



SCENIC
OHIO

AMERICA'S OLDEST
ADVOCATE OF
SCENIC HIGHWAYS

NEWS

AUTUMN 2015

Scenic Ohio is a non-profit 501(c) (3) charitable organization dedicated to conserving Ohio's scenic resources, and planning and maintaining safe and attractive highway corridors.

Donations are welcome.

Send your tax deductible contributions to:

Scenic Ohio
P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, Ohio 43209

www.ScenicOH.org

Scenic Ohio has a unique history as the only organization dedicated to the sustained beautification of Ohio's byways and communities. Founded in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council, it has a distinguished heritage as the longest standing non-profit organization in America dedicated to improving roadway environments and aesthetics. Scenic Ohio works with local and state agencies, communities, and individuals to achieve its goals to conserve and protect Ohio's many scenic byways, historic, prehistoric, ecological resources, and the appearance of gateways.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

SCENIC OHIO BOARD

CHAIRMAN

Gary Meisner, FASLA

SECRETARY

Neil McCormick

SECRETARY EMERITUS

Sandra Smith

TREASURER

Diana N. Martin

DIRECTORS

Patrick J. Beam, ASLA
Pamela Bennett
Craig Cawrse, FASLA
Guy Denny
Bill Hendricks
Dewey Hollister
Maria Keckan
Andy Kesselem
Hannah Mathers, PhD
Jim McGregor
Pat Meade
Mary Nippert
Rick Record
Robert Tatman
Connie White

ADVISORS

Tom Mugridge
David Meeker
Debbie Robinson
Ruth Gless, AIA
Jack Edward
James Kastellic, AICP
Bruce Goetzman, AIA

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Christine Freitag
Cherie Lucks

TREASURER EMERITUS

Robert Freitag

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

William A. Behnke, FASLA

CONSULTANTS

Debbie Addison

GRAPHIC DESIGN

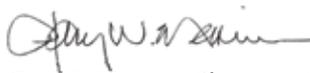
Janice Radlove

Ohio's Scenic Resources include ancient archaeological sites, historic districts and downtown works of architecture, ecological preserves, arboretums, gardens, scenic rivers, restored canal lands, river walks, state parks, scenic byways and many unique places that connect people to our great Ohio landscape. Ohio's 5 certified zoos and the Wilds animal park are scenic places that attract millions of visitors from across the state and country. They stimulate research; educate young and old and combine great landscapes, animal environments and native plant-scapes that captivate the public's imagination. They are places of research, education and entertainment at the highest level. We are blessed to have these great resources in Ohio and this year our Scenic Ohio Board of Trustees chose to honor our Ohio Zoological Parks with Scenic Ohio Awards.

Zoos have evolved in today's culture beyond the early "menageries and animal collections" of the past 5,000+ years. Early collections of animals served as symbols of royal power and for "viewing pleasure" for royalty. These early collections in Egypt, Assyria, China, Judah, Babylon and Greece, have evolved into great centers of research and public education on our living planet. Collections of animals have often been places of abuse, perhaps the more documented and notable Roman Games being a low point in animal captivity and care. Simple cages with animals have evolved into sophisticated aquariums, aviaries, and unique scientific display environments for all living things including insects, reptiles, and nocturnal creatures. The integration of native environments into naturalistic displays have brought humane criteria to exhibit design and heightened the interrelationship between all creatures and nature.

Combined zoos and botanical and ecological exhibit gardens have emerged at many zoos. The lessons of nature, life and the expanded story of sustainability are now being taught to visitors. This holistic perspective has also brought realism to interpretation and education at our zoos. Today's Ohio zoos preserve and conserve species, conduct research, and advance education across Ohio to our citizens. We salute their important role in society, honor their accomplishments and look forward with great anticipation to their next horizon. Congratulations from our Scenic Ohio Board and all Ohioans!

Sincerely,



Gary W. Meisner, Chairman Scenic Ohio

THE SCENIC OHIO AWARDS honor communities and other entities that work to improve, protect and enhance Ohio's scenic resources, visual qualities, distinctive culture, or historical character.

The 2015 Scenic Ohio Awards salute Ohio's five certified ZOOS for creating outstanding scenic, sustainable, and educational places for animals, plants and all Ohioans.

