



NEWSLETTER

December 2004
www.sceniclodivalley.org

Greetings from the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley,

As another calendar year comes to a close we want to take this opportunity to provide you with a summary of the organization's activities. All of the impressive work taken on is done by volunteers who put in countless hours of labor as their contribution to our community. These are our neighbors, fellow citizens... and certainly, friends. Thanks to all of the team leaders, members, steering committee, and all the others who helped to make this a productive and rewarding year.

Bill Welch & Diane Godec

Spring Creek Water Trail Team

Starting in 2003 and continuing in 2004, the Spring Creek Water Trail Team was able to clear Spring Creek from the north bridge on Highway 113 to Lake Wisconsin. The creek is also cleared to within a quarter mile downstream of the south bridge on Highway 113. The team's goal is to clear all the way up stream to Goeres Park by the end of June 2005. At that time paddlers will be able to make the journey from Lodi to Lake Wisconsin by canoe and kayak. If you would like to help or wish more information about the water trail, contact Fred at 592-4202.

Wildenberg Prairie Team

The Wildenberg Prairie is a good example of a sand blow prairie. Located in Harmony Grove, it is a product of the last glacier. The prairie is owned by the Town of Lodi and has been the site of restoration work by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Volunteers are being sought to continue this important work. The Wildenberg Prairie Team plans to organize volunteers who wish to see this natural area continue. Some of the projects will be starting soon. An organizational and informational meeting is being planned for January. If interested, please contact Fred at 592-4202.

Lodi Valley Farmers' Market Team

The Farmers' Market's fourth year was a great one. In addition to an increasing number of vendors and shoppers, the Lodi High School Technology and Building Class designed and constructed a storage barn.

The bright red building that you see by the market is used to collect excess produce for distribution to the Lodi Food Pantry and to senior apartments. Support has been tremendous from the vendors and community gardeners. Thanks to teacher Laurent Soucie and his energetic and skilled students.

The Market is an activity that involves many, many people and organizations from our community. Contact Bev at 592-5707 for more information.

Lake Wisconsin Watershed Team

Lodi's position as one of the leaders and innovators in the use of rain gardens for absorbing storm-water run-off continued in 2004 with the installation of one of the state's largest rain gardens on Highway 113, just down hill from the Lodi Primary School.

More than 30 volunteers weeded, planted, weeded, seeded, and weeded some more and installed over 3000 prairie plants. A joint project with the Wisconsin DNR and Department of Transportation resulted in the garden near the Pleasant Street bridge. The U.S. Geological Service will be installing monitoring equipment this winter to help judge the garden's effectiveness in preserving the water quality of Spring Creek. This past summer the garden was a stop on a tour by international water scientists.

Next spring and summer volunteers will be needed to weed, transplant, and maintain the garden. For more information contact Allison at 592-4711.

Lodi Reads Leopold Team

This last year saw the 5th Annual Lodi Reads Leopold event grow and stir statewide recognition. More than 300 people were involved as readers, volunteers, bench builders, touring Leopold's shack, and other activities.

Governor Doyle signed a bill setting the first weekend in March to honor and remember Aldo Leopold.

A large committee of over a dozen people organized and put on the event that included a presentation to three grades of Lodi elementary students and a workshop for their teachers.

The 2005 Lodi Reads Leopold event will offer many ways to celebrate the work of Aldo Leopold. March 5th will be observed as Leopold reading day and March 12th as Leopold activity day and will include a variety of activities including bench building, a hike on the Ice Age trail, and a Dutch oven cooking class.

For more information visit www.sceniclodivalley.org or contact Patti at 592-5666.

Tree Team

This was the last year for the Tree Team. One of the goals for the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley is to "kick off" efforts to improve our community and work toward them becoming sustainable. Such is the success of the Tree Team. Their work of planting trees and raising awareness of Lodi as a city of trees is now a part of the community. Over the years the team members and volunteers have been instrumental in Lodi being awarded a "Tree City USA Award" nine times! This is an exceptional honor for a city the size of Lodi. Thanks to all who contributed their hard work to make this possible.

Boy Scout Troop 592

The Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley are again honored to serve as the chartering organization for Boy Scout Troop 592. The Troop is led by Jody Rea.

