

## Looking Back...

### 75 Years Ago

1938 was a momentous year at Oglebay; using federal funds and Civilian Conservation Camp men and local laborers, the outdoor swimming pool and Pine Room/clubhouse was officially opened and the back nine of the Crispin Center Golf Course got underway. These were the first major facilities built at Oglebay following the financial collapse that started in late 1929.

### 50 Years Ago

Oglebay's Camp Russel was renovated in 1963; seven modern brick dormitories, with central toilet and shower facilities, replaced deteriorating structures built during the depression years at the youth camp. The extensive improvements were made possible by funds obtained by the late WV Senator Robert C. Byrd from the US Community Facilities Administration. Matching funds came from local donors.

### 25 Years Ago

An elevator was installed at Wheeling Park's White Palace in 1988. Financed primarily through private gifts, this improvement fit in with the commitment of park officials to make the parks accessible to all despite the challenges in renovating historic buildings.

## 2013 Summer/Fall Calendar of Events

### August

- 18 Summer Entertainment Series: A Tribute to Nat King Cole, Location: Anne Kuchinka Amphitheater
- 24-25 Classic Car Show at Levenson Shelter & Site One
- 25 Summer Entertainment Series: Bridges and Friends - Classic and light rock favorites, Location: Anne Kuchinka Amphitheater
- 31 Labor Day Weekend Celebration - Resort-wide entertainment including: Fort Henry Days at Levenson Shelter; Woodcarver's Show at the Pine Room

### September

- 1 Labor Day Weekend Celebration - Resort-wide entertainment including: Fort Henry Days at Levenson Shelter; Wheeling Symphony at the Amphitheater - Music Under the Stars 7-9 pm

### October 2013

- 4-6 Oglebayfest
- 5 Fireworks - Schenk Lake
- 11-13 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo
- 18-20 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo
- 25-27 Boo at the Zoo - Good Zoo

**Coming November 8 - 2013 Festival of Lights begins!**

The Oglebay Foundation • 304-243-4166 • 800-624-6988, ext. 4166 • [www.oglebayfoundation.org](http://www.oglebayfoundation.org)

# Among Friends

Late Summer/Fall 2013, Volume 17 Number 2

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

Dear Friends,

We are excited to tell you about our updated website and increased ability to accept donations online, including monthly sustaining gifts and options for managing your funds. Making a donation to the Friends of Oglebay annual campaign gives everyone a chance to be part of the success of our parks system and it has never been easier to participate.

The Wheeling Park Commission will honor Waltz Night by installing a bronze plaque at the Pine Room to commemorate its 75-year existence. There have been many individuals responsible for the success of this worthy organization and our heartfelt thanks go to each one of them.

Walking trails in the Wigginton Arboretum area were recently resurfaced. In addition, more than 300 new trees have been planted, many in that area, so this is a perfect time to take a stroll through Oglebay. It is easy to park above the Garden Center and enter the Arboretum through the Driehorst Entrance to enjoy the vistas.

As you view the beauty and hear the laughter of children at Oglebay and Wheeling Park this season, take a moment to reflect on the generous contributions that have made it possible. We thank you all.

Sincerely,



Randy Worls, Chairman  
The Oglebay Foundation



## Walking at Oglebay

### Endowment Gifts and Future Trees Campaign Combine to Provide New Plantings for Wigginton Arboretum and Other Sites

Heading into the 4th year of a multi-year plan to add 500 trees to park vistas, several hundred new plantings are ready for visitors to enjoy. Many of these are replacing trees that have completed their lifespan. During the first year, crabapples, dogwoods and hawthorns were replaced. During the second year eighty evergreens of various varieties were planted in the Arboretum and throughout the park. Last year 100 deciduous shade and small flowering trees were added. Each year, assorted native trees, as well as non-natives and ornamentals, were interspersed among the plantings.

"As Oglebay grew," said the late landscape architect Brooks Wigginton, "it always made sense to me that we needed to separate cars and people." Wigginton's vision led to the design and construction of the first section of the Arboretum Trail between Wilson Lodge and the Garden Center/greenhouses in 1973 (partially funded by the Wheeling Civic Garden Center). Additional trails added in 1979, above and around Schenk Lake, were funded by philanthropist Cordelia Scaife May.

The five-year tree planting/tree care campaign, announced by The Oglebay Foundation in 2010, honors Wigginton who was the Wheeling Park Commission's first landscape architect, a position he held for more than forty years. Prior to the start of the Future Trees campaign, the family of Susan B. Wheeler gifted a deluxe endowment cottage in her memory and also funded an extension of the trails between Wilson Lodge and Crispin Center. The walkways were designated as the Susan Wheeler Walking Trails System because fifty per-cent of the net revenue of the Wheeler Estate House is designated for trails maintenance.

