

Madison Meadow News

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Annual Meeting Review

The annual opportunity for voting-members and supporters of Madison Meadow to get an update on Meadow business took place February 28th at Tsunami Books. Our amiable greeters were the friendly and capable hostesses **Ellie Parish-Mueller** (left) and **Eva Happy** (right), below.



After a financial report and a review of 2007 Meadow activities, board members and voting members up for new terms were elected. The Board of Directors elected for the next year are: Lora Byxbe; Craig Haines; Susan Jerde; Lynne Marsh; Linda Prier; Sandra Quigley; Debbie Summers; and Doug Yook. The full voting membership currently numbers 40.

Clarifying changes to the bylaws were then adopted, improving the language on selecting and retiring voting members, and eliminating redundant language from the creation of the corporation.

Next, Linda Prier led a group visioning for the future of the Meadow. Some of the ideas offered by voting members were:

- Incorporate a grove of madrone trees

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- Take out the dead walnut tree and use the wood to make benches
- Put in an information kiosk
- Incorporate a bag dispenser for dog waste
- Tree plantings on the east and west side of the Meadow
- Add elderberry bushes
- Add a sanctuary corner and a children's corner
- Put together a long range 5-year and 10-year plan for the Meadow
- Encourage the use of the Meadow for education for both children and adults
- Invite studies of the natural world such as bird counts and storm water studies to take place

Do *you* have visions of the Meadow to share?

If so, please e-mail them to

info@madisonmeadow.org and include contact information for yourself.

The annual meeting concluded with a discussion of committees needed to manage the Meadow.

Suggested committees were:

- Planning
- Education
- Fundraising
- Events
- Maintenance
- Communication
- Media liason
- Web master

The board will be considering all of these ideas in the coming months. Please be sure to watch future newsletters for updates.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this annual meeting a success!!

Lynne Marsh



Lynne Marsh has been a dedicated member of the board of directors, and the treasurer for Madison Meadow, since the Fall of 2004. She comes well qualified for the position – in her day job she is a financial analyst for the Oregon Research Institute.

As treasurer, Lynne tracks all money coming in and going out of the organization. She also sends all tax receipts out and prepares financial statements.

When asked about her personal passion for Madison Meadow, Lynne talks about her childhood in Ohio. She grew up with a place similar to Madison Meadow near her home and spent many hours playing there with neighborhood children. She says that experience has, “influenced me in many ways and has formed a lot of who I am and what I value.” She believes all children need easy access to natural open spaces, that it connects them to the earth and frees their imagination and creativity.

Having been in the Eugene area for over 30 years, Lynne has owned a home on Friendly street for the last 15 years. Lynne can be reached at lynnem@ori.org.

Who is Madison Meadow?

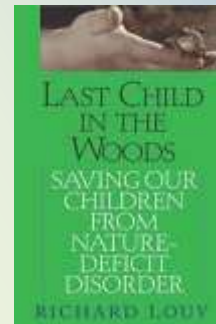
Madison Meadow is the name of the non-profit, 501(c)(3), corporation that was formed in November of 2003 to preserve the two-acre historic, remnant orchard and meadow at 22nd and Madison in Eugene, OR. Madison Meadow is also the name of this two-acre parcel. We are currently in the process of raising funds to purchase the meadow so that we may preserve the beauty and tranquility of the meadow for decades to come. Please call 683-3430 or write P.O. Box 50743 Eugene, OR 97405 if you wish to make a donation or to request further information.

Doesn't Tom Happy Wear Anything But Madison Meadow T-Shirts?

Remember Tom Happy? (You can find a profile in the January edition of this newsletter.) Until the note on our mortgage was paid off, Tom faithfully wore at least one layer of clothing bearing the Madison Meadow logo. He took a little bit of a break at the beginning of the year, then decided to continue his “t-shirt wear-in” until we pay off the private loans taken to retire the note.

We still have \$25,000 left to raise. Please send your donation to P.O. Box 50743 Eugene, OR 97405. It's time for Tom to change his shirt!

Last Child in the Woods



Many neighbors have read the book Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv. It is an inspirational work, related to what Madison Meadow is all about. The following commentary on the book was found online:

“As children’s connections to nature diminish and the social, psychological, and spiritual implications become apparent, new research shows that nature can offer powerful therapy for such maladies as depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorder. Environment-based education dramatically improves standardized test scores and grade-point averages and develops skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making. Anecdotal evidence strongly suggests that childhood experiences in nature stimulate creativity.

In Last Child in the Woods, Louv talks with parents, children, teachers, scientists, religious leaders, child-development researchers, and environmentalists who recognize the threat and offer solutions. Louv shows us an alternative future, one in which parents help their kids experience the natural world more deeply — and find the joy of family connectedness in the process.”