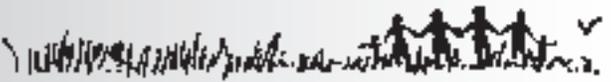


# PARK VIEWS



A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

Fall/Winter 2016

## What's Happening at Donald Park?

### Park Happenings, Spring Thru Fall

By Barb Hartman

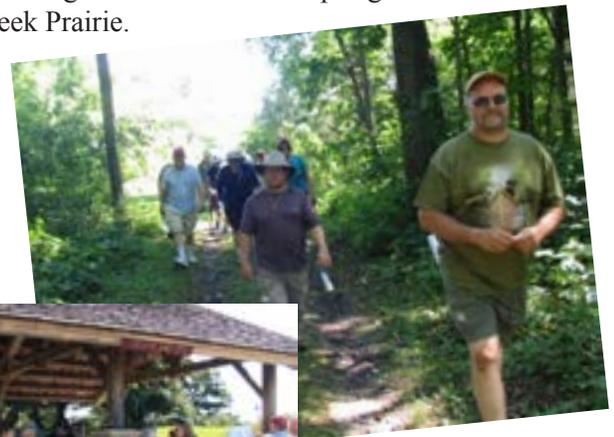
❁ Father's Day at Donald Park has become a tradition with the **Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll annual picnic**. Families come year after year to enjoy the relaxing tunes from the blue grass band that soothe the crowd on a lazy Sunday afternoon. The old fashion treats of root beer floats and hot dogs bring back many memories of years gone by. This year, Bluegrass TeA & Company performed on June 19th for 100 folks.



Bluegrass TeA & Company entertain picnic guests



❁ On August 6th, one of the first **Healthy Parks Tours** of 2016 visited Donald Park. These tours, sponsored by the Dane County Parks Endowment Committee, encourage healthy lifestyles using some of the most beautiful Dane County parks to highlight the role of our parks in promoting advancing physical and mental health. Tour leaders *Bill Lunney* and *Judie Pfeifer* from the Endowment Committee, along with Friends volunteers, introduced 30 visitors to several areas of the park, including the Cabin at Little Spring and Deer Creek Prairie.



Healthy Parks Tour visitors enjoying our park!

❁ **Fifteen scouts from Mt. Horeb's Pack 62**, their siblings, parents and grandparents came to the park on October 15th for several activities, including **prairie seed collecting**. Led by Friends volunteers, the group enthusiastically plunged into the prairie, thrilled by the experience of having the tall grasses and dried forbs (*flowering plants*) well above their heads. They were amazed to realize how much seed they were able to collect in a short while – a wonderful contribution to prairie restoration in Dane County parks. *Photo on next page.*

#### 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.



## Around the Park: Updates

- ❁ Posts are in place in several places to mark sites for the Equestrian Obstacles Course – map and information about this fun challenge will be available when trails open, May 1, 2017.
- ❁ A stone seating wall was completed in summer at the Cabin at Little Spring site. The wall is formed by the upper part of the basement foundation. Art Kirsch did the stonework; a grant from Mt. Horeb Community Foundation helped fund the project.



Visitors admire the seating wall

- ❁ The Mt. Horeb Community Foundation generously awarded the Friends \$2,500.00 to complete a stone skirt around the Cabin at Little Spring foundation and seating wall, to be installed in 2017.
- ❁ Our wonderful Tuesday volunteers removed trees on a steep hillside (*a daunting task!*) to open a view of Mt. Vernon from the Mt. Vernon Overlook Hiking Trail, on the east side of the park. Check it out!
- ❁ A new park trails brochure is now available at kiosks. It includes a detailed park map, and highlights places of interest throughout the park. Brochure funded by the Dane County Environmental Council.

- ❁ The Friends website was taken down for revamping by our new webmasters. It should be back up by year's end.
- ❁ New trail junction maps were installed by Bob Dettwiler on 14 trail junction markers throughout the park. These maps are funded through the Friends Interpretive Program. Let us know if you feel it would be helpful to have maps at additional junctions.



### Six easy ways to help promote Donald Park through Facebook!

- ❖ Encourage friends and family to “like” our page
- ❖ “Check in” when you visit the park
- ❖ Help spread the news about park events
- ❖ Take photos during your visit and tag Donald Park of Dane County, WI
- ❖ Post your sightings of DP’s flora and fauna
- ❖ Keep an eye out for opportunities to volunteer



Tuesday Group Volunteer Coordinator Bob Dettwiler adds the new map and park information to the kiosk at the Pop's Knoll Entrance.

### AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

#### Please Consider a Year-End Gift to the Friends.

Your gift, in any amount, helps us continue park maintenance and program development. You may designate a specific area to support – hiking trails, horse trails, landscape restoration, history/archaeology, endowment, education/interpretation – or simply request the donation be used where needed. Thank You!

## Transitions

**This year**, we said goodbye to a number of friends who have meant a great deal to our organization. They will be greatly missed.

**Jim Woodburn, Sr.:** Eldest son of park co-founder Delma Donald Woodburn; involved with making the family's initial donation of land for the park in 1993. His support included gifts to the Friends endowment fund to grow the fund significantly.

**Merry Ross:** Among the projects she undertook during her time on the Friends board was coordination of the Interpretive Program, guiding it with care into Phase II.

**Phil Johnson:** Educator and enthusiastic member of the Tuesday Group; his many photographs documented events and parklands throughout the seasons.

**Shirlene Hefty:** Steadfast member and generous supporter of Friends activities.

**David Schreiber:** Past President of the Friends who led us in planning important initiatives, providing steady, unifying guidance to bring together diverse points of view.

