



ARBORETUM UPDATE!

A Publication of The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation

2025 Issue



Photo by Pamela Lyons Gromen

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Cox Arboretum,

As another year draws to a close (where does the time go?!), I find myself reflecting on how grateful I am for this community. The Board, the Staff, and I are so appreciative of your commitment to and love for the beautiful park that we share.

This year we've seen continued progress on our long-term master plan to improve the visitor experience. With many beautiful park updates, and especially the launch of our Nature Play area, we are educating children and adults on the importance and benefits of the outdoors. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and Staff the grounds have been restored to their normal beauty and function. Each of these accomplishments was made possible through your generosity and belief in our mission to steward this landscape for generations to come.

As we look ahead to the coming year, our focus remains on caring for and providing access to our grounds, expanding services to educate the community, especially the children, and ensuring the Arboretum continues to be a sanctuary.

If you are considering a year-end gift, please know that stock donations are one of the most impactful ways to contribute. Gifts of appreciated stock allow you to support Cox Arboretum while also receiving potential tax advantages (please consult your CPA). Your investment helps us plant new growth, both literally and figuratively.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all who tend to this special place, thank you for being a part of the Cox family. Your generosity is so appreciated!!

Warmly,

Kathy Sperry

Cox Arboretum Foundation, Board President



ARBORETUM UPDATE CONTRIBUTORS

Tyler Beaty
Brenda Cox
Pam Lyons Gromen
Lisa Hill
Jenny Hymans
Joe Morrison
JoAnn Pennington
Erin Rowekamp
Todd Strong
Emiley Tobias
Joshua York

THE JAMES M. COX JR. ARBORETUM FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ARBORETUM STAFF INTRO

Horticulturist - Todd Strong



Hi, I'm Todd. I am the Horticulturist at Cox Arboretum. I have a passion for plants and all nature related things!

I graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's in Horticulture in 2013. Since then, I have worked in numerous areas of the green industry including ornamental plant production, landscaping, garden center management, vegetable production/ farm management, and even spent some time as a zipline guide giving eco-tours in the coastal redwood forest in Northern California. It is this diversity of experience that drew me to Cox Arboretum. I love that Cox has a little bit of everything. From prairies and woodlands to ornamentals and edibles, I get to combine all my experiences to help shape this incredible park.

My whole career I have tried to follow a path that allows me to do work that benefits others and my community. For this reason, my favorite part of Cox is the Maimon Memorial Garden. I love growing food and feeding people, plus I love that this garden helps inspire people to grow their own food. It's been a great year at the arboretum, and I'm excited to see what the future holds!

Park Manager - Tyler Beaty



My name is Tyler Beaty, and I am the new Park Manager at Cox Arboretum. Instilled in me at a young age, I have a passion for nature and gardening. From earning my Eagle Scout Award to working in Grand Teton National Park, I have sought experiences where I can be in nature. I received an Associate of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree from Sinclair Community College in 2017 and have worked many jobs doing facility maintenance, janitorial work, kitchen work, and landscaping.

I started with Five Rivers MetroParks in 2021 as a part-time park technician at Hills and Dales before transferring to Possum Creek for a full-time position. I then transferred to Englewood before being promoted to manager at Cox Arboretum.

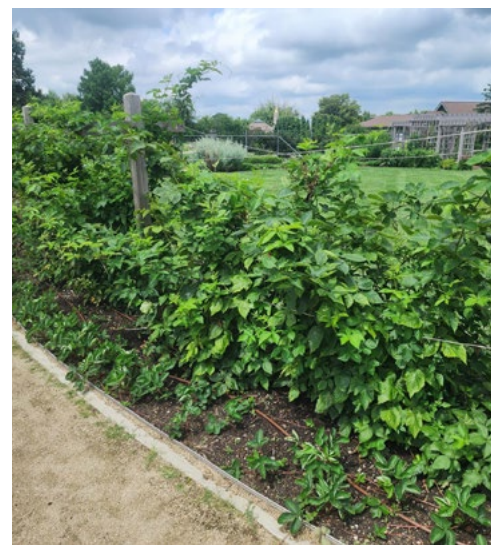
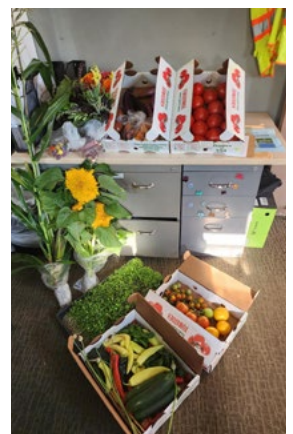
My favorite part about Cox Arboretum is the awesome Nature Play and the great trails. Working for Five Rivers MetroParks has given me an opportunity to pursue my passions for nature and public service. My wife and I live in the Englewood area with our two young sons. We keep a garden, have many pets, and hike frequently.