2015 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT **AKRON ZOO**



Get nose-to-nose with a lion or look a tiger in the eyes. The world is at your fingertips at the Akron Zoo, where you get up-close with more than 700 animals. The zoo features some of the world's most endangered species in natural exhibits, surrounded by lush landscaping.

Founded in 1953, the Akron Zoo is a non-profit, world conservation zoo. The Akron Zoo strives to provide a dynamic, guest-centered animal experience that is educational and fun. The zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, making it one of the top zoological facilities in the country.



The Akron Zoo is a center for species survival and participates in animal breeding programs to save endangered species. A focus on field conservation supports efforts to save wildlife and wild places both locally and globally.

A trip to the Akron Zoo takes visitors on a journey around the world and provides wonderful educational opportunities for visitors of all ages. Through interactive, educational exhibits visitors can learn about and connect to wildlife.

Some of the most popular exhibits include Penguin Point which is home to endangered Humboldt penguins and Legends of the Wild which features many educational opportunities and 15 animal exhibits including lemurs, jaguars, snow leopards, Andean condors, bats and more.

Komodo Kingdom where visitors experience the world's largest lizard, the Komodo dragon, is a Leadership In Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified building with a 4-star green restaurant. Journey to the Reef, an underwater world featuring live coral and reef animals brings visitors up-close to aquatic animals.

The Akron Zoo's newest exhibit, the Mike & Mary Stark Grizzly Ridge is home to grizzly bears, red wolves, bald eagles, river otters and is a silver LEED certified exhibit featuring hands-on educational opportunities and up-close viewing options.

The Akron Zoo, when you're this close wild things happen!



"We share this planet with many species. It is our responsibility to protect them, both for their sakes and our own."

~ Pamela A. Matson

2015 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT

THE CINCINNATI ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN



- An irreplaceable educational asset with over 450,000 people participating in an educational program, of which 120,000 are pre-school and school-aged children engaged in field trips, camps, overnights and outreach programs.
- A community connector partnering with dozens of diverse and economically challenged communities, providing a welcoming venue to people from all walks of life.
- A conservation and sustainability champion earning the title of "Greenest Zoo in America."

Established in 1873, the Cincinnati Zoological Garden opened its gates to the public on September 18, 1875. Modeled on the Victorian era zoos they remembered from Germany, zoo founder Andrew Erkenbrecher and his colleagues wanted to recreate that same sort of lush garden filled with animals from around the globe, and provide a place for cultural events and family outings for city dwellers.

And now, nearly a century and a half later, their vision lives on in the very same park they founded.

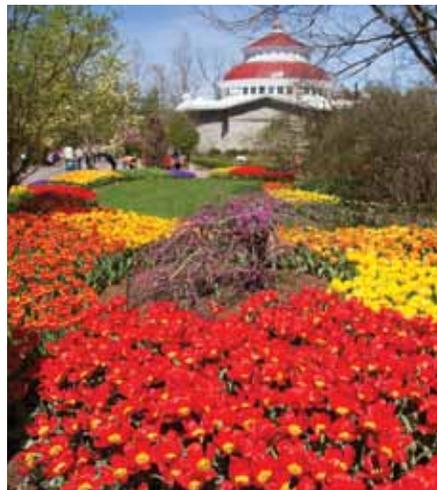
The gardens are grander, the animal exhibits are bigger and more naturalistic, and there are cultural and family events of every stripe. But the role of the Cincinnati Zoo for families of the region is much the same today as it was in the early days. The Cincinnati Zoo provides a beautiful park that serves as a respite from urban life, and inspires visitors with the wonders of wildlife.



As a center of excellence in its field, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is...

- One of the premier recreational and cultural attractions in the Cincinnati Tri-state region, boasting more than 1.5 million visitors annually including over 60,000 family memberships.
- An economic engine providing a \$143 million annual economic impact to the region.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is nationally recognized as one of the top zoos in the country. At the core is an abundance of biodiversity, featuring over 500 animal and 3,000 unique plant species. This top-rated local family attraction is also a world-renowned leader in the areas of endangered species reproduction, green practices, groundbreaking education collaborative and much more.



