



NEWSLETTER

Nature. People. Places.



Light Up the ²Aquarium

a holiday fund-raising event for the
Belle Isle Aquarium

DECEMBER 5, 2014
at the Aquarium

Champagne Preview
begins at 5:30 PM
(tickets: \$100
and \$250)

Please contact the Belle Isle Conservancy
for details, to purchase tickets
or to explore sponsorship opportunities



www.belleisleconservancy.org
8109 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48214
313-331-7760

General Admission
begins at 6:30 PM
(tickets: \$60
until Dec. 2)

Experience winter in Detroit's wondrous land



Join Us on the
**Belle Isle
Holiday
Stroll**

Friday, 12-12-14
5pm - 8pm

Enjoy an evening stroll through the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory,
Belle Isle Aquarium and Dossin Great Lakes Museum

This free event includes:

- ✧ Refreshments including mulled cider, hot chocolate, donuts and cookies
- ✧ Gospel music from the Deep River Choir
of the
Boll Family YMCA's YArts program
- ✧ Winter-themed craft activities for the whole family



belleisleconservancy.org * 313-331-7760

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michele Hodges



It is my pleasure to say hello to you all, and to wish you well for the coming winter season. Belle Isle is beautiful all year round, and I hope you will take every opportunity to enjoy its winter splendor, along with the promise of an even brighter future, thanks to a strong transitional year with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at the table.

As Michigan's 102nd state park, Belle Isle has joined an award winning park system, and is now the subject of daily operational support, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced grounds maintenance. Despite

this major addition of talent and resources, the needs remain significant, and the Conservancy is honored to provide the leadership necessary to ensure the Belle Isle Aquarium remains open, important community programming continues, preservation of some of Detroit's most important historic assets occurs, and a bevy of other needs are met. We are an enthusiastic complement to the DNR as we work in partnership, in tandem with you, to address the more than \$330M of necessary projects.

In order to harness the resources necessary for this herculean undertaking, we recently conducted an annual appeal, and are most grateful to those of you that chose to support it. Your contributions add value to the ongoing financial resources of our corporate supporters, from new partners like PwC and First Merit, to solid long-time partners like GM, DTE, Penske Corporation and Strategic Staffing Solutions. Together, we are positioned to make a tremendous impact.

In closing, and because of your continued support, whether it be financial, in kind, volunteer, or as Belle Isle Park's greatest cheerleader, please take comfort in the fact our jewel will be polished for generations to come. Thank you!

News from the Chair

Sarah Earley



We are so pleased to have had a successful summer on Belle Isle. The DNR has worked its magic and we've had positive feedback from those who've visited the park this summer.

The Board of the Conservancy is working towards the future. A large part of the next few months will be spent on strategic planning. With funding from both the Kresge and Hudson-Webber Foundations, we will be planning for the future with the Department of Natural Resources. One process will specifically involve the Aquarium/Conservatory complex and our operations and programming in those two buildings. The other will be a joint effort with the DNR on future investments in operations, programming and capital projects.

We've completed an assessment process that will provide the foundation for our planning and look forward to sharing with you next spring our plans for the future of Belle Isle.

Best,
Sarah Earley



Congratulations

Maud Lyon



We are so proud of Maud Lyon, the founding executive director of CultureSource who has been selected as the next President and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Without Maud, there may not have been a Belle Isle Conservancy. Maud served as a volunteer and a consultant to me and the

Conservancy for more than 6 years. With her incredible mind, she helped us navigate the waters to benchmark other park's conservancies, understand what the best models and practices were and merge four non-profit organizations to build one Conservancy. Her analytical and strategic skills, as well as her knowledge of policies and politics, have been invaluable as we sought to build a completely new organization to support our beautiful Belle Isle.

