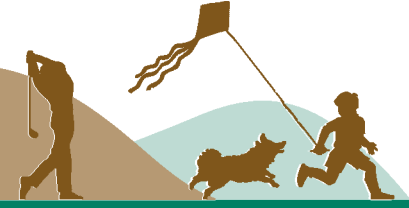


Among Friends

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay



In This Issue

Dear Friends,

As you are aware, The Oglebay Foundation is in the midst of a Campaign for the Future of our Parks. We hope each of you will find some way, whether large or small, to contribute to the Campaign. At the same time, your annual gift is also important because it goes to support the Access to the Parks program for deserving youngsters and other areas you may be interested in.

The generosity of Friends has enabled several new improvements for the enjoyment of park visitors. They include the Ihlenfeld Technology and Communication Center at Wilson Lodge, and a bronze sculpture and Wall of the Wild at the Good Zoo.

A generous bequest from the late Ellen Lutz Aldridge has resulted in the naming of the Lutz Training Center for Public Facility Management at Wilson Lodge, and the Aldridge Discovery Lab at the Good Zoo. There are other naming opportunities available at both Oglebay and Wheeling Park, and we would be happy to discuss these options with you.

On a sad note, Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights opens this year for the first time since the death of Bob Otten, the creative genius behind all of the lighted displays to date. Younger residents may not realize that Bob was also the "founding father" of the Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA). And, Wheeling Park has lost one of its most ardent supporters, Rosalie Sonneborn. The philanthropy of the Sonneborn family has been well documented in Among Friends, and Rosalie was the last member of her generation still living in Wheeling.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

Barbara Palmer
Newsletter Editor

Ihlenfeld Technology and Communication Center Dedicated at Wilson Lodge

A cozy section at Wilson Lodge is now the Diana T. Ihlenfeld Technology and Communication Center, a comfortable place where lodge guests can relax, read, and connect to the Internet. Located in the Hickman Lounge above the main lobby, the center is a gift from William "Bill" Ihlenfeld, Sr. in honor of his wife, Diana. The Wheeling couple has been life-long parks system supporters.

Diana Ihlenfeld's idea of a special vacation includes an opportunity to relax, read, and communicate with family and friends. In a discussion with her family, the long-time Ohio County Schools educator voiced the thought that many over-night visitors to Oglebay might enjoy the same thing. The conception of a room where all these activities could be carried out was the result of that conversation.

"The handsome Hickman Lounge, with its rich dark woods and "library feel," is the ideal place

for the new communication center," says Bill Koegler of The Oglebay Foundation. "Our gratitude goes out to the Ihlenfeld family for this wonderful gift." It is not the first time that Bill Ihlenfeld has made a major gift to the parks. In 1989-1990 Bill and his brother, Charles, provided funds that led to the renovation and enlargement of the public dining room at Wilson Lodge into the Ihlenfeld Dining Room. That project memorialized their parents, Charles and Maxine Ihlenfeld, also life-long Wheelingites.

To read more about the Ihlenfeld Technology and Communication

Center and other new projects go to www.oglebayfoundation.org. There are many opportunities in the parks to name a new or existing project or facility for a loved one or family.

Please call The Oglebay Foundation at 624-6988, ext. 4166 or (local) 243-4166 to request information or talk in confidence with our development staff. ☞



Bill and Diana Ihlenfeld are shown with Ron Hobbs (left), chair of the board of trustees of The Oglebay Foundation, at the dedication of the Diana T. Ihlenfeld Technology and Communication Center on March 5.



The Oglebay Foundation Website is Up & Running

The Oglebay Foundation's colorful new website – www.oglebayfoundation.org – is up and running and you are invited to visit it often to learn about the ways you can help the parks. The website gives information about the latest physical improvements and programs, the Campaign for the Future of Our Parks, introduced in the spring, and includes a link to past newsletters. For a schedule of park activities and information about recreation facilities, please continue to access www.oglebay-resort.com. ☞

Aldridge Gift Leads to Naming of Two Oglebay Facilities

Two facilities at Oglebay have been dedicated in memory of loved ones through a bequest from the late Wheeling native Ellen Lutz Aldridge at the time of her death in 2001 (Among Friends Spring/Summer 2002). They are the Lutz National Training Center for Public Facility Management at Wilson Lodge and the Aldridge Discovery Lab at the Good Zoo.

Aldridge grew up in Wheeling as the adopted daughter of Harry Lutz, whose uncle, George W., was one of Wheeling's early civic leaders and philanthropists. Although she spent most of her adult life in Florida, she never forgot her home town. "Ellen Aldridge appreciated the first-class physical facilities at the parks, and realized how important they are to the over-all financial health of the Wheeling Park Commission," says Randy Worls, Foundation president.

"Her generous gift allows us to invest more in these facilities."

