



September/October 2016

OPERATIONS UPDATE

It has been a busy fall in the maintenance department. They prepped the recreation area for the cross country meet, a task that included branch removal on the trails, mowing High Meadows at different levels to show the race route and spectator area, and marking



spots that might trip up runners. There was also set-up for All Hallows Eve, which included setting up “The Amazing Maze,” (photo) gathering pumpkins to display outside of buildings, and blowing leaves out of the village. With the peak of fall colors over, the leaves have fallen and removal has been an ongoing process. Winterization of the recreation area is in progress and we are almost ready for the big snow to fall.

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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 management of natural and recreation areas.

www.charltonpark.org (269) 945-3775



Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Wow it really is amazing how another year has come and gone ever so quickly. There are many things we here at Historic Charlton Park have to be thankful for. Another event season is under our belts, school groups are about to wrap-up their visits for this fall season, and “Of Christmas Past” celebrations are about to begin.

Our thankfulness this Holiday season would not be complete without thanking the citizens of Barry County who have once again shown their support for Historic Charlton Park by renewing the Historic Charlton Park Millage. This facility and our operations would not be possible without that support! While we celebrate this wonderful success it is somewhat tempered by the looming issue of how we fund the many capital improvement projects that need our attention. The Historic Charlton Park board and staff will be tackling this topic and many others in the coming year and we look forward to working with our stakeholders to facilitate working solutions.

I encourage each of you to make this Holiday season extra special and enjoy the “Of Christmas Past” celebration at Historic Charlton Park. Create a new

tradition or recreate the extra special celebration that you experienced years ago at Grandma’s house. Either way we hope to see each one of you this Holiday season.

I hope everyone has a happy and wonderful Holiday season to close out a spectacular 2016. We look forward to serving you in 2017.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Sincerely,

Dan Patton, Director
Historic Charlton Park



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

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 3rd Annual Barry County Outdoor Recreation Youth Day was held on September 10. A great crowd of children and their families attended a fun-filled day featuring giveaways and outdoor activities hosted by the Barry Conservation District and numerous community partners.

The Fall Harvest Festival was hosted by the Barry County and Charlton Park Antique Gas & Steam Engine Clubs on September 23-25. Over 635 spectators and exhibitors were treated to home-made cookies baked on a wood stove, apple cider, steamed apples, pumpkin painting, a quilt display (photo), demonstrations, and a tractor pull; all while admiring the antique machinery in the Park. Thanks to both clubs and Village volunteers Jamie Bowman, Laura McBeth, Joie Perry, Tim Raymond, Ann Replogle, Tim Rumsey, Jr., Emma and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, and James Tyler for all of their help.



The Park partnered with the Hastings Area Schools Athletic Department to host its first Interstate 8 Conference Jamboree for middle and high school cross country teams (the last one held at the Park was in 1994!) on October 11. Over 450 middle and high school co-ed runners from the region participated (photo). A special thanks to Steve Collins, HHS Cross Country Coach for putting this together.



October 15 and 16 the Park was a stop for Arts and Eats, a back roads tour of Allegan and Barry counties' farms, galleries, and restaurants. 120 visitors stopped by the village to check out the *Barry County Artists Exhibition* and tour the historic village.

The annual All Hallows Evening celebration took place on Saturday, October 29. What great fun it was for over 1,200 guests to enjoy a festive time of trick or treating in the historic village, along with

wagon rides, an autumn-themed maze, donuts, cider, popcorn balls and balloons. Thanks to everyone who came out, there were such creative costumes this year (photo)! Thanks also to Bob Becker, Jennifer Billings, Jamie Bowman and Bonnie Shade, Christyl and Jonah



