



March 2023

Hello Ashton,

Welcome to the third month of the year; I hope you are excited about the warmer weather and signs of spring! We have seen more visitors enjoying all Mahr Park Arboretum has to offer. It is a busy season ahead with a complete line up of programs and events. From partnerships with Pennyroyal Master Gardeners with educational presenters, Volunteer Recruitment Open House, Sunday Seminars, and Star Party's making a return, be sure to see the line-up at the bottom!

We are here to serve you, and we always appreciate your feedback and enjoy seeing you use our services. Enjoy the natural beauty of the Arboretum this month; as always, we hope to see you soon. "I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in." -John Muir

Warm Regards,
Ashton Robinson, Park Director

Oh hello, spring!



Come check out all of the new blooms around the Arboretum.

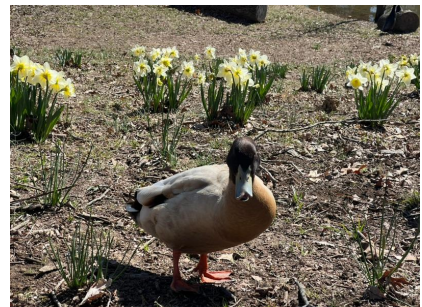
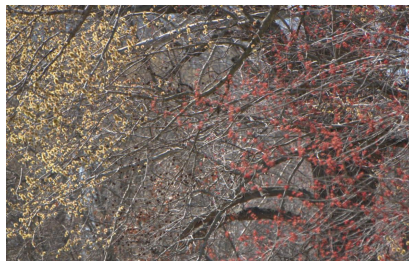
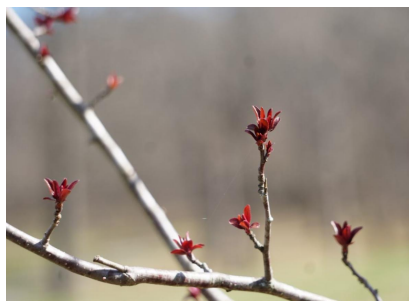
Plants and trees are budding, and many daffodils in full bloom! We often hear Daffodil called by many names- Narcissus, Jonquil and Easter flowers. If you want to learn more about these joyful blooms, Check out the link below from the American Daffodil Society Library, with over 60 years of information.

[Read more about Daffodils.](#)

March 20 marks the official first day of spring.

Don't forget to "spring forward" your clocks on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

We are ready to enjoy longer natural daylight in the evenings!





Kentucky Fishing: Reminder for New License!

Kentucky fishing license year begins today, March 1, and continues through the last day of February.

New licenses are required annually by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. Resident and nonresident youth ages 15 and younger are not required to purchase licenses or fishing permits.

We hope you enjoy the ample recreational fishing opportunities at Mahr Park Arboretum, with seven ponds and a shoreline border of 420-acre Lake Pee Wee.

