

News from theNate

DIGITAL
Newsletter June/July 2021 Issue 2



"Illinois Landscape, No. 5" by John Henry, as photographed by Guy Rhodes, became the symbol of theNate in USA Today's 10Best contest where we were voted number one in the nation!



This issue of News from theNate celebrates our friends, fans, and followers who propelled us to earn the title of 2021 BEST Sculpture Park, Reader's Choice Award, USA Today – you are the reason we succeed in our mission.

News from theNate

NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

EARTH DAY TOUR

The Earth Day Tour at theNate, an outdoor adventure and annual tradition celebrating our love for the Earth, ART, and The Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration project, was a success despite dicey weather leading up to it. Chicagoland spring weather is predictably unpredictable and April 24th 2021 was no different than most years. But we are a hearty people and decided to experience the park rain or shine – and were rewarded with a quite pleasant day.

Families with young children helped to scatter milkweed plant seeds in The Butterfly Ranch fields, and some of the board members for theNate couldn't resist joining the action.



The Granary Project, which creates a conceptual and physical connection, via the nearby Metra line, between world-renowned collections at **The Art Institute of Chicago** and the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**, was a focus for this year's tour. More thought-provoking work by Dan Peterman can be seen at the [Museum of Contemporary Art](#), Chicago through February 2022 and in ["There is This We"](#), [Sculpture Milwaukee](#) through Fall of 2022 – Christine Tarkowski (another artist in theNate's collection) and Jason Pickleman (a friend of theNate) are also featured in Sculpture Milwaukee.

Inside

- Juneteenth, Jazz, and Community
- Mike Baur at Wright in Kankakee
- Milkweed!

Juneteenth and Summer Solstice Celebration: An Annual Tradition



This celebration at theNate is aimed at becoming your annual celebration of emancipation, and the longest day of the year. **On Saturday, June 19th from 1 to 4 p.m. theNate will host "Juneteenth and Summer Solstice Celebration"**.

Outdoor promenade through theNate collection with:

- Focus on Juneteenth relevant monumental sculptures
- Drumming call to celebrate
- Jazz music performances – Ernest Dawkins, Alan Franklin
- Spoken word and poetry – Jataun Rollins, Jeanne Miller
- Art Exhibition in the GSU Visual Arts Gallery, GSU Student professional networking, Kids' activities outdoors, refreshments, game card for event activities, family photos, plus a video interview documentation to capture your stories and experience.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning for the future. Learn more at <https://www.juneteenth.com>

Join us on Saturday, June 19th for the FREE, family friendly event * \$10 suggested donation for those who can: [Donate Online](#)

Visit our [website](#) and social media pages for registration information.



Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator*
Patricia Mell Ragland, *President*
Elizabeth L. Kelley, *Immediate
Past-President*

Timothy Brennan
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Leona Calvin
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Ex-officio

Lewis Manilow, (08/11/1927-
12/12/2017), *Founder*
Cheryl Green, *Ph.D., GSU President*
Will Davis, *CEO, GSU Foundation*
Jason Zingsheim, *Ph.D.,
Division of Arts and Letters Chair*

Website: www.govst.edu/sculpture
General Email Address: jstevenson@govst.edu
Phone: 708-534-4021
Hours: Dawn until dusk every day
Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

© 2021 Governors State University's Nathan
Manilow Sculpture Park

Please direct questions or comments to
Jeff Stevenson, *Director & Curator, Nathan
Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery,
Governors State University.*

Director's Notes

Since our last edition of News from theNate, there has been a flurry of activity, resulting in some great news!

At the end of March, we were notified that theNate had been selected amongst 20 sculpture parks across the nation for the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice 2021 competition.

We were off to a rough start due to the notification landing in a spam email folder, so there was NO photo representing theNate, and we were randomly at number 16 of 20. But that didn't stop our friends, followers, and fans from voting, sharing on social media, and speaking out loud and clear! By April 12th, the halfway point of the competition, we had climbed to number 5!

