

# LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY SENTINEL

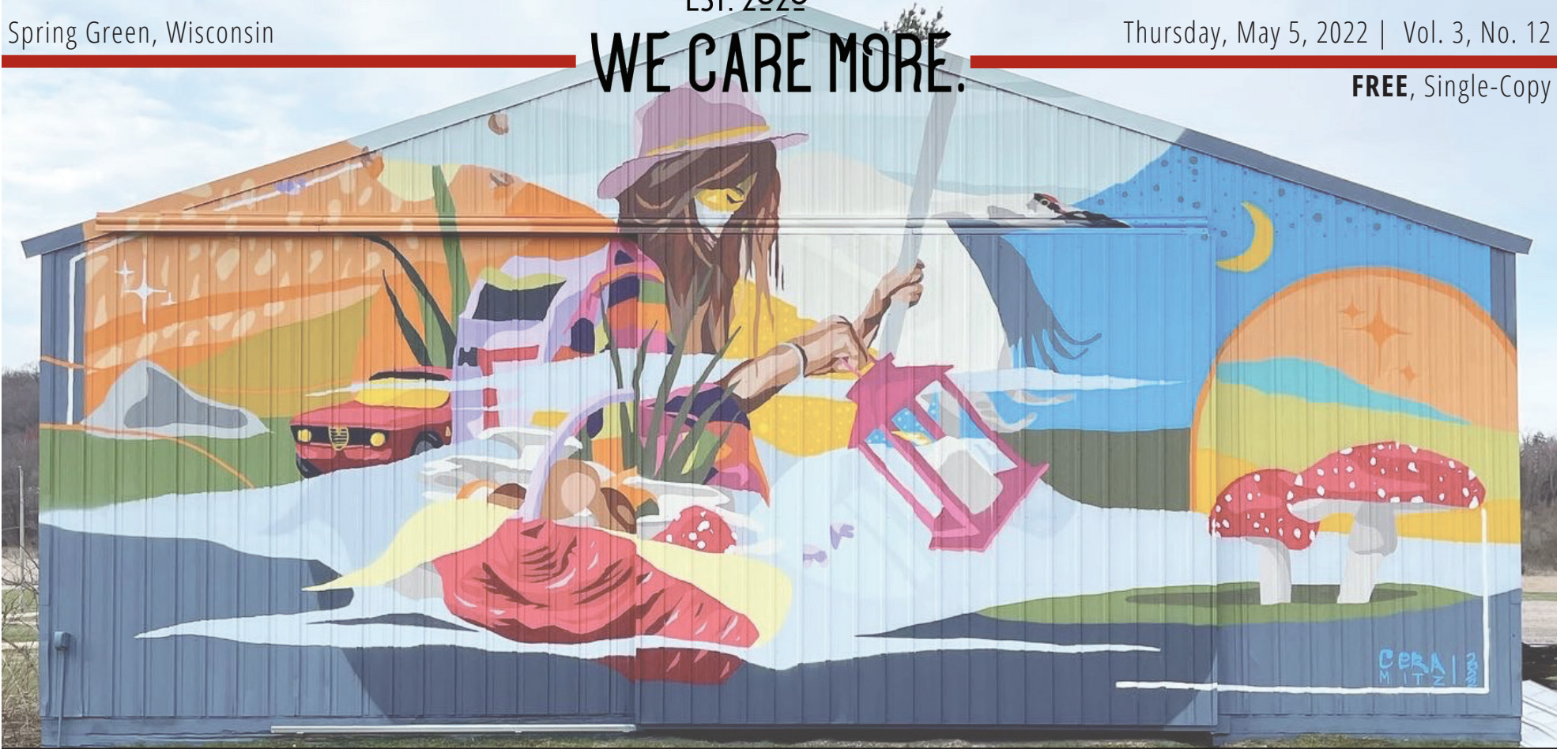
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Spring Green, Wisconsin

WE CARE MORE.

