

The Arboretum News

Our mission is to create a community-based arboretum for the purposes of education, recreation, conservation, and the cooperation within the Platteville community.

WINTER 2016

Message from the President

Greetings from the Platteville Community Arboretum.

Allow me to introduce myself; I am Frank Steck, President of the Platteville Community Arboretum. I accepted the position when Ric Genthe stepped down earlier this year. My wife, Mary and I have lived on north 2nd Street for over twenty-five years. We've raised two lovely daughters in Platteville, Rita and Rebecca, both graduates of Platteville High School.

About three years ago, I was invited to join the PCA Board. At that time the PCA Board was involved in its first fund-raising effort, trying to raise \$100,000 for trail maintenance and improvements. That effort, while successful, served as the springboard for a subsequent effort to raise \$688,000 in matching dollars for trail paving and lighting. That effort culminated in a grand opening of the completed Platteville Community Arboretum trail planned for September 15, 2016. During the Grand Opening, a section of the trail was named in honor of Dr. David Canny, long-time supporter and booster of the trail.

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Canny Family Pledges \$6,400 Challenge Match

The David and Karen Canny Family have pledged \$6,400 as a challenge match to assist PCA in increasing the PCA Endowment Fund by \$62,500. PCA is working to increase their endowment in order to generate additional funds for trail maintenance. The \$62,500 increase in funds will generate approximately \$2,500 in spendable funds annually. These funds will be used to fulfill the PCA's committed to match any city 'pavement maintenance costs' up to \$2,500 per year.

Due to the Canny Family generosity, all donations to the PCA Endowment will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$6,400. So your \$10 donation will generate \$20 for the PCA Endowment Fund. Any person contributing \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a Lifetime Membership and recognition plate at trailhead entrance. As you determine year-end tax deductions, supporting the future of the trail may be the ideal option to consider. Checks payable to PCA Endowment can be mailed to PCA, Box 302, Platteville, WI 53818.

Ribbon Cutting on the David Canny Rountree Branch Trail



There was a good turnout for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the David Canny Rountree Branch Trail in September. The new trail is an excellent addition to our community. Thanks are in order to the many people who made this project possible.

The City of Platteville along with the Platteville Community Arboretum's leadership, Building Platteville and the Platteville Community Fund all played important roles in getting this project done. These and other groups and volunteers formed Moving Platteville Outdoors to provide an organization to accomplish the project. Overall leadership was provided by Gene Weber. Special thanks go to the Wisconsin DNR for much of the funding, along with 49th assembly representative Travis Tranel and Senator (51st district) Howard Marklein. These two representatives supported the trail

and worked to secure the funding needed for this project. Extra special thanks go to Cindy Tang along with Angie and Kris Wright. Thanks go to all who contributed or worked on this community project.

David Canny conceived the project many years ago but it took an upwelling of community support, many volunteer hours and a coalition of community groups to finally make it happen. The ribbon was cut by David Canny's widow as Mr. Canny did not live to see his dream realized. This section of trail has been named the David Canny Rountree Branch Trail in his honor.

This project which was long in conception and carried on by dedicated volunteers shows what we can do if we collaborate and work together.

platteville.
community
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Mike Penn - Vice President
Gene Weber - Secretary
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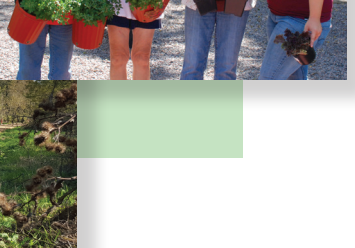
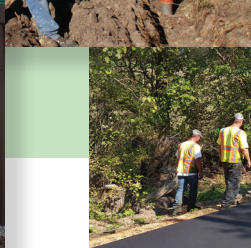
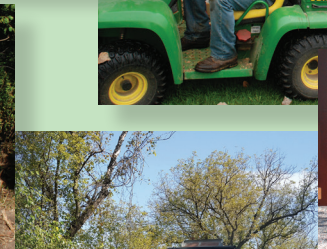
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Wonderful Volunteers Help MPO Come In Under Budget and Maintain Trail

Nearly 40 Volunteers have helped assure our MPO project came in under budget along with improving and maintaining the trail. Green teams were involved with intensive invasive (burdock, wild parsnip, etc.) removal and caring for the new or replacement plants, shrubs and trees (watering/weeding) and light brush cutting. Brown teams did landscaping; tree and heavy brush cutting, installation of fences, kiosks and brick pathways as well as bench assembly.