On April 19th with one week to go we made it to the number 2 spot – which was getting us some local attention from the media.

Big thanks to Dane Placko, Fox 32, who came to visit us on April 20th and aired a segment that night [which you can watch here.](#)

The voting ended on April 26th and we had to wait until May 7th for the results, but it was worth the wait because we were named number 1 in the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice 2021 competition!

The original list of 20 sculpture parks was selected by the staff at USA Today along with experts in the field, so just to be named is an honor. And the award of first place demonstrates the network of friends, followers and fans of theNate who excitedly voted daily, spread the word, and ultimately propelled us into the number one spot!

I was on campus Saturday, May 8th and noticed a dramatic increase in visitors. Those that I had an opportunity to speak with indicated they were there because they had seen the competition results. One family was celebrating Mother's Day and said they enjoyed sculpture parks often, so they simply had to see the number one sculpture park in the nation.

I noticed that one of our social media posts reached over 10,000 people – and that was one post amongst many. If 10,000 people donated just \$10 today, we could meet our operating budget needs. For the cost of admission to most museums and attractions, you could help us continue to be the public resource enjoyed by so many, and help us to grow.

As always, we remain free and open to the public, 365 days a year, from dawn to dusk, and even parking is free. We rely entirely on donations to build our education program, maintain the collection, and tend to the land – please make a gift today [Donate Online.](#)

With Warm Regards,
Jeff Stevenson
Director & Curator, theNate

Text To Give

- Text: govst to 44944
- Select theNate on the menu
- Indicate the dollar amount
- Enter your credit card information

Donate Online <https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/>
or mail checks made payable to:

NMSP/GSU Foundation, Jeff Stevenson
theNate at Governors State University
1 University Parkway,
University Park, IL 60484

You can also stay up to date with new developments by following us on our website and social media:

www.govst.edu/sculpture
[www.instagram.com/ thenate](https://www.instagram.com/thenate)
www.facebook.com/nathan.manilow.sculpture.park/

The free Otocast app is a valuable resource for visitors to enhance your experience at your sculpture park right on your own phone!

NEWS FROM THE PARK

2021 Calendar at a Glance

Saturday, June 19 – Juneteenth / Summer Solstice (in-person)

July – Dedication of Terry Karpowicz sculpture – date TBA

Saturday, September 11 – Sculpture, Wine & Dine (hybrid)*

Wednesday, October 6 – Communities Connect II (virtual)

Saturday, October 30 – Kids in Costumes / Bark in the Park (in-person)

Saturday, December 11 – Winter Walk / Empty Bowls (hybrid)*

**Hybrid events will be in-person with aspects in virtual format for those who prefer it.*

We are planning in-person events – outdoor, safe, socially distanced and following CDC and GSU guidelines, and the numbers for the pandemic help us to remain optimistic – so please check back on our website and social media pages for event details closer to the dates. But for now, mark your calendar and plan to join us at theNate!

A Note from Mary Miss



After more than a decade of doing temporary installations, **'Field Rotation'** was my first permanent project. As I look back there are several things about it that still interest me in the work I am currently doing. I was interested in creating a situation that focused on how the built and natural landscapes are interlocked. My work now looks at the connections between cities and the natural systems that support them.

I was also thinking about how you could get visitors to be curious about something like this. From the edge of the field only the mound is visible. I liked the surprise of getting to the edge of the recessed courtyard. How to bring people's attention to a particular situation is still very interesting to me.

If you go into the courtyard there is the additional surprise of the ground-water being visible in the central well. Its level depends on how much rain there has been. Many of my projects over the years have focused on water.

Walking is something that has been a part of my work since the earliest projects. I like to create situations where exploration is necessary. You can see some of my recent work at this website:

<https://www.cityaslivinglab.org>

~ Mary Miss

Happy
Birthday!

Wright in Kankakee Featuring Mike Baur

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Wright in Kankakee worked together to arrange for the sculptures of artist **Mike Baur** to be on display at the B. Harley Bradley House since August of 2020.

