

Sax-Zim Bog



2023

*Preserving & Protecting
the Greater Sax-Zim Bog*



Sax-Zim is YOUR Bog!

Lessons from an owl: In late October I found myself plopped down in very soggy sphagnum silently watching a Great Gray Owl hunt only 50 feet away. She barely looked at me, but was staring intently into the moss listening for a hidden Red-backed Vole. After about 20 minutes she hopped off her perch and plunged into the moss. No luck for her this time, but at that moment I was the luckiest person around.

That experience would have happened whether Friends of Sax-Zim Bog was around or not. But without all of you helping us to purchase and protect old growth Black Spruce bogs, that land may have been logged and that Great Gray might not have had a place to hunt, nest, thrive. We are in the business of creating Forever Homes for all our fascinating bog fauna and flora. Thanks to all of you who have helped us in that journey! Remember, this is YOUR BOG. We are all stewards of this precious place.

This Year

Our 12th year was eventful and busy. With your help we have raised enough money to purchase and protect another 1,010 acres of Forever Home bog, mainly along the Owl Avenue and McDavitt Road corridors. This acquisition should be completed early in 2024.

Forty acres donated by the late John Holcomb's family expanded the Winterberry Bog to 80 acres. We are humbled by this gift! A hiking trail will be added soon.



A new event that debuted this May was the Sax-Zim Bog Big Week. A fun competition and fundraiser where teams tally as many bird species as possible in the Greater Sax-Zim Bog area (500 sq miles!) over a week.

Sphagnum the Superhero

We started preserving and protecting bogs back in 2011 simply so Great Gray Owls and other boreal critters would have permanent habitat, but now the stakes seem much higher. Sphagnum mosses in peatlands sequester huge amounts of carbon and are important in mitigating global climate change. See more about this on the next page spread.

Feathered Mysteries

We have always wondered where our winter-visiting Northern Hawk Owls come from. Sure, a pair might nest in Sax-Zim on the rare occasion but most come here from elsewhere. Well, UMD graduate student Hannah Toutonghi set out to answer this question, and after many attempts was

able to capture the only Hawk Owl in the Bog last winter. He (yes, blood samples revealed his gender) was fitted with a lightweight satellite tracker purchased by FOSZB. Though the transmissions only lasted a few months she recorded him wandering towards Island Lake north of Duluth and then back to Sax-Zim in early April. But he did not find a mate and headed NW to near Roosevelt, MN (about 15 miles from the Canadian border.) Then the transmissions stopped in May (the technology is new and glitchy at times). Did he find a mate there? Or did he keep heading north? We don't know, but I do know that we still have a couple tracking units to deploy in 2023-24!



If projects like this are compelling to you, please consider donating to FOSZB's Science & Research fund. Huge thanks to Rich Hoeg, Larry & Jan Kraemer, Douglas Hunt, Jerry McCormick, Kelly Larson and dozens of others who have supported these projects.

Down the Bog Trail...

What's on the bog's very flat horizon regarding Friends of Sax-Zim Bog? Certainly more accessible boardwalks are a high priority for us. We want all to enjoy the sights and sounds (lack of sounds?) inside the "cathedral of spruce."

And with our 1-year old Lois King Education Center up and humming along, we hope to increase our educational offerings and add more interpretive displays. They are expensive! so we could use your help with that.

Stay tuned for more exciting land purchases in 2024 as well!

Keep your feet in your Sorels and your head up looking for Great Grays.

—Sparky Stensaas, Executive Director



A new driving tour brochure showcasing history of the southern Sax-Zim Bog was researched and written by our Development Director Sara Blanck. You can find it on our website.



You may recognize these Welcoming faces. Huge Thank Yous to our winter 2022-23 Welcome Center Host/Naturalists: L-R Jake, Sarah, Rylee and Kelly.



Evening Grosbeaks galore. View out the Lois King Education Center windows.



Our Pollinator Garden at the Welcome Center is thriving! We used only native species.

Volunteers Rich Hoeg and Paul Cherry

Andrew Webster and Cedar on install day

Birk Stensaas & Mark Johnson installing decking

The UMD Rugby Team did some heavy lifting for us! They hauled all the frames out into the bog.

Becky Lystig Memorial Spur

Bog Buddy and longtime birder Mark Lystig has graciously donated money to build the connecting spur of the Taiga Boardwalk at the Welcome Center in memory of his late wife. The **Becky Lystig Memorial Boardwalk Spur** will connect with the existing John C. Gale Memorial Boardwalk Spur to create the **1200-foot Taiga Boardwalk**. The project has taken "many hands" to get started, but it is now well underway. It will be ready for all of you when you come to Sax-Zim this winter.



Additional support from the IRRRB Regional Trails Grant program



Becky Lystig

Becky started birdwatching as a child, and during her lifetime was able to travel to all 7 continents with husband Mark in search of birds. She volunteered at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center for 42 years, enjoyed gardening for wildlife, folk dancing, canoe racing, downhill and x-c skiing.

