

# ECOEDGES

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

## Looking back and moving forward

These first few months as your new director have been just incredible. First and foremost, I want to thank everyone who has supported Maywood's new chapter with renewed memberships, new partnerships, or just by stopping in and introducing yourself to me. I stand in a unique place where I am absorbing and learning as much as I can from Maywood's history and transformation, while also planning great things for Maywood's future.

At first glance, it is easy to see how Maywood's physical landscape has changed over the decades, but in reality, it goes so much deeper than that. To begin with, I noticed the countless partnerships that were created and sustained throughout the creation of Maywood. The forever friendships that were forged through Maywood's trust and association started solely on the unified idea of restoration and preservation of the Maywood property. The spark of lifelong nature learning instilled in individuals who visit the park at a young age (myself included); as well as the tranquility of the property, reminds all those who visit to slow down, take a breath, and enjoy all that Maywood has to offer.

Currently, Maywood is undergoing some physical change! With the expansion of the Y-koda Nature School at Maywood, there is a lot of work going into remodeling and restoring our

natural play area as well as expanding our "open classroom" space. You may see some large dead ash trees have

restoration of the front of the Ecology Center and much more. These exciting new endeavors could not have even



Maywood photo

**New Park Director Samantha Lammers and Former Park Director Dave Kuckuk accepted a Tree City USA proclamation on Arbor Day at Maywood.**

recently been removed and new tables and chairs have been purchased for the indoor classroom. Other changes that have been taking place are the "re-opening" of the Ecology Center with more hours and updated displays, the installation (and future education) of the Honeybee Observation Hive, the

been started if not for the assistance and support of many new and existing partnerships. I am beyond excited and hopeful that Maywood will continue to be one of the greatest parks in Sheboygan County for decades to come!

Samantha Lammers



## Finishing syrup is much easier with new filter pump

On June 24, Matt Schuette of Smoky Lake Maple Products helped Samantha Lammers, Jim Van Akkeren, and me filter our syrup using our new filter press to finish up our 2021 maple syrup season. This is the last step before it is bottled. We started by warming three pots of syrup to 190°F. This is confirmed with a candy thermometer. A hydrometer and a Murphy thermometer are then used to measure the density of the syrup. This tells us the amount of sugar in the syrup (called “brix”). Our syrup was a little too dense, so we added a bit of water to get it just right at 66.9 brix.

We poured seven cups of diatomaceous earth filter powder into the first pot of syrup to filter out any very fine particles that would clog filter paper. Six paper filters are inserted in our



Maywood photo

**Matt Schuette of Smoky Lake Maple Products helped Mike DeMaster and Jim Van Akkeren use the new filter press.**

new filter press. Hoses are then put in the hot syrup and the syrup is pumped through the filters and back into the

pot. The syrup is recirculated in this manner until the syrup coming out of the hose is completely clear. At the same time, we monitor a temperature gauge on the press to ensure the syrup remains the same temperature. The syrup is then pumped into containers that are able to handle temperatures of up to 240°F or it can be pumped into a coffee pot dedicated to maple syrup, so it can be poured directly into bottles. This process is repeated for each pot of syrup until all is done.

The clean up was a little sticky this first time, as it was a learning experience. Thanks to Jim and Sam for their help. It will go much better now that we know how this process works. Perhaps you will be interested in helping next year!

Mike DeMaster

## Volunteers are essential to Maywood

We have had several outstanding individuals and groups volunteer their time and talents to enhance not only the area around the Ecology Center but



Maywood photo

**Volunteer Mark Grube.**

also throughout the park.

Amanda Burt started volunteering in late March and has been at Maywood almost every week since pulling garlic mustard and dames rocket. She often brings her two young boys who help in her tireless efforts to eradicate these invasive plants.

Clara Stauber began volunteering in May. She pulled weeds and mulched the Ecology Center entrance, which looks awesome, helped remove a fence in the Mud Kitchen, attacked the dames rocket and primed the Little Library as it went through a refurbishing process.

In June, Mark Grube walked into the Ecology Center and said he wanted to volunteer. With his strong landscaping background, we turned him loose on the areas on either side of the walkway to the Ecology Center. He cut out invasive brush and removed all the existing plants, leaving a clean area that will

be mulched this fall. He's presented us with ideas for replanting with native plants along with ideas for paths through those areas. Stay tuned as we continue to improve that area!

