



Hawthorn Hollow Newsletter

Fall 2025

www.hawthornhollow.org

GROWING TOGETHER: NEW BOARD MEMBERS JOIN HAWTHORN HOLLOW TEAM

Several new members have recently joined the Hyslop Foundation Board of Directors, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit that owns and operates Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary & Arboretum. The Board is composed of community leaders dedicated to preserving and supporting Hawthorn Hollow's mission.

Over the past year, four new members have taken seats on the Board: **Devin Borst**, UW-Parkside's Vice Chancellor of Advancement & Community Partnerships,

Gregg Sinnen, former firefighter, Somers Village Board Trustee and neighbor; **Dr. Dan Daniels**, neighbor and co-owner of Daniels Chiropractic; and **Dr. Dan Lyons**, former Hawthorn

Hollow Education Manager and current physics and math instructor at Gateway Technical College, who will also serve as liaison between the Hyslop and Friends of Hawthorn Hollow boards. We're grateful for their service and excited to welcome them to the Hyslop Board!

The Friends of Hawthorn Hollow, a separate organization that provides volunteers & support to Hawthorn Hollow, has seen a number of Board changes as well. **Colby**

Millea has concluded his service, while new members **Joan Lutz**, **Cleta Skovronski**, **Darlene Shue**, and **Muriel Cunningham** have taken seats on the board. We look forward to working with them!

| HYSLOP FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS | |
|---|--|
| Susan Andrea-Schlenker President | Robert Kupfer Vice-President |
| Charlotte Kozak-Bishop Treasurer | Sandra Halmo Secretary |
| Krista Reck Former President Dr. Clifton Peterson Emeritus | |
| Devin Borst Patsy Callahan Dr. Dan Daniels Dave Giordano | Merilet Eugene Dr. Dan Lyons Judy Richardson Gregg Sinnen |

| FRIENDS OF HAWTHORN HOLLOW BOARD OF DIRECTORS | |
|--|--|
| Pamela Grubb President | Susie Brock Vice President |
| Brandi Ferree Treasurer | Emma Reed Secretary |
| | |
| Darlene Shue Ginger Frydrych Shelly Nelson Cleta Skovronski | Dr. Dan Lyons Tom Overocker Joan Lutz Muriel Cunningham |

LEARNING IN THE FIELD WITH UW-PARKSIDE

Hawthorn Hollow has once again been working with instructors and students at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, providing real-world learning experiences in a number of fields.

In spring 2025, Heide Observatory Director Dr. William Parker's Scientific Programming class worked on data visualization projects, including a sundial and solar calendar schematic, as well as interpreting soil nutrient and erosion data for our ecology work.

This fall Dr. Parker's Astronomy of Native America class is meeting at Hawthorn Hollow and will be utilizing the observatory at events, particularly through presentations on different Native American cultures' understandings of astronomy. The Parkside physics club has volunteered at the Art Fair and other events. The observatory has helped out with Parkside Physics Day, giving high school students the chance to experience various experiments.

Students in Stacie Albert's Geomorphology class are completing a semester-long project along various reaches of the Pike River that run through Hawthorn Hollow's acreage. Since they began collecting data last year, they've found that samples from the ponds and the Pike River showed that the water quality was in line with EPA/WDNR recommendations and it appears that the ravine restoration project was effective in mitigating agricultural runoff.

Laura Shulz's Environmental Justice students observed and even participated in the Growing Healthy field trip program, surveying participants to measure the program's effectiveness.

Their findings will be used to continue to improve the program as it continues.

Hawthorn Hollow is proud to be able to provide such a unique laboratory & real-world learning experiences, allowing us to work with such great instructors & students at UW-Parkside. We look forward to continuing this great collaboration!



Studying the Pike River

Scouts to the Rescue!

Every year, some of the more intensive projects at Hawthorn Hollow are completed by Boy Scouts working to become Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in the organization. One of the requirements to earn Eagle is to complete a service project benefitting your community, and which requires the Scout to provide leadership to others.



Above: Demonstrating the new sundial

Below: Ryan & Troop 522 on the farm



This year, three Eagle candidates worked on projects at Hawthorn Hollow. Ryan Riesselmann and members of Troop 522 worked at the Heritage Farmstead to build an outdoor classroom which will be used for field trips like the Growing Healthy program.

Ethan Shweninger led volunteers and members of Troop 551 in a project to build a sundial at the Heide Observatory, providing a new daytime experience. Ben Van Laningham, also of Troop 551, led an extensive project that replaced the timbers and many of the benches in the Amphitheater. A huge thank you to all the Scouts & volunteers who helped out!



Ben & Troop 522 replacing seating & timbers in the Amphitheater



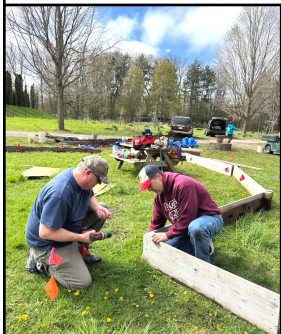
Changes at the Farm

2025 was a banner year at the Heritage Farmstead. Farm Manager Susan Muenther and assistant Noah Washburn coordinated a major transition, refocusing the farm into an urban raised garden format. "An urban-type raised garden is easier to monitor & maintain, as well as allowing for a huge variety of different plants" said Susan. "We're able to share examples and techniques that most kids can easily pick up with our new setup".



