The John Bartram Arboretum at Kendal at Oberlin
Development Highlights — March 14, 2024

2015

- Seeds of the arboretum planted at a dinner among Anne and Jim Helm and Arlene and Larry Dunn; some of our thoughts and ideas:
    - Kendal trees in trouble: too many struggling and dying
    - Concerns raised by individual residents were not yielding effective changes
    - Arboretum status could ignite an institutional commitment to better educate ourselves, residents and staff, on proper tree care — selection, siting, planting, maintenance — and improve our practices
    - Forming an arboretum would open a new avenue for community engagement and service
- KORA Arboretum Committee established as as subcommittee of Horticulture; originals members Anne Helm, Arlene Dunn, Don Parker, Larry Dunn, Melissa Reed, and Facility Services staff liaison Matt Hannon
- Arboretum named after colonial-era Quaker naturalist John Bartram, who was called "the greatest natural botanist" by Linnaeus
- Selected our native American Tuliptree as the arboretum's signature tree
- Initiated engagement with Oberlin College Environmental Studies department, conducted first collaborative project with ENVS 101 students
- Applied for and awarded Kendal Charitable Funds Affiliate Grant of $5,000 to aid in arboretum status; raised over $6,000 in matching funds from Kendal residents and friends
- Applied for and awarded ArbNet Level I status

2016

- Arboretum logo designed by Don Parker
- Initiated engagement with City of Oberlin and OSU extension
- First Arbor Day Celebration:
    - Jim Chatfield, OSU professor and Extension Specialist spoke on "Which Trees Matter: The Simple Science of Plant Selection?" and led a tree walk around campus
    - Opening celebration of the arboretum with planting of an American Tuliptree at the junction of Kendal Circle Drive and Heiser Blvd.
    - Joint celebration with City of Oberlin, donated an American Tuliptree to the city, which they planted in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

- Developed Commemorative Tree policy, in conjunction with Philanthropy Committee of the Kendal board

- Initiated a new web-based Arboretum Tree Catalogue database system in collaboration with resident Dennis Cook and migrated tree data from existing TRIMS database

- Initiated engagement with Ohio DNR Urban Forestry and Ohio Independent Arborists Association, both of which became key ongoing educational resources

- Hosted ODNR Urban Forestry's Tree Commission Academy, attended by 5 Kendal residents and staff, plus local government staff and tree professionals

- Hosted a program on Root Collar Remediation presented by the Ohio Independent Arborists Association

- Fulfilled the requirements of the Kendal Charitable Funds grant

    - Arbor Day celebrations

    - Initiated new tree assessment protocol

    - Designed new interpretive tree labels and began making labels and installing them on our tree collection

- Donated and planted 6 fruit trees to Oberlin Community Garden at Legion Field, working with local gardeners to demonstrate proper planting, mulching, and watering techniques

- Conducted another collaborative project with Oberlin College Environmental Studies 101 students

- Applied for and awarded an ArbNet 5th Anniversary capacity building grant of $1,000 to conduct a Pilot Test of suffocating tree root collar remediation

- Collaborated with Facility Services staff to develop new protocols for selecting trees, diversifying our collection, and tree siting, planting, and maintenance, based primarily on our learning from Tree Commission Academy

2017

- Hosted Dr. Kathy Smith, OSU Extension statewide forestry specialist for a tree walk to identify and diagnose tree problems and solutions

- Arbor Day:

    - Alan Siewert, Regional Urban Forester presented "Healthy Trees: Five Steps to a Thriving Urban Forest." followed by a campus walk and debrief

    - Joint celebration with the City of Oberlin; donated a Bur Oak tree in memory of the Kendal at Oberlin founders, which was planted in Westwood Cemetery

- Anne and Jim Helm initiated the Kendal Arboretum Endowment Fund to support long term care of the Arboretum

- Initiated ongoing monthly series of Arboretum-focused articles in the Kendalight, with associated table displays in Heiser Lounge

- Conducted another collaborative project with Oberlin College ENVS101 students
- Completed administration of the ArbNet grant Pilot Test
- Developed Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan to guide our continuing care of the Arboretum tree collection

2018

- Sustainable Urban Forest Management Plan adopted and approved by Kendal management and board
- Arbor Day celebration, in collaboration with City of Oberlin:
    - Jane Goodman, Executive Director of Cuyahoga River Restoration, presented "Woods for Waters" on the importance of creating and maintaining effective riparian zones around our waterways to protect soil and water quality
    - Jane Goodman led an interpretive walk through several Oberlin city parks along the Plum Creek Greenway
- Committee members initiated an ongoing effort to engage residents in removing exotic invasive woody plants, such as Buckthorn and Asian Honeysuckle from numerous campus locations
- Committee member Alan Lockwood developed and launched the first version of our interactive GIS map of the Kendal campus and Arboretum, including the first guided tree walk around Heiser Circle
- Began work with Kendal staff on development of a Kendal Master Landscape Plan

