



# SCHUMACHER

F A R M P A R K

**2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER**



# WELCOME NOTE

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be the new President of the Friends of Schumacher Farm! After retiring from a long and fulfilling career in public education as a classroom teacher and librarian in Texas, I relocated to Waunakee, where I have lived for the past 4 years. My first experience at Schumacher Farm Park was nothing short of magical and triggered my desire to get more involved. From the hike up the trail through tall prairie grass, the orange glow of jack-o-lanterns on a moonlit evening, and the squeals of laughter from the participating children, I was hooked! I bring a passion for education, a love of nature, a fascination with the past, and a deep appreciation for Marcella Schumacher Pendall's vision of preserving her family farmstead and generously sharing it with future generations.



Looking around the farmstead, it is evident that Spring has sprung and Schumacher Farm Park is celebrating its return! From special events like Spring on the Farm to recurring programs like Line Dancing, Kids on the Farm, and Farm Explorers - it's a great time to explore the park. In this newsletter, you'll also read about the exciting programs we have coming up this summer: Farmhouse Tours, Picnic and Playtime in the Park, Summer Lawn Party , and a Celebration of Indigenous Culture. These programs and events are only possible through the support of our volunteers and generous donors. We appreciate you.

Your neighbor and farm friend,

Paulette Rodriguez  
Board President



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

We've been busy with our children's programs including Kids on the Farm, Farm Explorers, and field trips. These experiences are a fantastic way to connect the next generation with nature and rural history. It's been wonderful to welcome new faces from different towns to the park, helping us grow a more inclusive and curious community rooted in the land.



Speaking of Kids on the Farm, there will be **no session next Tues. May 20<sup>th</sup>** due to another event at the park. However, we will have our **last session the following Tues., May 27<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to join us for our final session before this program takes a break for the summer!



# CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS - SUMMER

We're excited to share our plans this summer! Farm Explorers will continue to offer hands-on experiences that connect kids with history and the rhythms of nature. While Kids on the Farm will take a summer break, **we're introducing a new offering: Picnic & Playtime on the Farm**—every Monday from 10am to noon. This free, drop-in program invites families to explore the historic farmyard and prairie, and enjoy open-ended, multi-age play in a relaxed setting. It's a perfect way to spend a summer morning outdoors!





# WORKSHOPS

We're so lucky to be able to hold a variety of workshops year-round here at Schumacher. We've recently held the following workshops:

- Maple Sap Harvesting
- Sauna + Cold Plunge
- Women's Wellness
- Rag Rug Weaving
- Woodstove Cooking

Upcoming workshops:

- Nature Photography with Rona Neri
- Women's Wellness Workshops
- Sauna + cold plunge session with Kindled Community Sauna
- Mocktails & Bouquets





# HEIRLOOM GARDEN

Our Heirloom Garden is prepped and ready for the growing season, and we're already seeing signs of life—asparagus, rhubarb, and chives are popping up! This year, we're excited to enhance the space with the addition of a rain barrel, children's gardening tools, and improved signage. We also have plans to create a much larger garden near the CRH. These gardens will continue to support workshops, children's programs, and the Waunakee Food Pantry, helping us share the harvest with our community.

Want to get involved? **Join us every Wednesday at 1:30 pm to help us maintain the garden and connect with other volunteers.** No experience needed, just bring a pair of work gloves! If interested, please reach out to lead volunteer Debbie: [gwyka64@gmail.com](mailto:gwyka64@gmail.com)





# SPRING ON THE FARM

After two years of weather-related cancellations, we were thrilled to finally host Kids on the Farm on April 27th—and it was a beautiful day! This free community event was filled with joy and hands-on fun. Kids planted seeds, explored the prairie, decorated and flew their own kites, enjoyed Kindermusik, and were treated to an incredible display from the Wisconsin Kites Club. It was a wonderful celebration of spring.

See a great video from the Wisconsin Kites Club [here](#)!





# HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Our Historic Committee has been hard at work! The recent Garage Sale was a success, bringing in **\$3213.90** in funds. The porches have been restored to be a welcoming and accessible spaces to relax, admire the view, and soak in the charm of the farmyard during the warm months.

