

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

PARK HAPPENINGS

The DNR came out to the Thornapple Lake to collect muskies for spawning and genetic research in April. They had a difficult time finding females and had to come back an extra day to get what they needed. They set nets, stripped the eggs and fertilized them. The eggs were then taken to Wolf Lake for hatching. The DNR conducts a variety of tests on the fish they catch.



The new website is up! If you have not had a chance to check it out, please go to www.charltonpark.org and give it a try! You can rent facilities, book education programs, fill out online applications, view all the details for special events, visit our blog or connect with us on Facebook! Our new site is user friendly and provides visitors with all the information they need.

The "Charlton Park Memories" articles have been well received by readers of the *Reminder*. If you have not seen the articles, you can find them on our website in the News Room. If you are interested in

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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.

contributing, please contact Keith Ferris by phone or e-mail Keith.Ferris@charltonpark.org.

The excavation of the mission house will kick off on May 15th at 8:30 a.m. The dig will once again be led by Dr. Dale Borders of GVSU. Thank you to Jack Boarts and Dave Chase for getting the site cleaned up before excavation begins. The presentations concerning the Indian Landing excavation went very well in March and April. If you would like to see clips of the presentation please visit the website or find them on the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/charltonpark.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

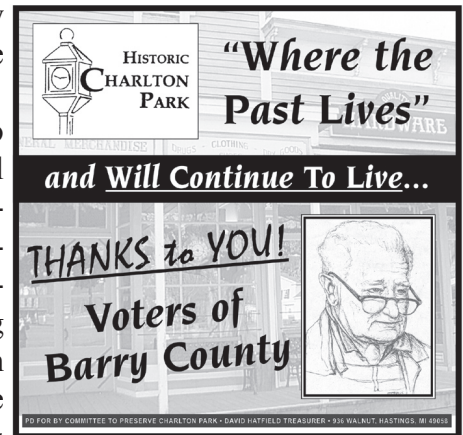
We had 1,252 people attend the 4th Charlton Park Day! Weather was great!! It was a great success!!! A good time was had by all. We served 1,700 HOT DOGS!!!

The Charlton Park millage renewal was approved on May 4th by a wide margin 62 % yes, to 38 % no. I am very pleased with the outcome.

I would like to thank Jan Neil and Jean Hammond for outfitting the maintenance building and the Upjohn House Carriage Barn windows with curtains.

We have started construction on a primitive interpretive walking trail that will start at Walnut Grove, and go west to the log cabin then exit on the south drive. The trail should hopefully be completed by mid to late August.

Thank you for all you do at Charlton Park!
Keith Ferris
Director



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EVENT NEWS

The first event of the season was held May 1st, Charlton Park Day. The event was very well attended with 1252 guests coming out to spend the day. There were many non-profits represented on



By: Photographic Memory

the village green with bubble blowing from the Barry County libraries and K-9 One Search and Rescue doing a demonstration. Cowboy Tom Campbell performed his fancy roping and the Jessica Price Band performed for the crowd. The volunteers were out in full force baking bread, cookies, and demonstrating spinning, crocheting and weaving. There was also a quilt display set up in the Church for visitors to enjoy. Volunteers for the day were (in no particular order): Carol and John Foley, Linda Antonini, Wes and



By: Photographic Memory

Georgia Robinson, James and Brogan Tyler, Jon and Maiya Merrick, Lois Bremer, Judith & Eugene Kidder, Andy, Johnston, Jamie Bowman, Kerri Steward, Bev Overbeck, Andrew Freemire, Glen Smith, Elspeth Inglis, Elaine Denton, Bob & Marian Houtman, Don Nevins, Mike Bremer, Pam Ferris, Jan Lydy, Craig Stolsonburg, Janette Dean, Jack Reffett, Jeff VanNortwick, Kraig Leathers, Brian Reynolds, Ron Avery, Lloyd Merchant, Dave Leavitt and Nick Barlow. Volunteers worked in the buildings, passed out popcorn and balloons, drove the trams, worked in the snack bar and a myriad of other activities. Last but not least, the Gas and Steam Club members who helped run the sawmill! Thank you, the event would not have been possible without you!

Also, the Tri-Rivers Museum Tour: Spring Into the Past, was also going on Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd. The museum tour is for the 20 museums and historical societies along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple Rivers. A punch card keeps track of the member museums you visit and you can register to win a cash prize at the beginning of September.

