

Among Friends



Spring 2013, Volume 17 Number 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Dear Friends,

No facility in the parks has been as enduring and popular as the golf course at Wheeling Park. Hundreds of thousands of rounds have been played on the “people’s course” since it opened in 1925. It is fitting, therefore, that Stuart Bloch, from one of Wheeling’s premier golfing families, has endowed the course so future generations will have a chance to enjoy it. The Bloch Memorial Golf Course dedication took place _____.

Another enduring legend, Wheeling’s Phil Maxwell, was honored during Oglebayfest when the popular arts and craft show in the Mansion woods was dedicated as the Artists’ and Gourmet Markets. As a long-time crafts instructor with Oglebay Institute and a mentor to up and coming West Virginia artisans, Phil has made a difference in the lives of many people in our state.

The Foundation is happy to announce the arrival of a new staff member – Eriks Janelins. I look forward to working with Eriks as he understands our mission to keep the parks well-maintained and accessible for future generations. Please contact Eriks or me for information on any size gift to the parks.

Both Oglebay and Wheeling Park will soon be bustling with activity - from the golf courses to the Good Zoo to the swimming pools. Once again, we thank all of you for your generosity to The Oglebay Foundation so that everyone can enjoy our unique park programs and facilities.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, Chairman
The Oglebay Foundation



Bloch Memorial Golf Course Dedicated at Wheeling Park

Wheeling Park’s 88-year old golf course, the “people’s course,” was dedicated as the Bloch Memorial Golf Course on May ___ through the generosity of businessman/philanthropist Stuart F. Bloch. Establishing a generous endowment gift to provide annual improvements for Wheeling’s first public course is a natural way for Stuart to honor and memorialize members of his family for the Blochs have been involved with golf in Wheeling through the generations.

Stuart’s great-great-grandfather, Samuel S. Bloch, a co-founder of Bloch Brothers Tobacco, was also a founder of the Wheeling Highlands Course that became Wheeling Country Club. He learned the game from his grandfather, Jesse, and father, Tom (the latter also served as a charter trustee of the E.W. Oglebay Memorial Fund; this fund started with a gift from Sarita Oglebay Russel and it continues to support activities at Oglebay).

Stuart’s love for the game led him from caddying at local links to the presidency of both the West Virginia Golf Association and the United State Golf Association (USGA). He also learned to appreciate the benefits of this life-time sport. “A golf course like the one at Wheeling Park can suit a person all of his or her life,” he says. “It’s both a good course on which to learn and a fine place to continue playing as a senior citizen.”

“Stuart Bloch’s endowment gift will assure the Wheeling Park course will be well preserved for future generations,” states Randy Worls, chairman of The Oglebay Foundation. “Stuart is a visionary, as shown by his civic volunteerism in many areas, and he appreciates those factors that make our community very livable for residents in all stages of their lives.”

Doug Dalby, CEO of the Wheeling Park Commission, reinforced that endowment gifts such as Bloch’s will assure the continued operation of the historic course and allow user rates to remain as low as possible. “Just as his family enjoyed participating in park activities, Stuart’s wish is that all residents can access golf at well-maintained facilities at a reasonable cost,” says Dalby.

Read more about the history of the Bloch Memorial Golf Course inside!

Bloch Memorial Golf Course Remains as Popular as Year it was Built

Wheeling Park's sporty nine-hole lay-out, now designated as the Bloch Memorial Golf Course, was designed by the late Robert E. "Bob" Biery, the first employee hired by the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC). Park officials did not anticipate a rush to the links, but more than 6,000 rounds were played on the course between its opening on July 1, 1925 and October, when the park closed for the season.

The development of the public courses at Wheeling Park and Oglebay parallels the growth of modern golf in the United States. In 1923, there were less than a million golfers in the country, and most of them belonged to private clubs. By 1930, when the first nine of the Oglebay course opened, there was three times that many, coinciding with and largely due to the popularity of the immortal Bobby Jones.

That the course opened during the first year of operations at Wheeling Park was no small feat. "The ground where the course was built was a jungle," said Biery in a 1991 interview. Biery's crew had to do so much blasting that nearby residents complained to park commissioners. "We blasted the last tree stump at 4:00 a.m. one morning and, luckily, no one heard it," he added. Mule skinnners and three-mule teams were hired from Patterson Construction of Pittsburgh, builders of the famous Oakmont Country Club course, to rough-in the greens.

Biery recalled that golfers were so inexperienced that he had to train caddies in technique and etiquette, and then require every golfer to take a caddie onto the course that first year. "That was not much of a hardship," he explained. "Back then you could play nine holes with a caddy for 50 cents.

