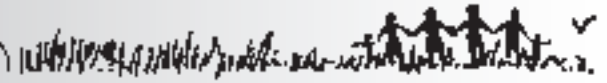


# PARK VIEWS



A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

## *Friends of Donald Park Annual Review 2016*

### Message From Friends' President - Roger Parr

#### March 2017

This early warm weather has us all thinking of spring and getting outside. Now we just need the mud to dry up! At Donald Park, we've been looking back at 2016 while also thinking about the coming season.

We have a lot of projects that took great strides forward in 2016 that we hope to bring to a close this year. In December 2016, Matt Marty and the cabin volunteers received a grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation to put the finishing touches on the cabin foundation, with paving stones and plans for landscaping. I hope everyone takes the time to view the site and see the hard work they've done!

Donna Thomas and the interpretative committee have been installing panels at several sites within the park, giving everyone a chance to see into Donald County Park's history. If you've been online looking for us lately, you've noticed we've been remodeling our website. It will be up and running again soon, but don't forget you can "Like Us" on Facebook to stay informed about the park and also help us get the word out about Donald Park. Go to "Donald Park of Dane County, WI" to find us.

In fall 2016, we started working with the County about what to do with the area around Pat Hitchcock's homestead. Together, we decided to keep this area as a

"Friends" area for now, so we have a place from which to run our operations and programs. The old farmhouse could not be saved, so the County made plans to level it and grade the site. We also had meetings with engineers regarding the dairy barn, to make sure of its structure and soundness.

I'm reluctant to begin talking about Bob Dettweiler and his Tuesday volunteers because I would need to cut down an entire forest to have enough paper to list the things this nonstop crew completes for the park. All I can say is, I don't know where we'd be without them!!

At the end of 2016, we learned we would be receiving a generous gift from the James Woodburn, Jr. family to the Friends endowment fund, which will be used to help fund Friends activities and help us provide educational programs far into the future. We are grateful to the Woodburn family for their continued support of the Friends and Donald County Park.

If you, too, would be interested in helping provide support for the Friends into the future, we have many uses for your donations. Please contact us to discuss making a gift. We would also love to see more volunteers help by providing their time and ideas to one of the Friends' many committees. Help us shape Donald Park's future!



#### **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.

# 2016 – The Year in Review

## The Friends in 2016

The Friends ended the 2016 year with 96 members and in good financial shape. The ending balance of our endowment fund at Madison Community Foundation was \$69,036.33. **Administrative Assistant Barb Hartman** (a Dane County Parks employee) provided invaluable support through public communications, volunteer program coordination and assistance to the Board and committees. The Friends continued to pay a portion of her salary. The annual meeting of the Friends was held on January 19, 2016.

## Trails and Natural Areas

**Bob Dettwiler** continued to lead our very enthusiastic, talented Tuesday volunteers in the varied work of park maintenance and care of the natural areas. Besides the usual work of mowing trails, clearing downed trees and repairing trail damage (*made easier with the help of a new tiller, purchased through a grant from the Dane County Environmental Council*), the volunteers participated in spring prairie burns, removed or renovated old structures at Hitchcock Farmstead, and installed interpretive elements, including 14 new trail junction signs. **Matt Marty** raised hundreds of dollars by salvaging materials from the Hitchcock farmhouse, in advance of demolition in 2017. In fall, volunteers cleaned seeds at DCP facilities in Madison.

Of the park's 32 bluebird boxes, bluebirds occupied 28 in 2016. Wrens and tree swallows shared the rest. Bluebirds laid 146 eggs but a much smaller number – just 99 – hatched. Altogether, 96 bluebirds fledged, along with 25 tree swallows and 13 wrens. Our bluebird restoration project volunteers, led by **Ray Glew**, do a great job of monitoring nest boxes each year!



## Thank You Donors!

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and groups who gave monetary gifts in 2016!

