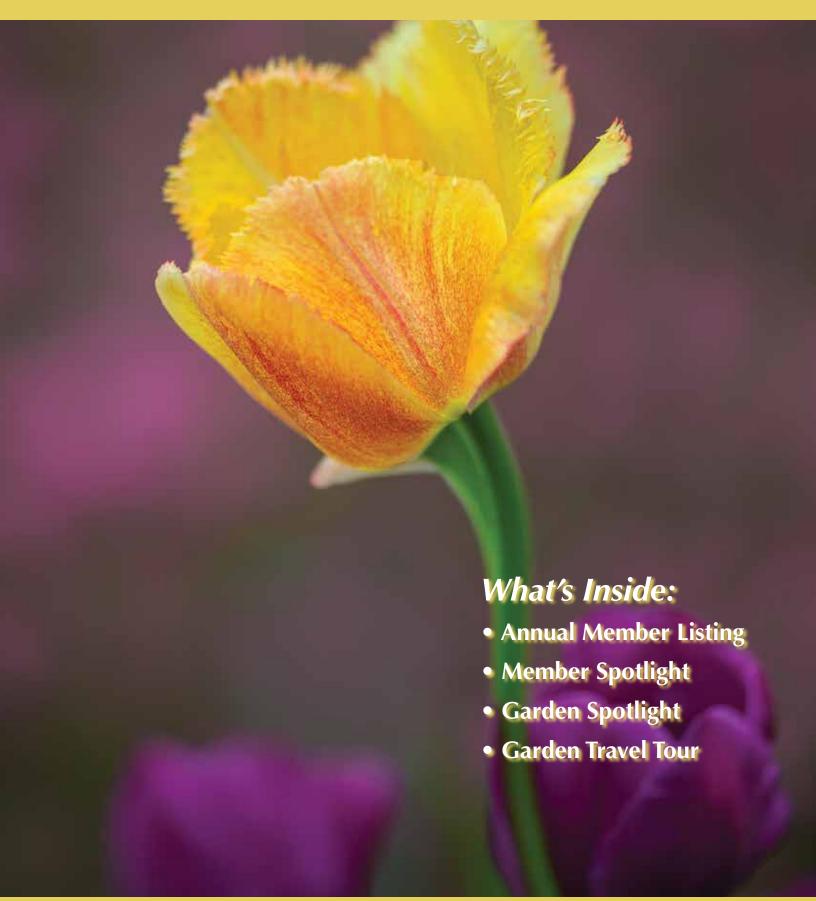


WINTER/SPRING 2025





Greetings, Friends!

Ithough the meteorologists are tracking the minutes extending the daylight hours until sunset and counting down the number of days until

spring, those who attended the seminar of Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens and Gardeners of Greater Youngstown on Feb. 15 were fortunate to experience a bounce of anticipation for the upcoming spring season.

Even with the relocation of this event due to flooding issues in the lower level of the Davis Center and an early morning snowstorm, members and guests were not deterred from gathering for this daylong event. Topics ranged from climate change to time management in the garden, winterizing and caring for plants, and identifying tree problems. Our gardeners left inspired, for sure.

Friends is also excited to launch our 2025 events. Spring has blossomed in The Shop in the Gardens, unique spring and summer décor along with many items for the bride and groom. This year's "On the Terrace at 5!" events are being scheduled monthly throughout the summer providing a great place to relax and enjoy wine and music on our outdoor terrace overlooking Lake Glacier. And, of course, our annual Summer Garden Party is scheduled for Friday, July 25. Save the date!

While our Ohio winters may encourage us to hibernate, they also give us opportunities to experience a different side of nature. Hikers, birdwatchers and visitors are often seen just enjoying the quiet peace that comes from the stillness in the Gardens during this time of year. And on those special days when we see the sunshine, taking time to watch the sunset on the snow-covered landscape often provides a special winter spellbinding experience.

Won't you join us at Fellows Riverside Gardens and enjoy all the season has to offer?

The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens

Newsletter Editorial Team: Jim Houck, Denise Stewart, Mary Ann Navarro, Lisa Frederick and Kathleen Krantz

Cover and inside photos: by Scott Lanz and Lisa Frederick

Friends Office: Contact Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens: info@friendsoffellows.org



To become a member of Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens, visit www.friendsoffellows.org.

