

50 Years Ago...

Glessner Hall, an 8,000 square foot multipurpose room, was added to Wilson Lodge in 1961. Designed to seat up to 500 for dining and 800 theater-style, the facility was anxiously awaited as a meeting place for area groups who sorely missed old Wilson Hall as a social venue. The versatile facility honors the generosity of Martha W. Glessner, sister of charter park commissioner W.P. Wilson.



25 Years Ago...

In 1986 property owned by the late Chester Hubbard, a six-acre site above the Speidel cottages, was purchased by the Parks System Trust Fund because of its contiguous location to the Speidel golf course. An early 19th century farmhouse called "Chimneys" sat in the middle of the property. That fall, the house was transformed into a Decorators' Show House through the efforts of Oglebay Institute's Mansion Museum Committee. This fundraiser helped finance climate control and upgrade storage facilities at the museum. After serving as office space for twenty years, the old structure was razed and the Palmer House executive cottage was erected on the site, a gift of the late Chris Hess.



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10 Years Ago...

Renovations to Wheeling Park's Good Lake were completed for the summer season of 2001. After draining and dredging, which returned the lake to its original depth of seven feet, a Versalok stone retaining wall was erected. A new concrete apron was installed in front of the boathouse, with post lights and hanging baskets placed along the walking paths. Ten new paddle boats and a floating fountain were purchased to add to the ambience.

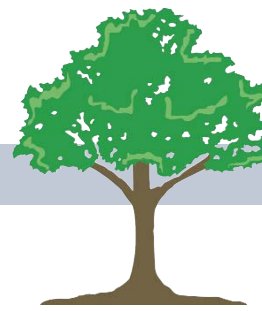


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2011 Upcoming Events

- April**
 22-23 Treasure Hunt at the Good Zoo
 24 Easter Sunrise Service
 24 Easter Buffet at Ihlenfeld Dining Room
- May**
 28-30 Memorial Day Celebration
 8 Mother's Day Buffet at Ihlenfeld Dining Room
- June**
 11-12 Kalkreuth Roofing Golf Classic
 15-19 Senior Tennis Tournament
 25-28 Oglebay Junior Classic Tennis Tourney
- July**
 2-4 Independence Celebration
 3 Fireworks at Schenk Lake
 9-10 Stoney Hollow Men's Golf Amateur
 28-31 West Virginia Open Tennis Tournament
- August**
 19-21 Classic Car Show
- September**
 3-4 Woodcarver's Show at the Pine Room
 3-4 Fort Henry Days - Levenson Shelter
 3-5 Labor Day Weekend Celebration
 4 Wheeling Symphony at the Amphitheater

Among Friends



Spring/Summer, 2011 Vol. 15 No. 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Dear Friends,

The colorful displays of daffodils and tulips and the stocking of Schenk Lake are harbingers of spring, and the gradual opening of our warm-weather recreation facilities means summer is on the way. Traditional events such as the Easter Sunrise Service, Treasure Hunt at the Good Zoo, and the Memorial Day Celebration kick off a year of special events that attracts many thousands of people. We look forward to spring for all these reasons.

Bissonnette Gardens is one of the most visited venues throughout the spring and summer. In this issue of Among Friends we share with you the effort it takes to create a spectacular summer show. The gardens are actually a testament to your generosity. They were renovated largely because of the many financial gifts, large and small, made through the Friends of Oglebay annual campaign and the generosity of parks supporters.

On a sad note, we share news of the recent death of Andrew "Chris" Hess of Wheeling, a staunch parks advocate for many years. Chris and his sister, the late Mary Ann Hess, made major contributions toward the renovation of the Children's Center (Hess Shelter) and Pine Room in the 1990s. In 2006, Chris provided funds to build the Palmer Estate House cottage overlooking Speidel Golf Club. The Palmer House is a true endowment facility because fifty per-cent of its gross revenue goes toward Pine Room maintenance. Chris Hess truly saw the big picture.

We hope you will look at the parks with fresh eyes this year and see the enjoyment that your gifts and support have helped create. For the child who visits the Good Zoo for the first time through the Access to the Parks program or the young man or woman making their first hole-in-one on the Wheeling Park golf course, we thank you for helping create so many memories for so many people.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
The Oglebay Foundation

Philanthropy Assures a Seasonal Festival of Flowers at Bissonnette Gardens



Each season brings its own challenges

A grouping of stately fuchsia standards, a variety called "Black Prince," is by far the most popular plantings in Oglebay Bissonnette Gardens according to Chris Schenkel, chief horticulturalist for the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC). Schenkel has been in charge of selecting the floral mix since the gardens were renovated during the 1990s as the result of hundreds of donations. "Visitors are surprised and delighted when they come upon the spectacular blooms, that resemble small trees, in the flower beds that surround the fountain," Schenkel says.

