



February 2023

Hello Ashton,

We are grateful for the new month ahead as we welcome February. Did you know that February originates from the Latin word *februa*, which means "to cleanse"? We challenge you to get outside, breathe fresh air, and admire the natural surroundings this month!

The countdown is on: 47 more days till the first official day of spring! We use these last winter months to plan and prepare for all of the exciting things to come throughout the year. Do you start planning your gardens, spring projects, or to-do lists now? We hope that as you stroll through the Arboretum, you are filled with inspiration. See you soon! "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."- Eleanor Roosevelt.

Warm Regards,
Ashton Robinson, Park Director

What's Happening?



Winter fun at Mahr Park Arboretum!

There are ample benefits to getting outdoors in the winter. Outdoor winter activities ideas:

- Take a nature hike; animals, plants, and trees are different with each season, and it's fun to observe these changing scenes!
- Have a winter picnic! Layer up and bring warm food and drinks to your favorite spot!
- Go bird-watching! Winter brings unique migratory birds to the Arboretum; grab your binoculars and explore!
- Winter photography; You can grab your camera and photograph all that catches your eye.
- Help us keep our park clean! Grab a bag, a friend, or even your organization, and have a clean-up day!
- Grab some friends to practice a round of disc golf- you're sure to warm up quickly!

We love seeing you enjoy our services all year. Bundle up and enjoy the fresh winter air.

Photo credit: Heath Hancock

Junior Naturalist, 4-H Environmental Science Club

The Junior Naturalist class meets monthly in the Mahr Discovery classroom. The January class focused on fossils. The students were led by Maria Bailey and her helper, Mary. The guest speaker, Professor Christine Witkowski from Murray State University, provided students with a hands-on learning experience while also discussing the importance of geology. The students enjoyed creating fossils and studying the various types.





Winter Projects



Creek Trail

We invite you to explore our new soft hiking trail. Our crew has been working on cleaning and prepping the Creek Trail.

You can access the creek trail from our seven-acre pollinator garden. Turn left as you enter the garden, and you will see the beginning of the trail. The creek trail runs to Lake Pee Wee and is the perfect "path less taken" trail. The trail encompasses lush trees and a surprise or two along the way!

Fun Fact: The creek trail is part of the Greasy creek-Clear creek watershed. Our goal is to add interpretive signage to this area to educate visitors on the organisms that inhabit creeks and the importance of these streams to our water systems.

[Park Map](#)





Grounds Crew, Mark Wilson



Grounds Crew, Paul Camplin

Erosion Control

Crews have also been busy making sure areas of the soft hiking trail are easily accessible.



Grounds Crew, Ted Chandler, and Shawn Funkhouser





In search of **Spring Tree Donors!**

\$350.00 for a planted tree and plaque.
[270-584-9017](tel:270-584-9017) or mahrpark@madisonvillegov.com

Invest in the future of Mahr Park Arboretum.

We are looking for individuals to donate trees for spring planting. Last year we had 11 tree donors for spring tree planting. We have yet to have any donors sign up for spring planting so we would like your help.

The process of donating is easy! Below you will find the link to our website to access our tree donor brochure; these can also be picked up at the Welcome Center. With your support of \$350.00, we will have a tree planted in your name. Please help us grow!

[Learn More](#)



Winter Trekking Guided Hike

The Winter Trekking Hike on Saturday, January 21, was well attended, and the sunshine was a delight. Guests

were led around the Arboretum by guided hike leaders Chip Tate, Maria Bailey, Michael, and Lisa Meadows. The park's 40-acre forest is a jewel and continues to be appreciated for observing and enjoying nature.



New Rockers Arrived

Sit back and enjoy the view! These beautiful new rockers were custom-built in the Tennessee mountains. There are eight rockers in Barn B and four in Barn A. Take in the best sights and sounds as you relax on the porch.



**Volunteer Spotlight:
Beverly Hamman**



"I began volunteering at Mahr Park Arboretum in the summer of 2016 after a 50-year career in health care in various administrative positions at Trover Clinic, Hopkins County Hospital, and finally at Regional Medical Center.

My husband, Dr. Hamman, and I were only acutely aware of the mechanisms of development of Mahr Park Arboretum when Mary Lou Boal suggested that we host a fundraiser. Together with Mary Lou and Bob Boal, we hosted a fundraiser at our home in 2014, and the money raised was to be used for the development of the Welcome Center.

