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President's Corner



This season of gratitude is extra special for me as I've had the privilege to get to know many of our volunteers in my role as President. Within the first few weeks of joining the board in 2018, I saw how passionate our board members are about our treasured gardens. But it wasn't until I became President earlier this year that I saw the same level of dedication among our Foundation volunteers.

They've inspired me to start working at our Gift and Garden Shop, co-chair the annual Garden Party, participate in membership council discussions and become webmaster of our newly launched Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation website. A big part of my current role is simply to listen. Our volunteers have so much collective knowledge of the Gardens and are constantly thinking of new programs and initiatives both for the park and for our Foundation members. That level of passion never waivered, even during the toughest months of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you've ever thought about becoming more engaged with our foundation through volunteering, I encourage you to reach out.

I hope you have a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season. Thank you for your membership and I hope to see you soon at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark!

Jessica Wagner

Jessica Wagner, Foundation President

Reciprocal Admissions

by Mary Gordon

A Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation membership will let you explore new gardens across the United States and it's all free thanks to your annual support!

Armed with their membership cards, Wegerzyn Please continue to support Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation members Mark & Jill Gordon took off on a cross-country journey from Dayton, Ohio. far your membership can get you! Destination: Los Angeles. Their long days in the car meant much needed exercise at each stop. A well-planned trip made it possible to visit new botanical gardens at several stops without paying normal admission fees. During their cross-country trip, Mark & Jill visited four botanical gardens in Oklahoma, Texas, and California, saving nearly \$90 in admission fees. Through the past five years as Foundation members, the Gordons have visited many botanical gardens for free in Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Florida, and even a few in Ohio.

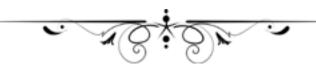


So how does it work?

Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation is a member of the American Horticultural Society. Every year, AHS updates its list of reciprocal gardens. Wegerzyn Foundation pays to be included on the list. Your

membership at any of the 354 AHS reciprocal gardens will get you into the others free! Of course, there are some exceptions—most places require you to be more than 90 miles from your home garden. However, other gardens get you other perks like gift shop discounts or free parking.

Foundation by joining as a member and see how



Making Connections

By Mary Gordon

This past summer, Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation members who braved the heat were rewarded with special garden knowledge courtesy of Five Rivers MetroParks staff. The event was called "What's in Bloom in June." Education coordinator, Betty Hovel, lead the group through the garden, sharing her tips and advice on growing the plants you'll find at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark in your own yard.

Make sure to renew your membership annually for your invitation to more behind-the-scenes tours!



Fall Family Adventure

by Mary Gordon

Fall/Winter 2022

Families once again filled Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark for the annual Fall Family Adventure event (previously known as Spooky Evening in the Garden).

Gardens Wegerzyn Foundation contributed to the success of the Fall Family Adventure held Saturday, October 8 at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Families who

attended the annual fall event were treated to art activities, entertainment, and a seasonal snack.

Tables for craft-making filled the Children's Discovery Garden. Live music and a magician kept the crowd entertained. Those who were brave enough also had the chance to hold

live spiders and earn a prize. Children received a take-home goodie bag with additional nature activities.

Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation helped fund this year's event, made possible because of memberrship and donations to the Foundation.



by Jessica Wagner

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of Wegerzyn Gardens!

Originally called the Benjamin Wegerzyn Horticultural Center, it became part of Five Rivers MetroParks in 1995. We're looking forward to folding our 50th birthday into our annual events, like the September Garden Party.



The Board is looking for volunteers to lead anniversary-related events, articles and communication. We need someone to pull together the major highlights of the Gardens over the last 50 years to share on social media, articles to the Foundation membership and working closely with council chairs to incorporate some of those milestones throughout our regularly scheduled events or initiatives.

If you are interested, please message Jessica Wagner at jessica.mae.wagner@gmail.com.



In the News!

Spectrum News 1 did a story about the Garden Party and the Foundation's support following the 2019 tornadoes and through the pandemic. Click the link to watch: **Spectrum 1 News Story**We've had a busy summer at the Gift & Garden Shop. We've recruited and trained several new volunteers, adopted a new internet-based system to replace cash register and credit card equipment,





Bus Trips

by Mary Gordon

This year, Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation Bus Trips visited garden attractions and shops in Richmond and Wayne County, Indiana and Johnston Farm and Indian Agency. The final trip of 2022 in December will take visitors to historic homes in Lebanon and Waynesville. Plans are underway for more exciting trips in 2023.



