

# The Oakleaf

THE FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK NEWSLETTER

March 2004

FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brent McCown**  
*Chairperson*  
233-4322

**Lucy Brown**  
*Vice-Chairperson*  
232-0013

**Helen Baldwin**  
*Treasurer*  
238-2951

**Russell Gardner**  
*Secretary*  
233-2000

**Phil Smith**  
231-1834

**Steve Lewis**  
238-1242

**Joanne Lenburg**  
233-7892

This board meets monthly to discuss issues concerning Hoyt Park. We welcome your input. If you are interested in serving on the board or committee contact Brent McCown.

All donations support your park and are tax deductible. What a bargain! Thanks!

Mail to:  
Helen Baldwin, FHP, Inc.  
3958 Plymouth Circle  
Madison WI 53705

## NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Gym

Please join us for the ninth Friends of Hoyt Park annual meeting. In addition to our annual business meeting, we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker Bill Tishler, FHP founding member and emeritus professor of Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison.

Bill's talk on "Hoyt Park: A Crown Jewel In Madison's Emerald Necklace" will begin with a brief overview of the origins of Madison's park system including how the Madison Park & Pleasure Drive Association (MPPDA) worked to acquire public open space for the city. He will then discuss this history of Hoyt Park including the historical significance of Owen Park and Drive, how the Hoyts established Hoyt Park, and its years as a working quarry. Bill concludes his talk with the formation of the Friends of Hoyt Park, and their work to restore and improve the Park.

Stay and find out how you can be involved. We need your ideas, your energy, and your support. Help us keep this vital city park the wonderful asset it is to its surrounding neighborhood.

### AGENDA

- 6:45 Registration and Welcome
- 7:00 Introduction  
Guest Speaker, Bill Tishler  
"Hoyt Park: A Crown Jewel In Madison's Emerald Necklace"
- 7:50 Break for refreshments  
courtesy of Whole Foods
- 8:00 Business Meeting  
Board Member Elections
- 8:10 Si Widstrand, Parks  
Division – plans for 2004
- 8:20 Questions & Answers –  
general discussion
- 9:00 Adjourn

*Removing sod by East entrance.*



## News and Activities BOARD CHAIR

This year was characterized by a mix of events, some leading to an expansion of the activities that the Friends normally undertake, some associated with the loss of one of our most dedicated and loyal members.

Spurred by the 2002 grant from DNR for woodland stewardship in the Park, we held numerous workdays which were directed at fulfilling our obligations to clear major areas of invasive plants. We continued to clear the area around the lower shelter so that now the woods are more open and original rock features are uncovered and visible. With the very able assistance of local Boy Scouts and their parents, the area above the scenic drive was also cleared, opening up new scenic views and recreational walks.

The Friends also have new tools to use- we now have a small crew of members that have been trained to assist in controlled restoration burns. This new expertise was used to successfully burn the area below and paralleling the drive.

It is very encouraging to see the results of all of this hard work, but also somewhat daunting to see how much more needs to be done. We also must realize that these cleared areas will need many years of periodic maintenance to stabilize their renewed condition. Probably the most exquisite part of all of this activity was the super participation of our volunteers. Without all of you, our objectives would have remained only paper ideas.

All this progress was tempered by the passing of our prairie enthusiast and volunteer

coordinator, Audrey Ready. Audrey will always be known to me as 'chickadee', her email signature. Audrey's enthusiasm and leadership was instrumental in getting the FHP started as well as keeping the organization moving ahead. We, and the Park, will all miss her.

This will be the last year of my position on the Board. It has been a very rewarding and heartening experience and you all should try it! The dedication of my fellow Board members has been especially noteworthy this year.

I can confidently say that the state of the Park is now better than last year. More importantly, the future direction is clear and bright. Thank you all.

*Brent McCown, Chairperson*

### PRAIRIE COMMITTEE

Patience is the word that comes to mind when we talk about prairies.

Last year there was a spectacular show in late summer. Purple cone flowers and goldenrods bloomed in profusion. In 2003 more plants were added to a prepared area and more seeds were broadcast thanks to donations from Dane County Parks. This May we shall add 200 more prairie seedlings purchased at the UW Arboretum's annual Native Plant Sale. Dane County Parks is once again donating seeds. We hope to schedule a burn before our May planting.

We are saddened by the loss of Audrey Ready. Without her perseverance and expertise, the prairie would not be part of Hoyt Park today. Please see the tribute to Audrey elsewhere in this newsletter. A work day for planting prairie plants will be Saturday, May 15. If you are interested in helping, please call Helen Baldwin at 238-2951.