2019

- Completed work on the Kendal Master Landscape Plan
- Hosted "Young Tree Training" education program presented by Alan Siewert, ODNR Urban Forester
- Arbor Day, in collaboration with Western Reserve Land Conservancy and the City of Oberlin:
    - Jeff Baumann, Public Works Director for the city, spoke on Oberlin's urban forestry and tree programs
    - Colby Sattler, WRLC staff, spoke abut the importance of ensuring that urban forestry programs engage with the community
    - Tree planting and campus walk led by Colby Sattler and Kendal Facility Services Grounds team
- Committee member Alan Lockwood developed and launched the Arboretum's independent website at johnbartramarboretum.org
- Initiated use of web-based ArborScope system from Bartlett Tree Experts for our Arboretum Tree Catalog; migrated all data from previous system

- Hosted another ODNR Urban Forestry Tree Commission Academy, attended by 12 Kendal residents and staff, plus local government staff and tree professionals

2020

- PANDEMIC STRIKES!

- Arbor Day: plans cancelled due to pandemic restrictions

- Shift to online programs:

    - Alan Lockwood: "Introduction to the John Bartram Arboretum Website"

    - David Benzing: "The Botanical Response to Global Climate Change: multidimensional and too ominous to have received so little publicity"

- Work continued on Commemorative Tree program, monthly Kendalight articles and table display, invasive plant removal and woodlot re-naturalizing, updates to the website, and maintenance of the Arboretum Tree Catalog database on ArborScope

- Re-certified at ArbNet Level I status

2021

- Conducted another collaborative project with Oberlin College ENVS 101 students

- Arbor Day:

    - Outdoor presentation by David Benzing and Rachel Duncan on Kendal soils

    - Planting demonstration in new grove of trees from the genus *Platunus* (Sycamores and Plane Trees)

    - Outdoor presentation by David Benzing: "Invasive Plants: Their Biology and Reasons for Control"

    - Outdoor presentation by David Benzing and Rachel Duncan: "Invasive Plants and Woodland Restoration"

- Initiated engagement with American Chestnut Transgenic Educational Partnership (at SUNY-ESF) regarding Chestnut tree restoration

- Began planning for submission of application for ArbNet Level II certification

- Rachel Duncan appointed as Arboretum Curator

- Established Arboretum Collections Policy

2022

- Entered into MOU with American Chestnut Transgenic Educational Partnership (at SUNY-ESF)

- Hosted prairie expert John Blakeman to speak on "Restoring Prairies and Savannas in Ohio" and advise Kendal on planned conversion of mowed turf areas to prairie meadows (per Kendal Master Landscape Plan)

- Arbor Day:

- Presentation by Valerie Trouet, author of *Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings* (collaboration with Oberlin College Biology department)
  - Presentation by David Benzing: "How Trees Contribute to Earth's Life Support System and Human Welfare"
  - Guided tree walk by Rachel Duncan: "Biodiversity of Trees in Nature and in our Landscape"
- Hosted hands-on workshop "Natural Pruning of Woody Ornamentals", presented by Ohio Independent Arborists Association
- Online presentation by Alan Lockwood to Senior Stewards Acting for the Environment: "Urban vs. Boreal Forests and the Value of Trees in the Fixation of Carbon Dioxide"
- Planted 5 native genotype American Chestnut seedlings from ESF on Wildflower Hill
- Awarded ArbNet Level II status

2023

- Arbor Day: Joint program and tree planting demonstration in collaboration with Kendal's Legacy Circle of Friends program of the Philanthropy Committee of the board
- Hosted our new regional urban forester Matt Leiden, who spoke about the services provided by ODNR Urban Forestry, followed by Q&A and an observational walk around campus
- Started the Oberlin Legacy Trees initiative to celebrate our oldest trees on the Kendal campus and other locations in the Oberlin area, as a collaborative program with the City of Oberlin, Oberlin Heritage Society, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and Oberlin College.
- Awarded our first Tree Campus Healthcare certification from the Arbor Day Foundation
- Collaborated, along with Horticulture Committee, on a Facility Services Grounds staff initiative to assist Oberlin Community Services to renovate landscape areas in the front of their new building
- Hosted "Young Tree Training" workshop, presented by Ohio Independent Arborists Association
- Joined The American Chestnut Foundation and established a Chestnut Restoration Education work group
- Submitted application to The American Chestnut Foundation Ohio chapter for a "American Chestnut Restoration Education Grant" of $1,300 (awarded in early 2024)