



# ARBORETUM UPDATE!

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

Fall 2017



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As my term as President of The James M. Cox, Jr. Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees draws towards a close, I would like to thank the many groups who work together to make Cox Arboretum such a special place. Our Foundation members, MetroParks' volunteers and employees, and our Foundation Board of Trustees work in partnership to provide support to the Arboretum. The results are evident. During a recent visit with my family, we used the new loop path, enjoyed the view from the new Monet bridge, engaged with volunteers in the butterfly house, and strolled past the new Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture and plaza. I'm thankful for the role each of you serve in order to make so many wonderful things happen here at Cox Arboretum over the past few years.

In 2018, Elise Hafenbrack will become the new President of the Board of Trustees. For the past four years, Elise has served as Secretary and then Vice President of our Board. Please join me in welcoming Elise into this position and supporting her and the Board as they continue the Foundation's vision of providing an outdoor refuge that connects us all to nature.

Warmest regards,

*Miranda Goubeaux*

Miranda Goubeaux  
President, Cox Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees

**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

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# RUSSELL EDGINGTON



This past July, Russ Edgington retired from his position as Regional Park Manager for Five Rivers MetroParks. As Regional Manager of the Southeast Zone, Russ oversaw the operations at Cox Arboretum, Hills & Dales and Sugarcreek MetroParks.

During his tenure, Russ played an instrumental role in many improvement projects at Cox Arboretum. These projects included the Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture, renovation of the Allée and Arbor,

demolition of the Cox house located on the back portion of the property, replacement of the Monet bridge, paver paths installed throughout the arboretum, and the staining of the campus buildings. Russ was also instrumental in leading improvement projects inside the Zorniger Education and Visitor Center. These included new carpeting and flooring in the Fifth Third Conference Room, the transition of the garden store space, repurposing the Huffman Gallery and renovation of office space.

These accomplishments were all a testament of Russ's dedication and hard work at the Arboretum along with the philanthropic support of the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO RUSS ON HIS RETIREMENT!



# INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF AT COX ARBORETUM METROPARK



## Regional Manager of the SE Zone - Joe Morrison

### What made you you choose a career in parks?

While attending The Ohio State University, I received an internship from Walt Disney World, in Orlando, and was offered a permanent crew leader position after I finished my last quarter of school. It was at Disney where I realized how much I enjoyed working in public parks and the interaction with the public. It's quite bizarre how the smallest instances in life can change your whole life direction. Rather than returning to Orlando after graduation or working in a public park, I instead worked for multiple private landscaping companies and eventually owned and operated my own landscape and design build firm. Twenty years later, my career shifted and I looked again towards the public parks where I became a Park Manager for Butler County Parks. This gave me the opportunity to return to a public park system.

### What brought you to the Arboretum?

After a couple years in Butler County, an opportunity became available at Five Rivers MetroParks. I was offered a position as the Park Manager for Eastwood and Huffman MetroParks. When the Horticulturist position at Cox Arboretum became available, I applied right away. I served as the Horticulturist at the Arboretum for seven months and recently was promoted to Regional Park Manager of the SE Zone. As Regional Manager, I am responsible for the operations at Cox Arboretum, Hills and Dales, and Sugarcreek MetroParks. To be able to work in an Arboretum, especially one that is as well-known and reputable as Cox Arboretum, in my mind, is a Horticulturist's dream job.

### What is your favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing about my position at Cox Arboretum is being part of such a hardworking, dedicated staff and volunteer group who take so much pride in their work. They treat the Arboretum as if it were their own. Everyone here works to achieve the same common goal, which is to make the Arboretum a place for everyone of all ages to come and enjoy nature at its finest and its most natural setting.



photo courtesy of Michael Little

*Honor a loved one or a special day with a tribute gift at  
Cox Arboretum MetroPark.*

*For more information call (937) 277-4839.*



## Site Leader - Andy Tarter

### What made you you choose a career in parks?

I have always been an avid park user. I grew up in the area visiting Cox Arboretum, Sugarcreek, Caesars Creek State Park, and John Bryan State Park from a very young age. My familiarity with the parks and love for being outdoors were strong drivers in my decision to apply to work in the field of park maintenance. Given my experience visiting parks, I developed an appreciation for the hard work that made positive experiences in nature possible. Out of this appreciation developed a desire to contribute to the work that allows our visitors to take a break from their daily routines and connect to the natural beauty of the area. I have been in the field of park maintenance with Five Rivers MetroParks for ten years.

