



Monday, June 23, 2003

Sharf Memorial Garden dedicated

Close friends and associates of longtime Oakland University friend and benefactor Stephan Sharf gathered last week on the 12th hole of **R & S Sharf Golf Course** to dedicate the Sharf Memorial Garden in memory of Sharf's wife, Rita, who passed away in April 2001.

The garden is set amidst the woods and rolling hills of the golf course with a circular-shaped table and benches providing a spot for rest and reflection. The 12th hole was designed as the signature hole for the OU course, which bears the name of the founding donors, Rita and Steve Sharf.

"I could not think of any better memorial for Rita," Sharf said. "Her love of gardening and the beautiful setting of the golf course and the 12th hole make this a fitting location for a memorial that will always keep her memory alive."

A Shadblow Serviceberry tree was ceremonially planted in the garden in further commemoration of Rita. The tree produces small white flowers in early spring. Black, juicy fruit is produced in the summer and in the fall the colors range from gold to oranges and reds.

"The Sharf Memorial Garden, constructed on the golf course Steve and Rita made possible and for whom it is named, will always remind us of our great friends and the shared joy of two wonderful people," said OU President Gary Russi.

The Sharfs have contributed their time and personal resources on behalf of students and faculty since 1981 when they joined The President's Club, Oakland's oldest donor organization. Over the years, their interest and dedication have made a difference to many organizations on campus, including Meadow Brook Music Festival and Meadow Brook Theatre.

Rita served for many years on the Festival Women's Committee and Meadow Brook Theatre Advisory Board. Steve has served on numerous task forces, committees and boards. He is a longtime member of the OU Foundation Board of Directors, on which he still serves today. And, he served an eight-year term on the university's Board of Trustees.

SUMMARY

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