

SAX ZIM BOG

Annual Report 2017

***Entire printing
and mailing
cost paid for by
Lori, Ben, Dave,
Julie, Rubin
and Gene—the
amazing Board
of Directors of
Friends of Sax-
Zim Bog*

SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE SAX-ZIM BOG FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF BIRDS AND BIRDERS

SAX-ZIM IS YOUR BOG

Sax-Zim is YOUR bog...I think I need to repeat that...Sax-Zim belongs to all of us. It is not just OUR bog, it is YOUR bog! We all need to be stewards of this place of dragonflies and butterflies...of owls and orchids...of magic and mystery. Friends of Sax-Zim Bog is here to help facilitate that. By helping FOSZB, you are helping your Bog. Your donations of time and money go directly to projects that will continue our mission of PRESERVING, PROMOTING, AND PROTECTING THE SAX-ZIM BOG.

WHY WE COME & WHY WE CARE

Let's face it, the real stars of the show in the Sax-Zim Bog are the boreal birds that we all come to see, add to our life list, listen to, photograph, and experience fully in our own way...
—Listening to the din of a huge flock of Evening Grosbeaks at Mary Lou's.
—Watching a Great Gray silently hunt, ambivalent to our presence.
—Discovering a Pink Ladyslipper deep in a silent Black Spruce bog.
—Capturing a photo of an Ermine, Marten, Bobcat, Moose.

These are all indelible experiences that color and enrich our lives. But their future is not guaranteed. The majority of the Greater Sax-Zim Bog is not protected. And the mature Black Spruce and Tamarack forests are under logging pressure. We are working to not only purchase more old growth bog, but also to educate the public about the value and incredible biodiversity of these places. We have even coined the phrase “bogdiversity” and it was proven by our 400-species Bog Bioblitz this last summer.

MOVING FORWARD...FASTER THAN A PORCUPINE

—Since the last Annual Report in late spring 2016, we've added another 60 ACRES OF BOG. Tim & Judy Walker donated all the money to purchase the 40 acre Winterberry Bog on Murphy Road (read about it on page 4), and Gordon Andersson gifted us the money to buy a 20 acre addition to the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog. And your donations to Acres for Owls has allowed us to pay down debt on a few parcels we already own. Thank you legacy donors!

—We FINALLY have an operating solar system at the Welcome Center thanks to the guys at Energy Plus in Duluth. And it works great! We've never even drained the solar batteries below 95 percent!

—After a wonderful and eye-opening staff and board trip to Minnesota's Big Bog State Recreation Area and boardwalk, we all saw the incredible value in getting birders and naturalists OFF THE ROADS AND INTO THE BOG. How to do that? Let's build our own bog boardwalk! And that's exactly what we are doing at the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog (read more on page 4).

—A new desk/counter arrangement have really helped the efficiency of sales and info at the Welcome Center. We will be implementing Google Earth imagery via a new and larger TV this winter as well (Thanks Rubin!)

EXPANDING OUR REACH...DIGITALLY

In order to reach those who may never come to Sax-Zim...or never even step one foot into a soggy bog or snowy peatland, we have begun work on an educational film about the bird superheros of the northern forests. **BOREAL WINGS: MINNESOTA'S LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY BIRDS** will explore the lives of some of our most intriguing North Woods birds, including the Spruce Grouse, White-winged Crossbill, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sandhill Crane, Gray Jay and of course, the Great Gray Owl. A very generous grant from the JES Avanti Foundation has allowed me to buy some critical equipment and begin filming. The plan is to send this film and a companion curriculum developed by Head Naturalist Clinton, to EVERY SCHOOL IN MINNESOTA. Stay tuned!

VIPS & MEDIA COVERAGE

Sax-Zim was the place to be this last year: Don Kroodsmma, one of North America's top bird song recordist and researcher came to record Connecticut Warblers; Philipppines TV shot a piece on how other countries are utilizing their peatlands; World Big Year record-setter, Arjan Dwarshuis of the Netherlands, made Sax-Zim his only boreal forest stop during his entire year; Smithsonian conducted Connecticut Warbler tracking research; Professional wildlife photographer Melissa Groo made a visit.

YOUR GENEROSITY...THANK YOU!

As you'll see in our center spread of donors (those who gave from April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017...subsequent donations will be listed in next year's Annual Report), we have MANY Bog Buddies who have given generously. And we realize not all can give in dollars, but give abundantly with time and other donations; We can always use quality bird feed and suet (Thanks to Joe Sausen, Anne Bier, Wild Birds Unlimited-Duluth, Little Farm Market Wild Bird Store); Donations for our annual Gala are always welcome (Thanks to Tom & Carol-Ann Bloom, Wild Birds Unlimited, Elizabeth Cloimore, Jack Cole, Olaf Danielson, Elyse Kaner, Kelly Larson & Carl Newman, Gene & Julie Ollila, Ben & Heidi Yokel, Rubin Stenseng, Lori Williams & Dave Steininger, Ben Thompson, Moon Shadow Sailing, Kollath-Stensas Publishing). High Five to Kate & Frank Nicoletti, and Elizabeth Neuvar for donations to Welcome Center needs. Thanks to Dana, Paul, Barbara, and Scott Jung for pitching the idea and donating the money to create a Sax-Zim Bog patch.

THERE'S NO "I" IN VOLUNTEER

True...but there is a “lunte” in Volunteer, which I'm sure means something good in some language. Every one of our wonderful board members put in hours of volunteer effort in making FOSZB all that it can be. I'll say it again, Friends of Sax-Zim Bog has a rock-star board who believe strongly in our mission. Huge Kudos to our other volunteers—



Development Director, Sarah Beaster, planting seedlings at the Warren Nelson Bog



Staff, board, and volunteers at Welcome Center



Staff and Board trip to Big Bog Boardwalk

...YES, YOUR BOG!

Tom & Carol-Ann Bloom (23 hours), Sally Grames (23 hours), Jim & Nancy Fisher (20 hours), Susan Meisner (15 hours), Cynthia Reuss (10 hours), Juliann Grahm (10 hours), Mary Gabrys, Jason Traver, Bob Kozarek, Paul Liesmaki, Jason Mandich, Kent Buell, Kristina Dexter, Mark Dudek Johnson, Liz Harper, and Kate Nicoletti.

TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS & CHALLENGES

Windstorms during the last two summers have really given us a whallop. A major blowdown at the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog in the summer of 2016 toppled hundreds of mature Black Spruce bordering the road. Honestly, it was ugly. So that winter we had a logger take out the fallen trees, and in May 2017 we planted 200 spruce and tamarack seedlings. They are tiny, but will grow fast, and become a mature stand for the next generation of birds and birders.