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Growing Good: Maimon Memorial Garden

The Maimon Memorial Garden continues to flourish at Cox Arboretum, through the leadership of Todd Strong and the work of staff and volunteers. This year the garden has once again become a vibrant, community-powered garden that feeds both people and purpose. This past year a total of 1,412.6 pounds of fresh produce, from the garden, has been donated to The Foodbank, Inc. and Miami Valley Meals, helping nourish families across the region. Additionally the garden serves as a source of education with student volunteers by gaining hands-on experience in sustainable gardening.



Niehaus Shrub Garden

The first phase of the Niehaus Shrub Garden renovation was completed in 2024, which included the installation of new retaining walls on the east and west side of the pond, a paver circle on the east side that connects to the Maimon Memorial Garden, and irrigation throughout all the landscape beds. The existing shrub beds were redesigned to incorporate mixed plantings that showcase the shrub collection but also create seasonal displays visitors can draw inspiration from for their own landscapes.

These new plantings incorporated many shrubs and perennial varieties designed with native landscapes around the pond, while providing safe access to the pond edge. These installations highlight Five Rivers MetroParks' dedication to sustainability and pollinator habitats. The gazebo was removed as part of this renovation, as the concrete foundation was failing and deemed no longer safe.

Phase II of the renovation was completed in 2025, which included a paver circle installed on the west side connecting the Blue and Yellow trails. Additional mixed plantings of shrubs and perennials were done in the landscape beds on the north and northeast parts of the pond.

Phase III and the final phase of the renovation will take place in 2026. It will include the final installation of plantings on the southeast and west side of the pond.





Wedding & Event Venue

*Celebrations • Graduation Parties
• Corporate Gatherings • Holiday
Parties • Proms • Recognition Events
• Receptions • Rehearsals Retirement
Parties • Retreats • Reunions • Showers •
Weddings*



*For inquiries or reservations contact
(937) 278-2657
jpennington@metroparks.org*

PARK ENHANCEMENTS CONT...

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Bulb Plantings

Each year, staff and volunteers plant bulbs thanks to the support of a grant and a matching contribution from the Foundation—made possible by our generous donors and members. This year, more than 4,000 tulip bulbs were planted in the Maimon Memorial Garden during Five Rivers MetroParks’ Make a Difference Day, while Bauer Elementary students added over 1,000 bulbs to the lower Stonewall Garden. Come next spring, these plantings will burst into additional displays of stunning color, brightening the grounds for all to enjoy.



Make a Difference Day Volunteers



Bauer Elementary Students

EDUCATION AT THE ARB 2025 STATS

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Putting Learning & Nature Together Stats

Annually, Five Rivers MetroParks hosts Putting Learning and Nature Together (PLANT) Tours taking place at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. PLANT Tours are made possible thanks to the generous grant from the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation to the Foundation. This program supports school field trips, nature based education kits for educators, and teacher workshops - teaching educators ways to incorporate nature into their classroom curriculum.



This year for guided field trips "Worms Ate My Lunch" was brought back. This taught kids about recycling/composting as they sorted their waste from lunch.

FIELD TRIPS

23

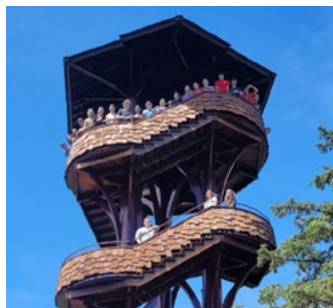
Guided

Self-Guided

20

3,000

Students Reached



Quotes from Field Trips

“

"Planning and scheduling were excellent!"

"The outstanding communication, reminders and flexibility when our PM trip was delayed due to a bus issue. We hope to return next year!"

