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President's Corner

Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark is a cherished gem in our community. The stunning formal gardens evolve with the seasons, offering beautiful outdoor experiences yearround. This November, we have an important decision to make: the Five Rivers MetroParks levy is on the ballot, and its outcome will directly affect the gardens we love.

Whether you enjoy the Children's Garden, community plots, or the Marie Aull Trail, this levy the levy will help keep Wegerzyn as a standout in our community, ensuring Wegerzyn's continued beauty and accessibility. The cost of this investment is less than \$3 a month for every \$100,000 of appraised property value. If the levy doesn't pass, we risk losing programs, events, and essential maintenance, which will affect the quality and service at Wegerzyn and throughout our MetroParks.

I encourage you to join me in supporting the Five Rivers Metroparks levy on Election Day. Let's vote YES to protecting the stunning green spaces that enrich our community. Until then, I look forward to seeing you in the gardens!

Mary Gordon

Foundation President

May Dordon

Fall Family Adventure

By Mary Gordon

The annual Fall Family Adventure had a huge turnout on a beautiful fall evening in October at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. It featured animal ambassadors, a storyteller, a magician, crafts for kids, and



snacks. The gardens were filled with spooky decorations, and some children opted for Halloween costumes. This year's event also featured scavenger hunts and more educational tables throughout the Children's Discovery Garden. The event is made possible by funding from the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation.







Member Walk

By Mary Gordon

A small group of Foundation members joined Park Technician Michael Parrish to view Fall blooming plants on the Marie Aull Trail and in the formal gardens in mid-October.





The next member walk is scheduled for November 3 at 2 p.m. to talk about fall blooming witch hazel led by Ron Schilb.

Gift & Garden

By Carol Self



Thanks to everyone who supported us during the spring and summer months! We've had a good sales season.

Now that it's Autumn, our Gift Shop buyers are stocking up on merchandise for upcoming holiday shopping. We'll have beautiful Christmas tree ornaments, holiday plants, and our always-popular amaryllis bulbs. And it doesn't have to be gardening weather for your friend or relative with the green thumb to be thrilled with one of our garden tools or décor items. Trust us – we're gardeners — they're always looking forward to the next growing season.

Kids love our selection of toys, playing cards, and mineral specimens, all of which make great stocking stuffers.



We hope to see you at 2nd Street Market!

Bus Trips

December 10: The last bus trip is just around the coner with your RSVP and payment due by November 22. This bus trip to Cincinnati will celebrate the holidays with a visit to Lloyd Library, Moerlin Lager House, and Krohn Conservatory.



"The Banks/Moerlein Lager House" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by 5chw4r7z

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

Reservation due: November 22, 2024 Fee: \$109 non-members, \$104 members Includes: Transportation, lunch and all fees

Check-in: 8:15 AM Departure: 8:30 AM

Return to Wegerzyn: 5:00 PM



Garden Party

By Rich Gillette



ertrude Jekyll wrote in 2011, "a garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust."

The Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation did just that in September when it held its annual Garden Party, which is a fundraiser but more important a showcase of the grand gardens in the MetroPark.



More than 140 people attended the annual event giving donations to the foundation. Several sponsors donated more than \$10,000 toward the party, which had a Lounge theme with bright

colors and decorations.



For more than five decades the foundation has been dedicated to supporting the educational and horticultural programs and continued development of Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

A big shout out goes to Ron Bicknell, Allison Bush, Dave Gibbs and the entire Wegerzyn Gardens team, who play a huge part in setting up for the party and helping with the decorations for the table sets.

And none of it would have been possible with tireless work by Brenda Cox to help with organization.

Board members Libby Freeze and Rich Gillette were the co-chairs for the annual event.

























Honoring Janice

I am very sad to report that a former colleague, Janice Mittelkamp, passed away on 10/4/24 after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Janice was the Wegerzyn Horticulturist from late 2018-2022.

At Ball State, Janice received a BS in Environmental Sciences and a MS in Landscape Architecture. Janice spent thirty years as a Registered Landscape Architect and Landscape Designer at the Siebenthaler Company in Dayton, Ohio and completed her professional career as the Horticulturist at Wegerzyn Gardens.

During her time at Wegerzyn, Janice created an extensive design of the Arbor Garden area which was in need of redoing. Many of these facets are planned on being installed in the near future. As Janice would travel, she would see quirky ideas and bring them into play at Wegerzyn. In the Children's Garden, she worked closely with the Wegerzyn team to create a Wildlife Garden area, which included the Eagles nest which is a popular feature. Other ideas of special features that were installed included the troll head and dragon topiaries along with various sensory features.

My strongest personal memories of working with Janice would be assessing and dealing with the aftermath of the Memorial Day tornado. None of us had ever dealt with the level of devastation that occurred in that storm. The entire Wegerzyn staff had to maneuver through a large amount of damage and start putting things back in order. Janice was calm and steady and provided a great amount of focus and knowledge in restoring order in the gardens. That summer ranks as the most challenging of my thirty years of employment with Five Rivers and I feel the staff present bonded well in dealing with that disaster.

Even while Janice was dealing with her cancer, she reached out to me while I was undergoing my own serious health challenges, offering support and encouragement. That care for others

resonated with me and I feel personally blessed to have known Janice. Her legacy will live on at Wegerzyn Gardens.

Sincerely,

Ron Bicknell-Regional Park Manager



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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-forprofit 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 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Foundation Historian Jackie McArdle

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

EX-OFFICIO

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO GET INVOLVED

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