

Friends of Boone County Arboretum



2017 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

REFLECTIONS....Leaving the office of President for Friends of Boone County Arboretum has had many mixed emotions. It has been a rewarding time with a few frustrations and some disappointments. Mainly, serving as President of Friends has been deeply satisfying because of the growth to the organization which has been made in the past four years.

Friends has grown into an organization with a vital, active Board of Directors, a membership of about 200, an annual budget of over six figures, very successful fund raising events and, Friends has been the recipient of grants totally at least \$80,000.

The most noteworthy of Friends accomplishments in the past year has been the Arboretum on Wheels (AOW). The trailer has been built, wrapped and supplied, with a new truck arriving to be wrapped and used for transporting the AOW. Friends now employs an Environmental Educator to implement the plans for taking the Arboretum to schools, libraries and community events.

Thank you to the fantastic staff, the talented volunteers, and the many Friends who have made this Arboretum a showcase for the area. Growing Forward.....to greater accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Dear Friends,

Thanks so much for all that you do to assist with helping the Boone County Arboretum to grow forward. You have given your time, money and talents to help maintain and promote the Arboretum for the present generations and for generations to come.

This is an exciting time to be involved as we launch the "Arboretum on Wheels" through our education program, continue to apply for grants, and raise funds through "Growing Forward" and our special events like the "Spring Tea", "Dogwood Dash" and "Autumn Affair".

The Board will be working on a Master Plan for the Arboretum as well as continuing to work on other long and short-term goals.

I look forward to joining you, as your President, as we work through these adventures together.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Klahr
President of Friends of Boone County Arboretum

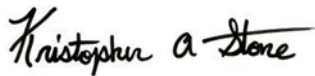
Dear Arboretum Supporter,

In concert with the Arboretum, Friends of Boone County Arboretum continues to strengthen the foundation of our mission to support public education. We couldn't achieve this mission without the generous support of our members, donors, staff, and volunteers.

In 2017, we achieved several lofty milestones. The Friends of the Arboretum successfully completed our first-ever annual appeal toward raising funds to develop and launch the Arboretum on Wheels (AOW), a first-of-its-kind plant, biology-based mobile learning lab for our area. As a part of the development of the program, we were also successful in securing a grant to cover the cost of a vehicle that will be dedicated to the AOW outreach program. If you have not visited the Arboretum in some time, you are in for a treat! Last year saw the installation of hundreds of brand new labels throughout our collections. This aggressive labeling project was made possible by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural trust that we received in late 2016. Lastly, we are pleased to announce that we are now embarking on the early stages toward the development of a master plan for the Arboretum. As part of such planning, there will be a specific focus on potential growth and development opportunities both as an organization and with many prospects to expand the footprint of the facility itself.

We continue to enjoy increased attendance at our programs and event offerings. This community engagement and support is critical to help sustain and increase the number of offerings for the public to enjoy. We look forward to an even more prosperous 2018 and hope for your continued support and encouragement of others to join in our success.

Sincerely,



Kristopher A. Stone,
Director, Boone County Arboretum

Vision

To promote, maintain and beautify the Boone County Arboretum, assist in volunteer recruitment and training, participate in program planning, Arboretum projects and fundraising.

Mission

Friends seek to create community awareness and participation at the Arboretum by involving individuals, families, schools, sporting groups, community organizations, garden clubs and other interested parties through membership, donations, public events and active volunteerism.

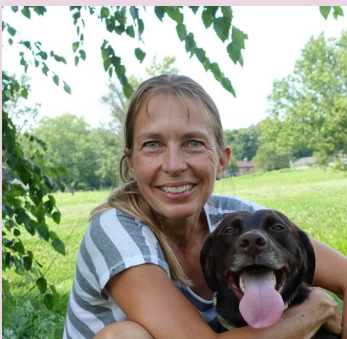
Friends of Boone County Arboretum

Board of Directors

Kris Stone, Boone County Arboretum Director
Lacey Kessell, Volunteer Coordinator
David Koester, Boone County Horticulture Extension Agent
Bob Carlin, Boone County Extension District Board Representative
James Crawford, Boone County Extension Council Representative
David Whitehouse, Boone County Parks Department Representative
Matthew Webster, Boone County Fiscal Court Representative
Todd Baeten, Owner of Baeten's Nursery & Greenhouses
Alvera Kincart, Friends of Boone County Arboretum Member
Marty Geiser, Friends of Boone County Arboretum Member
Joan Klahr, President of Friends of Boone County Arboretum
Mike Klahr, Co-Founder of Boone County Arboretum
Scott Maddox, Owner of Maddox Garden Center & Landscaping
Lorna Harrell, Friends of Boone County Arboretum Member
Kevin O'Dell, Co-Owner of Kendrick & O'Dell Landscape
Bill Smith, Friends of Boone County Arboretum Member

Meet our Environmental Outreach Educator

Sabine Zacate – Environmental Outreach Educator



Sabine joined the Friends of Boone County Arboretum in February 2018. She is responsible for the outreach programs involving the Arboretum on Wheels (AOW). A native of Germany, she holds a PhD in plant pathology by the University of Darmstadt, Germany. After working for the Botany Department at Oregon State University, she switched to part-time work, so she could raise her son. Sabine is also a Master Gardener of the University of Idaho and has taught Biology classes at Northern Kentucky University. She discovered her joy teaching younger children about plants, while running the garden club at Grants Lick Elementary School. Sabine is looking forward to connecting with people in the community through plants and hands-on learning. Along with gardening, Sabine enjoys horseback riding and going for walks with her dog Rudi.

