



Fezziwig Grove Comes to Life

Parks Conservancy Donor Funds Living Tree Research Laboratory

A living laboratory at the Schenley Park Tree Research Grove, warmly known as 'Fezziwig Grove,' will soon house nearly 600 trees thanks to a generous donation from Parks Conservancy supporters, Dr. Tor Richter and Karen Esch.

Tor became an admirer of the Parks Conservancy when Schenley Plaza was built, which sparked his interest in making an impact of his own on Pittsburgh's park system.

“About five years ago I thought I might support plantings for stormwater runoff interception and flood control. Then came an article describing the superiority of trees planted from cultivars, rather than those planted from clones, and the Conservancy's work in establishing disease-resistant trees in Schenley Plaza. From this came the idea of creating an experimental native tree nursery that could also absorb stormwater runoff,” Tor explained.

In mid-November of 2019, the Parks Conservancy's Horticulture and Forestry team planted the first 100 yellowwood trees in the research grove. This spring, the team will record when the trees begin to break bud and then form. They will be able to identify the genotypes that prosper, which will be a better species for growth in the region. This single study will help inform and identify other genetically diverse tree species that will thrive in Pittsburgh.

Fezziwig Grove is also a small island of beauty at the edge of Schenley Park that will also grow future generations of resilient trees.



Tor Richter and Karen Esch visit 'Fezziwig Grove' with Horticulture and Forestry Director, Phil Gruszka

“Beyond that, I hope that the Grove will become a site for botanical study which will bring together the Parks Conservancy, local academic institutions and other non-profit organizations in Pittsburgh,” Tor said.



Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy team members plant the first 100 Yellowwood trees in Fezziwig Grove.

Visit Fezziwig Grove during your next trip to Schenley Park—located at the corner of Tech and Frew Street off Schenley Drive!



ENGAGE

contact Julie Segner at jsegner@pittsburghparks.org or 412.682.7275 x240





Explore What's New With Jayne!



Jayne Miller, President and CEO

hike, which is a unique experience for those who haven't attended before. I'm happy that we're able to keep Pittsburghers active in the parks year-round. I'm also excited about the Uncommon Companions photography exhibit at the Frick Environmental Center. It's a really unique glimpse into the realm of insects and arachnids!

What upcoming events are you excited about?

I'm really excited about the many hikes that we're hosting in the parks this month. We have the heart-rate hike coming up, as well as the full moon

Can you share the Parks Conservancy's upcoming projects with us? We can keep a secret!

We're planning the next phase of a multi-year project in Allegheny

Commons park—the North Promenade reconstruction. The project will span from the Pittsburgh King School to Federal Street in the year 2020, and then Federal Street to the George Washington Monument in 2021. Work will begin this spring and will bring increased safety and accessibility to the park, along with modern enhancements. I can't wait to see the next phase of this project come to life!

What do you love most about Pittsburgh's parks?

Pittsburgh's parks are truly a treasured gem in our city. My neighborhood park is where I go to reflect, bike, explore and meet

new neighbors. One of my favorite things about Pittsburgh's parks is that there's almost always a free program or activity happening. I'm excited about the many programs, events and initiatives that are happening in our parks as we enter a new year, as well as some of the larger projects we are working on with the City.

What's your hope for Pittsburgh in 2020?

I hope that we can come together to collectively build a stronger, more equitable park system. Parks are the beating hearts of our neighborhoods, so for me it's imperative that we work together to make an equitable park system a reality. 🌻



Summer Camp Sign-Ups Coming Sunday, February 9!

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's popular summer camps are unique, age-specific programs held in beautiful Frick Park.

Led by Parks Conservancy educators, these five-day camps encourage children to learn, play and grow in our city's most interesting classrooms: parks!

Camps are for children three years old through youth who have completed 7th grade.

Thanks to generous donors like you, camperships are available for income-eligible families.

Visit www.pittsburghparks.org/summer-camps for more information.



Park champions like you

Jacquelyn Cynkar: Photographer and Philanthropist

Jacquelyn Cynkar is a mother, portrait photographer and friend of Pittsburgh's parks. Read below about Jacquelyn's current photography exhibit, *Uncommon Companions*, which is featured at the Frick Environmental Center through the end of February and learn more about how she's connecting her passions for photography and parks for this exciting project!

