



ARBORETUM UPDATE!

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

Fall/Winter 2022

Wishing you

Happy Holidays!

LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Supporters, Volunteers

As we approach the end of 2022, and the end of my term as president of the Cox Arboretum Foundation, there is a lot to be thankful for.

The Cox Arboretum is almost entirely open again! Park usage by members of our community is on the upswing, and we are way ahead of our expectations in rentals and event bookings.

We have always appreciated the staff and volunteers, but we had yet another reminder of how much we need them and how much they contribute to the success and beauty of the Park. During the pandemic, (understandably), there were fewer volunteers and staff tasked with the job of maintaining the high standards we have come to expect. There came a point where we became acutely aware of their absence, and the Cox Arboretum Foundation Board was in a position to approve significant expenditures in order to “catch up,” and restore the condition of the Park to meet the high standards that you, our community, and the Board have come to expect. In some cases, we have made improvements to make things even better than ever. As staffing levels and volunteer participation increases, we are even more grateful for all they do.

Five Rivers MetroParks professional staff is so dedicated to Cox Arboretum, and brings their “A” game each and every day to keep up the expected level of excellence, and to remind us when things need to be improved. I have been so lucky to serve as President while Brenda Cox, Alexis Larsen, and Joe Morrison were managing things on a day-to-day basis. They made my job so much easier and were vital to the success of the Cox Arboretum. “Long May They Serve.”

As my term ends, I am thankful for the chance to turn over the leadership to some outstanding and dedicated people who have served the Cox Arboretum Foundation Board for many years. Our new Executive Committee is still being finalized, but I am proud and excited to tell you that starting in January, the Board’s new President will be Jason Eckert, and Kathy Sperry will be the new Vice President.

It has been an honor to serve, and I had a lot of fun along the way. I leave feeling very optimistic about the future and look forward to taking even more long walks on the grounds.

Stay safe, and we hope to see you at the Park on a beautiful day sometime soon.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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HORTICULTURE

2022 Recycling Incentive Grant

Five Rivers MetroParks was awarded funding from the 2022 Recycling Incentive Grant from Montgomery County Environmental Services (MCES) to complete improvements at the Cox Arboretum Compost Site. This work was initiated in July and completed in October, and included the installation of concrete pads, the construction of five 10x18 ft concrete bays and the installation of a 3-sided steel carport to store the compost row turner and other-site related equipment and supplies.



The primary objective of this project was to improve the efficiency of creating and using compost generated at the site. Since early 2020, compost has been regularly turned using the Frontier MM-80 machine, also funded by a grant from MCES, to create a good quality compost. The compost is comprised of green waste from horticultural areas, chipped brush, and manure from the Carriage Hill Riding Center. It undergoes a hot phase, but has typically sat on the pad after cooling down. This allows for the infiltration of grass and other windblown seeds and although the product is high quality in terms of available nutrient, it is also weedy. The ability to store recently finished compost in a bay covered with a tarp will greatly reduce this issue.



Bay storage will also allow for easy access by arboretum staff and teams at other parks retrieving compost. This work is primarily accomplished using tractor buckets and is time consuming to move directly from a windrow to a vehicle. Additionally, the ability to move material to a storage bay will allow staff to build new windrows and keep up with the material to be composted more quickly. During 2022 more than 40 yards of compost was distributed to Cox Arboretum, Possum Creek Farm, Aullwood Garden, and Wegerzyn Gardens to use for raised beds and organic fill in natural areas.



In addition to the enhanced functionality of the compost site, the storage bays will allow for easier delivery, storage, and handling of wood chip, mulch, gravel and other aggregates needed for the compost site, service road and other areas of the arboretum. This will reduce staff burden associated with materials and surface management.

PARK ENHANCEMENTS

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Edible Landscape Garden

This past spring the Edible Landscape Garden showcased a new display of bulb beds planted by Five Rivers MetroParks volunteers and staff in the fall of 2021.

