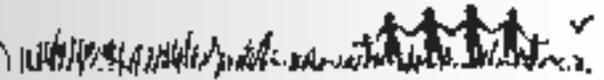


PARK VIEWS



A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

Friends of Donald Park Annual Review 2015

Message From the President

The State of Donald Park:

The State of the Park is excellent. Our park is becoming a favorite spot of enjoyment for an ever-increasing number of people. The trails runs and snowshoe races have continued to grow in participation, introducing Donald County Park to many younger fans. The Tuesday volunteer group of retirees is growing in numbers and is continuing to accomplish many projects for the park. The beautiful prairies continue to wow all visitors. Donald Park is a fantastic place and the word is getting out!

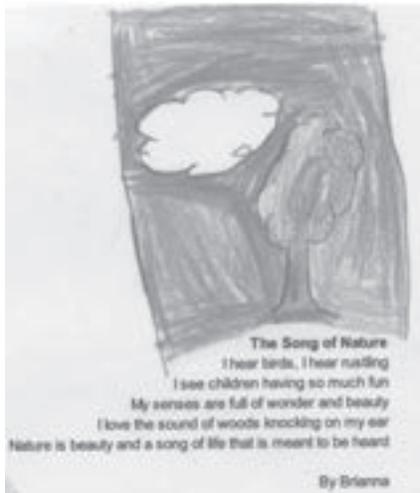
The park is such a fantastic place because of our dedicated volunteers and their love of the park. Looking ahead, we have many projects coming this year that we will once again be counting on our Friends to help us accomplish. Matt Marty will be completing the

Cabin at Little Spring Project, finalizing a multi-year dedication of his efforts, perseverance and skills.

Donna Thomas and the Interpretative committee will be installing the panels for phase II of the Interpretive project, which will provide visitors insights into the park's history. The horse trail committee will be installing obstacles for equestrian visitors, providing them with some new challenges for their horses.

As you can see we're going to have a busy year with these new projects (*and I won't mention the day-to-day behind the scenes operations*). Our volunteers are the heart of Donald County Park; if you would like to be part of the pulse of the park please contact us to find out more about our volunteer activities.

Thank you all, Roger



MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Donald Park, Inc. promotes and supports the development and passive use of Donald Park through programs and activities that provide education, restoration and preservation of cultural, natural and historical resources representing Dane County's rural heritage for present and future generations.

2015 – The Year in Review

The Friends in 2015

This report celebrates the many achievements of the Friends of Donald Park in 2015, made possible through the thriving partnership among Friends members, volunteers, donors, Dane County Parks (DCP) staff, businesses and community organizations.

The Friends 2015 membership included 98 families, individuals and businesses. Members received a 2014 annual report, spring and fall e-newsletters, special events announcements and an invitation to the Friends annual meeting. This year, the annual meeting date changed to January; Gray's Tied House in Verona was the venue, with an excellent turnout.

At the annual meeting, the Treasurer's Report, ending December 31, 2015, showed total assets of \$66,707.02: checking account, \$13,098.13; petty cash, \$420.00; savings, \$9,653.31; CDs – \$11,876.41, \$20,946.84, and \$10,712.33. The largest single expenditure was \$6,372.13, for the Interpretive Program (design and panel fabrication costs). A full report is available from the Friends upon request.

The Friends endowment fund at the Madison Community Foundation (MCF) ended 2015 with a net fund balance of \$64,588.84. In 2015, the Friends chose to roll available funds back into the endowment, to continue to grow the principle and ensure greater future payouts. Gifts to the endowment fund may be made through the Friends or directly to MCF.

We acknowledge with thanks the leadership of the 2015 Committee Chairs and Group Leaders: *Bob Dettwiler* – Natural Areas; *Judy Dvorak* – Publications; *Ray Glew* – Bluebirds; *Roger Parr* – Horse Trails, and Administration/Budget/Finance; *Vickie Peterson* – Events; *Pat Schultz* – Website; *Mary Spaay* – Education; and *Donna Thomas* – Interpretive Program.

