

Among Friends

Fall/Winter 2013, Volume 17 Number 3

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Oglebay's Winter Wonderland!





Dear Friends,

Oglebay and Wheeling Parks are places of tradition, where families have invested over generations in the growth

of high quality recreational, educational, lodging, and hospitality facilities.

Schenk Lake, in the heart of Oglebay, has been one of the most versatile facilities since it was gifted by Albert and Kay Schenk in 1953; in this issue we recall how it has evolved into a favorite spot for visitors to congregate and the site of the park's largest public celebrations. We thank the Schenk family for their continued involvement and support.

Perhaps nothing is more synonymous with Oglebay than the cottage tradition. From the earliest rustic cabins constructed by the CCC to the luxurious modern estate houses, many fond memories have been built around cottage vacations in the past seventy-five years.

Ron Hobbs, a Wheeling Park Commissioner for 41 years, announced his retirement in September. Appointed in 1972, the year I became general manager, Ron has been a loyal steadying influence all these years. Joan Stamp of Wheeling has been appointed to fill Ron's spot on the board and both will continue to serve as trustees for the Foundation.

As another year draws to a close, and the Winter Festival of Lights burns brightly, let me take this opportunity to tell all of you how much we appreciate your support on behalf of everyone who enjoys our parks.

Sincerely,

Randy Works, Chairman
The Oglebay Foundation

Make a gift to Oglebay Foundation
Visit www.oglebayfoundation.org
or call 304-243-4166

Oglebay Foundation Gifts Make Immediate Impact

Annual gifts are the backbone of Oglebay and Wheeling Park. They provide the crucial funds necessary to support unique recreational and educational programs, high quality maintenance of facilities, and significant tree and horticulture plantings. The parks have a strong tradition of philanthropy, and it is through your generous gifts that our parks remain for everyone forever.

Tradition...From December 18 to 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1924, Wheeling Park became a reality in 6 short days thanks to \$352,845 in gifts made by 170 individuals. The Wheeling Park Commission's commitment to independence and philanthropy was born through businessman W.E. Stone's original leadership, vision, and generosity.

For Everyone...Annual gifts provide the resources that ensure all individuals have the opportunity to visit, participate, and enjoy Oglebay and Wheeling Park programs and facilities. From Access to the Parks, to summer camps, to youth sports scholarships, to high school and college work-study experiences, The Oglebay Foundation meets the needs of local youth while welcoming guests from around the globe.

Forever...Annual gifts provide for the maintenance and upkeep of one of the country's most recognized municipal park systems. Through gifts to America's Future Trees, the Bissonnette Gardens, or in support of a specific facility, The Oglebay Foundation provides funds for the continual renovation, care, and conservation of the 8 miles of roads, over 100 historical and specialized buildings and structures, and 2,400 acres of diverse forests and park landscapes.

When you make a gift, you join the many thousands of friends who help keep our parks accessible and well-maintained now and in the future. If you have not made your contribution in 2013 it is not too late, making a gift to The Oglebay Foundation is easy: Complete the enclosed envelope, call The Oglebay Foundation at 304-243-4166, or visit our website at www.oglebayfoundation.org. There is an option to make a one-time gift or to set-up monthly recurring gifts. As always, you can choose to support a specific program, or honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. As a public charity, contributions to The Oglebay Foundation are tax-exempt.

Visit www.oglebayfoundation.org to make a gift today!

**On-line
Giving Feature
Added to
Website!**

Access to the Parks Completes 14th Year

Access to the Parks, the program that funds activity passes to Oglebay and Wheeling Park for Wheeling area youth, has completed its fourteenth year thanks to generous gifts from Friends of Oglebay.

Over the past year, 1,803 photo ID passes were issued which resulted in more than 17,700 visits to the parks for swimming, fishing, skating, skiing, boating, golfing, and learning. Park officials believe there is no other comparable program in the country that provides such a diverse yearly schedule of recreational programs and opportunities at no cost to qualifying youth. These programs have been proven to increase the physical health, creativity, and mental capacities of children while encouraging teamwork and social responsibility.