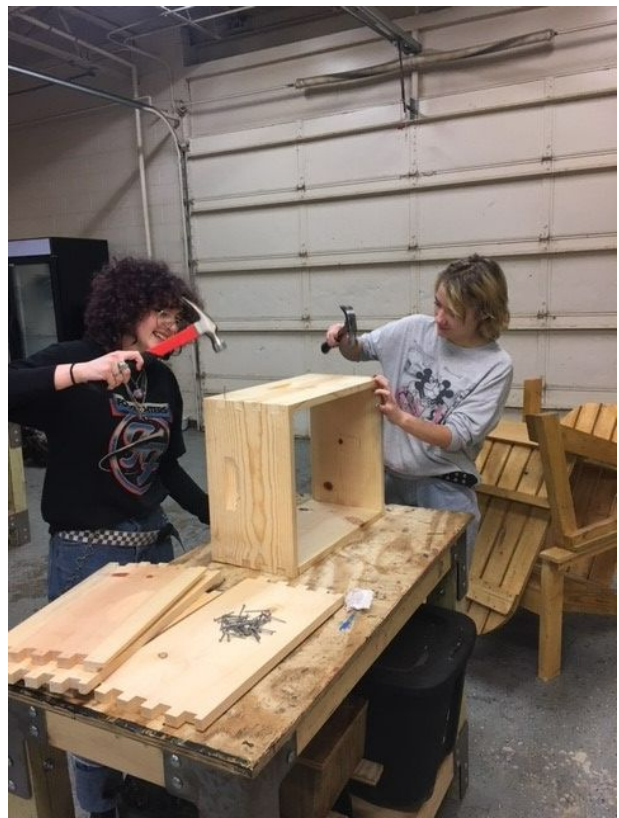
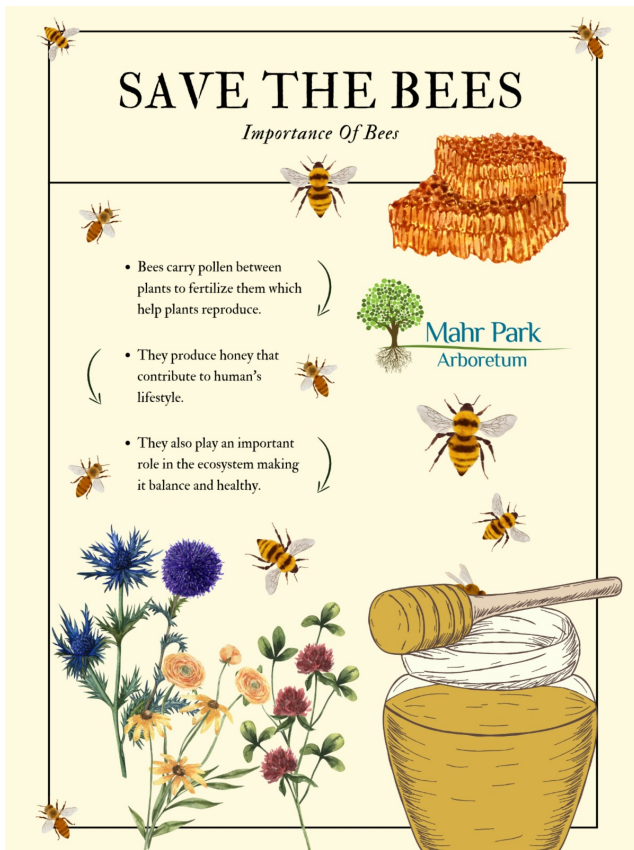
[Kentucky Fishing Licenses](#)

New Bee Program!

We are delighted to introduce a new educational tool for 2023, bee hives. Audubon Bee Keepers donated the bees and boxes to Mahr Park Arboretum.

We had 11 Madisonville North Hopkins High school students build the boxes in class. Seeing new partnerships blossom and opportunities for volunteers, our community, and educational resources are exciting. Volunteers interested in assisting this year must attend Bee School on 3/4 and have volunteer paperwork. Bees are vital to life; recognizing their importance is critical to our natural world's future.





The Great Backyard Bird Count 2023

The Great Backyard Bird Count was launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. These observations help scientists better

understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. ([Bird Count](#)) Last month, the Great Backyard Bird Count hike and classes at Mahr Park Arboretum were led by Erika Wood, Hopkins County Extension Horticulture agent, and park volunteer. Guests were engaged with presentations on "Birding 101" and "How to Attract Birds to your Garden." Here is data from Niki Rothwell of 42 different bird species at the Arboretum during the count on 2/20/23.

