

Fall 2018

Annual Meeting

On September 10, 2018, The Friends of McGilvray Road gathered for their annual business meeting at Drugan's Restaurant in rural Holmen. We were delighted to see so many long term and new supporters, and of course, Anna Jahns, our connection to the DNR.

Linda Mc Mullin did a fine pictorial presentation of the work completed in the past year or so. It is amazing what has been accomplished, in spite of weather and other obstacles.

We are fortunate to have many talented people working on the physical aspects of the Trail and Bridges, and also, someone like Linda who toils over the publications and presentations. THANK YOU. It is the behind the scenes work that has made us so successful, and the behind the scenes encouragements of one another that have "kept our chins up" when things were not going according to plan.

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

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
Butch Kleinsmith	

Officers

President - Ruth Scholze
Vice President – Herbert Grimek
Treasurer - Pat Caffrey
Secretary - open
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>

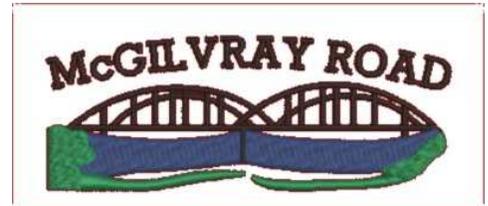
We have new members joining the Board and Ruth Scholze is taking the gavel in hand as President. Herb Grimek is Vice President, and Nancy Hill is rejoining the Board as a participating member. We have 11 Board members and each has unique gifts that are brought to the mix. Please contact the Board members and offer support and ideas. ~Nancy

30th Anniversary



As you may know, 2019 will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Friends. To commemorate this, we had a t-shirt design made. Shirts can be bought at Coaches Corner for about \$15.00. You also have the option of buying your own t-shirt and bringing it in to have the design added for \$6.00. An extra donation is appreciated, but this is not a fund raiser.

There is also an embroidery design of the Bridges logo that is available to be added to anything from visors to whatever Coaches has in the store. As with the shirt, you may bring in your own



garment.

Historical Society Visit

On May 16 (Historic Preservation Month), the La Crosse County Historical Society took a bus tour of the northern reaches of La Crosse County. They stopped by the Bridges on the first day that I noted any mosquitoes.

The interesting side note is that when the bus came to the end of Old Highway 93, it turned left, and not right. We could certainly use a sign there directing folks to the Bridges. The poor bus had nowhere to turn around until it traveled for a few minutes back south. We could have had a bit longer to talk about our history, but what we did have, was a delight.



Thanks to Barb Kooiman who has done so much to encourage us. She is a lecturer at UW-L in World History and is passionate and extremely knowledgeable about architectural history and historic preservation. She has shepherded 100 National Register of Historic Places nominations, inventoried historic buildings, and worked staff historian for Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at UW-La Crosse. There's more, but you have an idea how fun and educational the Bus Tour was. ~Nancy

Spreading the Word

On May 23rd Nancy Hill and Linda McMullin made an hour-long PowerPoint presentation at the **Onalaska Library community room**. The presentation consisted of two parts.

- The first part focused on the history of McGilvray Road and the Bridges, starting with Alex McGilvray's arrival and ending in 1989. At that time the road was closed and the bridges were in such bad repair that there was a WI State proposal to remove all but one of them.
- The second part of the history began with the rally to save the bridges and the formation of the "Friends." The information covered all of the improvements made to the trail and the Bridges, and a review of the tremendous amount of funds and effort contributed by many people over the last 30 years.

Nancy and Linda repeated the same presentation a couple of weeks later to the **Brice Prairie Conservation Club**.

A short history presentation was also given to the **Holmen Garden Club** on August 21, followed by a tour of the bridges and trail with several of the members. It was a lovely day and many wildflowers were out.



Looking Ahead

The hour-long PowerPoint McGilvray history presentation will be given again on May 1, 2019 to the **Holmen Area Historical Society** at the Holmen Village Hall at 7 pm.

If you know of any group or organization that might find this presentation enjoyable and informative, please contact Nancy [386-6237] or Linda [792-0234]. We love to "spread the word."

Note Cards

We continue to make available notecards that have the Anderson/Klafke prints of the bridges on them. This is an ongoing fund-raising effort. A packet of the 8 cards with envelopes is available for \$15.00.



9+

The note card available at:

Rudy's Feed & Seed
 Ace Hardware
 Cordell's Standard of Excellence

Village of Holmen Office
 Town of Holland Office

If you don't want to use them for notes, they make a unique gift. If you don't want to part with the pictures, you may want to do, as some others have done, and have them framed for wall display!

McGilvray Visit

On Saturday August 25 a few of the Friends got together for breakfast with Alex McGilvray's granddaughter, Kathy Mangis. This is Kathy's second visit to the area and with the Friends. She and her husband attended our 25th Anniversary Celebration in Sept of 2014.



Counter clockwise: Ruth Scholze, Jay Fernholz, Alex Mc Gilvray's granddaughter - Kathy Mangis, Jim Mangis , and Dave Arneson. Nancy Hill was also in attendance and took the picture.

Conservationist of the Year Award

Congratulations go out to Pat Caffrey who is the recipient of the Wisconsin 2018 Conservationist of the Year Award. This award identifies an individual or organization that exhibits extraordinary commitment to land conservation in Wisconsin. Over the years Pat has been involved in MANY organizations that exist for the betterment of communities and of the environment. As one of these organizations, The Friends of McGilvray Road is extremely grateful for all the time and effort he has contributed to our mission.



The following is information from the web site of [Gathering Waters](#) – Wisconsin’s Alliance for Land Trusts:

Land Conservation Leadership Awards Celebration

September 20, 2018 • Monona Terrace, Madison, WI • 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

The Land Conservation Leadership Awards recognize the outstanding accomplishments of individuals, policymakers, land trusts, and other groups who work to protect the places that make Wisconsin special. The awards honor the power of committed citizens and offer inspiring examples of conservation success

Conservationist of the Year

Pat Caffrey of Trempealeau, is the 2018 **Conservationist of the Year**. Caffrey has been an integral part of the conservation community in Wisconsin for more than 40 years. He helped set up many local conservation organizations. With his guidance, Mississippi Valley Conservancy transformed from an all-volunteer organization to an accredited, staffed land trust, with a nine-county service area. Caffrey consistently brings his knowledge, skills, passion, and professionalism to everything he does. He leads conservation efforts through environmental education and his ability to bring individuals and groups together. His nomination was made by more than a dozen organizations.

More information about Pat and his work can be found at <https://gatheringwaters.org/blog/conservationist-year-pat-caffrey>

Help Wanted

We are currently looking for a **Secretary** for the Board of Directors. This position was held by Ruth until she moved into the position of President in October. Please contact Nancy Hill at 608-386-6287 for details.

If you enjoy writing, please consider joining us as a **newsletter reporter**. This position can be one time, short term or long term as you wish. Please call Linda at 608-792-0234 for more information.