

Voice of the River Valley

FREE
March 2015

A guide to people & events that inspire, inform and enrich life in the Lower Wisconsin & Sugar-Pecatonica River Basins

Arena ~ Avoca ~ Dodgeville ~ Lone Rock ~ Mazomanie ~ Mineral Point ~ Muscoda ~ Plain ~ Prairie du Sac ~ Richland Center ~ Sauk City ~ Spring Green



Welcome to March

As we inch nearer to the vernal equinox this month, there is a crisp optimism in our frigid blue skies and a reaffirmation of life in our pink sunrises. Late January brought news that also was a kind of affirmation of our regional culture.

On Jan. 30, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that a group of 10 buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright was nominated for inclusion on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage List — the first works of modern architecture nominated by the United States to the list.

Of these 10 buildings designed by Wisconsin's native son, who was born in Richland Center in 1867, two are in Wisconsin — and one is right here in the Driftless Area. Taliesin, the home Wright built in 1911, sits on the brow of a hill above his farm and a meander of the Wisconsin River where it forms the Iowa-Sauk county line. The nomination, available at savewright.wordpress.com, includes Taliesin as one of 10 "key works of modern architecture" that "are the most iconic, fully realized, and innovative of the more than 400 existing buildings designed by Wright."

I was privileged to live at Taliesin for



three years while my husband attended grad school at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, and I continue to work for the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and Taliesin Preservation, Inc. — so Taliesin is meaningful to me personally. More importantly, Taliesin's nomination is of monumental importance to our region. Beyond its potential to increase tourism to the area, it reinforces the validity of a growing culture in the Driftless Area that connects our work rooted in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math to an artistic — even poetic — awareness of and feeling for nature. Wright's organic architecture is just one expression of a physiographic expression of place, with agriculture and culinary culture being other relevant regional industries of note.

We won't know until 2016 whether the nomination is approved, but until then, we can be inspired by and proud of this architectural gem in our backyard and the continued development of a broader culture rooted in a similar sense of place.

Happy reading,

Sara Lomasz Flesch

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On the Cover

March's cover image of the afternoon sun shining on the snow, water and ice of the Wisconsin River outside the Wisconsin Riverside Resort in Spring Green was taken by Rob Steffen, who describes himself as an amateur photographer, amateur drummer and professional napper currently living in suburban Lone Rock. Thanks to Rob for his contribution! To share images with Voice, please write to info@voiceoftherivervalley.com.

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Courtesy of Mary Kay Baum

The Joneses planted a 13-acre prairie on their Spring Green land “because we simply thought it was beautiful,” says Sherryl Jones. Since then, the native plants have also helped to reduce an unhealthy concentration of groundwater nitrates and to reduce algal blooms in their oxbow lake.

Reclaiming Prairie Roots for Posterity

By David Clutter

Special to Voice of the River Valley

In “A Sand County Almanac,” published in 1949, Aldo Leopold speaks of a land ethic as enlarging “the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively the land.”

For many, Leopold’s land ethic isn’t necessarily intuitive or an easy concept to understand, or accept; however, during my work with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy throughout southwestern Wisconsin’s Driftless Area, I have had the great privilege of working with many wonderful private landowners and conservationists who genuinely understand, live and embody Leopold’s land ethic. Doug and Sherryl Jones of Spring Green are among this special group of folks.

This past December, Doug and Sherryl permanently protected a portion of their land with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy through a voluntary conservation agreement. When asked why they conserved their land and what they valued about the Wisconsin

River, Doug shared that “I have lived within a quarter mile of the Wisconsin River my entire life. ... I’ve always had a special connection to this river. It means a lot to us to know that what we’ve done to protect our land will help protect the quality of the river.”

Doug’s father was employed by Wisconsin Power & Light at the Prairie du Sac Dam, so he grew up on the river. Sherryl also grew up in Prairie du Sac and witnessed the growing numbers of eagles at the river since her youth. Even after Doug and Sherryl married, they purchased a home in Prairie du Sac on property overlooking the river and dam.

And after 52 years of marriage, the Wisconsin River Valley continues to be a love of the theirs. Doug talked fondly about “swimming, fishing, hunting, canoeing, hiking, and even taking boy scouts on overnight canoeing and camping trips down the river.”

When they purchased their Spring Green property in 1999,

Between the Lines

I just experienced a writing failure. One of many, if I were counting. On the outside I make sure what I'm feeling doesn't show, but when I wake in the middle of the night, regret weighs me down like my heaviest blanket. I failed. I failed. So



Kathy Steffen

at three this morning, after an hour tossing and turning and annoying all cats who were trying to snuggle in for a warm winter's sleep, I got up and Googled "quotes on failure" and "quotes on quitting." And learned volumes.

Failures, repeated failures, are fingerposts on the road to achievement.

One fails forward toward success.

—C.S. Lewis

Anyone who has achieved great things can tell you copious stories about how they failed. My Googling adventure unearthed quotes and examples from all walks of life: business giants, political leaders, athletes, inventive geniuses, musicians, writers, and artists. It occurred to me that people who are truly creative and innovative see failure as a necessary component to their creative process. They aren't afraid to embrace failure.

You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone.

—Johnny Cash

Failure is something you know as a writer, artist, or honestly, if you are involved in living. Not everything will work. Not everything will be touted as genius. In this internet age, put something out there and, trust me, someone will bash it down — which is why it is so important to keep creating and presenting your work. Don't be afraid of rejection in any form or from anyone.

An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail.

—Edwin Land

I'll be honest. My own creative-bashing first comes from inside of me. The You-Should-Quit-Voice telling me (repeatedly!) there is no point to writing or making my art. That I should be doing something productive, like the dishes or laundry. Spending my time on a creative endeavor is pointless and won't get me anywhere. My efforts will only yield shame. Sound familiar? I'll bet you have one of those pesky voices, too. Don't listen. Kick it out.

When you feel like quitting, remember why you started in the first place.

—Anonymous

Failing means you are putting your work out there. You are doing what a writer or artist does — creating, submitting, and living an artist's life. Is what you are doing important to you? Then don't quit. Get out there and fail forward! Already failed? Fail bigger! And revel in it. Appreciate every moment of the failures as well as your success.

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor.

—Truman Capote

Kathy Steffen is an award-winning novelist and author of the "Spirit of the River" series: "First, There Is a River," "Jasper Mountain" and "Theater of Illusion," available online and in bookstores everywhere. She writes from a log home in the woods of southwestern Wisconsin that she shares with her husband and three cats. Find out more at www.kathysteffen.com.

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Cabin Fever Dance In Lone Rock Supports Vets' Trip to War Memorials

Press Release

LONE ROCK—Local veterans will be honored March 28 at the Lone Rock Community Hall on North Broadway Street during the “Beat the Cabin Fever Dance 3” event sponsored by the James P. and Michael Sullivan American Legion Post #383 Auxiliary.

The fundraising event features 10 hours of fun and music with all proceeds benefitting VetsRoll, a not-for-profit organization transporting World War II veterans, as well as veterans through 1963 and Rosie-the -Riveters, to Washington, D.C., by coach to see their memorials May 17-20.

The March 28 event begins with bingo from 1 to 2 p.m. following by Big Band music with Penguin DJ Pat Shaw 2-4 p.m. Then dance the evening away 7-11 p.m. with TKO featuring old-time rock and roll, country and blues.

Veterans will be honored in a program beginning at 4 p.m. The program will include the advancing of the colors, the singing of “The Star Spangled Banner,” a short video of the 2014 VetsRoll 5 trip, an introduction of veterans who have participated on past VetsRoll trips and those participating in 2015.

A live auction will be held 5-6 p.m. and a variety of events will be ongoing throughout the afternoon including bucket and 50/50 raffles, meat paddles and a purse auction. Food, pop and beer will also be available.

For more information about the event or to donate items for the live auction or the bucket raffle, contact Lisa Bowen at (608) 929-4690. For more information about the VetsRoll program, see www.vetsroll.org.



Sauk Prairie Alumni Come Home To Share Passion for Arts in ‘Aspire’

Press Release

PRAIRIE DU SAC—There’s something magical on its way to Sauk Prairie on March 21.

