

Looking back . . .

75 Years ago

In October 1933, during one of the darkest years of the Great Depression, Otto Schenk, chairman of the Wheeling Park Commission since its inception, died in his beloved hometown of Wheeling. Although he served fewer years than any other charter commissioner because of his age, Wheeling's parks system would not exist, as we know it today, without his vision and generosity. Because he was so intimately involved with the early days of Wheeling Park, the commonly called White Palace was actually named the Otto Schenk Memorial Pavilion when it was built.

50 Years ago

By 1958, mostly due to the opening and continued expansion of Wilson Lodge, Oglebay had shed its provincial image to become a resort complex desirable to people from all over the tri-state area. The change

was intentional. Park officials had long known that a city the size of Wheeling could not support two recreation areas as spacious and intensely developed as Oglebay and Wheeling Park. It would also take the support of non-residents to maintain and expand the parks, and Wheeling residents would be the benefactors.

25 Years ago

Juniper Cottage became the first cabin rebuilt through private donations when Al and Bev Higley gifted the funds in 1983 in memory of their nephew, Christopher Kelly. The Higeleys, of Cleveland, Ohio, had started taking family vacations at Oglebay in the mid-50s and they continue to visit several times a year. After their original gift, they funded two more cottages, Hawthorne (1984) and Ivy (1986). The three overnight facilities were an important part of the cabin re-building program in the mid-1980s.

Upcoming Events

May 2008

- 10 Astronomy Day at the Good Zoo
- 24-26 Memorial Day Celebration

June 2008

- 11-15 Senior Tennis Tournament
- 14-15 Kalkreuth Roofing Golf Classic
- 20-22 Cornerstone Sr. Golf Amateur
- 21-25 Junior Tennis Classic

July 2008

- 3-4 Independence Celebration
- 3 Fireworks
- 12-13 Stoney Hollow Men's Amateur
- 24-27 WV Open Tennis Tournament

August 2008

- 22-24 Classic Car Show
- 30-31 Labor Day Celebration
- 30-31 Woodcarver's Show
- 30-31 Fort Henry Days
- 31 Wheeling Symphony

September 2008

- 1 Labor Day Celebration

October 2008

- 3-5 Oglebayfest
- 4 Fireworks
- 16-19 & 23-26 Boo at the Zoo

Among Friends



Spring 2008 Vol. 12, No. 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Three Endowment Cottages to Open This Summer

Revenue from New Cottages to Benefit Other Facilities and Access to the Parks Program

Three new endowment cottages, visible signs of the successful Campaign for the Future of our Parks, will open at Oglebay this summer in the gently rolling area below Wilson Lodge. Funding for the spacious cottages came through private foundations, and they will be named for their benefactors: May Cottage – funded by the Colcom Foundation established by Cordelia S. May, Chambers Cottage – funded by the trustees of the James B. Chambers Foundation, and Hess Cottage – funded by the Hess Family Foundation and the Chris Hess Foundation.

The importance of these new facilities is their role as “endowment cottages;” they join the twelve Benedum Cabins, funded by the Benedum Foundation in 1987, and the Palmer House (2006), funded by local philanthropist Chris Hess, as a creative way to help support other park facilities, programs or maintenance through their rental income.

While income from the Benedum Cottages assists in general maintenance throughout the parks, and Palmer House income is used for upkeep of the Pine Room complex, revenue from the new cottages will be used for broader purposes to benefit the zoo, the gardens, special horticultural features at Oglebay, and the Access to the Parks program.

Larger groups and families should find the two-story, 5,000 square foot cottages to their liking. Each one has eight bedrooms, 6 baths and powder room, a gas fireplace, and a full kitchen with two refrigerators and two

dishwashers. Golden oak-stained tongue and groove wainscoting gives the living areas and kitchen a rustic feel to blend in with other Oglebay overnight facilities. A spacious living room/dining area, with flat screen television, is located on the entry level, and there is also a large recreation room/living area on the lower level, ideal for the young members of the group. The cottages can sleep up to 32 people as each bedroom boasts two queen-size beds.

“Extended families who come to Oglebay for a reunion should appreciate and enjoy these new cottages as more of them can stay under one roof,” says Wheeling Park Commission CEO Doug Dalby. “On the other hand, they are laid out to provide plenty of space and separation.” Further information on the three endowment cottages, scheduled to open July 1, is available by calling 800-624-6988 or (304) 243-4090.



Construction continues on the three new 8-bedroom cottages. The cottages are expected to be completed by July 2008.

