoreline* and the National Wildlife Refuge System. Around 60 members, friends, and family traveled aboard *Yankee Clipper* for a fun-packed day on Plum Island. Folks enjoyed meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff and fellow volunteers; voted in our new Treasurer, Kimberly Wells; and watched as my tears flowed when I was named the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2023 Volunteer of the Year. The announcement is always a surprise, but no one was more than surprised than I when Refuge Manager Joel Vos said my name! I am extremely honored and humbled to be awarded this level of prestige!

After I welcomed everyone to the meeting, I quoted the esteemed poet laureate Amanda Gorman:

For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

This quote rang true to me when I first read it. Thank you for being that light these past 15 years. Together we have been brave enough to work to preserve the Plum and Pilot Island lights for others. We have been brave enough to weather the storms of funding shortfalls and COVID. We have been brave enough to rally the call: *This Place Matters*. We have been brave enough to partner with the 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.

We hope you'll attend our Native Plant Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, August 19, at the Stone Silo Prairie Gardens in DePere, Wisconsin. Stone Silo's owner is a naturalist at heart and applauds FOPPI for the work we are doing on the islands. We receive a portion of the profits to benefit historic preservation, which last year was over \$1000!

Lastly, thank you for helping get the word out about our new charter cruises aboard *The Shoreline*. This year's trips are proving to be quite popular, and it looks like we'll not only meet our budget but also be able to make a deposit into the historic preservation account!

Be the light!

—Mary Beth

Refuge Manager's Corner

As I write this, our area is facing down the hottest week of the summer, which means we're in the final weeks before students head back to school and we'll complete another field season at Green Bay and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuges! With the rush of planning work days, organizing supplies and projects, and working with FOPPI's first full season of operating tours at the refuge aboard their boat, *The Shoreline*, it's surreal to think that planning is already underway for 2024.

I'm happy to celebrate with FOPPI all we've accomplished together this season:

- With the help of our newly trained USFWS interpretive guide volunteers, we helped well over 200 visitors during the Washington Island Birding Festival, The Ridges Sanctuary's Festival of Nature, and the Door County Maritime Museum's Spring Lighthouse Festival.
- Lead and asbestos testing was completed in all refuge buildings and around the grounds of both Plum and Pilot Islands. With that report in hand, we can work together with the USFWS regional staff to determine the best path forward to abate or mitigate our risks in and around our buildings. Keeping staff, volunteers, and visitors safe during their time at the refuge is extremely important, and this report will help inform contracting and safe work processes for all the projects we conduct while preserving the incredible historic buildings for generations to come!
- Caspian Tern surveys were conducted at refuge islands, and we're happy to report that after a hard hit with avian influenza last year, the colonies appear to be recovering well. Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuge remains a vital federally designated Wilderness refuge for these graceful birds!
- Bat roost monitoring was conducted with a team of USFWS volunteers in June, and a team of USFWS and State of Wisconsin DNR staff performed banding of little brown bats in July. We're excited to report that we have some healthy roosts at the refuge, which is welcome news for the bats in our area who have been suffering from white-nose syndrome outbreaks. For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/batFAQs.
- Volunteers painted the lattice surrounding the crew quarters at Plum Island, and the sliding door got a fresh coat of paint in time for the annual meeting on July 22.
- The first site visits for invasive species surveys were conducted at the end of July, and we'll soon have contractors out to Plum and Detroit Islands to complete some invasive species controls. We've been partnering with the Door County Soil and Water Conservation District on this project for 2023 and hope to keep things going in 2024 and beyond! By the end of the field season, we should have reports of how the controls went on each island to plan for the next steps.
- At the beginning of August, the USFWS was able to secure funding to perform emergency repairs to the shingled roof of the Pilot Island lighthouse structure. Moore Quality Exteriors once again stepped up with their expertise and passion for our historic structure preservation efforts to make this a priority.
- The partnership with Washington Island School District to provide service learning opportunities and science curriculum support was renewed this summer, and we look forward to hosting students again at the beginning of their school year on Plum Island to tag monarch butterflies.
- FOPPI will help coordinate the final group workday of the year on Plum Island with island closing tasks on September 16. Be sure to visit FOPPI's website to see if there's room to sign up!
- We'll host a fall photography workshop at the refuge on September 23, with FOPPI's generous support and coordination. The spring workshop was a great success, and we are eager to see unique scenes through the lenses of participants.