I cannot thank Maud enough for all she has done to bring us successfully to this point. I, and Detroit, will miss her tremendously. We wish her all the best as she sets off on a new adventure in Philadelphia and only hope that she will return often to visit us here in Detroit.

by Sarah Earley

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Katy Wyerman, Director of Resource Development



We had a great Belle Isle Summer Saturdays (BLISS) season, thanks to funding from Charter One. Back for its second year, BLISS Saturdays occurred on the third Saturday each month throughout the summer. Featured were the Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory's 110th Birthday Party as well as the Belle Isle Beer Garden,

presented by the Belle Isle Conservancy Emerging Patrons Council. New BLISS activities this year included dance lessons and the distribution of free recreation passports, in addition to returning activities of yoga, kayaking, and arts and crafts.

The 10th annual Polish the Jewel Belle Isle Legacy Luncheon was held on September 17th at the Belle Isle Casino emceed by JoAnne Puritan. Over 450 women (and some men!) attended the event, decked out in their finest shoes and chapeaus. Throughout the past ten years, the luncheon has raised over \$2.5 million for island improvement projects. Thanks to generous support from attendees and corporate sponsors like DTE Energy, this year's luncheon raised \$140,000 in net revenue.

We're thankful to the Fenton family for their generous gift which enabled the reopening of the Aquarium's skylights and the renovation of 11 fish tanks which now feature starfish, clownfish, jellyfish, and seahorses. Come down to the Aquarium to check out the new improvements! Butzel Long celebrated its 160th birthday by sponsoring the resurrection of the Belle Isle Aquarium's weather vane. Bruce Gerlach was the winner of the weather vane design competition, and its construction is underway. We also received a grant from the GM Foundation to fund the formalization of our field trip program to the Aquarium and Conservatory as well as provide free swimming lessons in partnership with the DNR at the Belle Isle Beach this summer.

From programs to physical improvements and new additions, there's a significant amount of positive momentum on Belle Isle. A lot of people have been asking, "What's the next major project for Belle Isle?" To answer that question, we are embarking on a strategic planning process this winter, thanks to funding from the Hudson-Webber Foundation, which will help us prioritize the needs across the island and identify future major projects to direct funds towards.

**Aquarium & Conservatory
110th Birthday Party
August 16, 2014**



**BLISS Beer Garden
September 20, 2014**



10th Annual Polish The Jewel Legacy Luncheon – Nancy Cain, Maureen Stapleton, Carmen Harlan, Ed Deeb, Carol Cain, Sarah Earley and Michele Hodges – Elayne Gross Photography



**BLISS Yoga – August 16, 2014 –
Photo by Courtney Welch**



**Bruce & Tina Gerlach – Winner of
the weather vane design competition**

Past Events

BAREFOOT BEACH CLEAN UP

On **Wednesday, August 6**, 40 volunteers joined together to collect a total of 14 pounds of trash along the Belle Isle north shore from the South Fishing Pier to the eastern edge of the beach. Barefoot Wine hosted this public Adopt-a-Beach™ cleanup teaming with the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the Belle Isle Conservancy. The 14 teams recorded the various types of items collected, performed water tests at three different locations and noted beach usage. Afterward, the group moved on to the Detroit Yacht Club for refreshments provided by Barefoot Wine. The Alliance also held additional Adopt-a-Beach cleanups around the Great Lakes, including one at Belle Isle Beach held on September 20. The August 6th event was dedicated to Mary Waterstone, who was an advocate for Belle Isle preservation and lead this event the past couple of years.



Barefoot Wine Beach Clean Up volunteers



Team doing a water test

RESURGENCE OF THE PEOPLE'S ISLAND

A two-day program commemorating the achievements of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. took place on Thursday, October 9 at the MSU campus and **Friday, October 10** on Belle Isle. The MSU Landscape Architectural Alumni Advisory Board teamed with members of the Belle Isle Conservancy and Friends of Detroit Rowing to host the event on Belle Isle. Dr. Ethan Carr, FASLA, renowned Olmsted scholar from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, presented the Belle Isle lecture, "*Frederick Law Olmsted: Portrait of a Designer*". It was held at the historic Boat Club where BIC President, Michele Hodges presented former Mayor Dave Bing with a plaque to commemorate his part in the resurgence of Belle Isle. A reception was held at the Belle Isle Aquarium afterward where a display of Olmsted's work, created by Janet Anderson, was installed in several tanks at the Aquarium.



