



# ARBORETUM UPDATE!

Fall/Winter 2015

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



# Letter from the Board President



My husband and I took a long walk at the Arboretum on a Sunday afternoon in late October. It was one of those perfect fall days where the sun is shining, the air is crisp and the fall foliage is in full color. The Arboretum was full of families and I was especially pleased to see a young couple having photographs taken at the Kousa Dogwood Allée, presumably to announce an engagement. I was also pleased to see the progress that is being made on the loop path and the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture. It is exciting to know that these improvements will provide even more opportunities for the Arboretum to touch the community in the years to come.

As I wind down my term as President of The Cox Arboretum Foundation, it was especially exciting for me to look on these recent improvements and be reminded of the generosity of the Foundation members. I have enjoyed my time as President and am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with a dedicated Board, and of course, the creative and caring people of Five Rivers MetroParks.

I am pleased to be turning over the position to Mandy Goubeaux, who will become President in January of 2016. Mandy has been on the Board of the Foundation since December 2013 and has a true fondness for the Arboretum, having married her husband Mark Webster here in \_\_\_\_\_. I know that Mandy will bring new energy to the Foundation and that it will be in good hands with her.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Hann Harrison', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Hann Harrison  
Cox Arboretum Foundation Board President

**ARBORETUM UPDATE!**  
is published for the  
members of  
The James M. Cox, Jr.  
Arboretum Foundation

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The James M. Cox, Jr.  
Arboretum Foundation

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Hann Harrison  
President

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Vice President

Elise Hafenbrack  
Secretary

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Treasurer

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## EX-OFFICIO

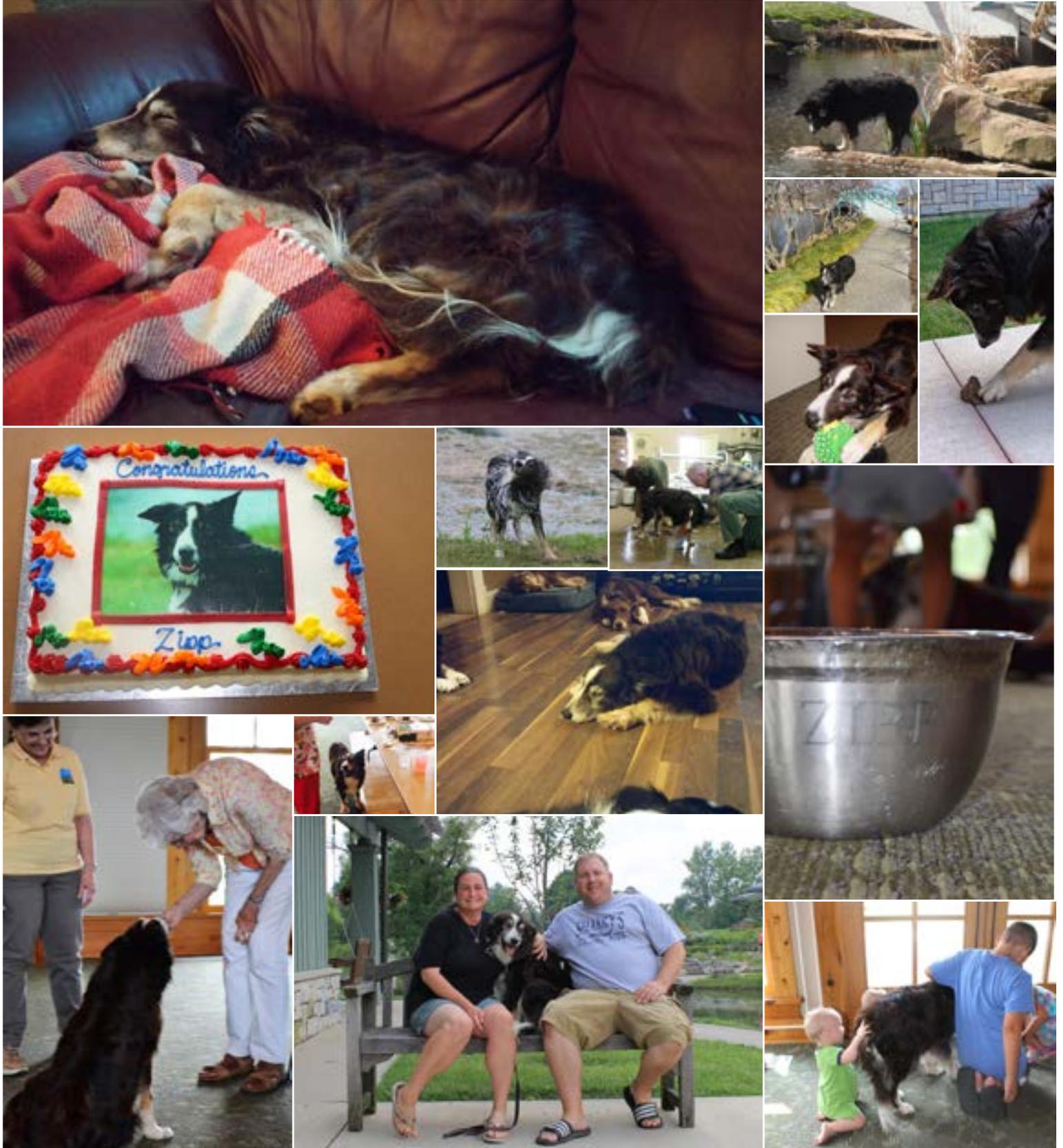
Rebecca A. Benná  
Robert Connelly  
Paul Stoll

