

WINTER 2022





Greetings, Friends!

ounting down to the Holidays? The Holidays officially began for Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens with the magical transformation of the Shop in the

Gardens from a cozy autumnal setting to a carefully curated display of beautiful holiday merchandise. Kicking off Friends' holiday season was our annual wine and hors d'oeuvres Holiday Open House in early November, with over 140 Friends members attending. If you were unable to attend the Open House, be sure to stop by the Shop for that special gift or for unique additions to your home or garden.

A membership to Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens is always a welcome gift, one that continues giving throughout the year for discounts and for invitations to Friends' special events. Always a great gift for the person who seemingly has everything!

As we reflect on events of 2022, we are proud of the success of the past year's activities: our plant sales, chaired by board member Deb Metzger (many sold out!); the monthly gatherings of 'On the Terrace at 5!' featuring wine and jazz on the Cafe patio, chaired by board member, Deby Clark; and our annual Summer Garden Party chaired by Jeanne Simeone, shop manager, raising \$45,000, which we will pledge to the new Children's Gardens that are being constructed adjacent to the Margaret Cushwa Outdoor Education Pavilion.

In addition, two speakers sponsored by Friends and funded through the John and Doris Andrews Memorial Educational Endowment provided lectures at the D.D. Davis Center. On March 30, Tracy DiSabato-Aust, well known author and award winning garden designer, gave a presentation on "The Art of Pruning Perennials" in a morning session, then followed up with an afternoon session on "The New Well-Designed Mixed Garden." In September, Joseph Tychonievich, Michiganbased garden writer and author, also presented two lectures "Great, Nonwimpy Plants You Don't Already Grow" and "Confessions of a Plant Nerd." Both presenters were entertaining, informative and well received.

Even if winter is not your favorite season, on a trip to the Gardens you're bound to notice new things that provide plenty of mid-winter interest and add color to the winter landscape. On a sunny, clear and crisp winter day when the Gardens sparkle and shine, visitors are sure to find enrichment and inspiration – which possibly may lead to contemplating ways to survive the winter simply by following along with the thoughts of Helen Hayes that "all through the long winter I dream of my garden."

Happy Holidays!

The Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens

Newsletter Editorial Team: Jim Houck, Scott Lanz, Denise Stewart, Janet Yaniglos, Mary Ann Navarro, Sarah Lowry, Bill Mullane

Cover and inside photos: Scott Lanz

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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 fundraising. 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 Staff

Kathleen Krantz, Operations Manager

What's Growing? Winter Visitors by Sarah Lowry

ike a cake that has been left in the oven a little too long, the warm, golden hues of autumn eventually crisp into the brittle browns of winter. Even so, like a too-baked cake, there is still a sweetness—though more subtle—to be savored in the Gardens throughout the cold weather months.

The primary reason people visit the Gardens is to be immersed in the glorious greenery of the flora found all around the grounds. But, the cycle of the seasons provides a different palette for the Gardens and its visitors to enjoy throughout the year. The vibrant, verdant spring and summer alchemize to autumnal golden yellows, and after a final flourish, settle down in a backdrop of earthy neutrals.

Though the abundant bright colors of the Gardens shift and fade, the defiant splashes of color that remain really pop. And not only for the benefit of human passersby—but for other visitors, as well.

Some of the most frequent fliers in the Gardens throughout the year are literally fliers—birds. While the Gardens feed our



need for respite, reflection and rejuvenation, they also literally feed our feathered friends all year round.

Mill Creek MetroParks Commissioner, volunteer, and retired business owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Jeff Harvey, often wanders through the Gardens to

enjoy the beauty of the greenery and scenery, while keeping a watchful eye to the sky. Mr. Harvey is an experienced Mill Creek MetroParks volunteer leading birders of all ages and levels of experience on engaging, educational walks through the Mill Creek Wildlife Sanctuary from spring through fall.

3 tips for seeing winter birds

During the winter, Mr. Harvey flocks to the gardens to observe who else is passing through. Three pieces of advice to catch a glimpse of winter birds is to follow the berries, go early—much like early birds getting their worms, early risers will get the birds—and watch the weather.