To all of you who helped grow Donald County Park and the Friends organization in some way in 2015 – we give heartfelt thanks!

“We can do this!”

Pat Hitchcock, Donald County Park Co-Founder

Bluebird Restoration Project

By Ray Glew



Well, I would hate to burst your bubble, but it is a tough life out there in the wild.

This spring, bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens and house sparrows will be fighting for Donald Park's nesting boxes. In all the times I have been in the great outdoors, I have not witnessed these fights but I, as well as others, have seen the results. Fortunately it is something we do not dwell on. As in life, ugly moments move on and survival, beauty and life in nature will continue to surprise and bless us.

In 2015, the sparrows moved into town. Years back, we fought them off. It looks like this coming year, 2016, will be another year of battle. Decisions will have to be made about how to convince them to move elsewhere. It started innocently in 2014, with one nest box take-over. But then in 2015, we had four boxes taken over. That usually means we lose all four boxes for the whole year.

Sparrows start nesting the same time bluebirds do. Wrens and tree swallow come later, giving the bluebirds a chance to get started. We will probably be pulling out the sparrow nests before they lay eggs (*the state protects the nests of song birds, sparrows are not on the list*). There is no doubt in my mind that we will be doing this all year because of the males' persistence. They are very aggressive and nasty in their fight with the bluebirds and tree swallows. Wrens, for their size, are just as nasty. They poke holes in the eggs or chuck them out the hole of the nesting box. Sparrows have been known to sit on top of the nest occupier and pick them to death.

We have been surprised over and over about how the gentle bluebird, the least aggressive, has overcome the odds. They seem to come back and still have a great year. Even with the four nests taken over by sparrows in 2015, bluebirds still thrived. They hatched 132 of the 166 eggs laid, and 130 fledged. We also had four nests of tree swallows and three of wrens.

We look forward, in 2016, to a year of making these nesting boxes available to the bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens and sometimes chickadees – **but no trespassing to sparrows!**

Thanks our dedicated bluebird team: *Sue Eisele, Steve and Aimee' Gauger, Ray Glew, Katie Haag, Cindy Hansen, Barb Hartman, Liz McBride, Jenny Seivert, John Shaw and Gail Van Haren. (Photo on p.4)*

2015 – The Year in Review

THANK YOU To Our Great Volunteers!

We are so grateful to the many people, young and old alike, who give of their time to make Donald Park the great County park that it is! The tasks that they perform are many and varied, from carefully working around blue-bird nest boxes to seed collecting and cleaning, wielding chain saws, mowing trails, performing administrative tasks and much, much more. Altogether in 2015, our volunteers contributed 3,721 hours. If we had to hire personnel to do this work, it would cost more than \$52,291! *Special thanks to Michelle Campbell, who annually spends many volunteer hours compiling this data.*

Chuck Abplanalp
Richard Althouse
Vicki Anderson
Jackie Arendt-Hering
Connor Asechbach
Katie Asechbach
Tabitha Asechbach
Gina Barden
Jim Benson
Bob Birmingham
Barbara Borders
Ken Bradbury
Jean Breslow
Steve Burns
Michelle Campbell
Nina Cheney
CoCo Chareusse
Marion Clark
Dan Clayton
Mary Lou Clayton
Mike Coffey
Marsha Cooper
Sherry Crownhart
Thom Crownhart
Kathy Cryan
Bob Dettwiler
Judy Dettwiler

Frank Dierking
Leigh Dierking
Jeff Durbin
Judy Dvorak
Susan Eisele
Ray Ellenberger
Mary Ellenberger
Jeanne Eloranta
Larry Fass
Mary Feldt
John Fochesato
Joy Follendorf
Jeanne Foster
Dave Garfoot
Robyn Garfoot
Aimee' Gauger
Steve Gauger
Don Gay
Dianne Geissal
Charles Gerhards
Denise Gevelinger
Rob Gevelinger
Marsha Gibson
Ray Glew
David Green
Bill Haack
Katie Haag