As we look to 2024, there are many more projects we are setting our sights on. We hope to continue work on the Plum Island boathouse, see FOPPI's efforts to complete painting of the rear range light come together, and more. I'm planning to host more volunteer orientations, interpretive guide trainings, and other presentations to FOPPI and our corps of volunteers. If you're interested in volunteering at the refuge, be sure to reach out to me and keep an eye on FOPPI's website for orientation and training announcements!

Refuge Manager's Corner

Staff of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Leopold Wetland Management District Complex are grateful for your support, your willingness to share your skills in volunteer work, and dedication to sharing with others the importance of conserving and protecting the plants, wildlife, fish, and their habitats at Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

It's through the protections of your National Wildlife Refuges that we're able to continue sharing together the stories of the people who called the islands home. Thank you!

—Joel Vos, Refuge Manager, Green Bay and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuges

Some of Our FOPPI Volunteers in Action!



The lattice painting team: Jude, Dallas, Chuck, Sue, and Paul.



Kimberly and Paul replace decking boards as USFWS volunteers.



Capt. Stiles and crew members Nancy and Ginnie (above right) ready for a charter on *The Shoreline*.



Capt. Scott and the picnic team return to Washington Island.



Tim talks with spring Lighthouse Festival guests on Plum Island.



FOPPI volunteers Jim, Pete, Barb, Sue, and Chuck help the Baileys Harbor Community Association in their brat tent on July 4.



The July 15 work day crew head to Plum Island.

Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.

—Helen Dyer

Washington Island Birding Festival by Tim Sweet

A sign was posted outside the entrance to the Art and Nature Center on a beautiful morning that read, “Can you imagine a world without songbirds?” It was illustrated with a handful of some of our most lovely feathered friends.

I had migrated back to Washington Island for the annual spring bird festival held May 12-14. The sun was shining; old and new friends were smiling; it was easy to sense that people were itching to get out and find some birds!

Guide Paul Regnier led my small group to the Richter Community Forest Nature Preserve. Half a dozen turkey vultures perched across Green Bay Road from where we parked. Broad-winged hawks were circling in kettles overhead with occasional vultures mixed in for good measure. Regnier sighted a golden-winged warbler flitting among the branches hungrily snatching up midges and other insects.



Erik Ost, “Bird Nerd” and proud of it!
Photo by Tim Sweet.

Not faraway, on the Potato Dock, self-proclaimed “Bird Nerd” Erik Ost was using a spotting scope to bring a pair of horned grebes into better view.

Soon it was time to flock together for lunch at Jackson Harbor Soup.

Birders need to refuel, too, and the soup and sandwiches served here are hard to beat. Squadrons of American white pelicans flew by while I nibbled on a Chummy Gobbler that featured generous layers of turkey, tomatoes, and lettuce. While chit-chatting with friends at a picnic table, Donna Benson noticed a yellow-bellied sapsucker drilling into spruce bark on the edge of the property.

The marshland bordering the state dock parking lot provided habitat for three green herons I glassed. However, that didn’t compare to Benson’s report of seeing “...every warbler you could imagine for this part of the country” Friday afternoon at Gibson’s West Harbor Resort. An evening program was presented by Joel Vos, the manager for the Green Bay and Gravel Island

National Wildlife Refuges at Trinity Lutheran Church. He discussed the origins of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and talked about the importance of conservation and protection of these lands for future generations to come.

Saturday morning dawned clear with strong northeast winds raising a chop on Detroit Harbor. Captain Chris Voight and his son Nick brought the *Yankee Clipper* from Gills Rock to take the group to Plum Island for a morning of exploration and adventure.

Many hikers circumnavigated the 325-acre island located in the middle of Death’s Door between Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Photographer Monica Novak captured some outstanding bird photographs with the help of Mike Wanger, a semi-retired bird lover from Milwaukee. Novak credited Wanger with guiding her to see what she otherwise would have overlooked.

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI) volunteers Amy Lesnjak and this writer were along to open the boathouse, range light, and restroom facilities for visitors to use.



Birders at the range light.
Photo by Tim Sweet.

Mike and Mary Jane Kloepping are the leaders of a birding club at Heckrodt Wetland Reserve in Menasha. This year’s festival was their first visit to Washington Island. They hope to return in 2024 with other members of their club.