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to let you know about three new endowment cottages that will open at Oglebay this summer. The May, Chambers, and Hess cottages are special because they will provide revenue for other park facilities and programs that need permanent funding. It's a win-win situation for all.

Oglebay's overnight facilities, Wilson Lodge and the cottages, continue to be the backbone of the park system's budget. Out-of-town visitors, especially those who come for extended stays, help keep other recreation facility fees and season passes reasonable for Wheeling area residents. The lodge and cottages also provide a gathering place for local families and organizations.

All three of the endowment cottage benefactors are generous friends of the parks. The Colcom Foundation expresses the generosity of Cordelia S. May and her long-time fondness for Oglebay, the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation has helped fund several facilities and programs that serve the youth of our community, and the Hess Family Foundation/Chris Hess Foundation have supported the parks through three generations.

As the parks' beauty unfolds this season, we hope all of you have a chance to visit and enjoy your favorite facility or activity. As always, we appreciate your support through Friends of Oglebay and The Oglebay Foundation.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

Barbara Palmer
Newsletter Editor

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wheeling, WV 26003



PRSRRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wheeling, WV
Permit No. 43

Colcom Foundation Directs \$1 Million to Endowment Cottage Project

Through a generous gift from the Colcom Foundation, one of three new endowment cottages nearing completion at Oglebay will be named the May Cottage to honor the founder of Colcom, Cordelia S. May. Fifty per-cent of the gross rental income generated by the cottage will be used for maintenance projects at Bissonnette Gardens, the Good Zoo, and horticultural features at Oglebay.

Through the Colcom Foundation, the perpetuation of Mrs. May's philanthropic vision, which reflects her deep and lifelong concern about the environment and quality of life, is realized. Heiress Cordelia May passed away in January 2005.

Cordelia S. May – The Quiet Philanthropist

Although an heir to the fortune of the prominent Mellon family, Cordelia S. May preferred privacy and anonymity to public demonstrations of wealth and personal philanthropy. Throughout her life, Mrs. May quietly used her financial resources to champion her causes, which included several projects at Oglebay that provide enjoyment for young and old alike.

Cordelia May was born in 1928 to Alan Magee Scaife and Sarah Mellon Scaife and was raised on the family estate in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Never interested in fancy or frivolous things, Cordelia's developing style was a mixture of sensible and humorous; she preferred light-hearted jokes, timeworn furniture and antiques, and a modest wardrobe. Her appreciation for the beauty and restorative value of nature, parks, and wildlife was evident in the places she visited, including Oglebay for the last thirty years of her life, and the projects she supported with her resources.

The gardens became the centerpiece of Mrs. May's interest at Oglebay. In 1997 she made a substantial gift toward their development in memory of her dear friend Joe Bissonnette,



Oglebay's development director from 1975-1992. At the time of her gift, Waddington Gardens was dedicated as the Joseph F. Bissonnette Gardens.

Mrs. May's vision for advancing quality of life issues was shaped by her introspective views of the world, and she concluded that overwhelming human population numbers resulted in a negative effect on all natural resources. The pursuit of solutions to the root causes of environmental and quality of life degradation, not just band-aid cures to societal issues, became the central vision for her life-long philanthropy.

Cordelia May's legacy and vision continue through the works of the Colcom Foundation. More importantly, her free, unassuming, and generous spirit lives on through the many people and organizations she touched and supported during her remarkable life.

Colcom Foundation Carries on May's Legacy

Through the practice of strategic grant making, the Colcom Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, focuses its philanthropic program on environmental sustainability, natural resource preservation, land and water conservation, and efforts to establish a sustainable population. Locally, the Foundation participates in programs to enhance the quality of life, conserve lands, protect watersheds, remediate environmental casualties, improve community aesthetics, and support ecological appreciation.

Board members of the Colcom Foundation include Timothy M. Inglis, Donna M. Panazzi, Michael M. Strueber, and John S. Barsotti. The Oglebay Foundation is grateful to the Colcom Foundation for its continued support of Cornelia May's love for Oglebay, the place and the people.

Access to the Parks Continues to Meet Needs of Community Youngsters

Now in its tenth year, the Access to the Parks program continues to meet the needs of children and teens in the community who would not otherwise be able to use the parks on a regular basis. Youngsters identified for the program get a photo identification card that allows them to swim, go boating, and play tennis, golf and miniature golf at Wheeling Park. At Oglebay, participants can swim, go boating, play tennis, par-3 or miniature golf, and visit the Good Zoo. In 2005 skiing and ice skating was added to the mix of activities. The Access program is supported by several individual endowment gifts, the Chambers and Hess Endowment Cottages, and through contributions to the annual fund of Friends of Oglebay. Nearly 2,000 participants take advantage of Access each year.