Lee Haag
Brad Haley
Cindy Hansen
Barb Hartman
Don Hartman
Mike Healy
Shirlene Hefty
Wayne Hefty
Kim Hegstrom
Cathy Helgeson
Dean Helgeson
Janelle Holstrom
Doug Jewell
Hayden Johnson
Carolyn Johnson
Phil Johnson
Jim Keip
Marie Klar
Phil Leavenworth
Dominic Ledesma
Jim Lesniak
Kathy Lord
Gerhard Luetschwager
Matt Marty
Mary Ruth Marks
Liz McBride
Adam Mertz

Amy Mertz
Cheryl Miller
John Mix
Leslie Parr
Roger Parr
Ken Pederson
Vickie Peterson
Peter Putz
Marsha Ralston-Edlinger
Linda Ramczyk
Bob Ramsey
Christie Ramsey
Jonathan Rooney
Mary Ross
Gwen Ruppert
Russel Sacia
Barbara Schmidt
Dumont Schmidt
David Schreiber
Pat Schultz
Rob Schultz
Marie Seckar
John Shaw
Jennifer Sievert
Jen Soderholm
Glen Spaay
Mary Spaay

Irv Steinhauer
Linda Sweeney
Cathy Thomas
Chet Thomas
Donna Thomas
Gail Van Haren
Kate Van Sicklen
Sue Walser
David Ward
Jean Warrior
Barb Waters
Graham Webster
Jeri Webster
Paul Werth
Tim White
Kathy Wiggins
Mackenzie Wilkinson
Gene Woller
Bob Woodburn
Nan Woodburn
Allyssa Yogerst
Christine Zeltner

- Cub Scout Pack 62
- Girl Scout Troup 1087
- Mt. Horeb 3rd Graders
- Hegstrom Crew
- Sugar River Horsin' Around Club
- UPS
- Operation Fresh Start



“There is strength in the hills and peace in the valleys.”

Delma Donald Woodburn, Donald County Park Co-Founder

2015 – The Year in Review

Interpretive Project

By Donna Thomas

As 2015 came to a close, we were thrilled to receive the first group of finished interpretive panels, ready for installation in the spring of 2016. These panels feature stories of the land and people that have been part of the Donald County Park story.

❖ At Pop's Knoll:

Donald Park Lies in the Driftless Area and *Donald Rock: Centuries-Old Travelers' Landmark* will be the first interpretive panels to greet visitors as they leave the Pop's Knoll parking lot. *Donald County Park: The Dream of Two Visionary Women* gives visitors an idea of the character of the two women who established Donald County Park – Delma Donald Woodburn and Pat Hitchcock. Just opposite the trailhead at the south end of the picnic area, *Oak Savannas Once Covered This Area* will give an idea of how parklands looked at the time of settlement in the mid-1800s.

❖ **At Big Spring:** *Big Spring: An Integral Part of Area Life*, and *Big Spring: Part of an Important Natural System* will be mounted on the railing of the overlook deck.

❖ **Adjacent to Larson Pond:** *Donald County Park is Home for Bluebirds* and *Prairie Landscapes Require Human Involvement* will help visitors learn more about these special park features.

As we readied panels for fabrication, work also progressed on the introductory panel and map, (for the kiosks at Pop's Knoll and the Highway G parking area) on a park brochure, and on supplementary information for the website. Come spring of 2016, the Tuesday volunteers, headed by Bob Dettwiler, will install panels, while all other elements – kiosk information, brochure and website – will come together to complete the second phase of the Donald County Park interpretive program.

This detailed work requires great teamwork on the part of many people: our interpretive committee (*Bob Dettwiler, Judy Dvorak, Barb Hartman, Phil and Carolyn Johnson, Matt Marty, Donna Thomas*); our Dane County Parks liaison (who also does all map work), *Sara (Kwitek) Ringelman*; designer *Jeff Durbin*; and our Friends board members, who approve all elements – are sometimes among those featured in photographs. Looking ahead to 2016, our focus largely will be on developing panels and related materials for the Little Spring area.