Much light-hearted laughter and camaraderie was shared between compadres while out in the field and during the fish boil at KK Fiske on Saturday evening. The jabbering at the table was as lively and loud as a bunch of bobolinks twittering to each other from the treetops.

The 2023 Washington Island Birding Festival—eBird Trip Report, compiled and shared by Eric Howe—contained an impressive total of 141 species recorded during the three-day event. Birders love to share their lists of sightings.

More information on the event is available through the Art & Nature Center’s website at wianc.org/.

Help Needed for Pilot Island Lighthouse by Tim Sweet

Lighthouse Digest magazine has published a Doomsday List since 1993 with the hope of drawing public awareness to lighthouses that are in danger of being lost forever. Both Plum and Pilot Islands' lighthouses were previously on the list, but they've since been removed after seeing some help in recent years.

A former USCG life-saving station, a boathouse, a front and rear range light, a keepers' house, and a fog signal building remain from the late 1800s on 325-acre Plum Island. This island is open to the public for daytime use from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day. Significant stabilization and preservation work has been completed over the years through the hard work of the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands (FOPPI) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).



Pilot Island lighthouse.
Photo by Tim Sweet.

Tiny 3.5-acre Pilot Island is home to an 1858 lighthouse, the ruins of a fog signal building, and thousands of colonial nesting birds, including double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, and American white pelicans. Public access is not allowed.

The light station on Pilot was automated in 1962, and after that it was essentially abandoned. On occasion, a caretaker lived there, and a sea scouts program briefly made use of the lighthouse a long time ago. For 45 wind- and weather-swept years the building stood unattended. Can you imagine what your house would look like if you didn't do much to take care of it over the course of many years?



Fog signal building.
Photo by Tim Sweet.

In 2007, the Bureau of Land Management transferred the two properties from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), becoming part of the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Also established in 2007, the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands became the official non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation partnered with the USFWS to assist with the stabilization, preservation, and restoration of the buildings found on the two islands. In 2008-2009, FOPPI worked with the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge to hire Martin Anderson of Washington Island to replace the lighthouse roof. That work saved the lighthouse from ruin.

Over the years, the USFWS and FOPPI have patched the shingles found missing during springtime visits. In 2021, FOPPI worked with the refuge to raise money and install a new metal roof on the summer kitchens, as well as to add long-missing gutters and downspouts to redirect water away from the historic brickworks. In 2022, FOPPI once again answered the call and raised funds to repair the roof of the lighthouse and light tower.

However, there is still much to be done to save the historic maritime structures on these islands located in the Death's Door (Porte des Morts Passage) region of northern Door County, Wisconsin. More money and work will need to be invested to prevent the Pilot Island Lighthouse from ending up on the Doomsday List again.

On May 9, 2023, a group of USFWS personnel and FOPPI volunteers made a trip to Pilot Island to assess the condition of the lighthouse tower and roof. Two areas of shingles and tar paper had blown away over the winter. Architectural historian John Lauber was along to lend his expertise. He shimmied out onto the ridge to inspect the tower underneath the lantern room deck.

Lauber reported that the soffit beneath the deck was still relatively solid. There was some rot near the top of the joists. "It's fairly easy to repair joists. Then put on a new deck and a metal roof over it."



Architectural historian John Lauber inspects the roof of the Pilot Island lighthouse.
Photo by Tim Sweet.

Help Needed for Pilot Island Lighthouse by Tim Sweet

Lauber went on to explain, “Plexiglass (in the lantern room) should be removed and replaced with laminated safety glass, tempered glass, or even hurricane-impact glass. Metal stops that hold the glass in place are all there, some are loose, and one is broken in half.”

Such work would help to eliminate water infiltration.



The lantern room of the Pilot Island lighthouse. Photo by Tim Sweet.

“Ceiling and wall plaster has collapsed throughout much of the keepers’ house. The area below the tower is more intact, indicating there aren’t huge amounts of water getting in. Most water damage seems older, but the newly

observed roof damage will change that,” Lauber said. It’s very likely that the roof replacement of 2009 stopped the leaks that once plagued the lighthouse after decades of neglect.

Chuck Scheckel is the chair of FOPPI’s historic preservation committee. He has been in contact with a roofing contractor to make emergency repairs to the lighthouse as soon as possible.



