



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2016

ATI TO HONOR THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM, AND THE MUSEUM FOUNDATION WITH ITS TRAILBLAZER

Aviation Trail, Inc. (ATI) has chosen the National Museum of the United States Air Force and the Air Force Museum Foundation as the dual recipients of this year's prestigious Trailblazer Award.

The selection was made for the organizations' team efforts in completing the fourth Museum building scheduled for its public debut June 8 privately financed by the Museum Foundation and for sustained excellence over the years in telling the Air Force story of aviation and aerospace achievements

ATI requests reservations by Tuesday, April 12, for its Trailblazer Award presentation luncheon Friday, April 15, 11:30, at the Hope Hotel and Banquet Center near Fairborn Ohio. The price is \$30 per person.

Reservations can be made through Pay Pal at www.aviationtrailinc.org or by mailing a check to Aviation Trail, Inc. P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45409. Indicate your meal choice: chicken, pork or vegetarian.

Museum Director Lt. Gen. Jack Hudson (USAF Ret.) and the Foundation Chairman of the Board of Trustees Frances Duntz are scheduled to accept the awards.

ATI President Marvin Christian said, "It is Aviation Trail's honor and privilege to recognize these organizations with our 2016 Trailblazer Award. Dayton and the Miami Valley are justifiably proud of the Museum's many years of displaying our nation's aviation and aerospace achievements to visitors from literally around the world."

It was through the fund-raising efforts of the Museum Foundation that the Museum's \$40.8 million fourth addition became a reality. Since 1960 the Foundation has remained a philanthropic, nationally recognized, non-profit organization which assists the Museum with public fund raising and oversees various day-to-day operations of the Museum which attracts one million visitors annually.



This aerial view of the Museum shows the new fourth building, far right. The Museum's total indoor exhibit space now covers more than 19 acres.

In the new, fourth building, visitors will explore more than 70 aircraft in four galleries: Presidential, Research and Development, Space and Global Reach. The new, 224,000 square-foot area also will have a walk-through Space Shuttle exhibit and three STEM learning nodes for student instruction in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The new facility brings the museum's total exhibit space to 19 acres with 360 aerospace vehicles and missile and thousands of artifacts. In addition to exhibits, there are within the museum an IMAX Theatre, Museum Store, the Valkyrie and Refueling cafes, an Air Force Museum Theatre, flight simulators, and office space for staff.

Aviation Trail hosts the Trailblazer event annually to mark the birthday of Wilbur Wright, April 16, 1867. This is the 33rd presentation of the Trailblazer Award during ATI's 35-year history of promoting and supporting the area's aviation heritage, especially sites linked



MUSEUM'S LINEAGE EXTENDS TO 1917 AT MCCOOK FIELD

In its beginning in 1917 the current National Museum of the United States Air Force was an informal collection of World War I aeronautical engines, equipment, and airplanes at McCook Field in North Dayton.

Known as the Army Aeronautical Museum, it primarily displayed McCook's technological developments, such as tachometers and statoscopes. But from those humble roots and through several physical moves, the museum thrives today, making it the oldest and largest museum of military aviation welcoming some one million visitors annually.

Its first relocation was in 1927 to a laboratory building in the newly established Wright Field, or Area B, where it remained in 1,500 square feet of space until 1935. Then the collection moved into Wright Field's Building 12, a new structure funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and designed, in an Art Deco style, to house and display, ultimately, about 2,000 artifacts.

As World War II approached, however, Building 12 closed as a museum and the collection was destined for storage where it remained until April 1954 when the museum again opened to the public—this time in Area C (near Fairborn, Ohio) in Building 89, a temporary, war-time structure. There its first-year attendance figures hit 10,000.

(Staff had begun moving the collection from storage to Building 89 in January 1948 where it was called the Air Force Technical Museum. It was open to visitors only by appointment.)

Also in 1954, the Air Force Technical Museum was designated the U.S. Air Force's primary museum and on April 1-2, 1955, the Museum conducted an open house, welcoming the public after having been closed for 15 years. In November 1957 it was redesignated the Air Force Museum.