FRIENDS OF FELLOWS RIVERSIDE GARDENS

Since 1988, the Friends have been dedicated to the promotion, improvement and preservation of Fellows Riverside Gardens, a free public garden, through advocacy and fund raising. As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, the Friends are independent of the Gardens and Mill Creek MetroParks, yet work in steady collaboration with them to sponsor events and programs and to fund large-scale garden projects.

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Friends Members Spotlight: Erma Hart and Marlyn Wallace

by Kathleen Krantz

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience." - Eleanor Roosevelt

his quote I found most appropriate from my meetings and conversations with our member spotlight guests this issue, Erma Hart and Marlyn Wallace. While they have been Friends members for a couple of years, I first met these ladies on the December Garden Bus Tour where they both told me how much they enjoy the experiences that travelling brings along with meeting new people. We met again a couple of weeks ago at the Winter Garden Seminar.

Erma remarked that "I don't just want to join an organization – I want to participate." And she certainly lives that motto as she also belongs to Mercy Health Auxiliary, The Salvation Army Auxiliary, Mahoning County Historical Society, Red Hat Program and Protestant Family Services. Somehow, she also finds time to do routine exercise at the JCC, golfing league short holes and enjoying her three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Marlyn also enjoys both local and international travel and going to plays with Erma and friends at the Cleveland Playhouse. She is a member of the Mahoning County Historical Society, participating recently in the "Cookies and Cocktails" benefit event. Another of Marlyn's hobbies is gardening. She nurtures a vegetable garden, and both perennial and annual flower gardens at her home. She also enjoys painting with a penchant for frogs, which are placed throughout her gardens and have a different look and colors each year. They vary in size from 5 inches to one foot tall.

Thank you for sharing your zest for life and for being members of Friends – we will see you both at our next event!



Meet Jason Brown – Fellows Riverside Gardens Supervisor By Deb Metzger

he New Year brought a new Garden Supervisor, Jason Brown, to Fellows Riverside Gardens. Prior to his new position, Jason was the Supervisor of Forestry for the Metropark, working from the Bears Den location. He was responsible for forestry issues within the Metroparks as well as lawn and flower bed maintenance at various Park locations. This prior work experience prepared Jason as he stated for the responsibilities that comes with "The Gem of Youngstown".

Jason grew up in Alliance, Ohio, attending West Branch High School where he developed an interest in natural resources. He earned both a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education from Mount Union College.. He worked as a middle school science teacher and wrestling coach for 25 years.

He retired from teaching and started his own architectural design business specializing in landscaping and high-end water design features. He admitted the growth of his business was rewarding but it allowed very little time for family and personal interests. This brought him to his former position in the MetroPark.

Jason and the gardening crew are patiently waiting for spring, knowing every project is weather dependent. When spring does arrive Jason will welcome 20 volunteers from YSU who will help transplantation and bulb removal. On Earth Day, April

22nd, additional volunteers from schools in several counties will work on several garden projects.

At present Jason's short-term goals will be to maintain garden excellence during the construction of the Children's Garden. A number of Spring projects include renovation of smaller areas in the Gardens and upgrading the planting along Price Road.

Jason has two grown children as well as grandchildren who live in the area. He is an avid long-distance runner who runs 5-6 times a week. He belongs to Youngstown and Second Sole running clubs. In 2023 he ran in the Boston and Chicago Marathons. His commitment to running has led him to adopt a minimalist lifestyle and embrace a vegan diet becoming an accomplished chef. He enjoys home remodeling projects; his kitchen is his current free time project.

When asked what his favorite book was, Jason told me immediately it was "The Alchemist". This book is largely based on a 1600's folk tale which can be summarized in the following manner- "Follow your dream, trust the journey and embrace challenges and opportunities along the way." In talking with Jason, it is clear this mantra has shaped his personal professional career. Welcome Jason to Fellows Riverside Gardens.



Spring has arrived at Shop in the Gardens By Kathleen Krantz

he Shop has been transformed from Santa's and cedar to tulips and bunnies. Our Shop Manager and Buyer, Jeanne Simeone, has returned from her semi-annual buying trip. Jeanne shared that she found a variety of unique spring and summer items from new vendors on this trip and they are arriving every week and becoming part of her theme designed displays in the Shop.

Make Fellows Riverside Gardens a stop soon as the garden staff and volunteers begin to wake up beds from winter and then check out the new vendor selections in the Shop.

