

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley are a diverse group of people offering their experience, talent, skills, and time to their community in the interest of preserving and promoting the special qualities of life in the valley. Land use, geographical features, environmental quality and historical heritage define our way of life and our identity in the Lodi valley. The Friends are committed to addressing special concerns that may erode that way of life. We welcome all whom share a desire to further this vision.

Each year we report to you on the activities of the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley and ask you to renew your membership. This past year over 50 memberships representing 100+ people responded. Thank you! For 2007 we are including an extra membership form for you to share with your friends and neighbors. The Friends is a partnership of citizens and the more of us there are working together, the more we can do.

Looking back over 2006, it became clear that this was a year of building partnerships and strengthening collaborations with other groups and organizations in the Lodi area:

Trout Unlimited - the Aldo Leopold Chapter has declared Spring Creek its "home waters" and we have been working with them to raise money (*Brats on the Bridge*) and to install informational boxes along the creek to gather information on the stream and its economic impact on the Lodi area.

Earth Day - the Friends partnered with the Lodi Chamber of Commerce and the Lodi Parks Commission to renew the celebration of Earth Day in our area. A number of "teach-ins" and community events focusing on our relationship with the earth took place.

Lodi Farmers Market - with the Chamber of Commerce, the Lodi Enterprise, and others, the Market had a successful 6th year, growing larger and more successful in its new location.

Lodi Reads Leopold - with numerous other community sponsors, the Friends again put on one of the state's premier Leopold Weekend events. A panel discussion of local citizens explored land use ethics and the School District of Lodi's students provided their interpretations of Leopold's ideas. Planning for next year's event is under way - mark your calendars for Lodi Reads Leopold, Saturday, March 3, 2007.

City of Lodi - on a number of occasions the Friends provided citizen input to the Lodi City Council on recent development issues, most notable the less than optimal General Development Plan of the Highlands of Ridgestone. The Friends also wrote a letter of support to assist the City of Lodi in receiving a Non-Point Urban Storm Water Grant to explore the creation of a Storm Water Utility.

Annual Meeting - after the Friends annual meeting a number of citizen groups provided information and entered into conversations about our mutual interests... the Dekorra Citizens Group, Trout Unlimited, Safe Water Around Badger, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and the West Point Comprehensive Planning Committee all participated.

Water Trail Team - several work days were organized by the Team that brought local citizens together to work on clearing the creek of debris and trash (including two old numbered rubber ducks!) so the creek is more navigable and flows more freely, improving its productivity as a trout stream.

Rocks of Gibraltar - the Friends have been participating in several meetings focused on the future of this geological and environmental wonder. The Friends are the recipients of the proceeds of an incredible DVD created by Daniel Pertzborn, a freshman at Lodi High School, that explores the past and future of the Rocks of Gibraltar.

Throughout the year, the Friends also replaced the Manke memorial tree in Country Doctor's Park; added to our growing list of donated materials, a book, Every Root an Anchor, and several videos to the Lodi Woman's Club Library; "honored" editor Peg Zaemisch and her staff at a roast last summer; the Hwy 113 Rain Garden was featured on Wisconsin Public Television and we continued to provide tours to interested groups and individuals from around the state - as well as weeding out invasive and unwelcome plants!

In 2007 the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley are planning continued work on Spring Creek, increasing the cooperation and collaboration with community groups in our area, and more community events to educate and raise awareness of watershed and development issues facing our community.

You can be a part of these activities (and fun!) by renewing your membership and encouraging your friends and neighbors to join.