

WEGERZYN GARDENS
FOUNDATION

The Garden Bridge



**INSIDE THE
FALL/WINTER
2022 ISSUE**

President's Corner.....1

Member News

RAP..... 2

Member Event.....2

Foundation News

Family Adventure..... 3

Golden Anniversary.. 4

Fundraisers

Gift & Garden..... 4

Garden Party..... 5

Foundation

Spectrum 1 6

Mission/Vision..... 6

Board of Trustees 6

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 waived, 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 Foundation members Mark & Jill Gordon took off on a cross-country journey from Dayton, Ohio. 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.

Please continue to support Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation by joining as a member and see how far your membership can get you!



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

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

Wegerzyn Gardens 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 membership and donations to the Foundation.



Golden Anniversary

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](#)



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 Artisan Night was a big success in 2018 but was suspended during the pandemic. Our Make-and-Take Evergreen Centerpiece was a sell-out, so we're doing the same thing this year. You'll buy a kit with container, oasis, evergreen boughs, candle, and assorted decorative picks to assemble at our station with assistance from gift shop volunteers. A number of other Market vendors will also be holding workshops. **Artisan Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, from 5:30-8:30 pm.** 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!



**WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION
2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

OFFICERS

PresidentJessica Wagner
Vice President Mary Gordon
Treasurer Loretta Hill
SecretaryLibby Freeze

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Adult Education Donna Zobrist
Gift & Garden Shop..... Lisa Brown
Horticulture..... Mary Gordon/Loretta Hill
Membership Jackie McArdle/Cindi Hillier
Youth Education..... 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

MISSION

To conduct fundraising, increase awareness, and support the programs and continued development of Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, a facility of Five Rivers MetroParks. A 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

VISION

Wegerzyn will be a conduit of community support enabling Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark to be a preeminent regional public garden that fosters personal connections to nature through horticulture.

**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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