



VAN DER BROHE ARBORETUM AND BIRD SANCTUARY

Summer Wrap-up • September 2022

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Van der Brohe Arboretum is delighted to announce the appointment of Blair and Martha Hill as Volunteer Coordinators. Many individuals have expressed a willingness to assist in the development of the VDBA grounds, but without the leadership needed to organize and facilitate activities, this generosity has generally not been accepted.

With the Hill's assumption of this lead position, VDBA development will become much more a community enterprise and the realization of the overall plan will be greatly accelerated.

Blair and Martha are natives of Manitowoc County. Both attended Lincoln High School and the UW-Manitowoc. Martha holds a degree in Environmental Studies from UW-Oshkosh. Blair's degree from UW-Stevens Point is in Wildlife Education and Interpretation. Blair and Martha both hold a great passion for the outdoors. Much of their free time is spent on the trails, often with camera in hand to capture any snapshot wildlife would allow. Blair and Martha also enjoy camping whenever they can pull their selves away for a weekend. Martha's favorite group of animals is birds, especially terns and albatross. Though Blair spends a lot of time looking up for birds, too, he loves lifting up logs and stones to find salamanders.

Frequent visitors of the Arboretum themselves, Blair and Martha recognized the value of VDBA to both the local and the avian communities and have become über-volunteers to advance the mission.

Individuals and groups interested in volunteering are greatly appreciated and may contact Martha and Blair at volunteer@vanderbrohearboretum.org. See ya on the trails!



Martha and Blair with their dog Bubba.

NEW BENCHES

Following the rush of spring planting we have been able to address the oft-mentioned need for benches along the trails.

The two prototypes pictured below were installed for butt evaluation and review. The metal version has been cited for design and appearance, but almost universally those offering preferences favored the version constructed of Valders stone and White Oak seating.

The Board has elected to make the preferred bench the standard for Arboretum installations. Stone has been ordered for an additional six benches, and the oak has been milled and is currently seasoning.

Benches may be sponsored, with the business or individual's name engraved on the stone end panel. Contact VDBA Director John Durbrow to inquire about these opportunities.



Six stone and wood benches will be available for sponsorship.



VDBA supporter Jean Carron on the bench installed near the Franciscan Garden that she sponsored with Don Schweiger.

GEORGE GRIMM FUNDS TWO INSTALLATIONS

George Grimm, formerly of Two Creeks, and now a resident of Milwaukee, sponsored a portion of the Maple Grove last year. He trumped himself by appearing this summer to fund two major installations on the Arboretum grounds: The Council Circle and the Ivy Walls.

The Council Circle is a landscape feature celebrated by Midwest landscape architect Jens Jensen. Its origins trace back to Native American cultures. The iteration proposed for the Arboretum will be incised into a sloped terrain with a vista over the lower grounds below. The pavement will be configured as a compass rose composed of Valders stone, with inscribed sun angles for the solstice and equinox.



The proposed Council Circle will feature a compass rose design.

The Ivy Walls will stand as “structured trees” in an echelon configuration in the otherwise tree-less Schweiger Prairie. Standing 25 feet high, they will be covered in differing ivies selected for their beauty and their value to wildlife. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to realize this installation, as it is emblematic of the Arboretum’s mission to demonstrate the potential of shared habitats on the urban fringe. As with most of the projects at VDBA, establishing the ivy cover will take many years.

VDBA is currently soliciting proposals for the construction of each installation.



The proposed Ivy Walls will stand 25 feet high.

TRAIL NAME SPONSORSHIP

The increase in activities and the installation of landscape features has highlighted the need for wayfinding at the Arboretum. Trail segments will be assigned names and a map documenting the layout will replace the generalized diagram currently available. Fourteen trail segments are available to sponsors wishing to aid in this endeavor. A stainless steel disc bearing the sponsor’s name will be placed at each end of each trail segment. A prototype trail marker has been installed at the base of the Arrival Trail. Please contact the Director to inquire about these opportunities.



