



Friends Newsletter

Spring of 2023

Hello Friends,

Since 2004, The Friends of the Parks of Perry Township are proud to continue our mission to help maintain our parks and help to facilitate fundraising. With the new park improvements listed here in our newsletter, new visitors, residents of the Town of Perry, and members of the Friends are taking an increasingly committed role in the promotion, maintenance and use of the Town Parks, the Daleyville Community Park and the Hauge Historic District Park.

The Friends of the Parks of Perry Township held their annual meeting on Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. I am honored and glad to announce that Larry Price, Don Mueller, Gary Boley, Sue Klein Kennedy, Brad Grundahl, Phoebe Blackman, and Gerhard Luetschwager will join me in staying on as directors of the Friends of the Parks of Perry Township in 2023

Officers are:    Mick Klein Kennedy-President  
                         Gerhard Luetschwager-Vice President  
                         Larry Price-Treasurer  
                         Phoebe Blackman-Secretary

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Friends of the Parks of Perry Township! There have been lots of exciting things happening in our Parks this past year, please check out the rest of this newsletter for our updates on what has been happening, and what will be happening in the future.

Mick Klein Kennedy, President Friends of the Parks of Perry Township  
Spring of 2023

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## Remembering Kay Watson

We would like to remember Kay Watson who passed away in December of 2022. As one of the founding members of the friends, Kay gave many years of service to the Friends of the Parks of Perry Township, as well as her time on the Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Committee! The new mowed pathway between the Historic Site and the parking area was one of Kay's visions for the Historic District Park and walking on it will bring back good memories of her. We all valued her important work, along with her sound and well thought out input that we could always count on from her. I feel so lucky to have known and worked with Kay, she will be missed by all who knew her. We will never forget Kay.

## Projects completed in 2022.

1. Completion of the installation of the Heritage Circle
2. Completion of a Conservation Easement.
3. Completion of three Dane County Environmental Council, Dane County Parks Foundation, and WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant applications for a restroom in the Hauge Historic District Park.
4. Seven new Leopold benches built by Mt. Horeb School Trades class, installed in the park by the Friends.
5. Astronomy Class Field trip to Historic District Park by Middleton-Cross Plains School District Clark Street Community School.
6. Wisconsin Kites Club giant kite test launches in Historic District Park.
7. Renewed interest by residents to use existing grant dollars and pursue new grant opportunities to purchase and install additional playground equipment for the Daleyville Community Park. Thank you to Michael Murphy for his work on looking into options and pricing for future playground equipment for the Daleyville Community Park.

A big thank you goes out to the Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Committee, chaired by Doug King, and members Jeff Kahl, Colleen Kittleson, Michele Kittleson, Secretary, and Gerhard Luetschwager for helping to turn these projects into reality.

Volunteers from The Friends of the Parks of Perry Township are proud to have assisted the Parks and Open Space Committee with drawings, input etc. for the preparation of submittals needed for many of the approvals for these projects, and for the actual installation of these projects.

## Heritage Circle Paver Fundraising Project

We are excited to announce the completion of the Heritage Circle Paver Project. The Project was completed in June of 2022, with the initial 60+ doner pavers installed.

The Heritage Circle construction was completed by a crew from Wisconsin Landscapes Inc. along with Town Patrolman Mark Eastman in May and June of 2022. All labor and materials for the Construction of the Heritage Circle were donated by Wisconsin Landscapes Inc.

Completion of the circle included creation of a hand-made replica of a traditional Norwegian Sun Symbol. The symbol was exhibited at the Livsreise Norwegian Heritage Center in Stoughton WI on tour from the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. The Copyright was subsequently released upon request of the Parks and Open Space Committee to the Friends by the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum for permanent display as a centerpiece in the Heritage Circle. The symbol was cast in concrete, hand-engraved with a router and incise-painted by Mick Klein Kennedy. Its four arms form a compass pointing N,S,E,W.

The Norwegian Sun Symbol means “Bringing light and warmth into human lives for good forces, good fortune, safety, and creation of new life in fields, flocks and family”.