Bev Johansen, Bev Loy, Bob Hundhausen, Bob Weier, Carley Brocherding, Dave Carnahan, Dave Langkamp, Ellen Urness, Esther Pleva, Gary Tuescher, Gerard Abing, Jace Serres, Jan Weber, Jeff Becker, Jerry Bartels, John Duesbury, John Urness, Karen Canny, Karin Peacock, Lorraine Bartels, Lynne Tanner, Marsha McDermott, Matt Michaels, Mike Foley, Paul Budden, Paul McDermott, Rick Bockhop, Rob Serres, Ron Weier, Roxamme Abing, Spider Fromader, Staci Strobl, Steve Olenchek, Terry Seng, Tiffany Vance, Tom Young, Jack Teague, Lee Farina, Yari Johnson, Donita Cartmill, Wayne Schambow and Sue Schaefer are some of the volunteers that made the trail what it is.



Volunteer Feature: Paul McDermott

The volunteers of the Platteville Community Arboretum are truly what composes the infrastructure of the organization. With so many incredible additions and changes along the trail, the generosity of our volunteers is how these additions come to reality. Though all volunteers are thoroughly appreciated, there are a handful of volunteers that continually go above and beyond in aiding the PCA. Paul McDermott is one of those volunteers.

Paul is a 70-year-old retiree from Truman, Wisconsin, which is not far from Belmont. Paul and his wife, Marsha, recently moved to Platteville in February of 2015 from Madison, where he was an automotive technician and shop owner. Though living in Madison for many years kept Paul and Marsha away, family brought them to Platteville and his hometown roots spurred on his involvement with the PCA.



After settling in Platteville, Gene Weber knew that Paul was an active man with ties to the Jaycee's, and his wife Jan was a longtime friend of Paul; this friendship and knowledge led to a tour of the partly paved trail. At that time, fencing ideas were being thrown around near the Dog Park along J & N Stone. Paul made a suggestion of a rustic wooden fence made from lumber taken down by the tornado, and that is exactly what we have today.

Paul says he saw a need in the PCA and felt he could fill some of that need. Results are what drives Paul and the group of volunteers he works with. He can't stress enough how lucky he is to work with Jeff Becker, Wayne Schambow and Spider Fromader; other hands-on individuals who are result driven and motivate to complete projects as efficiently as possible.

Thank you Paul, and all volunteers for your hard work and dedication to the PCA. Your efforts and desire to go above and beyond and making an enormous difference for years to come; so once again, thank you!

UWP FIG Students Volunteer on Trail

Get to know your community. Leave it better than you found it. This was the aim of the service project conducted in November on the Rountree Branch Trail. UWP Professors Travis Nelson (Political Science), Frank King (Ethnic Studies), and Eugene Tesdahl (History) guided 20 of their students in the First Year Interest Group (FIG) program beyond the classroom. Students have examined themes of justice and community in the courses of all three professors. Saturday's service helped them apply some of these lessons by giving back to the Platteville community on a sunny fall day. "I wanted the students to see a part of Platteville that not everyone does," stated Tesdahl. "The service drew them together as classmates and compelled them to put others' needs before their own."



Moving Platteville Outdoors Rountree Branch Trail —A Community Leadership Collaboration.