Becky Lystig 1944-2022

A Space for Learning

LOIS KING EDUCATION CENTER ONE YEAR ALONG



We NEED Interpretive Displays!
Please donate



Our goal is \$20K for new and innovative displays



Randy Bunney shares some bog railroad history



After one year of use, we can honestly say that this addition has made a world of difference for us.

The space has hosted dozens of programs and thousands of visitors, and most leave with a new understanding of Sax-Zim. This is truly an education center.

WORLD'S COLDEST BIRDATHON



January 5 & 6, 2024
1-day or 2-day events [Details on our Website]

Calling All Artists! Tiny Bird Art Auction

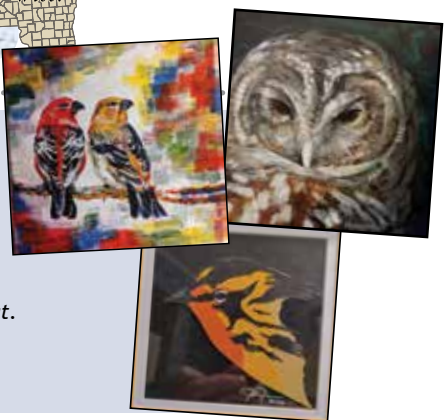
Auction will be online beginning January 25, 2024

HOW?: Create an original piece of bird art that measures 6x6", 5x7" or smaller (No exceptions). Any medium except photography. **UPLOAD** art details and photos **ONLINE**.

WHAT?: It should be a species that is found in northern Minnesota, but we are flexible. **OWLS** are always popular (Great Gray, Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl, Saw-whet Owl), but any northern bird is great.

WHEN?: Please **UPLOAD INFO** and send art to us **no later than January 10, 2024**

This is a fun and profitable fundraiser for us. Details at www.saxzim.org > events > tiny bird art



Think Globally, Act Locally



PROTECTING BOGS IN SAX ZIM PRESERVES A MAJOR CARBON SINK FOR THE PLANET



Thanks to your generous giving we have purchased over 4,000 acres of prime Black Spruce & Tamarack bog, and we will be adding another 1,010 acres in 2024.

814,661 Metric Tons of Carbon Captured on FOSZB peatlands* (so far)

A study by The Conservation Fund found that wetlands store 81 to 216 metric tons of carbon per acre, depending on their type and location.

*Source: Beaulne, J., Garneau, M., Magnan, G. et al. Peat deposits store more carbon than trees in forested peatlands of the boreal biome. *Sci Rep* 11, 2657 (2021).

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-82004-x#Sec2>

Filmed in Sax-Zim Bog and supported by FOSZB, this Peatlands 101 video by The Nature Conservancy is a great intro to the importance of preserving bog lands.



SCAN to see video



Closer Look at... WINTERBERRY BOG

Thanks to Tim and Judy Walker of New Hope, Minnesota for their generous donation that preserved the original 40 acres of Black Spruce and Tamarack bog. In 2020 Kim Eckert and friends donated towards the 1200-ft Bob Russell Bog Boardwalk. In 2022 the family of John Holcomb donated 40 adjacent acres to increase Winterberry Bog to 80 acres.

ACTIVITIES AT SITE: Birding, photography, walking, botanizing all can be enjoyed at this site. Bird feeders are maintained during the winter season providing close views of Canada Jays, Evening Grosbeaks, redpolls and more. A "Little Free Nature Library" is on site.

NAMESAKE: This bog is named for Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), which grows here along the bog margin. Winterberry is known to be a winter food source for Evening Grosbeaks and other wildlife.



Hollow-stemmed Tamarack Bolete (*Suillus ampliporus*)



Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)



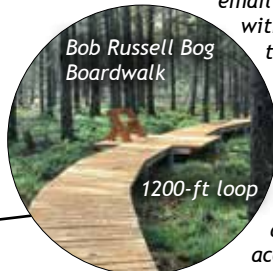
Black-backed Woodpecker

FLORA & FAUNA: Black-backed Woodpeckers are consistently found along the Bob Russell Bog Boardwalk (photo left). The deep sphagnum moss hosts Pink Ladyslipper, Labrador Tea, and a diverse array of fungi including the picturesque *Suillus ampliporus* (photo left). Other species of note include Boreal Chickadee, Blackburnian Warbler, Brown Creeper, Barred Owl, Canada Jay and more!

If you explore Winterberry and have an interesting sighting email Head Naturalist Clinton at naturalist@saxzim.org with your report. Check out the species documented for this property on iNaturalist.org.



Winterberry Bog



Bob Russell Bog Boardwalk

1200-ft loop

LOCATION: Address is 9105 Murphy Road, Cotton & Trailhead GPS coordinates are- 47.170382, -92.536680. This site is also clearly marked on the Sax-Zim Bog Birding Map found on our website.

