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LINDA AND GENE FARLEY CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Watercolor by Artist Char DeVos



Farewell With Our Deep Gratitude to Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS) Board Chair Jeanne Meier

Please join us in thanking and celebrating Jeanne Meier, who is stepping down from the NPS Board after an incredible 8 years of dedicated service to the Farley Center community. Jeanne served on the Farley Center Board from 2017 to 2022, including time as Vice Chair, and then took on the role of Chair of the NPS Board from 2023 to 2025.

Jeanne has left a lasting mark on our work and our hearts. While we will miss her presence on the board, we are deeply grateful for the energy, leadership, and kindness she has contributed over the years.

Thank you, Jeanne!



Thank You Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS) Board Member Diane Smith

(2012-2025)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Diane Smith, who stepped down after serving on the NPS Board since 2012.

As one of our dedicated Springdale resident board members, Diane brought deep connection, historical perspective, and a strong commitment to the land her parents once lovingly cared for. Her voice and vision have helped shape the Farley Center and NPS into the community spaces they are today. We're honored by her years of service and grateful she'll continue to be involved as a volunteer.

Thank you, Diane!

In Diane's words:

"I am so grateful for the experiences and the knowledge I've learned from being on the board. My family and I are so very grateful that the land that my parents had the privilege to once own is now used in such a wonderful way! Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board and I look forward to volunteering for future events."



Our 2025 Beekeepers

Beekeepers Patrick Norby and Matt Kersten, are leading this great group as part of the Farley Center Beekeeping Incubator Program.

Left to Right: Diane Head, Katherine Kozarek, Elizabeth Townsend, Chad Comer, Kim Rymer, Hannah Jenkins



Thank You to Our Volunteers!

With lots of teamwork (and a Dremel!), every tool is now proudly marked with “NPS” on the handle. Special thanks to Volunteer Jayne Squirrel and NPS Board Member Brenda Emerson for serving as our dedicated site supervisors!



And a huge thank you to our incredible volunteers who braved the heat and humidity to help with setup for Natural Path Sanctuary Death Education Market! We couldn't do it without you — your dedication and sweat made this powerful event possible.



Natural Path Sanctuary Death Education Market

We're so grateful to everyone who showed up and supported the first-ever Death Education Market at NPS. We gathered local experts, green burial advocates, and compassionate community members and created a space for meaningful dialogue. A space where people could explore their options, ask questions, and connect—with honesty, dignity, and even joy.



Welcome Kiosk with general information and monthly update posters. Come check out what's going on!



Tarp overlaying the future site of a native flower garden supported by the NEC.

Natural Path Sanctuary Engagement Committee

The Natural Path Sanctuary Engagement Committee (NEC) provides supportive activities for those who have purchased a burial site or have loved ones buried at the NPS. The aim of the NEC is to make members feel welcome and more involved in the Sanctuary space and their own end-of-life journeys. Toward that goal, the NEC has updated the Welcome Kiosk located near the Burr Oak at the entrance area to the Cemetery.

Additionally, the NEC has initiated a long term project of creating a native plant flower garden that will not only beautify the north west corner of the entrance area but will also provide flowers, seeds, and plants for members to use in the Sanctuary for remembrance and celebration. We will follow up with announcements about groundbreaking and an educational celebration at planting time. We encourage NPS community members to share their ideas about how they'd like to engage with NPS in meaningful ways or to contact the NEC with questions or feedback by emailing us at:

director@farleycenter.org. NEC: Jayne Squirrel (NEC Committee Chair), Brenda Emerson, Karen Reppen.



Last Taco Tuesday - Aug. 5

Taco Tuesdays are new this summer and have become a favorite. Come to our final one for the season on August 5 and enjoy the lively music of *People With Strings*. Enjoy delicious fry bread tacos from the Navajo Fry Bread team and El Sabor de Puebla (please bring cash) And you can also purchase fresh, organic vegetables grown at the Farley Center.

June's Taco Tuesday featured music by *Down From the Hills* and July's Taco Tuesday featured music by *Too Sick Charlie*.

