



# ARBORETUM UPDATE!

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

Spring/Summer 2018



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Friends,

*Having lived and worked in this area for several decades, I know what a treasured resource Cox Arboretum MetroPark is to its surrounding communities. I can remember bringing my two sons here to explore, and now, I come often with my grandson. Together we explore the winding trails, watch butterflies, and we always discover something new. After four years serving on the Board, I am honored to have been named President of the Cox Arboretum Foundation.*

*Even with the long winter, the property has started to bloom. Now is the time to gather friends and family and spend the day with us--look for our countless perennials and the baby ducks that will soon join us for the season.*

*Volunteers, I want to thank you for your warm welcome. April is our Volunteer Appreciation Month and truly, Cox Arboretum thrives on your support. If I can be of any help to you, I'm only a phone call away--or maybe I'll see you out on the trails!*

Best,

*Elise B. Hafenbrack*

Elise Hafenbrack

Cox Arboretum Foundation, Board President



The  
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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# INTRO TO NEW HORTICULTURIST



## Horticulturist- Kelly Wood

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

*I was the kid that was always outside. My maternal grandparents had a farm in Preble County, my Father's side had land in Homestead, Florida dedicated to growing all types of fruit trees, and my Mother is an excellent perennial and vegetable gardener, all contributing to my strong roots in the horticulture world. I attended Clark State Community College and obtained multiple Associate Degrees. I have been in the agricultural field for 20 years, in greenhouses and garden center retail work, as a city worker in the medians of Centerville, and on the University of Dayton campus.*

### What brought you to the Arboretum?

*While taking a break from employment to stay home with my young sons, I became active in MetroParks' hike and other programs available for families, as well as involved in the tree adoption program for reforestation. As a frequent visitor of all the MetroParks, I was impressed with everything the agency was doing to engage the community and encourage people to get outside, so I began researching*

*employment within the agency. On Make a Difference Day in October 2014 at Cox Arboretum, I helped plant trees and met the current Horticulturist, Rich Pearson. I spoke with him about how I could become part of the agency. I then signed up for a volunteer orientation meeting with Volunteer Coordinator, Yvonne Dunphe. After volunteering in various parks I decided Five Rivers MetroParks is where I should be. I applied and was hired for a part-time Horticulture Technician position at RiverScape and advanced into the full-time position six months later. A year after I began at RiverScape, I transferred to the full-time Horticulture Technician at Cox Arboretum. Upon Rich Pearson and Russell Edgington's retirement and then promotion of Joe Morrison to Regional Manager, the open Horticulturist position felt like the next logical step in my career.*

### What is your favorite part about the job?

*My favorite part of the job is seeing people, especially children, enjoy this park. There is nothing comparable to the compliments we receive from the public and my second favorite part is planting trees. I am grateful to be surrounded by a talented-strong team of coworkers and the countless volunteers that make Cox Arboretum what it is. Their hard work and dedication is obvious when you walk the grounds. I look forward to a future where the next generation will appreciate this land and continue to give it the respect it deserves.*



# FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

## Roof Replacement



Last summer the Foundation funded the replacement of the roofs on the Zorniger Education & Visitor Center, Volunteer Lounge, and Kettering Learning Lab. The new shingles are made of Brava tile, a composite material that is 100% recyclable. The Brava tile was selected primarily for their close resemblance to the original cedar shakes. They meet the highest standards for wind, hail and fire resistance, and come with a 50-year warranty.



This year, the Foundation has provided funding for the replacement of the two remaining roofs located on the Zorniger Education Campus: the cold storage building and the operations building. Along with the replacement of the roofs, areas of wood siding will be replaced where deterioration is showing and existing gutters modified with an installation of new section to resolve drainage problems. The shingles will be commercial grade architectural shingles (300 lbs. per square) with a 50-year warranty. These high-relief shingles will complement the Brava shake tiles and bring the appearance of the buildings more in line with the adjacent education buildings.



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Operations Building



New Roof - Volunteer Lounge



New Roof - Kettering Learning Lab



New Roof - Zorniger Education & Visitor Center

## Allée

The Allée will be getting a new look for 2018. Due to the overall short life span of flowering trees, their limited flowering display, and the harsh site conditions; arboretum staff re-evaluated the site and made the decision to have more seasonal color throughout the year.



The new design will include 50 'Exclamation' London Planetrees planted in two rows. The trees will give the needed height and spread, as well as the white distinct bark color for seasonal interest.

