

Located in rural Readstown

# Second Nature at Read's Creek aims to capture a special experience

By EMILY SCHEDEL

In a world where everything seems to be overwhelming and moving fast, it can be hard to remember that slowing down to enjoy life is an essential part of living.

Hopping on Highway 14 and taking the short but scenic drive north toward Readstown, you shortly arrive at Second Nature at Read's Creek. The business has been a fixture in its various states over the past few decades. However, for the past seven years, the current stewards of the property have worked to make it a special place.

"We're really trying to capture a special experience here," explained Marketing Manager Karen Solverson. "It is the dream to see kids playing in the creek, unplugged, with no screens just enjoying nature."

As Karen discussed the evolution of Second Nature at Read's Creek, from floods to flowers, she watched the crew working hard at putting finishing touches on the new Koi Pond, which is centrally located on the property and business. A design element not just for looks, it has been created to be a interactive and relaxing experience. Families or individuals can come, see the beautiful fish and feed them by hand, while taking in the rolling hills of the Driftless and the fragrant beauty of the nursery.

Second Nature is owned by Dave and Jen Tubbin. The plant nursery is situated along Highway 14. It was previously known as Reads Creek Nursery and originally the Jones Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The original farmstead was run as the Black Bottom Stock and Grain Farm in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, according to Wikipedia.

However, in 1973 nuclear engineer Royce Jones along with his partner Fran established a community arboretum in conjunction with a tree nursery as well as their own gardens. It was later purchased in 1992 and in 2000 was renamed Read's Creek Nursery.

The Tubbin Family took the business over in 2014, with a goal to reconnect with the roots of property and the community arboretum feel and now touts itself as a destination nursery.

"The setting radiates a slow-down, take-in-and-linger atmosphere," their website shares. "The site has a decades' long history of horticultural endeavors. Our family has worked hard each year to enhance and expand the nursery, creating more and more opportunities to share it with our community. From eagle watching to splashing in the creek to a picnic on our porch, you may come for the plants but you will stay for the experience."

The transition for Dave into the nursery business was a natural one it seems, since he holds a degree in landscape architecture. But as he notes, for many years life side-tracked him into other jobs and businesses. However, when this opportunity became available, he saw more than just selling plants for a few months out of the year.

"We know we're not going to get every yard," Dave noted. "But life is too short for just grass. And we are thrilled to be able to help people who love their yards. We found that, through talking with people and taking time to understand their stories, most people want their yard and their space to tell a story. They remember a certain plant that their grandma had, or the smell of lilacs remind them of their late mother, and we want to help to recreate that for people."

"A silver lining that has come with COVID is that people have realized that when they are home they want their space to be special and comfortable and we want to help give that to them."

As part of this venture, Second Nature at Read's Creek offers the Plan with a Pro service. So, folks will be able to sit down with one of the professional landscape design professionals at Read's Creek and discuss their vision, memories, dreams and desires for their personal outdoor space. They will also

be able to purchase plants right on site to help make the dream a reality.

"People love to do it (planting), but they often are intimidated by living things," Dave said. "They don't trust themselves, If I had a dime for every time someone told me 'I'm great at killing plants!' But, we want to empower people and add that trust, remind them that these plants just aren't fragile little death balls, we can help people find the right plants for them, and offer education and support to help them achieve their dream yard."

"We take the time to ask a lot of questions to make sure we're able to do the right thing, for not only the long term but also around what already exists in your yard. For example, every time my kids take a trip they bring back a rock. And what might look to one person as a just an old pile of rocks, to me is a beautiful rock garden. So we make sure to ask those questions so we're not taking away from the special things you may already have."

In addition to the landscaping services, the facility is also a full-scale nursery, offering mature trees, a huge variety of plants including natives, as well as some succulents and annuals.

For the Tubbins, it isn't just about getting folks down to their location to shop, but to enjoy the sense of community and family and take time to unwind.

"I think it's most important for people to look and slow down," Dave notes. "The eye can only capture so much. We find the average customer spends an hour-and-a-half here, they go down to the creek to for a minute to check things out, or they bring a picnic to share and just enjoy the beauty and we really love that."