Brilliant colors of reds, pinks, and yellow tulips bloomed in April making the gardens a local destination for spring pictures.

This fall additional native bulbs will be planted throughout the grounds with tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and muscari along the nature trails and pollinator gardens.



Pollinator Habitat

This past January, phase I of the creation and expansion of the Pollinator Habitat began with the removal of the butterfly house and treatment and removal of invasive plant material around the paver loop. Phase II has begun with the plantings of native pollinator plants.

This fall Five Rivers MetroParks staff are working on plant orders for the first phase of planting native species in the new Pollinator Habitat. Plantings will take place within the paver loop of the Pollinator Habitat.



"American Bladdernut Flowers" (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) by milesizz



20 *Staphylea trifolia*, American Bladdernut



30 *Ceanothus americanus*, New Jersey Tea



10 *Salix discolor*, American Pussy Willow



10 *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, Buttonbush



30 *Spiraea alba*, White Meadowsweet

PARK ENHANCEMENTS CONT...

The Value of Nature Play

Do you remember a place you would frequently go to play when you were a child such as a stream, woods or park? What did you do there; perhaps skip stones, play in the dirt, water, climb trees and boulders, make music with hollowed logs, or build dams, bridges or forts out of sticks and branches? Remember how independent you felt—like a true adventurer? That is nature play. Nature play is where kids and their families connect with nature, learn to explore, experience independence, use their imaginations, and truly learn to appreciate our natural world.

Natural materials are the literal building blocks and toys of a nature play site such as: sticks, stones, boulders, logs, water, sand, soil and gravel. These materials when placed in a natural space such as along a woodland stream enhance the nature play experience and set the stage for our young visitors and their families to engage in meaningful and memorable play. These materials are combined to create rocky streams, climbing logs, bridges, trails, slides and places to build forts—all the kids need beyond this is permission. Tools such as small shovels, buckets and the like can be introduced to the site to further enhance the nature play experience.



Nature Play at Hills & Dales; Completed 2021



Nature Play at Possum Creek; Completed Spring 2022

It is important we create facilities that foster opportunities for children to have positive experiences and grow to value and appreciate nature. Nature is vital for cognitive development. Children playing in nature have a chance to develop creativity and problem solving skills due to diverse opportunities for decision-making. Nature play is unstructured compared to traditional playgrounds, which is a key difference between these two types of play areas. Nature Play areas foster a setting where children can assess risk, explore nature, get their hands dirty and develop critical life skills leading to better decision-making habits as adults, immune systems, improved fine and gross motor-skills and a positive personal connection with the natural world.

Cox Arboretum's new nature play will include approximately one acre near the former Butterfly House (now the Pollinator Habitat) in a small woodland valley surrounded by prairie. The existing site consists of an ephemeral stream bed, trees, woodland perennials and shrubs, boulders, logs and other great features to build a nature play site upon. The new site will include a trail for exploration of a rocky stream, climbing wall, a slide through trees and rocks, bridges, climbing logs, places to build forts and enjoy all that nature has to offer. The new play area is expected to be open for our young visitors and their families to play and explore in Spring of 2023.

Cox Arboretum

Wedding & Event Venue

Celebrations • Graduation Parties • Corporate Gatherings • Holiday Parties • Proms • Recognition Events • Receptions • Rehearsals • Retirement Parties • Retreats • Reunions • Showers • Weddings



For more information call (937) 278-2657

EDUCATION AT THE ARB

(YOUR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK)

Conservation Kids to Conservation Leaders

2022 Conservation Kids Program Stats

51

Number of Programs

Program Participants

566

9

Conservation Kids Graduates

To learn more about conservation kids visit metroparks.org/kids

The new Conservation Leaders program launched in April 2022, as a spin off to Conservation Kids to engage youth outside of this age group. This multifaceted program provides the opportunity for older youth, ages 10-17, to deepen their connection with nature through exploration and discovery of Dayton's local ecology and participation in various conservation projects while providing a social network of teen conservationists. Participants become more aware of local environmental issues and gain a growing understanding that whatever we do to air, water, soil, and biodiversity we do to ourselves. They experience first-hand the positive impact they can have on the Greater Dayton area as they grow as advocates for the protection of nature.

