The Leading Edge

James Kabrhel
Maywood Board Member - UW Green Bay

Standing in the middle of the green grass, blooming wildflowers, chirping birds, and blue skies of Maywood on a summer day, it can be hard to reconcile that beauty of the moment with the growing threat of climate change. The threat of losing such natural wonder not only in Sheboygan but all over the world can feel overwhelming, leaving any individual with a feeling that they cannot do anything to help, or the things that they can do would be too little.

I would counter that idea with the following: We have choices in our lives, and one of the important choices is how we interact with our environment. Having respect for the natural world can lead to making choices that help the natural world, particularly what we interact with locally. With my students in Sustainability Chemistry, one of the responses a student will write is akin to "The little things that I do will not do much to fight climate change around the world." I can understand that sentiment, but then I come back with the fact that little changes in behavior can have a big effect on the local environment and if enough people make small changes, those small changes become big changes.

A large part of Maywood philosophy is about education. Preservation of the property of Maywood is incredibly important, but every person who is a part of the Maywood Advisory Board, the trustees, the volunteers, and more are environmental teachers as well as environmental stewards. Education will always help individuals make better choices, especially about the environment.

I often start my semesters telling students "Choices have consequences." In some cases, it is meant to sound serious (or even ominous), encouraging them to choose to come to class and do the course work, rather than be lazy. But consequences can be positive too, and I do not think that the world emphasizes the positive consequences of things enough. When you choose to reuse a product, recycle a bottle, reduce your energy use by turning off the lights, and plant a flower to help the bees, you are making positive choices to save places like Maywood.

Please continue to think about the choices you make day to day, and do not underestimate the good that you are doing for us and for the environment.

James Kabrhel

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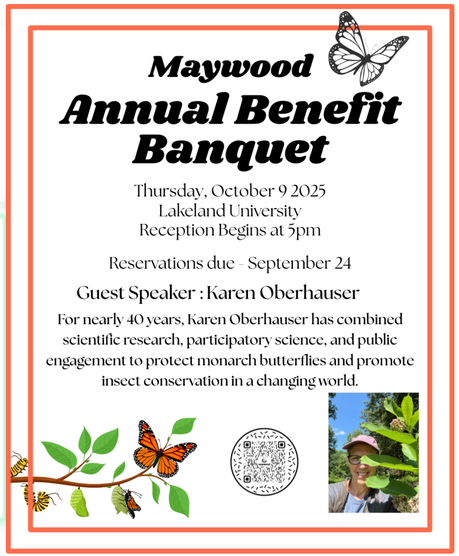
Our Mission
To foster environmental stewardship
through educational and outdoor experiences
that connect our community with the natural world.



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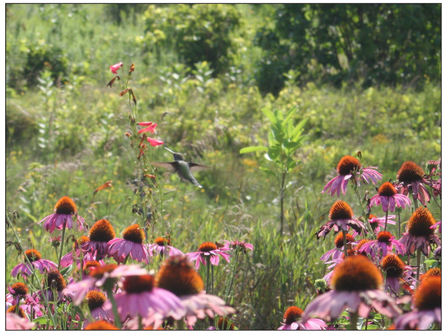

Maywood photos

A hummingbird visits the garden (L) alongside volunteers who helped prepare the garden for planting (R).

Maywood's Hummingbird Garden Celebrates 15 Years

To learn more about the past and future of this unique attraction, I interviewed key donor and longtime supporter Bill Holbrook, along with Lakeshore Garden Club member Diane Riesterer.

How did you become involved in the Hummingbird Garden?

Bill: My beloved late wife, Chris Holbrook, was president of the Lakeshore Garden Club when the Hummingbird Garden was proposed in 2009. Chris passed away that spring and as the project progressed I decided that dedicating it as a memorial to her would be a wonderful way of celebrating her life.

Chris and I enjoyed watching hummingbirds for many years. The ruby-throated hummingbird is the only species that regularly nests in Wisconsin. We got to know several additional species during our travels to Arizona. Chris loved them!

