

5444 Welch Rd., Emmett Township, MI 48022

810.387.2765 or 313.886.9343

FROM THE PRESIDENT(S)

Hello Sunny Fields members, It has been my pleasure to work with Bill Horman, Executive Director and owner of Sunny Fields Botanical Park, to help get Sunny Fields on the map and open to the public.

Since 1962, Bill has dedicated his life to the creation of Sunny Fields. A Board of Directors has been formed with the purpose of sustaining and achieving public exposure of the park.

As President, it has been my outstanding opportunity to bring Sunny Fields to the attention of our surrounding community and beyond. Sunny Fields is a beautiful natural park with the most diverse lilac collection in Michigan, as well as hundreds of exotic and other plants, situated in Emmett Township, Michigan.

by Pat Brozowski, former President

Dear Friend of Sunny Fields, I just wanted to take a few minutes of your time to greet you, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Sunny Fields. The journey toward becoming a self-sustaining, community based park has led us to many new endeavors. Through each endeavor, the original vision communicated to me, by Bill Horman, has stuck in my mind. He told me that he wanted to share the beauty and tranquility that is Sunny Fields with the greater community. That vision still resonates with me.

I am humbled and honored to begin to serve as president of the Board of Directors as of July 1, 2009. My thanks and gratitude is extended to Pat Brozowski for her service as president and for willingness to continue to serve on the board.

As we continue to strive to have Sunny Fields become a self-sustaining community asset, *we need your help*. We are always looking for viable means and methods to make this happen. It will only be possible if more people get involved. I want to encourage you to join the team in making Sunny Fields a long-lasting legacy that will be here for generations to come.

by Jerry Jennex, President

VISITING SUNNY FIELDS IS NOW EASIER

In a move to make Sunny Fields more accessible to the public, the park is now open (*with no appointment necessary*) the second weekend of every month, through October. Visitors should come to the parking lot at 5444 Welch Rd. Be sure to spread the word. To be clear, "*weekends*" are Saturday and Sunday only. The hours are 10:00am-5:00pm each day. Volunteers are needed to enable us to continue this schedule.

by Paul Young



UNEXPECTED GUESTS



These cuddly guests joined nearly 40 volunteers at the Lilac Festival Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, June 7th. *Thank You* to all who brought dishes to pass (*maybe a Sunny*

Fields Cookbook is in the future?). The baby raccoons were discovered by a wood pile near the cabin. They provided unexpected entertainment, unique to Sunny Fields. The picnic came to an end with a blazing campfire. Great food and Great times were had by all in attendance. Hopefully we can do it again soon.

by Paul Young

JULY 18, 2009

FAMILY WORK DAY AT SUNNY FIELDS

Please join us, for fun and fellowship, at our upcoming family work day at Sunny Fields. Plan to arrive at the Welch Rd. parking lot by 8am, we hope to be finished by 3pm. Hot dogs will be provided for lunch. Things you can bring are gloves, hand held gardening tools, weed whackers and a dish to pass. If you can only spare a couple of hours, please come out and join in this opportunity to meet others that support our efforts while we help in the maintenance of the park.

by Jim Sillers



2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Jerry Jennex
810.395.3700
jjennex@capac.k12.mi.us

SECRETARY

Patricia E. Brozowski
810.395.7527
emmetttownship@yahoo.com

Henry Ohmer

810.387.2263
13749 Yale Rd
Lynn, MI 48097

Christopher Wilson

248.258.5784
4050 W. Maple Rd.
Suite 104
Bloomfield, MI 48301

VICE PRESIDENT

Brandon Verellen
586.634.4181
12831 Foley Rd.
Emmett, MI 48022

TREASURER

Frank Johnson
810.387.4274
198 School Dr.
Yale, MI 48097

Melody Earns

810.512.4653
490 Dixie Blvd.
Algonac, MI 48001

C. Thomas Wilson

248.258.5784
4050 W. Maple Rd.
Suite 104
Bloomfield, MI 48301

Executive Director

William H. Horman
810-387-2765 or 313-886-9343

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUNNY FIELDS JUNE BOARD MEETING

New officers were elected,
as of July 1, 2009 the officers are:

President *Jerry Jennex*

Vice President *Brandon Verellen*

Secretary *Patricia Brozowski*

Treasurer *Frank Johnson*

The board listed twenty committees that are needed during the year to help in the running of Sunny Fields. The board voted to establish five of these committees, at this time. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these committees please contact the chairperson or a member of the board of directors.

Lilac festival committee: **Nancy & Bill Augustyniak**

Fund raising committee: **Jerry Jennex**

Membership committee: **Melody Earns**

Newsletter/Promotion committee: **Jim Sillers &**

Paul Young

Parking lot / pond enhancement committee:

Brandon Verellen

Many of the board members read vision statements on how they envision Sunny Fields in the future. There were numerous excellent comments presented by the board. The board will continue to discuss this topic until a master plan is implemented. Most of the statements mentioned the importance of keeping the park in a natural setting with maintained trails. Along the trails would be rest areas where one could rest and enjoy the beauty and tranquil nature of the park. A building complex would be built that would include a meeting room, kitchen, office space and classrooms capable of holding a multitude of educational classes. The park would be maintained to attract hikers, birdwatchers, photographers, artists, naturalists and most of all, be a place for families to come and explore and enjoy its beauty.

by Jim Sillers

3rd ANNUAL LILAC FESTIVAL



We were delighted to receive over 1,000 visitors to enjoy the magnificent view of the lilac bushes, crabapple trees and over 6,000 beautiful bulb flowers. Johnny Needham provided a perfect sound with his great musical entertainment (*he even had*

one couple up dancing the Polka for us). Concessions and plant sales were busier than ever and a great time was had by all!

by Nancy & Bob Augustyniak



We would love to see *your* best photos, taken at Sunny Fields in 2009. Please submit your photo(s) to Melody Earns or Paul Young, by **September 13, 2009**. The winner of the contest will receive a framed & matted, 8 X 10 copy of the winning photo. The winner will be announced at the Sunny Fields Annual Meeting, September 29, 2009.

