

The Oakleaf

THE FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK NEWSLETTER

March 2007

FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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232-1846

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238-6098

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232-0013

Tim Kessenich
238-7035

Jean MacCubbin
238-4863

Perri Liebl
231-3105

This board meets monthly to discuss issues concerning Hoyt Park. We welcome your input.

Email: hoytpark@chorus.net
Website: www.userpages.chorus.net/hoytpark

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

Mail to:
Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.
P O Box 5542
Madison WI 53705-0542

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2007

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Gym

Please join us for the twelfth Friends of Hoyt Park annual meeting. In addition to our annual business meeting, we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker arborist R. Bruce Allison who will speak on Wisconsin's famous and historic trees.

R. Bruce Allison has been a professional arborist in Madison, Wisconsin, since 1974. He served as president of the Wisconsin Arborist Association and as chairperson of the Dane County Tree Board and the Wisconsin Urban forestry Council. He is the author of several books and many articles dealing with trees and nature.

In his book *Every Root an Anchor: Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees*, he celebrates Wisconsin's most significant, unusual, and historic trees. Join us as Bruce relates some of the more than one hundred tales on trees across the state, some remarkable for their size or age, others for their intriguing histories.

AGENDA

- 6:45 Registration and Welcome
- 7:00 Introduction
Guest Speaker, R. Bruce Allison "Wisconsin's Famous and Historic Trees"
- 8:00 Break for refreshments courtesy of Whole Foods
- 8:15 Business Meeting
Board Member Elections
- 8:30 Questions & Answers – general discussion
- 9:00 Adjourn



News and Activities

BOARD CHAIR

434 adult volunteer hours; 11 child volunteer hours. School groups from a diverse swath of Madison's student population volunteering in park cleanups, mulching our oaks; an owl walk, a summer picnic, a winter holiday party. It was a fun and productive year.

Again, we had an excellent ranger last summer, Michael Johnson. The lion's share of his time was devoted to removing invasive species – the usual suspects: buckthorn, honeysuckle, dame's rocket, Japanese hedge parsley, and the dreaded garlic mustard. In his end-of-the-summer report, Michael notes that he also spent a large amount of his time in general trail maintenance, which consisted of trash pickup, filling-in washouts after rainstorms, trimming brush. Michael's handy work is also evident in this removal of undesirable plants beneath the lookout, a large area of which is now covered with tarps, over which is coved with mulch, awaiting plantings.

And speaking of our much loved lookout, it would be an egregious sin of omission of not mention the beautiful benches and amelanchier tree and bench that was donated by the Madison Community Fund, with help from the City Parks Division. What a lovely spot to watch the sunset.

Last April, we had a successful prairie burn and we noted that shooting stars were poking up through the soil soon afterward.

In December, we had an excellent holiday party, and our guest speaking was Brent Haglund, President of the Sand County Foundation. We had a nice turnout of fifty people and held a silent auction.

On February 2nd, we had our owl walk, and although it was a cold one, nineteen brave souls came together to hear Aaron Stutz speak on owls and enjoy one another's company. A roaring fire, hot chocolate, cookies, all told a fun night.

And on a future looking note, we should say that Brent Haglund has agreed to be our liaison for Eagle Scout projects, as he was scout extraordinaire in his youth. Eagle Scout candidate Zach Small, as our last meeting, presented a very ambitious plan to increase the size of Ready Prairie via the removal of buckthorns and other undesirable trees on the north end of the prairie. This plan sounds very exciting.

So, join our group, and above all, enjoy our beautiful Hoyt Park.

John Elliott, Chairperson

TREASURY

We continue to have a healthy cash reserve. Cash balances total \$8,837.38 as of March 8, 2007.

The Madison Community Foundation endowment fund currently has a balance of \$18,341.36.

Terry Bloom, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have 150 paid member households for 2006. We welcome all of our new members and appreciate the renewals of present and past members. Please bring your friends and neighbors to the annual meeting.

Cindy Hoffland, Membership Committee

PRAIRIE COMMITTEE

The Audrey Ready Prairie really looked good in 2006. Volunteers conducted a controlled burn in early spring, added new plants in May, and spent several Saturday mornings clearing woody brush from the prairie edges. Our efforts were rewarded with a spectacular display of prairie flowers.