*Read more about the new plantings inside!*

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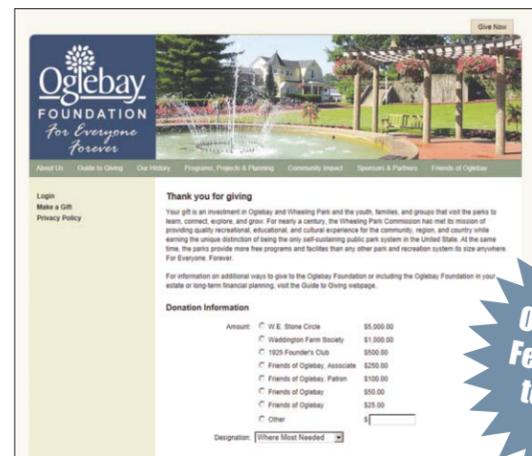
## Importance of Friends of Oglebay Annual Campaign

The contributions of many people have always been important in the growth of Wheeling's parks; old Wheeling Park opened to the public after dozens of citizens followed W.E. Stone's lead and donated toward the purchase; the Good Zoo was built with the donations of hundreds after a significant initial gift by the Laurence Good family; the Access to the Parks program is primarily funded by modest donations to the Friends of Oglebay annual fund. It is for these reasons that your annual gift, added to the gifts of others, is so important. Currently, most unrestricted annual fund donations go toward the Access program.

"Access to the Parks is unique in the recreation field," says Eriks Janelsins, president of The Oglebay Foundation. "One cannot name another community that offers admission to as many recreation facilities to youngsters who cannot afford the fees as the Access program," he adds. "You have wholeheartedly supported this program through your annual donations for fourteen years because you love the parks and want children in the Wheeling area to have the same memorable experiences."

Please visit The Oglebay Foundation website to explore the changes. The site will allow you to make your annual contribution on-line if you wish. You can also set up sustaining donations on a regular

basis, make your gift in honor or memory of family or friends or inform us of a company match. In addition, you will be able to track your donations. Whether your gift is large or small, we hope you will find our improved website both informational and easy to use.



**On-line Giving Feature Added to Website!**

## OPCA Program Continues to Serve Wheeling Children

The Oglebay Park Children's Association (OPCA), a program that brings Wheeling youth between the ages of 7 and 12 to the parks one day a week in the summer, has operated continuously for more than sixty years. Originally started by a group of Wheeling businessmen in 1950, the day camp is a joint venture between the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) and the City of Wheeling Recreation Department.



After registering, the youth are picked up by the Oglebay Trolley at designated stops, mostly at playgrounds, according to a weekly schedule. Youngsters bring their bathing suit and lunch (a non beverage is provided). The WPC provides a director and over-all supervision and the City provides the camp counselors. Activities are scheduled at both Oglebay and Wheeling Park Monday through Friday.

For information on OPCA, Access to the Parks or any of our youth programs – or to learn how to support one of them – please contact The Oglebay Foundation.

## Walking at Oglebay (Cont'd from page 1)

Several endowments have been created by people who love to walk at Oglebay; a recent example are the flower beds endowed in memory of James D. Drum, a long-time Wheeling resident who walked at Oglebay every evening in his later years. Although the family no longer lives in Wheeling, the memories of their Oglebay experiences are strong. Foundation Trustee Joe Gompers believes he knows why so many people love walking at Oglebay. "It provides a great workout in a very enjoyable environment".

Although most people have always assumed that walking in fresh air is healthy, a pilot study done at the University of Edinburgh was reported on recently in a *New York Times* article. By using portable EEG technology, the study shows that taking a break by "...going for a walk in a green space..." has a restorative effect and helps with attention fatigue and stress recovery.

Next year there will be fifty more assorted trees planted throughout Oglebay and more than forty evergreen and deciduous trees planted at Wheeling Park. The final phase of the project calls for trees to be planted on the golf courses. About \$475,000 has been raised to date for the trees campaign. Another \$200,000 is needed to finish the project. Donations of any amount can be made to America's Future Trees Campaign, c/o The Oglebay Foundation. Foundation officials are also hoping to raise a \$1.5 million dollar endowment, by gift or estate plan, to sustain this project in future years. If you wish to discuss the establishment of an endowment project for future tree care and plantings, please contact Randy Worls at the Foundation.

