

PARKVIEWS

A Publication of The Friends of Donald Park, Inc.

Published Winter 2020

FRIENDS OF DONALD PARK - ANNUAL REVIEW 2019



Christmas '19—No snow but wonderful view and guests



New Project



New Event

Celebrating Our Accomplishments in 2019!

Together with our amazing members and volunteers, our generous donors and sponsors, our community partners and dedicated Dane County Parks staff members, the Friends worked hard to make 2019 an exceptional year of accomplishments.

Please turn the page to learn more about how we helped Donald County Park grow as a premier destination for quiet outdoor activities, fun educational experiences and memorable times in the natural world.



New Equipment

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Donald Park, Inc. promotes and supports the development and passive use of Donald County 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.

Message From Friends' President Roger Parr

Another year has come and gone at Donald County Park, and thanks to all our wonderful volunteers its still one of the nicest parks in the county system!

With the amount of rain in 2019, the park had some challenges we've not encountered before. The park had areas of standing water most of the summer, trails washing out multiple times, and a non-stop supply of moisture that allowed the grass to grow on a seemingly nonstop cycle. Luckily for Donald Park we've got a dedicated group of volunteers who tackled all these new challenges like a walk in the park! Volunteers were able to divert much of the water near the fisherman's lot into Deer Creek with some drain tile, and with the purchase of a new walk-behind brush hog mower they not only maintained trails, they were able to open up some new areas for the rest of us to enjoy. I'm not sure what Donald Park would do without our Tuesday group and hopefully we'll never need to find out.

This past year Donald Park featured some events that were very well attended. The Donald Dash has become a not-to-miss run for those who want a challenging day of exercise, while the Maple Syrup event is a great choice for the rest of us non-exercise inclined! Donald Park also was home to a horse and rider rescue training seminar for Verona and Mt. Horeb fire departments. I'm very happy to see Donald Park being a partner in the community and a place people continue to view as a local resource. I feel Pat would be proud of what Donald Park has become!

If you've been out walking on the ridge above the Hitchcock farmstead you've noticed some work happening up there. The Friends are partnering with



Dane County Parks and Adaptive Restorations on a Savanna Restoration project to clear out the fence lines and provide better habitat for song birds and natural grasslands. Once this project is completed, there will be more areas to the west for us to expand multi-use trails into, allowing exploration of some additional park areas.

We've also partnered with Adaptive Restorations on conducting a Forestry Management Plan. This survey will give us a view of what resources the park has and will provide recommendations on how to preserve and expand Donald Park into the future, including where it would be wise to harvest some trees to allow for younger growth to expand. Harvesting could also provide a source of funding for future preservation projects. This management survey is a large undertaking that will take much of 2020 to complete. We plan to present it to the Friends at our 2021 volunteer party. I look forward to its completion and the view of Donald Park it will provide us.

But that's for next year's party---right now I'm ready for this March's party! We have a speaker lined up who will provide more knowledge on Monarch butterflies than you thought existed! I hope to see many of you there enjoying the food and company of others who care about Donald Park's future. Thanks for all you do!

Special Thanks

We are pleased to recognize the following individuals for leadership of our volunteer teams:

- Kyla Charles and Jenn Tzeng — social media
- Bob Dettwiler — trails/natural areas
- Ray Glew — bluebird trails
- Barb and Don Hartman — events and outreach
- Matt Marty — cabin at Little Spring
- Roger Parr — horse trails
- Donna Thomas — interpretive program
- Greg Wiegand — organizer, Donald Dash Trail Run

Key partnerships help the Friends do more and reach more people than ever before!

- Adaptive Restoration
- Madison Astronomical Society
- Madison Community Foundation
- Mount Horeb Area Historical Society and the Driftless Historium
- Mount Horeb Cub Scouts, Pack 62
- Mount Horeb 3rd Graders
- Upper Sugar River Watershed Association
- Wild Harvest Nature Connection

Special thanks to our Friends administrative assistant, Barb Hartman!

