

## A note from the RJRD Board

Fall tends to give us two distinct flavors in Northeast Ohio, one with bright warm sunny days and the other chilly grey cool days. It seems those flavors can change overnight! But nature also provides a beautiful color palette which makes it my favorite season.

Since it is my favorite season, I try to spend as much time as possible outdoors to “soak” it all in. However, the same natural cycle which brings the changing colors of the leaves brings shorter days to enjoy time with nature. This brings me to one of the strongest attributes of the Preserve - it is close by for people to use and enjoy. Whether a stop after work, a quick morning hike, or - one of my favorites - a hike close to sundown, the Preserve allows me to spend time not commuting but instead to spend the time on trails.

The Preserve has something for everyone. There are many different trails and connectors to make a hike easy or hard, long or short, and filled with solace. I encourage everyone to get outdoors and be active in the Preserve, since it not only provides physical health benefits but also mental health benefits. Emerson did say, “Lose yourself in nature and find peace.” Have a great rest of fall!

- Dave Wehner,  
RJRD Trustee

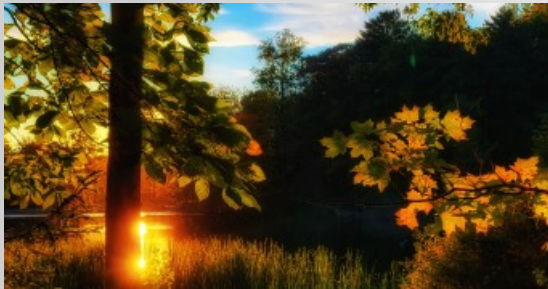


Photo courtesy of Don Tyler

## October Upcoming Events -

Please see <https://rjrd.recdesk.com> for a complete program listing and to register.

- Oct. 6 - HISTORY HIKE;** 2PM-4PM; Kirby’s Mill.  
Presented by Friends of RHP. See article on p. 2.
- Oct. 12 & 26 - FITNESS IN THE FOREST;** 9AM-10:30AM.  
Mindfulness hike with resistance conditioning, meditation.
- Oct. 17 - “DANGER AT DUSK” BOOK CLUB;** 6:30PM-8:30PM;  
Amity House. Presented by Richfield Library.
- Oct. 20 - NATURE ADVENTURERS;** 10-10:45AM. Chagrin Valley Cabin. “Ghouls & Ghosts in the Woods”: not-so-scary Halloween-themed outdoor family fun nature activities for 2-10 year olds. Costumes encouraged!
- Oct. 27 - TRICK OR TREAT ON THE TRAIL;** 1PM - 4PM.  
Wear your costume, bring a bag, gather treats along the trail, and visit our spooky cabin in the haunted forest for crafts and activities!  
**FREE family-friendly event sponsored by RJRD and Village of Richfield Parks & Recreation Dept.**

**Look at all that’s happening in RHP!**

## From our Park Director

Welcome to the fall season, everyone! This is my favorite time of the year, and I look forward to seeing the painting that nature will create as the days become shorter and we transition to the season of the sticks.



We have recently launched a new partnership with the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. This partnership will create real-life working experiences for the students, in a professional setting, as they work on the park’s power equipment needs and create flyers, program guides, and marketing materials for the park. The students will be given opportunities to work on historic building restoration, landscape and park management, hospitality event planning and so much more! We really look forward to building a long-term partnership with the CVCC.

Finally, we are putting our final plans together for next year’s program guide, so if there is a hobby, class, or program that you would like to teach at the Richfield



Heritage Preserve, please email me at [park-director@rjrd.org](mailto:park-director@rjrd.org).

Until next time, I hope to see you out on the trails!

- John Piepsny,  
Park Director  
[park-director@rjrd.org](mailto:park-director@rjrd.org)

## See your photo in print!



Remember to email your beautiful or interesting photo of Richfield Heritage Preserve to [office@rjrd.org](mailto:office@rjrd.org). We want to see what you see in your park!

