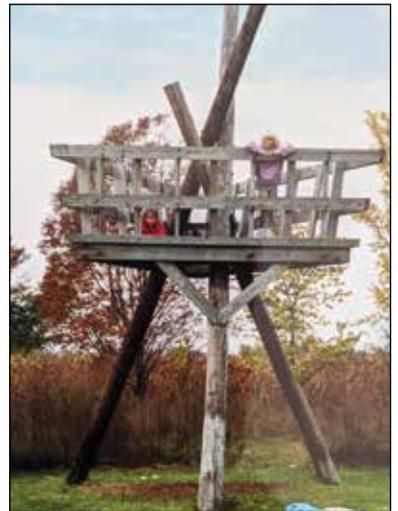


# ECOEDGES

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

## Introducing Samantha Lammers, Maywoods new park director

Hello!  
I just wanted to take a moment to THANK YOU all for the gracious and warm welcome that I have received since I started here at Maywood on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I have been coming to Maywood since I was 2 years old and have been a volunteer, camp kid, and explorer here my whole life. I am BEYOND grateful and humbled by this opportunity and I can not wait to see what Maywood has in store for us in the decades to come! Becoming the director here has truly been one of the greatest joys of my life. These first few months are sure to be a steep learning curve but I hope



Photos provided by Samantha Lammers

**New Park Director Samantha Lammers teaching her nephew, Archie about snow, at Maywood with her mom, Alice, and brother, Aaron in 1989, and with her brother on the EcoAdventure course.**

to make you all proud.  
If you are ever in the area, please stop by and introduce

yourself. I would love to hear how Maywood has been a positive and influential place in

your life!  
Hope to see you all soon!  
*Samantha Lammers*



Samantha worked for the Wisconsin DNR where she was as a Natural Resource Specialist and a Deputy Conservation Warden for 5 years. She has extensive training in aquatic

invasive species programming and led the Water Guard team that oversaw education and enforcement of invasive species

throughout the state. She trained and supported 12 Water Guards (Wardens) across the state and DNR Wardens on invasive species identification, education, and enforcement tactics as well as performed Conservation Warden duties at a statewide level.

In 2019 Samantha made the shift to the education and outreach realm when she became the aquatic invasive species (AIS) coordinator for Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties. In this role Sam performed education, outreach, surveying, mapping, and control planning of aquatic invasive species as well as supported third parties in grant writing

and control efforts. Since then Samantha has also been the AIS Coordinator for Washington and Waukesha counties, where she expanded her range of knowledge and skills.

Samantha has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay as well as an Associate's Degree in Applied Science- Criminal Justice from Lakeshore Technical College, completing a 520-hour Police Academy as part of her degree.

Outside of work, Sam enjoys spending as much time as possible outdoors, finding quality time for her husband and family, and teaching yoga at the studio she owns.

## Happy trails, Dave—we hope some lead back to Maywood



It was a beautiful day for Dave Kuckuk's surprise retirement party. People waited in a socially-distanced line for their chance to talk with Dave.

Lifelong learners or people who are continually seeking out new experiences and knowledge can be easy to spot. Maybe you or someone you know is a lifelong learner. But it's more difficult to find a lifelong learner who can ignite that passion for learning in those around them. Always a masterful storyteller, Dave Kuckuk is one of those rare lifelong learners who inspires curiosity in others. Over the course of his long career, Dave has shared his knowledge and appreciation of nature with thousands of individuals.

Not only does Dave embody the lifelong learning model that he created for Maywood over the years, he also sees it as an excellent approach to environmental stewardship. Evidence is in the vast array of programs that he created over the years. The popular Y-Koda Nature School for preschoolers and OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Scholars) are evidence of his talent.

Maywood looked quite different when Dave first arrived 30 years ago. At that time, many parts of the Elwood H. May farm remained on the property. Park

features that appear to have been here “forever”—ponds, pine plantations, prairie, restored wetlands—did not exist. What now looks quite natural to park goers required careful planning and an understanding of how to maintain both a short and long term balance between nature and people visiting the park. Under Dave's guidance, the property transformed into the Maywood we enjoy today.

During his years at Maywood, Dave's accomplishments required a considerable amount of time and dedication. Completing the 1,200 mile CyberHike on the Ice Age Trail and paddling 650 miles in the Drop of Life program helped the Ecology Center addition move from concept to reality.

With all his big accomplishments, Dave knew the importance of building individual relationships. He sought to share nature not only through programs, but also with people who walked into the Ecology Center or whom he met on the park trails. Helping connect individuals to nature in a meaningful way is what Maywood is built upon and what will help it endure beyond Dave's retirement.



Dave's commitment to Maywood extended into long days and weekends at the park, and we would be remiss to not extend a heartfelt thanks to Dave's wife Sue and family. We have truly appreciated the understanding and support you provided him through the years.