### What brought you to the Arboretum?

I began my MetroParks career as a seasonal employee at Hills and Dales, then did an internship at the Arboretum, and then took a position at the Arboretum as a custodial technician. After a little less than a year, I became a part-time park technician (also here). I stayed in that position for five years, until I transferred to RiverScape to become full-time. I moved back to the Arboretum to work as the Park Services Site Leader in February of this year.

### What is your favorite thing about your job?

What I like best about my job is working outdoors and the ability to make the facility a beautiful, safe and comforting place for our visitors.



## Events Facilitator - Valerie Claggett

### What made you you choose a career in parks?

I was raised in Eugene, Oregon where my father spent his career as the Director of Parks and Recreation. I spent my youth in Eugene biking, hiking, and enjoying parks of all kinds. I facilitated events at Glen Helen for five years. I've enjoyed the privilege of coming into contact with literally thousands of people attending weddings, conferences, retreats, etc. and sharing in their delight as visitors have their own unique individual experiences surrounded by the beauty of nature.

### What brought you to the Arboretum?

I first moved to the Dayton area in 1991. Cox Arboretum has always been a special place and I've watched it continue to blossom over the years. Becoming a part of Five Rivers MetroParks and the Arboretum has been a natural transition for me. I'm at home surrounded by nature. I'm really happy to be here.

### What is your favorite thing about your job?

As the Event Facilitator at Cox Arboretum, I meet people from all over, some visiting the Arboretum for the first time. It is great to hear them say what a beautiful place this is and of course I agree. There are many things I enjoy about my job, but there is nothing quite like the quiet moments here at the Arboretum with a frog at the glass door, a turtle sauntering across the lawn, an injured bird on the back door mat, or watching a mother robin trying to teach her baby bird how to dig for worms.

# AN UPDATE ON THE TREE TOWER

Where is the Tree Tower? During the process of preparing the Tree Tower for scheduled maintenance last fall, staff at Cox Arboretum found soft spots in the Tower's three wooden logs, which are the central support structure for the Tower. As a precaution, the Tree Tower was immediately closed to the public and an in-depth analysis of any potential issues at the Tree Tower began. Results from the analysis indicated the support logs required replacement to ensure the Tower is structurally sound. The analysis also indicated there are no other issues with any other parts of the Tower. The soft spots in the three support logs were caused by a fungus that originated inside the wood.

In July, the Tree Tower was disassembled with all parts that will be reused taken off-site for repair. The wood support logs on the Tower will be replaced using a different wood species and all other parts of the tower are in good condition and will be reused on the repaired tower. The Tree Tower is expected to be rebuilt by the end of 2017.



# RECOGNIZING EDUCATORS

## OUTstanding Teacher Awards 2017

For three years, the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation has funded the OUTstanding Teacher Award, at Cox Arboretum. The award recognizes three exceptional educators who have gone above and beyond to bring engaging environmental experiences that inspire students to be actively involved with our planet now and in the future.



### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Mary McKnight**  
English Teacher, Thurgood Marshall High School

*"One of the best ways the award helps students is they feel valued for the efforts they put into our garden and outdoor classroom space and someone they don't know is willing to help them. Several of our students are already planning their science fair projects for next year because they will have a small greenhouse to work with that was purchased with the award. We are developing pollinator and butterfly garden beds, in partnership with MetroParks. We were out of dirt...but thanks to this award, we have PLENTY of wonderful, rich earth to use for our new beds!!"*

### LEADER

**Lisa Simmons**  
Gym Teacher, St. Helens School

*"I was so touched with the OUTstanding Teacher Award I received. It has meant so much to me. We just used our free transportation to Cox Arboretum in taking 42 first through fourth graders on a hiking trip. The kids had a blast and the volunteers, as well as Lauren, were so helpful, informational, and welcoming to our rather active group. With this award I will be able to add to our butterfly garden and to add equipment for our Eco Club for more activities. Thank you so very much for this award and all you have done for our school and for our students."*



### RISING STAR

**John Huston**  
Teacher, Nicholas Residential Treatment Center

*"School budgets are being cut each year, which makes it harder and harder to find funding for extra programs and activities that create excitement and curiosity in our students. The purchases we have been able to make because of the OUTstanding Teacher Award have been for things we otherwise would not be able to have."*



Know an OUTstanding Teacher who incorporates nature into the classroom? Nominate them for the 2018 OUTstanding Teacher Award. The top teacher in each category will receive supplies for their classroom and school. Supplies help expand and continue the teachers' efforts in connecting children to nature through classroom lessons.