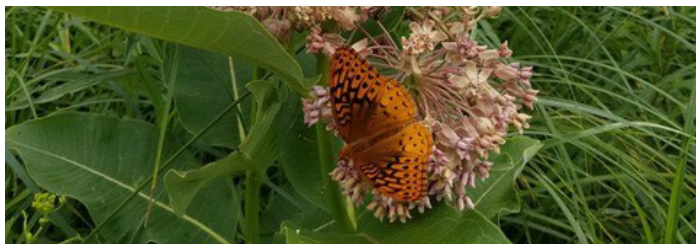
2019 ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

The Friends organization ended 2019 with an operating budget balance of \$56,484 and \$117,014 in the endowment fund held at Madison Community Foundation. Membership this year was 90. We celebrated our 110 dedicated volunteers at the annual volunteer dinner in March, with featured guest speaker Susan Carpenter from the UW Arboretum. She shared fascinating information and beautiful images of Wisconsin's 20 kinds of wild bumble bees, including the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee, which is found at Donald Park.

Horse Trails

By Roger Parr

This last year was one of the wettest years we've seen at Donald Park, which made for limited trail time for many riders. I'd like to thank those of you who decided not to ride on wet trails and cause damage that our volunteers need to repair. Many times, a short ride will implement damage to the trails that keeps reoccurring every time it gets wet again, even after its been fixed. Last fall Mike Healy from Adaptive Restorations (who also mows the outside trails for us) did a large cutting-back of brush on the Devil's Chimney Trail to allow equipment to get through. It's been years since we've done a major cutting of the ever-invading brush and we'll need to do more work this spring. We'll concentrate our spring cleanup on the Sutter's property north of the park since we've neglected this area for a few years and it's become impassable to horse traffic. Once again, thanks to Jean Warrior, who works so hard selling trail passes. She sold 188 passes; total sales came to \$2,252, which stays with the Friends for trail maintenance, including all the mowing. Please be sure to get your trail passes from Jean again this year! I'll get more information out on a spring work date when we see what the April weather looks like.



Landowner Thank Yous!

We celebrate our partnership with the following landowners, who generously lease their land for scenic trail riding outside the park. They make possible very unique and exceptional riding experiences!

Devil's Chimney Trail

- Kathy Cryan & CoCo Chaussee
- Deer Creek Sportsman Club
- 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

Natural Areas and Trails

By Bob Dettwiler, Project Coordinator

We have a very dedicated group of Tuesday volunteers that perform a great variety of tasks throughout the year. In early spring, our crew cleared honeysuckle and other brush along the gravel entrance road west of the Highway G trailhead, making it possible to better see the Mt. Vernon rocks. Later in spring, we spent several days clearing brush around Donald Rock. Our main problem again became all the rain. The walk-behind brush hog that we were able to purchase in May thanks to a Dane County Environmental Council grant was a lifesaver because we had so much growth on the hiking trails due to the rain. The brush hog saves both time and wear and tear on the volunteers! We tackled a major water problem on the trail that goes west from the Sutter Drive parking lot by putting in drain tile and a swale to keep the water from going over the trail in that area.

Thanks to Our Great Volunteers!

All that the Friends do to make Donald County Park such a great place would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers. In 2019, these volunteers generously contributed 2,764 hours performing a wide variety of tasks. Their service is valued at more than \$39,160!

Chuck Abplanalp	Robyn Garfoot	Jim Keip	Jennifer Sievert
Katie Aeschbach	Aimee' Gauger	Carrie Latham	Tabitha Smith
Ken Anderson	Steve Gauger	Phil Leavenworth	Jen Soderholm
Curtis Beatty	Don Gay	Lora Lei	Mary Spaay
Matteo Bellazzini	Rob Gevelinger	Jim Lesniak	Adrienne Stauffacher
Julie Bailey Selser	Denise Gevelinger	Kathy Lord	Irv Steinhauer
Jim Benson	Marsha Gibson	Gerhard Luetschwager	Linda Sweeney
Christa Berce	Ray Glew	Andy Lynch	Tim Sweeney
Steve Burns	Andrew Graham	Tammie Lynch	Matt Sutter
Ken Bradbury	Bill Haack	Matt Marty	Chet Thomas
Bob & Jean Breslow	Katie Haag	Kathy Wiggins	Donna Thomas
Alex Britzius	Lee Haag	Mary Ruth Marks	Calton Thomas
Michelle Campbell	Brad Haley	Liz McBride	Kolby Thomas
Kyla Charles	Barb Hartman	Anthony McLean	McKade Thomas
Coco Chausee	Don Hartman	Laurence Mohr	Jennifer Tzeng
Dan Clayton	Tom Hawes	Leslie Parr	Gail Van Haren
Mary Lou Clayton	Anna Healy	Roger Parr	Wendy Vrendenburgh
Marsha Cooper	Henry Healy	Janice Poehlman	Sue Walser
Kathy Cryan	Mike Healy	Peter Putz	Jean Warrior & Dick
Sherry Crownhart	Russ Hefty	Marsha Ralston-Edlinger	Althouse
Tom Crownhart	Wayne Hefty	Bob Ramsey	Tim White
Jessica Derr	Karl Heil	Kristi Ramsey	Art Wiegand
Bob Dettwiler	Steve Heim	Erik Regis	Beth Wiegand
Judy Dettwiler	Cathy Helgeson	Jonathan Rooney	Greg Wiegand
Judy Dvorak	Dean Helgeson	Erica Ruppert	Lisa Wiegand
Susan Eisele	Andy Hoenisch	Gwen Ruppert	Mike Wiegand
Larry Fass	Lloyd Hogan	Russell Sacia	Ken Wolf
Joshua Filler	Barbara Hogan	Kevin Sadowski	Donna Woller
Violet Filler	Tim Houger	Barbara Schmidt	Gene Woller
Dashiell Filler	Sharon Hughes	DuMont Schmidt	Tim Woller
John Fochesato	Mark Hughes	John Shaw	Bob & Nan Woodburn
Joy Follendorf	Heather Hutchinson	Kari Sherman	Alyssa Yogerst
Jeanne Foster	Julie Jerdee	Lorraine Shillingshad	Brian Yogerst
Dave Garfoot	Carolyn Johnson	Ross Shrago	

