

ECOEDGES

*A Publication of the Ellwood H. May
Environmental Park Association of Sheboygan County, Inc.*

Trees have a special place in Sheboygan & Maywood

Trees are an important aspect of our everyday lives. Not only do they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, removing and storing it while releasing oxygen back into the air, they also provide shelter and food for many different animals and organisms. And let's not forget the beauty and shade they add to our lawns, parks, and city streets!

The City of Sheboygan has had a special relationship with trees for nearly 40 years, having earned the status of Tree City USA back in 1978. The Tree City USA program started in 1976 in partnership with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation. Sheboygan has held its Tree City USA status for 39 consecutive years, the longest of any community in Wisconsin.

You may be wondering, just how does a city earn the status of a Tree City USA? To do so, it must have a city tree board, a community tree ordinance, and a forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. Sheboygan is at roughly \$5 per capita, and holds an Arbor Day observance with a city proclamation. Every year, Sheboygan's Public Works Department prepares for Arbor Day by

submitting a proclamation to the Mayor and Council, proclaiming the last Friday in April be designated Arbor Day.

Arbor Day took place on April 28th this year. Every year Sheboygan's

with the Grant Elementary Great Lakes Gang, an environmental club. The club helped plant two, two-foot sugar maple trees, and participated in a tree climbing event. Community volunteers

enhanced wildlife habitats by planting 180 trees and dozens of sprouting acorns on April 29 at Maywood.

Maybe you remember climbing trees as a child, sitting against their trunks to read, or waiting with rapt attention for the tender buds to appear in early spring. There is no better harbinger for warmer weather than trees returning to their ubiquitous green color.

Maybe you've never thought of, or looked at trees in a positive manner. They're just a nuisance with falling leaves in autumn, and sap in summertime. Sound like you? Then take a closer look at the trees in your neighborhood! You might just spot a brown creeper, or nuthatch climbing up the bark, or perhaps you can study the leaves on the

trees right in your own front yard. Ever thought about what kind of tree it is? Step outside and explore a tree today!



Staff Photos

Students from Grant Elementary climbed trees and helped plant trees at Maywood April 28.

Public Works Department works with community and school groups to promote the planting and caring of trees on Arbor Day. This year the City celebrated on April 28th at Maywood

By Corrina Delongchamp

EcoNotes

Honey Bees aren't the only pollinators in our gardens

Pollinators are responsible for the yield outcome and reproduction of 3/4 of the world's major food crops, which accounts for approximately 1/3 of all the food we consume! When people think of pollinators, the honeybee is often the first to come to mind.

I have personally become increasingly intrigued by the life cycle, behavior, and importance of our native bee populations. This past year I observed miner bees and leaf-cutter bees nesting in my vegetable garden as well as bumble bees buzz-pollinating my



Photos by Al Fairfield

The honeybee is the most common pollinator for commercial agriculture due to their social nature, which makes them ideal for housing and transporting in large numbers. They also provide us with a valuable product so many of us love, honey!

The health and survival rate of honey bees has been on the decline for many years. This is concerning for a number of reasons and much research has been done to determine the cause. It has been concluded that there is a combination of factors that are contributing to the decline, including: climate change, viruses, parasitic mites, pesticide usage, monocultured agriculture, and the stress of the increased demand on transported bees.

Honeybees are not the only pollinators that we need to be thinking about however. Other pollinators that support our gardens and agricultural system include flies, butterflies, beetles, ants, hummingbirds, bats, and native bees. Over the past few years, I

tomatoes. I also enjoyed watching these bees indulging on nectar and transporting pollen from the flowers in my native prairie flower garden. I have come to learn that there are over 4,000 species of bees native to North America and over 400 of those make Wisconsin their home!

Native bees are up to eight times more efficient at pollinating crops than the European imported honeybee, and they too are in need of our attention and support.

At Maywood, efforts such as the installation and maintenance of the Arboretum and the Butterfly Garden have been implemented to support our pollinator friends.