Horse Trails

By Roger Parr

Winter is almost over and the time is at hand to start preparing our horses for spring so they are ready to hit the trails! During 2015, I worked with *Sara (Kwitek) Ringelman* at DCP, to create a map of the outside-the-park trails. We hope to have it ready when trails open in May. Last fall we started preparing the trails for 2016 with the help of a group of volunteers from UPS. We were able to cut back brush on all the outside trails on the Devil's Chimney Trail. We also managed to reopen the trail on Glenn Reynold's property. Hopefully this spring we will have an easy clean-up depending on how the winter was on our trails. Alyssa Yogerst is nearly finished with the map for the trail obstacles we've been planning. We will begin installing these obstacles in spring 2016. If you are interested in helping please let me know. I will keep you all posted on clean-up dates.

Thanks again to Jean Warrior, who sold over 125 trail passes in 2015, worth more than \$2,200. As you know, these dollars remain in our Donald Park Horse Trail Fund and are used for maintenance and improvements on our near 20 miles of horse trails inside and outside the park. **Be sure to get your 2016 trail passes from Jean!**

Landowner Thank You!

The following landowners generously lease their land for scenic trail riding outside the park. We are deeply grateful for the unique and exceptional riding experiences they make possible for equestrians at Donald Park!

Devil's Chimney Trail

Kathy Cryan & CoCo Chareusse
Mike Edlinger & Marsha Ralston-Edlinger
Deer Creek Sportsman Club
The Garfoot Families – David & Robyn, Duane & Sandy
Bill Haack
Curtis & Debra Herfel
Reinhart Postweiler
Glenn C. Reynolds

Preacher's Cap Trail

Art Sutter
Matt Sutter & Julie Moubry-Sutter

2015 – The Year in Review

Park Events

By Barb Hartman

The Events committee works with local groups and our Friends volunteers to encourage enjoyment of the park, and to host events. The committee also supports educational activities, (see p. 7)

❖ Snowshoe Scurry Races, January 3, 17, 31

The second year of snowshoe races in Dane County Parks, sponsored by Snowshoe Wisconsin, included three races at Donald Park. For the first time, dogs could accompany their people in the races. The bunkhouse (*in the park's Hitchcock farmstead area*), with its cheerful wood burning stove in full operation, kept our volunteers cozy and warm, while participants kept warm navigating the trails as fast as possible on snowshoes. Snowshoe Wisconsin generously donated \$385 to the Friends, in thanks for our help.

❖ Annual Volunteer Dinner, March 21

The Friends' annual tradition of thanking our many volunteers with a dinner and program was again a great success. Held at the Deer Creek Sportsman's Club, 80 volunteers enjoyed camaraderie, good food (thanks once again to Jodi Fowler's Blue Plate Catering), and a wonderful speaker.

Dr. Kent Hall, Professor Emeritus of Biology, UW-Stevens Point, charmed the group with his talk, "Learning to Think Like a Bluebird", illustrated with many beautiful images. Dr. Hall has long been an advisor to the Friends bluebird restoration project.

❖ Donald Dash, May 9

The fourth annual Donald Dash was held on a gorgeous spring day. The competitive trail run saw 143 participants traversing the hilly, challenging 10k course through the park. They were supported by 30 volunteers, who helped with registration, course monitoring and refreshments, and by Mt. Horeb EMS (*thankfully not needed but their presence so appreciated*). The Driftless Sports Club contributed \$2,300 to the Friends, in thanks help with this popular event.

❖ Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll Father's Day Picnic, June 21

This wonderful event of long standing again attracted a crowd. More than 100 Friends, guests and neighbors from nearby Mt. Vernon enjoyed hot dogs, root beer floats, picnic lunches, activities and music by Bluegrass Tea & Company. This site was a long time favorite for picnic outings enjoyed by Park co-founder

Delma Donald Woodburn and her family throughout the 20th century.

