



Homestead Happenings

Newsletter of the Stahl-Conrad Homestead

www.HistoricHalesCorners.org

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

September, 2018

Annual meeting, raffle drawing, and fall program

Please join us for our annual meeting at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 26 when we will update you on what has been happening at the Homestead and share some of our plans for the upcoming year. It is also time for electing board members with Dave Zepecki up for reelection this year. We will be drawing the winners of our cash raffle, and while you don't have to be present to win, if you are there you could be going home with a check in your pocket! Reminder: Get your your raffle tickets in to us or bring them to the meeting.

The business portion of the meeting will be followed by a program by Judy Kesser, a retired educator who has become an avid advocate for the preservation of monarch butterflies. Judy will provide insight into the annual migration that is taking place right now and will give you ideas on how to help this iconic species. We are celebrating the fact that the Homestead has just become a Monarch Waystation and we will provide information on how you can enroll your yard in this program.

Please be sure to join us for this chance to learn about monarch butterflies and socialize with your fellow Homestead members. The meeting is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Big tree contest

Since we have had just a few nominations for the Big Oak and Hickory Contest, we have extended the contest into next spring. One reason for the contest is to try to identify as many of the large old trees as possible so please get those nominations in. Entry forms will be available at our event, or leave a message at 414-858-9195 to request them by mail.

Hales Corners Woman's Club

As many of you know, the Hales Corners Woman's Club has disbanded after being in existence for 62 years. Membership had been dwindling in recent years as original members aged and younger women began working outside the home.

Besides being a social outlet, the Club provided scholarships to local students and grants to the library, police and fire departments and other organizations. The Homestead was the recipient of several grants over the years and we are very grateful for the support. We received \$300 this year when the Club parceled out its remaining funds. We wish all the former members the very best and say "thank you" for again supporting our mission.

In several ways **Stahl-Conrad's Mission is Bearing Fruit** by Jim Uhrinak

The “U.S. is running out of botanists, which is worsening cases of plant blindness” according to a front page article in the *Wall Street Journal* (8/15/18). It begins “The U.S. is running short of people who can tell the forest from the trees.” The problem amongst Americans, even well-degreed biologists, (includes colleges, herbaria, educational and curricula biases, competition with other studies, funding allocation, the virtual world) is “not paying attention to the natural world around us.”

Stahl-Conrad can take pride in archiving Richard Barloga's life work in plant inventories, field notes, mapping and photo-documentation. Since Richard preserved inventories of many sites that no longer exist, much of his work is irreplaceable. Like Randy Powers, his conscientious site revisitations resulted in inventories far exceeding today's norms. As an example, Randy inventoried a prairie remnant in Southeast Wisconsin that three other botanists had inventoried to 104 species. After four more years Randy increased that inventory to 306 plant species.

Thorough inventories are hard won. We need to support qualified botanists and those in training. Allocations for botany are very short. The WSJ reported there is “roughly one botanist on the federal payroll for every twenty million acres of land (31,250 square miles).”

Matt Smith, our September annual meeting speaker, was the top botany student in his class at Northland College and has pursued a robust restoration career in a wide variety of savanna remnants throughout the Midwest. Matt is currently land manager at Riveredge Nature Center and former land manager of Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.

Editor's Note: We originally thought Matt Smith would be speaking at our annual meeting but there was a scheduling conflict. We are hoping to have him here early in 2019.

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.