## BOARD LIAISON

Beth Redden

# Zipp's Retirement

For ten years, Zipp, Five Rivers MetroParks' border collie, kept geese away from the grounds and gardens of Cox Arboretum MetroPark. On July 28, Zipp officially retired as Director of Goose Management. He is living a life of relaxation with his new family, who owns several border collies. If you would like to follow Zipp on his new adventure be sure to check out his Facebook page – Zipp the Border Collie.



# EDUCATION AT THE ARBORETUM

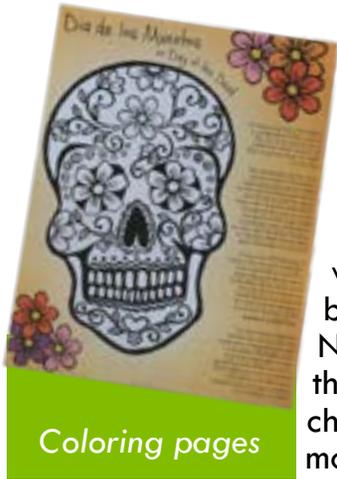
## What's happening in the Adventure Bud?

Maps and interactive exhibits have been installed in the Adventure Bud. Last year the Foundation made a decision to fund interactive educational displays in the Zorniger Education Center. The first installation was a monarch migration

map and a monarch-sighting chart (on display from mid-August to November 1). The monarch migration map explained when the migration begins throughout North America, while the monarch-sighting chart allowed visitors to add small monarch stickers to mark the location of their monarch sighting. Included with this series of butterfly education was *Day of the Dead* coloring sheets.

*Day of the Dead* is celebrated in Mexico on November 1 when monarchs reach their final destination and overwintering site.

The second installation was a game board and discovery map. The game board, *Birds and Beets*, lets guests discover more about gardening for wildlife or vegetable production as they go along the game board path. The discover board allows players to plan their day's adventure by adding magnets to a map of the Arboretum. Each magnet has a picture of something to do, find or watch while visiting the Arboretum.



Coloring pages



Seen from mid-August to November 1



Birds and Beets game board



Magnetic Discover Board



Stroll

# School Programming Incorporates Citizen Science



*Project Budburst*

What does a scientist look like? A person wearing a lab coat holding test tubes? Not at Cox Arboretum MetroPark where elementary students are embracing the scientists they are! Since birth, we were prepared to explore our world, make educated guesses, and test our limits. This past year, school programming at Cox Arboretum has

been empowering students to get closer to nature, observe and contribute to the scientific field. Guided by their trained volunteer, students look at nature closely and record their findings on data sheets. From monitoring pollinator populations to mapping out blooming periods for tracking climate change, students discover their voice as their findings get added to large databases, giving researchers a much larger, holistic view of North American ecology. Teachers are encouraged to further their investigation by exploring the schoolyard, or asking students to explore their own backyards.



