

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

PARK HAPPENINGS

The Michigan Paranormal Research Society investigated several buildings in the historic village overnight on May 20th. On June 29th, the research team screened their results for curator Claire Johnston and intern Christina Heady. Their discoveries are quite interesting and we are looking forward to sharing the video soon!



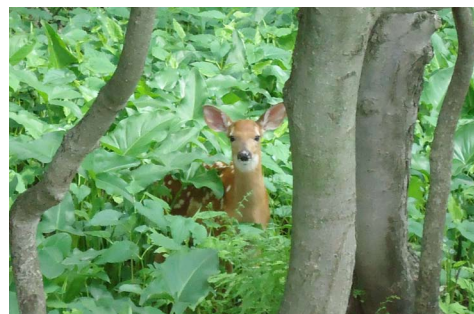
You may have noticed some bright green and purple boxes up in the recreation area recently. Those boxes were mounted by the U.S. Forest Service and Michigan State University to detect and study the Emerald Ash Borer. Historic Charlton Park has

a grove of ash trees in the recreation area. The boxes you see are sticky traps. Scientists know that the Emerald Ash Borer is attracted to the color purple and to the smell of ash trees and the bugs are removed from the sticky traps and counted each week. We are pleased to be assisting with the effort to stop an invasive species. <http://emeraldashborer.info/>

The turtles have been on the move this summer, with

many large female turtles trundling around to lay their eggs.

Also, many fawns have been spotted around the Park, one was photographed by director Dan Patton (photo).



Historic

Charlton Park participated in Maranda's Park Party on July 7th at the Barry County Expo Center. According to reports, there were 6,500 children and adults out for the free event with food, rides, entertainment and giveaways. Park staff members Christina Heady, Claire Johnston and Roger Smith handed out 1,800 balloons to children attending the event. It was a wonderful day!

The last of the signs for the Exhibition Hall have been delivered and installed thanks to Media Rare!

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Summer is that time of year where Charlton Park serves as the gathering place for thousands of people from our community and across this great State. This summer has proven once again to be a "destination location" for many to enjoy the sights and sounds of yesteryear and today. I continue to be amazed by the kindness and generosity of so many volunteers, sponsors, and patrons who wish to make us part of their seasonal activities. Join us in celebrating the second half of summer 2011 and make your own history right here at Charlton Park. Thank you all for making the Park such a wonderful place to visit and enjoy.



Thank You
& Visit Us
Soon,

Dan Patton,
Director

Photo by Andrew Freemire

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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

Charlton Park Day on May 28th was once again



Kris Hitchcock and Small Town Son

a huge success with approximately 1,000 visitors out to celebrate the Park's 75th birthday and enjoy free food and entertainment! This year's main musical act was Kris Hitchcock and Small Town Son with several local acts also playing for the crowd. Volunteers demonstrated, baked, led activities and provided information to visitors. Thank you to Jeff VanNortwick, Herb McPeake, Pam Tobias, Lois Bremer, Carol & John Foley, Joe Medendorp, Dan Harrow, Elaine Drury, Christina Heady, Judith Kidder, Jamie Bowman, Dave Leavitt, Barb Howard, Lorena Wright, Ann & Alexis Replogle, Georgia Robinson, Brian Reynolds, Elaine Denton, Andrew Freemire and Elspeth Inglis for helping in the village. Robert & Marian Houtman and Craig Stolsonburg passed out balloons and popcorn. Kraig Leathers, Rose Heaton and Jack Reffett helped park cars. Janet & Wayne Lydy, Don Nevins, Liz Nevins, Ben Geiger and Glen Smith served food in the snack bar. Susan Barnaart, Sarah Carroll, Dora Leonard, Katie Newburn, Leslie Pertz and Melissa Patton for painted many little faces too! We very much appreciate everyone giving so freely of their time to make Charlton Park Day a success!

The Father's Day Car Show was held on June 19th and was the biggest show the organizers have had in several years! There were just shy of 800 show vehicles and 4,700 paying visitors, if you add at least 2 people in each show car (those in show cars enter at no charge), the numbers shoot up to 6,300!



Thank you to: Kerri Steward, Lois Bremer, Dan Harrow, Joe Medendorp, Judith Kidder, Marlene Simon, Allison Eaton, Carol & John Foley, Jamie Bowman,

Christina Heady, Herb McPeake and Lorena Wright for running the historic village! Many prizes were awarded to show cars, winner in the "Director's Choice" category is below.

The annual Old-Fashioned 4th of July and Veterans Barbeque was fun for the whole family! The event attracted around 700 visitors for the barbeque buffet, tribute and flag raising by the American Legion and games on the green. 9 pies were donated to the pie auction, which raised \$220 towards the cost of the event with Operations Supervisor, Tom Campbell serving as auctioneer. Pie judges this year were Jeff VanNortwick, Jack Reffett and Ben Geiger. Judith Kidder served as event recorder for the games, with helper Alexis Replogle, and judged the "Most Freckles" contest. Elaine Drury and Marlene Simon kept an eye on the village buildings and Ann Replogle, Crystal Harris, Christina Heady, Lenny Smith and Lorena Wright served as judges and place keepers for the other games. Uncle Sam (Jeff VanNortwick) was a hit, Andrew Freemire took wonderful photos and Andy Johnston was a fabulous MC. Thanks to everyone that volunteered and came out to celebrate!