There were 18,000 rounds played at Wheeling Park in 2012. Several prestigious tournaments, dating back many decades, take place each year. The men's and women's golf clubs sponsor a full calendar of club events and have assisted with the amateur tournaments and contributed funds toward the development of young golfers.

The WPC honored Bob Biery in 1982 by placing a plaque at Speidel's Hamm Clubhouse to acknowledge his involvement with the golf programs at Wheeling Park and Oglebay over a half-century, designating him as "Wheeling's Legend of Golf." If you or your family have an interest in endowing a hole of golf please contact Randy Worls or Eriks Janelins at the Foundation.



Oglebay Foundation Welcomes Eriks Janelins

Eriks Janelins, former director of the Schrader Environmental Center at Oglebay, has joined the staff of The Oglebay Foundation. Janelins assumed the position of President in early October 2012. "Eriks understands the importance of our parks system to the people of the Wheeling community and beyond," says Randy Worls, Chairman and CEO. "He is excited to be a part of working toward the success of our mission of raising resources to enhance and maintain the facilities and programs at Oglebay and Wheeling Park."

Janelins, a native of Indianapolis with a B.A. from Wabash College, came to Wheeling in 2002 as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and worked on environmental and community development initiatives in West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. In 2003, he was appointed as the first director of the newly-opened Schrader Center, where he developed award-winning educational programs.

Past leadership positions include serving as chair of the Wheeling ON TRAC Design Committee, and he sits on several national, state-wide and community service organization boards. Janelins also founded and chairs the WV Environmental Education Association. He is currently a member of the Blue Pencil Club of Wheeling.

"I'm incredibly lucky to begin this phase of my professional life and accept the challenge of working alongside Randy Worls, a visionary leader who has devoted his entire career to developing Oglebay and Wheeling Park," says Janelins. "I look forward to working with Randy and our loyal donors as we go about the Foundation's mission to keep our parks special for future generations." Eriks credits his parents, both educators, for instilling in him a love of parks, the environment and open space while he was growing up.

SPECIAL SECTION: Why Your Annual Gift to The Oglebay Foundation is So Important

"The importance of making a contribution to the annual fund of the Friends of Oglebay cannot be overstated," says Eriks Janelins, newly-appointed president of The Oglebay Foundation. "First, it keeps you connected to the parks and, secondly, it benefits several worthy programs or is used where it is needed most in the budget," he adds.

When the Friends of Oglebay first annual campaign was conducted in the 1980s, the proceeds



Honoring Phil Maxwell – A Personal Memoir *By Barbara Palmer, Newsletter Editor*

When I heard that Wheeling's Phil Maxwell was being honored at last fall's Oglebayfest, it pleased me immensely. There is no one who has done more to promote and encourage West Virginia artisans than this Wheeling icon who continues to offer his expertise and assistance to the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) and Oglebay Institute whenever he is asked. The WPC honored him in October by naming the annual Oglebayfest craft show the Phil Maxwell Artists' and Gourmet Markets.

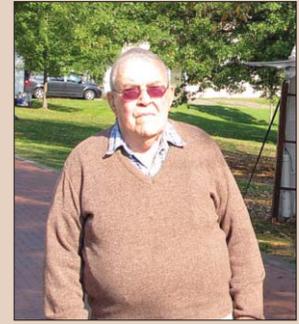
Many of you have known Phil longer than me. A product of Triadelphia High School, he also attended the Penland School of Crafts in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Phil worked as a crafts specialist and teacher (of all mediums) with Oglebay Institute from 1935 until 1986 and then continued part-time until 2009 with just one hiatus; serving in the Air Force during WWII (this is where his love of planes and flying comes from).

Phil Maxwell's many achievements include: being invited by the U.S. Air Force to teach crafts in Europe in the late 1950s; instrumental in founding the Mountain State Arts & Crafts Fair in 1963; induction into the WV Arts & Crafts Hall of Fame in 1996; and organizing the first arts and crafts show at Oglebayfest in 1978. He is a past president of the WV Art & Craft Guild

and provides scholarships for "up and coming" artists and craftsmen at the Oglebayfest show.

I got to know and admire Phil in the 1990s while coordinating craft shows at Oglebay following the opening of Carriage House Glass. As a volunteer, Phil was at my side during all of those events at the Good Zoo, Wilson Lodge and Site 1. The logistics of producing a craft show are complex, but Phil was always there with a calm demeanor to help with any problems that arose. I know that John Hargleroad and his operations staff also appreciated his expertise and loyalty.

