Welcome to our Annual Report
The staff and volunteers of The Dawes Arboretum are always busy nurturing plants, keeping the grounds looking great, making sure our business operations are running smoothly and, of course, working on new projects. 2017 was no different. We hope you enjoy learning about some of our accomplishments in the past year and plans in the works for the future.

A New Mission
During 2017, The Arboretum began rolling out its new mission statement: to enrich lives through the conservation of trees and nature. As part of a recent strategic planning process, our Trustees and leadership staff took a thoughtful look at our previous mission statement. We looked at it from many angles, but most importantly, did it truly communicate the work that we were doing? The more we thought about this question, the more we thought our mission statement could use an update to reflect the impact our work truly makes. Our new mission statement more accurately reflects how The Arboretum’s efforts enrich lives in our communities while staying true to Bertie and Beman Dawes’ original vision for The Dawes Arboretum. Results of the research done at The Arboretum are shared with other gardens and the horticulture community—helping everyone grow stronger, healthier plants. Our summer camps and youth education programs help ignite the spark for the love of nature in the next generation. Our beautiful grounds provide a place for learning and the comfort of nature for those getting their daily exercise. Our volunteer and membership programs allow people to share and further their interests in plants and nature. Our extensive tree plantings and habitats help improve air and water quality in our community. The Arboretum touches lives in our community every day in a multitude of ways. Following are just a few examples of how The Dawes Arboretum enriched lives during Fiscal Year 2017.

Conserving Plants
For many years, our Curatorial Department has focused on acquiring native plants from natural habitats to plant on our grounds. Wild collecting, as opposed to obtaining plants from a nursery, helps increase genetic diversity of targeted species. In September 2017, Dawes Arboretum Nursery Manager and Propagator Richard A. Larson and Landscape Technician Hunter Ardrey traveled to Arkansas with The Morton Arboretum’s Vice President of Collections and Facilities Kris Bachtell on a United States Forest Service and American Public Gardens Association grant to collect and propagate the maple-leaf oak, Quercus acerifolia. This endangered tree is endemic to Arkansas (only 600 individuals are reported to exist by The International Union for Conservation of Nature). With so few and localized individuals, maple-leaf oak is highly vulnerable to environmental stressors such as habitat loss/alteration, climate change, insects and disease. The results of this successful collecting trip could someday help save this plant, because these wild collected acorns once planted on Arboretum grounds can be used as a seed source for restoration efforts. In total, the team collected 15 pounds of acorns on the trip. After securing the number needed for our collections, The Dawes Arboretum shared acorns collected with 24 different public gardens (including two in Germany). These acorns can create additional seed repositories for this endangered plant and play an important role in safeguarding its future.

Sharing Our Knowledge and Our History
Our staff is always finding ways to update and refine our educational programs to share our knowledge and our history with visitors. One such effort is new interpretive signage that was created over the summer. These new signs let visitors know about our conservation efforts at The Red Barn Reserve, a special grouping of trees celebrating our state known as the Buckeye 17, one of The Arboretum’s most famous Tree Dedicators
General of the Armies John J. Pershing and the avenue of trees honoring those who served our country. We are most excited about the interpretive signage that was created for Arboretum East. Guests who ventured to Arboretum East in the past encountered very little information about what they were seeing or The Arboretum's goals for the area. Now, these avid adventurers can learn about woodland management, the Scout Pond, our Chestnut Research Plot, an amazing gorge overlook and a mound attributed to the Hopewell Culture. We hope you venture through the tunnel on your next visit to discover all Arboretum East has to offer.

Restoring Habitats
Our Land Conservation team has a strong history of enriching lives through outstanding habitat restoration initiatives including the highly successful Dutch Fork Wetland and reforestation at the Red Barn Reserve. Their dedication to removing invasive plant species, reforesting former agricultural fields, creating prairies and promoting native plants is inspiring. 2017 marked a milestone for future restoration projects with operations beginning in The Arboretum's new native tree propagation house. Arboretum staff are currently using the house to raise 36 species of native woody plants and 30 herbaceous natives, most of which are products of wild collected seed. These plants will be used for future habitat restoration projects.

Going Beyond Our Borders
The Dawes Arboretum is more than a place to visit. It is a good neighbor and an active member of the community. The Arboretum has reached beyond its borders for many years by providing landscape and conservation assistance. In 2017, The Arboretum extended its reach into the community for several projects and events including creating a native plant, pollinator garden at the Licking County Health Department. Arboretum staff were involved in every step of the process for this new garden from design to plant selection to actual planting. Thanks to this great partnership between The Arboretum and the health department, there is another spot in Licking County that provides habitat for the insects and birds that makes pollination happen!