Thanks to all of you who have supported and continue to support this unique program!

Endowment Cottage Gift of J. B. Chambers Memorial Foundation

The Chambers Cottage, one of three new eight-bedroom endowment cottages, has been funded by the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation. It is fitting that fifty per-cent of the gross revenue from this cottage will benefit the Access to the Parks program because, for more than eighty years, the mission of the Foundation has been to provide services to the children of the Wheeling area that have a positive effect on their lives

J.B. Chambers was a successful businessman and one of Wheeling's prominent citizens in the first quarter of the 20th century. He founded the Foundation in 1924. Over the years, a dedicated foundation board has awarded millions of dollars to a wide variety of community agencies that serve disadvantaged youth.

The Chambers Foundation has also been

generous to the parks' youth programs over the years through support of the Wheeling Park ice rink and soccer fields, and the Access to the Parks program. With this generous grant, and the resulting revenue stream from the Chambers Cottage, the Access program can continue to thrive and expand by making a wide variety of park facilities available to children and teens in Ohio County, West Virginia, who do not have the resources to routinely enjoy outings to Oglebay and Wheeling Park.

Trustees of the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation are: Dr. Thomas L. Thomas, President; James E. Altmeyer, Vice-President; Edward G. Sloane Jr., Secretary/Treasurer; C. Jack Savage, Judge Arthur M. Recht, and Brian E. Joseph. Emily S. Fisher is Executive Director.

Third Endowment Cottage Built Through Hess Family Funds

The third endowment cottage to open this summer has been funded by the Hess Family Foundations. It is built to honor the memory of Mary Ann Hess and her life-long association with Oglebay. Fifty per-cent of the gross revenue from rental of the cottage will go to the Access to the Parks program in keeping with the interest of the Hess family in the welfare of Wheeling's children. This interest in – and love for – Oglebay Park is now manifested in the third generation of the Hess family.

In 1996, Mary Ann Hess and Chris Hess, sister and brother, generously funded improvements at Oglebay's Children's Center area, including construction of the Hess Shelter, in memory of their parents, Andrew and Margaret. Andy and Peg

Hess had "lived" at Oglebay from the 1930s through the 1950s and passed on their love of the park. At about the same time, Mary Ann and Chris provided funds for major renovations at the Pine Room where their parents had loved to go to dances.

The six children of Mary Ann Hess also spent countless hours at the parks while they were growing up and several of them worked part-time jobs when they were old enough. Their late mother's interest in wanting all of Wheeling's children to enjoy the parks was contagious. Together with their Uncle Chris Hess, Andy, Brady, Liza (now deceased), Neil, Peggy, and Tina have provided funds to build the Hess Cottage.



The Frank Rock Garden at Wheeling Park,

designed in 1926, features terraced plantings with a reflecting pool and fountain. Originally given in memory of Ella B. Frank, mother of Mrs. Charles (Pauline) Sonneborn, by Pauline, her four siblings, and father William H. Frank, the garden has since been dedicated to both parents. A family endowment trust provides funds for maintenance and improvements.

The Benefits of Using Retirement Funds for Your Charitable Giving

Retirement funds represent the major portion of many estates these days and, due to the special tax considerations that apply to these benefits at present, they can make an excellent choice for gifting to The Oglebay Foundation and your other favorite non-profit entities. The reason? Retirement benefits can be included on a decedent's final income-tax statement for the year of death and can give rise to a substantial income-tax liability to the estate or the ultimate recipient. In addition, retirement benefits can be subject to up to 55% inheritance tax and, in some cases, up to 75% of estate retirement funds can be taken by federal and state governments.

Many times a charitable gift of retirement funds included in a taxable estate can produce double savings. First, the value of the funds passing to a charitable entity is fully deductible for estate-tax purposes. Second, as a tax-exempt entity, the charity will pay no income tax on the contents of the gift.

Directing assets that include retirement benefits to The Oglebay Foundation, or other charitable entities, can be extremely beneficial for good estate planning. As always, consult your tax accountant or estate planner for details. If you are considering a gift to The Oglebay Foundation, please contact Randy Worls at 304-243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.