❖ Star Gazing, August 15

The weather finally cooperated, allowing more than 70 visitors to view the Perseid Meteor showers, stars, planets, and even the International Space Station passing silently overhead. Madison Astronomical Society members once again shared their telescopes and expertise with the crowd, many of whom arrived early to enjoy a picnic ahead of the event. Pop's Knoll, with its lack of ambient light, is the perfect setting for this kind of activity, which is made even more special thanks to the expertise of Society members.

Snow Shoe Scurry



A Perfect Picnic Spot

2015 – The Year in Review

History Committee The Cabin At Little Spring

By Matt Marty

In 2015, the Friends of Donald Park Board of Directors, with the approval of Dane County Parks, made a decision about how to use the reconstructed pioneer cabin foundation at Little Spring. It wasn't an easy decision but with the help of our "Super Board", which consists of the Friends Board and a group of interested citizens and volunteers, we did it. The plan is a wonderful one.



This project began in 2007, when the Friends received a grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation to pursue an archaeological project on the abandoned pioneer cabin foundation located by Little Spring. Bob Birmingham, retired State of WI Archaeologist, directed the project. It continued with Friends volunteers until 2012. Kirsh Masonry then reconstructed the foundation, with the help of another Mt. Horeb Community Foundation grant. The foundation was then made weatherproof until a decision could be made as to its use.

Beginning in 2013, Matt Marty and his wife Kathy Wiggins spent many hours traveling extensively, looking at possible log cabins that would be appropriate to move to the foundation. None seemed to fit the bill, so we then took a different direction, investigating what it would take to build our own cabin using trees from the park. Nels Diller made a wonderful presentation to our Super Board in February 2015 about how to do this.

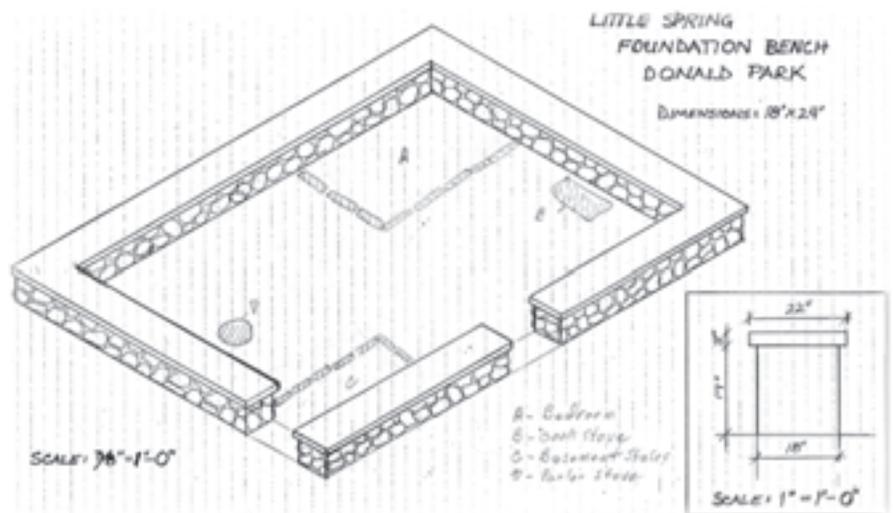
Following more planning, budget development, and a survey prepared by Matt Marty to help the Super Board organize their thinking, we met in May. We discussed options and considered cost, fundraising, security, maintenance and public access. The option which carried the day was to make the foundation into an "Area of Contemplation". (Some people wanted to refer to it as a "council ring", but since it is not round, we could not use that name.)

The "Area of Contemplation" will be created as follows: remove the weatherproof cap and the 23 bales of straw from the foundation; fill in the foundation with gravel; raise the stone foundation walls by two feet to create a sitting wall; put a three-inch limestone cap on top. Openings in the raised wall will indicate known

cabin door openings. We will also create outlines in the flagstone floor of elements we found in the dig: stairs to the basement, parlor and kitchen stoves, bedroom area.