Then, on the night before our 2017 Bog BioBlitz, another severe storm and downburst, snapped many old aspen along our walking/snowshoeing trail west of the Welcome Center...and we lost an old friend, the big White Pine along the parking lot that held a bevy of feeders for the birds.

Another headache has been trying to secure a permit for a parking pad at the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog. I'll spare you all the details, but let's just say that I've given up (for the moment). I really want folks to have a safe place to park but we need to do it by the books, and that is just not possible right now. But WE WILL COMPLETE THE BOARDWALK by early 2018!

WHAT'S NEXT?

I have been working with the MN DNR and other organizations on developing the Heart of the Bog Birding Trail, which Sax-Zim would be the anchor. This driving loop would extend for several hundred miles in far North Central Minnesota and link many bog sites and boardwalks.

Another important aim for FOSZB is to have a year's worth of operating budget in the bank at all times. We have not been able to achieve that yet, and we are always scraping the bottom of the proverbial barrel in late summer/early fall.

"Only" 2527 folks made it to the Welcome Center last winter... and several hundred more came to programs and field trips put on by myself and Clinton, but how many more could we reach? We hope to impact more folks through expanding our "digital presence" via film, social media and more website features.

1000 acres by 2025? Is it possible? Maybe, maybe not, but a wonderfully lofty goal to work towards. If you are interested in Legacy giving for our Owls to Orchids Land Fund, please contact me to discuss.

Hats off to all of you for making Sax-Zim YOUR Bog!



More Tiles Available!

Any Donation over \$1,000 (non-designated)
Pitcher Plant, Wild Iris, Baltimore Checkerspot, Tiger Swallowtail, Luna Moth (TAKEN), Porcupine (TAKEN), Fisher, or pitch us an idea!

Any Donation over \$3,000 (non-designated)
Yellow Ladyslipper, Ermine
(or any species not taken...or suggest a species)

Any Donation over \$5,000 (non-designated)
Pink Ladyslipper, Moose (TAKEN)
(or any species not taken...or suggest a species)

Any Donation over \$10,000 (non-designated)
Showy Ladyslipper, Timber Wolf
(or any species you want!)

****8x8 handmade tiles with your brass plate will be displayed at the Welcome Center**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 9 Sat—Welcome Center opens for season

Dec. 9 Sat—Winter Birds Field Trip

Dec. 10 Sun—Winter Bog Hike & Bog Lichens

Dec. 18 Mon.—Christmas Bird Count

Jan. through June—Big Half Year for the Bog

Jan. 5-6 Fri-Sat.—BRRRRdathon

Jan. 13 Winter Finches Field Trip

Jan. 21 Sun.—Boreal Wings Gala in Mpls.

Feb. 16-18—Sax-Zim Winter Bird Festival

DETAILS AT www.saxzim.org (Events tab)



Sparky Stensaas
Executive Director



Philippines Government making film on how other countries utilize bogs for recreation and business



Solar panels making electricity



Tile artist, Nancy Hausle-Johnson visits from Alaska



Arjan Dwarshuis birds with Sparky on his way to World-Record World Big Year

DAHLQUIST/WALKER WINTERBERRY BOG

40 ACRE BOG TO BE MEMORIAL AND LEGACY TO TIM & JUDY WALKER'S FAMILIES

WINTERBERRY BOG is a reality! Thanks to Tim and Judy Walker of New Hope Minnesota for their generous donation to make the preservation of this 40 acre Black Spruce and Tamarack bog possible. Tim and Judy are to the left of the sign in these photos. We had a BOREAL Chickadee "baptize" the site with an appearance just as we were beginning the ceremony... everybody got great looks. Also in attendance were board members Gene and Julie Ollila and Ben Yokel and Sparky Stensaas, Executive Director. We did a symbolic ribbon cutting with an Aspen branch and a pair of Fiskars loppers :-). This 40 acre bog is at the northwest intersection of Murphy Road and CR 52/Arkola Road west of Cotton. Its northeast corner touches the southwest corner of Indian Pipe Bog.

"We live in New Hope, a suburb of the Twin Cities, are both retired and have four children and three grandchildren. I am the birder and Tim enjoys getting a good photograph. We will be expanding our birding at the Sax Zim Bog beyond winter birding to Warbler Wednesdays this May. Five family members, parents, siblings and a cousin have died over the past few years. This, along with our constant observation of the destruction of habitat, drove our decision to help Friends of Sax Zim Bog purchase forty acres. The purchase of this land will preserve habitat and serve as a memorial Bog for our families. We thank Friends of Sax-Zim Bog for this opportunity."

—Tim and Judy Walker (Our donors that made this possible)



Acres for Owls donors Tim & Judy Walker



Judy & Tim cut the "ribbon"



A Boreal Chickadee makes a visit to Winterberry Bog

WARREN NELSON MEMORIAL BOG PHASE 2 INCLUDES 900-FOOT BOARDWALK

WARREN WOESSNER BOG BOARDWALK

Thanks to a very generous grant from Warren Woessner, we wrapped up our fundraising for the Bog Boardwalk in less than a month...Wow! And many of you contributed generously to this much needed project. I'll say it again...We have the best members on the planet! True Bog Buddies.

Volunteers and staff and board members donated several days of hard work (and good conversation) to make the required 110 8-foot by 4-foot framework for the boardwalk. Installation will take place in Spring 2018 (and hopefully be open for warbler season).

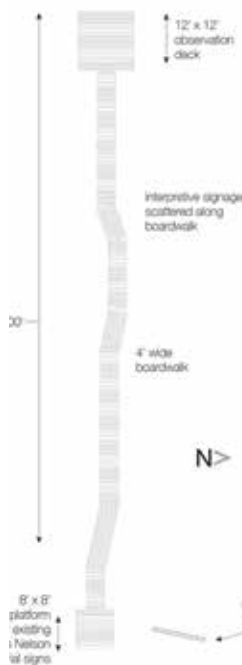
"The work of the FOSZB is preserving enhancing and promoting a unique winter birding hotspot in a very cold state. It is a conversation starter on all my birding trips and I am proud to be a part of the effort to keep this special place special."