Two sculptures have been on view outside the house on the beautiful lawn and garden area, and one smaller work has been placed inside the house as they welcome visitors for socially distanced, masked, limited tours of the house.

Mike Baur's use of materials, shape, and form make connections to the esthetics of Frank Lloyd Wright and visitors can consider color, scale, repetition of form, and line while viewing the art and architecture.



Baur
(pictured right)
says,



"Weight, stability and permanence are important to me; this must be why industrial components, architectural forms and landscapes have always influenced my work. Combining steel and concrete has become a lifelong approach to building form; while often bringing into the mix plastics, wood and stone to expand on this foundational dialogue. I intentionally leverage the implied utility that industrial materials possess while avoiding the literal.

My current sculpture continues the visual themes I have been developing for over 40 years. My work begins with the considerations that all construction requires, but my goal is to arrive beyond formalistic concerns where the common materials I use transcend their origins. The unique power of the three-dimensional object is always paramount."

For more information: <https://www.mikebaursculpture.com>

Wright in Kankakee, B. Harley Bradley House, 701 S. Harrison Ave., Kankakee IL 60901

We believe that when we no longer have words, we turn to art; our gift to our friends in Kankakee has been an additional opportunity to experience excellent, thought provoking art during this challenging time. The exhibition is ending with the in-person event of May 27th as a celebration of Mike Baur's work, connections of art and architecture, and the hopeful conclusion to the pandemic.

Did you know May 5th is Children's Day in Japan?

Friends of theNate, Akiko Thorson and Mari Oishi reflect on their experience of the Children's Day tradition.

Akiko is from Gifu, Japan and came to America in 1990. She is a GSU Alum and received an MA in Art in 1995. Akiko says, "Children's Day is to value children's character and wish for children's happiness and growth. The holiday is celebrated by decorating flying carp flags called koinobori. I remember seeing these flags flying at most houses when I was young. We ate rice-cakes wrapped in oak leaves called Kashiwa-mochi. My parents marked our heights on the door frame to see how much we'd grown and we also made newspaper samurai hats."

Mari is from Kyoto, Japan, currently lives in The Netherlands, and remembers, "Around this day we put up the koinobori, big and small, everywhere in Japan. It's beautiful to see colorful fish flying against the blue sky. In Japanese koi means carp. When I was a child I thought that nobori meant "climbing up" because these karpes are flying high up the sky. But I found out later, when I am already an adult that nobori is the old word for the long strip of flag. So actually koinobori means the carp flag. But I would still like to imagine that those colorful karpes are flying freely and playfully and will eventually reach the sky."



At theNate, **Martin Puryear's** cultural appreciation is deeply seated in his work. His land-art piece, Bodark Arc, was created after a visit to the park when he was inspired by the hedge row of Osage Orange trees. As a child, Puryear had a vast interest in Native Americans and archery. The Osage Orange trees were used by Native Americans to make bows and it is still a prime wood used to make bows today.

In the center of **Bodark Arc**, there is a little bronze chair. The chair touches on his time in the Peace Corps where he developed significant respect for the craftsman and spent many hours learning the carpentry.

Directly across from the chair at the edge of the pond is a wooden gate that hints to a torii, a traditional Japanese gate that usually leads to a Shinto shrine. Bodark Arc was completed in 1982. Puryear's, Bodark Arc gives the viewer an opportunity of discovery and encourages us to think about other cultures.

Children, and the young at heart, can make their own paper koinobori.

1. Fold a piece of paper in half longways.
2. Draw the shape of the fish with one end larger than the other. The larger end will be the mouth and cut the fish shape out.
3. Draw, paint, collage or do texture rubbings on your fish. To do a texture rubbing, place the piece of paper on top of the textured object, and then use the side of the crayon or pencil to create your rubbing.
4. Fold the mouth of fish to the underneath about 1/4" and lay a piece of wire, pipe cleaner, or a cut piece from a paper towel or toilet paper roll. This gives the mouth the circle shape. Then glue or tape the paper together.
5. Add strips of tissue paper to the tail.
6. Glue the belly of the fish together and add a piece of string to the mouth.



