

WEGERZYN GARDENS FOUNDATION

The Garden Bridge

Inside the Spring 2025 Issue

President's Corner.....1

Fundraisers

MayFair2

Gift & Garden Shop.3

Bus Trips..... 4-6

Garden Party.....6

Events

Witch Hazel Walk..... 7

Member Walks 7

Wegerzyn News

Projects8

Horticulturist9

Foundation

Mission/Vision.....10

Board of Trustees10

President's Corner



As many gardeners and plant enthusiast know, spring is such an important season. It's also an important season for Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation. While the MetroPark is coming alive with blooms, the Foundation is preparing for many events to help connect people and plants. The first is a membership walk planned for Sunday, April 27. This guided tour by Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark staff will help you appreciate the spring blooms as the group walks the Marie Aull trail to look for wildflowers.

Next, get ready to shop for plants at MayFair at the Market during the first weekend of May. This is now the third year the plant sale will take place at the market and will feature even more plants! You can support the Foundation with your purchase during regular market hours, but members get best selection on Friday morning, May 2 between 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Finally, look for Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation booth at the Passport for MetroParks event on Friday, May 30 where you can take part in a planting activity. The free, family festival is held at RiverScape MetroPark.

So please mark your calendars for these important dates. In the meantime, I hope to see you in the gardens.



Mary Gordon, Foundation President

MayFair at the Market

By Mary Gordon

Stop by the Second Street Market during the first weekend in May to support Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation's MayFair at the Market Plant Sale. The sale will be open to members only on Friday, May 2 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. on the east end of the building. The sale will then open to the general public during regular market hours through the weekend. Shoppers will find a great selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, vines, and hanging baskets. Remember to bring your membership card to receive a discount on your purchase. Anyone may join or renew their membership at the sale. Regular market hours are 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday, May 2; 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 3; 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. Proceeds from the sale help support projects and programs at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.

Help is needed to make this sale happen. If you are interested in volunteering as a cashier, please email Mary Gordon at mgl40602@ohio.edu.

We are also in need of pass-along plant donations. These are plants you may be dividing in your own yard or just looking to rehome. Drop off donations (don't even need to be potted, just put in a bag or box) now through April 20 outside the greenhouse that sits behind the main building at Wegerzyn. Label your plant the best you can, and include bloom color and season. Plastic black pots or plant trays can also be donated too. Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation makes 100% profit on pass-along plants, so please donate any plants you may have to share.



Gift & Garden Shop

By Carol Self

Spring has sprung and it's time to inventory your garden tools and garden décor items so you're ready to clean up and decorate the yard. It's also time to think about gifts for the special ladies on your Mother's Day gift list. Mom might love some new garden gloves or a hand tool, gardener's soap, or a cute bird house seed feeder. And don't forget that hummingbirds will be arriving soon. We've got hummer feeders, too.

Check our stock of attractive and colorful yard ornaments and wind chimes. They make great gifts or just treat yourself!

Once the Christmas rush is over, we normally experience a slowdown in sales around the new year and as winter sets in. The exception is house plants! We think it's because once the holiday decorations are packed away the house looks a little bare, signaling the need to add some new house plants. Barbara, our long-time plant buyer, has retired from the job, and we thank her for her great work. Our new plant buyers are India and Gail, who are doing a great job. Thanks to all three of you!



As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Wegerzyn's MayFair Plant Sale is scheduled for early May here at 2nd Street Market. While you're shopping MayFair, take a few minutes to visit the Gift & Garden Shop. We're down toward the west end of the Market if you haven't been here before.

As always, thanks to all our Foundation members for your support of the shop. Don't forget to bring your membership card and ask for your ten-percent member discount when shopping with us. The profits from our sales help the Foundation support improvements and activities at our beautiful Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. Happy Spring!



