



HISTORIC CHARLTON PARK

Village, Museum & Recreation Area
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATION'S LARGEST LONGBOW-ONLY EVENT COMING TO CHARLTON PARK

Archery enthusiasts looking for a weekend of fun & friendly competition are invited to the annual Great Lakes Longbow Invitational at Historic Charlton Park, August 8-11.

Hosted by the Michigan Longbow Association (MLA), the event includes archery-related activities for all ages and skill levels. Activities include tomahawk throwing, and breaking clays at the 'Ol Sagamore Turkey Shoot, along with numerous competitions and 3D courses. Another highlight is MLA story night, where guests can hear archery experts around the campfire. A coached children's range with bows and arrows provided is available throughout the weekend for young archers looking to begin their longbow adventure, and a nondenominational church service is held in the Carlton Center Church at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Many traditional archery vendors will be onsite selling custom made items and there will be a trade blanket and barn raffle for those looking to barter or pick up archery odds and ends. Demonstrations catered to the outdoor enthusiast, including bow building and flint knapping, will take place throughout the event near the gas and steam barn. Commemorative hats and t-shirts will also be on sale and discounted for MLA members. A food vendor will be onsite serving ice cream and Charlton Park's beach and boat launch will also be available for guests.

The MLA was formed in 1983 by a small group of longbow enthusiasts who wanted to promote the use of the longbow, and enjoy the camaraderie of other traditional archers who enjoy the sport. Since then, hundreds of members across the U.S. and abroad have joined the ranks of the MLA; including many Barry County residents. MLA membership is only \$20 and includes unlimited shooting all weekend, a subscription to the quarterly magazine, *STICKTALK*, and members-only discounts on MLA merchandise at archery events throughout the year.

"Our goal as MLA members is simple: teach people about the longbow and archery, and promote an appreciation of the outdoors. There are few activities as inclusive and unifying as archery, and the longbow is a beacon for all of the above. We love nothing more than sharing it with folks," stated John Buchin, MLA President.

Due to the MLA's mission and the traditional nature of the event, adults are required to shoot longbows only (no compounds, recurves, or horse bows). Children under 16 may shoot recurve bows, and loaner equipment is available from Association members. Event admission is \$6.00 per person, ages 16+ (not including shooting fees). Gate fee and activities are free for children 15 and under. Fees for adult MLA membership and shoots are payable at the event. Shooting options range from \$25 for the entire weekend to \$8 per round.

Charlton Park is located between Hastings & Nashville, at 2545 S. Charlton Park Road, just north of M-79. For additional event information, visit www.michiganlongbow.org/glli.