A nearly life size Santa found a new home - congratulations to raffle winner and Friends Member Sylvia Jimenez-Hyre We hope you and jolly old St. Nick enjoy many years greeting family and friends.

We would like to thank our wonderful customers for choosing Shop in the Gardens for special gifts for family and friends and decorating their homes. We especially appreciate the comments from our guests who share that they visit the Shop for its array of high quality and unique items as well as the feeling of being part of the change of seasons. We are also very grateful for our staff and volunteers for their many hours of dedication and support.



Shop Buyer/Manager Jeanne Simeone



Winner Sylvia Jimenez-Hyre and Santa



Spring in the Shop

Winter Garden Seminar By Kathleen Krantz and Deb Metzger

OF GREATER

Est. 1930

hat better way is there to spend a snowy February Saturday than attending a gardening seminar with fellow home garden enthusiasts who were hopeful that winter will be ending soon.

This seminar was a collaborative effort between the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown and the Friends of Fellows Riverside Garden Andrews Horticulture Committee. The team's several months of planning resulted in a daylong program featuring four engaging speakers who presented enlightening and educational topics to the 70 plus attendees of this event.

4 Enlightening Speakers

The first speaker was Eddie Lagucki,
Director of Grounds at the Red Oak
Camp in Kirkland, Ohio. Eddie spoke on
the effects of climate change on native
Ohio plants. He made several suggestions
on a variety of perennials and shrubs for our
climate in northeast Ohio

Our next speaker was Joe Mihalek, Greenhouse and Conservatory Manager at Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens in Akron, Ohio. He discussed methods of successfully overwintering tropical plants, which included proper fertilization along with pest control methods. His presentation also included an interesting recap of recent changes to the Garden space on the grounds of Stan Hywet.



Following our buffet lunch break was our third speaker Janet Macunovich, well known garden designer, author and educator. Janet's presentation focused on how we can simplify our home garden landscape, save time, money and defy age. She had many tips on improving garden bed design for time efficiency, curb appeal as well as creating a personal oasis. She

also gave examples on making gardening more pleasurable as we age.

Andrew Pratt Returns

Our final speaker was Andrew Pratt, former Director of Fellows Riverside Gardens. Andy now teaches and has his own consulting business. He provided attendees with specific ways to identify biotic stressors of trees, correct pruning techniques for young trees, as well as ways of preventing the downward spiral of mature trees.

In addition to learning from our speakers, guests enjoyed a wonderful breakfast bar and buffet lunch in addition to door prizes. The GGOY held a basket raffle that included gift certificates, garden tools and garden art. Proceeds from the raffle support their scholarship program.

Friends would like to thank the Greater Gardeners of Youngstown for the opportunity to collaborate on this seminar. The strengths of two well-known local garden organizations provided education, enjoyment and the fellowship of gardeners meeting together for a day of sharing and learning.



Plant Sales 2025 on Hiatus

The Children's Garden and Service Area Renovation has begun!

ne of the two greenhouses has been relocated closer to Mahoning Ave. as the other is in process of being moved

The relocation of these greenhouses along with moving heat and waterlines impacted our ability to start our plant from seed and also have a safe location to store plants that we purchase in time for the Friends plant sales.

We hope to be back next year!





Donors and Memorials

Friends would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their donations and or memorials the past four months to support Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens:

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In Memory of Lois Wilson Boulis

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In Memory of Harry L Reinhart

Mahoning Garden Club



Garden Travel Holiday Day Trip

By Kathleen Krantz

his past December the Friends of Fellows Garden Bus Tour, "Razzle Dazzle Pittsburgh," took 45 guests on a very chilly day to 6 different stops to get us in the holiday spirit.

After boarding the comfortable bus at Fellows Riverside Gardens we headed to our first stop, the Phipps Conservatory near downtown Pittsburgh. With a whimsical theme of "Enchantment," the group was captivated by a forest of fantasy.

Phipps Conservatory

Phipps pulled out all the stops for this year's Winter Flower Show with magnificent new displays featuring mystical creatures, a miniature train village, gorgeous holiday trees and their signature floral delights, including amaryllis, orchids and 21 varieties of poinsettias inside 14 climate and moisture-controlled greenhouses. This was a self-guided tour, which allowed guests time to explore at their own pace. It was a wonderful way to start the trip. We then enjoyed a delicious lunch nearby at The Porch at Schenley.