Reception and Presentation to Dr. Ethan Carr at the Aquarium: Janet Anderson, John Campbell (MSU), Dr. Ethan Carr, Jennifer Boardman, Vance Patrick, and Bob Ford (MSU)

THE GARDEN PARTY

The Garden Party at the Conservatory was celebrated on **September 9**, a picture perfect evening with guests arriving to the jazz sounds of the Ben Sharkey trio. The event, catered by T&M Catering with wine tasting offered by Great Lakes Wine and Spirits, provided a wonderful Belle Isle experience to over 400 guests. We had many positive compliments on the improvements to the Conservatory since the DNR agreement. We want to thank our sponsor, Parkway Chrysler Dodge and the many donors who supported this event. Kudos goes out to co-chairs Sonya Ackman and Robin Heller and their committee for planning this delightful affair. We were able to net nearly \$15,000 to start the architectural study, plans and specifications necessary to rejoining the Aquarium and Conservatory at the Show House Ivy wall.



The Garden Party
ON BELLE ISLE

PLANTING DAFFODILS ON BELLE ISLE

For the seventh year, the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association donated 20,000 daffodils to Belle Isle matched by an additional 20,000 by the DNR. In **early October**, these were planted in various sites around the island. Robin Heller chaired the Michigan WNF&GA committee tasked with planning this event. DNR Conservatory staff augured the 40,000 holes, which was quite a feat! This could not have been done without the volunteers from University of Detroit/Mercy students, the DSO Day of Service, Challenge Detroit, DTE Energy CareCorps, several garden clubs and the Belle Isle Conservancy. Thanks go out to Robin Heller for leading the charge, Erica Hill for helping to coordinate volunteers, Bob Clancy and Jeremy Kemp of the DNR for support and help with the project, Julie Boomer of DTE for connecting us to the Challenge Detroit and DTE volunteers, Kenny Adejeski of Challenge Detroit, Jedidiah Allen of DTE, and to the U of D Jesuit High School volunteers. All the volunteers want to come back next year to see the daffodils in bloom and help with the 2015 fall planting. The Michigan WNF&GA plans to raise \$100,000 in the next two years to plant 500,000 daffodils to add to 125,000 planted so far. The 2015 Daffodil Luncheon will be held at the DYC on Wednesday, April 15 with John Cullen, President of World Cup of Gardening and owner of Celtic Gardens as the keynote speaker.



Daffodils on Belle Isle – photo by Jeremy Kemp



DTE Energy CareCorps volunteers and DNR helpers



Daffodil planting: garden club and BIC volunteers at the White House

FALL KOI TRANSFER

On **Saturday, November 8**, the air was chilly and a light rain fell all morning, but that did not detour about 200 people (probably 100 were kids) from showing up at the Aquarium with their 5 gallon buckets. Several Aquarium volunteers in high boots were netting koi in the pond and putting them in the buckets. They were then carried by the kids to the koi's winter home in the basement tanks. Smiles abounded as they came to the tent to collect their prize (a hot dog, a bag of chips and a bottle of water). DNR staff earlier removed the pond plants and prepared for the upcoming koi wrangling. Thank you to all the volunteers who participated, the people who came out and for the support from local businesses who provided the supplies for the hot dog roast. Many people also brought items from our wish list on the Belle Isle Conservancy website to donate – thank you also for those items. Supporting businesses were: American Coney Island, Wolverine Packing Company, Better Made Potato Chips, Kroger in Warren (12 Mile Rd. and Dequindre) and Target in Madison Heights (14 Mile Rd. and John R). Watch for the announcement of our Spring Koi Transfer and join in on the fun.



