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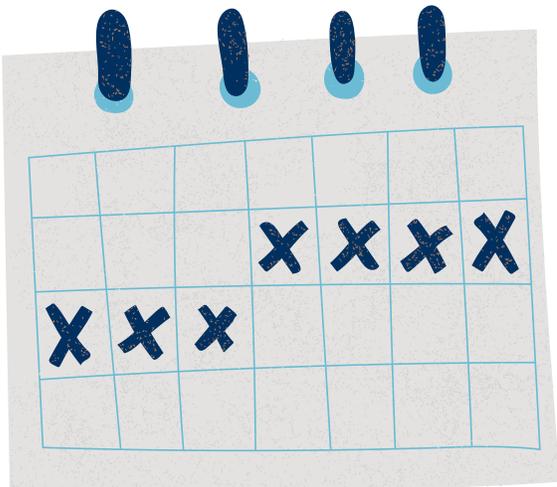
# **December 2022 Newsletter**

**Dane County Parks  
Volunteer Program**



# Greetings!

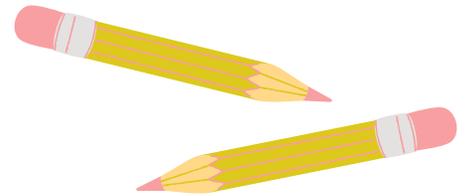
We hope you have a great holiday season and are able to spend plenty of time doing the things you love with those you cherish. Cheers to all the fun snowy season activities to be had in the parks!



[Event Calendar](#)



[Dane County Parks Map](#)



**Questions?**

**Contact Claire Lamberg**

**(608) 516-3703**

**[lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com](mailto:lamberg.claire@countyofdane.com)**

# Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

## Walking Iron Restoration Workdays

Help natural areas staff and volunteers continue restoration work at Walking Iron's beautiful and ecologically important remnant sand prairie!

December 27

January 10



## Tree and Brush Removal Workdays

Volunteer as a hauler or sawyer at these winter workdays where you will remove invasive brush and trees. Be prepared and dress for the weather!

Multiple Dates,  
View [Event Calendar](#)



## Dane County Parks Friends Group Events

### Prairie Moraine Friends - Winter Woodland Restoration

January 3

January 5

January 10

### Friends of Festge Workday

email Jeanette Hoard: [jahoard22@tds.net](mailto:jahoard22@tds.net)

December 31

January 1

- \* Tuesday Morning Workdays, Donald County Park
- \* Saturday Woods Restoration, Silverwood County Park
- \* Saturday Workdays, Anderson Farm County Park

**Volunteer Events Cont.**

# **Prairie Seed Weighing and Bagging and Prairie Seed Mixing**

This is the next step in our prairie seed restoration process. We will be weighing, bagging, and labeling seed planned out for restoration sites across the county. We will then need help pre-mixing our prairie planting mixes! After we've allocated seed to each project, we must then mix our seed back into chaff to get it ready for each planting.



January 3

January 4

January 5

January 9



# Upcoming Events



## Friends of Urban Nature Bird and Nature Adventure: Signs of Life

Join naturalist Alex Singer for "Sings of Life: What's Happening in Nature in Winter?" This is a free, family friendly program.

December 24



## January Full Moon Women's Wellness Evening

Give yourself a chance to escape the busyness and stress of the holiday season by joining the Friends of Schumacher Farm for this workshop.

January 5



## WI Salt Awareness Week 2023

January 23-27

Join this virtual YouTube livestream to learn more about the impacts of salt and how you can be a part of the Salt Wise revolution!



All these events (and more!) can be found on the [DCP Event Calendar](#)

To get updates on non-volunteering events, sign up for the [Parks Newsletter!](#)

# November Recap

A huge thanks to those who helped with seed cleaning this season! Volunteers dedicated almost 500 hours to cleaning seed using hammer mills, fanning mills, and hand screens. Cleaning seed is a long, and sometimes tedious, process that we couldn't do without the amazing folks who join us.



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Stewart Park Volunteers:

**Jack Saltes, Mary McDonough Sutter, Mike Hasburgh, Paul Sutter, & Rita Hasburgh**



Pictured left to right: Jack, Mary, and Paul at this year's burn in the oak remnant at Stewart



Mike with one of his well-constructed burn piles



Rita planting oak saplings in the park, Mother's Day 2022



Mike and volunteer Don Schlub, working in the oak savanna restoration

## Volunteer Spotlight Cont.



Jack Saltes, Mary McDonough Sutter, Paul Sutter, and Mike & Rita Hasburgh all make up the Friends of Stewart Park as an informal (non-501©3) friends group operating at Stewart Lake County Park. Over the years they've taken on many projects and on-going commitments towards improving the land and visitor experience. The park has transformed in many ways under their care and thanks to their teamwork!

Throughout the year Jack Saltes leads "Goat-Squad" volunteer workdays on a very steep hillside prairie remnant overlooking the lake. This year he applied for and received a grant from the Mount Horeb Community Foundation to fund a spring burn in the remnant prairie – a huge achievement! For the last 23 years (since 2000) he has also been responsible for the installation, maintenance, and monitoring of an impressive bluebird trail that has fledged over 800 bluebirds at the park. With 30 boxes currently in the park, Jack sure has his work cut out for him during the monitoring season.