Conrad & Vickie Anderson	MACF
Jeff & Annette Anderson	Phil & Pat Leavenworth
Jackie Arendt-Hering	Dennis & Yvonne Lindl
Brian Bigler & Ken Scott	Matt Marty & Kathy Wiggins
Bob & Jean Breslow	Liz McBride
Patrick & Joan Carey	Jeff & Mary Margenau
Marsha Cooper	Ed Mason & Cindy Koschmann
County of Dane	Lucille McKee
CoCo Chaussee & Kathy Cryan	Dianne Meyer
Thom & Sherry Crownhart	Monona Veterinary Clinic
Jean Dorshorst-Kaminski	Mount Horeb Third Graders
Dallas Doughty	Heather Northrup
Joe & Theresa Drapeau	John Pare'
Driftless Sports Club	Roger & Leslie Parr
Judy Dvorak	Krishna & Bishnu Pradhan
Dijana & Nevena Dzamonja	Alan Pratt & Lynn Paron
Mike Edlinger & Marsha Ralston-Edlinger	Robert & Kristi Ramsey
Ed & Jeanne Eloranta	Jerald & Yvonne Remy
Gary & Mary Feldt	Terrance & Linda Schmitt
Aldeen Fjelstad	Joan Schmidt
John Fochesato	Eric & Maggie Schnarr
Jo and LeRoy Frietag	Dave Schreiber & Linda Ramczyk
Daniel & Rachel Frye	Brian Schroeder
Don & Marilyn Frye	Rob & Pat Schultz
Steve & Aimee' Gauger	Thomas & Gail Seasor
Jacqueline Geimer	John Shaw & Jennifer Sievert
Dianne Geissal	Town of Montrose
Robert & Denise Gevelinger	Marie Seckar
Lee & Katie Haag	Myron & Carol Solid
Kevin & Diana Hanson	Joseph & Iwalani Sowa
Don & Barb Hartman	Glenn & Mary Spaay
Ron Hay	Rhea Stangel-Maier
Todd & Nancy Hefty	Irv & Judy Steinhauer
Adam & Barbara Hogan	Sweeney Construction Corp
Kerry & Cynthia Hubanks	Chet & Donna Thomas
Dick & Rene Johnson	Robert & Angela Tramburg
Ben & Deborah Kahl	Ann Walser
KEE Architecture, Inc.	Jean Warrior
Peggy Kratz	Price & Pamela Widen
Phillip & Susan Krejci	Wisconsin Arabian Horse Assn.
Jim Lesniak & Shelly Armstrong	Bob & Nan Woodburn
	Audrey Zander

Thank you also to those who donated In Kind gifts!

Chuck Alplanalp	Matt Marty
Judy Dvorak	Vicki Spellman & Twin Valley 4-H Club
Brad Haley	DuMont Schmidt
Mike Healy	Gene & Donna Woller
Kathy Lord	

*“We can do this!”*

*Pat Hitchcock, Donald County Park Co-Founder*

# 2016 – The Year in Review

## Education and Outreach

The Friends hosted a busy, well-attended booth at Garden Expo in Madison in February. ♦Our Facebook page, Donald Park of Dane County, WI, is receiving lots of attention, with frequent postings and many photographs. ♦The Friends' website underwent revision at the end of the year – look for improved information and links in 2017.

**At the park:** Eight new interpretive panels were installed at Pop's Knoll, Big Spring and Larson Pond. Beautiful new park maps and interpretive program information, including a new trails brochure, were placed in the kiosks at Pop's Knoll and Hwy G. ♦**Thanks to Cub Scout Troup 62** for their excellent help collecting seeds last fall!



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

*Delma Donald Woodburn, Donald County Park Co-Founder*

# 2016 – The Year in Review

## Thanks to Our Great Volunteers!!

**We are grateful to those who give of their time to make Donald Park the great County park that it is!**

In 2016, volunteers contributed 3,947 hours. If we had to hire personnel to do this work, it would cost more than \$255,564.25. *Special thanks to Michelle Campbell, who spends many hours compiling this data!*

