

# Among Friends



Spring 2014, Volume 18 Number 1

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

## Spring Has Sprung at Oglebay!



### Oglebay Clubhouse Creates Stately Background for Flower Beds

**At present, The Oglebay Foundation office is located in the building, but over the years it has served a variety of purposes.**

The yellow building with the wide front porch and pillars that sits between the Mansion Museum and Wheeling Civic Garden Center has been around since Waddington Farm days. It creates a stately background for the flower beds that surround it during three seasons of the year. At present, The Oglebay Foundation office is located in the building, but over the years it has served a variety of purposes.

Originally a barn, Earl Oglebay remodeled the structure to create comfortable guest quarters for the many visitors to Waddington Farm during the summer months. Called the "clubhouse," it featured a large recreation room on the first floor; old pictures show game tables, oriental rugs and hunting "trophies" hung on the walls. The clubhouse also had five bedrooms, two baths and a breakfast room, complete with kitchenette, on the second floor.

After Waddington Farm became Oglebay, the clubhouse was put to good use: Music programs for the public were held on the wide veranda/porch as early as 1929 (before the outdoor theatre was built). Visiting staff were probably housed in the building during the summer season if the bedrooms in the mansion house were full. Permanent rest rooms were added to the lower back of the clubhouse after the outdoor theatre was constructed in 1938. After Wilson Hall (the old dairy barn) burned down in 1945, the park's restaurant, open during the summer months, was relocated to the building.

*(Cont'd on page 7)*



Dear Friends,

The spring season, when it stays light longer, is a favorite for many of our visitors for they can start walking through the gardens and on the trails after the long cold winter. Golfers can once again take to the links and tennis players can move outdoors. There is so much beauty to admire in these West Virginia hills and I hope you will visit us often this season.

We want to thank all of you for your support throughout 2013. You are the reason our parks are so beautiful in the spring – and all year. You have helped to make Wheeling’s parks what they are today and you continue to contribute so that everyone can enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Randy Works, Chairman  
The Oglebay Foundation

**Make a gift to Oglebay Foundation**  
**Visit [www.oglebayfoundation.org](http://www.oglebayfoundation.org)**  
**or call 304-243-4166**



## Easter Sunrise Service Longest-Running Special Event

### Cooperative Effort between Wheeling Park Commission and Oglebay Institute

Oglebay’s Easter Sunrise Service began in 1929, more than a decade before the outdoor theater was built, and was organized by the park’s Vespers Committee. Since then, the spring event, a model of coordination and cooperation between the Wheeling Park Commission and Oglebay Institute, has been held annually either in the Anne Kuchinka Amphitheatre or occasionally, inclement weather has forced the service inside.

#### 86th Annual Easter Sunrise Service

**Date:** April 20 Time: 7 AM

**Location:** Kuchinka Amphitheatre

*(Inclement weather site: Crispin Center Pine Room)*

Call 304-243-4000 for additional information

For many years the former Wheeling Area Council of Churches played an active role in the planning of the service. In recent years, Habitat for Humanity, Laughlin Chapel and the Ohio Valley Ministerial Alliance have volunteered to assist with coordination under the leadership of John Hargleroad (Oglebay Director of Operations) and Katie Crosby (Oglebay Institute Director of Performing Arts).

The 86th annual Easter Sunrise Service is scheduled for April 20 at 7:00 a.m. in the Kuchinka Amphitheatre. Inclement Weather site is the Crispin Center Pine Room. For more information, call 304-243-4000.

The late Don Daniels captured the spirit of this traditional event in his *Wheeling News-Register* “Time Out” column in April 1965. An excerpt follows:

#### I Wish I Could Write You a Sonnet

It was a wet morning and cold. And the bus crawled up the hill to Oglebay like it would prefer coming down. Little tired rays of sunshine attacked the windows and...a wildly independent drop of rain would come splashing... and die in heroic majesty against the glory of the windshield.

The trees sang Ave Maria and if the leaves were wet it was with the tears of God.

Above this unbelievable place the sun played hide-and-seek in the sky and if you watched closely you could see one hill nudge another... and the one hill would say to the other, “We got a pretty good crowd, hey?”

I must humbly admit that I cannot begin to describe for you the wondrous beauty of our Grand Valley. Can you tell me the words? Can you tell me magnificent, wonderful, grand, beautiful?

These words don’t begin to say why I cry when I see this place. When I walk on an Easter morning through the wet grass and see a six-year old sitting on a cement toadstool...I just don’t know the words and I am sorry for that.