Mr. Harvey encourages Gardens visitors to visit in the morning hours when the Gardens are more likely to be calm and quiet. Most birds are crepuscular, meaning they are most active in the twilight hours in the morning and evening. He also encourages visitors to take a leisurely stroll through the Ohio Woodlands along the eastern end of the Gardens, paying particular attention to American holly trees, which offer delightful sightings of green leaves, bright red berries, and hungry, eager birds feasting on this bounty.

The best way to take the temperature of what bird activity will be like in the winter is to literally pay attention to the temperature—the weather is a great predictor of which birds

will be visiting and when.

The Gardens, much like many backyards, are likely to be visited by familiar faces of black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted tit-mice, blue jays, and northern cardinals with some seasonal appearances from dark-eyed juncos and white-throated sparrows. A cold weather treat, cedar waxwings change their diets to binge on berries, and can often be found in berry-heavy branches during the winter months. Mr. Harvey also shared that American

robins, often thought to be a sign of spring's return, are

actually with us all year round. Boisterous red-winged blackbirds are a much more accurate harbinger and indicator that buds, blooms, and bugs are around the corner.

On special occasions during a year with irruptive migration— which is when a species migrates to an area in large numbers based mainly on food supply. When food is sparse, these birds shift further south in search of seeds, berries, and other sources of sustenance. Some species

that would fit this description include evening grosbeaks, pine siskins, common redpolls, and red-breasted nuthatches. In addition to following the berries, some of these visitors also seek out pinecones as a food source, especially the bite-sized samples on Eastern hemlocks.

Providing an oasis for birds

In much the same way the Gardens are oases for people, they serve the same function for birds. Mr. Harvey explained that the Gardens are a perfect rest stop for birds traveling long distances. It's a much more peaceful, serene, food-rich layover location than other spots in the neighboring city.

All you need to enjoy birds in wintertime, or anytime of the year, are a pair of basic binoculars, a field guide (Mr. Harvey recommends Sibley Guide to Birds) or free smartphone app like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin Bird ID, and a curious love of nature to keep warm while on the lookout in the cold outdoors.

Even when all the flowers and the leaves have fallen and the snow blankets the ground, the Gardens continue to offer memorable, magical outdoor experiences for visitors of all kinds. Until the red-winged blackbirds usher in spring with a flourish of crocuses, daffodils, and tulips, visitors are encouraged to explore, to look and listen for familiar feathered friends who are ever present and, like us, are patiently waiting for the warmth and color to wash over the Gardens again.

Gardens Staff Spotlight: Brian Keith

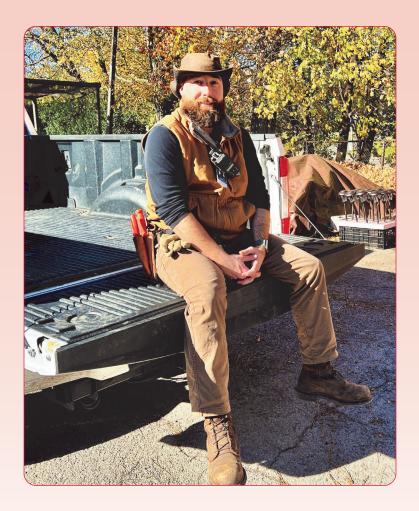
by Scott Lanz

eet Brian Keith, the recently hired Operations Supervisor for Fellows Riverside Gardens. As a member of the Mill Creek MetroParks department, Brian will have direct supervisory responsibility for the Gardens.

Brian's first exposure to Fellows Riverside Gardens and Mill Creek MetroParks came at an early age as a result of living on the west side of Youngstown close to Mill Creek Park. His interest in landscape design also dates to his youth, working for landscapers and golf courses as a teen. He decided to make his interest in landscaping his vocation by obtaining an associate degree in landscape design from Columbus State in 2008.