Bus Trips Scheduled

By Nancy Nerny

Bus Trip 1 Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Check in: 8:15 am
Departure: 8:30 am
Return: 6:45 pm

Cost
Members \$122
Nonmembers \$127

Remember to wear comfortable walking shoes



!!The Governor's Residence" by rbglasson is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation first summer bus tour will take place on June 4 and visit two of the most unique gardens in Central Ohio: The Franklin Park Conservancy will be ablaze with summer flowers as we scope out their Chihuly in Nature exhibit, butterfly enclosure, and children's garden. Afterwards we'll box lunch in their picnic area. Lunch is included. On to the Governor's Residence and Heritage Gardens using your picture ID to enter. Part of our tour will explore Governor DeWine's stately home. While it's a private home, it is also a public space offering us opportunities to discover more about Ohio's history, arts, architecture and industry, as well as our natural spaces and landscapes. The rest of this tour will experience the adjoining Ohio's Heritage Garden featuring unique plants from each area of our state, nurtured by a corps of volunteer gardeners, overseen by its own curator. We'll enjoy a rose garden, a prairie garden, and a wildflower garden. After a day of summer beauty, we'll make one last stop to satiate our appetite for MORE—DeMonye's Greenhouse. We have plenty of room to stash our purchased treasures in the undercarriage for our trip home!



Bus Trips Continued

By Barbara Schenck

Join us, on September 16, for a tour of the beautiful Kingwood Manor in Mansfield. This is the estate of Charles Kelly King who rose to prominence as a part of the Ohio Brass Company. The home, built in 1928 in the French Provincial style, sits on 47 acres. The gardens were developed to resemble the much admired English gardens of that time. They have been maintained in their original plan. Since Mr. King's death in 1952, the gardens have been open to the public with thousands of visitors enjoying the home and gardens each year.



IMG_4928 (CC BY 2.0) by photojc123

We will then travel to Groovy Plants Ranch, opened in 2016, in Marengo. You will find it both groovy and quirky with an amazing selection of both annuals and perennials. You will find many helpful employees ready to help you with selections or just answering questions that you may have.

Remember that gardens are often at their most beautiful in September!



Bus Trip 2 Wednesday, September 16, 2025

Check in: 7:15 am
Departure: 7:30 am
Return: 6:30 pm

Cost
Members \$139
Nonmembers \$144

*Remember to wear comfortable
walking shoes*

[Bus Trip Registration Form](#)

*Bus trip brochures will be mailed to
all members and past attendees.*

Bus Trips Continued

By Kathleen Turner



Celebrate the holidays and delve into Ohio's history and nature in a visiton Wednesday, December 11, to Troy. First stop will be the Bruckner Nature Center to enjoy wildlife displays, the 1804 Iddings log cabin, and shopping at their nature store. Next stop is holiday plant shopping at Andy's Garden Center where they proudly grow all their own plants. The third stop is to tour the beautiful Troy- Hayner Cultural Center, which will be fully decorated for the holidays and will be our lunch site. We'll enjoy box lunches delivered there from Bakehouse Bread and Cookie Co. (included). Our final stop will be a one hour tour of the WACO Museum which highlights the history of the largest manufacturer of civil aircraft in the late 1920s and early 1930s.



Bus Trip 3
Wednesday,
December 11, 2025

Check in: 8:00 am
Departure: 8:15 am
Return: 4:15 pm

Cost
Members \$95
Nonmembers \$100

Save the Date



Garden Party
2025



Thursday, September 11

Member Garden Walks

By India Clarke

Two Witch Hazel walks were held at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark on Nov. 3, 2024 and March 2, 2025. These tours were led by Ron Schilb, retired FRMP staff and overseer of the witch hazel collection, and Franz Kirchner, Lead Horticultural Technician at Wegerzyn Gardens.

Did you know Wegerzyn Gardens has one of the largest witch hazel collections, by number of cultivars, in North America? The collection of over 120 kinds of witch hazels were started by horticulturist Chris Jensen, purchasing a fall blooming plant native to eastern United States. This collection grew to include spring blooming plants, rare plants and plants only recently discovered and a few variegated plants.

