

Australian Adventure Exhibit Open at Good Zoo

New Exhibit Adjacent to Lorikeet Landing

Have you ever gotten up close to a grey Kangaroo? Can you recognize a red-necked Wallaby? Have you laughed at the inhabitants of Lorikeet Landing as they sipped nectar from a small cup in your hand?

If you answered NO to these questions, this is the summer to re-discover Oglebay's Good Zoo. The zoo recently opened an Australian Adventure exhibit, a walk-through experience unlike any other before it, with red and grey kangaroos and red-necked wallabies, the latter a smaller version of the most famous icon of the land-down-under.

The grass-covered area that includes the Australian exhibit, located near the zoo playground, lets you visit the kangaroos up close, and is great for picture taking. It is adjacent to the popular Lorikeet Landing exhibit that opened in 2007. The comical actions of the colorful lorikeets, which are actually small to medium sized arboreal

parrots, and their comical actions, should be a must-see for every family this year.

If you wish to discuss the support of an existing or new exhibit, or make a contribution to the zoo's endowment fund, please contact zoo director Penny Miller at 304-243-4027 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4027. The Good Zoo proudly welcomes youngsters in the "Access to the Parks" program.

There is an admission fee at the Good Zoo Exhibits Open Mon-Fri 11:00 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sat & Sun 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Seasonal Hours vary, so be sure to call or check the website before traveling)



Upcoming Events

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 Boo at the Zoo
- 23-26 Boo at the Zoo

November 2008

- 5-30 Festival of Lights
- 8-15 Festival of Trees
- 22 Ski Swap Shop at Ski Facility

December 2008

- 1-31 Festival of Lights

Among Friends



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Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

West Spa Opens in Late July at Wilson Lodge

New Endowment Wing to Benefit "Earn to Learn" Program

Although Gary West, and his wife, Flip, enjoy their "semi-retirement home" in Florida, their hearts and community spirit have never left Wheeling, its people and its parks. In late July, during their annual summer visit, the West family will join officials of The Oglebay Foundation and the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) to dedicate the West Spa at Wilson Lodge. A substantial lead gift from the West's made construction of the 12,000 square foot, four million dollar addition possible.

With the opening of the new endowment facility, Gary and Flip West share his enormous success in the business world with visitors to Oglebay and, most importantly, with students from West Liberty State College (WLSC) through the WPC's "Earn to Learn" program.

Snuggled against the hill on the lake side of the lodge, the multi-purpose addition is actually a three-level facility.

The spa is on the 1st level. Six premier guest rooms, five with king-size beds and fireplaces, and a luxurious suite, sit atop the spa. An outdoor patio on the top level, for public use or private parties, can be covered with an awning, if desired. "A nice aspect of the spa addition is that it blends beautifully with the most recent guest room addition that opened in 2006," says Doug Dalby, CEO of the Wheeling Park Commission.

Seven massage rooms are located in the spa. According to Beth Whitehouse, Director of Hotel Operations, who has been working on the project for more than a year, everything that "touches" the guest will be of the highest quality – from granite and water features in every massage room to river rock flooring in the showers. "First time spa-goers will feel a true sense of comfort," says Whitehouse. Other offered amenities will include body scrubs, facials, manicures, and pedicures for both men and women. Therapists will also be

Dear Friends,

This year is turning out to be a unique one as we dedicate the seventh endowment facility at Oglebay. The West Spa complex at Wilson Lodge is an important addition and we heartily thank Gary and Flip West for their generosity that will keep payroll income flowing to deserving young people despite economic ups and downs. The new addition will go a long way to keep the lodge competitive with other fine overnight facilities.

While it is always heartening to read about the large donations to The Oglebay Foundation, please know that all of you who contribute annually to Friends of Oglebay, no matter how large or small, are important and we thank you for caring about the parks. Every donation, every legacy gift, every memorial gift to America's Future Trees or the Maintenance Endowment Fund is important to future generations. It all adds up to a better and more beautiful parks system.

