

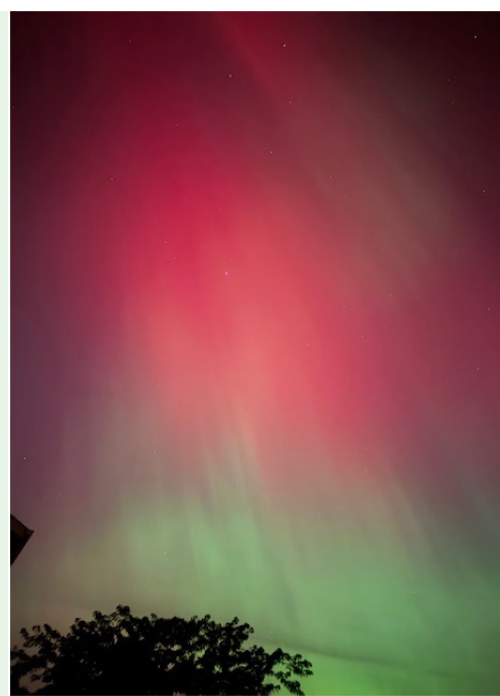


Scoping the Skies at Maywood

- Lyrid Meteor Shower - April 21-22, caused by debris from Comet C/1861 GI Thatcher and best viewed in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower - May 4-5, caused by debris from Halley's Comet and seen close to the horizon in the Northern Hemisphere, often appearing to leave glowing trails behind.
- Northern Lights, or Aurora Borealis, have been increasing in frequency and intensity due to heightened solar activity. The sun's magnetic field reaches its solar maximum every 11 years, and the current solar cycle began peaking in November 2024 and is expected to continue through March 2026.
- Flower Moon - May 12, the full moon that coincides with abundant blooms of flowers.

Be sure to add all of the Scoping the Skies viewing sessions to your calendar-May 3, May 31, June 28, August 2, August 30, September 27, and October 25.

Kendra Kelling



Diane Van Minsel, SAS Member

Aurora Borealis

Meet the Poets Behind the Language of Nature Poetry Program



Maywood Photo

Every May, a three local poets invite the public to join them in a morning of reading and discussing nature poetry. The poems explore nature and how we relate to it.

This year's reading will take place on Saturday, May 17 at 10 am. Attendees are invited to bring nature poems, their own or those of favorite poets, to share if they would like. Coffee, tea, and light snacks are provided.

Read a bit about each of the poets who will lead the reading.

Georgia Ressimeyer: "I started writing poetry when I moved to Sheboygan in 2002. Inspired by the area's flora and fauna, I began writing nature poems, which soon led to volunteering at Maywood. With local poet Maryann Hurrst and help from Angie Fischer, now Doell, we held our first 'Language of Nature' poetry reading and discussion on a Saturday morning in spring 2011. Maywood's Hayssen Pavilion, with its panoramic views of the park, provided the perfect venue for this informal gathering. We added Marilyn Zelke Windau as a third presenter the following year. All who attend are invited to share a nature poem or two of their own, or a favorite by others. It's always my favorite poetry event of the year."

Marilyn Zelke Windau: "I began writing poetry when I was 13 years old. I would take a pillow, a notepad, and a pencil into the bathroom, close the door, get into the dry bathtub, and write. No one disturbs you when you are in the bathroom! It was a quiet, pensive, peaceful place to get my thoughts out.

"I so enjoy the feeling of unity with kindred spirits, those who appreciate poetry, that I get from our nature/poetry sessions. We are all seated so that we can see and hear each other. I love the sharing aspect. I also love being able to view Maywood's natural surroundings outside the huge picture windows—such a wonderful place to read poetry about nature!"

Mary Ann Hurrst: "Way back in 6th grade, I recorded in my diary, 'When I grow up, I want to be a storyteller (a good one)' Stories, words, and nature still fill my life. I live in the Kettle Moraine where I hike, bike, read, and write. I am especially passionate about environmental issues. My book, *Once Upon a Tar Creek Mining for Voices*, is about a place in Oklahoma that has been called 'the worst environmental disaster no one has heard of.'"