Email: arboretumonwheels@gmail.com

Plant Collection Review and Improvements *Josh Selm*



In late 2016, we received a \$9,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, allowing us to undertake one of our largest research projects to date, over the course of 2017. The grant's primary purpose was to install 600 new plant ID labels throughout the collection, getting us closer to being 100% labeled. These new labels needed to match the format of existing ones – having brief but detailed cultural information (mature height/width, flower details, etc.) – so the first stage of this project was thoroughly researching, compiling, and distilling these facts.

We would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to Mike Klahr for his dedication and exhaustive research. A 3"x5" label can hold only a finite amount of text. To avoid

losing any of this information, or Mike's time and effort needed to compile it, all of the details found for each plant are publicly available through our website's plants database. There, we have virtually unlimited space to fully describe the plant's features.

Through this process, the online database itself was also given a major upgrade. The bulk of cultural information is now being presented at the species level rather than the individual cultivar level. Directly below this species information, is a list of available cultivars of that species (at BCA) and the differences of each. This new layout is much more user-friendly, cuts way back on common facts being repeated, and allows for a much easier comparison of attributes between different species and/or cultivars. It will also allow for future upgrades to the website, including the addition of an advanced search and a plant photo gallery integrated directly into these informational pages.

Another major collection-related project in 2017 was the installation of new irrigation system control boxes, along with a central computer in the office that "talks with" the individual controllers to update programs, diagnose problems, and help determine optimal timing and patterns. As part of this project, we installed a new section of irrigation water main and control wires that needed to be removed during the construction of the new restroom – this reconnected the rhododendron area into the system and will allow us to eventually reconnect the flowering dogwood area. Our new irrigation system was made possible by the Boone County Cooperative Extension Office.

Eagle Projects

Little Libraries (finished in 2017)

Rose Garden Arbor Wall (finished in 2017)

On May 12, 2017, two little libraries were installed at the Arboretum. The concept of a little library is to create a free environment for people to swap out books and increase literacy in our community. You can find one library in the Children's Garden, and the other by the "Center Kiosk" across from the Daylily Bed.

On August 1, 2017 two trellis were built in the Rose Garden for climbing roses. We hope to create a beautiful display in our rose garden, which was forced to be moved in 2016.



Membership & Volunteers

Membership to the Arboretum is defined as becoming a member of the supporting non-profit organization, Friends of Boone County Arboretum. Friends of Boone County Arboretum had 194 households finishing the 2016 year. Out of the 194, 50% of these households were renewed from the 2016 year, which is up from the 43% membership retention between the 2016-2017 year.

Breakdown of Household Memberships

Individual	35
Family	72
Senior	49
Senior Family	24
Patron	3
Lifetime (Single & Joint)	11
Corporate	0
Total	194



Although we didn't grow in memberships from the 2016 year, Friends made more revenue from membership fees than the 2016 year. This is most likely due to an increased renewal rate and fewer new members being gained through marketing tools such as Groupon. The goal for 2018 is to reach at least 250 households.

Volunteers are a major part of the Arboretum's success. They coordinate fundraisers, create awareness, implement outreach, recruit members and help maintain the Arboretum's landscape gardens. In 2017 over 160 volunteers contributed 2,400+ hours toward the Arboretum's mission.

We are forever grateful for the dedication of all of our volunteers and the support of our members.

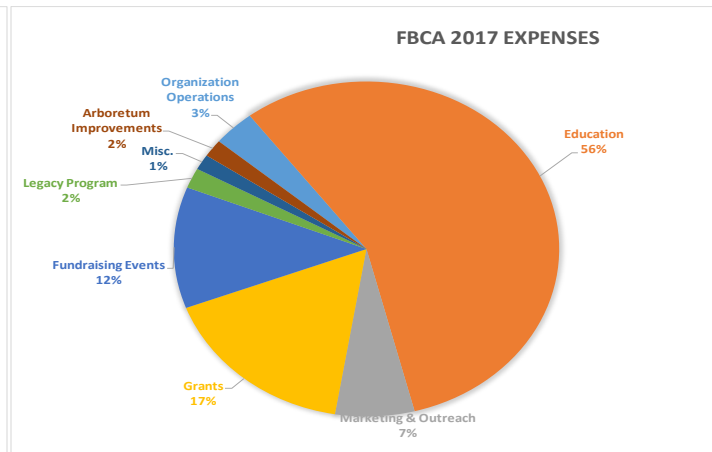
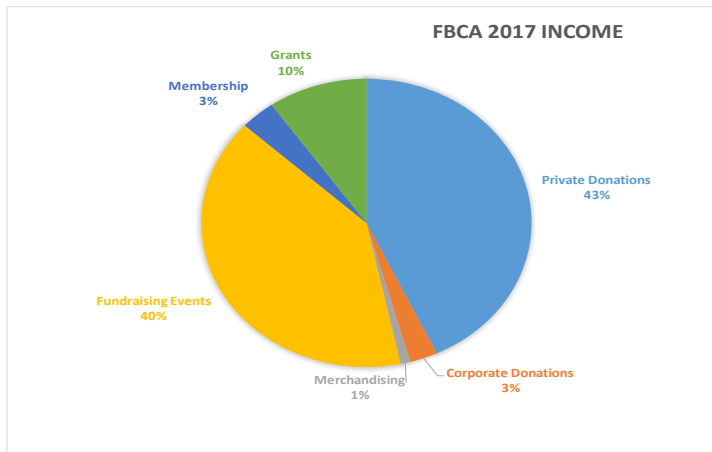
Programming

