

A note from the RJRD Board

This has been a fairly mild winter with us seeing several days in the 60's this last month. These milder temperatures are hopefully a sign of things to come with an early spring on its way. That said, we had a return of winter on February 25th at the third running of the Cabin Fever Trail Race at the Richfield Heritage Preserve.

The race is meant to be an opportunity to get outside during the doldrums of winter. With temperatures in the mid 20's and a fresh inch of snow on the ground, I think everyone felt the winter chill. I ran for my second year in a row, and it was great to see the park lodge used as the base of operations for the event with what appeared to be over 100 runners for the 5K and 5 mile runs. A big thanks to Jay Toole and Run the Land for putting on such a great event!

The Cabin Fever race is a great example of just one of many types of events that are planned this year. Whether it be organized running races, yoga, historic building talks or the inaugural Goat Derby on May 6th (Yes, I said Goat Derby!), Richfield Heritage Preserve has something for everyone.



Please make your way to the park to enjoy the many experiences we have to offer. See you on the trails!

- Mike Selig,
RJRD Trustee

From our Park Director

Welcome to our March monthly newsletter. I am excited to let you know that the staff has been busy this past month behind the scenes, training on our new RecDesk Management software. This program will allow residents and guests to learn what fun activities, classes, programs, and special events we have going on at the RHP. You will be able to create your own account to register for our programs or to rent a pavilion or reserve a campsite. This new program will launch live in April, and I'm very excited for everyone to use it.



The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve have been very busy helping to bring Amity house back to life, and it is going to be stunning!

Improvements continue to be made at the Lodge by some of our core members Dave Kalal, Shari Green, and Chris Moore, with newly remodeled kitchen and bridal suite!

Our Administrative Coordinator and our Volunteer Coordinator have been working hard behind the scenes creating our first ever Richfield Heritage Preserve brochure that will be mailed out to the residents of Richfield. This brochure will cover all of our programs, classes, special events, etc.

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

- John Piepsny,
Park Director

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 19 - YogAdventure Hike; 10 a.m.-noon; park trails
OneTreeLove invites you to take a hike and practice yoga outdoors in the fresh air. Enjoy some vitamin N and nature therapy connecting with self, others, and nature. Yoga will be done throughout the hike. Go to onetreelove.com to register. \$17/person; 15% goes back to RHP.

Monday, Feb. 27 - Saturday, April 15 - RHP Youth Art Contest; Summit County students grades K-6; \$5. Showcase your artistic talent! See Volunteer Update on page 2 for details.

Coming May 6: Inaugural Goat Derby at RHP! Celebrate Kentucky Derby Saturday by attending our first Goat Derby, on the lawn at Amity House. Watch for details next month!

Name that Newsletter!

Last chance! We are looking for a catchy, memorable name for the revised newsletter. We've received 13 possibilities so far and are extending the deadline for one more month. If you have a suggestion to add, please submit it to office@rjrd.org by **March 22**. The winning submission will be chosen by RHP administrative staff, with credit given to the winner.

See your photo in print!

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



This month's photo of the waterfall above the lower lake was contributed by Colleen McFarland. It was taken on December 23, 2021. Thank you, Colleen, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

We are grateful to Green Integrated Services who donated and installed underground electric service and a new breaker panel. And thanks to Dominion Energy, who braved a cold installation on a snowy day, we now have a new gas line and meter.

With the gas and electric service in place, the hard working crew at Broadview Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc. not only completed the installation of a beautiful new Rheem furnace and central air conditioning unit, but they donated it too!



Oviatt House Inc. is extremely thankful for the generosity of people and businesses who care about historic preservation.

Please save the date for Oviatt House's May Day Celebration on Saturday, May 6 and stay tuned for upcoming details.

- Tricia Steiner, secretary, Oviatt House Inc.

Tool Tuesday!

Every Tuesday, we feature a tool on RHP's social media. Park volunteers and staff work hard to keep the park a beautiful and safe place to visit. We hope you will consider donating an item from the tool registry to provide them with the tools to continue this important work. <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/richfield-heritage-preserve-richfield-oh/3370498/giftlist> Thanks so much for supporting your park!

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

KIRBY'S MILL RESTORATION UPDATE

Thanks to our wonderful donors, the new waterwheel at Kirby's Mill is becoming a landmark. But wait...there's more!

The mill donors of 2022 will soon see their contributions used to stabilize the mill house with these next steps: the slight splaying of the walls will be corrected with tie rods, the balcony overlooking the lake will be repaired/strengthened, and rainwater runoff between the dam and the mill will be redirected. The supports and sagging water box (that supplies the flume with water) will be rebuilt, along with the water conduit that brings water from the lake to the top of the waterwheel. The Friends group is awaiting word from several local contractors who were sent proposals for doing the work.

After that, we will be working on "The Passageway": access to and around the mill. Plans include a path to the mill from the road, replacement of the exterior wooden staircase and the decking next to the waterwheel, and repair of the swinging bridge. Watch for Friends' fundraising in 2023 that will focus on these components. If you are interested in helping with the restoration of Kirby's Mill, visit <https://www.friendsofrhp.org/donate.html>.



Our "once and future" flume was/will be a wooden chute supported by chains.

Detail of 1999 photo by Char Conn



Our current, temporary flume is a PVC pipe supported by a ratchet strap.

2022 photo by Clive Fetzer

The waterwheel is scheduled to start turning again the first weekend in May. Mill docents will be on hand every Sunday afternoon, May through October, from 2-5 p.m., to answer visitor questions. Interested in becoming a mill docent? Training will take place at Kirby's Mill on Sunday, April 30, at 2 p.m. To join us, contact Lynn at lynndragonwing@gmail.com.

- Lynn Richardson,
Friends of RHP

Volunteer Update

You Can Make a Difference at RHP!

Do you love the outdoors? Are you interested in making a difference in your community? The park offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups willing to contribute their time, talent, energy, and skills. Volunteer opportunities are available for one day or on a recurring basis.

RHP Youth Art Contest!

Richfield Heritage Preserve invites all K - 6 Summit County students in public, private, or home school groups to enter the Inaugural RHP Youth Art Contest. Art must depict a native plant, animal, or natural landscape found in Ohio. Any art medium can be used! All entries must be on paper for hanging and display purposes, entries must be no smaller than 4x6 inches, and no larger than 18x24 inches in size. Submissions and \$5 entry fee are due by Saturday, April 15, 2023.



For more information, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or 330-317-2597.

- Susan Czapliski, Volunteer Coordinator