Enhancing The Arboretum Experience
Every department at The Arboretum has a hand in improving experiences for our guests. From caring for our trees, to maintaining our grounds, to greeting visitors in the gift shop, everyone impacts your experience at The Arboretum. In recent years, we have been focused on upgrading our infrastructure to accommodate our more than 250,000 annual visitors and prepare for future increases. We created accessible trails, installed sewer service and upgraded our road system. In 2017, we began creating spaces for new experiences while maintaining our focus on infrastructure. We completed construction on our expanded Learning Garden (see pages 4-5 for full details). With the help of our volunteers, we also created a Stumpery Garden along one of our new accessible trails. And, a turn lane into our property was constructed on State Route 13 to help improve visitor access.

Enriching Lives in 2018
We have some great plans for 2018! Expect new drop-in educational programming on selected weekends and improved access on Daweswood House Museum Tours. Restrooms on the main level of the Visitors Center will be upgraded to ADA standards and a new outdoor classroom will be constructed adjacent to the Learning Garden. We will also be completing the final phase of the paved trails on our central grounds—making it easier for visitors of differing abilities to get out and enjoy The Arboretum.

Through your support, The Arboretum is able to offer even greater opportunities for learning, nature exploration and outreach in our community. With your continued partnership, we look forward to many more accomplishments in the coming year. Thank you for sharing in our mission!

Luke E. Messinger
Executive Director
Learning Garden Expansion: Open for New Opportunities

The Learning Garden was born in 2013 as a space for program participants to engage in vegetable gardening and to learn how they could grow food-bearing plants at home. Raised planting beds of varying heights allowed people of nearly any age, height or physical ability to care for the garden. From the beginning, the Learning Garden was well loved. Arboretum staff and volunteers enjoyed working with eager program participants and volunteers from local organizations that engaged people with developmental disabilities in tending the garden on a weekly basis. These groups adopted the raised garden beds and came back throughout the growing season to nurture the plants from seeds to harvest. Once harvested, the bounty was delivered to local food pantries.

In 2015, The Arboretum began making plans to expand the garden to include more space for programs and learning, seasonal plantings and community gathering areas. With the help of many dedicated funders, The Arboretum began construction on the garden expansion in early 2017, and by August, construction was completed, plantings were in and the garden was ready for visitors.

The garden’s new design features a patio social space where visitors can enjoy a picnic under an umbrella or take in spectacular views of the oldest portion of The Arboretum from comfy patio furniture. Permeable pavers were used to construct this area to help decrease water runoff and control erosion by draining rainwater into a bioswale. New planting beds arranged in concentric circles were created to showcase themed plantings including Ohio native plants, dwarf conifers, succulents and edible plants along with displays of vibrant and unique combinations of annuals. One of the Learning Garden’s most popular features are swinging benches that overlook the Tripp Higgins Education Pond. They provide a great vantage point to appreciate The Arboretum’s natural beauty. Several families donated to label these swinging benches in honor of loved ones. However, there are still benches available to label.

Most importantly, the expanded garden offers great spaces for learning. Raised beds of varying heights are an important element of the garden along with a lean-to that allows those working in the garden to take shelter from the elements while completing their tasks. There is also an area for instructor-led demonstrations, and a storage building was constructed for materials needed in the garden. This building features a demonstration green roof on one side letting visitors get a close view of one of these amazing structures. In 2018, signage that explains how the roof works and how it benefits the environment will be installed in the garden.

The Learning Garden expansion would not have been possible without support from The Arboretum’s amazing donors. Be sure to take in its wonders on your next visit, or sign up for one of the educational programs that will be offered in the garden during the growing season.
The Dawes Arboretum sold its first membership in 1971 for $10. While the membership levels and dues have evolved over the years, one thing that has remained constant is our members’ commitment to supporting the conservation of trees and nature. The Arboretum is pleased to recognize those members who celebrated milestone anniversaries during 2017.

### Milestone Membership Anniversaries

#### 40 Year Member Anniversary
- Richard & Judith Clark
- Linda & Stewart Erholm
- John & Anne Hohmann

#### 30 Year Member Anniversary
- Daria Arbogast & Edmund Walsh
- Robert Bywaters
- Nancy Coad
- Mark & Marilyn Cordova
- John & Joan Guyton
- Margaret & Geoffrey Judge
- Joanne Kick-Raack & Jerry Raack
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#### 20 Year Member Anniversary
- Colin Brown
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- Denny Townsend
- Elnorah Watson
- Abram Winters
- Joyce Wylie
- Beth & Gary Yaekle
Roots Club
Launched in 2013, the Roots Club at The Dawes Arboretum celebrates those who have made a long-term commitment to The Arboretum by establishing a planned gift.

