

News from theNate

DIGITAL
Newsletter April/May 2021 Edition



"Field Rotation", by Mary Miss, as photographed by Guy Rhodes, capturing the magnitude and splendor of this monumental land art, site specific work of art.



This issue of News from theNate gives a long view of an optimistic year ahead, with exciting new contributors talking about everything from our new sculptures on the way, to how to live more sustainably.

News from theNate

NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

Celebrate Earth Day at theNate

EARTH DAY TOUR (in-person event)

Earth Day Tour at theNate is an outdoor adventure, annual tradition celebrating our love for the Earth, ART, and The Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration project.

Saturday, April 24

1 p.m. (about an hour, group or self-guided) meet at the F Entrance, East side of campus, near the GIANT yellow sculpture by John Henry, "Illinois Landscape, No. 5"



The Granary Project 2007-10

Dan Peterman (American, b. 1960)

recycled plastic material over steel frame

Commissioned by the Art in Architecture Program, State of Illinois Capital Development Board Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

[Dan Peterman's sculpture](#) and social activism have long provided a critique of contemporary culture's relationship to the earth. **The Granary Project** re-interprets an [earthenware funerary object at The Art Institute of Chicago](#). Dating from China's Han Dynasty, the tiny model represents a granary used to store millet, barley, and wheat. During this period of Chinese history, burial practices were filtering down from the Han aristocracy to local officials and landowners. Tomb models related to farming, an honored occupation, became increasingly popular.



The sculpture's modern presence can be appreciated on multiple levels. Illinois has historically provided much of the U.S. with bountiful harvests. This farm field has been certified for organic food production through the University of Illinois Extension Agency. **The Granary Project** appears ready for a load of grain at any moment.

Inside

- Backyard Birding
- Juneteenth is an annual event
- Even MORE new art?

It also provides a critique of contemporary land use practices, highlighting issues of food security and land use. The artist hopes his work will pique interest in the "locavore" movement which promotes smaller, more local food production, over the mega-farms which have come to dominate agriculture in the U.S.

Finally, **The Granary Project** 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**.



Another exhibit of Dan Peterman's work, at [The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago](#), is "[Sulfur Cycle 2.0](#)" (on view through [March 1, 2022](#)) which digs below the surface of the gallery walls to reveal parts of the museum itself built from fossil fuels.

The exhibition traces specific materials across time while also considering the broader environmental and economic systems at play. Through this investigation, Peterman asks the viewer to think more deeply about the systems that fuel their lives: whether for their car, their home, their workplace, or their city. Peterman demonstrates how capitalism reorganizes nature—and how fossil fuels are so ingrained in our production and consumption cycles, they disappear into the environment we occupy.

Celebrate Earth Day with us on Saturday, April 24th by joining the safe, outdoor, socially distanced, masked tour of the collection including this **thought provoking** work by Dan Peterman.



Director's Notes

Our Advisory Board for theNate had our annual retreat to focus on the year ahead in 2021 and how we can do the most with what we have. We're excited and optimistic to provide a calendar of events, both virtual and in-person, to provide new and dynamic ways for you to experience the art, the land, and connections with each other. You can find more information about our [programs and events on our website](#).

We're learning to be fluid and flexible as we realize we may need to make adjustments and changes along the way. But at the foundation of our planning we remain open, free of charge, 365 days a year from dawn to dusk – even parking is free. Donations are welcome and you can [donate online](#).

As we prepare for our **Earth Day Tour on April 24th** we hope you will join us to receive the direct benefits resulting from spending time in nature, and with great art. I'm teaching a Graduate Seminar class this semester and we are reading "*Modern Art at the Border of Mind and Brain*" by Jonathan Fineberg, that points out the benefits of modern art for brain function, creativity, and problem solving. And in "*Chatter: The Voice in Our Head, Why It Matters, and How to Harness It*" by Ethan Kross, research is presented that shows direct benefits of spending time in nature, experiencing awe and fascination. So, clearly theNate offers both art and nature giving our visitors the best of both! [Plan your visit today](#), joining us on April 24th, or visiting on your own.

We are also reminded of the devotion of Bill Dodd, former GSU administrator who had a particular love for the land and theNate. [The Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund](#) is a way for you to directly support The Butterfly Ranch prairie restoration project and other initiatives that enhance education of GSU Students and area school children alike. And it makes the park a more beautiful, natural space for all our visitors.

We are excited to welcome a new GSU Student Advisory Board Member, Aaron West, who has a particular interest in environmental issues, and a new contributor to the newsletter, Julia Rockwell, who shares tips and motivational information so we all can make better choices for our world.

