



SCHUMACHER  
F A R M P A R K

# 2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Summer has been busy and full of life here at Schumacher Farm, with the prairie in full bloom and natural areas thriving. Exciting events have brought our community together to celebrate both the beauty of the land and the importance of preserving its stories. Friends of Schumacher Farm is always evolving and growing to reach more people and create meaningful experiences for all ages. We hope you enjoy our new, more mobile-friendly newsletter format, making it easier than ever to stay connected. In this issue, you'll find updates on recent activities and initiatives, a look at what's ahead for fall and early winter, and ways you can get involved. We invite you to join us—there's so much to explore, learn, and enjoy together!



(Photo by Krisann McElvain from our Nature Photography Workshop with Rona Neri)



# Youth Programs



This summer's youth programs were a big success! Picnic & Playtime on Monday brought folks to the park for outdoor play, historic exploration, and socialization.

We also continue to welcome youth from the Vera Court Neighborhood Center for afternoons of nature-based fun—harvesting fresh produce, crafts, exploring the prairie, and more!

Our Farm Explorer sessions featured themes like All About Birds, Play Like a Farmer, and Lil' Ones on the Farm, giving children a chance to engage in hands-on learning across a variety of topics.

# Picnic & Playtime → Kids on the Farm

Exciting update for families! What started as just an idea for summer, Picnic & Playtime is growing into something even better. It will continue year-round under the name Kids on the Farm, replacing our previous evening program by the same name.

It's still free, still drop-in, and still centered around open-ended play, outdoor exploration, and a special activity each session. Activities might include art, nature, mindfulness, history, etc.—something new to discover each week. Join us every Monday from 10-11:30 am as we explore, create, and connect all year long.



# Celebration of Indigenous Culture

Our first Celebration of Indigenous Culture was fantastic! Artisans from the Little Eagle Arts Foundation were in the CRH leading hands-on crafts and demonstrations, and outside was a vibrant music and dance performance by the Wisconsin Dells Singers. There was also a new cultural exhibit and self-guided nature walks through the prairie highlighting traditional Ho-Chunk plants. (The plants are still marked if you'd like to find them!). Thank you to all who made this event happen, especially our partner the Village of Waunakee, and to all those who came to experience this incredible cultural presentation.



(Photos by Rona Neri)



# Summer Lawn Party

We enjoyed a delightful summer evening in the charming historic farmyard, inspired by the “lawn parties” once hosted by Marcella’s family for local and international students. There was ice cream from Lundy’s, fancy lemonade with ingredients from the garden, yard games like croquet and horseshoes, and guided prairie walks. The historic buildings were open, and the Waunastrummers ukulele band provided delightful music. We look forward to hosting this event again next summer!





# Workshops

We're pleased to host a variety of workshops, welcoming people from all walks of life to enjoy our beautiful park. This summer's offerings included a Midsummer Celebration, sauna and cold plunge sessions, sound baths, Mocktails & Bouquets, and wreath-making. Coming up this fall we have Women's Wellness, Lefse making, & Fall Suncatchers—visit our [website](#) for details and registration.



# Garden Harvest Series



We kicked off our new Garden Harvest Series this year with dilly beans! Beans were picked fresh from our new garden, then canned right in the farmyard.



Coming up next is Lemon Balm on Sunday, August 17, where you'll harvest and dry lemon balm, blend your own herbal tea to take home, and sip fresh iced tea. Then on Tuesday, September 16, join us for Grapes —pick from our vines, simmer fresh juice, and try old-fashioned grape stomping. These events are all free and family friendly. RSVP on our [website](#).

# Annual fall events

## **Heritage Fest - Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**

From old fashioned handicrafts and skills to tractor-pulled wagon rides, this event is the perfect showcase of our mission - allowing all ages to experience nature and history through hands-on exploration. And this year, we'll be selling tickets online in advance! (or cash upon entry)



## **Waunakee Artisan Market - Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**

This juried art event is run by artists, for artists, and is a chance to view and shop for exceptional artistic creations throughout the scenic park.