Along the trees and at the Arbor will be 218 'Little Quick Fire' Hydrangeas that will begin to bloom in June/July with blooms lasting through the fall. The blooms open up white and then turn pink to a dark rosy-pink in the fall, with the leaves turning gold and burgundy.



Along the bed edge will be 520 Dianthus 'Firewitch', a perennial groundcover that blooms a magenta-pink in the spring and repeats through to the fall. The foliage is a blue-gray and evergreen.



The combination of these three species should make the Allée even more spectacular for outdoor weddings and park visitors.

The Allée trees and shrubs will each receive a "tree diaper", a Zynnovation product that is an advanced plant hydration system installed above each root ball and under the mulch. This landscaping irrigation product combines the functions of slow release irrigation, automatic recharging with natural precipitation, weed control, and protection against extreme weather conditions (winter and summer) into one package. Using the tree diapers will promote water conservation, save staff time, and provide the public with examples of sustainable practices. The tree diapers will also be part of a Zynnovation study which is funded by the Cox Arboretum Foundation.



**A special thank you to Zynnovation for generously donating a portion of the tree diapers.**

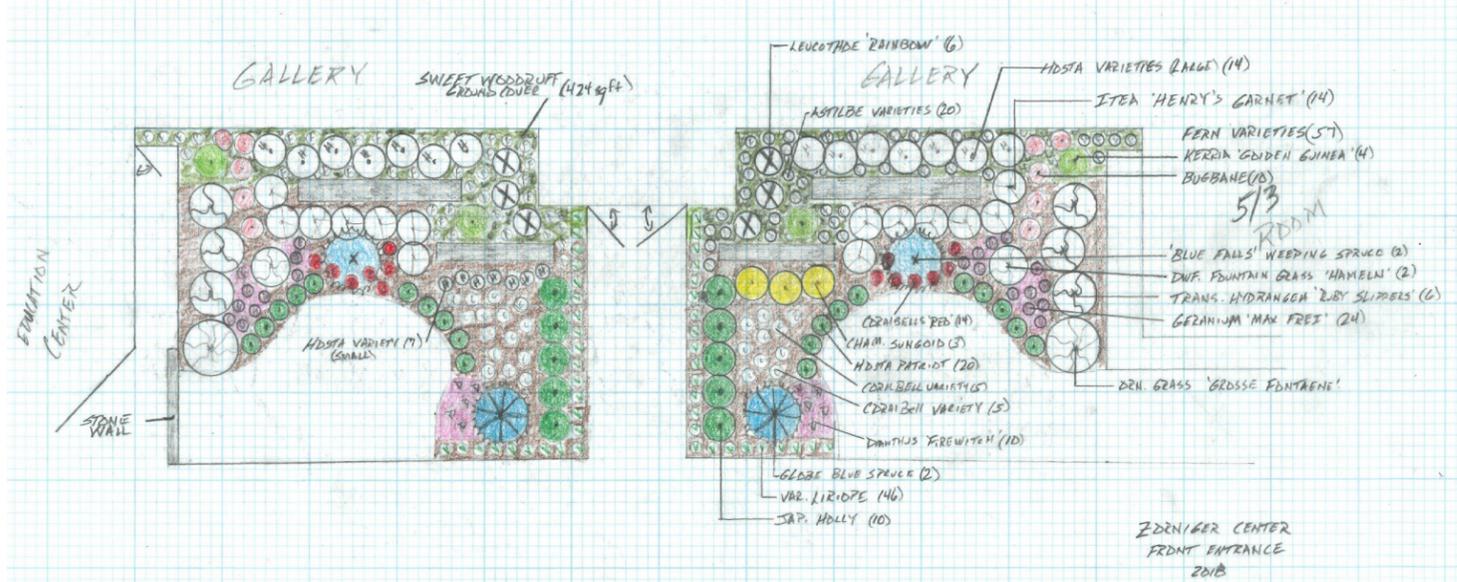
Tree diaper for a beech tree planted in the spring of 2017

# GROUNDS UPDATE

In 2017, the goal for the grounds was to maintain all existing landscape beds by edging and mulching as well as enlarging current or creating new beds to increase ease and efficiency for mowing.

For 2018, the goal is to not only maintain the high standard of landscape bed maintenance but to enhance new areas with new landscaping showing visitors what can thrive in this local temperate zone and soil conditions.