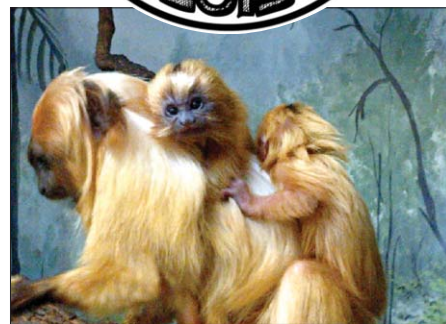
What's New at the Good Zoo

The 4th Annual Good Zoo Brew sold out its 500 tickets for the 2013 summer event. In four years, the microbrew festival has become a highlight of the Oglebay summer event schedule and has raised \$55,000 to support Good Zoo programs and animal care facilities. Zoo Director Penny Miller credits OVConnect members Chad and Jamie Remp and Jeremy West as the crucial volunteers who ensured the event's success. OVConnect is an organization of young Upper Ohio Valley professionals who build a strong network through business, civic and educational events. Make plans now to attend the 5th Annual Good Zoo Brew on June 28, 2014.

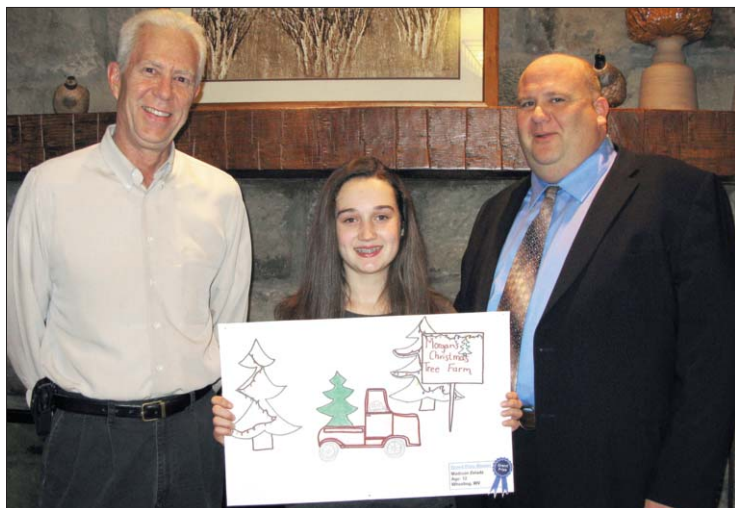
The Good Zoo was recently re-accredited by the American Zoological Association (AZA) after a detailed application and meticulous on-site inspection. "Oglebay's Good Zoo is a leader in the care and conservation of wildlife and in educating people about the natural world," said AZA president Jim Maddy. First accredited in 1980, three years after it opened, Oglebay's zoo remains the only accredited zoo in West Virginia.

The fall of 2013 was a prolific one with three significant births. On September 4 twin golden lion tamarin monkeys were born. Classified as extremely endangered, tamarins born in U.S. zoos have been successfully released to the wild. On September 16, a 3-banded armadillo baby was born and, on September 29 staff discovered a newborn Grevy's zebra foal. "We have worked with colleagues around the country to develop optimum conditions to breed these three rare species," says Miller.

Make a gift today to support West Virginia's only accredited zoo and the significant conservation work being accomplished by the professional staff and volunteers. Visit support.oglebayfoundation.org to make a charitable gift to the Good Zoo today!



Festival of Lights Adds Christmas Tree Farm Display



7th grade student Madison Zoladz got to see what her concept looked like in lights when she was selected as the lucky winner of the new design contest last year,

After 28 years, Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights continues to welcome visitors and local residents to one of America's largest light shows. Recently, Yahoo Travel named the Festival of Lights as one of the country's top 7 holiday light show displays. The show begins at dusk and continues until 10 p.m. Sundays – Thursdays and 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Festival of Lights continues through January 5, 2014. A one-time per car donation is requested.

Rearrangement of old favorites and the addition of several new displays every year keep the show fresh. This year's premier new display, the Christmas Tree Farm, was the winner in last year's New Idea Contest and designed by 7th grade student Madison Zoladz.

In addition to the lights show, there are many other festivities to enjoy: buffets, dinner shows and inclusive packages at Wilson Lodge, holiday shops filled with gifts and mementoes and "The Good Zoo Lights Up for You" special event. **For further information visit oglebay-resort.com or call 800-624-6988.**

Changes Made to Wheeling Park Commission Board of Trustees

Members of the Wheeling Park Commission and The Oglebay Foundation board are among the parks' most extraordinary supporters. Leaders in business, professional, and civic affairs, they give of their time and talents to guide park operations. The following changes were recently announced.

