Renovation of the Mirror Lake District

By Nancy Wardwell

The original “mirror lake” was fed by a natural spring in a small hollow in the old Neil Farm. It figured prominently in the selection of the site for the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College, founded in 1870. The University’s name changed in 1878 but the area around the spring had already become popular for strolling and picnics.

The spring eventually dried up and there have been at least four major renovations to maintain the area. In 1930 a wall was built around the lake and then the bottom was lined with bricks. Olentangy River water was pumped in, the Memorial Fountain dedicated, and finally the University bought thousands of gallons of Columbus water daily in attempts to maintain the lake.

In November 2013 the University again began exploring ways to make the iconic site more sustainable. This past October it was announced that the “Mirror Lake District” – including Browning Amphitheater, Pomerene Hall, and Oxley Hall – is being renovated and is anticipated to reopen spring 2018.

When Mirror Lake is restored it will be more sustainable and will have a natural wetland edge. It is predicted that walking through the district will be much the same as it would have been throughout the past century.
FROM: The President

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours had wonderful holidays.

I always look at the New Year as a time to review the past and make plans for the future. This year there were milestones in my life and OSURA’s. July was a new beginning for my only child Amy who married her OSU sweetheart Brent Glover at the Faculty Club. It’s been fun watching them start their new life together and hearing them talk about their future plans. Tim and I plan to travel more this year now that our nest is empty.

For OSURA we can celebrate a new beginning with the OSU Alumni Association. Your Board has learned a lot about how to make OSURA work these last six months. Please hang in there with us as we are still finding details to smooth out. Newsletter addresses are being corrected and we will mail only to those who requested a hard copy. If you experience issues, please let me know. My email is shirleyfmccloy@gmail.com.

Membership in OSURA stopped being dues based on June 30, 2016 and became donation based on July 1, 2016. “Active Members” are those who donate a minimum of $25 annually or chose to become Life Members by donating $500 to the OSURA Support Fund #315499. Membership donations, on or after July 1, 2016 are tax deductible if you itemize. Current Active Members are paid through December 31, 2017 because of our transition from a fiscal to calendar year for membership tracking. Active Membership must be current to participate in OSURA Activities.

OSURA has great programs planned for 2017! We are discovering new opportunities for our members to enjoy in our new relationship with the Alumni Association. All retirees of The Ohio State University are considered members of The Ohio State University Retirees Association and we hope to touch base with everyone in 2017 by email.

To close, I want to thank those of you who donated canned and non-perishable items for the Buckeye Food Alliance at the OSURA Holiday Buffet. The Buckeye Food Alliance is the OSU Student Food Pantry. We are asking those who attend the January 21 Health & Wellness Event to bring a canned or non-perishable item for the Buckeye Food Alliance. Again, thank you, these donations support students in need at OSU.

Shirley Fields McCoy
President, OSURA Executive Board
Craig Little is the Alumni Association liaison to OSURA. He recently presented a new OSURA banner to President McCoy.

Welcome New Retirees

Patricia D. Balassone  
Office of Student Life – Health Services

Karoly T. Beery  
OSU Health Plan Inc

Meda K. Blake  
Wexner Medical Center

Sharon Davis  
University Hospital East

Karen A. Deweese  
Ross Heart Hospital

Mary J. Ferda  
Lima Campus

Cheryl D. Forney  
Wexner Medical Center

Paula K. Freeburg  
Ross Heart Hospital

Franklin Gibson  
Marion Campus

Beth A. Halla  
Wexner Medical Center

William R. Hazlett  
Facilities Operations and Development

Gail R. Hoskins  
Education and Human Ecology

James N. Karcher  
Wooster Campus

Polly W. Loy  
Extension

Timothy J. Meager  
Law

Bradley A. Myers  
University Registrar

Vicki J. Reed  
University Outreach

Judith A. Riggenbach  
Pathology

Gary L. Rucker  
Wexner Medical Center

Charles F. Sailor  
Office of Academic Affairs

Susan B. Seipel  
Office of Administration and Planning

George D. Spence  
OSU Police

Jody S. Termeer  
Extension

Robert A. Towner-Larsen  
Wexner Medical Center

Cheryl L. Ware  
Wexner Medical Center

Elise L. White  
University Hospital East
**Calendar of Events**

### Committee Meetings

**January 3 (Tuesday)**
**Benefits Committee**
**Time/Place:** 9:15 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