Noah & Susan

The Heritage Farmstead saw some exciting new additions, thanks to the work of Hawthorn Hollow's amazing volunteers. Scouts from Troop 522 (see above) helped build an outdoor classroom and new raised garden beds. The farm also reutilized a teepee trellis to grow climbing spinach, as well as adding a pollinator garden and a revitalized herb garden. Susan is hoping to continue expanding the farm next year!



Scouts on the Farm

Town Hall is Open!

The original Somers Town Hall has finally reopened to the public after an extensive foundation replacement project. The Hall, built in 1859 and moved to Hawthorn Hollow in 1967, was starting to shift off its original brick foundation and was at risk. Our friends at Precise Contracting lifted the entire building and installed a new concrete foundation underneath it. Thank you to Mark & Jane Gorsline, our friends at LMI Packaging, and all the volunteers who helped us with getting this amazing piece of history back on it's feet and reopened to the public!



Volunteer Spotlight

By Cleta Skovronski

Like many people in the Kenosha area, I wasn't even aware, sadly, that Hawthorn Hollow existed until a day in September of 1998 when a friend, who was and still is a volunteer, asked me to join him at an art fair volunteer thank-you party. I started helping out at the art fair in 1999, and have been here to support this and other events ever since.



Cleta Skovronski dressed as Margaret Teuscher for Spooky Hollow

My work career ended in November of 2024, and since then I have had more time to devote to the events that bring both awareness and financial support to this amazing place. This spring I worked on Margaret's Garden, raking last year's leaves away so the plants would get much needed sunlight and rain. And I have recently taken on the important task of maintaining the Teuscher house library. As both of the Teuscher sisters were teachers, books were gold to them, and I feel compelled to help take care of this treasure.

I also volunteer at The Racine Theater Guild, helping to paint props, sets, and the stage for their plays. Volunteering is very important to me. I enjoy giving back to places that support education, creativity and the arts.

Hawthorn Hollow is such a special place. I come out here often. A walk through the trails helps me to clear my mind and appreciate nature's beauty. Favorite places include the Old Indian Trail, the town hall and schoolhouse buildings, and any quiet place that I can sit and hear the river as it winds through the property.

Anyone considering volunteering out here would reap tremendous personal rewards. Find an event or an educational program or workshop that interests you, and take part. Bring your children or grandchildren out here on a sunny day for a walk. You will find your cares melt away as you listen to the birds, breathe fresh air, enjoy the fall colors.... It is a treasure to be enjoyed, preserved, and maintained.

Return of the Wigwam

Thanks to the help of super volunteers Mark & Jane Gorsline, the Wigwam on the Old Indian Trail is standing tall again! Built as authentically as possible, this is a valuable tool that helps students and visitors to connect with our Native American history.

Thanks for all your hard work!



Welcome, Nicole!

Hawthorn Hollow is happy to welcome our new Conservation Land Manager Nicole Zeisler! As Conservation Land Manager, Nicole will focus on implementing projects based on the years of data collected at Hawthorn Hollow.

A lifelong Racine resident, Nicole graduated from UW-Parkside with a degree in Environmental Science in 2022. Part of her studies actually included an internship here at Hawthorn Hollow under former ecologists Lori Artiomow and Emily Leonard. "Having the chance to intern under two amazing ecologists really kickstarted my love for conservation and showed me what a future career might look like" said Nicole. Little did she know at the time that she would end up literally following in their footsteps!

After graduating, Nicole spent a year working with Thompson & Associates Wetland Services, specifically on their North Branch of the Pike River restoration project. Nicole has also spent over 8 years working as a Barista at Mocha Lisa Coffeehouse on the north side of Racine, and still moonlights there on occasional Saturday mornings.

Nicole's objectives at Hawthorn Hollow are straightforward. "My biggest goal is to continue connecting people with nature" she said. "Everyone needs a place to escape and reconnect with the natural world", adding afterward "people really do need to go touch some grass". Welcome to the team, Nicole!



FRIENDS OF



HAWTHORN
HOLLOW



Scan & Join Today!



HAWTHORN HOLLOW
NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

880 Green Bay Rd
Kenosha, WI 53144



Fall Birches
Photo by Lynda Studey

Holiday Boutique
and Bakery

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2025
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



FRESH-CUT GREENS -
BAKED GOODS - HOLIDAY
GIFTS WREATHS - SWAGS -
CENTERPIECES - GIFT
BASKETS - & MORE!



HAWTHORN HOLLOW
NATURE SANCTUARY AND ARBORETUM

LATE FALL EVENTS

December

12/6 Holiday Boutique.....9:00 am

12/13 Wreath Workshop*.....10 am

Hawthorn Hollow is Closed

❄ Dec 23rd to Feb 28th. ❄

The Heide Observatory will still be open
for programs & special events!

*Registration Required

WWW.HAWTHORNHOLLOW.ORG