This bog and the Bob Russell loop boardwalk are open and accessible year-round, 24-7-365. Handicapped accessible Porta-potty on site. Small parking pad.

All Friends of Sax-Zim Bog parcels become
Forever Homes for Owls & Warblers

The rarely seen Polia propodea



"Nothing" late into the night



Tallying butterflies in Toivola Swamp



13 Dragonflies

16 Fish species

19 Spider species

26 Butterfly species

37 Fungi species

65 Gall, burl & rust species

79 Bird species

175 Flora species

202 Moth species

Species found during Bog BioBlitz XI

Arrowhead Spiketail was only the second ever recorded in Sax-Zim!



BioBlitzes started as a way to quickly document species in a tropical rainforest that was slated for destruction. But today we have evolved that concept into a true spotlight on the biodiversity of Sax-Zim ("Bogdiversity"). 91 participants joined us on July 8, 2023. Especially gratifying was the presence of many kids, whose generation will be our future "bog buddies."

Ten field trips led by knowledgeable guides scattered across the Bog to record and document as many species in their niche as possible. But along with this tallying came lots of educational moments. Each BioBlitz ends with all leaders and participants meeting back at the Welcome Center for a wrap-up of the best discoveries of the day. Leaders also bring back finds so folks can "ooh and aah" and learn more about bog flora and fauna. Participants who stuck around even got a chance to win multiple bird-themed prizes!

Keen eyes documented 724 species, with 77 new species added to the Master Species list of 3,400+ for the greater Sax-Zim Bog! The new species were dominated by moths (36 new), fungi (19 new), and galls. Of special note was the discovery of a moth new to science, and 41(!) Polia propodea, a bog specialist moth without a common name, and a species that is at the south end of its continental range in Sax-Zim.

Spotlight on Bogdiversity

BOG BIOBLITZ XI JULY 8, 2023



Bog BioBlitz XII tentatively set for Aug 24, 2024



Hope to see you at Bog BioBlitz XII!

We set a record for number of attendees to a bioblitz with 91 folks, had a record number of iNaturalist contributions, and we tied the high count for contributors to the event's project!

Thanks to all our volunteer field trip leaders! Lori Williams (Family Nature Hunt), Ariel Bonkoski (Fungi), Jeff Fisher & Mike Moen (Dragonflies & Damselflies), Greg Cleary (Birds), Sparky Stensaas (Spiders and Insects), Sam Guida (Galls, Burls, Rusts & Plant Diseases), Kyle Johnson (Moths, Butterflies), Murphy Steininger (Fishes & Aquatic Insects), Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus (Moths, Flora), Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus (Moths, Flora).



Purple Fringed Orchids were just starting to bloom during Bog BioBlitz XI



A rare find! This Black Swallowtail caterpillar was discovered by Eva on the Spiders & Insects field trip.



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 Michael Dahl
 Maxine Dalton
 In honor of Tom &
 Carol-Ann Bloom
 Nikki Daniels
 Gene & Deb Danneman
 Susan Darley-Hill
 Leah Darst
 Bonnie Davis
 Jeff & Liz Davis
 Ken & Donna Davis
 Elliott & Anna De St. Croix
 Hugh & Marilyn Dean
 Owen Dean
 Penny Dearth
 In honor of Tom Ryther
 James Deasey
 Alex Delehanty
 & Rachel McAnallen
 Jim & Pat Delvecchio
 Carmel DeMaioribus
 Sara DePew
 Dale DeRocher
 Marianne Diericks
 Rich & Colleen Dinter
 Adrienne Donath
 Lynn Dooher
 Courtney Dowell
 Jeanie Draper
 Kim & John Driskell
 Christine & Marcella
 Dubois-Buxbaum
 Laverne & Barb Dunsmore
 Jeffrey Dzick
 Joanna Eckles
 Polly Edington
 Tarry Edington
 Andrew Edwards
 Chris & Cindy Edwardson
 Sue Egan
 Garrett Egeland
 Mary Eggink
 Ronald & Sharon Eickhoff
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Jonathan & Tamera Eirten
 Janet Ek
 Cynthia Elias
 Alex Ellis & Martha Tobin
 Jesse Ellis
 Mary & David Ellis-Hollenhorst
 In memory of Karol Gresser
 Susan Elsner
 Don Elvestrom
 Jim Entgelmeier
 Rolf Erdahl
 Russel Ergen
 Kenneth Erickson
 Matti Erpestad
 Estee Lauder Companies
 Global Philanthropy &
 Corporate Citizenship
 Sarah Evert

