

Mission

We believe that quality of life and the health of the environment are interdependent and that an understanding of nature improves the lives of individuals.

We provide educational opportunities and interactive experiences that inspire people to be good stewards of their communities and the world.

"We are so grateful for everyone who gives ~ your donations of time and funds are steps forward. We know that every step forward is a step of growing better."

~ Paul & Melinda Carmichael, Directors

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"Thanks for all your efforts and hard work creating Beech Creek Gardens. You are providing an excellent educational facility for the community ~ and a great place to relax and enjoy nature"

Beech Creek
BOTANICAL GARDEN & NATURE PRESERVE

2015 Annual Report



**Creating a better future
starts with the
ability to envision it.**

Beech Creek Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve
11929 Beech St. NE Alliance, OH 44601

330-829-7050 info@beechcreekgardens.org www.beehcreekgardens.org

Education

Environmental Science School Field Trips



This structured curriculum aligns with the Ohio State Academic Content Standard requirements. Teaching students and teachers about plant and environmental science.

**2,150 students
taught last year!**

11,150 since 2011

"Thank you ~ our students, teachers, and parents learned many great things. Keep this program going strong! We all love it!" Rockhill Elementary, grade 5 science.



UPSIDE Ohio In-Classroom Outreach

Using Plants for Science Instruction & Diverse Education

We supply the growlab, soil, seeds, curriculum, and instruction. Each student grows his own plant in the classroom. Each week, as the plants grow, students are engaged in different plant science activities. Program integrates music, art, literature, and plant science.

**411 students last year
10,471 students since 2005**



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* Canton Audubon Society * IOTA Club
* Camation City Center * North Canton Garden Club
* Flower Garden Club * Town & Country Gardeners of Alliance

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Jim & Donna McNatt
Joseph Medina
James Medley
Kraig Menegay

Storytime Science

New this year. Children have fun learning about nature through a story adventure and a related hands-on science and art activity.

100+ children reached



Critter Days

A new program for 2015, Critter Tuesday's was an instant hit! Very educational, interactive and fun. This program would not be possible without the help of Kristen Beck of Cloverfield Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and biology students from Malone University.

250+ children & adults

Book Discussions



A great compliment to our Resource Library. These book discussions have become very popular with adults.

64 people in 2015



Workshops & Presentations

Gardening, bee-keeping, tree & plant ID, basket weaving, botanical art, guided nature hikes, plant science, caring for wildlife, wreath making, teas, and many more were offered throughout the year.

1,137 in attendance last year



"I love, your garden symposium! My husband And I look forward to it every year!"

Facility Development

New Public Restrooms



The number one priority in our current development phase. The new public restrooms are now open! Through the course of two years, numerous unforeseen and unavoidable obstacles, and many hours of volunteer labor, we are ecstatic to be able to offer real running water and flushing toilets to our visitors!



Caterpillar Nursery



This new facility was built and opened in time for the 2015 butterfly house season. Developed to help us manage our butterfly population and ensure the butterflies best health. The caterpillar nursery is also another great educational facility. Children and adults explore, observe, and learn about the caterpillars and plants that sustain them. Thank you Jim Nero.

12,000 people



Secret Garden

This new garden will serve as an event area, especially beautiful for outdoor weddings, and will seat up to 200 people. It is also another great garden area for families to explore and enjoy. Developments for this new garden began in 2014. During 2015 we were able to bring it near completion. In early spring of 2016, we will add the finishing touches.



Public Pavilion



Washington Ruritans, led by project manager Dave Socotch working on the pavilion.

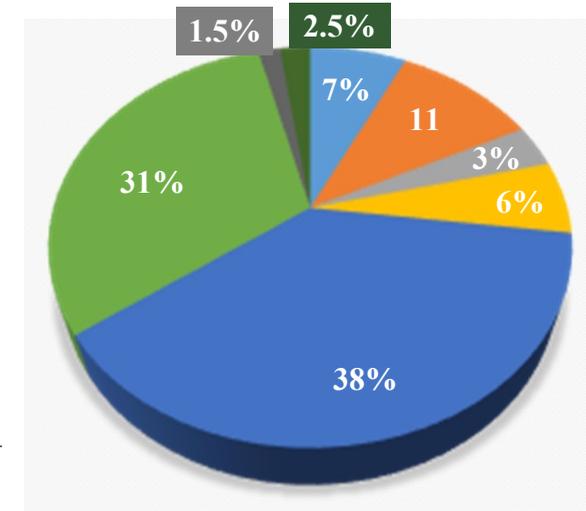
Plans for constructing a public picnic pavilion have been on our list since purchasing the property in 2003. With this in mind, you can only imagine our excitement to see this facility finally being built!