Diane: The garden was one of the community projects needing assistance when I joined the club in 2018. I helped with weeding, watering, and general maintenance, and took on the leadership of the garden in 2022.

How has the garden changed over the years?

Bill: The Lakeshore Garden Club has been devoted to caring for the garden for many years, which is hard work, especially as the membership ages.

Diane: As a club, we decided the garden needed to be revamped because I felt it was overgrown and too large for our group to maintain. I worked with the Maywood staff, Garden Club members, and Bill to align our visions.

Bill: In addition to the improvements in the garden, there has been increased effort to put feeders out early in the spring to attract hummingbirds as they arrive.

Diane: A new layout was planned, some sections were returned to grass, and a water feature was added, along with a raised garden planter donated in honor of another long-time Garden Club member. All invasive plants and bushes were removed and the space was ready to start out new.

What are some of the key components of the Hummingbird Garden?

Diane: I was determined to make the garden a special

continued inside

Visit GoMaywood.org for current Ecology Center Hours

Maywood's Hummingbird Garden Celebrates 15 Years

(continued)

habitat specifically for hummingbirds. I selected plants that are native to Wisconsin, taking the soil type and other factors into consideration. The plants we chose are supposedly deer and rabbit resistant, we will see!

Anyone can have a garden like this one in their own backyard. Many people would like to plant native, but think they look too weedy, so we planted clusters of four in a circle to give a bigger, fuller look. The plants were arranged from small in the front to large toward the back, with different bloom times.

Bill: This is wonderful! I am so happy that native plants and those that specifically attract hummingbirds are a priority in the new design. Plants with a cup or bell-shaped entrance that they can get into for natural nectar are best. The newly added water source is important, as is shade and a place to hide.

Kendra Kelling

Help Spread Warmth this Winter

Though the sun is still shining, Reinbold-Novak Funeral Home is already looking ahead to colder days with the kickoff of the 35th annual Coats for Kids (& Adults) campaign. This effort helps ensure Sheboygan County residents of all ages have the warm winter gear they need before the first snowfall.

The campaign collects new coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for children and adults in need. While the name highlights kids, adult sizes are urgently needed, as The Salvation Army often runs out of gear for men and women experiencing housing insecurity or financial hardship.

Donated items will be distributed by The Salvation Army of Sheboygan County on November 6, just in time for colder weather. Community members are encouraged to begin collecting now to meet growing demand.

Maywood Environmental Park is supporting the campaign as a collection site this year. Donations there should be dropped off no later than November 1.

Local schools, churches, and businesses are also invited to help by hosting collection barrels and spreading the word. Even one coat can make a meaningful difference for someone facing a cold Wisconsin winter without adequate protection.

"There's no better way to show community care than helping our neighbors stay warm," says Carrye Jo Cony of The Salvation Army. "Last fall, we distributed 2,759 warm winter wear items to local residents. The need is real and every donation makes an impact."

Carrye Jo Cony

Purposefully Unkempt Autumn

As long bustling days of summer yield to crimson-skied evenings of fall, snowbirds depart for southerly homes. Persephone journeys to her Underworld throne, and the world prepares for winter. There is an inclination to tidy one's outdoor spaces. Instead, muse on the abundant life taking respite in the corpses and skeletons of summer, the fallen leaves and standing stems.

Butterflies famously emerge from branch-bound chrysalises in warm months. Yet 90% of caterpillars pupate on or under leaf litter. Fireflies depend on leaf litter. Wisconsin is home to over 400 species of bees; all nest in earthen or woody hollows. Fallen logs, leaves, and branches are essential for amphibians and reptiles. Brush piles benefit birds year-round, and birds wintering in Wisconsin feed on seed-heads left in the landscape.

Disease and invasive control cannot be neglected, but the ecologically friendly best practice is a reserved cleanup. Mulch leaves in place to fertilize and promote healthy soil or rake them to a discreet place. Play 'pick-up-sticks' and make a brush pile (avoiding fire hazards). Respect trees, and shrubs, self-mulching fallen leaves. Permit flowers and grasses to stand as winter food and shelter. Allow wildlife time to emerge come thaw, cutting back when overnight temperatures stay above 50 degrees or new growth reaches 4 inches.