The staff has been successful in growing the fuchsia plants in a timely fashion; cuttings are done in late summer and, after a ten-month growing season in the greenhouses, they are ready to be planted in late May. The fuchsia standards often grow to over four feet. "We sometimes grow geraniums and lantana into standards as well, but they are more difficult to grow and not as time and cost efficient," says Schenkel.

"We always knew there were colorful flower beds when Earl and Sallie Oglebay lived on the farm," says WPC President Doug Dalby. "However, when the Park Commission took over the property in 1928, it was impossible to afford that kind of maintenance so the gardens declined." The project of restoring the gardens came to the forefront in the late 1980s when philanthropist Cordelia S. May made an initial donation toward their improvement. "Then, Friends of Oglebay supported the project through the annual campaign for several years and we were able to plan the renovation," adds Dalby. (In the late 90s, May made another generous gift in honor of her late friend Joseph F. Bissonnette and the gardens were named for him in 1997.)

Using some old 1909 black and white photos found in the files of retired landscape architect Brooks Wigginton, Andy Barger, planning director/landscape architect for the WPC, drew up the original plans for the decade-long

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Charitable Remainder Trust Can Benefit You and The Oglebay Foundation

Efficient Estate-Planning Tool

Did you know that a Charitable Remainder Trust can be an efficient estate-planning tool if you wish to leave a significant gift to The Oglebay Foundation or another favorite charity? Although a charitable trust might sound mysterious, setting one up can be accomplished with minimal effort with the help of your financial advisor, tax attorney or The Foundation.

“A charitable remainder trust is an arrangement by which property or money can be transferred to the non-profit organization with tax benefits,” says Randy Worls, president

of The Oglebay Foundation. “Income from the trust is provided to you, your spouse or other designated recipients during your and their lifetime,” he adds. This type of charitable gift can be especially helpful if you are holding assets that have experienced significant appreciation like stocks, real estate or a business.

In addition to providing lifetime income, the charitable trust has other benefits: you can combine assets and transfer them as one entity, you may be able to become the trustee and make decisions affecting the trust, and it may

be beneficial that these assets are removed from your estate. Although income you or your heirs receive will be taxable, there may be great tax savings for the trust assets as a whole.

A Charitable Remainder Trust is just one form of planned giving that can benefit The Oglebay Foundation so that Oglebay and Wheeling Park will remain exceptional recreation areas for generations to come. If you would like to discuss this option – or other possibilities large or small – please contact Randy Worls at 304-243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.

America's Future Trees Campaign Moves Steadily Toward Goal

Trees Initiative Will Continue Through 2011



Last summer The Oglebay Foundation announced a campaign to raise \$600,000 through America's Future Trees (AFT) in order to implement a five-year landscaping plan to improve the grounds of Oglebay and Wheeling Park. This campaign honors the memory of the late Brooks Wigginton, the Wheeling Park Commission's first landscape architect. We'd like to report on the success of the endeavor so far.

To date, about \$400,000 has been raised, about two-thirds of the goal. The trees initiative will continue through 2011 so it is not too late to make a donation toward this project. Once the campaign reaches its goal, and the plan for renewal of trees and landscaping and maintenance is started, future donations to AFT will be put into a tree maintenance endowment fund.

This is an ideal way to honor or memorialize a loved one or family. For further information on the Campaign for Future Trees please contact The Foundation at 304-243-4166 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4166. Donations may be sent to: The Oglebay Foundation, Oglebay, Wheeling, WV 26003

Philanthropy Assures a Seasonal Festival of Flowers at Bissonnette Gardens, continued from page 1

restoration. Barger's plan called for development of a three-season flower show unique in its color and beauty. The year begins with about 50,000 colorful tulips and daffodils and continues with the spectacular summer annual display.

Each season brings its own difficulties. Schenkel says that the biggest challenge for the staff is the over-population of deer. “At first we planted large groups of impatiens for their color and ability to spread easily, but we found out quickly that these were deer magnets and had to change our plans,” he says. Chrysanthemums are also favored by deer. The staff uses several kinds of deterrents, including electric fencing and several natural products that provides an offensive odor and taste to the garden predators. Plants and flowers that have been most resistant to damage are lantanas, heliotropes, salvias, and ornamental grasses.