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For more information on the Roots Club and how you can make a lasting impact on The Arboretum's mission, contact the Development Office at 800.44.DAWES.

Sustaining Donors
The Arboretum thanks the following supporters who arranged for a monthly contribution via credit card as well as staff who committed to a bi-weekly payroll deduction during the fiscal year to support the conservation of trees and nature.

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We thank our local Partner Organizations offering a discount to Arboretum members. This is in addition to reciprocal benefits provided to our members at more than 300 gardens in North America. Visit our website for more information and use your membership discount today!

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We thank The Arboretum’s more than 1,500 donors who made a contribution to membership, a special initiative or general support. Due to space constraints, members listed below are at the Buckeye level and above, as well as contributors of cumulative gifts, grants and sponsorships totaling $100 or more during the fiscal year (October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017). Thank you, donors!

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Janice K. Rine
Marjorie & Carl Scheffler, Jr.
R. Keith Schmid
Harold Shonborn
Bernard P. “Barney” Smith
Rita A. Smith
Rick Sunshine
Paul & Miriam Swisher
Judy Tomcisin
John Vogel
James Wade, Sr.
George Wales
Richard P. Wenzelberger
Thomas & Cleona Wolfe

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Notice a mistake or omission? Our apologies! We value our donors and strive to maintain the most accurate listing of names possible. Please let us know of any errors by contacting 800.44.DAWES or development@dawesarb.org.
The log books have been tallied and there is no denying that The Arboretum’s volunteer program has seen impressive growth recently. In Fiscal Year 17 (FY17), 195 individual volunteers and five volunteer groups/organizations donated an impressive 9,524 hours of their time to The Arboretum—a 56 percent increase from the previous year. In addition, seven individuals participated in the Environmental Professionals Training Program, contributing a combined 4,691 hours.

The Grounds Department saw some of the most significant volunteer program growth including an increase of more than 1,000 hours donated in the last year. Volunteers in this department help in many capacities including mowing, tending to the newly renovated Learning Garden and continuing to enhance the Bird Watching and Pollinator Gardens. The volunteer group previously known as Central Grounds Garden Corps broadened its reach to include new grounds and landscape projects, gathering weekly throughout the spring and summer months. One of this group’s notable projects was the new Stumpery Garden, located along the Parkwoods Trail.

Considerable growth was also seen in the Land Conservation Department which has been busy with invasive weed removals, prairie plantings and reforestation efforts. In total, seven acres of prairie and nearly 700 trees were planted with volunteer assistance during FY17. The volunteers on the butterfly trail observed a 220 percent increase in Monarch butterflies while a total of 588 fledglings were recorded by volunteers on the bluebird trails and tree swallow grid. Land Conservation volunteers also helped create a new, one-mile trail on The Arboretum’s east side.

To further our organizational goal of providing high quality guest experiences, eight volunteers piloted the Arboretum Ambassador Program. These volunteers were trained as roaming docents with a goal of engaging with visitors and sharing information about our programs, grounds and mission, as well as gathering questions, concerns and other information to aid in Arboretum planning. Feedback from these volunteers will help us improve and expand this volunteer opportunity going forward.

Volunteers in the History Department led 52 guided tours of the Daweswood House Museum and donated nearly 100 hours interpreting an exhibit on our Tree Dedicators in the History Center. Volunteers also added accession numbers to hundreds of artifacts and helped preserve our collections by assisting with digitizing more than 8,700 pages of materials.

Last year, Advancement Team volunteers who work with our development and marketing staff also helped preserve Arboretum history by sorting through boxes of old newspapers for Arboretum news clippings and mounting them for storage to ensure that details of our important events and accomplishments are preserved. These volunteers also prepared nearly 8,000 pieces of mail, playing a vital role in securing support for our priority funding initiatives, including the newly renovated Learning Garden.

This is just a snapshot of what was achieved this past year through our volunteer program. Hundreds of hours were given in the nursery, herbarium, on the grounds, leading education programs and more. The Dawes Arboretum’s volunteers are instrumental to furthering our mission and for that, we say “Thank You!”
# 2016-17 Contributing Volunteers

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* Denotes volunteers who contributed 40+ hours.