It was due to the collection efforts of the museum's then curator Mark Sloan—who served from 1946 to 1972—that the museum acquired many of the items that formed the core of its exhibits. Also during those years, in 1960, the non-profit Air Force Museum Foundation was formed and by 1971 had raised \$6 million for a new museum which opened in September of that year on a 400-acre site near the flight line in Area B.

Dignitaries in attendance at the museum's opening ceremony included President Richard M. Nixon, Harold and Ivonette Wright Miller (nephew-in-law and niece of the Wright brothers), Eugene W. and Virginia Kettering, and Mark Sloan.

The Museum Foundation was, and remains today, a philanthropic, nationally recognized non-profit organization which assists the museum with public fund-raising and oversees the day-to-day operations of the Museum Store, the Air Force Museum Theatre, Flight Simulators, and Valkyrie and Refueling cafés.

A \$10.8 million matching fund project between the Foundation and the U.S. 98th Congress made possible the second addition to the current museum which opened in April 1988 and now houses the Korean War and Southeast Asian War galleries. Three years later in May 1991 a 500-seat, large-screen IMAX Theatre and an 80-foot-high atrium were added to the front of the Museum.

In 2003 and 2004 funding from the Kettering family and a state appropriation made possible the Eugene W. Kettering Cold War Gallery and the Missile and Space Gallery, both housed in the Museum's third structure.



McCook Field's airplane hangar bore this slogan, "THIS FIELD IS SMALL, USE IT ALL."

The Museum also has added a two-story addition in front of the core building for a new entrance, additional office space, enlarged café and expanded gift shop, bringing the museum's total indoor exhibit space to more than 19 acres with 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts.

On June 8 the museum will welcome the public to its \$40.8 million fourth addition with more than 70 aircraft. Visitors will experience the Presidential, Research and Development, Space and Global Reach galleries, a walk-through Space Shuttle exhibit and three STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Learning Nodes. For more information, go to www.nationalmuseum.af.mil



ATI's PARACHUTE RIGGING TABLE FOR QUALITY CHECKING PARACHUTES

Ann Armstrong of Aviation Trail, Inc. inspects a parachute on the 40-foot rigging table recently installed in the basement of the Hoover Block next to the ATI building. The Trail's Parachute Committee is using the table to check on parachutes in its collection as many haven't been opened in several years. The Parachute Museum displays a representative number of parachutes in the Trail's collection. Photo courtesy of Randy Zuercher.

AIR FORCE MUSEUM FOUNDATION FUNDS NEW FOURTH BUILDING AT NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

The world's largest military aviation museum complex is getting bigger and the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. has been there all along the way.

On June 8, 2016, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force will open its new fourth building to the general public. The 224,000 square-foot building will house aircraft from the Museum's Presidential, Research and Development (R&D) and Global Reach collections, as well as a new and expanded Space Gallery.

Most people probably don't realize that the \$40.8 million project was entirely privately financed by the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization chartered in 1960 to assist in the development and expansion of the Museum's facilities.

The initial construction contract was awarded for \$35.4 million. However, the Foundation has gifted a total of \$40.8 million to the Air Force for pre-construction, construction, and administration costs as well as the options for amenities like the west tow path, west tow path extension, theatrical lighting, and the Titan IVB stand.

The Foundation provides additional support to the Museum for special projects and underwrites program activities such as education, volunteer support, special events and promotional efforts.

"We are so excited to see the fourth building open on June 8th. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Friends of the Museum and the hard work of our Foundation Board and Staff, we are truly blessed to have been able to fully fund this exciting endeavor," stated Frances Duntz, chair of the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees.



The Air Force Museum Foundation funded this new Museum entrance and 80-foot-high atrium in 1991.

She continued, "Our accomplishment in funding 100 percent of this vital Museum asset underscores the Foundation's 55 years of extraordinary service—in which the Foundation has funded 94 percent of the entire 20-acre Museum campus."

