

Friends of McGilvray Road

Horton's Clips

March 2016



Looking forward to Spring!

Be sure to mark down Sunday, May 15th on your calendar! It's our Historic Preservation Walk between 1-4

Check out our website and connect with us at <http://www.7bridgesrd.org>

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMcGilvrayRd>

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Who's Who in the Friends of McGilvray Road

Board of Directors

Nancy Hill
Pat Caffrey
D.A. Ferguson
Jay Fernholz
Don Heidel
Mike Howe
Linda McMullin
Rachel Peterson
Karla Pierson

Officers

President	Nancy Hill
Vice President	Mike Howe
Treasurer	Pat Caffrey
Secretary	Karla Pierson
Webmaster	Linda McMullin
Horton Editors	Chris Sanders Greg DeBoer

Note from the President

2015 came and went in a blink of an eye and now we are looking at April. Truly amazing how time flies!

Visitors to the Bridges will walk over a much improved surface. Bridges have received new decking, a road has been lowered, and the last of the tree debris has been burned. Many thanks to the efforts of Pat Caffrey, Anna Jahns, Steve Gabrielson, Mike Howe; with guidance by Tim Babros. Where bare earth was a year ago, grass is now flourishing and foliage is returning.

There are many projects still to be worked on and they take time. We hope to have a ford south of Bridge 1 so that we can access the bridges with heavier equipment. The current restriction of 1000 pounds makes it difficult to re-deck Bridge 3 or access other areas. Another improvement is the proposed kiosk which would give information from both the Friends and the DNR, with a good map and a pocket for distribution of brochures. We hope to get the last of the road lowering done. Lots of our work is dependent on financing, weather, and permits.

There have been many meetings of some small committees that have borne fruit. **The Worker Bees** do the planning and the work on the trail and bridges. This is a combined effort of the **DNR** (Tim Babros and Anna Jahns), Pat Caffrey, Jay Fernholz, Don Heidel, Karla Pierson, DA Ferguson, Linda Mc Mullin, Gile (Mac) McWain, Mike Howe, Steve Gabrielson, and Nancy Hill.

The complete **Board** (listed below) works managing the general direction of our organization.

Endowment: This committee shepherds our finances. Consists of Karla Pierson, Pat Caffrey and DA Ferguson.

Membership: This committee works to bring in new membership. Currently we sit at 88 members strong! Spearheaded by Pat Caffrey, Rachel Pederson, and Karla Pierson.

Nominations: This committee appoints new members to the board. Chaired by D.A Ferguson but suggestions are welcome.

Other noteworthy mentions go out to:

Volunteers and students: It's great to have volunteers and as you can see almost all of us are too. I'm delighted that students take the Bridges and Van Loon for their area of study. Volunteers quietly improve the trail as they use it. It's the great ethic of leaving an area better than when one arrives that helps sustain such a sanctuary. If you remove debris from the ends of the bridges, bravo! If you pick up waste, bravo! Thank you, and please continue.

National Geographic Geotourism: Work is being done by Linda McMullin. The site is up and running ahead of schedule (<http://mississippiriver.natgeotourism.com/content/7-bridges-mcgilvray-road/mspef9414dab582c98da>). It should help the tourists or ourselves know what is available and suggest similar things of interest to do while visiting the area.

Website: Also done by Linda McMullin. It is packed full of useful information such as including a connection to flood levels so you can figure how far the trail is open when there has been a weather event. You can also find us on **Facebook**; link is on the main page.

Hortons Clips Newsletter: Edited by Chris Sanders, Greg DeBoer, and contributors. We always appreciate articles, ideas and photos. We try to have a newsletter 3 times a year and send it electronically to keep costs and paper waste to a minimum. It really helps. Let us know if e-mail is fine for you.

Member and public occasions: These consist of cleanup sessions and public walks. As with any organization, we want to keep renewing and refreshing our ideas and people who participate. We want more outreach; to schools and organizations so that the bridges and road are used and loved. All of that takes new ideas, energy and people power. We are always on the lookout for new members and volunteers.