Wegerzyn's witch hazels bloom during the fall and spring but can bloom late or early, depending on the weather conditions in Dayton. Most plants are tagged and along the woodland border of the formal gardens. The large witch hazel at the bridge leading to the building is one of the easiest to find and was blooming on March 2nd for our walking tour.



Witch hazels are flowering shrubs or trees that boast warm colors and also have medicinal properties. The blooms are generally dainty strap-like flowers no bigger than your pinky finger nail. These plants can be a variety of different colors and can have very fragrant blooms. The benefit of planting witch hazels is they bloom in winter and provide nectar for honeybees and other pollinators that may overwinter. With warmer winters, which is more and more common, pollinators need nectar sooner than most flowering plants.

2025 Member Walks

*All walks start in front of the
Wegerzyn Center*

Sunday, April 27, 2025

@ 2:00 PM

Wildflower Walk

Sunday, June 22, 2025

@ 2:00 PM

What's in Bloom in June

Sunday, September 7, 2025

@ 2:00 PM

Community Gardens and
New North Trail

2025 Projects

By Franz Kirchner

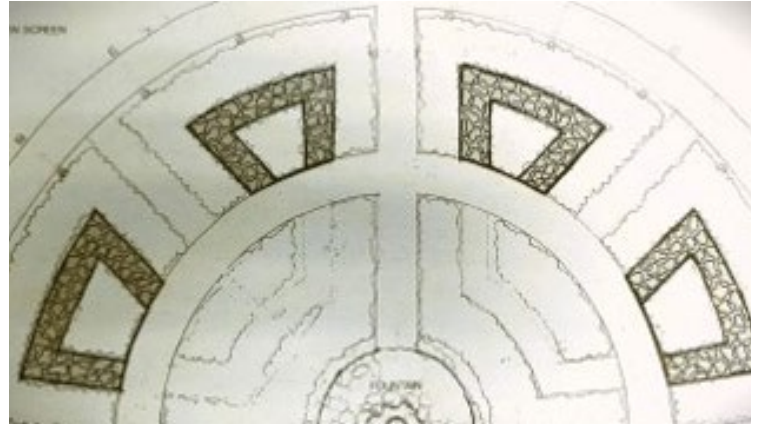


Springtime 2025, and we are now experiencing the 52nd year at Wegerzyn Gardens, and all the while the garden continues to grow and evolve. One area where this is especially true last year was in our Arbor Garden. With much appreciated support from the Wegerzyn Gardens Foundation, we were able to begin a long overdue renovation project.

Being such a large and formal space, we split the Arbor Garden into six major portions and spent the last two years preparing for the first two sections on either side of the main walkway. These two focal portions were dubbed the Arbor Rain Garden. Due to some pre-existing drainage and storm water issues, this area required some hardscaping and slope corrections before we could even begin to re-plant.

If you made it out last summer or fall, you've already seen a completely new garden installed and take root. Late fall we also planted the first round of spring bulbs which bloom March through May, prior to most of the perennial blooms. This Rain Garden planting features a variety of native plants alongside select native cultivars and will fill in and be added to and enhanced even more this year to provide four seasons of interest and numerous species of shrubs and perennials for a long and prolific bloom season.

New for 2025, the Foundation has graciously agreed to fund the continuation of the Arbor Garden project as we plan the renovation of the four outer



quadrants of the Arbor Garden over the next couple of years. As with the Rain Garden portion, the next step will be upgrading our four garden paths from grass (now mulch) to flagstone walkways that evoke the steps and base of the urns.

There are also some funds provided for plants which we plan to use for small trees and shrubs that will become the backbone of the next phase of garden design. The plan is to make each of the four quadrants vibrant and unique enough to encourage visitors to walk through each one and find something new to see in all four seasons. It will take a couple more years of hard work to see the fully completed product, but with the support of our Foundation and the help of our dedicated staff and volunteers, we will ultimately create a beautifully designed garden ready to be explored, photographed, and enjoyed by the public for many years to come. Thank you for your continued support.