Mahr Park Arboretum

Feb 20, 2023

10:25 AM

Traveling

10.58 miles

402 minutes

1 Canada Goose
8 Mallard
2 Bufflehead
2 Pied-billed Grebe
1 Mourning Dove
13 American Coot
15 Ring-billed Gull
1 Great Blue Heron
6 Turkey Vulture
1 Sharp-shinned Hawk
1 Bald Eagle -- Adult
2 Red-tailed Hawk
1 Belted Kingfisher
1 Red-headed Woodpecker
5 Red-bellied Woodpecker
4 Downy Woodpecker
4 Northern Flicker
1 American Kestrel
8 Blue Jay
3 American Crow
3 Carolina Chickadee
10 Tufted Titmouse
1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
3 White-breasted Nuthatch
1 Carolina Wren
20 European Starling
1 Brown Thrasher
1 Northern Mockingbird
6 Eastern Bluebird
8 American Robin
1 House Finch
2 American Goldfinch
7 Dark-eyed Junco
10 White-throated Sparrow
2 Song Sparrow
2 Swamp Sparrow -- Rufus wings, streaked back, unstreaked gray breast, grayish cheeks Rufus on crown
3 Eastern Towhee
4 Red-winged Blackbird
2 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Rusty Blackbird
30 Common Grackle
8 Northern Cardinal





Looking for a quiet picnic spot?



We recently added a unique picnic area in the Pollinator Garden. Kayakers will delight as they can paddle up to this spot, stretch their legs and enjoy a picnic!



We appreciate our crews preparing for a busy season, from painting, staining, building, and all the above. Our team enjoys seeing you enjoy and appreciate our services.

Grounds Supervisor David Smith cleaning out some invasives in our Wetland Area while they are still dormant.

Prescribed Burn on Pollinator Garden

Our Grounds team completed a prescribed burn on our native pollinator garden. By doing this nutrients will be added into the soil, lush regrowth, and keeps the habitat healthy long term. We perform these every other year.



Leadership Hopkins County 2023 Community Projects



Message Boards

The Leadership Hopkins County Class of 2023 proudly introduces community message boards to Madisonville and Hopkins County. Group members include: Bonita Thorp, Clinton Linder, Jessica Daniels, Joy Bowles, Kyle Groves and Ashton Robinson. Even in the age of technology, we understand that some community information is still hard to find. We hope to provide easily accessible information outlets for members of our community, allowing the opportunity to be informed and inform others about what is happening right here at home. Two boards can be found at Mahr Park Arboretum, and a third is in Madisonville City Park. To submit event information, please deliver to the Welcome Center at Mahr Park Arboretum or the Pro Shop at Madisonville City Park.

***All submissions must follow specific rules and regulations for appropriate content before posting.**



Story Walk

A new program will be introduced to Hopkins County on March 25, 2023 at Mahr Park Arboretum. Story Walk is a portable story board system and will feature a book on display for families to read along the trail. Leadership Hopkins County 2023 "The Chosen Ones" include:

Amanda Dame, Stephanie Franklin, Nicholas Foster, Jennifer Daves, Katie Beeny, and Ann Elkins.

The group believes the project is an excellent way for adults and their young children or grandchildren to combine literacy skills and healthy exercise as they walk the trail to each reading station while enjoying the beauty and outdoors of each destination. It will be at Mahr Park Arboretum paved trail near the kayak launch trailhead, March 25th-April 9. They will then turn the Story Walk over to the Hopkins County Public Library for future uses. Look for updates on a Facebook event page soon!

Join us for a StoryWalk®



Mahr Park Arboretum
55 Mahr Park Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431
***Meet at Kayak Launch Area**

Saturday, March 25, 2023
@ 10:00 a.m.

First 30 families receive StoryWalk Swag Bags

This story is brought to you in partnership with Leadership Hopkins County Class of 2023, the Hopkins County Public Library, and Ahlstrom.




Family Fun

Healthy Exercise

Literacy Skills




The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

Who's up for an adventure? Raise your paw!

Added features in the dog park make for a fun trip! Visitors



Maggie enjoying the tunnel!

stop in Madisonville to use our dog parks often. Letting their fur babies release some energy. Locals use our dog parks as a part of their daily routines. We see the importance of enhancing the visitor experience with even the small touches.