For more information visit [www.metroparks.org/outstanding-teacher-award](http://www.metroparks.org/outstanding-teacher-award).

# BUTTERFLY HOUSE

## 2017 “Welcome to the Butterfly’s Home”

“Welcome to the Butterfly’s Home” was the theme for this year’s programming. Each year **over 50,000 guests visit the Butterfly House where they can experience up-close encounters with these elusive creatures in every stage of their life.**

Adults and children alike tour the butterfly house each year. One program designed for preschool – elementary age students consists of a volunteer who guides the children through the house showing them what to look for in order to identify the different life cycles of a butterfly. It is the hope of the volunteer guides that the children will take their butterfly house experience home and share with others. Recently, a Five Rivers MetroParks conservation and nature program manager witnessed this first-hand with a young girl named Annie.

This summer Annie visited the butterfly house with her grandma. Upon entering the house she sat down by the cabbages. After a few seconds of flipping over leaves she squealed and said, “Grandma, see!” Her grandma bent down and Annie told her about the eggs and caterpillars covering the leaf. When asked how she knew where to find caterpillars

Annie said she visited the butterfly house with her school. Her Grandma shared that Annie loves flipping over leaves with holes in them and looking for eggs and caterpillars so much that they purchased the *Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars* so she can try to identify what she finds. Annie said her favorites are cabbage whites.

Make plans to visit the butterfly house next summer. You never know -- you may become just as enchanted as Annie.



### BUTTERFLY SCAVENGER HUNT

Look for these stages in the life cycle of a butterfly. How many stages can you find?



How many different kinds of butterflies, eggs, and chrysalises did you find?

Butterflies have different ways of behaving. Look carefully to see if you can see any of these behaviors.



There are a variety of resources used, especially with children, to make learning fun and memorable. One example is *The Butterfly Scavenger Hunt* game; children see pictures of the life cycle and then go out on the butterfly trail to find them.



“Look closer” signs can be found both inside and outside the Butterfly House to help direct visitors to see something they might otherwise miss.

*Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over it became a butterfly.*

# NATURE AT NIGHT - November 18



As the days begin to get cooler and the sun sets earlier and earlier, many people spend the evenings indoors. Meanwhile, all of Five Rivers MetroParks including Cox Arboretum MetroPark are open after dark, allowing everyone to enjoy the sights and sounds of our local nocturnal animals throughout the year. **Nature at Night is a family program created to celebrate our nocturnal wildlife and introduce the community to nighttime nature exploration.** The program will be returning to Cox Arboretum MetroPark on **NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6-9PM!**

Program highlights include **night hikes looking for owls, star gazing, mammal track and fur station, owl pellet dissections, crafts, light pollution demonstration, glow in the dark Frisbee golf, and more!** Conservation Kids’ volunteers and their parents lead stations alongside MetroParks’ Naturalist Guides to help families feel more comfortable exploring nature at a different time of day. Parents worried about bed times need not fear, because their children can experience the wonders of the night earlier as winter approaches!

“There are many myths and misconceptions about nocturnal creatures, which can lead to a fear of getting outside after dark. We want to help families better understand our local nocturnal creatures, and show them all the cool things they miss when they stay indoors in the evenings” said Elisabeth Barnett, Outdoor Education Apprentice for Five Rivers MetroParks. “Nature exploration should not be cut short in the fall and winter simply because it gets dark earlier.”

To register for the program visit [www.metroparks.org/programs](http://www.metroparks.org/programs).



# POLLINATOR PARTY 2017

*A big thank you to the volunteers who helped with the children's activity, drove the trams, and served as guides in the Butterfly House.*

Thank you to all who attended this year's Pollinator Party. The event featured a special kids activity; painting flower pots to make a pollinator habitat with milkweed seeds. Teachers, John Huston, Mary McKnight, and Judi Brooks, shared with members how bringing nature into the classroom has impacted their students. Butterfly House volunteers, Jennie Carroll and Debra Joseph, shared their experiences of volunteering in the butterfly house and the excitement they see on visitors faces when they find a caterpillar.



A special thank you to the Dayton Power & Light Foundation for their continued support of the Butterfly House to help the community experience the butterfly life cycle and habitat.