The Lutz Training Center is actually a grouping of six meeting/seminar rooms built behind Glessner Auditorium and connected to the main lobby by an enclosed walkway. Furnished with state-of-the-art equipment, the area is popular with groups and organizations because of its privacy, yet it is just a short walk away from all Wilson Lodge amenities. All of the professional schools hosted by the park, such as the Revenue Development & Management School, National Institute of Golf Management, and School for Zoo & Aquarium Personnel, take place at the Training Center.

George W. Lutz (1855-1940) was a second-generation German immigrant whose leadership enabled Trimble & Lutz to become the

largest firm in West Virginia operating in the wholesale and retail business of plumbing, steam fitting, and gas supplies.


He was president of the WV State Fair Association, president of the Market Auditorium Company, and instrumental in creating a landscaped entry to downtown Wheeling along U.S. Route 40. (Along with his peer W.E. Stone, these efforts led to the founding of the Wheeling Landscape Commission.)

In addition to memorializing her great-uncle George, Ellen Aldridge's gift also honors her parents, Virginia Miller Lutz and Harry Lutz.

The Aldridge Discovery Lab at the Good Zoo was dedicated in 2004 in honor of Ellen Aldridge's aunts, Nell



Hannah McCardle (l), and Sarah Redford, (r), both of Wheeling, don scrubs and stethoscopes in the Aldridge Discovery Lab, one of the most popular spots at the Good Zoo.

Poffenberger and Katherine Poffenberger McKee, to acknowledge their life-long interest in conservation education. This hands-on lab, located in the main building, is one of the most popular spots for youngsters to linger and learn. 

Festival of Lights Opens for 21st Year

When the 21st Winter Festival of Lights (FOL) kicks off at Oglebay on November 1, several new displays will greet visitors making the trek to America's largest lights show. Viewable from dusk to 11 pm nightly, the show continues through January 1. One of the new displays sure to attract attention will be an exciting fireworks display above Schenk Lake. Additional lighted animals will perch on the fence that passes the Good Zoo, and animated horse heads will hold forth on the back of the Wagon Shed as one travels the road toward the lake.

And, there is so much more to give visitors a memorable experience. Beginning November 4, the Good Zoo transforms into a fantasy wonderland. "This year's Winter Fantasy will feature an extensive Department 56 miniature holiday village, and the Gingerbread Contest entries will be displayed adjacent to our hands-on Discovery Lab," says Penny Miller, zoo director. "Always a

favorite for all ages, the Benedum Planetarium at the zoo will feature an all new Laser light show, and visitors will enjoy the heartwarming winter landscape of West Virginia's largest O-gauge model train exhibit."

As always, there is plenty to do and see while waiting for the lights to come on. The Ihlenfeld Dining Room at Wilson Lodge will offer its popular holiday buffet nightly. The

entrance to the lodge will have a whole new look according to Caren Knoyer, director of marketing. (Wilson Lodge is currently undergoing a \$12 million expansion and renovation that will add fifty-three deluxe rooms and suites, and all 212 existing guestrooms will be remodeled.)

Oglebay's specialty shops will be stocked with unique gifts, and the


Mansion Museum will be beautifully decorated for the season. Trolley tours are offered several times each night beginning at Wilson Lodge. Seats are sold on the day of the tour only, first-come, first-served. For information on the Winter Festival of Lights, Wilson Lodge packages, and all park activities, call 1-800-624-6988 (local 243-4000) or visit www.oglebay-resort.com. 

Making an Annual Gift to The Oglebay Foundation is Important

Your annual gift through Friends of Oglebay membership is the backbone of The Oglebay Foundation's fundraising initiative. If you have not made your annual contribution in 2005, it is not too late to do so. When you do, you join the hundreds and hundreds of Friends who help keep our parks accessible and beautiful now and for future generations. You help us continue to improve one of the most outstanding park systems in the country.

The fact that you make a gift each year is more important than the size of your gift. In doing so, you join the growing group of dedicated supporters who are giving back to the community in a meaningful way. Friends can specify how they would like their annual gift to be used: for the Access to the Parks program, Beautification of the Parks, or for Unrestricted Use.

While some of you designate your contribution to the specific programs, the unrestricted gifts will be used at the discretion of park officials where they are needed most.

"The \$25 gift is just as important as the larger one," says Kathleen McDermott of The Oglebay Foundation. "It is the commitment that counts," she adds. It is so important, McDermott hopes the number of annual givers will double in the next two years. In order for this to happen, the Foundation hopes that some people will be willing to help the staff find new annual donors. "We are looking for volunteers to spread the word about Friends of Oglebay and help us find new members," says McDermott. If you are interested in helping with this important mission, you can contact The Oglebay Foundation. 




River Otters Sculpture is Gift to Good Zoo from Ewing Family

A bronze sculpture of river otters at play was unveiled in early summer on the patio of the Good Zoo. The sculpture was presented in memory of Wheeling native Virginia Ewing (1913-1998) by her nieces, Susan Ewing Dorsch and Carol Ewing Goff, and her nephew, Dick Ewing. "We hope this sculpture will be a source of joy and inspiration to young and old alike, just as our aunt was an inspiration to her friends and family," said Dorsch.