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## Sh\*tty Barn sessions open for season



Photo by Cari Stebbins

The Shitty Barn sessions (506 East Madison Street, Spring Green) opened May 4 with musicians Logan Ledger and Sway Wild. More information can be found at: [shittybarnsessions.com](http://shittybarnsessions.com)

## Deputy Tourism Secretary visits Taliesin to kick off National Tourism Week



Photo by Elizabeth Maske

"We were thrilled to have Maria Van Hoorn, the Deputy Secretary of Tourism for Wisconsin, visit Taliesin Preservation to celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week. Perhaps this year's celebration is more important than ever before. As we emerge from the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of travel and tourism destinations in rural and urban communities, and all the employees who make these destinations and experiences possible, need our support. This week we celebrate all of those in the travel and tourism industries and encourage individuals to start making their summer travel plans to show your support!" —Carrie Rodamaker, Executive Director. Pictured: Deputy Secretary Van Hoorn, above at left, is expressing her delight in learning about the living room with Rodamaker.

## No-Mow May adopted by Spring Green village board, experts weigh in on the benefits and any risks

Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*

On April 27, the Spring Green Village Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting via Zoom, with one of the topics discussing the merits of a "no-mow May" to help pollinators after a long cold season. With the board in favor of village landowners taking part, we had experts weigh in on the benefits and any risks of the initiative.

### So what is No-Mow May?

It's all in the name, involving residents keeping their lawn unmowed for the duration of the month of May as well as municipalities waiving enforcement of lawn tidiness ordinances — and even perhaps joining in on the mowing break themselves. This is all in an effort to give a head start to recently-awakened pollinating insects that have seen their populations decimated for multitudes of reasons currently under study.

Interest has spiked in the initiative statewide after Wisconsin Public Radio

published an article — "What you need to know about No-Mow May, the bee-boosting trend sweeping Wisconsin" — outline the success the city of Appleton has had since it implemented the policy in 2020, with WPR citing the observation of No-Mow May in at least seven other Wisconsin communities this year.

The action item was brought to the board by Village President Robin Reid after she said community members and other board members had asked her

about it.

Village Trustee Michael Broh said he felt like enforcement of the grass six inch height rule tends to be lax in general regardless.

"So I don't feel like putting the enforcement on hold for the month of May is a burden on our village, and it might well yield some fruit," said Broh. "I would certainly be in favor."

Spring Green Police Chief Mike

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Will No-Mow May mean more ticks? Experts say not to worry, ticks are probably already in your lawn

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Stoddard said that forgoing enforcement wouldn't be a problem.

"I'm not going around, enforcing somebody's yard, if it's over six inches in the middle of May," said Stoddard.

"I'd like to see somebody get over six inches in the middle of May," Broh quipped. "That would be amazing."

New Trustee Damien Barta said the initiative sounded like a good idea.

"It's probably going to be useful for our farmers. You know... there might be some discussion among neighbors about dandelions," said Barta. "But I think it's a good idea."

Trustee Jeannie McCarville made the motion that was ultimately approved unanimously to forgo a penalty to anyone that allows their lawn to grow over six inches in May for No-Mow May.

The board declined to take action on the village participating in No-Mow May on its properties. Public Works Director Adam Reno advised that ballparks would have to be mowed but offered that other village-owned areas could be left to grow such as the water treatment plant. Reno also proposed mowing every other week in May as an alternative. Without taking formal action the consensus of the board was to allow Reno to use his discretion

**What's all the fuss about?**

Entomologist and director of UW-Madison's Insect Science Lab, PJ Liesch says the data is clear — insects are declining globally and it's an issue, with many of our foods and produce pollinated by insects.

"It's a very complex issue with many interacting factors," says Liesch. "However, there's growing evidence that factors such as land-use changes (deforestation, etc.), climate change, intensive agriculture, pesticide use, light pollution, and other factors are negatively impacting insect populations."

Christelle Guédot, an expert on fruit crop entomology, including pest management and pollinators and associate professor at UW-Madison says initiatives like No-Mow May are important.

"Resources provided by no-mow include dandelion, clover, violet, etc. — flowers that are the first flowers to bloom in early/mid spring before other flowers such as tree fruit flowers begin to bloom," says Guédot. "They provide valuable resources (pollen and nectar) for early bees that are emerging from winter diapause (hibernation for insects). These include overwintering bumble bee queens and many spring solitary native bees."