Koi transfer-wrangling koi

BELLE ISLE TREE PLANTING

It was a cold, cold morning on **Friday, November 14** when 120 volunteers reported to the Scott Fountain. The task was to help The Greening of Detroit and the DNR plant 120 cherry trees around the Scott Fountain and lagoon. 100 cherry trees were originally planted there by volunteers in 1994. The original trees were donated to the people of Detroit as a token of friendship and goodwill jointly by The Japanese Business Society of Detroit and the citizens of Tokyo, Japan, a sister city of Detroit. Over the years, some of trees have died and were replaced in 2009. This 2014 planting again replaced dead trees and added cherry trees around the lagoon. Thank you to The Greening of Detroit and all the volunteers who helped to plant them. Come down to the Scott Fountain in May and see the beautiful cherry blossoms.

Planting Cherry Trees at the Scott Fountain Lagoon



Ongoing Events

SCIENCE SATURDAYS LECTURE SERIES

The first Saturday of each month the Belle Isle Aquarium hosts the Science Saturdays Lecture Series. Lectures take place in the Aquarium classroom at 11 am, 12 pm and 1 pm. Admission is free. For additional information check the Belle Isle Conservancy website (<http://belleisleconservancy.org/>) or facebook page.

Dates will be: **December 6, January 3, February 7, March 7 and April 4.**



Science Saturday Lecture

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

Help eradicate Belle Isle's invasive plants on the third Saturday of each month – **January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18.** (There will not be a work day in December.) Meet at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo at 9:00 am and work until 12 noon. For more information on how to volunteer and support this effort, please contact Erica Hill at hille@belleisleconservancy.org.



Stewardship Saturdays

BELLE ISLE PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee consists of three representatives appointed by the governor, one representative appointed by the Detroit City Council, two representatives appointed by the mayor of the city, and one representative to serve as chair jointly appointed by the governor and the mayor. The Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meetings 9:00 – 11:30 am, are free and open to the public. There will be no meeting in December. Dates of upcoming 2015 meetings are, unless otherwise noted on the website: **January 15, February 19, March 19 and April 16.** Check the DNR – Belle Isle Park website for location, agenda and additional information www.belleislepark.org.

4th GRADE FIELD TRIPS

Starting this January, the Conservatory will be blooming with something new! The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory will welcome over 800 fourth grade students from Detroit Public Schools. The Conservatory is partnering with the Belle Isle Aquarium to host twenty field trips from eleven elementary schools close to Belle Isle. Students will be lead by staff and docents on an exploration of the two institutions, utilizing the unique displays and interactive activities. The teachers had an opportunity to explore and learn how both institutions can support and compliment their curriculum. They were able to provide input through this daylong professional in-service made possible by over \$20,000 in funding provided from individual donors at the Grand Prixmiere and a grant from the GM foundation. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this project, please contact Amy Emmert at amyemmertbelleisle@gmail.com.

Save the Date

Daffodil Day on Belle Isle Luncheon – Wednesday, April 15 at the Detroit Yacht Club. Hosted by the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Keynote speaker will be John Cullen, President of the World Cup of Gardening.

Scott Fountain Pewabic Tile Fundraiser – Friday, June 5 at Pewabic Pottery from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. An evening to shop at Pewabic Pottery, enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres while helping to replace the Pewabic tiles to the Scott Fountain. A percentage of Pewabic Pottery sales from that evening is contributed to the fundraiser.

PwC Grand Prixmiere – Friday, May 29 at Belle Isle Park. Ladies and Gentleman, Start Your Engines! Fasten your seatbelts for an unforgettable evening, chaired by Paula and Steve Kiefer, vice president of Global Powertrain for General Motors. Drive the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix track, mingle with race drivers and relish the island's sunset glow. All proceeds will benefit the Belle Isle Conservancy in its mission to protect, preserve, restore and enhance Belle Isle Park for the enjoyment of all – now and forever! Ticket and partnership information is available at www.belleisleconservancy.org or by calling 313-331-7760.