**January 10 (Tuesday)**
**Board Meeting**
**Time/Place:** 9 a.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road

### Monthly Activities

**January 12 (Thursday)**
**Photo Society**
**Program:** “Bhutan” presented by Rolf Barth  
**Member Theme:** “Islands” limit 3 images  
Send digital files in a Power Point file (alternately in .jpg 96 or 72 dot/inch format) to jhuston1@columbus.rr.com.  
New members always welcome.  
**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m., cocktails; 6 p.m., dinner; 7 p.m., program; OSU Faculty Club.  
**You MUST make reservations for dinner by calling 292-2262 by January 9.**  
**Cost:** On your own  
**Arranger:** Lawrence Kennedy  
(Photographic Society SIG)

**January 18 (Wednesday)**
**Book Club**
**The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared,** by Jonas Jonasson. An ancient man is besieged in an old folks’ home. He decides to bail out of it during his 100th birthday party. What follows is a hilarious romp through the 20th century that stretches credulity. He could say (and does!), “I’ve been everywhere man!”  
**Time/Place:** 1 p.m., Carriage Hill of Arlington Party House, Lafayette Drive. Call Lee Hill (614-459-4743) for directions.  
**Cost:** On your own  
**Arranger:** Lee Hill (Book Club SIG)

**January 19 (Thursday)**
**Lunch Bunch:**  
**Here Comes the Judge**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
Have you ever had the privilege of serving on a jury? Have you ever been to court? Our speaker, Judge David Cain, will give us insight into the legal system. Join us for this informative presentation.  
**Time/Place:** 11:15 a.m., MCL Cafeteria, Kingsdale  
**Cost:** On your own order through cafeteria line starting at 11:15 a.m., program at approximately 12 noon.  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at OSURASocial@gmail.com by January 17  
**Arrangers:** Phyllis Carroll and Elenore Zeller  
(Social Committee)

**January 21 (Saturday)**
**Walking/Hiking Group**  
**Challenge Level 2-4**  
Everyone welcome. Join us on the trails at Highbanks Metro Park. Take US 23 North – entrance is on the left, just before Powell Rd.  
**Time/Place:** 11 a.m., we’ll meet at the Ranger/Nature Center.  
**Cost:** On your own  
**Arranger:** Hallan Noltimier  
(Walking/Hiking SIG)

**January 24 (Tuesday)**
**Tertulia Breakfast**  
Please join OSURA members and friends for breakfast and conversation.  
**Time/Place:** 8 a.m., OSU Faculty Club  
**Cost:** On your own  
**Arranger:** Jerry Dare  
(Tertulia Breakfast SIG)

**January 25 (Wednesday)**
**Bridge Group**  
We’re back at the tables... please join us. We welcome new members. There is no membership fee and it costs only 25 cents for prizes the day you play. Come enjoy the fellowship, and have fun playing a good game of bridge at the same time.  
**Time/Place:** 1 p.m., Friendship Village of Dublin, North CR  
**Arranger:** Steve Miller  
(Bridge Group SIG)

**January 26 (Thursday)**
**Dinner Series: Columbus, Ohio: Two Centuries of Business and Cultural Change**  
**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
**Presenter:** Mansel Blackford  
An informative examination of how a major Midwestern city developed economically, spatially and socially, and the environmental consequences from its founding in 1812 to the present day. No single factor explains the success of Columbus, but the implementation of water-use and land-use policies reveal much about it being a thriving urban center.  
**Time/Place:** 5:15 p.m., social hour, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m.; OSU Faculty Club  
**Cost:** $23 (service charge included)  
**Registration Deadline:** Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu by January 23  
**Arranger:** Howard Gauthier  
(Dinner Series SIG)