Chuck Scheckel examines roof damage on the Pilot Island lighthouse. Photo by Tim Sweet.

John Lauber recommends consideration of eventually replacing the asphalt shingles with diamond-shaped interlocking metal shingles. “These would be much more gale resistant.” Work is already underway to scope work to install a new roof and shore up the lantern room to better withstand the harsh weather that has battered the island for millennia.

Everyone needs an advocate at some point, especially when they’re most vulnerable. Please consider helping FOPPI and the USFWS save the historic maritime beacons of Plum and Pilot Islands.

To learn more about FOPPI, visit www.plumandpilot.org.

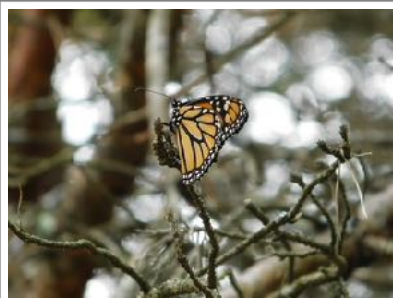
More information about the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge can be found at www.fws.gov/refuge/green-bay.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead



Pilot Island. Photo by Nancy Leisgang.



Migration Stepping Stones Across the Great Lakes

Monarch habitat in the middle of Lake Michigan? Yes! One of America’s oldest national wildlife refuges is a Great Lakes migration route for migratory birds and other species, like monarchs. From urban to rural, and even remote geographies, we at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protect habitat for native species. Take a few minutes to learn more about this remote beauty in an article by Tina Shaw, USFWS Senior Public Affairs Specialist, at [Monarch migration stepping stones across the Great Lakes | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service \(fws.gov\)](https://www.fws.gov/monarch-migration-stepping-stones-across-the-great-lakes).

A Visit from Some Relatives by Mary Beth Volmer

On July 11, the grandchildren, great grandchildren, and even the great-great grandchildren of Martin Knudsen on a Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands Lighthouse Cruise. They enjoyed listening to the stories of their hero.



Martin Knudsen's descendants on Plum Island. Photo by Jim Robinson.

Martin Knudsen was awarded a gold medal “in recognition of courage and humanity in rescuing at great personal peril of the crews of wrecked Schooners *J.E. Gilmore* and *A.P. Nichols* October, 1892” and the silver medal “for Services in Saving Life at Wreck of Schooner *A.P. Nichols* October 28, 1892.” The story has been told many times and is included in the book *A Beam Across the Water*, by Arthur Knudsen, Martin's son.

Martin served on Plum Island as the 2nd Assistant Lighthouse Keeper from 1880 to 1882, South Manitou Island as the Principal Lighthouse Keeper from 1882 to 1889, Pilot Island as Principal Lighthouse Keeper from 1889 to 1897, Plum Island Range Rear as Principal Lighthouse Keeper from 1897 to 1899, Racine Harbor as Principal Lighthouse Keeper from 1899 to 1917, and—to finish his career—the Milwaukee North Point Lighthouse as Principal Lighthouse Keeper from 1917 to 1923.

Fun fact: While preparing to paint the Plum Island rear range light tower in 1899, Knudsen discovered a crack in the north column near the base, despite the fact that the column was only two years old. After he received permission to repair it, he drilled holes in the column, attached a copper plate, and wound two layers of copper wire over the plate to hold it in place to prevent further cracking (*Keepers of the Lights*, Steven Karges). As of today, his repair is still holding strong.



Martin Knudsen's repair of the rear range light.

Note: The Knudsen descendants were transported to Plum Island on *The Shoreline*, owned and operated by the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands to raise funds for the preservation and restoration of the historic maritime structures on Plum and Pilot Islands.



Martin Knudsen. Photo courtesy of Milwaukee North Point Lighthouse.



Martin Knudsen's descendants aboard *The Shoreline*. Photo by Jim Robinson.

To learn more about the lighthouses where Martin served as keeper, check out these websites:
Plum and Pilot Islands www.plumandpilot.org/history.html
South Manitou Island www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/smilighthouse.htm
Racine Harbor Lighthouse www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=643
Milwaukee North Point Lighthouse northpointlighthouse.org/

When that light flashes again, you look at it, and look at it really hard. It will talk to you, and reach down into your heart. Then you'll realize lighthouses are something beautiful, and a wonderful thing to devote your life to. —Connie Small

Annual FOPPI Meeting and Picnic

July 22 was a quintessential Door County summer day—sunny skies with wisps of gossamer clouds and a delicious lake breeze—perfect for the annual FOPPI meeting and picnic!