Talking about new facilities is exciting, but it is always good to remind ourselves of the ones that have served us well over the years. A case in point is the W.E. Stone Memorial Pool and clubroom complex at Wheeling Park that turns forty this year. One can only imagine the number of youngsters and families who have enjoyed that fine facility over that span of time. Federal money, through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (Bureau of Outdoor Recreation) made the complex possible, but it was named for the late Wheeling businessman/philanthropist who made Wheeling Park possible, W.E. Stone.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

Barbara Palmer
Newsletter Editor



Oglebay supporters Flip and Gary West

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West Spa Opens in Late July at Wilson Lodge (continued from page 1)

trained to treat the aches and pains of the park's golf clientele.

New Spa is Endowment Facility

Gary West is a proud graduate of West Liberty State College (WLSC) where he and Flip established the Guy H. & Mary Ann West School of Business Scholarship. West's most recent gift to West Liberty funded the installation of artificial turf at the school's football stadium. He is also providing a substantial annual challenge grant for scholarships for West Liberty's football players who major in Business Administration. He also served as chair of the school's first capital campaign which raised in excess of fifteen million dollars, and he serves on the WLSC Foundation Board of Directors. West was inducted into the school's Alumni Wall of Honor in 1993. Given these close ties with his alma mater, West was very amenable to establishing the new spa as an endowment facility to help a new generation of students.



The new West Spa will offer relaxing and therapeutic services including massages, body scrubs, facials, manicures, and pedicures for both men and women.

Net revenues from the West Spa and the six new guest rooms will support the partnership between Oglebay and WLSC called "Earn to Learn." Established in 2006, this program provides much needed staffing for the parks, and assists students who need job and/or work experience in areas close to their respective fields of study. The partnership includes internships, special projects, and part-time employment for students. (This program continues to build on the relationships that have existed because of the close proximity of Oglebay to the West Liberty campus.)

Although Gary West has been an industry leader, exemplary entrepreneur, and has shown a take-charge philosophy throughout his business career, he appreciates the discipline of education and its role in the development of a well-rounded person. "The new facility will impact a lot of students because it will offer them employment opportunities that would not exist without this new stream of funding for the 'Earn to Learn' program," says West. "These revenues will help keep the jobs and experiences coming," he adds.

West Family Has Deep Wheeling Roots

Gary and Flip West's road to philanthropy has been long and steady, filled with volunteerism and fundraising leadership that

rounded out Gary's successful business career and Flip's many associations with local helping groups. Gary got his first taste of entrepreneurship juggling eleven paper routes prior to graduating from Triadelphia High School and West Liberty State College. Flip also attended local schools, graduating from St. Joseph's Academy. The two met at Wheeling Park, but they also reminisce about skating on Schenk Lake at Oglebay where Gary recalls "she was the cutest thing I ever saw on skates."

After marrying, and leaving their hometown briefly, the West's returned to Wheeling in 1970 and Gary proceeded to build a business empire. His biggest success was with Valley National Gases, Inc, which grew to more than 80 locations with sales of 250 million annually. West has since sold Valley Gases, but retains several real estate companies including West Rentals which owns the Stratford Springs development near Oglebay. When you meet Gary these days, one gets the sense that he will always enjoy "doing business" despite the awards and accolades he has won over the years. It's in his nature!

Flip West worked for Station WTRF-TV when it was located in the Ogden Building on Market Street in Wheeling, and many remember her on-camera afternoon show with WTRF legendary anchor Jennings Martin. While raising their daughters, Flip gradually shifted her interests to volunteer leadership and fundraising pursuits. From Girl Scouts to United Way to Cerebral Palsy telethons, Flip has generously given her time and talents to helping others.

During their Wheeling years, the West's spent a lot of time at the parks – there were numerous social events at the Pine Room, fun-filled company picnics, and a Paso Fino named Shane they boarded at the Oglebay stables. Flip also started volunteering for the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the first Wheeling Classic (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) held at Speidel Golf Club in 1974. The loyalty and enthusiasm of these early volunteers helped keep the tournament going for eleven years.