Photo by Andrew Freemire

The 40th Annual Gas and Steam Engine Show went off with only a slight hitch July 8th and 9th. 850 visitors enjoyed the show both days, with 8 teams competing in the Horsepulling Competition on the 8th. Visitors were treated to sawmill and shingling demonstrations, tractor games and a parade both days. Unfortunately, an area wide power outage at 3 p.m. on the 9th brought the show to an early end, but everyone in attendance enjoyed the day! Village volunteers for the show were Allison Eaton, the Iszler Family, Joe Medendorp, Dan Harrow, Chris Pillars, Judith Kidder, Carissa White, Marlene Simon, Kerri Steward, Elaine Drury, Ann & Alexis Replogle, Jamie Bowman, Lorena Wright, Joel Maiville and Lois Bremer. Thank you to all of the Gas and Steam Club members that made the show a success!

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EDUCATION/COLLECTIONS

We are on track to have big numbers for education programs this year! 2,051 students and adults participated in the education programs this spring and with 4 groups booked this summer and another fall with FREE programs for Barry County schools - we are excited about the success of the programs! Thanks go to Glen Smith, Barb Turkal, Shirley Barnum, Elaine Drury, Ruby Cairns, Bess Gross, Wes Robinson, Kerri Steward, Lorena Wright, Christina Heady, Bonnie David and Lois Bremer for all of their hard work!

The Park participated in No Family Left Indoors for the first time on June 14th. Claire Johnston and Christina Heady ran this FREE event for 67 visitors! Children and adults were able to play old time games: cat's cradle, grace rings, hoops and sticks and blind man's bluff. They also received a brief introduction to the Lee Schoolhouse and had some cookies and juice. The program was a huge success and we hope to participate again in 2012! www.barryoutdoorfun.com



Claire Johnston & Christina Heady prepare to enter the barn.

We have started to inventory and computerize the objects stored in the barn near the Director's residence. The barn was originally intended to be temporary storage when objects were placed there in the mid-1990s and due to that, many of the items are in various states of disrepair. This process will help assess the condition of all objects housed in the barn and allow staff to make decisions about their future. Very special thanks to the brave volunteers assisting with this project: Dave Chase, Jack Boarts, Roberta Meeker, Barb Crawford, Sharon Zebrowski, Kerri Steward and Jamie Bowman.

Lorena Wright has almost completed the catalog and inventory of the pipe collection, Judy Mudge is working diligently in the archives and Georgia Robinson has started working on the hats. Intern Christina Heady is in the process of finishing up various projects

and her last day is July 29th.

The Hall House couch has been recovered! The sofa was looking a little faded and now looks great (photo). The cuspidor (ladies spittoon) in the Bristol Inn was also recovered.



OPERATIONS UPDATE

With the summer season upon us, the Maintenance Department has been busy prepping for the shows and keeping up with the mowing! The roads have also been graded with chloride applied to keep the dust down. The roof on the sawmill received a new coat of paint and so did the restrooms at the beach (photo).



VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

Please welcome new volunteers Crystal Harris, Chris Pillars and Carissa White to the volunteer core. Crystal will be assisting with special events and possibly collections activities, Chris works in the blacksmith shop typically and Carissa is learning the art of weaving.

Refer a friend; we are looking for more volunteers! Word of mouth is one of the most effective ways to attract new volunteers, tell your friends why you love volunteering at the Park and encourage them to consider becoming a part of the team. Here is a link to the volunteer application: http://www.charltonpark.org/get_involved/volunteer/application.html.

We are in need of a carpenter familiar with old time tools to volunteer for our bigger events. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please get in touch with Claire Johnston (Claire.Johnston@charltonpark.org).

We are still looking for someone to make costumes.

Contact Information

Dan Patton - Director

Dan.Patton@charltonpark.org

Tom Campbell - Operations Supervisor

Maintenance@charltonpark.org

Linda Ferris - Bookkeeper/Office Manager

Linda.Ferris@charltonpark.org

Claire Johnston - Curator/Education Coordinator

Claire.Johnston@charltonpark.org

Keith Murphy - Assistant

Keith.Murphy@charltonpark.org

Deb Smith - Special Events Coordinator

Debbie.Smith@charltonpark.org

Roger Smith - Grounds and Maintenance

www.charltonpark.org

(269) 945-3775 - fax (269) 945-0390

Hours of Operation:

Open 7 days a week 8 am - 9 pm

The historic village is open from 9 am - 4 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16 & 17 **Civil War Muster**
16th (9 am - 9:45 pm)
17th (9 am - 3:30 pm)
Adults \$5, Kids \$3 (5 - 12)

July 23 **County Wide Yard Sale**
9 am - 3 pm, FREE

July 28-30 **Wood Carving Class**
9 am - 4 pm every day
Details: www.charltonpark.otg

August 12-14 **Great Lakes Longbow**
Invitational
Adults \$5, Kids 16 and
under FREE