

## INSIDE THE SUMMER 2024 ISSUE

President's	Corner1
-------------	---------

#### Events/Fundraisers

What's in Bloom	2
Garden Party	2

#### <u>Fundraisers</u>

Gift & Garden Shop.	3
Bus Trips	3
MayFair a Success	4

## Foundation News

Children's Garden4	4
Park Happenings	5

#### **Foundation**

Garden Party6
Mission/Vision6
Board of Trustees 6

### **President's Corner**



One exciting addition to your Wegerzyn Gardens Membership this year is the chance to connect with other members, park staff, and learn more about the gardens. Membership walks are scheduled once a month on Sundays from February-November this year. The walks are led by park staff who are able to provide a behind-the-scenes look at what's growing and changing in the MetroPark. Each month features a different area or topic, such as

the Children's Garden, the greenhouse, or woodland and prairie plants. I've enjoyed the walks because they give you a chance to ask questions about the plants, and see how your Foundation donations are contributing to Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. If you've missed the first half of the year, don't worry, there are still plenty of chances to join us in the gardens. Coming up on August 18, the walk will start at 7 pm to avoid the heat of the day and take us through the Community Gardens and hear about the newly acquired property plans. The following month features the river corridor and Jay Lake/Flying Field on September 29 at 2 pm. We'll revisit the Children's Discovery Garden to see fall color and new happenings on October 13 at 2 pm. The final walk of 2024 will take place on November 3 at 2 pm to see the winter blooming witch hazels and winter greenery. We appreciate your RSVP at contact Dwegerzyngardensfoundation.org but welcome all who arrive on the day of the walks. Hope to see you in the gardens!

May Dordon

Mary Gordon, Foundation President

# What's in Bloom in June Member Walk

#### By India Clarke



Members gathered at Wegerzyn Gardens on Sunday, June 23 at 2pm for a guided tour of the lovely gardens in their prime. Staff member Franz Kirchner led the group of attendees though the paths and pavers to see what was in bloom. Beautiful plantings and arrangements were seen everywhere as we strolled the gorgeous grounds. The Arbor Garden looked amazing, the Formal Gardens were delightful, the Children's Discovery Garden was an adventure and on and on..... Everyone was thrilled with the informative tour.



## 2024 Garden Party

#### By Rich Gillette

The annual Garden Party at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark is right around the corner.

This year's Resort theme will feature a variety of bright designs and plants to make you feel like you are staying on a resort vacation. The evening starts at 5:30 on Thursday, September 12 with drinks as you stroll through the Children's Garden.

Following the guests arrival, hors d'oeuvres with onion feta tarts, a meat ball bar and chicken tenders will be served. Dinner with chicken forestiere and wild mushrooms or a vegetarian plate will be provided by Kohler.

Desserts will be provided by Ashley's.

Enjoy the music and feel free to hit the dance floor as the evening wraps up under the tent in the gardens. Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation members receive a discount on ticket prices, which can be purchased at wegerzyngardensfoundation.org/garden-party.

The funds raised through the garden party benefit the gardens and programming at Wegerzyn so be sure to add some 50/50 raffle tickets to your dinner ticket for additional support and a chance to share the winnings.



Summer 2024 FUNDRAISERS Page 3

#### Gift & Garden

#### By Carol Self

It's been a great spring and summer for the Gift Shop. House plants are as popular as ever. Barbara, our plant buyer, regularly finds new and unusual ones such as pretty little potted coffee plants to tempt plant-collecting customers who like to try new things. Don't forget to check out our selection of decorative pots for something beautiful to complement a new or existing plant in your collection.

The kiddos who drop in love our mineral specimens including "break your own" geodes. And we have some new wiggly wooden snakes on our toy shelves that are attracting attention.

EcoSox are another really popular item in the shop. They're being made in lots more colors and patterns now, so you've got an excuse to expand your collection. Our buyer, John, keeps us well stocked with a wide variety. They really are the most

comfortable stocks you can buy and even make special ones for diabetic needs.

As always, we appreciate the support of our Foundation members and other shoppers who visit us regularly. We wouldn't be in business without you, and your purchases help support improvements and programs in the gardens we all love.



Flamingos have been having a moment this summer! Add a bit of whimsy to your environment with a bright pink bird from the Wegerzyn Foundation Gift & Garden Shop at Second Street Market.

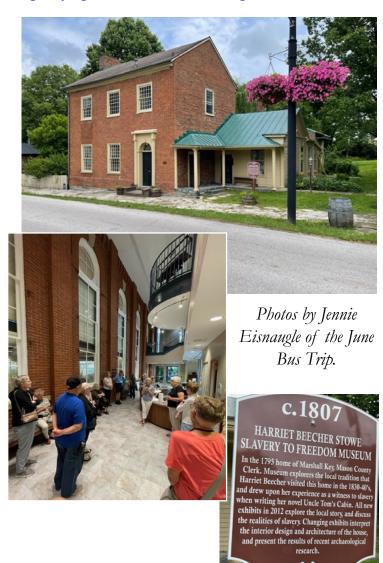
## Two Bus Trips Ahead

#### By Mary Gordon

**September 10**: Join Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation on a bus trip to Homes County, OH to learn about Amish and Mennonite cultures while enjoying shopping, a bakery, and lunch in an Amish family home.

