

The Oakleaf

THE FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK NEWSLETTER

March 2013

FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Elliott
Chairperson
232-1846

Jane Voichick
Vice-Chairperson
233-0807

Tim Kessenich
Treasurer
238-7035

Peter Hanson
Secretary
251-4416

Mike Dieterle
233-9151

Bob Downing
233-1986

Jean MacCubbin
238-4863

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

Email: chair@hoytpark.org
Website: www.hoytpark.org

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

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, April 22, 2013

6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Hoyt School Room 13

Please join us for our Eighteenth Annual Friends of Hoyt Park Membership Meeting at Hoyt School. Not only will you be able to meet up with old friends, make new ones, attend our business meeting, nibble a cookie, but our special speaker this year is DNR biologist John Paul White. His topic this year? Bats!

Because bats are nocturnal and loaded down with negative, largely fictive, associations, they are either feared or ignored. However, bats play a crucial role in the ecosystem with their consumption of, literally, tons of insects.

And, these leathery-winged friends are under attack by the white-nose syndrome disease. This disease is spreading fast and has already left over one million bats dead in the eastern US and Canada and could possibly mean extinction of some species.

Mr. White is at the forefront of an effort to count and study Wisconsin's bats in order to save them. This will prove to be a fascinating presentation.

AGENDA

- 6:45 Registration and Welcome
- 7:00 Introduction
Guest Speaker Paul White
- 8:00 Break for refreshments
courtesy of Whole Foods
- 8:15 Business Meeting
Board Member Elections
- 8:30 Questions & Answers –
general discussion
- 9:00 Adjourn



News and Activities

BOARD CHAIR

We Wisconsinites know that winter can still have some fun with us, but we also know that spring is on the way, something it does every year. A new year is ours.

The upcoming year at Hoyt Park promises to be another good one. Our fund raising was successful enough recently for us to now start our Park Ranger hiring process where we start interviewing ambitious young women and men for this exciting summer job, and in the past we have had some really exceptional rangers.

This spring will now be the time to see the forest plants that the City so kindly planted in our woodlands last summer return in full glory, and that was a large-scale planting, complete with follow-up waterings during last year's merciless drought. That planting is an investment that will pay off for years to come.

This year the City has announced that they will replace the chain link fence that follows the park's perimeter and at the top of the quarry bluff, and remove dangerous trees. When you consider the work that was done on the stone stairway last year, complete with those snazzy handrails, and now with this new proposed project, well, the old park will be looking quite good.

There are also the upcoming workdays, picnic, park events, and other gatherings to look forward to.

If you haven't been very involved in the Friends of Hoyt Park events, perhaps this is the time to do so. We are one interesting and engaging group of people, that is for sure. Our

workdays are fun and are open to all, regardless of physical ability. Work a bit, chat, have a cookie, work, it's all quite nice. Every consider joining the Friend's Board? Please do! I honestly feel that we make our beautiful town of Madison just a wee bit better place to live.

John Elliott, Chair

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

We finished our fiscal year on December 31, 2012 with a cash balance \$10,950.13. Our Endowment Fund had an end of year balance of \$22,468.90, of which we have approximately \$2,700 available for withdrawal in 2013. We will present a more detailed financial report and proposed 2013 budget at our annual meeting.

Thank you all!

Tim Kessenich, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We ended the year 2012 with 139 paid memberships, which included 21 new memberships. We are off to a good start for 2013 with 160 paid memberships that include 57 new memberships. This number includes 52 donations to the Tom Quirk Memorial totaling over \$2,000 earmarked for use by the Woodland Committee. We are extremely grateful that Tom's family designated Friends of Hoyt Park Woodland Committee for memorial contributions.

While our 160 number sounds great, we also realize that many of the donations to Tom Quirk's memorial came from out of town and or scattered throughout Madison, and realistically may be one-time donations. Therefore, we cannot stop our campaign to sign up new

members, or encourage lapsed members to join again. If you have neighbors or friends who are not members of FHP, please ask them to consider joining. If a new neighbor moves into your neighborhood, you might also consider giving them a gift membership in FHP as a way of introducing them to our organization.

Mike Dieterle, Membership Committee



PRAIRIE & WOODLAND

We had another productive year clearing invasive species and re-establishing native plants in the oak woods along Regent Street and in the Ready Prairie. The City of Madison Parks Division contracted for buckthorn control and for planting understory species along Regent Street. The project was coordinated by Sara Lerner, Parks Division Landscape Architect. Volunteers helped to water the new plantings and we hope they will have made it through last summer's drought.