River Arts Inc.’s Aspire 2015: A Celebration of River Arts is a variety show featuring Sauk Prairie graduates performing styles ranging from musical theater, classical, dance, magic, pop, country, oldies and more. This year’s lineup includes (pictured at left from top to bottom) Jessica Baetz, Justin Cody, Ellana Kelter, Rory Bolton, Lindsey Giese Juarez, Matt Brennan, Cleary Breunig, Kris Pickar and William Cairnes. Not pictured are Eric Schultz, Christyn Schroeder, Kym Nolden, Josh Patchak, TJ Pelanek, Cam Purcell and Derek Carden.

“River Arts Inc.’s first Aspire production in 2012 was a homecoming of Sauk Prairie High School alumni who had gone on into the arts — received an arts-related college degree and paved their way (plus paid the rent!) using their passion and education within their field,” said Aspire 2015 artistic director and Sauk Prairie 2002 graduate Ellana Kelter. “It brought together incredibly talented men and women now living across the country back home to perform for those that nurtured and inspired their first inklings and desires. If you didn’t get to see that show, you missed a magical assemblage of talent and heartfelt moments. Let me encourage you not to miss this year’s show when we bring together the next round of exquisite performers ... wanting to truly say thank you to a community who provided the foundation for what became lives dedicated to the arts.”

New to the programming this



IF YOU GO

Aspire 2015

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. March 21

4-7 p.m. Art Reception

River Arts Center, 105 9th St., Prairie du Sac

Tickets \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, \$7 students at www.riverartsinc.org, (608) 643-5215 or at River Arts on Water Gallery, 590 Water St., Prairie du Sac.

year is an art exhibit featuring a variety of media by Sauk Prairie graduates Mandy Culver, Colleen Ott, Hilary Hubanks, Samia



Mandy Culver,
curator of the
Aspire exhibit.

Shalabi, Bobbie Jo Brock, Courtney Nolden Beuthin, Forrest Dickey, Sam Cole, Nicole Fisher, Jennifer Niles, Michael LasCasas, and more. The exhibit is in conjunction with

Youth Art Month, which features K-5 Sauk Prairie student artwork on display from March 12 to May 6. It is open to the public from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on school days.



How to Advertise

Voice of the River Valley accepts camera-ready ads or offers design services. Volume discounts available.

For more information, visit voiceoftherivervalley.com, e-mail info@voiceoftherivervalley.com, or call (608) 588-6251.

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Living Well, Dying Well

We tend to live in a quick-fix society. Our computers cannot go fast enough; speed limits on highways keep increasing; and we do not want pain to stick around.

Well, who does? But pain *is* part of life. People experience depression and anxiety; some lose homes and jobs. Loss and grief happen to all of us and death *is* universal. Migraine headaches are painful and being down with the flu for a week is a challenge



Mary Friedel-Hunt and Bentley

leading many to ignore what their bodies need in order to get back in the game.

Living in a quick-fix society has its downside, however. This attitude is one of the contributing factors that have made antidepressants the second-most commonly prescribed drug in the United States, just after cholesterol-lowering drugs. More than one in 10 adults now take antidepressants, says the Center for Disease Control (apa.org/monitor/2012/06/prescribing.aspx). Sadly, our kids are increasingly prescribed what I call unnecessary antidepressants and medications for ADHD. In the United States, almost four out of five prescriptions for psychotropic drugs are written by physicians who are not psychiatrists (“Psychiatric Services,” 2009) and who may have a very limited

knowledge of diagnosis and treatment. The prescription pad can be an easy “go-to” tool for emotional pain. While the use of appropriate non-chemical interventions including psychotherapy has decreased, drugs are being prescribed more and more frequently. Insurance companies save money. Big Pharma makes money.

These drugs do help *some* (not all) people, but is it the first thing to try? The use of prescription drugs for mood disorders *has* increased. The prevalence of mood disorders has *not* increased. Yet the number of people disabled by mood disorders *has* increased. *Read that again.* Interesting, eh? In addition, we find a growing number of people suffering from medically caused injuries in regard to psychiatric drugs (<http://www.madinamerica.com/2011/08/%EF%BB%BFin-defense-of-psychiatric-medications-part-two/>).

I have been in practice long enough to see major changes in the treatment of mental health issues. One is the increased use of drugs. Big Pharma has moved in with television ads that lure people to get a quick fix with a pill (that may not even help and may injure) while these companies make billions of dollars. Now, it is backfiring as those who have been on these drugs and many who recommended them are stepping forward to tell their stories.

Please, investigate before accepting a prescription for antidepressants, benzodiazepines or any other drug used for mental health issues. Also keep in mind that grief is a *normal* response to loss. Most grief, by far, does not require medication. We deal with grief by feeling the pain of the loss. Yes, it hurts. No quick fixes for grief!

Do your homework before taking any medication.

Mary Friedel-Hunt MA LCSW is a psychotherapist, thanatologist and certified bereavement counselor. Bentley is a registered therapy dog. Mary sees clients in Spring Green and can be reached at mfriedelhunt@charter.net; P.O. Box 1036, Spring Green, WI 53588; or www.PersonalGrowthandGriefSupportCenter.com.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY. THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE FINISH LINE IS BEFORE YOU GET THERE.



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IRA/401K Workshop Announcement

The Supreme Court now allows creditors to raid your retirement accounts. Learn some important tools to help you and your intended beneficiaries protect these accounts from depletion or derailment.

WHERE:

Gray Dog Deli, 215 High Street, Mineral Point, WI 53565

WHEN:

Thursday, March 12 — Preserving IRA/401k Benefits
from Creditors/Taxes

Meet John Kitzke, a Mineral Point attorney who has counseled clients in the asset-preservation arena for more than 42 years. John will provide an eye-opening presentation to help citizens and their quality financial advisors and accountants navigate the deadly creditor waters which IRAs, 401ks, and other retirement plans must now travel.

These free workshops are intended to be interactive, and questions and discussion are encouraged. Coffee, tea and water and helpful “working” handouts will be provided gratis at the workshop. Gray Dog Deli has great lunches at reasonable prices for those who wish to have lunch during the workshop — a working lunch, if you will. Each workshop is small and personal, and thus is first-come, first-served.

To reserve your spot now, please call CJ at (608) 987-0300 or email her at cjford1992@aol.com.

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Standing Community Events & Services

Sundays Mazomanie

Shenanigans Knitting Group, 3-5 p.m. Bring your own project and enjoy the company of other knitters while you sip tea or coffee. Donations accepted, no registration needed, just drop in. 25 Brodhead St., (608) 301-5080, <http://shenanigans4u.com>.

Mondays Spring Green

DivorceCare recovery and support group, 7 p.m. For those facing, going through or still feeling the effects of divorce or separation. This 13-week series features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Spring Green Community Church, 151 E. Bossard St., (608) 588-2442.

Mondays Spring Green

AI Anon/ACOA Meetings, 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church basement, 210 Lexington St., (608) 935-5900.

2nd Monday Dodgeville

Gilda's Club Cancer Support Group, 6 p.m. A representative from the well-known Gilda's Club will be available to provide support and information to people facing the challenges of cancer. Upland Hills Health, 800 Compassion Way, (608) 930-8000, <http://uplandhillshealth.org>.

2nd Monday Spring Green

Bloomin' Buddies Garden Club, 7 p.m. Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St., (608) 588-2276, www.springgreenlibrary.org. No dues required, all are welcome.

3rd Monday Richland Center

Autism Support Group, 7-8:30 p.m. Country Kitchen/White House, (608) 588-2585, www.angelautismnetwork.org.

Tuesdays Dodgeville

Open Ceramic Studio and Instruction, 6-9 p.m. Enjoy a relaxed open studio to work with clay. Instruction available for beginners. \$15/evening; \$12/bag of stoneware clay; glazing and firing included in fee. To participate, contact Jennifer Mally at jennifer@bethelhorizons.org or (608) 574-8100. Adamah Clay Studios at Bethel Horizons, 4681 Cty. Hwy. ZZ, www.bethelhorizons.org.

Tuesdays Muscoda

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings, 8 p.m., west door at St. John's School, 116 W. Beech St., (608) 929-4970.

Tuesdays Spring Green

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings, 10 a.m., Christ Lutheran Church conference room, 237 E. Daley St.