Virginia Ewing grew up on Wheeling Island with her three brothers, one of them former Wheeling businessman and mayor (1978-1981) Cuyler Ewing. Upon her retirement from Continental Can Company in 1975, Ewing returned to Wheeling from Pittsburgh and served the community as a volunteer at various organizations including Easter Seals and Oglebay Institute. Upon her death she left a trust for the education of a niece. Once that need had ended, family members wanted to use the remaining trust money to honor their aunt. After discussing several project options with Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation, the sculpture was decided upon.

"The Ewing family has a history of generosity to Oglebay," says Worls. "Susan Ewing Dorsch was instrumental in creating a trust when her father, Cuyler Ewing, died, and the income from that trust is used for staff training." Worls added that Cuyler Ewing provided very important consulting services for the Wheeling Park Commission in the 1970s, especially relating to the procurement of grants. "We at Oglebay wish to thank the Ewing family for their dedication and commitment to Oglebay and the community and visitors that it serves," says Worls.

Created by artist Tom Tischler, the otters sculpture, and nearby Wall of the Wild, make the patio a more beautiful place to sit and relax according to Penny Miller, zoo director. The Wall of the Wild is a unique opportunity to make a lasting impression on the Good Zoo by having your name, or the name of a beloved family member or pet etched into a tile that will be used in the creation of the Wall. By investing in these tiles, you will be providing support and funding for many different programs at the zoo. For more information or other donor opportunities please contact the zoo at 304-243-4100. 



Parks Mourn Long-Time Supporters Rosalie Sonneborn and Robert Otten

Long-time parks advocate Rosalie Sonneborn passed away in Wheeling in April, 2005. The widow of Charles Sonneborn, Jr., she lived for many years across U.S. Route 40 from Wheeling Park, and was a generous parks philanthropist throughout her adult life. Together with her husband, Charles, and brother-in-law Dr. Robert Sonneborn and his wife, Hortense, Mrs. Sonneborn was a regular contributor to an endowment fund that helped support Wheeling Park recreational activities (the family also funded construction of the Sonneborn Shelter in the 1970s).


In the mid-1990s, Rosalie Sonneborn and her sons, Charles, Jr. of Chicago, and Sidney, of Palm Desert, California, funded a boxwood WHEELING PARK logo on the hillside adjacent to U.S. Route 40 in memory of Charles, Sr. It is similar to plantings that occupied a nearby spot many years earlier. Several years before her death, Mrs. Sonneborn transferred her house to The Oglebay Foundation so the parks could further benefit from the proceeds realized from the sale of the property.

Robert "Bob" Otten, best known for his creative display designs that are the heart and soul of Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights, passed away in March, 2005. Although Bob Otten will be best remembered for being the creative genius behind the festival displays, his association with the parks goes back more than half a century. In the 1940s, he worked for a

time with Oglebay Institute before settling into a long career as design director with Stone and Thomas department stores.

His association with the parks continued as a volunteer in the early 1960s, following the opening of the ice skating rink, when he "founded" the hockey program that became the highly-respected Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA). Starting with a nucleus of eight boys, Otten helped the league grow to include thousands of area youngsters, both boys and girls, throughout the years. In 1975, at the WAHA annual awards ceremony, Bob Otten was named "Citizen of the Month" by the Wheeling Jaycees; he had also just been named as one of a half-dozen American officials for hockey at the 1976 Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck, Austria.

When the first Speidel golf cabins were built in the early 1970s, Otten was chosen to design the interiors and choose the furnishings. He continued to be a design consultant for the Wheeling Park Commission, stepping into the role of Festival of Lights creative designer in 1985. Otten designed the first five displays for the opening show and, until his death, created nearly fifty additional displays that have grown to be loved by people of all ages.

The Oglebay Foundation and Wheeling Park Commission staff, and their many friends throughout the parks system, extend sincere sympathy to the families of Rosalie Sonneborn and Bob Otten. These two Friends will be greatly missed. 

Access to the Parks Adds Winter Activities

In 2005, the generosity of Friends made it possible to add winter activities for youngsters participating in the Access to the Parks program. Skiing and ice skating were available to participants for the first time. The Access program makes it possible for area children who cannot afford to go to Oglebay and Wheeling Park to use the facilities and to have their expenses paid through funds provided by donors like yourself.

Over the past year, almost 2,000 Access passes were issued. These children made over 20,000 visits to the parks, enjoying activities like swimming, tennis, mini-golf/Par 3, and visits to the Good Zoo, in addition to the newly added winter sports. The Oglebay Foundation pays the parks for these visits through your annual donation.

Foundation officials know there are children in nearby communities beyond the Ohio County borders who could also benefit from this program. It is hoped that an endowment can be created that will expand the funds to meet the needs of these additional children. If you wish to discuss making an endowment gift to the Access to the Parks program, please contact The Oglebay Foundation. 