Gary and Flip West now live in Naples, Florida, but retain a home in Wheeling and look forward to their visits with old friends and to the parks. Their two daughters, Kimberly Baker and Lori Sholota, and four grandchildren, live in the Atlanta area. They are proud of their parents' decision to share assets with The Oglebay Foundation through the Spa project. Gary says the decision was simple because it is important for the parks to stay viable. "Because Wilson Lodge plays such an important role in keeping the parks financially strong, the spa will go a long way in helping Oglebay compete with other resort properties," he says.

Timeline of the Parks' Endowment Facilities

Gifts That Keep on Giving

As park development goes, endowment facilities are a rather new concept. The idea that a facility can generate excess revenue to go toward the upkeep of another facility or program became possible about twenty years ago with the re-building of a dozen cottages financed by the Benedum Foundation. When the Benedum cottages were constructed; Ash, Beech, Chestnut, Dogwood, Elderberry, Kalmia, Laurel, Quince, Redbud, Sumac, Tulip, and Ulmus, procedures were set up to utilize 50% of the revenue from their rental for maintenance projects in the parks.

In 2000, the Palmer Signature/Kleives Golf Course also opened as an endowment facility. Although the course was built by and is owned by The Oglebay Foundation, it is leased to and operated by the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC). Excess revenue above operating expenses remains with the Foundation to underwrite administrative costs. This is important because it means that all gifts to The Oglebay Foundation can be used 100% for their intended purpose.

The Palmer Estate House, a spacious cottage built on the site of the former

Hubbard House above Speidel Golf Club, was built through private funds in 2006. Excess revenue from this facility goes toward maintenance and upkeep of the Pine Room complex.

Three 8-bedroom cottages opened on the lower side of Wilson Lodge this summer. Fifty per-cent of the rental income from the May Cottage will benefit the zoo, gardens, and special horticultural features at Oglebay. Under a similar arrangement, revenue from the Hess Cottage and Chambers Cottage will benefit "Access to the Parks," the innovative program that allows youngsters to use park system facilities who otherwise would not be able to use them on a regular basis. The Access program greatly benefits Wheeling Park as many of the children in the program have easier access to that recreational area because of city bus service.

With the opening of the West Spa, The Oglebay Foundation proudly announces the latest endowment facility. If you have an interest in discussing support of an endowment facility, or making a gift to the endowment fund, please contact Randy Worls at 304-243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.

How to Endow an Existing Facility

It is not difficult to endow an existing facility according to The Oglebay Foundation. Depending on the size of the gift you wish to make, there are two options.

1. Fully endowing an existing facility or program is a viable option. For example, in 2001, the late Lloyd C. Newcomer, a Wheeling native, endowed Crispin's No. 1 golf hole in memory of his wife Joan, and their parents. The gift will help maintain the Crispin course and keep rates reasonable for local golfers.

2. If you wish to support the park system's maintenance endowment fund, you can join with others who know their combined gifts will make a difference to future generations by having the funds available to keep facilities well maintained and programs thriving. Whether your gift is current or left as a legacy, you can simply designate it to go to The Oglebay Foundation's Maintenance Endowment Fund.

Endowments are Perpetual • Endowments are Protected • Endowments are Personal

Looking back . . .

Stone Pool and Clubhouse Complex at Wheeling Park Turns Forty



Wheeling Park's popular W.E. Stone Memorial Pool and clubhouse complex, dedicated in 1968 with the pool opening during the 1969 season, fulfilled a pledge by the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) to turn Wheeling's first park into a comprehensive year-round facility. Earl Gaylor, WPC general manager at the time, said that park commissioners recognized the need for major improvements, especially to appeal to city residents who could easily get to the park on the bus line.

"Before the 1960s, only modest improvements were made because of financial constraints," said Gaylor. "Now, with the opening of the ice rink and the Stone pool and clubhouse, Wheeling Park has truly come into its own as a first-class, year-round recreation area." Federal money, through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (Department of Outdoor Recreation) made the pool complex possible, but it was named for the late Wheeling businessman/philanthropist who made Wheeling Park possible, W. E. Stone.