



Cornerstones
October 2015

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Antique 'n' Flea Market
Oct. 25 at the La Crosse Center
South Hall A
10:00-4:00

***If you would like to be a vendor, please check
our website or contact us for more info.***

Remember, PAL members get in free!



***Thank you to Habitat for Humanity and
to all the volunteers that helped to paint
the PAL buildings! See page 2 for more details.***

Work Done on the Preservation Alliance Buildings

In the heat and humidity of August 16, twenty volunteers scraped and painted the two PAL buildings located on the corner of 6th and Badger in La Crosse. Thanks to Amanda Acklin and her crew from Habitat for Humanity and volunteers from the PAL board and membership, work was well on its way by 7:00 a.m. We were doing the final clean up a mere twelve hours later. Thank you to everyone!



Barb Kooiman gets interviewed by WXOW.

Thank you!!



Judy Cobb paints the Greek Revival House.

Thank you!!

- Habitat for Humanity
- RSVP
- Wells Fargo
- La Crosse Co. Historical Soc.

Carl Thurston
Peggy Thurston
Dave Morrison
Shirley Bryhn
Mary O'Mara
Jonathon Del Vecchio
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Tim Acklin
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Mark Terpstra
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Barb Kooiman



Katherine Thomas paints the Rediske Cobbler Shop.

Friends of McGilvray Road (Seven Bridges)

is proud to have been started with the significant financial help of PAL, in 1989. Thank you, again and again. The bridges were recognized as important by some very insightful people who did the research to prove they were worthy of being on the National and the Wisconsin Registers of Historic Places. This early designation helped protect the bridges when the chips were down. It helps guide us today as we continue to maintain and preserve them.



There are several historic threads that are important. The bridges incorporate a patent that was held by a local inventor, Charles Horton. The road was important long before this set of bridges came into being. A man named Alexander McGilvray had a ferry that linked La Crosse and Trempealeau counties at the main channel of the Black River. Pioneers, soldiers, and all sorts of travelers used this road regularly, and farmers, counties, and others repaired and upgraded the road and bridges until they were eventually replaced by the current Hwy 35. The six bridges you travel are old. Five are bowstring arch bridges that are over 100 years old. The other, a truss bridge from Pierce County, WI was bought to complete the trail/road. The seventh large bridge that replaced the ferry was torn down in 1954. Many people still remember traveling the road or picnicking here.

Our involvement came about because the bridges were in bad repair, and it was not the intent of DNR license money to do upkeep on historic architecture. Money had been

allocated for demolition, but as these bridges were a part of the heritage of the area, a large grassroots effort saved the bridges with bipartisan support of area legislators and a groundswell of letters and media interest.



The road and the bridges are special in many ways, but the combination of important architecture and a valuable wildlife area is unique. I can go on and on about that, but you may enjoy a virtual trip via www.7bridgesrd.org and you will see that there is a tranquility here among the birds, wildlife, trees, and flowers that is rare. It's even more thrilling in person. Because it's in the Black River bottom land, you may wish to bring bug repellent. You will find that the first few bridges are an easy walk, and the remainder, not too challenging. The round trip is about 3.8 miles. No two visits are the same. Come and enjoy. In late fall, there is hunting. People hike, walk dogs, and enjoy nature all year long here.



The amazing thing about a great project is the volunteers whose energy and creativity have brought this treasure to life again. None of us knew in 1989, when a road with some old bridges was threatened with demolition, that we would still be working together. We'd love to have you join us. We have had many

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Preservation Alliance of La Crosse
119 King St.
La Crosse , WI 54601

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LA Crosse, WI
Permit No. 107

Please join us in the Rotary Lights Parade on Nov. 27

Check our website, call, or email for more details.

www.preservation-alliance.org

608-784-1976

preservationalliance@gmail.com

--- *Friends of McGilvray Road (Seven Bridges) cont.*
challenges and many creative responses. We are Friends with the Wisconsin DNR who manage the property and help us in ever so many ways, as we try to help them.

Our current challenges, since the flood of 2010, have been to flood-proof and protect the Bridges by lowering the old road where it might serve as a dam. You will see that much has been accomplished in anticipation of changing weather patterns. You will notice that one of the volunteers has re-decked several of the Bridges recently. Work is constant, and interesting. Where else do history, the wilderness, and architecture intersect? McGilvray Road/Seven Bridges is located between Galesville and Holmen off Hwy 53 on County XX/Amsterdam Prairie Road.

----Nancy Fulkerson Hill



PAL 2005 Ornament of the Bridges