The following photos below show the Heritage Circle in various stages of construction.

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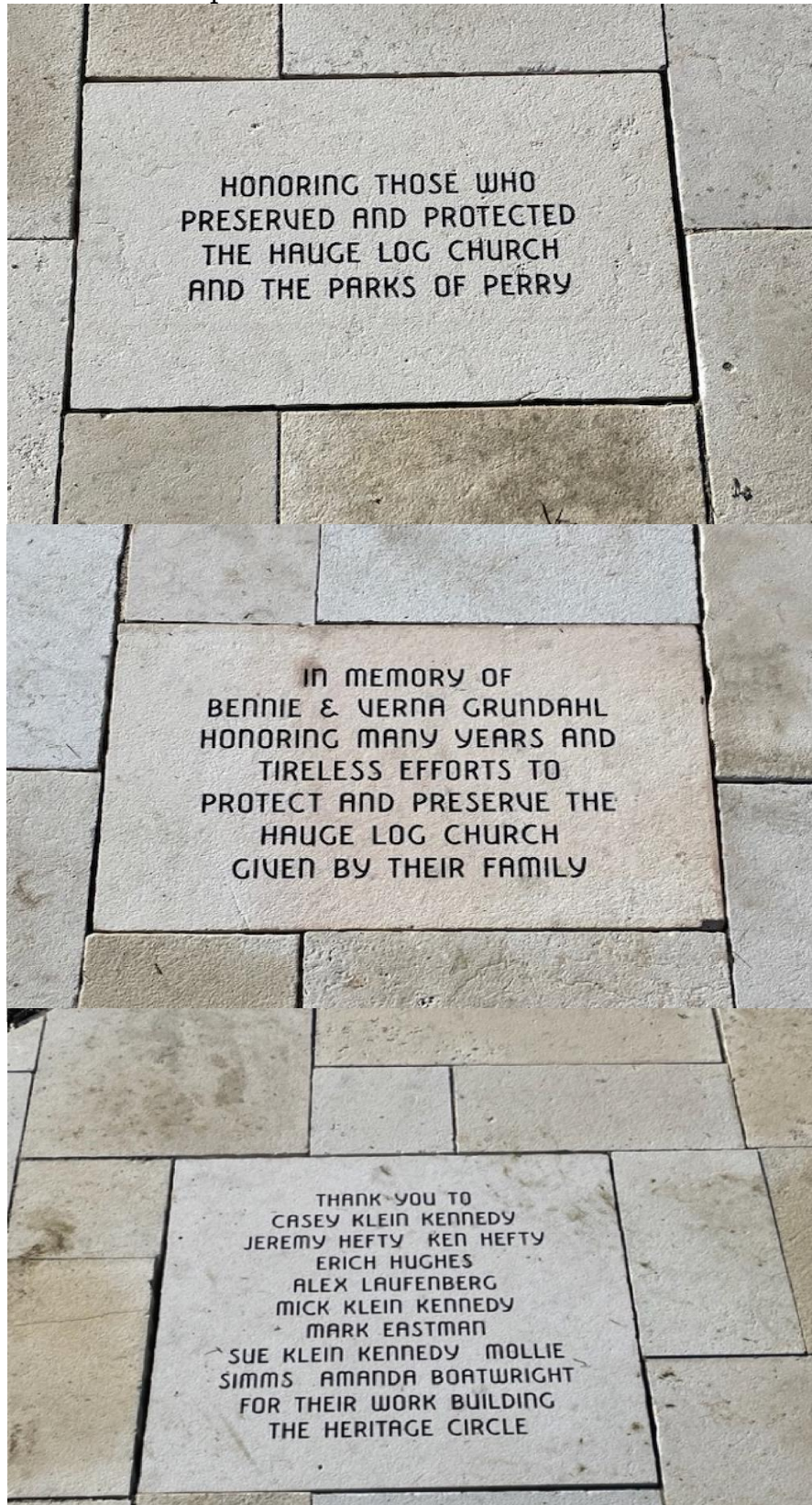


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Examples of a some of the pavers installed are shown below:



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Additional pavers were purchased and then installed in September of 2022, about two to three months after completion of the Project. See photos below.



