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Richfield HERITAGE PRESERVE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER eNEWSLETTER

Photograph taken by Susan Czaplicki



A Message from Your Park Director John Piepsny

Hello!

I am happy to announce that the Strategic Master Plan that was started this spring is starting to come to its final stages with the Board. We have had many public meetings and we appreciate everyone's feedback that helped contribute to the plan.

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ONE in A MILL-ION Centennial Celebration

By Karen Smik
Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve, Vice President

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VOLUNTEERS ARE A PRICELESS ASSET

To Richfield Heritage Preserve & Community



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RHP REGISTRY

Thanks for Helping Our Volunteer Efforts

For the past seven years, volunteers have played a vital role at Richfield Heritage Preserve by undertaking projects, making improvements, and planning programs and events to help fulfill the RJRD mission statement. Please consider donating an item from the Park Registry to assist them in their work. To participate, go to the Richfield Heritage Preserve website. <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/richfield-heritage-preserve-richfield-oh/3370498/giftlist> Your donation will be sent directly to Richfield Heritage Preserve. Thank you for your support!



OVIATT CONSTRUCTION



TURKEYS in America



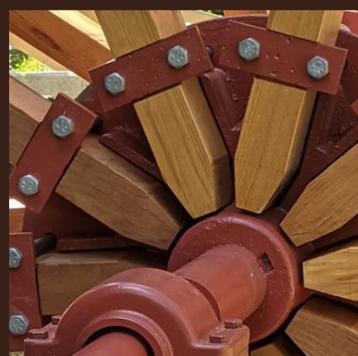
WINTER WONDERS



HALLOWEEN FUN!



THE LODGE



MILL RESTORATION UPDATE

4374 Broadview Road, Richfield, Ohio | (330) 888-0511 | richfieldheritagepreserve.com

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A Message from Your Park Director

John Piepsny

Hello!

I am happy to announce that the Strategic Master Plan that was started this spring is starting to come to its final stages with the Board. We have had many public meetings and we appreciate everyone's feedback that helped contribute to the plan. Once the final plan is voted on by the Board, we will have a clear path for the direction of the future of the Richfield Heritage Preserve. The Strategic Master Plan will help define the future direction of the park and will create a dynamic synergy for years to come.

As I finish my second month here, I can't express enough thanks to the countless volunteers who help manage this park. Without your dedication, this park would not have gotten to where it is today! Every week I meet new faces and am impressed with the skills that everyone brings to the table to help this park operate. I am excited and look forward to being able to put the Strategic Master Plan into action with the help of our volunteers.

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



ONE in A MILL-ION Centennial Celebration

By Karen Smik
Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve
Vice President

On a glorious autumn day, nearly 200 people came together to celebrate and support the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve's "One in a MILL-ion Centennial Celebration". The charmingly decorated LODGE was brimming with enthusiastic supporters, and the camaraderie of old friends as well as newly made acquaintances, helped raise funds to not only assist in completing the restoration of the Kirby's Mill, but to provide for its future, and to honor the legacy of well-known Richfield inventor Jim Kirby.

The sunny, mid 70s showcased the splendor of the park's scenery. Mill tours provided our guests an opportunity to learn a little about the Mill's history and to witness firsthand the recently reconstructed water wheel once again turning.



They were entertained by the lively melodies of Hey Mavis, who blend bluegrass acoustic sound with rhythm and blues---and weave the American story into their musical tapestry while enjoying dinner provided by Hofbrauhaus.