Many of you, a couple of thousand or more, were at Oglebay Easter morning and you did all the proper things... Did you look around you, citizen? Did you allow the hills to enfold you? Did you accept with eager lips the kiss of beauty? Did you kneel at all before the Grand Land? Did you drink the heady wine of spring?

In the great wonder of this place, in the sun and the rain and the startling perfume of the land, did you bow your head and pray, citizen?

## For Everyone Forever: Endowment Funds provide for the Future

Oglebay and Wheeling Park have a long history as international leaders in private fund development for the support of a public park system. Since December 1924, friends from near and far have invested generously to support, develop, and endow Oglebay and Wheeling Park and their outstanding recreation facilities, landscapes, and programs. Many of these contributions have resulted in the naming of a facility to memorialize and honor a loved one or family.

The permanent endowment funds that are established to provide for the sustaining maintenance are as important as the funds needed to construct a new park facility. Both Oglebay and Wheeling Park have endowments in place that have been gifted by individual donors or funds established through a campaign comprised of many families focused on a specific facility or program.

You can establish an endowment fund with a current gift, through a bequest in your will, or through a charitable trust. Here are three specific reasons.

### ❖ Endowments are Perpetual

Like the Energizer bunny, endowment funds keep going and going. By making an endowment gift, you are leaving an enduring statement of your support. When you make an endowed gift, your contribution is invested and an annual distribution is made for the purpose you designate. Because the principal remains intact, the fund will generate support in perpetuity.

### ❖ Endowment Funds are Protected

Endowment funds held by The Oglebay Foundation are invested and managed separately from operating and capital fund accounts. Established endowment funds given for a specific purpose are carefully stewarded by The Oglebay Foundation staff and kept securely.

### ❖ Endowments are Personal

While many endowment gifts are added to the existing Oglebay Foundation endowment fund, you may want your gift to both honor a family member and benefit a specific program or facility. The Oglebay Foundation is able to offer you the flexibility to personalize your gift and ability to target your gift for lasting impact.

The Oglebay Foundation has developed strong fiscal policies for creating and managing endowment funds. We will be happy to discuss these in confidence with you. Contact Randy Worls or Eriks Janelsins at the Foundation office at **304-243-4166**.

## Naming Opportunities Program

Add your name to the Oglebay and Wheeling Park story through the establishment of a permanent endowment. Oglebay and Wheeling Park are filled with iconic facilities that attract visitors from around the globe and provide the local community with the best recreational amenities anywhere. A naming gift leaves a legacy in the Ohio Valley region for decades to come. Please contact The Oglebay Foundation to discuss gift planning and specific naming opportunities.



## News & Notes from the Clubhouse



*The Christian Science Monitor* referred to Oglebay as "A national prototype of regional resources for human renewal

through recreation." For me, spring is the season when I need the power of the parks. After a long winter that started early and never wanted to end, I seek the renewal each spring that happens during a long bike ride through Oglebay, after sitting among the flowers reading a book, or while flying a kite in the observatory field.

The parks are awakening for the season. Our outdoor facilities are opening one by one and the first flower show of the year is in bloom. While I hope to see you in the parks this spring as you seek the physical and health benefits of our facilities and programs, I also hope that you will make it a point to introduce someone new to Oglebay- take a grandchild fishing for the first time, enlist a friend to walk the arboretum trail, explore the park through geocaching, and go back in time with the dinosaurs at the Good Zoo.

If you have not had a chance to see our newly re-designed website ([www.oglebayfoundation.org](http://www.oglebayfoundation.org)), this is a good time to visit. The various sections will introduce you to the areas that most need your support, and we now provide an easy way to make a gift online once a year or on a recurring basis. If you have a special area of interest you would like to support through a planned gift, please contact me; your continued support is greatly appreciated. For Everyone Forever.

Eriks Janelsins, President and CEO  
The Oglebay Foundation

Contact Eriks at [ejanelins@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:ejanelins@oglebay-resort.com)  
Make a gift to support The Oglebay Foundation today. Visit [support.oglebayfoundation.org](http://support.oglebayfoundation.org)



## Spring Brings Tulips and Daffodils

Although spring comes slowly and reluctantly to the Appalachian range in northern West Virginia, the grey of winter is replaced in late March and April by the vibrant colors of 200,000 tulip and daffodil blooms at Oglebay and Wheeling Park. And, the silence of quiet snowfalls is soon replaced by songs of the migrating birds.