**Nikki Escovido contributed this month’s photo of a the upper lake in Autumn. It was taken in Fall of 2023. Thank you, Nikki, for your contribution.**

## Volunteer Update

### RHP Bluebird Team Makes a Difference!



The Bluebird Monitor Team at the Richfield Heritage Preserve had a very successful season in 2024. Under the direction of RHP Bluebird Trail Coordinator Claudia Souders, they began as a team of 14 volunteers (including some from Richfield!) in March and April by hiking to the 17 nest boxes to make sure

they were clean and ready for the nesting season. The birds began nesting soon thereafter, and the season consisted of 36 nesting attempts, 117 eggs, and many fledglings. Our boxes hosted not only Eastern Bluebirds but also tree swallows and house wrens.

The RHP Bluebird Monitor Team shares information on Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch. Citizen scientists collect data to track the health and numbers of our native birds. Trends are noted, and conservation efforts can be formulated if necessary.

Here are comments by some of the RHP bluebird volunteers: "The RHP Bluebird box monitoring has helped me appreciate and care for the lives of our feathered friends. I learn a little more each year. Thank you for allowing us the privilege of observing and helping our bluebirds (and other nest box species) thrive." "I had a wonderful year checking boxes...I will be there next summer!"

If you're interested in finding out more about the RHP Bluebird Monitor Team or exploring other volunteer opportunities at RHP, please email [volunteer-info@rjrd.org](mailto:volunteer-info@rjrd.org).

- Susan Czaplicki,

RHP Volunteer Coordinator/Recreation Programmer

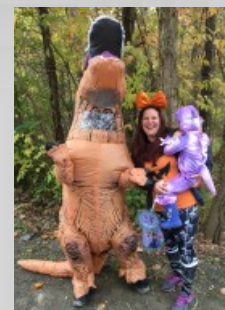
## TRICK OR TREAT ON THE TRAIL!



Get ready for a "spooktacular time" at the Trick or Treat on the Trail event at Richfield Heritage Preserve, located at 4374 Broadview Road in Richfield. Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 27, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Delight in a candy-filled trail, engaging crafts, entertaining activities, a lively pumpkin decorating contest, and much more! This thrilling Halloween event is brought to you by Richfield Heritage Preserve and the Village of Richfield Parks and Recreation.

Be a part of this fantastic and family-friendly Halloween celebration! For additional details,



## SEEKING HIKE AND PROGRAM LEADERS!

Do you have a special hobby, skill, or talent that you're willing to share with others?

Richfield Heritage Preserve is looking for individuals or groups to lead exciting programs and guided hikes at the park in 2025. If you're interested in this enriching experience, contact RHP Park Director John Piepsny at [park-director@rjrd.org](mailto:park-director@rjrd.org) for more details.

Let's make 2025 unforgettable together!



## Oviatt House Inc.

The restoration and strengthening of the stone foundation of Oviatt House was completed, leaving exposed trenches around the perimeter of the house. Over several work days, many of our hardworking volunteers took on some tough tasks to fill the trenches and clean up all around the outside of the house! Volunteers sifted through lots of soil to remove rocks and debris of all sizes, while shoveling and leveling the piles of soil back into the trenches.



Additionally, drainage pipes were installed along the front of the house, involving the movement of lots of heavy gravel. We are so thankful to all the wonderful volunteers dedicated to getting these important jobs done!

- Tricia Steiner, Secretary, Oviatt House, Inc.



## Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve



The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve will host a free "Hidden History of RHP" hike on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, from 2-4 p.m., rain or shine. Please use the 3771 Oviatt Road park entrance, off Rt. 303, and meet by the kiosk near Kirby's Mill. Follow Friends' historian Lynn Richardson to discover how the land itself retains evidence of its changing past, from the Oviatt and Kirby farms, to Camp Julia Crowell, to Richfield Heritage Preserve. RSVP via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-history-hike-tickets-1002627244077>. (Walk-ins are always welcome.)

Cookie bakers are needed for Winter Wonders! Contact [kls1650@roadrunner.com](mailto:kls1650@roadrunner.com) for more information about this 'delicious' opportunity.

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- Karen Smik, Friends of RHP Vice President



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