



Summer 2017

And it's finally stopped raining!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MCGILVRAY ROAD
PO BOX 2976
LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2976

President's Message

Anticipation is a sweet part of so many things... Christmas, Weddings, Vacations... but it has been difficult keeping the excitement of waiting for the FORD!!! To get work done on the McGilvray Road we needed a ford constructed that would permit heavier equipment to bypass the first Bridge. Thanks to a lot of work on the part of the WDNR and the Friends, we got money, permissions, engineer's reports, estimates and bids. Now perhaps we would get a ford! Mother Nature had other ideas. September 2016 might have been a good time for construction. But then we got a flood, hence, no construction. Then winter arrived and we could not dig and possibly disturb the hibernating animals. (continued)

Who's Who in the Friends of McGilvray Road

Board of Directors

Nancy Hill	Mike Howe
D.A. Ferguson	Pat Caffrey
Linda McMullin	Jay Fernholz
Herbert Grimek	Ruth Scholze

Officers

President - Nancy Hill
Vice President - Mike Howe
Treasurer - Pat Caffrey
Secretary - Ruth Scholze
Media - Linda McMullin

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

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

Next came spring and more rain and bad floods nearby. Did I mention more rain? Next came summer and RAIN! See what I mean about anticipation?



Now, after so many high water events, so much planning, the big day arrived with trucks, workers and low water. August 14 was the big day. Anticipation was worth it. And the excitement was still there. The construction was orchestrated and the workers did a beautiful job. It's so good watching people who have mastered their profession or trade, create and make a plan or a dream come true.



A job well done on a project that will yield years of good use is worth all of it. Thank you. The thank you's go far out to; many levels of the DNR, to our FMR Worker bees and the Friends Board and Membership, and to Steve Gabrielson and Dave Rybold and their construction work. We all know that this never would have gotten done without financial support from many sources, either. Thank you all! Soon, the rest of the road lowering work will get done. Be sure to take a walk on the road, soon.

Nancy Hill

Our On-Site Reporter

Roger Ziegler keeps us posted on what is happening on the trail. Pictures and information he sends are posted by us on Facebook. Roger tells us about himself...

I grew up just north of here in Fountain City and after living in various places across the U.S. chose to return here to retire. I discovered Seven Bridges Road while my dog, Lady, an 11 year old yellow lab, and I were exploring the area last summer as our house was being built. We both really enjoy hiking the trail, especially in the early morning. Lady loves all the smells and swimming holes. Right now, her favorite is right by Bridge One. I love just hiking and seeing the wildlife, birds, and wildflowers. Even hiking last winter was great. No mosquitoes, the trail is easy to find, and everything is so fresh, crisp, and clean, especially after a new snow. My son lives in Denver and every day he gets one or two pictures of what we saw along the trail. We've met some very nice people and their pets as we've wandered Seven Bridges Road, and hope to continue meeting more.



You've probably met Lady and you don't even know it. She's been on the Facebook page in the pictures I send to our media manager, Linda of things along the trail, like fallen trees and flooding, to help monitor the condition of the trail.

National Historic Preservation Month Celebration Walk

May is actually National Historic Preservation Month, but we had weather and subsequent water level problems. As a result, we held our walk on June 14. The day was sunny but quite warm.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF MCGILVRAY ROAD

Open to All

We would love to see and meet with anyone interested in the McGilvray-7 bridges hiking trail and the historic bridges. Invite your friends!

Annual Meeting
Monday September 11, 2017
Drugan's Golf Course and Supper Club in Holmen, WI.
A social time will be held at 5:30
Order off of the menu at 6:00 PM

Program

At the meeting we will discuss what has happened on the trail over the last year and plans for 2018. If we get a "normal" amount of rain next year, it is anticipated that this will be a great deal. Speakers will include a representative of the WDNR and members of the FMR Worker Bees.

After the presentations and general discussion, FMR members are encouraged to stay for a SHORT business meeting.

To help us, and Drugan's plan for the meeting and dining space please call or text Linda McMullin at **608-792-0234** no later than Friday Sept. 8. Thanks You!

Eyes Down

Poison Ivy



Leaves Poison ivy has thin, often shiny (but not always), compound leaves. The edges of the leaves usually have large indentations at irregular intervals. The leaves occur in threes, with one leaf at the end of the stem, and two leaves opposite each other on the stem. In the spring, the young leaves may be red or orange, in summer bright-green, and in the fall the leaves turn red.

Poison ivy often grows *en masse* thereby "taking over" an area and becoming the dominant plant.



Vine The stem is woody and in its native territory has aerial roots. They are small roots that grow out of the stem and also help the vine to cling to a support. The aerial roots are commonly seen on older plants growing up or over non-soil support (stones, trees, fences, etc.). They are often reddish. The aerial roots make the main stem appear hairy.



Flowers and berries

Depending on the time of year, the plant may have clusters of small, yellowish-green flowers (usually in June) or hard, greenish-white berries (fall).



Nettle

We have two kinds of nettle on McGilvray Road. Common or Stinging Nettle is found more than the Wood Nettle.



Stinging Nettle has hollow, ribbed, stout stems. The dark green, heart-shaped leaves are opposite with coarse teeth, and a rough, papery texture.

Flowers These plants have flowers that are salmon or pink in color.

Wood Nettle This nettle has a few stinging hairs with alternate leaves. The leaves are more rounded at the base than a stinging nettle.

Flowers These plants have flowers that are white or greenish in color.



Caution: When the leaves of wood nettle brush your skin, the stinging hairs can penetrate, causing you to itch and sting. The same applies for stinging nettle, except the stinging hairs are on both the leaves and the stems.