



# FRIENDS of Sax-Zim Bog

## Annual Report 2011-2012

Wow! I first want to thank all of you for your enthusiastic support of Friends of Sax-Zim Bog in our inaugural year. And what a year it's been. We received our IRS 501c3 non-profit status on June 29, 2011 and since then you've helped us raise nearly \$30,000 to fund our mission of supporting, promoting, and protecting the Sax-Zim Bog Important Bird Area (IBA) through education, media, research, research funding, donation, and communication. As many of you know, the Bog has been dedicated as an Important Bird Area but this designation carries no protection. Our hope is that we can purchase and protect bog tracts, build bog boardwalks, construct a Sax-Zim Bog Birder/Photographer Welcome Center and educate the public about the amazing natural history and importance of bog peatlands.

Special thanks to the following folks: Sarah Beaster for much-needed fundraising help. Mayor of Floodwood Jeff Kletscher and County Commissioner Frank Jewell have helped me navigate the political waters. Jeri Schwerin for volunteering at our booth at the Sax-Zim Bog Winter Bird Festival, Bridget Stensaas for making the delicious brunch for our BRRRRDathon/Photathon compilation, Jeff Evans for helping us with our IRS 990EZ forms. I've enjoyed working with Jason Meyer and Andy Holak, both of the St. Louis County Land Department. David Benson, Pete Gravett, Janelle Long have all given me great advice about the world of non-profits. Frost River of Duluth, Stone Ridge Press, Kollath-Stensaas Publishing and Bemidji Woolen Mills donated prizes for the BRRRRDathon. Thanks to all!

—Executive Director, Sparky Stensaas

### 2012-13 Board Members

David Benson  
Kim Eckert  
Kate Nicoletti  
Chris Edwardson  
Lori Williams

### Staff

Mark Sparky Stensaas  
—Executive Director



1-day BRRRRDathon winners: Stephen Bockhold & Annmarie Geniusz



2-day BRRRRDathon winners: Dave Benson & Lars Benson



Prizes for the BRRRRDathon: "I Survived the World's Coldest Birdathon"



Top-scoring photo from the Photathon: Bray Jay by Shawn Zierman

## 2012 BRRRRDathon/Photathon

The second running of the World's Coldest Birdathon, the BRRRRDathon DID NOT live up to its name with temps in the 30s. But, all had a great time!

An amazing 73 species were found by 21 folks in 8 teams during the January 6-7th event.

Highlights included: Greater and Lesser scaup in Washburn, WI; Spruce Grouse (Lake County Road 2, 2 mi N of Sand River); 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 8 species of gulls (including the Glaucous-winged Gull in Duluth); 4 Great Gray Owls (3 in Sax-Zim and 1 in Koochiching County); American Three-toed Woodpecker (Lake County); Varied Thrush (Duluth); Bohemian Waxwing (only 2! ...in Big Falls, MN); 2 Hoary Redpolls and 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers (one on Northland College campus in Ashland, WI, and on at Boy Scout Landing in Duluth)!

Teams birded from Koochiching County, Minnesota on the Canadian border all the way to Washburn, Ashland and

Crex Meadows in Wisconsin. Of course, Duluth, Aitkin County and our beloved Sax-Zim Bog were also heavily birded.

### Winning Teams

**2-Day Event:** Dave Benson, Lars Benson, John Ellis (53 species)

**1-Day Event:** Stephen Bockhold, Annmarie Geniusz, Karen Stubenvoll (30 species)

Non-motorized "wintergreen" event: Tim Bates & Andrew Webster (bicycle!) 33 species in Duluth

### Photathon

1st place—Shawn Zierman of Duluth, MN

2nd place—Erik Bruhnke of Duluth, MN

THANKS TO ALL TEAMS FOR HELPING FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG raise money for their mission;

Hope you can join us next year!



### BogCam

One project we hope to expand is the "BogCam." On a trial basis we placed a Trail Camera in the heart of the Sax-Zim Bog. And we got some surprising results, including this Gray Fox...an uncommon species in NE Minnesota.

### Facebook

If you haven't already, please think about joining us on Facebook. Simply go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofsaxzimbog) and search for "friends of sax-zim bog." We post about recent sightings, bog natural history, BogCam photos, upcoming events, and much more.

### e-Newsletter

Have you received our first e-Newsletter? If you haven't, please let us know ([sparkystensaas@hotmail.com](mailto:sparkystensaas@hotmail.com)) to make sure we have your current email address. We will send a new e-Newsletter about once a month to keep you informed.

### Land Purchase

Though we can't yet announce the location, we have been awarded a \$29,000 grant from the MN DNR's CPL (Conservation Partner's Legacy) Grant program. The sale is in process, with a few hoops to yet jump through, but we hope to give you full details about this 40 acre bog in the next few months. It will be a place for folks to get out of their car and bird from INSIDE a Black Spruce-Tamarack bog. Future plans for the site include a parking area, kiosk and bog boardwalk.