The advantages of the plan are several. First, the foundation is preserved. Should someone want to build a log cabin in the future, the foundation is there. Second, being stone, the wall will not require much maintenance. This also reduces its vulnerability to vandalism. Third, it will be open to the public at all times. Fourth, the cost is only about a third of the cost of a log cabin built entirely by volunteers. Lastly, from this spot, one can see examples of nearly every park feature – a spring, a trout stream, prairies, orchards, hills and woods. Only bluff outcroppings are missing.

We hope to not only get started on this plan in the summer of 2016, but be able to go a long way toward completion.



2015 – The Year in Review

Education and Outreach

By Barb Hartman

❖ Garden Expo 2015, February 12-14, in Madison

The Friends attractive booth at the annual Garden Expo winter event always offers a great opportunity to tell people from Madison and surrounding areas about Donald Park. With all that Donald Park offers, our booth volunteers find it easy to engage visitors and hit upon a topic of interest that is sure to encourage folks to visit the park at a later date.

❖ Display at Mt. Horeb Art Fair, July 18-19

We received an invitation to be part of the Mt. Horeb Area Museum's booth at the Mt. Horeb Art Fair. To go with the Museum's archaeology theme, which included fun "dig" experiences for kids, we created a display about our Cabin at Little Spring archaeology project. Families were excited to learn about real-life archaeology explorations taking place just a short distance from the village.

❖ Mt. Horeb Third Graders, October park visit

Over the course of two bright, colorful but chilly October days, Friends volunteers helped more than 200 Mt. Horeb Third Graders, their teachers and parent chaperones (*100 per day*) explore the park. The children delighted in a variety of activities – the adventure of a hike; the fun of identifying wriggling, odd-looking pond invertebrates; the introspection of poetry writing in the pine woods; the demanding but rewarding work of seed collecting, that required them to plunge deep into the tall-grass prairies. They were pleased to know that the seeds they gathered would help create more prairie plantings in other Dane County Parks.

❖ Social Media

Our website address is donaldpark.org. This site is a good resource for information about upcoming park events and park trails. There are many beautiful photos of the park and opportunities to become involved are identified.

We would like to thank *Amy and Adam Mertz* of Mount Horeb for coming on board in 2015 to help Barb Hartman with website design and maintenance.

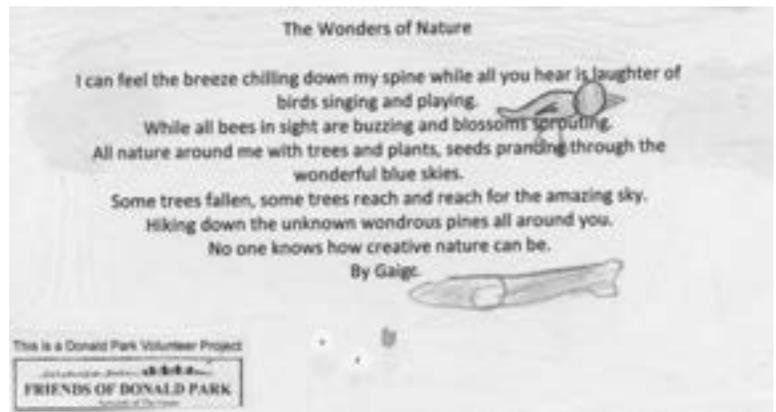
New in 2015, you can now "like" the Friends on Facebook, **@Donald Park, a Dane County Park**. For both website and Facebook, if there is content you would like to see added, please let us know. We would love to share stories from park users so get out your pens and tell us what makes the park special to you. Your thoughts can be sent to: contact@donaldpark.org

❖ Little Lending Library

Overlooking Larson Pond, the Little Lending Library is maintained by *Jeri and Graham Webster*. **A bench in memory of long-time Friends volunteer Jack Borders was placed near the library this year**, to invite visitors to spend time at this site enjoying the vista, with Donald Rock in the distance.