1st Tuesday Dodgeville

Caregivers Support Group, 10:30 a.m.-noon, facilitated by Joan Pape (608-437-7500) & Rita Stanton, RN (608-437-6959). Iowa County Health & Human Services, 303 W. Chapel St. All caregivers welcome. Free.

1st Tuesday Richland Center

Pioneers monthly meeting of gay, lesbian, transgender social group, 7 p.m. Open to

MARCH 2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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For more events information, see pp. 10-13 and voiceoftherivervalley.com/events.

*To submit events, e-mail events@voiceoftherivervalley.com
All events subject to change.*

anyone in southwestern Wisconsin. For more information and location, contact (608) 627-1902 or swpionews@yahoo.com.

2nd Tuesday Sauk City

Sauk City Writing Circle, 6:30-8:30 p.m. A place for writers of all genres and skill levels to gather together to listen and critique one another's work in a safe environment. Members should be willing to commit to improving their work while helping others improve as well. Sauk City Public Library, 515 Water St., 608-643-8346, www.saukcitylibrary.org.

2nd/4th Tuesday Richland Center

Rolling Hills Toastmasters, previously Plain Toastmasters, 7-9 p.m. Members are from a variety of communities including Plain, Richland Center and Spring Green. Richland Hospital, Pippin 3, 333 E. 2nd St. For more information, contact natjones101@gmail.com.

3rd Tuesday Plain

Plain Page Turners Book Club, 7:30 p.m. March's selection is "The Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Klein. Kraemer Library & Community Center, 910 Main St., (608) 546-4201, www.scls.lib.wi.us/pla.

3rd Tuesday Platteville

Southwest Wisconsin Photography Club, 7 p.m. Join local photographers to share photos and thoughts on photography. Free to join and open to all skill levels. UW-Platteville Art Building, Room 109. For more information, contact Michael Smith at magiclightphotography@gmail.com.

4th Tuesday Mineral Point

Mineral Point Book Club, 7 -8:30 p.m. Lower level of Trinity Episcopal Church (enter door on lower level), 403 High St. Refreshments served. All are welcome. For more information, call Ann Bachner at (608) 935-5541.

2nd Wednesday Dodgeville

Heart Building 101, 10 a.m. A supportive group for anyone with heart problems and their families. Heart, Lung & Sleep Center, Upland Hills Health, 800 Compassion Way, (608) 930-7160, <http://uplandhillshealth.org>.

3rd Wednesday Dodgeville

Dodgeville Public Library Book Club, 6:30 p.m. Call the library to confirm March's selection. 139 S. Iowa St., (608) 935-3728.

3rd Wednesday Spring Green

Phone Photo Club, 6 p.m. Interested in phone photography? A new group is starting to explore this medium. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St. For more information, call Wayne Farra at (608) 588-5562.

Thursdays Mineral Point

Gray Dog Deli Knitting Group, 7-9 p.m. 215 High St., (608) 987-4000, www.graydogdeli.com.

Thursdays Mineral Point

The Pear & Salvage Home Knitting Group, 7-9 p.m. 12 Fountain St., (608) 987-2902, www.thepearonline.com.

Thursdays Richland Center

AI-Anon support group for family and friends of alcoholics, 12 p.m., Peace United Methodist Church, 265 N. Church St., use Union St. entrance.

Thursdays Richland Center

Miracles Study Group, 5 p.m. Brewer Public Library, 325 N. Central Ave. For more information, contact Bill at agape@mwt.net.

Thursdays Spring Green

"Stitch and Bitch", 3:30-5:30 p.m. knitting and fellowship at the round table. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

Thursdays Spring Green

Nina's Knitting Group, 6-8 p.m. Nina's Department & Variety Store, 143 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-2366.

2nd Thursday Spring Green

Psychic Readings, 5:30-8 p.m. Call to book. 43/90 North Earth, Albany Street Courtyard, (608) 588-3313.

3rd Thursday Dodgeville

Third Thursday Film Group, 1 p.m. Join the group for tea, conversation and Bill Murray film series. Dodgeville Public Library, 139 S. Iowa St., (608) 935-3728, www.dodgevillelibrary.com. Free, drop-ins welcome.

3rd Thursday Spring Green

Thank-you Note Thursdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. This is an experiment. Write a note. Mail it. See what happens. All ages welcome. Free. Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., For more information, call Pat at (608) 924-9234.

Fridays Spring Green

Alcoholics Anonymous, 6:30 p.m. "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." Christ Lutheran Church, 237 East Daley St.

3rd Saturday Madison

Ancient Earthworks Society of Wisconsin, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Help preserve, research, document, protect and honor Wisconsin's prehistoric earthworks and associated landscapes. Optional lunch available for purchase following presentation. Elie's Family Restaurant Banquet Room, 4102 Monona Dr. (608) 223-2040, www.ancienteearthworks.org.

Pedagogy Stew

I've been perusing, re-reading, meditating really, on an article from 2007 called "The Power of Feedback," by John Hattie and Helen Temperley. They review a lot of other research on feedback (meta-analyses, which I love — it seems so much more reliable to look at what A LOT of studies have said rather than just one or two).

It's a dense and interesting article. For example: "Too often, the feedback given is unrelated to achieving success on critical dimensions of the goal. For example, students are given feedback on presentation, spelling, and quantity in writing when the criteria for success require, say, 'creating mood in a story.'"

What are the critical dimensions of the goal? Of the assignment? I admit that I have not always thought this through, except to think to myself, "Well, it's all critical." It's all important. Every bit of the assignment matters. That feels true, but in terms of prioritizing feedback, those feelings aren't terribly helpful.

Working with college students at UW-Richland and with elementary students at ACES (Arena Community Elementary School) gives me so many opportunities to provide feedback. There are informal moments, like when the elementary students are playing Scrabble (brilliant class activity — it builds on vocabulary, strategy, teamwork and math) and I'm saying, "Great word!" or "Nice job getting to that triple word score." Or when my college students are working in small groups on using direct quotations well and I'm lurking to see how much they've gotten done. I try to be positive and say nice things.

But what if saying nice things is actually bad teaching? According to Hattie and Temperley, sometimes it is, at least, ineffective teaching. For example: "Praise addressed to students is unlikely to be effective," by which they mean praise that is aimed at a student's personality, such as, "You're a good student," or what I found myself saying the other day, "I think you're a real poet." They cite two different studies that show, essentially, that "teacher praise ... bears little, if any, relationship to student achievement."

They're not saying to be negative and critical all the time. They specifically point out that feedback is effective when it points out what IS working — that it's important not always to mark up a paper ERROR ERROR ERROR. But they do point out that feedback is most effective when it points out the difference that exists between what a student thinks is working and what a teacher can see is NOT working.

Hattie and Temperley categorize feedback as being aimed at a specific task, at a process or strategy, or at the student-as-person. The most effective feedback, they say, is aimed at the level of process or strategy, or at the specific task. So what I need to say first is, "You have put words together in a musical way and if you keep reading good poetry, you will find even more ways for your language to be musical." Following that, "I think you're a real poet" carries a lot more weight.

Marnie Dresser is a poet, creativity researcher and English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Richland. She lives in Spring Green with her husband and son. More of her reflections on teaching theory and teaching reality can be found at voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives.



Marnie Dresser



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Voice Readers Share Limericks

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, Voice readers responded to our call in February's issue to share limericks, the poetic form of five lines and two rhymes, typically accompanied by a lilting rhythm and a bit of humor. Our thanks to the poets who contributed the lines below.

A lady whose house was quite small
remarked, "It's no trouble at all!
If I stand in the middle
and stretch just a little,
I easily reach wall-to-wall."

§

A fellow from Cornwall would roam,
but he loved only food from his home.
Deprived of a pasty,
his temper turned nasty,
a hungry, homesick gastronome.

He wandered the world with his rucksack
in search of a favorite snack.
He at last came to rest
in Wisconsin's southwest
and he knew he would never go back.

For he found that just over the hill
was a cuisine that gave him a thrill —
saffron cakes by the score,
figgyhobbin and more —
if you look you will find him there still.
Nancy Schmalz, Oshkosh and Mineral Point

§

A lady from Prairie du Chien
loved to soar in a flying machine.
She faced toward the tail
(an awkward detail),
"But then I can see where I've been!"

