

A note from the RJRD Board

As we make the transition from winter into spring, Richfield Heritage Preserve is busy as ever. In March, camping resumed and we have already had two different scout groups take advantage of this wonderful park feature, with two more scheduled. Camping sites have been designated at the Windy Hill, High Lea, and Far-a-Way Pines areas.

The April calendar features a number of events and activities, including the Youth Art Contest, RHP Photo Contest, Danger at Dusk Book Club, and the inaugural "Goat Derby" scheduled for May 6th. Our Friends Group will host two hikes, one on wildflowers and another on migratory birds. And Oviatt House will host an open house in early May. Check the website for more details.

Our Lodge continues to be booked for a variety of events – it is a wonderful venue in a beautiful setting for weddings, corporate retreats, and family reunions. Contact Shari Green for your next event.

Everyone at RHP wishes you a wonderful spring as we head into summer!

- Mark Robeson, RJRD Trustee

The Newsletter Has a Name!

The new name of our newsletter is **Footnotes**, referring to the many hiking trails in Richfield Heritage Preserve, which we hope you'll come out and enjoy. The winning name was submitted by Louise Pilz. Congratulations, Louise!

Thank you to all readers who submitted name suggestions. We appreciate your input and creativity!

Upcoming Events

April 1 - Buckeye Trail Workday RJRD Volunteers will partner with Buckeye Trails representatives to improve several sections of the Buckeye Trail. **CANCELLED DUE TO HIGH WIND ADVISORY.**

April 3 - Nature Hike to Celebrate National Wildlife Week - 10 am to noon. Search for as much wildlife as possible. The hike will include looking for creatures and signs of all manner of wildlife such as nests, tracks, eggs, gnawings, cavities, and much more.

April 1-30 - Discover Your Outdoor Experience at RHP Photo Contest Photos can be submitted to volunteer-info@rjrd.org beginning April 1, 2023, through midnight on April 30, 2023.

April 11 - Nature Study Series This six-part slide-based series is designed to increase natural history knowledge and appreciation for the complexity of the world around us.

April 16-22 - Volunteer Appreciation Week An opportunity to recognize volunteers' efforts and impact at the park

April 22 and 29 - Fitness in the Forest Combination of hiking the trails and resistance conditioning using braided tubing (provided) and a mat.

April 23 - Youth Art Contest Display in the Lodge from 2-4 pm.

April 26 - "Danger at Dusk" Book Club; Mable Smith Shelter, 6:30 pm. Title: *Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six* by Lisa Unger.

From our Park Director

I am so excited that Spring is officially here at Richfield Heritage Preserve. The skunk cabbage is starting to come up and flowers are starting to pop up in some areas! With spring coming, we have many exciting things happening at the park. We are finishing the Lodge kitchen updates. Work with the Friends group is moving along very quickly at Amity House, and soon it will be brought back to its former glory as a rentable space for small get togethers, birthday parties or showers. Ongoing work will take place on the trails as we continue to enhance them.



Our new Spring/Summer brochure will be out this month, and we will be excited to hear your feedback on the programs and special events that we have planned. You will be able to visit our new Rec Desk software to create your own account, view all of our programs, and sign up for all the events in which you would like to participate.

Finally, we are excited to be hosting our Inaugural Goat Derby on May 6 at 11am. This event will have Goat Races, Food Trucks, live music, raffles, prizes, costume contests and much, much more. Don't get left out - reserve your table for 8 today! This is an event that you do not want to miss!

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

- 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. We want to see what *you* see in your park!



As promised, this month's photo of the waterfall above the lower lake was contributed by Danilo Radmilovic. It was taken on December 11, 2020. Thank you, Dan, for your contribution.

Oviatt House Inc.

Interior restoration and museum planning is underway at Oviatt House. With flooring, lighting, and layout finalized, floors will soon be going down and walls will soon be going up!

Please join us for our May Day Celebration on May 6, 11am-3pm for kids crafts and games, picnic refreshments, house tours, and a native plant pre-sale. Visit oviathouse1836.com for more information!



- Tricia Steiner,
secretary,
Oviatt House Inc.

Volunteer Update

Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is volunteer appreciation month, an opportunity to recognize volunteers' efforts and impact at the park. As a community-supported park, we rely on volunteers to undertake projects to maintain and improve the park. We sincerely thank everyone who has made a difference at the park!



Pictured:
CESO
volunteers

Photo:
Susan Czaplicki

To learn more about volunteers or how you can make a difference at RHP, please contact the RHP Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer-info@rjrd.org or call/text 330-317-2597.

RHP Discover Your Outdoor Experience Photo Contest

The photo contest is open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages. Photos should reflect the 'Discover Your Outdoor Experience at Richfield Heritage Preserve' theme. Email photos to volunteer-info@rjrd.org beginning April 1, 2023, through midnight on April 30, 2023. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning photos. \$5 entry fee. Checks can be made payable to Richfield Joint Recreation District and mailed to PO BOX 246 Richfield, Ohio 44286.

- Susan Czaplicki, Volunteer Coordinator

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

Spring Wildflower Workshop/DIY Wildflower Hike

On Tuesday, May 2, enjoy a spring wildflower workshop and help the Friends continue the Invasive Species Management Team (ISMT) at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Join us for "Protecting Ohio Wildflowers and Fighting Invader Plants", 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at The Lodge. The program includes morning refreshments, box lunch, door prizes, handouts, and ways to encourage beneficial plants while discouraging the invasive ones. A wildflower walk follows the speakers. Event proceeds will help the ISMT continue its program of educating park visitors.



The event features Jennifer Windus, Ohio Invasive Plants Council president; Judy Semroc, naturalist with NatureSpark; Jennifer Johnson, Native Roots, Inc. vice president; and Travis Morton, Land Steward, Medina County Parks. Native Roots will have a selection of native plants for sale at the event. Cost of the program is \$45. To register, visit [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) no later than Wednesday, April 26.

Jennifer Windus is also your virtual host on the Friends' DIY Wildflower Hike, with a colorful field guide and map available online at the [Friends of RHP](https://www.friends-of-rhp.org). April and May are peak wildflower viewing months throughout northeast Ohio, and Richfield Heritage Preserve is no exception. The mapped trail takes you through some of the most scenic areas of RHP, highlighting many of our spring blooms. Not all wildflowers bloom at once, so enjoy a walk through RHP often this season.

Reminder: Kirby's Mill docent training will take place at the Mill on Sunday, April 30, at 2:00 p.m. A practice tour will begin about 3 p.m. To join us, contact Lynn at lynndragonwing@gmail.com.

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