We had two groups here in June. Volunteers from Kohler Company pulled weeds and mulched around the employee entrance to the Ecology Center, and volunteers from Muth Mirror Systems attacked the hillside below the Ecology Center, pulling dames rocket, garlic mustard, catnip, motherwort and burdock giving native plants a chance to grow.

We are so thankful to have volunteers back at Maywood. We missed you in 2020! It really does take the entire community to care for Maywood.

To volunteer, email Volunteer Coordinator Barb Sorcic at [barb.sorcic@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:barb.sorcic@sheboyganwi.gov) or call 920-459-3906.

Barb Sorcic



## Two green bullies: barberry and burning bush

Readers of this publication and other savvy naturalists are familiar with the ecological threats posed by herbaceous invasive plants, such as annual ragweeds (*Ambrosia species*); biennial dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*), sweet clover (*Melilotus species*), and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*); and perennial purple loosestrife (*Lythrum species*). Briefly put, invasive plants are bullies that shove our native plants (and in turn our native wildlife) off the playground. But another group of invasives can exert even more damage: woody plants, including an increasing number of shrubs and trees.

Perhaps most notorious among the woody plants in our area are honeysuckle (*Lonicera species*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus species*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), but for now let's examine two invasive species that are already well established along the East Coast and are gaining more than a foothold in the Midwest: barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* and selections) and burning bush (*Euonymus alatus* and selections).

Barberries produce mostly dense, thorny mounds with foliage in shades of green, dark red, and yellow-green; all but the yellow forms tend to evoke the sight of small fires in fall. Ditto burning bush (hence the common name), but these grow into generally larger, more open, almost tree-like shrubs, and some forms have fascinating brown "wings" on the younger, greener twigs and branches. Both plants produce flowers that ripen into mildly attractive red fruit, which birds and other animals eat.

If both barberry and burning bush sound familiar, is because they have been widely planted as hedges and foundation plants. They are adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions including moisture and fertility, and they thrive in full sun to considerable shade. Those characteristics, plus their propensity to produce quantities of those fruit that birds and other animals eat (and soon afterwards "deposit" the seeds contained within the fruit along with a little starter fertilizer, starting yet another generation), make them

broad-shouldered, ill-mannered thugs in both cultivated and natural landscapes. Many of our native plants, including our beloved spring-blooming ephemeral wildflowers and fruit-bearing shrubs, cannot survive where barberry and burning

bush create almost pure stands, leading to severely reduced ecological diversity.

Reduction or absence of diversity means less food for wildlife. While it's great that animals can and do stave off hunger by eating the fruits of barberry and burning bush, if there are no other plants in an animal's range that can provide food when invasives are not offering it, where will those animals find food? Birds can fly and mammals can move to adjacent areas, but the farther an animal must travel for food, the less likely it is to succeed in the short term (feeding itself) and in the long term (feeding its offspring).

Ironically, deer – who seem to eat just about everything in our gardens and landscapes – tend to avoid browsing barberry and burning bush. Also, studies have shown that areas with abundant barberry plants have higher populations of the black-legged ticks (*Ixodes scapularum*) that can transmit Lyme disease to humans.

What to do? While it's impractical to eradicate every barberry and burning bush in Maywood, or Sheboygan County or Wisconsin, you can play a part in reducing their numbers and in fostering biological diversity by doing the following:

Don't plant them.

Eradicate them when you find the bad guys, which is easier said than done if plants are large and/or numerous, but that's what hired landscapers or volunteer crews can more efficiently do.

Make awareness of the issues an integral component of your approach to gardening and landscaping.

Do your research online. I suggest you start with the abundant information contained on the Wisconsin DNR sites, which is where I gleaned some information about barberry and burning bush.

Educate others about the issues regarding invasive plants.



Maywood photo

Barberry on the perimeter of the large pond.



# Maywood Fall Calendar

For program info visit [GoMaywood.org](http://GoMaywood.org), the front desk, or call 920-459-3906.

The Ecology Center will be closed September 4–6 for Labor Day and November 25–28 for Thanksgiving. Park and trails will still be open 6 am to 10 pm daily.