(Sunny Fields will retain the right to use the photograph in publicity or merchandising, acknowledging the photographer.)

PLEASE SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:

Melody Earns: 810.512.4653

Paul Young: 810.327.2702

or

E-mail to:

sunnyfields62@yahoo.com

[[[FEEDBACK]]]

We hope you enjoyed this premier edition of the Sunny Fields Botanical Park Newsletter. This newsletter (Spring, Summer, Autumn) is a benefit of your current paid membership. Our goal, is to open communication with our members and encourage your involvement. **Please let us know, what you liked and what you did not.** Also *what you would like to see* in future editions. We also encourage you to submit articles written by you, to share in our newsletter.. This newsletter is here to keep you informed and up to date on upcoming events. There are several ways to contact us:

Phone: **810.387.2765** APR-OCT
313.886.9343 NOV- MAR

Website: **www.visitsunnyfields.org**

E-mail: **sunnyfields62@yahoo.com**

Mail: **P.O. Box 414**

Emmett, MI 48022

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you often in the park & at our upcoming events.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Forty seven years ago, before I bought these 40 acres from my inspirational Mom & Dad, I knew I wanted this property to be a special park and eventually my gift to all. Though it is a Botanical Park, Sunny Fields is even more a *people place*, dedicated to fostering education in horticultural and environmental studies, providing tranquil recreation and serving as a wildlife sanctuary. I thank the members and those who have supported all we try to accomplish for the public good, as well as the Earth. We invite you back to Sunny Fields and encourage you, not only to visit often, but also continue your financial support and volunteerism (physical or clerical) to the park. You, as supporters have graciously provided: continued park maintenance, well maintained comfort stations, educational tours, plant signage, informative brochures, trail maps, up to date display box, updates to our website and email access.

Winter was especially harsh on Sunny Fields this past year, due to constant snow cover November-March. In my 47 years involved with the planting and maintenance here, I never saw such extreme plant damage by starving Whitetail deer. Welded wire fences are continually being installed to protect the collection of rare trees and shrubs from the deer, with whom I have a love/hate relationship. The cold wet spring, seemed to last far too long fostering some fungus diseases on ornamental plants, which had to be treated. The small Emerald Ash Borer is very evident

Mark Your Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 11 & 12 Sunny Fields OPEN 10am-5pm
without an appointment**
- 18 Family Work Day 8:00 am – 3 pm
Sunny Fields.**
- 28 Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Cabin @ Sunny Fields**

AUGUST

- 8 & 9 Sunny Fields OPEN 10am-5pm
without an appointment**
- 25 Board Meeting 6:30 pm
Cabin @ Sunny Fields**

SEPTEMBER

- 12 & 13 Sunny Fields OPEN 10am-5pm
without an appointment**
- 29 Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Capac Historical Society
Community Building**
- 29 ANNUAL MEETING 7 pm
Capac Historical Society
Community Building**

OCTOBER

- 10 & 11 Autumn Festival 10 am-5 pm
Sunny Fields**
- 10 & 11 Sunny Fields OPEN 10am-5pm
without an appointment**
- 27 Board Meeting 7 pm
Emmett Township Hall**

continued

here, and there are no affordable means to control them, so we've seen almost all of the juvenile and mature Green and White Ash, including a 75 footer, die leaving considerable cleanup work, yielding firewood for the cabin and mulch for the plantings.

All members are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting to be held September 29, 2009 which is sure to be informative and entertaining (*more information upcoming in the September newsletter*). Members, or those interested in becoming members, can also make arrangements to attend our monthly board meetings by calling in advance.

Thank you again for your interest, encouragement, patience and *especially* for your visits, memberships, financial contributions and active volunteerism. *You are very important* to Sunny Fields Botanical Park! I look forward to personally welcoming you to our "piece of heaven" often and our continued sharing through this newsletter.

by Bill Horman

Sunny Fields Botanical Park
P.O. Box 414
Emmett, MI 48022

WE NEED YOU!!!



Public access to Sunny Fields Botanical Park is dependent upon your generous donations and volunteers. Memberships and Donations are tax deductible. Sunny Fields, Inc. is a non profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. Please help Sunny Fields maintain and improve its plant collections, educational opportunities and habitats for wildlife.

Volunteers are *always* needed, volunteer today by visiting our website, e-mail or calling.

By keeping your membership paid, you are greatly helping to maintain and continue Sunny Fields Botanical Park's service, to the greater community.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I WOULD LIKE A MEMBERSHIP I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

In our effort to "Go Green" please indicate how you wish to receive your newsletters

MAIL or E-MAIL (check one)

Per person membership is for one year, from the date of payment.

\$25.00 Member \$50.00 Friend \$100.00 Donor \$500.00 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor

Please select the number of each membership classifications you have selected.

CHECK # _____ CHECK AMOUNT _____ CASH AMOUNT _____

Please return this form with payment to: **SUNNY FIELDS, INC., P.O. BOX414, EMMETT, MI 48022**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Rec'd by _____ Acknowledged by _____ Acknowledged _____ Deposited _____
Initial initial date