



VAN DER BROHE ARBORETUM AND BIRD SANCTUARY

Summer 2021 Newsletter

TREES AND BIRDS, A SYMBIOTIC INITIATIVE

One must approach planting trees with a long-term perspective, but more immediate gratification stems from the great joy of seeing the *First Bird* which alights upon the newly placed tree. The arrival always comes with the question; is it merely a convenient perch, a possible home, the host of a delectable morsel, or simply a new curiosity? One also derives great satisfaction seeing a tree occupied. Earlier this summer, upon checking the tree guards on the fourteen 1½" swamp white oaks and maples planted at our farm last fall, we found that four had hosted nests this spring. It must be that new home smell. Now we sit back patiently to await a thirty-year canopy.

MAJOR MAPLE PLANTING IN SPRING 2022

George Grimm grew up in Two Creeks, Wisconsin. Although he currently lives in New Berlin, his love of the area led him back here when looking for a means of honoring his wife, Susan. George is sponsoring the planting of the George and Susan Grimm Maple Grove, which will constitute approximately one third of the maple forest to be located at the southeast quadrant of the property. The maple forest will comprise a broad selection of maple trees, exhibiting 58 different species and cultivars. As the many types of maples have differing soil and moisture requirements, the forest will stretch over a broad area to include differing conditions. Planting will be in spring of 2022, after the pollinator meadows are installed. We are very excited to initiate the tree planting program with such a significant program. As noted by George, "as the trees grow, the story lives on."



George Grimm and his brother-in-law, Charles B. Schiereck, at the future site of the Grimm Maple Grove.

MASTER GARDENER TOUR

On July 26, 2021, the Manitowoc County Master Gardeners visited the VDBA grounds for a tour of the handiwork of their colleagues. Gardeners Steve Lankton, Carol Lallensack, Bernie Zimmer, Marilyn Starzewski, Linda Brandel, and Eileen Kummer were the designers or advisers in the planning and layout of five of the nine Franciscan Gardens planted at the Arboretum. A Franciscan Garden is intended to provide forage for birds and wildlife, while retaining the traditional value of being an aesthetically pleasing composition. The gardens feature all perennial plants and will take a season or two to fully develop. Regardless, due to the assiduous watering program carried out by Don Schweiger, the gardens all look great in their inaugural year.



Manitowoc County Master Gardeners review Franciscan Gardens.

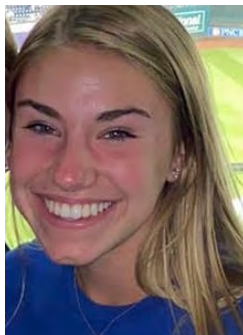
A complimentary planting program is also underway—the establishment of Bird Gardens. These gardens are intended to be massed thickets of "bird berries" and other forage and habitat-producing plants. Two have been established on site to complement the Franciscan Gardens. *(continued on page 2)*



Bird Garden #1 at the Southeast Quadrant of the Arboretum.

(continued from page 1)

With the installation of the gardens came the requirement for maintenance. We are most fortunate to have Laura G. volunteering her expertise and time, and also to have found Brooklyn Luebke, who has been weeding, installing tree protection, and mulching. Brooklyn is off to school and her cross country meets for the season. We hope to see her next spring.



Brooklyn Luebke

Do you have room in your yard for an approximately 30' diameter planting? Consider installing a Franciscan Garden or Bird Garden on your own property; mow less, help more! You will become another link in the Western Lake Michigan Flyway—a critical migration path. The birds will thank you. Plant lists and layouts for the following gardens will be available at vanderbrohearboretum.org in October, 2021.

GARDEN	SPONSOR(S)	DESIGNER(S)
A	The Durbrow Family	John Durbrow Bernie Zimmer
B	Hanna Edelglass & John Bowditch	Eileen Kummer Linda Brandel
C	Pheasants Forever Ch.590	Marilyn Starzewski
D	Dave Abts	Carol Lallensack
E	Jim and Barbee Lester	Erik Desotelle
F	Gail and Jerry Fox	John Durbrow
G	Johnson's Nursery	Erik Desotelle
H	Domnitz Flowers	Erik Desotelle
I	Don Schweiger & Jean Carron	Steve Lankton
Bird Garden #1	VDBA	John Durbrow
Bird Garden #2	Renee Thompson	John Durbrow

BOARD DEVELOPMENTS

We are excited to announce that Bill Kiel has joined our Board of Directors. Bill is a Two Rivers native and President and CEO of the Carron Net Company. With a long history of support for activities that improve the community, Bill will help integrate VDBA into the dynamics of city organizations and bring to the Arboretum his passion for trees and the outdoors. An avid walker, Bill has already regularly integrated the Arboretum trails into his routine and is looking forward to watching the grounds continue to grow and evolve.