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**Challenge Levels**  
1 Light – may include a few stairs.  
2 Moderate – may include a few sets of stairs.  
3 Moderate + – may include climbing many stairs and/or uneven terrain.  
4 High – may include lots of walking, climbing stairs, hilly walkways and/or extended weather exposure.
Registration Instructions

1. Registrations requiring payment: Registrations can be made by going on-line to www.osura.osu.edu, or by phone 614-292-2281 or 1-800-762-5646. You can pay by credit card, or if you mail in a check make it payable to OSUAA. Put the name of the trip in the Note/Memo section of the check and send or drop off to:

   Customer Service
   c/o OSURA
   Longaberger Alumni House
   2200 Olentangy River Road
   Columbus, Ohio 43210

   The reservation is not made until payment is received.

2. Registrations NOT requiring payment: Registrations will be made through the Arranger’s email provided in the description of the event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 13 (Friday)
2016 Income Tax Seminar

Tax experts will discuss Federal and State income tax issues for 2016. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Time/Place: 1-3 p.m., Longaberger Alumni House, 2200 Olentangy River Road
Cost: No charge
Arranger: Hallan Noltimier (Benefits Committee)

January 21 (Saturday)
Special Health Event – Understanding Addiction: Squirrel Logic

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Using a mood-altering drug over time creates fundamental changes to the brain that lead to compulsive and self-destructive behavior. It feels like we are dealing with squirrels! This presentation looks at the effects of alcohol and drugs on the brain, how one becomes addicted and how we currently treat addiction.

Brad Lander, PhD, LICDC Psychologist/ Clinical Director in Addiction Medicine, will present this program.

Time/Place: Check-in 8:30 a.m.; program 9-11 a.m., Martha Morehouse Medical Plaza, 2050 Kenny Road
Cost: Free
Registration Deadline: January 17 – email OSURA.Health.Wellness@gmail.com
Arranger: Rod Tomczak, MD (Health & Wellness SIG)

February 10 (Friday)
BalletMet – Peter Pan

(Senior Dress Rehearsal)
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

BalletMet dances Michael Pink’s Peter Pan. A Milwaukee critic regarded it as “Spectacular” when it was performed there. Only $18 for group tickets, $5 off the regular price, and without fees! Register at osura.alumni.osu.edu or call 614-292-2281. Credit card preferred. If by check, it must arrive by February 6. Tickets will be held at Will Call.

Time/Place: Curtain rises at 11 a.m. Seating is general, so plan to arrive early for best seats. Doors open between 10 and 10:15 a.m., Ohio Theatre, 39 E. State Street
Cost: $18 (admission ticket)
Registration/Refund Deadline: January 30
Arranger: Les Benedict (Cultural Arts Committee)

March 4 (Saturday)
An Introduction to Islam and Tour of a Local Mosque: Repeat Performance

Dublin, OH
Challenge Level 1
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Back by popular demand, the Noor Islamic Cultural Center offers a program entitled, “Islam 101.” The presentation covers the basics of the faith, allows ample time for questions, and includes a tour of the mosque. See noorohio.org

Meet by: 11 a.m., Noor Islamic Cultural Center, 5001 Wilcox Road, Dublin, OH
Return: 1 p.m.
Cost: No cost for presentation and tour
Registration Deadline: Register at OSURA.CulturalArts.Travel@gmail.com by March 1
Arranger: Susan Berntson (Cultural Arts Committee)

September 2 – 10, 2017
The “Magnificent” Canadian Rockies

Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Calgary
Challenge Level 4
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We’ll take a tour of Vancouver, ride VIA Rail’s “The Canadian” to begin overnight train travel to Jasper, travel along the Ice- fields Parkway en route to Lake Louise and Banff... and finish our adventure in Calgary. Full itinerary is at gateway.gocollette.com/ link/766996 and in registration packet. Contact Karen Gallien of Sun Deck Cruises at (877-855-4434) for registration packet.

Depart: TBA September 2, 2017 (Saturday) from CMH
Return: TBA September 10, 2017 (Sunday)
Cost: $5,199 double, $6199 single, $5149 triple; includes round trip airfare from Columbus (air available from your local airport – cost may vary), taxes and fees, transfers, tours, lodging, 13 meals, sight-seeing per itinerary, cancellation waiver, and insurance

Registration/Payment Deadline: $500 deposit due with reservation form by February 23, 2017, first come, first served; final payment due July 4, 2017.
Arranger: Alabelle Zghoul (Travel Committee)

Events in the Works...

