



ParkPeopleNews

Creating Citizen Connections to Our Parks

Summer 2016

President's Perspective



As President of The Park People I have stated many times that the organization should not be defined by its current Board or Leadership or Executive Director since people come and go but it is the organization, The Park People, that lives on. However, I am making an exception to this statement. Every once in a while a board member makes such an indelible mark, that their moving on does make a difference. The Park People will not be the same without John Lunz on our board of directors.

Board terms run for three years. In the nine years I've been on the board, the majority of board members don't last the full three years. This is not a reflection on The Park People but our busy lives. Board members resign because of moving out of state, new demands with jobs or their education or the need to spend more time with family. This is true of any volunteer pursuit, never enough hours to do it all. John Lunz did fill out his full term and then three more but is now stepping down after twelve years as a board member.

John ran the WeedOut committee, actually he not only ran it, he WAS the WeedOut committee. He was out there pulling weeds week after week, year after year, no matter the weather. He not only showed up for the WeedOut but coordinated the equipment and volunteers needed, provided an education to those who attended and saved the County tens of thousands of dollars in manpower hours. While John is leaving the board, he is still actively participating in the WeedOut program and we are very thankful for his commitment.

As a Board member John brought institutional knowledge and passion to meetings. He was always very well informed on park issues and players and he provided context to our decision making. John delighted the board by bringing Pale Ales to enjoy and would often surprise us with treats such as his home made peanut brittle. He rarely missed a board meeting, was usually the first one there and was very mindful of parliamentary procedure keeping us on track at meetings. John also was very supportive to fellow board members providing respect and encouragement.

The good news is that John will continue to support and protect parks as the President of Preserve Our Parks (POP). POP is an important park organization in Milwaukee County which battles to keep

Milwaukee area parks open and green, resists incursions for non-park uses, and fights for funds to properly maintain Milwaukee County Parks.

John, on behalf of the Board, and our membership, thank you for your contributions. I personally want to thank you for your inspiration. You are a man of integrity, purpose and spirit.

China Lights

Celebrate Asian culture and experience Milwaukee County's Boerner Botanical Gardens with dazzling lantern sculptures, incredible performances, beautiful art, and delicious food. This event will bring the gardens to life at night! There will be nearly forty of these incredible lighted sculptures gracing our already beautiful gardens. The dragon to the right is nearly 300 feet long.

You will have to see it to believe it!

The Park People is partnering with the Parks Department and Event Pro, an event company run by Ralph Garrity, on a completely new event, never before seen in the midwest. China Lights - Boerner Brighter Than Ever. This month long event starts October 1.

Online ticket sales start August 8th after a major press release. Please check our website this fall or follow this link for more information. www.chinalights.org



Oak Leaf Discovery Tour

This FIFTH year of the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour (OLDT) Passport is the best ever. People are enjoying the opportunities to seek out lesser known parks via their searches for keywords.



Hikers are enjoying exploring the Downtown Loop which includes pocket parks like Zeidler, Pere Marquette, and Cathedral Square Parks. Even those that don't partake in the Passport can learn from this event. The following link will take you to our website where you can click on a keyword site and be whisked away to a short article about either the history or cultural significance of these 28 locations.

<http://www.parkpeoplemke.org/node/273>

Others are enjoying the *Soldiers Home*, located next to the Hank Aaron State Trail, (also known as the VA Soldiers Home). It is part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The information signs are particularly interesting to read. Did you know it is one of the three original Soldiers Homes created after the Civil War under legislation signed by President Lincoln?

You can also check the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Facebook page for additional information to help you locate Keyword signs and for rides or walks that are being led by volunteers.

There is still lots of time to collect your 10 unique keywords to qualify for our October 8th End of Summer drawing which will occur at **The Landing at Hoyt Park Beer Garden**. There will also be an attendance prize at the picnic for the first 50 participants who have collected 10 keywords. Picnic runs from 1 pm to 3pm; prize drawing, at 2 pm. Mark it on your calendar. Registration and drawing rules are located in the OLDLT passport and on the Park People website.

Please Note! - The 2016 Oak Leaf Discovery Tour Passport End of Summer Party will NOT be at the Estabrook Park Beer Garden this year as stated in the passport. IT WILL BE AT THE LANDING AT HOYT PARK BEER GARDEN.

A couple of things to do this fall

Walking Tour - Soldiers Home

Join Cheri Briscoe on Labor Day, Sept. 5, at 10:00 am for a 60 minute Walking Tour of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. Meet Cheri at the Soldiers Home Fountain by the Gothic Revival-style Old Main building, built in 1869 on the highest point on the grounds. We'll take advantage of the *Soldiers Home App* (it's free) for information as well as stopping to read the excellent signs made possible through efforts of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance. Learn about the important role the



Milwaukee Soldiers Home played to help our soldiers and families heal after the Civil War and World War I. A good source of information is an article by Chelsea Lewis for Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's *Wisconsin Trails*.

<http://tinyurl.com/Milwsoldiershome>

We'll find an OLDT keyword site along the way.

If you are driving there, the Milwaukee Soldiers Home Historic District is accessible via Zablocki Drive off I-94.

If you're coming by bike on the Hank Aaron State Trail, you'll see a sign for the Soldiers Home along the trail. The keyword sign is attached to a directional signpost by General Mitchell Blvd. There is a steep hill to the fountain, so you can either lock your bike near the trail, or walk your bike up the hill to the fountain to join the walking tour.

In the event of heavy rain, the trip will be cancelled.

Hike and Bike Tour on the Root River Parkway and Mangan Woods

Join Cheri Briscoe on Sat. Sept. 24 for a Hike and Bike Tour on the Root River Parkway. We'll hike for about 1.5 miles in the beautiful Mangan Woods. It's a special woods because it has a number of endangered plant species. You will also see the Alpha Trail, a Milwaukee County Mountain Biking Trail that runs along the southeastern edge of Mangan Woods and along the Root River.

Those of us who want to get in some biking will then hop on our bikes and head north to the Root River Parkway Keyword site near Beloit Road. We'll pick up Trimborn Farm, Wehr Nature Center and Boerner Botanical Gardens keywords along the way. The bike round trip ride will be about 14 miles long.

Those who are more ambitious can also head down to Froemming Park about 6.5 miles one way to get a total of 27 miles.

We'll meet at the parking lot on 92nd St. across from the Golf Course parking lot.

Contact Cheri at 414-239-7883 if you have questions and to let her know you're coming.

Bring mosquito repellent for the walk. After all, this is Wisconsin. Bring some snacks and water or a beverage along for a break. In the event of heavy rain, the trip will be cancelled.

Welcome New Board Member - John Machulak

John Machulak is an attorney and the founder of Machulak, Robertson & Sodos, S.C., a general practice law firm. John regularly bikes to his office on the East Side and loves the Oak Leaf Trail. He joined The Park People because he has a passion for Milwaukee County Parks. He has great childhood memories of the Menomonee River Parkway including swimming in the Menomonee River. He spent many hours with his young children in Wilson Park and Whitnall Park and on the south shore. He is a member of Kletzsch Park Friends. Welcome, John!