



Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center

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

Fall 2019

Music Brings People Together to Support Healing in Nature

Friday, August 23rd: it was a balmy 73 degrees when guests began to arrive for the first ever "Twilight Serenade" at Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center. Some of those who attended had visited Blue Lotus before, others were new-comers, but for all it was an evening of beauty, nature, music, and inspirational stories. The event began with free time to explore the 64-acre property including trails through the woods, a labyrinth cut out of a field of wild flowers, and the boardwalk that surrounds Blue Lotus Lagoon. Just as the sun began to set, guests were invited inside the pavilion to enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres, craft beer, and a signature "Blue Lotus" drink created by and compliments of Riverside Brewery in West Bend.

As twilight set in, Fred Bliffert, Co-Founder and President of Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center, welcomed and thanked all those who attended. Tears appeared in his eyes as he shared many heartwarming stories illustrating the impact that Blue Lotus has had on thousands of individuals and families over the past 17 years. In his final story, Fred quoted a recent guest, a mother with two foster children both with severe autism, who said, just before leaving the farm after a full day of adventure and activities, "364 days of the year are hard, but today was easy".

And then it was time to celebrate. Fred was joined at the mic by the Blifftones who offered their original interpretations of Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," and Elvis Presley's "Teddy Bear," plus a number of Fred Bliffert originals. Music, laughter, and bonhomie rang through the pavilion and out onto the grounds, drifting across the meadows and up through the trees. It was a perfect evening: good friends, delectable food, phenomenal music, plus many generous donations were given all in support of the opportunities for healing that Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center offers to more than 3,000 deserving individuals each year.



If you missed this event, you're in luck! Another "Twilight Serenade" is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th.

Visit <https://www.bluelotusfarm.org/upcoming-events> for more information and to register online or give us a call at 262-675-2473.



FALL WORK DAYS

Join us for a fun day outdoors preparing the grounds for their winter rest!

Saturday Oct. 12th

Saturday Oct. 26th

9:00am to 1:00pm

Snacks and lunch provided.

RSVP to Lisa at 262-675-2473
or Lisa@bluelotusfarm.org

Girl Catches Two-headed Fish at Blue Lotus



On Wednesday August 7th, 2019, 50 children from Hephatha Lutheran Church arrived at Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center for their 14th annual Peace Camp Retreat. Each child earns the right to participate in this outing by doing good deeds throughout the year. Hephatha's annual retreat, led by Pastor Mary Martha Kannass, is one of the largest groups Blue Lotus welcomes each summer, also the liveliest and possibly the most enthusiastic. As soon as the bus stopped and the doors opened, an eleven-year-old girl, named Skie, leapt off the bus and sprinted toward the dock at Blue Lotus Lagoon, eager to see if she could repeat last year's legendary feat. She was followed by a covey of friends, all longing to follow in her fabled footsteps.

In the previous summer, 2018, Skie had also earned a trip to Blue Lotus. On that day, more than one year ago, she was irresistibly drawn to Blue Lotus Lagoon. You see Skie had *always* dreamed of catching a fish. Her dream came true last summer – and in a big way. With the help of volunteers, the ten-year-old baited a fishing rod with cheese, as is the practice at Blue Lotus, then cast her line into the water. Nothing happened... and still nothing... and then, suddenly, she felt a tug on the line, a fish took the bait! A smile of delight

spread across Skie's eager face, "I think I caught one."

Skie began to reel in her line. Slowly a fish came up from the murky depths, finally breaking the sun-splashed surface. Skie reached for the line to hold up her prize. But this was no ordinary fish! This fish had two heads and two tails! Eyes wide with wonder, Skie shouted, "is that what it's supposed to look like?" It appeared that two fish were stuck together.

Bystanders began to speculate as to how such a thing could have happened. The issue was never fully resolved, but Skie's dream had come true, she caught a fish – a very special fish – and that's what mattered most.

This summer, Skie used her experience and enthusiasm from the previous summer to teach her friends how to fish, growing more confident with each instruction she uttered. On August 7, 2019, the children from Hephatha Lutheran caught any number of fish, but not one of them had two-heads!

Blue Lotus Receives a Generous Grant

Thanks to a \$16,000 grant from a local family trust Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center will soon have a spacious, new dressing room specifically designed for guests who require individualized care in a private setting. The new dressing room will be built just west of our pavilion restrooms. Included in the grant are funds for the purchase of a hydraulic changing table, a sanitizing station, and all the amenities needed to meet the needs of our most vulnerable guests. Most importantly, the new dressing room will provide a private place to preserve the dignity of our guests and to assist their caregivers. Blue Lotus is profoundly grateful for this generous and much needed gift. Look for this new addition in 2020!



Play the Canal Street
bingo game.
paysbig.com/heart



Blue Lotus Farm and Retreat Center is in the running to be a 2019 charity. Help give the gift of a promising future by playing now through Dec. 12th.

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Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center is a 501c3 tax exempt charitable organization

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