



Homestead Happenings

Newsletter of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead

www.HistoricHalesCorners.org

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

January, 2018

Winter program

The fourth program in our Stahl Savanna series will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 25. The speaker will be Brian Russart, Natural Areas Coordinator for the Milwaukee County Parks System. His talk will focus on his staff's recent work on oak woodland restoration, as well as a pilot project at Falk Park and work that was done at Wehr Nature Center. Oak woodlands were the transitional zone between oak savanna and southern mesic forest in Milwaukee County and they are almost as rare as oak savannas in the DNR's designated Southeast Wisconsin Coastal Habitat Area.

Brian will be joined by Adam Romanak, Parks and Natural Areas Manager for the Hunger Task Force. Adam's presentation will focus on his efforts to restore the oak savanna remnant on the land within the Root River Parkway in Franklin that the Hunger Task Force leases from the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

Please be sure to join us for what should prove to be a very interesting and informative program. It is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Time to renew

Happy New Year! The start of another year means it is time to renew your membership. The Homestead relies on membership dues to help cover its operating expenses and we are grateful to all of you for your support. Memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families. Of course, donations of any amount are always welcome! A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Barn roof

The Homestead signed a contract with Dietscher Roofing Inc. to replace the barn roof at a cost of approximately \$21,000.00. The old cedar shake roof will be replaced with a synthetic product called "CeDUR" which has a much longer life than wood materials but gives much the same appearance. Because the Homestead is a local landmark, we had to seek permission from the Hales Corners Historic Preservation Commission to use this product. The permission was granted and this new roof should save us money in the long run.

Big tree contest

Just a reminder to get your nominations in for the Big Oak and Hickory Contest. Entry forms will be available at our February event, or leave a message at 414-858-9195 to request them by mail.

In memoriam

Unfortunately, the Homestead has lost three of its members in the last few months. The first is Dr. Nancy Lurie who passed away on May 13, 2017 at the age of 93. Dr. Lurie was a well-known anthropologist who taught at several universities and spent eleven years as curator and head of the Department of Anthropology at the Milwaukee Public Museum. She was known for her research and publications on American Indian history and culture.

Priscilla Riebs passed away on December 17, 2017 at the age of 88. Priscilla was very active in the Hales Corners Historical Society where she took an active interest in the Ben Hunt Cabin. She was instrumental in getting the cabin moved to its present site, and spent many hours cataloging the extensive Ben Hunt artifact collection. She also ran the Society's plant sale for many years and was an avid gardener herself.

Robert "Bob" Wilson passed away suddenly on January 12, 2018 at the age of 80. Bob enjoyed making wine and beer and was always kind enough to share his creations at our Homestead events. He enjoyed the outdoors and was active volunteer at Wehr Nature Center as well as a member of Riveredge Nature Center, the Wisconsin Metro Audubon Society, Wild Ones Natural Landscapers and numerous other conservation organizations. Bob always supported our Homestead raffles and was lucky enough to win the \$250 prize two years in a row.

Our sincere condolences go out to the families of these three individuals. All three gave of themselves to make the world a better place and they will be missed.

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: George Berger, William Holton, Rita Thomas and Dave Zepecki.