The Heritage Circle is open to everyone. By purchasing a paver, you will join others who over the years have helped support the protection and preservation of the Hauge Log Church National Historic site. The Heritage Circle include pavers inscribed with names and messages honoring individuals, families, veterans, organizations, and those who have cherished this place as well as those who might never have seen it. There are five sizes available at corresponding levels of donation.

We have included an order form for those who wish to order a paver. [SEE ORDER FORMS ATTACHED:](#)

All paver pricing includes the paver and engraving of your personal message. After we pay for the pavers and the engraving, one hundred percent of every dollar remaining from the purchase of your paver to be included in the Heritage Circle will go to retirement of the Town's debt.

With the order form are, two copies of the updated Hauge Historic District Park Plan, one copy showing where the northeast informational marker is located, and the other plan shows where the Southwest informational marker is located. The informational markers have the park plan and park rules for visitors to review when they visit the park.



Heritage Circle Paver Fundraising Project continued:

We would like to thank the following people for their generosity in the purchase of inscribed pavers for the Heritage Circle Paver Fundraising Project. Some of the names below purchased multiple pavers to honor several people.

Ken Anderson	Perry and Diana Lobel
Merel and Joel Black	Tom Loftus
Phoebe Blackman and Roland Olson	Jack Markin and Debbie Dennis
Connie Curran	Dave Marshall and Wendy Weisensel
Kathleen Falk	Laura and Trac Morland
Robert Ferwerda	Don Mueller
Kim and John Fleming	Doug and Linda Nelson
Dan and Sally Flood	Perry EV Lutheran Church
Brad and Karen Grundahl	Mary and Larry Price
Pat Harper and Gary Boley	Art Post
Maureen Kennedy Boelter	Karen and John Ranum
Mick and Sue Klein Kennedy	Becky Rehl
Doug and Margie King	Tiffany and Tim Steinhauer
Margie King	Robert Szalkowski
Roger and Michele Kittleson	Carol Watkins
Lora Lee	Stephanie and Skot Zwettler

Completion of a Conservation Easement for the Hauge Historic District Park.

The Town of Perry has now finally permanently protected the Hauge Historic District Park forever with a permanent Conservation Easement. Thanks to a collaboration between the Groundswell Conservancy and the Town of Perry, the Conservation Easement recorded with the Dane County Register of Deeds serves as an irrevocable Land Trust that encumbers the deed to the land in perpetuity against potential attempts to develop it or to harm its conservation values by future town boards, politicians, government agencies or private developers. The protection is legally enforced by Groundswell Conservancy and Gathering Waters of Wisconsin. It is backed by the national Terrafirma Risk Retention Group, LLC on behalf of the conservation easement, chartered to help land trusts defend their conserved lands from legal challenges.

This public private partnership between the Town and Groundswell was a unique event for land conservation in Wisconsin and it was featured on the front cover of the Groundswell Conservancy Magazine as shown below.

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GROUNDSWELL  
CONSERVANCY

SUMMER  
2022



Vicki France Photography

## Good News for History and Nature

Thanks to a new collaboration with the Town of Perry on the southwest side of Dane County, the conservation values of Historic Hauge Park have been protected forever.

It took Town residents two decades of sustained effort to protect the park – including support from Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, former U.S. Ambassador to Norway Tom Loftus – and letters of encouragement from the King and Queen of Norway!

**Hauge Historic District Park is unique in so many ways – and now it's protected with a new conservation easement.** The 30-acre park is located around the privately owned, two-acre Hauge Log Church National Historic Site. It is the second highest

public park observation point in Dane County.

With miles of hiking trails and a spectacular view of the Blue Mounds, the park was voted "Best Place to Watch a Sunset in Dane County" by *Madison Magazine*. It was also named a Dane County Historical and Cultural Site in the DNR's 2018-2023 Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan.