**December 10**: A bus trip to Cincinnati will celebrate the holidays with a visit to Lloyd Library, Moerlin Lager House, and Krohn Conservatory.

Find more information on bus trips, visit wegerzyngardensfoundation.org/events.



## MayFair Plant Sale is a Success

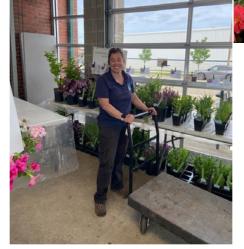
#### By Mary Gordon



Thank you to everyone who visited the Second Street Market during the first weekend in May and helped make MayFair 2024 a big success. All the annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, and vegetables found homes, and all but 2 small tables of passalong plants were purchased. The sale helped raise around \$10,000 to support projects and programs at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Of course, the sale couldn't have taken place without the hard work of some great volunteers who helped donate plants,

set up, and run the sale. Look for the return of MayFair at the Market during the first weekend in May in 2025!





## Children's Garden Happenings

#### By Mary Gordon

While summer camps and programs have wrapped up in the Children's Discovery Garden, there are still a lot of exciting happenings



for visitors to explore. New instruments have been installed in the music



maze of the Children's Garden thanks to the

support of Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation.



Look for the pumpkin tunnel frame in Skeeter's Garden, soon to be covered in pumpkins.

The color-themed beds in Skeeter's garden are also in bloom. Native

plants have been added through the summer for families to see pollinators at work and up close.



The Children's Garden will soon host the popular Fall Family Adventure on October 19 from 4-7 p.m., which is free and open to the public. The event is made possible by funding from Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation and your membership contributions.

## Park Happenings

#### By Allison Bush

#### **SOLAR ECLIPSE**

It was a Total Eclipse of the Park on April 8, when the Dayton area experienced a rare and exceptional celestial



event. Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark was located in the 100% totality zone, attracting visitors from near and far. Families joyfully engaged in activities at the Children's Discovery Garden, stealing glimpses of



the eclipse leading up to the captivating moment. Meanwhile, others took delight in savoring a tranquil picnic within the

stunning Formal Gardens. The resplendent beauty of the surroundings provided a serene backdrop for their wait, further enhancing the sense of anticipation as they relaxed amidst the vibrant floral displays and manicured lawns.

#### ARBOR GARDEN RAIN GARDEN PHASE 1

The idea for the rain gardens at Wegerzyn Gardens' Arbor Garden came about after observing rainwater pooling in the landscape beds and paver areas following a rain event. It was evident rainwater from the North Plaza's impervious surfaces was flowing into the nearest landscape beds. The decision to redesign the beds stemmed from the issue of water runoff and the grade of garden beds. The aim was to collaborate with nature and use the existing beds to create a rain garden.



What exactly is a rain garden? It's a landscape area designed to collect and absorb water, typically in landscapes

with depressions, at the bottom of slopes, and



constantly flooding areas. Native plants are used in rain gardens due to their low maintenance, drought tolerance, expansive root system, high absorption rate, and benefits for wildlife. Rain gardens offer a natural solution to combat man-made problems and protect local waterways.

The strategic plan of Five Rivers MetroParks focuses on reducing climate change by increasing the agency's carbon sink, educating the public about climate change, and incorporating climate change mitigation into our parks. Rain gardens help address two major issues: stormwater pollution and excess flooding. Wegerzyn Gardens' rain gardens are designed with native plants and organic soils, which can remove 90% of contaminants and allow more water to return to the ground, reducing runoff. Phase 1 of the rain garden project is completed and Phase 2 will incorporate interpretive signage as well as additional native trees, shrubs, and perennials. Educating the public about the benefits of rain gardens and how they can be incorporated into a property is one way Five Rivers MetroParks and the Wegerzyn Garden Foundation are promoting conservation and sustainability.



Summer 2024 Page 6





## WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### **OFFICERS**

President	Mary Gordon
Vice President	Rich Gillette
Treasurer	Loretta Hill
Secretary	Libby Freeze

#### **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

 Elliott Haller
 Katie Herzog
 janc Lyncin

#### **COUNCIL CHAIRS**

Adult Education	Donna Zobrist
Gift & Garden Sho	pLisa Brown
	Mary Gordon/Loretta Hill
Membership	.Jackie McArdle/Cindi Hillier
	Richard Wilson

Foundation Historian ......Jackie McArdle

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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

#### **EX-OFFICIO**

## FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO GET INVOLVED

Email: contact@wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

Website: wegerzyngardensfoundation.org

Find us on Facebook:
WegerzynGardensFoundation
WegerzynGardensGiftShop