# BARBARA COX CENTER FOR

# SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

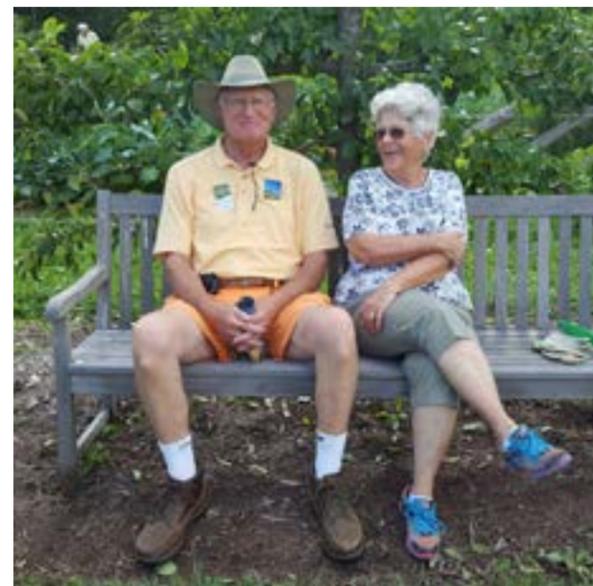


The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture is the recipient of the 2017 Great Lakes Park, Facility and Recreation Program Award. The award was presented to Five Rivers MetroParks at the Great Lakes Park Training Institute in Angola, Indiana.

This regional award is given in recognition of park, facilities, and programs completed within the last five years that represent the cutting edge of the leisure movement throughout the United States. The project must represent innovative, cost effective design; demonstrate the utilization of community input and resources; and provide a significant impact on the community and agency.

# MEMBER/VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

## Sandi and Ken Phipps



Almost 30 years ago Sandi Phipps visited the Arboretum for the first time with a friend. They were both interested in learning more about herbs. Sandi not only found friendly volunteers and staff, but also a place where she could volunteer to help grow, maintain, and harvest the herb garden. Sandi's husband, Ken, worked at the Mound but always found time to bring Sandi out every week so she could work with the herb volunteer group. Ken remembers the Arboretum in those early years as a field with a small building. When Ken retired he started volunteering in the group with Sandi. Occasionally he was given special projects to work on and remembers a pruning project that lasted three years. Sandi and Ken feel that being Foundation members is a valuable investment in keeping the Arboretum healthy into the future. They especially love to see kids enjoying the Arboretum, some of whom probably don't have many opportunities to explore the

green space the Arboretum offers. Sandi says the couple is "like the weeds – they keep coming back"... and have for close to 30 years now.



## New Members

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.

January - August 2017

- |                              |                            |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cynthia Adams                | Elizabeth Fevang           | Hillary McNabb and Daniel Foose  |
| Miles Aquino & Mari Ishida   | Jaime Garrett              | Mary Lynn Poston                 |
| Sharon Bakay                 | Peggy and Mark Grunkemeyer | Katherine Rath                   |
| William Baker                | Shelley Harmony            | Lisa Simmons                     |
| Abby Bielski and Mark Alfson | Lulu Hong                  | Joe Smith and Jasmine Grillmeier |
| Lyndsey Combs                | John Huston                | Keith and Roben Smith            |
| Cori Crayton                 | Heather MacLachlan         | James Wanke                      |
| Diane Dynes                  | Mary McKnight              |                                  |

Weddings • Receptions • Anniversaries • Corporate Gatherings • Holiday Parties • Recognition Events  
Rehearsals • Retirement Parties • Retreats • Seminars • Bridal/Baby Showers

## Cox Arboretum MetroPark...

For your special day,  
surround yourself in nature  
where serenity abounds.



...Your Wedding Destination

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# Member Anniversaries

Thank you for your long-term support.

## 45 years

Marjorie J. Gillingham

## 40 years

Beverly Saeks  
Nora A. Slifer  
Peggy Taylor

## 35 years

Don and Sue Dugan  
Rick and Jane Schwartz

## 25 years

Joan Beyerle  
Jon Bossong  
Gary Courts  
Kathy Dulaney  
Gene Feagans  
Sylvia M. Hess  
Pam and George Houk  
Berman and Vi Layer  
Betty Martel  
Kenneth Pohl and  
Mary Angela Mulligan

## 20 years

Beverly Hylton  
Bob and Nora Newssock  
Caryl D. Philips

## 15 years

Roger and Pam Bauser  
Sally A. Bond  
Carl and Jan Brown

## 15 years cont...

Mary Cargan  
William Filbrun  
Maggie Hemmen  
Alicia U. Kern  
Jan Kowal  
Don and Ruth Macon  
Cindy Mason  
Judith A. Streiff