Bright spring mornings and songbird serenades will arrive. Narcissus and Hyacinthus emerge to celebrate Persephone's return from the land of the dead. Life rises from lifelessness, and the great cycle begins again. Support life's cycle. Observe autumn, purposefully unkempt.

Donor List Correction from our Summer 2025 Issue.

The following donations should have been listed as memorial contributions in memory of Frederick and Nathan Stone. We apologize for this error.

Lindo's Landing Charitable Giving Program

Rob & Jessica Grusin

Autumn 2025

Autumn Antlers: Stay Aware and Respect Wildlife

This past spring, the many peaceful environments of Maywood provided a safe place for white-tailed does to raise their fawns. With the start of the fall season comes a whole new challenge for deer and those who encounter them.

Male fawns begin developing antlers as soon as mid-March, and they are fully developed by early September. As fawns grow into bucks, they become more aggressive. Rut, the breeding season of white-tailed deer, occurs between October and November. During this time, all deer, but especially bucks, are much more active as they attempt to find a mate before winter. Deer may run faster, cover more unfamiliar ground, and act recklessly in their pursuit of each other. This increase in activity combined with earlier sunsets means deer awareness is more important than ever in the fall, especially while driving.

While white-tail deer have great sight and hearing, it is important to remember they do not always know the "right" way to react to a vehicle coming towards them. To us, it might not make sense. Why don't they just run away like we would? As prey animals, when deer feel afraid, their first instinct is to freeze in place and assess the danger. Since none of their natural predators can travel 70 mph or shine blinding lights in front themselves like our cars can, a deer, especially a young one entering the already-stressful time of its first rut, is unprepared to react properly to a vehicle in its path.

The good news is, we can react properly. Slow down on roads through places deer are more likely to be (dense woods, large fields) and at times of day when deer activity is highest (dawn and dusk). If you do see a deer on the road in front of you, brake without swerving. Swerving not only puts you in danger of losing control but may further confuse the deer. Honking your horn may help scare the deer off. Even if the individual deer you encountered runs away, continue to drive slowly, as they typically travel in groups. If you encounter a deer on-foot, take the same precautions as always and keep your distance. While deer do not typically attack humans, rut makes deer act different, and it is always better to be safe than sorry.

This fall, make sure to be mindful of increased white-tailed deer activity due to rut and do your part to keep the deer (and yourself) safe. Remember: they were all once like the little fawns you saw around the park this past spring!

Lydia Lavey

Summer Volunteer Recap

This summer, Maywood was buzzing with activity as volunteers and community groups worked hard to care for the park and its programs. Volunteer groups from Muth and MilliporeSigma spent many hours removing invasive plants, focusing on cutting and treating buckthorn and autumn olive along the park's boundaries. Groups from Sheboygan County Health & Human Services and Sheboygan Chamber of Commerce also lent a hand, removing weeds and mulching around the Ecology Center in preparation for the Prairie Walk.

Volunteers completed the final steps in this year's maple sugaring process—filtering the syrup collected and boiled earlier in the year. Thanks to their efforts, over 150 bottles of golden Maywood maple syrup were produced, each one representing the care and tradition behind this seasonal craft.

The Lake Shore Garden Club devoted time and creativity to enhancing the Hummingbird Garden. Building on plantings from the spring, they added a water feature and raised bed planter, bringing more beauty and diversity to this special space for pollinators.

We were also delighted by the turnout for our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on June 12. Guests enjoyed a variety of vegetarian and vegan dishes, ice cream for dessert, and door prizes as a token of thanks. It was a warm and joyful evening celebrating the people who make Maywood thrive. Special thanks to Arrosto Delicatessen for their generous food donation.

