

DISCOVER 419

A feature publication of The Courier and Review Times



NOTHING GARDEN VARIETY ABOUT SCHEDEL ARBORETUM

By **BRENNA GRITEMAN**, Courier managing editor
ELMORE — It's difficult to describe Schedel Arboretum and Gardens without gushing, but then again, it's not every day one visits a vibrant rose garden, a towering redwood display and a lily pad pond all in one stunning place.

Built along the banks of the Portage River, the former estate of Joe and Marie Schedel is the very definition of picturesque. In fact, it's hard to imagine one could take a bad photograph at this lush and sprawling gem blooming just off the Ohio Turnpike in Elmore. It's no wonder the garden is a popular spot for weddings and attracts thousands of visitors each year to wander among its varied and perfectly serene grounds.

According to the Schedel Foundation, the arboretum's

namesakes were together for over 50 years and traveled to more than 120 countries. Through their travels they amassed a large collection of art and antiques, jewelry and, most notably, plants. In accordance with the couple's wishes, their verdant estate was opened to the public in 1991 as a "sanctuary based upon Nature where all would be welcome to visit and experience in perpetuity the wonder of their legacy." Continued on page 3

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Today, that wonder includes multiple themed garden displays, snuggled among many unusual and exotic species of trees and upwards of 10,000 plants and flowers. Some of those themed gardens were designed and built by the Schedels, based on their travels across the globe, while others were built after the foundation assumed control of the gardens in 1988.

Themed gardens include:

- A stand of bald cypress trees, deciduous conifers known for the growth of “knobby knees” that arise from the ground surrounding the trees.
- The Japanese Garden, which

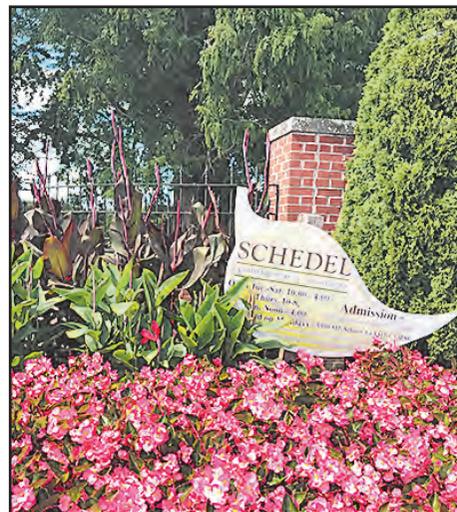
features a large pagoda and traditional red Torii gate, along with Japanese maples, a 30-foot waterfall, and foot bridges that cross a babbling stream.

- The Dawn Redwood Grove, a group of “living fossils” with shaggy, auburn barks that was planted in the 1950s. The trees were once thought to be extinct, but in 1941, about 1,000 of the trees were discovered in remote valleys of the Sichuan and Hubei provinces in China.
- The Bonsai Shelter, which houses an impressive collection of meticulously shaped and pruned miniature trees known as bonsai.
- The Kitchen Garden, which

contains herbs and vegetables planted in an ornamental style, including a collection of 100 to 150 varieties of ornamental hot peppers.

- The Rose and Tropical Garden, containing over 80 fragrant varieties of roses.
- The Perennial, Iris and Peony Gardens, a showy, brightly colored collection of annuals and perennials, featuring over 70 varieties of iris, lily and peony.

The gardens are closed Nov. 1 through March 31. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors, with memberships available.



Photos by Brenna Griteman

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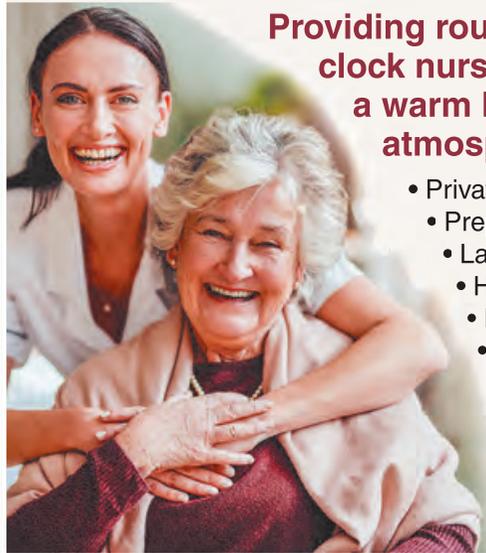
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Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog “Humans of New York.” The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 700 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds. Jenna Wilkins has joined Dave in continuing the Humans of Findlay project.