Volunteer Spotlight: Chip Tate



"My first experience with the Park came in the fall of 2014 when the City of Madisonville invited me as the Executive Director of the United Way of the Coalfield to consider a Day of Caring Volunteer Project. Since the day I spent in 2014 with Danny Peyton sharing the Mahr's Story and giving me a tour of the grounds, I fell in love with the natural beauty of the land and the tranquility it offers. That year 60 community-minded volunteers started working on the grounds, which primarily involved removing cattle fencing where Glema Mahr had been raising Black Angus cattle. In 2015, over 150 community-minded volunteers were determined to become a part of the Mahr's Legacy and assist in preparing the Park to open the following year fulfilling the Mahr's Vision. In the summer of 2016, while visiting the Park with the Hopkins County Happy Feet Committee, I was told that the Park was looking for volunteers, and the rest is history. That summer, my volunteer activities involved preparing the Mahr's Historic Home for the Park's official opening on October 29, 2016. After the Park opened, my primary role was sharing the Mahr's history with visitors and leading guided hikes. Since then, my volunteer role has expanded into assisting with the Blue Bird and Purple Martin landlord programs, leading guided hikes, conducting park tours, arboretum tree tagging, and supporting the educational programs and Harvest Fest events. As a volunteer, my greatest pleasure and reward are seeing our visitors experience the same experience I had in 2014 when I first stepped foot on this beautiful land and realized how special this gift the Mahrs left us all to enjoy. As Lead Volunteer, I support our Park Director, Ashton Robinson, in coordinating volunteer activities and

communications.

I found something extraordinary when I experienced the natural beauty and opportunities Mahr Park Arboretum has to offer, and you can too! It may be the miles of trails to walk or hike, the

Nature Play Area for your children, the Dog Park for your furry family members, disc golf, a bike or kayak, or just a bench or rocker to enjoy the views but there is something for everyone to enjoy in this special place.

If you have the time to become a volunteer, come out and join in the vision the Mahr's began in 1963 at a place they loved and called "Hidden Hills Farm" and create your unique memories" - Chip Tate

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

Staff Spotlight: Ashlyn Proffitt



Ashlyn Proffitt has been employed with the Arboretum since the fall of 2020. She loves everything about Mahr Park Arboretum, from the picturesque setting to the many visitors she encounters daily. Ashlyn is always willing to lend a helping hand and has a keen eye for details and problem-solving. Seeing people create memories in such a special place is rewarding to her. Ashlyn received her Bachelor's degree from Murray State University last year.

Ashlyn loves time spent with her six-month-old Stetson and husband Quaid. You will likely find her enjoying the outdoors, playing golf, or spoiling her fur babies, Bentley, and Boots, in her free time! We are grateful to have Ashlyn on the Mahr team.

Mark your Calendar!

Upcoming Events

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. 10 AM

*Barn A

03/04/23 Audubon Bee Keepers Association
Yearly Bee School [Audubon Bee Keepers Association](#) 8:30 AM

*Henderson Extension Expo Center 3341 Zion Rd.
Henderson, Ky

03/05/23, Volunteer Recruitment Day (Open House), 2-4 PM

*Meet at Welcome Center

03/11/23, 4-H Environmental Science Club, Jr. Naturalist, 10 AM

*Meet at Welcome Center

03/12/23, Sunday Seminar, Nurture to Nature, 2-4 PM. [More info!](#)

*Barn B

03/18/23, Ignite Missions 5K, 10 AM registration
[Sign-up!](#)

*Kayak Launch Trailhead

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

*Barn B

03/25/23, Story Walk, Presented by Leadership Hopkins County, 10 AM

*Kayak Launch Trailhead



HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CERTIFIED BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT

Gardening for Wildlife

JACOB CRIDER, EDUCATOR AND NATURALIST WITH
CREASEY MAHAN NATURE PRESERVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023
10:00 A.M.

MAHR PARK ARBORETUM, EVENT BARN A
MADISONVILLE, KY

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

EXTENSION: K9-40028

The Mahr legacy lives on...



Glema Mahr on the farm with her Black Angus cattle.

We are preparing a Mahr video featuring Dr. Jack Hamman and Shirley Peyton. The video will include special memories, pictures and a look back at the Mahr's lives and what make them unique. This will be released in 2023!

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



First kayakers of 2023!



@ Kori Towe



Mahr Park
Arboretum

Contact Us

(270) 584-9017

mahrpark@madisonvillegov.com

Visit our Website

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