

**Two Day Event! September 13 & 14, 2019**

# **The Sestercentennial of Alexander von Humboldt**

Secret Arboretum, Davey Tree Expert Company and OSU Extension



**For all nature lovers, natural philosophers, and curious minds who want to know why hundreds of thousands from around the world celebrated the centennial of Alexander von Humboldt's birth on September 14, 1869, from Adelaide to Argentina, from San Francisco to St. Petersburg, with 8000 people pouring out into the streets in Cleveland, Ohio!**

Secret Arboretum 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, OH 44691

***FREE Event for All!***

**Contact:** Sarah Mays, 330-263-3831 / [mays.201@osu.edu](mailto:mays.201@osu.edu) to be added to the list!



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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## The Sestercentennial of Alexander von Humboldt

...It was two hundred fifty years ago today... Well, almost (six more weeks), but Sgt. Pepper notwithstanding, on September 14, 2019 Secrest Arboretum on the OSU Wooster Campus, OSU Extension, and the Davey Tree Expert Company will host the birthday celebration (09-14-1769) for Alexander von Humboldt, arguably once the world's most famous natural philosopher (the term scientist was not yet in common usage). Hundreds of thousands of people around the world celebrated on the centennial of his birth in 1869, from Adelaide to Argentina, from St. Petersburg to San Francisco. And according to Andrea Wulf's wonderful 2015 book, *The Invention of Nature*, **8000 people poured out into the streets of Cleveland, Ohio!**

We do not expect that many this time, but hope many of you will come to the Secrest Center and the Arboretum grounds for a day of science and the senses. From the aromas of Secrest flowers to the flavors of Ohio produce, from the biological, geophysical and political sciences of climate change, to the sights of Secrest plantings and natural areas and the sounds of seasonal songbirds. There is no cost for the program; bring your own picnic lunch but we will provide morning and afternoon refreshments. Let us know you are coming (not required) by sending your name and contact information to: [go.osu.edu/chatfield](mailto:go.osu.edu/chatfield) (must be lower case "c"). Or you can contact Sarah Mays of OSU Extension at [mays.201@osu.edu](mailto:mays.201@osu.edu) or 330-263-3831, fax: 330-263-3667. Prizes, some especially reserved for those who let us now you are coming, will be part of the fun.

Dan Herms on the evidence and horticultural significance of climate change, Sarah Chatfield Gordon on climate change and the politics of federalism, Jason Veil and Paul Snyder speaking of Edmund Secrest and the Nurture of Nature, John Pojacnik and friends speaking on the Nature of Northeast Ohio, Matt Shultzman and Jim Chatfield with an introduction to Alexander von Humboldt. And poetry. And music. And flowers and trees. Charles Darwin said "he would not have sailed on the *Beagle* if it had not been for von Humboldt". Goethe said "spending a day with Humboldt was like having lived several years."

Come stand on the shoulders of this giant. In her equally wonderful new book (a graphic novel), *The Adventure of Alexander von Humboldt*, Andrea Wulf speaks of von Humboldt's early realization of man's role in a Nature not simply to be conquered or feared, but one in which we are deeply imbedded. And, "*Unlike other scientists, Humboldt insisted that we should understand nature not only through reason but also through our imagination. So much has changed. Today, as news about climate change becomes more dire, we are constantly bombarded with dry statistics and numbers that are so abstract they've become almost meaningless.*"

*"[channeling AVH]: How can you rescue the planet when all you do is fret about the acidity of oceans but forget the beauty of the wild dance of waves? Or what about the dawn chorus of urban birds? Or the delicious smell of a forest after a sudden rain shower on a summer day? Why does no one dare to talk about the awe for nature anymore? In my book Views of Nature I wrote that nature is in some kind of mysterious communication with our feelings. Isn't that still important?"*

It is. Alexander von Humboldt: you know him, even if we have sort of forgotten. The Humboldt Current. The Humboldt squid. Humboldt County, CA and the redwoods. Hmm, Humboldt Fog cheese, perhaps we shall have some. Come spend the day. More information to come.