*The Prairie Committee -- Helen Baldwin, Nancy Dott, Clarence Ready*

### READY PRAIRIE



In 1974 naturalists Audrey Ready, Karen Bowen, and Nancy Dott obtained turf from a dry prairie then under development (now Camelot Drive.) With Hoyt School students they planted it on the northeast side of this prairie. In 1995, then a co-founding member of The Friends of Hoyt Park Inc., Audrey urged prairie restoration. Volunteers cleared planting spaces, spread seed collected from Dane County Parks, bought and planted prairie plants, pulled weeds, burned the area, and dug out shrubby growth. Audrey worked as hard as anyone. Joined by her husband Red, they watered, weeded, and cared for the developing prairie from 1995 through 2003. The beauty here -- especially lovely in midsummer -- represents their gift to the City of Madison and all those using Hoyt Park.

## TREASURY

The balance in our account as of March 10 is \$6,577.11. The balance in our Madison Community Foundation Fund is \$11,712.90.

*Helen Baldwin, Treasurer*

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have 150 paid members for 2003, the most we've ever had! We welcome all of our new members and appreciate the renewals of present and past members, even when they leave the neighborhood. Please bring your friends and neighbors to the annual meeting.

*Cindy Hoffland, Membership Committee*

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fund Raising committee is gratified at the generous contributions this year. Forty nine of our 151 members, or 32%, contributed \$2,200 beyond their dues.

### Audrey Ready Memorial Fund:

Audrey Nilles Ready, inspiration and founding member of the Friends of Hoyt Park, passed away on the fifth of January 2004. Audrey and her family asked that Hoyt Park benefit from memorial gifts. By mid-February, 163 families and friends had contributed \$5,735. Our sympathy and affection go to Audrey's husband and children. We shall treasure all that they have done to improve Hoyt Park for our enjoyment.

*Helen Baldwin and Russ Gardner  
Fundraising Committee*

## SIGHTINGS

Hoyt Park is a refuge for wildlife, despite its small size, urban surroundings, and constant human and pet use. This year, as always, FHP members have seen a variety of animals in the Park.



*Sylvia Marek's owl presentation.*

Invertebrates are always of interest. Red Admiral, American Lady, and Question Mark butterflies appear on early spring days because they hibernate as adults. Later Mourning Cloak, Monarch, swallowtail and skipper butterflies, dragon flies and various spiders populate the prairie. In August crickets and occasional katydid begin the fall insect chorus. Park birders noted that a mature and an immature red-tailed hawk were often seen. Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks dined on the Park's chipmunks often, but no nest was found. May brought migrating warblers and vireos. The tufted titmouse, catbird, and the tiny blue-grey gnat-catcher nested in the Park while the diminutive winter wren was spotted both spring and fall. In November and again in December a Great Horned Owl was seen roosting in a pine tree. Mammals reported included coyote and red fox, little brown bat, raccoon, opossum, ubiquitous grey squirrels, rabbits and noisy chipmunks. There were no deer reported to this correspondent. Please post and date your own sightings on the cork board that forms the back of the Park kiosk.

## MOON/OWL WALK

On Friday evening, March 6 thirty hardy souls turned out for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual full moon owl walk. It was a cloudy night neither the moon nor owls appeared. We all enjoyed naturalist Sylvia Marek's presentation on owl calls and behavior. We took an owl prowling and have more ideas on where to look and listen for the owls that we know inhabit the Park. A warm fire, hot cocoa, and owl cookies served as a finale for the evening.

## WEB SITE NEWS

In addition to our regular web site (<http://userpages.chorus.net/hoytpark/>) we are now listed on Madison Newspapers Community Pages at <http://www.madison.com/communities/hoytpark/>. The Community Pages provides information about nonprofit organizations under easy-to-find categories. So now you can find us 2 ways and both sites link to each other.

## T-SHIRTS

FHP t-shirts will be available at the Annual Meeting. Adult sizes are \$15; Children sizes are \$10.

## **VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Beginning in April and not ending until mid-October, Hoyt Park received volunteer care during eight workdays, a record number. Responding to Audrey Ready's phoning, 59 people pitched in, usually 18 each workday. Seven of the volunteers were the great kids who joined the team (their time is not included in the total hours). Collectively 286 hours of work was devoted to clearing exotics from the woodlands, planting prairie, and removing garlic mustard and prairie weeds. In mid October, burn boss Brad O'Grosky led a crew of 6 trained FHP members and 6 spotters who burned and put out fire in the woodland between Regent St. and the walking path. This was the first year that FHP volunteers made up the Hoyt Park burn crew. (If you're interested in burn training, contact Helen Baldwin, 238-2951). In addition, parents and scouts in Boy Scout Troop 16 spent 104 hours picking up trash during the summer.

*Audrey Ready (through December 2003)  
Joanne Lenburg, Lucy Bown, Phil Smith*

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, four valuable members of the FHP Board will be leaving -- Brent McCown, Chair; Russell Gardner, Secretary; Helen Baldwin, Treasurer, and Steven Lewis. Each has served the maximum of two successive two-year terms. Continuing Board Members are Lucy Brown, Joanne Lenburg, and Phil Smith.