**We're also bringing back free open farmhouse tours this summer!** Join us on June 28th, July 26th, and August 16th from 1–3 PM. Volunteers will be on hand to guide you through the home and share fascinating stories from the past. No registration is needed—just drop in! These tours are free, though donations are always appreciated.



Photo by Sue Manske





# HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

## Artifact Spotlight

When Marcella Schumacher attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the 1930s, she belonged to the International Club. She held lawn parties for them on the farm which included food, drink, and games like croquet – read about us bringing back this tradition in a couple slides!

An ice cream scoop similar to this one could have been used to dish up homemade ice cream. This was the first mechanical ice cream scoop in the U.S and allowed users to measure out consistent ice cream portions and serve them in an attractive way. The heart shaped key at the top is turned which moved a scraper around the inside of the cone to release the ice cream. This ice cream scoop was donated by Leona Grubb of Waunakee.



Photos from the Schumacher Archives



Photos by Barb Johanningmeier



# RENTALS

Summer is filling up fast with rentals, and we're so grateful! These events have become a significant source of financial support for the Friends of Schumacher Farm, helping us continue our mission and programming.

We recently gave the historic barn a thorough clean-out, revealing its rustic charm and making it an even more inviting space for gatherings.

Head to our [website](#) to learn how you can rent one of our spaces!





# NATURAL AREA WORK DAYS

**Join volunteers and staff for important restoration work from 9am-12pm on the 2nd Tuesday & 4th Friday of the month.**

Work may include: removal of invasive species, brush removal, seed collection, etc. No experience necessary, direction will be provided.

Join us & sign up here: [Natural Areas Work Days Sign Up](#)





# NEW SUMMER EVENTS

**We're excited to introduce two new events this summer at Schumacher Farm—each offering a unique way to celebrate community, culture, and the season! Both events are free and family friendly.**

Summer Lawn Party: Wed., June 18th 6 - 8 pm

Join us for a delightful evening in the historic farmyard, inspired by the "lawn parties" once hosted by Marcella and her family. Enjoy free ice cream from Lundy's (while supplies last), lemonade, yard games, and guided prairie walks. The Waunastrummers will be playing delightful music and the historic buildings will be open to explore.



Photo from the Schumacher Archives

Gathering of Traditions: A Celebration of Indigenous Culture: Sat., July 12 2-5 pm

In partnership with the Village of Waunakee, we're proud to present this special event featuring the Little Eagle Arts Foundation (LEAF) and the Wisconsin Dells Singers. Experience traditional Indigenous arts, music, live performances, hands-on activities, and an unveiling of a special traveling exhibit. Come celebrate and connect with the rich traditions of the Ho-Chunk people!



Photo from Wisconsin Dells Singers



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS & JOIN US!



May 20<sup>th</sup>: Nature Photography Workshop

June 9<sup>th</sup> (and following Mondays): Picnic and Playtime at the Park

June 12<sup>th</sup> : Women's Wellness Workshop (Sunset Yoga in the Prairie)

June 16<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Play Like a Farmer)

June 15<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Little Ones on the Farm)

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Summer Lawn Party

June 22<sup>nd</sup>: Women's Wellness Workshop (Solstice & Midsummer Celebration)

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Prairie Blooms)

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Free Farmhouse Tours

July 14<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Play Like a Farmer)

July 16<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Little Ones on the Farm)

July 26<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Prairie Blooms)

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Free Farmhouse Tours

July 12<sup>th</sup>: Celebration of Indigenous Culture

July 31<sup>st</sup>: Mocktails and Bouquets Workshop

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Free Farmhouse Tours

Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>: Farm Explorers (Prairie Blooms)



# **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE UPDATES!**



## **OUR MISSION:**

**TO PROVIDE A LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM AND NATURE CONSERVANCY THAT OFFERS A REPRESENTATION OF DANE COUNTY'S RURAL HERITAGE THROUGH PRESERVATION, RESTORATION, AND EDUCATION.**

**THE FRIENDS OF SCHUMACHER FARM PARK IS A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RUN MOSTLY BY VOLUNTEERS. DONATIONS ALLOW US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK OF CONNECTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO THE LAND, RURAL HISTORY, AND EACH OTHER. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.**

**DONATE NOW**