The school tour program is made possible with funding from The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation and the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

## 2014-2015 School Year Stats

### School Programs

- 51 guided
- 18 self-guided (*that we are aware of, some groups come out without letting us know*)

### Field Trips to the Arboretum

- 4,400 students
- Each field trip lasting ~two hours (*increasing time spent outdoors during the school year by 8,500 hours*)
- 48 different schools
- Every grade from preschool - 12th grade (*majority were preschool - 3rd grade*)

### School Program Nature Training

- 50 volunteers/staff
- 558 volunteer/staff hours leading tours
- 87 teachers through workshops



# EDUCATION AT THE ARBORETUM

## Education on the Grounds



Recent visitors to the Arboretum may have noticed some new interpretive signs. The *Everyday is Arbor Day* series of signs is part of an effort by the MetroParks' education team to use the gardens and grounds of the Arboretum as an outdoor classroom. Fifteen signs placed throughout the grounds highlight some of the Arboretum's sustainable practices and plants, as well as provide resources to busy visitors who may not have time to take a class, but want to learn more about how to successfully choose, plant and care for trees at home. QR codes included in the signs link visitors to fact sheets from credible resources like Ohio State Extension, the Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture. The *Everyday is Arbor Day* signs were funded by the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

For more information on sign locations or links to tree care and maintenance fact sheets go to [www.metroparks.org/Parks/CoxArboretum/ArborDay.aspx](http://www.metroparks.org/Parks/CoxArboretum/ArborDay.aspx).



### Don't have a QR reader on your smartphone?

1. Visit the app store on your phone
2. Search for a QR Reader (there are several options from free to minimal fees)
3. Make your selection and download the app
4. Open the app and follow instructions
5. Scan the QR code you are interested in and open the link or file (most readers use the camera on your phone to scan the image and open the link)

## Pollinators & Gardens

If you want to start a prairie, you have to be patient. It usually takes at least three years for a prairie to become established. Most prairie plants grow roots the first year and many won't bloom until their second or third year. This has been especially true for the recent pollinator habitat added near the Cox Tree Tower. This year (year two) proved to be a spectacular show; and the pollinators came in droves!

The idea was to provide habitat, but also to highlight the view from the tree tower. As the forest thins due to emerald ash borer more sunlight hits the understory layer. Often times this new type of environment is quickly colonized by invasives such as honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Working together, Five Rivers MetroParks' staff and volunteers worked to prepare this area of forest edge. They worked to collect, prepare and propagate seeds of native plants from nearby MetroParks. During the fall of 2013 over 25,000 individual prairie plants and 1,500 trees and shrubs were planted.

To attract pollinators, plants were planted in big patches (100-200 individuals) in order to create large color displays that are easy to see from far away. A wide diversity of nectar and host plants such as cardinal flower, senna, swamp milkweed, and blazing star were planted to provide food for bees, butterflies and humming birds. Flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs such as hazelnut, spicebush and pawpaw were planted to attract larger wildlife.

This site as well as the other native plantings at Cox Arboretum provided much needed seed sources for MetroParks staff to create and expand prairies throughout the Miami Valley.

Greater biodiversity helps all of us, people and pollinators. Be sure to watch this area in the future for a great view of native plants and wildlife.

2013

photo courtesy of Teri Ladd



2015



# 2015 FOUNDATION PROJECT UPDATES

## *Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture*

The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture will provide volunteers and visitors experiential education opportunities with an emphasis on conservation and sustainability. The Center will be home to Five Rivers MetroParks' native tree and wildflower propagation programs, where plants with native genotypes are propagated for use in habitat restoration projects throughout MetroParks.

