

The Oakleaf

THE FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK NEWSLETTER

April 2014

FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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232-1846

Jane Voichick
Vice-Chairperson
233-0807

Tim Kessenich
Treasurer
238-7035

Peter Hanson
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251-4416

Ron Harris
231-6231

Duncan McNelly
230-0346

Jean MacCubbin
238-4863

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

Email: chair@hoypark.org
Website: www.hoypark.org

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

NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Room 13

Please join us for our Nineteenth Annual Friends of Hoyt Park Membership Meeting at Hoyt School. Our speaker will be Wayne Pauly, Parks Naturalist for the Dane County Park system.

Wayne will speak on "Prairie Lore," a subject he knows well from his many years of experience studying, restoring and planting prairies in Dane County. Wayne has been a very special friend of Hoyt Park by sharing his knowledge and providing a generous amount of seeds for our restoration efforts.

If you like prairie lore and prairie plants, you won't want to miss this enthralling presentation.

AGENDA

- 6:45 Registration and Welcome
- 7:00 Introduction
Guest Speaker Wayne Pauly, Dane Co. Parks
- 8:00 Break for refreshments
- 8:15 Business Meeting
Board Member Elections
- 8:30 Questions & Answers – general discussion
- 9:00 Adjourn



News and Activities

BOARD CHAIR

After this winter that we have all bravely endured, one that seemed like something one would read about out of the 19th century, they were colder then, right?, this upcoming spring is more than welcomed. Perhaps by April, it will have arrived.

This new park season is looking good. Our coffers are in pretty good shape. Our search for a ranger has been facilitated by the fact that our star of last year, Danny Volz, is coming back for Round Two of his expert leadership skills. Danny is a foe of invasive species and diligent, yet diplomatic, in his efforts to curb the excesses of mountain bike riders, teenage life forms, dog walkers.

We expect the City to finish their replacement of the fence fabric along the bluff this year, a project that will make the park a more safe and beautiful place. The fence is even "critter friendly" in that the foxes can go about their normal fox business. That project, along with the new handrails on the stone stairs will make Hoyt Park a real showcase of just how to take care of a public park.

Further, we will continue with our workdays, events, picnic and other get-togethers. Check the website to see what's going on.

If you've not had a chance to get involved with the Friends of Hoyt Park, perhaps this is the year to do it. All are welcome.

Have you considered joining the Friends' Board? The time commitment is not all that great and you get to work with a group of people who are trying make Hoyt Park an even better place.

John Elliott, Chair

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we finished our fiscal year on December 31, 2013 with a cash balance of \$11,544.49. In addition, member contributions and

investment growth have increased the balance of our Madison Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The distribution available from our Endowment Fund for 2014 will be \$1,142.82. We will present a more detailed financial report at the annual meeting.

Thank you all!

Tim Kessenich, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We ended the year 2013 with 205 paid memberships, which included 84 new memberships. We are off to a good start for 2014 with 94 paid memberships that includes 1 new membership.

Duncan McNelly, Membership Committee



PRAIRIE & WOODLAND

In 2013 our workday volunteers and our summer ranger continued our efforts to restore the oak woodlands along Regent Street, the Ready Prairie, and the prairie at the overlook. A lot of the activity involved removing invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard and dame's rocket, but we were also able to make new plantings. In May we planted 25 species of oak savannah plants in the woods between the main park shelter and Regent Street. The purchase of these plants was funded by the friends and family of Tom Quirk. As you walk through this area this spring keep an eye out for columbine, shooting star, and May apples.

In November we planted seeds of 36 species of prairie and oak savannah plants at the Sunset Point overlook. This area is a work in progress since we still have many woody invasive plants to deal with, however, we are starting to see progress. Last summer we saw monarda, figwort, yellow cone flower, prairie dock, New England aster, and many other native plants in bloom.

We will be doing additional plantings in 2014, please watch for the upcoming workday schedule.

Tim Kessenich, Prairie Committee

FULL MOON/OWL WALK

Our owl walks are held on evenings that tend to be rather cold, and this last one on Friday, February 14th was no exception. However, it was quite a good event, a success in fact, as at least twelve hardy souls showed up, the lion's share of which were people who had read about the event in *The Isthmus*. Perhaps they'll join our merry band?