Cultivating native plants is one great way to encourage native pollinators in your own garden. Factors to consider when choosing plants is diversity in bloom types and blooming times. Another way in which you can attract these important and amazing native bees to your landscape is to provide nesting sites for them to raise their young.

We depend on pollinators for economic and ecological stability. Right now, more than ever, pollinators are also depending on us! Let's give them a fighting chance by offering them our support!

For further information on nest building instructions and lists of native plants that attract pollinators, I highly recommend visiting xerces.org

EcoFamily

Return to Play 2017 Summer Camps

It's no secret that we at Camp Y-Koda think that summer camp is great! As soon as campers leave at the end of summer, we start to dream about the possibilities for next summer. Here are a few of our 2017 RETURN TO PLAY featured camps!

Junior Naturalists Camp-Ages 7-9

Join us as we explore the beautiful habitats of Maywood. We have brand new bug hotels, don't miss out!

Wild Child Camp-Ages 7-9

Each day we will climb, crawl, and investigate nature for a full on sensory experience. This camp will have lots of time for outdoor play. Dress to get messy!

Lost in the Woods Ages-10-14

You have gotten yourself lost. Do you have what it takes to survive? You will after this camp.

Team Survival Challenge Camp-Ages 10-14

Join a tribe at Maywood and compete to be the FIRST EVER Maywood Survivor Week Champion. The tribes will engage in challenges to test their survival skills, endurance, and determination.

Being active in the outdoors heals our bodies and minds.

Camp Y-Koda believes it's important for developing

children to spend time PLAYING in nature. Campers will not only enjoy all the benefits that nature provides, but they will leave with lasting memories! Pick up your copy of our brochure at Maywood, or either of our YMCA's, or visit www.sheboygancountymca.org. Camps are filling fast!



Camp Y-Koda photo



Environmental Briefs

We love dogs, but please don't bring them to Maywood

Since Maywood's opening in 1983, volunteers have annually worked to restore the pastured and tiled fields of the farmstead into a natural landscape suitable for those wildlife species that occupied this land hundreds of years ago. No doubt we're a long way from completing this effort, especially with the continuous invasion of non-native species. These invasive species are often aggressive and dominate the landscape, greatly reducing its appeal to wildlife.

Thousands of trees have been planted at Maywood, stands of prairie plants have been created, various habitat enhancements have been built, and ponds were constructed all in an effort to diversify our 135 acres. In 1993, the wetland south of the Pigeon River was restored by removing the tile lines that once drained the land, which was used for grazing cattle. With the return of wet ground we began seeing wildlife species making Maywood their home over subsequent years. Great blue herons, green herons, Wilson's snipe, and American woodcock are just a few species that use the wetland for nesting and/or food. Sandhill cranes spend time in this area as well, but we've yet to confirm actual nesting.

Otters and mink are two mammal species that also found Maywood nirvana. Otter slides and tracks of both can be found along the river and ponds in winter. The sounds of leopard, wood, chorus, and tree frogs, along with spring peepers and American toads can often be heard in spring and summer.

However, one of the challenges in maintaining this incredible biodiversity is preventing wildlife disturbance by dogs. Maywood has always had a no dog policy, as has adjacent Evergreen Park. Regardless, we are seeing greater numbers of dog owners bringing their pets to Maywood. Wildlife can sense the inherent danger of a dog even if leashed.

In addition to our preservation efforts, Maywood is restructuring its educational programs for students by increasing its emphasis on younger audiences. In order to instill environmental compassion and stewardship in adults, it has become evident that the process must begin at a very young age. Hiking with four-year old children on the Maywood trails can quickly turn from a delightful experience of awe and discovery, to one that is quite frightening when interrupted by a dog. Despite its friendly intentions, a 40-pound child can easily be terrified when knocked down or barked at by a large dog.

I am truly a dog lover, and I've even had a dog inducted into the Wisconsin Veterinarian Pet Hall of Fame, but Maywood is no place for dogs. So, please visit Maywood often with your children, parents, and friends, but leave your dog home. Maywood's wildlife and other visitors will be ever so grateful.