John Ewan
 In honor of Delrose Ewan
 Martha Fagan
 Mary Jo & Bill Fairbanks
 Karen Fairweather
 Cheron Ferland
 Megan Fillmore
 Lynn & Amy Finken Flagstad
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Casey Finnerty
 Susan Finnilla
 Craig & Denise Fitzgerald
 Maura Fitzgerald
 Martha Fleck & Eric Twito
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 Ben Fritchman
 Jean Frogner
 Peg & Ron Funes
 Jason Furtney
 Kerry Furtney
 Melissa Gabrielson
 Sheryl & Paul Gage
 Catherine Gagliardi
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Susan Galatowitsch
 Andy Garcia
 Kathryn Garner
 Alicia Gatto Petersen
 Jose Luis Gavilan
 Dave Geary & Deanne Roquet
 Emily Geary
 Jill Genaw
 Sonia Gercheva
 Heather & David Gerth
 Gloria Gervais
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 Keith Larson
 Kristy Larson

Sabrina Lau & Mark Staba
 Tony Lau
 Alice Lauritzen
 Pamela Layton
 Melissa Lea & Pam Starr
 Don Leacon
 Rhonda Lee
 Gary Leeper
 Milton Legg
 Katie Leitschuh
 Brandon Lentz
 Sherry Leonardo
 Tim Lewis
 Jan Liedle
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Emily Lind
 Wayne Lindberg
 Brett Lindemann
 Sandra Linder
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 Sherry Livingston
 Allen & Kimberle Loken
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 Edwin Longhway
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 Anne Lowe
 Madeleine Lowry
 Phillip Lowry
 Paula Lozano
 Judy Luetkemeyer
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 Karen Lymangood
 Fay & Jeff Maas
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 Andrew Maher
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 Al & Liz Makynen
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 David Mancuso
 Craig Mandel
 Karen Manthe-Hogan
 Sonja & Jon Marifke
 Caroline Marks
 Lynne & Howard Markus
 Lucia Marnich
 Rodney Marquardt
 Mark Martin
 Phillip Martin
 Sonia Martinez
 Deb Masters
 Alan Mayer
 Susan Mayer
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Jerome McCallson
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Cheryl McColley
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Drs Robert & Jane McConnell
 Alice & Gary McDougall
 In memory of Elizabeth Bell
 Tam McGehee
 Linda McGouirk
 Kerry Mcindoo
 Patty McInnis

We are donor supported

We could not thrive
without all of you...
Our Bog Buddies!

Charles McLaughlin
Paul McMahon
Marina McManus
Diane Meiborg
Richard & Joan Meierotto
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
Ed & Eileen Menefee
Dan Messman
Mary Metzger
Terry & Sue Meyer
Barbara & Tom Meyer
Kari Meyer
Krista Meyer
Kelly & John Miller
Minnesota River Valley
Audubon Chapter
David Mitchell
Dale & Mary Mitsch
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
Terry Moffatt
Paula Mohr
Tony Moline & Stormy Mochal
Jeff Moravec
Julie Morgan
Denise Morris
Paul Morrison
Mark Morse
Winnie Morse
Becca & Terrance Mullenburg
Ann Mulholland
Edward Mullaney
Heidi Mullen
In honor of Sarah B
Aaron Munson
Michelle Murphy
Anne Mytych
Judith Nagel
Yasushi Nakagawa
Dan Neff
Charlene & James Nelson
Donna & John C. Nelson
and family
Kevin Nelson
Marcia & Ken Nelson
Margie Nelson
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Alan Netland
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Amy & Keith Okan
Tim Oksiuta
Rhonda O'Leary
Glenn Olsen
Jennifer Olson
Moirra Olson
Noah Orloff
Bruce & Corinne Ort
In memory of Scott Seigfreid
Marilyn Oseland
Kathleen Oss

Martha Osterberg
Sarah Packa
Fred & Donna Paley
Kathryn Palmer
Marilyn Palmer
David & Mary Parker
Family Trust
Jennie Parks
Karen Pauls
Ernest Peaslee
Paige Pelini
Linda Peplinski
Autumn Perkins
Jeffrey Peterson
Neil Peterson
Emily Peterson-Cassin
Betty L Petron
Nila Petty
Debra Pexa
Pfizer
Tracy Pheneger
Sherry Phillips
Tanya Platz-Sandberg
Elizabeth Pietrini
Pineridge Garden Club
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
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Arliss Piri
Chris Pogliano
Cindy Poston
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
Marcia Pratt
Lori Prudhomme
Jerry Pruett
David Radtke
Suzanne Ramthun
Joel Randolph
Candace Rasmussen
Robert Raufelisen
Suzanne & Brian Rauvola
John Reed
Edward Reilly
Becky Remme
Barbara Remund
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Colleen Resendiz
Cynthia Reuss
Sally Reynolds
& Hampton Smith III
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Eliot Ricciardelli
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Charles & Cheryl Hill Roberto
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Henry Roberts
Jim & Pat Robey
In honor of the Marcus
Anderson Family
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In memory of Elizabeth Bell
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Julie Roesler
Lynn & Donna Rogers
Sandy Roggenkamp
Charlene Roise
Teresa Root
Robert & Susan Rose

