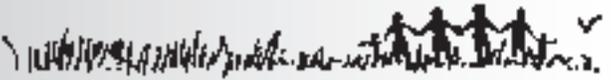


# PARK VIEWS



A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

Spring/Summer 2016

## What's Happening at Donald Park?



### Bring Your Pop To Pop's Knoll

**Father's Day - Sunday, June 19**

**Pop's Knoll \* 11:00am - 2:00pm**

#### A Special Family Outdoor Day

The Friends of Donald Park invite you to join us for our Annual Father's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 19th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Bring dad, your family, friends and a picnic lunch – or grill out! **Don't forget your camera!**

- \* Fun filled activities & entertainment for all ages
- \* Music by **Bluegrass Tea & Company**
- \* Self-guided hiking tours
- \* Horse painting and other kids' activities
- \* Bring kites to fly
- \* **And as usual, hot dogs and root beer floats will be available for purchase.**

Donald Park is located between Mt. Horeb and Mt. Vernon on Highway 92. Enter at the Pop's Knoll entrance. For more information, visit [www.donaldpark.org](http://www.donaldpark.org) or email, [contact@donaldpark.org](mailto:contact@donaldpark.org).



Bluegrass Tea & Company

### 2016 Country Garden Stroll Sunday June 26 - 2:00-4:00pm

**A unique fundraising opportunity for Donald Park's Cabin at Little Spring Project!!** The Friends Board has been notified that this year's Country Garden Stroll will donate a portion of their fundraising dollars in support of our cabin project. Below is a history and description of this event and we hope that Friends members, will choose to get involved in whatever way is possible. Contributions of Silent Auction items or homemade pies, or by simply attending, enjoying and bidding on auction items will all benefit our Park.

For the past seven years Marsha Ralston-Edlinger and her husband Mike Edlinger have sponsored a "Country Garden Stroll," at their beautiful Single Oak Farm. The purpose of the Garden Stroll is to raise money in support of area organizations and/or individuals. Organizations receiving support in the past include: local food pantries, The Horse Spirit Society, Dane County Humane Society, Mt. Horeb and Mazomanie Habitat Builds, Relief for Haiti Earthquake Victims, and last year, Savannah Grindle who has been battling cancer since 2014. **This year's event will support Donald Park's Little Spring Cabin restoration project and local food pantries.**

The Garden Stroll provides a unique opportunity to stroll through the lush gardens, follow the path through Marsha's prairie, wander about the farm and observe the many animals – horses, cows with their calves, pigs and chickens who reside on this lovely farm. In addition there is live music for



#### 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.

your entertainment, homemade goodies to sample and beverages to enjoy.

During the afternoon you will have time to bid on numerous silent auction items, some hand made by local artists, others donated by area businesses. ***The exciting culmination of the afternoon is the Pie Auction!*** Marsha, known for her cooking and baking talents, contributes several pies. Pies are also donated by local homemakers.

Be sure to mark your calendars, we hope to see you there! *Contact Barb Hartman, 437-5210* for details and contact information for donating auction items.

## Donald Park In the Digital Age

*By Dominic Ledesma*

Social media is an exciting new dimension to expanding the reach of Donald Park.

Over the last decade, social media has changed the way people communicate, helping people who are living very different lives in very different places remain instantly connected. Business and organizations have recognized FB as a powerful tool and are using social media as a strategy to promote, market, and communicate across a broader public audience. In some cases, businesses have even skipped a traditional website and exclusively use Facebook.

The FoDP Board developed an official Donald Park FB page about a year ago. Board members were given administrator status and were encouraged to suggest that their FB friends like the park, to create a following. Board members also use the FB page to connect with the FB pages of others, including local photographers, other county parks and friend groups, and other affinity groups like The Driftless Angler and Horse Trails & Camping Across America (HTCAA). Finally, the Board recognized that purchasing marketing products offered by FB would be a cost-effective way to boost traffic to our page. These steps are creating a buzz among park visitors and other stakeholders already using Facebook. For example, passing along the word about the Donald Park FB page over the past 3 months took us from 7 likes to 96 likes, a number that continues to increase steadily.

As we move forward with promotion of the park using FB, the Board will continue to post information, photos, and videos related to our feature events. However, the Board will need help from friends and other park users to share the beauty of Donald Park. Here are some things you can do to help us promote the park using social media.

First, please search for and like our official FB page: "Donald Park of Dane County, WI." Then, invite your friends and affinity circles to like our page. If you caught a glimpse of someone you know on the photos posted, feel free to "tag" them on the photo so they can visit our page. Lastly, the next time you are at Donald Park, do not forget to "check in" using FB and post a picture. We love to see others enjoying the park.

