

The Oakleaf

THE FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK NEWSLETTER

April 2005

FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah Lawson
Chairperson
238-8186

John Elliott
Vice-Chairperson
232-1846

Terry Bloom
Treasurer
238-6098

Lucy Brown
Secretary
232-0013

Phil Smith
231-1834

Joanne Lenburg
833-0442

Tim Kessenich
238-7035

This board meets monthly to discuss issues concerning Hoyt Park. We welcome your input.

Email: hoytpark@chorus.net
Website: www.userpages.chorus.net/hoytpark

All donations support your park and are tax deductible. What a bargain! Thanks!

Mail to:
Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.
P O Box 5542
Madison WI 53705-0542

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Gym

Be sure to join our neighbors and Friends of Hoyt Park for the 10th annual meeting. It will be a pleasant evening of learning good things, eating good food, and spending time with good neighbors.

We will have a presentation by our resident geology professor Bob Dott who will give a talk, show slides, and answer questions. His talk is titled "From Stone Quarries to City Park: The Geology of the Hoyt Park Area." Professor Dott is also the co-author of a book about the geology of the state called "Roadside Geology of Wisconsin," a guide for non-geologists who want to learn about the geology of the areas they are driving through. The books will be available for anyone who would like to buy one for their next trip, and Bob has agreed to autograph them for us!

Our meeting will also feature the introduction of a new rose species, created by Deborah and Brent McCown. Named "Chickadee Rose" after the late Audrey Ready, part of the purchase price of the roses will benefit the Friends of Hoyt Park. It's a wonderful gesture by the McCowns and we are very pleased and excited to have this dedicated to the Park.

AGENDA

- 6:45 Registration and Welcome
- 7:00 Introduction
Guest Speaker, Prof Bob Dott "From Stone Quarries to City Parks: The Geology of the Hoyt Park Area"
- 7:40 Break for refreshments courtesy of Whole Foods
- 8:00 Introduction of "Chickadee Rose"
- 8:15 Business Meeting
Board Member Elections
- 8:40 Questions & Answers – general discussion
- 9:00 Adjourn

August work crew



News and Activities

BOARD CHAIR

I love Hoyt Park! I love the way it's cool and green when you walk by the quarry cliffs in the hot summer. I love the way the stone fireplaces are so beautifully made. I love in the fall in the very early morning when there's fog all over the lawn below the shelter.

I'm sure all of us have our reasons for being a friend of Hoyt Park, and our reasons are no doubt as different as we all are. But what's great for our Park is that by joining together, we have created an organization that can help preserve and protect all the many, many things that the Park has to offer.

One of the things that our Friends group has done in the past is to fund a summer ranger position. This past summer we had an exceptionally fine ranger, Jason Lohr. And to make it even better, with the very generous extra donations from Friends, we were able to keep Jason working in the Park for an additional 4 weeks. He was able to accomplish many maintenance and management projects, plus his presence was a great benefit to park users.

In the coming year, among other things, we will be finishing the interpretive trail, installing a new kiosk built by Eagle Scout John Ewanowski, planting our new rain garden, maintaining our prairie, and hiring a new ranger.

We on the Board thank all of you for your generous contributions of time and money to our Park. We ask you to stay involved and work together. It's a big effort-it's a big park!-but I think we all believe it's worth it.

Deborah Lamson, Chairperson

TREASURY

The balance in our account as of March 31 is \$7,846.78. The balance in our Madison Community Foundation Fund is \$13,037.47.

Terry Bloom, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have 150 paid members for 2004. We welcome all of our new members and appreciate the renewals of present and past members. Please bring your friends and neighbors to the annual meeting.

Cindy Hoffland, Membership Committee



INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

By this summer, Hoyt Park will have an interpretive trail. The trail starts near the main shelter and then circles down around the Bluff Street quarries and back up through the prairie. Seven signs along the trail describe Hoyt Park related urban forestry issues, a diagram of the quarry face geology, and Hoyt Park history.

The trail itself is complete. Boy Scouts and member volunteers cleaned the stone steps going down to the quarry, constructed a bark path, and installed signposts. Many Hoyt member volunteers also hauled and spread 15 cubic feet of crushed gravel donated by the City

to top the quarry floor path. More volunteers researched and drafted content for the signs installed later this spring.

We hope all of you enjoy and appreciate this interpretive trail for many years to come.

Lucy Brown

LARSEN FAMILY GIFT

At the December Holiday Dinner, the family of Kathryn Larsen made a substantial financial contribution to the Friends of Hoyt Park. Kathryn, her sons Robert (of Concord, NH) and Richard (of Livingston, NJ) and her daughter Lynn Williamson (of Madison) made their contribution in memory of the late Ed Larsen, one of our founders.

Many long-time residents recall that the Larsen family lived for many years on Standish Court, and Lynn's son, Brian Williamson, is a regular at the Saturday morning work parties. Like most of us who live near Hoyt Park, the family remembers fondly the many happy hours spent in the park. Their contribution helps to ensure the high quality of life in and around Hoyt Park and ensured that we could hire a ranger this summer.

Ron Harris, Fundraising Committee

SUMMER RANGER

Banking on continued generous financial support from our members, we have hired a park ranger for this summer. Very soon you will spot Alison Schwantes hard at work in the park. The summer park ranger not only helps to maintain the natural beauty of the park, but also contributes greatly to the quality of life in the residential neighborhoods surrounding Hoyt Park. The ranger's daily presence helps eliminate much of the vandalism in the park and has discouraged

unsavory behavior in and around the park. On all counts, the ranger helps ensure that Hoyt Park remains a safe and fun place for families and children. The park ranger is our biggest expenditure for the year, and we pay all of her salary. So please, consider giving a little extra this year to help support the park ranger and other valuable work done by the FHP.