Photo by Al Fairfield

Volunteers

Al Fairfield and

Marsha Kray-Fairfield

One perk as volunteer coordinator at Maywood is meeting and working with the many wonderful volunteers that support our park. So it's with sadness that we say goodbye to Al Fairfield and Marsha Kray-Fairfield as they make a new home in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A recipient of the President's Award, Al has accomplished much in his years at Maywood. Taking a leadership role in the maple sugaring program, he trained other volunteers to collect and boil the sap, spending long hours in the sugar shack tending the fire. Always enthusiastic, Al was a volunteer teacher naturalist, a founder of the Maywood Shutterbugs, a ride marshal for the Earth Ride and a member of the Maywood Advisory Board. When he married Marsha Kray, Maywood gained another great volunteer who helped wherever needed. Skilled as a troubleshooter, Al and Marsha were instrumental in setting up the outdoor lights for Wishing for Winter. They greeted visitors to the event costumed as Mr. and Mrs. Snowman. We wish both Al and Marsha well as they retire to the north woods, hoping they will visit Maywood often.

Another transition at Maywood has taken place with this issue of EcoEdges. Terri and Mike DeMaster have stepped down after four years as editors of our quarterly newsletter. Maywood volunteers for over 13 years, they will continue serving on committees and the board while volunteering where needed. We welcome Sue Bohme as the new editor and thank Mike and Terri for their years of leadership on EcoEdges.



The Leading Edge



As has become my annual tradition, I would like to dedicate this column to the recipient of this year's President's Award. The President's Award, which is presented each year at the Association's Annual Meeting, was established in memory of Ellwood and Mary May, the donors of our park property. The Association President presents the award to an individual, or individuals, who have made a

significant and timely contribution to the progress and purpose of our Association and Ellwood H. May Environmental Park. A review of past recipients is a real "who's who" of individuals that have made lasting, positive contributions to the success of our park.

This year, I had the pleasure of presenting the President's Award to Marty Steinbruecker. Marty has been a member of Maywood for over 12 years. She has been an active participant in many of our programs including Team Maywood and the Maywood Earth Ride. In more recent years, she has volunteered for the Earth Ride in various roles from registration to rest stops.

Since 2012, Marty has served as a member of the Advisory Board. In 2013 she took on the role of Secretary and Trustee and continues to serve in that role. She currently chairs the Program Committee and worked with that group to establish our popular Lunch N Learn series among other programs. As a Master Gardener, Marty also worked with area garden clubs and the Property and Stewardship Committee in revamping the rain garden. She has ensured the garden remains watered during dry spells and also helps with weeding when it is needed. Most notably, Marty has helped organize our spring Flapjack Day for several years. Her organizational skills have truly shown in helping grow and expand this event. We are grateful to Marty for her many roles and hours of service to Maywood and look forward to her continued involvement.

In addition to the President's Award, we also took time to recognize four of our Association Board Members who have chosen to step down from their seats. We thank Al Fairfield, Katie Delahunt, Kelly Koehl, and Ron Van Rooyen for their years of service. We are grateful to them for their many roles and hours of service to Maywood.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome our new Board Members. Jeff Freye moves to an at-large board seat. Seth Cutright and Debbie Dederling will be serving as co-reps for Sheboygan County Audubon. Mike Roth will be representing Sheboygan Rotary and Ruth Wiegel will be representing RCS Empowers. We also welcome Alderman Ryan Sorenson who was appointed by Mayor Vandersteen as the City of Sheboygan's Aldermanic representative. We are pleased to have all of you as Board Members and we look forward to working with you!



Staff photo

David Kuckuk and award winner Marty Steinbruecker.

Peter Pittner, President

The Environmental Park Trust
of Sheboygan County



Maywood Summer Calendar

For more information, visit GoMaywood.org, or the Ecology Center front desk. For information, or to pre-register for a program, call 920-459-3906.

Team Maywood rides every Monday in June, July and August starting at 5:30 pm. Yoga follows in the Pavilion. Preregistration is required.