—Warren Woessner, October 2017



Warren Woessner

900-foot BOG BOARDWALK
WARREN NELSON MEMORIAL BOG



All 110 boardwalk sections were constructed by FOSZB staff and volunteers! Fall 2017

DONATIONS TO ACRES FOR OWLS LAND FUND

APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017 [**These donors are also included in the "Donors" list]

\$25,000+

Timothy and Judy Walker

\$1,000+

Paul Baepler and Melanie Brown
Diana Doyle

Steve and Diane Millard
in memory of sister, Rene
Mueller, and brother-in-law,
Jim Heathington

\$500-\$999

Audrey & Joel Evers

Paul Johnson

Joe Meyer

Marie Ruthgeerts

In memory of Rose Ruthgeerts

Loren Snyder

Georgia Toogood

\$100-\$499

Tanya Beyer Barcikowski

William Bronn

Central Lakes College,

Dr. Will Faber & the

Natural Resources Club

Rick Gibson

Bill and Nancy Henke

Alice Hennessey

Douglas Mayo & Susan Long

Susan Meisner

Elizabeth Neuvar

Gwen Papierniak

Sam Petrie

Shelley Rutkin

Matthew Stratmoen

Deb Wallace

Up to \$99

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Linda Burns and Jim Eller

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In honor of Liz Harper

Amy Simso Dean

Daniel Eberly

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Jeff & Michelle Fischer

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Robert & Linda Scarth

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Marilyn Schroeder

Gregg Severson & Kellie Hoyt

Charlotte Smith

Mimi Staub Bowlin

In Honor of Doris Staub Petrie

Randall Wade

John & Sylvia Winkelman

Leave
your Legacy
in Land!
*contact Sparky
for opportunities

ACRES FOR OWLS

Our land preservation fund is called Acres for Owls for a very simple reason...Every bog tract you help us purchase will be saved for future generations of boreal birds including Great Gray Owls. \$34,340 was raised during fiscal year 2016-17. Thank you all!

YOUR NAME ON THIS BOG? LEGACY?

WE NEED \$30,000 TO PAY OFF THE PURCHASE OF THIS LAND...CAN YOU HELP?



A \$30,000+ DONATION WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR NAMING RIGHTS

**ANY DONATION \$1,000 AND OVER WILL HAVE YOUR NAME PLACED ON A SPECIFIC ACRE

This 26 acre parcel has much lake and river frontage on East Stone Lake, which is mainly floating mat. The lake is only accessible by foot or by paddling in (only in spring/early summer due to dense Wild Rice later in summer). Trumpeter Swans have nested on the lake and it is a major staging lake for migrating ducks. We've seen Gray Jays in the Black Spruce bog and an amazing "field" of Sundew! This will be a nice addition to our bog preservation projects (dark green on the map is bog). Thanks for your donations!

We purchased this at a St. Louis County auction, but now want to pay off our loan balance. This is a rare opportunity for naming rights to honor a legacy donor or in memory of a loved one. E-mail sparky@saxzim.org or call him 218.341.3350

20 ACRES ADDED TO WARREN'S BOG!

GORDON ANDERSSON'S GIFT ENABLES FOSZB TO ENLARGE WARREN'S BOG TO 60 ACRES

A 20 acre addition to the Warren Nelson Memorial Bog has been made possible by Gordon's donation. Though logged in the last decade, the site is growing back nicely into Tamarack and Spruce...and as Gordon said, "It's still habitat for something!" True!

"Every dragonfly, orchid, bird, and moose needs a place to live for a season or through the year. The species may change over time as the vegetation cycles and conditions change. But saving land from building and row-cropping is saving habitat for non-human animal and plant species." —Gordon Andersson, October 2017



ACRES FOR OWLS LAND FUND DONORS

OVER 400 SPECIES AT BIOBLITZ V

"BOGDIVERSITY" DISCOVERED BY 46 ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS IN SAX-ZIM BOG

On Saturday, June 22, 2017 participants learned that **THE BOG IS NOT JUST BIRDS!** HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED 3 Great Gray Owls (family group), 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers, Purple Fringed Orchids, Michigan Lily, Turtlehead, Tadpole Madtom (fish...first Sax-Zim record!), Golden Shiner (fish), Plains Emerald (dragonfly), Black Swallowtail, 5 species of Earthworm (lowlight? ...as all earthworms in MN are non-native) Wasp Mantidfly (a bug that looks like a wasp but has praying-mantis-like front legs), LeConte's Sparrow (juvenile and adult), Rusty Snaketail (dragonfly), Brush-tipped Emerald, Yellow-eyed Grass, Triangle Web Spider (first Sax-Zim Bog record) at Cotton School Forest, Big Sand Tiger Beetle, Ragged Fringed Orchid, Black-billed Magpie (juvenile), Black Bear, flock of 30+ Bobolinks, 3 Boreal Chickadees on Owl Avenue, Giant Ichneumon wasp, Ruby Tiger Moth. The "Sharing Hour" after the field trips is always a good time.



Bog
BioBlitz VI
is Sat. July 7,
2018

HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR FIELD TRIP LEADERS: SPIDERS with Larry Weber, TIGER BEETLES & GRAVEL PIT with Bill Tefft and David Bixler, FLORA with Kelly Beaster, FISHES & MINNOWS with Clinton Nienhaus, BUTTERFLIES with Jerry McCormick, DRAGONFLIES with Jim Lind and Dave Grosshuesch, BIRDS with Sparky Stensaas, BEETLES & INSECTS with Dr. Tim Craig.

JOIN US SATURDAY JULY 7, 2018 FOR BOG BIOBLITZ VI

Can we top 500 species in 2018? The day after our Bog BioBlitz, we will also be co-hosting the Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory BioBlitz. These events will allow the avid naturalist and outdoor enthusiast to explore familiar sites in greater detail. Join experts on topics as diverse as spiders and wildflowers, to butterflies and birds! Watch www.saxzim.org and www.hawkridge.org for more upcoming details.

It is BioBlitz day!



First Carrion-Flower record!
(*Smilax* sp.)



Naturalist Clinton
shares his fish finds



Bill Tefft, Dave Steininger, Lori Williams



Juvenile LeConte's Sparrow



photo by
Casey Weissberg

Twelve-spotted Skimmer



Jinny Alexander
sampling earthworms
during Bog BioBlitz V

Watching a family of Boreal
Chickadees along Arkola



Male Goldenrod Crab Spider



Michigan Lily



All generations participate!



Kelly Beaster, flora leader



BOG BIOBLITZ V

WORLD'S COLDEST BIRDATHON!

BRRRRDATHON 2017 LIVES UP TO ITS SLOGAN AS WORLD'S COLDEST BIRDATHON!

Minus 30 F air temps...**FINALLY!** Yes, the 2017 BRRRRdathon lived up to its slogan as the World's Coldest Birdathon with Friday morning air temps ranging from Minus-16 in Duluth to Minus-35 in parts of the interior of northeast Minnesota. But this did not daunt the eight teams competing across the North Woods from Grand Rapids to Otter Tail to Superior, and from Sax-Zim to Grand Marais to Duluth. The teams found a combined 73 species including Great Black-backed Gull in Two Harbors, 4 Snowy Owls in Superior, WI, Spruce Grouse on Lake County 2 at Sand River, Black-backed Woodpecker just up the road from the Spruce Grouse, 3 Peregrine Falcons in Duluth, Varied Thrush among the 100 or so Robins at WLSSD, and a Song Sparrow in Grand Rapids.



