

1. Photogram of three beech tree leaves collected in the fall of 2022.

2. The Niagara Escarpment, formed by processes that began more than 400 million years ago.

3. The first land grants in the area were issued in the 1850's. The first aerial photographs of Door County were recorded in 1937-38.

4. The understory of the Oak Road Preserve. It is both reflective and reflexive, dark forms mirror light ones. Nest-like, I revel in its lush density.

5. Concentric circles, a rotting stump carrying the years silently inside. Lean, dry years and years of growth and abundance all align on a single plane.

6. From the Official Door County Plat Book and Business Directory of 1952. Township 29 North/Range 26 East

7. Surveyor's flag hiding amidst the leaves in whipped into motion by the wind.

8. Only 1% of Wisconsin's Old Growth forest remains unharvested.

9. As I walk through these woodlands I imagine all the stories the trees could tell.

A Field Study for Recovery

- Terri Warpinski, 2023



***“The strata of the Earth is a jumbled museum,
Embedded in the sediment is a text...”***

-Robert Smithson
From “A Sedimentation of Mind: Earth Projects”

10. Did that first USGS surveyor who mapped these woods see them as anything more than a commodity to be quantified and colonized?

11. Sometimes, I imagine I see barricades, assembled and placed by the trees -- to ward off dangerous intruders (like me?)

12. The adaptive intelligence of birds, using what is available to support and protect them – whether pine needles, dried grasses, molted feathers, or bits of human detritus - plastic bags, nylon fishing line, or fiberglass.

13. See #11, above.

14. Finding a Yellow-Throated Warbler lying on my patio, I hoped it was only stunned and would come to life and fly away - perhaps only temporarily shaken up by its encounter with our 2nd story window. But I knew it was only wishful thinking.

15. I look up to the trees and imagine all of the birdsong turned into poetry dancing along the limbs of the overstory, the limbs and branches graphing the structure just as I had with the sentences I toiled over as a schoolgirl.

16. Photographic negative of an unidentified bird skeleton (belonging to ce) now watching over all.