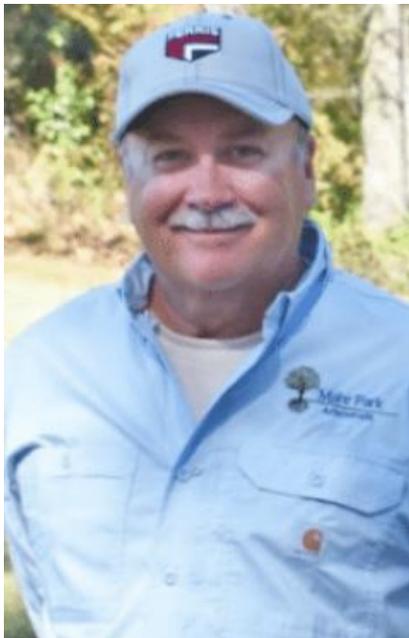
My first volunteer assignment was to clean the Mahr Historic home in preparation for Mahr Park Arboretum's grand opening. Since then, my

volunteer activities have included facility care, planting, and

watering the Nature Play Area gardens and the Mahr Historic Home. We, volunteers, are also called upon for some special events. Although I prefer hands-on work in the gardens, further satisfaction is recruiting other volunteers to join us. Thus, I have been able to meet new friends and reconnect with others.

I love to see the Nature Play Area being used by children, the planting of trees, the development of the pollinator garden with its Eagle Scout project, and school children coming to the Park for a day of education mixed with fun. Another pleasure of volunteering is encountering first-time local visitors and those from faraway places who marvel at the unique beauty and opportunities the Park provides. It is a pleasure to work with the entire crew at Mahr Park Arboretum." - Beverly Hamman.

Contact us at Mahr Park Arboretum for more information about volunteering at 270-584-9017 or mahrpark@madisonvillegov.com.



Staff Spotlight: Paul Camplin

Paul Camplin started working for Mahr Park Arboretum in 2018, just two years after the park opened. Paul's dependability and attention to detail are valuable to our team. His favorite thing about working at Mahr Park is seeing the familiar faces of visitors and spending time outdoors. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family, especially his grandkids. He enjoys attending UK ballgames, SEC tournaments, and vacationing. Thank you, Paul, for keeping Mahr Park beautiful for all to enjoy!

Coming up this month!

Join Hopkins County UK Horticulture Extension Agent Erika Wood for the Great Backyard Bird Count weekend event Saturday, February 18, and Sunday, February 19, 2023!



Upcoming Events

02/18/23, Great Backyard Bird Count, Bird ID 101 class and hike, 10 AM-12 PM
*Meet at Welcome Center

02/19/23, Attracting Birds to your Garden class and hike, 2-4 PM
*Meet at Welcome Center

03/04/23, Master Gardener Educational Presenter, Jacob Crider, Educator and Naturalist, Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve: How to Create Your Own Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat and How to Garden for Wildlife.
*Barn A

03/05/23, Volunteer Recruitment Day, 2-4 PM
*Meet at Welcome Center

03/12/23, Sunday Seminar, 2-4 PM
*Mahr Historic Home

03/25/23, Star Party, Barn B, 7-8 PM
*Barn B



Educational Presenter

**Jacob Crider, Educator and Naturalist,
Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve**

"HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CERTIFIED BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT" AND "HOW TO GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE."



*Open to the
public!*

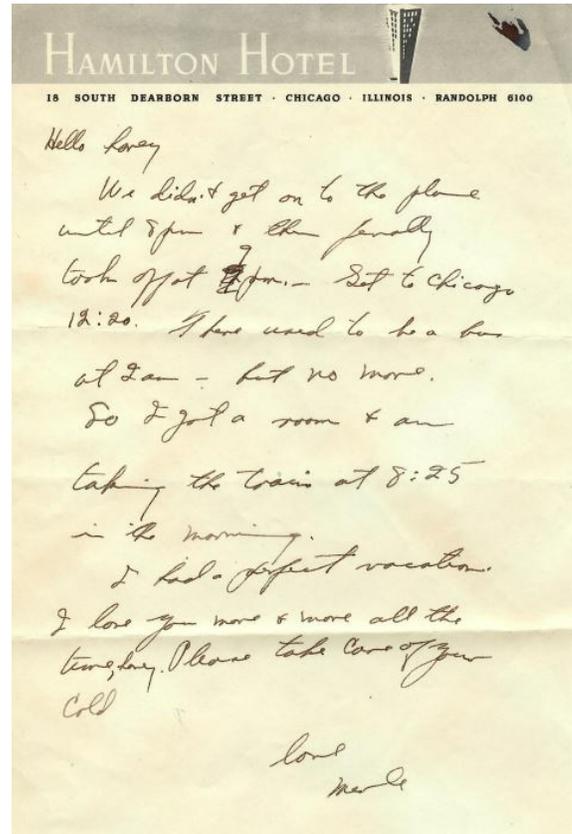
Pennyroyal Master Gardener
Association New Website!

Mahr Legacy of Love



In honor of Valentines Day.

Dr. Mahr and Glema's great love for each other is shown with stacks of love letters. Below is one of many from Dr. Merle Mahr to Glema Mahr.



Tag us on social media or email your photos of your next visit to Mahr Park Arboretum! You may be featured in the following Newsletter!

#mahr park / @mahrparkarboretum / mahrpark@madisonvillegov.com





What service have you enjoyed most this month?

Trails

Nature Play Area

Disc Golf

Event Facilities

Guided Educational Events

Wildlife

Other



Mahr Park
Arboretum

Contact Us

(270) 584-9017

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Visit our Website

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