Angie Doell



Visiting Artist: Sarah Rowe

On August 2, artist Sarah Rowe will open an exhibition at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) titled *Sarah Rowe: Water Ledger*. Rowe will be collaborating with local organizations, such as Maywood Environmental Park, to develop her exhibition. Below is a brief interview with Rowe and JMKAC associate curator Tanya Gayer to provide context for Rowe's workshop at Maywood on April 12 from 10-11:30 am (pre-registration required).

Tanya Gayer: Hi Sarah! Can you describe the exhibition you will have on view at JMKAC?

Sarah Rowe: *Water Ledger* celebrates our connection to waterways, both local and global. It honors the ways water connects all of us, both human and animal. The exhibition will feature large-scale watercolor paintings layered with video projections, sound, and sculptural elements made in collaboration with the Sheboygan community. The title nods to Lakota winter counts and ledger art, which, along with Indigenous cosmology, inspire my iconography.

TG: What kind of workshop will you host while at Maywood?

SR: The workshop offers participants a chance to make nature bundles inspired by the meditative practice of creating Lakota prayer ties. Bundles are made by tying and wrapping objects into various shapes. Materials for the bundles will be collected in local nature areas, along with fabrics, string, sticks, and dried plants. Mark-making techniques using natural inks may also be used.

TG: Who do you hope will participate and what do you hope they will get out of the workshop?

SR: I hope to share space and stories with people of all ages and backgrounds in this workshop to fully celebrate the dynamic community of Sheboygan.

TG: What other organizations do you plan on collaborating with for this project?

SR: Glacial Lakes Conservancy, Lakeshore Chorale, local schools, RCS Empowers

TG: Do you have other projects coming up in 2025?

SR: I am part of *Exploding Native Inevitable*, a traveling exhibition featuring the work of twelve contemporary Indigenous artists. I built a multisensory treehouse-inspired installation. The exhibition is currently showing at Sheldon Museum of Art in Nebraska, then travels to Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art in Utah from August-December. I am also working on a large permanent installation for the new Omaha Central Library. The piece, *Flying Fish*, will be made from several layered panels of painted wood and cut steel. Many water themes are happening in 2025!

Visit jmkac.org for more information on Sarah Rowe's exhibition and upcoming workshops.

Interview by Tanya Gayer



Artist Sarah Rowe

Adopt-A-Habitat: Become a Land Steward

Now in its fourth year, the Adopt-a-Habitat program continues its mission to restore Maywood's forest to a more native state. By removing invasive species like garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and buckthorn, we aim to encourage the return of native plants and wildflowers. This year, we will continue our restoration efforts along the Pigeon River corridor and extend into the Maple Forest. Being a Land Steward at Maywood is about more than just habitat maintenance—participants are encouraged to observe and document their experiences, including bird sightings, plant identification, signs of animal presence, or even notable weather changes throughout the season.

Adopt-a-Habitat Land Stewards commit to tending their designated habitat at least four times throughout the year. This program is a fantastic opportunity for individuals, families, or friends who are passionate about nature and environmental stewardship. Training sessions for Adopt-a-Habitat will be held on Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30 - 6:30pm and Saturday, April 12 from 9:30 - 10:30 am.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Maywood's Office Coordinator, Nate Dallesasse, at nathan.dallesasse@sheboyganwi.gov or call Maywood at 920-459-3906. We look forward to seeing you out on the trails this season!

Nate Dallesasse



Maywood Spring 2025 Calendar

For more detailed program descriptions, visit GoMaywood.org or the front desk in the Ecology Center, or call (920) 459-3906. To register for any Maywood program, call (920) 459-3906 or email maywood@sheboyganwi.gov. The Ecology Center is closed April 18-20, and May 24-26. The park and trails are open 4 am-10 pm daily.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Scholars), 10-noon. Free for members/\$5 non-members, registration required. Visit GoMaywood.org for more information and registration deadlines.

March 7: Maple Sugaring at Maywood. **March 14:** No OWLS. **March 21:** Purple Martins at Maywood. **March 28:** No OWLS. **April 4:** Planting for Pollinators. **April 11:** Embrace the Trails with Confidence Workshop, runs 9 am-noon. **April 18:** No OWLS. **April 25:** Arbor Day at Maywood. **May 2:** Bur Oak, meet at Maywood. **May 9:** Spring Wildflowers at Maywood. **May 16:** Birding at Maywood. **May 23:** No OWLS. **May 30 Offsite:** Gerber Lake Wildlife Area.