Take a Walk with OTOCAST



The free **Otocast app** is your personal tour guide.

Explore the park with the voices of multiple renowned sculptors leading the way. Look for it in your app store on your phone, and use it at destination attractions all over the world.

BIRTHDAYS

May 11, 1948
Terrence Karpowicz

<http://www.karpowiczstudios.com/biography>



Art Ark



Stargazing with contrails

May 15, 1916 – April 16, 1999
Abbott Pattison

<http://www.hpattison.com/abbottpattisonhome>



Untitled (Firenze)

May 23, 1941
Martin Puryear

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/03/arts/martin-puryear-venice-biennale.html>



Bodark Arc

May 27, 1944
Mary Miss

<http://marymiss.com>



Field Rotation

Tarkowski Prints Echo Themes

By Victoria Strole

Recently, a private collector donated a set of prints by Christine Tarkowski to theNate. Tarkowski's sculpture, *Working on the Failed Utopia*, has been part of the park's collection since 2006. The prints were originally part of exhibitions such as *Whale Oil*, *Slave Ships & Burning Martyrs*, and influenced the installation *Imitatio Dei*, her 2006 solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

These prints papered the walls of a gallery where a section of a geodesic dome, others have described as a makeshift cathedral, was used as a symbol of a failed utopia. The text on the posters are the lyrics of a song "Woman If You Drink This Water, You'll Never be Thirsty Again" that Tarkowski wrote in collaboration with Jon Langford. Lyrics such as:

"Praise
the
Scavenger
the
Capitalist
Who
Bio/Wind/Hydro/Solar
The
Garbage Man
Is the
Rational Hero"

Director Jeff Stevenson happily received the gift as it's a continuation of the theme Tarkowski uses in *Working on the Failed Utopia*, which was commissioned during this same timeframe in the artist's career. The panels of "*Failed Utopia*" appear embedded with waste such as beer bottles, chicken bones, tubes from a used Roman candle. Both the set of prints and *Working on the Failed Utopia* demonstrate Tarkowski's concern for material waste and the environment, and now they'll share a home at GSU and theNate.

TheNate is proud to house the work of artists who are continually contributing significant works to global conversations. We welcome you to visit Tarkowski's work in the sculpture park as well as her exhibition currently on display at the Boeing Gallery in Millennium Park, Chicago through April 2022 to how see Tarkowski's work has evolved and yet stays focused on the planet. The title of the work in Millennium Park is:

When we call the Earth by way of distinction a planet and the Moon a satellite, we should consider whether we do not, in a certain sense, mistake the matter. Perhaps- and not unlikely – the Moon is the planet and the Earth the satellite! Are we not a larger moon to the Moon, than she is to us?
2019

For more about these works and other projects by [Christine Tarkowski](#), [visit the artists website](#).



Working on the Failed Utopia



8 Ways to Reduce Your Footprint This Summer

By Julia Rockwell

1. Cycle + Saunter

When the weather is nice, try keeping your car parked at home and using your bike or walking instead. While not everyone lives in places where a walk into town is possible, you can still plan summer activities that are less car intensive such as walks around theNate, hikes on local trails, and a day spent at your local swimming hole, river, lake, or beach.

Pro Tip: If you're interested in getting a bike, consider looking for one secondhand or hitting up your local Buy Nothing Group to try and get one for free.



2. Farmers Market Fun

Support your community this summer by enjoying all of the bounties that your local farmer's market has to offer. Choosing to eat more plants and less meat is one of the most significant ways to reduce your carbon footprint. While not as significant as a plant-based diet, shopping for local and in-season produce also lowers food-related emissions. By eating locally, you are limiting the carbon emissions generated during transport and storage. And by eating in-season, you're more likely to be eating foods that are grown outdoors instead of in carbon-intensive hothouses.

