

A note from the RJRD Board

I grew up in eastern Pa. on 120 acres of woods and came to Ohio in 1973 to attend graduate school at Kent State University. I ended up marrying a woman I met at KSU and have been in Ohio since. We moved to Richfield in 1987 as I wanted to find land similar to where I grew up with lots of woods. Since Richfield was equidistant from Akron and Cleveland, we thought it would be a great place to put down roots and raise a family with three children.

My 40 years of professional life were in the non-profit sector. The last 30 years were as CEO of North Coast Community Homes, a nonprofit housing development corporation developing community based housing for individuals with intellectual and mental disabilities in six counties in northeast Ohio. During my professional career I spent a lot of time serving on different local and statewide non-profit boards as my way of giving back to the community.

I previously served on the Village of Richfield Parks and Recreation board and was glad to accept the invitation to be considered for the RJRD. I have always felt that the purchase of Richfield Heritage Preserve was a wonderful opportunity to keep and maintain an exceptional historic property in the middle of Richfield. I look forward to serving as a trustee.

- Steve McPeake, RJRD Board Trustee

July Upcoming Events -

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

July 1, 8, 22, & 29 - YOGAHIKES; 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

July 6 & July 20 - RICHFIELD LIBRARY STORY HOUR;
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register through Richfield Library.

July 8 - BIOBLITZ; 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

July 9 - YOGA FOR RESEARCH; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Benefit fundraiser for Research Institute for Children's Health.

July 9 - FRIENDS OF RHP ARCHITECTURE HIKE; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

July 10-14 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 3; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

July 13, 16, 27, 29 - FRIENDS OF RHP "TOUR THE TREASURE" HIKES; various times

July 16 - PADDLE YOGADVENTURE; 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. OR
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

July 17 - DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES - SUMMER SPECIES; 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

July 17-21 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 4; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

July 22-23- CAMPING SKILLS 101: NAVIGATION;
9 a.m. Saturday - 6 p.m. Sunday

July 24-28 - SUMMER CAMP WEEK 5; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

July 28-30- CAMPING SKILLS 101; 4 p.m. Friday -
5 p.m. Sunday

Look at all that's happening in RHP!

From our Park Director

I can't believe that mid-summer is almost here! The Richfield Heritage Preserve is the place to be in the summer as the trees provide a natural form of "air-conditioning". Come cool off in the shade, and feel the nice, soothing breeze as you hike the many trails to find the "Secret Waterfall" and other special places. This beautiful park has been photographed hundreds of times and is the perfect place to take your family photos.



Summer Camp is going strong, and if you haven't yet registered, we still have spots for your children to come and have fun this year. The comments from some of the children have been outstanding! They have really enjoyed the hikes, fishing, and learning about the history of the park.

If you have a certain hobby or skill that you would like to share with others, please feel free to let us know. We are looking for instructors for our fall winter programming guide!

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 forget-me-nots was contributed by Kim Sowinski. It was taken in May 2023. Thank you, Kim, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

Our wonderful volunteers have been working hard! The non-original back door was removed and framed in, leaving the Oviatt house with its two original exterior doorways. The rotted sill beam near the back door was repaired, which included the difficult job of removing and rebuilding the platform above the exterior access to the basement. Other tasks involved repairing and painting the siding on the north and east sides of the house, building a stud-wall around the new ductwork, installing and reinforcing the floor joists by the back door, and patching in new flooring. This exciting season of transformation is just beginning!



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- Tricia Steiner, Secretary, Oviatt House, Inc.

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve

Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve (Friends) is sponsoring an "RHP Architecture: Bring the Outdoors In" hike on Sunday, July 9, from 2-4 p.m. at Richfield Heritage Preserve. It will be led by Corey Ringle, AIA registered architect with RDL Architects as well as the Friends' president.

For centuries, homes were designed to bring the outdoors in and connect their occupants to the outside world. Learn about the diversity of design and details that grace the beautiful historic homes located within the park and how their features connect to the out-of-doors. Participants will be able to tour the interior of the homes as well. Corey is well-versed in what it takes to maintain their historic character because she takes a hands-on approach to the restoration work.



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- The event is free and open to the public.
- Park in the main lot and meet in front of The Lodge.

• Dress for the weather (the event will be held rain or shine).

• Suitable hiking footwear, insect repellent and a reusable water bottle are recommended.

Attendees are asked to RSVP. For registration information and event updates, please visit the Friends' website at friendsofrhp.org.

Looking ahead to August -- be sure to mark your calendars for the Friends' Kirby Day event to be held on Saturday, August 26, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the south end of the park. Free activities and fun for the whole family!

- Terry Duncan, Friends of RHP Board Member

Volunteer Update

Since 1985, people in the United States have celebrated **Park and Recreation Month** in July to promote building strong, vibrant, and resilient communities through the power of parks and recreation. We place great value on everything Richfield Heritage Preserve has to offer the community and the support provided by the residents and volunteers.

We invite you to visit the park, participate in the park's programs and events, enjoy the serenity of fishing in the Upper Lake, hike the park's numerous trails, enjoy boating, camping, utilizing one of our shelters, or testing your orienteering skills. There's always something new to discover at Richfield Heritage Preserve.

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

The Bluebird Trail

What could be better than taking a walk in the meadows and woods at the beautiful Richfield Heritage Preserve?

How about adding to your walk a discovery of bird eggs or hatchlings? Or seeing bluebirds flying and singing overhead? Or hearing the chitter of tree swallows, the impossibly complex songs of wrens or catbirds, and the melody of the song sparrow?

The Bluebird Team at the Preserve hike out to our assigned nest boxes every 4 days during nesting season to do just that. We consist of 11 dedicated monitors, the youngest of which is just 6 years old (he is paired with his dad). I won't even guess the oldest among us, but let's just say, we have some "seasoned" ones, myself included.

We check the 17 boxes placed throughout the Preserve with special attention to places where bluebirds would be most interested in nesting. Our boxes also attract nesting house wrens, chickadees and tree swallows. Monitoring these boxes actually protects the bluebirds and has a 90% success rate vs. 60% without monitoring. We partner with NestWatch through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and report our data to them.

We respectfully ask you not to disturb or open the bluebird boxes.

Happy birding! - Claudia Sauders, RHP Bluebird Trail Coordinator

Photo credit: Sal Masciarelli



Ohio Horsemen's Council

Summit County Chapter of Ohio Horseman's Council had a very successful fundraiser with our June 24 Poker Ride. 25 riders came to enjoy the beautiful trails, share fellowship and eat.

We are getting close to our goal of putting a new roof on the summer barn at Richfield Heritage Preserve.