Nate Dallesasse

Autumn 2025

Maywood Fall 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 August 30-September 1, and November 27-30. The park and trails are open 4 am-10 pm daily.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Scholars), 10-noon. Free for members/$5 general public, registration required. **September 5 Offsite:** Ice Age Trail. **September 12 Offsite:** Forest Beach Migratory preserve. **September 19:** Bur Oak, meet at Maywood. **September 26:** No OWLS. **October 3:** Water Quality Monitoring at Maywood. **October 10:** No OWLS. **October 17:** Prairie Seed Collection at Maywood. **October 24:** No OWLS. **October 31 Offsite:** North Point Bluff. **November 7:** BioChar at Maywood. **November 14 Offsite:** Elkhart Lake. **November 21 Offsite:** Sheboygan Marsh. **November 28:** No OWLS.

Yoga at Maywood. Visit GoMaywood.org for program descriptions and registration deadlines. **Yoga in the Prairie,** Wednesday, September 10, 5:30-6:30 pm. $10. **iRest® and Gentle Yoga,** Wednesdays, September 24 and October 1, 5:30-6:30 pm. $40 for the series. **Autumn Yoga at Maywood: October Session,** Wednesdays, October 15, 22, and 29, 5:30-6:30 pm. $30 for the series if registered by September 24, $45 after September 24. **Autumn Yoga at Maywood: November Session,** Wednesdays, November 5, 12, and 19, 5:30-6:30 pm. $30 for the series if registered by October 15, $45 after October 15.

Maywood Nature-based Book Club, in partnership with Mead Library, 10-11 am, free. Fall titles: Sept. 6, *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. October 4, *Northland* by Porter Fox. November 1, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Visit the front desk at Mead.

September 2025

2, 9, 16, 23 Advanced Watercolors, 6-8 pm. $110 (payable to the instructor), registration required by August 15. To register, contact instructor Keary Kautzer at 920-208-0001 or kearykautzer@gmail.com

8 Fall Portrait Mini Sessions Registration opens at 10 am. $250 per session. Enjoy a professional mini-session with photographer Nate Dallesasse. Proceeds benefit the park. Limited timeslots are available the afternoons of October 20, 21, and 22.

9 Nature at Noon, noon-1 pm. Free, registration and donations appreciated.

18 Fall Native Plan Fundraiser Pick-up Day, 4-6:30 pm.

26, 27 The Living Earth Environmental School. Presented by Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

27 Scoping the Skies, 7:30-9:30 pm. Free, drop-in program.

October 2025

9 Maywood Annual Benefit Banquet, 5 pm reception, 6:45 pm dinner, 7:30 pm presenter. $95/person or $540/table of six. Join us at Lakeland University for an evening in support of Maywood. The evening will include a reception with cash bar and complimentary appetizers, a delectable dinner, silent auction, and raffles.

14 Nature at Noon, noon-1 pm. Free, registration and donations appreciated.

17-22 Wisconsin Science Festival Self-guided Nature Hike, open during park hours. Free. Environmental Science students from Warriner High School in Sheboygan invite you to enjoy a self-guided nature hike, explore Maywood's six habitats, learn facts about plant and animal species found in the park, and participate in Wisconsin Science Festival BioBlitz.

25 Glow Hike, 6:30-9 pm. $7 members/$10 general public. Registration encouraged. First 100 registered participants receive an eco-friendly reusable glow stick to enhance the evening under the stars. Snacks, beverages, and glow items will be available for purchase.

25 Scoping the Skies, 6:30-8:30 pm. Free, drop-in program.

28 Reflective Nature Writing, 5:30-6:30 pm. Registration and donations appreciated. With WordHaven BookHouse Owner CJ. All genres of writing are welcome.

November 2025

11 Nature at Noon, noon-1 pm. Free, registration and donations appreciated.

16 Pints for the Park Fundraiser at 3 Sheeps Brewing, 11 am-4 pm.

21 or 22 Pretty Porch Pot Workshop, Nov. 21 5-7 pm, Nov. 22 12:30-2:30 pm. $25 members/$29 general public With members of Lake Shore Garden Club. Registration required.

22 Wreath Making Workshop, 8:30-11:30 am. $25 members/$29 general public With members of Lake Shore Garden Club. Registration required.