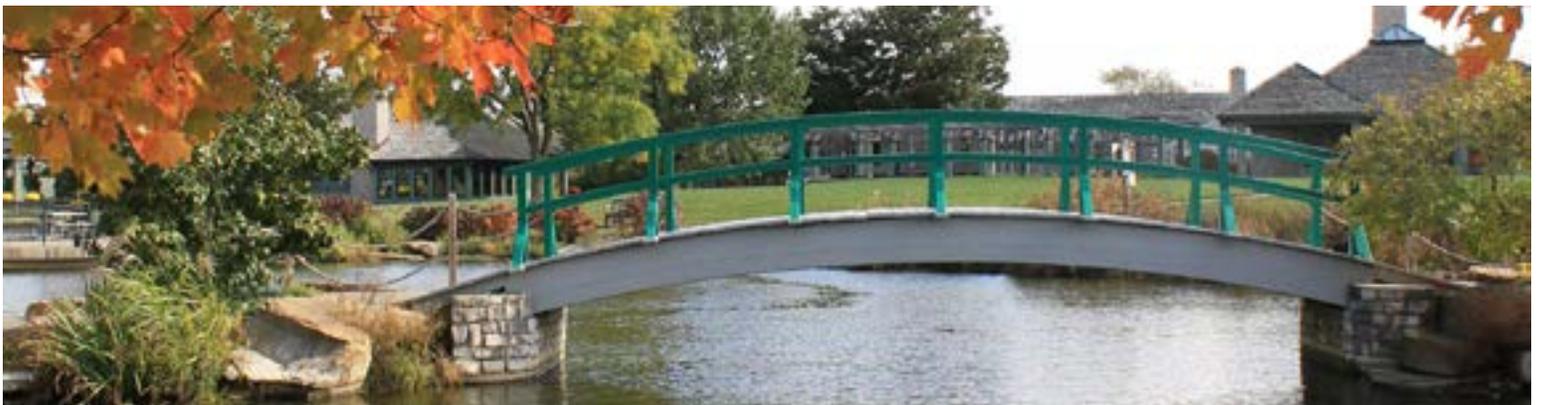
Greenhouse renovations are near completion and include state-of-the-art updates from the floor to the twin wall polycarbonate roof panels. All three houses will be fully automated with sustainability in mind.





## Monet Bridge Replacement

Replacement of the Monet Bridge is proving to be the most challenging project for 2015. Engineers have been enlisted to design a bridge that meets both the aesthetic qualities of Monet's famed bridge and current accessibility standards. Five Rivers MetroParks are currently reviewing design proposals, and anticipate having a construction contract before the end of the year. Offsite construction and placement of the bridge will culminate in spring 2016.



# Loop Path: Phase I



Construction continues on phase one of the loop path. The loop path is designed to orient the first time visitor to the Cox Arboretum experience by leading them on a familiar first loop that links many aspects of the arboretum. The specially colored permeable clay paver path will be a simple reminder that visitors are on the right track and will be returned to their starting point. As of this writing, the path has been completed from the Wildflower area to the Butterfly House where it connects to the tree tower.



# Water Garden Improvements



Those who are familiar with the Arboretum might notice something new to the view shed just beyond the great lawn. No, those are not giant caterpillar sculptures left over from the 2015 Butterfly Season. They are geo-textile sediment containers full of silt and sediment from the water garden. Sediment Solutions of Ohio Inc. removed approximately 100 cubic yards of sediment from the bottom of the water garden.



Every pond is in decline the moment it is created. Leaves, weeds, algae and other organic matter settle to the bottom of the pond, decay and form silt. This gradually fills in the pond and is the direct cause of many water quality problems. Silt contains toxic gases and harbors nutrients that cause excessive weed and algae problems, which deteriorates the ecosystem of a pond. Cox Arboretum's water garden is no exception.

To reverse the ravages of time, high-volume suction pumps were used by divers who descend to the bottom of the pond. The process was simple. The sediment was vacuumed up, just as you would vacuum a carpet. This not only removed the sediment, but also the toxic gases and nutrients, restoring the water garden to its original depth. Next spring, we can look forward to better water quality, less unwanted aquatic vegetation and healthier, happier critters.



# POLLINATOR PARTY



*Foundation members enjoy a light meal and catching up with friends before the presentation.*



*Mandy Goubeaux, Foundation VP welcomes members to the annual members-only Pollinator Party.*



*Holly Wiggins, DP&L representative explains their support of the Butterfly House.*



*Lauren Stayer Asquith, FRMP Education Specialist speaks on pollinator benefits.*



*Russ Edgington, FRMP Regional Park Manager shares updates on current Foundation projects at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.*



*Phyllis Strayer, Volunteer Tram Driver transports members to the Butterfly House.*



*Jenny Carroll, Butterfly House Volunteer points out caterpillars to members.*

# RENTALS

Cox Arboretum MetroPark is not only a beautiful place to visit and explore the grounds, but a place to have a serene, natural background for your event. When you rent one of the venues for your event, you are helping fund the special projects and educational programs at the arboretum.