Carnegie Museum of Art

Our next stop was The Carnegie Museum of Art. Since 1957, Carnegie Museum of Art has marked the holiday season with the Neapolitan presepio. A centuries-old tradition in Naples and southern Italy, the presepio is an elaborate nativity scene recreated with miniature figures arranged in a detailed panorama of 18th-century life in Naples. Handmade by artists in the Royal Court of Naples between 1700 and 1830, the presepio includes superbly modeled humans, animals, angelic figures and architectural elements.

For over six decades, the annual installation and decoration of the soaring evergreens in the Hall of Architecture, fondly known as the Carnegie Trees, has been the signature tradition of the Women's Committee of Carnegie Museum of Art. Each year, the trees are decorated in celebration of different themes with ornaments handmade by the committee. In 1961, the group was approached by the museum to create a memorable holiday attraction for Pittsburgh that would support the museum. Since then, the Carnegie Trees have signaled the start of the holiday season for many Pittsburghers. Located in the magnificent Hall of Architecture, the Carnegie Trees make an already incredible space truly spectacular each winter.

For this season, the Carnegie Trees highlighted the unique treasures that make the Steel City remarkable! The five majestic Fraser firs were adorned by the Women's Committee, each reflecting one of five distinct themes: Pittsburgh Artists Featured at Carnegie Museum of Art, Black & Gold Champions, Flavors of Pittsburgh, Greetings from Andy Warhol and Living Waters: The Rachel Carson Tree

Peoples Gas Holiday Market

Our next stop was the Peoples Gas Holiday Market. Inspired by the original German Christkindlmarkts (or "Christmas Market"), the Peoples Gas Holiday Market brings a cherished European tradition to Pittsburgh with an international flair, a touch of local charm, and a pinch of sugar, spice, and everything nice. With a wide variety of artists it's obvious why the Peoples Gas Holiday Market was voted the #1 Holiday Market in the county by USA Today.

Close by, we stopped at the Pittsburgh Square Christmas tree and ice-skating rink. We also had the opportunity to visit the lobbies of PPG One and Two building's where life-size Santas depictions from countries around the world were on display. These were beautiful, with an opportunity to learn about the different International Christmas traditions.

We then made a quick stop at the Pittsburgh Creche', or nativity scene, is the only sanctioned replica of the crèche at

Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens

The final stop was Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens. There we enjoyed a private buffet dinner at the Canopy Café. After dinner, guests were able to explore the outdoor mile long immersive lighting display "Dazzling Nights." We experienced the brilliance of hundreds of thousands of lights festooning the trees throughout the garden, including a 70' long tunnel of lights, a nightly snowfall photo stop, a forest of dancing light synchronized to music and an orchard illuminated by candycane white and red neon. We capped off the stop with hot chocolate and fresh baked chocolate chip cookies.

A special note of gratitude to the Friends Garden Bus Tour volunteer committee: Jennifer Aronson, Deby Clark, Mary Ann Navarro, Alica Muzina and Lucy Setz for all their efforts to make these bus trips so memorable.



Annual Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens Member Listing

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS! Your contributions allow Fellows Riverside Gardens to flourish and keep the dream of Elizabeth Fellows alive... a beautiful free park for all to enjoy.

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This listing is for membership donations received from

January 1, 2024 through April 5, 2025.

Please send email to info@friendsoffellows.org with any questions, corrections or clarifications that are needed. **Note:** For more information on any of these events or classes or to register online please go to www.millcreekmetroparks.org or call 330-740-7116 and speak to a receptionist.

Please note – Registration is required for many of the classes in this listing – check the specific event for drop-in class availability.

EXHIBITS

Mill Creek MetroParks History

Ongoing | Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens

The Melnick Museum offers the visitor a peek into the unique history of Mill Creek MetroParks. Look back and discover how Volney Rogers garnered property and how that land has grown into Mill Creek MetroParks. Learn about the generosity of Elizabeth Fellows that was the beginning of Fellows Riverside Gardens. And take time to learn about the early days of McGuffey and his boyhood homestead located in Coitsville and now known as the McGuffey Wildlife Preserve.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Boaters Education Course

Wick Recreation Area: Wick Recreation Center 4/12, 5/17 | 9 a.m.-.5 p.m.