§

A seamstress who labored in Trempealeau
complained of her tough reau to heau.
She strived to be cheerful

but was more often tearful.
"My life is just always seau-seau."

§

A tenor of note, Pavarotti,
liked to speed in his red Maserati.
"My snazzy two-seater
drinks gas by the litre.
For myself, I savor biscotti."
Jack Jayne, Kaukauna

§

In winter, the north wind doth blow,
And the dogs are reluctant to go
very far from the stoop
when depositing poop.
It's a minefield there under the snow!

§

A Green & Gold Dirge
Last fall I looked forward to Sundays,
Watched football all day in my undies.
But seeing the Packers
dissolve like crushed crackers
hurt worse than a monthful of Mondays.
Grace Mize, Highland

§

Our son Pete, who lives at our dwelling,
Has tried a new sport called rappelling.
He says it's the height
Which gives queight a freight
Is it fun? It's too soon to be telling.

§

A fellow who lives in Duquesne
Predicts every time it

would resne.

When asked why that was
he replied, "It's because
my knees always give me such pesne."
Dr. Dave Downs, Dodgeville

§

Mazomanie has a fun water way,
which John Wick loves to paddle each
day.

As his kayak shoots by
with sun sparkling on high
lets me know growing older's OKAY.
Gaila Olsen, Black Earth

§

Limerick Limerick

In most cases limericks are funny
with sarcasm thicker than honey.
They won't make you rich
but ask yourself which
are you in it for humor or money.

§

Birdfeeder

Tiny finches will come to find seed
for the nutrient value they need.
Bright red cardinals and dove
fly in from above
and share the abundance of feed.

Then a blue jay makes rude intervene
and chases them all from the scene.

He gobbles the goods
and flies into the woods
his leftovers scattered and lean.
Pat Larson, Lone Rock

Call for Poetry

In anticipation of National Poetry Month and National Haiku Poetry Day, *Voice of the River Valley* invites



submissions of original poetry to be published in our April issue.

Please submit poetry by March 15 to info@voiceoftherivervalley.com with your name and location. Publication is at the discretion of the editor based on space, subject matter

and quality. Thank you!



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Voice of the River Valley Calendar Listings

ONGOING

Through March Spring Green

"Meet the Maker" art exhibit: River Valley Elementary & Middle School – multiple media, Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Community Room, Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St., (608) 588-2276, springgreenlibrary.org.

March 8-28 Richland Center

WRAP Exhibit, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. every day. Richland Area Arts Council and UW-Madison Continuing Education sponsor this Wisconsin Regional Artist Program exhibit featuring original artwork by Wisconsin and regional artists. Winning entries will be announced at 1 p.m. March 28 and meritorious works will be displayed at a state exhibit in Madison this summer. Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Center, 1400 W. Seminary St., (608) 588-2780, <http://reddoorgallery.org>.

March 12-May 6 Prairie du Sac

Aspire 2015 Art Exhibit & Youth Art Month. Sauk Prairie alumnus Mandy Culver curates an exhibit of work by Sauk Prairie alumni who work professionally in the visual arts. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. on school days. Free and open to the public. River Arts Center Lobby, 105 9th St., (608) 643-5215, www.riverartsinc.org. See story, p. 5.

Through May 2015 Prairie du Sac

"River ~ Dam ~ Lake: 100 Years of Transformation" exhibit, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday-Saturday, by chance or appointment. Tripp Heritage Museum, 565 Water St., (608)-644-8444, www.saukprairiehistory.org.

MARCH

1 Spring Green

Live Music: Acoustic Jam, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Come to play, come to listen. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

1 Spring Green

Local Author Showcase, 2-4 p.m. Meet Philip Hasheider, the author of "Building Early Wisconsin

Community: The 150-Year Story of the Mills on Honey Creek" at 2 p.m., followed by Middleton attorney and novelist Lee Atterbury, who has written the Western thrillers "Meeteetse Massacre" and "Solitude Showdown." Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, www.readinutopia.com.

2 Arena

Mostly Mondays Poetry Society, 7 p.m. Listen, read, sing, play your own work or favorites by other authors at this "mostly" first Monday of the month gathering. All welcome to enjoy the free open-mic format. For more information, contact Pat at (608) 924-9234. The Shoppe at Herbs Spices & More, 7352 U.S. Hwy 14, (608) 753-9000.

2 Spring Green

2015 American Players Theatre tickets on sale for returning patrons online at 7 a.m. or through the box office at (608) 588-2361 at 10 a.m. For 2015 play descriptions and schedules, see www.americanplayers.org. Tickets go on sale to the general public April 13.

3 Dodgeville

Folklore Village Open Mic, 7-9 p.m. Musicians, poets, audience members of all ages, accomplished or aspiring, are welcome to this friendly, supportive monthly event. Mike Wolkomir, MC; Scott Stieber, sound. Piano, coffee and tea provided. Feel free to bring a treat to share. Donations appreciated. Folklore Village, 3210 Cty. Hwy BB, (608) 924-4000, <http://folklorevillage.com>.

4 Dodgeville

Uplands Garden Club Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. Gardening for Hummingbirds: Micheal and Kathi Rock will present on attracting hummingbirds to your property, regardless of location. 407 E. Madison, (608) 935-9441.

6 Mineral Point

Live Music: Point Five, 8 p.m. Midway, 140 High St., (608) 987-4309.

6 Spring Green

1st Friday Made in the Valley Market, 5-8 p.m. Local market featuring handcrafted goods. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070. www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

6 Spring Green

MARCH 2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

For more events information, see the community events & services listings on p. 7 and voiceoftherivervalley.com/events.

To submit events, e-mail events@voiceoftherivervalley.com
All events subject to change.

Celtic Spirituality for the Modern Day, 6-8 p.m. Cecilia Farran, bardic storyteller and student of Celtic shamanism, history and myth, presents an inquiry into the mystical and spiritual aspects of the celtic traditions. To RSVP, contact (608) 588-3313 or cecilia@northeast.com. 43/90 North Earth, Albany Street Courtyard.

6-8 Sauk City


Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild Presents: "It's All About Timing", four short plays about timing in life, love, business and the theater. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors (62+) and students (16+). Buy tickets online at sptheatreguild.org, at the River Arts on Water Gallery in Prairie du Sac (608-643-5215) or at the door. Paul's Chocolates will be available for purchase. 7 p.m. March 6-7, 2 p.m. March 8. Handicapped accessible. <http://sptheatreguild.org>.

7 Dodgeville

Healthy Hoe-Down sponsored by Campo di Bella, 5:30 p.m. jam, 6:30 p.m. potluck and live music follows. Campo di Bella, a small family run winery and diversified organic farm near Mt. Horeb, sponsors the second barn dance of 2015 featuring Davey Bar-Shimon from Iowa as guest caller. \$7 adults, \$5 seniors/teens, \$4 kids, kids under 5 free. (608) 924-4000.

7 Mazomanie

Euchre party, 7 p.m. Registration 6:30-7 p.m., \$5 entry fee. Food and drinks available. Sign up early to ensure your spot at basecampmazomanie@gmail.com or call (608)-401-1088. Base Camp Café, 18 Brodhead St.



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7 Mineral Point

Live Music: Dealin', 8 p.m. Blues concert. \$15 at the door or in advance at brownpapertickets.com or Berget's Jewelers. Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St., www.mineralpointoperahouse.org.

7 Spring Green

Live Music: The McDougals, 2-4 p.m. Madison's own Mike and Patty McDougal return to the River Valley. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

7 Spring Green

Jazz at Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, Live from Lincoln Center: Salute to Betty Carter. Doors at 7:30 p.m., music at 8:30 p.m. Free musical simulcast (donations welcome to support the nonprofit center) and \$12 family-style dinner. BYOB. Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, 6306 Hwy. 23, (608) 588-2544, wyomingvalleyschool.blogspot.com.

8 Daylight Saving Time begins

8 Mineral Point

2nd Annual Allen Ludden Password Tournament, 1-3:30 p.m. Mineral Point native son and TV game show personality Allen Ludden is honored with an afternoon of Password, a fun word game with two-person teams playing four rounds. Register by March 6 by calling (608) 987-2447, e-mailing bpolizzi@swls.org, or signing up at the library. Free; light snacks will be served. Mineral Point Public Library, 137 High St.