AWARD NOMINATION

The Friends of Hoyt Park has been nominated by Laura Whitmore of the Parks Division for a 2005 United Way Volunteer Award. This award, sponsored by Cuna Mutual Group, is awarded to 5 outstanding Dane County volunteers. All nominees will be honored and recognized at an awards luncheon on April 29. We may have further information on whether we receive the award at the annual meeting.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

The Hoyt Park's woodlands, quarry and prairie areas have given great pleasure to all of us who take advantage of this wonderful city resource.

Each year we try to say a small "thank you" to the park in the form of volunteerism. 2004 was no exception with members of the Friends of Hoyt Park donating well over 600 hours of their time trying to preserve the jewel. Many of these hours were spent on a variety of projects undertaken during this year's 11 organized work days, a new record.

Saturday mornings would often see a group of adults and kids armed with wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, loppers and/or trowels converging on a designated spot in the park to work, exchange park stories, laugh and eat cookies. Perhaps the most spectacular work parties were in

March and November when, with expert help, we did a prairie and a woodland burn.

Other less exotic but equally important work days were spent planting and weeding the prairie and clearing a variety of invasive trees, woody shrubs and plants from various areas of the park. One of the most exciting projects undertaken in 2004 has been the development of an interpretive trail through the park. With the help of boy scouts Jeff Wymore and Peter Campbell and their troops, FHP volunteers put down wood chips, spread a massive pile of crushed rock along the quarry path, cleared objects blocking the path and installed permanent sign posts along the trail. We hope to finish the trail early this year. As soon as the snow finally decides to melt the 2005 work parties will begin again in earnest. We hope to see you there!

Joanne Lenburg, Lucy Brown, Phil Smith

FULL MOON/OWL WALK

We did not see the moon, but we did hear owls calling!

Twenty-seven people attended our 7th annual Full Moon/Owl Walk. We were very pleased to have Jim Morgan, Madison Parks Superintendent, join us for the evening.

Al Shea shared his expertise about owls. He talked about the different kinds of owls in Wisconsin and why we might see several of the more northern varieties in the Madison area this year. We listened to a tape of owl calls and then Al led the group on a short walk, during which we actually heard Great Horned Owls calling. All of us were then warmed by a lovely fire in the shelter and enjoyed owl cookie and cocoa.

WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:

Please join us at one of our upcoming events.

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 19,
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Hoyt School gym

EARTH DAY 2005

Saturday, April 23,
10:00 – 12:00 a.m.

Main parking lot

We will remove trash and pull garlic mustard. Bring gloves to protect your hands.

SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, June 11,
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Main shelter

WORK DAYS

10:00-12:00 a.m.

April 23 – Earth Day pick-up

May 14 – prairie planting

June 18 – prairie weeding

July 16 – woodland and trail

Aug 20 – woodland and trail

Sept 19 – woodland and trail

Oct 15 – woodland and trail

NATURE WALKS

Wednesday mornings,

8:00 a.m. as weather permits

Main parking lot

BOARD MEETINGS

Second Thursday of the
month, 6:45-9:00 p.m.

Sequoia Library

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

September 8

October 13

November 10

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following people have agreed to continue on the Board for another two-year term: Deborah Lawson, John Elliott, Terry Bloom, and Tim Kessenich.

Neighborhood Representatives continuing are:

- Vanchamasshe – Ron Harris
- Radio Park-Sunset Hills – Helen Baldwin
- Regent – Tom Quirk
- Sunset Village – Brent McCown

T-SHIRTS

FHP t-shirts will be available at the Annual Meeting.

- Adult long-sleeve - \$20 *new!*
- Adult short-sleeve - \$16
- Children short-sleeve - \$12

RAIN GARDEN

We will be planting the rain garden at our May 14 workday. Please contact Tim Kessenich at 238-7035 if you have any of the following plants to donate or even if you aren't sure if what you have to donate is on this list.

RAIN GARDEN PLANT LIST

General Perennials

amethyst shooting star
 columbine
 common strawberry
 culvers root
 ditch stonecrop
 dotted st. john's wort
 great blue lobelia
 indian tobacco
 jack in the pulpit
 jacob's ladder
 marsh betony
 pink turtlehead
 shooting star
 smooth phlox
 solomon seal
 spiderwort
 starry solomons plume
 toothwort
 virginia wild rye
 white trout lily
 white turtlehead
 wild garlic
 wild ginger
 wood betony

Ferns

interrupted fern
 lady fern
 marsh fern
 ostrich fern
 sensitive fern

Sedges

awned graceful sedge
 bladder sedge
 fescue oval sedge
 field oval sedge
 grass sedge
 hop sedge
 larger straw sedge
 narrow-leaved cattail sedge
 palm sedge
 sallow sedge
 slender sedge



Detach and mail with your check



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues cover one year's membership running from April to April

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

(we use e-mail for upcoming events and volunteer days reminders only)

Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. Please check the level of your support and make checks payable to Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. Bring to the annual meeting or mail to Friends of Hoyt Park, P O Box 5542, Madison, WI 53705. All paid memberships are voting members of FHP, Inc.

My areas of interest in Hoyt Park are:

- committees events
 fundraising board member
 leafleting work days
 prairie woodland other

The Friends of Hoyt Park is a non-profit organization. Donations above membership dues are tax-deductible.

Membership: Individual \$10.00 Household \$20.00

Extra Donations: ranger fund Endowment Fund other donation