Pro Tip: To minimize waste at the Farmer's Market, bring your own containers, produce bags, and tote. Personally, I love to bring hard containers or jars for soft produce so they don't get squished on the way home. If buying berries, fill your own container and hand the plastic "disposable" carton back to be reused.



3. Ripe + Ready

Food waste is a major source of climate change and the majority of it happens on the consumer level (aka in our homes). Not only is food waste bad for the planet, it's also bad for your wallet. The average family of four wastes \$1500 of food a year. This summer, don't throw out your overripe fruit and freeze it instead. You can use it to make smoothies and popsicles or for baking. (You can even put washed green strawberry tops in your smoothies too.)

Pro Tip: If you're headed out of town, pop foods like bread, butter, (some) produce, hummus, and nuts in the freezer so they don't end up in the trash.



4. Road Tripping

Now more than ever, we are all itching to get away. As you start making your summer plans, consider a road trip within a few hours of your home instead of flying. To reduce car-related emissions, inflate tires to the proper pressure, use cruise control, and pack lightly. Packing car snacks in reusable containers will help keep waste down while on the road. If renting a car, pick a more energy-efficient car like a Hybrid or Hybrid Electric vehicle. It can reduce your emissions by up to 51 percent.

Pro Tip: Consider renting bikes in your destination town or city to get around instead of renting a car.



5. Be Beach Savvy

If you're headed to the beach this summer, check your sunscreen. According to Time Magazine, beachgoers pollute 4,000 - 6,000 tons of sunscreen into the ocean each year, destroying habitats and killing coral reefs. Many reef-safe sunscreens come plastic-free in either compostable tubes or metal tins. Even if you're not taking a dip in the water, avoid chemical sunscreens that use spray bottles. The sprayed sunscreen ends up on the sand and is then washed back into the ocean when the tide rises.

Pro Tip: When packing food for the beach use refillable containers to avoid the trash overflow that you see at the end of the day at beachside trash cans. Additionally, remember to leave the beach better than you found it. Picking up a few pieces of trash on the way out is a great way to help keep garbage and plastic out of the oceans.



6. Make it a Secondhand Summer

If you need some new summer clothes, try shopping secondhand locally or online. You can get designer clothing at a fraction of the cost, and you're keeping perfectly wearable clothing out of the landfill. The average American throws away 81 pounds of clothing a year. Plus, the fashion industry is responsible for 8% of carbon emissions, and their production cycles pollute land, water, and air.

Pro Tip: Buy natural fabrics such as cotton, hemp, and linen. They will keep you cool in the heat, and, unlike synthetic fabrics, don't shed microplastics when being washed.



7. Refill + Repeat

Keeping hydrated in the summer heat is essential and it can be done without costing the planet. While one disposable plastic water bottle might not feel like a big deal, when you look at the American consumption of bottled water, we see that it exceeds 70 million bottles a day. Plus did you know that bottled water can be 1,000 - 10,000 times more expensive than using a refillable one? Opting for a reusable bottle is a simple way to reduce your plastic footprint and save some money this summer too.

Pro Tip: If you don't like the taste of your tap water or prefer it filtered, consider using a plastic-free charcoal filter stick. Simply place the stick in a pitcher of tap water and let sit. It absorbs impurities, adds minerals, and leaves a clean taste. It can be reused for months and is 100% compostable at the end of its life.



Article continued on the next page.

News from theNate

8. Save Some Energy

As things heat up this summer, so does our energy consumption. While it can be tempting to keep the AC blasting, see if you can keep your thermostat at 78 degrees. Doing so can save you up to 10% on your energy bill. If that feels too warm, consider using a box or ceiling fan to take it down a few degrees. Additionally, washing your clothes with cold water is another easy way to save energy (heating water consumes 90% of the energy used when washing clothes). Try doing laundry in the morning. Energy companies usually charge more during peak hours (usually around 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. but it varies upon where you live). Saving energy is not only better for your wallet, it's also better for the environment because it decreases power plant emissions. Overall electricity production represents about 37% of U.S. carbon emissions and is a major contributor to climate change. If renewable energy is available in your area, consider making the switch.