Prototype trail marker

GEO-TAGGING OF TREES BY LOCATION

Andrew Bruzewicz, Board Member and Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator for Van der Brohe Arboretum has been very busy throughout the summer, documenting the location of each of the 740 trees planted this spring. Although trees were planted roughly per plan layout, there was considerable leeway in actual placement. Andy utilized our planning software and a Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite receiver to locate each tree within one foot of its actual position. With the tree location established, our database containing information on each tree was linked as part of a geospatial database viewable using GIS software. This will enable complete record keeping on each tree and ultimately all desired vegetation in the Arboretum. The location of any or all trees and other vegetation, physical, and natural features can be accessed and displayed as a table or map on a computer, tablet, and, ultimately, smart phone.

For periods during his career Andy managed the US Army Corps of Engineers Remote Sensing and GIS Research and Development Program, helped create and then managed the Corps’ Remote Sensing and GIS Disaster Management Support Team, and was responsible for the Corps’ GIS training program.

We also wish to thank Megan Engel of RES for her assistance with the system development, and the GIS department at Chicago Botanical Gardens for their consultation on the future development of our programs.



Andy Bruzewicz

FALL GARDEN CRAWL at VDBA
 Saturday, Oct. 1 from 4-7pm
\$20 Admission • Cash Only
 Wine • Appetizers • Sparkling Conversation

BICYCLE RACKS INSTALLED

Bicycle racks have been installed at both the main parking lot on North Lincoln Avenue and at the trail access at Riverview drive. We appreciate that bicyclists respect the restriction that no bicycling is allowed on Arboretum grounds, but wish to facilitate the use of that transportation to our location.



John Durbrow designed and installed bicycle racks for the entrances of the Arboretum.

PROPAGATION CENTER TO BREAK GROUND

As the Arboretum develops, so do the requirements for on-site plant propagation, maintenance, and equipment storage. Many of the trees we hope to plant are not grown by local nurseries. We will create a fenced area where we can raise trees from seed and whips to the size required for survival on the grounds. These trees will be raised in a combination of containers and planting beds. An area is needed to store requisite materials and allow for staff and volunteers to conduct the activities.

The Center will be located at the northeast portion of the site as designated by the Masterplan and the Conservation Easement. Construction will begin in October. Visitors are cautioned to be alert to increased traffic on the property.

THE SUNFLOWERS OF 2022

44 acres of pollinator meadows were planted this spring. As many of the wildflower seeds in the mix will not germinate until going through a winter freeze, a mixture of annual seeds known as a nurse crop were planted to give cover this year. The oats and rye were augmented with sunflowers to give migrating birds a massive food plot this fall. Except for natural re-seeding, none of these nurse crop plants are expected next year, when the short grass prairie and wildflowers will begin to gain dominance. It will take a few years for the pollinator meadows to mature and stabilize.

The massive display of sunflowers this year was a great attraction. We hope many of you were able to appreciate the splendor.



Sunflower cover crop

POLLINATORS

Speak of pollinators, and most people imagine the honey bee and the constructed hive boxes. Recently a focus on the Rusty Patch Bumblebee has extended the perception modestly. There are however myriad pollinators, and even a diverse range of types of bees. The Arboretum will host a broad spectrum of plants that support both pollinators and butterflies, and we hope to see examples of this diversity.

Cindy Lupin appreciates the presence of the extensive display and writes about one type of bee she has observed:

My husband and I enjoy walking our dogs at the Arboretum. Last week I noticed a foraging bee within one of the flower circles. She was a Leafcutter Bee. I watched as she gathered pollen on her bright yellow underside while seeking nectar from the flowers.