2018 BRRRRdathon is
Fri-Sat. January 5-6

For the 6th time in 7 years, team Grouching Twitchers (Lars Benson, Dave Benson, John Ellis) won the 2-day BRRRRdathon with a grand total of 52 species. In the 1-day competition, the Goldfinches won with a 32-species effort. In the Wintergreen non-motorized division, longtime teammates Tim Bates and Andrew Webster fielded rival teams and chose different states to participate. Andrew's Grosbeaks of the Evening team in Duluth found 32 species including 3 Peregrines while on fat bikes. Tim's 16-Below team used mountain bike in the backroads of Superior, Wisconsin and counted 23 species including FOUR Snowy Owls.



Great Gray Owl found by Judd Brink



2-Day BRRRRdathon Winners...Lars & Dave Benson (Team Grouching Twitchers)



There are hazards when winter birding in the North Woods

DRAGONFLY, LICHEN, FERN WORKSHOPS

Two intensive 1-day workshops were hosted by Friends of Sax-Zim Bog this summer: Ferns & Lichens with author and naturalist Joe Walewski of Wolf Ridge ELC and Dragonflies & Damselflies with Ami Thompson, Mitch Haag and Curt Oien of the Minnesota Dragonfly Society. The weather cooperated nicely for both August events and proved that learning and laughter go hand in hand. We will have more workshops this summer. Stay tuned!

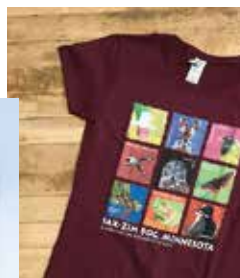


More
Workshops
coming in
2018

NEW SAX-ZIM MERCHANDISE!

VISIT OUR STORE AT WWW.SAXZIM.ORG UNDER THE "SHOP" TAB

****Now stocking womens' ball caps & fleece hats & more books****



BRRRRDATHON, WORKSHOPS, GIFTS FROM THE BOG

DONORS

APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

\$25,000 & Over

Leuthold Family Foundation
Timothy & Judy Walker,
gift to purchase Winterberry Bog

\$10,000-\$24,999

Steve Thompson & Ron Frey
Charitable Fund

\$5,000-\$9,999

Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation,
grant to support Head Naturalist

\$1,000-\$4,999

Paul Baepler & Melanie Brown
Diana Doyle
Sally & Peter Grames,
In memory of Mark Stock—a great
friend and birder & for the Kestrel
Nest Box Program
Dick Hartman
Hoeg Family Fund of The
Minneapolis Foundation,
Sax-Zim Bog Good Neighbor
Fund & Memorial to Dwight &
Janet Hoeg
Susan Kennedy
Douglas & Nancy Lane
Kelly Larson & Carl Newman
Medtronic - YourCause, LLC
Steve & Diane Millard,
for East Stone Lake Bog
The Minneapolis Foundation,
Match for Good Neighbor Fund
Ken & Marcia Nelson
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Elmer L. & Eleanor J Andersen
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Christina Taraszczuk & David Alex-
ander
Jill Unferth & John Thieroff
Lori Williams & Dave Steininger
Ben & Heidi Yokel

\$500-\$999

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Charitable Fund
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Bruce Cooper
Audrey & Joel Evers
Sue & Bruce Henke Charitable Fund
Paul Johnson
Donald & Jean Kaddatz
Florinus & Shirley Kooyman
Joe Meyer
Earl Orf & Diana Hestwood,
Heart and Mind Fund of
The Minneapolis Foundation
Howard & Judy Rowe
Marie Ruthgeerts,
for buying land in memory of
Rose Ruthgeerts
Loren Snyder
Rubin Stenseng
Georgia Toogood

\$100-\$499

Susan & Brian Anderson
Cindy Angerhofer
Paula Aschim & Timothy Garvey
Parker Backstrom & Holly Weston

Clarence & Marian Ballenger III,
In memory of Warren Nelson
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Donald Beck
Barbara Becker
Bill Benjamin
Tanya Beyer Barcikowski
Jean Beyer
Phyllis Bofferding
Bill Bouton
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Elizabeth Neuvar
Carole Nimlos
Mary Normandia
Cathy Olyphant
Jean Osterheim
Doreen Packila
Fred & Donna Paley

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In memory of Tink Papierniak
Wendy & Duane Pepin
Sam Petrie
Nate Popkin & Lisa Weiss
Jim & Sharon Postance
Cal & Pat Rice
Shelley Rutkin
Susan & Jeffrey Saffie
Debby Samac
Eileen Schantz-Hansen
Peter Schoenberger
Maggie Seely
Scott Seigfreid
Rene Settergren, for Kristi
Heather & Lee Simso,
In honor of Mark David Simso
Erika & Paul Sitz
Anne Sloth
Kara Snow
George Soule,
Thanks for a great bird festival!
Paul Spreitzer
Kate Srozinski
Todd Starich
Barbara Stark
Nancy Staub,
In Honor of Doris Staub Petrie
Ruth Stearns & Mike Mattson
Stan & Connie Stensaas
Sharon Stensaas
Ruth & Dennis Stephens
Pamela Stevenson
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Up to \$99

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Sarah Crawford,
In honor of Liz Harper
Andrea Crouse
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Jessica Dexter
Michael Drayer
Mark Dudek Johnson
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Gretchen Fairweather &
Priscilla Sharpless
Deborah Fellows
Albert Filemyr
Morris & Debbie Finkelstein
John Finnegan
Susan Finnila
Carolyn & Tom Fischer
Sharon Fischtrom
Martha Fleck & Eric Twito
Thomas Flynn
David Frazelle
Deborah Freedman
Cindy French

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APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017