Pro Tip: According to the New York Times, about 75% of the energy used to power our electronic devices is consumed when the products are turned off. Unplug devices once fully charged and consider adding a power switch in the kitchen or under desks to switch everything off when not in use or when traveling out of town.

Julia Rockwell is a zero waste expert, educator, and writer. She is the founder of Our Simple Song, an eco-lifestyle website dedicated to helping others live sustainably. Additionally, she works with individuals and families to help them reduce their carbon, plastic, and waste footprints. You can follow her on Instagram at [@oursimplesong](https://www.instagram.com/oursimplesong).

Thank you for planning a visit to theNate!

Free admission, free parking, open dawn to dusk 365 days a year. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our visitors. When you visit theNate, please remember:

- Hours to visit are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Saturday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. The restrooms at the "A North" entrance (see map) are designated for use by visitors to theNate – please do not enter other buildings, entrances, or locations. Wash your hands.
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least six feet of distance between yourself and others; face coverings are required while on campus – wear a mask; wash your hands.
- Please stay home if you are sick or feeling any symptoms, such as fever, coughing, troubled breathing, and/or other flu-like symptoms;
- Visit alone or with members of your household;
- Stay local and visit parks that are closest to where you live;
- If you arrive at theNate or any other park and crowds are forming, please move to another area or return another time/day to visit; and
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper arm/elbow.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at Governors State University maps and directions: <https://www.govst.edu/maps/>

A flyer titled "Ambassadors for theNate" with a blue header. The main image shows a group of people gathered around a large, abstract sculpture in a park. Below the image is a circular inset showing a group of people walking. The flyer lists benefits and provides contact information for Sherry Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator. The logo for "theNate" is at the bottom right, with the website "www.govst.edu/sculpture".

Ambassadors for theNate

Calling all art lovers! Do you want to learn more about theNate, a world-class sculpture park and the best-kept secret of the South Suburbs? Do you already know and love theNate, and want to share that love with your community? Do you want to have fun while learning something new? Do you want to help us? We are building a network of volunteers to help us with our mission.

BENEFITS
Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for:

- **Social meet-ups once a month**
 - enjoy gathering with others for lunch or an evening glass of wine - compliments of theNate - and a walk through the park.
- **Service**
 - represent theNate in your community through family, friends, and organizations
 - join some or all of our planned events, bring friends
 - help park staff with school tours
- **Life-long learning**
 - engage with the history of theNate / Art History with Dr. Becky through a free online course at your own pace

• earn the Certificate of Completion
• explore other valuable resources provided for learning.

You can customize your experience to do a little or a lot, but either way you will be part of something great. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just an interest in art, the outdoors, and the communities we serve.

theNate
NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK
www.govst.edu/sculpture

For more information about volunteering or taking the course, contact Sherry Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator (email) sdenault@govst.edu.

JOIN Ambassadors for theNate!

Ambassadors for theNate

Volunteers for theNate enjoy monthly meet-ups for lunch, like for our April Earth Day Tour, or an evening glass of wine, like on May 19th, when the group gathered to map our new tour routes in the park. The new route will utilize hard surfaces, sidewalks and paths for visitors who have mobility issues.

Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for socializing with other art lovers, over lunch or a glass of wine, while enjoying the collection. Many take pride in sharing theNate in their own community through organizations, family and friends by presenting videos or slide shows, or simply telling others about this treasure in our region. The more ambitious Ambassadors take the online course with GSU's Art Historian, Dr. Becky to earn a certificate and learn about theNate, modern and contemporary art in general.

Volunteers can customize their experience to do a little or a lot, but either way you will be part of something great. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just an interest in art, the outdoors, and the communities we serve.

Contact Sherry Denault sdenault@govst.edu to find out more about volunteer opportunities at theNate.





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the **Nate**
NATHAN MANILOW **SCULPTURE PARK**