Yoga at Maywood. Visit GoMaywood.org for program descriptions and registration deadlines.

Spring Yoga at Maywood March Session, Wednesdays, March 12, 19, and 26, 5:30-6:30 pm. \$30 for the series if registered by Feb. 26, \$36 after Feb. 26. **Spring Yoga at Maywood April Session**, Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 23, and 30, 5:30-6:30 pm. \$40 for the series if registered by March 19, \$48 after March 19. **Spring Yoga at Maywood May Session**, Wednesdays, May 7, 14, and 21, 5:30-6:30 pm. \$30 for the series if registered by April 23, \$36 after April 23.

Team Maywood. Informational Meeting and Swap, April 28, 5:30 pm. Free. **Team Maywood rides** are Mondays, May 5-Sept. 8, 5:30 pm. Visit GoMaywood.org for more information.

Saturday Morning Bird Walks, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24. 7:30 am. Free, drop-in program.

March 2025

1 Maywood Nature-Based Book Club, in partnership with Mead Library, 10-11 am. Free, registration appreciated. Our March book is *Trail of the Lost* by Andrea Lankford.

4 2025 Crane Count Training, 6:30-7:30 pm. Free, drop-in program. Train to be a crane counter for the Annual Midwest Crane Count on Saturday, April 12.

16 36th Annual Flapjack Day, 9:30 am-1 pm. Pancake breakfast with Maywood's own maple syrup along with games and activities. Pricing and registration information at GoMaywood.org

18 Simple Exercises to Improve Posture, Balance, and Stability, 6-7:30 pm. Free, registration required. Workshop with Better Life Chiropractic and Wellness, followed by a hike. Register at <https://www.betterlifecw.com/maywoodworkshopseries>

20 Spring Portrait Mini Sessions, booking opens at 10 am. Visit GoMaywood.org for details.

25 Spring Break Animal Adventure, 10 am. Free, registration required. Meet a reptile, a mammal, and a bird with staff from Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

April 2025

3 Maywood Nature-Based Book Club, in partnership with Mead Library, 10-11 am. Free, registration appreciated. Our April book is *Fuzz* by Mary Roach.

8 Nature at Noon, noon-1 pm. Free, registration and donations appreciated. Ryan Laswell from Nourish will present updates at Nourish Farms and composting.

8, 12 Adopt-a-Habitat Training. April 8, 5:30-6:30 pm; April 12 9:30-10:30 am. Free, registration required. Be a Maywood Land Steward in this summer-long volunteer opportunity.

11 Embrace the Trails with Confidence: Balance & Stability for Hikers Workshop, 9 am-noon. Free, registration required. Interactive workshop with Better Life Chiropractic and Wellness. Register at <https://www.betterlifecw.com/maywoodworkshopseries>

12 Water Language Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m. Free, registration required. Artist Sarah Rowe leads this workshop inspired by the meditative practice of creating Lakota prayer ties. Register at <https://www.jmkac.org/event/water-language-workshop/>

22 Home Solar Solutions, 6-7:30 pm. Free, drop-in program. With Arch Solar.

23 Maywood Association Annual Meeting, 6:30 pm. Open to the public. No registration required.

26 Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration, 10-noon. Free, registration required. Join us in planting trees in Maywood. Instructions, supplies, and trees are provided.

May 2025

3 Maywood Nature-Based Book Club, in partnership with Mead Library, 10-11 am. Free, registration appreciated. Our May book is *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce.

3, 31 Scoping the Skies, 9-11 pm. Free, drop-in program. Join members of the Sheboygan Astronomical Society. Meet in the Maywood parking lot.

13 Nature at Noon, noon-1 pm. Free, registration and donations appreciated. Barb and Niles Claves will present on Growing Mushrooms using the Totem Pole method.

15 Native Plant Fundraiser Pick-up Day. 4-6:30 pm. **May 8** is the last day to order online.

17 13th Annual "Language of Nature" Poetry Reading and Discussion, 10 am-noon. Free, registration required. \$1 donation for printed materials appreciated.

May 27, June 10-17, 24 Art in the Park: Watercolor en Plein Air with Keary Kautzer, 6-8



The Leading Edge

Often when we think of helping the environment, we forget about how we shop and prepare meals as being part of our focus. Preparing meals using seasonal fruits and vegetables is healthy, saves energy, and is often cost-effective. In-season and local food is nutrient-rich since the distance traveled is less. You know how the food was produced and farming methods used. How much do we know about those strawberries purchased in the grocery store in winter?