We are excited to have completed this public-private partnership to help protect this special place forever. A special thanks to Doug King, CEO of The Madison Group Consultants, Stafford Rosenbaum attorney Chris Hughes, and Town Supervisor Mick Klein Kennedy for their efforts.

Thank you to Doug King representing The Madison Group Consultants LLC for all his invaluable work facilitating the process with the Groundswell Conservancy and to attorney Chris Hughes representing the law firm of Stafford and Rosenbaum for his donation of legal services to make this a reality.

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Seven new Leopold benches built by Mt. Horeb School Trades class, installed in the Hauge Historic District Park by the Friends

Please read the following partial excerpt from an article written by Doug King, that was featured in a Story of the Trades Class work in the Mt. Horeb Mail article on February 2, 2023

Leopold benches were placed in the park as a historical match for the prairie restoration project sponsored, created, and maintained by the Friends group that returned the landscape vegetation back to its original 1852 appearance.

Over the last 20 years, most of the Leopold benches in the have park succumbed to their age and the weather. Just as Aldo intended by not applying any sort of protection to the wood when he built them so that they would just disintegrate and return to the earth.

When seven of the benches in the park finally began to fail, the Town of Perry's Parks and Open Space Committee had an idea. Why not obtain the materials and ask the Mount Horeb High School if students would be interested in building them as a class project using Aldo Leopold's original plans? The Town of Perry Board of Supervisors thought it was a great idea! And so did Perry Parks and Open Space Committee member Colleen Kittleson. She is an Administrative Assistant at the School District's Early Learning Center. So she proposed the idea to Tim Killinger, the Mount Horeb High School's Technical Education Teacher. When asked about his students building the Leopold benches, Tim jumped at the opportunity, saying: "Of course, let's make it happen."

The Town of Perry obtained all the boards, screws, and bolts for seven new Leopold benches and Colleen picked up and delivered them to Tim at the high school. After that, Tim went to work with his students. Tim and his students turned the materials into new Leopold benches to be located throughout the park. They learned many new woodworking skills, self-confidence, and pride in contributing to a park that visitors enjoy from all over the world. And maybe along the way a little more appreciation of Aldo Leopold too. Eleven students in Tim's class were involved in the bench making project. They are: Austin Balousek, Martand Delwiche, Cody Deneys, Payton Jones, Gabe Kroll, Mason McNally, Daniel Moyer, Alex Pingel, Jack Schultz, Zack Sroda, and Austin Waelchli.

### Leopold Benches continued:

Tim taught the students how to use high tech equipment such as computer numerical control (CNC) routers and laser engravers to create small plaques to be fastened to the backrest of each bench. These machines read computer files, images and artwork and turn them into instructions that guide high speed cutters and burners to create finished objects. Something Aldo Leopold could have never imagined would be possible no matter how long he mused on one of his benches. The plaques will be proudly displayed on each bench with Mount Horeb High School Viking logo. The students also signed their names on the underside of each bench with a sharpie pen.

The hardy souls who visit the park this Winter to enjoy the beauty and quiet of cross country skiing and snowshoeing will be enjoying the new benches to sit and watch the stunning views. So will future visitors from across the country and around the world. All of this thanks to the efforts of Mount Horeb High School students who made some educational sawdust to leave this beautiful little place better than when they found it. Aldo Leopold would be proud of them.