Tell us about your current exhibit, 'Uncommon Companions.'

The current exhibit focuses on Pennsylvania insects. I started this

project unconsciously at first and then with intent once I realized what I was looking at. The exhibit is a curation of 19 insects from a larger series that I have worked on over the years. Having children and visiting the parks, and embracing the sense of wonder that (children) bring to a situation really helped open my eyes to the fine-tuned details that exist in the park that you often overlook when you're walking on your own or utilizing it in some other way. When I started to hone in on the insects and look at them from a behavioral point of view, and a curiosity of wonderment, like

my kids may have done, it allowed me to think of them as individuals, rather than collectively.

What does it mean to have your art displayed at the Frick Environmental Center?

As an artist, it's a privilege to share something that I am passionate about with other

people. I also love community—I'm drawn to people naturally. The idea that I can share my art is just wonderful from an engagement point of view and just feeling that connection with others.

For the parks though, I feel privileged in a second way. I can't say enough wonderful things about what the Conservancy does for our city. To have my show here and feel that sense of community is a wonderful feeling.

I have an endearing and sweet story about the exhibit. The father of a friend of mine sent me a message and he explained that while he was visiting the Environmental Center, there was a family engaged in a conversation, but their child was just staring at my images—to the point where the child started pulling on their mother's hand and made her stop the conversation. He then observed the child and mother talking about the photo and simply discussing the art. That's the gift. The parks do that for people daily and for me to be a small part of that is wondrous—I feel so privileged.



Portrait Photographer and Park Champion, Jacquelyn Cynkar

How do you champion for the parks year-round?

As a friend and advocate of the parks, I feel that the parks are a place to break the polarization of people. Being an advocate of the parks is important to me because it's a place where my children transcend when they step into nature. The parks system is your 'Vitamin N' (nature), which we all need. It's also a gathering place that brings community together, and people of different voices, backgrounds and opinions. It is so needed. I believe in advocating beyond my household and discussing the parks and needs with intent. 🌿



The milkweed beetle is the star of the *Uncommon Companions* photography exhibit at the Frick Environmental Center.



Your parks, your stories

Lasting Memories Created on the Carousel

The PNC Carousel in Schenley Plaza has a storied past and continues to be a gathering place for Pittsburghers and visitors from around the world. Every year from April through October, visitors of all ages and abilities enjoy the carousel's lively colors and old-fashioned pipe organ music as they spin around Schenley Plaza. In those moments, lasting memories are created, all because donors like you

support this treasured gem year-round.

For the Frankenberg/Northup family, taking trips to the PNC Carousel is a summer tradition.

“We visit the carousel as often as possible during the summer. We have two daughters, but it's our toddler, Magnolia's, favorite thing to do! She'll ask to visit, so we try to make an afternoon out of

it as a family. We ride the carousel as many times as she wants because we have the season pass and then we usually get some snacks or lunch and just enjoy the plaza,” explained Caitlin Northup.

“Magnolia loves the teacup that spins—it's her favorite part! She'll wait to get on it until it's open and then she loves to ride it multiple times in a row. She would ride the teacup all day if we let her.”

One of the many reasons why Caitlin enjoys taking her family to visit the carousel is because there are so many things around the carousel and the plaza.

“My husband and I have been visiting Schenley Plaza since we were in college at Duquesne. Since we've had children, I would say we visit way more often just because it's such a



Magnolia enjoying a spin around the carousel with her 'Lulu' (grandmother and parks friend), Laura Northup.

convenient way to get them outside and have a fun and inexpensive day.”

Create your own lasting memories on the carousel this summer by purchasing a season pass below.

We'll see you on the carousel in April! 🎡



The lively and colorful PNC Carousel in Schenley Plaza.



2020 PNC Carousel Pass

Your family can ride the PNC Carousel in Schenley Plaza without tokens all season long with a Family Season Pass (valid for two adults and up to four children)!

\$50

My information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

Save \$10 off regular price of \$60 through May 1, 2020

Please return with enclosed envelope or call 412.682.7275 for more information

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy does not solicit contributions from persons or entities in states other than Pennsylvania, New York, or Florida.