Over \$100,000 was raised through ticket sales, sponsorships, and donations, as well as the LIVE Auction and Fund-A-Need Auction. The LIVE Auction featured a Samsung Crystal UHD HDR 58" Smart TV; a 2-hour Lake Erie charter sail for up to 6 passengers; a 5-day getaway to a cozy lakefront cottage in historic Burk's Falls, Ontario, Canada; a sporting clay shoot for 2 people at Hill 'n Dale Shooting Club; two tickets for the October 31 Cleveland Browns vs. Cincinnati Bengals game; an Akron Art Mu-



Thom & Lisa Mandel,
honorary event chairs.
Photo by Bruce Ford



Tailgate with Pat Norris's car.
Photo by Bruce Ford

seum dual/family membership; a 2-hour guided golf cart tour of Richfield Heritage Preserve with a copy of Arcadia's Images of America Series "Crowell Hilaka and the Richfield Heritage Preserve" by Lynn Scholle Richardson; an Ambience of Akron Basket and a Culture of Cleveland Basket, each featuring tickets and gift cards to some of the Rubber City's and CLE's sports teams, restaurants, and cultural establishments.

The Fund-A-Need Auction raised money that will be applied toward specific Mill projects such as the swinging bridge, balcony repair, waterwheel observation platform and more as well as be used to establish an endowment fund. To view the complete list of the event sponsors and event supporters, please visit <https://www.friendsofhp.org/one-in-a-mill-ion.html>

Thom and Lisa Mandel served as honorary chairs of the event. Thom is CEO of Akron's Rubber City Radio Group and serves on the board of trustees for the Ohio Association of Broadcasters. Lisa volunteers for many not-for-profit organizations including Bath Volunteers for Service and WITAN. The Mandels are long-time advocates, and have served as board chairs of United Way.

Brady Marks, an on-air radio personality with 107.3 Alternative Cleveland, served as the emcee — and Bob Hale, of Benefit Auction Services, was our auctioneer. Professional photographer Bruce Ford beautifully captured many of the day's special moments on film. His photos, and those taken by others in attendance that day, can be found at <https://www.friendsofhp.org/one-in-a-mill-ion.html>

We still need a little help bringing our vision for the working Mill to fruition. This includes providing STEAM education, embracing the rich history of Kirby's Mill, and helping to make Richfield Heritage Preserve a popular tourist destination. Visit <https://www.friendsofhp.org/donate.html> to find out how you can "invest" in the future of this special and beloved Mill.

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VOLUNTEERS ARE A PRICELESS ASSET

To Richfield Heritage Preserve & Community

When you visit Richfield Heritage Preserve and observe the transformation from one season to the next, you may also notice a few changes at the park. RJRD Volunteers and volunteer groups have been hard at work undertaking numerous projects at the park improving visitor experience and saving Richfield taxpayers thousands of dollars a year in the process!

Because safety is the top priority of the RJRD Board and RHP Park Director John Piepsny, several improvements were made by RJRD Volunteers to improve the safety of our visitors, including the installation of new lighting outside The LODGE and in the small parking lot. Volunteers also ran conduit and installed concrete columns for new lighting in the large parking lot. In addition, two dilapidated structures were removed by RJRD Volunteers and members of The University of Akron Phi Delta Theta fraternity to eliminate serious safety concerns.

Volunteers have been busy maintaining the park's trails. Volunteers from The University of Akron School of Law returned to the park for their annual Akron Law Cares Day. The group worked with RJRD Volunteers to accomplish much-needed trail maintenance and improvements, while Scout Troop 810 completed a service project by cutting back overhanging vegetation along the main road.

Meanwhile, RJRD Volunteers have made several improvements to The LODGE which include the installation of two outlets, painting vents, and working with park staff to replace nine feet of collapsed sewer pipe.

Two signs were installed to highlight major projects at the park. RJRD Board members worked with volunteers to design 'Thank You - Together We Build Richfield' signs. An RJRD Volunteer built wooden framing and installed the signs.



As colder weather nears, the need for firewood for rentals and events increases. Fallen trees in the park were moved to the sawmill in preparation for splitting logs into firewood. Scout Troop 526 and St. Albert the Great Parish volunteers assisted RHP Maintenance Tech Chris Moore with splitting firewood.

On the southern end of the park, you may notice an interesting wooden structure outside the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Adam Lahner built and installed a bee hotel for his Eagle Scout project. The structure was strategically placed and will provide a home for bees.

We hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the park, as well as the many changes in the park! Volunteers work year-round to maintain and improve the park. We are grateful for their efforts; they truly make a difference!

If you are interested in learning how you can get involved at the park, please contact the RHP Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer-info@rjrd.org

OVIATT HOUSE *Construction Update*

Homeland Building and Design has done an outstanding job with the wood shingle roof, trim and chimney! The Oviatt House construction team decided to tackle the exterior painting project with volunteer labor and is making amazing progress. The body of the house is a beautiful light butter color. Check out a quick video of the roof project on our YouTube Channel The link to the video is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcl1niVGRhE> and more photos at <https://www.oviatthouse1836.com>

Feel free to stop by the house and take a look!



OVIATT HOUSE *Fall Fundraiser*

Oviatt House held its first Open House Fundraiser on a beautiful crisp fall Saturday in September. Many people came to learn about the history of the house and ongoing construction. Kids played games, tasty treats were provided by Luther's Farm Market, and many took their chances on many wonderful raffle prizes. The tours, given by Larry Brichacek and Ken Brown, were very informative and appreciated by all! Ken Bowman spent the day teaching how to construct things without power tools!

OHI @ Winter Wonders

We are looking forward to participating in the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve's Winter Wonders event on December 3rd. We will be offering our hand-crafted ornament, the second in the Oviatt House Holiday Ornament Collection. The "BELIEVE" ornament will be offered for a donation which will go toward the restoration of Oviatt House.



TURKEYS in AMERICA TALK/HIKE

*Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve
Sunday, November 20th
2-4p.m.*

**RSVP (see below)*

The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve (Friends) are sponsoring "Turkeys in America" on Sunday, November 20, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the United Church of Christ at 4340 W. Streetsboro Road. This program is presented by Chuck Jakubchak, who looks at the history of our favorite holiday and focuses on the turkey--both wild and domesticated.

Following the program, join the Friends for a one-hour easy loop hike (held rain or shine) at Richfield Heritage Preserve. Those wishing to hike should dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring a reusable water bottle.

*RSVP for this FREE and open to the public event via Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turkeys-in-america-tickets-401635511627>

For additional information and updates, please visit www.friendsofrhp.org



WINTER WONDERS 2022

*Hosted by The Friends of
Richfield Heritage Preserve
Saturday, December 3
11 - 4 p.m.*

The Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve will once again be hosting its annual "Winter Wonders" event in The LODGE at RHP on Saturday, December 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. In addition to the beautifully decorated LODGE, guests can expect the following:

- Pre-packaged, homemade Christmas Cookies will be available (\$15/lb.) and several artisans will be offering their handcrafted items.
- Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides (will take place from 12-2 p.m. \$10 for adults/\$5 for children ages 2-12/free for children under 2). and photo ops with Sunny the Reindeer Horse from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



- Father Christmas and his elves will be riding the trails and handing out candy canes to park visitors between 2-4 p.m.
- Miss Diane from the Richfield Branch Library will be sharing holiday stories at 1:45 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.
- Free holiday crafts, cookie decorating, and face painting will also be available for our younger guests.

For detailed information, visit www.friendsofrhp.org or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-winter-wonders-tickets-422167272677>

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HALLOWEEN FUN!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Thank you to our amazing volunteers for making our Trick-or-Treat on The Trail & Spooky Tales such a success! The weather was wonderful for a day full of Halloween-themed activities and welcomed over 500 ghosts and goblins of all ages!



LOOK AT US NOW!

Enhancements Have Transformed The LODGE!

The Lodge at Richfield Heritage Preserve has benefited from many additions and enhancements this past year with the help of numerous volunteers and donations from The Lodge Registry.

