

A note from the RJRD Board

Summer is here, and RHP is hopping!

Our Goat Derby on May 6th was a smashing success. Summer camps and many programs are opening up this year. We're putting finishing touches on a new and improved map to help hikers follow trails more easily. Look for our trail naming contest later in the year.

Please come out soon to see all the improvements that we've made in your park!

- Anita Gantner, RJRD Board Chair

*** If you are interested in facilitating a Fall/Winter program, please contact the park director at park-director@rjrd.org or the volunteer coordinator at volunteer-info@rjrd.org by July 1. ***

June Upcoming Events -

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

June 3 & June 10 - YOGA HIKE; 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

June 8 & June 22 - RICHFIELD LIBRARY STORY HOUR;
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register through Richfield Library.

June 10 - NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS;
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

June 10 - RHP HISTORY HIKE; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

June 12-16 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 1; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 13 - WET & WILD NATURE HIKE; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

June 13, 20, & 27 - FAMILY NATURE JOURNALING;
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

June 16 & June 17 - NATIVE PLANT SALE; 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

June 19-23 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 2; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 18 - 24 - CAMPING SKILLS 101; 1 WEEK CLASS

June 24 - POKER RUN; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

June 26-30 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 3; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

June 27 - FABULOUS FLYING CREATURES; 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**June 28 - "THE SPACES BETWEEN STARS" NOIR & CRIME
BOOK CLUB;** 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

June 30 - NATURE BUDDIES! 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.;
10 - 11 a.m.; 1 - 2 p.m. (3 time slots)

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

From our Park Director

June is starting out to be a very warm month, and I couldn't be more ready for it! My family had the pleasure of camping at Richfield Heritage Preserve over the Memorial Day holiday, and it was a magical experience! When the last people left the park around 7pm, my wife, my three boys and I had the park literally to ourselves to explore and enjoy all that the park has to offer. We were able to canoe on the upper lake and watch the sunset. We took a night hike and appreciated the beautiful weather as nightfall arrived. We shared stories around the campfire and enjoyed a late-night hike under the light of the moon.

I am sure that your family, just like mine, would love to have this amazing experience! We have two campsites that can be rented. I encourage you to look at this opportunity, along with many other programs and special events that we have planned.

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

- John Piepsny,
Park Director



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 or upcoming brochure. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



This month's photo of the Upper Lake was contributed by Kim Schad. It was taken in the summer of 2022. Thank you, Kim, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

The work continues at Oviatt House! In a little over two days, volunteers built several walls using original wall studs from 1836. Two original door frames were also re-installed in their original locations. On the outside of the house, skirt boards were installed on the west and north sides of the house, replacing original boards that had rotted beyond repair. The non-original side door was removed and framed in, and siding was pieced in to replace any missing or broken pieces.



Thank you to all who volunteered and joined us for our May Day Celebration! We are so thankful for your support!

- Tricia Steiner,
Secretary,
Oviatt House, Inc.

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

Is it a "wolf" tree -- a lone tree left standing in the pasture to shade farm animals? Some remember calling it "Big Jim", while others refer to the long-standing guardian next to Kirby House as "definitely female." No matter how you see this grand old tree, it is best known as Quercus alba -- or White Oak.



Growing from an acorn that fell over 200 years ago, this giant tree stands silent witness to the history of Richfield Heritage Preserve. First, Native American hunters traveled through the area as the oak grew strong. Mason and Fanny Oviatt turned 100 acres of the forest into farmland and built their house there in 1836. Mason was said to have helped abolitionist John Brown transport escaped slaves to freedom prior to

the Civil War. The land was sold in 1919 to inventor James Kirby, who built his home next to the White Oak -- overlooking Lake Jinelle (which became the world's only known patented lake) and across from where he would construct his iconic red mill in 1922. Seasons changed and the land, with its great oak, saw the coming of a Girl Scout camp in 1937. Thousands of young women passed beneath its spreading branches -- on their way to boating, horseback riding and other outdoor fun.

Thanks to research -- showing it is just one of three this size and age in northeast Ohio -- and attention from professional arborists, this stately oak still stands in Richfield Heritage Preserve. Pass nearby when hiking the Buckeye Trail, and you can rest a moment in the shade provided by the old oak's canopy.

- Terry Duncan, Friends of RHP Board Member

Volunteer Update

During the spring season, the park is bustling with activity due to the hard work of RJRD staff, volunteers, and various volunteer groups. These groups have generously donated their time and effort to improve the park's amenities.

Revere High School's National Honor Society demonstrated outstanding dedication by volunteering their day off to spread fresh mulch and repaint picnic tables and wooden planters. Ernst & Young employees also did an excellent job organizing supplies and performing general cleaning tasks to prepare for summer camp. Richfield Cub Pack 3387 worked hard to clean up the area around the Park Office, resulting in a much cleaner environment.

Ohio Operating Engineers recently regraded the area in front of Mable Smith Shelter to prepare for a new path to the shelter. Hudson High School students then spent three days at the park, spreading stone and gravel along the path, cleaning the Lodge and Waterfront Shelter area, and painting the Lodge latrine and picnic tables with great care.

Thompson Hine employees assisted RJRD volunteers with an inventory of tools and supplies.

The hardworking volunteers of RJRD accomplished various tasks at the park, including installing bricks on Amity's patio, weeding the pollinator gardens, spreading mulch, monitoring bluebird boxes, and cleaning multiple park areas.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made a difference in improving the park.

If you want to learn more about making a difference, please contact RHP Volunteer Coordinator Susan Czaplicki at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or 330-317-2597.

- Susan Czaplicki,
RHP Volunteer Coordinator

