

## Morton Arboretum Tram Tour and Luncheon, October 6, 2022

On Thursday, October 6, 2022, Sally Mullan (President of CDAA) treated members to a spectacular day at the Morton Arboretum. Because of Sally and her husband's commitment to the Arboretum both philanthropically and as volunteers, Sally was able to arrange free entry to the Morton Arboretum, a free educational tram tour with narration of both the east and the west sides of the facility, and a free narrated (behind the scenes) tour of the brand new Grand Garden. CDAA Members who attended were able to purchase lunch catered by Ginkgo Catering which we enjoyed in our own reserved room.

We first met in the Sycamore Room for good conversation and an explanation of how the day would proceed. We met Austin Thomas from the Morton Arboretum's Development Department who would spend the entire time with us answering any and all questions our members had about the Arboretum, and believe me we had many, many questions for him.

We then hopped aboard a tram for what is called the "Acorn Express Tour" which was much, much more than I expected. Paul Goodman, our guide, drove the tram and supplied us with both an educational and entertaining narrated exclusive tour of the entire campus. Paul stopped several times to point out unique features, talked about the history of Joy Morton and his family, talked about the plants and how they were reacting to climate change, and he even recited poems that he wrote for the occasion. Wonderful is the best word I can use to describe this tour.

Back to the Sycamore Room we were able to enjoy our catered meal. If you have ever enjoyed a meal at the Ginkgo Dining Room at the Morton Arboretum than you know the quality of the food they provided. During lunch Sally introduced us to her husband David, together they spoke about their 18 years of volunteering at the Arboretum. Austin Thomas of the Development Department spoke about recent changes at the arboretum then took us for a narrated walk through the one week old Grand Gardens. The end of scheduled activities came after the garden tour, but many of us stayed to enjoy the campus and enjoy good conversation with former colleagues.

Sally put together a wonderful day for CDAA Members and she even ordered the best weather you can imagine. Sally deserves accolades for putting this event together (all by herself) and I hope we will be able to repeat this event several times in the years to come.

Bob Sobie