[Learn More about Aug. 5th Taco Tuesday](#)

Exploring the Understory

Thank you to all who attended the Understory of the Natural Path Sanctuary event. A special thank you to our wonderful Wisconsin Master Naturalists—Mary Michal, Theresa Berrie, Fred Dike, Dave Kelly, and Colleen Robinson—for guiding us through the sanctuary and sharing their deep knowledge and care for the land. You made the day truly memorable.



Welcome Back Yee

Farley Center Farmer Yee Ythao invited Farley Center friends and supporters to raise money for the Hmong New Year by selling her delicious Hmong eggrolls. Thank you to everyone who placed an order! And we're excited to share that Yee will also be selling her famous eggrolls at our Farley Center Fall Fest on October 5 to continue raising funds for the Hmong New Year celebration. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to Fall Fest!

After taking a four-year break from farming, we're so glad she's back at the Farley Center, both as a farmer and a vibrant part of our community.



Natural Resources Foundation

The Farley Center/NPS welcomed the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin field trip participants for a tour of the farm and Natural Path Sanctuary. This is the second year that the Center participated in the field trips.

PEACE SONGS SANCTUARY 2025

LAND ART INSTALLATIONS

Farley Center for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability



Land Art Installation by
John Steines and Jon McComb

Land Art Installations Opening

Farley Center artists are creating in the Natural Path Sanctuary woods this summer. Join us as we celebrate the opening of the Exhibit on **August 9** with a concert featuring Twila Jean, a songwriter, music educator, multi-instrumentalist, and activist. She will share her iconic acoustic folk and pop peace songs!

[Learn More about the artists and exhibition.](#)

Dane Arts joins the Farley Center **September 13** for an Art Market Fair which will include area artists as well as Farley Artists. There will be art, music, great food and more art. Please come and enjoy the day out at the Farley Center!

The land art exhibit will be open to the public from **August 9-October 31**. Self guided maps will be available.

The Farley Center thanks Dane Arts for their grant and Visit Verona for their sponsorship of *Peace Songs 2025*.



Farley Center Won a WAMI!!

We are incredibly honored to receive the Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) Award for Music Benefactor! This award recognizes the Farley Center's commitment to building community through music, justice, sustainability, and peace. From concerts in the woods to land art exhibits and cultural celebrations, we're proud to support and collaborate with local musicians who bring our mission to life.

A huge thank you to the WAMI committee and to every artist who has shared their gifts at the Farley Center. This one's for all of you!

[Read the article on the award](#)

From Well-Loved to Re-Loved: The Pink Sofa Revival

Over the decades, countless Farley Center supporters, staff, board members, farmers, friends, and guests have gathered on this pink sofa. It's a small but meaningful part of our history—and we're thrilled to give it a new life for many more conversations and connections to come. This is the first time it's been refreshed in nearly fifty years.



Your Partnership is Key to Meeting our Mission of Peace, Justice and Sustainability

[Take a drone tour of the Center](#)

The Farley Center is funded in part through the generosity of donations from those who share our vision and also through Natural Path Sanctuary green burial sales. We invite your support. [Learn more about the Farley Center.](#)

Drone video credit to Kyle Bergman

Upcoming 2025 Events

- [Thur., July 31 - \(FULL, WAITLIST ONLY!\) Farley Center Farmer Julie Plotkin/Root to Bloom Flowers Tour and Workshop](#)
- [Tues., Aug. 5 - Taco Tuesday with Navajo Fry Bread Team and El Sabor de Puebla with music by "People With Strings"](#)
- [Wed., Aug., 6 - Lanterns for Peace 2025](#)
- [Thur., Aug. 7 - Farley Center Volunteer Day in the NPS](#)
- [Sat., Aug. 9 - Peace Songs Opening with music by Twila Jean](#)
- [Aug. 9- Oct. 31 - Peace Songs, Farley Center Land Art Exhibition](#)
- [Tues., Aug. 12 - NPS Walking Tour](#)
- [Sat., Sept. 13 - DABL Pop-Up Art Market and Farley Center Land Art Tour](#)
- [Sat., Sept. 27 - Mock Burial Workshop](#)
- [Sun., Oct. 5 - Farley Center Fall Festival 2025](#)
- [Tues., Oct. 14 - NPS Walking Tour](#)
- [Tues., Dec. 9 - NPS Rules and Regulations Presentation](#)

www.farleycenter.org

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