"Until one has loved an animal
a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

~ Anatole France

2015 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO



Designed to create a new view on tigers, the exhibit boasts two overhead walkways for the Tigers, as well as numerous up-close opportunities to view tigers exploring several habitats within the replicated natural Russian environment.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's new Stillwater Place event center provides breathtaking, scenic views of Waterfowl Lake and of the rolling, wooded Zoo property. State of the art in design and features, Stillwater Place seats 300 for a dinner function and up to 800 for reception style events.

In addition to the picturesque setting of Cleveland Metroparks, the Zoo's annual plantings make the Zoo a lush and green landscape featuring thousands of trees, 7,830 annuals, 1,281 perennials, 6,876 bulbs, 1,140 mums and more than 750 tropical plants throughout the park property.



Cleveland Metroparks Zoo creates compelling experiences that connect people with wildlife and inspire personal responsibility for conserving the natural world. Northeast Ohio's most visited year-round family attraction, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is home to more than 2,000 exotic animals representing 600 species from six continents. Top attractions include Circle of Wildlife Carousel and Nature Discovery Ridge, African Elephant Crossing, The RainForest, Northern Trek, Australian Adventure, African Savanna, Waterfowl Lake, and the Primate, Cat & Aquatics Building.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo spans 183 rolling, wooded acres in Cleveland Metroparks Brookside Reservation.

The Zoo is open 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily (except December 25 and January 1) with extended summer hours Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Zoo attracts more than one million visits annually.

Generations of northeast Ohioans have made seasonal visits to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo a family tradition, creating and sharing memories that have them returning for visits with the following generation of children and grandchildren.

The Zoo has continued to evolve and grow throughout the years, and will do so once again in the summer of 2016 with the opening of Tiger Passage, an all-new home to the Zoo's Amur Tiger collection.



"Zoo animals are ambassadors for their cousins in the wild."

~ Jack Hanna

2015 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM



The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is a dynamic, non-profit organization committed to bringing people closer to wildlife. Founded in 1927 and made internationally famous by "Jungle" Jack Hanna, the Zoo has touched hearts far beyond central Ohio.

The Zoo is home to more than 11,000 animals representing nearly 600 species, with cutting-edge habitats that integrate education with outstanding animal care. In 2015, the Zoo received top honors from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for its Heart of Africa region – a mixed-species savanna showcasing African lions, giraffes, zebras, ostriches and more, as well as other habitats featuring cheetahs and vervet monkeys.

Animal conservation is at the core of the Zoo's vision. While inspiring guests to act locally, the Zoo acts globally; it annually contributes \$5 million

in privately raised funds to support conservation projects worldwide. Through these efforts, the Zoo has directly helped sustain wild populations of gorillas, bonobos, cheetahs, rhinos, and other rare and endangered species. The Zoo is also involved in the AZA Species Survival Plan Program, a cooperative management of threatened or endangered species.



While an entertaining recreational facility, the Zoo's goal is to educate. Several scheduled Keeper Talks show how some of the Zoo's most intriguing animals are cared for, knowledgeable docents share their expertise, and a plethora of literature is available throughout the park. Beyond a general Zoo visit, the education department hosts courses appealing to any age of animal enthusiast. Going beyond Zoo grounds, the community outreach department brings the Zoo experience to schools and other large groups upon request.

Located about 20 miles north of the capital city, the Zoo's 588-acre complex also includes the 22-acre Zoombezi Bay water park and the 18-hole Safari Golf Club. The Zoo also manages the Wilds, a 10,000-acre conservation center and safari park in Cumberland, Ohio.



"Someone told me it's all happening at the zoo."

~ Paul Simon

2015 SCENIC OHIO AWARD RECIPIENT TOLEDO ZOO AND AQUARIUM



The Toledo Zoo and Aquarium is one of the world's most complete zoos.

It's also the region's top family destination- voted one of the top 10 zoos by Family Fun Magazine! The Toledo Zoo will take you from the Arctic tundra to the wilds of Africa, from the tropical rainforest to the Sonoran Desert and all points between—all in one amazing day.

Each year, nearly a million people visit the Toledo Zoo. They stroll the beautiful grounds and discover the nostalgia of its historic Works Progress Administration era buildings while marveling at the beautiful architecture

and sculptures. This includes the newly renovated Aquarium which maintains the historic integrity of the past, while offering a contemporary, state-of-the-art interior for the aquatic life and guests to enjoy.