Chuck Abplanalp	Janelle Holstrom
Richard Althouse & Jean Warrior	Sharon Hughes
Vicki Anderson	Julie Jerdee
Jackie Arendt-Hering	Phil & Carolyn Johnson
Gina Barden	Jim Keip
Jim Benson	Marie Klar
Bob Birmingham	Phil Leavenworth
Barbara Borders	Dominic Ledesma
Ken Bradbury & Keri Sherman	Jim Lesniak
Bob & Jean Breslow	Kathy Lord
Steve Burns	Gerhard Luetschwager
Michelle Campbell	Matt Marty & Kathy Wiggins
CoCo Chaussee & Kathy Cryan	Mary Ruth Marks
Nina Cheney	Liz McBride
Marion Clark	Amy Mertz
Dan & Mary Lou Clayton	Cheryl Miller
Mike Coffey	Roger & Leslie Parr
Marsha Cooper	Vickie Peterson
Thom & Sherry Crownhart	Peter Putz
Bob & Judy Dettwiler	Marsha Ralston-Edlinger
Frank & Leigh Dierking	Bob & Kristi Ramsey
Jeff Durbin	Shea Rettler
Judy Dvorak	Jonathan Rooney
Susan Eisele	Erica Ruppert
Ray & Mary Ellenberger	Gwen Ruppert
Jeanne Eloranta	Russel Sacia
Larry Fass	Dumont & Barbara Schmidt
Mary Feldt	David Schreiber & Linda Ramczyk
John Fochesato	Rob & Pat Schultz
Joy Follendorf	Marie Seckar
Jeanne Foster	John Shaw
Dave & Robyn Garfoot	Jennifer Sievert
Steve & Aimee' Gauger	Tabitha Smith
Don Gay	Jen Soderholm
Dianne Geissal	Glen & Mary Spaay
Rob & Denise Gevelinger	Irv Steinhauer
Marsha Gibson	Matt Sutter
Ray Glew	Tim & Linda Sweeney
David Green	Chet & Donna Thomas
Bill Haack	Kolby, Mac, Calton Thomas
Lee & Katie Haag	Gail Van Haren
Brad Haley	Sue Walser
Don & Barb Hartman	Barb Waters
Mike Healy	Tim White
Wayne Hefty	Kris & Terry Wolf
Kim Hegstrom	Gene Woller
Dean & Cathy Helgeson	Bob & Nan Woodburn
Barbara Hogan	Allyssa Yogerst
	Christine Zeltner

◆Cub Scout Troop 62     ◆Hegstrom Crew

◆Sugar River Horsin' Around Club



# 2016 – The Year in Review

## Special Events

Part way through the year, **Barb and Don Hartman** took on the responsibility of organizing our special events. **Vickie Peterson** held this position previously, working hard to establish events that now are anticipated and enjoyed by hundreds of people.

### Public Events

- \* In January, **Snowshoe Wisconsin** joined with the Friends to hold two **Snowshoe Scurry** races over the park's hilly terrain.
- \* The Friends once again partnered with the **Driftless Sports Club** to hold the **Donald Dash 10K** trail run in May, with 137 runners taking part. The club generously donated all proceeds to the Friends to support trail care.
- \* Our annual old-fashioned Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll **Father's Day Picnic** in June attracted 100 people who enjoyed picnic lunches, root beer floats and the music of Bluegrass TeA & Company.
- \* In August, Bill Lunney and Judie Pfiefer from the DCP Endowment Committee showcased Donald Park through a **Healthy Parks Tour** that helped the public explore our County Parks. Friends volunteers helped lead 30 visitors on a hike to prairies, water features and the Cabin at Little Spring.

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Seventy-five people attended this year's dinner in March, to enjoy speaker Thomas Elliott's talk and stunning photographs of rare and beautiful butterflies and moths that are found at the park. The evening's events included a tasty dinner and door prizes for our wonderful, hardworking volunteers.



## Horse Trails

Heavy rains closed equestrian trails several times during the season but the trails – both multi-use inside the park and equestrian-only trails that cross private lands to the north and south of the park – nevertheless saw regular use by equestrians from around SW Wisconsin, May 1 through October 31. ♦**Jean Warrior** once again did a heroic job selling trail passes; \$2,315 went to the Friends as a result of her dedicated efforts! ♦We planned out the obstacle course and developed a brochure. The course opening is anticipated for 2017. ♦We worked with DCP to put final touches on equestrian trail maps, which will be available in 2017. ♦Each spring, volunteers – the key to this wonderful trail system's success – participate in an annual trail clean-up day; look for another spring clean-up event early in 2017. ♦**Thanks to Roger Parr** for his leadership in overseeing care of these trails including mowing the nearly 20 miles of trails outside the park.

### 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.

#### *Devil's Chimney Trail*

Kathy Cryan & CoCo Chaussee  
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





**Friends of Donald Park, Inc.**

PO Box 235

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

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## Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



### 2016 Friends of Donald Park Board Of Directors

**President:** Roger Parr  
**Vice President:** Dominic Ledesma  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Donna Thomas  
**Directors:** Don Hartman  
Matt Marty  
Kristi Ramsey  
**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:** Dave Green, Don Hartman, Dominick Ledesma, Matt Marty, Roger Parr, David Schreiber and Donna Thomas

### 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 and Lars Higdon, Naturalists  
Dick Black, Operations Manager  
Brian Berkan, Park Ranger  
Chris James, Park Planner  
Sara Ringelman, Acquisition & Planning Specialist  
Erika Hotchkiss, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

*See us on the web at: [www.donaldpark.org](http://www.donaldpark.org)  
Email us: [contact@donaldpark.org](mailto:contact@donaldpark.org)*



Donald Park of Dane County, WI