Conservancy Volunteers Make a Difference in Hermann Park

Take a look around Hermann Park and you might spot Conservancy volunteers weeding flower beds in Lake Plaza, planting trees in Bayou Parkland, or greeting guests in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Volunteers are at the core of the Conservancy’s mission to maintain and improve Hermann Park. It is heartwarming to see our community taking part in the stewardship of the Park, whether it is mulching plant beds, watering trees, repairing trails, or volunteering at a special event.

In the McGovern Centennial Gardens, volunteer coordinator Kimina Jamison organizes the efforts of volunteers who devote their time to gardening tasks or serve as garden ambassadors to assist visitors. Volunteer Meredith Hilliard said of her experiences in the garden, “After spending countless hours a day inside an office, it is so refreshing to be able to spend time outside and really get your hands dirty.” Many other volunteers share this same feeling or live in an apartment where they are limited in their gardening possibilities. Amy Sullivan, a garden ambassador, had a meaningful conversation with a visitor and said, “… one person comes through the gardens after every run just to sit and relax before heading home. People are really taken by the design and the ability to just sit and enjoy.”

Continued on page 4
Rarely do friends inspire poetry — but a simple “thank you” did not seem adequate when we honored Phoebe Tudor and Ann Kennedy at Evening in the Park. Despite my best efforts, the “Ode to Phoebe and Ann” could not compare to the beauty of the surrounding McGovern Centennial Gardens — a far more poetic testament to their efforts.

Ann’s love for Hermann Park goes back 25 years, when she first brought her young son for train rides (hundreds of them). Over the years, she became a Park advocate and has served as a Conservancy board member since 2007. Board chairs typically serve one two-year term — but her leadership up to the Centennial led the board to press her for a second term (2010 to 2014). Trying to plan a Centennial in the shadow of the 2008 financial downturn led to conversations such as, “well, we can just serve cupcakes and everyone will enjoy the party.” Yet Ann’s determination helped bring about the many successful Centennial events from Art in the Park to the Hermann Park Kite Festival and the Park to Port Bike Ride. It was hard to think of a way to thank her enough when her term as chair ended, but her son Alec recorded a video testimonial from Stanford and then surprised her with an appearance at our final board meeting. Many of her family members and friends joined us to celebrate her at the gala.

Hermann Park has long been close to Phoebe’s heart as well. She first joined the board of Friends of Hermann Park (now Hermann Park Conservancy) in 1999, serving in many positions throughout the history of the organization. With a Master’s degree in historic preservation, Phoebe was drawn to restoring the elegant core of Hermann Park. And, after living in New York City with three small children in the ‘90s, she knew what Central Park meant to so many families. When she returned, she was inspired to rescue Hermann Park so Houston families would have a beautiful place to spend time together. Phoebe chairs the Centennial Campaign committee and will be the next chair of the Conservancy board. She has been tireless in her efforts to raise funds to improve Hermann Park and bring the McGovern Centennial Gardens to life.

I encourage everyone to take a walk to the top of The Mount and enjoy the view. When you do, please take a moment to thank Phoebe and Ann for their hard work. The Conservancy team thanks them for their kindness. We, and the Park, couldn’t have better friends.

See you in the Park,

Doreen

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director
The Conservancy Welcomes New Board Members

1. **Robert Antablin** is a member of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and a senior leader of the firm’s Energy and Infrastructure team focusing on Energy Private Equity. He also serves on KKR’s Oil and Gas Investment Committee. Previously, he worked for Goldman Sachs in the investment banking division in New York. Robert holds a B.S. (Phi Beta Kappa) from the Schreyer Honors College of Pennsylvania State University. He and his wife Abbi live in Shadyside with their two children.

2. **John Bishop** is a managing director at Morgan Stanley in the Global Natural Resources Group. He leads the firm’s global coverage efforts pertaining to the oilfield services sector and regarding select North American upstream clients. John joined Morgan Stanley in 2012 and has 14 years of oil and gas investment banking experience. He and his wife Melina have two children.

3. **Gloria Luna Bounds** is a program manager in Corporate Community Relations for CenterPoint Energy, and serves as the company’s United Way Campaign Coordinator. She earned her B.A. in Communication and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. Gloria is an active member of the Junior League of Houston, serves on the board for the Latin Women’s Initiative and serves on the HISD Hispanic Advisory Committee.

4. **Anne Schlumberger** serves as a trustee for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Menil Collection, and is on the advisory board of The Houston Seminar. In 1980, Anne founded the Anchorage Foundation of Texas and in 1994 she co-founded Making Main Street Happen. She has served as past president of Rice Design Alliance and has been on the board of directors of many local organizations including Houston Tomorrow, Houston Grand Opera, and The Children’s Museum.