Prior to being hired by the MetroParks, Brian's previous employment allowed him to travel the country and see other public gardens. He believes this experience, coupled with his background and education, will give him a fresh perspective on Fellows Riverside Gardens and serve him well in his new position.

In addition to his working for the MetroParks, Brian is a professional photographer specializing in portrait, wedding and real estate photography. He conducts his photography business under the name Memory Mill Photography, LLC. You can see and read more about Brian's photography at his website, www.memorymillphoto.com, or on Instagram.



Gardens Staff Spotlight: Kayla Venters

by Kathleen Krantz

eet Kayla Venters, a new addition to the team at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Kayla joined the staff as a part-time receptionist this summer. Born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, Kayla graduated from Youngstown State University with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in nonprofits.

She saw the opportunity to work at the D.D and Velma Davis Visitor and Education Center as a way to apply her degree from YSU to a practical application in a working environment. Kayla is very goal oriented and has aspirations to attend law school with an emphasis on medical law and helping patients and families deal with medical malpractice.

Her hobbies include kayaking, crocheting and playing the violin. She is looking forward to sharing the holidays with her family, "especially the food," and their family tradition of watching Polar Express together and drinking hot chocolate.

Welcome Kayla, we wish you well in your receptionist role at the Visitors Center.



Member Profile: Lucy Setz by Jim Houck

hen former third-grade teacher Lucy Setz would need a little dose of peace and tranquility after a particularly trying day at school, she'd often stop at Fellows Riverside Gardens on her way home.

"It's a place I felt safe going by myself, and where I could enjoy nature and get a bit of stress relief," she said.

It was on one of those visits when she stopped inside the Davis Center and saw a brochure promoting Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens memberships.

"I thought it looked interesting and that I'd like to support that group, but I didn't know much about it then."

Once she joined, she started meeting a lot of people through taking horticulture classes around her teaching schedule. She also went on one of the group's bus trips.

Making friends through Friends

"I've made so many friends through Friends," she said.

She also found the answer to her worries about what she was going to do when she retired, which was starting to weigh on her around this time. Her husband of 35 years, Alan Setz, also her golf and travel partner, wasn't quite ready to retire yet.

Within weeks of retiring after 36 years at Girard City Schools, Lucy was invited to join the Friends' Board of Directors.

"When I retired, I felt like I had a really nice career, and now I wanted to give back to the community," she recounted as she agreed to the Board seat. "I limited what I did when I worked. You know, there's only so many hours in a day. But I've always felt you should be active if you're going to join an organization."

Staying active through her Friends membership

She's been active with Friends, all right. During her eight years on the Board, she served on the Education committee, helped with membership drives, and organized many facets of the bus trips.

"Since being in Friends, I became aware of the reciprocal membership arrangements with other gardens around the country, and when my husband and I plan our travels, we'll



often look up what gardens are near where we're going," she said.

"Going on the trips makes you appreciate what we have here, and you realize the importance of supporting these gardens."

Her time with Friends has also inspired her to up her own gardening game at home, although she says the ones who admire it most are the deer who frequent her yard in Boardman near the East Golf Hike and Bike trail.

For information on you can join Friends and experience the benefits of membership, visit friendsoffellows.org/ membership.



Davis Center's Indoor Plants Are a Sight to Behold by Mary Ann Novarro

he splendor of the Gardens can also be found indoors ... all year-round!

I met with Marcy Dubec in our Davis Education & Visitor Center to take a look at the unique plants found indoors at Fellows Riverside Gardens.

Marcy has been a professional gardener since 2002. Before that, she volunteered for 6-8 years at the Gardens, so she is an expert on our plants and their histories. Let's learn a little about some of the unique plants housed inside the Davis Center.

Some of the plants were started here at the Davis Center and some were donated. Come see how many you can find during your next visit.

Interested in a unique volunteer assignment? Contact our office at 330.740.7116 to ask about watering and caring for our indoor plants.



The Candelabra Cactus looks like a cactus but is a euphoria.



The Crown of Thorns likes plenty of light. It is a succulent plant.



