

# Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area

May | 2023

Our mission is to develop programs and activities that educate and promote the importance of conserving Wisconsin's Northwest Sands pine-oak barrens habitat.

FNBWA:  
Serving the Barrens  
Since 2004

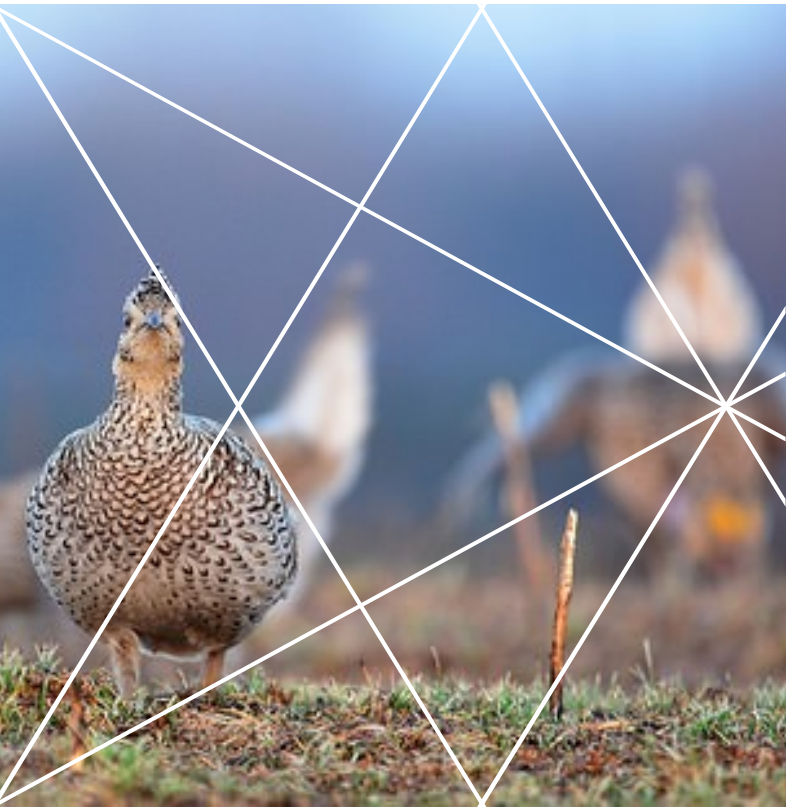


Photo courtesy of Travis Bonovsky

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Winter on the Barrens was pretty harsh this year. There was very little activity on the DNR SnapShot trail camera from December well into

February that the FNBWA sponsors and monitors. Snowstorms in late December began the piling up of the snow, and there were a good two feet on the ground when the camera was checked in February. A few deer showed up for camera shoots in early December, but the surprise was the Sharp-tailed Grouse activity in front of the camera the first week of January. For several days there were numerous pictures of the birds, especially in the mornings. From then on until the camera was checked in February no critters showed up. The photo shows one of the sharp-tails in a perfect winter pose for the camera.



Photo courtesy of Gary Dunsmoor

## Sand and Fire

# SAND AND FIRE

EXPLORING A RARE  
PINE BARRENS LANDSCAPE

DAVE PETERS



### SAND AND FIRE

The Wisconsin Historical Society Press has just published a book on the Namekagon Barrens. It's called "Sand and Fire" and was written by FNBWA board member Dave Peters. The book covers the natural history of the barrens – from glaciers to the network of plants and animals present today – and the robust human history as well.

Indigenous people have been on the land for thousands of years. And fur traders, stagecoach companies, loggers, land promoters, immigrant farmers, foresters and wildlife habitat managers all have left their mark. For a short time 100 years ago, what today is mostly empty countryside visited by few was a buzzing little community. The book explores how through it all the character of this special place has been determined mainly by two things: the sand carried here by glaciers more than 12,000 years ago and fire – wildfires and those set by humans for many, many years.



Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

### FIELD TRIPS

[View this email in your browser](#)



Learn about turtles and more on a NRF Field Trip! Photo by Caitlin Williamson

**2023 Field Trip registration is now open!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The book is chock full of color photos of the barrens from all seasons. You can order it from any bookstore or online at Bookshop.org -- ( <https://bookshop.org/p/books/sand-and-fire-exploring-a-rare-pine-barrens-landscape-dave-peters/19867696?ean=9781976600050> ) -- Amazon or the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

Dave will talk about the book at a book launch at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 8 at the Shell Lake Library.

# 2023 Schedule of Events

## Natural Resource Foundation Sponsored Tours:

Sign up is at <https://www.wisconservation.org/>

*(These may already be full.)*

### Rare Birds

Saturday, May 20; (8 to 11 a.m.)

### Lupine Trip

Saturday, June 3 (8:30 to 11:30 a.m.)

## Friends of the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area Sponsored Trips:

(no cost to participants)

### Clean up day in the Barrens

Saturday, May 6 (9 to noon)

### Scouting for Blueberries

Wednesday, July 12 (9 to noon)

### Sharp-tails and Bird Dogs

Aug 10-12 Final date to be decided yet

### Blueberries on the Barrens

Picnic for the public and joint gathering with Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society

Saturday, July 15 (8 a.m. to 12 noon)

Find us at [www.namekagonbarrens.org](http://www.namekagonbarrens.org)

## 4/16/23 – Viewing blinds are up and roads and parking areas are accessible

By Kathy • April 17, 2023

Sharp-tailed grouse viewing blinds are up at the dancing grounds (leks) in the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area. DNR staff and volunteer observed the birds dancing last week, with 7 to 15 male grouse and a few females at each lek surveyed. Road travel in the Barrens may be unpredictable, but staff were able to drive to the designated parking spots last week.

[YES! I'm going to join this Friends group this year and get involved!!!](#)



**FNBWA**

**BARRENS  
CONSERVATION**

[namekagonbarrens.org](http://namekagonbarrens.org)