

A note from the RJRD Board

I have walked the trails of Richfield Heritage Preserve ever since it was purchased from the Girl Scout Council. Now that I'm on the Park Board, I have been exposed to all of the work it takes to keep trails and park structures maintained. The amount of volunteer hours to help with the events and especially the total rehabilitation of both the Amity and Oviatt houses is incredible.

The events the park has put on during the last several years including the Goat Derby, Music Fest, Trick or Treat on the Trail, and most recently the Snowbird Festival, have been attended by so many. The amount of families that come to these events with their kids is remarkable. In fact nearly 3,000 people attended these events this past year.

When I was a kid growing up on 120 acres in eastern Pa., I remember sledding down one of our hills with my brother, trying to knock him off of the sled. Here 60 years later I still remember this experience. When I saw the kids at the Snowbird Festival playing in the snow, roasting marshmallows, sledding down the hill at Amity House and watching the Akron Zoo staff show them animals, I knew that these are all experiences they will keep forever.

I am humbled that the voters of Richfield supported our levy this past November. Please know that as board members and staff we take our responsibilities seriously to make the park a real asset to our community. Check out our annual report at https://www.rjrd.org/uploads/3/8/7/1/38712131/2023_annual_report_-_amended_1.pdf

- Steve McPeake, RJRD Trustee

March Upcoming Events -

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

March 10 - YOUTH ART CONTEST DISPLAY; 2-4 p.m.;
The Lodge. Gallery display of artwork submitted by K-6th students.

March 16 - LATE WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Guest speaker Jim McClintock, photographer.

March 17 - NATURE ADVENTURERS; 11-11:45 a.m.; Chagrin Valley Cabin. "Shamrocks & Rainbows": Where could the leprechaun be hiding at RHP? Winter-themed outdoor family fun nature activities for 2-10 year olds.

April 1 - RHP PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST; Virtual. Submit photos to volunteer-info@rjrd.org through April 30. Any photo taken at RHP May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 is eligible. Visit rjrd.recdesk.com for more information.

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

From our Park Director

Welcome to the month of March. This month will feature the 2024 Richfield Heritage Preserve Program Guide coming out later in the month. Be sure to spend some time reading about all our amazing programs, classes and special events.



With the Spring Equinox happening on March 19 at 11:06pm we are getting excited for the warm air to start to bring the park back to life. Now is the time to register your young children for summer camp! Don't delay as the camp is sure to be a sell-out this year!

If you have a family, consider turning off the electronics for a weekend and instead, spend a weekend camping at the park! Rates start as low as \$25 a night for a campsite and these fill up quickly as we only have two sites that can be rented at the park.



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!

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!



This month's photo of North House was contributed by Barbara Drnek. It was taken February 1, 2021. Thank you, Barbara, for your contribution.

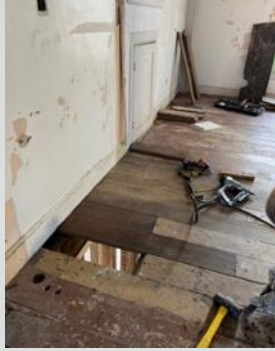
Oviatt House Inc.



A small but dedicated crew has been working hard at the Oviatt House. In the back room, a space was framed out to create the beginnings of a storage closet. On the second floor, several areas with damaged floor boards

were repaired with century-old flooring that was generously donated to us. All small steps toward our larger restoration goal!

- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary, Oviatt House, Inc.



Volunteer Update

There's no better time to visit the park than now! Take advantage of the beautiful weather - take a hike and soak up the sunshine. And be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming programs and events at the park.

The 2nd Annual Youth Art Contest display will be held in the Lodge on March 10th from 2-4 pm. Stop by and see original artwork created by students in grades K-6.

RHP is hosting a *Total Eclipse of the Park* event on April 8th, from 1 - 4 pm. Plan to be a part of something special! Join us for an afternoon of kids' crafts, games, refreshments, and visit with Sunny the horse. A limited number of eclipse glasses will be available for purchase.



We are pleased to announce the 2024 "Discover Your Outdoor Experience at RHP" Photo Contest! Richfield Heritage Preserve invites photographers of all ages to enter the photo contest. Photos can be submitted to volunteer-info@rjrd.org beginning April 1, 2024, through midnight on April 30, 2024.

Summer Day Camp registration is now open. Are you looking for an exciting summer adventure for your child? Enroll your child in our 2nd annual summer day camp! Sign up for one week or the entire summer. The day camp will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Visit <https://bit.ly/48JNNGS> for more information

- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator/
Recreation Programmer



MONDAY, APRIL 8TH ~ 1-4 PM

Come to RHP to experience this o n c e - i n - a - lifetime event!

An afternoon of fun activities is planned in and around The Lodge and Amity Lawn.

Limited eclipse glasses available for purchase

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve (Friends) are holding a late winter hike -- "Let's See What's Hiding in Plain Sight" -- at Richfield Heritage Preserve on Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 2-4 p.m.

James McClintock - a nature photographer whose passion is to capture the beauty and power of the natural world - will lead the walk and show attendees how to photograph winter scenes and objects in nature along the way. James has



deep respect for the environment and a strong sense of adventure, along with an intuitive eye to capture images that offer a distinctive and passionate perspective of the physical world. He's been photographing our world since his teen years and is interested in all things natural -- wildlife, waterfalls, landscapes, sunsets, and moon shots to name a few.

This free hike will be held 'rain or shine' so participants should dress for the weather. Suitable hiking footwear and a reusable water bottle are recommended. Attendees will meet by The Lodge.

Visit friendsofrhp.org for registration information and event updates.

- Karen Smik,
Vice President, Friends of RHP

Richfield
HERITAGE
PRESERVE