8 Mineral Point

Author Talk: Dan Schwerin, 2-4:30 p.m. Celebrate the March 1 publication of Schwerin's first full collection of haiku, "ORS," inspired by the Wisconsin native's life lived on farms, in rural towns, suburbs and the city. The Foundry Books, 105 Commerce St., (608) 987-4363, info@foundrybooks.com.

9 Spring Green

APT's Winter Words Play-Reading Series: "Elizabeth Rex" by Timothy Findley. 7 p.m. \$15. American Players Theatre's Touchstone Theatre, (608) 588-2361, americanplayers.org, brownpapertickets.com.

11 Madison

Arts Day 2015, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Strengthening the economy, education and quality of life throughout

Wisconsin is the theme of this year's annual event celebrating the arts and creativity in our state. For schedule and registration details, see www.artswisconsin.org. Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St.

12 Spring Green

Taliesin Landscapes Volunteer Day, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Spend the morning at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin participating in natural and cultural landscape projects including trails management, prairie restoration, and more. For more information and to RSVP, contact volunteer@franklloydwright.org or (608) 588-2511 x. 5529.

12 "Around the Corner with John McGivern" featuring Spring Green, 7 p.m. on local Wisconsin Public Television stations.

13 Dodgeville

Iowa County Astronomers Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. Free and open to all astronomy enthusiasts — the only requirement is the ability to look up and say "wow!" Stargazing at Bethel Horizons following the meeting if skies are clear. Quality Liquid Feeds, 3586 Hwy. 23 N., <http://licastro.org>. See column, p. 18.

13 Mineral Point

Live Music: The Pines, 7:30 p.m. Indie duo weave many musical styles to create their own hip and haunting sound. \$15 at the door or in advance at brownpapertickets.com. Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St., www.mineralpointoperahouse.org.

13 Mineral Point

Live Music: Scott Stieber & Don Myers, 8:30 p.m. A blend of self-penned tunes and covers of pop, rock'n'roll, folk and country favorites. 8:30 p.m. Gray Dog Deli, 215 High St., (608) 987-4000, graydogdeli.com.

13-15 Richland Center

University of Wisconsin-Richland Theatre Presents "12 Angry Jurors" by Reginald Rose and Sherman L. Sergel, 6 and 8:30 p.m. March 13-14, and 2 p.m. March 15. Zoie Eva Lutz directs an intimate setting in which audiences serve as the jury of the jurors deliberating the verdict in a murder trial. \$10 advance tickets available at the campus business services office; remaining tickets, if available, will be sold at the door. For more information, contact zoie.eva.lutz@uwc.edu or call (608) 647-6186, ext. 256.

14 Spring Green

Live Music: Bluegrass Jam, 1:30-4 p.m. Come to play, come to listen. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

14 Spring Green

Pi Tea Party, 2-4 p.m. Come celebrate Pi on 3.14.15 with pie at our Pi Tea Party. With a \$20 reservation, you can come and sit down with tea, four types of pie, quiche, finger sandwiches and scones. Bird of Paradise Tea, 120 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7509, janethaigh41@gmail.com.

14 Spring Green

8 Pin Bowling Tournament. Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce annual fundraiser. Adult bowling shifts 6, 8, 10 p.m.; \$20/adult. Jenga tournament 5:30 and 7 p.m.; \$10/adult. Bag toss tournament \$25/team (two per team). Door prizes, raffle prizes and 50/50 drawings. To sign up, call (608) 588-7377. Industrial Bowl, 316 S. Peterson St.

15 Mineral Point

Brain Games 7.0, 1-4 p.m. Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce annual fundraising trivia contest of not-so-trivial significance. Teams of three to six players answer four rounds of 25 questions each. Prizes awarded for the best team name and best dressed, and trophies will be awarded to the winning trivia teams in first, second and third place. Free cookies, coffee and water. Entry fees are \$10 per team member. For more information, call (608) 987-3201 or info@mineralpoint.com. Quality Inn, 1345 Business Park Rd.

15 Spring Green

Plays Out Loud: "The Island" by Athol Fugard, John Kani and Winston Ntshona, 2 p.m. The Spring Green Literary Festival sponsors the third of five readings from American Players Theatre's 2015 season. Free scripts available at the door; playbooks for sale at Arcadia Books and at the Spring Green Community Library with a South Central library card. Choose the part you want to read, wait to be assigned or come and just listen. Upstairs at The Shed, 123 N. Lexington.

16 Spring Green

"Rear Window", 7 p.m. The Spring Green Area Arts Coalition presents this 1954 mystery thriller directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly. A photographer trapped in his wheelchair due to a broken leg passes the

Continued p. 12



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Hear POPS 'Soundtrack' March 10

Press Release

SPRING GREEN—The River Valley High School Choir Department presents the annual POPS Concert Project, "The Soundtrack," at 7 p.m. March 10 at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort Banquet Hall, S13220 Shifflet Rd.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with light appetizers. The concert features performances of hits from movies and musicals by the RVHS Treble and Festival Choirs, Chamber Ensemble, RVHS students, staff, community members and a fantastic house band of local musicians.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door. All proceeds benefit the RVHS Choir and Music Department.

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Calendar Cont. from p. 11

time spying on his neighbors through his apartment's rear window and becomes convinced a murder has been committed. Free admission; donations accepted to support arts and cultural programs in the River Valley. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The Gard Theater, 111 E. Jefferson St., www.springgreenarts.org.

17 Dodgeville

Live Music: Alash Ensemble Tuvan Throat Singers, 7 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. concert. In addition to their distinctive traditional singing, band members will be performing on traditional Tuvan instruments including the igil, the doshpuluur and the byzaanchy. Folklore Village, 3210 Cty. Rd. BB, (608) 924-4000, <http://folklorevillage.com>.

17 Spring Green

St. Patrick's Day Lunch, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Enjoy corned beef and cabbage, carrots, potatoes, rye rolls and horseradish and the music of Shari Sarazin, vocalist, composer and Celtic folk harpist 12-2 p.m. Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, springgreengeneralstore.com.

18 Spring Green

Table Play Reading: "Bright New Boise" by Samuel D. Hunter, 7 p.m. Enjoy an Asian meal at 5:30 or 6 p.m. at Arcadia Books (reservations can be made by calling (608) 588-7638), and then a free play reading with some of your favorite local actors starting at 7 p.m. at the Gard Theater, 111 E. Jefferson St. Presented in part with a grant from the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition.

20 First Day of Spring

20 Mineral Point

Live Music: Amanda Miess and Ayla Langer, 8:30 p.m. Acoustic duo. 8:30 p.m. Gray Dog Deli,

215 High St., (608) 987-4000, graydogdeli.com.

20 Muscoda

Vernal Equinox Observation, 6:30 p.m. Frank's Hill, 2 miles west of Muscoda near the intersection of Highways 60 and 193. For more information, call (608) 739-4198. *See story, p. 18.*

20 Prairie du Sac

Tripp 21 Lecture Series: Victorians' Secrets, 6:30 mingling, 7 p.m. lecture. Wisconsin Historical Society Curator of Social History Leslie Bellais shares the secret behind Victorians' tiny waists and explores how women's undergarments reflected societal values. \$7 includes lecture and refreshments. Tripp Heritage Museum, 565 Water St., (608)-644-8444, www.saukprairiehistory.org.

20-22 Dodgeville

Norwegian Music and Dance Weekend. Hardanger, fiddle and Norwegian dance workshops with guests Knut Arne Jacobsen, Brit Berthelsen Totland, Laura Ellestad, Loretta Kelley and Char Bostrom. For more information and full schedule, see <http://folklorevillage.com/t1/calendar>. Pre-registration required; full- and part-time options available. Folklore Village, 3210 Cty. Rd. BB, (608) 924-4000.