Garden Expo Volunteers



Mount Horeb Art Fair Booth

2015 – The Year in Review

Donations, Grants and Fundraisers

The people and groups listed below gave monetary gifts totaling more than \$5,000.00 in 2015. These gifts, in addition to annual membership dues, are a vital source of support for specific Friends' programs and projects.

Several Friends raise money for the park in special ways. *Jean Warrior* continued her annual sale of Dane County Parks equestrian trail passes, to benefit Donald Park's extensive horse trail system. *Matt Marty* raised money for the Cabin at Little Spring project through the sale of his handsome handcrafted breadboards, and by collecting scrap metal from some of the maintenance projects around the Hitchcock Farmstead, then selling the material at the recycling center in Madison.

The Friends received two grant awards in 2015. The *Dane County Environmental Council* awarded a \$1,555.00 Capital Improvement Grant, to purchase a tiller for use with one of our farm tractors. The tiller was immediately put to use during the summer. (see p. 3). At year's end, the *Mt. Horeb Community Foundation* awarded a \$2,500.00 grant, for use in 2016 to help build a low stone seating wall at the Cabin at Little Spring site (see p. 4).

Conrad & Vickie Anderson	Phillip & Susan Krejci
Jeff & Annette Anderson	Phil & Pat Leavenworth
Jackie Arendt-Hering	Darren & Dawn Marsh
Brian Bigler & Ken Scott	Matt Marty & Kathy Wiggins
Barbara & Jack Borders	Ed Mason & Cindy Kochmann
Patrick & Joan Carey	Lucille McKee
Thom & Sherry Crownhart	Dianne Meyer
Dallas & Judith Doughty	Monona Vet Clinic
Joe & Theresa Drapeau	John Pare'
Driftless Sports Club	Roger & Leslie Parr
Judy Dvorak	Marsha Ralston-Edlinger
Djana & Nevena Dzamonja	Joan Schmidt
Ed & Jeanne Eloranta	Dave Schreiber
Gary & Mary Feldt	Brian Schroeder
John Fochesato	Rob & Pat Schultz
Daniel & Rachel Frye	Marie Seckar
Don & Marilyn Frye	Irv & Judy Steinhauer
Dave & Robyn Garfoot	Chet & Donna Thomas
Steve & Aimee' Gauger	Angela Tramburg
Jacqueline Geimer	Price & Pamela Widen
Kevin & Diana Hanson	Bob & Nan Woodburn
Don & Barb Hartman	Jim Woodburn Jr.
Bobby Koenig	Audrey Zander
Peggy Kratz	

In-Kind Donations

In-kind donations are rather subtle things. They don't appear on the Friends' ledger sheet, in the income column. They don't leap out and stare you in the face, the way a check does when you open the mail. But in-kind donations are every bit as important and helpful to the Friends as direct gifts of money.

Think about it: A volunteer brings their chainsaw from home to clear trails of fallen trees after a storm. They use their own fuel to operate it. The job is done, the cost to the Friends and the wear-and-tear on Friends equipment is nil. How generous and thoughtful is that? Or, a business provides items that the Friends can give to volunteers at the volunteer recognition dinner, enabling the Friends to say "thank you" and make our volunteers feel special. What a great thing!

In 2015, the following individuals brought their own equipment and fuel (including chainsaws, power hand tools, trucks and even scaffolding): *Chuck Abplanalp, Steve Burns, Dave Green, Brad Haley, Matt Marty DuMont Schmidt and Irv Steinhauer.*

In 2015, our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Donald Dash, the Stargazing event, and the Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll picnic benefited from generous donations of food and/or items from the people, organizations and businesses listed below.

We are very grateful for this wonderful support!