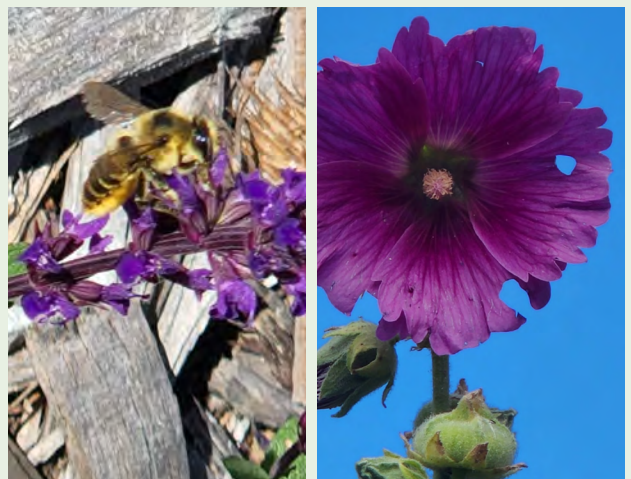
Why is this bee called a Leafcutter Bee instead of a Yellow-bottomed Bee? Because she cuts small circles from leaves or flowers to cushion and separate her eggs within a hollow stem, hole or tube.

You may have seen these holes in your garden. They do not damage the plants.

Leafcutter eggs remain safe in their hollow stems to develop all winter. You may wish to leave some plant stems up in your garden for them. In the spring adult Leafcutter Bees emerge to carry on their life cycles for one more year.

If you are intrigued by bees, I highly recommend "My Garden of 1000 Bees," a NATURE documentary shown on PBS. There you will meet a Leafcutter Bee and other fascinating wild bee species in action.

Even now, before winter, you can watch for the bee with a bright yellow underside and the circular holes she leaves behind.



A Leafcutter Bee and the circular cut-outs it creates.

TREE GUARDS

Jerry Fox, who has waged a maniacal assault against thistles on the Arboretum grounds throughout the year, has also led the initiative to protect all the planted trees with tree guards. Bucks rub the velvet off their antlers against the trunks of young trees in fall, and the size tree we have planted is, in their view, optimal for that function. The initial batch of guards were an open mesh design to preclude mice from establishing winter nests within the tube. The second batch are tight-fitting for the same reason, as the mice tend to girdle trees while nesting in the tubes. Karen Steingraber, the Two Rivers Rotary, and others have contributed greatly their time to the effort of installing this protection.



Stanley Palmer and Erin Gonnerman of the Two Rivers Rotary install tree guards. Photo courtesy of Betty Bittner.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM INSTALLED

Coming to the realization that watering the 740 trees planted this spring would preclude any other activities on the site, we contacted Bruce Steinhauer of Steinie's Water Gardens of Two Rivers for advice on irrigation methods.

Bruce graciously undertook the project of devising and installing a drip irrigation system for each tree utilizing city water, interrupting his already full schedule. Several miles of tubing were installed in nine different zones, with the concomitant valves and controls.

The trees responded appreciatively, doing very well throughout the summer. Mortality was limited to only about 1% of those trees planted, almost all of which were bare root plantings. Board member Karen Steingraber most generously contributed the cost of this system. It will be reconfigured each year as future planting requires.

JOTS

Two Rivers School Kick-off

Diane Johnson, Two Rivers School Superintendent, noted that Two Rivers School District employees started their 2022 school year with an optional 6:00am "Sunshine, Sunflowers, and a Stroll" through the Arboretum. The staff who attended had so many great things to say about the Arboretum and are expected to let others know.



Two Rivers School District employees at the Arboretum. Photo courtesy of Diane Johnson.

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

The Two Rivers City Council and Staff Members were given an evening tour of the Arboretum by John Durbrow and Board members Don Schweiger and Jerry Fox on Tuesday, August 30. We appreciated the opportunity to familiarize the group with our progress and future plans.



Two Rivers City Council and Staff and John Durbrow view a Franciscan Garden in the Arboretum. Photo courtesy of Brian Henrickson.

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



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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