"This was an amazing experience for the students. We had lots of parent volunteers, and they were so excited about all the experiences the students had. I was also very appreciative of the program volunteers. They were great with the kids, allowed them to investigate while also encouraging them to think outside the box. They kept the students engaged and made the experience flow so well. As a teacher, it was great to have others who knew what they were doing lead so I could enjoy moving around and discussing discoveries with my students. I would definitely recommend this trip to other teachers and the experience is one many of my students wrote about when writing to the up and coming third graders. Thank you for a memorable learning experience!"

”

Quotes from Teachers' Night Out

“

"Thank you for the support you give our teachers! We appreciate you!"

"My students are so excited to get outside and use what I have learned tonight."

"It will inspire many students to enjoy nature."

"The funding that makes the Teachers' Night Out workshops possible gives me education, tools, and techniques that are easily passed on to my Environmental Science Students. The enrichment to the curriculum keeps reluctant learners engaged, THANK YOU!!!"

”



TEACHERS' NIGHT OUT

8

Programs

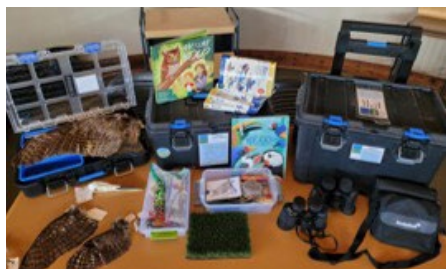
Total Teacher Engagement

133

Teachers



Presentation and hands-on time to explore topics.



EDUCATION KITS

2

New Kits

Telescope/Astronomy
History of Ohio Wildlife

Check-Outs 60

1,500

Students Reached



Quotes on Education Kits

“

“These boxes are fantastic! They are full of hands-on materials, labeled well, and organized beautifully. We used this kit to further our research on raccoon, red fox, and coyote. Providing an opportunity for the children to touch the pelts, see and make tracks, and look at their scat was so valuable to them. Further, our preschool group was able to explore the kit. They enjoyed touching the pelts of the various animals found around our school.”

“The kits were so wonderful when I picked them up. They are much easier to transport now that they have been put into a rolling cart with wheels and a handle. Also, it was so nice to have the kits organized- made my job super easy!”

“This is a great resource for classrooms, thank you”

“Loved the wide variety of fossils and the organization!”

”

VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

10

Renewed
Credentials

New Field Trip
Volunteers

8

5

Astronomy
volunteers



TEACHER WORKSHOPS

3

TOTAL

Growing Up
WILD

1

2

Project WILD &
Inquiry
Adventures



Interested in volunteering? Visit Five Rivers MetroParks

GET CONNECTED

The place where volunteers make a difference.



EDUCATION AT THE ARB CONT...

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

OUTstanding Teacher Award Winners

Each year, since 2014, Five Rivers MetroParks recognizes local teachers who use the natural world as a classroom and incorporate nature-based curriculum into their curriculum, through the OUTstanding Teacher Awards. These awards are made possible with a generous grant from the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, through the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

Awards package:

- 
- Educational materials to assist in connecting students to nature
 - Items to enhance the school's outdoor learning space
 - Environmental Education Council of Ohio membership and money to use toward the 101 Conference at Camp Kern
 - A one-year membership to The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
 - Transportation for their class for a field trip to Cox Arboretum MetroPark (or an alternative experience if an in-person field trip is not an option)

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 OUTstanding Teachers!



Lifetime Achievement (20+ years of classroom experience): Dan Palmer – John F. Kennedy Elementary, Kettering City Schools

The classroom is not limited to the indoors for third-grade teacher Dan Palmer. He regularly organizes opportunities for students to connect with nature through hikes, field trips, and lessons about national parks. Students particularly enjoyed a trout-raising project, during which he raised trout from eggs in his classroom. This lesson in biology was a hands-on opportunity for children to learn about the lifecycle of fish, and they were able to embark on a field trip to release the trout into a local stream.

Leader (10-20 years of experience): Patricia Lewis – Roosevelt Elementary, Dayton Public Schools



A second-grade teacher with 11 years of experience, Lewis fosters an appreciation and respect for nature in her classroom. She takes her students outside as much as possible to explore a variety of topics, from science to gardening. Lewis was instrumental in beginning a small community garden in which students grow fruits and vegetables to use in the classroom and donate to families at the school.

Understanding her students are not present for much of the summer growing season, Lewis set up an indoor garden using hydroponic systems and a greenhouse. Her students have earned science fair accolades for their work.