The project to pave and light an ~3 mile trail, replace a bridge and eliminate steps was kicked off in Jan 2014 with an extensive local community driven fund raising effort. \$1.67 Million in fundraising was completed in 2015 with the following community participation:

DNR award	39%
Fed award	3%
Grants and Bus Donations from outside Platteville	12%
City of Platteville	17%
Local Business Donations	14%
Residential/Service Clubs/Projects	16%

An entire community came together to give something special to their residents, local businesses, and students. A wonderful collaborative leadership group headed up by 3 non-profits (Platteville Community Arboretum, Platteville Community Fund, and Building Platteville) plus the City of Platteville. This team benefited tremendously from the support of approximately 37 fundraisers and many other

project leaders, who conducted nearly 30 fundraising efforts involving more than 1,500 people. More than 500 donors and land owners who provided easements all made for a tremendously successful community effort that some thought impossible. Area companies and individuals have contributed over \$200,000 in kind materials and services to the trail project not to mention the significant financial contributions.

Construction began August 17th, 2015. The 3 mile trail runs from UWP-Platteville (UWP) on the west to the future start of the Platteville to Belmont trail. It will enable west side residents and university students to safely walk or bike to the businesses on the Bus 151 corridor without walking along the highway. Construction was completed in August of 2016 under budget and on time.

Platteville is looking forward to connecting to Belmont via the future Platteville to Belmont trail that Lafayette County is pursuing. 40 + local volunteers continue to work 2 hours + per week to assist with the trail removing invasives, planting gardens, trees and other natives, assembling and installing fences, benches, kiosks, bike racks, etc. Their phenomenal community participation is, indeed, our future.

Other MPO Rountree Trail Fund Raising Project Efforts

Several businesses and organizations held trail paving and lighting fundraisers to include the following:

Building Platteville Soup Suppers – The Building Platteville Board held two soup supper fundraisers.

MCB Dress Down – every Friday in September. Barb Winkler and the Mound City Bank team fundraiser.

Fidelity Bank 2 Brat Sales - Mike Moran's team at Fidelity grilled brats.

Livingston State Bank Brat Sale - Doug Martin's team had a brat sale raising \$500.

Community Service Auction hosted by PCA - Platteville High School & UW-P Students Worked Together To Help Raise Funds for the Rountree Branch Trail

Students from the Platteville High School Swim Team, Cross Country Team, Key Club, UW-P CERES Women's Fraternity, UW-P Green Campus Organization and many other students/organizations offered a variety of services from lawn raking, shoveling snow, washing windows to detailing and washing your car that were auctioned off. There were also many other items to bid on such as tickets to the Nov. 5th UW-Madison Basketball Game held at the Kohl Center; an 18-Hole Round of Golf with UW-P's Basketball Coach, Jeff Gard at the Platteville Golf & Country Club, Fighting Saints Tickets and more.
PCA Raffle

Raffle for \$4500 in prizes was limited to 500 raffle tickets @ \$20 each. \$6,000 was raised for matching funds in a raffle led by Jen Schweigert. Raffle tickets were purchased through Mound City Bank,

Benvenutos, Elks, Mound City Bank, many Optimists and PCA board members. Our thanks to all organizations that donated gifts.

Grand Prize: \$1000 Cash
OTHER PRIZES: UW-Platteville Foundation: Box Seats, Food and Drinks for 8 for the 11/15 Football Game vs UW Oshkosh Valued at \$500
Additional Cash Prizes: 2 at \$250, 2 @ \$100, 6 @ \$50 • Momentum Bikes: Trek 7.1 FX Bicycle Valued at \$460
Snap Fitness: One Year Single Membership and Fees Valued at \$440
Mark Hirsch: 20x20 "That Tree" Matted & Framed - Limited Edition Print Photo of Choice Valued at \$525, "That Tree" Collectors Edition Book and 10x10 Numbered Print Valued at \$120, "That Tree Book" Autographed Copy Valued at \$80
Dairy Queen: 1 Small Blizzard a Month for a Year Valued at \$40, 1 Small DQ OJ Smoothie a Month for a Year Valued at \$40
Kwik Trip: 2 - \$25 Gift Cards • Mary Ann Shultz: One Hour Massage Valued at \$70
Platteville Community Arboretum: 5 One Year Memberships Valued at \$35
Platteville Main Street Program: 2 Cases of Potosi Root Beer Each Valued at \$25
\$20.00 Per Ticket • Winner Need Not Be Present To Win • License No: R0033068A-11901

Community Campaign - The Platteville Community Fund facilitated the residential fundraising drive. In October, they distributed information throughout the community about Moving Platteville Outdoors Rountree Trail paving, lighting and enhancement project. Information came to residents in and around Platteville via an informational door hanger – 5000 were distributed. Cindy Tang pledged to match up to \$25,000 contributed by residents and to date over \$19,000 has been raised.