Margaret Frisbie & Matthew Binns,
In honor of Jessica Dexter
Elliot Fu
Ron Funes
Mary Gabrys
Andy & Wendy Garcia
Lonny & Sandi Gervais
Gail Gieseke
Susan Gillespie
Jim Gindorff
Sarah Glesner
Karl Graf
Juliann Grahm
Eliza Grames
Bonnie Lee Gray
Bradley Gross
Dave & Sarah Grosshuesch
Joanne Groten
Thomas Haase
Jerry Hadder & Marie Oakes
Cathy Haddon
Payton Hage
Sarah Hague
Peter Harris
Lucy Hartwell
Daniel Hawkins,
for the owls
John Heino
Chad Heins
John Hershey
Ruth Hiland
Christine Hills
Lynn Hiti,
In Honor of Ben Yokel
Constance & Stephen Hodder
Pete Hoeger
Gerald Hoekstra
Susanne Hoffman
Andrew Hogg
David Hojnacki
Mary & Tom Holman
Dorothy Holmes
Marlene Holmquist
Robert Holtz
Deb Hoogstrate-Cooney
Jeff Horoshak
Louise Hotka & Jill Meyer
Steve & Marcia Huddleston
Joe Hudick
Benji Inniger
Peter Ismert
Ken Jackson
Lois Jaeckel
Kye & Mary Jenkins
Keith Johansen
Robbye & David Johnson
Gary Johnson & Leanne Alt
Nancy Johnson
Judy Johnson
Rosemary Jones
Joanne Jongsma
Dana Jung
Paul & Barbara Jung
Scott Jung
Marilyn Kaeli
D. Kapan
Nancy & Evan Kasseth
Vija Kelly
Janet Keough
Mike Kerwin
Douglas Kieser
Jane Kingston
Mark Kjolhaug
Dave Klein
Dale & Susan Klous
Wallace Kornack

Dee Kotaska,
In Memory of Rex Lindberg
Michael Koutnik
Mary & Frances Kovatovich
Gail Kovich
Wes & Deirdre Kramer
Robert Kreegier
Abigail Kritzer
Herbert Kritzer
Mary Krohnke
Kay & Harry Kuefler
Susan Lamoureux
Lee Ann Landstrom
Mary Beth Lardizabal
Noel Larson
Kathy Larson
Anthony Lau
Claudia Lee
Larry Leonard
Sue Lewis
Liberty Diversified International
Sandra Linder,
In memory of Cyril "Sarge" Linder
Doug Livingston
Donna Long
Paula Lozano,
In memory of Tad R. Lawson
William Lutz & Julie Brophy
Michael Macioch
Kathy MacKnight
Robin Maercklein
Janet Majerus
Fran Maki
Craig Mandel
Kevin Manley
Wendy Manuel
Rodney Marquardt
Bryan Marquardt
Richard & Carolyn Marra
Mary Marrow
Hallie Mason
Donn & Kathleen Mattsson
Robert & Linda Mazanec
Christine McCluskey
Jim McCormac
Colleen McCorrison
John McElroy
Joan McKearman
Diane Meiborg
Mike Menzel & Kathy Iverson
Barbara & Tom Meyer
Kari Meyer
Krista Meyer
Lynda Meyers
Steve & Diane Midthune
Minnesota River Valley
Audubon Chapter
Tony Mitchell
Tony Moline & Stormy Mochal
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Tina Morey
Tod Morris
Matthew & Jennifer Moses
Bonnie Mulligan &
Charlie Greenman
Barry Mullin
Bruce Munson
Linda & Carl Munson
Amanda Murtin
Deborah Muzzy,
In memory of James Muzzy
Bob & Betsy Myers
Kate & Frank Nicoletti
Todd Nielsen
Gerald & Bonnie Niemi
Darold & Carolyn Nienhaus

Stacey Nogy
Nordstrom Inc
Deanna Notaro,
In honor of the work Sarah
Beaster does for Sax-Zim
Mark Ochs
Michael Oetken
Jeremy Olson
Manley Olson
Patti Olson
Wendy Olson
Daniel Orr
Barbara Orstad,
In memory of Rex Lindberg
Jane Pallin
Marilyn Palmer
Maddy Papermaster
Denise & Paul Paulisich
Lori Payne
Steve & Sheryl Pearson
Ken & Pam Perry
Karla Peterson & Chuck Lubowitz
Doris Staub Petrie
Tanya Platz-Sandberg
Ben & Vicki Pieser,
In memory of Tink Papierniak
Gary & Laura Pipenhagen
John & Sharon Polifka
Barbara Possin
Carol Prohaska
Scott & Faye Propsom
Catherine Rackliffe,
In memory of Richard Rackliffe
Tamil Rajavel
Sam & Diana Rankin,
In memory of Rex Lindberg
Liz Rauer Kramer
Curt Rawm
John Reinhart
Cynthia Reuss
Annette & Tim Riley
Sharon Robertson
Sandy Roggenkamp
Chuck & Jo Rohady
Kristin Rolf
Stephen & Deborah Roman
Robert & Susan Rose
Rebecca Rucker-Keegan
Joseph Rydholm
Rodney & Ellen Sallee
Karen & Jonathon Sande
Tracy Sarel
gift membership for Mike Williams
John Saxhaug
Robert & Linda Scarth
Lana Schaffer
Evelyn Schlachter
Marilyn Schroeder
Jeri Schwerin
Carolyn Serrano
Gregg Severson & Kellie Hoyt
Doreen Shoberg
Ed & Jane Sibley
Nancy Silacci
Larry & Yoli Sirvio
Scott Slocum
Gary & Jan Small
Charlotte Smith
Dwight Smith
Kevin & Cindy Thury Smith
Tammy Smith
Sheryl & Jon Sostarich
Janet Sperstad,
In honor of Marge Anderson
Dean & Linda Squires
Liz Stanley

Marti Starr & Dave Bucholz
Mimi Staub Bowlin
Jerry & Karen Steinbach
Cheri & James Steinmueller
Will Stenberg
R. Clay Stiles
gift membership for Karen Stiles
Larry & Margaret Stone
Kris & Steve Swanstrom
John Swartz
Janet Swartz-Myrman
William Taylor
Larry & Deborah Theiss
Scott & Candy Thompson
Keith Thomsen
David Tieszen
Sandy Tigge
Debra Tollgaard,
In honor of Margaret Niemi
Carol Tollman
Jason Traver
Dawn Trelax
Robyn Tryggeseth
Anne Tuskan
Vickie Tuskan
David Uher & Nina Koch
Greg & Daneth Vassilopoulos
Mary Ellen Vetter
John Vidmar
Jen Vieth, In honor of Sparky
Randall Wade
William & Sylvia Walker
Timothy Walker,
In honor of Pat Walker
Don Wanschura
Pat & Barb Ward
David Weaver
Gary Weeks
Charlotte Wenger
Laura Wentz
Em Westerlund
Don Whitehead
Todd & Terrie Whitesel
Sarah Wilcox
Tom Will
Pat Willenbring
Aspen & Elsa Winbigler
John & Sylvia Winkelman,
"The Bog is a gift to all of us"
Patricia Wolesky
Mike Woodard
Jerry & Vicky Wotczak
Jerry Wozniak
Marie Young
Linda & Hank Zaletel

SUSTAINED GIVING HELPS US BUDGET

1. monthly via credit card
2. your Required Minimum
Distribution from IRA
**info@saxzim.org
for questions

You can always
donate online via our
website saxzim.org

CLINTON'S CORNER

MY SECOND YEAR IN THE BOG IN REVIEW...