Rising Star (< 10 years of experience): Shari Little – Fairborn Digital Academy



An art teacher and gardener who integrates nature into her students' educational experiences. While Fairborn Digital Academy's core curriculum is online, students are welcomed to the campus for additional support and engagement. One of the ways Little encourages students to be on-site is through a gardening class during which she helps students get hands-on learning opportunities and build life skills.

Little's passion for the outdoors is also evident through her artwork, which captures the beauty of nature and enriches the school's learning environment.

Early Childhood Education (minimum three years experience): René Hick – Learning Tree Farm Nature Preschool



René Hick is the first-ever recipient of the OUTstanding Teacher Award in the Early Childhood Education category, which was added by Five Rivers MetroParks in 2024. Hick, who has worked in nature-based early childhood education for nearly eight years, is currently a director and lead teacher at Learning Tree Farm.

All of Hick's work with children is rooted in nature, from engaging students in environmental friendly practices to finding teachable moments while on a nature walk. Beyond the classroom, Hick supports her staff and other preschools by finding opportunities to experience nature year-round.

*Do you know a
teacher who gets
students outside, and
brings nature into the
classroom?*



NOMINATE THEM FOR THE



**OUT
STANDING
TEACHER AWARD**

Nominations Due January 31, 2026

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING

EDUCATION AT THE ARB CONT...

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Education Kits & Professional Development

Five Rivers MetroParks builds relationships with teachers throughout the Greater Dayton community through resources, programs, and workshops that promote outdoor learning and connections with nature. Students who spend time engaged in nature-based learning can realize significant academic and socio-emotional learning gains and physical and mental health benefits.

Five Rivers MetroParks Education Kits are free resources teachers can take to their schools to implement natural history, earth science, and life science lessons that promote outdoor learning. Ten themed education kits, housed at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, are checked out by dozens of area educators and used with hundreds of students from preschool through high school each school year. For these kits to be effective and useful as a classroom resource, lessons and materials should be consistent with the current learning standards. Several education kits were developed in the early 2000s, and since then, much has changed in the field of education and with the technologies used in schools.

The need to update education kits offered a meaningful opportunity for teachers to work with MetroParks. Thanks to a Cox Arboretum Foundation grant, the Education Kit Project kicked off this past summer. The project is a unique partnership involving Wright State University, Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS) teachers, and MetroParks Outdoor Education staff.



Education Kit Project Team (from left to right): Five Rivers MetroParks Educator Coordinator Pam Lyons Gromen, DRSS 6th Grade Teacher Emily Carter, DRSS Kindergarten Teacher Dana Franks, Wright State University Associate Professor of Teacher Education Michelle Fleming, DRSS Elementary STEM Beginnings Teacher Christina Smith

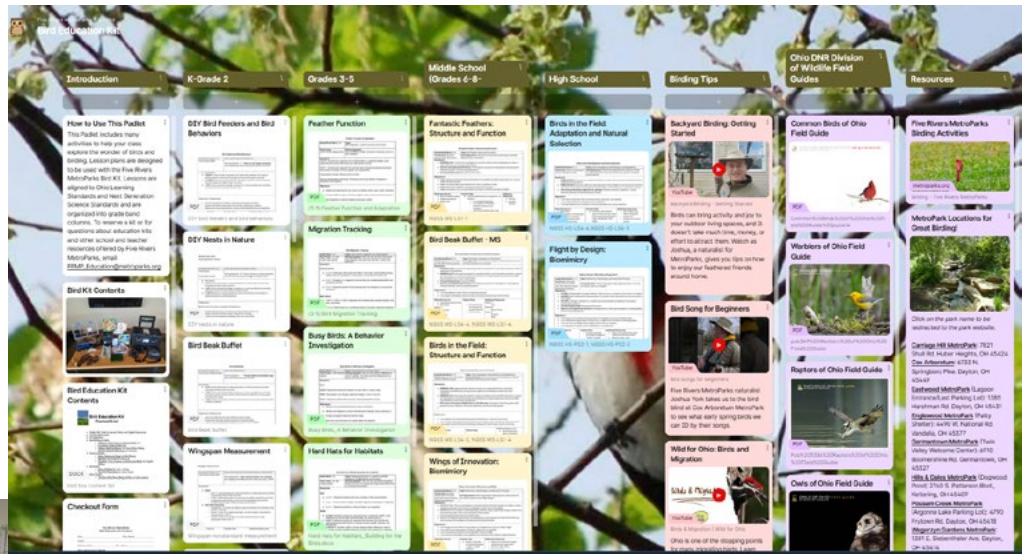
A team of three DRSS teachers, representing expertise in early childhood, primary, and secondary education, was recruited to update the Bird, Foresty, and Pollinator Education Kits. Teachers working in the classroom are uniquely qualified to incorporate their firsthand experiences into updating the lessons and activities that accompany the high-quality artifacts, nature specimens, and materials found in each kit. Teachers are positioned to field test MetroParks kits with their students, and provide valuable insight into what teachers need and what works in a school setting.

