

WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, TO RELAX, TO HAVE FUN: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

## PARK HAPPENINGS

Charlton Park had a booth again this year at one of Maranda's Park Parties. Roger Smith, Stacey Graham, Shannon Ritzer, and Marie Morgan spread the word about Charlton Park on July 5th. The yellow Charlton Park balloons were a hit and could be seen all around the Barry County Expo Center.

The first-ever Thornapple River Expedition stopped by Charlton Park on August 7. The group started in Vermontville and tackled sand bars, log jams, and a lot of portaging on their way to the Park to camp for the evening. They enjoyed dinner in the Pavilion provided by G&G Pork Farms and spread their tents out near the boat launch for the night. The entire Expedition spanned 68 miles of the Thornapple River from Vermontville to the Grand River at Ada.

Park Director Dan Patton and his family spread goodwill on behalf of Charlton Park by participating in the Freeport Homecoming Parade August 4 and Hastings Summerfest Parade on August 25. Many



One of the many canoeists unloading

more parades will feature Park participation so watch for us in a neighborhood near you!

The Westinghouse Traction Engine traveled to the Barry County Fair at the Barry County Expo Center. Thanks to Daryl Cheeseman, Joe Mix, and Larry Mix for facilitating the exhibition of one of the Park's amazing artifacts.

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

The maintenance department has been working on many projects throughout the Park this summer.



Carriage House after the new paint

The Carriage House behind the Sixberry House was scraped, primed, and repainted (picture); retaining walls were built behind the Exhibition Hall; and work has continued on the first floor of the museum. The staff has also continued helping set up and tear down for special events, cleaning barns, trim-

ming trees, cleaning and brush hogging fields, and, when the drought ended, started mowing the freshly green lawns.

## DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Autumn is knocking on the door and I for one cannot wait. Fall of the year represents a change in the seasons, but it also means the sounds of school age children in the Village. This past summer has proven once more how many of our county residents and visitors enjoy the opportunities that we offer for family fun here at Charlton Park. We hope to continue being that "destination location" for everyone.

The Charlton Park Board will be embarking on a Strategic Planning process in the coming months and we need your help! As we move forward, we will be seeking your input, thoughts, and dreams on what the future looks like for the Park. I encourage each of you to get involved in some way with this important planning process for Charlton Park and help us outline the path for future greatness for generations to come.

Visit Us Soon,  
Dan Patton, Director

### In this issue:

Event News	p. 2
Education/Collections	p. 3
Volunteers' Corner	p. 3

The mission of Charlton Park is to provide educational and recreational opportunities, through the collection, preservation and demonstration of early rural Michigan life, artifacts and buildings, and the maintenance of natural and recreation areas.



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## EVENT NEWS

The 30th Annual 4th of July & Veterans BBQ was a scorcher this year. Over 300 people braved the sun and heat to enjoy the barbecue buffet, watch the flag raising by the American Legion, and participate in games on the Village Green. 5 pies were donated for the pie auction, with proceeds going back to the Park to cover the costs of the event with Operations Supervisor Tom Campbell as auctioneer. Jenn and Rosa Seif helped keep visitors cool serving lemonade in the Bristol Inn; Emma Seif and Heather Wright provided interpretation in the buildings; Andy Johnston and Kris Stenglein served as event MCs; Ann Replogle, Troy Bass, and Marie Morgan served as place keepers for the games; Alexis Replogle was the Recorder's Assistant; and Jeff Van Nort-



Some of the day's winners

wick, Brian Reynolds, and Rebecca Kyes acted as pie judges. Thanks again to Jeff Van Nortwick for his wonderful portrayal of Uncle Sam, and to the Kalamazoo Central High School band program for lending us their portable speaker system for the pie auction. Thanks also to everyone who came out to help us celebrate!

The 41st Annual Gas & Steam Show was held on July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 725 people came out to enjoy sawmill, threshing and shingling demonstrations, sweet corn steamed by the Westinghouse, tractor games, and a parade on both days. Thanks to Kerri Steward, Judith Kidder, Barb Howard, Lois Bremer, Carol Foley, John Foley, and Carissa White for their help in the village, and thanks to all of the Gas & Steam club members for making the event such a success!!

The Civil War Muster on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> was another hot one but 664 visitors and 550 re-enactors defied the heat to make the event a success. Visitors browsed Sutler's Row, talked to the re-enactors at their camps, listened to Abe Lincoln speak in the Church, watched a fashion show on the front porch

of the Upjohn House, learned about Civil War-era beauty practices and bullet cartridge-making in the Bristol Inn, watched an artillery demonstration down by the river, watched battles both at High Meadows (Saturday morning) and in the village (both days), joined in a barn dance Saturday evening, and walked through the re-enactor camps and village by candlelight. Thanks to all of the re-enactors and village volunteers – the Iszler family, Seif family, Ann & Alexis Replogle, Jeff Van Nortwick, Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Laura McBeth, Jamie Bowman, Dan Harrow, John Merrick, and Troy Bass for bringing to life this part of our nation's history.



Rebels!