We wish Dave many happy trails as he enters retirement and hope that some of those trails will lead him back to Maywood from time to time.

*By Angie Doell and Cindy Van Akkeren*

### Just a few of the improvements that have taken place during Dave's tenure include...

- The creation of Maywood's two ponds
- enlarging and planting the prairie
- construction of the prairie overlook
- converting the garage into the Environmental Lab
- construction of the Wm. A. Hayssen Pavilion
- the installation of the Hummingbird Garden, Generational Forest, Arboretum, solar panels and a new maple syrup evaporator
- and the

development of programs too numerous to list.

Dave also forged a partnership with the YMCA that led to Camp Y-Koda providing maple sugaring programs and summer camps at Maywood, and eventually led to a collaboration with the Sheboygan Area School District to bring the Nature 4-K program to Maywood.

# Making maple syrup with the new evaporator

By the time this article is out, there will be warm temperatures, birds will be singing, and the trees will all be leafed out. But I start this story on March 3rd, late in the afternoon, when a group of future maple syrup workers met at the Sugar House with Matt Schuette from Smoky



Maywood Photo

**Mike DeMaster feeds wood into the new evaporator in the Sugar House.**

Lake to get instructions on the use of our new evaporator.

Volunteers had already collected 250 gallons of sap, which was stored in a tank in the garage and piped to the new evaporator. We built a fire in the firebox and I was the first to light it. The firebox was closed and the fan turned on. It took about 10 minutes to get the sap boiling, a far cry from the hours it took using the old equipment! This was the first sign of how different the new evaporator would be.

Because of the heat and fan, the firebox needs to be loaded with wood every 10 minutes. The amount of wood used was amazing with the fan blowing. Dry firewood is needed to make a hotter fire and more heat. As we boiled, more and more steam was created. This revealed a need for more ventilation. We also needed to watch out for foaming to control overflow. This is resolved by putting a few drops of canola oil in the upper pan. Then it's just making sure that we have sap and lots of fire wood.

The evaporator is set at a temperature of 219.6°F and the probe set at 1/8 inch above the pan. When the temperature reaches 219.7°F, a valve opens and

releases maple syrup into the jug. The old system required a second cook with a gas stove—the second sign of how much quicker the new evaporator will be. The first maple syrup into the jug is checked with a hydrometer to make sure it is the proper sugar content. When we are done making the syrup, it will be filtered one more time before bottling.

The time with our new system compared to the old was amazingly less with a more controlled environment. This year we produced about 35 gallons of maple syrup from 1,400 gallons of sap. Flapjack Day and school programs will use some of the syrup, with the balance ready to buy at the ecology store.

The need for a new sugar house in perhaps a better location with better ventilation, along with a wood shack for storing dry wood, should be considered in the future. And we're always looking for new helpers to learn the trade, whether it's collecting sap, cooking, or bottling. It's fun, and you will be able to meet people and tell the story about maple syrup from tree to pancake or waffles.

*By Mike DeMaster*

## Check out Camp Y-Koda and Nature 4-K at Maywood

After a challenging summer in 2020, Camp Y-Koda is excited to offer a full slate of Maywood Summer Camps in 2021. Camp Y-Koda's Executive Director, Jeremiah Dentz announced that there will be two Maywood camps per week July 12 through August 6 for children ages 7-14.

All the past favorites are retuning: Capture the Flag, Wild Child, and the Great Bake-Off—and what would Summer Camp at Maywood be without Quarry Quest Camps offered three separate weeks this year.

As the world slowly returns to normal, outdoor summer camp experiences are an excellent choice for parents looking to

get their children active and interacting with other children in a safer outdoor environment. Enrollment has been on record pace, so sign up soon.

In other news, the Camp Y-Koda/Sheboygan County School District charter school, Nature 4-K at Maywood, has been a wonderful success. The school reached full capacity for the current school year and has done the same with a waiting list for next school year. Led by our wonderful 4-K teacher Willah Leannah, the students engage in meaningful growth and learning experiences each day. At the center of the program, of course, is the commitment to learning, exploring, and

playing in the outdoors. Not only is the 4-K program filled, but most students stay for the after-care program for even more learning and free play outside with their friends. Y-Koda also offers a Forest Friday program that is open to the Nature 4-K at Maywood students and other children who are not in school on Fridays.

To learn more about Camp Y-Koda's offerings at Maywood, please call the Camp Y-Koda office at 920-467-6882. Check out the Camp Y-Koda summer camp brochure at [www.sheboygancountyymca.org](http://www.sheboygancountyymca.org).