### Feeding Station on Owl Avenue

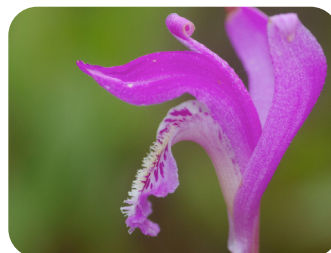
Seven feeders were placed on St. Louis County land along Owl Avenue this past winter. The beef suet, black oil sunflower seeds and niger thistle attracted an enthusiastic parade of birds including White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, a flock of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins that also included one Hoary Redpoll. Gray Jays were also seen nearby. The feeding station will be expanded this coming winter and more photogenic perches will be placed for photographers.

### Does the Bog really need protecting?

As you can see from these Google Earth images taken only one year apart, the Sax-Zim Bog peatlands are under tremendous logging pressure. The time is now to protect bog tracts for future birders and photographers.



Here's just a few bog critters and plants that will benefit from Friends of Sax-Zim Bog activities





## Thank You for your generous donations over the last year! (December 2010 through March 2012)

### \$10,000

Earl Orf &  
Diana Hestwood

### \$5,000

Steve Thompson  
& Ron Frey

### \$1,000

Susan and Gene Bauer  
Dave & Pam Benson  
Stan Tekeila

### \$400-\$999

Stephen Bockhold  
& Annmarie Geniusz  
Thomas Cartwright  
Marlene Dollive  
Don & Jean Kaddatz  
Mark & Becky Lystig  
Howard & Judy Rowe  
Chris Straight  
Karen & Bob Stubenvoll  
Dave Weaver

### \$100-\$399

Carol Aschbacher  
Shane Bartleson  
Karl & Sarah Beaster  
Jean Beyer  
William Bronn  
Mark Citsay  
Melanie & Randy Dalbec  
Pat DeWenter  
Kim Eckert &  
MN Birding Weekends  
Paul Egeland  
Dell Erickson  
Susan & Frank Gilliland  
Amy Granlund  
Pete Gravett  
Richard Hartman  
Dave Hojnacki  
Fran Howard  
Paul Johnson  
Jonathon Jongsma  
Daniel Leger  
Tom Malone &  
Kathy Crawford  
Craig Mandel  
Chris Mansfield  
William Marengo  
Ryan & Shari Marshik  
Chet & Miriam Meyers  
Steven Midthune  
Sandy Roggenkamp  
Matthew Schaut

Jeri Schwerin  
Erika & Paul Sitz  
Baxter Smith  
Stan & Connie Stensaas  
Ben & Mae Lou Thompson  
Sarah Winfrey

### Up to \$99

Earl & Virginia Bach  
Tom & Nora Bender  
Frank & Kathleen Berdan  
Steve & Jo Blanich  
Katie Bray  
Judd Brink  
Erik Bruhnke  
Paul Budde  
Marilyn & Scott Clark  
Judith Clayton  
Laura Coble  
Sidney Crawford  
Carol Cummins  
Debra & Michael Diko  
Diana Doyle  
John Ellis  
Jessie Ellis  
Laura Erickson  
Tom & Lorri Evans  
Audrey Evers  
Jeff Fisher  
Stephen & Evelyn Fisher  
Richard & Katharine  
Fournier  
Mr. or Mrs. J.S. Futcher  
Gloria Gervais  
Sarah Glesner  
J. J. Goodwin  
Jan Green  
Charlie Greenman &  
Bonnie Mulligan  
Joanne Groten  
Saul & Irene Grysman  
Bill & Sally Hague  
Don Harrington  
Lisa & Steven Haste  
Melissa Hein  
Alice Hennessey  
Ken & Molly Hoffman  
Terri Huro  
Jenni & Sam Ives  
Jessica Jenner  
David S. Johnson  
Kathleen & Paul  
Kelnerberger  
Douglas Kieser  
Dr. Barry & Janet  
Kinneberg  
Mary Krohnke

Larry Leonard  
Leslie Marcus  
Fr. Tom Margevicius  
Douglas Mayo &  
Susan Long  
Joan McKearnan  
Ms. Ute McKenzie  
Richard Miller  
Jeannie Mitchell  
MN River Valley  
Audubon Chapter  
Marsha Moreen  
Bruce Munson  
Frank & Kate Nicoletti  
Craig Parsons  
Bill Penning  
John Pennoyer  
Myron & Holly Peterson  
Susan & Joseph Plankis  
Waltraud Richards  
J. Hawkeye Rondeau

Bonnie Sample  
Eileen Schantz-Hanson  
Julian & Barbara Sellers  
Sherrie Siers  
Sandy Simek  
(Wilbert Cafe)  
Elaine Skrentner  
Linda Sparling  
Carrie Straight  
Ann Straight  
Bob Stubenvoll  
Sunderland  
Suzanne Swanson  
Christina Tarasczuk & David  
Alexander  
Dan & Sandy Thimgan  
Jen Vieth  
Steve Weston  
Linda Whyte  
Shawn Zierman



\*\*Handmade bird tiles created by  
Alaska artist Nancy Hausle-Johnson  
will be inscribed with  
\$100+ donor names  
for a permanent  
installation in the  
future Sax-Zim Bog  
Welcome Center.