The following event is in the planning stages—preparations are not far enough along to accept reservations, but it is listed here so you can mark it on your calendar. When all details are in place (cost, times, content, etc.), it will be listed in the Calendar of Events; until then, if you want information, contact the arranger.

September 12 – 16
Stratford Festival, Ontario, Canada
Arranger: Odette Blum (Cultural Arts Committee)
To make sure they can remain solvent, defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, such as State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, frequently make projections of income and expenses, and recent projections do not look good. The assumed long-term rate of return on investments is 7.75% but this is probably too high. The projected growth in payroll for teachers has been assumed to be 3.5% a year while it’s actually running about 1.4%, further cutting expected income to STRS. Projected expenses should also be raised, in great part because retirees are living longer.

If projections indicate current policies are not sustainable, public pension funds must address the problem. The tools the STRS Board can use to improve long-term solvency include tightening the age and service requirements for full benefits and decreasing the annual cost of living adjustment (currently 2%, although more recent retirees don’t receive a COLA for the first 5 years of retirement).

If projected investment returns drop from 7.75% to 7.50%, the loss of income could be roughly balanced by not having any COLA for five years, and this would still not address the problems in payroll growth and longevity. STRS will be studying the challenges over the next few months, but prudence dictates that those receiving STRS pensions not count on current policies continuing unchanged.

Understanding STRS

OPERS has a strong, positive economic impact on Ohio. In 2015 OPERS has paid more that 7.2 billion in pension benefits and costs for health care covering more than 205,000 retired Ohioans and their families. More that 90% of OPERS retirees live in Ohio, so the vast majority of that money is spent on local goods and services.

Beyond that, OPERS invests in major Ohio companies, further bolstering the state economy.

Check out the specifics on OPERSource at oper.org.
The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium sends the most interesting animals and the most engaging staff.

BACKGROUND:
Many older individuals, especially those without family nearby, may need help with bill paying and managing their monthly bills and statements. For example, with arthritis, it can be difficult to write checks. Vision problems can make it harder to read bills. Hearing problems can make calling about a bill more difficult, and reduced mobility and/or not driving any more can make it hard to get to the bank to make deposits or withdrawals.

One solution is to retain a “representative payee” who can help with these services, usually for a small monthly or hourly fee. This individual can come to your home, sit down and review the monthly bills, and assist you with making payments. Often he or she can help put together a monthly budget and monitor that budget to be sure that all bills are getting paid in a timely fashion. They can be helpful in reviewing medical claims, too.

HOW TO FIND SUCH SERVICES:
Call Franklin County Senior Options (614-252-6200) and talk with one of their referral experts. They can direct you to several non-profit agencies here in Franklin County that provide such services. They serve individuals who are age 60 and older or disabled. Although each had a small fee, this fee can be waived if the referral is done by Franklin County. Other counties have similar services.

Another source is the Hands-on Central Ohio website (www.handsoncentralohio.org). That site can identify companies located nearby. One such service in Columbus works with individuals receiving any government benefits (including Social Security). A tip, if you are looking at a private agency, is to find one that is connected to Social Security. They will have passed some level of oversight.

American Association of Daily Money Managers (www.aadmm.com) is also a good place to start. They are the trade association for such managers and offer continuing education for them. They maintain a list of members by state. There are several in the central Ohio area.

On the AADMM website, there is also a list of questions to ask when interviewing a potential representative payee. Go to that site for some excellent questions to ask and consider when selecting someone to help manage your money.

FROM: The Benefits Committee

Help with Financial Matters

BACKGROUND:
Many older individuals, especially those without family nearby, may need help with bill paying and managing their monthly bills and statements. For example, with arthritis, it can be difficult to write checks. Vision problems can make it harder to read bills. Hearing problems can make calling about a bill more difficult, and reduced mobility and/or not driving any more can make it hard to get to the bank to make deposits or withdrawals.

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