The FHP Board welcomes the following board member candidates for 2004:

**Terry Bloom** and his family moved to Glenway Street from Maryland 27 years ago. The Park

was one of the reasons they chose this location. Terry has spent many hours volunteering on workdays and now wants to contribute by being a member of the Board.

**John Elliott** loves the park and would like to be on the Board to help preserve it. He's a librarian at Edgewood College who also climbs on rocks at Devils Lake, rides his bike, and listens to a wide variety of music from his vast CD collection.

**Tim Kessenich** recently retired from Wis. Dept. of Natural Resources working as a hydrogeologist. He is a long-time resident of Sunset Hills who has transformed his yard into a native plant haven. His expertise in propagating native woodland wildflowers and ferns will be useful to our efforts in restoring native plant communities in the Park.

**Deborah Lawson** has lived in the Hoyt Park area for more than 14 years. Deborah is one of those folks who moved here for graduate school, loved it, and has been here ever since. She served two terms (1994-2000) on the Madison School Board and currently serves as a Board member for the Friends of the Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR).

## **Neighborhood Representatives**

Brent McCown will represent Sunset Village neighborhood and Helen Baldwin will represent Radio Park/Sunset Hills neighborhood.

We welcome back Ron Harris representing the Vanchamashe (Van Hise-Chamberlain-Mason-Shepard Terrace) neighborhood and Tom Quirk representing the Regent neighborhood.

## **WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:**

*Please join us at one of our upcoming events.*

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Tuesday, April 20,  
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.  
Hoyt School gym

### **EARTH DAY 2004**

Saturday, April 17,  
10:00 – 12:00 a.m.  
Main parking lot

We will remove trash and pull garlic mustard. Bring gloves to protect your hands.

### **SUMMER PICNIC**

Sunday, June 13,  
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Main shelter

### **WORK DAYS**

10:00-12:00 a.m.  
March 20 – remove brush  
April 17 – Earth Day pick-up  
May 15 – prairie planting  
June 19 – prairie weeding  
July 24 – woodland and trail  
Aug 21 – woodland and trail  
Sept 18 – woodland and trail  
Oct 16 – woodland and trail  
Nov 20 – woodland and trail

### **NATURE WALKS**

Wednesday mornings,  
8:00 a.m. as weather permits  
Main parking lot

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Second Thursday of the month, 6:45-9:00 p.m.  
Sequoia Library  
May 13  
June 10  
July 8  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11



*Parks Volunteer Recognition Event*

**2004 Volunteers**

Astfalk, Emily  
 Astfalk, Jacob  
 Astfalk, Tim  
 Avery, Barbara  
 Avery-Johnson, Adrian  
 Baer, Michael  
 Baldwin, Gordon  
 Baldwin, Helen  
 Baldwin, Page  
 Baldwin, Schuyler  
 Barnes, Mallory  
 Begay, Tessa  
 Bloom, Terry

Bowman, Mary  
 Brown, Lucy  
 Corry Joe  
 Cubacub, David  
 Dennis, Barbara  
 Dennis, Jane  
 Dott, Nancy  
 Dott, Robert  
 Elliott, John  
 Esser, Bob  
 Ficken, Judy (sp?)  
 Foell, Wes  
 Gardner, Russ  
 Gardner, Suzie  
 Gilchrist, Kennedy  
 Hague, Bob

Harris, Jo  
 Harris, Mathilde  
 Harris, Ron  
 Hoffland, Cindy  
 Holaday, Steve  
 Holaday, Tom  
 Kessenich, Tim  
 Kuter, David  
 Larsen, Katie  
 Lenburg, Joanne  
 Lewis, Steve  
 Liebl, Dave  
 McCown, Brent  
 Moss, Scott  
 Murphy, Janet  
 O’Grosky, Brad  
 Patterson, Tom  
 Quirk, Tom  
 Ready, Audrey  
 Ready, Red  
 Rhine, Marjorie  
 Sepich, Jemma  
 Sepich, Joanne  
 Sepich, Rob  
 Smith, Galen  
 Smith, Phil  
 Spiese, Roy  
 Strode, Steve  
 Taylor, Tim  
 Tishler, Bill  
 Trochlell, Jim  
 Werther, Susan  
 Williamson, Brian  
 Wiseman, David  
 Wiseman, Mindy  
 Wuetherich, Marcel  
 Zarwell, Will



Detach and mail with your check



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES**

*Annual dues cover one year’s membership running from April to April*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(we use e-mail for upcoming events and volunteer days reminders only)

My areas of interest in Hoyt Park are:

- committees     events
- fundraising     board member
- leafleting     work days
- prairie     woodland     other

*Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. Please check the level of your support and make checks payable to Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. Bring to the annual meeting or mail to Helen Baldwin, 3958 Plymouth Circle, Madison, WI 53705. All paid memberships are voting members of FHP, Inc.*

The Friends of Hoyt Park is a non-profit organization. Donations above membership dues are tax-deductible.

Membership:     Individual \$10.00     Household \$20.00

Extra Donations:     ranger fund     Endowment Fund     other donation