



Homestead Happenings

Newsletter of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead

www.HistoricHalesCorners.org

9724 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners, WI 53130

September, 2017

Annual meeting

The Homestead's annual meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 27. We will begin with a short business meeting during which we will be electing three directors for three-year terms on our board. Nominees are current board members Mike Jedrezejewski and Delene Hanson. The third nominee is Bill Holton, who along with his wife Jill, has been spearheading the landscaping project near the Richard Barloga memorial tree. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Following the meeting, we will have the third talk in our Stahl Savanna Project series focusing on the oak savanna which now shares equal billing with tallgrass prairie as the most threatened plant community in the Midwest. Our speaker will be Dr. Joy Wolf from UW-Parkside. Dr. Wolf is a biogeographer who studies biodiversity, soils, and fire ecology in oak savannas and maple-beech forests in Wisconsin. She is also a dendrochronologist and her presentation will focus on her work related to the age of trees in oak savannas. The program is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Thank you, Bette Arey

Bette Arey has served on the Homestead board since the organization was started, including several years a president. Her latest term has expired and she has chosen not to be up for reelection. The good news is Bette is not going away and will continue to have a role behind the scenes handling press releases, keeping membership records, helping with newsletters, etc. Bette was very instrumental in saving the Homestead property and getting the organization started. Thank you, Bette!

Grant

We are grateful to the Hales Corners Woman's Club for awarding us a \$200 grant that is helping to fund our Stahl Savanna programs. The Club has also supported the Homestead in the past and we commend them for all the good work they do in the community.

Raffle results

Many thanks to all of you who supported our cash raffle. The drawing was held on August 20 with attendees enjoying sundaes and root beer floats on a beautiful summer day. Nicole Kollmorgen was the lucky winner of the \$1000 prize, with Sybil Grandeck and Bob Wilson winning \$500 and \$250, respectively. Thanks to Sybil for donating half of her prize back to the Homestead. The raffle netted \$835 for our treasury. We also made \$307.25 at our rummage sale that was held that same weekend.

Barn roof

Board member Jim Bruening has been gathering information and obtaining bids for replacement of the barn's roof. We are hoping to get permission from the Hales Corners Historic Preservation Commission to use a synthetic product that looks like cedar but has a much longer life. Since the replacement cost is over \$20,000, longevity is definitely a consideration.

On a related topic, “thank you” to Tom Ueberroth for saving us money by repairing a hole in the roof of the house and patching holes in the rain gutters.

“Best of the 'Burbs”

The Homestead is proud to announce that it was included in Milwaukee Magazine's Best of the 'Burbs 2017. We thank them for this honor!

The Homestead was also included in a Milwaukee Magazine article titled “Wisconsin's Oak Savannas (and Why You Should Appreciate Them)” that was written by Eddee Daniel. Eddee is also a great photographer and the piece contains some wonderful photos of the Homestead's savanna as well as the savanna at the Indian Community School in Franklin. To read the article go to:
<https://www.milwaukeeemagazine.com/oak-savannas-milwaukee-county/>

Prairie and savanna burns

Many of you probably noticed the blackened areas of the Homestead grounds this past spring. Jim Uhrinak and his crew burned the prairie and savanna back on April 24. Since these plant communities respond favorably to fire, both areas bloomed very prolifically this summer and are continuing into the fall with asters and goldenrods coming into bloom.

The mission of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead is to create a museum focused on transitions in the land in Hales Corners and its environs from presettlement into the future and to preserve the Stahl-Conrad Homestead as a remnant of a bygone lifestyle.

The Homestead's vision: The land is restored and the buildings are renovated to accommodate changing exhibits and public events.

The Homestead is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations and in-kind gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Officers and directors are: president, Delene Hanson; vice president, Jim Bruening; secretary, Betty Braun; treasurer, Michael Jedrzejewski; directors: Bette Arey, George Berger, Rita Thomas and Dave Zepecki.