Outreach and Education

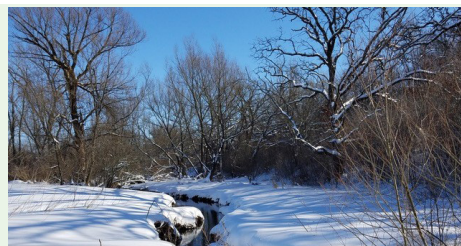
Tours and special programs. We were delighted to again host members of the Plato organization, who participated in a hike on June 10 with Barb Hartman and Donna Thomas to explore the park's west side—prairies, rock outcroppings, Deer Creek, Farmstead Vista and the ever-captivating sink hole. On Oct 19, members of Mt. Horeb Cub Scout Pack 32 and their families participated in a very successful seed collecting outing led by Barb Hartman, Carolyn Johnson and Donna Thomas. Mary Spaay identifying seed sources ahead of the tour.

Interpretative Program. The year was spent drafting three more panels, for installation in 2020: Ancient Native Peoples and two panels detailing the history of the Cabin at Little Spring.



Thank You 2019 Donors and Sponsors!

We gratefully acknowledge the individuals, groups and businesses whose generous support made possible our programs and initiatives this year.



Individual Donors

Annette & Jeff Anderson
Shelly Armstrong & Jim Lesniak
Art & Marsha Cooper
Dolph & Brook Courchaine
The Donald Woodburn Family
Ruth Dumesic-Madison Polo Club
Theresa & Joe Drapeau
Judy Dvorak
Dijana Dzamonja
Susan Eisele
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Barb & Don Hartman
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Peggy Kratz
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Cindy Koschmann & Ed Mason
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Joan Schmidt
Brian Schroeder
Carol & Dean Schroeder
Mary Spaay
Judy & Irv Steinhauer
Chet & Donna Thomas
Martha Thomas
Kathleen Verrill
Jean Warrior
Pam & Price Widen
Greg Wiegand & Carrie Latham
Bob & Nan Woodburn
Alyssa & Brian Yogerst



Donald Dash Sponsors

The following businesses generously sponsored the Donald Dash, our major fundraising event.

**Grumpy Troll
J.S. Donald Farm
K&A Greenhouse
Movin Shoes
**Sugar River Pizza—Verona
Sweeney Construction
**Denotes major event sponsor

We also thank the following businesses for supporting the Donald Dash:
Berkeley Running Company; EVP Coffee; Gentle Breeze Honey; REI Coop; Schreiner Family Chiropractic; TRUE Veterinary Care.

Groups, Organizations and Business Donors

Mt. Horeb 3rd Graders
PLATO Group
Monona Vet Clinic
Natural Resources Foundation of WI
Sweeney Construction

In-Kind Gifts from Individuals and Businesses

Fuel to run equipment used in natural areas work, merchandise, printing services, one-of-a-kind handmade creations for our volunteer dinner and much more-- these individuals and businesses donated a wide variety of in-kind items to support our programs. We can't thank them enough!