21 Prairie du Sac

Live Music: Aspire 2015 Sauk Prairie Alumni Showcase, 2 and 7 p.m. Current and former professional artists who as Sauk Prairie high school students once graced the stage with their vocal, acting and dancing talent, return to Sauk Prairie to perform in the second Sauk Prairie arts alumni showcase. \$15 adult, \$13 student, \$7 student. River Arts Center, 105 9th St., (608) 643-5215, www.riverartsinc.org. *See story, p. 5.*

21 Prairie du Sac

Aspire 2015 Art Exhibit & Youth

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Calendar Cont. from p. 12

Art Month Public Reception, 4-7 p.m. Free and open to the public. River Arts Center Lobby, 105 9th St., (608) 643-5215, www.riverartsinc.org. See story, p. 5.

21 Spring Green

Live Music: Kendra Swanson, 2-4 p.m. Indie-folk musician playing banjo and guitar. CD's will be available for sale or trade (hoping for chocolate or sauerkraut). Spring Green General Store, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

21-22 Mineral Point

10th Annual Shake Rag Alley Garden Getaway, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. A weekend of fun hands-on workshops making garden art and informative lectures on the art of gardening. For a full schedule, see www.shakeragalley.com/Garden. Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, 18 Shake Rag St, (608) 987-3292.

22 Richland Center

Live Music: Wisconsin Brass Quintet, 2 p.m. The Richland Concert Association presents the Wisconsin Brass Quintet in the fifth concert of the 2014-15 series. \$15 adults, \$5 students, UW-Richland students with ID admitted free. Richland Center City Auditorium, 182 N. Central Ave., (608) 647-3977, richlandconcertassociation.org.

23 Spring Green

APT's Winter Words Play-Reading Series: "Stupid Fu-ing Bird," by Aaron Posner, 7 p.m. \$15. American Players Theatre's Touchstone Theatre, (608) 588-2361, americanplayers.org, brownpapertickets.com.

23 Spring Green

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting & 10-Minute Play Competition, 7 p.m. After a brief business meeting, the top three winners of the Friends' new 10-Minute Play Contest will present their Reader's Theater produced with cast members from the community and the usual mirthful hilarity. Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St., (608) 588-2276, www.springgreenlibrary.org.

27 Mineral Point

Live Music: Broom Street Drifters, 8:30 p.m. This husband-wife duo from Dubuque plays Americana "tunes to make your soul smile." 8:30 p.m. Gray Dog Deli, 215 High St., (608) 987-4000, graydogdeli.com.

28 Lone Rock

Beat the Cabin Fever Dance 3, 1-11 p.m. VetsRoll.org fundraiser sponsored

by the James P. and Michael Sullivan American Legion Post #383 Auxiliary. Lone Rock Community Hall, North Broadway Street. See story, p. 5.

28 Mineral Point

Live Music: Mascot Theory and Dead Horses, 7 p.m. Oshkosh's acoustic quartet Dead Horses opens for Mascot Theory, whose alternative folk meets a rootsy bluegrass-blended Americana. \$15 at the door or in advance at brownpapertickets.com. Mineral Point Opera House, 139 High St., www.mineralpointoperahouse.org.

28 Richland Center

3rd Annual Richland Center Garden Expo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Four presentations and vendors. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door includes expo, materials and lunch with a portion of the proceeds for the Master Gardeners downtown beautification project. UW-Richland Wallace Student Center, 1200 Hwy 14 W. See story, p. 15.

28 Richland Center

WRAP Watercolor Portrait Demonstration, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Richland Area Arts Council and UW-Madison Continuing Education sponsor this Wisconsin Regional Artist Program event featuring Viola artist Barbara Kettner. \$5. Schmitt Woodland Hills Retirement Center, 1400 W. Seminary St., (608) 588-2780, <http://reddoorgallery.org>.

28 Spring Green

What's It Worth? — An Antique Appraisal Event, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring your antique item for appraisal by Mark Moran, a former senior editor for antiques and collectibles books from Krause Publications. Space is limited and registration is required by calling (608) 588-2276. \$5 to attend, \$5 per item appraisal fee. Spring Green Community Library, 230 E. Monroe St.

28 Spring Green

Live Music: Scott Stieber & Don Myers, 2-4 p.m. A blend of self-penned tunes and covers of pop, rock'n'roll, folk and country favorites. Spring Green General Store & Cafe, 137 S. Albany St., (608) 588-7070, www.springgreengeneralstore.com.

29 Spring Green

Author Talk: Judith Claire Mitchell, 2 p.m. The author of "A Reunion of Ghosts" reads from her novel, which New York Times bestselling author Anthony Doerr called "a triumphant, beautiful and devastating novel about coincidences, family and the sins of our fathers." Arcadia Books, 102 E. Jefferson St., (608) 588-7638, www.readinutopia.com.

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Gardener's Delight, Gardener's Dilemma

Of all the months of the year, March seems to be the moodiest for gardeners. It's easy to blame the weather, which can melt our hearts with warmth and tantalizing scents of earth, only to follow with bone-chilling blizzards and icy gray skies. I sometimes think, though, that unstable weather is an easy scapegoat for our spring restlessness — that there is a deeper undercurrent of tension that tests our patience and fuels our eagerness to turn over the living soil and sow seeds.



Heidi Schmalz

It seems to me that this tension is common to all organisms that must produce or acquire the energy to survive within a short, unpredictable growing season. The reproductive cycles of all the birds, rodents, insects and worms that visit our gardens are shaped and driven by cyclical limits and uncertainty.

Though we live in an era in which the basics of survival are accessible to a larger group of people than ever before, we don't have to look far, geographically or historically, to see the struggle for subsistence that urges us to make use of limited solar energy in the face of uncertain distributions of that other precious resource — water. Margins can be tight in nature, or they can be generous. Which it will be this season we cannot know in March.

I can picture myself living on a farmstead in the month of March 100 years ago, rummaging through the root cellar for the

last of the potatoes and sauerkraut, rationing jars of tomatoes and precious ounces of dried berries. Before refrigeration and trans-continental shipment of perishable goods became ubiquitous, securing a winter's supply of nourishing fruits and vegetables must have been a serious and dedicated endeavor. I can imagine the anxiety of spring, the fastidious attention to planting schedules and soil temperatures. I can also understand the exuberant anticipation of the first daffodils and tulips, cherry blossoms and irises — and of the whole season-long parade of ornamental flowers that contributed nothing to the winter coffers but provided sustenance in the form of joy and pleasure to those who tended them.

Our lives are entwined in different circumstances these days. We are wise to remember that gardening — for most of us — is a luxury, not a means of subsistence upon which we are exclusively dependent. But we are also wise to acknowledge the universal swell and pulse of the season that compels us to produce — if not food for the body, then definitely food for the soul. With that reminder, perhaps we can bolster our patience and abide the moods of March.

Heidi Schmalz grew up in Oshkosh and now lives and gardens in Mineral Point, where she works at Sandstone Nursery and Shooting Star Farm. She studied soil science and earned an M.S. from the University of Idaho and has worked in Idaho as a wilderness ranger and in Oregon as a field botanist.



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Expo's Fresh Presentations Ready Gardners to Prepare, Improve

Press Release

RICHLAND CENTER—UW-Richland Continuing Education and Richland County Master Gardeners sponsor the third annual Garden Expo in the UW-Richland Wallace Student Center on March 28.

Registration for the 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. program is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Four presentations are planned to help gardeners prepare, improve, and perhaps to try new things:

“Bird-Friendly Gardens,” at 9:30 a.m., focuses on ways to attract birds to your garden. Bird expert Barbara Duerksen will discuss what birds need during migration and nesting seasons, in the winter, and which birds you're likely to attract.

“Invasive Plants,” at 11 a.m., looks at how to rid your garden of invasive plants and learn of the new invasive plants to be listed by the Department of Natural Resources this year. DNR invasive plants & earthworm specialist Bernadette Williams is the presenter.

“Southern Wisconsin Tree Fruits and Their Culture,” at 1 p.m., looks at apple, pear, plum and cherry trees, with a focus on their growing culture. Presenter Jay O'Connell has a bachelor's degree in horticulture and is owner/operator of Lazy Patch Farms, a business that provides fruit to area stores.

“Square Foot Gardening,” at 2:30 p.m., details a gardening method well-suited for beginners and others who want to experiment with different plants in a single bed. Typically done in raised beds using compost, square foot gardening can work well for those who have less-than-ideal soil. Presenters are organic farmer Shirley Stoltz and Karen Stoltz, who has a degree in ornamental horticulture.