The *Yankee Clipper* brings guests to Plum Island.
Photo by Nancy Leisgang.

Approximately 60 FOPPI board members, Friends members, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff were transported to Plum Island by Chris and Nicholas Voight on the *Yankee Clipper*. Others came aboard *The Shoreline*, private pleasure crafts, and a 45-foot U.S. Coast Guard rescue boat. After a warm welcome and thanks from the FOPPI board president and U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff, guests enjoyed a build-your-own-sandwich lunch buffet before relaxing in the shade, exploring Plum, or cruising around the island on a boat. It was a day filled with fun and friendship, and it passed much too quickly.



USCG arrives on Plum Island.
Photo by Tim Sweet.



Refuge manager Joel Vos shares accomplishments and goals with guests. Photo by Nancy Leisgang.

Thank you to all our members, our many volunteers, the Voight family for transportation, and Gary and Cindy Wilson for lunch. Your time, attention, efforts, and dedication are wholeheartedly appreciated.



FOPPI volunteer and USCG veteran Scott Nelson with USCG members.
Photo by Tim Sweet.



Picnic team volunteer Nancy serves as range light docent.
Photo by Tim Sweet.



FOPPI board president, Mary Beth Volmer, with her Volunteer of the Year award presented by USFWS.
Photo by Tim Sweet.



Picnic guests.
Photo by Nancy Leisgang.



Some picnic team volunteers: Kimberly, Sally, Jude, Kim, and Ginnie. Photo by Nancy Leisgang.



Plum Island shore.
Photo by Nancy Leisgang.



Joel Vos recognizes Dallas, Paul, Ginnie, and Jude for their volunteer service.

In summer, the song sings itself.
—William Carlos Williams

Our partner *Island Clipper* is now offering a Plum and Pilot Island boat tour that includes a two-hour stopover on Plum Island. Visit www.islandclipper.com for more information!

Parks on the Air by Kurt Nemer

Parks on the Air (POTA) is a non-profit organization that supports the use of amateur radio in our state and national parks. Through promotion by POTA, more people will discover and enjoy our park system. This also directly helps amateur radio meet its charter of providing communications support in times of emergencies, such as after natural disasters.

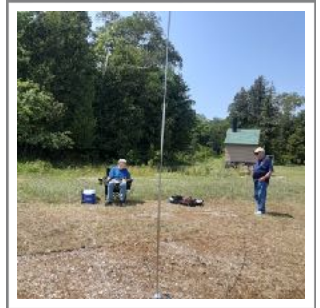


Kurt Nemer logging his contacts. Photo by Mary Beth Volmer.

POTA provides a website where amateur radio operators, often called “hams,” can find nearby parks. Hams then set up temporary portable radio stations and attempt to contact as many fellow hams as possible. Visiting a park and getting on the air is called an “activation,” and after each one, the hams will submit a list of their contacts to POTA. The goals are to activate as many parks as possible and to talk to as many stations as possible. Certificate awards are given for a number of categories.

I originally became interested in ham radio in the 1970s, but in those days, you needed to pass a Morse code test, and I sort of forgot about it until I retired. In the meantime, the FCC removed the Morse code requirements, and I passed the first two levels of testing in May 2022, and the third and highest level this spring.

In June 2022, I acquired my first radio and got on the air. Since then, I have talked to over 1,000 other POTA participants and contacted all 50 states. During my visit to Plum Island, I made 39 contacts all across the country, including California, Texas, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, and New York as well as British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick in Canada. I also made one contact in France. For more information on POTA, go to parksontheair.com/.



Kurt Nemer chatting with a picnic guest in his “radio station.” Photo by Mary Beth Volmer.

Picnic Cutout Cookies by Nancy Leisgang

1 1/2 C softened butter
2 C white sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
5 C flour
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt

In a large bowl, mix butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover and chill dough for a few hours. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Roll out dough to 1/4" thick on a floured surface. Cut into shapes. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 5-7 minutes (or on a heavy aluminum pan for 9-11 minutes). Cool completely before frosting.