A signature scene for spring in the parks are the daffodils that dot the hillsides. The daffodils show was endowed in 2001 by Cynthia Goad and Margaret Anne Mayerich in honor of their mother, the late Bessie Anderson Miller of Weirton, who loved the gardens at Oglebay. When the trust was established through the Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley, Chris Schenkel, Oglebay Director of Horticulture, said "This means that the funds are there for many years to maintain the daffodils and address the attrition of plants we have every year and expand the plantings into new areas in the parks."

Come walk the paths of the Bissonnette Gardens and Wigginton Arboretum to view the colorful and unique tulip and daffodil varieties; the professional horticulture staff in the Palm Room will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## Wheeling Park Playground Renovations Underway

The Wheeling Park Commission is renovating the Stifel Playground at Wheeling Park through the input of local nonprofit partners to increase accessibility, improve safety, and add additional structures that combine education and recreation. Completion is scheduled for late spring. "Improvements will be both practical and aesthetic," says Andy Barger, director of planning for the Wheeling Park Commission. "We are renovating both sides of the play area as well as the shelter."

Long a favorite warm-weather spot for Wheeling families, the original playground was renovated with a gift from the A.C. Stifel family and was dedicated as the Stifel Playground in May 1948. Mr. Stifel was a charter member of the Wheeling Park Commissioner and served as secretary-treasurer at the time.

The playground is divided into two areas; one for toddlers to 5 years of age and the other for ages 6-12. The sandbox and several pieces of old equipment will be removed from the toddler side and three new spring-rides, a toy motorcycle and two animals, will replace them. Three free-standing pieces that play music will be added and the remaining structures will be repainted.

Two new pieces of equipment, one to improve gross motor skills and balance and a swing set with two disability-accessible seats (ADA), will be added on the 6-12 year old side and all remaining pieces will be painted. The safety surface of the entire playground (10,000 square feet) will be removed and replaced.

The small wood shelter, originally called the "mother's building," will receive a new roof, be re-stained and the bathrooms will become ADA-compliant, single-use facilities. "Everything we are doing is in compliance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission with a focus on safety and accessibility," says Barger.

Funding for the playground renovation is provided through a \$100,000 grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund matched by grants from local foundations including the J.B. Chambers Foundation and the Larch Foundation. You can add your name to Stifel Playground renovation through a gift to endow one of the seven benches to be installed surrounding the playground. In exchange for your permanent endowment gift of \$2,500, the Foundation will attach a bronze plate on the back of the bench with your choice of wording. **Contact Eriks Janelsins at the Foundation office if you have an interest in this opportunity. It is a unique way to honor a loved one on a special anniversary.**





## Major Renovations in Progress at Speidel's Jones Course

The Robert Trent Jones Sr. course at Speidel has welcomed golfers for more than four decades; it was the first course constructed at Oglebay in the modern era. Major renovations started in 2012 are continuing at the popular course as weather permits and are scheduled for completion over the next two years. They include

- Reconstruction of bunkers
- Complete renovation of #17 green
- Repaving of cart paths and the entry road
- Construction of restrooms on both the front and back nine

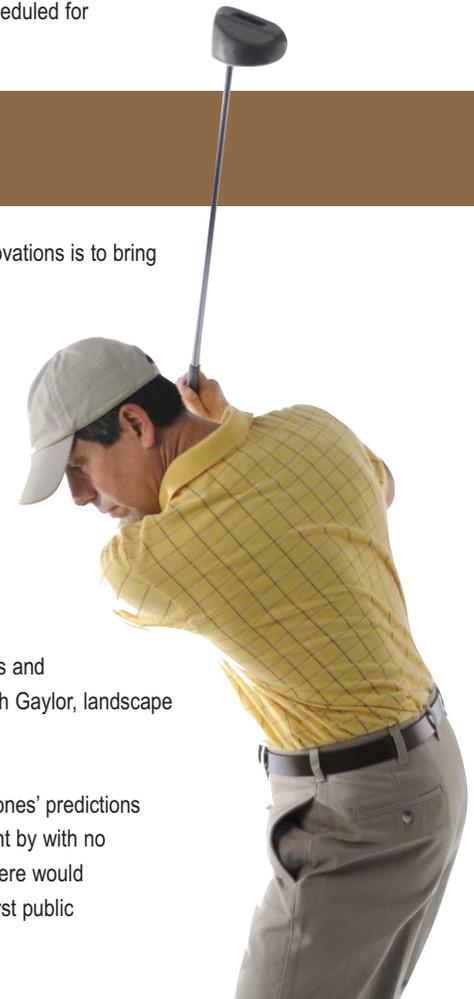
Long term plans call for the replacement of the irrigation system. Golf Director Rico Coville says, "The purpose of the renovations is to bring the bunkers closer to their original size and shape, along with allowing them to drain more efficiently and play better to the golfer."