Gift & Garden Shop

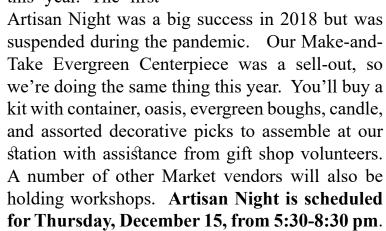
by Carol Self

We've had a busy summer at the Gift & Garden Shop. We've recruited and trained several new volunteers, adopted a new internet-based system to replace cash register and credit card equipment, and are restocking and gearing up for the holiday shopping season. Come and shop with us for holiday gifts for the gardeners on your list. Even when gardens are dormant, gardeners love new tools and garden ornaments as they anticipate and plan for spring during the winter months.

Speaking of upcoming holidays, the 2nd Street Market will hold "Stock Up Wednesday" on November 23, the day before Thanksgiving, from 11am-3pm. You can shop for fresh baked goods and produce for your Thanksgiving meal. Our shop and some other non-food vendors will be open as well.

We're excited that a fun holiday activity,
Artisan Night,
will return to the
2nd Street Market
this year. The first

Come and join the fun!



As always, we appreciate the support and patronage of our Foundation members and friends.

Garden Party

by Jessica Wagner

A party three years in the making! Wow! What a wonderful return of the annual Wegerzyn Garden Party to celebrate nature and our foundation's resilience in spite of unprecedented challenges!

More than 100 people strolled through the Children's Discovery Garden before dining under the big tent on a beautiful early fall evening. The event also highlighted major projects funded by the Foundation during the COVID-19 pandemic and the incredible MetroParks staff provided information about where to find the Garden's hardiest plants, trees and shrubs that thrive even in less than ideal conditions. The new 50/50 raffle was a huge success, generating an additional \$3,600 to the Gardens. And in an act of extra generosity, the 50/50 winner donated \$1,000 of winnings back to the Gardens to support children's programming!

Thank you to everyone who attended and even those who made a donation in lieu of attendance. We also want to thank all of our incredible sponsors, especially the Eichelberger Foundation, the vendors and volunteers for the meal, dessert and libations, and the Five Rivers MetroParks staff for helping make the Gardens really shine on such a special evening! Also kudos to co-chair Libby Freeze for her leadership, planning and dedication to creating a great event. Next year's party will celebrate our Golden Garden for our 50th anniversary!

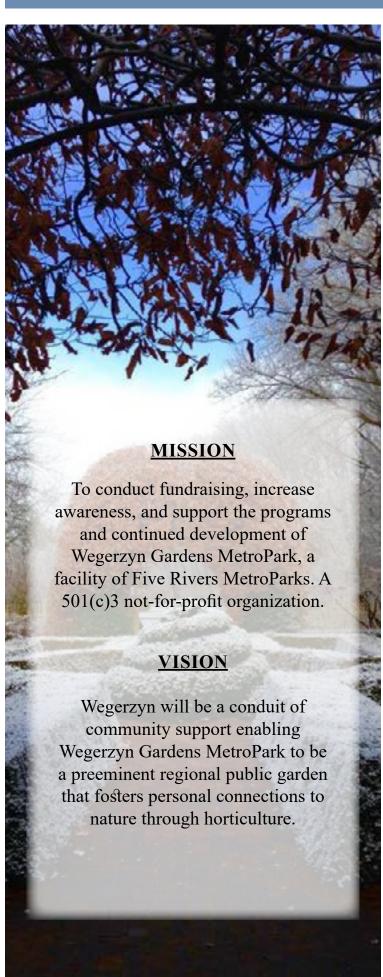








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WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

President	Jessica Wagner
Vice President	
Treasurer	Loretta Hill
Secretary	

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Adult Education	Donna Zobrist
Gift & Garden Shop.	Lisa Brown
	Mary Gordon/Loretta Hill
Membership Jac	kie McArdle/Cindi Hillier
	Richard Wilson

Foundation HistorianJackie McArdle

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MayFair	Open
Garden Party	Libby Freeze/Jessica Wagner

EX-OFFICIO

Five Rivers MetroParks
Chief Executive OfficerBecky Benná
Chief of Philanthropy.....Alexis Larsen

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO GET INVOLVED

Email:

contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

Call:

(937) 660-9097 (please leave a message)

Website:

wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

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