Frosting:

5 C confectioners sugar
3 1/2 T milk
4 T light corn syrup
1 1/4 tsp almond extract
Food coloring, sprinkles, and other fun decorations (optional)

Stir sugar and milk together. Beat in corn syrup and almond extract until glossy and smooth. If frosting is too thick, add more milk. When frosting is set (if you can wait), enjoy!



Two young picnic guests enjoy rainbow trout cookies.

Events

SAVE THE DATE: FOPPI's Native Plant Sale
Saturday, August 19, 2023
10:00am - 2:00pm

Late summer/early fall is the perfect time for planting natives to beautify your backyard, provide food for our precious pollinators, and raise funds for FOPPI!

Stone Silo experts and FOPPI volunteers will be on hand to help you select the perfect native plants for your garden. Stone Silo's plants are grown on site and are well suited for our climate.

Save the date and plan to visit your FOPPI friends on the beautiful grounds of Stone Silo Prairie Gardens, 2325 Oak Ridge Circle, DePere, WI.



Photo by Patti Zarling.



Death's Door BBQ: August 26, Washington Island. Come to beautiful Washington Island for the 11th annual Death's Door BBQ at the Washington Island Airport. Free admission, arts & crafts, kids' activities, live music, food vendors, and of course BBQ! Visit www.deathsdoorbbq.com for more information.

Plum Island Photography Workshop

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands is excited to work with famed Door County photographer [Dave Heilman](#), who will share his craft with us in a workshop on Plum Island.

Dave will guide you, whether you are a cellphone, SLR or time-honored film photographer. No experience is necessary, Plum Island will provide the inspiration.

Date: Saturday, September 23

Transportation: Board *The Shoreline* at Kap's on Washington Island ([ferry schedule](#))

Time: *The Shoreline* departs at 9:00am and returns to Detroit Harbor at 12:00pm

Cost: \$35

Cancellation Policy: If you are unable to attend, we will consider your ticket cost a donation to the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands.
Inclement Weather Policy: Occasionally a trip needs to be canceled due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. If this situation arises, a FOPPI volunteer coordinator will contact you to determine if you would like your registration fee to be 1) donated to FOPPI or 2) refunded. Proceeds from this workshop will go toward historic preservation of the maritime structures on Plum and Pilot Islands. Thank you for your understanding and support!

To purchase tickets, go to

www.plumandpilot.org/store/p57/photography-workshop.



ROCKY RISE

Photo by Dave Heilman.



June Photography Workshop participants.

Door County Fall Lighthouse Festival: Sept 29-Oct 1. This fundraising festival weekend include air, land-based, boat, and adventure tours that provide access to all 11 of the treasured lighthouses of Door County and 3 of our neighbors to the south. Go to dcmm.org/homepage-featured/2023-door-county-lighthouse-festivals/ for more info and to purchase tickets.

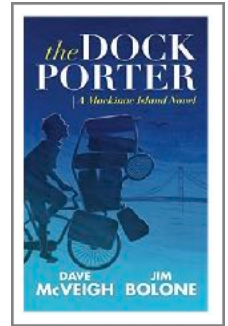
Book Review / Literary Fest Information

The Dock Porter (Book 1 of 2: Mackinac Island Novels)

by Dave McVeigh and Jim Boone

It's the summer of 1989. Jack McGuinn is a dockporter, transporting tourists' luggage piled high in his bike basket on Mackinac Island, Michigan, a tiny summer resort where cars are outlawed and pedal-power rules.

He's wired the season tight: a family cottage on the bluff, a dream job, and a loyal crew of hell-raising, tip-hustling buddies. When his old friend-turned-bitter rival challenges him to ride a record-setting load, he takes the bet and soon realizes he's not just carrying suitcases; he's carrying the future of the island, which is about to be paved over for profit. With the help of his pals on the dock and the love of a romantic, free-spirited Irish cellist named Erin, Jack digs deep to discover skills he didn't know he had.



The Dockporter is an offbeat, nostalgic coming-of age-story that appeals to anyone who ever had a summer job. If *Rushmore* director Wes Anderson remade *Caddyshack*, but it emerged as a hybrid of *Footloose* and *Meatballs* (and was a book), it would be *The Dockporter*. Genre-smashing, hilariously fresh, yet refreshingly familiar, it's a novel about friends, family, love, luggage, and the summers we never forget. (Review courtesy of amazon.com.)