## September

- 1-30 Earth Miles 4 Maywood (EM4M) Run, walk, pedal, paddle or skate** to support Maywood. See back page for registration information. \$30; kids 12 and under free.
- 1 EM4M Opening Ceremony 3:30-6pm** We'll have a torch run, the lighting of the campfire and marshmallow roasting. Open to registered EM4M participants only.
- 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 & 30 EM4M Noon Nature Strolls.** One mile walks will start at the Ecology Center entrance. Open to registered EM4M participants only.
- 3, 10, 17 & 24 OWLS-Older, Wiser, Livlier Scholars** 10 am Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for seasonally themed hikes and hand-on activities. Some programs are held offsite. For details, email [maywood@sheboyganwi.gov](mailto:maywood@sheboyganwi.gov). to be added to the OWLS email list. Free. Donations appreciated.
- 7, 14, 21 & 28 Advanced Watercolors 6–8pm** Use a photo to complete a watercolor painting. Email [kearykautzer@gmail.com](mailto:kearykautzer@gmail.com) with questions or to register. \$110.
- 11 Scoping the Skies 8-10pm** View the night sky with the Sheboygan Astronomical Society. Bring your telescope or use theirs. Meet in the Maywood parking lot. Free.
- 11 EM4M Yoga with Sam 9–10am** Join Samantha Lammers for Vinyasa flow yoga. Free to registered EM4M participants; non-participants \$10. Pre-registration required.
- 12 EM4M Habitat Hike 9am** Explore Maywood with Park Director Samantha Lammers. EM4M participants free; non-participants \$10. Register by Sept. 10.
- 13 EM4M Yoga with Sam 7–8am** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for Vinyasa flow yoga. Free to registered EM4M participants; non-participants \$10.
- 15 EM4M Ice Age Trail Hike 10 am** Join Ice Age Trail thru-hiker Dave Kuckuk to explore the trail. Open to EM4M participants only. Registration required.
- 15 iRest Yoga 5:45-6:45 pm** Class details and form available at [GoMaywood.org](http://GoMaywood.org).
- 18 EM4M Animal Olympics 10am–noon** Fun for ages 4-10 accompanied by an adult. Free for EM4M participants; \$10/child for non-participants. Register by Sept. 14.
- 20 EM4M Willow Preserve Hike 10am** Explore Willow Creek with the Glacial Lakes Conservancy staff. Register by Sept. 17. Open to EM4M participants only.
- 20, Harvest Moon Hike with the Director 6:30 pm.** Learn about the Harvest Moon from Director Samantha Lammers while hiking in Maywood. Registration required. **21 EM4M Yoga with Sam 5–6pm** Join Park Director Samantha Lammers for Vinyasa flow yoga. Free to registered EM4M participants; non-participants \$10.

## October

- 2, Earth Miles 4 Maywood Closing Ceremony 10am–2pm,** food trucks 11am–1pm Mini-events and activities are free to registered EM4M participants and \$5 for others.
- 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 OWLS-Older, Wiser, Livlier Scholars 10 am,** See September listing.
- 6, 13, 20, 27, 11/3 & 11/10 Yoga at Maywood 5:15–6:15am** Join Barbara Holt for yoga classes for beginning and experienced students. \$60 if registered by Sept. 29; \$72 after.
- 9 Scoping the Skies 7-9pm** View the night sky with the Sheboygan Astronomical Society. Bring your telescope or use theirs. Meet in the Maywood parking lot. Free.
- 13, 11/10 & 12/8 iRest Yoga 5:45-6:45 pm** Cultivate resiliency and enhance self-care through yoga. \$30 if registered by Oct. 7; \$36 after; \$12 per class drop-in.
- 25-31 Search for Sasquatch...Continued** Family-friendly, self-guided activity. Maps a available online, in the front walk information kiosk and in the Ecology Center.

## November

- 5, 12 & 19 OWLS-Older, Wiser, Livlier Scholars 10 am** See September listing.
- 20 Wreath Making. 9 am-noon.** Led by the Lake Shore Garden Club. Members \$15/wreath; non-members \$20/wreath. Registration and prepayment required.