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Lisa Rounds
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Kristen Rudquist
Luke Rumpca-Sweeney
Lorna Rupp
Henry Russell
Kurt Rusterholz
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Sherri Ryan
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Marilyn Rynes Baskerville
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Stanley Stine
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Teresa Swenson
Yvonne Szatkowski
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Will Taylor
Ross Terhaar
Steve & Gale Thackery
Larry Theiss
Jessica Thiel
Angie Thies
Jane Thimke
Ruth Thom
Lisa Thornquist
Sandy Tigue
Terri Tilotta
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Carol Tollman
Jason Traver
Lucy Traxinger
Maureen Traxler
Elizabeth Treher
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Patrick & Lawrie Truman
Robyn Tryggeseth
Delia Unson &
Charles Heikkinen
Jared Van Hooser
Eric & Cynthia Vehe

Jeff Velline
Camille Verzal
Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
Jen Vieth
In memory of Curt Rawn
Timothy Walker
Sheila Walker
Teresa Walker
William & Sylvia Walker
Jean Walsh
Kim Waltman
Maureen Walton
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
Don Wanschura
Kerry Warzecha &
Claude Minor
Carol & Peter Waselk
Derek "Duck" Washington
Susan Wasilczuk
Trey Weaver
Allison Welch
Christine Welch
Linda Well & Earl Salmink
Charlotte Wenger
Nick Whelan
Nora White
Zachary Widman
Boak Wiesner
Cindy Wilks
Mary Willert
In honor of my husband,
Paul E. Olson
David Williams
Joan Willoughby
Cindy Wills
Nathan Wilson
Patrick Wilson
Diane Winkler
Crystal Wisen
In memory of
Drew Christensen.
Scott & Nan Wisherd
Janet Woehrle
Dennis Wold
Paul Wolter
Dave Worrell
Bryan Wyberg
Mark Youngdahl
In memory of Elizabeth Bell
Cynthia Zarbano
Pete & Amy Zeuli
Ryan Zimmerman

Many gave in memory of Elizabeth Bell

Elizabeth was always birding; whether driving, biking, walking, skiing, or sitting outside. Birds were one of the great joys in her life.

The birding community was a constant source of friendship and joy for Elizabeth. She served the birding community with different positions within the Minnesota Ornithologists Union for 30 years, receiving the coveted Thomas Sadler Roberts Memorial Award in 2001.

"Her warmth and enthusiasm for life, birds, and people was infectious." She will be missed!





DONOR PROFILE

Dave & Pam Benson

Dave is one of the founders of Friends of Sax-Zim Bog and he and Pam have donated every year since our inception in 2010! They are also Sustainers. Dave fields a team for the BRRRRdathon yearly...and usually wins!

You can read more about Dave on our website under "About FOSZB" tab.

14 consecutive years

Dave & Pam Benson

13 consecutive years

Jean Beyer
Paul Johnson
Donald & Jean Kaddatz
Eileen Schantz-Hansen

12 consecutive years

John Arthur & Pamela Deerwood

11 consecutive years

Judith Ann Collopy
John Ellis
Deborah Freedman
Dr. Lynn Glesne
Ruth Hiland
David Larson
Kari Meyer
Gene & Julie Ollila
Myron & Holly Peterson
Sandy Roggenkamp
Paul Sitz
Rubin Stenseng &

10 consecutive years

Donald Beck
Barbara Becker
Anne Bier
Les Conrad
Jeff and Michelle Fischer
Nancy and Jim Fisher
Ron and Peg Funes
Nancy and Bill Henke
Wes and Deirdre Kramer
Barbara and Tom Meyer
Krista Meyer

Phyllis Bofferding
Janet & John Green
Larry Leonard
Jerry & Bonnie Niemi
Cal & Pat Rice

Sue Wilmes
Jeanne & Steve Tanamachi
Paul & Deborah Trunk
Uri Yokel & Kathy Rodriguez

Minnesota River Valley
Audubon Chapter
Elizabeth Neubar
Scott Slocum
Barbara Stark & Charles Gessert
Ruth Stearns
Pamela Stevenson
Matt Stratmoen
Butch Ukura
Jen Vieth
Lori Williams & Dave Steining

Shout out to our most consistent givers!



Rick Schroeder

Jim Sims



Tim Wallace

Amy Loiselle

Volunteers!

Our volunteers are crucial to day-to-day operations at the Welcome Center. We are indebted to our Welcome Center hosts and feeder-fillers: Amy Loiselle, Tim Wallace, Jim Sims, Rick Schroeder, Steve Kirkhorn, Lynelle Hanson, Susan Garrett and Kim Driskell. Also a big shout out to all the volunteers that helped out at the work-days throughout the season.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities in the Bog, please email Sara at info@saxzim.org

SHOP THE SAX-ZIMPORIUM!