The teachers were charged with evaluating the existing kits and creating four to six lessons each, with at least



MetroParks Bird Education Kit

one lesson in each grade group incorporating outdoor learning. Lessons are aligned to Next Generation Science Standards and Ohio Learning Standards. Additionally, 6th -12th grade lessons promote climate literacy. The lessons were compiled digitally into an online Padlet (often referred to as Pinterest for teachers), allowing for updates to be made easily in the future. Teachers were paid a stipend to



Bird Education Kit Padlet



Dana Franks teaches her kindergarten class about birds

compensate them for their time and expertise. No-cost graduate credits were awarded from Wright State University, which can be put toward their district's professional development requirements and state licensure criteria.

The teacher team presented their work to Wright State University and MetroParks staff who served as advisors and facilitators throughout the project. "I am so excited and proud to get these new lessons and revitalized education kits into classrooms," said Outdoor Educator Coordinator Pam Lyons Gromen. "The creativity and

enthusiasm the teachers brought to this project exceeded my expectations."

Providing meaningful opportunities for teachers to work with MetroParks strengthens our community connections while at the same time ensuring that we continue to offer quality education resources that have come to be expected from Five Rivers MetroParks.

Education kits are loaned to educators for up to two weeks. To reserve an education kit, email your request to FRMP_Education@metroparks.org. To view the list of education kits, visit metroparks.org/rentals-permits/rentals/education-kits/ or scan the QR code.



EDUCATION AT THE ARB CONT...

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Conservation Kids

Presented by



Provides children and families inspiration and knowledge to get outside, play in and explore nature, and ultimately become stewards of the environment and advocates for conservation.



Stats January -
September 2025

50 Programs

929 Youth/Adult
Participants*

154 Unique Family
Participants

76 Total Program
Hours

**Includes repeat participants*



QUOTES FROM PROGRAM EVALUATIONS:

"All of the instructors and teen instructors [Conservation Leader Volunteers] were amazing and engaging with the kids."

"The kids [Conservation Leader Volunteers] did a great job! I think it's great for my boys to see older kids in that role that they can look up to."

"We always learn so much during these programs"

"The Conservation Kids program is great - we try to attend often"

"The amount of fun our daughter had on this hike, she didn't want to leave the park."

"This is the first of many days my family and I will spend in the parks thanks to the great programs offered."

"We LOVE our MetroParks and we support them when they come up with levies. They are some of the best kept and most beautiful parks we've ever visited."

Conservation Leaders

Presented by



An extension of Conservation Kids, for ages 10-17, offering programs as well as opportunities for teens to become official MetroParks' volunteers. As volunteers they can take part in Conservation Action opportunities where they work alongside Five Rivers MetroParks' conservation staff. Additionally, teens can volunteer in Conservation Kids programming, helping kids connect with nature.



Stats January – September 2025

13

Programs

Youth/Adult Participants

169*

24.5

Program Hours

Unique Family Participants

28

161

Conservation in Action Volunteer Hours

Conservation Kids Volunteer Hours

348

QUOTES FROM PROGRAM EVALUATIONS:

"I like all the Conservation Leader classes."

"I hope to become an environmental scientist—I am passionate about everything related to nature, especially ecosystems, wildlife, climate change, and conservation"

"We sign up for every CL program we can"

"I love coming to these programs!"

"All the courses I've taken at MetroParks have been excellent. My grandmother loves bringing me because she knows I always learn something new."



EDUCATION AT THE ARB CONT...

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

EcoTalks

Presented by



In September 2022, Five Rivers MetroParks launched a new educational series, EcoTalks, at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. This collaboration between the Education and Conservation departments provides opportunities for the community to learn about ongoing research that deepens our understanding of nature and explores innovative approaches to conservation.