Join us for a one day, 8-hour class in boating and water safety designed and presented by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Watercraft. This course covers the fundamentals of safe boating including state-required equipment, watercraft laws, navigation rules of the road, basic safety and risk management, and aids to navigation. A proficiency exam will be issued at the end of the class, and those who pass the exam will obtain a lifetime boating license that satisfies the Ohio Boater Education Requirement. **Anyone born on or after January 1, 1982 is required to have a boating license if they are going to operate a vessel more than 10 horsepower, including jet skis.** Online preregistration is required. Call or visit Wick Recreation Area for more details: (330) 740-7114.

Traveling Naturalist: Daffodil Meadow

East Newport Boat Launch 4/19 | Noon -3 p.m.

Join a Park Educator at Daffodil Meadow on East Newport Dr. and learn about the history and biology of our beautiful daffodils. All are welcome to stop by and chat! Weather dependent. Call 330.740.7107 x 129 for details. Free

Paranormal Investigation of Pioneer Pavilion

Pioneer Pavilion 4/19 | 8-11 p.m.

Join Park staff and the Collective Paranormal Research Society for an exclusive paranormal investigation of Pioneer Pavilion built in 1821. What makes it exclusive? Previous investigations were for up to 30 participants and for two hours. For this investigation we are limiting the number of participants to 15 people for three hours, plenty of time to interact with the investigators and the spirit energy. Adults only; 18 and older. Registration required. Register/pay by 4/17, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. \$40 per person.

HEALTHY LIVING

Yoga Basics Course

Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Program Classroom Sundays, 3/9 – 4/27 | 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Release physical and mental tensions while gradually improving strength & flexibility. Gentle but thorough classes guided by experienced instructor Karres Cvetkovich. register online or call 330.740.7116 ext230. \$96-8 week course.

Yoga Basics Course

Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Program Classroom Sundays, 5/4– 6/22l 9:15-10:30 a.m.

Release physical and mental tensions while gradually improving strength & flexibility. Gentle but thorough classes guided by experienced instructor Karres Cvetkovich. register online or call 330.740.7116 ext230. \$96-8 week course. **Outdoors when weather permits in morning splendor with birdsong**

Yoga in the Gardens

Fellows Riverside Gardens:
Radius Program Classroom
Tuesdays & Thursdays, through 12/19 | 9:30-11 a.m.

Elevate your yoga practice and discover a healthier you with Marina. All levels are welcome to join. Don't

forget to bring your mat and a small blanket for ultimate comfort during the session. Invest in yourself for just \$15 per class. Let's find balance together! To secure your spot, register and pay online or call 330.740.7116 ext. 230. Walk-ins are also welcome! NO CLASSES: May 27, July 1 & 3, September 2, November 27 and December 23,35,30.

T'ai Chi Step One in the Gardens

Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Program Classroom Wednesdays, through 12/18 | Noon -1 p.m.

Ease stress, improve health, and increase vitality. Join Marie Lew in warm-ups, breathing exercises, instruction of selected movements and narrated practice of a classic Chen T'ai Chi form. Register online or call 330.740.7116 ext230. Walk-ins welcome. \$12/class

T'ai Chi Basics for Beginners Course

Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Program Classroom Thursdays, 3/6–5/8 | Noon -1 p.m.

Learn this classic art of energy balancing while developing coordination, flexibility and leg strength. Designed for beginners, this course includes warmups, breathing exercises and the first steps of a classic T'ai Chi form. Learn to flow through your day feeling centered and attuned!Register online or call 330.740.7116 ext230. course \$120 HORTICULTURE / NATURE

Birding the Sanctuary

Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary 4/19 | 8-9:30 a.m.

Enjoy birding with Jeff Harvey on this early morning hike at Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, 2650 W. Calla Rd. Space limited. Boots required. Moderate. 1.25 mi. Register by 4/17, online or call Ford Nature Center 330.740.7107 x 129. FREE

Birding the Sanctuary

Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary 5/10 | 8-9:30 a.m.

Enjoy birding with Jeff Harvey on this early morning hike at Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, 2650 W. Calla

Rd. Space limited. Boots required.

Moderate. 1.25 mi. Register by 5/8, online or call
Ford Nature Center 330.740.7107 x 129. FREE

Park Wanderings

Ford Nature Center Parking Lot 4/25 | 9-10 a.m.

Join Educator Miss Lynn for Park Wanderings, a leisurely stroll at different Park locations. This month let's wander to Daffodil Meadow aboard the Cohasset Express trolley. Dress for the weather. Limited seating. Register/pay by 4/23, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk-ins. No pets. \$5

KIDS & FAMILIES

Lecture Mushroom Meander 101

Ford Nature Center 4/18 | 6-7 p.m.

