

## In Memory... Janice Stiefel

By Emmet Judziewicz and Lynn White

NOTE: A Memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th. It will be held at First Baptist Church in Sister Bay on Saturday, April 26 at 2:00 PM with a light lunch to follow in the church hall.

I first met Janice Stiefel at the Madison garden expo show in the spring of 1999 and was blown away by her knowledge of, enthusiasm for, and talent for photographing Wisconsin's butterflies and moths. I introduced myself as the president of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin and Janice indicated that she was also very interested in plants and would like to help the club if she could. On the spur of the moment I took the opportunity to boldly ask her if she would like to edit our newsletter, The Wisconsin Flora, and she said yes! It was the luckiest move I ever made as president of BCW, since Janice then gave us 5 years of high-quality newsletter editorship, including many articles written by herself. Later, other BCW members and I had the opportunity to visit Janice and her husband John at the new energy-efficient house that they built near Bailey's Harbor in Door County... what a wonderful place, and we all received such a warm welcome from Janice and John. Janice left us much too early, and Wisconsin's botanical and entomological communities will miss her expertise and love for both blooming and fluttering creatures. She will be missed. *-Emmet Judziewicz*

I became familiar with Janice Stiefel in the late 1980's because of her plant profile articles in the Wisconsin Sierra Club newsletter, The Muir View. Later, when I became involved with attending and planning Wild Ones conferences, I had the pleasure to attend some of her moth and butterfly slide shows. But our friendship began in the summer of 1992 when Dave and I moved into our new home on the lake. That spring I attended one of Janice's moth and butterfly slide shows at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. After viewing all her gorgeous pictures, I stopped by to chat with her afterwards. What all was said has since faded from my memory, but I do remember *seriously* catching her enthusiasm for moths. I was living in a perfect location to look for all these beautiful moths I had never seen before. That summer I was up until the wee hours of 2 - 3 am every night stalking the outside lights around our house and deck with my camera. I would be so excited by my new discoveries I would then get on my computer right away and try to identify them. If it was an especially interesting species I would even wake Dave up to tell him about it, much to his chagrin. The next morning I would email Janice with my new finds and would anxiously wait for her email reply, which included what moths she had seen the night the night before. Inspired by her, I attempted to raise a few caterpillars into butterflies, but didn't have quite the knack for and dedication to rearing these creatures that Janice did. Dave and I also visited Janice and John's Hidden Corners Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor several times. It was quite an impressive environmentally friendly setup, with their home electricity provided by photovoltaic cells, a small greenhouse for recycling grey water, and of course, the composting toilets.

I was always impressed by her enthusiasm and energy for all things natural. Janice was as close to a mentor as I have ever had in all the years I've been involved in the natural resources field. For this I will be forever grateful. *-Lynn White*

*(Janice Stiefel was a long time BCW member and also was the very talented Editor of the Wisconsin Flora for several years.)*