A few seasons have come and gone since the beginning of my time as Head Naturalist for the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog. And those seasons have been full of activity! My position with FOSZB is unique in that I am also sharing time with Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory as Education Director, a position that is grant funded by the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation and the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation.

With education programming new for FOSZB, it has been exciting to try out new programs to share with our audience, both near and far. I was able to put on 46 programs and outreach events during the first education season, with 1146 folks attending!

One important lesson gained from the first season of hosting field trips was that most of you, our bog buddies, seem to prefer longer programs. For most naturalists and nature centers, 30 minute to 1 hour programs are standard with 2-3 hour field trips or hikes being normal. We found that 3 to 6 hour field trips are ideal! This is probably due to the distance most of you have to travel to get to Sax-Zim Bog and to the size and diversity of the Bog. But it also shows that you, our members, are excited and interested enough to come out in force for longer educational experiences.

As an educator, it is wonderful to be able to share programs on a diverse range of topics... and not just birds. I love being able to learn from participants as well, and our open interactions often lead to all of us learning something new. Focusing on the trip's subject is great, but on these outings we often end up discovering something totally unexpected and fascinating. For example, this summer on one of our programs we discovered a Pileated Woodpecker nest along County Road 29. While I went in the woods to knock on the tree to see if a hatchling or two would poke their heads out of the nest hole, I discovered a patch of White Trout Lily, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and Bloodroot! These species are not commonly found in boreal habitats or Sax-Zim Bog. Also at this location, singing away for much of the summer, was a Yellow-throated Vireo and multiple Yellow-billed Cuckoos; both species more common in the southern parts of the state in deciduous woodlands. Each field trip or lesson uncovers a new location in the Sax-Zim Bog and it is always exciting to see what is around each bend.

By getting out on field trips and accessing various FOSZB land tracts (Warren Nelson Bog, Yellow-bellied Bog, Indian Pipe Bog, etc.), participants are able to see all of the aspects of what you, our donors and members, love to support!

There are many experiences I have shared with others in the Sax-Zim Bog and I hope those experiences have made for a better understanding and appreciation of such a unique ecosystem.

Until next time, I will see you out in the Bog! —Clinton Nienhaus



**Have you seen the first installment of Clinton's Critters video series? Check it out at www.saxzim.org under the "Natural History" tab.

More species coming in 2018. We'll even have a "World Premiere" at January's Gala!

A donation of \$600 will support a week of naturalist education

KESTREL NEST BOX PROGRAM

Thanks to all of you who made and donated American Kestrel boxes! We now have 14 installed and 36 more to be placed this winter.

Under the leadership of Project Coordinator Frank Nicoletti and Head Naturalist Clinton Nienhaus, volunteers Sally Grames, Mary Gabrys, Amy Johnson and Sarah Beaster regularly checked the boxes with our new "Go-Pro-on-a-Pole" technique (less intrusive... and no ladder climbing!). Sometimes the female kestrel didn't even bother looking up at the camera!

This season we had 6 boxes with nesting activity. Of the 6 boxes occupied, only 4 produced young. It's possible a few fledged as we waited ten day later then last year to band the young. The chicks were banded on July 16, 2017 by Frank Nicoletti, Miranda Durbin and David Alexander. We banded a total of 10 young this year as compared to 21 last year. Again, as in last year, we saw a wide range of egg laying dates. [**If you'd like to volunteer as a nest box monitor, please contact Sarah at info@saxzim.org.]

Thanks to those who built and donated Kestrel Boxes! Margy and Gary Balwierz, Ed and June Benke, Florinus Kooyman, Rod Marquardt, Robert and Linda Mazanec, Youth Raptor Corps (10 boxes) and any others that constructed boxes for us.



2017 BOREAL WINGS GALA AT SPRINGBROOK RAISES NEARLY \$ 9,000!

A record 120 "bog buddies" attended the 2017 Boreal Wings Gala on January 29th at the brand new Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, Minnesota. It was standing room only as Big Year Record Breaker Olaf Danielson took the floor. He regaled the crowd with tales of his "Bad Weather Big Year." The group also enjoyed the World Premiere of the first episode of "Clinton's Critters" video about Sharp-tailed Grouse. Sparky also gave an update of FOSZB projects. Everyone enjoyed the creative bird-themed appetizers, sparkling cider and goodies, including the yummy "owl pellets." All the food and drink was graciously donated by our wonderful board of directors and employees. Lively bidding helped us raise hundreds of dollars in the Silent Auction...a 1st edition signed T.S. Roberts Birds of Minnesota went for \$70. Lots of bargains! Hope you can join us on Jan. 21, 2018 at Springbrook!

Gala is
Sunday Jan.
21, 2018
with Humorist
Al Batt



Over 120 "bog buddies" enjoyed an evening of mingling, bird-themed appetizers, silent auction frenzy, and Big Year speaker Olaf Danielson.

2017 SAX-ZIM BOG WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, in association with the town of Meadowlands, hosted the 10th annual event. FOSZB organized the speakers, programs, and field trips (Thanks Clinton!). Big thanks to Jeff Kletscher and everyone involved. Over 130 participants from 22 states migrated to the Sax-Zim Bog and all had a great time...even experiencing 50 degree temps in winter! Field trips in the Bog, Duluth and along the North Shore turned up Great Gray Owl, Snowy Owls, Townsend's Solitaire, and all the winter finches.

Specialty field trips included a Backcountry Bog experience on snowshoes, and an all-day Bird Photography Workshop (Heidi Pinkerton). A live raptor program was given by the Cable Natural History Museum.

Dr. Jerry Niemi of the University of Minnesota Duluth spoke on Friday night about the similar boreal birds of Finland and Minnesota ("Suomi to Sax-Zim"). Saturday's keynote speaker was Dr. Ryan Norris of the University of Guelph Ontario who has researched Gray Jays in Algonquin Park for years. Gray Jays are declining in the Park and his research has led to some interesting insights on their decline.



Festival
is February
16-18, 2018
Keynote Laura
Erickson



Clinton doing the daily compilation (L); Temps in the 50s made for pleasant field trips! ; Dr. Ryan Norris speaking on Gray Jays; Participant pin-locations.

HOEG FAMILY GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND ENABLES SEVERAL LOCAL PROJECTS

The purpose of the Sax-Zim Bog GOOD NEIGHBOR Fund is exactly what the title implies...creating good will and mutually beneficial projects for both local residents and visiting birders. The Fund also values natural history education and first-hand experience with birds in the Sax-Zim Bog. The goal is to foster a community that considers the needs of both locals and visiting birders. Applications will be taken and reviewed by a committee. Grants range from \$25 to \$1,000. Applications can be found at www.saxzim.org.