This program is a collaboration between the Five Rivers MetroParks Outdoor Education, Conservation, and Volunteer Services Teams. By partnering together, the program provides older youth with unique, robust, all-encompassing experiences during a time in their life where they are exploring potential careers and are really beginning to identify their unique interests.

There are three different ways that older youth can be engaged in the program.

Exploration: Participate in programs designed to spark curiosity and grow their knowledge of the natural world through purposeful exploration. Programming topics range from wildflower identification to stars and constellations.

Volunteer: Conservation Leaders programming is paired with Conservation Leaders in Action volunteer opportunities for older youth, who have become official MetroParks volunteers, where they can participate in various active conservation projects, aimed at improving biodiversity across the parks. Thus, allowing them to not only develop a sense of ownership of these projects and a deeper understanding of local environmental issues and the role they play but also providing the opportunity for teens to earn volunteer hours for things like college applications, scholarships, and service hours. So far Conservation Leaders have assisted in projects such as planting plugs, collecting seeds, and garbage and invasive Amur honeysuckle removal.

Leadership: As volunteers, older youth can choose to assist at Conservation Kids programming that is aimed at



youth ages 3-13. This peer-to-peer interaction provides them with the opportunity to build their own confidence and leadership skills while also working to nurture kids participating in the program.

This program aims to help older youth begin to recognize their influence, power, and voice in standing up for conservation, while also aiding them in developing confidence and leadership skills that will stay with them forever. Additionally, partaking in nature-based activities often means less time in

front of screens and has shown to result in improved concentration, decreased distractibility, reduced anger, improved mood, decreased stress and anxiety, along with a wide range of other benefits.

Conservation Leaders Programs



2022 Conservation Leaders Program Stats

10

MetroParks Volunteers

15

Number of Programs

Conservation Volunteer Opportunities

5

Program Participants

67





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!

Nominations due January 31, 2023

METROPARKS.ORG/OUTSTANDING

PLANT TOURS

2022 Stats

Each year funding is provided through the Foundation to Five Rivers MetroParks in support of the Putting Learning and Nature Together (PLANT) Tours that take place at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. This program supports school field trips, nature based education kits for educators, and workshops teaching educators ways to incorporate nature into their classrooms.

Additionally support is provided to recognize educators in the Miami Valley of the incredible work they do incorporating nature into the classroom through the OUTstanding Teacher Award.

Fieldtrips

67

Teacher's Night Out

6

2,900

Students

12

Teachers

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS

Awardees

RISING STAR



Patricia Lewis
Roosevelt Elementary
2nd Grade

Patricia started her teaching career in Dayton in 2014 and one of the things she learned quickly was the school she worked in was in an area considered a "food desert" meaning the families are very limited to where they can get not only groceries but fresh produce. She took initiative and grew small plants and brought in produce for her students to try when it tied into their curriculum. Students struggled to make the connection to the food they were eating and where it came from. Patricia decided to try and plant a garden but did not have the resources, so applied for and was awarded a grant through the DPS Foundation and with the grant was able to install a garden.

