

Spring 2006 Vol. 10, No. 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude that we report the Campaign for the Future of our Parks is nearing its goal. There is still time, however, for you to consider making a significant gift or estate consideration during the Campaign. I will be pleased to talk with you, in confidence, at any time. In this issue, you can read the current status of the Campaign.

Also, with the opening of the new wing at Wilson Lodge and renovation of all existing lodge rooms, Doug Dalby, president of the Wheeling Park Commission, reminds us of how important this facility is to the parks. "Lodge and cottage revenue is critical to the budget. It is the driving force behind the economic success of the entire parks system, as well as our ability to offer full-time employment. We invite you to check out the lodge renovations and, perhaps, plan a family reunion or business meeting in the near future."

Congratulations to Doug and all the great park commission staff that accomplished this difficult and important project.

On your next visit to Oglebay, you will notice a new place to visit and enjoy – Gourmet in the Gardens. This new shop, located at the Visitors Center, will entice you to browse and sample. While you are enjoying a stroll in the gardens nearby, be sure to visit the Palm Room and Garden Center shops. You will also notice that The Oglebay Foundation has moved into the old guesthouse building next to the Mansion Museum.

With the arrival of a new director of tennis, there is increased activity at Crispin Center. If tennis is your thing, be sure to stop by the courts. Whatever your main interest is, the staffs of the WPC and The Oglebay Foundation hope you enjoy a new season in the parks.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

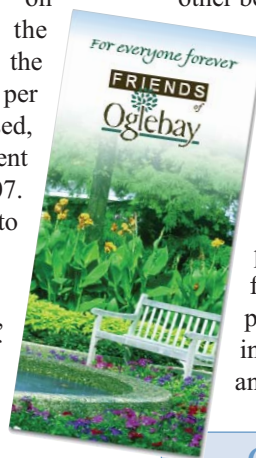
Barbara Palmer
Newsletter Editor

Planned Giving to be Emphasized as Campaign for the Future of our Parks Nears Goal

In 2002, a fundraising campaign to raise \$35 million was quietly undertaken by The Oglebay Foundation in order to insure that Oglebay and Wheeling Park will remain viable and operational for generations to come. It is the first formal campaign ever undertaken on behalf of the parks. When the Campaign was announced to the public in 2004, about sixty per cent of the goal had been raised, with the remaining forty per cent to be raised by the end of 2007. At this time, we would like to give you an update.

According to Randy Worls, president, over \$32 million of the goal has been raised through gifts and future estate plans. "We hope to reach the remainder of the goal in the near future," says Worls. "We will continue to focus our initiative in 2006 on funding the five major areas of the Campaign."

In the future, more emphasis will be placed on planned giving and estate planning. "Many people do not realize how many choices there are when they consider the parks in their estate planning," says Worls. "Life-income, tax advantages, and other benefits can permit people to make the ultimate gift while still pursuing their short-term goals." A planned giving program can also assist you as parents and grandparents in your desire to transmit family values along with your gifts to the parks. You can involve younger family members in the planning process where they can be inspired through your motivation and generosity.



Campaign goal: to insure that Oglebay & Wheeling Park remain viable and operational for generations to come.

Future of Our Parks: Five Major Areas of Focus

Facility Improvement & Endowment

There are still many unnamed facilities in the parks that can lend themselves to a major gift for improvements and endowment. There are also smaller items, such as park benches, which can be purchased through gifts and bequests.

Program Improvement & Endowment

These funds will improve recreation and sports programs that focus on deserving youth, educational opportunities at the Good Zoo, and public programs at the outdoor theater.

Park Development

With the soon to be completed master plans for Oglebay and Wheeling Park, opportunities will arise to fund new major facilities and/or land acquisition.

Staff Training & Improvement

There is a great need to have funds available to improve staff training in all areas. While a few small endowment funds exist, there is a great need for more gifts in this very important area. Here is a chance to make a big difference in someone's life and the life of the parks.