Mary McDonough Sutter is the lead organizer for the Friends, having worked in many ways to build capacity for the group and recruit volunteers for the many volunteer projects happening throughout the park. In addition to running family-friendly oak savanna workdays on every 3rd Sunday of the month, she coordinates projects in the native shrub garden, storm-water retention gardens, and restoration activities in other areas of the park. She has also organized and worked with Eagle Scouts on numerous projects, helping to create an awesome audio-visual tour throughout the park, as well as improving kiosk displays and providing additional seating in the form of Leopold benches for park users. She is joined in many of these projects by her husband Paul, who helps on as many of these projects as he is able and who is a constant advocate for the amazing work ongoing in the park. Paul and Mary achieved chainsaw safety certification last year, and have since been putting those skills to good use throughout the park.

Rita and Mike Hasburgh are more recent additions to the group, having started as volunteers in the last few years. Mike was drawn into the park by the amazing work happening in the oak savanna, and is now an expert brush pile maker and burner. Thanks to his effective work with a brush cutter, invasive undergrowth off the oak woodland trail is almost non-existent. Rita manages the Friends of Stewart Park Facebook page, helping to spread the good word that everyone is doing within the park. She celebrated Mother's Day 2022 with her children and grandchildren by planting bur oak trees within the meadow trail at Stewart. She and Mike propagated these oaks at home with acorns harvested from the park!



There's many projects for volunteers to work on at Stewart Lake County Park!

if you're interested in working with the Friends of Stewart to achieve even more at this park, contact Mary at her email: [McSutter@mhtc.net](mailto:McSutter@mhtc.net).

**Friends Group Feature:**

# **Friends of Schumacher**

The Friends of Schumacher Farm manages programming for Schumacher Farm Park. The park represents a view into what life was like during the 1920s-1930s and offers a representation of Dane County's heritage at that time. The Friends host many events that relate to historical preservation, ecological restoration, education and nature conservation.

## **Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities**

Pollinator Garden  
Special Events  
Education/School Groups  
Historic Vegetable Garden  
Prairie Restoration  
Woodworker  
Crafter  
...and more!



Contact:

[info@schumacherfarmpark.org](mailto:info@schumacherfarmpark.org)



[schumacherfarmpark.org](http://schumacherfarmpark.org)

 @SchumacherFarmPark

# Staff Spotlight

## Susan Sanford

Strategic  
Engagement  
Coordinator



As the Strategic Engagement Coordinator for the Land and Water Resources Department, Susan is the point person for everything marketing and outreach related. Within the department she also leads equity and inclusion efforts and builds partnerships between staff and community groups. Susan holds a Master of Environmental Management focused on Community-based Environmental Management and loves getting people involved in caring for their natural spaces, including how to make small changes in their own yard or neighborhood that can make a big impact. In addition to helping build capacity of land and water conservation groups, she leads the Free Plants for School and Community Projects program. In this program there are ~40 volunteers that grow native plants for free distribution to schools and community organizations. Since the program began in 2016, more than 29,000 plants have been allocated to 160 different groups, including schools, neighborhood associations and community centers.



**Favorite Dane  
County Park:**

Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area



**Favorite  
thing to spot  
in the parks:**

Native plants! 5 years ago I really knew nothing about native plants and since I have started growing them I am amazed how many species I can recognize.

# Volunteer Photo Submissions



"This was the bumblebee nest made in a bluebird box in my yard this summer. Queen Bumble sandwiched her nest between what was a chickadee moss-made nest. The interior bluebird box is 4.5 x4.5 inches and 5 inches from the floor to the box hole in which the queen made her nest. It was fun to have them around and abuzz thus summer."  
-Volunteer Jack Saltes

Mary McDonough Sutter took this photo during our Tree and Brush Workday at Stewart Lake this past Friday. Great work was accomplished by all!



Tree and brush removal workday at Donald park led by Liz McBride, volunteer Land Steward. Amazing progress has been made in the oak savanna at Donald in the last year!

# Prairie Partners Internship

## Prairie Partners Restoration Internship

Administered by Madison Audubon, in partnership with the Friends of Cherokee Marsh, Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, and others.

**LOCATION:** Five interns will work in Dane and Columbia counties at Pheasant Branch Conservancy, Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Goose Pond Sanctuary, Empire Prairies State Natural Area/Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area, and Cherokee Marsh. Work experience or academic training in natural sciences or restoration is preferred, but all students are encouraged to apply. This program will run May 22-August 11.

**COMPENSATION:** This is a paid internship at a rate of \$15/hour and is a full-time commitment (40 hours per week for 12 weeks). Academic credit may be available through your educational institution.

**JOB DUTIES:** Invasive species control is a major focus, but work includes seed collection, biological monitoring, and general landscape restoration and maintenance. Use of hand tools, some power tools and herbicide required. Ability to work under a variety of conditions in a team setting is key to your success! Tasks involve outdoor work in multiple habitats and in all summer weather.



For more details and application information, head to this website below!

[madisonaudubon.org/apply](https://madisonaudubon.org/apply)



# Volunteer Photo Submission



Want to see your photo featured in next month's newsletter? Submit a photograph to the google form [here](#)! Photos must be appropriate and relevant to Dane County Parks, volunteering, nature, conservation, wildlife, or the outdoors.



## Volunteer Spotlight Nomination

Click the link below to nominate yourself or someone else for the DCP Volunteer Spotlight! Please include a picture of yourself/your nominee with the submission.

[Click here for the submission form](#) 



# Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your parks!

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