Upcoming Events

DON'T MISS THESE



New Year's Day Toast at the Boat Club

TOAST IN THE NEW YEAR AT THE BOAT CLUB

Thursday, January 1, 2015 – historic Boat Club 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

An old Boat Club tradition is revived by the Friends of Detroit Rowing – a Champagne Toast at the Detroit Boat Club on Belle Isle. Doors open at 2 pm with toasts starting in the ballroom at about 3 pm. Those interested in attending on January 1st, 2015, please email Denne Osgood at denpeg@sbcglobal.net. A donation is required to the Friends of Detroit Rowing for attendance. Check the Belle Isle Conservancy website for further details.

SHIVER ON THE RIVER

Saturday, February 7, 2015 – Belle Isle 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friends of the Detroit River will host the 14th Annual Shiver On The River on Belle Isle. This five-hour extravaganza involves the entire island with the historic Casino at its center with exhibits, arts & crafts, Bob Kat Art Caricatures, Magic John's Magic Show and much more. The Aquarium, Conservatory, Nature Zoo, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, historic Boat Club and U.S. Coast Guard Station will be welcoming visitors. Free admission, free parking and family fun for all. Additional details will be forthcoming on the Belle Isle Conservancy and The Friends of the Detroit River websites.



Shiver on the River

BELLE ISLE ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

Mark your calendar for the Belle Isle Conservancy's annual Spring Clean Up – **Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm**. Help clean up winter debris from the island meeting at the historic Belle Isle Casino at 9:00 am. Rakes, picks, and trash bags will be provided by the DNR who supports this effort. Bring your boots and gloves along with your friends and relatives and dress for the weather. All volunteer help is welcome. If you are not able to clean up, help is also needed with refreshments, shuttling volunteers and organizing activities. Certificates will be provided for students to fulfill community service requirements. Please RSVP by Thursday, April 23 via our website <http://belleisleconservancy.org> or call the Belle Isle Conservancy office at 313-331-7760 for additional information.

Belle Isle
Annual
Spring
Clean Up



KICK OFF FOR NEW RESTORATION PROJECT

The Alliance for the Great Lakes, Friends of the Detroit River, the Belle Isle Nature Zoo and other Belle Isle stakeholders held a kick off for two new restoration projects on the island Nov. 5 at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The public was invited to attend. Both projects have been funded by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program and Great Lakes Restoration Program.

The North Fishing Pier Shoreline Restoration and Public Involvement Project includes removing a section of an old seawall from the North Fishing Pier and replacing it with a natural shoreline.

North Fishing Pier
Photo by John Vavrek

Connecting Lake Okonoka and Blue Heron Lagoon to Improve Fishery Habitat Project will complete restoration work started by recent improvements at the Blue Heron Lagoon and the South Fishing Pier. Completed in 2013, the Blue Heron Lagoon was reconnected to the Detroit River allowing fish larvae to enter the lagoon to grow in its shallow water nursery habitats immediately downstream from the spawning reef. The newly rebuilt Belle Isle Sturgeon Spawning Reef near the South Fishing Pier has been the site of reproduction of 16 species of fish where spawning was non-existent.



WHAT IS HAPPENING *Around*

CHANGES HAPPENING TO AN OLD FAVORITE

Janice Ellison

The Conservatory has been bustling with activity this summer and fall. We continue to add permanent plant material in the facility through our relationship with Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. We received a second large donation from them of plant material that is currently being installed. We have also been able to continue purchasing permanent plantings thanks to our generous donors. Several overgrown plants are being slowly removed to make way for varieties that better fit the space. We have Jeremy Kemp, Conservatory contractor, and the four DNR Conservation Corps workers to thank for the wonderful changes within the Conservatory, gardens beds and urns in front of the building.

Pitcher Plant



"We have also been able to continue purchasing permanent plantings thanks to our generous donors."



African Chewing Gum Tree



Golden Thryallis Bush

The DNR is addressing the long-standing heating problems in the Conservatory and Aquarium by selecting contractors, skilled in the area of greenhouse structure and heating systems. We look forward to a warm winter and long-range plans for improvement to the current system.