5. **Y. Ping Sun** moved from New York to Houston in 2004 when her husband David W. Leebron became president of Rice University. A native of Shanghai, China, she received a scholarship to Princeton University where she graduated with an A.B. degree before receiving a law degree from Columbia University School of Law. She is currently of counsel with the law firm of Yetter Coleman LLP and serves as a representative of Rice University, sitting on the advisory board of Rice’s Shepherd School of Music and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

Welcome to the newest members of the HPC board of directors!
The Conservancy’s summer Job Shadow program, led by director of volunteer programs, Diane Kerr, gives junior high and high school students a unique opportunity to learn about the importance of conservation. Students participate in a variety of work-related tasks and team-building activities while learning about horticulture and forestry and connecting with nature. Student Pablo Schnelle noted one important lesson he learned, “We must conserve native species and remove invasives in order to sustain a healthy environment not only in Houston, but the world.”

Working through this summer’s high temperatures, the youth helped to clean up the Park in the aftermath of May’s heavy rains by repairing eroded trails, removing weeds in flower beds, and picking up limb debris. This summer’s enthusiastic group not only helped to improve Hermann Park but also gained valuable skills for the future.

To find out more about volunteering as an individual or a group, visit our website at hermannpark.org/volunteer, or call 713-524-5876 ext. 332. And, if you see a volunteer out in the Park, stop and thank them for helping to keep Hermann Park clean and green.

Always a fall favorite, Hermann Park Conservancy’s Run in the Park will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2015. The 12th annual event will feature a 5K Run/Walk, a Kids’ Fun Run, and a celebratory post-race party. The race begins at Hermann Park’s Molly Ann Smith Plaza and winds throughout the Park on the Marvin Taylor Trail. The 5K run will be chip timed and the overall male and female winners will receive awards. For more details, go to hermannpark.org/run.
Happy 172nd Birthday, George!

Despite the nearly 100 degree temperature, kids flocked to Kinder Station on August 6 to celebrate the birthday of our Park’s namesake, George Hermann. The youngsters enjoyed coloring and crafts, face painting, and birthday cake. The Houston Fire Department taught fire safety through a musical puppet show and two mounted Houston Police officers talked to children about their work. The party wasn’t complete without a ride on the Hermann Park Railroad, discounted to $1.72 in honor of Hermann’s 172nd birthday.

Urban Green Celebrates Spring on the Green

Celebrating the splendor of the McGovern Centennial Gardens was the theme of the night when 400 young professionals came to Hermann Park on May 7. Guests enjoyed generously donated food and beverages while DJs Mav and M-Cue kept the music going. Many took photos with their friends in a Ham & Cheese photobooth, bid on exciting silent auction items, and explored the gardens. Event chairs Rachel and Daniel Fein, Topper Sheehy, and Glynn Tower and the Urban Green steering committee led by Catherine Bradley helped ensure the event would raise vital funds to benefit Hermann Park. The successful event brought in $25,000, more than doubling its goal.

Join the Conservancy

Are you a Hermann Park Conservancy member? Hermann Park membership raises vital funds that ensure the Conservancy can continue to care for the 445 acres of Hermann Park. Membership dollars buy gloves, tools, equipment, and time, all required to maintain the Park on a daily basis. Membership also comes with great benefits! Members receive train and pedal boat tickets and have access to Member Express lines. On weekends and busy weekdays, members can skip the line! Members also ride for free on the second Saturday of every month. To see the full list of benefits, visit hermannpark.org/membership.

Play your Park and become a member today!
Guests were delighted to celebrate the April 24, 2015 Evening in the Park gala in the McGovern Centennial Gardens for the first time. While some sipped cocktails on the plaza of the new Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, others explored the gardens and strolled to the top of The Mount for a panoramic view. Chairs Linsay and Jeremy Radcliffe and Allison and Troy Thacker planned a truly spectacular evening for more than 500 guests dressed in summer whites. The Conservancy honored two extraordinary women that have been long time Park advocates, fundraisers, and philanthropists: Ann Kennedy, past Conservancy board chair, and Phoebe Tudor, Centennial Campaign chair. Following dinner by City Kitchen on the garden’s Centennial Green, guests enjoyed an impressive dessert bar and then danced into the night to the music of KlockWork. The event raised more than $525,000 to benefit the Conservancy.

Thank you to everyone who supported this special evening benefiting the Conservancy.
ExxonMobil and Shell Interns Spend Summer Working at HPC

This summer two college interns worked diligently to complete valuable projects and learn about the operation of a non-profit organization. Both students had fond childhood memories of Hermann Park and embraced the opportunity to spend eight weeks with the Conservancy.

Christopher Wong, a senior at Prairie View A&M University, was sponsored by Shell. He developed plant databases for the new McGovern Centennial Gardens and for the Japanese Garden and created a comprehensive plant guide for both gardens on the Conservancy website. Chris also facilitated volunteer projects in the gardens.

Jillian Mitchell, a junior at St. Edwards University, was sponsored through ExxonMobil’s Community Summer Jobs Program. She compiled an inventory and mapped the Park’s native trees, developed an invasive species removal plan, and worked with volunteers.

We are grateful for their hard work this summer and enjoyed getting to know both of them. We are thankful to ExxonMobil and Shell for their continued annual support of these valuable internship programs.

New Exercise Equipment for Hermann Park

Joggers and walkers are enjoying the new workout station along the Marvin Taylor Trail. The exercise equipment is located behind the Conservancy office at 1700 Hermann Drive and provides a variety of TimberForm Fitness Route conditioning stations. It’s a perfect way to get an extra workout along the trail.