## New Landscape Beds at the Entrance of the Zorniger Education & Visitor Center



The entrance of the Visitor Center will have a new look this spring/summer. Re-landscaping will take place at the front to make it more inviting and appealing.

## Indoor Plant Material Containers



Inside the Huffman Gallery visitors can enjoy an array of flowers and plants. Many of these plants have flourished and were recently re-potted into new larger containers to accommodate their root systems, thanks to funding from the Foundation.



Even the Agave plant has been divided and repotted to a larger container.

# TREE TOWER UPDATE

Good News! The newly reconstructed Tree Tower is due to open this spring (weather permitting). Restoration is currently underway on the grounds around the Tree Tower with the recent removal of the crane pad and access road, topsoil placement, and seeding. The garden beds around the base of the tower will be restored and replanted as weather permits.

Improvements to the Tower include new support columns that are engineered wood, laminated from 2"x6" continuously-jointed lengths of Alaskan Yellow Cedar. This species of wood is identified in the Ohio Building Code as both insect and rot resistant and suitable for use as a structural material without being pressure-treated. The rough columns were manufactured in Washington State and turned to their current diameter on an industrial lathe in Oregon before shipment to Stull Woodworking in Troy, Ohio for final fabrication and assembly.

In addition to new columns, several features were added to reduce weathering and extend the life of the Tower. At each place where the curved braces attach to a column, wood blocking has been added and sealed to prevent moisture from collecting between the brace and column. Also, added fiberglass stair protectors will eliminate the accelerated wear on the step surfaces that was occurring and also improve traction during wet conditions.

We appreciate your patience during this process and hope you plan a visit to the Tree Tower this summer to again enjoy breathtaking views from the top deck.



# INTERPRETATION



**STEP 1**  
**SINKING FOR SUCCESS**

Each September and October volunteers collect native tree seeds and nuts to start the reforestation process. After removing caps and hulls from the nuts, they are float tested for viability. If the nut sinks, it goes on to the next step. If the nut floats, it returns to the woods as compost.

The Barbara Cox Center for Sustainable Horticulture (BCCSH) features new signage. The five interpretive panels installed in the greenhouses educate visitors on the tree reforestation efforts being conducted within the BCCSH. The panels go from step one of testing the viability of a seed all the way through step five of planting a small tree. The seed cooler also includes a new wrap to identify its purpose along with labels on seeds that are currently in the step two process.

Additional interpretive signage will be seen later this year identifying the tree and wildflower plant material as well as wayfinding path signage.



**STEP 2**  
**COOL BREAK**

After mixing the clean and dry nuts with vermiculite, they go into cold storage. The time spent in the seed cooler mimics natural conditions the nuts must undergo before germination begins. This process is known as stratification.




**STEP 3**  
**PEOPLE POTTING PLANTS**

Volunteers check the cooler weekly, planting sprouting nuts into cone shaped tubes. Smaller seeds and nuts not needing cold storage go directly into flats in the greenhouse until germination begins.




**STEP 4**  
**CARING FOR THE CROP**

Placed in a cool greenhouse the newly planted nuts are watered and checked daily. Volunteers begin transplanting the trees into larger containers in June and July. After transplanting, the trees go outside into the holding area.



**STEP 5**  
**REFORESTATION READY**

After growing for two years, the trees are ready to plant in Five Rivers MetroParks conservation areas and parks. Volunteers plant trees in April, May and October each year.

# SAVE THE DATES



**Spring Walk**  
*For All Members*

**June 13, 2018**  
**2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
**Cox Arboretum MetroPark**  
**Edible Landscape Garden**

*(Invitations to follow)*



**Fall Luncheon**  
*For Magnolia, Founders Society, & Perennial Society Members*

**November 8, 2018**  
**11:30 - 1:00 pm**  
**Cox Arboretum MetroPark**  
**Fifth Third Conference Room**

*(Invitations will be mailed in October)*

# EDUCATION AT THE ARB

## Conservation Kids



photo courtesy of Jen Schriber

Throughout the year, Conservation Kids help with conservation efforts and citizen science projects. Most recently, the Conservation Kids helped plant 14 trees at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. The tree species included Bitternut Hickory, Burr Oak and Red Oak. These trees were planted behind the Butterfly House along the paved trail. The trees that were planted were grown in the greenhouse along with the other 30,000 trees that have been planted through the Five Rivers

MetroParks' reforestation program in the past few years.

