

The Villager

During the winter months, *The Villager* will be abbreviated to two pages.

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 management of natural and recreation areas.

www.charltonpark.org (269) 945-3775



Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

EDUCATION

Once again, we had a great year for the education department. We held 83 programs throughout the year, bringing in approximately 4,550 children, teachers, and adult chaperones to the Park. 2015 is already filling up, so if you know anyone who would like to schedule a program, please have them contact the office.

Thanks so much to our fall education volunteers Jennifer Billings, Christyl and Jonah Burnett-Evans, Janice Crane, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Carol Foley, Claire Herhold, and Barb Turkal for all their help to make this a successful season - braving wind, rain and snow to bring a piece of history to our student visitors.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

Thank you to all of the volunteers that made great strides entering information into our collections database! We have a total of 18,132 individual artifacts entered into the database with 26,454 photos for those artifacts.

Summer intern Katherine Ponsetto visited in December to return the exhibit *Trending Now* to storage and *Food, Water, Shelter: The Business of Yesterday* has also been taken down in preparation for four new exhibits in 2015! Together the Thornapple Arts Council and Historic Charlton Park are proud to host a juried Barry County Artists Exhibition to be on display at Historic Charlton Park in the fall of 2015. All artists 18 years or older residing in Barry County are eligible. Only original art work of the artist's own design, completed in the last two years, should be entered (fee applies). Digital media, 2-D, and 3-D works in any medium will be accepted. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2015 and application and eligibility information can be found on the Thornapple Arts Council's website www.thornapplearts.org.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook as we announce special programming for exhibits on top of our already full event schedule!

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Welcome to 2015! I am not sure where 2014 went in such a hurry but I am certainly excited about 2015 and all the great things going on here at Charlton Park. With all the planning and preparation our staff is currently doing for 2015 it is shaping up to be our best year ever.

If you haven't visited Charlton Park in while, then you will want to lace up your shoes and venture out to our Park and Village to see some of the exciting events, rotating exhibit displays, hike the trails, or enjoy many of the other exciting opportunities for you and the whole family this year.

Many of the opportunities we have here at Historic Charlton Park would not be possible without the continued support of the citizens of Barry County and our many volunteers, and we thank you for that. As we forge ahead into the new year, I hope everyone takes the time to visit us and create new lifelong memories with their family and friends.

We look forward to serving you and the entire community of Barry County and the surrounding area in 2015 and please contact any of our wonderful and courteous staff if you have any questions or comments.

Visit Us Soon,
Dan Patton, Director

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

EVENT NEWS

Our final event of 2014, Of Christmas Past, was held on December 13 and 14, from 12-5 p.m. on both days. We saw record numbers for this event, 1,150 guests for the weekend! The dry, warm weather and the lower gas prices definitely helped our friends to come out and see us.

Guests were treated to old favorites like cornhusk crafts, cinnamon-sugar apples, wassail, candle dipping and roast chestnuts, but also some new things - old-fashioned chocolate caramels and working Christmas crackers! Live music was provided by the Thornapple Wind Band and Thornapple Brass on Saturday, and the Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society on Sunday.

Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered their time to assist with this event. Thanks to Dave Anderson, Joanne, Thomas, and Lucy Barnard (both days), Shirley Barnum, Jennifer Billings, Jamie Bowman, Elaine Drury, Rick Figger, Carol and John Foley, Nicole Goto, Pat and Megan Graham, Barb



Howard, Andy Johnston, Judith Kidder, Veronica Klein, Herb McPeake (both days), Maiya and Jon Merrick, Jack Miner, Jeff Van Nortwick, Zach Pinkster, Tim Raymond, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Brian Reynolds (both days), Wes and Georgia Robinson, Darlene and Amanda Rumsey, Tim (both days) and Lisa Rumsey, Jenn, Emma, and Rosa Seif, Mike Snyder, Joel TeVelde, Barb Turkal, and Sharon Zebrowski for assisting during the event. Thanks to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Roberta Meeker, and Sharon Zebrowski for all their help in preparing swags, making paper chains, and cutting corn husk before the event.

BOOK YOUR EVENT

As the calendar turns to a new year, it's the perfect time to think of booking your spring and summer events at Charlton Park. Contact us to reserve a date for your fun filled wedding, reunion, picnic or party today. Rental facilities are available for groups and budgets of all sizes and 2015 dates are filling up quickly. Please visit our website for rental photos and information or contact Stacey in the Park office for further details.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT TOM CAMPBELL

After 12 years of service to Historic Charlton Park, our operations supervisor Tom Campbell retired at the end of 2014. We are sad to see him go, but know he will be keeping himself busy and stop by and see us when he can! In his own words, this is what Tommy had to say:



I started working at Charlton Park in May of 2002. At that time the Upjohn house was under renovation and the offices were in the first floor of the museum. The park has undergone many other changes since that time including a drainage system, painting buildings, fixing picnic tables, building the exhibition barn, moving the artifacts to the new barn, and tearing down the machine shed. These are just some of the bigger projects that have been completed since I started working at Historic Charlton Park.

There is no doubt that many other changes are sure to come. I have been lucky enough to meet many great people while working the many events that are hosted at the park.

I have enjoyed working with all of the staff and volunteers. It's a fantastic place to work and visit. But now, it is now time for me to retire. I am hoping to travel and work on my honey-do list (which is extensive). I will miss everyone but I will be sure to visit.

