Before it was Maywood...

In looking back at the history of Maywood, we came across many names that were familiar from articles and founding documents. And then there was a name less familiar to us — Arnold Georgeson. Georgeson was the property-groundkeeper of the May Farm. When it was willed to the City of Sheboygan in 1975, a proviso was written for Georgeson to stay on and go on caring for the Maywood property. In the Maywood scrapbooks, we found a Sheboygan Press article from August 11, 1975. It talked about children exploring the May Property as part of summer exploration. The article included a picture of Georgeson and three children enjoying the association with people with similar interests.

In this article, Georgeson is quoted: “It’s really good to see this place enjoyed by the kids. It is the way it should be.”

Arnold passed away in 1980 and never saw Maywood officially become an environmental park in 1983. But all along, there was a group of friends and other urban or international residents who believed in the value of an educational component to the property and an exceptional experience for the visitor. I enjoy the change of seasons — the various gardens and natural plant materials are never the same. Observing them as the seasons change is a visceral experience for those students, and I think it is important for all young adults to have such experiences.

The day starts early and ends late for Earth Ride volunteers

It is always thrilling for me to bring students to a place like the Lake Michigan Discovery Center. It represents both educational and recreational aspects that I believed would serve the community and City of Sheboygan. Maywood and Lake Winnebago. It is important for all young adults to have such experiences.

By Cindy Van Akkeren

Wisconsinites have been leaders in ecology and conservation

A seasonal nature series for all adults combining indoor explanation with outdoor exploration.

John Muir is often called the Father of Our National Park System.

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Wisconsin Seniors Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day on April 22, 1970 and started a movement that led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Aldo Leopold's (1887-1940) proposal for the concept of the National Forest Service was instrumental in developing the proposal to establish the National Forest System.

It became the country’s first official wilderness area in 1964.

Leopold’s work inspired millions of people across the country. He is known for his love of the outdoors and his commitment to conservation.

Leopold’s A Sand County Almanac (1949) was a collection of essays published after his death in 1948. It has become a conservation classic.

Wisconsin Senior Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day on April 22, 1970 and started a movement that led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Nelson founded the Wisconsin Environmental Act in 1967. Nelson and the Wisconsin Conservation Board have been leaders in ecology and conservation.

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Aluminum Eagle,” which calls for an ethical, caring approach to the land’s use.

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The Leading Edge
Winter 2019-20

Maywood's Master Site Plan

In his will, Ellwood H. May stipulated that his home and 135 acres surrounding it, "be used only for recreation, park or golf course" and "the name Ellwood H. May be used in the name, title or designation of such area, park or club." In 1980, the City of Sheboygan Board of Forestry Commission worked with Leisure Concepts & Design of Mt. Prospect, Illinois to develop a master site plan for the property. During the review process, community expectations were clearly in favor of conservation, protection, and appropriate uses of the natural features and not simply an extension of Evergreen Park. A 1980 environmental study stated that "the natural conditions existing on the May property are worthy of preservation and conservation and suggest that future use of the site should be restricted to conservation and protection use."

Objectives outlined in the site plan include:
- Use the May residence as an Ecology Center
- Conduct community programs that foster environmental education.
- Develop cooperative relationships with civic and service organizations.
- Increase the community’s knowledge of the natural world and its environment.
- Give the community an opportunity to learn and work together for its common benefit.

The plan also offers a list of 90 potential programs and services to inspire all ages to learn, preserve, and participate in nature and the environment including:
- Solitary Nature Walks
- Children’s Day Camp
- Cross Country Skiing
- Animal Behavior Workshops
- Memorial Plantings
- School Nature Classes

As Maywood Park Director Dave Kuckuk notes, "We pretty much have done everything that was in the first master site plan."

Maywood is now engaged in the process of creating a new master plan. We wish to maximize the use of our existing grounds and structures, look at incremental improvements to expand our programming, and create our vision for the future.

On top map is the initial assessment of the Mayowood property. On the bottom is the master plan that has been followed since Maywood was established.

Don’t forget Nature-Based Preschool registration

The goal of Nature-Based Preschool is to inspier confidence, kindness and an enduring love of nature. When every day is an adventure at nature preschool! We encourage the students to find innovative ways of approaching challenges, whether they’re interpersonal, academic, or physical. Our goal is to inspire confidence and kindness, but above all, an enduring love of nature in our students.~ Willa Leannah, Nature-Based Preschool teacher

For more information on the Nature-Based Preschool and the most up to date registration information, visit the Sheboygan County YMCA website:
https://sheboyganymca.org/camp-y/4k/maywood-nature-school-4k.html

or the Sheboygan Area School District website:
https://www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us/schools/4kpartnership.cfm

Nature-Based Preschool is a collaboration between Mayowood, the Sheboygan County YMCA, and the Sheboygan Area School District.

1970 brought about a transition in America with new trends such as bell bottoms, longer men’s hair styles, and increased environmental awareness. John Denver’s first hit, “Leavin’ on a Jet Plane,” as sung by Tony, Paul, and Mary in 1969, had propelled him into stardom as he released another hit with his own vocals in 1971, “Take Me Home Country Roads.” Throughout his career, he honed in on environmental issues and shared his love of nature through song.

Famed backpacker, Colin Fletcher, released his first edition of The Complete Walker in 1965, setting in motion public interest in nature exploration on foot. The book became a go-to reference for anyone desiring to become a backpacker, and has resulted in three subsequent new editions over the years. For those wanting to live with the land, Mother Earth News released its first edition in January of 1970. This magazine, still in print today, is highly sought by those off-gridders seeking a more natural, sustainable lifestyle. The late 1960s saw an uptick in Boy Scouts, enabling the print of its 1965 handbook to be of financial support through advertisements for bicycle tires, BB guns, and baseball mits.

The stars were definitely in alignment for the creation of a day to commemorate our planet and to make environmental stewardship a global concern. We as Wisconsinites can be very proud that Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson was instrumental in this initiative, creating Earth Day on April 22, 1970.

Personally, that day became a defining moment for me as well. As an 8th grade student on Wednesday, April 22, 1970 our homeroom class walked 1.5 miles to a local park where we picked up the litter along a river. I would repeat this process along the shoreline of our summer lake residence, and throughout my adult life. In fact, the mantra that Ed Abell, President
Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Association of Sheboygan County, Inc.

GoMaywood.org

Association Trust
President: Ed Abell
Park Director: David Kuckuk
Trust Administrator: Angie Doell
Volunteer Coordinator: Cindy Van Akkeren
Ecoguide Editor: Sue Bohme

Environmental Park Staff
Park Curator: Chad Prangner

Our Mission
To foster environmental stewardship through educational and outdoor experiences that connect our community with the natural world.

Focus the May residence as an Ecology Center.

Donate to support our programs.

Memorial Plantings

Solitary Nature Walks

Cross Country Skiing

Children’s Day Camp

School Nature Classes

Sheboygan County, Inc.

Volunteer Coordinator: Cindy Van Akkeren

Trust Administrator: Angie Doell

Park Director: David Kuckuk

President: Ed Abell

Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Association of Sheboygan County, Inc.

Winter 2019-20

Celebrating 50 years of Earth Day


http://www.maywoodwi.org

Ed Abell, President
Ellwood H. May Environmental Park Association of Sheboygan County, Inc.

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About this time, an insecticide called DDT was under scrutiny for its devastating effects on wildlife, especially those high on the food chain. Bio-accumulation of DDT in barns and eagles greatly threatened their existence. This increasing concern reached the public eye in 1972, and ultimately the formation of the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

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