A few years ago when traveling to Oregon, I met the author of two cookbooks I own, Andrea Bemis. Andrea and her husband own a farm near Mount Hood. She has written two cookbooks which I can highly recommend, *Dishing up the Dirt* and *Local Dirt*. All of the recipes use primarily seasonal, local ingredients. If you are vegetarian, vegan, or have other dietary restrictions, many of the recipes can be adapted. I decided to purchase her second book when I read about her challenge called the Local Thirty. The challenge was to purchase food for thirty days within a 200-mile range. (You can search for the Local 30 online and get more background on why Andrea decided to try this.)

Just discovering what she could source locally was a learning experience. Often Andrea actively participated in the production of the food to learn about the work involved in bringing food from field to plate. As a result, she developed a deep appreciation for the work the farmers do to provide us with food.

While the the Local Thirty took a large commitment, there are ways to begin to eat to help our environment. Shop farmers markets or join a CSA (community supported agriculture) for a weekly share of seasonal produce. When you shop in a grocery store, look for signs that indicate the food is from local or state farms. Plant a small garden or grow some produce in containers. If you purchase prepared foods, look for those that are minimally processed with simple ingredients that you recognize. This takes some education because many so-called health foods are highly processed. Begin to incorporate plant-based meals during the week.

Andrea Bemis shares her thoughts on choosing food: "When I look at food I ask myself, Is this good for my body? Is it good for the environment? Is it good for my family, and is it good for the world?"

Our annual Flapjack Day will be held on Sunday, March 16. Enjoy a pancake breakfast and learn about maple sugaring. It's a terrific family event.

Spring is on the way! Visit Maywood as we anticipate the warmer weather and get outside to connect with nature.

Marty



Marty Steinbruecker
President
Ellwood H. May
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GoMaywood.org

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Trust Administrator: Angie Doell
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Custodian: Donna Pantel
EcoEdges Editor: Nate Dallesasse

Our Mission

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

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ECOEDGES

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The Pinwheel Galaxy

Kip Hoffman, SAS Member

Scoping the Skies at Maywood

Sheboygan Astronomical Society's (SAS) involvement with Maywood began in the late 1980s by providing programs such as "The Dark Side of the Moon" in 1989. In 1996, regular night sky viewings began under the program title "Stellar Viewing Sessions." Like today, the programs were held on Saturday evenings during the warmer months of the year. In the fall of 1996, the program name became "Scoping the Skies" and has remained that since. Members share their equipment and vast knowledge of astronomy during these free viewing sessions, giving many community members the opportunity to experience the wonder of viewing the night sky through a telescope. Maywood offers some of the best views of the night sky, as it has less light pollution than most of Sheboygan. The 2025 viewing season at Maywood kicks off with Spring Astronomy Day on May 3. Celestial objects that can be seen well on this date include the Moon, Venus, M31 Andromeda Galaxy, Mars, M13 Hercules Cluster, and more.

The Society holds monthly meetings at the Aviation Heritage Center, Sheboygan Airport that include presentations and edu-

cational opportunities. On Saturday, March 15, they will host a Swap 'N' Sell event, where amateur astronomers from all over the state gather to swap or sell unneeded astronomy items. The event includes presentations, brat fry, & door prizes. Visit shebastro.org to learn more about the enjoyment of amateur astronomy and all that the Sheboygan Astronomical Society has to offer.

Astronomical events to add to your viewing calendar include:

- Worm Moon - March 14, the first full Moon of spring when the ground thaws and earthworms start to emerge from the soil.
- Total Lunar Eclipse - March 13-14, Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon, and Earth's shadow completely covers the Moon.
- Partial Solar Eclipse - March 29, the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth, blocking part of the Sun's light.
- Pink Moon - April 12, the full Moon that occurs when early spring wildflowers bloom, including the moss pink, or creeping phlox (*Phlox subulata*).

(continued inside)

A four-month group cycling program riding out of Maywood Environmental Park in Sheboygan

More info at gomaywood.org/programs/teammaywood/

Native Plant Sale

In partnership with Johnston's Nursery

Sale begins March 1st
Pick-up at Maywood May 15th

- Plants
- Shrubs
- Vines
- Trees