Susan Carpenter, Wisconsin native plant garden curator at the UW-Madison Arboretum and an expert on native plant gardening, sustainable gardening practices and bumble bee conservation, agrees.

"Early spring is a crucial time for pollinators that emerge early in the season. Bees need flowers: pollen (mainly to feed their young or provision eggs) and nectar (mainly as an energy source for the adult bees). Other pollinators like flies, butterflies, etc. may also visit flowers growing in lawns," says Carpenter. "Not mowing may keep more flowers available for these pollinators."

Carpenter says No-Mow May is just one part of a larger picture and that stressors on pollinators include habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use, climate change, disease and pathogens, and their interactions.

"The most important things an individual can do are: a) plant many and many kinds of native plants from

your region, b) eliminate pesticide use (especially insecticides, especially systemic insecticides) and c) document the pollinators you see and share what you learn with projects like Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade, and/or locally with school, community gardens, neighbors, faith groups, etc. Help others help pollinators," says Carpenter. "Governments can make pollinator protection a priority: funding and installing plantings, offering incentives for homeowners, landowners, and communities to create and manage pollinator habitat, funding research that would answer questions to help protect pollinators, providing visibility and resources for the public (plant lists, pollinator ID, events, etc.)"

**But what about ticks?**

No-Mow May is also National Lyme Disease Awareness Month. With all this unmowed grass, some may have concerns that their lawns become a magnet for ticks carrying Lyme disease.

Liesch says mowing doesn't seem to help reduce tick numbers and that nearby wooded area habitat is a bigger impact.


Xia Lee, vector biologist for the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease and public health entomologist at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services concurs.

"We do not have direct evidence to support mowing as a method for controlling ticks on lawns. Our own research at recreational parks showed that mowing did not reduce the abundance of ticks on hiking trails," says Lee. "In a separate study, we looked for ticks in homeowner's backyards at two communities in Wisconsin and found blacklegged ticks on well-manicured lawns near forested edges. Based on those two studies, mowing may not be an effective strategy for controlling ticks on lawns."


**So should you join No-Mow May?**

"While not mowing may help, it's not a perfect "cure-all" for bees and other pollinators and it's important to keep in mind that there are many other things that can benefit these insects such as minimizing or eliminating pesticide use in your yard and planting a diversity of flowering plants," concludes Liesch. "Helping pollinators in May is one thing, but we can have pollinators active from early spring into the fall, so you really need to look at the bigger picture if you're serious about helping them out."


# Plant these to save the Bees



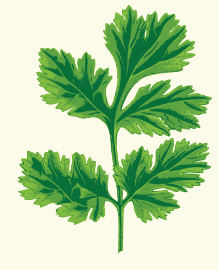
**BEES LOVE ALL OF THESE PLANTS. CONSIDER PLANTING THESE TO HELP SAVE BEES.**



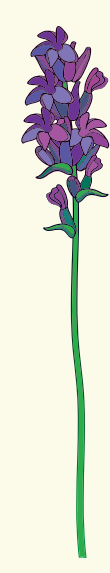
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\*Vice President of Finance/CFO – full-time financial management position.  
 \*Director of Marketing & Community Relations – full-time managerial position.  
 \*Director of Home Medical Services – full-time management position in our Platteville office.  
 \*CRNA – full-time position with excellent compensation/benefits and incentive package!  
 \*APP Hospitalist – seeking an APNP or PA to work in our hospitalist role.  
 \*RN Float Nurse – .6 FTE Premium Pay Weekender and a .75 FTE evening/night shift position. \$3,750 Employment Bonus Eligible! Additional Float RN differential!  
 \*RN OB unit - .75 FTE evening/night shift position. \$3,750 Employment Bonus Eligible!  
 \*Certified Nursing Assistants – part-time positions available in our Nursing & Rehab Center on day, evening and night shifts, **\$3,000 Employment Bonus included** along with a competitive wage and benefits package for part or full time work!  
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 \*Environmental Services Supervisor – full-time exempt supervisory position.  
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 \*Clinic Triage RN – Full-time position, Monday through Friday.

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