

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Photo credit to Scott Markus



News From Natural Path Sanctuary Engagement Committee

The Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS) Engagement Committee (NEC) helps support those who have purchased a burial site or have loved ones buried at NPS. We aim to help members feel welcome and more involved in the Sanctuary space.

One project is to create the new *NPS Native Garden*, a designated area to grow native Wisconsin plants. Here, NPS cemetery members can engage and connect in various ways, such as tending the gardens, collecting seeds, or just enjoying the peace of the beautiful view. It will be an education and engagement resource, providing a regenerative, sustainable source for grave plantings. The goals of this project include demonstrating the importance of native plantings and providing an option for those who would like, to plant on their own plot or around the grave of a loved one.

Please attend the "Groundbreaking and Seeding Celebration" on Sunday Nov. 9, 12:00 to 2:00 pm, to participate in leveling the ground, followed by scattering and tamping in the seeds that will overwinter to be ready to sprout next spring.

All NPS community members are invited to share their ideas on how they'd like to engage with NPS in meaningful ways or contact the NEC with questions or feedback by emailing us at: nps@farleycenter.org. NEC: Jayne Squirrel (Chair), Brenda Emerson, Jeanne Meier, Karen Reppen.



Jon with his father, Gene Farley

Thank You to Farley Center Board Member Jon Farley

A heartfelt thank you to Jon Farley for his incredible service to the Farley Center Board. Jon has been with us since 2010, working tirelessly alongside his father, Dr. Gene Farley, and others to bring the vision of the Farley Center and Natural Path Sanctuary to life. As one of our founding members, Jon's dedication has been nothing short of inspiring.

Although Jon has stepped off the Board, his presence will still be felt in countless ways. He has been one of our strongest supporters. His generosity, hard work, and unwavering belief in our mission have left an indelible mark on the Farley Center. [Learn more about the Farley Center Board of Directors.](#)



Welcome Jayne Squirrel to the NPS Board of Directors

Jayne grew up in Southern California and received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California - Davis. After spending several years working at the University of Washington-Seattle she moved to Madison to complete her doctorate in Reproductive Biology at the University of Wisconsin. She fell in love, got married and has called Madison home for over 30 years, continuing as a post-doctoral fellow and research scientist at UW-Madison. Now retired, Jayne has found that the Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS) has become an integral part of her grief journey, and she encourages others to take advantage of the peace and sanctity of the NPS as part of their grieving process. [Learn more about the NPS Board of Directors](#)



2025 Farley Center Fall Festival

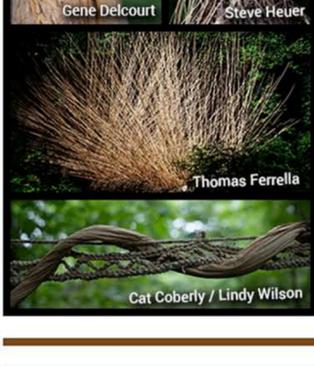
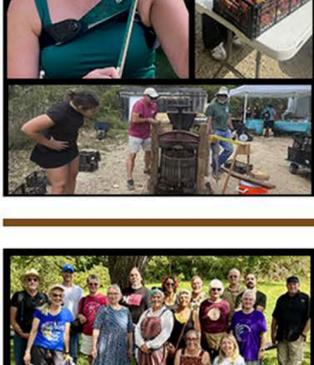
Another fun fall festival with fresh pressed apple cider for everyone has come and gone! There were also tours of the farm, bees and Natural Path Sanctuary. Yummy food and drink was offered by El Sabor de Puebla, Sam's Elegant Team African Food, Yee's Eggrolls, and Thai food from Jarucha. As always, fresh organic produce was sold by the Farley Center Farmers. We also enjoyed homemade treats that were brought by festival goers to share with others.

We thank the Spartan Youth Service (SYS) Volunteers, Vel Phillips School as well as the many friends, neighbors, board members who volunteered to help with parking and picking and slicing apples.

Violinist *Wendy Lynn Markus* and the band *Strings to Roam* brought the festive music throughout the day. And Galen Metz brought magic to our tents as he entertained the kids.

Mark your calendars for next year! The Fall Fest is always the first Sunday in October!

[See the Fall Fest 2025 Video by Gretta Wing Miller](#)



Peace Songs Farley Center Land Art Exhibit

It's been a lovely season of art in the Natural Path Sanctuary woods. There are still a few days left (until Oct. 31) to see the Farley Center Land Art Exhibition. Peace Songs was the theme that inspired each artist. Eighteen artists created 17 biodegradable art installations. We had a record number of people going on self guided tours.

