



# VAN DER BROHE ARBORETUM AND BIRD SANCTUARY NEWSLETTER

Solstice Edition • June 2023

Writing on the evening of the Solstice is a great time to reflect on the spring activities at the Arboretum. The grounds have been hosting a broad range of projects, activities, and events. As many of these projects involved the use of heavy equipment and trucks, the trails have need of recovery. Trails remain open, and re-grooming continues.

It has been very gratifying to see the trees leaf out, especially as for many, this was their first Spring at VDBA. Now established, the trees exhibit the characteristics that make each species intriguing and identifiable.

—JD

## 3RD ANNUAL TREE SALE A SUCCESS!

A look at the semi truck delivering trees ordered during the spring VDBA Tree Sale makes evident that this is not your ordinary garden club operation. Many truly massive trees were delivered to the supporters of Arboretum, including one large maple with an 800# root-ball. A forklift was on site for loading. Delivery and planting, if requested, were arranged through a contracted service. A second enclosed van trailer delivered smaller trees and container plants. All trees and plants are pre-ordered from our website, and picked up on a Saturday. Think of your yard's needs for next year.



Unloading the tree sale delivery

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## 750 NEW INHABITANTS AT THE ARBORETUM

Spring planting at the Arboretum installed over 500 new large trees and 250 smaller trees into the Propagation Field. As we plant no more than five of any given species or cultivar, this represents a major increase in the variety of the specimens on site. Trees were sourced this year from the immediate area, as well as New York and Oregon. As in previous years, a drip irrigation system has been extended to each tree. VDBA Board Member Andy Bruzewicz will shortly begin geo-tagging all new trees to update the database in preparation for our identification app.



Jim Lester welcomes this year's trees to the Lester Forest at Van der Brohe Arboretum

## 2023 BRINGS THE START OF MANY ICONIC PROJECTS

We are very excited that many of the projects anticipated for the Arboretum are under construction. While there is much activity, final results will be celebrated in future newsletters.

- The armature for the **GEORGE E. GRIMM AND SUSAN E. SCHIERECK COUNCIL CIRCLE** has been installed and the Valders Stone cut and delivered. In a deviation from the rendering, the pavement will be a detailed Compass Rose. We wish to thank A. Chappa Construction for taking over the project. 22,000# of Valders Limestone has been delivered to the site to construct the Circle and the other seating areas.
- The delayed **PROPAGATION CENTER** is underway. The site work, foundation, and slab are complete, the lumber is on site, and construction will begin in earnest the week of June 26th.
- To maximize survival rates, **THE PROPAGATION FIELD** is being established to raise small trees to a size comparable to those we have been planting. Utilizing a “pot-in-pot” system, 250 trees are set into fiber pots which are placed into plastic pots set into the ground. An irrigation system has been installed. A deer fence will be installed to limit predation. Within the field are twenty Butternut trees. Donated by **KEVIN AND LAURA CRAWFORD**, these trees have been propagated at the Boscobel DNR Nursery from seed nuts supplied by the Crawfords. The nuts come from a tree on the Crawford property which appears to have some resistance to the Butternut blight. Should this resistance be a genetic trait, this effort will be instrumental in returning the Butternut to the area forests.
- The **GEORGE E. GRIMM AND SUSAN E. SCHIERECK IVY WALLS'** foundations have been installed by Cornerstone Concrete. Given the height of these free-standing monoliths, some of the more impressive construction will be buried in the foundation mats.
- The **PARKING LOT** at the Arboretum entrance will be expanded to accommodate our Annual Wine Crawl and serve as a larger staging area for the Annual Tree Sale. A second drive will be added, allowing bus traffic to circulate in a manner that protects the drop-off zone from other vehicular traffic. Although we had to cancel a proposed spring event because of difficulties obtaining a permit, we anticipate work to be completed this summer in time for the Wine Crawl on Saturday, August 26.



*George Grimm stands within the Council Circle*



*Kevin and Laura Crawford deliver the seedlings*



*The Propagation Field pot-in-pot system*



*Cornerstone crew ties steel for the foundation of the Ivy Walls*

## NEW FACES AT VDBA

- We are very excited to welcome **DENNIS TIENOR** to the governance structure of Van der Brohe Arboretum. Dennis is committed to the furtherance of environmental health and sees the Arboretum as a natural platform for exercising that passion. He is known to many throughout the community through his long-term residency in the area and extensive experience assisting many local businesses.
- We also welcome **JEFF EDGAR** to the VDBA Advisory Board. Jeff is owner of Silver Creek Nursery and a great resource to the Arboretum. He is an officer in several other influential organizations involved in silviculture and the growth and care of trees. Of particular note, Jeff is the sole authorized propagator of Apple trees with a direct lineage to those planted throughout the mid-west by John Chapman, aka Johnny Appleseed. We have yet to see him with a cooking pot on his head.