# The Leading Edge

**Paul Pickhardt, President**

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

In some ways, my convoluted path to becoming Maywood's board president can be summarized by one word, limnology. In my second year of college at UW-Madison, I stumbled across and enrolled in a course titled Limnology-Aquatic Resources. Prior to taking that course, I had no idea that people rigorously studied and based their careers on everything, and anything associated with inland waters—which limnology is the study of. The professors in the course inspired me to seek summer technician positions to work and conduct research on lakes around the UW's Trout Lake research station in Vilas County and in those summers, it became



Photo provided by Paul Pickhardt

**Adam, Paul and Carl Pickhardt, and Kristine Feggstad standing in "Why Not Bog" Vilas County, WI.**

obvious that graduate school was in my future if I wanted a career in aquatic ecology. A desire to work, teach, serve, and travel beyond our Badger state led to a two-year stretch as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati and upon returning to WI, I was fortunate to secure a one-year stint as an assistant limnologist with the WDNR's Bureau of Research to study acid deposition. My wife, Kristine, and I moved east to New England for graduate school programs where we lived in Vermont (an environmentally beautiful state), and I attended school in New Hampshire. While in graduate school at Dartmouth College, I investigated how toxic metals—most notably

mercury—transfer from water to the base of aquatic food webs in lakes across New England. My Ph.D. research on the role that phytoplankton (small photosynthetic producers in water) and zooplankton (small animals in water that often feed upon phytoplankton) play on the transfer of metals in food webs led to additional research years at Stony Brook University in NY. My postdoctoral research project examined how base levels of the food web effect mercury dynamics in the San Francisco Bay Delta ecosystem. After Kris and I had both of our sons, Carl and Adam, there was a strong desire to return to Wisconsin to be closer to our families. I have been teaching and working at Lakeland University as a professor of biology since 2006 and a previous colleague, Dr. Kathy Rath Marr, introduced me to the ecosystems of Maywood that very same year. Currently, my entire family enjoys, hiking, swimming, tramping, and exploring natural spaces and Maywood provides elements of all of those—with the possibility of future limnological studies, too.

**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: Paul Pickhardt

Park Director: Samantha Lammers

Trust Administrator: Angie Doell

Volunteer Coordinator: Barb Sorcic

*EcoEdges*: Sue Bohme

### Our Mission

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



Run, walk, hike, pedal, paddle, or skate this September to support Maywood! Join us as we take last year's virtual event hybrid. We will once again be offering the month-long virtual event. Choose your activities, dates, times, and then work to meet your mileage goals throughout the month.

We kick off the event September 1 with an Opening Ceremony—including a torch run and lighting of the Earth Miles Campfire. Roast marshmallows and pick-up your event packet.

We will be offering mini-events throughout the month to help participants log miles and experience the camaraderie of a group gathering including Noon Nature Strolls at Maywood on Tuesdays and Thursdays (weather permitting) and several other hikes including one along the Ice Age Trail with Dave Kuckuk and another at Willow Creek Preserve with the staff of Glacial Lakes Conservancy, plus Park Director Samantha Lammers is offering several sessions of yoga that are free with your Earth Miles registration.

See if you can jump as far as a frog or run as fast as a coyote at the Animal Olympics Saturday, September 18. Kids will earn medals by completing activities at stations throughout the park.

We'll celebrate a month of movement October 2 at our Closing Ceremonies. Food trucks will be onsite and open to the public 11 am-1 pm. We'll have activities throughout the park 10 am-2 pm that are free to registered participants.

Earth Miles 4 Maywood is the reinvention of our Maywood Earth Ride. It started in 2020 as a COVID safe alternative to group gatherings. After receiving excellent reviews from participants who enjoyed the freedom to choose their activities and when they could participate, we decided to offer this format

The graphic features the title "Earth Miles 4 Maywood" in a large, black, handwritten-style font at the top. Below it, the dates "September 1-30" are centered. The year "2021" is prominently displayed in the center, with the "0" replaced by a globe. To the left of the "2021" are silhouettes of a person on a bicycle and a person on a canoe. To the right are silhouettes of a person walking, a person running, and a person jumping. Below the year, the text "Pedal \* Paddle \* Walk \* Hike \* Run \* Bike \* Skate" is written in a black, handwritten-style font.

again in 2021 and include some in-person activities too.

Proceeds of Earth Miles 4 Maywood will be used to provide programs and park enhancement projects that can be enjoyed by everyone in our community.

To register online, scan the QR code or visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/AnyCity/EarthMiles4Maywood>.



For more information or to download a printable registration form, visit [GoMaywood.org](http://GoMaywood.org).

Angie Doell