This year we're looking forward to another controlled burn in April. And, we will have a generous supply of new plants and seeds to add to the prairie. Come to the prairie-planting workday on May 19, plant your seeds, and watch them grow for years to come.

Tim Kessenich, Prairie Committee

SUMMER RANGER

Relying on continued generous financial support from our members, we will hire a park ranger for the upcoming summer. The summer park ranger not only helps to maintain the natural beauty of the park, but also contributes greatly to the quality of life in the residential neighborhoods surrounding Hoyt Park. The ranger's daily presence helps eliminate much of the vandalism and discourages unsavory behavior in the park. The Friends pay all of the ranger's salary, our biggest

T-SHIRTS

FHP t-shirts will be available at the Annual Meeting.

- Adult long-sleeve - \$20
- Adult short-sleeve - \$16
- Children short-sleeve - \$12

expenditure for the year. So please, consider giving a little extra this year to help support the park ranger and other valuable work done by the Friends of Hoyt Park.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

As in past years, 2006 marked a great volunteer effort by the members of The Friends of Hoyt Park. On Saturday mornings from April to August, you donated hundreds of hours with the goal of improving the park's prairie and woodlands.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

As you know, without your membership dues, we couldn't exist. And to go above and beyond mere existence, i.e. to put in trails, benches, our beautiful new kiosk, bat houses, and have a summer ranger, we need extra money. So please, could you consider giving more than the regular membership dues payment? This money will be used to make what is already perhaps Madison's most beautiful park into something that is safer, better cared for, and more inviting.

John Elliott, Fundraising Committee

SCOUT PROJECTS

Brent Haglund will be our new contact person for Eagle Scout projects. Projects based on the FHP long-range plan are preferred.

Brent will talk with scouts interested in doing a project in the Park and help them develop a plan; the scout will present the proposed project to the Board and get feedback. Following this, the scout will determine the financial needs of the project, the timing, and any other procedural issues (e.g., permission from Parks Division). Following final approval from the Board, the scout will undertake the project and provide the Friends

with a copy of the report he writes up for the Boy Scouts when the project is completed.

You can contact Brent at 233-5199 or brent.haglund@gmail.com.

FULL MOON/OWL WALK

This year our owl walk under the full moon took place on February 2 on a very cold evening. The temperature was around 4° F, but 19 hardy souls attended. Aaron Stutz gave a lovely presentation about Wisconsin owls and played tape recordings of their various calls. Although no owl calls were heard during the short walk, the full moon was lovely. We warmed up by the cheery fire in the shelter and enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies. I thank all who helped us to have this successful event.

Nancy Dott, Events Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Phil Smith resigned from the board in mid-year and Lucy Brown is leaving at the end of this year. Both have given years of dedicated service. The board selected Perri Liebl to take Phil's place pending the April election.

We nominate Perri Liebl and Kathy Zaremba as Board member candidates for the election at the April annual meeting.

Neighborhood Representatives continuing are:

- Vanchamasshe – Ron Harris
- Radio Park-Sunset Hills – Helen Baldwin
- Regent – Tom Quirk
- Sunset Village – Brent McCown

Helen Baldwin, Terry Bloom, Nancy Dott, John Elliott, and Jean MacCubbin, Nominating Committee

WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:

Please join us at one of our upcoming events.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 19,
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Hoyt School gym

EARTH DAY 2007

Saturday, April 21,
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

Saturday, June 11,
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Main shelter

WORK DAYS

9:00-11:00 a.m.

April 21 – Earth Day pick-up
May 19 – prairie planting
June 16 – woodland invasives
July 21 – prairie maintenance
Aug 18 – prairie maintenance
Sept 15 – gravel path
Oct 20 – mulch trees
Nov 17 - buckthorn

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
April 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
September 13
October 11
November 8



FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.

P O Box 5542
Madison WI 53705



Detach and mail with your check



FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.

Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. All paid memberships are voting members. The FHP is a non-profit organization. Donations above membership dues are tax-deductible. Please send and make checks payable to:
Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.
P O Box 5542
Madison, WI 53705

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: _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to be contacted for volunteering by phone or email | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ranger Fund \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household membership \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund \$_____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund \$_____ |