



Homestead Happenings

Newsletter of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead

www.HistoricHalesCorners.org

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

June, 2018

Tree planting ceremony and spring program

Please join us at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 1 for a tree planting ceremony to honor the memory of Betty Braun who served on our board for many years. The chinquapin oak will add beauty to the Homestead for many years to come.

The ceremony will be followed by a program titled "Lapham's Indian Prairie Grows with Milwaukee Audubon." Jim Uhrinak will introduce and host a group discussion on the Indian Prairie Project first begun by Milwaukee Audubon more than twenty-five years ago. Indian Prairie is one of the original Indian habitat islands within the mesic forest of Milwaukee County as researched by Randy Powers who spoke at one of our programs last year. Martha Bergland and Paul Hayes (who also spoke here) wrote about Increase Lapham's 1850 survey of Indian Prairie in their book *Studying Wisconsin* (pages 247-248 with comments on Lapham's *Antiquities* on pages 265-276.)

Milwaukee Audubon's commemorative Indian Prairie re-creation is part of a greater Kletzsch Park project driven by a group of writers, researchers, and neighbors working together to develop a series of public signage and demonstration areas along a mile and a half corridor paralleling the Milwaukee River. This natural history/cultural history may include historic markers, interpretive signs commemorating Indian bark-lodge villages and settler history, pollinator gardens in the shape and location of lost Indian earth-mounds, a possible osprey nest, and an opportunity for adjacent landowners to coordinate their native landscapes with the effort. Any ideas and suggestions for the progress of this project to highlight changes in the land will be welcomed.

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.

Barn roof

The Homestead's barn has a new roof thanks to Dietscher Roofing Inc. The old cedar shake roof was replaced with a synthetic product called "CeDUR" which has a much longer life than wood materials but gives much the same appearance. Take a look when you are here.

Because we did not want the old shingles to go into a landfill, we are offering them to anyone who wants to haul some or all of them away. We did not use any sealants on them so they could be used for firewood or to create something interesting if you use your imagination. The wood is free, but donations are always welcomed.

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 July event, or leave a message at 414-858-9195 to request them by mail.

In memoriam

The Homestead lost one of its staunchest supporters when our board secretary Betty Braun passed away very suddenly on April 16, 2018 at the age of 83. Betty was always extremely generous both financially and with her time and effort. When spring rolled around she provided hanging baskets for the front porch as well as flowers for the containers. In fall it was pumpkins for the porch, and at Christmas she made sure the front door had a wreath and the porch rail was covered with greenery. Betty brought the centerpieces for our events in addition tasty items for the refreshment table. She always made sure everything had the right “touch.” Words cannot express how much she will be missed.

Betty was also very active in the Hawthorn Garden Club, the Hales Corners Woman’s Club and the Wild Ones. She was a past president of the Milwaukee District Garden Clubs and served as Butterfly Chairman for many years. She loved nature, especially wildflowers and butterflies, and was also a great supporter of the Monarch Trail at the Milwaukee County Grounds.

Our condolences go out to Betty’s husband Rom, her son Lance and his wife Debbie, her daughter Nicole and husband Paul, and her grandchildren Calvin, Ella, Parker and Olivia. We thank the Braun family for requesting memorials to the Homestead and we appreciate the over \$1000 that has been donated in Betty’s memory.

Plants for our prairie

Many thanks to Bill Holton and Tom Ueberroth for rescuing prairie plants from a remnant of the Barnes Prairie in Racine County. The area is being destroyed because of a highway widening project. It is truly unfortunate that we continue to lose what little remains of our original prairie landscape, but at least some of the plants and their southeastern Wisconsin genotype will be saved here at the Homestead.

Cash raffle

We will be kicking off our annual cash raffle fundraiser at our July 1 event. We hope all our members will support this effort by selling tickets to their neighbors and friends while perhaps purchasing some for themselves. The raffle has become an important fundraising tool since we no longer have the Christmas tree sale. Thanks for your help!

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; treasurer, Michael Jedrzejewski; directors: George Berger, William Holton and Dave Zepecki.