The Euphoria Platycerus is a succulent.



The Heartleaf Hoya is a plant shaped like hearts that's easy to care for.



The Madagascar Jewel is a succulent.



The Madagascar Palm is a stem succulent.



The Hoya Camosa plant is 70 years old. A must see!

Discovery through Garden Travel by Janet Yaniglos

arden travel opens the door to intriguing discoveries.

Consider these, gathered in late September during the Friends 'Garden & Autumn Highlights at the Finger Lakes' trip:

What's a "Plant Rescue Center?"

There's one at Sonnenberg Gardens above Lake Canandaigua. It's one of 62 places across the country designated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to accept and care for shipments of illegal plants confiscated at ports. Orchids, cacti, and hundreds of tropical and exotic plants find safe refuge, and ultimately, a forever home for enjoyment by many visitors.

Guess this crossword puzzle stumper

A geometric pattern in garden design, consisting of four points at the corners of a square or rectangle, with a fifth at its center. It's a quincunx, a garden layout you'll spot from the windows of Sonnenberg's historic mansion.

Geology lesson

Receding glaciers 10,000 years ago left their imprint upon upstate New York with 11 Finger Lakes and dozens of gorges and streams. New York State Parks staff Max and Josh regaled our tour group with the geologic history behind the breathtaking rim trails and natural botanic beauty of Watkins Glen.

Ivy League sustainability

Do you know what the Ithaca New Deal is? It's a plan to electrify all 6,000 of the town's buildings, so that it is completely decarbonized by 2030! Cornell University is part of the plan. We walked among Cornell Botanic Gardens' bioswales and through its LEED-certified visitor center, while also being enchanted by its garden construction of a more traditional sort – herb gardens, 17 of them, containing 500 varieties of herbs displayed in theme beds such as

Herbs of the Ancients, Edible Flowers, and Herbs of Native Americans.

More discoveries and delights from our 3-day tour across the gardens and countryside of the Finger Lakes:



Blossoms of glass at Corning Museum of Glass



Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park



Rainbow spilling beyond Seneca Lake, as seen from Glenora Winery at supper



The gorges of Watkins Glen

Nearly 600 people have traveled with us since 2016, with 14 tours to Michigan, Chicago, Niagara Falls, and throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. We invite you to climb on board in 2023! And if you'd like to help with our planning, contact one of the Garden Tours Committee: Deby Clark, Lucy Setz, or Janet Yaniglos.



Celebrating the Holiday Open House with our Members

n Thursday November 3rd, the Shop in the Gardens and Friends of Fellows Riverside Gardens hosted a memberonly evening event, the annual holiday open house. Shop Manager Jeanne Simeone, along with her elves, once again transformed the Shop into a magical winter wonderland filled with the lights and scents of the season.

The unusually warm weather brought approximately 140 members to the Davis Center to enjoy the opening night holiday shopping kickoff. In addition to purchasing great bargains in the Shop, our members enjoyed complimentary samples of several of our Stonewall Kitchen items, delicious

appetizers, sandwiches and pastries from Inspired Catering along with a glass of wine. It was warm enough to enjoy these treats along with laughter and conversation with fellow members on the outdoor Café terrace.

We would like to thank the Shop staff and volunteer team for making this event special for all. And of course, we could not have a successful event without you, our valued members. We look forward to hosting you at future events, so watch your emails and follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on Shop and other member events.



We Appreciate Our Members!

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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, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 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.

Be Dazzled by Phyllis Beard

End date 12-31 | Tuesday- Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens, Weller Gallery

Phyllis brings with great pleasure the wonder and joy from generations ago, whom once dazzled those living in a bygone era. This collection was inspired by the framed jeweled Christmas trees our great grandmothers created and brooch bouquets inspired by Marie Antoinette. All proceeds benefit Fellows Riverside Gardens and victims of Hurricane lan.