Park Opportunities Annual Fund

You can be part of the Campaign even if you can't give a large gift. By giving what you can comfortably afford – every year – you are also doing your part to keep the parks active and beautiful.

To learn more about the Campaign for the Future of Our Parks – and to learn about present and future gifting opportunities – please contact The Oglebay Foundation at (304) 243-4166 or 800-824-6988, Ext. 4166.

Your Gift to The Oglebay Foundation Can Keep Giving and Giving!

That little figure in the commercial promoting long-lasting battery power reminds us of the enduring character of an endowment fund. Once established, it just keeps providing money year after year after year. But, unlike the battery that DOES eventually run down, an endowment fund lasts in perpetuity. And perpetuity is a long time.

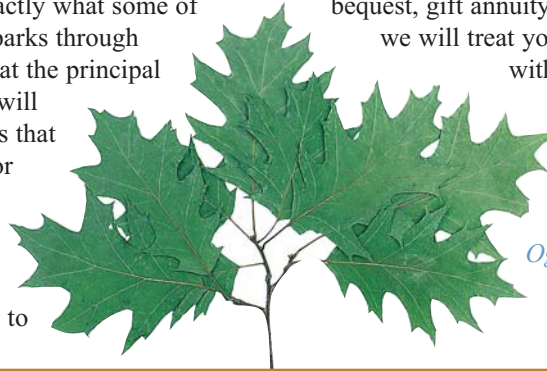
The permanence of an endowment fund is exactly what some of you may seek when choosing to support our parks through The Oglebay Foundation. You like the idea that the principal of your gift will stay intact while the income will be used to ensure quality recreational facilities that will continue to serve residents and visitors for years to come.

Some of you are attracted to the opportunity your gift gives to memorialize a loved one or other respected person. Others of you want to

give a lasting gift in your own name, as a way of placing yourself on record as someone who believes in and supports the programs and opportunities the parks have to offer.

When you contact The Oglebay Foundation to discuss a donation to our Facility Improvement and Endowment Fund, or to discuss a bequest, gift annuity or remainder trust, you can be assured that we will treat your inquiry with integrity. Should you honor us with a "gift that keeps giving" during The Campaign for the Future of our Parks, we promise to protect your investment with fiscal responsibility and prudent oversight.

Contact Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation, at (304) 243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.



Gourmet in the Gardens Opens in Hilltop Area

A fun NEW shop where sampling is encouraged!

Visitors to Oglebay will enjoy a new browsing and tasting experience this summer; a shop called Gourmet in the Gardens in the hilltop area. The new gourmet shop, which opened April 15, replaces the year-round Christmas Shop (the latter will be open during the Winter Festival of Lights at Speidel Golf Club).

Jill Neumann, manager/buyer for Oglebay's retail department, enthusiastically described the new shop as a "fun place" to visit. There will be many varieties of gourmet and kitchen products, including West Virginia specialty foods and wine, gift baskets, and a gourmet candy case.

Several products made by Wheeling companies will also be sold. "Sampling" will be encouraged.

Unique holiday items will still be found when the Festival of Lights opens. Oglebay's buyers have ordered a colorful array of merchandise and gifts that will be set up in a seasonal shop at Speidel Golf Club. Oglebay's retail shops are popular with visitors at all times of the year, and have also provided an outlet for local and state craftspeople to display and sell their wares.



Oglebay's Tennis Program Kicks into High Gear



Marc White
Director of Tennis

That sense of excitement swirling around Oglebay's tennis courts is coming from the increased activity going on since the arrival of Marc White, the Wheeling Park Commission's new director of tennis. White took over the new position in October, 2005, coming

from Myrtle Beach, SC, where he was director at the Litchfield Racquet Club. While there, Litchfield was ranked one of the top ten tennis resorts in the United States.