Aqua Shine Car Wash	Matt Marty & Kathy Wiggins
Artisan Woods - Guy Gibson	Morningwood Farm Nursery & Greenhouse
Steve Burns	Dominic & Lucia Ledesma
Claws 2 Paws Animal Supply	Movin Shoes
Cluck (The Chicken Store)	Moonhill Mercantile – Mary Jane Ellis
Driftless Sports Club	Mt. Vernon Family Auto – Joe Kutyna
Judy Dvorak	Roger & Leslie Parr
Edelweiss Cheese	Premier Coop
Mary Jane Ellis	Rob & Pat Schultz
EVP Coffee	Sjolinds Chocolate House
Aimee Gauger	World of Variety
Gentle Breeze Honey – Gene & Donna Woller	Sweeney Construction
GU	Chet & Donna Thomas
Cindy Hansen	
Barb & Don Hartman	
Wayne & Shirlene Hefty	



2015 – The Year in Review

Trails and Natural Areas

By Bob Dettwiler

2015 was another productive year for our Tuesday volunteers, as we worked almost 2,000 hours! Some of the usual projects were mowing hiking trails and the Little Spring area, and keeping trails cleared of fallen branches and trees. We removed invasive plants from prairies and also planted a few more acres of new prairie between the Farmstead Vista Knoll and Highway 92.



Last spring we started clearing trees that were growing around Donald Rock. **What a difference this made, now we can actually see the Rock!** In the spring, we concentrated on the south face of the rock, and during the fall and winter we continued removing trees on the north and east sides.



Winter View of Donald Rock

During the summer months, after the purchase of a large tiller (thanks to a grant from Dane County Environmental Council) we spent many days trying to improve the erosion problems on several of the trails. This will continue to be an ongoing project. We worked on opening a trail up to the rock that overlooks Mt. Vernon. We also updated the numbers on all the junction posts throughout the park. They will now coordinate with the new Park maps, which will be out in 2016.

Late last fall we started dismantling some of the buildings around Pat Hitchcock's house. The little chicken coop above the bunkhouse is totally gone, and the old building between Pat's house and the bunkhouse is gone except for the concrete floor and some of the foundation. In 2016, we will dismantle the old brown cabin east of Pat's house.

Thanks once again to all of the dedicated Tuesday Volunteers who keep our Park up and running, safe and beautiful!



Tuesday Crew on Erosion Control

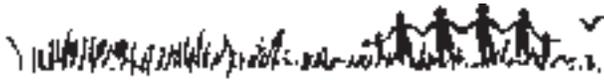


Dismantling Project



Father's Day Picnic





Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

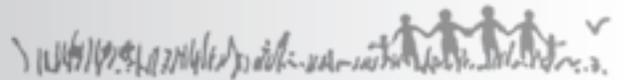
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Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



2015 Friends of Donald Park Board Of Directors

President: Roger Parr
Vice President: Dominic Ledesma
Secretary: Pat Schultz
Treasurer: Vickie Peterson
Directors: Judy Dvorak
Matt Marty
Donna Thomas

Recording Secretary: Barb Hartman – Non Board member

Donald Park Administrative Assistant: Barb Hartman

Web support: Barb Hartman

Annual Report Editors: Donna Thomas and Judy Dvorak

Graphic Design: Judy Dvorak

Photography Credits: Chuck Abplanalp, Jeff Durbin,
Dave Green, Don Hartman and Donna Thomas

Poetry Credits: Mt. Horeb Third Graders

THANK YOU, Dane County Parks

Dane County Parks has created an exceptional park system that significantly contributes to the quality of life of people throughout our region. Our Friends organization is deeply grateful for the caring support and direction that we receive from DCP's dedicated staff members.

Dane County Parks Staff

Darren Marsh, Director
Rhea Stangel-Maier, Parks Volunteer Coordinator
Wayne Pauly, Naturalist
Dick Black, Operations Manager
Brian Berkan, Park Ranger
Chris James, Park Planner
Sara (Kwitek) Ringelman, Acquisition & Planning Specialist
Erika Hotchkiss, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator



See us on the web at: www.donaldpark.org

Email us: contact@donaldpark.org