The affairs of the Foundation are governed by a Board of Trustees of up to 30 volunteer members—prominent local and national business leaders, retired senior military leaders, and retired government senior civilian employees.

The Foundation Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the Foundation, which include the Air Force Museum Store, Air Force Museum Theatre, Flight Simulators, Valkyrie and Refueling Cafés, Friends Membership Program, and Development activities.

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission, parking and Wi-Fi access are all FREE.

MUSEUM'S NEWEST BUILDING OFFERS STELLAR EXHIBITS

What's to see in the new, fourth addition to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force that opens June 8?

For starters, more than 70 aircraft and many exhibits that describe the U.S. Air Force's transition into the Jet Age and the Space Age.

That includes the only remaining XB-70 Valkyrie conceived to fly at Mach 3; the Air Force One (SAM 26000) that transported President John F. Kennedy's body from Dallas to Washington, D.C.; the X-15 research aircraft that reached speeds up to Mach 6, and research aircraft that tested "blue sky" technologies—many from the laboratories of Wright Field.

The newest building has four galleries: Presidential, Research & Development, Space and Global Reach. Plus you can board a Space Shuttle, or enjoy new educational opportunities in three STEM Learning Nodes.

There's also a new suite of simulators managed by the Air Force Museum Foundation: Pulseworks' Virtual Reality Transport (for a small fee) featuring an exclusive Space Voyage experience—the first of its kind in North America.

Special activities and demonstrations are being planned for June 11-12, so occasionally check the museum's web site, www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

The National Park Service is lighting 100 candles on its birthday cake this year.

On Aug. 15, 1916, the Service was created by an act signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The act created an organization to protect and oversee some of the greatest treasures the nation has—its parks.

From its modest beginning the NPS, an agency in the Department of the Interior, today numbers 22,000 employees and 221,000 volunteers caring for 410 places in a park system that hosts some 305 million visitors annually.

Dayton, Ohio, is fortunate enough to have one of the 410--the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. The Park celebrates the work of Wilbur and Orville Wright and the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

To celebrate the Park Service's 100 years, the Dayton Park will host an enlarged and better-than-ever Aero Carnival Sept. 10 at Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson AFB.

Watch for details on the Carnival as they become available at the park's website www.nps.gov/daav. In addition there will be many other events celebrating the service and Dayton's park—all intended to help you *Find Your Park*.

If you're wondering about the first National Park... well, that's complicated. Officially, it's Yellowstone which predates establishment of the Park Service. On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant established Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park and one of America's favorite recreational places.

However, there are places that are now part of the National Park system which were designated for resource protection before Yellowstone, such as Yosemite and Hot Springs, Ark., and which were later redesignated national parks.

CARY-GUM SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2015 PRESENTED IN DECEMBER

Blaine Johnson, a student at Sinclair Community College where he is studying Aviation Technology, is the winner of the 2015 annual Mitchell Cary-Don Gum Memorial Aviation Scholarship. With his parents in attendance the award was formally presented at the Wright Memorial on Wright-Patterson AFB by Frank Winslow, chair of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, which sponsors the scholarship. The presentation was part of the 112th commemoration of the Wright brothers' first powered flight.

WRIGHT FACTORY FUNDS IN PROPOSED 2017 FEDERAL BUDGET

Good news!

The Wright Co. factory buildings One and Two in Dayton are coming closer to inclusion in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

President Obama's proposed 2017 federal budget requests \$450,000 to acquire the properties from Home Avenue LLC, their current owner.

The request would place the properties with the National Park Service which currently manages the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

While legislation about seven years ago authorized inclusion of the Wright Co. buildings in the Dayton Park, no funding was consequently included in any budgets.

While development of the property will require both public and private monies, Tony Sculimbrene, executive director of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, hailed the funding request as giant step forward.

He said, "This will help fulfill our vision of having the factory site become an active unit of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park where it can tell the story of how Wilbur and Orville Wright created America's aviation industry."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AVIATION EVENTS FOR SIX MONTHS

They'll be plenty of aviation events to attend and/or be part of for the next six months in the greater Miami Valley. Take note of all there is to do and see.