Social media is an exciting new dimension to expanding the reach of our park and all that it has to offer the public. Thank you for considering ways to help us share it with a broader audience!

## Garden Expo 2016

In February, our booth at Garden Expo was always busy! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped spread the word about our park!



## Annual Volunteer Dinner

During our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on March 19, *speaker Thomas Elliott* shared his passion for photography and some of the beautiful images of butterflies and moths that he has photographed at Donald Park. The 75 volunteers in attendance were proud to learn that their hard work is increasing habitat for many unique, often threatened or endangered species.



## First Set Of Interpretive Signs Installed

Bob Dettwiler and Matt Marty worked hard in April to install eight interpretive signs around the park. **Check them out at your next visit** – there are four at Pop’s Knoll, two at Larson Pond and two at Big Spring.



**Bob and Matt hard at work.**

At Pop’s Knoll, four panels honor the park founders, Delma Donald Woodburn and Pat Hitchcock, and talk about the land in which the park is situated. The first two panels to greet visitors leaving the parking lot are *\*Donald County Park lies in the Driftless Area*, and *\*Donald Rock: centuries-old travelers’ landmark*. *\*Donald County Park – the dream of two visionary women* is situated near Delma’s shelter. Adjacent to the trailhead leading into the park, beneath lovely overarching oaks, *\*Oak Savannas once covered this area* suggests how the land looked like at the time of settlement in the mid-19th century.

Travel around the park and you’ll find two more sets of panels. At Larson Pond, *\*Donald County Park is home for bluebirds* and *\*Prairie landscapes require human involvement* talk about two important park features – our bluebird trail and our extensive prairies – and honor the dedicated work of the volunteers who have made these things possible. At Big Spring, *\*Big Spring: part of an important natural system* tells about the importance of this natural feature to the surrounding watershed, while *\*Big Spring: an integral part of area life* discusses how people through the ages have been drawn to the site.



**Much to be learned from the interpretive panels.**

## 5th Annual Donald Dash

May 7 was a chilly but beautiful spring morning for the 137 runners from around Wisconsin and Duluth, MN who participated in the 5th annual Donald Dash, sponsored by Driftless Sports Club and Friends of Donald Park.

**Special thanks to:** *race directors, Leigh & Frank Di-erking, all of the volunteers and Mt. Horeb EMS* who helped make the event run smoothly.

The following businesses sponsored the event: ☆ EVP Coffee, ☆ Gentle Breeze Honey, ☆ GU, ☆ Madison PT & Consulting, ☆ Morningwood Farm Nursery and Green Houses, ☆ Movin Shoes, ☆ RADD OG, ☆ SPORTea, and ☆ Sweeney Construction.



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



**Thanks again this year to Jean Warrior**, who has sold over 84 trail passes amounting to more than \$1,819 that will stay at Donald Park for horse trail maintenance. Jeans sales are doing so well in part because **you, the users**, spread the word to order your passes from her. **We thank you for that!**



# Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



## 2016 Donald Park Board

**President:** Roger Parr  
**Vice President:** Dominic Ledesma  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Donna Thomas:  
**Directors:** Don Hartman  
 Matt Marty  
**Recording Secretary:** 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, Chet Thomas, Donna Thomas

## Calendar of Events

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

**Historic cabin activities:** Call Matt Marty: 249-5898

**Natural areas restoration volunteer workdays:** Every Tuesday 8:30am - Noon. Call Barb: 437-5210.

**Third Tuesdays every month:** Board of Directors meetings, open to the public. Call Barb to confirm location & time: 437-5210.

**Sunday, June 19: “Bring Your Pop To Pop’s Knoll” Annual Father’s Day Event.** 11:00am - 2:00pm. See front page.

**Sunday, June 26: 8th Annual Single Oak Farm “Country Garden Stroll”.** Beautiful gardens, art and flowers, pie auction and silent auction. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Donald Park Cabin at Little Spring Project. See front page.

**August 6: Healthy Parks Walking Tour,** sponsored by Friends of Dane County Parks. 10:am - noon. Meet at Pop’s Knoll.

**Saturday, August 13: Stargazing Event with Madison Astronomical Society.** 8:00 pm - Pop’s Knoll. Rain date August 26 or 27. Contact Barb for further details: 437-5210 or [contact@donaldpark.org](mailto:contact@donaldpark.org)

**October 31:** Equestrian trails close for the season in all Dane County Parks.