Ron Kirby, a member of Jones' staff when the course was built, is the architect and consultant on the project. Kirby, who now has his own company, has developed a top-notch reputation over the more-than-fifty years he has been involved in golf course design around the world. He has maintained many friendships in Wheeling. In 2003, Kirby was elected a "fellow" in the American Society of Golf Course Architects, the highest distinction the professional organization bestows.

### Jones Course at Speidel First to Open in Modern Era

When Oglebay's master plan was updated in 1962, a new golf course was shown on the 300-acre site encompassing the Speidel/JoBetty Farm property. "It was our hope and dream to build a championship golf course," said former General Manager Earl Gaylor. In the mid-1960s renowned architect Robert Trent Jones was chosen as course designer, and Jones and his staff visited Oglebay to do preliminary design work. Then, Jones' assistant Ron Kirby took over and worked closely with Gaylor, landscape architect Brooks Wigginton and Randy Worls from the staff, and local golf enthusiast Tom Bloch.

Jones described the layout as "an easy bogey, hard par course, designed to make a golfer use his whole bag of clubs." Jones' predictions came true when several years of the Stone and Thomas tournament, which included the Ohio Valley's best amateurs, went by with no sub-par champions. The front nine of the Speidel/Jones course opened in June 1970, the second nine in late 1971, but there would be several more years of development and landscaping at the "monster course" on the hill. The Speidel project was the first public course designed by Jones' firm.



## The Amazing Raise: Support The Oglebay Foundation May 6

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the community foundation movement, Americans from coast to coast will be participating in a day of giving to support local nonprofit agencies. The Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley has coordinated The Amazing Raise Ohio Valley – an exciting, online giving event that will empower people to come together and raise significant funds over a 24 hour period.



On May 6, visit [www.GiveOV.org](http://www.GiveOV.org), select The Oglebay Foundation from the list of participating organizations, make a gift, and your gift will be matched from both local and national sources.



## Frightful Winter Weather Remains Delightful for Park Guests

The success of the programs and special events during the winter months at Oglebay and Wheeling Park is thanks to the thousands of you that make generous contributions and sponsorship gifts. The operating costs to provide these unique programs and maintain these exceptional facilities is significant; only through your support and future endowment gifts will Oglebay and Wheeling Park remain as the region's center for winter fun.



### Wheeling Park Memorial Ice Rink: Ice Skating & Hockey Tradition Continues

The Memorial Ice Rink ended its successful season on March 9. "We had more than 20,000 admissions of youth and adults who enjoyed the public ice skating this winter," says Mike Potts, director of Wheeling Park operations. In addition, the Wheeling Figure Skating Club and Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association continue to provide structured instruction, training, and competition for local youth. From hosting major high school and college tournaments to Tim Bits practices (ages 4-6), the Ice Rink is filled with skaters 15 hours a day during the winter months.



### Nutting Winter Sports Complex: Record Breaking Recent Ski Season

The 2013-2014 ski season will go into the record books as one of the longest in recent history. A combination of long periods of cold weather, state of the art snow making technology, advanced grooming equipment, and a dedicated team of Oglebay employees who worked day and night equaled 97 days of skiing - the most since downhill skiing was reestablished in 2004. New popular additions to the terrain park were installed prior to the November opening.



### Festival of Lights: Visitors Pay It Forward

*Wheeling Intelligencer* reporter and columnist Linda Comins reported in the January 12, 2014 issue: "Sources tell us that one night during the Winter Festival of Lights at Oglebay Park, the occupants of a car viewing the light show approached the donation booth in the park, gave the suggested donation to the booth attendant, then paid the charge for the vehicle in line behind them. We're told that the idea caught on, with festival-goers continuing to "pay it forward" for the next 51 vehicles traveling through the Oglebay line!"



## Tennis at Oglebay & Wheeling Park

### Jeremy McClelland Returns Home as Tennis Pro

Hoping to give back to the community that nurtured him and where he learned his basic tennis skills, Wheeling's Jeremy McClelland returned home in January to become tennis professional for the Wheeling Park Commission. The new pro hopes to honor the rich tennis tradition at both parks by continuing and improving opportunities for adults and by being a trusted teacher and mentor to youth who wish to learn the game and improve their skills. "We share Jeremy's excitement about the future of tennis at Wheeling Park and Oglebay," says Wheeling Park Commission President/CEO Doug Dalby.