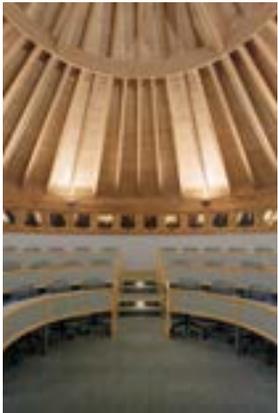
For information on rental specials contact our Events Coordinator.

## Contact Information:

JoAnn Pennington

937-278-2657

[joann.pennington@metroparks.org](mailto:joann.pennington@metroparks.org)



**AMENITIES:** AV Equipment, Projector, 80" LED Flat Screen, Free Public WiFi, Break-Out Areas, Serene Setting, Trails, Gardens, On-Site Parking, Wood Burning Fireplace, ADA Accessible, Theatre Seating, Outside Electric Hook-up capabilities, Accommodates up to 200 People

# MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Thank you for your long-term support and being a part of making a world-class Arboretum.

## 45 years

Jeannine and Don Philipot  
Joyce Young

## 40 years

Michael and Janet Kelly  
Juda Livesay

## 35 years

Connie Fischer  
Hal and Sonja Gegel  
David and Debra Hale

## 30 years

John and Gail Carroll  
Joanne Granzow  
John and Helen Haddick  
Sue and Bruce Howorth  
Stephen Jonas  
Robert H. Lamb  
Norma Landis  
Joanne L. Powell  
Jane Ringer  
Mary K. Wolf

## 25 years

Barbara Nichols O'Hara  
Susan Rigano  
Mrs. Joyce Colyer  
Dianne Frimel  
Anne Chambers  
Winifred Fiedler

## 20 years

Cheryl Coleman  
David and Shirley Younkin  
Karen Kreuzsch  
Tom and Carole Stephens

## 15 years

Joyce Conner  
Beverly Rensch

## 15 years cont.

Winifred and Richard Risner  
Dorothy Wickline  
Cheryl Bickel  
Joseph Bockelman and Barbara Driehaus  
Paul and Patti Stoll  
Richard and Jeanette Wardrop  
Ken Pohl  
Mrs. William C. Raridan  
Mary Ellen Place  
Ann C. Greiner  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry R. Dosser  
Suzanne and Thomas Semones  
Carol Kramer  
Ann Laderman  
Debbie Grissom

## 10 years

Shari Hopton  
Laura Enzbrenner  
Mr. James K. Donnell  
Mariada Zengel  
Judy Blair  
Sharon V. Helms  
Virginia M. Herbeck  
Bruce and Karen Bollinger  
Susan E. Gayle  
Robert and Jewel Safferman  
Nancy Mullins  
Thomas Jonak and Sandra Simmons  
Robert Barker  
Mary Ann and Joe Kunkel  
George Langenderfer  
James E. Stewart  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Geraghty

## 5 years

Margaret Devito  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tofte  
Steve and Tana Eikenbery  
Jean Tarr  
Ann D. Bovenzi & Peter T. Bovenzi

# FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Jon Bossong  
Jean Cacioppo  
James K. Donnell  
Barbara Fryburg  
Hal and Sonja Gegel  
Mandy Goubeaux and  
Mark Webster  
James P. and Jean M. Graham  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Gray  
Carl Gross  
John and Helen Haddick  
Tony & Pokey Huffman  
Jean B. Mahoney  
Ruth C. Mead  
Barbara Nichols O'Hara  
Marvin and Christine F. Olinsky  
Caryl Philips  
Carol and Rich Pohl  
Don and Joyce Porter  
Carole Remick  
Burnell and Karen Roberts  
Paul and Patti Stoll  
Lois and Roger Sutherland  
John and Connie Taylor  
Sherry and Hans Tschudin  
Jim and Tami Whalen  
Alex & Sue Willimas  
Nancy H. Zorniger

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

## MEMBERSHIP

Your membership in The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation allows us to grow, much like the trees we care so deeply about. All gifts, large and small, help us advance our mission of connecting people with nature.

