



ARBORETUM UPDATE!

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

Fall/Winter 2021



*Thankful for Your Support and Wishing
You a Happy Holiday Season!*

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As I write this, we are well into my favorite season: Autumn in Ohio. The World Series is in full swing, our Buckeyes are preparing for their crucial November games, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Halloween decorations are everywhere, even more creative than ever. So we already have every reason to be excited about this season, and that is before we have the extra enjoyment of seeing Cox Arboretum in all its Fall glory.

If you haven't been to the property recently, I encourage you to come see us. Even if we hadn't done anything, the natural beauty of the grounds, with the changing leaves is enough to take your breath away. But we have done a lot!

Through the extraordinary work of our Cox Arboretum community, we have (and will be) planting thousands of bulbs. While the flowers from the bulbs may not yet be visible, if you are lucky enough to be there when staff, volunteers, teachers, and students are out planting, I can guarantee you this visual will put a smile on your face. The tulips you will see in the Spring will be even more meaningful for those of us who have seen everyone (especially our young students) planting those bulbs now.

Our newsletter has some nice narratives on recent repairs and enhancements to the Monet Bridge and the "Mechanical Stream." The Foundation Board also recently approved additional funding for improvements to the property that should get underway next Spring. We will be repairing the slabs near the Visitor Center and Kettering Learning Lab. We will also be repairing and re-staining some of the structures, repairing pavers, and more.

As always, thank you to the Volunteers, donors, staff, and everyone who has contributed to the beauty that you will experience when you visit the Cox Arboretum.

Alan I. Brown
Cox Arboretum Foundation, Board President

The
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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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Alexis Larsen

CHIEF OF PHILANTHROPY



Five Rivers MetroParks and the Foundation is excited to announce the hire of the new Chief of Philanthropy, Alexis Larsen. The Chief of Philanthropy serves as the liaison between MetroParks and the Foundation and leads fundraising efforts with the board.

Alexis comes with extensive knowledge and experience. She has been employed by the Dayton Art Institute (DAI) since 2011, serving as the External Affairs Director. During her time at the museum, Alexis has supervised and overseen staff and volunteers in fundraising over \$16 million for the DAI which includes major and planned gifts, solicitation of donors and sponsorships, annual fund campaigns, membership programs, special events, and management of corporate, foundation and government grant submissions. She also has extensive knowledge in consumer research, and community and media engagement. Alexis served as liaison to the 64-volunteer member DAI

Associate Board that supports the museum's two largest signature fundraising events, the Art Ball and Oktoberfest. In 2019, she was responsible for the planning and execution of the museum's Centennial year community events and programming.

Alexis is a graduate of Wright State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications. She is a graduate of Leadership Dayton, and she was named one of Women in Business Networking (WiBN) 25 Women to Watch in 2019.

PERENNIAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Barbara Anthony*
Margaret Barnhart*
Martha Boice
Jane Compton*
Lewis & Ruth Cummings*
Patricia Edmonson
John & Louise Haley
Lou & Millie Homan
Bruce & Sue Howorth
Samuel Maimon*
Markita Murdock
Charles Niehaus*
Cynthia Shook*
Edda Wagner*
Alma Walther*
Joyce Wolfe*

The Perennial Society are members who have named the foundation in their estate plans or will.

*denotes deceased



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

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Zorniger Plantings



Thanks to the continued **support of the Zorniger Family Fund of The Dayton Foundation** and matching funds through membership and donations over **16,500 bulbs** were planted this fall. These plantings were done by Five Rivers MetroParks staff and volunteers, in addition to episodic volunteer groups from Bauer Elementary, children participating in Make a Difference Day, and cub scouts.

Bauer Elementary had **65 third grade students** from homeroom classes of Mrs. Bryge, Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Mayberry **plant approximately 600 bulbs throughout the morning and afternoon on September 30.** In the morning, students planted close to 500 Narcissus bulbs, within the Ornamental Grass area west of the maintenance building, from the spring 2021 forced crate displays seen on the grounds. In the afternoon, students planted 90 Monarda 'Jacob Cline' between the Sweet Gum trees and daylilies on the south side of the Kettering Learning Lab.

On Make a Difference Day children volunteers, planted the final row of 2,700 tulip bulbs. This completed the **planting project of 16,200 tulip bulbs in the Edible Landscape Garden.** Come spring you will see this stunning display planted in six



rows of vibrant colors.

Cub Scouts participated in the planting of forced bulbs in crates. These bulbs are kept in cold storage for the winter, brought into the greenhouses in January, and "forced" into early blooms in February and March. Come spring these will be displayed throughout the grounds for added color and bursts of early spring inside the visitor center.

Additionally, the matching funds will be used to purchase replacement trams for educational tours on the Arboretum grounds.

Thank you to all the dedicated staff and volunteers who helped with this year's plantings!



PARK ENHANCEMENTS CONT...

