



# 20 YEARS OF GROWTH

**M**ilestones are meant to be celebrated and the Monk Botanical Gardens' 20th Anniversary this year is no exception. Hundreds of community members of varying ages participated in diverse events and programs to commemorate 2023's special occasion.

Monk Botanical Gardens became incorporated as a non-profit in 2003, two decades after the concept of an educational botanical garden grew from an 'accidental trespassing' and Robert W. Monk III donated 20 acres to this vision.

"My Dad would be thrilled if he could see how the Garden was growing in many ways to be a success," said Robert's daughter, Marcia King. "He would love seeing the kids running around enjoying the outdoors, playing in the dirt, and splashing in the water like we did."

"Walking frequently through the Gardens, I am so proud of what

staff and especially volunteers have accomplished," said Ruth Schuette who, along with her late husband Marvin, donated the Treehouse feature and an additional 8.5 acres. "My message is to encourage everyone to visit the Gardens, watch for additional plans as proposed and invest as you are able!"

The Sprouts Garden Preschool program will continue to grow in the 2023-2024 school year. New offerings will include a full-day class for four- and five-year olds, and before and after-school care options for students. With nature at the heart of the program, teaching is based on high-quality early childhood education and environmental education practices. Students spend more than 80 percent of their time outdoors throughout the seasons with any indoor time taking place in a yurt classroom.

Learn more about the Gardens' programming and membership benefits on [MonkGardens.org](http://MonkGardens.org).



Photo by Kelly Puntney

## About the Region

Marathon County, created in 1850, is named after the Greek city of Marathon. Located in central Wisconsin, the county seat is Wausau.

**Land Area:** 1,576 square miles

**Water Area:** 31 square miles

**Elevation:** 1,195 feet at Wausau, 1,924 feet at the Queen's Chair on Rib Mountain (fourth highest point in Wisconsin), 1,605 feet at Upper Mosinee Hill

**Geographical Province:** Northern Highland

**Natural Vegetation:** Mostly maple, hemlock and yellow birch; a narrow strip with white and red pine in center. There is a small area of conifer swamp in the southwest.



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# Marathon County

There are six cities, 16 villages and 39 towns in Marathon County, each with their own personality.

City of Abbotsford

Village of Edgar

Village of Maine

Village of Rothschild

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Village of Athens

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Village of  
Marathon City

City of Marshfield

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