INDIVIDUALS
Chuck Alplanalp
Michelle Campbell

Ann Cooper
Dan Dahlk
Aimee Gauger
Brad Haley
Barb & Don Hartman
Henry Healy
Wayne Hefty
Mark & Sharon Hughes
Matt Marty
DuMont Schmidt
Irv Steinhauer
Mary Spaay

BUSINESSES
American Family
Econoprint
Gentle Breeze Honey
Klassik Tavern
Miller & Sons
Moonhill Merchantile
Mt. Vernon Auto
N + 1 Coffee Shoppe
Quivey's Grove
Sjolinds
The Sow's Ear
Wild Birds Unlimited



Friends of Donald Park
P.O. Box 235, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
contact@donaldpark.org

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Friends of Donald Park

Partners with the Dane County Adult Conservation Team



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Vice President.....Sharon Hughes
Secretary.....Donna Thomas
TreasurerKristi Ramsey
Trustee.....Don Hartman
Recording SecretaryBarb Hartman
& Administrative Assistant *Non-Board member*

Website support: Kyla Charles, Barb Hartman
Annual Review Editors: Donna Thomas, Barb Hartman

Graphic Design: Jenn Tzeng

Thanks to the following for photos in this issue:
Don Hartman, Mike Healy, Donna Thomas, Roger Parr & Adaptive Restoration LLC

THANK YOU, DANE COUNTY PARKS

Dane County Parks has created an exceptional park system that significantly contributes to the quality of life in this 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
Lars Higdon, Naturalist
Shane Otto, Land Restoration Specialist
Dick Black, Operations Manager
Brian Berkan, Park Ranger
Chris James, Park Planner
Sara Rigelman, Acquisition & Planning Specialist



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Check us out on Instagram by following
[@DonaldCountyPark](https://www.instagram.com/DonaldCountyPark) and sharing your
photos by using the #DonaldPark hashtag!



LIKE & FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
View our Facebook page for updates about our
park. Invite your friends by sharing our events.
<https://www.facebook.com/donaldcountypark/>



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW
<http://donaldpark.org/>
[Trail Maps & Directions](#)
[Support our club](#)

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Winter 2020

Calendar of Events

Horse Trail Workdays: Several Saturdays in spring. Call Roger Parr, 608-832-4410, to put your name on a call list.

Natural Areas/Trails Volunteer Workdays: Every Tuesday 8:30am—Noon, some weekends, other times by request. Call Barb Hartman, 608-437-5210, to confirm location.

Friends Board of Directors: Meets quarterly and additionally as needed. Contact Barb Hartman, 608-437-5210, for dates, location.

Sunday, March 15: Maple Syrup Event (weather-dependent). Gather at the Hitchcock Farmstead, south end of Sutter Drive. Check Friends website for details or email: contact@donaldpark.org

Saturday, March 21: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Call Barb Hartman, 608-437-5210, if you were a 2019 Friends member or volunteer and have not received an invitation by March 10.

Saturday, May 2: 9th Annual Donald Dash Trail Run, 9am. From Pop's Knoll. Registration now open! Go to: donaldparktrailruns.com

Sunday, June 21: 11am—2pm. Annual Bring Your Pop to Pop's Knoll Father's Day Picnic. Bring a picnic lunch. Entertainment; hot dogs and root beer floats for purchase. Details in spring newsletter and on Friends website.

Saturday, August 15: Stargazing Event. With Madison Astronomical Society. Check Friends website or madisonastro.org for details.



2020 Equestrian Trail Passes Available now!

Dane County Parks annual horse trail passes are available through the Friends!

If you order passes from us, 100% of the purchase goes to the Friends for maintaining our equestrian 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. Questions? Call 608-770-3961.

Friends of Donald Park Membership Form



☐ New membership ☐ Renewal membership

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone (____) _____ ☐ Please contact me about volunteering

☐ In addition to my membership, I am including a donation of \$_____!

Please direct my additional donation toward: ☐ Endowment ☐ Hiking trails

☐ Horse trails ☐ Landscape Restoration ☐ Education/interpretation ☐ Where needed

Friends Membership Levels

Individual - \$20

Household - \$30

Business & Professional - \$50

Non Profit - \$50

Mail this form to:

Friends of Donald Park

P.O. Box 235

Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Please make checks payable to Friends of Donald Park. Membership and donations are tax deductible.