Monet Bridge



The Monet Bridge received a fresh coat of paint and new nonskid surface, thanks to dedicated staff at Five Rivers MetroPark, in time for fall pictures.

Wildflower Garden Bridges



The three bridges throughout the Wildflower Garden received new nonskid surfaces. This new surface is an extra safety feature to visitors on days the bridge is wet due to weather.

Mechanical Stream



The mechanical stream has been updated to a floating intake, pictured above on the right, that increases efficiency and flow. The floating intake was covered with a duck blind camo, which provides cover and a more natural surface for turtles and other wildlife.

Make a Difference Day

Make a Difference Day took place **Saturday morning on October 23**. Each year on this day volunteers participate in projects throughout the Arboretum led by Five Rivers MetroParks staff. This year staff and volunteers did plantings on the blue trail close to marker B and on the west side of the maintenance building. **Volunteers and staff planted a total of 300 native trees, shrubs, and perennials.**

- 15 Plantings
Dasiphora fruticosa
- 20 Plantings
Hypericum prolificum
- 16 Plantings
Sambucus canadensis
- 20 Plantings
Ptelea trifoliata
- 37 Plantings
Euonymus atropurpurea
- 82 Plantings
Spiraea alba
- 60 Plantings
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus
- 50 Plantings
Campanula americana



EDUCATION AT THE ARB

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Five Rivers MetroParks naturalist staff continued to find ways to stay connected and interact with local teachers and families.

Various trainings and workshops were held virtually allowing for the sharing of natural history knowledge, along with providing teachers with an array of supplies. These supplies were selected to aid teachers in encouraging their students to spend time outdoors, even when they were learning remotely. The supplies also were focused in helping teachers grow the confidence to take their students out into the schoolyard to explore when they were back to in-person learning. These efforts were further supported by the creation of virtual field trips accompanied with prompts geared toward outdoor learning.

531
Teachers Trained Virtually

330
Dayton Public Schools

231
Other Schools



Distribution of 109 topic-based kits for teachers

In 2021, park visitation increased as the parks remained open and provided an escape for many from the pandemic. To encourage families to continue spending time outdoors exploring they were given access to online content demonstrating the use of the exploration tools and suggested adventures they could enjoy together in nature. They were able to pick up these tools as a Conservation Kids program kit with five different themed kits to choose from. In total, 193 Conservation Kids kits were distributed.



Nighttime Nature Exploration Kit

Discover Kit

Act and Share Kit



OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

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



**NOMINATE THEM FOR THE
OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD!**

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING

BELL CHILDREN'S MAZE

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary!

This year the Arboretum celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Children's Maze. The maze was dedicated on September 30, 2001 and made possible thanks to the generous donation of Bob and Pat Bell. The maze at the Arboretum was inspired after a trip to Europe. Wherever they saw a maze, there was the laughter of children which they wanted to bring back to the Arboretum. The maze is a recreation of an English maze named Veronica's Maze. Veronica's Maze was originally created in the 18th century and located in Parham Park in West Sussex.

Thank you to the Bell Family who have brought two decades of laughter and joy for children at the Arboretum!



Pictured above with Pat is her son, Chris Havlin, and great grandson, Micheal Stamper, taken in the fall of 2021.



September 30, 2001 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Cox Arboretum

Wedding & Event Venue



Booking Dates for 2022 & 2023



Celebrations • Family Gatherings • Corporate Gatherings • Holiday Parties • Recognition

Events • Receptions • Rehearsals • Retirement Parties • Retreats • Reunions • Showers • Weddings



For more information call (937) 278-2657

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

If you are a current MetroParks volunteer and want to help staff at the Arboretum, there are still opportunities this season to get outside and make a difference. A link to sign up for volunteer activity can be found in your email inbox from Horticulturist Kelly Wood or in the Volunteer e-newsletter.

Volunteer Spotlight: Susan Witherspoon

Susan Witherspoon has been a foundation member since 2006. She began her volunteer journey with Five Rivers MetroParks in 2009 by serving in a variety of opportunities connected with her passion for gardening at Cox Arboretum MetroPark, such as gardening in the Edible Landscape Garden and leading tram garden tours and Learning from the Landscape walks.



"Susan has always been willing to share her ideas and offer constructive solutions to horticulture issues we have in the Edible Landscape Garden and throughout the grounds at Cox Arboretum," shared MetroParks horticulturalist Kelly Wood. "I appreciate Susan's smile, encouragement and many years of experience that I can learn from. Susan made an amazing PowerPoint to help other staff and volunteers accurately identify the native species we collect seeds for. Her PowerPoint continues to help educate others and result in the seed collection of native plants that we propagate at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Thank you so much for your efforts, Susan. They have truly helped to make a better world!"

Susan also has been a reliable asset in volunteer roles behind the scenes at MetroParks, supporting a variety of administrative projects at the main office in downtown Dayton. On Fridays, she routinely supports the finance department.