Our volunteer workdays included the spring planting in the Ready Prairie and the fall prairie seeding below the Sunset Point Overlook. In addition, the scouts of Troop 2 cleared mountain high piles of brush from the edges of the Ready Prairie. And, of course, the struggle to control garlic mustard continues. This year our volunteer spring planting will be under the oaks near the main shelter.

Tim Kessenich, Prairie Committee

FULL MOON/OWL WALK

The Owl Walk was a great success as a fair-sized group assembled and the weather mild, the fire blazing, the ice navigable, and the refreshments varied and delicious.

Our own Helen Baldwin shared with us her knowledge of these birds. Did

T-SHIRTS

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

- Adult long-sleeve - \$20
- Adult short-sleeve - \$16
- Children short-sleeve - \$12

you know that the tufts on the great horned owl are not ears? True! She then treated us to her owl calls, from the *basso profundo* of the female great horned to the haunting cry of the screech. A fine time was had by all.
John Elliott

BYLAW AMENDMENT

The FHP Board proposes a few changes to the Board number section of the by-laws to note changes in alder districts and the addition of the Rocky Bluff neighborhood association, as follows:

NOTE CARDS

FHP note cards will be available at the Annual Meeting, Century House, and Parks Division.

- Package of 6 cards ~ \$10



HOLIDAY PARTY

On Dec. 13th, 2012, fifty FHP members celebrated the holiday season with a festive dinner and auction at the University Club. Mayor Paul Soglin kicked off the festivities with a speech about the parks and city of Madison.

After a delicious meal, we turned our sights our annual silent auction. The auction this year netted \$1,000 for the Friends!

Thanks to all who attended! A special thanks to the auction donors.

Betsy Lane

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bob Downing and Mike Dieterle's term has expired. They have given years of dedicated service. The nominating committee will present their recommendations for new board members at the April annual meeting.

If you are interested in joining the FHP Board, please contact John Elliott at 232-1846 by April 21.

Won't you consider being the representative from the Regent Neighborhood? Please contact a board member for details.

Neighborhood Representatives:

- VanChaMaShe – Sarah Cantley
- Radio Park-Sunset Hills – Janet Washbon
- Regent – vacant
- Sunset Village – Cheri Swenson

Section 2.2 Number. The Board of Directors shall not consist of less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) elected directors, and up to ~~six (6)~~ seven (7) non-elected directors as follows:

- Up to seven (7) elected Board members serving staggered terms, elected by the membership;
- One (1) staff ~~members~~ member of the Madison Parks Division, ex-officio, (~~or his/her designee~~) non-voting;
- The ~~Alder person of the 11th~~ District Alderperson, ex-officio (~~or his/her designee~~) non-voting;
- Up to ~~four (4)~~ five (5) individuals who represent established neighborhood associations whose area may be adjacent to or have an interest in Hoyt Park, ex-officio. Each association will appoint its own representative, and no more than one (1) representative shall serve from each such association.

We will be voting on these changes at our April 22 annual meeting.

FHP Board

Fiends of the Arboretum Plant Sale

on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 9am to 2pm provides over 100 species of native grasses, prairie plants, ferns, woodland flowers, shrubs, vines, and all native to the area. Read more at http://uwarboretum.org/foa/native_plant_sale.php.

WORK PARTIES & COMING EVENTS:

Please join us at one of our upcoming events.

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, April 22,
6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Hoyt School Room 13

EARTH DAY 2013

Saturday, April 20,
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, July 6
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Main shelter

WORK DAYS

10:00-12:00 a.m.
Mar 16 – clean storage area
April 20 – Earth Day pick-up
May 18 – woodland restore
June 15 – buckthorn busting
July 20– prairie maintenance
Aug 17 – TBD
Sept 21 – overlook work
Oct 19 – seed collecting
Nov 16 – overlook work

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
May 9
June 13
July 11
September 12
October 10
November 14



FRIENDS OF HOYT PARK, INC.

P O Box 5542
Madison WI 53705



Detach and mail with your check

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues for calendar year 2013. If your mailing label has a purple dot on it, your membership has expired.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____


City/State/Zip Code: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please check appropriate boxes:

- Please contact me to volunteer by phone or email
- Please email newsletters to me instead of sending a paper copy
- Dues \$ _____ (suggested minimum \$30)
- Sustaining member \$ _____ (suggested minimum \$60)
- Ranger Fund \$ _____ Endowment Fund \$ _____



Thank you for becoming a member of Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc. All paid memberships are voting members. The FHP is a non-profit organization.

Donations are tax-deductible. Please send and make checks payable to:

Friends of Hoyt Park, Inc.
P O Box 5542
Madison, WI 53705