So, I say "thank you my friend" for all you have done for the artisans of West Virginia and for Oglebay Institute and the Wheeling Park Commission. Your involvement has helped make Oglebay a special place. "Phil has been such a booster to artists, crafters and gourmet food producers in our state. The naming of the marketplace, one of Oglebayfest's most popular activities, could not have gone to a more deserving person," says Hargleroad.



Letters we Love to Share with You

Oglebay Operations Director John Hargleroad recently received two letters that express appreciation for the Access to the Parks program, the cooperation of the Wheeling Park Commission and the support of The Oglebay Foundation. In turn, the Foundation thanks all of our donors that make these experiences possible for the youth of our community.

Janel Evans, of Wheeling, writes: "Access has allowed my son to do many things at your parks that he otherwise wouldn't get to participate in due to the limited finances of being a single parent. This winter, he has learned to ice skate and snowboard thanks to you. Some people may not acknowledge the awesome privilege that you are providing to our kids, but I, for one, cannot thank you enough for enabling my son and me to make new memories."

Louise Parea, Executive Director of the Children's Home of Wheeling, writes: "We are extremely grateful for your continued support...and quality of life experiences for the young men in our care and in the community." Parea mentions specifically the generosity shown by Wilson Lodge and the operations staff at Schenk Lake "Oglebay Resort is a source of great pride for our state. We greatly appreciate all that you do for the Children's Home of Wheeling," (Clients of Wheeling's youth service organizations are eligible to participate in the Access program.)

were used toward the renovation of Waddington Gardens (now Bissonette Gardens). In 1999, when Access to the Parks was started, most annual gifts went toward this worthy program unless the otherwise specified. The annual campaign has continued to support Access, now in its 14th year of providing unlimited recreational outings for deserving Ohio County youth.

Oglebay Foundation officials hope to increase the number of annual donors and you can help us accomplish this goal by discussing the benefits of membership to your friends:

1. The annual donation may positively affect personal income taxes as a charitable contribution.
2. The donation can be made as an unrestricted gift or can be designated for a specific program or facility.
3. Annual donors receive several newsletters & an Oglebay calendar each year.

Although annual gifts of any amount from \$25 and up are welcome, a donation of \$500 or more that is designated for Access to the Parks may be eligible for a WV State tax credit (see box). For further information to be sent to a friend you may contact the Foundation office at 304-243-4166. Donations may be sent directly to The Oglebay Foundation office.

Some Access Donations Eligible for WV State Tax Credit

If you file West Virginia state taxes, your donation of \$500 or more to The Oglebay Foundation for the Access program may be eligible for a 50% tax credit through WV's Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP). Donors will receive a tax credit voucher that attaches, with a program worksheet, to the appropriate form.

If you have further questions, visit www.wvdo.org/community/nip.html, call 800-982-8297 or contact the Foundation.

Back From Extinction... Dinosaurs Invade the Good Zoo!

Four life-sized, moving and roaring dinosaurs, and one off-spring, arrived at Oglebay's Good Zoo in late March. This unusual exhibit will greet zoo visitors throughout the summer. "The dinosaurs, each fitted with an electric brain, can be discovered in the woods near the Australian Exhibit," says zoo director Penny Miller. "One of the large creatures is non-robotic so kids (of all ages) can sit on it," she adds.

The Good Zoo opened in 1977 through the generosity of Larry and Barbara Good of Wheeling and hundreds of smaller gifts from the community. At first, the zoo consisted primarily of North American animals, but in recent years has changed its mission to include animals from all over the world. If you or your family belong to Good Zoo

Friends (an annual membership), you have unlimited access to Oglebay's zoo and reduced admission for special events. An added incentive includes free or reduced admission at more than 100 other zoos.

For more information and a video about the robotic dinosaurs, visit www.oglebay-resort.com/goodzoo. If you have an interest in funding a future exhibit contact Miller at 304-243-4029.



Summer Calendar of Events

May	25-27	Memorial Day Celebration
June	9	USPTA Tennis Across America USTA Block Party
	8-9	Kalkreuth Roofing Amateur Golf Classic - Crispin Golf Course
	12-16	Senior Tennis Tournament
	21-23	Oglebay Tennis Junior Classic
	29	OVCConnect Zoo Brew at the Good Zoo
July	3-4	Independence Celebration
	3	Fireworks at Schenk Lake & Summer Entertainment Series Performance
	13-14	Stoney Hollow Men's Golf Amateur Speidel Golf Club
	25-28	West Virginia Open Tennis Tournament
	August	24-25
31		Labor Day Weekend Celebration including Woodcarver's Show at the Pine Room; Fort Henry Days - Levenson Shelter

And don't forget about the Sunday Outdoor Entertainment series! For a complete schedule of musical performances, visit www.oglebay-resort.com/summer_ent.htm.

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

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