

June 2023

Just The Dirt

Custodial & Grounds Newsletter

Spaces: The 'SEAS Bees' Pollinator Garden

Since setting sustainability goals in 2011, U-M has created new initiatives to support pollinators with native plant gardens and reduced pesticide use. But now, under the leadership of Sheila Schueller, who teaches ecosystem science and management courses at the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), U-M students are joining the fight.

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Photo to the right by Denise H Krause



A Letter from the Director

Hello Team CGS,

Welcome to another edition of the Custodial & Grounds Services newsletter!

I hope you are enjoying the summer and spending time with the people who are important to you.

Recently, my boss, Hank Baier, Associate Vice President for Facilities & Operations, announced his retirement after 30 years at the university. Hank has been very instrumental in the transformation of our campus. Under his leadership, we have seen the growth of the College of Engineering's footprint on North Campus, the construction of the athletic complex on State Street, the Palmer Drive development, the expansion of Michigan Medicine, and the purchase of Pfizer. (Now the North Campus Research Complex)

Within F&O, Hank supported many employee development programs; the EWOC and Apprenticeship programs are examples of initiatives that were established and thrived under his leadership. I will remember Hank for his mentorship and guidance over the past three years, especially during the COVID pandemic. I am very happy for Hank as he starts another chapter, but I will miss his leadership!

On a separate note, I would like to give some kudos to the CGS Connect team as they busily plan the summer picnics scheduled for mid-August. The team is not sharing too many details except to say, "It will be fun." I hope that you all have the dates circled on your calendar. I look forward to seeing you!

Continue to stay healthy and safe and always remember to work smart.

Best,

Lukeland Gentles



Connection

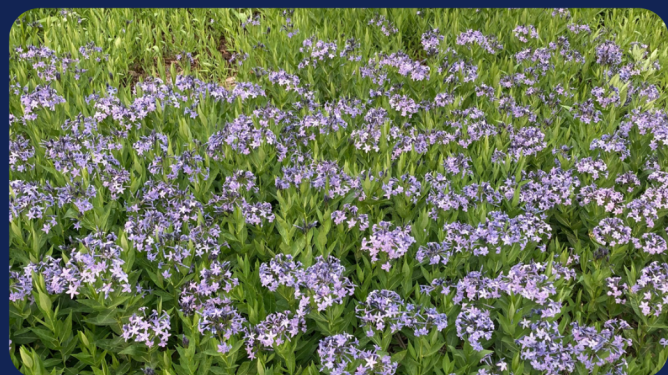
Our mission is twofold: to serve as a conduit between employees and management, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of our fellow colleagues are heard and addressed, and to create a positive and inclusive working environment that uplifts and empowers every member of our team.

In 2021, Schueller led a **masters' project** that engaged students in creating a garden on campus that would attract and support pollinators. They called their group SEAS Bees and outlined the need for a comprehensive pollinator plan at U-M. The result is a 1,700-square-foot space under the pedestrian bridge next to U-M's Museum of Natural History on Central Campus, with 17 native plant species. The team's research suggests this garden should support pollinators whose biodiversity is threatened by habitat/forage loss in many urban green spaces.

"We're seeing a decline in pollinators due to human pesticides and monoculture planting," says Kira Berman, the assistant director for education at the museum. Monoculture planting means planting only one species and includes turf "grass" and many manicured lawns. It's replacing natural habitats, limiting pollinators' feeding opportunities by time of year, location, and species diversity. And pollinators, which include bees, wasps, moths, butterflies, and beetles, aren't just working to make honey or spread more wildflowers.

"Our food depends on it. If you eat fruit, you're eating the fruits of pollination," Berman says, adding that not just humans, but all animals depend on pollination for food.

Schueller says pollinators can travel relatively long distances but will reach a particular destination only if there are desirable rest stops. So, before deciding where to locate the garden, the team surveyed the campus for linked habitats and began to track how pollinators used them.



"We can put florescent powder on flowers and go out at night to see if pollinators are moving between garden beds. A big garden with dense floral resources, and lots of different flowers, can really attract pollinators," Schueller says. In the winter, bees can burrow in dead leaves or stalks or into the ground and begin pollinating again in the spring.

Led by William Kronberg, supervisor of horticulture for U-M's Custodial and Grounds Services, the department provided tools, prepared the soil, and adjusted the irrigation system, while students designed and created the garden.

In October 2020, 12 volunteers planted nearly 400 native plant plugs, purchased from area nurseries, and transplanted 30 native plants from County Farm Park, a nearby Washtenaw County Park and project partner, according to the team's project report.

"Maintaining it is still a work in progress," says Kronberg, but volunteers keep the garden growing.

Thanks in part to this pollinator garden, the Ann Arbor campus became a certified Bee Campus in 2023, joining the Dearborn campus, which earned the designation in 2019.

Becoming a Bee Campus means committing to creating or enhancing pollinator habitat each year by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites and reducing the use of pesticides.

Schueller hopes U-M will serve as a living laboratory and model for sustainability, and that it will help shift attitudes about what we consider great landscaping.

"We have a history of appreciating lawns with a single species of grass," she says. But using native plants, allowing their stalks to remain over winter, and allowing diverse species "helps create stability and resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate change."

Written for Michigan Alum- Summer 2023
Around The U

Davi Napoleon, '66, MA'68, is a freelance writer and theater historian.

Spotlight Aubry McIntyre



Meet Aubry McIntyre! Aubry received her Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College (2015), majoring in business. She has worked a variety of positions from picking strawberries during summer break, to traveling with a local family to regional county fairs making and selling your favorite fair food, to being your friendly barista at one of Ann Arbor's Biggby Coffees. One element to all of these positions has remained consistent: hands-on work. Aubry enjoys figuring out complex situations and engaging in skilled manual labor.