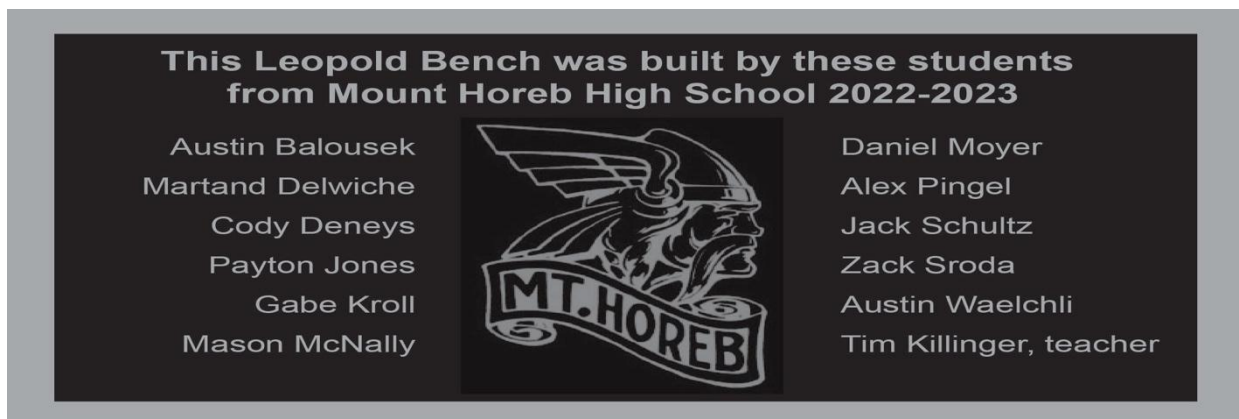
Pictured below are Tim Killinger with some of the students working on the benches and the plaques they made for the benches.



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### Wisconsin Kiter's Club Historic District Park Giant Kite Test Launches

The Historic District Park has become a favorite destination for kilters from around Dane County because of the park's elevation, steady wind, and views. Some giant kites were tested by the club up to 15 feet wide, 50 feet long were tested by the club. They required two-thousand-pound test line anchored into the ground with a sledgehammer. Pictured is Mike Sherman, President of the Wisconsin Kiter's Club, test launching one of the club's giant kites.



Astronomy Class Field trip to Historic District Park by Middleton-Cross Plains School District Clark Street Community School.

In July of 2014, the Town of Perry passed a Dark Sky Ordinance requiring all new and replacement outdoor lighting to use “down lights.” The Town was given an award by the International Dark Sky Association for having one of the best night views of the stars in Dane County.

The park’s high vantage point has spectacular 360-degree views of the night sky. Satellites and even the International Space Station can be easily viewed from the park.

As a result, it has become a destination for astronomy classes. The following is an excerpt of an article written by Doug King published in the Mount Horeb Mail.

Madison Magazine awarded the Town of Perry’s Hauge Historic District Park “Best Place To Watch A Sunset in Dane County.” The park closes a half-hour after sunset. But Mary Lorenz, a teacher at the Clark Street Community School in the Middleton Cross Plains School District, had another idea.

She asked the Town if she could bring her class to the park after dark for an astronomy field trip to watch the stars, not the sun.

In 2020 she brought ten students to the park in teachers’ cars for stargazing. Because it was so popular, this time she asked if she could bring 30 students in a school bus.

The Clark Street Community School teaches interdisciplinary seminars. The students were in a Space Math class where they were learning algebra concepts in the context of studying astronomy.

The Supervisors approved Mary’s request to hold an astronomy class in the park after closing hours, and the students were not disappointed by the Town of Perry’s dark sky.

As the students stepped out of the bus, they looked up into the night sky and expressed their surprise in a chorus of: “oh my God, look at all the stars;” “wow there are so many of them;” “look how much you can see.”



Astronomy Class Field trip continued:

Later in the evening, the students were treated to views of constellations, the Andromeda Galaxy, a planetary “ring” nebula, the Veil Nebula, which is a supernova remnant, and a “double cluster” of two-star clusters close together, all billions of miles away, seen through the large telescope Mary and her husband David set up in the park.

The planet Jupiter was brilliant in the dark sky as well. But the frosting on the cake was a meteor shower that coincided with the class trip. One the students could not see with city lights. As luck would have it, the Orionids meteor shower was putting on a show that night.

Pictured in the glow of red light used to maintain night vision in the dark is David shown setting up one of the telescopes used for the field trip as the students exited the school bus.