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.

—Mortimer J. Adler

Washington Island Literary Festival

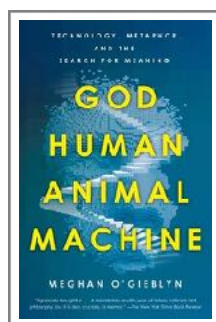
The 11th annual Washington Island Literary Festival will take place September 21-23, 2023, with these wonderful authors. Participants will explore fiction, nonfiction, and poetry in an intimate setting with writing workshops, a free community creative lab, and a full day of presentations and a panel with the authors exploring how their particular book fits our theme this year. Come for a day or stay for all three, but definitely read these books—they are exquisite!

Registration and info for the festival are at wilitfest.com.

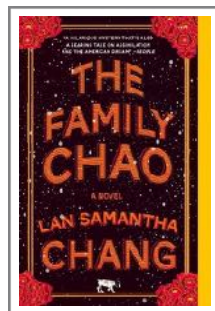
To purchase books, stop by Fair Isle Books on Washington Island or visit bookshop.org/shop/fairislebooks.



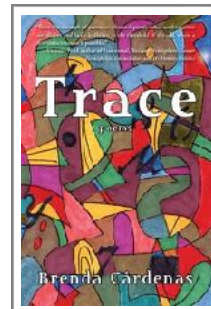
Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt



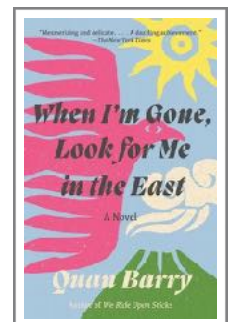
God Human Animal Machine
by Meghan O'Gieblyn



The Family Chao
by Lan Samantha Chang

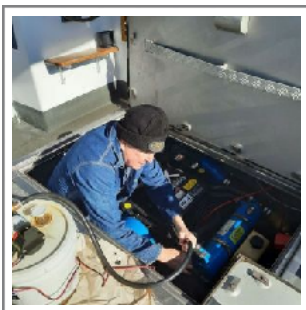


Trace
by Brenda Cardenas



When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East
by Quan Barry

Supporting FOPPI



Capt. Jim Robinson.

Checklist for *M/V The Shoreline!*

FOPPI takes great pride in our meticulous maintenance schedule of the vessel.

Changing the oil and filters at least three times per season is part of our routine maintenance. Two+ gallons of high-grade marine oil is used at a cost of \$120.00 per service. We have saved on labor costs with generous volunteers like Jim Robinson. Training is available for anyone who would like to learn!

Many items large and small are needed for the routine maintenance of this vessel, including oil filters, special marine cleaners, storage bins, and rechargeable power tools. Help FOPPI keep our *M/V The Shoreline* shipshape for many seasons to come with your donation to the Float the Boat fund today! Just visit www.plumandpilot.org to donate.



Charter guests James and Sue Myster with their friends Greg and Marcia.

Cruises Aboard *M/V The Shoreline*

Come aboard *The Shoreline* for a Death's Door lighthouse cruise, which includes a stop on Plum Island and a close-up water view of remote Pilot Island. Numerous private tour options are available to Rock Island State Park, Fayette Historic State Park in Michigan, and cruises past 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.



Charter guests Scott and Dawn Nelson brought family to Plum Island for a fun-filled day.

Cruises depart from Detroit Harbor on Washington Island, WI. The boat will be docked at Kap's Marina, located within walking distance from the Washington Island ferry terminal. To learn more about scheduling a boat tour, visit www.plumandpilot.org/the-shoreline.html.

Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing.
—Oscar Wilde

Wine and Pint Glasses Featuring Plum Island's Rear Range Light

This 16-oz. stemless wine glass featuring Plum Island's rear range light is laser engraved, dishwasher safe, and made in the USA. A 16-oz. pint glass is also available to hold your beverage of choice. Visit the FOPPI store at www.plumandpilot.org/store to check out our fun merch!



Plum Island d'Light Candle from Door County Candle Company

Door County Candle Company's candles are truly special, just like Plum Island! The Plum Island d'Light 16 oz. apothecary jar candle is crafted just for FOPPI in a beautiful light blend of vanilla and lavender.