*By Jeremiah Dentz*



# Maywood Summer Calendar

For program descriptions and information visit [GoMaywood.org](http://GoMaywood.org),  
or the front desk in the Ecology Center, or call 920-459-3906.

The Ecology Center will be closed May 29-31, July 3, and Sept. 4-6

## May

**28 OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Scholars) 10 am** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for a program exploring the seasonal wonders of Maywood. Open to all adults. To register, call 920-459-3906 or email [maywood@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:maywood@sheboyganwi.gov).

## June

**4 OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Scholars) 10 am** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for a program exploring the seasonal wonders of Maywood. Open to all adults. To register, call 920-459-3906 or email [maywood@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:maywood@sheboyganwi.gov).

**7, 14, 21 & 28 Beyond Basics Watercolor, 6-8 pm,** A class for those with basic fundamentals of watercolor painting. taught by Keary Kautzer. \$110 paid to instructor. For location and supply list, email [kearykautzer@gmail.com](mailto:kearykautzer@gmail.com).

**19 Scoping the Skies, 9-10 pm,** Join the Sheboygan Astronomical Society in the parking lot to see the wonders of the night sky. Peer through their telescopes or use your own. Free. Drop-in program. The Ecology Center will not be open.

**30, July 14, Aug. 18 & Sept. 15 iRest® Yoga Nidra Meditation, 5:45-6:45 pm,** Cultivate resiliency and enhance self care through yoga. \$40 if registered by 6/25; \$48 after. Drop-in sessions at \$15 each will be considered based on enrollment.

## July

**9 OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Scholars) 10 am** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for a program exploring the seasonal wonders of Maywood. Open to all adults. To register, call 920-459-3906 or email [maywood@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:maywood@sheboyganwi.gov).

**10 Sheboygan Area Garden Walk** is a benefit for Maywood & Bookworm Gardens Choose a time to experience the beautiful Christopher Farm & Gardens: 8–11 am, noon–3 pm, or 4–7 pm. To purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3cQH1o4>.

**12, 19, 26 & Aug. 2 Yoga at Maywood 5:45-6:45 pm,** For beginning and experienced students, the series will focus on building strength, flexibility and balance. For a registration form, visit [GoMaywood.org/Yoga](http://GoMaywood.org/Yoga). \$40 if registered by 6/30; \$48 after.

**14, Aug. 18 & Sept. 15 iRest® Yoga Nidra Meditation, 5:45-6:45 pm,** Cultivate resiliency and enhance self care through the practice of yoga. Drop-in sessions at \$15 each will be considered based on enrollment.

**17 Scoping the Skies, 9-11 pm,** Join the Sheboygan Astronomical Society in the parking lot to see the wonders of the night sky. Peer through their telescopes or use your own. Free. Drop-in program. The Ecology Center will not be open.

## August

**6 OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Scholars) 10 am** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for a program exploring the seasonal wonders of Maywood. Open to all adults. To register, call 920-459-3906 or email [maywood@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:maywood@sheboyganwi.gov).

**14 Scoping the Skies, 8:30-10:30 pm,** Join the Sheboygan Astronomical Society in the parking lot to see the wonders of the night sky. Peer through their telescopes or use your own. Free. Drop-in program. The Ecology Center will not be open.

**18 & Sept. 15 iRest® Yoga Nidra Meditation, 5:45-6:45 pm,** Drop-in sessions will be considered based on enrollment at a cost of \$15 session.

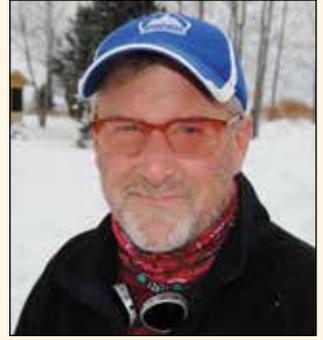
## September

**15 iRest® Yoga Nidra Meditation, 5:45-6:45 pm,** Drop-in sessions will be considered based on enrollment at a cost of \$15 session.

**September 2021 Earth Miles 4 Maywood 2.0** Choose your goal, activities and dates, and join us for our second year of logging miles in support of Maywood. Watch our website and social media for registration information.



# The Leading Edge



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

## Goodbye as President

Five years ago, I joined the Maywood Advisory Board. After only one year I was voted in as vice president; one year later I was president. During my tenure, new milestones were forged and Maywood's outdoor education goals were expanded.

## Master Plan

Maywood's last master plan was created in 1980. No doubt, Dave Kuckuk knew the old master plan had seen its days and the board agreed. I believe we saw three presentations and chose to partner with Stantec. The arc to completion took many meetings, focus groups and suffering through the constriction of Covid. The final version was approved in March 2021. It covers site inventory and analysis, master plan process, the master plan, phasing and implementation and funding opportunities. None of the pages are laws to follow or lists to complete. It explains what we have and shows us a myriad of outdoor educational and growth opportunities.