Another popular aspect of Oglebay's summer flower show are the six hundred hanging baskets placed throughout the hilltop area and grounds (some are also hung at Wheeling Park). These beautiful baskets start with bent-steel rod containers, 22” in diameter and 9” deep; they are then lined with moss mats or fiber liners before they receive their colorful contents. The baskets are most



often planted with dracaena surrounded by geraniums and petunias. Seed impatiens are also used at times. Vinca vines planted against the edges of the baskets spill gracefully over the sides. In 2010 staff experimented with begonias, plectranthus, and a petunia and sweet potato vine combination. Staff is always working to increase efficiency and come up with cost-saving measures while producing a flower show that visitors will remember.

Several areas within the 16-acre Bissonnette Gardens, as well as the daffodil beds, have been endowed by friends in honor or memory of loved ones. These generous gifts go a long way toward keeping up with annual planting and maintenance costs. The most recent gift has been made in memory of James D. Drum by his wife, Lois, and son David. This endowment will assure that colorful flower beds will continue to bloom each year. There are still sections of the gardens and special plantings that would make ideal endowment gifts, including the tulip show and the hanging baskets. If upkeep of the Oglebay or Wheeling Park gardens is a project of interest to you, please contact Randy Worls at The Oglebay Foundation, 304-243-4001 or 800-624-6988, Ext. 4001.

Senator Robert C. Byrd

Longtime Friend of the Parks – West Virginian of the 20th Century

Anyone who has worked for or visited the parks over the past half century owes a debt of gratitude to West Virginia's late senior senator, Robert C. Byrd. Senator Byrd passed away on June 28, 2010. Throughout his long career in congress, obtaining funds for economic development projects was his passion and Wheeling's parks were very dear to his heart.

Byrd's assistance dates back to the early 1960s. Since then, the venerable statesman deserves much credit for the successful completion of many modern-day Wheeling Park Commission facilities. In reality, it was a partnership with the people of his home state, for most federal grants were matched by local money.

In May 2001, Senator Byrd was honored as “West Virginian of the 20th Century” by Governor Bob Wise and members of the WV State Legislature.

WPC projects partially funded through the efforts of Senator Byrd include:

- Camp Russel cabin renovations in the early 1960s.
- Appalachian Regional Commission grants for the Good Zoo – 1970s
- Federal grants and loans for the 1980s Wilson Lodge addition.
- Wheeling Park White Palace renovations in the 1980s.
- Good Zoo improvements and Carriage House Glass in early 1990s
- Wilson Lodge training center/special events center in 1996
- Wilson Lodge room addition in 2006



Renovation of the White Palace at Wheeling Park was one of the many improvements made possible by Senator Robert C. Byrd throughout the years.



The Oglebay Foundation – A Short History

When The Oglebay Foundation was incorporated in 1996 it became the major trust vehicle for philanthropic gifts to the Parks. At that time trust funds already in existence, such as the Maintenance Trust, the Oglebay Park Children's Association, America's Future Trees Foundation, and the Friends of Oglebay annual fund, were placed under the Foundation. The one exception is the Parks System Trust Fund, founded in 1945, which will remain in existence as long as there are estate gifts that were designated to that trust prior to 1996.

When trustees of The Oglebay Foundation met for an organizational meeting in February 1996, Robert C. Hazlett was elected chairman. Unlike the Parks System Trust Fund, the new Foundation allows for the appointment of additional trustees beyond the five members of the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) board. Trustees now include: Roland L. Hobbs, Chairman; Wilbur S. Jones, Jr., Vice Chairman; Sue Seibert Farnsworth, Secretary-Treasurer; G. Ogden Nutting; Donald H. Hofreuter, MD; Joseph N. Gompers; Joan C. Stamp; and Gary E. West.

At the time The Oglebay Foundation was incorporated WPC General Manager Randy Worls began to spend more of his time in fund-raising, turning over many of the operational duties to Assistant Manager Doug Dalby. In 1999 the board appointed Worls as president of The Oglebay Foundation and elevated Dalby to head up the WPC. Commissioner Ron Hobbs, then chair, was enthusiastic about the appointments. “With Worls working toward long-term financial stability, and Dalby in charge of operations, we have every hope that our parks will continue to serve the community and beyond well into the future,” Hobbs said.

The underlying advantage of the new Foundation is that it is funded without having to absorb any administrative costs. Purchase of the property on which the Palmer Signature Golf Course was built was the first major project of the Foundation. After Worls raised the first ten million dollars to build the new course, later named for Archibald Klievas, the Foundation leased the property to the WPC and, with that revenue, fund staff and office facilities.

The majority of the facilities that were built or renovated since the late 1990s are the result of generous gifts to The Oglebay Foundation. In 1997 the Foundation adopted a Maintenance Endowment Mission which reads: To provide adequate resources to fund current and future maintenance needs of Oglebay and Wheeling Park. This mission statement further solidified the position held by the WPC since its inception in 1924 that facilities should not be built unless there is a maintenance plan in place.