Evening Grosbeak and Blue Jay at Mary Lou's. Photo taken from the new photo blind purchased with Good Neighbor Fund grant.

****Good Neighbor Fund established by Rich & Molly Hoeg & Will & Ellen Hoeg in memory of Dr. Dwight and Janet Hoeg of Duluth, Minnesota.**

Who is Eligible?

All projects must be implemented in the Sax-Zim Bog area (including but not limited to Meadowlands, Cotton, Toivola and Zim). Applicants applying for projects on private land (feeders, ponds, trails) must be seasonal or year-round residents of the Sax-Zim Bog area. There is no location restriction for schools applying for field trips.

ALL Funded Projects MUST BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES (BOTH LOCALS AND VISITING BIRDERS) even if on private property.



A new photo blind at Mary Lou's feeders enabled birders and photographers to get great looks and photos of Evening Grosbeaks.

Projects funded in 2016-17

- Photo blind at Mary Lou's feeders on CR444
- New year-round bird feeding station at Larry's on Finn Road
- Feeders, seed and bench at Loretta's feeding station

BOREAL WINGS GALA
WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL...

BY THE NUMBERS

2,527

Visitors to the Welcome Center
in the winter of 2016-17

...from **38** states and **6** foreign countries
Indonesia, Brazil, Canada, Tanzania, South
Africa, Netherlands



2016



Thanks to a wonderful matching
grant of
**\$10,000 from Steve
Thompson & Ron Frey**
you helped us set a new record
for giving during the November
2016 Give to the Max Day.

\$28,556

given in 24 hours by...

206 DONORS



\$172,535

donated by all of you to...

ACRES FOR OWLS

since we began the program in 2015...Thank You!

52 32

bird species tallied
by Team Grouching
Twitchers to win the
2-day BRRRRdathon

bird species seen by
both the 1-day motor-
ized and "Wintergreen"
non-motorized teams

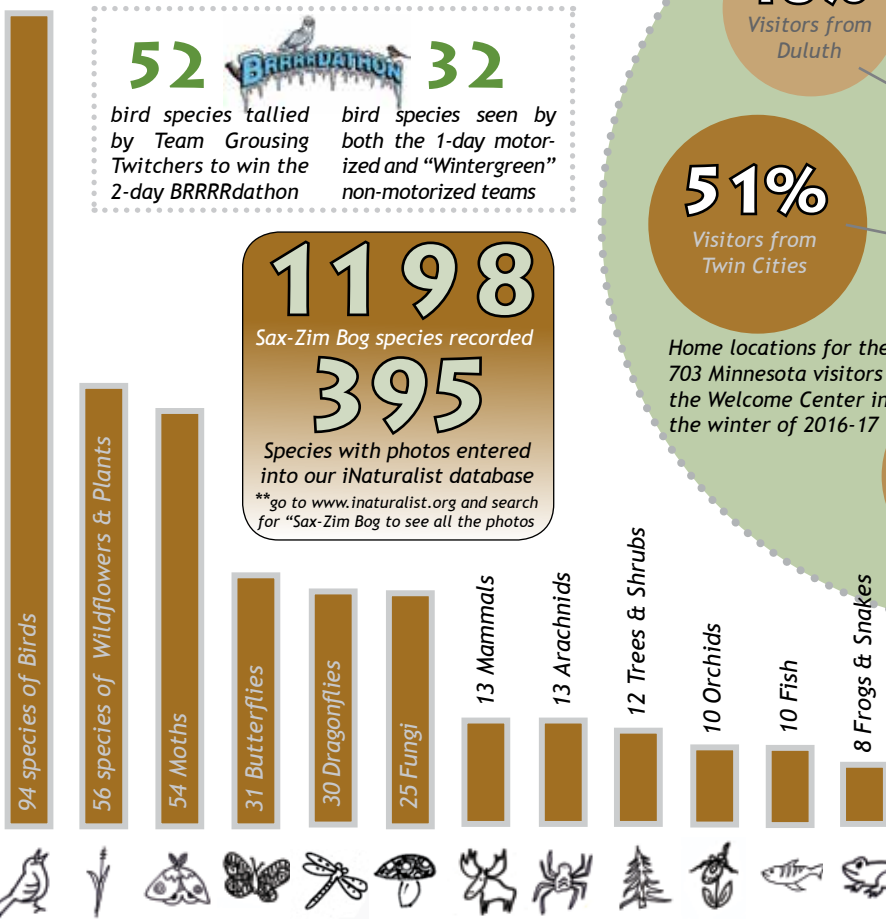
1198

Sax-Zim Bog species recorded

395

Species with photos entered
into our iNaturalist database

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

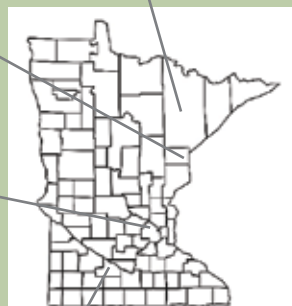


Number of species with photos in our Sax-Zim Bog iNaturalist.org database

18%
Visitors from
Duluth

10%
Visitors from
Iron Range

51%
Visitors from
Twin Cities



Home locations for the
703 Minnesota visitors to
the Welcome Center in
the winter of 2016-17

21%
Visitors from
Greater MN



iNaturalist

BOG BUDDIES AT WORK & PLAY

BOG BUDDIES AT WORK & PLAY



The staff and board of FOSZB made a trip up to the Big Bog SRA boardwalk near Waskish, MN.



All ages can enjoy bog critter watching!



Board members work on our pollinator and hummingbird garden at the Welcome Center.



2016 BRRRRdathon team on fat bikes in the Wintergreen non-motorized division.



Larry Weber and his spider outing group.



Board Chair Lori Williams fills the 6-foot bird feeder that holds 60 pounds of sunflower seeds.



Bird sound expert Don Kroodsmas visited the Bog specifically to record Connecticut Warblers.



Professional wildlife photographer Melissa Groo made her pilgrimage to Sax-Zim last May.



Matti Erpestad and Andrew Webster brave the bitter cold of January's BRRRRdathon.



Board member Julie removing last winter's deer rib cages.



Dragonfly group at Stone Lake for Bog BioBlitz V.



New swing at Loretta's bird feeders. She is one of our Hoeg Good Neighbor grant recipients.



Panorama view of a fall birding field trip along McDavitt Road.



