



# V A L L E Y G R O V E N E W S L E T T E R

SPRING 2003

BY THE VALLEY GROVE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Valley Grove Preservation Society's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the church. This is the meeting where you have direct input to the Societies future actions. Your fresh ideas on preserving, promoting, protecting and enjoying Valley Grove are welcome.

## SPRING CLEANING

Our annual Spring Clean-Up day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 17th from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. All are welcome!

## CARRIAGE CLUB SPRING DRIVE

The St. Croix Horse and Carriage Society liked the Valley Grove autumn drive so much that they will be hitching and driving their new and antique vehicles this spring as well. Come photograph our old time family event and see a rare skill on Sunday May 18 at noon. Participation is also open to non-Club members—if you are a driver, you are welcome to bring your horse and rig, too. If you ride but don't drive, outriders are also welcome. So saddle up and join us.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Since fall we have received memorial gifts to honor Senora Vesledahl and Richard Hall.

## ANNUAL SUMMER ART SHOW AND PRAIRIE WALK

Celebrate the summer solstice with Valley Grove's second annual "Earthly Beauty" art show and sale. The opening reception will take place on Friday June 20 and the event will continue on Saturday, June 21 with prairie tours and tree dedications. Minnesota artists are invited to submit artwork for the event, which is an artistic celebration of the rural landscape, natural beauty and changing of the seasons. Pieces depicting Valley Grove in all seasons are especially welcome! Artwork will be for sale and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Valley Grove Preservation Society. Questions? Call Linda Schneewind at 507-664-9140.

## COUNTRY SOCIAL III

Our wildly popular country social is set for Sunday, September 14 and will again feature live music, horses, horsedrawn wagon rides, antique cars, refreshments and good company. The colorful Jell-O Contest will be refined and expanded with several divisions to accommodate our growing number of inspired and imaginative Jell-O cook entrants. The tentative categories are: Old Time Classic Church Basement Supper Jell-O and Purely for Looks /Jell-O ART. Lovely heirloom quilts will be on display and for sale: start your quilt now as regional and statewide quilters are invited to contribute their works.

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### **OUR GROVES ARE GROWING**

On the revitalized Valley Grove Oak Savanna, seven groves of native trees are springing up as donors honor those important people in their lives. We have planted 33 oaks of which 22 are dedicated. We need to plant an addition 120 trees this year to meet our our obligation to the Forest Legacy Program. After the 153 trees are have been dedicated, the society is planning to have a permanent plaque displaying the groves with the dedicated names. To sponsor a tree in one of the groves, contact Ken or Peter at 507-645-0551 or evenings at 507-645-8720. Check our web site [www.valleygrovemn.com](http://www.valleygrovemn.com) for current tree information.

### **PROUD OF OUR PRAIRIE**

The Valley Grove Oak Savanna restoration is now approaching its third growing season. Thanks to the support from many of you, prairie grasses and wild flowers are off to a good start as is our tree planting. (Thanks also to the Minnesota DNR Forest Legacy program, which supports our project in return for our work planting and maintaining a number of trees on the site.) Please join Carleton College biology professor Gary Wagenbach, Valley Grove board members and fellow prairie lovers on Sunday, May 18 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. for an afternoon learn, play, and work session. Join a natural history tour, plant prairie wild flower seeds and get an update on the restoration. Refreshments will be served.

### **WEDDING BELLES**

Thanks to its rare combination of sentimental beauty, history and photogenic simplicity, all at a bargain price, Valley Grove is attracting an ever- growing number of weddings: nine wedding parties are already on the calendar for this season alone. We hope to have a users' guide for wedding parties and others who want to rent the site soon.

### **ORGAN BEING REPAIRED**

Last fall the F & ML Weyerhaeuser Foundation gifted our Society \$5,000.00 for needed repairs to the organ. The Rutz Organ Company will be doing the repairs this spring which include repair to the foot peddles and cleaning the chest that contains the pipes. So if anyone wants to give the organ a work out this June at the upcoming art show, please be our guest. Thank you the F & ML Weyerhaeuser Foundation for all your support and to the Rutz Organ Company for donating a portion of their work! Check out our website for pictures.

### **TUSEND TAK**

Valley Grove was packed to the rafters for its Christmas Eve service. Thanks to Rev. Hugh Kaste of Northfield, who led the service (he's a descendant of the Valley Grove Rinde and Hukee immigrant families) and to scripture readers Paul Wooding and Karen Helland , organist Sylvia Erickson, flutist Kay Sahlin, vocalists Elizabeth, Rachel and Matthew Braaten and saxophonist Andrew Erickson. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our celebration.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Our web page is [www.valleygrovemn.com](http://www.valleygrovemn.com). Our address is Valley Grove Preservation Society P.O. Box 75, Nerstrand , MN 55053. Contributions are always very welcome and put to good use. Write us with your Valley Grove church reminiscences, your fundraising suggestions, your recollections of people and events past at Valley Grove and your ideas for its future. Letters, photographs, original furnishings and other memorabilia of Valley Grove are welcome for inclusion in our archives.