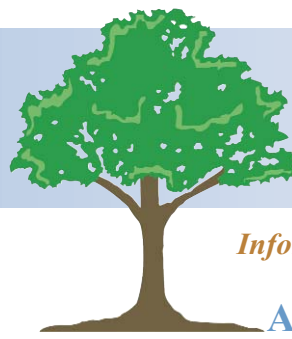


Among



Friends

Fall 2006 Vol. 10, No. 2

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Dear Friends,

Although every season of the year is special in the parks, it is always exciting when the lights go on in November. While warm weather activities have slowed down, there is new life at the shops, the Good Zoo, Wilson Lodge, and the Hamm Clubhouse. If you haven't been to the Winter Festival of Lights for a couple of years, make this the year to come back and take in the new sights and new displays.

We are grateful to all of you who have taken part, one way or another, in the Campaign for the Future of Our Parks. It is not too late to do so. If you are not ready to make a larger commitment, we welcome your annual donation to Friends of Oglebay. These funds keep Access to the Parks operating, a program that becomes more important each year.

In this issue, we tell you about two gifts to the Campaign that created endowments of great importance. One funded the building of a new facility - the Palmer House - that adds to Oglebay's capacity to house overnight visitors, while helping one of the older facilities, the Pine Room. The other created an endowment for an existing facility, the Fort Henry Room at Wilson Lodge, a much-used space that recalls the colorful history of the area.

The Oglebay Foundation staff is ready to discuss ways that you can fulfill the philanthropic wishes of your family should you so desire. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at the parks this winter.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

Barbara Palmer
Newsletter Editor

Access to the Parks Adds Skiing to Unique Program

Access to the Parks, The Oglebay Foundation's successful program of making Oglebay and Wheeling Park facilities available to all Ohio County youth regardless of their ability to pay, has wrapped up another successful year. About 2,000 children took advantage of the program this past year, accounting for many thousands of visits to the parks. Skiing was added to the activity mix this past year.

Because of the extreme downsizing of industries in the Ohio Valley, and the moving and closing of many companies, the economic base for Wheeling and the surrounding areas has become a challenge. This past year about 40% of the youngsters in county schools qualified for the free or reduced federal lunch program. These children, as well as those in Head Start and private and parochial schools who meet the same guidelines, are given an opportunity to participate. In addition, many local youth-serving organizations are invited to participate in Access to the Parks.

This year, as for the past several years, all undesignated donations to Friends of

Oglebay are earmarked for the Access program. The annual cost now exceeds \$125,000 per year. Foundation officials

hope to put Access on very firm footing in the future by raising endowment money for the program. Endowment funds would also allow the Access program to be expanded to surrounding areas.

Numerous letters and calls from grateful parents and guardians have been received. In them, they thank the parks, and all the generous contributors who make it possible to create memories that will last forever. One mother wrote: "As a single parent, it would not be possible for my children to enjoy the parks as they can through your program. Thank you." If you would like further information about Access to the Parks, contact or call The Oglebay Foundation at (local) 243-4166 or 800-624-



Children from Laughlin Chapel in Wheeling spent a fun evening at the Oglebay ski area through the Access to the Parks Program.

6988, Ext. 4166.

Update on Campaign for the Future of Our Parks

For the past several years you have been invited to participate in a very important fund-raising initiative – A Campaign for the Future of Our Parks. This campaign started quietly in 2002, and then picked up steam in the past several years as The Oglebay Foundation took the \$35 million dollar goal public. The importance of its success is simple: Keeping Wheeling Park, Oglebay, and Oglebay's Good Zoo unique, special and accessible to all well into the 21st century.

At this time, we want you to know that it appears the goal will be substantially surpassed by the end of 2007, as there are still people

who want to participate but need additional time to work out their areas of interest and estate plans. It is not too late for you and your family to participate in this historic Campaign if you so desire.

Concurrently with the Campaign, The Foundation will renew its efforts to build its Friends of Oglebay base. The Friends campaign concentrates on annual giving at the level most comfortable to each individual. For information on both the Campaign for the Future of Our Parks and Friends of Oglebay, please contact The Oglebay Foundation office.

New Tax Law May Fit into your Charitable Giving

Whether you are a past or current benefactor, or may be thinking about making a donation to The Oglebay Foundation in the future, you need to know about a new tax law that came into effect this year. The new law affects charitable distributions from an IRA and is applicable to those 70 ½ or older.