Since coming to Wheeling in the fall, White has implemented a series of Tennis Academies for Youth Instructors. He also recently conducted a clinic attended by eighteen high school

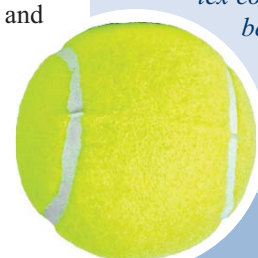
coaches that focused on ways to improve their coaching styles. White has planned round-robin tournaments and started "men's night." Ladies Day clinics will also be scheduled. Various packages for overnight guests staying at Wilson Lodge will be geared to all levels of players.

White grew up a sports enthusiast in Maryland. He is currently a certified member of the USPTA, and a national tester for the Professional Tennis Registry. Most interestingly, White helped design and open the Shanghai Racquet Club, the first resort-style tennis club in mainland China. Known for his playing/teaching combination, White has developed many innovative tennis techniques and programs, and is looking forward to expanding tennis at Oglebay.

A Brief Oglebay History Lesson

Oglebay's tennis tradition goes back to 1939, when several clay courts were built in the Crispin Center area close to the original riding stables. In the late 1940s, the courts at the expanded complex were converted to a Har-Tru surface. The Jones Tennis Shelter, a gift in honor of J. Sumner Jones, a charter park commissioner, was added in 1953. In 1964, the addition of three Har-Tru and two Grass-tex courts brought the total number of courts to eleven.

Several years ago, the Grass-tex courts were removed and replaced with Har-Tru.



Wilson Lodge: Heart & Soul of Oglebay

No facility constructed in the parks has had more effect on programs or budget than the massive wood and stone lodge that has become the centerpiece of Oglebay. Wilson Lodge did not materialize overnight; the project lay on the drawing board for more than a decade, from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s, while funds and materials slowly accumulated, and a determined core of park officials kept the dream alive.

Their reasons were based on sound business principles; despite all the activities going on during the 1950s, programs and facilities were still mostly seasonal, creating a severe cash flow during the winter months. Although the cottages were filled in season, many people desiring overnight accommodations had to be turned away. The lack of rooms also hindered Wheeling's ability to host large meetings and conventions. Local residents also missed the Wilson Hall facility (the renovated dairy barn that burned down in 1945) and needed a central place to hold social and business events.

The Wheeling Park Commission never wavered from its intention to build a lodge. Chairman W.P. Wilson unveiled an oil rendering of the proposed facility at an Ohio Valley Board of Trade annual dinner meeting in 1953. Wilson enthusiastically described the massive undertaking. "The lodge will be built in four phases," he announced. "Construction should get underway this summer." There were more funds to be raised, however, so actual construction did not begin until 1955.

The first section of the lodge to be completed was a fifty-seven room guest wing, opened in May, 1957 (the wing that runs parallel to the front parking lot). This was followed by construction of the central section, which includes the lobby, original dining room, and second-floor lounge, the next year. Like most park facilities built between the 1930s and 1970s, the original sections of Wilson Lodge contain salvaged materials such as sandstone.



Lodge News: *New Guest Wing Opens & Existing Rooms Renovated*

It has been more than twenty-five years since guest rooms have been added to the main building at Wilson Lodge. The Byrd Wing, which opened in 1980, brought the room count to 212. Now, the first phase of a \$12 million renovation project – a 53-room sleeping wing – is complete. J.C. Douglas Dalby, president of the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC), says there is a strong demand for additional rooms at Wilson Lodge. "This demand comes from both families and organized groups, the latter wishing to hold sizeable meetings at the lodge," Dalby adds.

The new wing, which offers a spectacular view of the Wigginton Arboretum, Schenk Lake, and surrounding hillside, is connected to the main lodge by an enclosed walkway. "It has the same architectural style as the existing lodge," says Dalby. All of the new king rooms and suites will feature fireplaces, a popular amenity with guests.

Funding for the project draws from several sources, including \$1.5 million from the Economic Development Authority, \$2.5 million from a West Virginia Economic Development grant, and revenue bonds. According to Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation, significant private contributions have also been made. The new addition is expected to create thirty-nine jobs.

