



Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center

located in the countryside of West Bend, we serve all those living with profound life challenges

Spring 2019

A Roast in West Bend or The Story of Three Mikes

On February 21st, Blue Lotus held a fundraiser at the Prairie Center in West Bend. 148 people enjoyed a three-course dinner with an open cash bar. Cocktail hour entertainment was provided by Electra/Asylum recording artist Freddy Bliffert and the Blifftones, who dazzled the crowd with their musical stylings. Our MC for the evening was local celebrity Mike Paul, who along with sidekicks Bink Steinbeck, former owner of the Binkery, and Mike Christian, a West Bend alderman, delivered a spirited roast of Jeff Szukalski, owner of Jeff's Spirits on Main Street. Jeff has been a generous contributor to Blue Lotus. The hall was filled with laughter as Jeff bravely withstood the tongue-in-cheek insults hurled at him by Mike, Bink, and Mike. It was all good-natured fun, which the audience thoroughly enjoyed.

After the roast, the mic was turned over to Dawn Goralski, founder of Fun With Friends, an organization that takes people with special needs on summer outings. This is how Dawn began her remarks, "I would like to talk a little bit about the magic I have witnessed at Blue Lotus." Dawn was there to introduce a Blue Lotus regular named Jared. "...the first year I worked with Jared, I never heard him speak a word... now it's hard to shut him up. I credit Blue Lotus for bringing about some of these changes."

And then she introduced Jared who, with wide-eyed enthusiasm, shared inspiring stories of adventure, discovery, and success. Jared was followed by another Blue Lotus client, Mike (Mike #3), who highlighted the freedom and independence he experienced at Blue Lotus. When they were done, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. It was a wonderful evening, one that we won't soon forget. We are grateful to all our new found friends in West Bend for supporting this event.



Make a Difference this Spring

Spring has finally arrived, which means our Work Days are just around the corner.



On our clean-up days, May 11th and May 18th, come enjoy a day outside while helping us "wake up" our grounds. A wide variety of jobs are available, such as: cleaning up the garden beds, clearing our trails, blowing leaves, spreading mulch, setting up our recreational equipment, deep cleaning the pavilion and house, and many other tasks. We have something for everyone. The transformation is remarkable.

Calling all gardeners, from novice to master, to join us for our **Planting Day on May 29th**. Help us fill our many pots and flower beds with a rainbow of colorful annuals and perennials. If you can dig a hole, we can use your help.

Flower Donations Needed! Each year, we plant over 30 flats of flowers throughout the grounds. As guests enter our main area, they are surrounded by stunning displays of color on all sides. In order to accomplish this, we need your help! If you are willing to donate flowers, organic potting soil, or nursery gift cards, please contact Lisa as soon as possible to find out what we need most. Contact Lisa@bluelotusfarm.org or call (272) 675-2473.



Clean-Up

May 11th and May 18th

Planting Day:

May 29th

All Work Days

9:00am to 1:00pm

Snacks and Lunch are provided.

Bring work gloves if you have them.

Please let us know you are coming! Give us a call or email Lisa at lisa@bluelotusfarm.org.



Blue Lotus Access Road Update

As most of you know, we held a major fund drive last September raising over \$100,000 for much needed repairs to our single lane ¾ mile access road. We like to think of it as “decompression drive,” because it carries visitors from the hubbub of the city and highway to the peace and quiet of Blue Lotus Farm.

Throughout the winter Fred Bliffert (Co-Founder and trustee) worked with Jim Maloney from Lynch & Associates Engineering Consultants, LLC to design a plan to shore up the road and create three turn-outs.

That design is complete and preparations for the actual work are well underway. Step one: buy a ¼ acre of land from our neighbor to the south. Step two: secure the necessary permits. Step three: engage a contractor to do the work. All that is now in place.

So, in April R & K Excavating, Inc. from West Bend will begin removing marsh-land from the south side of the most damaged part of the road. When the wetland is thoroughly dredged, it will be replaced by giant boulders to provide a stable foundation for the road bed. The boulders will then be topped by rocks, in descending order of size, and finally by layers of gravel – all-in-all 2,400 tons of rocks will be required. This is a dream project for anyone who loves bulldozers and backhoes.

Fred Bliffert reports, “We hope to begin work by the end of April and complete the work early in May, just in time to welcome the 2019 season of special guests.” **Blue Lotus is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this massive project. We could not repair our access road without you.**

Sibling Zip Day



**Saturday
May 4th
10:00am - 2:00pm**

Blue Lotus is offering a special day just for the siblings of individuals with special needs. This is their opportunity to enjoy a fun day filled with nature-oriented activities. We will even have live animals from Schlitz Audubon.

Lunch and snacks are included. Visit the Events page on our website to register for these free events.



**Sponsored by the West Bend
Noon Rotary**



14th Annual Golf Outing Monday, July 22nd Hidden Glen Golf Course

Support our 14th annual Golf Outing by golfing, sponsoring a hole, or donating an auction item.

To register or for more information:
Call Kari at (262) 675-2473

A Volunteer Invitation

Groups will be joining us almost every day this summer to enjoy all that Blue Lotus has to offer. As you make your summer plans, find even just one day to come out and help us ensure that our guests have a truly memorable experience. And, we encourage you to bring a friend.



Zip-A Dee-Doo-Dah Days



Blue Lotus is offering special days just for your special needs child, you, and the rest of the family. Enjoy time away from life’s daily challenges.

**Wednesday, June 12th
Thursday, July 11th
Saturday, August 17th
10:00am - 3:00pm**

Register online or give us a call.

From the Desk of Kari

At Blue Lotus we are always looking for new ways to enhance the healing experience. This summer, thanks to the Potawatomi Heart of Canal grant, we will be installing a musical garden on the Blue Lotus property. Instead of flowers, percussion instruments will spring up from the ground offering opportunities for anyone who wishes to play. Our musical garden will include an imbarimba, a pegasus, a swirl, contrabass chimes, and tuned drums. Studies have shown that playing or listening to music promotes both health and well-being. Stay tuned (pun intentionally intended) for updates on this exciting new project. ~Kari



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