--**Friday, April 15**, Aviation Trail's Trailblazer Award and Luncheon with presentations to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Museum Foundation. 11:30, Hope Hotel & Conference Center near Fairborn, Ohio. See story on page one for details.

--**Saturday, April 16**, the second Wright Factory tour for 2016. Meet on the south side of West Third Street just east of Abbey Avenue at 10:00a.m.

--**Wednesday, June 8**, the public opening of the fourth building of the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force. Go to www.nationalmuseum.af.mil for details.

--**Sat.-Sun. June 11-12**, Grand Weekend Celebration, with special activities for the public, at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in recognition of the opening of the Museum's new fourth building.

--**Sat.-Sun., June 18-19**, Vectren Dayton Air Show presented by Kroger at the Dayton International Airport featuring the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, the U.S. Air Force F-22 in aerial demonstrations, and the U.S. Navy Leap Frog Parachute Team. Details are at www.daytonairshow.com

--**Friday, Aug. 12**, The 5th Annual Runway Fest, FREE, hosted by Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, Commander Aero, the Wright "B" Flyer, and Aviation Sales, on Springboro Pike, Miamisburg. A variety of activities: band music, fireworks, balloon ascents (weather dependent), vendors, food booths, and more.

--**Saturday, Sept. 10**, Aero Carnival celebrating 100 years of the National Park Service, hosted by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park at Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson AFB

--**Fri.-Sun., Sept. 16-18**, WACO Fly-in at Historic WACO Field, Troy, Ohio, with WACO plane rides offered for \$100. See WACO www.wacoairmuseum.org for details.

--**Fri.-Sun., Sept. 30-Oct. 2**, World War I fly-in at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Flying vintage planes, reenactments, children's activities. Go to www.nationalmuseum.af.mil to learn all the events.

--**Saturday, Oct. 1**, National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and the Hall of Fame Learning Center. Four enshrinees will be presented at the "Oscar Night of Aviation." For ticket sales, go to www.nationalaviation.org

DAYTON HISTORY TO MANAGE MOUND PRESERVATION

Dayton History is adding an educational center at the Mound site in Miamisburg, Ohio, to the several other historical and aviation-related places that it manages.

Plans are to reuse an existing building on the Mound site to process artifacts and digitize 80,000 negatives from the Mound Science and Energy Museum's collections. When accomplished, the story of the Mound Lab will be told through educational programs, workshops and tours for school children.

"The Mound," as it was and is popularly called, had its origins in the World War II Manhattan Project in which Dayton scientists were responsible for the final chemistry and metallurgy to isolate polonium which was needed as an atomic bomb initiator. Prior to its establishment, such research was done in the Runnymede Playhouse in Oakwood, now demolished.

Work at the Mound contributed to both the U.S. weapons program and space exploration during the Cold War, according to Brady Kress, Dayton History president and CEO. Eric Cluxton, president of the Mound Development Corp., has noted the more recent increase in the Mound's visitor traffic, commercial investment, and public amenities.

THREE LOCAL AVIATION CAMPS FOR KIDS IN SUMMER 2016

Three well-established, aviation-themed camps for kids will again offer classes this summer in the greater Dayton area.

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is hosting three themed **Aerospace Camps** for students in grades 4-8. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

All the camps will use the new STEM Learning Nodes in the museum's fourth building which opens to the public June 8. Fees apply.

The "Go for Launch" camp, June 28 or June 29, for grades 6-8 teaches the basics of rocketry. The "Exploring Flight" camp, July 13, grades 4-6, has students exploring kites, gliders and paper rockets.

The "Exploring Engineering" camp, July 27, grades 6-8, will present students with engineering design challenges and engineering projects.

Air Camp, with home base at Wright State University (WSU), is being offered three weeks this summer beginning June 12, June 19, and July 17 for middle school students. Tuition is charged.

The camp seeks to inspire students in scholarship, leadership and citizenship while experiencing flight and studying the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) of aviation and aeronautics

Activities vary from a behind-the-scenes tour of Wright-Patterson AFB to planning an air rescue mission to taking flight training and piloting a general aviation aircraft.