The first yard sale of the year is coming up on May 22nd from 9 am–3 pm. If you are interested in reserving a spot the cost is \$10 for a 15x30 spot.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

New signs have been installed around the Park. There is a new one in the recreation area directing visitors to the beach and boat launch and another across



from the Upjohn House. That sign provides event calendars, walking tour guides, and indicates whether buildings are open or closed. There are also new signs directing visitors to severe weather shelters.

The white restroom is open and the floors have been waxed and polished in the Church basement and stone restrooms. Mowing and prepping for the event and recreation season has occupied them as well.

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The spring volunteer luncheon was held on Saturday, April 24th. For the first time in many years the day was fine, no snow or rain clouded the sky! Fifty volunteers and board members enjoyed a lunch of macaroni and cheese, fruit salad and cookies, while listening to Board Chairman Kraig Leathers, Park Director Keith Ferris, and Curator Claire Johnston talk about the past year. After the luncheon, a training session was held for special event volunteers to discuss interpretation techniques, costuming and future volunteer activities. Thank you everyone for attending!

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SAY HELLO TO SARAH

Welcome to Sarah Hayes, Charlton Park's summer intern. She started May 3rd and will be with us full time for the next 12 weeks. Sarah's hometown is in Bellaire, MI; a small village about an hour north of Traverse City. She has one younger sister and two pet lizards, Jack and Howard. In the fall of 2008, Sarah graduated from Central Michigan University with a double major Bachelors of Science degree in Geography and History. In the fall of 2009, she moved to Ypsilanti, MI to attend graduate school at Eastern Michigan University. There she studies Historical



Preservation and also teaches undergraduate Earth Science Labs. In her spare time she enjoys reading science fiction books, sewing and other crafts and traveling

around the country and world. Sarah will be assisting with education programs and also be responsible for inventory, cataloging and rehousing of the clock collection. We are very excited to have her on board!

WINDMILL

The windmill next to the Upjohn House is now in working order again thanks to the maintenance staff. The Baker windmill was purchased in 2005, and has not operated properly in the last 2 years. Keith Murphy, Roger Smith and Tom Campbell (pictured) put in 57 hours and less than \$300 in parts since January to get the mill running again. They were assisted by Neal Yerian of www.windmill-parts.com. The windmill looks wonderful! More information about the windmill will be available on our blog over the coming weeks. Visit www.charltonpark.wordpress.com.



EDUCATION/COLLECTIONS

The collection volunteers have completed many projects this year. The library books have been moved and cataloged, the quilts have been



boxed, photographed and cataloged and the black ash baskets are almost in the system. Having all of these projects completed has allowed us to move into the backlog of items that need to be entered into the system. Thank you to Lorena Wright, Georgia Robinson, Judy Mudge, Kerri Steward, Jack Boarts and Dave Chase for all of their help.

The education programs are now in full swing! There will a group almost every day from now until the middle of June. Thank you to Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Bess Gross, Glen Smith, Wes and Georgia Robinson, Judith Kidder, Jack Reffett, Bob May, Barb Turkal, Lois Bremer, Kerri Steward and Lorena Wright for all of their assistance with the programs.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Two classes will be offered on May 22nd.

Beginner's Blacksmith Course: The class will be taught by James Tyler. Beginners will learn the basics of blacksmithing and how to make a roasting fork. The class runs from 9 am–11:30 am. There is no cost for the course, but space is limited to 6 and you must reserve your spot by contacting Claire Johnston by phone or e-mail Claire.Johnston@charltonpark.org.

Beginner's Crochet Class: In this crochet class you will learn how to crochet a scarf and drink coasters. You will discuss the different types of hooks, thread and yarn available for crochet. This is a beginning crochet class for a person that has never touched a hook before or just needs a refresher course. Cost for class is \$8, all supplies for projects included, from 12-2 pm. Class will be taught by Kerri Steward. Space is limited to 6 and you must reserve your spot by contacting Claire Johnston by phone or e-mail Claire.Johnston@charltonpark.org.

Charlton Park Village & Museum
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Hours of Operation:

Memorial Day-Labor Day: Mon.-Sun. 8am-9pm

Historic Village: 9am-4pm, Free Admission

Labor Day-Memorial Day: Mon-Fri. 8am-5pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 22 **County Wide Yard Sale/
Swap Meet/Flea Market/
Arts, Crafts & Direct Sales
9 am - 3 pm, FREE**

June 20 **The 29th Annual Father's
Day Car Show
8 am - 5 pm
Adults \$5, Kids \$3 (5-12)
Under 4 FREE**

June 26 **County Wide Yard Sale/
Swap Meet/Flea Market/
Arts, Crafts & Direct Sales
9 am - 3 pm, FREE**