# Tributes

Through May 2015 - October 2015

*\*Donations collected to purchase a tree or bench on the grounds honoring a loved one or special event.*

## In memory of Jan Becher

Shawn Arabian

## In memory of Richard Botsford

John and Sandra Bauman

John and Lindsay Botsford

Barbara Collins

Richard Flynn

Robert and Jeanne Hohl

Morgan and Sally MacDonald

Lee and Lois Williams

Kenneth and Jay Wilson

Bob and Mary Jo Wray

Karen Zalta

Kenneth Hehman & Wm

Bramlage, Mds, Inc.

## In memory of Sandra Drain

James McCloskey

Robert and Donna Duplain

Gus and Noula Tingos

Jeremy Wuorenma

## In memory of Vincenzina Krymow

Vicki Waymire

Kevin Anderson

Lena Lonigro

Cicely Nathan & Family

## In memory of Rick Wattermann\*

Qbase

Anita Burns

Roby and Lee Ann Compton

Peter and Janelle Johnson

Roxanne McCloskey

Jeffrey and Susan Mikutis

Natasha Scherief

B. Tankersley

Emily Wilhelm

Matthew Steinke

## In memory of Jean Woodhull

Robert and Deborah

Goldenberg

# New Members

New Members as of May 2015 - October 2015

Rosemary Andrzejewski

Robyn Angel

Samantha Arndts

Linda Bonza

Charlotte Grusenmeyer

Ashley Kruegel

Kim Langdon

Michael and Stephanie Little

Kaleena Marchbank

Susan B. McCoy

Amy McNeely

Nancy Morrison

Kathy Paice

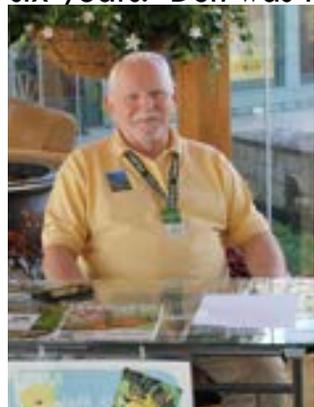
Jerica Sahadak

Michael Senne

Victor and Athena Thaler

## MEMBER/VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Don Porter has been associated with Cox Arboretum MetroPark for nearly 20 years. He served as President of The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation Board from 2004 to 2006 serving a total of six years. Don was the President of Levin Porter, a local architectural firm in Dayton. In the late 90's when the Foundation began a capital campaign to raise money for our current complex of buildings, Jean Woodhull asked Don if he would lend his expertise to the project. Levin Porter submitted one of the original designs for the new complex and maintained interest in the project through completion at the end of 2003.



When he retired from he board, Don became an active member of our volunteer force experimenting with different propagation techniques to grow trees and shrubs. He also helped in surveying the grounds to determine the amount of tree loss the Arboretum would sustain as a result of Emerald Ash Borer.

Don is now a Visitor Services Volunteer Representative welcoming and directing visitors and sharing his passion for the Arboretum in the Visitor Center most Mondays. Don's favorite thing about the Arboretum is the people's reactions to the beauty of the place and the way they enjoy the park. "Everyone comes in with a smile on their face," he explains. He says that *along with the people, the beauty and sanctity of nature is what keeps him coming back. "It's the feeling you get while you're here...it just gets in your blood"* he adds.



The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation  
6733 Springboro Pike  
Dayton, OH 45449

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Dayton, OH  
Permit No. 609

### **Park Hours**

NOVEMBER—MARCH 31

8am—8pm

APRIL—OCTOBER 31

8am—10pm

### **Zorniger Education 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*

## **A Special Holiday Gift Idea**



Are you in search of the perfect holiday gift? Is there someone in your life who has a special fondness for Cox Arboretum MetroPark? Perhaps they are a frequent visitor who enjoys the gardens, walking the paths or climbing the tree tower for the ideal view. Or maybe they are a long-time volunteer at the Arboretum who has a special connection to the park.

If there is someone on your holiday gift list that fits this description, consider a gift of a bench or tree located at the Arboretum that will include a personalized plaque honoring them. Tribute trees and benches are available throughout Five Rivers MetroParks and are the perfect gift for the nature-lover in your life. For more information, contact Brenda Cox at 937-277-4839.