



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

• A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 •

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

Volume 22 Issue 8.2
August 5, 2021

.....TILL WE MEET AGAIN!



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Platform	
Superintendent	2
Annual Meeting Message	3
Monarch Waystation	4
News from the Courts	5

FROM THE SNACK SHOP

We can't believe it's over! Thanks to everyone who hung out in the Snack Shop, purchased swag and most of all encouraged us. We learned a lot and had a great time.

We will miss seeing you in the Snack Shop!

Duncan & Jack



FROM THE PLATFORM SUPERINTENDENT

As the 139th Platform draws to a close, platform assistant Ethan White mentioned that he had received submissions for Week 9, and we tossed around various ideas about what to do. Here you have it, the Week 8.5 version.

This year, it happens that my work with the Assembly also comes to an end. Sooner than we thought but the pandemic has prompted my husband and me to reconsider how we will spend the years we have together. This is work that I love--education and the church. Bringing together many events so that everyone will enjoy something but more importantly, the institution's mission is fulfilled through the Platform each summer, "...to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment...".

Having spent my life working in non-profit, mission-oriented organizations, I've learned that the mission must always be out in front. A former Marine sergeant was the head of one school on which I served as faculty. Each week at faculty meetings, he entered the room and ceremonially placed the framed mission statement in the center of the table. The mission defined our work, united us, paved the way forward, and provided solid ground to remind parents, staff, and faculty, why we chose this school. Like any mission, it keeps us from wandering off the path, chasing a recent trend, or avoiding the hard work of building a future for the Assembly by strengthening the mission and purpose each summer.

I love the rich whole-ness of the Assembly's mission statement. Spiritual growth and renewal is first, I don't think by accident. Inquiry and learning through the lectures and workshops offer opportunities to hear ideas and explore new skills. In recreation and cultural enrichment there is perhaps a need to develop the latter. In fact, I was asked to do this when hired. Professional performance events and instruction for those in residence, both young and old might be considered.

The three, remarkable young adults who worked on the Platform this summer made each day better, easier, and (mostly) good fun. Richard Ahlquist, the first Platform Family Ministries Coordinator (thanks to a generous donor) forged closer ties with chapel worship and events. He devoted time to working with and encouraging youth participation, and assured that the Twilight Prayers were a consistent worship experience through the season. We are so fortunate to have had the experience of Alena Kochinski show us what a production assistant could do. Have you ever entered an Assembly event with a Spotify sound track suited to the theme playing? The lights programmed for the entry, introduction, lecture and closing? Each lecture was a special event for us thanks to her hard work. Ethan White, whose talents in music, the use of language, commitment to Christian worship, and general patient, good humor held us all together (he's awesome). Keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they move on to new places and challenges.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of these three very different seasons!

Fondly,

Ruth S. Cobb

Platform Superintendent

A MESSAGE FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

The mission statement of the Assembly is as follows:

“The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.”

We are a community, which is defined as,

“a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common ownership.”

I am not concerned about the lifeblood of this community...which is love. Love for this place, love for each other. As my seven year old granddaughter told her mother in early spring, “Mama, I am Monteagle sick, not home sick, Monteagle sick.” I know just how she felt!

I need to relate a brief story. It is late at night....10:00, late for an eight-year-old. I am walking by myself after the movie is over, across the bridge towards our cottage. It is cool and dark. There are two figures walking towards me, and I cannot see their faces. I am not afraid. As they approach, they recognize me and ask if I can find my way home by myself. I respond with a “yes”, and they continue their walk. In this simple encounter I realize that I am safe. Many years later, I recalled this moment when one of my children told me a similar story as they crossed the same bridge, late at night. I was not afraid for her. The safety net of this community is large and secure.

What I am concerned about at this time is our ability to work together, across different generations, and different viewpoints, and different ideas....for the benefit of the entire community. And our focus needs to be on the ENTIRE community, not just one group or another. It takes the dedication of many to protect and preserve this place that we all love.