The law allows persons to avoid taxes when making a direct distribution from an IRA, either traditional or Roth, to a qualified charity. The Oglebay Foundation, incorporated in 1996, would qualify under this provision. The amount of the distribution is limited to \$100,000 per year per taxpayer.

Under old rules, a taxpayer was first required to take the distribution in income and then claim the charitable contribution deduction. Although this might sound like the same thing, it is not, because of the various limits on charitable contributions and tax computations driven by Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

The above information is only general. You should talk with your accountant or financial advisor about the new law. You can also call Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation, to discuss this option. Worls can be reached at 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001 or (local) 243-4001

Bowers Trust Creates Endowment for Fort Henry Room

Original Dining Room at Wilson Lodge Recalls Local History

Before there was a Wheeling, a group of determined pioneers, led by the Zane family, built a fort on the banks of the Ohio River that they called Fort Henry. Recently, the original dining room at Wilson Lodge was renamed the Fort Henry Room to honor this colorful history. The room has now been endowed by the George W. Bowers Family Charitable Trust and will be called the Bowers Fort Henry Room.

“The original dining room is very special to a lot of people who remember good times there in the 1960s and 70s,” says Doug Dalby, president of the Wheeling Park Commission. “It is very important to keep this popular room well maintained, so new generations can enjoy it.” The gift from the Bowers Trust, payable over three years, will allow some needed renovations in the near future, and an endowment for future maintenance. There is already a colorful reminder of Fort Henry in the dining room in the form of three murals painted by local artist Anne Foreman.

Although George W. Bowers (1878-1943) lived in Mannington, WV, for much of his adult life, he was born in Wheeling and began his active participation in civic affairs here. Married to Sara George of Wellsburg, WV, he was elected to the West Virginia legislature in 1920. Bowers took advantage of the rise of the oil and natural gas industry in the early years of the 20th century and became a prolific producer of pottery and china. He started Bowers Pottery in Mannington, which thrived for many years, and owned Warwick



Wheeling artist Anne Foreman stands by one of three murals she painted for the Fort Henry Room at Wilson Lodge.

China in Wheeling, and S. George Company in Wellsburg during his lifetime. Bowers' last living daughter, Frances, created the charitable trust through her will. It benefits education, social, and cultural non-profits in West Virginia.

There are many unnamed facilities in the parks that can be endowed in honor or memory of a loved one or family. If this type of gift appeals to you, please contact Randy Worls to discuss options.

Palmer Estate House Opens Overlooking Speidel Golf Club

Revenue from New Cottage will Create Endowment

The Palmer Estate House, a 4,550 square foot cottage filled with stylish and functional amenities, opened in September on the crest of the hill overlooking Speidel Golf Club. Located on the spot where the Hubbard House once stood, the six-bedroom, seven-bath facility is ideal for groups who wish to hold a conference or host a golfing or family vacation in a quiet, semi-secluded area that is still close to Oglebay facilities. The new cottage is named for golfing great Arnold Palmer (the Klieves/Palmer Signature Course opened in 2000).

One of the most important aspects of the Palmer House is that it was built with funds from a long-time, close friend of the park, Andrew (Chris) Hess, in order to create an endowment for another facility that is special to the donor's family, the Pine Room building at Crispin Center. Fifty percent of the gross income from rental of the new cottage will go for upkeep and future renovations at the Pine Room.

"We are so grateful to receive a gift like this," says Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation. "It really becomes two gifts; a new, spacious overnight accommodation, and an opportunity to maintain one of Oglebay's most popular facilities in perpetuity. There are few people in the area who have not visited or attended an event at the Pine Room at one time or another over the years."



On the outside, the Palmer House matches the handsome ruggedness of other park facilities with its wood and stone finish. On the inside, the décor is modern and comfortable. A large great room opens to a dining and kitchen area with all the amenities to accommodate large gatherings. There is an antique table for dining, and the kitchen features granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, two refrigerators, two dishwashers, and two barstool areas.



The Great Room and one of the six bedrooms at the Palmer House.

Five bedrooms feature two queen beds each, and one bedroom is handicapped-equipped with a king bed and spacious shower stall. All have private bathrooms, wall-mounted TV, and soft neutral colors that complement the Arnold Palmer Furniture collection. A smaller family room is located at the opposite end of the cottage from the main living area to encourage smaller, more intimate gatherings and conversations. Other special amenities include historical photos and a private patio and grill.