Horticulturist

By Ron Bicknell

Welcome



I am very happy to announce the hiring of our new Horticulturist at Wegerzyn Gardens, Payton Johnson. She comes to us with a strong horticulture-

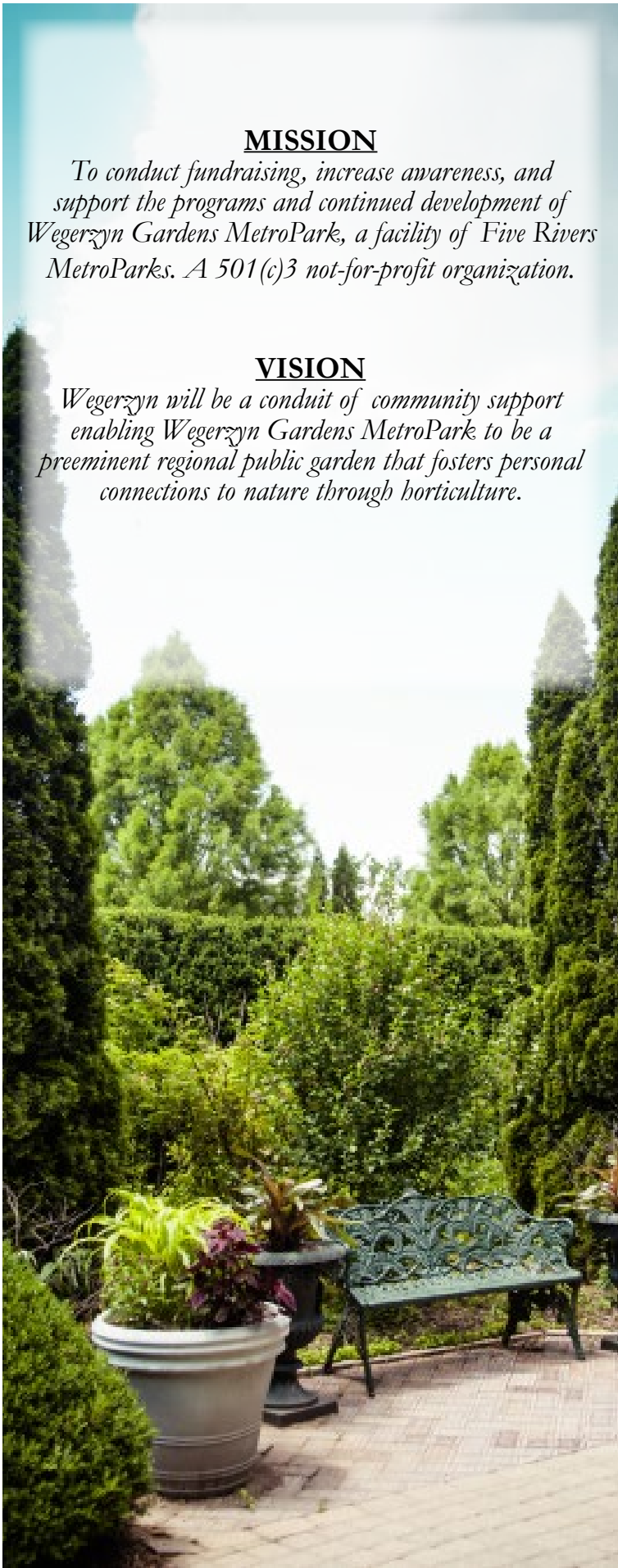
based background. She is an ISA Certified Arborist and Plant Care Specialist, with a Botany Degree from Miami University in Oxford.

Payton has a handful of other related certificates and licenses and has worked as a plant care specialist for a local firm for five plus years. She supervised a similar sized staff of up to eight staff during her tenure.

Payton and her assigned staff have jumped right in to start the Foundation funded project of re-doing the entrance planting bed outside the gates. The large view obstructing shrubs have been removed and will be replaced by low growing drought resistant perennials and annuals. This project will greatly improve the view entering and exiting the park.

She will be assisting with the MayFair plant sale set up so please welcome her aboard when you meet her.





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
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FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO
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