In 2025, a total of six EcoTalks were hosted at the Arboretum in March, April, May, September, October, and November. The series featured 11 presentations from 12 environmental researchers, covering topics such as wetlands, beetles and caterpillars, the status of the emerald ash borer, the American kestrel, and bird molt and seed dispersal. A total of 162 people attended EcoTalks programs this year.



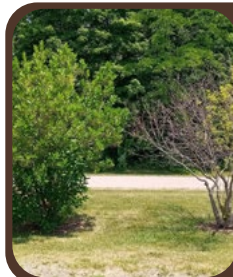
To learn more about past EcoTalks or to watch recorded presentations, visit www.metroparks.org/category/research/ecotalks/ or scan the QR.



Topic: Impact of Trails on Wildlife & Plants

Presenter: Megan Rude, FRMP & Ella Divish/Trevor Martin, UD

Attendance: 24



Topic: Emerald Ash Borer

Presenter: Dr. Kathleen Knight, USDA Forest Service & Dr. Don Cipollini, WSU

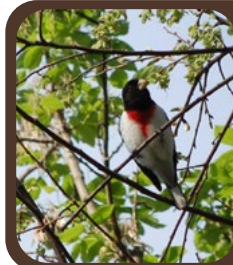
Attendance: 27



Topic: American Kestrel

Presenter: Dr. Donald Althoff, University of Rio Grande

Attendance: 26



Topic: Bird Molt & Seed Dispersal

Presenter: Dhruv Iyengar, Miami University & Lindsey Dewey, UD

Attendance: 25



Topic: Beetles & Caterpillars

Presenter: Logan Huber, PhD Student WSU & Neil Baker, Ohio Division of Natural Resources

Attendance: 46



Topic: Wetlands

Presenter: Ryan Winston, The Ohio State University & Grace Dietsch, FRMP

Attendance: 14

MAKE AN IMPACT

Program Sponsorship



This past year, the Cox Arboretum Foundation launched a new sponsorship program designed to help local organizations and businesses connect in a meaningful way with the Arboretum.

The sponsorships help support educational initiatives at Cox Arboretum MetroPark (*Conservation Kids, Conservation Leaders, and EcoTalks*) as well as the Linden Education Endowment.

To learn how your company can get involved and make an impact at the Arboretum contact:

Andrea Newport
Five Rivers MetroParks Sponsorship Manager
andrea.newport@metroparks.org
937-274-4520

Amazon Wish List



Looking for another way to support the Arboretum? Explore the Cox Arboretum Amazon Wish List! The list features tools and supplies for the woodshop—items identified by volunteers and staff as especially helpful for projects that benefit the Arboretum and other Five Rivers MetroParks locations.

Visit <https://a.co/ZjEHHgn> or scan the QR code to see how you can help.



Holiday Lights Recycling Program



Five Rivers MetroParks and Cohen Recycling are once again partnering to keep string lights out of the landfill.

Cox Arboretum is one of 11 MetroParks locations where you can drop off unwanted/nonworking string lights from Nov. 17, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2026.

Just look for the blue recycling barrel. Be sure to take them out of any plastic bags before dropping in the barrel. To see all locations visit metroparks.org/recycle-holiday-lights.



GIVING BACK

Volunteer Highlight

Volunteering at the Arboretum is a wonderful way to stay active, enjoy fresh air, and connect with nature. From tending gardens to helping maintain the landscapes, volunteers play a vital role in keeping our grounds vibrant and beautiful for everyone to enjoy. Since January 2025, Cox Arboretum has engaged volunteers in 4,753 hours of service, which is 555 hours of service above the 2024 hours.



AMBASSADOR
(visitor center)

456.1
hours



CONSERVATION
(Invasive removal/
propagation)

210.99
hours



GARDENING
(gardens/court
appointed/private group)

1554.9
hours

Reviving a Garden



Jenny pictured with regional park manager Joe.

support this effort. Regional Park Manager Joe Morrison shared, *"If it weren't for Jenny's dedication, passion, and teamwork, the gardens would not have been such a success since 2023. She played a crucial role in making them alluring and appealing spaces that visitors keep coming back to see."*

Appreciation

This past summer staff leads and volunteers participated in Bingo. This was a fun way for staff and volunteers to interact and win prizes. The summer programming volunteers were treated to a mediterranean feast and ice cream party, gardening volunteers received new gardening tools and a luncheon, the Cox Woodworkers were outfitted with new tools for their workshop and enjoyed a pizza party, as part of the bingo participation.



