

# How you can Support the Tree & Landscape Plan through America's Future Trees

Hundreds of honoree and memorial gifts have been made to the America's Future Trees Foundation (AFT) since the 1960s. Tree plantings and tree care since that time has primarily been funded by these gifts. You may have donated to AFT in the past, and then turned your attention to other needs in the parks and community.

Officials at The Oglebay Foundation are asking you to consider making a gift to AFT this year or in the near future so that the goal can be



reached. You can honor or memorialize a loved one, or simply make a designated gift. Donations of any amount are welcome. Donations can be made by check or credit card. Just let us know your gift is for the AFT campaign.

If you wish to discuss an endowment or estate gift for America's Future Trees, please contact The Oglebay Foundation office or Randy Worls at 800-624-6988 or (local) 304-243-4001.

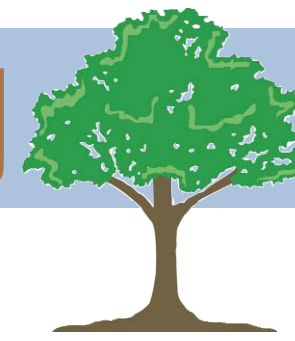


## 2010 Upcoming Events

- July**  
 2-4 Independence Celebration  
 3 Fireworks at Schenk Lake  
 10-11 Stoney Hollow Men's Golf Amateur  
 28-31 West Virginia Open Tennis Tournament
- August**  
 1 West Virginia Open Tennis Tournament  
 27-29 Classic Car Show
- September**  
 4-5 Woodcarver's Show at the Pine Room  
 4-5 Fort Henry Days - Levenson Shelter  
 4-6 Labor Day Weekend Celebration  
 5 Wheeling Symphony at Amphitheater
- October**  
 1-3 Oglebayfest  
 2 Fireworks - Schenk Lake  
 5-6 WV State High School Golf Tourney  
 15-17 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo  
 22-24 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo  
 29-31 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo
- November**  
 12-30 Festival of Lights
- December**  
 1-31 Festival of Lights

The Oglebay Foundation • 304-243-4166 • 800-624-6988, ext. 4166 • www.oglebayfoundation.org

# Among Friends



Summer 2010 Vol. 14 No. 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

## Oglebay Foundation Launches Campaign for Future Trees to Honor Brooks Wigginton Landscape Architect Most Responsible for Beauty of Parks

Dear Friends,

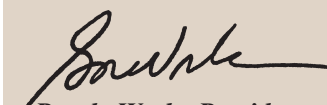
At this time, The Oglebay Foundation wishes to announce the start of an initiative to improve the natural environment of the parks: a campaign through America's Future Trees Foundation (AFT) designed to fund a strategic five-year tree and landscape plan.

I am particularly pleased to announce that this campaign will honor the genius of park landscape architect Brooks Wigginton. Much of Brooks' work was done in the early 1940s, with his initial emphasis on the arboretum that surrounds Schenk Lake. In 1981 the Park Commission dedicated the Arboretum at Oglebay "The Brooks Wigginton Arboretum" honoring his many years of service to the parks. In addition to the work that he did at Oglebay, Brooks conducted a private practice that was focused on many local homes as well as gardens and arboretums around the world.

We are fortunate to have as the Oglebay Landscape Architect of today, Andy Barger, who apprenticed under Brooks for approximately seven years. Andy, in consultation with horticultural experts, is preparing the extensive tree planting and landscaping project for our parks which is currently underway.

AFT has been a popular giving vehicle for many of you in the past. We hope you will continue to support this endeavor in the near future so we are devoting this issue of "Among Friends" to information relating to the campaign. As always, we thank you for your past and continued support.

Sincerely,

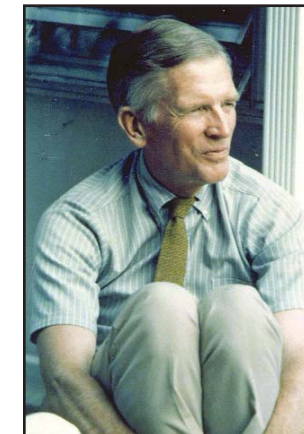
  
 Randy Worls, President  
 The Oglebay Foundation

It is important to remember that Oglebay and Wheeling Park have not always been the beautifully landscaped areas they are today. Oglebay, especially, had much barren acreage because large sections of Waddington Farm were in pasture land. In fact, one of the few large stands of original trees in the mid-1920s was the "beech woods" adjacent to Caddy Camp and the main family picnic area. Earl Oglebay planted numerous trees, especially in the hilltop area, but many of these have long since disappeared.

