



Friends are 25 Years Old!!

CELEBRATE THE OCCASION

Monday September 15 at Drugan's in Holmen, come celebrate the 25th year of our working to save and restore the McGilvray Road and the Bridges.

We will encourage people to visit the Bridges and walk the *trail prior* to the Annual Meeting. At 4:30 we will be at BRIDGE 1 or the Picnic Site to enjoy the Bagpipes by Alex Mc Gilvray. You heard right!! Alex McGilvray, from Genoa City, WI., will help us enjoy a great celebration.

We are joined by 2 more McGilvray great granddaughters, Kathleen Mangis and Colleen Kassa,

granddaughters of Gilbert) who are coming from Washington State !!

At about 5:30 we will be at Drugan's for Social Time. Order off the menu and eat at around 6.

Linda McMullin is preparing a 25th anniversary retrospective slide show.

We will have our *Annual Meeting...* usually rather brief, and some time for enjoying one another's company.

RSVP to Karla Pierson by Sept 7.

Please RSVP to Karla at 608-269-6111 or theblonde2@centurytel.net, letting me know who will be attending (number and name) and if you have any questions, let me know. We will need a final count for the dinner. Each person/couple will pay for their own dinner and drinks.

PROGRESS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

As people living in the Coulee Region know, the winter was harsh and the spring not much nicer. We had lots of rain and high water that seems to have slackened off as of mid August. Things we wanted to do, aren't always on our schedule. Mother Nature is in charge.

There are always several things going on at the Bridges site. All winter, Pat Caffrey has been re-decking bridges and doing what seems more than routine maintenance. He has fixed some wear and tear issues and also some seemingly vandalism.

You will be delighted by the new decks on Bridges 5 and 6.

Now, at least as I write, you can walk all the way to the Main Channel. Wear your bug protection. They've been waiting for us.

WAIT ! There's MORE !!!

Pat also is a lumberjack, helping us get ready for the lowering of the McGilvray Road between Bridges 4 and 5, just as was accomplished between Bridges 5 and 6 a year ago.

The purpose, as you may remember, is to protect the Bridges from floodwater, and permit the water to

flow across the trail during those extreme high water events.

It isn't easy to exaggerate what Pat did, followed by Mike Howe's removal of the stacked wood. It's a terrific amount of labor, not aided by access issues, weather, and mechanical breakdown. THANK YOU PAT and MIKE.

Weather has put off the burning of the brush piles created by tree removal. Those piles have been moved by Pat and the DNR, so that they wouldn't cause more damage. Now they will be burned in early September, preparatory to the lowering of this next section of road.

Nothing ever goes as planned, I am thinking... and the process to find a contractor for the lowering, has had its issues, too. Steve Gabrielson, who has done so much for the Bridges and Road, is now the contractor who will do this next section of road.

Many meetings and much paper work happen along the way. A group of hard working heavy thinkers called the "Worker Bees" is meeting again to see where the project needs to be modified. The group is where the DNR and FRIENDS fine tune work and money.

Our main connections with the DNR are Tim Babros of the Black River office and Anna Jahns of Viroqua. HUGE THANK YOU

And a fond farewell to Lori Wienke.

We have a responsibility to keep track of money, too.

The Endowment Committee consists of D.A. Ferguson, Pat Caffrey, Karla Pierson.

There were some changes in our investments and we are pleased that they watch our moneys so carefully.

An Audit committee watches our treasurer's reports. Thanks to Karla Pierson, Pat Caffrey, Neale Horman and Ed Hill.

We have changed treasurers to Pat Caffrey from Karla Pierson, as she has started enjoying a bit of retirement.

Karla Pierson is a major pillar in this group as she does a huge amount of paperwork, serving as secretary for all meetings, including the Worker Bees. It's detailed, complicated and serves as a history and memory of the work of the group.

ARCHIVES

Our archives are with the UW-L Area Research Center in La Crosse, a repository of the Wisconsin Historical Society. It's accessible during working hours there. Catalog is on line.

THANK YOU DRUGAN'S

Mary Drugan and her WHO Golf Outing (Women Helping Others) really helped the Bridges with their donation of time and a fun event at Drugan's Castle Mound on July 19, 2014. Mary has walked those bridges with her dog for years and has been a great supporter. This was extra special, and with our expenses, extra appreciated! Thanks to the Bridges group for helping -Don Heidel who got visors and helped with registration, D.A. and Bill Ferguson, Mariel Carlisle and Rachel Peterson and friends.

THANK YOU TOWN OF HOLLAND

Thank you for your continued support in so many ways. For allowing us to meet at the Town Hall for Worker Bees meetings and for garbage pick up and help with the parking lot. Very important and appreciated.

THANK YOU FRIENDS... and Mac (Gile) McWain for all the clean up and support.

THANK YOU LA CROSSE TRIBUNE and COURIER LIFE NEWS (Holmen/Onalaska Courier), Trempealeau Times for all your help.

NEEDS

We are often in need of some clean up at the Bridges, and rely heavily on people walking the site.

Since there was persistent high water, there was no real access to the road beyond about Bridge 3. If you wish to spend a bit of time clearing the ends of the Bridges, or weed whacking, it is much needed and appreciated.

We need a newsletter

editor. We have been relying on putting some news on our great Website www.7bridgesrd.org . Thank you Linda McMullin, web wizard.

It is good to have regular newsletter ... and if possible via email to save printing and postage costs. We'd certainly print and send to those who don't do email.

Membership and Money..

Please remember us in your year end donations. We are a 501c3 and we all so need your membership.

We'd love to add

We are at

Friends of McGilvray Road

Box 2976

La Crosse, WI 54601-2976

We are a 501 (c) (3) organization and are tax deductible as allowed by law

\$200 Lifetime Patron

\$ 25 Supporting/Corporate

\$100 yearly Corporate or business

\$ 25 Individual

www.7bridgesrd.org

may pay via PayPal on website