Recently, we hosted a program that was made possible by the GSU Intellectual Life Committee, "*Change Just One Thing*" with artist Indira Johnson. Participants agreed that we can all make small changes in ourselves in order to be the change we want to see in the world. We discussed how to find connection with others through empathy, kindness, and mindfulness. We made collage art to represent our intentions to attend to the environment in small ways within our reach. And we learned about the ripple effect of our actions, that many ripples will combine together to make a tidal wave of change. I mention this here to remind you that your gift, of any amount can be that ripple, joining with others, to create the change that theNate is bringing to the communities we serve. [Please make your gift today](#).

With Warm Regards,
Jeff Stevenson
Director & Curator, theNate

Donate online <https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/>
or mail checks made payable to NMSF/GSU Foundation to:
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
<https://www.instagram.com/thenate/>
<https://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!

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
Shay Brokemon
Leona Calvin
Jacqueline James Lewis
Gregg Lunceford
Susan Ormsby
Yvonne Orr-El
Victoria Strole
Al Sturges
Jennifer Traff
Paul Uzureau

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.

Send a message with "LandMarks Address" in the subject heading to jstevenson@govst.edu

© 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.*

NEWS FROM THE PARK

GSU Student Advisory Board Members

The Advisory Board for theNate is made up of dedicated individuals who are leaders in their fields – ranging from finance, the arts, business, architecture, and education – and leaders in their communities. The Advisory Board also has positions for devoted GSU students who engage to promote theNate on campus and beyond.



Aaron West, GSU Student

The latest addition to our Advisory Board is Aaron West who is a long-time art enthusiast and active participant in park events, even though his area of study is Biology. Aaron completed his Bachelor of Science in Biology in May 2020, and is currently enrolled in graduate studies to earn a Master's Degree. Aaron says, "I want to study the effects

of plastic material in soil to determine how it negatively impacts plants, as well as uncover methods of preventing its presence in the environment. At GSU, I found my desire to empower the Earth."

Here at theNate we have made a strong commitment to the Art, Conservation of the art and the land, and Education. We have engaged in a prairie restoration project, The Butterfly Ranch to strengthen native habitats for wildlife and provide educational opportunities for GSU Students, area school children, and all our visitors. Read the article in this issue "**Love Your Mother: 12 Ways to Care for the Earth**" to connect with the ideas that motivate theNate and Aaron.

If you are a GSU Student who is interested in getting involved, reach out to Aaron or the staff at theNate for more information sdenault@govst.edu.



2021 Calendar at a Glance

Tuesday, March 30 – Public Virtual Tour (virtual)

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 – EARTH DAY TOUR (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, May 5 – Communities Connect I (virtual)

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 excitedly optimistic in planning some in-person events – outdoor, safe, socially distanced and following CDC and GSU guidelines – 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!



Guy Rhodes Photography

BIRTHDAYS

January 10, 1929

John Payne



February 10, 1957

Ted Sitting Crow Garner



February 4, 1913

Henri Étienne-Martin



February 19, 1942

Barry Tinsley



February 9, 1929

Clement Meadmore



February 26, 1948

Jerry Peart



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.

New Sculpture Soon to Be Installed

Bernard Williams has created a proposal for a new piece to be installed on the grounds of the Butterfly Ranch in the sculpture park that is both an art object and a work of architecture, a welcome complement to our existing collection of large-scale sculptures. *(Photos shown at right.)*

Drawing upon modernist architectural referents, its stark white surface is perforated with repeated forms – a wall of triangular openings that sweep upwards, interlocking geometric forms that evoke a quilted pattern, and vertical arabesques framing a doorway that create a kind of abstract column. In this way, it appears as a more fanciful, more eclectic, and postmodern version of French architect Le Corbusier's [Villa Savoye](#) in the suburbs of Paris; or a fun, yet more user-friendly version of American architect Peter Eisenman's [House VI](#). Unlike the work of Le Corbusier and Eisenman, however, Williams's proposal doesn't take itself too seriously; with multiple perches for both people and birds to enjoy the vista, it allows the visitor to play and explore, and to project our own colors onto its white surfaces.

In its architectural appearance and its gleaming white walls, it also relates to Bruce Nauman's "House Divided" across the way, yet looks nothing like the typical pitched-roof house that Nauman's structure references. Recalling these residential architecture examples, Williams's proposal obliquely references the idea of "home," which has such important symbolism on a college campus where some are away from home for perhaps the first time. The piece will also be an observation deck for the GSU community to enjoy watching the butterflies and other wildlife acclimate to their own new home in the restored prairie, from atop this whimsical, modernist cube.