Uses for this facility include; outdoor classroom area during our school field trips, summer camp, adult workshops, space for Spooky Science and Garden Fest events, hosting social activities, and a protected area for visiting families to picnic. The pavilion can seat up to 125 people.

Fiscal Activities

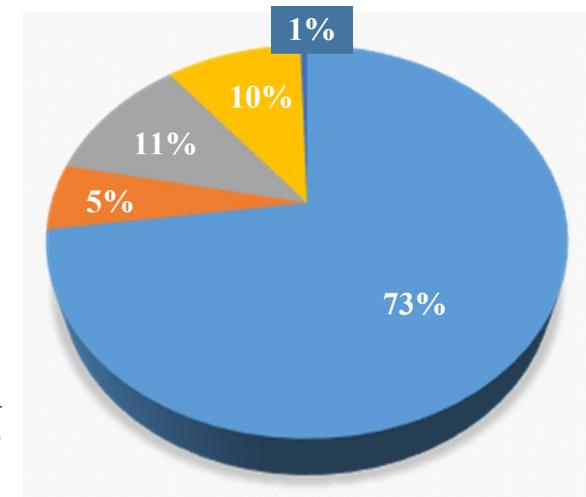
2015 Operating Support & Revenue

Admissions	\$68,298.08	38%
Plant & Gift Shop Sales	\$55,826.54	31%
Donations	\$18,849.77	11%
Memberships	\$12,939.00	7%
Program Support	\$10,530.98	6%
Memorial Contributions	\$ 6,255.00	3%
Grants	\$ 4,079.66	2.5%
Facility Rental	\$ 2,922.42	1.5%
Total	\$179,701.45	100%



2015 Operating Expenses

Program Services	\$121,964.39	73%
Fundraising	\$ 18,618.07	11%
Property Costs	\$ 16,985.88	10%
Administration	\$ 8,956.28	5%
Miscellaneous	\$ 841.85	1%
Total	\$167,366.47	100%



"I have visited Beech Creek several times for school field trips, but never during the summer. What an amazing place that is ever growing and changing for the better. My last trip was with my 74 year old mother. We had a wonderful time. Such a great place to learn about plants and animals and the kids we saw were having a blast! We toured in the Butterfly House and it was amazing. We even purchased herbs and flowers to take home for our own yards! I would recommend this to anyone!"

Highlights By the Numbers

Visitors

Attendance

Butterfly House	12,000
Amazing Garden	16,850
Grounds, Trails & Gardens	24,389
Annual Events	4,926
Average Summer Day	275
Butterfly Release	145
Handfeeding Chickadees	700

Education

Outreach Programs

- Community Gardens	189
- In-classroom Plant Science	411
- Adult Presentations	1,334

Students, School Field Trips	2,150
Lead Teacher Workshops	88
Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts	139

Greenhouse

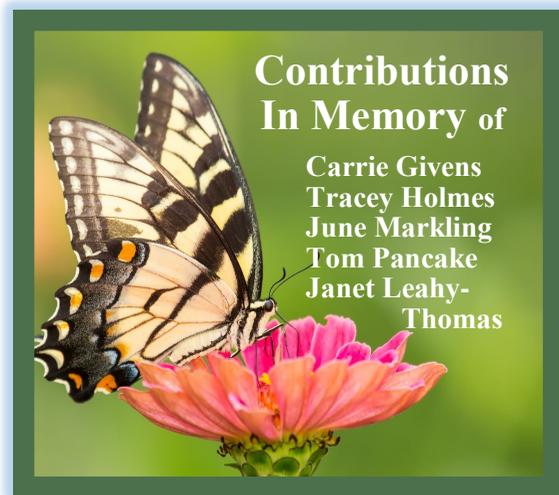
Plants grown	20,000
Plants installed on grounds	5,000
Plants donated for . . .	
Community Gardens	1,750
Milkweed plants donated	388

Personnel

Staff - full time	2
Staff - part time	4
Volunteers	187
Volunteer Hours Worked	28,000

Research & Study Site

- For Local Colleges & Universities
- Water Quality, Malone University & KSU
 - Vernal Pools, Malone & Mount Union
 - Butterflies, Kent State Stark
 - Native Plant Life, Kent State
 - Animal Wildlife, Kent State



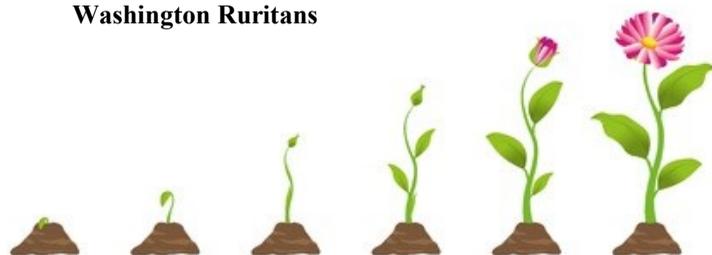
Major Donors

(\$500 or more)