Additionally this year, Dave and his wife have taken steps to help not only lift up the community, but other small businesses as well.

"When people are in service to one another, and a small business is supporting other small businesses, we are all able to do better," Dave explained. "And that is why we decided to start our market and adding more events through the summer. There is nothing more infectious than people just truly enjoying an event. We want to have music, food trucks, gem hunts, bird presentations, seeing the eyes of kids get big and light up, it's just the best thing to me."

## Upcoming events

As part of this vision, Second Nature at Read's Creek has a whole host of events planned for the season.

June 2, 6-7 p.m.: - How to visit all Wisconsin parks in one year. Learn how one man visited them all as he shares his story

June 16, 4-8 p.m.: - Third Thursday Market - vendors, food truck, music, family time

June 23, 6-7 p.m.: - Beginner Macrame Class- due to the huge demand, Willow is coming back for another beginner class!

July 7, 5-8 p.m.: - All-American Family Fun Night - join us for an old-school family fun night at the nursery

July 21, 4-8 p.m.: Third Thursday Market - vendors, food truck, music, family time

July 24, 12-3 p.m.: Dog Days of Summer - fun day partnering with the Driftless Humane Society and the Redloub Bus filled with great activities and food

August 14, 12:30-3 p.m.: Goldenrod Dyed Silk Scarf - learn the whole process of creating a goldenrod dye and making your own silk scarf

August 18, 4-8 p.m.: Third Thursday Market - vendors, food truck, music, family time

August 21, 11-4 p.m.: Gem, Rock and Fossil Event - join one of our expeditions



DAVE TUBBIN, Second Nature at Read's Creek owner, was seen enjoying the moment in the greenhouse recently. The greenhouse operation on Highway 14, just north of Readstown is more than just a shopping destination - it's an experience.

## Humanity's current geological period

# Scientists close in 'golden spike' to define the Anthropocene

Leicester researchers searching for a 'golden spike' to formally define humanity's current geological period -- and acknowledge human impact on our planet -- have announced a major step in their analysis at an international conference on Wednesday.

University of Leicester Professors Jens Zinke, Mark Williams and Jan Zalasiewicz and PhD researcher Stephen Himson presented multiple candidates for unique reference points to define the Anthropocene at Haus der Kulturen der Welt's 'Unearthing the Present' conference in Berlin.

The Anthropocene -- the suggestions that human impact has driven Earth into the conditions of a new geological period or 'epoch' -- has been one of the most influential concepts of the last decade in geological research, with Leicester researchers playing a leading role in its analysis.

Search for a 'golden spike' is a key concept in Anthropocene study, which would provide a unique reference point -- chosen somewhere in the world -- to mark the beginning of the Anthropocene, that might ultimately allow it to be formally defined as part of the Geological Time Scale.

Researchers' attention is focused on the mid-20th century, a transformational 'Great Acceleration' in our planet's history that included massive burning of fossil fuels and its climate effects, the worldwide spread of human-made radioactive elements such as plutonium and of plastic debris and other pollutants, as well as rapid and dramatic changes to Earth's ecosystems.

Currently, research teams are making detailed studies of a dozen potential sites around the globe, ranging from a core of Antarctic snow and ice, to a peat bog in Poland, to a stalagmite deep underground in the Italian Alps.

Among the candidate sites are two being studied by University of Leicester teams: a living coral on Australia's Flinders Reef, the annual

growth layers of which are being analysed by a team led by Professor Zinke of the School of Geography, Geology and the Environment; and the mud layers of San Francisco Bay, studied by a team led by Stephen Himson and Professor Williams within the same School, which contain a biological chronometer in the form of the remains of many recently invasive organisms in the Bay.