SKILLED TRADES
(woodworking)

1230.04
hours



PROGRAMMING
(garden & school guides/
conservation kids/etc)

1292.29
hours



SPECIAL EVENTS
(wedding tram driver)

8.3
hours



Thank you to those who generously share your time, energy, and talents at Cox Arboretum. Your dedication helps the gardens flourish, supports meaningful experiences for visitors, and strengthens the sense of community that makes this place so special. From tending the grounds and assisting with programs to providing a warm welcome to guests, your contributions are felt in every corner of the Arboretum.

We truly appreciate all you do.

PLANNED GIVING

Perennial Society

Cox Arboretum is the beautiful, thriving park it is today thanks to the generosity of individuals like you—both past and present. The Arboretum began with a visionary gift of land, creating a welcoming green space for everyone in your community to enjoy. Over the years, its gardens and features have flourished through the continued support of members, donors, event rentals, and planned gifts.

Planned giving is a meaningful way to ensure the Arboretum continues to inspire future generations. By including the Cox Arboretum Foundation in your will or estate plans, you become a member of the Perennial Society, joining others who share your passion for nature and learning. Your legacy will help preserve this treasured space and ensure others experience the same beauty and tranquility you enjoy today.

To learn more about planned giving and its benefits, please contact your financial advisor or reach out to Alexis Larsen, Chief of Philanthropy for Five Rivers MetroParks, at (937) 274-4381. If you have already included the Foundation in your plans, please let us know so we can express our gratitude and recognize you as a member of the Perennial Society.



PERENNIAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Barbara Cox*
Margaret Barnhart*
Martha Boice
Jane Compton*
Lewis & Ruth Cummings*
Patricia Edmonson
John & Louise Haley
Lou & Millie Homan
Bruce & Sue Howorth
Samuel Maimon*
Delbert Marshall*
Markita Murdock
Charles Niehaus*
Cynthia Shook*
Edda Wagner*
Alma Walther*
Joyce Wolfe*
Everett and Margie Mack Yowell*
Frank and Nancy Zorniger*

**denotes deceased*

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

55 Years

Jeannine Phlipot

45 Years

Sonja Gegel

40 Years

John and Gail Carroll
Joanne Granzow
Sue and Bruce Howorth
Stephen Jonas
Mary Wolf

35 Years

Barbara O'Hara

30 Years

Cheryl Coleman
Carole Stephens

25 Years

Robert and Dorothy Wickline
Joe Bockelman and Barbara Driehaus
Paul and Patti Stoll
Jeanette and Richard Wardrop
Carol Raridan
Allan and Mary Ellen Place

20 Years

Laura Enzbrenner
Judy Blair
Ginny and Del Herbeck
Casandra Strudwick
Bob Barker, MD
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kunkel
Edward Geraghty
India and John Clarke

10 Years

Susan McCoy

5 Years

Rebecca Benná

New Members

(November 2024-October 2025)

Carmen Asman
Sue AwsumConn
Sharon Bailey
Rebeca Bessa
Anthony Childers
Don Cook
Maxx Day
Jeannette Dunlap
Kevin and Lisa Ehlert
Ryan Bolus
Josh Hayes and Jessica Cooper
René Hick
Paul Johnson
Paige Johnson-McGill
Shari Little
Patrick Mescher
Ray Nieport
Dan Palmer
Brock Polly
Benjamin Purkiss
Ian Roberts
Blake Sauerwein
Joe Schaeff
Brian Schneider
Howard Sheets
Matthew Shook
Schneata Shyne-Turner
Alexander Smith
Riel St. Amand
Benjamin Tarwater
Mark Taylor
David Wells
Raeshann Young

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Joe Bockelman and
Barbara Driehaus

Stephen and Rosemary
Fryburg

Sonja Gegel

Margaret Klein

Steve and Lou Mason

Ruth C. Mead

Barbara O'Hara

Chris and Marvin Olinsky

Caryl D. Philips

Don and Joyce Porter

Carole Remick

Rick and Jane Schwartz

Kathy Sperry

Carole Stephens

Paul and Patti Stoll

Brad and Lisa Bradford

Nancy Zeller

*The Founders Society
are members who are
committed to the long-
term goals of the Cox
Arboretum Foundation,
and give an annual gift of
\$1,000 or more.*

MEMBER EVENT

At this year's member event, attendees enjoyed a catered dinner from Warped Wing and learned about projects their memberships supported in 2025. Horticulturist Todd Strong shared updates on the Maimon Memorial Garden, and Warped Wing Brewmaster John Haggerty spoke about the Foundation's partnership with Warped Wing and Dorothy Lane Market that led to the creation of a local brew - Midwest Roots Red IPA. Members even had the chance to try it—knowing a portion of the proceeds helps support the Foundation. The Midwest Roots Red IPA is available for purchase at Warped Wing and Dorothy Lane Market. The evening concluded with tram tours of the grounds, where members saw first-hand the completed projects.