Barred Owl on
the Sax-Zim
CBC



Showy
Ladyslippers
in late June



Black and
white Warbler
on Warbler
Wednesday



Hologram
Moth



Porcupine near Warren Nelson Bog



Beaver out and about in winter



BOG DIVERSITY

*Bog
Wild!*



Eastern Kingbird



Banded Longhorn
(Typocerus velutinus)



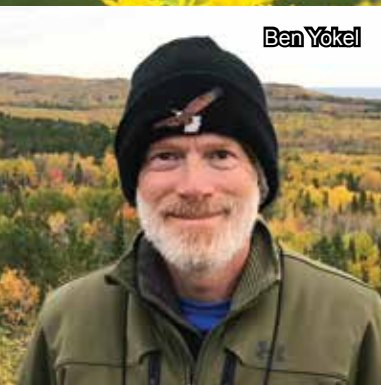
Scarlet
Tanager at St.
Louis River
landing on
CR52



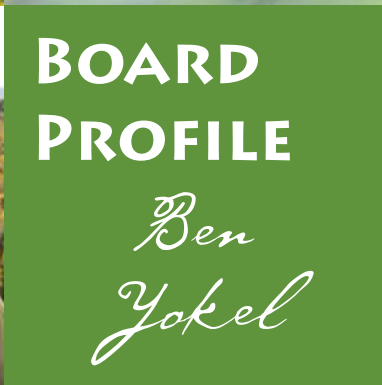
Pine Marten at Admiral Road feeders



Young Gray Jay



Ben Yokel



BOARD PROFILE

*Ben
Yokel*

When I first visited the bog more than 25 years ago, there were miles of roads through high quality mature spruce bog. Over the years, I have seen more and more habitat disturbance. Although many of the target species are still relatively easy to find, that could change dramatically in the coming years. I am excited to be part of an organization that is actively (and successfully) working to reverse that trend. **MOST INTRIGUING BOG BIRD?:** It is hard to pick just one, but I really enjoy White-winged crossbills. They are incredibly beautiful and fun to watch, and also have a cheerful song when they are on territory. I also like their unpredictable irruptions; you never can predict when and where they will show up next. **HOPE TO SEE SOMEDAY:** I would love to find a Gyrfalcon in the bog (hopefully in my yard!). I have seen them in Virginia and the Twin Ports over the years, and after a quarter century of bog birding I have seen just about every other regularly occurring species (as well as a few rarities). Perhaps 2018 will be the year of the Gyr!





Sarah Beaster

STAFF PROFILE

*Sarah
Beaster*



Brain Fungus at Welcome Center



male White-winged Crossbills



Trumpeter Swan pair along
Zim Road



November Moose along CR47

I support the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog because of their habitat conservation work. I know that my donations are used to purchase and forever protect bogs that will someday become old-growth forests, which are a birthright for future generations of birds, wildlife, and humans. **MOST INTRIGUING BOG BIRD?:** The first time I heard the rolling and ardent song of a Connecticut Warbler from deep in the bog was riveting. Seeing a male Connecticut Warbler singing ceaselessly was mind-blowing. **HOPE TO SEE SOMEDAY:** I once saw a large dark shadowy bird sail boldly into the forest at a reckless speed. Was it a Northern Goshawk? Someday I hope to get a long, satisfying look at one.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

*Sally
Grames*



Sally Grames



Goldenrod
Crab Spider



Purplish Fritillary along Gray Jay Way



Buck near
CR133



Sheryl Sostrich

DONOR PROFILE

*Sheryl
Sostrich*

Supporting Friends of Sax-Zim Bog is meaningful to me since it is important to protect natural habitats like Sax Zim Bog, which I like to think of as a living museum. **FAVORITE CRITTER?:** The first creature we encountered on a visit to the Sax-Zim Bog was a Porcupine sleeping in a pine tree near the Welcome Center... We like them so much that my brother and I designated our donation tile to be of a winter Porcupine! I am also fond of the Northern Shrike, which I have viewed through binoculars at a very long distance. **HOPE TO SEE SOMEDAY:** I would really like a good look at a Pine Marten.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



RECEIPTS	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17
Donations	\$56,784	\$93,860	\$150,396	\$86,997
Events & Programs	\$3,386	\$3,525	\$3,817	\$7,903
Grants	\$72,151	\$52,750	\$63,750	\$50,000
Merchandise Sales	\$4,681	\$10,241	\$10,407	\$14,103
Interest	\$0	\$31	\$3	\$0
TOTAL	\$137,002	\$160,407	\$228,373	\$159,003

DISBURSEMENTS

Staffing	\$36,113	\$41,647	\$63,173	\$74,981
Operations Expenses	\$13,243	\$22,070	\$30,064	\$50,876
Land & Asset Acquisition	\$77,910	\$90,956	\$2,108	* on Balance Sheet
Misc Expenses	\$2	\$283	\$2,436	\$702
TOTAL	\$127,268	\$154,956	\$214,393	\$126,555
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$9,734	\$5,451	\$13,980	\$32,447

BALANCE SHEET

March 31, 2017

ASSETS	3-31-2014	3-31-2015	3-31-2016	3-31-2017
Cash (incl. liquid assets)	\$9,455	\$51,838	\$58,579	\$73,158
Savings	\$38,010	\$3,027	\$3,031	\$3,034
Fixed Assets	\$107,853	\$198,619	\$362,658	\$384,086
TOTAL ASSETS	\$155,318	\$253,484	\$424,268	\$460,278
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities	\$5,000	\$8,000	\$53,540	\$80,412
Restricted Net Assets	\$38,010	\$20,000	\$18,433	\$80,408
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$112,308	\$225,484	\$352,295	\$299,458
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$155,318	\$253,484	\$424,268	\$460,278



Scan to go right to our website

CONTACT US
Friends of Sax-Zim Bog
PO Box 3585
Duluth, MN 55803
218.341.3350 (Sparky)
info@saxzim.org
www.saxzim.org



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info at Facebook



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Sarah Beaster
Development Director



Lori Williams
Board Chair



Sparky Stensaas
Executive Director



Heather-Marie Bloom
Welcome Center Naturalist



Frank Nicoletti
Welcome Center Naturalist



Ben Yokel
Board Member



Julie Ollila
Board Member



Rubin Stenseng
Board Member-Secretary



Gene Ollila
Board Member



Amy Johnson
Welcome Center Naturalist



Clinton Nienhaus
Head Naturalist



Dave Steining
Board Member-Treasurer

I am honored to work side-by-side with these incredible board members and staff who deeply respect the ecology of the Bog. We vow to ensure its diversity by continuing to honor our mission to Support, Promote and Protect the Sax-Zim Bog.

—Lori Williams, Board Chair, November 2017



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