Phase two of the project includes the complete renovation of the existing 212 rooms, with all but the chalet rooms ready for summer. Guests will notice colorful, updated furnishings throughout Wilson Lodge.

Wilson Lodge Timeline

1957 - Original sleeping wing opens (includes 57 guest rooms)

1958 - Main lobby, main dining room, Betty Zane private dining room, and lounge area open.

1960 - Three Swiss-style chalets are constructed behind the main lodge building, adding 24 rooms to the complex.

1961 - An 8,000 square foot multipurpose auditorium/hall was added to the south side of the lodge. This versatile room, which seats up to five hundred people for dining and eight hundred for theater-style programs, was named in honor of park patron Martha W. Glessner, sister of charter park commissioner W.P. Wilson.

1966 - A 43 room addition is dedicated in memory of Wheeling attorney Edwin F. Kline after he left a substantial gift to the parks system. The wing connects to the public areas by an indoor passageway.

1980 - The expansive Byrd Wing is opened, including 79 guest rooms, a new public dining room called "Top of the Park," 6,500 square feet of private meeting and dining space, the Glassworks Lounge, and indoor pool. Dedicated to Senator Robert C. Byrd because of his invaluable assistance in obtaining funding for the project. A smaller dining room, the Mansion Room, is dedicated to the late park commissioner Arthur M. Scott. The room was funded and endowed through a bequest from his will.

1983 - Maple Chalet, an 8-room multi-use facility, is opened. It was built through a gift from the Jim Mooney family of Cleveland, Ohio.

1989 - The main dining room is renovated and enlarged in phases through a gift from Charles Ihlenfeld in memory of his wife, Maxine. Renamed the Ihlenfeld Dining Room, these improvements came on the heels of the success of the Winter Festival of Lights to better serve the increased number of visitors.

1997 - A 6-room seminar and special events complex, with state-of-the-art technology features, is added to the south side of the lodge. Dedicated as the George W. Lutz Center for Public Facility Management through a gift from the late Ellen Aldridge.

2002 - The Banquet View private dining/meeting rooms are renovated, decorated, and upgraded with modern technological improvements.

2004 - The Glassworks Lounge is renovated in order to accommodate families who desire a more casual dining experience and to attract patrons for sports viewing.

America's Future Trees Foundation Remains Successful

Operating under the umbrella of The Oglebay Foundation, the America's Future Trees Foundation (AFT) is an option for donors who wish to take an active part in maintaining and improving the natural environment at Oglebay and Wheeling Park through new and renewal plantings of trees and tree care. Started by Oglebay heir Courtney Burton in the 1960s, AFT continues to be a popular recipient of memorial and tribute gifts. The Wheeling Park Commission, through labor and supplies, matches donations.

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, trees are purchased and planted where they are needed most. To date, many thousands of trees and seedlings have been planted throughout the parks. Much of the beauty you see in the sweeping vistas of landscaping features was detailed years ago in the master plans. As contributions to AFT grew, so did the trees, abundantly through the parks. Now visitors from many states and foreign countries marvel at the beauty of our parks. Many of these visitors have added their names to the growing list of contributors to AFT.

If you would like to honor a loved one through a gift to AFT, or simply make a donation, please contact The Oglebay Foundation or mail your contribution to America's Future Trees, c/o The Oglebay Foundation, Oglebay, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Calendar of Events

May

27-29 Memorial Day Celebration – Oglebay

June

10-11 Welty Men's Amateur – Crispin Golf Course

14-18 Senior Tennis Tournament – Crispin

23-25 Cornerstone Senior Amateur – Speidel/Crispin

24-28 Junior Tennis Tournament – Crispin

July

1-4 Independence Day Celebration

3 Fireworks – Schenk Lake

8-9 Stoney Hollow Men's Amateur – Speidel

August

2-4 West Virginia Open Tennis Tournament – Crispin

25-27 Classic Car Show – Site One and Good Zoo

For information on events, dining and lodging
call: **1-888-OGLEBAY** or **243-4000** (local)
or visit **www.oglebay-resort.com**

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