We continue to offer tours of the Conservatory to adults and children led by our band of dedicated docents. A big thank you to them and the volunteers who planted and tended the Lily Pond garden this season. The winterization of this garden was accomplished by a dozen dedicated volunteers in late October.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE NOTES

Roberta Henrion

Good news is at hand! The updated nomination for Belle Isle Park is complete. Rita Walsh of Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc., author of the nomination, presented the final product to three City Council members on Thursday, October 23, winding up a two and a half year process. The next step for the nomination is review and approval by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board before its presentation to the Keeper of the National Register. The review

board meets tri-annually, January, May and September. The goal is to elevate the level of significance to the Federal level, making the park eligible for more grants.

As the nomination moves through the process, City of Detroit's Historic Designation Advisory Board is working in tandem to make Belle Isle Park a local historic district.

Belle Isle

NEW EXHIBITS & RESTORED SKYLIGHTS AT AQUARIUM

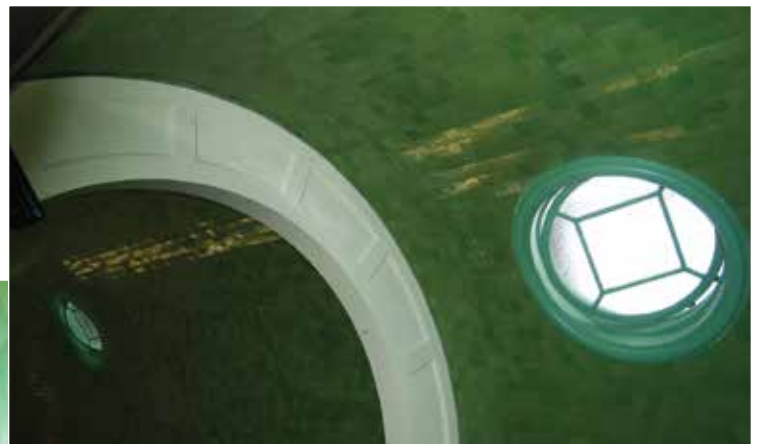
Jennifer Boardman

Belle Isle Aquarium's festive "Light up the Aquarium 2" holiday gala and silent auction will take place Friday, December 5, 2014 at the Aquarium. This event is the Aquarium's main fundraiser and will feature the unveiling of an all-new exhibit as well as sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a silent auction and live music. Attendees will have the opportunity to see all of the wonderful improvements and exhibit additions that have been made to the 110 year-old attraction over the past year thanks to generous private donations, state grants and volunteer efforts. For example, the exterior of the building benefitted from a State Historic Preservation grant that restored the Aquarium's windows, chimney and masonry. Inside, a private grant funded new exhibits including sea horses, starfish and jelly fish in the restored alcove as well as restoration of two of the skylights. These return natural light and ventilation to the building

for the first time in 60 years! Restoration of a third skylight is in progress and the dome light is in the planning stage.



Please come celebrate the accomplishments that we have made this year, and help us raise funds to meet our goals for next year including addressing critical infrastructure needs. To purchase tickets, donate, or explore sponsorship opportunities contact the Belle Isle Conservancy www.belleisleconservancy.org or call (313) 331-7760.



"These return natural light and ventilation to the building for the first time in 60 years!"

VOLUNTEERS SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT ON BELLE ISLE

Erica Hill, Volunteer Coordinator



Belle Isle has been ablaze with volunteer activities, summer through fall – from shelter painting, to the Belle Isle Open House, to daffodil installations, to Stewardship Saturday's. We have had 1,050 volunteers donate more than 5,500 hours on Belle Isle Park.

With the coordination of Ms. Linda Pence, the Roeper Middle School students and teachers enjoyed their time removing woody debris, weeding and becoming one with nature. The children brought additional energy to a cool Friday morning on the island. The Roeper students come from all over southeastern Michigan and as far away as Ohio. We enjoyed having them volunteer and look forward to their return.

"These past few months have been filled with exciting days and warm hearted volunteerism."