Donors

- Chris Wilson – In honor of Margaret Langley Wolff-Toomim Foundation
- Alvin Tree Farm
- City Kitchen Catering
- Neiman Marcus Houston
- Texas Monthly
- TPRB Advertising
- Ermenegildo Zegna Houston Boutique

Annual Fund/General Fundraising

- $10,000 – $24,999
  - Tiffany and Senthil Alagarsamy – In memory of Varasamy Alagarsamy
  - Pippa Wiley
- $1,000 – $4,999
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  - Kathryn and Hank Coleman
  - Lisa and Pete Coppel
  - Cynthia Coselli
  - Lisa and Mark Cox
If you have ventured across McGovern Lake from Lake Plaza and Kinder Station to the quiet side of the lake edge, you probably encountered a unique granite sculpture called Moonscape Bench by the late Texas artist Jesus Bautista Moroles. This popular sculpture was generously given to the City of Houston by the late Jack Blanton and has called Hermann Park home since 2002. If you’re lucky enough to find it empty, you can lounge comfortably on the sculpture and take in the beautiful views across McGovern Lake.

The Texas art world lost a legend in June when Moroles was tragically killed in a car accident outside of Austin. A native of Texas who lived and worked in Rockport, Moroles was an internationally renowned master sculptor well-known for his large scale abstract granite works. He was the recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 2008 and his sculptures can be seen across the world – although he never lost his love and connection to Texas.
Save the Dates!
Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events for Fall 2015

Park to Port Bike Ride
Saturday, October 3, 2015
7 a.m.

Urban Green Fall Event
November 19, 2015
7–10 p.m.

Run in the Park
Saturday, November 14, 2015
8 a.m.

Student Performances in the Park Series
Throughout the 2015–2016 school year
Dates and times are subject to change; where date and time not listed, exact time is TBD

Details at hermannpark.org

Donors

Ray Garcia
Elizabeth Geddes
Erica and Garrett Graham
Gray Street Entertainment LLC
Sharon and Jason Griffin
Beth and Judd Harrison
Jessica Elizabeth Hart
Amy and Bo Huggins
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In Kind

13 Celsius
Adair Kitchen
AJ’s Landscaping
Andrew Richardson Photography
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Bagel Dots
Bayou Rum
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Biscuit Home
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Chick-fil-A
Chili’s Grill and Bar
Clique Salon
David Peck USA
Deep Eddy Vodka
DEFINE Body & Mind
Deluxe Honeydrop Beverages
Dish Society
DJ Mav
DJ M-Cue
Down House
Dream Bouquet

Centennial Campaign Donor Wall

Don’t miss your chance to be a part of Hermann Park’s history! Join other Conservancy donors for a once-a-century recognition opportunity on the Centennial Campaign Donor Wall in Lake Plaza at Kinder Station. This special donor wall, which has been on temporary display since 2009, consists of Conservancy donors whose cumulative giving for any purpose totals $50,000 or more. Want to learn more about the donor wall or just how close you are to qualifying for listing?

Contact mmiller@hermannpark.org or 713-524-5876, ext. 339. Deadline to be included on the wall is 12/31/15.

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Becky Naser – In memory of Norma Shote O’Neill
Cindy and James Rhodes – In memory of Sidney Raye Monroe Hamilton
Patrick Simmons – In honor of Cathy Simmons
Lois Y. Taber – In honor of Carolyn Robertson

Garden Conservancy Fund
$1,000 – $5,000
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$100 – $500
Beverly and Oliver Pennington
Sally and Norman Reynolds – In honor of Doreen Stoller
Barbara and Paul Schwartz – In honor of Ann Kennedy
Anna Steinberger – In memory of Dr. Emil Steinberger

Tree Conservancy Fund
$500 – $999
Steppie and Robert Holtslaw – In memory of Mary Ann Phillips

Volunteer Programs
$1,000 – $4,999
CenterPoint Energy
NRG Energy, Inc.

In Kind

Carnegie Vanguard TPSP Project
Catherine and Ron Ehlinger
ExxonMobil Foundation

Urban Green
$2,500 – $4,999
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$1,000 – $2,499
Norton Rose Fulbright

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Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P.
Bella Madre
Bella Rinova Spa & Salon
Biscuit Home
BRC Gastropub
Butter & Company
Chick-fil-A
Chili’s Grill and Bar
Clique Salon
David Peck USA
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DEFINE Body & Mind
Deluxe Honeydrop Beverages
Dish Society
DJ Mav
DJ M-Cue
Down House
Dream Bouquet
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Conductor’s Circle ($2,500+)
Whole Foods Market
Underbelly
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Tony’s

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Roger D. Aksamit

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The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of $100 or more between March 1 and June 30, 2015, as well as all George Hermann Society members. Gifts to the Park to Port Bike Ride will be recognized in a subsequent issue.

In compliance with IRS standards, commitments paid over time in installments are recognized once in full at the time of the pledge. Please contact the Conservancy if we inadvertently have not included your name or if you would like to be listed differently in future publications.