



WEGERZYN  GARDENS
FOUNDATION

The Garden Bridge



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FALL/WINTER
2023 ISSUE**

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President's Corner



I can't believe Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark's Golden Year is coming to a close! It was a busy, but fulfilling, year of celebrating our 50th anniversary through the Foundation's signature events, special tours, mailers, and even a highlight video of past Foundation presidents.

There is one common thread that ties all those events, initiatives and programs together: people. Dedicated volunteers who give their time, talent, and treasure to our Foundation. You'll find them in the Gift and Garden Shop at the 2nd Street Market, collecting historical items from storage, carefully selecting destinations and activities for the bus trips, relaunching the new MayFair at the Market, planning the 50th anniversary Garden Party, gathering past board members for the What's in Bloom in June Reunion Tour, processing payments and donations, supporting programs that attract hundreds of children and families to Wegerzyn, and so much more. They represent a nod to Wegerzyn's founders 50 years ago and inspiration for the next generation of volunteers. I'm proud to have gotten to know so many of them. I hope you'll feel called to serve this Foundation in your own way.

In the meantime, I'll see you in the Gardens. Keep a lookout for a full yearend review coming soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Wagner'.

Jessica Wagner, Foundation President

Fall Family Adventure

Saturday, October 21st at Wegerzyn Gardens

Funding for this event is provided by the Foundation made possible by donor and member support.



December Bus Trip

by Mary Gordon

The last Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation bus trip of 2023 heads to Indianapolis to the Indiana Historical Society for The Festival of Trees. Registration for the trip has already ended. The September trip which showcased some new happenings around Dayton had to be cancelled due to lack of attendance. Planning for 2024 bus trips will begin after the holidays. Watch for brochures and more information in the spring to help continue your support of Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation.



Gift & Garden Shop

by Carol Self

As you finish up your holiday shopping, don't forget to check out the Wegerzyn Gift and Garden Shop at 2nd Street Market.

We have tools for the gardeners on your gift list: a new pair of nitrile gloves, a pair of our very popular EcoSox (now available in a wide variety of colors and patterns), a trowel or cultivating tool, a shiny new pair of pruners, or the indispensable soil knife.

Garden décor items make fun gifts: We have colorful metal flower or bicycle stakes, metal and glass wind chimes, thermometers, rain gauges, bird houses and feeders.

Amaryllis and paper white narcissus bulbs are popular this year and make great gifts.

Check out our kids' area for small toys, games, and nature gifts that make great stocking stuffers.

And, of course, we have our usual selection of beautiful house plants. Once the holiday decorations are put away, the house just begs for a new plant in a colorful pot to brighten up a room and chase away winter doldrums.

We look forward to seeing you at the Market soon!



Glitz and Glamour for the Golden Garden Party

by Jessica Wagner



Nearly 200 guests strolled through the Golden Gardens to celebrate Wegerzyn's 50th anniversary at the annual Garden Party. There were golden touches throughout the Gardens to add a festive glow to the event. Twinkling lights and stars under the big tent dazzled guests while they dined and enjoyed live music. The evening represented a toast to our past, present and future. Guests could comb through historical items like photographs, newsletters and articles that charted Wegerzyn's development since 1973. Foundation historian Jackie McArdle offered a heartwarming toast to the Foundation's first president, Louise Bennett, who passed away earlier this year. Guests could also take home a piece of Wegerzyn Gardens in the form of Milkweed, thanks to Five Rivers MetroParks conservation staff. These native flowers are found throughout the Gardens and planting them in your own backyard helps support Monarch butterflies and other insects.



A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, The Jack W. and Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation, along with MetroParks staff, volunteers, Wegerzyn Foundation Board members and all of the guests for supporting a special 50th anniversary Garden Party!



It's not too early to save the date for next year! Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 12, 2024 for the Wegerzyn Garden Party!

Reciprocal Admissions

by Mary Gordon

If you are traveling this winter, don't forget to pack your Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation membership card. That's because your membership can earn you free or discounted admission to botanical gardens around the United States. It's part of the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admission program that Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation joins annually. Some gardens include limits on admission depending how far away they are from your home garden; and special exhibits may not apply.

The list of gardens changes every year, so it's worth checking before you hit the road at: <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap/>.



MEMBER BENEFIT

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to get more out of your Foundation membership?

Consider volunteering! There are many opportunities, including leadership, so there's something for everyone!

- Gift and Garden Shop (Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
- MayFair at the Market
- Garden Party
- Membership Council



For more information email contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org.



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.

**WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION
2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

OFFICERS

President.....Jessica Wagner
Vice President.....Mary Gordon
Treasurer.....Loretta Hill
Secretary Libby Freeze

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

..... Rich Gillette
..... Elliott Haller
.....Katie Herzog

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Adult EducationDonna Zobrist
Gift & Garden Shop..... Lisa Brown
Horticulture.....Mary Gordon/Loretta Hill
MembershipJackie McArdle/Cindi Hillier
Youth Education Richard Wilson

Foundation HistorianJackie McArdle

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MayFair Loretta Hill/Mary Gordon
Garden Party..... Libby Freeze/Jessica Wagner

EX-OFFICIO

Five Rivers MetroParks
Chief Executive Officer..... Karen Hesser
Chief of Philanthropy.....Alexis Larsen

**FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO
GET INVOLVED**

Email:

contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

Website:

wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

Find us on Facebook:

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Planning Ahead for MayFair 2024

To all you gardeners out there, when spring arrives and you divide your perennials, please consider potting some of these up donating them for the pass alongs at MayFair 2024.