In other news...

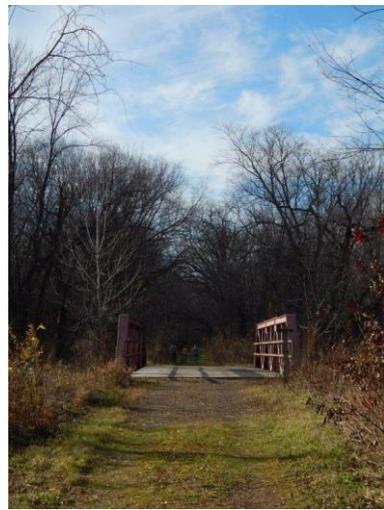
Flood waters in December 2015. We have been tested and survived! The high waters of December were a good test of the work done to lower the road between Bridges 4 and 5. The grasses are beginning to take hold and the excess wood is gone. Recent travelers have noted damage (as predicted) to the vulnerable culvert near Bridge 4. There will be work to stabilize this area and, as you've suspected, it is an area where we planned to work to lower more road to create a long lasting path. There will be times with high water but we hope that our planning will make the area easy to pass most of the time. We appreciate feedback about the trail (especially photos regarding issues). Actually, feel free to share any photos you have of the trail; it helps keep the website and newsletter entertaining.

We hope that you will contact Board members and officers with your ideas, concerns, articles, photos and support. Connect with us at <http://www.7bridgesrd.org>

Yours Truly,
Nancy Hill



Editor's Picks



Did you know?

The Friends of McGilvray Road has a website. It has been updated and expanded over the last few years and has everything you need or want to know about the McGilvray Road trail and the Friends.

To find our web site you can by typing in “McGilvray Road” in any search engine (Google, Yahoo Search, Bing, etc). You can also enter in: <http://www.7bridgesrd.org> in the address bar of your favorite Internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, etc.).

Here you will find pictures and information about McGilvray Road including:

- Directions and maps on how to get there.
- Pictures of the bridges, the trail, and Friends at work on them; the Anderson Klafke prints, floods, and various flora and fauna found along the trail.
- Tips for visitors including information about maintenance, closures, and flooding.
- A short history of McGilvray Road, the bridges and the Friends that saved them.
- Statistical information about each of the bridges.
- Friends’ organizational information such as by-laws, meeting minutes, and newsletters.
- Membership information and forms for joining, making a donation or paying dues. Paypal is accepted.
- You will also find information about contacting us by mail or email.

In addition to the web site, our site administrator, Linda McMullin, has recently begun work on a Facebook page. The page will soon contain ongoing news about the trail, the bridges, and the Friends. You can use the “find friends” box at the top of your Facebook page by typing in: Friends of McGilvray Road.

Please let us know if you have any corrections or suggestions for improvement by sending an email to: mcmullinda@gmail.com. Happy surfing!

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS

In 1989, the Friends of McGilvray formed a volunteer organization and created a partnership with the Wisconsin D.N.R. to restore six historically significant bridges of McGilvray Road, located in the Van Loon Wildlife Area, La Crosse Country Wisconsin.

Membership dues and contributions provide FMR a means of

- Funding for safety and maintenance of the six bridges and trail.
- Conducting educational walks and community awareness programs.
- Distribution of newsletters, publications, and trail maps.
- Providing a volunteer base.

Friends of McGilvray Road is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Membership Fees

\$25.00 Annual Individual

\$100.00 Annual Corporate or Business

\$200.00 Lifetime Patron

Visit our website at <http://www.7bridgesrd.org> to download our membership form or send a check made out to 'Friends of McGilvray Road' along with your name and address.

**Friends of McGilvray Road
P.O. Box 2976
La Crosse, WI 54602-2976**

*** Please keep us informed on your e-mail address as that is the best way to share this newsletter without incurring any additional expenses. If you are getting this newsletter via mail, it might mean that we do not have your e-mail address on file. Please send it to theblonde2@centurytel.net (Karla Pierson) and we will add it to our list. Thanks!

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