On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as “Humans of Findlay Day.” Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on humansoffindlay.com, Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.

EVIE MCNEIL



You have all heard of the expression, “a heart of gold”. Well, eighth grader Evie McNeil is a shining example of that saying. She is 14 years old and her story is one to warm the heart.

She begins by explaining how she felt nine years ago at the age of FIVE, while she was in foster care. She recalls thinking “I would like to help the world, because other people have been through far worse. I would like to help them with getting things they need.” Then Evie explains, “My whole life I’ve wanted to help people. I want to be a pediatric Physician

Assistant, so why don’t I start helping people now?”

Thus begins the story of Angels Among Us, a group started by Evie with the encouragement of her mom Sunny McNeil and their family. As a side note, this family of twelve children, and 52 total foster siblings since fostering began, has some of the most kind and genuinely giving hearts you could find.

When requests come in, they sit down as a family to determine if they feel Angels can help, then Evie calls the family to get details. They clarify whether other resources within Hancock County are being used, and guide them with what resources are available (for now and future). Once this is complete, the magic starts to unfold as the need is made public, currently on the Facebook page for Angels Among Us.

Typically 4-5 requests for some sort of help are made each week. Sometimes it is a request from a single mom for things like dishes, food, or things for her children, other times it is an elderly man out of food and toiletries, or lately a lot of people are in a bind due to the COVID pandemic and needing a little help due to the struggles it has caused.

But probably the most memorable need fulfilled thus far is that for a disabled child. The child needed a new seat, and they were short \$750 from their goal. It was posted and raised within 2 hours! Evie recalls watching the screen closely, so excited, as people pledged one after the other to help this family. The recipients were so humbled, and had such a weight lifted off their shoulders.

Overall, the group has helped about 125 families thus far. With the community’s help, they’ve been able to prepare 50 Easter baskets, 25 combination book bag/mask/lunch pails, and they’re gearing up for Halloween and Christmas.

When Evie is not busy sifting through requests, shopping to fulfill the requests and deliver them, she enjoys spending time alone, watching TV, reading, and hanging out with friends.

Angels Among Us wouldn’t be possible without all the Angels who currently team up with the group to help, and I can’t encourage you enough to be a part of this amazing journey Evie has begun.

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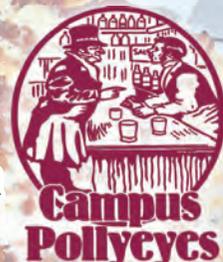
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HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN- CARVING POINTERS

Transforming pumpkins into cleverly carved creations is a Halloween tradition. Each October, glowing pumpkins take up residence near doorsteps and porches, adding to the magical ambiance of the season. Young and old spend time designing their themes and then taking knife to pumpkin to achieve the desired effects.

for hell. Therefore, Jack was relegated to roam the planet indefinitely with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put that coal into a carved-out turnip. His ghostly figure was referred to as “Jack of the Lantern.” Later on it was shortened to “Jack O’Lantern.” When Irish immigrants arrived in North America, turnips weren’t plentiful, so jack-o’-lanterns were instead carved into pumpkins.

Today, many people carve jack-o’-lanterns, with some featuring just smiling or grimacing faces while others are far more artistic creations. These tips can help anyone carve a pumpkin.

Carving pumpkins into jack-o’-lanterns can be traced back centuries to Ireland and a story about “Stingy Jack.” The tale involves Jack outwitting the Devil twice, the second time freeing the Devil from a prank in exchange for the promise that he would not claim Jack’s soul should Jack die. When Jack did die, God did not want the unsavory character in heaven, but the Devil could not claim Jack

· **Begin with a fresh pumpkin.** Look for a pumpkin with a green stem. If the pumpkin has been sitting around for too long or has been handled too much, the stem can get brittle and/or fall off. A thick, fresh pumpkin is best for carving.

· **Plan your ideas.** Draw a plan for your pumpkin before you make your first cut. Then transfer that design to the pumpkin with pen or a thin marker. Pumpkin-carving kits come with designs that can be “traced” by poking small holes to create the outline of the design.

· **Don’t cut all the way through.** Many professional pumpkin artists do not actually cut clear through the flesh of the pumpkin. They carve and shave off layers of the outer rind until it becomes more translucent. The level of transparency can be adjusted based on how much skin is removed and as a way to add texture and shadowing. The more air that is allowed to penetrate the pumpkin, the faster it will start to degrade.

· **Delay carving until the last minute.** Wait until the day before Halloween to begin carving. Pumpkins are a perishable item, and they’ll begin to rot as soon as you begin carving. Spritzing them with water can help them stay fresh, but there’s no turning back the clock once the first cut is made.