McClelland has an accomplished background in both competition and instruction. While playing for Duquesne University from 2006 to 2010, McClelland served as captain and amassed 143 wins, second most in Duquesne tennis history. Some of his honors include: 5-time West Virginia Men's Open Singles Champion, 3-time West Virginia Men's Doubles Champion, and 2011 United States Tennis Association (USTA) Men's Indoor Doubles Champion. In 2012, McClelland was inducted into the Wheeling Park High School Athletic Hall of Fame.



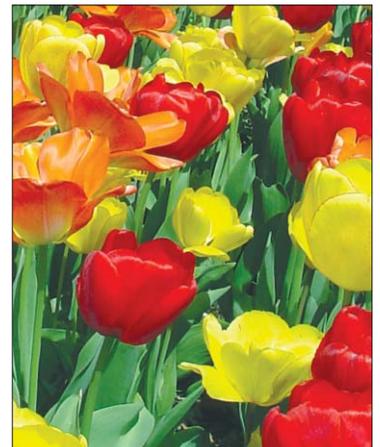
A member of the USTA, McClelland has extensive experience teaching both private lessons and group clinics in the western Pennsylvania area. He also spent three summers as an instructor with the award-winning Andy Findlay's Intense Tennis Camp. Plans for Summer Fun Camps for elementary and middle school youth of all skill levels will begin in mid-June. Information can be found by visiting [www.oglebay-resort.com](http://www.oglebay-resort.com) or by calling McClelland at 304-243-4039.

### Oglebay Clubhouse Creates Stately Background for Flower Beds *(Cont'd from page 1)*

In 1957, coinciding with the opening of Wilson Lodge, the clubhouse was renovated and winterized in order to house the national headquarters of the American Institute of Park Executives (AIPE), a prestigious international organization of park and recreation professionals at all levels of government. AIPE chose Oglebay over twenty other bids. Seminars and conferences sponsored by the group led to the establishment of several professional schools that still bring much business to the resort-park. (In 1966, AIPE merged with five other organizations to form the National Recreation and Park Association and most of the staff moved to Washington, DC.)

Oglebay Institute moved its headquarters into the clubhouse in 1966 and remained there until 2005 when the arts organization moved its executive offices into the former Stifel Mansion on the National Road in the Dimmeydale section of Wheeling. (The Institute received the Stifel Mansion as a gift from the Stifel family in the 70s and opened it as a center for creative and performing arts in 1978.)

The Oglebay Foundation moved into the clubhouse in 2006 after the Hubbard House, which served as its office, was razed for the building of the Palmer Estate House. The Oglebay Clubhouse is one of several unnamed buildings that would benefit from the establishment of an endowment fund for its maintenance and upkeep. If you have an interest in learning more about this opportunity, or any other endowment/naming project in the parks, please contact the Foundation staff.



# News and Upcoming Events at the Good Zoo

## New Dinosaur Exhibit Roars to Life

A Stegosaurus and his dinosaur friends will delight zoo visitors this spring and summer, as the popular theme continues with all new dinosaurs that roar to life on March 29. The Stegosaurus will be painted in the colors and pattern designed by the winner of the zoo's "What Color Were Dinosaurs" contest for area school children. The exhibit runs through the summer and goes extinct after Labor Day.



## Good Zoo Easter Treasure Hunt April 18 & 19

This popular activity has entertained children for many years. Dates for the Easter Treasure Hunt are Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19 from 10 AM - 4 PM. Participants receive a map and Easter basket and, because the hunt is non-competitive, even toddlers can join in the fun. Magician Eric Meyers will present three shows both afternoons. There is a fee of \$4 per child for Good Zoo members; otherwise regular zoo admission rates are in place.

## Wildlife Travel Planned for Late 2014 and 2015

If an adventurous trip to the Galapagos Islands or a photographic safari to Tanzania is on your "bucket list," your time may have come; Good Zoo director Penny Miller has announced that zoo staff will escort trips to the volcanic islands off the west coast of South America (Galapagos) in early November, 2014 and to the east African country of Tanzania, home of the Serengeti National Park, in November, 2015. You can obtain further information about both destinations by visiting [www.oglebay-resort.com/goodzoo](http://www.oglebay-resort.com/goodzoo) where you will find links to informational packets on each of the two trips. If you have additional questions or are interested in traveling with the group, please contact Penny Miller at 304-243-4027.

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

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