



Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center

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

Summer 2019

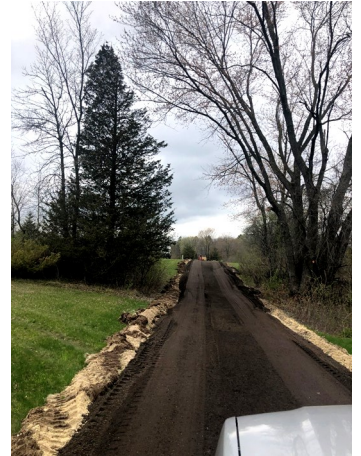
All Access Pass to Blue Lotus Farm

A road is a road is a road, right? Roads are everywhere, we take roads for granted. But, by the end of last summer, there was one very important road we could no longer ignore: the ¾ mile access road that leads to Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center. As most of you know, our access road was in desperate need of repair. We reached out and you heard the call, donating the funds that were needed for this extensive renovation.

Moser Grading Service, LLC has been hard at work; dozens of trees were removed, wetlands were drained and refilled with rocks, boulders, and new soil to shore up the road bed. The road was widened, several turn-outs were created, and the whole road, from highway to farmhouse, was covered in smooth black licorice blacktop.

After many months of hard work, we are thrilled to announce that our access road is complete! It's a beautiful road! A wondrous road! A road to be admired! Well, perhaps not by everyone, but certainly by the people who matter to us most. This solid, sturdy, rebuilt road will insure that our clients, who travel it every day during the spring, summer, and fall, will arrive safely, and comfortably. No more bumps! No more pot holes!

But we could not have done it without you. This project was made possible by our steadfast supporters who raised over \$100,000 in just 24 hours, and by additional contributions from Moser Grading Service, LLC. We can never thank you enough for making this possible: an all access pass for the 3,500 individuals we serve every year.



Find a Friend at Blue Lotus



Nine-year-old Lexi has a five-year-old brother named Quinten; Quinten has Down Syndrome. Lexi's dad says she's a big help at home. Lexi's mom says she's shy with strangers and slow to warm up.

However, when Lexi arrived at Blue Lotus for the first ever Sibling Zip Day, it didn't take long for her to seek out Callie, who is also 9. They hit it off immediately and

were inseparable by the end of the day. Lexi and Callie also discovered that they live in the same city and have since begun play dates almost every weekend. This is exactly what we hoped for – prayed for – when we scheduled our first ever Sibling Zip Day.

Blue Lotus is dedicated to providing a healing day in the country for children and adults facing profound life challenges. However, we realized early on that parents and caregivers also need a day to unwind and restore, so we designated special days for them, which we refer to as Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah Days. But then it occurred to us that the brothers and sisters of special needs children, many of whom have made extensive sacrifices for their siblings, might need a special day all for themselves.

Thanks to a grant from the **West Bend Noon Rotary Club**, and the assistance of their generous volunteers, we had our first ever Sibling Zip Day, on May 4th, for the brothers and sisters of children with special needs. Lexi and Callie's friendship is just one of many joyous outcomes from that special day. Stay tuned for more good news from Blue Lotus.

14th Annual Golf Outing

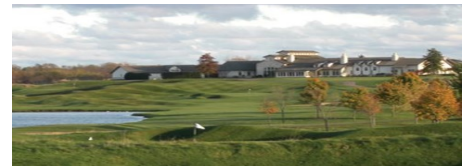
Monday, July 22nd

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



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.

Thursday, July 11th

Saturday, August 17th

10:00am - 3:00pm

Register online or give us a call.



Grand Avenue Club Embraces Blue Lotus

"Soothing, powerful, healthy, and life-affirming." This is how **Rachel Forman, Executive Director of Grand Avenue Club (GAC)**, an organization that serves people experiencing mental illness, described her group's yearly visit to Blue Lotus. Rachel recently shared her thoughts with me. I'd like to share them with you.

"Before arriving each member is given a list of all of the wonderful activities that they can engage in surrounded by greenery, a forest, a lake, a swimming pool, and many trails." But she is quick to point out, "If you just want to sit under a tree, then simply sit under a tree."

"GAC's motto contains many 'rights' including the right to a vacation. For most of our members, this is the only vacation they will have. Simply changing one's scenery can promote profound change. A trip to Blue Lotus shows that it doesn't matter your disability, color of skin, ethnicity, (or) religion; human needs are universal."

Then I asked her about the big take-away, "No matter how they spend their day, swimming, boating, or simply resting, all of our members take home a greater confidence and well-being in themselves."



As we were wrapping it up, Rachel offered the following, "I would like to see Blue Lotus acknowledged more broadly throughout the community. Civic leaders should support this enterprise. This accessible oasis, out of the city, contributes greatly to the lives of many people. A day at Blue Lotus is a life-enhancing experience."

And then my final question, "You must have many options, why keep coming here?"

"We return to Blue Lotus every year because, for us, Blue Lotus has become the summer home that none of our members have ever had. It is a place to return to, a place that is familiar, place that evokes wonderful memories, a place to which we will be welcomed warmly by staff and volunteers. We have never even considered looking into other options. We hope that Blue Lotus will be there for many more years!"

GAC has been returning to Blue Lotus every year since 2014.

Susan Bliffert



Swing Low, Swing High

One of the premiere pastimes for visitors at Blue Lotus is swinging under the canopied elms. Yes, swinging, back and forth in a swing, just as you did as a child. The exhilaration of flying through the air with the greatest of ease should not be limited by age, or gender, or any other restriction. Who doesn't love a good swing?

We are happy to announce the addition of two important new swings to those we already have. Thanks to funds from the **Potawatomi Heart of Canal Grant** and the work of our industrious volunteers, we just completed the installation of a wheelchair swing and adult accessible swing, so that all of our guests can experience the joy of childhood – of flying through the air with the greatest of ease.

Look what Happens When You Roll Up Your Sleeves!



Our Spring Work Days brought a record number of new and returning volunteers to Blue Lotus. Thanks to those who offered their time and their labor, we were able to accomplish a wide variety of necessary tasks in preparation for our summer season, which is now in full swing.

Boats and furniture were brought out of storage and power washed, fallen trees were removed from the trails and pond, and all the many flower beds throughout the property were cleared of weeds and debris. Then the beautification began. Over 375 perennials and annuals were planted, creating anew the colorful floral displays our guests appreciate so deeply.

We are grateful to **West Bend Youth Outreach Ministry, Holy Angels Mission Trip, Trinity Lutheran Church, MSOE Servant Leadership, West**

Bend High School NHS, and

TMG Wisconsin as well as

all of the individuals who helped us welcome our next summer season. Many hands truly do make light work.