Tour de Trail - Another

trail fundraiser and Healthy Activity Event sponsored by SWHC, PCA, UWP Health Promotions and others!

It was a fun event and participants got to know the trail better. They chose from a series of events (a group walk, jog, bike ride, walking yoga, or boot camp) led by UW-Platteville Health Promotion majors. All ages and experience levels (including kids!) participated in the events followed by lunch and live music.

Bargain Nook Discount Day: Raised \$50 thanks to Tracy Wiegel and Lynn Johnson

WonderWash hosted a fundraiser for the Moving Platteville Outdoors: Rountree Trail Paving, Lighting, & Trail Enhancement Project on November 22, 2014. 50% of the proceeds that day went toward the fundraiser resulting in \$132.

Wild Life Sanctuary Donates Messages raised \$100 for the trail – Thanks to Hannah Adams

JustGive.org brought in \$1,126.49 for the trail. This was an initiative started by Amy Seeboth-Wilson

UW-Platteville Advancement Division Employees 2014: Dennis Cooley's team joined together and contributed \$2500 – individual students donated up to \$180 individually.

Chamber Pig Roasts were the projects that helped the Chamber raise/pledge \$2,500 for the trail.

Trivia Night: The Society of Pre-Health Students has decided that they would like to make the "Moving Platteville Outdoors" project this year's beneficiary of the funds raised for the Trivia Night they are planning. The date will be Wednesday 4/15/2015

President's Message

The grand opening September 15, 2016 tops off an amazing period of development. Over the last year and a half the Platteville community provided unbelievable amounts of support for the project, starting with financial support and evolving into many-many volunteer hours. The effort put out by financial supporters and volunteers has been incredible. Each day, you saw the trail being transformed from what it once was—a series of gravel foot paths over abandoned rail bed—to a paved trail with energy efficient LED lighting, benches, shelters, signage and kiosks.

All of this progress is being overseen by two incredible interns, Alexis Turman and Daniel Brumm from UW-Platteville School of Agriculture. Alexis is an Environmental Horticulture major under the supervision of Dr. Donita Cartmill. Daniel is a Reclamation, Environment and Conservation major under the supervision of Dr. Yari Johnson. Alexis and Dan led two groups of volunteers. The "green team volunteers" are focused on planting, weeding and gardening along the trail. Alexis and Dan also lead a group of "brown team volunteers" responsible for painting/erecting kiosks, installing benches, building fences, and bridge repairs along the trail. Another group of volunteers, including Bev Loy, Jan Weber, and Lynne Tanner have taken responsibility for mowing the trail sides.

At the same time, the Platteville Community Arboretum has been getting incredible support from local businessmen such as Bob Digman and Joe Jewison. There's also Dan Dreessens, Bart Nies, and Scott Chyko at Delta 3 Engineering who've volunteered use of Delta 3's parking lot for the trail entrance. And along the way, the City of Platteville has provided timely support through Howard Crowfoot's Engineering Office and the Street Department. The assistance provided by these individuals and groups has been immeasurable. Without their assistance, the trail would still be mostly a dream.

So please, thank these individuals and businesses when you see them. Then talk a walk... ride your bike... heck I've even seen skateboarders enjoying the trail. Everyone you encounter on the trail has high praise for the new Platteville Community Arboretum. Then go out and tell your friends and neighbors. Heck, we might even tell you about the Pokemon hot-spot behind Culvers... but that's for us to know, and you to find out!

See you on the trail...

Thank you,
Frank Steck