This very active and adventurous Troop seems to always be going somewhere or doing something. Fall finds them in Habermann Park providing a safe, community Halloween event. This year's planned activities include indoor rock climbing, snow skiing, a trip to the EAA Museum, several campouts including trips to Colorado, Copper Falls State Park, and Crystal Lake.

If you would like to be involved in this fine group or know someone looking for the Scout experience, contact Jody at 592-3856.

Venture Crew

The Venture Crew is a new addition to Lodi since the spring of 2004. Part of the Scouting program, Venture Crew is for young men and women 14 – 20 years of age. The Friends also act as the chartering organization for the Crew. Though in their first year as an organization, the Crew has been very active in organizing a variety of activities. For more information about this active group and adventurous group, contact Jody at 592-3856.

Of Special Note...

Last July, Fred Hoffman, Spring Creek Water Trail Team leader, was presented a plaque by the United Way of Dane County Volunteer Center for his work and outstanding service to the community with the Capitol City Water Trails group.

General Membership Meetings

There have been three general membership meetings that have taken place over the past year.

Last winter's meeting was held at the woodland home of Jeanne and Fred Hoffman. Laura Olah, Executive Director of Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB), spoke to the group about the challenges and issues of monitoring and maintaining the water quality around the Badger Ammunition area. CSWAB came into being almost 15 years ago when residents across the river from the Town of West Point discovered that they had been drinking water polluted by the munitions manufacturing.

Our spring membership meeting was held (during a heavy rain storm) in the Gluth Shelter at Goeres Park in June 2004. Ted Goeres spoke to the group, telling of his and his family's involvement in the park. He explained how the spring-fed pool came to be, Professor Franz Aust's design work on the park, how trees were transplanted from surrounding farms into the park, and the wealth of volunteers and donations that are responsible for the recreational jewel we have in Lodi.

In September the membership meeting was held across the creek from the rain garden in Veteran's Park. Tours of the rain garden were provided by the Watershed Team. After the meal, Kurt Waterstradt of the US Fish and Wildlife Service spoke to the group about the restoration efforts on the Wildenberg Prairie in Harmony Grove. Kurt has been instrumental in managing the work on the prairie, but is soon moving to Ohio. The Friends decided to form a Team to address these issues (see page 1).

Steering Committee

The most visible contributions to our community made by the Friends come from the hardworking teams. To support the teams there is the Steering Committee. Our status as a federal tax-exempt and state incorporated organization enables teams to apply for grants, have liability protection, and engage in many activities that would otherwise not be possible.

This coming year the Steering Committee will again have Diane Godec and Bill Welch as co-coordinators and Kevin Hinckley will serve as Vice-President and coordinate membership renewals. Jean Hoffman returns as Secretary and Jody Thistle also returns as Treasurer.

New teams begin when members identify an issue and organize themselves to address it. The emerging Wildenberg Prairie Team is an example of this. Team leaders automatically have a seat on the Steering Committee.

If you are interested in starting a team or helping out with activities please contact one of the Committee members listed below:

Co-coordinators:

Diane Godec	592-5621	edgodec@juno.com
Bill Welch	592-5666	billpatti@charter.net

Vice-President:

Kevin Hinckley	592-7367	khinckley@charter.net
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Secretary:

Jean Hoffman	592-4202	garden@chorus.net
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Treasurer:

Jody Thistle	592-5427	dthistle@merr.com
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Team Leaders:

Fred Hoffman	592-4202	garden@chorus.net	Spring Creek Water Trail
Allison Seaton	592-4711	jmseaton@merr.com	Lake Wisconsin Watershed
Beverly Nilles	592-5707	bnilles@charter.com	Lodi Farmers' Market
Tom Heberlein	592-4246	taheberl@facstaff.wisc.edu	Lodi Reads Leopold
Jim Korlesky	592-7753	jkpkorles@facstaff.wisc.edu	Boy Scouts/Venture Crew

At-Large members:

Don Thistle	592-5427	dthistle@merr.com
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Webmaster:

Tim Escher	tim@eschers.com
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More information about the activities of the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley is available at www.sceniclodivalley.org