

Schedel Arboretum and Gardens

19255 W Portage River South Rd, Elmore, OH 43416

About the grounds



This beautiful 17 acre garden estate is home to many species of unusual plant life and offers boundless opportunities for the appreciation and study of nature.

The Schedel Arboretum & Gardens is a legacy left to the public by Joseph & Marie Schedel. This unique treasure is the continuation of a dream envisioned by the Schedels after taking up residence here in 1929. Love of nature and the arts was exemplified in their many accomplishments during nearly fifty years in residence here.



The Japanese Garden was added in the late 1950's. It includes many of the elements typically found in Japanese gardens but does not follow strict design principals for any given style; rather, it represents the Schedel's interpretation. There is a 30' foot waterfall, stream feature, bridges and a Torii gate. All are significant symbols in Asian culture.

In addition to unusual and exotic species of plant life and upwards of 10,000 annual plants and flowers, the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens offers visitors several themed areas in which to view and study nature.

The SA&G Rose Garden is a very popular area for visitors. There are over 80 varieties of hybrid tea roses in the garden, many of which have been here for many years. Roses in the garden are irrigated from underground to prevent the leaves from becoming wet which makes the plants more susceptible to disease.



The Tropical Garden, was revamped and expanded in 2010. There are several varieties of banana trees, including a hardy banana that remains in the ground over winter. Nearly 40 varieties of elephant ears, pineapple, several types of lemon, lime and pomegranate round out the display. Also included in the Tropical Garden is the reflecting pool which is home to several varieties of both tropical and hardy water lilies.

The Perennial Garden is located adjacent to the Manor House and provides a beautiful display of color year around. To fully appreciate the size and splendor, these gardens are a must-see!



For group bookings and additional information, call Sandusky County Convention & Visitors Bureau at: 419-332-4470 or email us at sales@sanduskycounty.org; www.sanduskycounty.org

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Another must see area at Schedel's is the Leo Pelka Bonsai Shelter, home to over 120 species of bonsai plants. Bonsai is the growing of an ornamental tree or shrub in a pot which artificially prevents it from reaching its normal size. These plants can live for hundreds of years and are passed from generation to generation in the orient. The oldest specimen in the Schedel collection is 64 years old. The exhibit and shelter were named for long-time volunteer Leo Pelka who has taken care of the plants and provided the funding for construction of the new shelter in 2009.

The Iris Garden, located in the western portion of the upland garden area, was replanted in the fall of 2012 with several new varieties of plants that provide quite a show of color in mid- to late-April.

The Peony Garden is located adjacent to the Iris Garden and is home to more than 40 varieties of this early summer bloomer. The large colorful flowers will last from 1 to 6 weeks depending on the variety and conditions. There are a couple varieties growing here that were hybridized by Marie Schedel.



Another favorite spot among visitors is a grove of the once thought to be extinct dawn redwood trees, a cousin to the great red wood trees found in California.


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The McAlear Gallery is located in the Brown Welcome Center and was dedicated in 2008. Museum quality lighting and cathedral style ceilings make for a dramatic venue for the hosting of exhibits by regional to international artists. Since it's opening, the McAlear Gallery has exhibited art from the country of India, calligraphy of Japanese masters, impressionistic works of Robert Mazur and the photography of Cheryl Hardy — to name a few. The space also doubles as a gathering area for events taking place in the Veh Conference Center



Whether planning for 9 or 90, the Schedel Arboretum & Gardens provides the perfect backdrop for your group's luncheon or dinner. Our facility is bus friendly and can provide space in the Veh Conference Center (capacity 90) or the Schade Board Room (capacity 16). Both of these rooms provide breathtaking views from the Brown Welcome Center sitting atop the bluff that overlooks the lower gardens.

Both spaces include access to the spacious deck with views of the lakes, Japanese Garden and lower gardens. These areas are a perfect gathering space during breaks or after a tour of the gardens for cocktails. Our preferred caterers are available to customize menus for breakfast, lunch, dinner and breaks. Soft drinks, coffee/tea and snacks may also be provided.



Joseph & Marie Schedel were truly visionaries who were well ahead of their time. The Schedels created the Schedel Foundation to which they entrusted the stewardship of the gardens upon their passing. Following Marie's passing in 1989, the gardens opened to the public in accordance to the wishes of the Schedel's. The gardens have been open seasonally since, except for a time in the summer of 1992 when closure was necessary for clean up and repairs following a tornado that destroyed 131 mature trees.

Since then, the gardens have been subject to constant growth and improvements, thanks to the generosity of its many benefactors, members, volunteers and dedicated staff.

The Schedel Arboretum & Gardens is an operation of the Joseph J. & Marie P. Schedel Foundation, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) public foundation.

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