Dennis Tienor



Jeff Edgar



Girl Scouts working towards planting 1 Million Trees

## EVENTS AT THE ARBORETUM

- Pat Koppa organized a crew of local **GIRL SCOUTS** over three successive evenings in May to plant the bareroot whips as part of that organization's commitment to help reestablish forests. We appreciate the assistance and hope those involved can follow the success of their efforts over time.
- The first Saturday in June is **NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**. This year Van der Brohe Arboretum joined several other organizations in Brown and Manitowoc Counties in hosting tours and trail guidance throughout the day. The event was well-organized and promoted by Nancy Naback. Those attending the VDBA tours had the distinction of being among the first to visit the VDBA Annex.
- The **NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION** creates a fabulous schedule of field trips each summer. On June 24th, VDBA conducted an extensive morning tour as part of this program, providing visitors insight into the motives and intents of the land restoration as we move from a golf course into a Natural Area and Bird Sanctuary. Twenty individuals attended as John Durbrow answered their questions and led the hike.
- Volunteer Coordinators Blair Hill and Martha Hill, as well as our lead garden volunteer Laura G., led a group of **TWO RIVERS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** on a clean-up of the gardens at the Arboretum. The students were instructed in the essentials of horticultural maintenance and provided great assistance in bringing the gardens back into shape after winter.



NRF visitors at VDBA



TRHS students receive instruction on garden cleanup

## SPONSORED INSTALLATIONS

- We have had many generous donors sponsor **BENCHES**, and the installation of these amenities is underway. Foundations have been set for six stone benches and three metal benches. Stone benches are comprised of Valders limestone end supports and predominately of white oak seats. The oak has been custom cut at an Amish mill in the Driftless area.
- Carolyn Lanza has sponsored the **RICHARD GREISCH TRAIL** and the marker will be installed soon. Formerly known as the North Loop Trail, the Greisch Trail traverses the site from Highway 42 to Riverview Drive along the north property line.

## HIGHWAY 42 CLOSURE

Highway 42 is under reconstruction. It will be closed from June 21st until July 19th. It will be partially open with flaggers for a month after that date. We anticipate access to VDBA will be possible, but perhaps convoluted. Upon seeing how restricted access becomes, we may look at instituting off-site parking close to the point of closure. Please do not use the old clubhouse parking lot, as that is now private property.

## IVY TUNNEL REPLANTED

Two Rivers Rotary Ivy Tunnel replanted had been planted with Blue Moon Wisteria as covering vegetation. Given that the wisteria is healthy, but exhibits very little inclination to fill out as a fast cover for the structure, the tunnel has been replanted with a non-invasive Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle vine. The structure is being altered to accommodate the less woody vine. We will see in future years a melding of both plants.



A stone bench overlooking the Schweiger Prairie



Richard Greisch Trail marker



Bonus photo: A crayfish (or is it crawfish?) nest on the VDBA grounds



Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle vine

## VDBA WINE CRAWL ANNOUNCED

The Annual VDBA Wine Crawl will take place on Saturday, August 26th from 4–7 pm. The event will be similar to those previously held, *but even more better!* \$30 per person entry fee—cash or check accepted—includes 2 glasses of wine (or 4 tastes) and delicious appetizers. Advance tickets will be available at **RENEE'S CHOCOLATES & SPECIALTIES** (2716 Memorial Dr., Two Rivers) and **TWO RIVERS MAIN STREET** (1608 Washington St.) and on our website. Watch for the official announcement!

## MONARCH BUTTERFLY PAVILION

**JEAN AMMERMAN**, her daughter **THERESA KRONFORST**, and granddaughter Clara, have installed and maintain a Monarch Butterfly hatchery on the VDBA grounds. The Monarch Butterfly Pavilion is located adjacent to a trail such that visitors can observe the butterfly in various stages of development. They plan to host a release event in the future.

On June 20th, a Monarch caterpillar was photographed in the VDBA Pollinator Meadows by **NANCY NABAK**, Communication & Development Coordinator at Woodland Dunes Nature Center.



Monarch caterpillar photo by Nancy Nabak



Jean Ammerman with future Monarch

### Promote Van der Brohe Arboretum on Social Media!

Help spread the excitement about VDBA by “checking in” and tagging us in your social media posts and photos when you visit the grounds!

Look for **vanderbrohe** on facebook and instagram.



**VAN DER BROHE  
ARBORETUM**

3800 Lincoln Ave., Two Rivers, WI 54241  
ph. (312) 493-1114

[vanderbrohearboretum.org](http://vanderbrohearboretum.org)



### Van der Brohe Arboretum Board of Directors

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*It is only through the passage of the seasons, the recurrent rhythms of light and dark, reflections in states of repose, and the glories of regeneration that individuals connect to the pattern and structure of living in a sentient world.*

*Johann van der Brohe*