2024 Bog Wild Calendar, New Ts & Hats: See "Shop" Tab on our website



Clinton's Corner

88 Baby American Kestrels Fledged

The season was a great success. 2023 was the **second best year ever in the Bog** for numbers of occupancies (29 of 50+ nest boxes occupied), producing an impressive **88 chicks!** Twenty-four boxes fledged young successfully.

Unfortunately, we also had the 2nd highest total of unhatched eggs due to predation, abandoned nests, or failed eggs (43).

We have been color-banding nestlings and transmitter-bearing adult kestrels for the last two years (totaling just shy of 200 birds). This year we had a color-banded transmitter-bearing male return to a nest box!

Supporting American Kestrels through this nest box project has added more birds to the landscape. Hopefully, you have enjoyed them when you visit Sax-Zim.

Our growing group of American Kestrel volunteers donate their valuable time by monitoring boxes and banding chicks. THANK YOU to Mary Gabrys, Jean Elton Turbes, Jeri Schwerin, Jessica Phoenix, Dawn Shold, Sue Wilmes, Nona Goertz, Steve Kirkhorn, Brian Scott, and Kelly Rundell.

A Hearty "Thank You!" to our Friday speakers during summer 2023

- Rubin Stenseng—Orchids of Sax-Zim
- Laura Erickson—100 Plants to Feed the Birds
- Randy Bunney—History of the Sax-Zim Railroads
- Phil Hartley—Sax-Zim Bog A to Z
- Marne Kaeske—1854 Treaty & Native history
- Becca Reiss—St. Louis River Watershed
- Larry Weber—Spiders of the North Woods



Meet Mr. Baby Kestrel... The 400th banded in our American Kestrel nest box & banding program!

Help us create new & innovative Interpretive Displays!
GOAL: \$20,000



Educational Outreach

1,121 + **125,066**

folks attended Clinton's in-person field trips, workshops & outreach events.

views on YouTube of all of Clinton & Sparky's field trip videos & webinars since 2017.



More educational opportunities were offered this year than any year previous! We offered almost **125 unique educational opportunities** through Master Naturalist Trainings, our Friday Afternoon Speaker Series, Field Trips, Workshops, BogDiversity Thursday social media posts, and more! Our Friday Afternoon Speaker Series continued to offer insight of our region from a wide range of perspectives. Over 125 folks enjoyed the weekly talks. Thank you to everyone who attended these talks and to our speakers who gave their time and expertise!



The Lois King Education Center was busy with eager learners throughout the summer and fall, including a Fungi Foray and Workshop led by Ariel Bonkoski and the second Master Naturalist Biome Course led by myself. We have been so excited to use this space for education in all of its facets over the last year, and will have many in the future!

I am looking forward to another education season starting this winter. It is hard to see the non-winter season come to an end, but the arrival of winter finches and snowshoeing weather will soon be here. Thank you to everyone who continues to attend and support education programs in the Sax-Zim Bog!

Warbler Wednesday field trip admiring a Great Gray along McDavitt. This was one of 47 field trips offered in 2022-23



Head Naturalist Clinton leads the Early Season Butterfly field trip

It All Adds Up

6,739

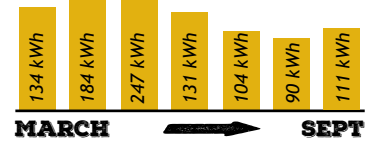


visitors came through the Welcome Center in the winter of 2022-23; from 41 states; Also Canada, Poland, Australia, Finland, South Korea, Scotland and more!



New Solar Panels at Welcome Center

SOLAR POWER GENERATED and SOLD back to the power company!



Give to the Max Day is Nov 16, 2023
 givemn.org "foszb"

2022

You helped us raise a good portion of our operating expenses and land protection funds during Give to the Max Day 2022.

\$52,108

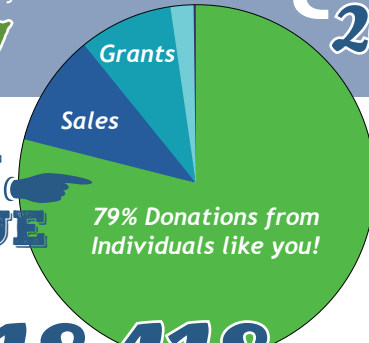
given during GTMD period by...

263 Donors



FOSZB YEARLY REVENUE

- 1 Other
- 3 Flickr/SmugMug
- 4 blog/website
- 5 iNaturalist
- 7 Instagram
- 9 Other (email, camera club, etc)
- 10 FOSZB & other Facebook Groups
- 17 eBird
- 21 Don't share on the internet
- 23 personal Facebook page



\$918,418

donated by all of you to...