— Rebecca Siefert, *Assistant Professor, Art History, GSU*



NEW SCULPTURE



Villa Savoye / Le Corbusier



House VI / Peter Eisenman

EDUCATION

Virtual Field Trips and Tours

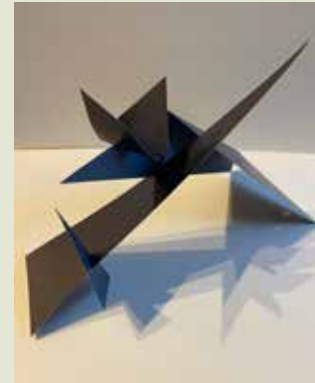
Everyone enjoys our virtual events, students, teachers, and parents alike! Here is what one student had to say:

"It was great taking the tour of the sculpture park virtually and it was a bonus that we were able to create a sculpture of our own afterward. The gallery personnel from the university gallery were very kind and answered all of my questions. It was amazing! Each of the sculptures were so different. The sculptures were huge. Even though our fieldtrip was virtual, you were able to get a good sense of their size."

~ Anonymous (student from Nelson Prairie Elementary School of New Lenox Art Club grades 4-6, Tammy Kordik, teacher.)

OUTDOORS @theNate is a program that usually welcomes area school children in person to the 100 acres of prairie lands and monumental outdoor sculptures that is theNate. During our dynamic virtual version of the program, students were very attentive to the live and recorded presentations, asked great questions, participated in the chat, and created a paper sculpture of their own.

FREE Public Virtual Tours will be offered occasionally with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 4 p.m. email sdenault@govst.edu for Zoom meeting info and check our website and social media for new events.



OUTDOORS @theNate

theNate and Girl Scouts Partnership

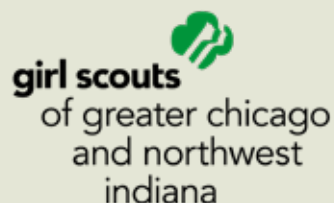
Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



theNate has officially partnered up with the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. theNate provides a place for girls to get outdoors and experience monumental sculptures and the 100 acre prairie landscape setting in which they reside. Girl Scouts can discover the artwork and how it responds to social, cultural, and political issues, while exploring the habitat of Native Illinois plants and animals, including the newly restored 12 acre "Butterfly Ranch".

"Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana gratefully acknowledges all companies and organizations – including theNate - who officially partner with us. Partnerships amplify our individual resources and expertise; enable us to bring attention to issues that affect the lives of 45,000 girl members, their families and nearly 19,000 adult volunteers; and create heightened brand recognition for focused experiences that do more good to improve the well-being of the 245 communities we serve than any entity can do separately."

[Visit our website for more.](#)



Birding at theNate and Surrounding Communities



— by Suzanne Oliver

In 1991, my husband and I built a home in Crete that was surrounded by a small forested area, and we had our builder leave every tree he possibly could. We joined, and were certified by the National Wildlife Federation by providing food, shelter and water year-round. We also joined the Cornell Lab of Ornithology so that we could take part in the annual bird count.

Year-round we are visited by a variety of woodpeckers, including downy, hairy, red bellied and flickers. This year we are thrilled to have a red headed woodpecker – so beautiful! My favorites are probably the songbirds such as the nuthatch, chickadee, cardinal and titmouse because of their extreme friendliness, but both the house and Carolina wren, house, gold and purple finch, assorted hawks and various sparrows visit us as well. The Blue jay, junco and robin come and go depending on the season.



(Crete) Bordwell House Certified Wildlife Habitat photos of birds



Guy Rhodes, photo of bird over water

We incorporate multiple birdhouses, roosting boxes, butterfly and bee houses into our landscape. Many families of wrens and chickadees have been born and fledged from our various houses which is always a thrill for us. We leave fallen trees in the woods, and develop brush piles, which are hugely popular with birds and chipmunks. Our most unusual bird sightings over the years have been a woodcock, a northern shrike (which actually hit our window but survived), and this year finally a pileated woodpecker! We were thrilled as this just happened for the first time and we're hoping to have more sightings of this shy bird.

So, this is our little haven, which we cherish and tend with love. Happy birding in your own backyard, and at theNate!

[Check back on our website](#) in the coming weeks for links to information about native birds and flowers to enrich your experience at theNate!