Join Gary Davenport, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, in the warmth of the Ford Education Building as we explore Mushrooms 101. The classroom-based setting allows us to gain insights and information about local mushrooms and other fungi, their roles in nature, which ones grow in the area, and how to get involved in volunteer community science opportunities. Register by 4/16, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. No walk ins, no pets. FREE.

Fishing at the Farm

MetroParks Farm: Fishing Pond 4/4, 5/2, 6/6, 7/11, 8/1, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7 5-6:30 p.m.

Join us at the MetroParks Farm for a fun evening of fishing! Bring your own fishing equipment or use what is available. A valid fishing license is required for participants 16+ years old. To purchase a fishing license prior to the program date(s), please visit: https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources/fishing-licenses

TROLLEY TOURS

Daffodil Day Trolley Tour

Fellows Riverside Gardens 4/26 | 11 am-Noon and 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Take the trolley to Daffodil Meadow as we celebrate Spring and the daffodils. Trolley boards at Fellows

Riverside Gardens. Register/pay by 4/24, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults: \$10 R; \$12 NR; Seniors/Youth: \$7 R, \$9 NR

Spring Trolley Tour

Ford Nature Center 5/4, 5/6, 5/11, 5/13, 5/18, 5/20, 5/25, 5/27 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 3 – 4 p.m.

Enjoy Spring in Mill Creek Park with natural and historic views aboard the Cohasset Express. Limited seating. Boards at Ford Nature Center. Register/pay online by 5/2 or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults: \$10 R, \$12 NR; Seniors/Youth: \$7 R, \$9 NR

Rock the Park -

a Geological Exploration of Mill Creek Park

Fellows Riverside Gardens 5/8 | 6-8 p.m.

Ever wonder how Mill Creek Park was formed? For much of geologic history, Ohio was underwater and near the equator! Join us on the Cohasset Express Trolley as we travel back over 300 million years and explore the formation of the Park throughout geologic time. Learn about the bedrock of the Park and how the Ice Age shaped the Park that we all love. Where possible, we will hop off to investigate geologic features up close. Trolley boards at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Register/pay by 5/6, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults: \$10 R, \$12 NR; Seniors/Youth: \$7 R, \$ 9 NR

Rock the Park a Geological Exploration of Mill Creek Park Fellows Riverside Gardens 5/24 | 10 a.m.-Noon

Ever wonder how Mill Creek Park was formed? For much of geologic history, Ohio was underwater and near the equator! Join us on the Cohasset Express Trolley as we travel back over 300 million years and explore the formation of the Park throughout geologic time. Learn about the bedrock of the Park and how the Ice Age shaped the Park that we all love. Where possible, we will hop off to investigate geologic features up close. Trolley boards at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Register/pay by 5/22, online or call 330.740.7107 x 129. Adults: \$10 R, \$12 NR; Seniors/Youth: \$7 R, \$ 9 NR



123 McKinley Avenue • Youngstown, OH 44509

Mill Creek MetroParks - Fellows Riverside Gardens

Free and open daily, dawn until dusk

D.D. and Velma Davis Education & Visitor Center

Information Desk 330.740.7116 Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 5 pm

Closed: Mondays

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

Shop in the Gardens

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday - Noon - 5 pm

Garden Café

Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm

General inquiries about Fellows Riverside Gardens

email: info@friendsoffellows.orgVisit: FriendsOfFellows.orgmillcreekmetroparks.org

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Electronic Service Requested

Save The Date:

Friends Members Dinner Thursday April 17 5 p.m.

Rossi Auditorium, Fellows Riverside Gardens

*Reservations are required – see website for details

Garden Travel Tours: Southern Gems of Ohio — Gardens, Canals & More Date Summer 2025

Brochure with details to be mailed to all active members near future

On the Terrace at 5! 5 to 7:30 p.m. Café Terrace, Fellows Riverside Gardens No Reservation – pay at event

Wednesday, June 18 Wednesday, July 16 Wednesday, August 20 Wednesday, September 17

*Follow us on Facebook to see which musicians are playing each event

Annual Summer Garden Party Friday July 25 – 5 to 9.p.m.

"Evening of Rhythm and Blues"

Fellows Riverside Gardens • Music by Total Package • Invitations will be mailed early June