3,469

Sax-Zim Bog species recorded

3,034

Species with photos entered into our iNaturalist database

**go to www.inaturalist.org & search "Sax-Zim Bog" to see all the photos

1,353

Webinar & online program views

6,062

Clinton's Bog-ventures video views

97,264

Virtually Live field trip views



VIRTUAL OUTREACH

from Friends of Sax-Zim Bog

20,387

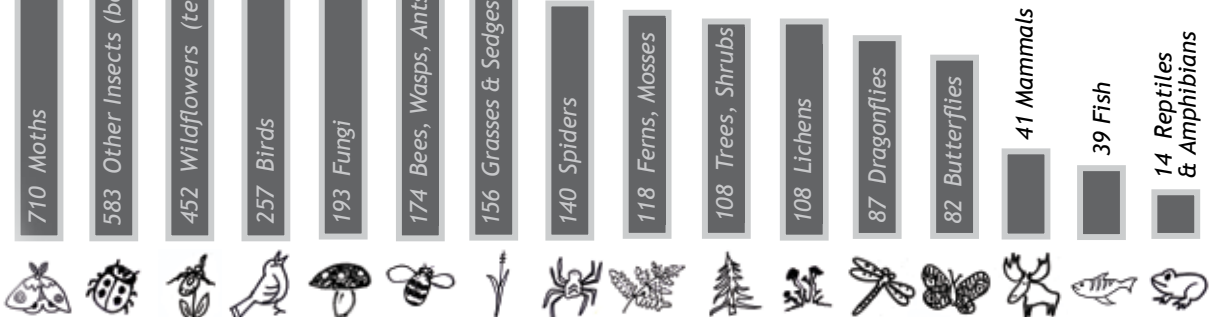
Clinton's Critters video views



Scan to go to our website page with links to ALL videos

How do you share your Sax-Zim Bog photos & sightings?

*Data from 2021 FOSZB Survey



Number of species recorded in our Sax-Zim Bog Master List database (**some categories not shown in bar graph)

Bog Buddies at Work & Play 2022-23



Minnesota Master Naturalists gathered at the Bog for a week of learning with Head Naturalist Clinton.



Poland is not too far to come to enjoy the wonders of Sax-Zim in winter.



Welcome Center naturalist/host Sarah Wood refills the popular "human bird feeder."



We do not discriminate! Dogs can be Bog Buddies too! Right Lou?



Volunteer Eileen tackling some weeding (actually "ferning") in our pollinator garden.



Bob Briski's hand-carved Auggie's Owls continue to put smiles on faces.



Here is our future in action! Watching Evening Grosbeak mayhem at the Welcome Center.



The Becky Lystig bog boardwalk spur begins!



Artist John Jaranson graciously donated several of his framed bird carvings.



No job too messy for our Development Director Sara. Staining the Lois King Education Center.



Frank Klabacek is an amazing taxidermist and he donated this Coyote and a Sharp-tailed Grouse.



Over 80 percent of our visitors come in winter.



Sparky and bird author Laura Erickson after her Friday talk at the Welcome Center.



Litter clean up day! Thanks to (L-R) Eileen Schantz-Hansen, Sara, Lori, Julie and Gene.

Bog Copper



American Bittern over Nichols Lake

Spotted Coralroot orchid
© Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus



Male American Three-toed Woodpecker



Pitcher Plants and sundews are fascinating to me. I love being in the thick of the Sax-Zim Bog searching for them.

Somehow I haven't managed to see a Snowy Owl yet so that's on my list for this winter. Overall I want to see everything the Bog has to offer, so I've got some exploring ahead of me!

I think it's important to support Friends of Sax-Zim Bog because of the work being done to preserve the local habitat and their contributions to scientific research. The education opportunities FOSZB offers are equally as important because they provide visitors with a hands-on way to form a deep connection to the Bog.

STAFF PROFILE

Kelly Rundell

Welcome Center
Host/Naturalist since 2022.
Stop in and say hi to her this winter!



Wild Turkeys are now a common bird in Sax-Zim



The rarely-encountered Green Longjawed Orbweaver



Hunchbacked Fly ©Emma Ambrosi



Sedge Wren near Stoney Creek



Arctic Raspberry (Rubus arcticus)



Red Fox rambling near Zim



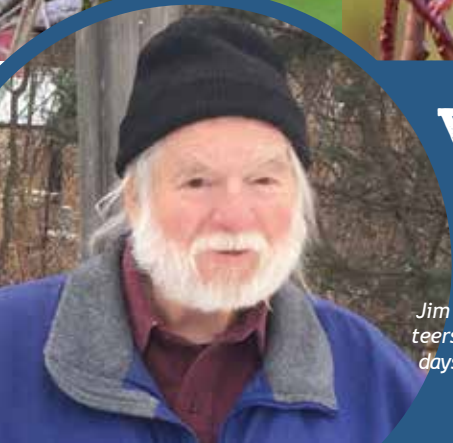
Steeplebush (Spiraea tomentosa)



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Jim Sims

Jim is one of our most reliable volunteers. He not only participates in work days but also fills feeders around the Bog in winter. Thanks Jim!



my favorite sighting in the Sax-Zim Bog came a few years back when a rarely-seen Boreal Owl "set up camp" at the Admiral Road feeders. I have also enjoyed seeing several species of orchids this summer, including the unusual white morph Showy Ladyslipper.