### Grant applications for Daleyville Community Park:

There was renewed interest by residents to use existing grant dollars and pursue new grant opportunities to purchase and install additional playground equipment in the Daleyville park. Efforts are being made by the Friends of the Parks of Perry Township and the Town of Perry Parks and Open Space Committee to pursue new grants from Alliant Energy and possibly Dane County Environmental Council.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

#### Friends Annual meeting

The Friends 2023 Annual meeting will be held on **June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

#### Playground equipment for Daleyville park

Work will continue to research and work on grant applications for new playground equipment for Daleyville Park. If you have any feedback or would like to help with this project either by making a donation to the playground equipment fund, or help with procurement and installation please call Mick Klein Kennedy at 608-843-3297, or by email at [mick@wisconsinlandscapes.com](mailto:mick@wisconsinlandscapes.com).

#### Restroom For Hauge Historic District Park

The Wisconsin DNR has awarded the Town of Perry a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant to build a restroom in the Hauge Historic District Park. This will make a huge difference for park visitors unable to stay long enough in the park to enjoy the park and the Historic Site, visitors traveling from a long distance, and for groups who have tried to enjoy the park before but found it difficult without a restroom, for example Dairyland Hiker's Club, Dane County Plein Aire Painters, Backroads Cruisers Club, Madison Bombay Bicycle Club and Madison Norske Skiers Club. Construction/installation and timing details are still being worked out. Thank you to Doug King for his work in writing three grant applications, and for staying with the process for three years, culminating in this award to the Town in February 2023.

### Maintenance work at the parks

The Friends will once again be performing ongoing maintenance work in the parks. We would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped with work in the parks. A special thanks to Town of Perry and Road Patrolmen Mark Eastman for the assistance that we continue to receive from him. Mark's timely work has helped with many tasks, and especially the control of the wild parsnip, and maintenance of the restored prairie areas. He has also done a great job with the difficult task of keeping the Historic District Park entrance road and parking lot open in the Winter for skiers and snowshoers. We also want to again thank Gary Boley and Pat Harper for their yearly work on mowing down the Wild Parsnip on the lands east of Hwy Z; their yearly effort has paid big dividends in the battle against the wild parsnip on their former property they donated to the Town for the park. Special thanks to Doug King for his work in completion and installation of the signage in the Parks and the brush removal along the fence between the Historic Site and the park to restore the view of Blue Mounds from the Historic Site and the view of the Hauge Log Church from the Historic District Park.

### Friends Historic District Park Support Fund

We continue to help the Town of Perry Fundraising Committee by maintaining a separate account called the "Historic District Park Support Fund" to receive charitable donations aimed solely at retiring the debt that the Town of Perry incurred in acquiring land for the Hauge Historic District Park that now surrounds and protects the Hauge Log church National Historic Site. We are proud to be continuing as the 501(c) (3) nonprofit that will act as a conduit for those who wish to make a tax-deductible donation.

Doug Nelson, chair, and the other members of the Town of Perry Fundraising committee are hard at work collecting pledges. The Committee has received more than \$220,000 in pledges. Information about the fund and how you can help can be obtained by contacting Doug at 527-3274 or e-mail at [dnelson@aecf.org](mailto:dnelson@aecf.org). We really appreciate the response from everyone so far. A pledge form is attached for your convenience.

We encourage our readers and members to consider joining this important community effort to support the town and the Hauge Historic District Park. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be sent to the Historic District Park Support Fund, c/o Larry Price Fundraising Committee Treasurer, 1004 HWY 78, Mt. Horeb, WI. 53572



### Friends Website/Park Literature

We want to thank Doug King for renewing our web site domain again this year. Thank you for that Doug! The website is available at <http://www.friendsofperryparks.org/>. It has been updated to link to the Friends new email addresses. Also, Doug King again this year has volunteered many hours promoting the Hauge Historic District Park in many state, regional and local publications and tour maps.  
See: <http://www.haugehistoricdistrictpark.org/>.

### Membership renewals

We have established an annual renewal date for membership in the Friends of the Parks of Perry Township. Our new renewal date will be December 1 of each year. So those of you who can renew this year, that would be greatly appreciated. Our membership renewal form is included in this newsletter.