About 1940, F. Elwood Allen, a specialist for the National Recreation Association, published a plan for the development of an arboretum at Oglebay. Soon after, the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) hired landscape architect Brooks Wigginton to assist with its development and to work on a landscape master plan. Because the WPC could only afford his services part-time for many years, Wigginton continued to do some teaching and worked on private projects which enhanced his reputation in the states and abroad.

In the 1947 master plan, a project called "Waddington Gardens" was outlined as part of a "magnificent arboretum stretching on all sides of

the valley behind the greenhouses." Although a number of old specimen trees were standing, much of this area had been used for the planting of nursery stock. The 1947 plan also included development of a lake at Oglebay. The latter, designed by Wigginton, became a reality in 1953 through the generosity of Albert and Kay Schenk.



"As Oglebay grew, it always made sense to me that we needed to separate cars and people."

-- Brooks Wigginton  
 1912 - 1995

Nearly 3,000 trees and shrubs were planted at the parks in the 1960s and 70s, following the establishment of America's Future Trees (AFT) and keeping with the Wheeling Park Commission's policy of "...extending every effort to develop a more spectacular landscape" and to combat the effects of Dutch Elm disease.

Seventeen areas were targeted for planting, with the major emphasis at the new Wheeling Park pool complex. Brooks Wigginton "placed" every one of these trees so "...the hand of man could not be seen." It is many of these very trees that now need replaced because of age and disease. Major facilities that show Wigginton's influence are the Arboretum, the walking trails, the Good Zoo, the hilltop and gardens development, and the landscape features at Wheeling Park and Oglebay.

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## New Trees Important Part of Comprehensive Five-Year Plan

Existing trees benefit significantly from well-managed maintenance and care, however, the most ideal aspect of tree and landscape sustainability is gained from planting new trees followed by the use of best-management practices throughout their lives. The ability to plant hundreds of new trees is an important part of the five-year campaign.

Trees are essential to life, but trees that exist in the public domain – such as those incorporated into the landscape at Oglebay and Wheeling Park – can and should be examples of the impact and value of the environmental protections afforded by them.

- Trees produce oxygen
- Trees clean the soil
- Trees control noise pollution
- Trees are carbon sinks
- Trees clean the air
- Trees shade and cool
- Trees act as wind breaks
- Trees reduce soil erosion
- Trees increase property values



At Oglebay and Wheeling Park, trees shape the vistas and venues of the hills and valleys. They soften the edges of man-made structures and recreation facilities in a way that our visitors have come to enjoy. Historically, the natural beauty created by the landscapes within the properties of the WPC has heightened the appeal of the buildings and grounds and long been popular with those who work and play in the parks. The Tree & Landscape Plan addresses the importance of continuing to place a priority on landscaping,

## Hopes are to Raise \$600,000 for Implementation of Five-Year Tree & Landscape Plan

The Oglebay Foundation is announcing that a new campaign is underway through America's Future Trees Foundation (AFT). The goal is to raise \$600,000 over the next few years to plan, manage, and care for the tree-covered grounds of Oglebay and Wheeling Park. The Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) has developed and is prepared to implement a comprehensive tree and

*"Much of the beauty of the parks is in the sweeping vistas of trees and landscaping features, the result of detailed master plans developed years ago. We want to retain that beauty for future generations."*

*– Randy Works  
President, Oglebay Foundation*

landscape plan to meet the challenges that now threaten to destroy some of the beauty of the sweeping vistas and landscaping features that visitors have enjoyed for so long.

Over the years, the AFT has provided funds to invest in the planting of new trees and tree care.

However, many of the trees planted during Earl Oglebay's ownership at Oglebay, and in the

1960s and 70s at both parks, are in a state of decline. Experts from West Virginia University have concurred with parks staff that old age, disease, and pests, have taken their toll on the mature landscape at both parks.

Old age, a natural cause of decline, often results in trees which pose public safety hazards and they should be removed. Disease is not always curable, although in some cases spraying or injections, in harmless levels, can slow the rate of deterioration. Other damage which increases decline results from

mowing, trimming and/or wildlife (deer) damage. The Tree & Landscape Plan addresses all these issues as well as strategies for the planting of new trees.