During the second week of October, over 40,000 daffodils were planted with the assistance of master gardeners, DTE, Challenge Detroit, the DSO and students from U of D Jesuit High School. These volunteers are a part of the overall daffodil planting that will fill the island with beauty in the spring time.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO), sending 40 of their best, planted 15,000 daffodil bulbs in about an hour and a half. Thank you! Your diligence and excitement did not go unnoticed.

These past few months have been filled with exciting days and warm hearted volunteerism. Thank you to each and every volunteer that has taken the time to make our jewel shine. Keep your eyes and ears open to new and exciting implementations to our volunteer processes.

See you on the island!

Erica

DSO Day of Service volunteers



Roeper Middle School volunteers ▼

U of D Jesuit High School volunteers ►



BELLE ISLE PARK'S LEAST WANTED INVASIVE PLANTS

Melvadean (Mebby) Pearson

It is an exciting time for the Belle Isle Conservancy's Island Stewardship Conservation Committee. Dedicated volunteers over the last five years have sponsored the Stewardship Workdays monthly, every third Saturday. Committee Chair Mebby Pearson collaborated with Sam Lovall of Friends of the Detroit River. Sam took the lead for an invasive species grant offered by the Environmental Protective Agency to reduce, if not eliminate, four invasive plants on Belle Isle that enjoy its wet ecosystems. The four bad actors – Japanese Knotweed, Reed Canary Grass, Phragmites, and Purple Loosestrife – plus twelve additional invasives are outlined in an exciting new brochure developed through a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This successful venture also included the DNR, WSU Science Professor Dr. Jeffrey Ram and interns, Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Sea Grant, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, Student Conservation Association (SCA) and The Greening of Detroit.

The grant required an education component which fit neatly with the Belle Isle Aquarium and the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, natural gathering places for educational purposes. Signage and educational opportunities were developed in both locations highlighting invasive plants and aquatic animals that are detrimental to the island's ecosystems.

Visiting both sites gives lots of information about the challenges on Belle Isle that must be continually addressed so the ecosystems may begin to heal better serving visitors, both man and animal.

The SCA and Greening worked with local professionals to map the invasive plants on the island with the assistance of the DNR. Look for the full color brochure "Belle Isle Park's Least Wanted Invasive Plants," pictured with a fun explanation to help people identify the problem plants. In an attempt to increase environmental literacy in Detroit, it is set up as a self-guided tour and game that school children, individuals, and families should enjoy.



BOARD MEMBERS:

Board of Directors

The Belle Isle Conservancy is governed by a 19-member board of directors, including two appointees from the City of Detroit and one from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

- Sarah Earley, Chair**
Community Volunteer
- Ethan Vinson, Esq., Vice Chair**
Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Aho
- Paul Huxley, Treasurer**
Strategic Staffing Solutions
- Joyce Hayes Giles, Secretary**
Community Volunteer
- Kate Beebe**
Katherine Beebe & Associates
- Dawn A. Bilobran**
The Christman Company
- Ed Deeb**
Founder & Chairman Michigan Youth Appreciation Foundation
- Janice Ellison**
Community Volunteer
- Cynthia Ford**
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- Buzz Thomas**
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- Marilyn Tuchow**
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- EX-OFFICIO MEMBER**
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- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REPRESENTATIVE**
- Dan Lord**
Development Program Manager
Parks and Recreation Division
- CITY OF DETROIT REPRESENTATIVES**
- Alicia Bradford**
Director Detroit Recreation Department
Mayoral Appointee
- Councilman James Tate**
Detroit City Council
- BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY STAFF**
- Michele Hodges**
President
- Katy Wyerman**
Director of Resource Development
- Erica Hill**
Volunteer Coordinator
- Tess Miller**
Administrative Assistant

MISSION:

Protect, preserve, restore and enhance the natural environment, historic structures and unique character of Belle Isle as a public park for the enjoyment of all-now and forever.

BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY
www.BelleIsleConservancy.org

8109 East Jefferson | Detroit, MI 48214
phone (313) 331-7760 | fax (313) 331-1500

 Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter
 and visit us at www.belleisleconservancy.org
for more news, events, updates and more!

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