## 10 years

Sandra S. Daum  
Marge Etson  
Joan Everson  
Thomas M. Forsythe  
Erma Griffith  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harris  
Andrew and Stephanie Hittle  
Thomas and Donna Hull  
Kathleen Kammer  
Susan M. Kellar  
Lorraine Kogler  
Anne and Larry Lawhorne  
Patricia Lundy  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Nowikowski  
Carol J. Robinson  
Glenn and Patty Schimpf  
Mary and James Schudrowitz  
Holly Smith  
Duke Stockslager  
Mary Stringer Sabin  
Karen Veve  
Larry and Linda Welin

# FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Jon Bossong  
Wilma Jean Cacioppo  
James Donnell  
Barbara Fryburg  
Harold and Sonja Gegel  
Mandy Goubeaux and  
Mark Webster  
James and Jean Graham  
Carl Gross  
John and Helen Haddick  
Tony and Pokey Huffman  
Jean Mahoney  
Ruth Mead  
Barbara Nichols O'Hara  
Marvin and Christine Olinsky  
Caryl Philips  
Rich and Carol Pohl  
Don and Joyce Porter  
Carole Remick  
John and Barbara Rion  
Burnell and Karen Roberts  
Paul and Patti Stoll  
Lois and Roger Sutherland  
John and Connie Taylor  
Sherry Tschudin  
Nancy Zeller  
Nancy Zorniger

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.

# Tributes

January - August 2017

\*denotes tribute tree or bench

## In memory of the Michael Scott Angel and Todd Denver Angel

Thomas Ernst  
Christine Findlay  
Neighbors of Sharon Angel  
Terry W. Perkins

## In memory of Shirley Bahr

Flagel, Huber, Flagel & Co.  
Bob & Judy Murphy  
Nancy Wagner

## In memory of Patricia J. Buckingham

David Humphreys

## In memory of Zhiping Chen\*

Wenliang Tang & Rebecca Miao Tang

## In memory of Bernice Coleman

Richard & Jeanette Wardrop

## In memory of Barbara Doster\*

Karen Acker  
The Mirko Antlago Family  
Douglas & Judith Bohnert  
Ann Burnham  
Peggy Gillard  
Diane Hudson  
Margaret Jones  
Michele Kempston  
Mary Kloet  
Kelly & Reggie Kramer  
Stephen & Suzanne Loveless & Family  
Suzanne Loveless  
David & Lenarda Maniccia  
Richard and Elizabeth Martinson  
Betty Ann McKay  
Sue Menter  
Chuck & Pam Schoffner  
Karin Anderson Sweet  
Sue Swords  
John & Dotty Weber  
John & Jill Wilde

## In memory of Donna French

Virginia Bard

## In memory of Barb Gross

Suzanne and Art Wert

## In memory of Mandy Macauley

Nora, Bob, & Amy Newssock

## In memory of Trudy Summer Metz

George & Charlene Bayless Family

## In honor of Bob & Marge Mott Family\*

Bob & Marge Mott

## In memory of the Jo Ripley\*

Cindy Stein

## In memory of Dr. Jill Rossett

Bob, Nora, & Amy Newssock

## In memory of Fred Sokol

Robert & Nora Newssock

## In memory of Floyd Taylor

Roy & Shirley Jackman

## In memory of the mother of Dr. Joel Vandersluis

Bob, Nora, & Amy Newssock

## In memory of Sylvan Weinberg

Bob & Nora Newssock

## In memory of the mother of Karen Weprin

Bob & Nora Newssock

## In honor of Carol Wildenhaus

Anonymous

## In memory of Sylvia Wilson

Robert & Nora Newssock

## In honor of Shirley Younkin

Barry & Nympha Clark

Celebrate your Special Day with a Tribute Gift at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.

For more information call (937) 277-4839.

photo courtesy of Sarah Babcock Stuido



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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Permit No. 609

#### **Park Hours**

NOVEMBER - MARCH 31

8am - 8pm

APRIL - OCTOBER 31

8am - 10pm

#### **Zorniger Education & 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.*

## **PERENNIAL SOCIETY**



**Become a member of the Perennial Society by including a gift to the Foundation in your will or estate plans.**

**For more information contact:**

**Beth Redden**

**(937) 277-4369**

**[bredde@metroparks.org](mailto:bredde@metroparks.org)**

*“Planting” for future generations.*