## Funds Sought to Renovate Wheeling Park Playground

The much-used children's playground at Wheeling Park is in need of a major renovation and Oglebay Foundation officials are hoping a donor or sponsor will soon be found to help finance the repairs and facelift. This popular spot was first renovated by the Arthur C. Stifels and dedicated as the Stifel Playground in May, 1948. The Stifels (he was a park commissioner from 1925 to 1952) also continued their generous support by financing a major renovation at the playground in 1966.



In addition to several new play pieces, the plan calls for new safety surface under all play structures. The shelter/restroom building will be painted/stained, the restrooms will be renovated to comply with American Disability Act (ADA) requirements and the sandbox will be removed. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$200,000. The J.B. Chambers Foundation has granted \$50,000 and \$100,000 has been secured from a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant. This leaves \$50,000 to be raised locally.

"The Stifel playground is the most visited recreation facility in the city, attracting thousands of children each year," says Foundation President Eriks Janelsins. "They gather at the play area from the surrounding picnic sites and day camps and in the evenings when parents enjoy relaxing on nearby benches," he adds.

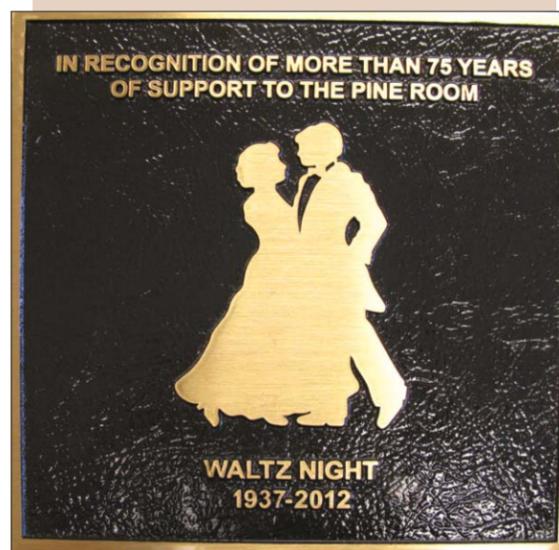
When the renovation is accomplished, new benches will be added to the playground area and they can also be sponsored through The Oglebay Foundation's Bench Endowment Project. Contact Janelsins or Randy Worls at the Foundation if you wish to discuss support of the Wheeling Park Playground project.

## Seabright Memorial Fund to Benefit Good Zoo's Docent Program

Joan Seabright was the Good Zoo's first docent (volunteer) coordinator when the facility opened in 1977. She continued her involvement as a volunteer for many years. After her death in 2012, Joan's family established the Seabright Memorial Fund to help strengthen the program she cared about so deeply. The fund was established by her children and matched by the Coca-Cola Company.

"Youth volunteers are very important to a zoo program because of the complexity of animal care and education demands," says Vickie Markey-Tekely, coordinator of education. "Mrs. Seabright interviewed me when I first volunteered at age twelve and I remember how much at ease she made me feel." Docents, especially teens, benefit from the program in many ways. They develop public speaking skills, gain experience working with animals and people, make new friends and improve their knowledge of the sciences. It is an excellent opportunity for those interested in zoo, veterinary or animal-related careers as well as teaching.

Currently, the staff trains and supervises more than 100 young people annually; since the program began, staff has trained more than 1,400 teens to become docents. If you have an interest in supporting volunteer or educational programs at the zoo you can send a check in any amount to The Oglebay Foundation. If you have an interest in sponsoring another project or setting up an endowment, please contact director Penny Miller at 304-243-4027.



## Plaque to Commemorate Waltz Night's 75 Year History

When local enthusiasts organized Waltz Night in 1937, originally to raise funds for the summer symphony concerts, it is doubtful that any of them imagined the dances would span three-quarters of a century. This enduring social club, in its later years renamed Formals at Oglebay, will be honored by the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) by the installation of a bronze plaque at the Pine Room, the site of many of its formal dances over the span of seventy-five years.

Waltz Night/Formals is a prime example of a special-interest group that has assisted in the presentation of programs, and the upkeep and renovation of facilities in the parks system. The organization, along with about twenty other groups working with the WPC, has added to the rich diversity of recreational experiences available at Oglebay and Wheeling Park.

Using excess proceeds of about \$300,000 over the years, Waltz Night has provided drapes, backdrops, stage carpeting, floodlights, tables and chairs, holiday decorations and has participated in the financing of thermal-pane windows, rest-room renovations and air-conditioning. The plaque recognizes and gives permanence to the contributions of these loyal park supporters.