In addition to experts and vendor booths, the price of admission includes materials, lunch (a wrap, soup, dessert and beverage) and parking. Snacks will be available for purchase. Door prizes and a raffle are planned. For more information or to register, call UW-Richland Continuing Education at (608) 647-6186, ext. 227; e-mail rlnce@uwc.edu; see richland.uwc.edu; or visit the Continuing Education Office in Melvill Hall 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. UW-Richland is located at 1200 Hwy. 14 W. in Richland Center.



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Driftless Terroir: Growing Chili in Karst Country, and Preserving the Heat

Driftless Terroir is a series featuring guest voices celebrating the intersection of land and culture — the essence of life in the Driftless Area — with topics including art and architecture, farming and gardening, cooking and eating, fermenting and drinking, and more. To read past columns, see voiceoftherivervalley.com/archives. To contribute to *Driftless Terroir*, e-mail info@voiceoftherivervalley.com.

This past January, my wife, Hanna, and I traveled to Tulum, Mexico, for our honeymoon. Besides taking advantage of the warm respite from the harshness of the Wisconsin winter, we enjoyed some delicious local cuisine, much of which was served with very spicy salsa. We are both big fans of hot peppers, and immediately recognized the intense flavor and piquancy of the habanero. Tulum is located on the east coast of the Yucatán peninsula, which has the highest production of habaneros in the world. Peppers were first domesticated there more than 9,000 years ago. They grow year-round and set fruits continuously. In an effort to



Eric Friedericks

learn about current gardening practices, we visited a permaculture educational center. Here, we were amazed to see pepper plants that were chest height and had “trunks” nearly 2 inches in diameter, with fully ripe peppers ... in January!

In the jungle surrounding Tulum, we were shown a pepper plant that grows wild, locally known as *chile quimiche*. Our host, Adone, explained that, if he wanted to harvest any of these peppers, he had to do so at night. Otherwise, in the morning, a pair of birds he called *chileros* would come and eat them before he could pick them! We later found out that the *quimiche* belong to a group of peppers known as “bird” peppers, which are found throughout the Yucatán, presumably spread by birds.

Here, in the Driftless Region, pepper plants don't have it so easy. The growing season only lasts about five months, but the daylight hours are longer. Although peppers can technically be grown year-round in Wisconsin, they need to be brought indoors, during the winter, or be kept in heated greenhouses under lights. Most often, as I have done, they are treated as annual plants. It is difficult to squeeze peppers into the short growing season that we have here. It helps to start plants indoors, and transplant them when nighttime temperatures are warmer, usually in June. Anything below 55 F or above 90 F can result in heavy blossom drop. Therefore, if there is a cold front predicted, drape a lightweight sheet over your plants. If it gets too hot, a shade cloth will protect them.



There are several other ways to help peppers thrive in our northern climate. One is the use of black plastic mulch. This not only keeps the weeds down and the soil loose, but it also aids in warming the soil by absorbing the heat from the sun. For the home gardener, using a trash bag will work. Simply lay it over your soil and bury the edges a few days before you transplant. Then, poke a hole in the plastic big enough for the root ball to fit through, and plant it no deeper than the transplant soil line. Placing a soaker hose, or a drip line, under the plastic, will make it easier to water later on.

The soils in the Driftless Area and the Yucatan are less different than you might expect. Around 400 million to 450 million years ago, Wisconsin was located near the equator, and much of the state was under a warm sea. Trillions of tiny sea creatures lived here, absorbing phosphorus into their bones and teeth. When they died, they formed a thick layer on the sea floor. Over time, all of this compacted into a thick limestone bed that can be seen today in the many outcroppings and cliffs. Geologic weathering produced karst topography, which is characterized by sinkholes and caves. The outcropping of limestone that makes up the Yucatan peninsula is much younger than that in Wisconsin, but similar karst formations can be seen there as well in the form of *cenotes* and underwater rivers. This limestone base is essential to the fertility of the soil in both places, and provides phosphorus and calcium, which are both needed for fruiting plants, such as peppers.

After the peppers are planted, the waiting begins. Take a look at the flowers and watch the pollinators such as sweat bees and bumblebees doing their natural work. Keep your plants watered and watch out for pests, too. In time, you will see the first fruits forming, but have patience. Most pepper varieties are ready to pick when the fruit feels firm and the skin is shiny and smooth. The first pepper picked is always an exciting treat. I'll bring it in to the kitchen with a tomato or two, and cut it up so everyone gets a taste. As delicious as the green peppers are, the flavors are only destined to get better. Toward the end of July and into August, the first blushes of orange and red will start to appear as the chlorophyll breaks down. After the whole fruit turns red, it will become



Courtesy of Eric Friedericks

The soils in the Driftless Area and the Yucatan are less different than you might expect. With care, we can help chili peppers thrive in our northern climate. To enjoy their heat and flavor all winter, peppers can be charcoal fire-roasted and frozen, dried or turned into hot sauce.

slightly softer as the starches convert into sugars.

It's easy to keep up with the harvest at first, but toward the end of the season, we usually end up with more peppers than we know what to do with. My favorite way of preparing peppers for preservation is to roast them over a hardwood charcoal fire. This works well for peppers with thick flesh, like the Carmen, a sweet Italian type. The tapered shape of this pepper makes it easy to turn them, charring as much of the skin as possible. After grilling, I'll put them in a bowl and cover it. As they cool, the skin loosens, and it can easily be peeled off. After splitting it open, scooping the seeds out, and pulling the stem off, I'll put them into a container, label it, and place it in the freezer. Of course, I'll put some aside for immediate eating.

For the thinner-fleshed, tapered peppers like serranos and cayennes, a *ristra* makes an attractive, edible decoration. Just string the fruits together, using fishing line and a large needle, and

make sure to hang it in a warm, dry spot. Another time-saving, year-end method for drying is to pull out the whole plant, roots and all, and hang it upside-down. This works well for the tiny "bird" peppers like hot thai or the *chile quimiche*.

Making hot sauce is yet another way to enjoy your peppers' flavor until next year's crop is ready to harvest. During the summer of 2011, Hanna and I grew a garden with a great variety of vegetables. One of the most successful plantings was Hanna's habaneros. She grew enough plants to completely saturate the Spring Green hot pepper market. On the evening before the first killing frost, she frantically harvested every single pepper from those plants and laid them out all across our kitchen and dining room, separated by color: green, orange, and red. She then made three different colors of hot sauce, all three with very distinct flavors. I stayed far away while she was doing this to avoid the vapors from the peppers. Despite high ceilings in the house, and a face mask, the habaneros

were hot enough to send Hanna out the door coughing and sneezing at regular intervals. Fortunately, this is not a yearly activity as we still have plenty of this sauce. Hanna still loves growing habaneros, just not so many.

It's nice to think about peppers and their bright warm colors and fiery flavors when all you can see outside is stark, white covered hills. Soon, our feet will feel warm earth again, and we'll hear that unmistakable crack of the stem breaking from the plant, right before we bite into the crunchy flesh of the sweet ripe fruits. We won't have *chileros* planting our seeds for us; it won't be that easy. However, with careful attention and planning, we, too, can enjoy the wonderful flavors that peppers can bring to the table.

Eric Friedericks is an organic farmer and potter. He lives with his wife, Hanna, near Governor Dodge State Park. Starting this year, they will be managing GreenSpirit Farm. Eric can be reached at eric@elementalpottery.com.

Driftless Dark Skies: Equinox from Effigy Mounds on Frank's Hill

Back in the day, people were closer to the sky. Distances were not yet being measured in astronomical units or light years or parsecs. People had every reason to believe that they could get closer to the stars by climbing a mound or temple or ziggurat.



John Heasley

In these days, we still build our observatories high in the mountains of Arizona, Hawaii, Chile and South Africa. They are no closer to the stars, but they are above much of the atmosphere that scatters and distorts the starlight. I remember spending a few nights on one such mountaintop, Kitt Peak west of Tucson, and thinking how much like a monastery it was with astronomers quietly contemplating

the heavens. Even better than a mountaintop is to put our telescopes outside our atmosphere as we've done with the Hubble Space Telescope.