Ron Hobbs Retires from Wheeling Park Commission

When Roland L. (Ron) Hobbs was appointed to fill the seat of retiring park commissioner Sam Good in 1972 he did not anticipate that he would spend more than forty years on the prestigious board. At that time Hobbs was manager/owner of Hobbs Lumber Company and an avid parks supporter. Hobbs retired from the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) in September.

While Good had been a commissioner during the years of great facility development, Ron Hobbs was the right person to succeed the legendary commissioner. "My construction background alerted me to the fact that the parks' many buildings, facilities and vast acreage would require far more maintenance in the future than we were equipped to handle at the time," he reflects. Hobbs was elected chair of the board in 1979 and served fifteen years in that capacity.



Randy Worls, chairman of The Oglebay Foundation, was President & CEO when Hobbs was appointed to the WPC. "It has been my pleasure and an honor to work with Ron Hobbs for many years," says Worls. "He has been a strong voice in setting policy and solving problems, but has always allowed the professional staff to operate as it should." Hobbs will continue to serve as a trustee with The Oglebay Foundation.

Wheeling's Joan Stamp Appointed to Park Commission Board



Joan Stamp, long-time community leader, volunteer, and trustee of The Oglebay Foundation since 2009, has been named to the board of the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) to replace retiring member Ron Hobbs.

Her roots run deep with the parks because her grandfather A.C. Stifel was appointed as a charter member of the WPC in 1925. Arthur Stifel served for twenty-seven years, retiring in 1952. Wheeling Park was always first and foremost in Stifel's heart; the playground there, which Arthur and his wife gifted in 1948, is one of the busiest areas in the park and still bears the family name.

"Our parks are Wheeling's most valuable assets," remarks Stamp. "Many of us tend to forget what they have done for the community." As a generous supporter of many Wheeling and West Virginia related institutions, the Stamps have previously made contributions to support projects at Oglebay. After the Schrader Environmental Education Center opened, the Stamps provided gifts for the construction and endowment of the Corson Wildflower and Butterfly Garden at the center in memory of her mother, Joan Stifel Corson.



Schenk Lake at Sixty

When a man-made lake first appeared on the Wheeling Park Commission master plan in 1947, much of Oglebay's acreage was still in pastureland. This included the valley below the Arboretum where Wheeling businessman and World War II veteran Albert Schenk III, and his wife Kay, gifted the funds to build a three-acre lake in 1953 in memory of his parents, Albert F. and Frances Schenk. The stone and wood boathouse was added in 1955.

In those early years, before the rink opened at Wheeling Park, the lake was used for ice skating in winter, but the most popular activities over the years has been the boating and fishing. Local anglers look forward to the spring stocking of rainbow and brown trout and bass. Brightly colored Aqua-Cycles were recently added to the fleet of paddle-boats for rental.

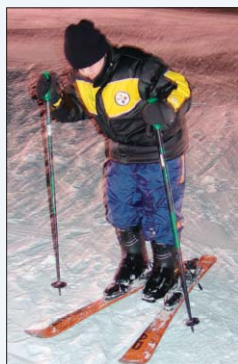
Over the years, Schenk Lake became one of the best-loved of Oglebay's facilities. When the Cascading Waters fountain was installed in 1991, crowds began flocking to the area in the evening. Special events such as the "Salute to the Military" (1991) and "WV Homecoming Show" (1996) drew record crowds. Fireworks shows during the July 3rd "Salute to Patriotism" celebration and Oglebayfest attract thousands each year.

Albert Schenk's daughter, Wheeling resident Louise Schenk Coulling, says the annual Independence Day show, dedicated to her father, is special to her family because it was his favorite holiday and he loved fireworks. "He would be so pleased to know that the whole city and beyond can enjoy them also," adds Louise. "Schenk Lake is just a wonderful place for families to gather and enjoy the outdoors."

