

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 alory.

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 T. Brown

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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BOARD LIAISON 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.



PARK ENHANCEMENTS

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

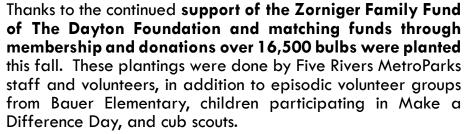
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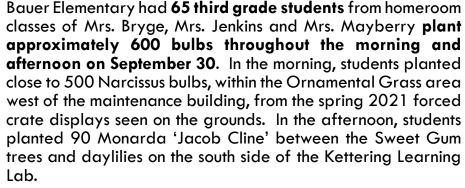


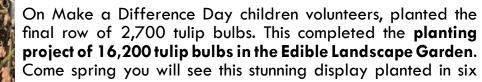






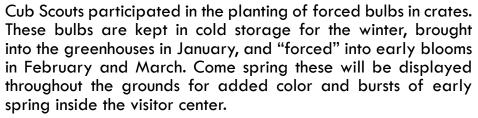












Additionally, the matching funds will be used to purchase replacement trams for educational tours on the Arboretum grounds.













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.



orbiculatus



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.







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

Distribution of 109 topic-based kits for teachers

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 Conservation Kids kits were distributed





BELL CHILDREN'S MAZE

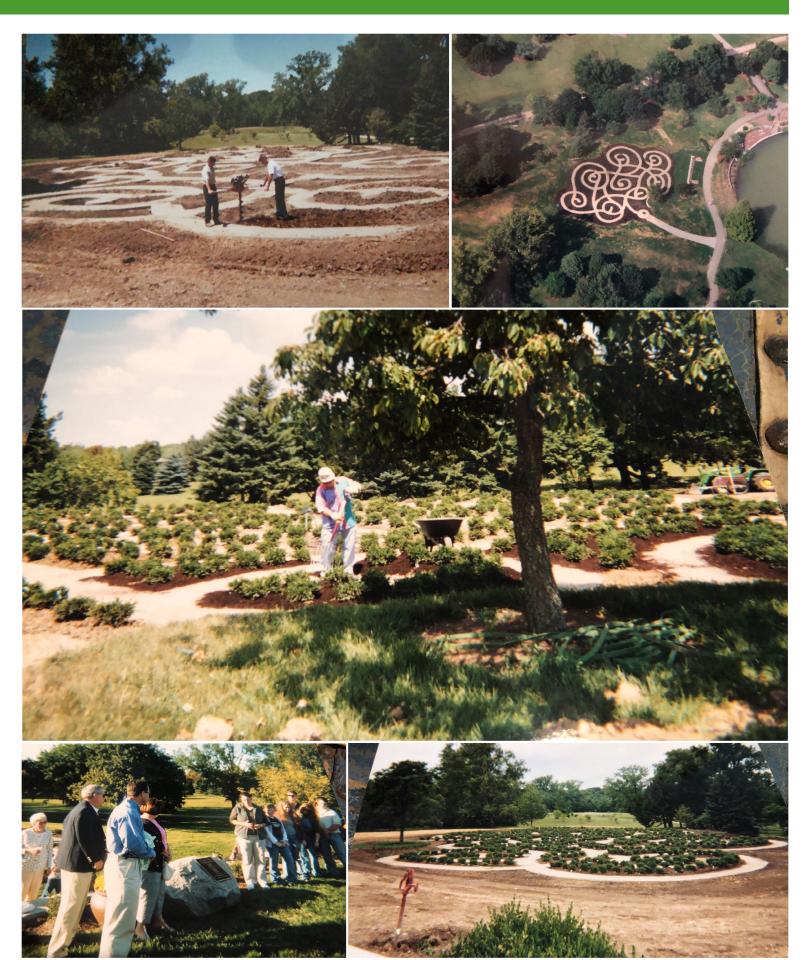
Celebrating the 20th Anniversary!

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. Whereever 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!









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 detailoriented, 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!

"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 process for new volunteers during November and December. Please visit <u>metroparks.org/volunteer</u> 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.

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 Duria 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 Helmia 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

Nick Southard

Kyle Williams

Brian Woerner

Ben Waker

Ross Wines

New Members

July - October 2021

Aaron Berenson Eric Haddix **Daniel Campbell** Bonnie Hope Carla Crandon Jake Phillips Ruth Cronenberg Oliver Leembruggen Joseph Fontanella Mary Rospert

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 longterm goals of the Cox Arboretum Foundation, and give an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.



*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 Foale 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 oceastion with a tribute at Cox Arboretum MetroPark

> For 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 VISITOR CENTER HOURSMONDAY - 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.