Perhaps what I treasure most about this place is this sense of community. In a community, on this common ground, lives intertwine and work together to form a firm foundation on which ALL may stand and thrive. Its strength lies in the members, and their contributions TO and faith IN the whole. This has been true for Monteagle Assembly for generations. It is my prayer that it will continue now and for many more.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Van Zandt Merrill

FROM THE SMITH-BOETH MONARCH WAYSTATION

Great Blessings, Small Wonders

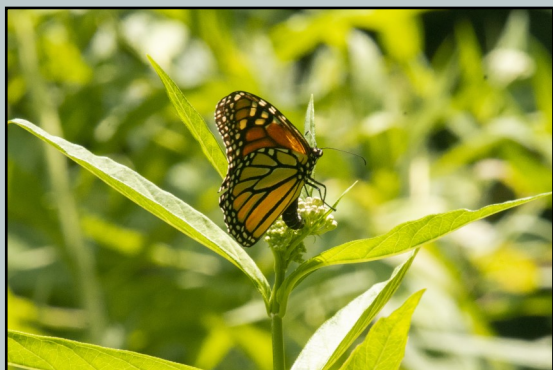
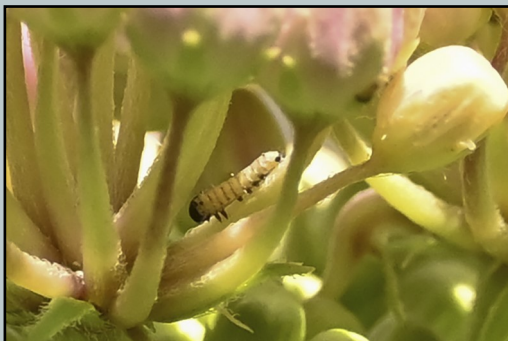
As the season winds down in the assembly, cycles of life are beginning anew in the Smith-Boeth Monarch Waystation up on Short Cut. As we hoped in the last issue, a Monarch female did indeed visit on July 29th and laid eggs on milkweed all around the garden. It laid eggs on the undersides of milkweed leaves, but then it also laid eggs within the buds of newly developing milkweed flowers, as shown in the photo.

An egg takes about four days to hatch. We could not find any signs in our photos, even under high magnification. Then, on Tuesday, Rick saw a ghost in one of the bud photos, exactly where that egg was deposited. He went back with his camera, recomposed and refocused, and found this gorgeous little first stage Monarch larva walking amid the stems of the still closed buds. A small miracle.

Equally surprising was the guest we found in our window box when we returned home Saturday night. An ugly little splat of black and white with bumps was sitting on a top leaf. It was the first or second larva of another Black Swallowtail. Since then it has eaten and grown and become a little more presentable. We call him Elvis. Elvis Parsley.

We thank all in the Assembly this season for their support and enthusiasm for the butterfly garden, a shared space for nature and joy and contemplation, open to all. We celebrate Stephanie for all of her incredible and gorgeous work as the master designer of this living, breathing place full of beauty and butterfly royalty.

Please follow the latest butterfly garden news at our blog, monteaglemonarchs.com.



News from the Courts: Wrapping Up the Season



Fans 3 yrs old to 80 yrs young enjoy watching the pickleball action



*Over 75 spectators crowded around the pickleball courts on Saturday, July 31, to watch the tournament finals. Congratulations to this year's winners:
Men's Doubles: Overton Thompson & Stephen Green
Women's Doubles: Ellie Billington & Amanda Moody
Mixed Doubles: Dianne Lloyd & Clark Hudgins*

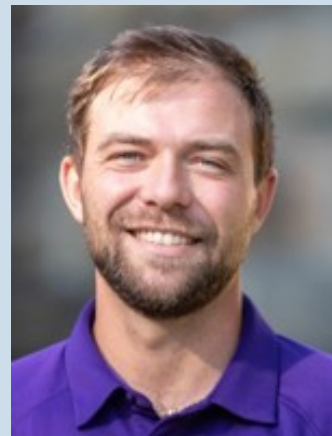
A MESSAGE FROM FELIX MANN

This summer was filled with lessons, clinics, and tennis activity. Cardio Tennis had a way of humbling even the fittest participants; the youth clinics were always a blast (even when the hummingbirds tried to pass as eaglets); and the private lessons were full of instruction and sarcastic comments by the coach. It's sad to see the season come to an end, but that just means you have time to get in shape for next summer!

If you find yourself here in the off-season, make sure you send me a text for a lesson!

Hope to see you all soon!

Felix Mann
Tennis Coach
Sewanee: The University of the South
(c) 571-278-5132



ODDS AND ENDS

