

## FRIENDS OF SCENIC LODI VALLEY TEN YEAR CELEBRATION

*This is the first of a series of articles.*

This year the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley celebrate ten years of service to the Lodi community. Born during an initial public outcry, the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley have worked on a variety of issues to build pride and a strong sense of citizen responsibility for our beautiful home.

Composed of a steering committee and issue-focused teams the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley have been mobilizing the energy of our citizens and neighbors, young and older, life-time residents and newcomers alike, to improve our community. In the coming months some of these teams will be featured in a series of articles reminiscing over the last ten years and looking toward the future.

Over these last ten years Teams have been started, carried out their work, and then dissolved as the issues or interests have ebbed and flowed. This is the structure of the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley, a bottom-up model of addressing issues and involving the community based on the commitment of those who live here. When Friends become interested in an issue they gather other interested neighbors and form a Team to address it.

The Ice Age Trail Team took the lead in the monumental task of building and extending this state spanning trail through Lodi. Now the Lodi Valley Chapter of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation carries on their work.

The Tree Team has planted numerous trees, surveyed the city's trees, and has been responsible for the City of Lodi receiving the Tree City USA Award for 12 consecutive years. The City Park Commission has continued to increase the number of trees in Lodi, a characteristic that visitors to our community immediately notice.

The Sign Team facilitated consensus building around the adoption of a sign ordinance that provides businesses with the signage they need and that is able to maintain the character of our city.

The Lodi Reads Leopold Team grew from the work of an individual to involving hundreds of people every year in reading, celebrating, and exploring the land ethic of Aldo Leopold. The Team was instrumental in making the first weekend in March designated by the State of Wisconsin as Leopold Weekend, spawning a number of Leopold events around the state.

The Watershed Team has been involved in numerous efforts to monitor and preserve Spring Creek and has been a driving force behind the creation of the rain garden between Highway 113 and the creek.

From planting trees to restoring prairie, from building trails to remodeling buildings, from community meetings to issue advocacy, from Farmers Markets to "Notes From a Friend", the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley have kept their sleeves rolled up and have been contributing to our local quality of life. The Friends have also had the privilege of being the administrative sponsor for Boy Scout Troop 963 and the Venture Crew.

As part of our ten year celebration, the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley invite you to join us later in June as we dedicate a crane sculpture in Spring Creek Park to honor Trudy Weber, a friend of the Friends.

You can find more information on the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley at [www.sceniclodivalley.org](http://www.sceniclodivalley.org) or by calling Bill Welch at 592-5666.