I would still love to see a Moose in Sax-Zim.

It is critical that organizations like Friends of Sax-Zim Bog preserve the unique habitat that so many birds and other species depend on to survive, and that is why I support and volunteer for this organization.

DONOR PROFILE

Heather Miller

Heather lives in New Hampshire but believes in the importance of bogs, and in the Mission of FOSZB. She has supported our Acres for Owls program for 19 straight months!



Always hard to pick favorites, but one very fond memory from Sax-Zim is of a Mourning Warbler very close to me in a Black Spruce. This is the only time I have ever seen this species. I have yet to see a Great Gray Owl so that is obviously high on my list of species to see in the Bog.

For years, I had heard of the Sax-Zim Bog as a special habitat and was finally able to visit in 2018. I was struck by the fact that the Bog as a whole was not protected despite its importance and fragility. Being retired and living modestly, I am glad that I am able to provide some support for this wonderful place, home to many species of birds and other animals and a place of refuge for migrating species.

Meadow Fritillary at Welcome Center



Treehopper (Ceresa basalis) © Emma Ambrosi



Timber Wolf

Michigan Lily © Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus



DONOR PROFILE

John Ellis

John has been our Number One fundraiser for the annual BRRRRdathon since the inaugural event in 2011, and his team, The Grouching Twitchers, often win!



Coming up with a favorite species or sighting for the Bog is a difficult task! Most memorable was the year of the Owl invasion when my son Jesse and family members went to Sax-Zim and sighted over 50 Great Grays and more than 20 Northern Hawk Owls! I've not seen a wolf in the Bog, and never encountered a Wolverine or a Canada Lynx ANYWHERE, so those would be fun!

I support FOSZB because it's local, a place I visit 3-4 times each year. Second, the Bog is an ecological area that supports rare species in Minnesota and the Friends has preservation as a major goal. Third, their focus is on education and involving people actively in Bog activities.

Wood Duck at dawn-Nichols Lake



"Coywolf" ...part Coyote, part Wolf



Skunk Cabbage along McDavitt



Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Mary Lou's feeders...a Bog first!

white-morph Showy Ladyslippers © Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus



Snowshoe Hare at end of Gray Jay Way



Fisher with mole prey along Admiral Road © Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus

Financial Statement

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

REVENUE	FY 22-23	
Individual Gifts	\$479,754	84%
Foundation Grants	\$51,650	9%
Merchandise Sales	\$25,904	4%
Events & Programs	\$12,602	2%
Corp. Matches & Int. Inc	\$4,041	1%
TOTAL	\$573,951	

EXPENSES		
Program	\$234,070	71%
Management	\$79,712	24%
Fundraising	\$16,042	5%
TOTAL	\$329,824	
SURPLUS	\$244,127*	

*Capital expenditure on Welcome Center addition of \$292,461. Operating deficit after expenditure - \$48,334

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2023

ASSETS	3-31-2023	
Cash (incl. liquid assets)	\$627,404	
Other Current Assets	\$432,746	
Fixed Assets	\$1,218,129	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,278,279	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities	\$6,520	
Restricted Net Assets	\$270,080	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,001,678	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$2,278,279	



The new Taiga Boardwalk at the Welcome Center joins together the two bogwalks: John C. Gale spur & Becky Lystig spur



Sara Blanck
Development Director



Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus
Head Naturalist



Rubin Stenseng
Board Member



Julie Ollila
Board Member-Secretary



Sparky Stensaas
Executive Director



Gene Ollila
Board Member



Ben Yokel
Board Member



Lori Williams
Board Chair



Dave Steinger
Board Member-Treasurer

SETTLING INTO YOUR SOUL

The Sax-Zim Bog has a quiet way of settling into your soul. Your visit will stay with you, nudging you to learn more about this ecological wonder.

More about unique Tamarack trees. More about unusual types of fungi. More about lovely wild orchids. More about the hidden world of macroinvertebrates. More about predacious dragonflies. Perhaps even more about the multitudes of bird species.

We are all fortunate to have this wealth of biodiversity as our teacher in the field. Our hard-working Board of Directors and staff remain steadfast and sincere in our efforts to steward this natural bounty. We greatly appreciate the support of so many who have stepped forward with a shared commitment to help carry out our mission.

Linger a while. Listen. Watch. Learn more.

It is good for your soul. It is ultimately very good for Sax-Zim Bog.

—With deep gratitude,
 Lori Williams, Board Chair



Scan to go right to our website

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Preserving & Protecting the Greater Sax-Zim Bog for Future Generations of Birds & Birders



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