During a visit to Toledo Zoo and Aquarium, visitors will encounter an array of animals ranging from mammoth African elephants, polar bears, hippos, orangutans, Silverback gorillas, majestic bald eagles and flamingos, to tiny toads, crocodiles, insects and spiders!

Toledo Zoo's on-grounds horticulture team creates the beautiful landscaping and produce gardens that our visitors – and animals- enjoy, but they also maintain the plants and trees found in the Zoo's animal exhibits! Not only will you have access to an amazing animal collection, you can also enjoy native and exotic flowers and plants!

The Toledo Zoo participates in a large amount of research and conservation. Its impact can be seen around the world through their work with elephants, penguins, Tasmanian devils and toads to name a few. They're also making a profound impact in their own backyard with monarch butterfly breeding, the Hellbender head start program as well as native prairie habitats through Wild Toledo initiatives.

The mission of the Toledo Zoo is to inspire others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world! For more than 100 years, they have engaged countless families and helped create memories that carry on for generations. From just one woodchuck and a dream in 1900, they have become a nationally recognized Zoo and Aquarium boasting more than 9,700 animals and 700 species. You are encouraged to visit and become a part of their incredible legacy while making a few memories of your own!





SCENIC OHIO

AMERICA'S OLDEST
ADVOCATE OF
SCENIC HIGHWAYS

www.ScenicOH.org

A BRIEF HISTORY

An affiliate of Scenic America,

Scenic Ohio was originally founded in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council. The name changed when it affiliated with Scenic America. The ORC was one of a dozen or so Roadside Councils that emerged to improve highway aesthetics, safety, rest stop conveniences and to respond to billboard blight inspired by The Garden Club of America members and organization.

Scenic Ohio is a 501 (c) 3 Charitable Non-profit Organization.

It is the only not-for-profit in Ohio dedicated to protecting and enhancing the visual quality and scenic character of Ohio's towns and countrysides. Scenic Ohio is the longest standing non-profit in America that advocates keeping our highway corridors beautiful and safe.

SCENIC OHIO OVERVIEW

MISSION AND GOALS

Preserve and expand our Scenic Byways. Conserve our state's scenic, historic, cultural, ecological resources.

Educate the importance of Scenic values in relationship to cultural / historic tourism and the economic growth and well-being of our small villages and cities.

Elevate the importance of Scenic values in relationship to Ohio's gateways, portals and "views from the road" for millions of travellers in and through Ohio.

Advance context sensitive design. Work with local jurisdictions, villages, cities, counties, townships to knit transportation improvements with land use, gateways and other local needs.

Reduce proliferation of off-site signage and billboards that degrade property values and create unsafe distractions and public welfare issues along our state and federal highway system.

Advance "Green" solutions like vegetative sound walls and storm water bio-retention to modernize and make our highway corridors more sustainable. Educate ODOT Districts on how to better manage the "greensward" of our highway corridors.

Give back to local jurisdictions in our Home Rule State the ability to control their visual resources by providing amortization legislation.

Work with local jurisdictions and State agencies including ODOT, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Humanities Council, ODNR, Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism, Ohio Department of Commerce, Garden Clubs and Historical Societies to preserve and conserve scenic resources.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Working with ODOT to improve roadways, including promotion of living sound walls and improving vegetative management practices. Continue Scenic Ohio "Green Highways" educational workshops with each of the 12 ODOT District offices.

Working with the Ohio Humanities Council, Ohio History Connection, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, ODOT, and The Ohio Department of Development/Division of Tourism to advance a unified online Scenic Resource map and improved Ohio tourism website.

Meeting with Ohio Garden Clubs of America to coordinate advocacy of issues of mutual interest.

Recognizing agencies, organizations and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving, conserving and enhancing the visual resources of Ohio with the annual Scenic Ohio Awards program. Conducting the awards program to maximize public education on the importance of Scenic Resources.

Continuing to advocate for safe and beautiful highway corridors that minimize distractions that reduce safety to the driving public. This includes distracting lighting, on-premise signs, off-premise signs, billboards and digital billboards.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Send your tax deductible contributions to:

Scenic Ohio
P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, Ohio 43209

www.ScenicOH.org