List of candidate sites

- Beppu Bay (marine sediments), Kyushu Island, Japan
- Crawford Lake (lake muds), Ontario, Canada
- Ernesto Cave (cave deposits), Italy
- Flinders Reef (coral), Coral Sea, Australia
- Gotland Basin (marine sediments), Baltic Sea
- Palmer Ice Core (ice sheet), Antarctic Peninsula
- San Francisco Estuary (marine sediments), California, USA
- Searsville Reservoir (lake muds), California, USA
- Sihailongwan Lake (lake muds), Jilin province, China
- Polish Bog (peat layers), Poland
- Vienna Museum Excavation (urban soil), Austria
- West Flower Garden Bank (coral), Gulf of Mexico

Results of these studies were unveiled for the first time at the meeting in Berlin, to begin the discussion of which of these sites might have the most precise and complete record of Earth's global changes, to allow it to

represent the Anthropocene's chosen beginning.

Announcement of these results are a major new development in study of the Anthropocene, and the potential springboard to its acceptance as a universally acknowledged new phase in our planet's history.

Over the five days of the Berlin event the scientists will also interact with artists, scholars, activists and the public in open discussion forums, via a series of online essays on various kinds of human impact, and by the opening of an exhibition, Earth Indices. This will provide unique insights into the processes of developing a geological archive of humans' home planet.

Professor Zinke, whose research examines the role of massive corals and sedimentary archives from tropical oceans as recorders of environmental change, said:

"Coral provide the highest resolution archive of anthropogenic impacts on the tropical oceans and they do that over several centuries of continuous upward growth."

"Massive corals at Flinders Reef provided a continuous record of environmental change for more than 300 years, starting in 1710, giving us information how anthropogenic activity has modified the environment in remote coral reefs."

"The Flinders Reef corals recorded a clear spike in radiocarbon between 1959 and 1963 short after the nuclear

bomb testing began in the 1950s. This is a unique signature of the Anthropocene."

"The burning of fossil fuels has left a clear signature in the coral skeleton in their isotopic composition of Carbon which started to decline around 1850. The coral show us that light carbon from fossil fuel burning has been taken up by the surface oceans."

Professor Williams, whose work focuses on human-induced changes to life and how human-built environments affect the delicate balance of natural ecosystems on our planet, said:

"The ecosystem of the San Francisco Estuary has been wholly changed by organisms introduced from as far afield as Japan."

"Sometimes the new arrivals completely dominate their adopted ecologies, their shells accumulating in the recent fossil record and leaving a clear geological signature of human impacts on the planet."

"Although San Francisco Estuary is very well studied, the same patterns, from introduced species, are becoming widespread on our planet."

The Leicester research team have also contributed to a feature on their findings, 'Biological and Palaeontological signatures of the Anthropocene', published by Anthropocene Curriculum.

Source: University of Leicester

Archaeological excavations led by Wyoming's state archaeologist and involving University of Wyoming researchers have confirmed that an ancient mine in eastern Wyoming was used by humans to produce red ochre starting nearly 13,000 years ago. That makes the Powars II site at Sunrise in Platte County the oldest documented red ochre mine - and likely the oldest known mine of any sort - in all of North and South America. The excavations, completed shortly before the 2020 death of famed UW archaeologist George Frison, confirmed theories he advanced stemming from research he began at the site in 1986.

Source: University of Wyoming

## NOTICE OF MEETING VILLAGE OF GAYS MILLS

Monday, June 6, 2022

Community Commerce Board Room  
6:00 p.m.

A regular board meeting will be held with discussion and possible action on the following agenda items: May Minutes, Monthly Bills, Administrative Reports, Wastewater Compliance Maintenance Annual Report Resolution, Annual Alcohol Beverage License Applications, Cigarette License Applications, Machine License Applications, and Operator's License Applications.

Any necessary changes will be made on the posted agenda.

Dawn R. McCann,  
Village Clerk

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## NOTICE OF FORFEITURE OF FUNDS RICHLAND-GRANT TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 185.03(10), you are hereby notified that Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative, of Blue River, WI 53518, has in its possession unclaimed funds. A list of names is published at www.rgtc.coop (click on Notice of Forfeiture of Funds) or a list is available at the Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative Office to view. If your name is on the list, you may claim these funds by contacting the Cooperative and furnishing proof of your legal interest in such funds on or before August 5, 2022. You are further notified that unless you do claim such funds and provide satisfactory evidence of your right to receive the same by August 5, 2022, these funds will be forfeited to the Cooperative.

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