Winter Celebration-Festival of the Trees

12/3 - 12/31 | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tuesday- Sunday

Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens

As we welcome the magic of the holiday season, Mill Creek MetroParks is proud to present our Winter Celebration display in the D.D. and Velma Davis Education and Visitor Center. The visitors center will be adorned with 50 holiday trees, decorated by area nonprofit organizations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Winter Nights

12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/31 | 5:00 p.m 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens

Take a frosty evening stroll in Fellows Riverside Gardens at this year's Winter Nights! The garden grounds will be adorned with dazzling light displays that are sure to spark some holiday joy in all our visitors. Stop in the Davis Center and enjoy our 50 Winter Celebration trees, purchase snacks and refreshments in the Garden Café by Kravitz or grab some festive décor at the Shop in the Gardens.

HEALTHY LIVING

Yoga in the Gardens

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning 9:30a.m.— 11:00 a.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens: Radius Room

Join Marina Perdos for a blend of energizing yoga styles that will help you keep a healthy outlook. All levels are welcome. Bring a mat and a small blanket. Register / pay by 2 days prior to the session, online or call 330.740.7116 x 230. Walk -ins welcome. \$15/class

T'ai Chi Step One in the Gardens

Every Wednesday Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens – Radius Room

Ease stress, improve health, and increase vitality. Join Marie Lew in warm-ups, breathing exercise, instructions of selected movments and narrated practice of a classic Chen T'ai Chi form. Register / pay by 2 days prior to the session online or call Fellows Riverside Gardens at 330-740-7116 x230. for details. Walk-in's welcome. \$12/class

KIDS & FAMILIES

Sprout Club: Evergreens and Candy Canes

12/15 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens: Kidston Classroom

Ages 3-5, plus adult. Join Sprout Club for learning and fun with hands-on activities while learning about evergreens and candy canes. Register/pay by 12/13 online or call 330.740.7116. \$7

Melt the Ice

12/12 | 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Location: Bears Den Cabin

Ages 7-12, plus adult. Put on your scientific minds for these playful ice activities. We will be making predictions about what can melt ice the fastest and attempting a "sticky ice" experiment while learning about the water cycle in the winter. All activities will be indoors. Meet at Bears Den Cabin on New Cross Dr. Register/pay by 12/10, online or call 330.740.7116. \$3

Sprout Club: 0-H-I-O State Symbols

01/19 I 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens: Kidston Classroom

Ages 3-5, plus adult. Join Sprout Club for fun and hands-on activities learning all about our great state of Ohio!. Register/pay by 01/17, online or call 330.740.7116. \$7

Critter Tales

01/31 I 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m. Location: Fellows Riverside Gardens: Kidston Classroom

Ages 3-6, plus adult. Come explore the wildlife of Ohio with a Park Educator as we learn about the animals that live in the Park. Story time and hands-on activities are part of the fun. Register/pay by 01/29, online or call 330.740.7116. \$7

HIKES, WALKS & BIRDING

Naturalist Walk – Hemlock Wooly Adelgid

12/10 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 q.m. Location: Slippery Rock Pavilion Parking Lot

Join an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist to learn about the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid, a non-native insect that threatens our Eastern Hemlock trees, and how to check for infestations. Meet at Slippery Rock Pavilion Parking Lot off Robinson Memorial Dr. Dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes or boots. Hand lens and smartphone may be useful. Register by 12/8, online or call 330.740.7116. No walk-ins. No pets. Free.

Winter Wonderland Sensory Hike 12/21 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Location: East Gold Hike and Bike Trail

Join a Park Educators on the Winter Solstice for a Winter Wonderland Sensory Hike. Using our senses, we will checklist what we hear, feel, see, and smell on a crisp winter day. Additional sensory activities will be scattered throughout the hike. Meet at the East Golf Hike & Bike Trail parking lot off Rt. 224. Easy 1 mile. Dress for the weather. Wear closed toe shoes or hiking boots. Register by 12/19, online or call 330.740.7116 for details. No walk-ins. No pets. Free





123 McKinley Avenue • Youngstown, OH 44509

Mill Creek MetroParks - Fellows Riverside GardensFree 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 & 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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