LEADER



Beth Allaire
Bishop Liebold
Jr. High & Stem Coordinator

Within her classroom, Beth teaches students the importance of conserving the soil, the body systems of different animals, and how to identify plants. Covid did not stop Beth from moving forward and launching a new student led initiative "The Green Team." In early August, Beth ran a three day program to engage and train student leaders that stepped up and volunteered. This team learned about taking care of the environment and the needy in our community. Several school initiatives began during this three day workshop [including an outdoor vegetable garden, indoor hydroponic garden, composting, paper recycling, used marker and battery drive, and a plastic cap mural]. Beth encourages other teachers to take advantage of opportunities to teach students about nature. Her enthusiasm and resourcefulness encourage other staff to do more in science than they would on their own.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



Mary Beth Young
Brookville Elementary
Librarian

Mary Beth has a commitment to educate students to appreciate the outdoors and the environment. She creates lesson plans with the intent of developing children's appreciation and exploration of ecological concepts and themes and is committed to developing the book collection as a source for learning the science and appreciation for our Earth. In the library students study habitats, animals, plants, and ways to make our environments more plant and animal friendly. They also learn about the 5 R's of conservation; Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose, and Recycle. Using both fiction and nonfiction books, she introduces students to ecological concepts. She also collaborates with other teachers to encourage participation in thoughtful stewardship.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Interested in volunteering? Visit metroparks.org/volunteer, contact volunteer.services@metroparks.org | #937-275-7275

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Joe Bockelman and
Barbara Driehaus
Jana Collier
Stephen and Rose Fryburg
Sonja Gegel
Tony and Pokey Huffman
Margaret Klein
Steve and Lou Mason
Ken and Darrell May
Ruth Mead
Barbara Nichols O'Hara
Marvin and Christine Olinsky
Caryl Philips
Carol Pohl
Don and Joyce Porter
Burnell Roberts
Rick and Jane Schwartz
Carole Stephens
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.

Make a Difference Day

On October 22, Make a Difference Day took place with volunteers across the Miami Valley volunteering to help with projects throughout Five Rivers MetroParks. At the Arboretum volunteers helped plant 11,000 Muscari (Grape Hyacinth) bulbs at the area south of the main entrance driveway between the drive and the overflow parking lot, that staff had tilled. The site was prepared by staff with a dump truck load of compost from compost produced on-site. It was designed and planted to create a stream-like appearance in early Spring.



Additionally volunteers helped with invasive removal by cutting down Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, and Buckthorn. Stumps were then treated with a 50/50 mixture of herbicide/water and dye to prevent regrowth. This was done at the blue and yellow trail leading out of the shrub garden (past the maze). After working on invasive removal, the same volunteers and staff planted Native tree and shrub species on the red and blue trail to replace invasive plants that were previously removed from other volunteer groups and staff.

Replacement planting species included:

- 12 - *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, Indian Currant
- 6 - *Aronia melanocarpa*, Chokeberry
- 3 - *Amorpha fruticosa*, False Indigo
- 1 - *Ceanothus americanus*, New Jersey Tea
- 1 - *Prunus serotina*, Black Cherry
- 1 - *Cornus alternifolia*, Pagoda Dogwood
- 10 - *Sassafras albidum*, Sassafras
- 4 - *Platanus occidentalis*, Sycamore
- 12 - *Cornus ammonium*, Silky Dogwood
- 12 - *Ilex verticillata*, Winterberry
- 2 - *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip
- 12 - *Quercus macrocarpa*, Burr Oak
- 12 - *Corylus americana*, Hazelnut



MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

FIVE YEARS

Sharon P. Bakay

FIFTEEN YEARS

Beverly Couchman

Bill and Marge Eton

Andrew and Stephanie Hittle

R Thomas Hull

Lorraine Kogler

Tony and Melinda Nowikowski

Carol J. Robinson

Patricia Schmpif

Mary J. Schudrowitz

Holly Smith

TWENTY YEARS

Roger and Pamela Bauser

Janis Burke-Brown

Maggie Hemmen

Janet M. Kowal

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Caryl D. Philips

Nora and Bob Newssock

THIRTY YEARS

Joan Beyerle

Gary Courts

Gene Feagans

Berman and Vi Layer

FORTY YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Dugan

Rick and Jane Schwartz

FORTY-FIVE YEARS

Beverly Saeks

NEW MEMBERS

November 2021- October 2022

Beth Allaire

Gwyn Barrett

Donna Bilbrey & Ceci Mineo

Susan Bogan

Angus Brechbill

Christopher Broad

Chris Carlisle

Anthony Chaffey

Jacob Click

Lynette Conrad

Ruth Cronenberg

Bruce Daniel

Laura Marie Davis

Robert Davis

Christopher Digiovanna

Kristina Dobberstein

Roberta Donaldson

Kenton Dover

Andrew Flanagan

Carrie Furry

Ryan Gullett

Patricia Johnson

Bradley Kincaid

Vicki Kugel

Mr. Keith Langer

Oliver Leembruggen

Cathy Liesner

Jeremy Lun

Evan MacDonald

Michael McNair

Abigail Moore

Paul Naglich

Gwen Nalls

Summer Pachman

Chandler Patterson

Mike Pollitt

Lydia Rambo

John Randolph

Clint Wright

Naveena Sallapudi

Jerry and Marjorie Sedlacek

Rich Sherick

Jonathan Tinch

James Weaver

Christopher Wright

Clint Wright

TRIBUTES

November 2021- October 2022

In Memory of Patricia Ballard*
Barb Greer

In Memory of Cecilia Blasi
Altria
Mark Meunier

In Honor of Martha Boice
Mr. Steven Tadych

In Memory of Joseph Brubaker
Bob and Nora Newssock

In Memory of Sandra Combs*
Rebecca L Combs

In Memory of Jim Disher
Amanda Adams

In Memory of Vivienne Evans*
Andy Evans

In Memory of Linda Goodman
Anita Bedwell
Larry Coblentz
Gregory and Marilyn
Garland
Tom and Tracy Landgren
John and Lisa McMaken
Nancy Smith

In Memory of Patricia Greene
Garden Club

In Memory of Don Harmon
Carol Ryan

In Memory of William Martz
Norbert Hoffman

In Honor of Anne Mitchell
Craig and Cynthia
Montgomery

In Memory of Elly Mullen*
Sue Alexander
Dayton Ducks Unlimited
Mary Jo Fender
M. Kent and Leahn Meyer
Matthew Mullen
Cap and Nancy Phillips
Lisa Woolf

In Memory of Dick & Judy Newkold*
Ms. Tess Newkold

In Memory of Sis (Alaine) Office
Bob and Nora Newssock

In Memory of Evelyn Ostreicher
Bob and Nora Newssock

In Memory of Carol Fortener Mathes Pegg
Barri Simpson

In Memory of Lawrence Perlee*
Margaret Joering
Nancy Maxwell
Raymond Perlee

In Honor of Marlene Pinsky
Bob and Nora Newssock

In Memory Of Cindy L. Smith*

Gary Adams
Betty Aldridge
Mike and Sandra Baker
Athena Baldrige
Scott Barger
Coleen Beasecker
Mark Beatty
Jackie Carothers
EazyE Craftz
Joanna Cox
Carla Dlugos
Terri Dodd
Philip Forrester
Kathryn Garlough
Zak Hemphill
Virginia King
Nicholas Lowe
LexisNexis
Kathy Marker
Bill and Sue McCabe
Terri Mccauley
Angela Mead
Eric Montgomery
Howard Orsburn
Madison Orsburn
Cynthia Peyton
Henry Pryor
Maria Rabold
Morgan Ritz
Cynthia Rogers
Becky Seitz
Ned Smith
Alee Steuer
Patsy Tansky
Brenda Tipton
Tona Enterprises
Renee Weber
Kimberly Williams

In Memory of Mary Margaret Smith*
Barbara Smith

In Memory of Elaine Ranieri
Bob and Nora Newssock

*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

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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.

Perennial Society

Leave a lasting legacy for generations to come with a planned gift to the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

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*

**denotes deceased*

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

For more information call (937) 274-4381