



Waunakee Rotary Club

July 24, 2008
Vol. 42 No. 1

Just east of Waunakee, a living history farm park serves as an educational resource about farm life in the 1920s and '30s and provides events for the region.

Members of the Schumacher Farm Board, along with a professional fund-raiser, updated the club about that county parks' efforts to finish the interior of a barn at the site.

Marcella Pendall deeded her land to Dane County for a park in 1978, said board member Lexi Kust. The farm home was built in 1908 by Marcella's parents.

When Marcella deeded the 40-acre parcel, only the farm home and a barn were left on the property. Since then, a hog house, a corn crib, and other buildings have been added. In 2001, 80 adjacent acres became available to the northeast of the park, and Dane County purchased it, bringing the park to 120 acres.

At the time, Ed and Jane Kaltenberg had offered to donate their barn to the neighboring park, and after 2001, a master plan was created for that barn. The board and Friends of Schumacher Farm raised funds to build a foundation and move the barn. While the barn was suspended and about to be lowered onto the foundation, a terrific wind storm blew the barn off of its perch and devastated it.

With the insurance settlement, a new barn was built of Douglas fir. The plan is to install heating and central air conditioning, an office, bathrooms, a classroom and kitchenette – all ADA accessible, Lexi said. The upstairs loft will accommodate large groups.

"The building is a dream come true, but we need help; we need your help," Lexi said.

Trel Gimber, a retired school teacher, recalled bringing groups of students to the park.

"I first came in 1988 with students. It's such a successful day that they are still doing that," Trel said.

Trel noted that the students get to hear a Victrola, see a wood burning stove and farm implements from the 1920s and '30s, and visit the heritage garden and prairies. They prefer the hands-on learning to reading about farm life in a book or seeing a film, Trel said.

Some of the events offered are the Holiday Teas, the Halloween events and workshops on leather crafting, rain gardens and other topics.

Scott Braucht, who is helping the group raise funds to finish the barn's interior, said he normally works on capital campaigns for libraries or health facilities. But he noted that the simplicity of life at the farm needs to be captured and kept.

"I chose this project because I don't know any other project like it," Scott said.

Other items:

- Raisa Fabriza de Souza, the club's foreign exchange student, is back home in Brazil, Lori Derauf reported. A German student will come in August to attend school in Waunakee for a year.

- Harriet Statz said children are lined up to ride on the Rotary float during the Waunafest parade. The theme is Make Your Dreams Real, based on the Rotary International president's theme. There will be a work day on the float July 19 at 1 p.m. at Qual Line Fence.

- Ray Statz said work has started on the bridge for the Rotary Walk.

- A sign-up sheet circulated for Waunafest shifts, but no one has signed up for Saturday afternoon or evening. If no one signs up for the shifts, which run 4-7 p.m. and 7-10 p.m., the stand will be closed.

- The fall golf outing is Sept. 4 in Northern Bay.

- The deadline to apply for the

OFFICERS

DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT • TOM REIS, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

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Calendar of Events:

- Service Club Olympics, July 21-22
- Waunafest, July 24-27
- Sept. 4, fall golf outing.

Ambassadorial Scholar Program is Aug. 15. This is a good opportunity for a graduate student, said President Dan Statz. Dan added that the District is stressing contributions to the foundation.

Guests: Norman and Alice Parsons, and Laurel Shepel, guests of Susan Vergeront; Larry Felsheim, guest of Peggy Acker Farber; John Jordan, guest of Phil Willems.

Birthdays: July 25, Jim Schmitz; July 26, Tom Laufenberg; July 27, Traci Mann; July 28, Bob Arntz.

Anniversaries: None.

Prayers: July 17, Kim Wilde; July 24, Pat Durden; July 31, Susan Vergeront; Aug. 7, Leonard Allen.

Programs: July 24, St. John's Tour; July 31, Bob Pulvermacher; Aug. 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: July 24, Fritz Durst and Ed Endres; July 31, Gary Epping and Bill Erickson.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.