Burnett-Evans, Walt Eavey, John Foley, Dan and Anna Harrow, Shirley Head, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Butch and Fran Lindstrom and Jordan Houdyshell, Herb McPeake, Joie Perry, Tim Raymond, Ann Replogle, Jon Resseguie and Desiree Kowalewski, Amanda, Darlene, Margarete, Lisa, and Tim Rumsey, Jenn, Emma, and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, and Bob Spaulding for their help in handing out candy and assisting with activities in the village.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The *Barry County Artists Exhibition* opened with a special artist's reception and awards presentation on Thursday, September 29th. Approximately 40 people attended the event with 1st place awarded to Doug Brinks, 2nd to Dennis O'Mara, and 3rd to Gregg Leudke. Honorable mentions were awarded to Christyl Burnett, Jodie Dilno, and Jeff Bours. The exhibit is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (except holidays) until December 11th. There is no charge to visit the exhibit. Thank you to all of the artists that submitted their work, the exhibit looks wonderful!

VOLUNTEERS CORNER

A very special thanks goes out to the crew at Barry County Mental Health Authority's Positive Directions campus that assisted once again with cleaning, event prep, office tasks and paper recycling this spring and summer. Thank you for your valuable help and keeping us looking our very best!

Thanks to Doug and Mary Brinks for sponsoring the vegetable garden, which was lovely this year. We also appreciate Roberta Meeker, Dave Chase, and Bev Overbeck helping to winterize all of the gardens.

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FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Charlton Park Village Foundation launched its 2016-17 Annual Giving Campaign on November 18, with a year-end fundraising mailing sent to 275 households. The Foundation was established in 1988 with the mission to provide funds to maintain the Park's historic collection, artifacts and buildings. Recognizing that financial assistance is needed to supplement the taxpayer supported .2259 mls used to currently operate the Park, the Foundation created an endowment fund to supplement Park improvements.

The interest from the fund supports annual projects and is used to repair and maintain our eighteen historic buildings which highlight our local heritage and are a unique source of community pride for more than 30,000 visitors annually. We need your help to continue making a significant difference at the Park. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Charlton Park Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. You can contact the Park Office for a pledge card or donate online.

EDUCATION

Between October 3 and December 2, the Park is host to 28 education programs, engaging in both the traditional year-round programs but also some seasonal Victorian Christmas programs. The fall season is once again free for schools in Barry County, so 2nd graders from the area will be coming out to enjoy a day at the Park. Thanks so much to presenters Jennifer Billings, Christyl and Jonah Burnett-Evans, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Dan Harrow, Claire Herhold, Andrea Hiler, and Keven Irving for all their help to make this a successful education season.

It is so amazing – the spring 2017 education calendar is quickly filling up! If you know a group that would like to visit the Park for one of our programs, let them know they should contact the office as soon as they can. If you'd like to get involved with the education programs, the education volunteers are a wonderful group of individuals with a love of sharing history with our elementary school friends. Plus, they are a great bunch to work with! If you are interested in volunteering with the education programs at Charlton Park please contact Shannon, we would love to have you!

PARK HAPPENINGS

Celebrating community pride and local heritage, Hastings Charter Township held a township meeting and ice cream social at their former facility, the Township Hall at the Park, on September 13. Thanks to our local residents for their continuing support of our wonderful Township Hall!

The Park's Historic Village has become a popular place for film crews!



The feature film, *Wild Faith*, shot footage with actors and producers on October 5-9 (photo), using the buildings and the surrounding woods. On October 23 Tommy Vale produced a promotional motorcycle video using the Village as his backdrop.

Ryan Smelker, a Hastings High School student, recently completed his Eagle Scout project by constructing benches that were placed along the river in the recreation area (photo). A special thanks to Padnos Recycling and Barry County Lumber for their contributions to the project.

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Thank you to the citizens of Barry County for their continued support of Historic Charlton Park! We are looking forward to the next seven years!



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Office Hours:
Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Of Christmas Past

December 10th and 11th

Noon - 5 p.m. both days

Come celebrate a Victorian Christmas
at Charlton Park!

Live music in the Church
Enjoy wassail and plum pudding
Make crafts and dip candles

\$6 for adults
\$4 for children 4 - 12 years

Keep up on our events and see photos by
checking out our page on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/charltonpark