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# Jay's Trip to Wisconsin, Cape Cod in 2013, and Beyond

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

## Rain and Sun Equal Work and Fun

As I write this on Wednesday, June 26, it is pouring rain outside the Victor Allen Coffee Shop on Monroe Street. My golf date was cancelled with Jerry in Spring Green and I am quite frankly tired of the rain. I am sure I am not alone in this fair city.

However, it is time to write and show you some photos from yesterday. The day was both rainy and sunny. The rain in the morning allowed me to work on this Blog and get it up to date. I am not complaining, because I have the time to do this; but it is a time consuming activity and the rain is a motivator to sit down and work on it. And so I spent a good deal of the morning in Panera's in Fitchburg editing text from two days and uploading selected photos to the Blog. I achieved success.

As I returned to my apartment, the sun began to emerge and I decided I would venture out to the Olbrich Botanical Gardens located on Madison's east side, close to Lake Monona. I had been there several years ago and remember it as a very pleasant place to visit, but I had no idea what was in store for me yesterday afternoon. I spent about two hours wandering the outside gardens and finished my walk in the atrium that houses tropical plants. As I walked the winding paths of the outside gardens, I was greeted with colors of all kinds, including many shades and shapes of green.

Every Botanical Garden has its rose garden and this one does too with some special touches of lattices, fountains, and interesting combinations of flowers. There is a tall tower in the Rose Garden that welcomes visitors to view the sites from on high. There were tinkling waterfalls and serene ponds everywhere. There was a section, presented I believe, by the Thai Government and the Thai Chapter of the UW Alumni Association with its own special plantings, sculptures, and temple (my term). There was a warning that birds protecting their nests may bother a walker and I must have come too close at one point because a bird almost removed my hat. That did not stop me from getting some very interesting shots of birds and several other animals as I traveled the gardens. Many of the birds were quite accommodating in letting me snap their pictures and then there was a turtle at rest--is there any other kind--posing for visitors on the usual rock at the edge of the usual pond. There were sculptures too spread throughout the gardens and in some unusual spots. The walk in the Tropical Atrium also was colorful and interesting. I have separated the photos into the Outside and Inside Sections of the Gardens. The photos below are just a representation of the over 250 photos I took in the two hour period I spent there. I was able to eliminate some blurry flower shots immediately and then did a second cut, which left me with about 225 photos. I did a third selection to provide the photos below. There have been wonderful moments of discovery on this trip and my visit to Olbrich was another. I owe Ann Nelson a note of thanks for recommending it. I might not have visited it otherwise.

I have been frustrated in how I have to post photos on this Blog. I am probably ignorant of an obvious solution, but I feel quite constrained with the placement of the photos. I have tried to post them with some semblance of order and chronology, but I

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**Jay Voss**

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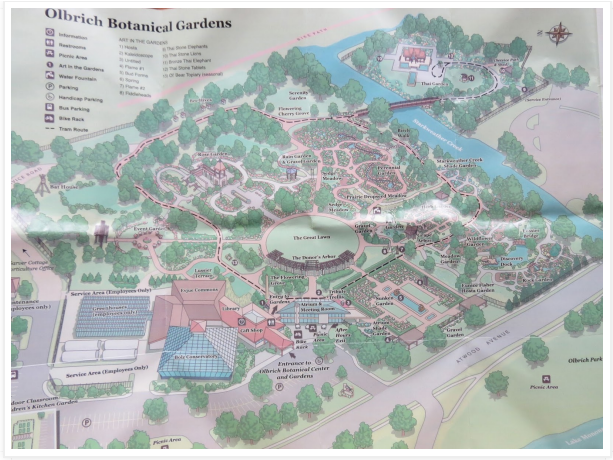


wish I could do it less space. At any rate, due to the number of photos from the Gardens, I am going to try and do some bulk posting and see what happens.

However, be forewarned that I may not be successful in using less space. Now that I have completed the placement of the photos, I am not satisfied, but it will have to do. When I work with iBooks Author, the software allows you to use a floating utility for placing photos, which provides great flexibility.

### Entry into Olbrich Botanical Gardens





Walking the Outside Gardens: Flowers











Grasses



Greenery abounds

Walking the Outside  
Gardens: Birds, etc.



Rock Garden





Look closely for the head of the turtle.

## Walking the Outside Gardens: Architecture and Sculpture

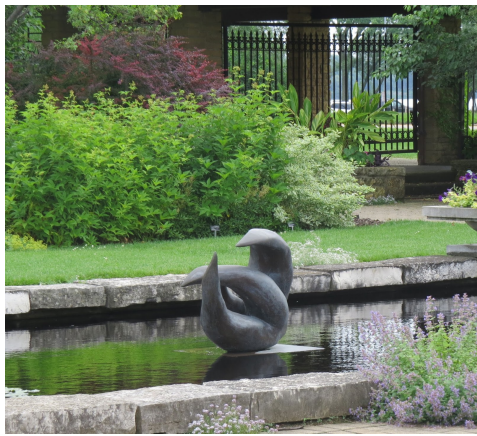




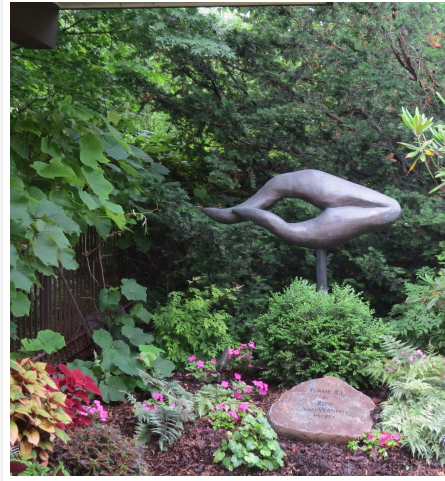
Thai Temple



Rose Garden Tower



Walking the Tropical Garden  
Atrium: Flowers and...













Tropical leaves with droplets



Pelican Flower: Brazil

### End of Walking Tour

I had arranged the night before to meet for dinner with my cousin Ed Kunz and his wife Debbie who have lived in Madison most if not all of their lives. They have four children. Meghan is the oldest, followed by Eddie, Molly, and Betsy. I had a chance to have a nice conversation with Betsy and here her anticipation for starting the University of Wisconsin this fall. I will not go into the particulars, but Ed and Debbie's children are involved in the acting and film industry and several of the them have been in professional television and film productions. My conversation with Betsy was terrific. Eddie, her brother, stopped by later in the evening and I had the chance to speak briefly with him too. I said earlier in this posting that this has been a trip of discovery. Well, Ed had several of his Dad's (Uncle Ed to me) movies made into a DVD presentation of film that his Dad shot in the forties and fifties. We spent an hour and a half watching and identifying relatives from the past and goggling at ourselves as babies and young children growing up. It was great fun and I am grateful to Ed for doing this. I have black and white photos of many of the people shown in the movies in albums that my Mother kept, but it was great to see my parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins marching in 4th of July Parades in Westmorland, celebrating important family events, enjoying picnics, and driving around in ancient automobiles in ways that only film can provide. I asked Ed if he would make me a copy of the DVD. I would like to show it to Gina, Brant, and Scott.

It is now almost an hour later from when I began to write and it is still pouring rain. Perhaps the Great Flood is back and intends to infringe on my 21 days here in Madison. Pardon the biblical reference, but isn't that over 50% of 40 days and 40 nights? Now that I have placed the photos, it is two hours later and the sun is trying to come out. Perhaps, there is time for a bike ride.

Posted by **Jay Voss** at 6:55 AM



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