The June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> Yard Sales were attended by 60 vendors and several hundred community members. The Michigan Fiddlers Jamboree entertained the crowd with live music at the June sale. In July, the Antique Outboard Motor show delighted boating enthusiasts at the Recreation area. John Barany held a carving demonstration at both sales, helping attendees hone their carving skills. August Fest on August 18<sup>th</sup> featured a yard sale with 30 vendors plus an antique car show with 39 vehicles exhibited. More than 20 trophies and plaques were awarded the car owners and numerous door prizes were given out. Special thanks to Barry County Commissioner, Howard "Hoot" Gibson for his assistance with the events.



Young longbowman tries his luck with the turkey shoot

Over 800 participants and spectators came out to enjoy the 2012 Great Lakes Longbow Invitational on August 10-12. There were several 3D shooting courses through the woods around the village, the Sherwood Challenge, kids' shooting areas, and even a 21 arrow salute in the village on Saturday evening. Thanks to volunteers Joe Medendorp, Barb Howard, Steve Evans, Jack Boarts, and Dave Chase for their assistance in staffing the village buildings and keeping an eye on the grounds.

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## EDUCATION/COLLECTIONS

We had two groups come out in July (thanks to Wes & Georgia Robinson, Steve Evans, and Marie Morgan for their help), and Shannon and Marie traveled to Rockford for an outreach program. Those programs bring our total for the year to 45 programs serving 2335 students and adults. Thanks again to everyone for all of their help for the Spring/Summer education season, we really appreciate it.

Charlton Park's "Tree-rific" program for No Family Left Indoors on July 24<sup>th</sup> was well attended. 23 children and adults joined Shannon and Marie for a hike on one of the trails behind the village to learn about some of the Park's trees, and then met in the Village to enjoy root beer floats (root beer donated by the Walldorff Brewpub & Bistro) and explore the village.

***Space is filling up quickly for groups interested in visiting for the Fall 2012 education season, so don't delay in calling Shannon to book your spot. Don't forget!*** Schools in Barry County can come to the Park for **FREE** during this time – they only have to cover the transportation costs.

We said goodbye to our 2012 summer intern Marie Morgan on August 10<sup>th</sup>. During her time here she was involved with the educational programming, special events, house-keeping, and a myriad of other activities besides her collections project, which was to inventory, photograph and computerize the clothing collection held at Historic Charlton Park. This was a bigger task than we anticipated, but she persevered and was able to add over 300 items of clothing to the PastPerfect database. The staff will miss Marie and her cheerful personality and willingness to help where needed. We wish her the best of luck as she finishes at Central Michigan University and begins the hunt for employment!

Many volunteers are working on collections on a weekly basis. Mary Brinks and Sharon Zebrowski



Marie helping with Charlton Park Day set up

are working on the music collection. Judy Mudge has started entering thousands of postcards in the Park's collection. Rebecca Kyes is entering data and completing inventory on the ethnographic collection. Brian Wood is sorting and organizing a large collection of letters dating as far back as the Civil War. Vance Higdon spent time helping to date and identify the foreign pocket watches in the collection, while Jack and Grace Neubecker have continued with the American pocket watches. Also, Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, and Roberta Meeker assisted Marie Morgan with her inventory of the clothing collection. Thanks to everyone's efforts, close to 15,000 artifacts have been entered into the database!

## VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The Fall Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will be held on Thursday, September 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., just a few days prior to the Pow Wow. Come and enjoy delicious food, talk with your fellow volunteers, and hear about the projects you have all been working on. Education program volunteers please bring your Fall calendars – the season is quickly filling up with groups, and we need your help!

We would like to thank the following people for their work with the buildings and gardens this summer. Positive Directions for helping keep the buildings looking wonderful, the MSU Master Gardeners for their work with the Sixberry gardens, Mary Brinks for her cultivation of the Hall House garden, Roberta Meeker for her magic with the Upjohn House garden, and Nick Barlow and David Decker for their green thumbs with the Bristol Inn garden.



Hall House Garden

Please give a warm welcome to new volunteers Laura McBeth and Brian Wood! Laura is assisting with special events, and Brian is helping with collections projects.

## Contact Information

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Hours of Operation:  
Open 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

A portion of the historic village will be open every-  
day from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. through mid-October.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>September 1</b>           | <b>Havoc in Hastings</b><br><b>10 a.m. - 4 p.m.</b><br><b>\$6/Adults, \$3/Children</b><br><b>FREE 4 and under</b>  |
| <b>September 15 &amp; 16</b> | <b>Walk in the Spirit Pow Wow</b><br><b>10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Sat.</b><br><b>10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sun.</b><br><b>\$5/Adults, \$3/Children</b><br><b>FREE 4 and under</b>         |
| <b>October 6, 13, 20</b>     | <b>Ghost Hunts with M.G.S</b><br><b>7:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.</b><br><b>\$15/person, <i>LIMIT 15 PEOPLE</i></b><br><b>Children under 18 must</b><br><b>be joined by an adult</b> |
| <b>October 27</b>            | <b>All Hallows Eve</b><br><b>3 p.m. - 6 p.m.</b><br><b>\$3/Adult</b><br><b>12 &amp; under are FREE</b>   |