· **Cut a hole in the back.** According to Brooklyn-based Maniac Pumpkin Carvers, cutting off the top of the pumpkin can affect its structural integrity and cause it to rot faster. Instead, cut a hole in the back of the pumpkin and use an electric light to illuminate it. LEDs are advisable because they don’t generate much heat, which can cook and rot the pumpkin from the inside out.

With some creativity and a little know-how, anyone can create an eye-catching jack-o’-lantern.

WHIP UP A CLASSIC FALL TREAT

Halloween treats take center stage in October. What can be better this time of year than a fresh autumn apple coated in a sweet candy shell? This recipe for “Old-Fashioned Caramel Apples,” courtesy of “300 Best Homemade Candy Recipes (Robert Rose) by Jane Sharrock, benefits from the fall harvest while also paying homage to a classic Halloween treat.

Old-Fashioned Caramel Apples

Makes 12

12 medium apples

2 cups sugar

1 cup packed light brown sugar

2/3 cup light corn syrup

1/2 cup butter

1 cup half-and-half cream

1 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Optional Toppings:

Chopped pecans, mini M & M's, sweetened flaked coconut, mini chocolate chips or crisp rice cereal

1. Wash and dry the apples. Remove the stems. Insert a popsicle stick into the stem end of each apple, using a twist-like motion so that the apple will not split.

2. Cover a large countertop area or a large baking sheet with waxed paper.

3. In a large heavy kettle over medium-low heat, bring the sugars, corn syrup, butter, half-and-half and salt to a boil, stirring until the sugars dissolve and the mixture begins to boil. Cook, gently stirring to prevent scorching, to the firm ball stage (246 F). Stir in the vanilla.

4. Remove from the heat. Cool until the mixture thickens slightly. Hold each apple by the wooden skewer and quickly twirl into the caramel, tilting the pan to cover the apple with caramel. Remove the apple from the caramel, allow the excess caramel to drip into the pan and then twirl the apple again to spread the caramel smoothly over the apple. Use a spoon to coat any part of the apple not covered with caramel. If desired, roll the coated apples in the toppings before the caramel sets. Place on the waxed paper until the coating is firm. Store in a cool place.



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Kathy Brooker-Chapa
US Army, 1975-1978

Kathy Louise Brooker-Chapa is a Findlay native, born at Blanchard Valley Hospital in 1955 to parents Clifford and Frances. She joined older siblings; Jackie, Bud, Chuck and Don, fifteen years after Don was born. Kathy graduated from Findlay High School in 1974. She tried to become independent and move out on her own by working but financially was unable to. Joining the military had long been on her mind as she wanted “to be on my own, to be independent and there were few jobs available locally.”

Kathy wanted to train as a nurse in the Army but was told there was a two-year waiting list. Intent on striking out on her own Kathy enlisted in the “delayed entry” program in August of her senior year, choosing 76X-Subsistence Supply Specialist as her MOS. She did not tell her parents of her decision right away.

In January of 1975, Kathy headed to Ft McClellan, Alabama for basic training. This was the last class of “WACS” (Women’s Army Corps) to be trained in the Army.

Kathy shares her memories of basic: “It was very challenging, but I needed that at that time. The first three months were tough as it was the first time I had ever been away from home. I did get very homesick.”

“All the women recruits became a team. Each woman had her own strengths and talents and we worked

together to help each other. For example, on our long run, my short legs started to give out. Two of my fellow recruits got under each of my arms and encouraged me to finish.”

After successfully completing basic, Kathy traveled next to Ft. Lee, Virginia for her specialized training. Her two-month training was all OJT, learning as she worked, about warehouse operations, driving various sized forklifts, (which she really had fun with), and how to manage spreadsheets and requisitions.

After a short leave home, Kathy arrived at her permanent duty station of Ft. Hood, Texas in May of 1975, joining the 15th Support/Transportation Battalion, 2nd Armored/1st Cav. “I often stayed in my room listening to quiet country and Christian music. Other times I took walks, explored the base, looking for things to do.”

Kathy was typically assigned to a daytime eight-hour shift at one of three warehouses on the base. Her day started at the mess hall where her favorite breakfast was “SOS” because it tasted good and was filling.”