** Denotes volunteers who contributed 100+ hours.

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**Resident Environmental Professionals**

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*Photo courtesy of BAGilbert*
In Fiscal Year 2017 (10/1/16 to 9/30/17), the community contributed a value of nearly $700,000 to The Dawes Arboretum via cash contributions, gifts of goods and volunteer support. The remainder of funds covering the $5,089,991 in FY17 expenses were received through earned revenue, which included rentals, sales and education programs, in addition to generous support from The Arboretum’s endowment fund created by Beman and Bertie Dawes. In FY17, large projects included the Learning Garden expansion and a partnership with the State of Ohio to create a turn lane at the main entrance to enhance visitor access. Visitation and education programs served impressive numbers of people to enrich lives in our community. For FY18, capital plans include needed maintenance to the Visitors Center and the Daweswood House Museum.

The Arboretum spends funds prudently and in accordance with any designations requested by the donor. In FY17, approximately 79 percent of Arboretum funds were spent on programs directly related to horticulture, education, historic preservation and ensuring the grounds were open for public visitation. The remaining 21 percent of expenses were related to administrative oversight and fundraising functions. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance produces Standards for Charity Accountability, which recommend an effective charity spend at least 65 percent of its total expenses on program activities. The Arboretum is proud to exceed this standard.

The Arboretum submits its financial statements annually to an independent accounting firm for audit. A copy of the full audited financial statements can be obtained by calling 800.44.DAWES. Please note that this report recognizes contributions when they are fulfilled, not when they are pledged, which can differ in other Arboretum financial documents.

$427,029 cash contributions  
$ 38,007 in-kind gifts  
+ $218,796 value of volunteer hours  
= $683,832 TOTAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Board of Trustees and Arboretum Staff

2017 Board of Trustees

We are indebted to these individuals for their fine service to The Dawes Arboretum and its mission.

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Pablo Jourdan, Ph.D.
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Josephine Jacobsmeyer
Dana Khoury
Bill McConnell
Lucy Porter
J. Gilbert Reese
Teresa Young

This team of dedicated professionals includes all employees, current through September 30, 2017.*

Arboretum Staff
Sarah Aisenbrey (2016)
Archivist
Hunter Ardrey (2016)
Landscape Technician
Leslie Bline (2015)
Community Engagement Coordinator
Jeff Bowman (1985)
Senior Horticulturist
David Brandenburg (1990)
Botanist
Carrie Brown (2016)
Conservation Project Manager
Shana Byrd (2015)
Director of Land Conservation
Andrew Davis (2016)
Landscape Technician
Kris Davis (2014)
Ecosystems Manager
Shirley Drake (2017)
Human Resource Manager
Mike Ecker (1983)
Director of Living Collections
Beckie Fisher (2005)
Administrative Assistant
Steve Franks (1978)
Facilities Technician
Dalene Gant (2009)
Business Assistant
Mary Gilbert (2011)
Visitors Services Attendant
Nancy Gregory (2008)
Environmental Educator
Jill Holton Arrasmith (2016)
Marketing Manager
Rhonda Hulett (2015)
Custodian/Housekeeper
Sharon Hupp (2001)
Programs and Events Coordinator
Larry Keenan (1985)
Equipment Operator
Nursery Manager
Peter Lowe (2012)
Landscape Manager
Kelley McCormack (2016)
Guest Services Manager
Executive Director
Sarah Mill (2014)
Director of Education
Mari Ann Moore (2017)
Marketing Associate
Greg Myers (2006)
Facilities Technician
Kevin Page (2015)
Security
Greg Payton (1996)
Plant Records Specialist/GIS Manager
Daniel Petrey (2017)
Security
Brent Pickering (2011)
Director of Landscape Operations & Grounds
Erin Prescott (2012)
Director of Development
Alex Rolletta (2017)
Membership Coordinator
Stacey Rose (2003)
Administrative Assistant
Nancy Smith (2011)
Visitors Services Attendant
Beth Spieles (2007)
Interpretive Educator
Keith Stevens (1993)
Senior Horticulturist
Beverly Telepchak (1987)
Business Director
Laura Triplette (2017)
Guest Services Attendant
Josh Troyer (2017)
Conservation Research Technician
Mark Tuthill (2017)
Security
Leslie Wagner (2013)
Historian
Bruce Warthen (1983)
Facilities Manager
Andy Wollenberg (2013)
Custodian

* The year listed with each name indicates the year that staff member joined the Arboretum team.
2017 Arboretum Snapshot

Visitors - 263,865
Collection (labeled) Plants on Grounds - 16,977
Program & Event Attendance - 16,410
Acres - 1,910
Arboretum Members - 1,643

FY17 statistics