Welcome by Board President
Kathy Sperry



Projects Funded by Regional Park
Manager Joe Morrison



Maimon Memorial Garden update by Horticulturist
Todd Strong



Partnership and process of making the Midwest Roots Red IPA by
Brewmaster John Haggerty



Closing remarks by Five Rivers
MetroParks CEO Karen Hesser



Scan to see the brew
process

*Honor someone you love or a special
occasion with a tribute at
Cox Arboretum Metro Park*



For information call (937) 277-4839



TRIBUTES

November 2024 - October 2025

**Indicates Tribute Tree or Bench*

In memory of Ken Baldeosingh*

Kevin Ammon
Ryan Ashe
Sandra Baldeosing
Bethel Area Youth Soccer Association
Laura Brookshire
Jerod and Bren Cox
Heather Holliday
Huber Heights Soccer Association
Marsha Jones
Karl Kronberg
Robert Mueller
Michael Nickerson
Oakwood United Soccer Club
Rhonda Price
Holly Puglia
Karissa Richardson
Lori Rick
Seth Sheldon
Donna Tomaro
Aaron Watson

In memory of Maryann & Tom Bartol*

Jane Bledsoe
Laura Caron
Tammy Ehrett
Bonny Emmer
Linda Feero
Jane Frantz
Janice Gaerke
Timothy Gates
Paige Giannetti
Jerry Gray
Jim and Carlene Griffin
Janice Harrison
Beth Hlava
Julia Hoffman
Paul and Barbara Johnson
Kathy and Jim Kavanaugh
Charlotte Kirsch
Marjorie Mahle
Jean Navickas
Diana Palcic
John Risko
Linda Wallace
Catherine Warner

In memory of James Bovenzi*

Jerilyn Bovenzi

In memory of Eugenia Cash*

Debbie Cash

In memory of Rick Carlilse

Bob and Nora Newsock

In memory of Anita Dudding

Anne Chapman
Kelli Gregory
Clyde and Penny Taylor
Tina Wertz
Linda Williams

In memory of Elizabeth Ann Durig

Bonnie Benge
Alan Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fitzsimmons
Kathy Hollingsworth

In memory of Roger Eckert

Janet Beedle
Carol Fedders
Pat and Wayne Simpson
Anne and Marilyn Trelvik

In memory of John Gaydos

Marvin and Chris Olinsky

In memory of the mother of Lynn Gonsior

Holly and Daryle Douple

In memory of Linda Hogrefe

Marilyn Elliott
Diane Phillips

In Memory of Marc Katz

Bob and Nora Newsock

In memory of father of Sheila Morland

Bob and Nora Newsock

In memory of Claudette Sarver*

Debbie Cash
Bridge Group: Janie, Joyce, Jane,
Marj, Wally, and Linda

In Memory of Frank Zeiss

Bob and Nora Newsock



The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation
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Dayton, OH 45449

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PARK HOURS

APRIL - OCTOBER 31

8am - 10pm

NOVEMBER - MARCH 31

8am - 8pm

ZORNIGER VISITOR CENTER HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8am-5pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11am - 4pm

MISSION

To support educational, scientific, civic, and cultural programs and activities relating to the advancement of arboriculture, horticulture and related fields by providing support for the Cox Arboretum as a free arboretum/museum for the benefit of the general public.

Cox Arboretum continues to flourish thanks to the kindness of supporters like you. Your gifts nurture gardens in bloom, protect the trees, and create a welcoming space for all to connect with nature.

As 2025 comes to a close, please consider a year-end donation or a gift of membership to a friend/family member to help continue this important work in the year ahead. Together, we can keep Cox Arboretum growing strong for generations to come. You can use the envelope enclosed in this edition of the Arboretum Update or scan the QR code.