Kathy did well in her job and was promoted to Specialist 4, (Spec-4)

In August of 1975 Kathy married Marcus Chapa, a young man she had dated in Findlay. Both had ended up at Ft. Hood where he was serving as a Signal Corp/Radio Operator

in the 2nd Armored Division. The marriage didn’t last, and Marcus left the military in June of 1976. In July Kathy learned that she was pregnant with her daughter Jessica who arrived on April 4th, 1977. Kathy completed her contract with the Army and mustered out on January 27th, 1978. Kathy and her daughter returned to Ohio and lived in Tiffin.

Adjusting to civilian life was hard for Kathy. “There was no regimentation or structure, the work ethic was very different, and there was no respect for leadership.”

Her first job was as a teacher’s aide at New Riegel School. After her brother-in-law taught her how to use a micrometer, she was able to land a higher paying job at Webster Manufacturing where she worked for the next 13 years. After the company downsized, Kathy returned to Findlay in 1992.

While working at Webster, Kathy had attended Tiffin University, earning her Associates degree in Business Administration in 1983. Back in Findlay she attended Owens in their Pre-Nursing courses. During her second year, while she was completing her clinicals, Kathy was struck with debilitating migraines which ended her chance to get her Nursing degree.

Kathy became a Home Health Aide with Home Health Hospice care, visiting and caring for patients in their home. “I really liked talking

to and listening to my clients.” She eventually moved into hospice care where “you really get close, get to know your clients. You love, care and try to keep them comfortable. You do grieve when they pass but I found it helped me gain wisdom on how to better help others.” Kathy spent the next 20 years caring for patients.

In May of 2012, the simple act of stepping up into her apartment tore the meniscus in her knee. She already had arthritis in both knees. This injury would end her career as a Home Health aide. Kathy eventually had both knees replaced in 2016 and 2017 which did improve her quality of life.

For the past five years Kathy has volunteered at Habitat for Humanity and Restore store in Findlay. She attends weekly bible study at the College First Church of God. She often eats lunch at 50North and then returns home to relax and read.

Kathy spends as much time as she can with her 3 ½ year old great-granddaughter Katie.

Kathy offers the following thoughts about her service and women serving in the military. “If you have no idea what to do with your life, perhaps you should give the military some thought. It teaches responsibility, discipline, and helps one to grow up, adjust to “real life.”

Thank you, Kathy, for your service to our country and for decades of caring for others!

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Cedar Point kicking off Tricks and Treats Fall Fest

Michael Harrington

SANDUSKY — COVID-19 may have canceled HalloWeekends, but fear not, there's still plenty to do at Cedar Point.

HalloWeekends has always been one of the park's biggest draws, bringing in thousands during Cedar Point's final weeks.

The cancellation could hurt the park's attendance as industry insiders report theme parks already suffer diminished crowds due to the pandemic.

The park's parent company, Cedar Fair, however, announced in August that, even with diminished crowds, they've been able to make a profit by adjusting operation schedules.

But Cedar Point conjured up the Tricks and Treats Fall Fest to attract people while maintaining the COVID-19 safety protocols.

"Halloween is a special time at Cedar Point, and our guests really look forward to it," said Jason



Cedar Point's Tricks and Treats Fall Fest started Sept. 12th.

Photo provided/ CEDAR POINT – ALEX FREEMAN

McClure, the park's vice president and general manager. "Our mission to make people happy continues into the fall season, and we're committed to entertaining our fans, friends and families safely."

The park believes the outdoor street festival will spell fun for kids and adults of all ages noon to 8 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday until Nov. 1.

McClure said, despite having to do things differently this year, the festival will offer fun and safe ways to celebrate, including Halloween decor, live entertainment, games and new fall food and drinks around the park.

Scary-good food

Cedar Point cooked up new fall- and Halloween-inspired food, including Toxic Mac, Frankenstein Fries, vampire chili dogs, bacon-wrapped hot dogs, pumpkin spice funnel cake and more.

Guests can purchase a tasting card and enjoy up to six "tricks" – food out of the ordinary — and

"treats" — more recognizable and traditional food items.

On the midways, Brews and Booze Bars will serve up specialty drinks and a variety of craft beers.

Thrilling activities

The festival has events for people of all ages, including a monster makeover, mask and bracelet crafting, pumpkin decorating, a costume contest, hay mazes and more.

But it wouldn't be Halloween without trick-or-treating. Kids can pick up sweets at socially distanced trick-or-treat candy stations in the park.

There's also the Trick-or-Treat Bean Challenge, which will pit contestants against each other in a jelly bean tasting with some unique flavors.

The festival will feature dance parties with live music and an entertainment lineup that could wake the dead. Besides live music, there's the "You're Too Old to Trick-or-Treat Game Show" for adults.



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