Enhancements include:

- Newly installed indoor and outdoor chandeliers
- Feature Wall created using recycled wood from park structures
- New doors entering kitchen area
- Newly renovated bridal suite and back bathroom
- Custom built Indoor and Outdoor bars
- Café lights and sandstone paver patio installed back of The Lodge
- Firepit installed
- Newly installed air conditioner system
- Adirondack chairs built and donated by a local Eagle Scout

A huge thank you goes out to donors big and small that made needed donations, as well as to the many volunteers who have contributed their time and talents which enhanced the beauty of The LODGE. Richfield Heritage Preserve and staff at The Lodge are grateful for your support!



KIRBY'S MILL RESTORATION

By Lynn Richardson
Friends of RHP Secretary and Historian

Visitors to the park may notice the new water wheel at Kirby's Mill is resting for the winter to minimize ice damage. But even still, the mill makes a beautiful, picturesque location that is inspiring and a wonderful place for contemplation. The plan is to restart the wheel in 2023 on May 5 and run it every weekend through October.

Meanwhile, the Friends of Richfield Heritage Preserve are considering mill-based program options for 2023. We are open to your suggestions!

With that in mind, here is some mill history to contemplate and use to impress your friends while hiking with them through the park:

- Although wooden, water-driven mill wheels are now a rarity, they were the first source of industrial power dating back to antiquity.
- The Greek poet Antipater of Thessalonica (10 B.C. -34 AD) wrote this praise to a vertical water wheel of a gristmill:

Cease from grinding, ye women who toil at the mill;

Sleep late, even if the crowing cocks announce the dawn.

For Demeter has ordered the Nymphs to perform the work of your hands,

*And they, leaping down on the top of the wheel,
turn its axle for which,*

*With its revolving spokes, turns the heavy concave
Nisyrian millstones,*

Learning to feast on the products of Demeter without labor.

- Water wheels could be “undershot”, driven by a current; or “overshot”, driven by falling water. There are even tide mills with wheels that change direction. Each had variations depending on its site, the builders’ preference and skill level, and its use. Water-powered mills were for sawing wood, refining wool, pressing cider, polishing glass, and playing music – but probably the most common purpose was a grist mill to grind grain. If a grist mill produced a more refined product, it could be called a flour mill. In about 1785 an American engineer, named Oliver Evans, developed an automated flour mill that was quickly adopted throughout the country.



- Mills were so necessary for growth that when Moses Cleaveland's team surveyed the Western Reserve in 1796, they were required to note any potential mill sites.
- By 1840, there were 1,861 grist mills in the state of Ohio. By 1860, there were 21 in Summit County alone. But by the late 1800s, more efficient turbines began replacing the picturesque water wheels and large rollers replaced the traditional pairs of grindstones.
- In the 1900s, the popular Leslie's Magazine ran an article in 1913, “How to Utilize Small Water Power on Farms”. By 1922, the year that Kirby built his mill, the Ohio Millers Association listed only 94 water-powered mills remaining in the state. Most of those ran with turbines. And several were equipped with supplemental power. Such mills that existed were sometimes adapted to generate electrical power.

Kirby's Mill was both practical and whimsical.

- The water wheel was an anachronism. But the axle resting on ball bearings was an innovation that made it efficient. Many writers, including the famous Lowell Thomas, wrote that Kirby's wheel “could turn with just a trickle of water”.
- Other elements of a typical grist mill operation also had Kirby's unique twist — already well-known to many visitors of the park — the dam was actually a series of dams with a drain that flowed below the millpond, the millpond was patented, and the bridge is a suspension bridge below the level of the lake surface.

When the water wheel was restored, Millwright Ben Hasset used Kirby's original axle, bearings, bearing-covered and metal spoke hubs. When the Friends ran the new wheel for the first time this past Labor Day, we were thrilled to see that the legends were true and that it ran with only a trickle of water. Of course, we'd prefer that the trickle would be flowing through a wooden trough supported by chains instead of the current PVC pipe supported by a ratchet strap, but that will have to wait until we raise the money for the next round of restorations!

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