The fire in the main shelter's manorial fireplace roared like a miniature Vesuvius; the table was laid out with cookies and Jean MacCubbin's fantastic red velvet chocolate cupcakes, a thermos of hot water for drinks. What's there not to like?

At one point, as we were setting up, Tim Kessenich and I thought that we heard owls and stepped out onto the lawn outside the shelter to survey the full moon, light-bathed expanse of snow, and to listen. Eh, maybe. Could have been dogs.

When the group appeared to have reached its high point, off we went for the owl walk, and that was quite nice. The moonlight and snow cover provided more than enough illumination to safely walk the paths, a trip that took us down to Roy's Shelter, then up to the look-out, and back the main shelter. Every once in a while we would all pause, columns of frosty breath rising from us all, none of us saying a word, just listening.

John Elliott

DOTT MEMORIAL

Prof. Robert and Nancy Dott, two stalwarts and original members of the Friends of Hoyt Park have been honored with a boulder, this to be found in the north end of the park in the old quarry. Baraboo quartzite it is, just like the stone found at Devil's Lake. It should also be noted that FHP member, and former student of Prof. Dott, was instrumental in getting this project done. Go for a walk in the park and take a look. (see picture on 1st page)

HOLIDAY PARTY

The Friends of Hoyt Park held their Holiday Party on December 11, 2013 at the University Club. Members saw old friends, learned about what was accomplished by the organization during 2013, enjoyed an excellent dinner and bid on interesting items at the silent auction which was organized by Pam Mather and Jean MacCubbin.

NOTE CARDS

FHP note cards will be available at the Annual Meeting. Last chance; only 8 packages left.

- Package of 6 cards - \$10



Bill Cronon, a well-recognized professor of environmental studies at UW-Madison, gave a very informative and interesting talk about the importance of Hoyt Park as a local environmental resource.

The dinner in addition to being fun is a major fund-raiser for our organization, adding \$1400 to our annual income. Thanks to all that attended, and remember to make a point of attending next year.

Jane Voichick

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tim Kessenich, John Elliott, Jean McCubbin, Peter Hanson, and Jane Voichick's terms have expired. They have given years of dedicated service. John, Jean, and Peter are eligible for

and would like to continue for another 2-year term. So, we are looking for 2 board members to replace Tim and Jane.

So far the search has only hit dead end after dead end. So, if a meeting on one Thursday evening a month to participate on the board of Madison's preeminent parks group, the Friends of Hoyt Park, sounds like your thing, contact John Elliott at 232-1846.

Won't you consider being the representative from the Regent Neighborhood? Please contact a board member for details.

Neighborhood Representatives:

- VanChaMasShe – Sarah Cantley
- Radio Park-Sunset Hills – Rich Jablonski
- Regent – vacant
- Rocky Bluff – Gunnar Andersen
- Sunset Village – Cheri Swenson

FRIENDS OF THE ARBORETUM PLANT SALE

Get the same plants that we get! The Friends of the Arboretum have their annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They provide over 100 species of native grasses, prairie plants, ferns, woodland flowers, shrubs, vines, and all native to the area. Read more at <http://uwarboretum.org/foa/native-plant-sale.php>.

WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:

Please join us at one of our upcoming events.

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 23

6:45 – 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Room 13

EARTH DAY 2014

Saturday, April 19,

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, July 12

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Lower (Roy's) shelter

WORK DAYS

10:00-12:00 a.m.

April 19 – Earth Day pick-up

May 17 – woodland restore

June 21 – TBD

July 19– prairie maintenance

Aug 16 – buckthorn busting

Sept 20 – seed collecting

Oct 18 – buckthorn busting

Nov 15 – overlook work

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 8

June 12

July 10

September 11

October 9

November 13



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 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 for calendar year 2014. If your mailing label has a purple dot on it, your membership has expired.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- Please contact me to volunteer by phone or email
- Please email newsletters to me instead of sending a paper copy
- Dues \$ _____ (suggested minimum \$30)
- Sustaining member \$ _____ (suggested minimum \$60)
- Ranger Fund \$ _____ Endowment Fund \$ _____