"She is the highlight of Friday mornings," said account specialist Sheila Edwards. "Susan is very detail-oriented, can handle any task she is asked to do, and sometimes comes up with a better way to do it. Her easy and pleasant way make her such a joy to have as part of the team!"

Thank You Susan for being a *Difference Maker* in your support of the Foundation and throughout MetroParks.

Volunteer Services is making high-quality, meaningful volunteer engagement easier and more convenient than ever before! Beginning January 1, 2022, all Metroparks' volunteer opportunities will be available in Five Rivers MetroParks' new volunteer management system Get Connected. As we prepare to launch this system, Volunteer Services will be pausing its' current volunteer orientation and onboarding



Volunteers don't just make a difference; they ARE the difference!

process for new volunteers during November and December. Please visit metroparks.org/volunteer beginning January 1, 2022, to learn more about becoming a MetroParks volunteer and get connected to volunteer opportunities that make a difference.

If you need assistance signing up for a volunteer shift or have questions about Get Connected, contact your volunteer coordinator or Volunteer Services at (937) 275-7275 or volunteer.services@metroparks.org.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Thank you for your long-term support!

50 Years

Ruth C. Mead

40 Years

Marna K. Bosch
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Eberly
Allan R Slicker
James E. Totten

35 Years

Marvin F. and Christine F. Olinsky

30 Years

Margaret E. Baird
Elizabeth Durig
Shirley and Fred Frazer
Rita C. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Riestenberg
Don and Marilyn Stava
Kathy and Bob Toia
Robert Watts, Jr.

25 Years

Albert J. Burky
Richard and Linda Johannes
Russell and Deanna Kross
Steve and Lou Mason
Sarah Sillin

20 Years

Carol Manda
Rich and Carol Pohl
Ms. Jean M. Randal
John Taylor
J. K. Tormey
Larry C. Wurst

15 Years

Peggy Amburgey
Katherine and Paul Cooper
Melinda N. Couch
Natalie DeHorn
Bob and Barb Downs
Nancy Drozd
Pat Durbin
Jean L. Erskine
Kathleen Gallagher
Janet Graul
Thelma Helmig
Thomas and Dorothy Kemp
Maurene E. D. McHenry
Franklin and Patty Pleasants
Pat and Gil Templeton
Larry and Linda Welin
Susan Witherspoon
Joyce I. Zech

10 Years

Linda and Wayne Fischbach
Jeanette McDaniel, Wild Birds Unlimited

5 Years

Jana Collier
Jason and Cari Eckert
Doug and Judy Knight

New Members

July - October 2021

Aaron Berenson	Eric Haddix	Nick Southard
Daniel Campbell	Bonnie Hope	Ben Waker
Carla Crandon	Jake Phillips	Kyle Williams
Ruth Cronenberg	Oliver Leembruggen	Ross Wines
Joseph Fontanella	Mary Rospert	Brian Woerner

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Joe Bockelman and
Barbara Driehaus

Jana Collier

Stephen Fryburg

Hal and Sonja Gegel

Carl Gross

Tony and Pokey Huffman

Margaret Klein

Steve and Lou Mason

Ruth Mead

Barbara Nichols O'Hara
Marvin and Christine Olinsky

Caryl Philips

Rich and Carol Pohl

Don and Joyce Porter

Burnell Roberts

Rick and Jane Schwartz
Lois and Roger Sutherland

John Taylor

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.

Tributes

July - October 2021

*denotes tribute tree or bench

In honor of Martha Boice
Barbara Tadych

In memory of Wilma 'Jean' Cacioppo
Paul Benati
Gian and Gabrielle Cacioppo
Katherine Dudrick
Charles and Toni Fogle
Scott and Mary Graham
Janet Larimer
Stephen and Diana Limbert

In memory of Rosemary Evans*
Karen Powell
Grace Sacher

In memory of David Fischer*
Jeff Allerding
Sharon Allerding
Joan Durham
Cynthia Ginger
Melinda Wheeler

In memory of Tsuyako Getts
Definitive Logic

In memory of Eleanor 'Elly' Geyer
Doug Bright
Steven Heavlin
Tom Lochner
Charlie Oellermann
Camille Tate
Andre and Dana-Sue Urso

In memory of Kurt Grossman*
Wolfgang and Diana Grossman

In memory of Margery Allen-Grossman*
Wolfgang and Diana Grossman

In memory of Adam Klys
Charles and Irene Bricker

In memory of Thomas McCray
Charles and Norma Jackson

In memory of Charlotte Pernick
Patty Hermann
Kathleen Noonan
Barbara Turner

In memory of Karen Roberts
Burnell Roberts, the Roberts Children and their families

In memory of Sharon Rupert*
Della Wyatt

In honor of David & Kathy Weekley*
David and Kathy Weekley

In memory of Stephen 'Doc' Zimmerman*
Wolfgang and Diana Grossman

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

For information call
(937) 277-4839





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

Non-Profit
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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.



**Be sure to be on the lookout
for the return of the gnomes
this fall and winter.**