

A note from the RJRD Board

February is here, and with it that month's biggest holiday, Valentine's Day. Believe it or not, Richfield Heritage Preserve features a number of incredibly romantic spots, perfect for a winter stroll with your special someone. The Hidden Waterfall, High Lea, the outlook bench on the Buckeye Trail, and the various vistas of the lower lake and Kirby's Mill from the bridle loop are just a few such spots the park has to offer. And if nature is your true love, the Hike YogAdventure program on February 4th has all that you could want. Check out details for that event, and all our events this month, on our website.

The park is full of wildlife this time of year as well, from red foxes to deer, owls and pileated woodpeckers. And did you know this is the time of year bluebirds begin to evaluate their spring nesting sites? The park participates in a "NestWatch" monitoring program coordinated by Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. Monitoring has proven to significantly increase a clutch's success rate, 90% vs. 60% unmonitored. If you're interested in participating - which means monitoring a box during breeding season - contact our Volunteer Coordinator.



I wish you all a wonderful rest of the season - see you on the trails!

- Mark Robeson,
RJRD Trustee

From our Park Director

This February, take time to enjoy the quiet of the park. As you hike, feel the crunch of the snow beneath your feet. Listen to the trees "pop" in the slightest breeze. Experience the stillness of the park during this cold month.



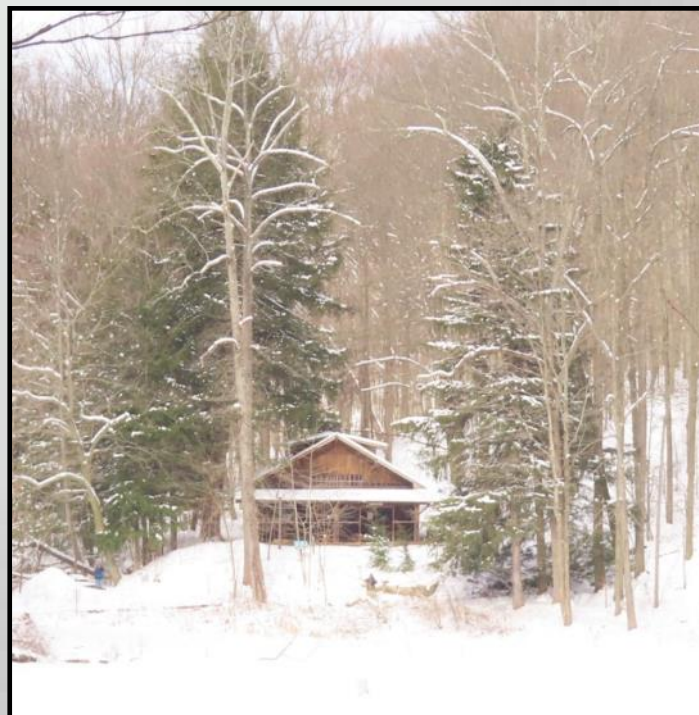
I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who was involved in the Snowbird Festival. This wonderful event had over 700 participants, and the program was a delight for all who attended! The number of volunteers we had was just perfect, and I can't thank Teschner's enough for the best chili we have tasted at this event!

Our next big event will be in April with the *Total Eclipse of the Park* happening on April 8th. Look for a flyer on that event soon! Also, we are now looking for sponsors for the 2024 Goat Derby and Craft Fair. If you are interested in being a sponsor or participating in the craft fair, please email me at park-director@rjrd.org.

Wonderful things keep happening at the park, where the benefits are truly endless!!! Until next time, I hope to see you out on the trails!

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

See your photo in print! Email your photo of RHP to office@rjrd.org. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



This month's photo of Garfield Hall was contributed by Laurie Patton. It was taken January 21, 2024. Thank you, Laurie, for your contribution.

February Upcoming Events -

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

Feb. 1 - YOUTH ART CONTEST; Open to all K-6th students in public, private or home school. Any medium can be used. Enrollment ends March 1; gallery display March 10. Visit rjrd.recdesk.com for more information.

Feb. 4 - HIKE YOGADVENTURE; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Feb. 11 - NATURE ADVENTURERS; 11 - 11:45 a.m.; Chagrin Valley Cabin. "For the Love of Nature": winter-themed outdoor family fun nature activities for 3-10 year olds.

Feb. 25 - CABIN FEVER 5K RACE; 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.;
Meet at The Lodge. Don't let winter get you all cooped up!
Take a deep breath and pull out your trail shoes.
5k and 5-mile options. For more information and to register, visit runtheland.com

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

Oviatt House Inc.

The paint stripping continues at Oviatt House as the old paint from the wood trim and doors is carefully removed. Our dedicated volunteers have also been busy weatherproofing the

house with weatherstripping and caulk, in an effort to stay warm during this cold winter.

- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary,
Oviatt House, Inc.



Volunteer Update

There's a lot happening at your park!

Richfield Heritage Preserve is pleased to announce its 2nd annual Youth Art Contest, open to all K-6 students in public, private, or home-school groups. The contest invites participants to create art that depicts a native plant, animal, or natural landscape in Ohio using any art medium. The deadline for entering the contest is March 1, 2024.



If you're interested in helping preserve bluebird populations, consider volunteering as an RJRD Bluebird Monitor. This seasonal volunteer opportunity runs from March through August.

Don't miss out on the "Discover Your Outdoor Experience at Richfield Heritage Preserve" photo contest! Mark your calendars for April 1-30, 2024, and get ready to capture the park's beauty.

Save the date for the Total Eclipse of the Park event on April 8, 2024.

For more information or to learn how you can get involved, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator/ Recreation Programmer at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or call 330-317-2597.

- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator/
Recreation Programmer

A poster for the Richfield Heritage Preserve Youth Art Contest. The text includes the contest name, entry deadline (Friday, March 1, 2024), and instructions for participants. The background features a collage of colorful art supplies like pencils, markers, and paint.

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

Get out those 2024 calendars! The Friends of RHP program plans include new ideas and annual favorites as we work to offer the community high quality experiences this year. We have a variety of themed hikes planned, including photography, migratory birds, wildflowers, nature therapy/dark skies, historic architecture, and the history of the families who owned and lived on the park property before its time as a Girl Scout camp. These hikes are led by local experts in each field. Please watch for more information in future newsletters and in the Richfield Heritage Preserve program guide, "Heritage Highlights", due out this spring.

Our two signature events will take place again this year. Kirby Day is a family-friendly event with a STEM theme, highlighting Kirby's Mill and inventor Jim Kirby's creative spirit. The annual Winter Wonders celebration will be held again in The Lodge. This is a holiday-themed fundraising event with craft vendors, special guests, a gourmet hot cocoa bar, and the ever-popular cookie sale.

Please join us for any or all of these exciting programs to enjoy the beautiful, historic surroundings of Richfield Heritage Preserve!

- Terry Duncan, Friends of RHP Board Member
and Marketing Committee Co-Chair



Richfield
HERITAGE
PRESERVE