- Alliance Lions Club
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- Anonymous
- Anonymous
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- Walter & Wilda Bortz
- Dan & Becky Callahan
- Canton Audubon Society
- Canton Chapter for Community Betterment
- East Canton Rotary
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- House & Garden Club
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- Red Star Vet, East Canton
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- United Health Care
- Washington Ruritans

Event Sponsors

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- Mott's Greenhouse
- SARTA
- Washington Ruritans
- Christopher Zonfa, DDS



Events Educational, Interactive, Social



Garden Fest

Our 2nd year offering family fun and educational activities all day throughout the grounds. Live music, maypole dancing, garden obstacle course, arts, crafts, and gardening competitions.

Over 600 people attended.

Seed Swap

Participants exchanged seeds, experiences, and gardening tips.



41 Participants

Carnation Days

Celebrating the birth of the scarlet Carnation with the City of Alliance. We offered free children's crafts and face-painting.

1,200+ attended



Spooky Science

Excellent outdoor, hands-on learning exploration!

2,200 people



Christmas at the Gardens

First year for an entirely new venue offering educational arts & crafts throughout December. The Plant Science Center was transformed into "Candyland". Visitors also enjoyed an open fire, hot cocoa, marshmallows, and winter hikes. **625 Participants**



Volunteers

We can accomplish so much with your help. Volunteers generously shared their time with the following:

- * Butterfly House
- * Amazing Garden
- * School Field Trips
- * Nature Store
- * Caterpillar Nursery
- * Building Maint.
- * All Events (planning & presenting)
- * Gardens
- * Trails
- * Animal Care
- * Greenhouse
- * Cleaning
- * Construction

187 volunteers

28,000 hours



Chamber Of Commerce After Hours

Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce after hours event in July hosted by Beech Creek. Beautiful day, excellent turn out, and great networking.

100+ attended



Retired UMU football coach Larry Kehres chats with our Ex. Director Paul Carmichael.

Nature Exploration

Butterfly House

Our vision for the butterfly house is "To inspire people of all ages to help preserve these beautiful pollinators."



12,000+
children & adults



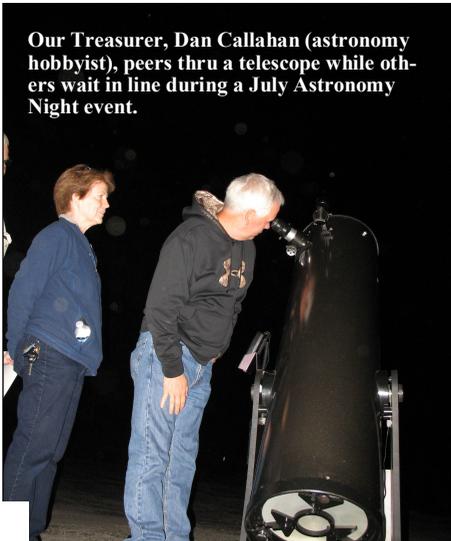
"Great place to visit. The butterfly house is one of the best I've ever seen. You can feed the butterflies, watch them emerge from their chrysalis, and take photos. We loved it!"

Astronomy Nights

New this year, our Astronomy Club hopes to stimulate an interest in the science of astronomy, and to provide opportunities for people to observe, appreciate and enjoy the beauty of astronomy.

7 Meetings, 133 People

Our Treasurer, Dan Callahan (astronomy hobbyist), peers thru a telescope while others wait in line during a July Astronomy Night event.



Summer Adventure Camp

This program offers outdoor, hands-on, nature exploration for children ages 7-12. Offered for one week in July, our instructors lead activities which nurture a better awareness and a life-long appreciation for the environment. Activities included; water, soil, trees, critters, flowers, hiking, music, games, and art.



17 students



Amazing Garden Plant Science Center

This innovative facility integrates literature, math, music, art, and science to help children and adults experience and understand their relationship with plants and the environment.

Explored in 2015 by over
16,850 people.



"The hands-on-activities in the Plant Science Center will stimulate the curiosity of children and adults alike. There is an amazing amount of education going on in this little space."



Community Outreach

Community Gardens

Beech Creek directs two youth-centered community gardens, one on the grounds of the Alliance High School, and the other at Beech Creek Gardens. These two gardens are an excellent mentoring program for at-risk teens.

In 2015, we helped to develop a community garden for the Abbington - a residential facility for seniors. We also helped to spear-head the Greater Alliance Community Gardens Association, a new organization which will help support the twelve community gardens in the Alliance area.

102 youth, 87 seniors



Book Mobile



Rodman Public Library came to Beech Creek throughout the summer. We look forward to it again in 2016!