All of Door County Candle Company's scented wax products are hand poured and handcrafted in small batches at their store in Door County. Their products are tested before market, and all of the fragrances are IFRA certified, meaning they are made with non-harmful chemicals and are safe to burn. Approximate burn time is 75 hours. Visit FOPPI's online store www.plumandpilot.org/store to purchase.

Supporting FOPPI

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands welcomes these new members:

- ◆ Friends of Ephraim-Gibraltar Airport, Fish Creek, WI
- ◆ Ryan Krusell, Rockford, MI
- ◆ James & Jennifer Patterson, Red Wing, MN
- ◆ Joan Tague, Ormond Beach, FL
- ◆ Jonathan & Carol Wall, Ellison Bay, WI

Thank you for your support!

Follow us on social media! Download our audio tours at www.plumandpilot.org/audio-tour.

Summer's lease hath all too short a date.
—William Shakespeare

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 due 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 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 www.presidentialserviceawards.gov for more information. As the certifying organization, FOPPI will begin 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.

Supporting FOPPI

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

FOPPI thanks its distinguished
community and business partners!



*The Shoreline heading out
on a charter in July.
Photo by Irene Kuiper.*

Heartfelt thanks goes to Jeff Heal of
Washington Island for assisting with
FOPPI's mail pickup!

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.

Amazon Smile
Daniel Brandon & Joanne Jensen
Jennifer Carr
Sally Dery
Karen Ellery
Roxanne Jungwirth
Lucy Klug
Paul & Jude Kuenn
Steve & Laretta Lambert
Merlin Lang
PayPal Giving Fund
Colleen Pilat
Jim Schwartz
TAT Collectibles
Thrivent
Mary Beth Volmer
Rodney Waage

Float the Boat:

Steven Hintz
Merlin Lang
Joseph Rakoczy

Annual Meeting/Picnic Lunch:

Gary & Cindy Wilson

*I have found that
among its other
benefits, giving
liberates the soul of
the giver.*

—Maya Angelou

Membership Form

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.

Mail to:

Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands Inc.
PO Box 61
Washington Island WI 54246-0061



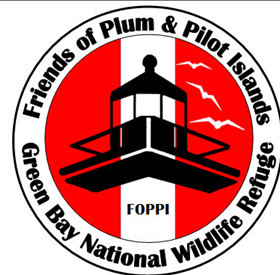
YES, the work of the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands DOES matter and here is my contribution to support their mission:
(Please indicate how you would like your donation used.)

- 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 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization. Your gift is tax deductible as provided by law.

Please complete this section for a \$30.00 Gift Membership

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Your Name _____
Occasion _____



"Where History and Nature Meet at the Door!"

www.plumandpilot.org

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? _____

Is it time to renew your membership?

Mailing label include 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.



Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, Inc.
P.O. Box 61
Washington Island, WI 54245

Help Us Be Green!

To help save paper, printing, and postage expenses, please consider receiving your newsletter via email. Just contact Jean Fox at jeanfox215@gmail.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:
Mike Repp, 2024
Treasurer: Kimberly Wells, 2026
Secretary: Karen Ellery, 2026

Board of Directors

Sally Dery, 2026
Chuck Scheckel, 2025
Jim Schwartz, 2025
Gary Wilson, 2024

Emeritus Directors

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

Volunteer Team Members

Fundraising: Karen Ellery, Mike Repp, Chuck Scheckel, Jim Schwartz, Tim Sweet, Mary Beth Volmer*
Governance: Gary Wilson*
Historic Preservation & Restoration: Jude Kuenn, Paul Kuenn, Chuck Scheckel*, Tim Sweet, Kimberly Wells
Marketing: Jake Heffernan*, Colleen Pilat
Membership: Sally Dery*, Jean Fox, Bob and Sue Griem, Cheryl Lenz
Merchandising: Sally Dery*, Amy Lesnjak, Patti Zarling
Newsletter: Sally Dery, Nancy Leisgang*, Tim Sweet, Mary Beth Volmer
Special Events: Sally Dery, Kim Krueger, Tim Sweet, Mary Beth Volmer
***The Shoreline*:** Sally Dery, Dallas Greetham, Ginnie Harney, Todd Harris, Barb Jacobs, Nancy Leisgang, Pete LeMere, Kim Krueger, 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*