Love Your Mother: 12 Ways to Care for the Earth

— by Julia Rockwell



From plastic-filled oceans to climate breakdown, mother earth is in need of some extra TLC. We all hold the power to make a difference in this world. With Earth Day coming up on April 22, let's join together to celebrate and honor our planet with these 12 simple ways to show Mother Earth we care:

01. ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Take Earth Day outside. Go on a hike with your family. Join a community garden. Engage in a neighborhood trash pick-up. Spend an afternoon breathing in the fresh air at theNate. It is good for the human spirit and a wonderful reminder that we are all connected to something much greater.

02. DON'T BE PERFECT

Taking steps toward leading a more sustainable life isn't about being perfect. It's about doing what you can. If you mess up, it's ok. Don't not do it because you can't do everything. If making small shifts feels more manageable at first, start there. The change begins with you.

03. DO AN AUDIT

Before hauling your bins to the curb, do a trash and recycling audit to discover your main source of waste. Food packaging? Online shopping? Takeout containers? That's a great place to start reducing waste.

04. BREAKUP WITH SINGLE-USE

There are many ways to start transitioning away from single-use items. Start by bringing a shopping tote and reusable produce bags to the grocery store. Opt to carry a utensil kit in your bag or keep one in your desk drawer at work to avoid using disposable cutlery. Swap bottled water for a refillable water bottle. Pack trash-free snacks and lunches for your kids. Shifting away from single-use to reusable products helps reduce what gets tossed.

05. DON'T DUMP PLASTIC TOO SOON

People often assume that to be sustainable, they need to get rid of all of the plastic in their lives. If you own plastic things, such as a laundry basket, it's best to treat them well. If your plastic items crack or break, see if you can repair it. Only when plastic items no longer function should you go out and purchase a new one made from sustainable materials. The goal is avoid buying any new plastic. However, throwing out or donating perfectly good plastic items you own just to replace them with a brand new "sustainable" option instead isn't actually sustainable at all.

06. DOUBLE IT UP

When cooking at home, double recipes and freeze the second portion so you have an easy meal on-hand. This way when life gets busy you can avoid having to get takeout that comes in disposable containers, wasteful frozen packaging, or having to cook twice. You also save time and money—which everyone loves.

07. EAT MORE PLANTS

Eating less meat, beef, in particular, can have a far-reaching impact on the climate crisis. According to a study at the University of Oxford, business-as-usual food "emissions could be reduced by as much as 70 percent through adopting a vegan diet and 63 percent for a vegetarian diet." Not ready to cut out meat entirely? Start with Meatless Mondays or aim to have beef only on special occasions. What do you replace meat with? Plant-based proteins such as beans, nuts, lentils, tofu, seeds, bread made from sprouted grains, quinoa, and more!

08. A BRIGHT IDEA

Using energy-efficient LED lightbulbs helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Not only are they better for the earth, they last longer than incandescents and, according to the NRDC, you can save up to \$100 a year on your energy bill. And if we're talking about lightening your energy load, don't forget to flip the switch when leaving the room.

09. GIVE SECOND CHANCES

According to The New York Times, nearly three-fifths of all clothing ends up in incinerators or landfills within one year of being manufactured. If that's not enough to make your jaw drop, more than 8 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions are produced by the apparel and footwear industries alone. Mending the clothes you have, buying quality pieces made from organic, natural fibers, sharing clothes you no longer wear with family or friends, and shopping secondhand are all important factors in fighting climate change.



10. END FOOD WASTE

Food waste is a major contributor to climate change, and 43% of it happens in our homes. Taking a stand by making a meal plan and sticking to your grocery list. Storing foods correctly, composting, freezing food before it goes bad, and reusing food scraps are also effective ways of keeping food waste out of the landfill.

11. KEEP IT COOL

75 percent of all the energy your washer uses goes to warming up the water. Switching to a cold water wash is not only more sustainable, it can lower your utility bill. Keeping it cool also extends the life of clothing. Additionally, you may want to consider using eco-friendly laundry detergent and adding a microplastic filter to your washing routine. Because our synthetic clothing is a major source of ocean pollution (one load of laundry can shed up to 700,000 microplastics per wash), choosing to buy 100% natural fiber clothing is also important.

12. DITCH THE CUP

Next time you head out for ice cream, skip the disposable cup and spoon. Treat yourself to an ice cream cone instead. People often think that leading a sustainable lifestyle means depriving yourself of the things you love. More often than not, it's about shifting the way you approach something rather than giving it up completely.