Bill Kiel

Since the previous newsletter, Ron Schaper and Diane Lupke have retired from the VDBA Board. We wish to recognize them and to thank them for their service.

VDBA PROPAGATION CENTER PLANNED

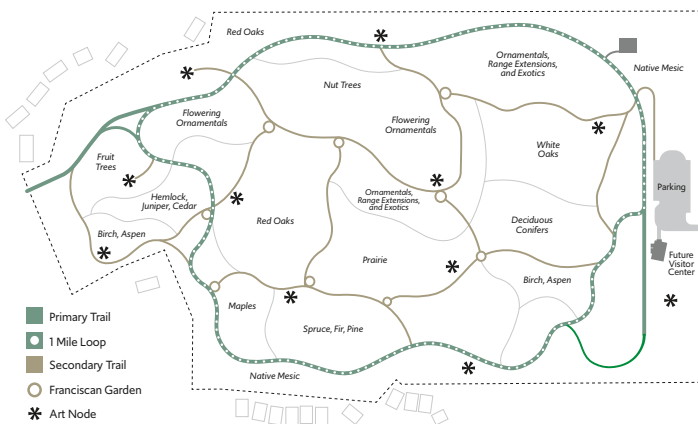
Plans for the Van der Brohe Arboretum Propagation Center are being prepared for spring construction. The building will be a multi-purpose center, allowing for equipment storage, plant preparation, VDBA activities and casual events.



Exterior and interior renderings of the proposed VDBA Propagation Center.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE WORK UNDERWAY

Seven inches of rain overnight plays havoc with gravel trails under any circumstances. We are in the process of tilling the ground to be planted next spring, leaving no defense to counter run-off. Until we re-establish plant cover in the parterres, we will experience erosion of both the soil and the trails even with moderate rain events. We can only ask your patience as we develop the techniques and acquire the equipment to maintain the surface. A customized drag is being fabricated to dress the trail profile, and the surface will be kept smooth through regular upkeep. Once the Pollinator Meadows are established and the ground is stabilized, we expect to be able to stay ahead of the weather conditions.



TWO RIVERS ROTARY IVY TUNNEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Two Rivers Rotary has sponsored the installation of an Ivy Tunnel at Van der Brohe Arboretum. The installation will add to the structured displays of various plant options on site and provide a pleasing shaded repose in the trail network. Rotary members, led by Jim Lester, are volunteering time to aid in the construction of the tunnel and to plant the ivy.



Betty Bittner and Board member Don Schweiger review the Ivy Tunnel foundation layout.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary is most appreciative of those who share our mission. Without a structure or paved paths, recognition of contributions has been a dilemma. We are pleased to announce two new sponsorship recognition opportunities; The Pylon(s) and trail designations.

The Pylon will be a free-standing structure which will support tinted glass panels etched with donor names and if appropriate, corporate logos. The trail map will designate each trail at VDBA with a sponsor's name and in time, trail signs will be installed bearing that name. We feel this is a wonderful means of centering the Arboretum with community support. Contact John Durbrow for sponsorship levels and availability.

ÜBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Van der Brohe Arboretum is growing as an organization and would very much benefit from expertise in the following positions:

- Bookkeeping / Accounts
- Grounds and Trail Maintenance
- Volunteer Coordinator
- GIS Coordinator

If you have the requisite skills and the willingness to commit to any of these responsibilities, please contact John Durbrow for information about these positions. Any positions we can fill with your volunteer help translates to more trees on the arboretum grounds.

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**

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vanderbrohearboretum.org



SEEDS N BEANS, LLC TO PARTNER WITH VDBA ON BIRD FEEDING OPTIONS

Beginning this fall, Seeds N Beans of Two Rivers will blend and make available three specialty bird seed mixes under the Van der Brohe Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary label. Sales will generously support VDBA. Owner Lee Hansen has noted a gap in the offerings of mixes available, and, working with VDBA, has created mixes to expand feeder options. Mixes will be sold as *Mega-Bird Blend*, *Don's Specialty Blend*, and *Woody's Delight*. The mixes are expected to attract Cardinals and Jays, Grosbeaks et al, and Woodpeckers respectively. Feeders designed to accommodate these seeds, nuts, and proteins are being designed and fabricated by Lee, and will soon be seen on the arboretum grounds.



Artist rendering of the planned Donor Pylon.

Van der Brohe Arboretum Board of Directors

John Durbrow, Chairperson
Karen Steingraber, Treasurer
Hanna Edelglass, Secretary
Jerome Fox
Bill Kiel
Katherine Reynolds
Don Schweiger

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