This year, we had an opening event/reception for the art and artists. We enjoyed Twila Jean, songwriter, music educator, multi-instrumentalist, and activist for sharing her iconic acoustic folk and pop Peace Songs.

Special thanks to Visit Verona for sponsoring the Peace Songs Land Art Exhibit. And also a big thank-you to all the artists as well as Bobbette Rose, the Farley Center Arts Facilitator who helped organize the exhibition.

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Farley Center / Dane Arts Buy Local (DABL) Market

Farley Center partnered with DABL for an outdoor Arts Festival in September. It was a beautiful day with art and music and food. 25 artists set up art booths and joined the Farley artists who came and talked about their installations in the NPS woods. Over 1000 people came out to enjoy the day as they admired and purchased art.

Dane Arts Buy Local (DABL) is a program within Dane Arts that connects local artists and the community through a series of pop-up art markets.

The Farley Center enjoyed working with [Dane Arts](#) Mark Fraire and Augusta Bruella and Allison Plumer at [Visit Verona](#).

[Learn about all the DABL artists](#)

[Learn about all the Farley artists](#)



NPS Rules and Regulations Presentation

Dec. 9, 2025, 10am-Noon

Natural Path Sanctuary promotes a legacy of care and respect for the earth through natural burial. Our rules are based on our desire to preserve the natural beauty of the land so that those buried here will be a part of the natural path of life and death, buried amongst the trees and plants. [Learn More.](#)



New Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS) Director

We are thrilled to announce that Cemeteryan Dustin Duve has been promoted to Director of the Natural Path Sanctuary (NPS)!

Dustin has been a dedicated member of our team since 2021 and has done an outstanding job supporting NPS families, volunteers, and the Farley Center community. He will now take over the NPS leadership from Farley Center Director Shedd Farley (2015-2025), who previously stepped into the role after Kevin Corrado (2011-2015).

We are deeply grateful for Shedd's years of heartfelt service and steady guidance. As we move into this new chapter, we're excited for Dustin to carry the work forward and continue representing NPS with compassion, care, and commitment.

Please join us in congratulating Dustin!



Root to Bloom Tour and Workshop

We thank Julie Plotkin for a delightful evening of flowers at the Farley Center this past July. We started with a tour of Julie's flower field followed by a bouquet building workshop.

In 2020 Julie started *Root to Bloom, LLC*, a cut flower grower-owned business. She sells at the Eastside Farmers Market, subscriptions to members (anyone can join), bulk flowers for weddings and celebrations, and wholesale to restaurants and businesses. [Learn more about Julie Plotkin](#)



Taco Tuesdays

Our last Taco Tuesday at the Farley Center in August was one to remember—delicious tacos from El Sabor de Puebla and the amazing Navajo Taco Team, foot-tapping tunes from *People with Strings*, perfect weather, and a wonderful crowd filled with new faces and longtime supporters.

A special thanks to the Verona Chamber of Commerce members who joined us for a tour with Director Shedd Farley and stayed to enjoy the evening.

With all the joy, connection, great food and music... we're thinking Taco Tuesdays might just make a comeback!



Farmer Juan Gonzales Torres Highlighted on Wisconsin Life

Juan Gonzales Torres is a Farley Center farmer. He owns Los Abuelos Farley Farm and supplies fresh, organic produce through Los Jalapenos CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), numerous farmer markets and local restaurants.

Wisconsin Life is a co-production of [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) and [PBS Wisconsin](#). The broadcast celebrates what makes Wisconsin unique through the diverse stories of its people, places, history and culture.

[See the Wisconsin Life video](#)



Gun Sense

Dane County Sheriff Kalvin Barrett at the Gun Sense event in October at Brix Cider in Mount Horeb. This event was sponsored by Southwest Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWAAP), Mt Horeb Progressive Trolls, Brix Cider and the Farley Center to raise awareness and demand better gun laws. Musicians all donated their talent for this event. Donations were raised for *Moms Demand Action* who also spoke about their organization. Brix Cider donated part of proceeds of drink and food sakes. Thank you Tim White for organizing this important event.



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.](#)

Video credit to Jay Gilbert, Mark Boyce/Source TEN, and Urban Trriage

Upcoming 2025 Events

- Tues., Dec. 9 - [NPS Rules and Regulations Presentation](#)