*"The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it." William James*

Above quote from Dave Schreiber's 2008 Message from the President

We also bid farewell to **the old farmhouse on the Rockview Farm**, directly across Highway 92 from Pop's Knoll, which had to be demolished. The farm belonged to the Donald family for many years and thus figured indirectly in the park's history. Delma's father, John Sweet Donald, had the farmhouse constructed in the early 20th century. Its simple form, situated at the foot of Donald Rock, was one of several structures along Highway 92 that embodied the valley's agricultural heritage.

### SAVE THESE DATES

#### ❖ Friends of Donald Park Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Additional information will be mailed to current members in December

#### ❖ Friends Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, March 18, 2017

5:30 – 9:00 pm

## Did You Know...

By Donna Thomas

Little Spring and Big Spring are not Donald Park's only examples of the typical cold-water springs found throughout the Driftless Area. Another fine spring is situated north of Highway 92, a short distance east of the multiuse trail. If you study the large park map in the kiosk at Pop's Knoll, you will see how the water from this spring flow south under Highway 92, then join Fryes Feeder on its way to meet Deer Creek.



Young Visitor contemplates the spring

## Horse Trail Report

By Alyssa Yogerst

Fans of the Donald Park equestrian trails know that trail riding is America's fastest growing equestrian discipline. Adding obstacles to your trail ride can develop the technical skills, bravery and adaptability of any equine breed, enhance communication and equitation skills of riders at all levels, and at the end of the day, fine-tune the human-equine partnership we all enjoy. We are pleased to announce that a set of trail obstacles will be available when the trails re-open, spring 2017!

For now, we suggest that you Google "*equestrian trail obstacles*" for ideas, then use the winter months to practice some technical maneuvering! Here are a few of the obstacles you'll find at the park: ★ the "labyrinth", a 3-foot-wide zig-zag of ground poles (*to be tackled at the walk, trot or even backing!*), ★ gait change markers (*go from walk to trot and back, or from walk to lope and back*), ★ mount/dismount, ★ sidepassing, ★ walking through deadfall, ★ 60-degree turn box, ★ mailbox, and ★ a gate.

More details will be included in our spring newsletter and also on the Friends website. A brochure with suggestions for how to compete each obstacle and a map of obstacle locations will also be available.

**Over the winter and spring, watch for upcoming volunteer workdays to construct and place the obstacles so we're all ready to hit the trails on May 1!**

## Bluebird Update

By Ray Glew



We have 32 bluebird boxes at Donald Park. Six of them were put together by Girl Scout troupes in the Mt Horeb area.

This year, 28 boxes were used by bluebirds. Wrens and tree swallows shared the rest. One hundred forty-six bluebird eggs were laid but only 99 hatched; 96 fledged. Twenty-five tree swallows and 13 wrens also fledged. Again, an interesting year with all the bluebird eggs that did not hatch.

❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** *December 20th is the deadline for nominations for 2017 Friends Board members. For details email us at: [contact@donaldpark.org](mailto:contact@donaldpark.org)*



## 2017 Equestrian Trail Passes

**Get "a leg up" on next year's riding season and order your 2016 trail passes now!**

100% of the funds from passes sold by the Friends stay at Donald Park to help maintain and enhance our wonderful trails. Passes are \$20 (*\$12 for seniors 65+*).

To order, mail your check, payable to Friends of Donald Park, to: Jean Warrior, 548 Linden Street, Verona, WI 53593. Or...call (609) 770-3961.

**Trail passes make excellent holiday gifts for the trail riders on your list!!**

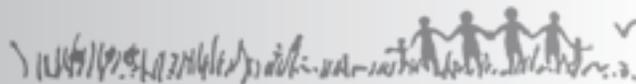


*"There is strength in the hills and peace in the valleys."*

*Delma Donald Woodburn*

## Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



### 2016 Donald Park Board

<b>President:</b>	Roger Parr
<b>Vice President:</b>	Dominic Ledesma
<b>Secretary/Treasurer:</b>	Donna Thomas
<b>Directors:</b>	Don Hartman Matt Marty Kristi Ramsey
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Barb Hartman - Non Board member

**Donald Park Administrative Assistant:** Barb Hartman

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF:

**Editors:** Judy Dvorak and Donna Thomas

**Graphic Design:** Judy Dvorak

**THANK YOU to the following for their photographs for this newsletter:** Don Hartman and Donna Thomas

### Calendar of Events

**Horse trail volunteer workdays: Several Saturdays during the season. Call Roger Parr: 832-4410.**

**Archaeological activities:** Call Matt Marty: 249-5898

**Natural areas restoration volunteer workdays:** Every Tuesday 8:30am - Noon, some weekends as needed. Call Barb Hartman: 437-5210 to confirm.

**Third Tuesday, every month:** Board of Directors meetings, open to the public. Usually held at Springdale Town Hall. Call Barb Hartman: 437-5210 to confirm.

**Tuesday, January 17: Friends Annual Meeting,** 7:00 pm. (Details will be mailed to Friends members.)

**Saturday, February 4: Snowshoe Scurry Race** – fun for the entire family, including the dog! Information/registration at: [snowshoewi.com](http://snowshoewi.com). **Friends receive discount!**

**Friday-Sunday, February 10-12: Garden Expo,** Alliant Center, Madison. Friends will share booth with Dane County Parks.

**Saturday, March 18: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner,** 5:00-9:00 pm, Mt. Vernon. Speaker: Ken Bradbury, WI State Geologist