# Sestercentennial Celebration of the Birth of Alexander von Humboldt

**WHO:** For all nature lovers, natural philosophers, and curious minds who want to know why hundreds of thousands from around the world celebrated the centennial of Alexander von Humboldt's birth on September 14, 1869, from Adelaide to Argentina, from San Francisco to St. Petersburg, with **8000 people pouring out into the streets in Cleveland, Ohio!**

**WHAT:** The Sestercentennial (250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) of the Birth of Alexander von Humboldt

- The Evidence and Horticultural Significance of Climate Change – Dr. Dan Herms, Davey Tree Expert Company
- Climate Change and the Politics of Federalism – Dr. Sara Chatfield, University of Denver
- Edmund Secest and the Nurture of Nature – Jason Veil and Paul Snyder, Secest Arboretum
- The Nature of Northeast Ohio – John Pojancik and Thomas Koritanski, Lake Metro Parks
- An Introduction to Alexander von Humboldt – Matt Shultzman and Jim Chatfield, Secest Arboretum and OSU Extension
- Poetry. Music. Drama. The Science and Culture of our Senses: Floral Aromas, The Taste of Fruits, the Textural Feel of Leaves and Stems, The Sights of Secest, the Sounds of Birds

**WHEN:** On the evening of Friday, September 13 there will be the Ohio premier of “Humboldt Unbound” in the Secest Arboretum Amphitheater at 7:00. Thespian glories, music, enjoyment for all.

On Saturday, September 14 there will be an educational event and Senses of Secest program

**WHERE:** Secest Arboretum 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, OH 44691

**WHY:** *Because* Goethe said that “spending a day with von Humboldt was like spending several years” with others.

*Because* Charles Darwin said that “he would not have sailed on the Beagle if not for von Humboldt”.

*Because* this program will convince you to buy Andrea Wulf's wonderful 2015 book: “*The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*.” Also: In her equally wonderful new book (a graphic novel), *The Adventure of Alexander von Humboldt*, Andrea Wulf speaks of von Humboldt's early realization of man's role in a Nature not simply to be conquered or feared, but one in which we are deeply imbedded. And, “*Unlike other scientists, Humboldt insisted that we should understand nature not only through reason but also through our imagination. So much has changed. Today, as news about climate change becomes more dire, we are constantly bombarded with dry statistics and numbers that are so abstract they've become almost meaningless.*”

*“[channeling AVH]: How can you rescue the planet when all you do is fret about the acidity of oceans but forget the beauty of the wild dance of waves? Or what about the dawn chorus of urban birds? Or the delicious smell of a forest after a sudden rain shower on a summer day? Why does no one dare to talk about the awe for nature anymore? In my book Views of Nature I wrote that nature is in some kind of mysterious communication with our feelings. Isn't that still important?”*

**HOW:** There is no charge for this event. We will have refreshments and prizes (books, plants) but lunch is on your own (bring your own or buy lunch from food trucks). Registration is not required, but those who let us know you are coming will have extra eligibility for prizes! The two Andrea Wulf books will be included in prizes for some, as well as the new “Tree Book” by Michael Dirr and Keith Warren.

# The Sestercentennial of Alexander von Humboldt

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## Schedule of Events

### Friday, September 13, 2019

7:00pm      The Ohio premiere of “Humboldt Unbound”, a play performed by assorted wandering minstrels

Location: Amphitheater at Secrest Arboretum 2122 Williams Road, Wooster OH 44691

### Saturday, September 14, 2019

#### Program Information:

- The Evidence and Horticultural Significance of Climate Change – Dr. Dan Herms, Davey Tree Expert Company
- Climate Change and the Politics of Federalism – Dr. Sara Chatfield, University of Denver
- Edmund Secrest and the Nurture of Nature – Jason Veil and Paul Snyder, Secrest Arboretum
- The Nature of Northeast Ohio – John Pojancik and Thomas Koritanski, Lake Metro Parks
- An Introduction to Alexander von Humboldt – Matt Shultzman and Jim Chatfield, Secrest Arboretum and OSU Extension
- Poetry. Music. Drama. The Science and Culture of our Senses: Floral Aromas, The Taste of Fruits, the Textural Feel of Leaves and Stems, The Sights of Secrest, the Sounds of Birds