

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

HELLO FRIENDS!

Well friends, 3 years have come and gone since the official formation of our Friends of the Bird Sanctuary (FOTBS) organization. The Board of Directors met the first time as a group on September 20, 2003, and began officially conducting business on September 27, 2003. Since then the Board of Directors has met on a quarterly basis the second Friday of the month at 4 P.M. at the Solon Springs Community Center. The meetings are open to all members of FOTBS, also if you have an item that you think is of importance to our organization and would like to have it placed on the agenda please contact the FOTBS President or Secretary.

We are now an established Friends Group and have all the paper work and details of forming a Friends Organization out of the way. This means we can focus on other ideas, projects and other more exciting things. Projects such as an information kiosk that will help to inform visitors to the property about what a special place it is and what they will see during their visit.

During the first three years of our existence our membership now stands at around 90 memberships. If you know anyone that might be interested in becoming a member please encourage them to do so, as the strength of any organization is in the number of members. During the summer of 2006 we had a booth set up at Gordon during their festival to try and recruit new members and sell FOTBS caps and tee-shirts. This was not a great success but we did talk to a few people, and gave some candy to the kids. A sincere thanks for all who came and occupied the booth.

In 2006 we have had a number of interesting educational events that have taken place on the DCWA property, a viewing blind was set up to view sharp-tails during their spring dance, and a number of folks participated in the spring count of sharp-tails on the property, a birding group has also been very active, and a youth group has been formed and active throughout the summer. In September we hosted a Sharp-Tailed Grouse Workshop with presenters from the Wisconsin Sharp-Tailed Grouse Society and the Wisconsin DNR.

In conclusion we are facing some real big challenges in the up and coming years. Things such as, maintaining and increasing our membership both individual and at the cooperate level, obtaining funds and grants to do some special projects the Douglas County Forestry Department and the DNR would like to see done. But by far the biggest challenge we will face in the future is development around the DCWMA property. The Bird Sanctuary is a pristine and unique environment that special plants and wildlife need to survive, and our job will be to help protect it, educate, and inform people that it is indeed something special.

Respectfully Submitted,

FOTBS Board President,

David Biegel