## **Halloween at the Farm - Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for a festive, Halloween-themed evening with music, interactive characters, wagon rides, games, storytelling, crafts, and more Halloween fun spread throughout the entire park.

# New this year

## **Fallow & Forge Studio - Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**

Join us in the historic barn for a monthly arts and crafts gathering that celebrates creativity & sustainability. This month's creation will be gemstone & earthstone bracelets.

## **Star Party - Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**

Join the Madison Astronomical Society for a magical evening under the stars! You'll learn the basics of stargazing, types of observing gear, see stunning astronomical photographs, and see what you can find in the night sky.

## **Pie Sale Fundraiser - Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**

Kick off Thanksgiving weekend with a homemade pie! The sale starts at 4 pm and goes 'till they're gone. Want to donate a pie to help us reach our fundraising goal? [Email us](#) today!

## **Holiday Cheer at the Farm - Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Kick off the holiday season with a festive afternoon on the farm! Enjoy elegant tea and treats in the farmhouse, decorated photo backdrops for the perfect family photo, letter writing to Santa with hot cocoa and kid-friendly treats in the historic barn, and marshmallow roasting at the bonfire!

# Heirloom Garden

Summer is garden season, and it's been busy at Schumacher planting, harvesting, weeding, etc. We are launching our new garden harvest series and have incorporated our garden produce into events, utilizing our garden's zinnias, asparagus, beans, greens, herbs, etc. We also added broomcorn this year, which is bringing the garden to new heights! Vera Court field trips helped harvest the garlic they planted last fall, which is now hanging to dry. We have added garden space near the CAM, increasing the produce that we donate to the Waunakee Area Food Pantry. Thanks to all the volunteers who work to keep the garden a great place to visit at Schumacher!



Please stop in, sample some produce, take a seat and enjoy the garden atmosphere. And be sure to check out our bean tent in the garden for an adorable photo opp for littles!

# Historical Committee

The Historical Committeeas had a busy summer! Carol Gieck, Debbie Miller, Sue Manske, and John Zimm led open house tours at the historic farmhouse. The committee is currently planning a new woodworking display and recently received a glazed crock foot warmer (c. 1912) for the downstairs bedroom. Work continues on moving our artifact database to a web-based system and preparing for historic farmhouse window replacements, which has given us a chance to survey and reorganize the collection. Due to the window project, we are not accepting new artifacts until further notice. Stay tuned as we enhance the historic charms of Schumacher Farm Park!



Foot warmer  
donated by  
Rosa Ropers

Update  
written by  
Debbie Miller.

# Board of Directors Update

The Friends of Schumacher Farm will have openings for new board members in 2026. Board members meet monthly and help shape the park's mission, steer and support important activities like special events, programs, and park maintenance, and build connections between the Friends and the community. If you have a passion for preserving our history, natural spaces, and sense of community, we'd love to hear from you! Please email Board President [Paulette](#) to learn more.



# Volunteer Opportunities

**Natural Area Work Days:** Join us from 9am-12pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. & the 4<sup>th</sup> Fri. of the month. Work may include: removal of invasive species, brush removal, seed collection, etc and no experience is necessary. Meet in the CRH.

**Heritage Fest:** We have many unique volunteer roles that need to be filled including wagon loaders, children's games attendants, admissions, parking guides, and more. [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

**Halloween:** Although we're currently focused on planning Heritage Fest, Halloween will be here before we know it! We're looking to fill some of the costumed roles like storybook readers, witch's house guides, and fortune tellers early (prompts and props are provided - no experience necessary!) [SIGN UP HERE!](#)

**Other opportunities:** Want to volunteer with our kid and family programs like Vera Court field trips or our Garden Harvest Series? We often need an extra set of hands to assist the leaders of these programs. [Email Amanda](#) if you'd like to help.

## **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**

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