



Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center

"Serving those with special needs, located in the countryside of Newburg, Wisconsin"

Summer 2014



Many Families Participate in Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah Days!

Blue Lotus welcomed nearly 200 family members over the June, July & August Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah Days. Named for the classic Disney song, which celebrates the carefree spirit of a day in the country, the Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah Days offer a day at Blue Lotus to parents, caregivers, families, and special needs children who may not be affiliated with a support organization.

Each day brought its own assortment of guests, both new and old. Visitors enjoyed exploring the trails, canoeing in the pond, participating in yoga and the parachute, or just relaxing in the swings. This year a Naturalist was on hand to lead nature-based activities including a scavenger hunt, prairie sweeping, and a meet n' greet with some reptiles & amphibians, including a friendly and lovable snake named Calvin (see picture above).

The Zip Days offer a different experience for each family attending; for some it's a day of bonding one on one with their child, for others it's an opportunity for a family to be together in an environment with like-minded individuals. One mom commented that

"Attending Zip Day was a wonderfully relaxing time. After two years of cancer treatment, this was a much needed reprieve for our daughter and us—thank you so much!" Blue Lotus will again offer the Zip Days in 2015—stay tuned for details!

Farewells, Welcomes & Changes

We bid farewell to Aaron Schricker, our previous Office Administrator, who left us recently to pursue graduate studies. Special thanks to Aaron for all of his hard work over the past couple of seasons at Blue Lotus, especially getting our database up and running! We will miss you.

On that note, we welcome Lisa Halloran, our new Office Administrator & Site Manager. For years, she held positions in accounting and HR in the corporate world, but reached a crossroads in life where she was looking for something more fulfilling. She is excited over a new challenge and looks forward to meeting all of you. We are thrilled to have Lisa on our team, along with her skills & knowledge and easy-going personality. Welcome Lisa!

Becca Stringer, previous Program Coordinator & Site Manager, has been moved into an Executive Director role, relieving Susan Bliffert, former Executive Director, of many of the day-to-day operations at Blue Lotus. Susan will continue to be at the heart of Blue Lotus, but will be shifting some gears while focusing her energy on the Board level of operations. Welcome to your new role, Becca!



Lisa Halloran



Becca Stringer



VOLUNTEER ALERT!

It's already time to start thinking about laying the facility to rest over the winter months. Join us as we rake leaves, clear trails, prune and cut back garden beds and put away seasonal equipment. Come alone or with a friend. Contact us for more information!

Fall Clean Up Scheduled Dates:

- Saturday, October 18
9am-1pm
- Wednesday, November 5
9am-1pm
- Sunday, November 9
9am-1pm

For more information on programs & events, please visit www.bluelotusfarm.org

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

Golf Outing at Hidden Glen is a Great Success!



Tuesday, August 5th was sunny and warm, perfect for the annual Funjet Connections Golf Experience to benefit Blue Lotus. Participants arrived at Hidden Glen Golf Club in Cedarburg in the morning and had the opportunity to participate in professional golf instructor led clinics, a putting contest, acupuncture treatments and even a pre-game massage. A gourmet lunch buffet was served up to fuel the golfers before the 1pm shot gun start.

As golfers made their way around the course, they participated in a number of on-course contests such as closest to the pin and longest drive, but also additional activities such as tossing a Frisbee through upright rings or chipping a ball into a treasure chest, earning an array of goodies upon completion. The

games added an extra layer of fun and camaraderie to the day, and created some extra competition amongst participants.

Once golf was complete, guests gathered under the big tent for dinner, drinks and the opportunity to participate in a raffle, silent auction and live auction. The raffle and auction offerings were outstanding this year; the luckiest participants went home with fabulous beach vacations and great seats to Packers and Brewers games.

Thank you to everyone who participated as a golfer, sponsor, donor, dinner attendee or volunteer - we appreciate you! Many thanks to Mike Going and the entire Funjet Team for all of your hard work, the staff at Hidden Glen for your impeccable hospitality, and Sharon & Bill LaMacchia for being so generous - without you, this event would not happen. Your kindness has been felt by many - we are truly blessed. See you next year!

Meet One of Our "Smiling Faces"



Natalie Boinski has been coming out to Blue Lotus for about 6 years with the "Adventures for Life Day Camp" through the Milwaukee Center for Independence. Her favorite things to do at Blue Lotus are hike and canoe. According to

Natalie, "It is a fun place to go!" and she really likes "seeing Becca" and "seeing old friends". She also likes the days they have camp cookouts and they make things like ham and cheese or pizza pudgie pies and roasted apples for dessert. Her favorite part of the farm is the hiking trails and the flowers.

Natalie lives in Franklin and has 3 brothers and 2 sisters-in-law. She comes out to Blue Lotus 2-3 times per season and also enjoys going to an overnight camp near Wisconsin Dells sponsored by the Lions club. When not camping, Natalie works at the Milwaukee County Zoo (how cool is that!) where she works at some of the concession stands and also does zoo cleanup. In August she worked at "Zoo A la Carte." For fun, Natalie likes to go to Friday night dances at the Moose lodge.

Thank you for telling us about yourself, Natalie! We look forward to seeing you again next summer!

Like us on Facebook!



CONTACT US:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 211
Mequon, WI 53092

Email: info@bluelotusfarm.org

Phone: 262-675-2473

STAFF:

Becca Stringer, Executive Director
Lisa Halloran, Office Administrator
Susan Bliffert, Staff Advisor
& Volunteers Galore!

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