A spectacular high place here in the Driftless Area is Frank's Hill just a few miles northwest of Muscoda. It gives a dramatic view of the Lower Wisconsin River Valley. Along the top of the ridge are several effigy mounds constructed a millennium ago. They include one identified as Corn Woman as well as a water serpent, a beaver, a bison and a coyote. On the ridge just to the west are a series of conical mounds.

The public is invited to gather on the hill to celebrate the

2015 Vernal Equinox on March 20. This year, the equinox coincides with a new moon, so we should have a great view of the Milky Way as the sky darkens. Three planets will also be visible: Mars low in the west, Venus a little higher and much brighter in the west, and Jupiter high in the south. On March 21, look for Mars just one degree (the width of your little finger) to the right of a smiling crescent moon. Mars and the moon will set just one hour after the sun. On the following night, watch for Venus just two fingers to the right of a waxing crescent moon. Venus and the moon will set two hours after the sun. Frank's Hill, or any other ridge top, provides the perfect spot to enjoy these pairings.

From 1998 to his death in 2013, Frank Shadewald was the owner and keeper of the mounds. What I admired most about Frank is how he welcomed people of so many different traditions to the ridge top to enjoy the sight of the valley below and the sky above. Here we can experience not only the deep time of the mound builders, but we also rediscover our home in the cosmos.

John Heasley is an astronomy educator and stargazer who enjoys connecting people with the cosmos. He volunteers with NASA/JPL as a Solar System Ambassador. For more information about stargazing in southwestern Wisconsin, see Driftless Stargazing LLC on Facebook, the Iowa County Astronomers Facebook group and <http://icastro.org>.

Frank's Hill Spring Sunset Gathering

Press Release

MUSCODA—Bid farewell to winter and welcome spring by observing the vernal equinox among the ancient effigy mounds at Frank's Hill near Muscoda on March 20.

The public is invited to gather to observe the first official sunset of spring. Those wishing to attend should gather at Frank's Hill by 6:30 p.m. John Heasley of Driftless Stargazing LLC will have a telescope for watching the night skies. There will be a warming fire for sharing stories. The hill also will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday for self-guided tours of the mound site.

The events are subject to suitable weather conditions. A short hike is required to the top of the hill that offers a stunning view of the Lower Wisconsin River Valley. The site is located 2 miles west of Muscoda near the intersection of Highways 60 and 193.

Frank's Hill is on the National Register of Historic Places. A group of unique effigy mounds is situated on the east ridge where the event will occur, which looks across to the west ridge where a line of small mounds, thought to be calendar mounds, is situated. The site offers a panoramic vista of the area, which once contained the highest concentration of bird effigy mounds found anywhere in the world, including the remnants of the giant Ghost Eagle mound with a wingspan of over a quarter mile. The mounds are thought to have been built a thousand or more years ago.

For more information or directions, call Dave Martin at (608) 739-4198.



Driftless Area Land Conservancy
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PRAIRIE continued from p. 3

the small, secluded lake on their land was in pristine condition. Cold springs bubbled up in crystal clear water, pond lilies were scattered about and the sand beneath their feet was firm and white. However, over time they began to see algal blooms, small at first but worsening to the point that a thick mat of algae covered the entire surface of the lake in 2011.

Around the same time the Joneses purchased their land, Dave Marshall — a now-retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologist and current board member with Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, or FLOW — began sampling a range of small lakes within the floodplain of the Wisconsin River, searching for an array of beautiful and brilliantly colored rare fish that call these lakes home.

According to Marshall, these rare fish are “much like the proverbial canaries in the coal mines. They reflect the health of these lakes, which are crucial to the health of the river.” But the scientists weren’t looking for classic big game fish like bass or pike; they were looking for pinky-sized species such as the mud darter, the starhead top minnow and others that turn out to be indicators of excellent water quality.

Over time they found that these unique lakes were being consumed by algal blooms, and became worried about the effects to these rare fish species. It didn’t take long for scientists from the Wisconsin DNR and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to determine that these algal blooms were the results of high levels of nitrates in the shallow groundwater found under the sandy soils of the Wisconsin River Valley.

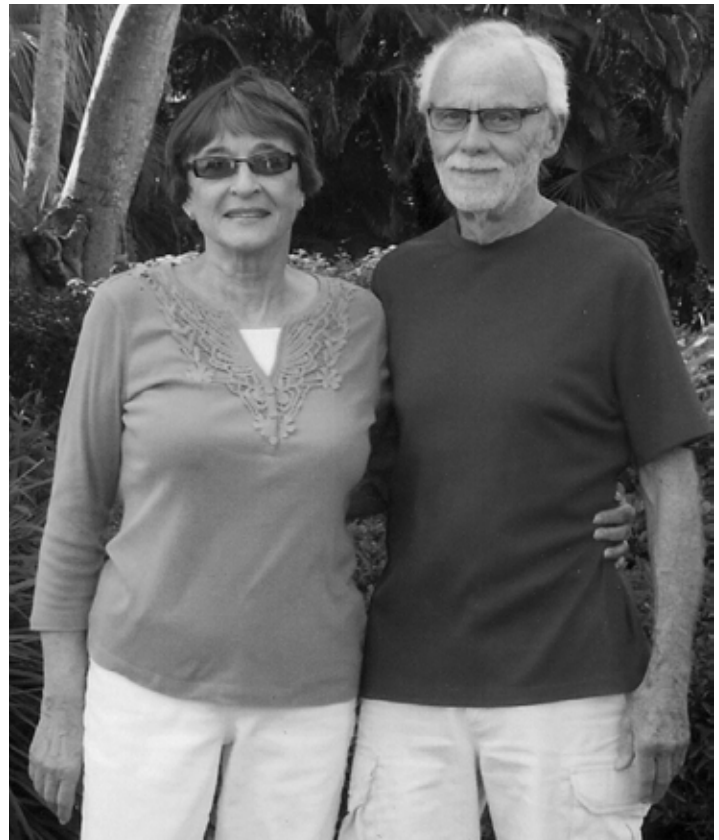
In 2008, the Joneses were selected by the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection as part of a groundwater testing study in the valley region. Later they received a notice of “unsafe water,” with nitrate levels measuring 13 parts per million, exceeding the state safe drinking water standard of 10 ppm.

In fact, after the Joneses worked with UW-SP, Marshall and others to establish permanent groundwater monitoring sites, they found nitrate levels during parts of the year peaking at more than twice the safe drinking water standard, or 20 ppm.

At the same time, Sherryl and Doug planted a 13-acre prairie between the road and the oxbow lake to provide beauty and wildlife habitat. As the prairie became established, though, what Marshall and FLOW found was a steady decline in nitrates in the lake next to the Jones’ prairie.

It turns out that Sherryl and Doug’s prairie, with roots from native plants that go as deep as 15 feet below the surface, helps filter nutrients from groundwater before it reaches the oxbow lake. According to Sherryl, “We planted the prairie because we simply thought it was beautiful, but it’s incredibly rewarding to know that we’re also improving water quality and protecting these unique fish.”

This project, which serves as a model for protecting waterways throughout the Driftless Area, was made possible in part



Courtesy of Sherryl and Doug Jones

The Joneses grew up in Prairie du Sac and now live in Spring Green.

through a partnership with FLOW and the Midwest Environmental Advocates. MEA and FLOW provided funding to Driftless Area Land Conservancy to protect lands along the Lower Wisconsin River, with a focus on improving water quality.

As Aldo Leopold put it, the land ethic reflects “the existence of an ecological conscience” that “in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of land.”

As a boy scout, Doug Jones learned that “you leave your spot better than you found it,” and to this day, he and his wife, Sherryl, adhere to this adage.

“From what we’ve learned, Sherryl and I are doing our best to leave this *gem* to our children and grandchildren to enjoy, and in the best condition we can. We feel that it’s our life’s mission.” I can’t think of a better manifestation of Leopold’s land ethic than that.

David Clutter is executive director of the Dodgeville-based Driftless Area Land Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization founded in 2000 that is committed to maintaining and enhancing the health, diversity and beauty of southwestern Wisconsin’s natural and agricultural landscape through permanent land protection and restoration. A version of this article originally appeared at www.driftlessconservancy.org. For more information, see the website or call David at (608) 930-3252.



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To submit your event to the calendar, e-mail events@voiceoftherivervalley.com.



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