An on-going Conservation Kids effort has been prairie restoration. This year in January, seeds were started in the greenhouse with the intention to plant them out in the prairie behind the metal butterflies on the trail leading to the Butterfly House. In April, the Conservation Kids transplanted them to larger pots which are being kept in the greenhouse until they are planted in mid-May.

Thanks to funding from the Cox Arboretum Foundation, Conservation Kids are learning about the impact they have on nature. Participating families feel a sense of belonging and ownership for local conservation efforts. In years to come, visitors of the Arboretum will enjoy the efforts of Conservation Kids, from the beauty of plants they see to the clean air they breathe.

To learn more about Conservation Kids and how your family can get involved visit [metroparks.org/conservationkids](http://metroparks.org/conservationkids).



photo courtesy of Jen Schriber



photo courtesy of Elizabeth "Liz" Caraway

## OUTstanding Teacher Award Recipients

With a generous grant to the Cox Arboretum Foundation from the Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, Cox Arboretum MetroPark was able to create the OUTstanding Teacher Award in 2014, which recognizes three exceptional educators from the Greater Dayton Area who have gone above and beyond in bringing engaging environmental experiences that inspire students to shape attitudes and actions for nature. This year's award recipients were announced at the Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit, held on March 10.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Mary Kathryn Gooch**  
*Occupational Therapist*  
*Kiser Elementary*

Kathy Gooch, after attending the "Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside Summit" in 2014, was inspired to help students become immersed in nature. Taking her vision and making it a community vision, she took the lead in planning, securing funding, and coordinating the creation of a green schoolyard. The garden is flourishing now with a native prairie area, herb and vegetable garden, sensory area, outdoor classroom space, and a nature play space. This garden has become an important environment for students with motor disabilities and is accessible to all students.



### LEADER

**Darcy Rodman**  
*Kindergarten Teacher*  
*St. Charles Elementary*

Darcy Rodman's kindergarten classroom is full of wonder, excitement, and inquiry as she engages her students in the natural environment. She led a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, students, master gardeners, and community members to take the school's original butterfly garden and add multiple beds, observation areas, and outdoor classroom space to start the Garden Project: An outdoor classroom for students to observe, question, and experience the wonders of the natural world. The space is a certified Monarch Waystation and gets used by many teachers around the school.



### RISING STAR

*Congratulations to this year's award recipients!*

**Sarah Lamont**  
*Preschool Teacher*  
*Learning Tree Farm Preschool*

For Sarah Lamont, nature is the medium for almost all subjects in her nature-based preschool classroom. Her students spend 75% of their time learning outdoors. She has improved the outdoor classroom space by bringing plants from home and getting plants from Monarch Watch; certifying the space as a Monarch Waystation. Sarah spearheaded the nature preschool to earn "A Best in Ohio Connect to Nature School" award from Miami Valley Leave No Child Inside and Dayton Regional Green. She also spends time after school meeting families to go strawberry picking and leading summer adventures for her preschool families. To top it off, she was instrumental in bringing this nature preschool to the Dayton area.

# Perennial Society

Leave a lasting legacy for generations to come with a planned gift to the Cox Arboretum Foundation.  
For more information call (937) 277-4369.

## MEMBER/VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



### Gary Courts

Gary Courts has been a foundation member for 25 years and began volunteering with Five Rivers MetroParks in 2010, after an accomplished career in formal science education. He taught middle school, high school, and college courses.

When asked why he supports the foundation he responded "I consider Cox Arboretum to be a great treasure. As a member of the Cox Arboretum

*Foundation I have an opportunity to support this wonderful facility that has so enriched my life. As a retired educator I value the rewarding experiences I now have as a volunteer when leading programs for school groups at the Arboretum. By financially supporting the Cox Arboretum Foundation I feel I am helping to ensure that this facility will be able to continue to serve our community for years to come."*

Gary has taken courses and is a Certified Interpretive Guide with the National Association of Interpretation, a Certified MetroParks Volunteer, a Master Silviculturist, and in 2016 was awarded the Environmental Education Council of Ohio's Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Gary is one of the "go to" volunteers for Five Rivers MetroParks' school programs, childcare center programs, and the children's public program series - Conservation Kids. Gary is often the first

volunteer to respond to requests to lead and assist with programs and often volunteers three or more days a week during the spring, summer, and fall. His passion for the outdoors makes programming come to life for children of all ages. Gary's never-ending quest to continue building his knowledge about the world around us, inspires others and certainly inspires us!



