

A note from the RJRD Board

The longer summer days are behind us. As the days get shorter it becomes even more important to get out on the hiking trails, and we are fortunate to have Richfield Heritage Preserve among our hiking options.

My nephew was visiting in early August on his way back to New York City, and we took a nice hike from the Lodge down to the lower lake on the drive, around the lower lake, over to the Oviatt House, and back to the Lodge via the Buckeye Trail. We stopped along the way to examine the progress the Friends volunteers were making on the Bouncy House [Garfield Hall]. I got down on my hands and knees to look at the newly installed support beams and springs. It was good to see that structure receive some restorative attention. And my nephew and I had a nice talk along the way.



Photo courtesy of Jim McClintock

- Mike Lyons,
RJRD Trustee

From our Park Director

I am happy to announce that the Richfield Heritage Preserve has received a State Capital Grant to allow us to improve the entrance to the park from Broadview Road, pave the driveway leading down into the park, and re-route the Buckeye Trail, making it safer and easier for hikers to enter the park. We would like to thank State Representative Bill Roemer and State Senator Kristina Roegner for all of their hard work in making this dream a reality. Now the work has begun on the design and process to manage the project and make it happen.



Wonderful things continue to happen at the Richfield Heritage Preserve, and we can't wait to see the transformation into fall in the coming months!

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

- John Piepsny, Park Director
park-director@rjrd.org



September Upcoming Events -

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

- Sept. 5 & 12 - STORY HOUR IN THE PARK;** 11AM-12PM; Waterfront Shelter. Presented by Richfield Library.
- Sept. 7 - KIRBY DAY;** NOON - 4PM; Mill. Free family event honoring inventor Jim Kirby; STEM and marble activities. Presented by Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve.
- Sept. 8 - PADDLE YOGADVENTURE;** 9:30AM-11:30AM; Upper Lake.
- Sept. 15 - CROWEL HILAKA TRAIL RUN;** 6:30AM-12PM; Summer Barn. Presented by Girls on the Run.
- Sept. 15 - NATURE ADVENTURERS;** 10-10:45AM. Chagrin Valley Cabin. "Fall Friends": autumn-themed outdoor family fun nature activities for 3-10 year olds.
- Sept. 19 - "DANGER AT DUSK" BOOK CLUB;** 6:30PM-8:30PM; Mable Smith Shelter.
- Sept. 23 - SUMMIT OHIO HORSEMAN'S COUNCIL PRAYER RIDE;** NOON - 9PM, Live music, reflective prayer, bonfire, & more!
- Sept. 22 - HIKE YOGADVENTURE: SUNDAY SERIES;** 10AM-12PM. Hike with accessible yoga pauses throughout. Presented by OneTreeLove.
- Sept. 27-29 - SURVIVAL 101 WEEKEND;** Friday, 5PM - Sunday, 2PM; High Lea Campsite. Presented by Midwest Native Skills.
- Sept. 28 - SEPTEMBERFEST AT OVIATT HOUSE;** 11AM-3PM; Oviatt House. Free family fun event and tours of house; see next page for details. Presented by Oviatt House Inc.

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

See your photo in print!

Reminder: Please email your beautiful or interesting photo of Richfield Heritage Preserve to office@rjrd.org. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



Laurie Patton contributed this month's photo of a turtle on a log. It was taken July 21, 2024. Thank you, Laurie, for your contribution.

Volunteer Update

Corporate Groups Make a Difference!



Sequoia Financial employees dedicated their time to thoroughly cleaning the Lodge, washing windows and screens, power-washing the exterior and porches, and ensuring the kitchen and restrooms sparkled.



Burns & McDonnell employees diligently trimmed back overhanging vegetation along the Red Trail.

HTZ Design Build employees took the initiative to clear overhanging vegetation along the connector trail leading to the upper lake.



Eagle Scout Improves Mable Smith Shelter!

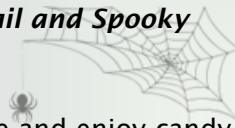
Preston Martelon, a member of Scout Troop 810, recently undertook a transformative project at the Mable Smith Shelter. His installation of wooden railings around three sides and construction of new steps and handrails have significantly improved the shelter's safety and accessibility.



Save the date for Trick or Treat on the Trail and Spooky Tales, and Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Sunday, October 27, 1 - 4 pm

Dress in your favorite family-friendly costume and enjoy candy, refreshments, games, kids' crafts, and more! This fun-filled event is presented by Richfield Heritage Preserve and Village of Richfield Parks & Recreation. For more information, contact volunteer-info@rjrd.org.



- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator/Recreation Programmer

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve



To honor the legacy of well-known inventor Jim Kirby, who once lived on the RHP property and whose house and mill still stand there, the Friends are celebrating Kirby Day on Saturday, September 7, from 12-4 p.m., at RHP. Parking will be at the 3771 Oviatt Road entrance. The event will feature a unique operating miniature vintage machine shop, kids' crafts, games, marble activities, ice block sledding and fascinating/fun STEM-related activities (including a bicycle that 'lights up' via the rider's pedaling skills!). Larchmere Fire Works will provide glassblowing demonstrations. Kirby House and Kirby's Mill will be open to tour. Refreshments and Friends' merchandise will be available. The RJRD and other park partner groups will be on hand to share information about their activities. This free, family-friendly event will be held rain or shine.



On Saturday, September 28, from 2-4 p.m., the Friends are hosting a "Sing-Along" event at RHP at the Summer Barn (use the 4225 Oviatt Road park entrance). Join the Friends as they sing those old campfire songs so many have come to love - as well as learn some new ones that are sure to become favorites. All are invited to attend this free event -- which will be held rain or shine -- and attendees are asked to RSVP via Eventbrite at <https://2024SingALongRHP.eventbrite.com>. For additional information and event updates, please visit friendsofrhp.org.

- Karen Smik, Friends of RHP Vice President

September 2024

Oviatt House Inc.



We hope to see you **Saturday, September 28, 2024** for our **Septemberfest**. Join us anytime between 11am - 3pm for a fun-filled day as we welcome the change in seasons! Learn about the history and progress of the house restoration by going on a house tour; enjoy our food offerings of bratwurst, hot dogs, snacks, and baked goods; bring the kids to partake in some fun activities, games, and prizes; and purchase tickets for a chance to win our 50/50 Raffle.

While there, become a literal part of history by signing our *Supporters of History* board that will be built into the framework of an interior first floor wall before being covered over with drywall. All proceeds directly benefit the restoration and museum development of Oviatt House at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Thank you for your support!



- Tricia Steiner, Secretary, Oviatt House, Inc.

Amity House Gift List

Amity House is nearly ready for rental! If you are interested in purchasing one or more items to provide the finishing touches, please click the link below to view the Amity House Gift List on Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/13SWMHPK4ALF1> Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated to Amity House!



Richfield
HERITAGE PRESERVE