Park officials are pleased that the Schenk family, both individually and through the Schenk Charitable Trust, has continued its support of the lake. In the mid-90s Kay Hogan Schenk and her children funded significant improvements: paving and walkway projects, rest room renovations, boathouse interior remodeling and rehabilitation of the shoreline to prevent future erosion. "Albert could see the joy Schenk Lake brought to so many people," said Kay at the time.



The Schenk family, pictured here at the July 3 Salute to Patriotism event, have been generous, ongoing supporters of the man-made lake that was established in 1953 in honor of relatives Albert F. and Frances Schenk.



According to Oglebay Foundation President Eriks Janelsins, "We know that access to recreational programs and facilities is one of the major barriers to physical fitness, exercise, and the creative play that builds healthy children. While national trends show increases in childhood

obesity and inactivity, we believe that through the Access to the Parks program we are ensuring all

local children can spend their spring, summer, fall, and winter playing and learning in the parks. Many Friends of Oglebay comment that they 'grew up in the parks'. I want all local youth to have that same opportunity."

Because of your generosity, Access to the Parks has expanded from a limited summer program to year round schedule that includes both admission and rental fees for youth and accompanying adults. Total cost of the program in 2013 was \$166,185.83 with funds provided by contributions from individual donors, support from the Robinson Parlin Trust, Schenk Charitable Trust, Hess Family Foundation, and J.B. Chambers Foundation, and a corporate gift from Wesbanco, Inc.

Access to the Parks was started in 1999 through the vision of Randy Worls, at that time President & CEO of the Wheeling Park Commission, and John Hargleroad, Oglebay Director of Operations.

From Cabins to Cottages – Oglebay's Family Tradition – A Seventy-Five Year Timeline

1920

The tradition of generous hospitality was a legacy of the Oglebay family for the many friends, family, and guests that would visit and stay at Waddington Farm during the summer months through the Thanksgiving holiday. After conversion to a city park, Oglebay first welcomed overnight public visitors in the late 1920s and they stayed in "guest cottages" that were old farm houses.

1938

1938 – The first cabins were constructed by skilled tradesman as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from discarded utility poles at a cost of about \$250 each. There were no blueprints because the size of the poles determined the size of the cabin. They ranged from small and cozy to dormitory-size (Many friends may remember the original Tulip and Ulmus Cabins).

1950

1950 – Cabin X, the first winterized cabin, opened; it was followed by nine others by the middle of the decade. Construction costs for these cabins skyrocketed to \$7,000 each.

1970

1970s – Five 4-bedroom cabins were built on the hillside above the 11th tee at Speidel Golf Club. These deluxe cabins, with interiors decorated by the talented Robert Otten, would serve as prototypes for future cabin development. Park officials were able to start a renovation program at many of the older cabins. In 1974, Oglebay grandson Courtney Burton financed Waddington House, a luxurious executive retreat in the original cabin circle. The overnight facility was upgraded with new furnishings in 1996 through a gift from Margaret Burton.

1980

1980s- A marketing decision was made to change the name "cabin" to "cottage" to better describe the upgraded overnight facilities to guests traveling from outside of the area. During this decade, twelve of the original cabins were re-built through a grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, with half of their revenue designated for the funding of a permanent maintenance endowment.

1982

1982 – Maple Chalet, a two-story cottage, was erected on the hillside across from Wilson Lodge by Jim Mooney, founder of Cleveland based Mooney Chemicals, and patriarch of a large Ohio family that visited Oglebay frequently.

1983

1983-1986 – Juniper, Hawthorne and Ivy, three of the original cottages, were rebuilt through the generosity of long-time visitors and supporters Al and Bev Higley. Higley was founder and president of Higley Construction and a volunteer with numerous organizations in the Cleveland area.

1986

1986 – Four cottages overlooking the Jones (and now) Palmer golf courses were financed by Wheeling native and successful businessman Phil Crosby and his wife Peggy; like many park benefactors, Crosby grew up at Oglebay and called it "...that rare place that is imprinted on my mind." From 1986-88 twelve cottages were rebuilt with a grant from the Benedum Foundation with the stipulation that 50% of the revenue generated would go into a maintenance endowment.

2006

2006 – Palmer Estate House, the most deluxe cottage to date, was built on the site of the former Hubbard House through the generosity of the late Chris Hess. A portion of its revenue is designated for Pine Room maintenance.