# Cox Arboretum MetroPark

## Wedding & Event Venue

**SURROUND YOURSELF IN NATURE WHERE SERENITY ABOUNDS**

Family/Corporate Gatherings • Holiday Parties •  
Recognition Events • Rehearsals • Retirement Parties •  
Retreats • Seminars • Showers • Weddings • Workshops



Sponsored by:



To start planning your next event contact the Events Coordinator at (937) 278-2657 or visit our website at [www.coxarboretumfoundation.org](http://www.coxarboretumfoundation.org).

*Founders Society members receive a 20% discount on venue rentals.*

# MEMBER REMINDERS



## Member Plant Pick-Up

Members at the Lilac, Cherry, Magnolia, and Founders Society are eligible for member plants. **The plant pick-up will once again be in the fall.** This allows the plants to be propagated to a larger size. Postcards will be mailed to all eligible members in the fall.

**This year's member tree is the American Beech tree.**

## Refer a Friend

Help our membership grow. When you refer a friend to become a first-time member of the Cox Arboretum Foundation you will receive a \$10 credit towards your membership. Or give the gift of membership to a friend who has never been a member and receive a \$10 credit towards your friend's membership.

**\$10 off**



## New Members

Your membership to 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.

September 2017 - March 2018

Bashar Antoon	Charles Fry	Ken Price
Kristin Carpenter	Kathy Gooch	Darcy Rodman
Beth Caudill	Heidi Krogwold	Justin Vallance
Lisa Crouch	Sarah Lamont	Cait Watson
Kendra Hart Daly	Robert Stephen McCabe	Mallary Williams
Sarah Deaton	Jessica Moore	

# FOUNDERS SOCIETY

- Joseph Bockelmand and Barbara Driehaus
- Jon Bossong
- Jean Cacioppo
- Rob and Jayne Connelly
- James Donnell
- Barbara Fryburg
- Hal and Sonja Gegel
- James and Jean Graham
- Carl Gross
- Tony and Pokey Huffman
- Jean Mahoney
- Ruth Mead
- Barbara Nichols O'Hara
- Marvin and Christine Olinsky
- Caryl Phillips
- Rich and Carol Pohl
- Don and Joyce Porter
- Carole Remick
- Karen and Burnell Roberts
- Rick and Jane Schwartz
- 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

September 2017 - April 2018

*\*denotes tribute tree or bench / \*\*denotes books purchased for use in the Education Hub*

**In memory of Betty Cohoon**  
James and Susan Ekstrom  
Brian and Linda Greuel

**In memory of Fred Cox\***  
Stephen and Melissa Norris

**In memory of Barbara Doster**  
James Doster

**In memory of Ken Foster**  
Jane Dunwoodie  
Phyllis Githens  
Robert and Nancy McDaniel  
Ross and Betty Morris  
Robert and Linda Sever  
David and Marlis Sever

**In memory of Gene Graham**  
Cox Arboretum Woodwork Volunteers:  
Dori Dick  
Gary Drake  
Don Erwine  
Tom McCray  
Brian McNicholl  
Larry Turner  
Jim Wafzig  
Tony and Karen Gainnino  
Dave and Suzanne Kammer

**In memory of Susan Carol Herbert Hammond**  
Carolyn Mowry  
Scott Pate  
Edward and Nancy Soloski

**In memory of Mary Jameson**  
Donna Clark  
Elly Geyer\*\*  
Chris and Joe Malbouef  
Gertrude Rice  
Marian Sensenbaugh  
Dick and Donna Smith

**In memory of Molly O'Connor's Mother**  
Bob and Nora Newsack

**In memory of Duncan Powell**  
Nora and Bob Newsack

**In memory of Ruth Marie Rexroad\***  
Clare and Ian Rexroad

**In memory of Robert Stein**  
Nora, Bob, and Amy Newsack

**In memory of Stephen Wargo**  
Nora and Bob Newsack

**In honor of Carol Wildenhaus**  
Anonymous



**Honor someone you love with a tribute gift at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.**

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



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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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#### **Park Hours**

APRIL - OCTOBER 31

8am - 10pm

NOVEMBER - MARCH 31

8am - 8pm

#### **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.*

*Cox Arboretum MetroPark...  
...Your Wedding Destination*



Cox Arboretum MetroPark is an ideal location for your wedding venue. Whether it is outdoors in the Allée, the Maimon Garden or one of our indoor facilities - a beautiful scenic backdrop will surround you for your special day.

*Syell Photography*