The many donors who make Air camp possible include WSU, Sinclair Community College, and the University of Dayton; foundations, corporations, other organizations; and private donors; partnerships; and in-kind and pro bono contributions.

The WACO Learning Center is again offering both **Aviation Summer Camp** and **Robotics Camp** at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio. There are spaces for 16 students at each camp. The application form is at www.wacoairmuseum.org under the Learning Center tab. Fees for each.

The Aviation Camp is from June 6-10 for students entering the 5th through 9th grades. It begins with the basic history of manned flight and what makes things fly. The students then build kites, gliders, hot-air balloons and aircraft models and are treated to an orientation flight in a general aviation aircraft.

WACO's Robotics Camp is offered twice: July 11-15 and July 25-29. This STEM-based camp teaches students the concepts of robot building with LEGO bricks, axels, motors and sensors. A demo of the robots for parents takes place the last night of the camp.

WOODLAND CEMETERY CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

The Woodland Cemetery Association of Dayton was created by the leaders of Dayton on Feb. 18, 1841, to establish what was then a rural cemetery.

Today—175 years later—Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is one of the most visited historical sites in Dayton and holds the remains of such distinguished, local personages as Wilbur and Orville Wright, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Charles Kettering, and Erma Bombeck.

Prior to Woodland, the first graveyards in Dayton were located at the northeast corner of Third and Main streets and on four acres on the south side of Fifth Street between Ludlow and Wilkinson. Approaching the mid-1800s those grounds proved to be inadequate for the Dayton area's burial needs.

The search for a new cemetery location was led by John Van Cleve and the challenge was to find a large area of land at a reasonable price to fulfill the future burial space requirements.

Approximately one mile south of town, Augustus George had a large tract of land that had not been cleared of timber and was crisscrossed by steep hills and ravines that he was willing to sell. The plot was 40 acres, at \$60 per acre.

Van Cleve set about soliciting subscribers and securing the property and on Feb. 27, 1841, Van Cleve was elected president of the Woodland Cemetery Association of Dayton. By June 1843 the cemetery was open for sale of burial lots.

Woodland then was part of the rural cemetery movement--a drastic departure from the early regimen of church burial grounds—which emphasized landscaped, garden-style cemeteries. By 1867 the grounds of Woodland attracted many visitors; it was a place to go for a Sunday stroll as there were beautifully landscaped areas with flowers, ferns, great iron urns of exotic plants, and benches.

Today Woodland is a stop on the Aviation Trail; the front gateway, chapel and office are on the National Register of Historic Places; and 105 acres of the grounds are on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum, go to www.woodlandcemetery.org or call 937 228.3221. A variety of programs, events, and tours are offered to the public.

KIDS' CORNER

Let's go fly a kite this spring. There are two big dates for kite flying in the Miami Valley. Check them out.

--On Saturday, April 23, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force will host Kite Tales from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A FREE event. Kids can build and fly their own kites, learn about kites, and watch demonstrations of indoor kite flying. For more information, call 937. 255.3286.

--On Sunday, May 3, Historic WACO Field and Learning Center, Troy, Ohio, Route 25A, will host Wings on String Family Kite Day from noon to 3 p.m. A FREE event. Kids can bring their own kites, color a ready-to-fly kite, or make a new kite. PRIZES will be given in each category and you'll learn what makes a kite fly. Picnic baskets are encouraged. For more information call 937. 335. 9226.



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Spring 2016

www.aviationtrailinc.org

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT ATI'S 2016 TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Tuesday, April 12th is the deadline for reservations for Aviation Trail's Trailblazer Award Luncheon on Friday, April 15, at the Hope Hotel & Banquet Center near Fairborn, Ohio. Join us in honoring the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force and the Air Force Museum Foundation for their completion of the Museum's fourth building which will open to the public June 8.
 See page one for full details.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 | (May be paid in five annual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1,000/year | installments of \$100 each) |

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409