2008

2008 – Three 8-bedroom endowment cottages opened on the gently rolling hillside below Wilson Lodge. Funded by the Colcom Foundation, the Hess Family Foundation, and the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation, portions of their revenue benefit the Good Zoo, Gardens, and Access to the Parks.

2009

2009 – The family of Susan Wheeler provided funds to build the Wheeler Estate House above the entrance to Speidel Golf Club. A portion of the rental proceeds support maintenance of Oglebay's walking trails.



The first cottages were built in 1938 by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps.



Portions of revenue from the three 8-bedroom cottages benefit the Good Zoo, Gardens, and Access to the Parks.

Loyal Supporters Endow Cottages at Speidel Golf Club

The future upkeep of two Speidel Cottages has been insured through endowments created by local benefactors. Their generous gifts provided immediate upgrades and assure future maintenance.

Speidel #7 became the Strauss Cottage in 2007 when Gretchen Strauss gifted an endowment in memory of her husband, Joseph H. Strauss. Strauss was a prominent member of the Wheeling business community through his involvement with Strauss Industries, a successful scrap metal recycling company founded by his father.

In 2010, Lee Kelvington endowed Speidel #10 to honor his wife Joan. As "big band" enthusiasts, the Kelvingtons have been regulars at park dances for many years; Lee enjoys sharing his knowledge of the many different orchestras that played Wheeling Park's White Palace during the "swing era" of the late 1930s and 40s. In 1999 he spearheaded a Friends committee that sponsored a Salute to the Greatest Generation event featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra at Wilson Lodge.



CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, ENDOWMENT: Families Leave a Legacy through Cottage Gifts

For many families, staying at an Oglebay Cottage becomes as memorable and special a family tradition as Santa coming down the chimney. An Oglebay Cottage or Estate House becomes a home- a place to gather with multiple generations spread across many time zones for special events and memorable occasions. As life and families change, the Oglebay Cottage always remains.

Because of the tradition and history, the Oglebay Cottages are one of the most popular ways to make a significant gift to benefit the parks. The Wheeling Park Commission Master Plan includes sites for new cottage construction, opportunities for renovation and endowment of existing cottages, and opportunities for a planned endowment gift to support and maintain another Oglebay or Wheeling Park facility or program.

Oglebay and Wheeling Park have development & endowment opportunities that may be right for you. To discuss your special interest in making a gift, contact Eriks Janelins (304-243-4160) or Randy Worls (304-243-4001).

T'is the season at Oglebay! The Winter Festival of Lights and so much more!

Winter Festival of Lights

Nightly through January 5, 2014

Retail Specials

Speidel Christmas Shop

- Check out our wide variety of specialty holiday merchandise available only during the Festival of Lights!

Resort Shop

- The Festival of Lights collectible ornament for the 2013-14 season (pictured right) is now available. Get this adorable brass ornament featuring a cuddly teddy bear in a red stocking. Quantities are limited so get it before it's gone.



Palm Room

- Large selection of Fairy Gardening accessories to personalize your very own miniature garden for yourself or to give as a gift.
- There are also a large selection of holiday plants including Oglebay greenhouse grown Poinsettias.

Carriage House Glass

- Lighted hyacinths are now available in time for the holidays plus a large array of artisan produced glass.

Nature Express

- For the child or child at heart on your list. Shop Monday thru Thursday and receive 20% off on any of our educational kits. Just mention this promotion.

Farmhouse Sweets and Treats

- New for this holiday season - fresh Oglebay made fudge! Stop in Monday through Thursday and buy 3 pieces of fudge and get the 4th one free.

- Also, check out our wide selection of Karen Didion collectable Santas

- Browse our 14 decorated trees for the perfect ornament.

- Over 200 varieties of gourmet chocolate and candy will satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

- Our custom-made holiday gift baskets make great gifts. Quantity discounts available on gift baskets and mugs. Pre-book your basket today! Call 304-243-4129.

Online Market Place!

Can't make it to the shops? Now you can purchase gift cards & baskets, various Oglebay souvenirs & products from our spa online! Gift cards available in five different designs in any amount, and valid at all Oglebay and Wheeling Park facilities. Start shopping now at oglebaytraditions.com/shop.

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

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