June

- 7 **Maywood Shutterbugs** Learn photography skills. 7 pm. Free.
- 5, 19 & July 24 **Bird Surveys via Canoe** Help document the bird species visible from the water. 7 am. Free. Preregistration is required.
- 7 **Warbler Wednesday** Monitor bird activity. Meet at Esslingen Park. 8 am. Free.
- 8 **Sheboygan Audubon Public Program** Dan Dieterich from Citizens' Climate Lobby will discuss climate change. 7 pm. Free.
- 13, 20 & 27 **Yoga for Athletes & Cyclists** Focus on building strength, flexibility, and balance. 7-8:15 pm. \$30 if registered by 5/30; \$36 after 5/30.
- 7, July 8 & Aug. 12 **Hike With a Naturalist** Explore the transformations that have taken place at Maywood since its beginning in 1983. 1:30-3 pm. Free.
- 24 **Scoping the Skies** Join the Sheboygan Astronomical Society to view Jupiter, double stars Alcor & Mizar, the Hercules Cluster and more. 9 pm. Free.

July

- 4 **Ecology Center Closed** Park and trails will still be open 6 am-10 pm.
- 8 **21st Annual Sheboygan Area Garden Walk** Visit seven Sheboygan County gardens. For more information, visit sheoygangardeners.com. 9 am-4 pm. \$10.
- 10 & Aug. 21 **Bat Survey via Canoe** Use an electronic bat monitor to detect bats. To register contact Camp Y-Koda at 920-467-6882. 8:30 pm. Free.
- 11, 18 & 25 **Yoga for Athletes & Cyclists** Focus on building strength, flexibility, and balance. 7-8:15 pm. \$30 if registered by 6/27; \$36 after 6/27.
- 12 **Shutterbugs** Learn photography skills. 7 pm. Free.
- 18 **Grey Wolves in our State** The Timber Wolf Alliance will present an overview of Wisconsin's wolf history and issues in wolf conservation. 7 pm.
- 21, Aug. 18 & Sept. 15 **Mussel Survey via Canoe** We will canoe to sampling locations where we wade and search for mussels. 10:30 am. Free.
- 29 **Scoping the Skies** Brave the darkness and be amazed at the wonders of our universe with members of the Sheboygan Astronomical Society. 9 pm. Free.

August

- 1, 8 & 15 **Yoga for Athletes & Cyclists** Focus on building strength, flexibility, and balance. 7-8:15 pm. \$30 if registered by 7/18; \$36 after 7/18
- 2 **Shutterbugs** Learn photography skills. 7 pm. Free.
- 3 **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner** Join us for an evening celebrating all you do for Maywood! Reserve your spot by July 31. 5:30 pm reception, 6 pm dinner.
- 26 **Scoping the Skies** Join the Sheboygan Astronomical Society to view the Coathanger Cluster, Andromeda Galaxy, ET Cluster and more. 8 pm. Free.

Camp Y-Koda day camps start the week of July 10 and run through the week of Aug. 14 for ages 5-6, 7-9 and 10-14. There is a different theme for each age and session. Please view the full camp brochure (<http://sheboygancountymmca.org/summer-camp>) for information about sleepovers, field trips, extended care, and transportation. Registration forms can be found in the brochure. For questions about camps, please contact Camp Y-koda at (920) 467-6882.

**Ellwood H. May Environmental Park
Association of Sheboygan County, Inc.**

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GoMaywood.org

Association/Trust

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Trust Administrator: Angie Doell

Park Director: David Kuckuk

Volunteer Coordinator: Cindy Van Akkeren

EcoEdges: Sue Bohme

Environmental Park Staff

Park Caretaker: Chad Prisinger



Staff photo

Join the Earth Ride

18th Annual Maywood Earth Ride Saturday, September 16, 2017

Choose from 12, 25, 50, 70 or 100-mile route options, or take the “Iron Raccoon” challenge with our 112-mile route option. Cyclists completing this hilly route receive a commemorative glass.

Enjoy a continental breakfast and post ride lunch and activities.

Registration information available at:
www.GoMaywood.org/earthride

Register by August 31
to get the Early Bird
discount rate.