When she began her career journey at the University five years ago this August, her goal was to begin a career that would help guide her toward the ultimate goal of skilled trades at the University. Aubry is all ears for anyone who knows of opportunities here at the University! She is willing to try just about everything! Aubry began as a Custodian I on North Campus under the supervision of Debra Zielinski. In 2020 when the pandemic hit and employees chose to take the furlough, Aubry had the opportunity to offer a hand at Grounds Services under the direction of Horticulture Specialist Ann Wilson and Supervisor Bill Kronberg, as they were taking on custodians to help fill the gap in furloughed employees. After a short time back as a custodian, Aubry participated in the GKI Program at Grounds Services. This training experience paved the way for an opportunity to apply for and receive a permanent GKII position in 2021 on the East Zone horticulture crew. Aubry loves working outside alongside her amazing crew to maintain the East Zone. One of her favorite tasks as a groundskeeper II is pruning! Within her current position, Aubry is also a member of the CGS Connect team.

When not at work, you will find Aubry ballroom dancing! She loves the physical and mental challenge it offers and cherishes the ballroom dance community. She began dancing just two years ago and is currently training to compete with her amateur partner with the goal of being competition ready by November 2023! Work, eat, sleep, ballroom, REPEAT!

Salvage and Theft

As a reminder, the removal of personal items that belong to others or the removal of University of Michigan property from its assigned location or U of M premises without authorization may be considered theft.

“Property is defined as any item acquired by the University of Michigan to support its activities and may not be used for personal use, for-profit activities, or illegal purposes.” (SPG 520.01: Acquisition, Use, and Disposition of Property - Section II A)

Property cannot be removed without proper written approval and purchase of items from Property Disposition. “Property Disposition has the sole authority for the disposal of university property and distribution of any resulting proceeds” (Section V).

“The Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) should be notified when there is a theft or a suspicion of theft of property.” (Section IVA 5).

In addition, employees are not permitted to scavenge in or around refuse and recycling dumpsters for items, including scrap metal during working hours.



Anniversaries-May & June

ALEXANDER, MARGARET
ALLEN, ADAM
ALLEN, TERESA
BEALL, MARCUS
BLOODWORTH, MARK
BOCCIARDI, CHRISTOPHER
BROWN, JERRELL
BURROUGHS, JOYCE
CABALLERO, MARIO
CAMPBELL, GREGORY
CEPEROV, OLIVERA
CHECK, MARY
CORL, KENDRA
COX, PAUL
CRAWFORD III, THOMAS
CROLL, LORI
CRUGER, JONATHAN
CSIZMAR, TERRY
CURTIS, ANTOINETTE
DAVIS, DENISE
DAY, KIMBERLY
DICKO, IBRAHIMA
EMINGER, PAUL
EVANS JR, DAVID
FERRY, JASON
RYE JR., RAY

GABERT, MATTHEW
GILES, PHILLIP
GOODELL, HEATH
GOUDY, TERANCE
GRANTHAM, TIMOTHY
HILL, ELIZABETH J
HOLEVA, JOHN
HOLZHAUSEN, CHARLES
HORRIGAN, STEVEN E
HUDGINS, DONNA
KALAPAC, PETAR
KETCHUM, DOUGLAS
KINSER, DARRYL
KOWALCIK, WILLIAM
LEE, CONSTANCE
LEE, TAMAR
LEWIS, JERRY
MARSHALL, JACQUELINE
MENJIVAR LOPEZ, ALEJANDRO
MERCADO, KATRINA
MINER, WAYNE
MOORE, DAVID
MYERS, CHRISTOPHER
NISBETT, LISA
OGDEN, ERIC
OAKES, ERIC

O'SULLIVAN-COOK, RICHARD
PEREZ, JAMIE
PORTIES, DALVONTE
RAMIREZ, VILMA
RAU, JOHN
ROBINSON, BRENDESHA
ROBINSON, MARTEL
RUTKOFKSKE, MICHAEL
SEKLECKA, DARIA
SHINN, MARY
SLEDGE, ROOSEVELT
SMITH, BRODERICK
WATSON, NATHAN
WELTY, PATRICK
WESTFALL, KERRY
WILSON, KEVIN

If anyone has been missed. Please let me know so the anniversary information can go in the next newsletter.

Outstanding Custodial Team Service in CSRB - (Building 441)

Area manager Brian Adams received this email from Marti Moon, Facilities Manager Department of Climate and Space Sciences, Haywood Street Ann Arbor, MI.

Good Afternoon Brian:

I learned recently that the former "Silver Arrow" Award program is no longer valid in recognizing outstanding service by our F&O personnel.

I have heard there is something new that has taken it's place, however I've not heard anything about it until a few days ago from a fellow colleague in Facilities.

Our CSRB Team, starting out with Deb Zielinski as Supervisor, and then our amazing Dotty, Vilma and Peter round out the outstanding effort I've come to truly appreciate more recently when the current team seems to be like a family in their care for one another.

I have to say that in the 57+ yrs. I've worked at the UofM, I've not seen a more cohesive team that have treated our three buildings as if they were their own homes. Additionally, they gladly support and care about one another and always go above and beyond the call of duty to help in any way they can. This is a very rare thing to find these days and shouldn't go unnoticed.

I'd appreciate whatever can be done to show our appreciation for all they do, so quietly behind the scenes, and I just wanted to do whatever is possible to recognize them. I'm including a couple of photos I took after a dinner that was held in their honor a couple weeks ago to show our appreciation from inside CSRB.

Thanking you in advance for following up to recognize our "AMAZING" work family.

Please let me know should any further documentation be needed.

Thank you kindly.

Peace.....

Marti Moon and I speak for ALL in CSRB:-)