The Palmer House is the second estate house accommodation to be built at Oglebay; In 1974, Oglebay heir Courtney Burton built Waddington House, a popular deluxe retreat in the main cabin area. Both Waddington and the Palmer House are available to the public for rental the next year at the annual cottage lottery held November 1 at Wilson Lodge. Because of the executive retreat nature of the two accommodations, some dates are held for conference use.

Pictures of both the Palmer House and Waddington House, along with rental policies and rates, are found on www.oglebay-resort.com. If you or your family are interested in discussing details of ways to create an endowment fund for Oglebay or Wheeling Park, contact Randy Worls at (local) 243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.

Oglebay and West Liberty State College Create "Earn to Learn" Partnership

Internships-Special Projects-Employment Benefit Both College and Park

For more than half a century, students at West Liberty State College (WLSC) have worked part-time and seasonally at Oglebay. The proximity of the nearby school, and the willingness of Oglebay's department heads to work around a student's schedule, has led to a close bond over the years. Now, the relationship has taken a closer twist. In a dynamic partnership agreement, WLSC and Oglebay are joining forces in a program called "Earn to Learn;" the agreement provides Oglebay with much needed staffing, and students can experience working in areas in or close to their respective fields of study. "Not only do the students benefit, but Oglebay benefits from well-educated, quality staffing," says Karen Hess, Director of Human Resources for the Wheeling Park Commission.

The partnership includes internships, special projects, and part-time employment. Internships will be available at Oglebay in several areas including: animal care, zoo education, horticulture, park operations, golf, finance, and human resources. At Wilson Lodge, internship opportunities will be available at the front office, conference services, sales, food and beverage, housekeeping, and the recreation/fitness department.

For those students not desiring or requiring an internship, but still needing money to help with college expenses, Oglebay has a number of part-time, seasonal and year-round employment opportunities. "We are just minutes from the WLSC campus, and every attempt is made to schedule around classes," adds Hess. For additional information on the "Earn to Learn" program, contact the Office of Human Resources at Oglebay at 304-243-4147 or the Center for Student Success at WLSC at 304-336-8018.

New Lighting and Animation Extravaganza Opens at Good Zoo for FOL

Oglebay's Festival of Lights Started at Zoo in Late 1970s

Although Oglebay's popular Winter Festival of Lights (FOL) is now in its 22nd season, the show actually started at the Good Zoo in the late 1970s. For several years, "The Good Zoo Lights Up For You" event attracted and entertained visitors in a traditionally slow period for the park. In 1985 officials expanded the lights show over 125 acres along a three-mile drive; it was the beginning of America's most popular lights show.

This year, the Zoo will open a major addition to FOL, a lighting and animation extravaganza called, appropriately, "The Good Zoo Lights Up For You" and you will not want to miss it. Designed by noted lighting/animation engineer Carson Williams, the dazzling show will take place nightly on the zoo patio. It will feature more than 35,000 lights choreographed to the exciting music of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

You may have seen Williams' "Wizard in Winter" light display at his Cincinnati home when it was featured on national TV last year.

The zoo will also feature its special Outback exhibit with kangaroos, the annual holiday O-gauge model train display, and special holiday LASER shows. There is an admission at the zoo. New to FOL this year is the Gourmet in the Gardens shop, featuring regional and gourmet foods, and the FOL Shop at Speidel Golf Club, the latter featuring unique items and decorations for the holiday season. The Festival of Lights will open Nov. 8 and continue through Jan. 7, 2007. It is viewable nightly from dusk to 11:00 p.m. A per car donation is requested that is valid for the entire festival season.

Calendar of Events

November 2006

- 8 – 30 Winter Festival of Lights - Oglebay
- 11 – 18 Festival of Trees - Pine Room

December 2006

- 1 – 31 Winter Festival of Lights - Oglebay

January 2007

- 1-7 Winter Festival of Lights - Oglebay
- 13-14 Model Railroad Show - Pine Room

February 2007

- 16-19 Culinary/Presidents' Day Weekend
Wilson Lodge

For information on events and reservations

call: **1-888-OGLEBAY**
or **243-4000** (local)

or visit www.oglebay-resort.com

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

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