Generous gifts have been received from The Colcom Foundation and the Driehorst Family Foundation to kick-start the campaign. Many of you have supported AFT in the past by making gifts to honor or memorialize a loved one. We hope that you will consider doing so again in the near future in order to help us reach the goal.

**Brooks Wigginton** *Continued from page 1*

In the 1970s the WPC constructed a system of walkways, designed by Wigginton, to encourage strolling the hilly terrain. At the time he said, "As Oglebay grew, it always made sense to me that we needed to separate cars and people." These walkways have been extended three times since then; the latest addition, that extends the walkways system from Wilson Lodge to Crispin Center, honors the late Susan Wheeler.

The arboretum area was dedicated as the Brooks E. Wigginton Arboretum in 1981 and the revered landscape architect retired shortly after. "His influence on the parks is still felt," says the WPC's current director of planning Andy Barger. "Wigginton is one of a small group of visionaries who made the parks, especially Oglebay, what they are today. Think of all the activity that goes on, yet sweeping one's eyes over the whole, all you see is natural beauty. That design concept takes a lot of talent."

## America's Future Trees Foundation Keeping Our Parks Beautiful in the Past and in the Future

The America's Future Trees Foundation (AFT) has been instrumental for more than half a century in keeping Oglebay and Wheeling Park two of the most beautiful recreation areas anywhere. Founded by the late Oglebay heir Courtney Burton in the 1960s, AFT moved its headquarters to Oglebay in 1974 and, for many years, Burton matched contributions dollar for dollar.

The timing of the move was perfect because a massive tree-planting program was underway in the parks made possible by an unexpected gift of 350 medium-sized trees from the Wheeling Watershed Commission. Through the efforts of several residents, including well-known nursery owner Hans Dieckmann, the flowering crabapples, red oaks, and pin oaks were moved into barren areas of the parks.

AFT has been a popular vehicle for gifts and remembrances because it

welcomes donations of any size, and is set up to make immediate improvements and to have the resources to care for those improvements in the future. "These gifts have made it possible to plant new trees in advance of the need for replacement, something we had never been able to do before," says Wheeling Park Commission president Doug Dalby. "Now, however, we face the biggest replacement challenge we have had as so many trees in the parks have reached their life expectancy."

Today, AFT is housed under The Oglebay Foundation, but still operates in the manner it always has and still welcomes donations of any size. Gifts of cash (checks or credit cards), securities, and property may be designated for America's Future Trees, The Oglebay Foundation. Call the Foundation office at 304-243-4166 to request an AFT brochure and/or further information.

## Tree Trivia Some things you may not know that have added to the beauty of the landscape at Oglebay and Wheeling Park over the years.

• Earl Oglebay planted an orchard behind the mansion and a number of trees along Serpentine Drive across Rt. 88, all of which are gone. The pin oaks, bald cypress, and other remaining trees he planted in the hilltop area have reached their life span..

• The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was very involved with reforestation in the parks during the years that a camp was located at Oglebay (1935-39). Two hundred young men found work during the Great Depression through this program.

• In the early 1930s, thousands of trees were cultivated in Oglebay's greenhouses and plans for an arboretum were drawn up. A stand of stately pine trees were planted on the north side of the arboretum, below the road that now leads to Wilson Lodge, to honor the contributions of J. Sumner Jones, a charter park commissioner. At the time, the crabapples from that site were moved to the Crispin golf course front nine.

• Nearly 3,000 trees and shrubs were planted at Oglebay and Wheeling Park in the late 1960s "...to develop a more spectacular landscape and to combat the effects of Dutch Elm

disease; plantings at the new Wheeling Park pool complex included 500 Japanese Yew, 400 Regal Privet (hedge material), 50 Ash, 30 Colorado Spruce, and 30 Andorra Junipers.

• Since the early 1930s, the Wheeling Civic Garden Center has assisted the parks with funds for arboretum and planting projects, including the crab apple trees planted above Schenk Lake in 1968. These trees have now outlived their life span and need to be replaced.

• At the first Oglebayfest in 1978, which celebrated the park's 50th anniversary, Oglebay heir Courtney Burton matched proceeds from a flea market and bake sale, organized by park employees, for the benefit of America's Future Trees.

• In the 1980s a grant from the WV Small Business Administration created 15 jobs for local residents whose unemployment benefits had run out. The money funded the planting of more than 1,000 trees and shrubs in four areas of Oglebay: the arboretum, the Burton Center, Crispin Center, and the Speidel course. The species included maple, white pine, and dogwood trees.