## Outdoor Preschool

Maywood has an outstanding strategic partnership with Camp Y-Koda and the YMCA. From that union the Nature 4-K at Maywood was born. Two years ago, we started with seven children. Last year, Covid played a positive role in making the preschool an attractive choice for parents. We maxed out at 16 children and added an after-school care program. The 2021 classes are a full 18 students and have a waiting list. There are plans for 2022 to have morning and afternoon classes. The kids absolutely love being outside with our fabulous instructors. These activities point to the very heart of Maywood's mission statement.

## Bridges at Bur Oak

I don't mind frolicking in the mud. We built two walking bridges at Bur Oak. In subsequent years, the entire trail was laid out. In June 2021, an Eagle Scout project will complete a board walkway over the tender ecosystem on the southern reaches of the trail loop. We will still need better parking areas, but we are edging closer to folks being able to delight in the wonderful natural discoveries Bur Oak has to offer.

## New MOU with the City

Maywood's second Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Sheboygan will run over the next five years. In it, the City agrees to support our staff salaries with annual increases and commits to building and grounds maintenance. Maywood will continue to run our outdoor educational programming and will be responsible for keeping the interior of the building clean.

## Maywood Director Search Story

The search process took six months. We had twenty-two applicants. The Search Committee (Pete Pittner, Paul Pickhardt, Donna Wendlandt, Joe Kerlin and I) devised a resume grading spreadsheet. This enabled us to stay focused on our core requirements. All the interviews were done over Zoom. The two finalists were given a sample project and presented to the committee and staff at Maywood. Our decision was unanimous. Samantha Lammers was hired April 1 and shadowed Dave through his last month.

None of these milestones could have been completed without Maywood staff, board members, committee members, the Maywood membership and our partnerships. Over my three years as President, I was surrounded by resourceful and talented people. All of our accomplishments were a collective effort. I thank you all for your support,

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

3615 Mueller Road  
Sheboygan, WI 53083-2610

920-459-3906

maywood@sheboyganwi.gov

**GoMaywood.org**

**Association/Trust**

President: Ed Abell

Park Director: Samantha Lammers

Trust Administrator: Angie Doell

Volunteer Coordinator: Barb Sorcic

*EcoEdges* Editor: Sue Bohme

**Environmental Park Staff**

Park Caretaker: Chad Prisinger

**Our Mission**

To foster environmental stewardship through educational and outdoor experiences that connect our community with the natural world.

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Sheboygan, WI  
Permit No. 48



## Dave, thanks for transforming Maywood into the gem it is today!

The soils, waters, plants, and animals that collectively make Maywood the gem of Sheboygan’s park system have benefited greatly from the steadfast stewardship of our retiring director, Dave Kuckuk, and I think that it is appropriate that Dave is again acknowledged for his positive influences on Maywood. Dave’s wholistic understanding of park and land management embody the ‘land ethic’ evoked by Aldo Leopold who penned that a question regarding land-use is, “right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”<sup>1</sup> Fortunately for Maywood, and all of us who love and treasure its natural spaces, Dave’s land-use decisions tend to side on the ‘right’. In his tenure at Maywood, Dave has overseen the protection and conservation of soil in the demonstration prairie and maple forest, worked to improve the waters in the ponds and riparian zones of the Pigeon River, spent countless hours trying to restore and enhance native plant communities, and

restore park habitats for both its resident and migratory/transient animal communities.

As Maywood is a public park, open to all, the improvements to its lands that have been nurtured by Dave benefit the experiences of all the community members who visit. While the habitats within the park continue to face significant challenges—where the talents and efforts of our new park director, Samantha



**Maywood President-Elect  
Paul Pickhardt**

Lammers, will be focused—Maywood is overall a healthier and more ecologically functional place because of Dave’s leadership.

In a time where human connections and access to natural spaces could not be more important, Maywood provides our community with both of those. It is difficult for many of us to think of this park and not think of Dave, who has devoted a huge portion of his professional career to bettering this place. Thank you, Dave.

### Front desk volunteers needed

We plan on opening the Ecology Center five days a week and Saturday mornings in the near future and will need additional front desk volunteers to greet visitors, answer questions, answer phones and assist with Ecology Store sales. Shifts are three hours: 9 am–noon or 1–4 pm weekdays, or 9 am–noon Saturdays. If you enjoy interacting with the public and sharing your love and knowledge of Maywood, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! To volunteer, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Barb Sorcic at 920-459-3906 or [barb.sorcic@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:barb.sorcic@sheboyganwi.gov).

<sup>1</sup> Leopold, Aldo. A Sand County almanac, and sketches here and there. Oxford University Press, USA, 1989.