Each year the Arboretum places a great deal of focus on educational and outreach programming. In 2017 we had wonderful program and outreach attendance totaling 8,500+ attendees with over 1700 participants in youth education. We are very proud that our youth education has nearly tripled from 2016 and we expect even higher numbers in 2018 with the development of the Arboretum-on-Wheels.

Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat, a traveling exhibit from Morton Arboretum and the Global Trees Campaign came to the Arboretum in 2017 from June through August. Vanishing Acts focuses on many endangered or threatened trees worldwide and what they provide to society. The Arboretum hopes to host many more traveling exhibits similar to Vanishing Acts in the future.

Financial Highlights

Statement of Activities for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2017



Private Donations	\$39,766.70
Corporate Donations	\$2,519.21
Merchandising	\$882
Fundraising Events	\$37,128
Membership	\$3,193.99
Grants	\$9,000
Total	\$92,490.30

Organization Operations	\$2,142.01
Education	\$34,117.57
Marketing & Outreach	\$4,019.34
Grants	\$10,092.57
Fundraising Events	\$7,088.30
Legacy Program	\$1,180.00
Misc.	\$904.09
Arboretum Improvements	\$1,020.73
Total	\$60,564.61

2017 Event Sponsors

Dogwood Dash

Archway's McDonalds
 Bluegrass Health Shop
 Boone County Cooperative Extension
 Boone County Parks
 Lulu's Pet Pantry
 Maddox Garden Center & Landscaping
 Owen Electric
 PNC Bank
 Sports of All Sorts
 Synergy Chiropractic
 Tri-State Running Company

Spring Tea

Florence Hardware
 Great American Insurance Group Annuities
 Heritage Bank
 Maddox Garden Center & Landscaping
 Wild Birds Unlimited

Plant Sales

B.C. Nursery
 Dendrological Sales
 Lagergren Nursery
 Weber Farms
 Eason Horticultural Resources

Autumn Affair

Owen Electric, Presenting Sponsor
 Eason Horticultural Resources
 Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum

2017 Donors

Aaron Eckerle	Les Stephens
Alex Kuhl	Lisa Louden
Ann & Paul Tagher	Lorna & Dennis Harrell
Anonymous	Marc Flick
Audrey Ney	Margaret Heiser
Bill Smith	Marge Webb
Christine McCullough	Mary Ann Schultz
Cynthia Schuster	Mary Anne Thornton
Darrin Pollock	Mary Gray
Deanna Karam	Mary Steuber
Erika & James Berry	Michelle Ryder
Gayle Hoffman	Miguel C. Carlin
<i>In memory of</i>	Mike Klahr
<i>Richard Ammon</i>	Patricia Brown
George & Mary Jo Budig	Robert Griffin
Family Foundation	Sarah Moon
Jean Snyder	Scott Maddox
John & Kathryn Pade	Shannon Carlin
Josh Selm	Stephanie Schenk
Joyce Foley	Susan Burns
Kevin O'Dell	Taking Root 2020
Kris Stone	Tracy Scheben
Kurt Ruttencutter	Wolf Creek Company
Lacey Kessell	



Friends of Boone County Arboretum also receives hundreds of in-kind donations throughout the year, which are often used in fundraisers and other community events. Thank you to many local business who have participated through in-kind giving. You make our fundraisers successful and we are grateful for your support.

Arboretum on Wheels



1-Hour Programs

4th Grade: Trees & What They Do for Us

5th Grade: Interactions within our Ecosystems

6th Grade: Dive into Photosynthesis

7th Grade: Tree Champions

Our programs meet CORE Standards while engaging the students in hands-on learning activities. Let us inspire your students to engage in their environment and see more than just a green backdrop in plants.



Program Costs:

First hour \$125

Additional hours \$60 (within a reasonable time frame of the first hour).

Visit www.bcarboretum.org/arboretum-on-wheels or contact arboretumonwheels@gmail.com for more details.