## Statement of Financial Activities

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

April 1, 2011 TO March 31, 2012

INCOME	
Donations	\$28,810
Event-BRRRRdathon/Photothon	\$1,392
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$30,202</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$30,202</b>
EXPENSES	
Office Supplies	\$831
Postage/UPS/Shipping	\$288
Printing & Copying	\$225
Marketing	\$308
Research Materials	\$225
Professional Services-fundraising	\$360
Professional Services-director	\$1,695
Events & Programs	\$953
Meals	\$78
Travel	\$865
IRS 501c3 application	\$855
Bank Charges	\$30
Misc	\$500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,213</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT</b>	<b>\$22,989</b>
<b>NET INCOME SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$22,989</b>

# Help us create a Legacy for the Sax-Zim Bog

## Sax-Zim Bog Birder/Photographer Welcome Center

The building is being designed by AIA architect Doug Zaun of Wagner-Zaun in Duluth. Construction will depend on how quickly we can raise the dollars needed. The 18'x32' off-the-grid building will have a green roof and electricity will come from solar panels. The Welcome Center will be the "Gateway" to the Bog and will be a place for folks to meet other birders, share sightings, have a cup of coffee, buy souvenirs, warm up, use an outhouse, and enjoy/watch/photograph the birds at the many feeders. Open mid May to early July and Dec. through Feb.



**\*\*Illustration of proposed Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center**

## A Legacy Gift for You

We profusely thank those who have donated generously thus far. But we have a ways to go. As a premium for your donation, we will have Alaska artist Nancy Hausle-Johnson of Fairbanks create a one-of-a-kind 8x8 inch tile with your name on it. Nancy will hand-make each ceramic tile of the species below for a permanent installation in the Birder/Photographer Welcome Center.

### \$10,000+ LEVEL

- ☐ Any Sax-Zim species!
- ☐ Great Gray Owl **TAKEN**

### \$3,000+ LEVEL

(choose any species below)

- ☐ Snowy Owl **TAKEN**
- ☐ Northern Hawk Owl
- ☐ Northern Saw-whet Owl
- ☐ Boreal Owl

### \$1,000+ LEVEL

(choose any species below)

- ☐ American Bittern
- ☐ Rough-legged Hawk **TAKEN**
- ☐ Northern Goshawk
- ☐ Sharp-tailed Grouse
- ☐ Upland Sandpiper **TAKEN**
- ☐ Sandhill Crane
- ☐ Yellow Rail
- ☐ Black-backed Woodpecker

- ☐ Am. Three-toed Woodpecker
- ☐ Black-billed Cuckoo
- ☐ Gray Jay **TAKEN**
- ☐ Black-billed Magpie **TAKEN**
- ☐ Boreal Chickadee
- ☐ Bohemian Waxwing
- ☐ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- ☐ Sedge Wren
- ☐ Northern Shrike **TAKEN**
- ☐ Connecticut Warbler

- ☐ Golden-winged Warbler
- ☐ Mourning Warbler
- ☐ Le Conte's Sparrow
- ☐ Bobolink
- ☐ Pine Grosbeak
- ☐ White-winged Crossbill
- ☐ Hoary Redpoll
- ☐ Common Redpoll
- ☐ Evening Grosbeak

## CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

- ☐ \$20-\$99 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION
- ☐ \$100-\$399 LEVEL (your name with at least four others on a 8x8 bird tile of our choosing)
- ☐ \$400-\$999 LEVEL (your name name alone on a 8x8 bird tile of our choosing)
- ☐ \$1,000-\$2,999 LEVEL (your name alone on a 8x8 bird tile of YOUR choosing)
- ☐ \$3,000-\$4,999 LEVEL (your name on a 8x16 2-tile mural of bird of YOUR choosing)
- ☐ \$5,000-\$9,999 LEVEL (your name on a 16x16 4-tile mural of bird of YOUR choosing)
- ☐ \$10,000+ LEVEL (your name/business name on the centerpiece 8-tile Great Gray Owl mosaic (or another species of your choice)



www.SaxZim.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

name on tile (\$100 gift or more) \_\_\_\_\_  
(can be one name/two names/"family," "in honor/memory of" or business name)

bird species chosen from list above (if \$1,000 gift or more) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks & Mail to:

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog  
PO Box 3585 ❖ Duluth, MN 55803

**\*\*Call us with questions 218.341.3350**

**\*\*Credit Card payments accepted on  
our website through Razoo**