



May/June 2014

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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

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The 43rd Annual Gas & Steam Engine show will be held on July 11 and 12 from 8 a.m. – dusk both days. The popular farm tractor pull will be back on July 12 at 11:30 a.m., and NEW this year a garden tractor pull will be held on the 11th at 6 p.m. Tractor games, including a unique twist on tug of war, will also be featured. Be sure to check out the new additions along with what you have come to know and love about the Gas & Steam Engine Show!



PARK HAPPENINGS



The Park would like to welcome Michelle Fisher to the “Charlton Park Family!” Michelle is interning at Charlton Park in a special events capacity until July 20. She attends Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac. “I’ve helped with the special events, which includes

assisting with finances, setting up events online, and being present during the events,” Michelle said. A Richland native, Michelle enjoys playing in her college band, theatre, reading and drawing.

Local Boy Scout Troop #3175 camped at the Park June 27-29. Thanks to the boys and leaders for performing the service task of stacking wood in preparation for upcoming events.

Charlton Park hosted 30 guests of the Michigan Township Association at its annual picnic on June 17. The Park was also a proud sponsor of the 3rd Annual Gus Macker Basketball Tournament in Downtown Hastings on June 28-29 and the 28th Annual Barry County Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing at Hastings Country Club on June 6.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The exhibit *Dinosaur Prep Lab and Bare Bones* wrapped up its run on June 27th. Paleo Joe’s exhibit and his visits on May 3 and June 7 were very popular. When all is said and done, approximately 4,308 people were able to visit the exhibits in the Museum Building. Paleo Joe will be back in 2015 with *Fossils of the Michigan Basin*. Look for an exciting new project with the Thornapple Arts Council too!



New displays are in development for the 2nd floor of the Museum Building’s display cases. Glassware and hunting/fishing equipment will be showcased thanks to Roberta Meeker, Sharon Zebrowski and Mary Brinks. Judy Mudge continues tirelessly entering information in the database from the archives and new volunteer Jane Supri is working on the coffee grinder collection. Jack Boarts and Dave Chase have been busily working on three new exhibit areas! They have completed repairs for the Sixberry Carriage House, gathered rocks in preparation for laying out the foundation of the Indian Landing Mission site, and built another temporary wall for use in the Museum Building exhibits!

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

EVENT NEWS

Spring Into the Past: Tri-Rivers Museum Tour was held on May 3 and 4. Over 80 visitors toured the historic village and visited the 22 other participating museums during the weekend. Paleo Joe visited on May 3, adding to the excitement of the event. All museums participating in the tour reported excellent attendance.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 8th Annual Charlton Park Day on May 24. The event was made possible by generous donors who funded the day's festivities for about 2,000 guests. Live music was provided in the church by talented banjo player, vocalist and Park Volunteer, Doug Brinks. Face painting was offered courtesy of the artistic talents of Melissa, Molly, Gavin & Grayson Patton and friends. The ever-popular bounce house was funded by the Charlton Park



Foundation. Shirley Barnum, Mary Brinks, Lori Cheeseman, Rob Garrett, Molli Garrett, Megan Graham, Pat Graham, Ben Geiger, Hoot Gibson, Dave Logan, Jan Lydy, Wayne Lydy, Jack Miner, Rick Moore, Lloyd Merchant, Keith Murphy, Julie Nakfoor-Pratt, Craig Stolsonburg, and Joyce Snow, assisted with the popular tram rides, free food and balloon stations. Booths with giveaways and information were hosted on the Village Green by the Barry County Animal Shelter, Central Dispatch, Road Commission, Commission on Aging, Historical Society, Sheriff's Posse, Transit, Drain Commission, Libraries, Hastings Women's Club, Lewis & Clark Living History Group, K9 One Search and Rescue, Thornapple Wind Band, Michigan Longbow Association, Charlton Park Civil War Committee and Charlton Park Gas & Steam Engine Club. WBCH 100.1 FM was present for a live remote broadcast. Interpretation was provided in buildings by Laura McBeth, Micala Klipfer, Lydia Endsley, Paul Leavitt, Jon Merrick, Lisa and Tim Rumsey,



Elaine Drury, Karen Koontz, Daleen Buckhout, KC Miller, Jenn, Emma, and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, Carol and John Foley, Linda Antonini, Barb Howard, Tonja Hamilton, Ann and Alexis Replogle, Herb McPeake, Butch and Fran Lindstrom, Sharon Zebrowski, Brian Reynolds, Regina Young, Lloyd Kilmer, and Mike Snyder. Thank you all for contributing to the success of the event!

The Father's Day Car Show was a beautiful day and an enormous success, with close to 900 show cars and approximately 8,000 people in attendance on June 15. Thank you to Elaine Drury, Sandy Daniel, Paul Leavitt, Lydia and Katie Endsley, Micala Klipfer, Veronica Klein, Keith Murphy, John Foley, and Butch and Fran Lindstrom for their assistance in being a presence in the village buildings and on the grounds.



Charlton Park played host to the CK&S Railfan Festival on June 20. The group utilized the Gas & Steam barn and the surrounding area with displays of model trains, memorabilia, and informational booths. There were also guest speakers and live music! Thanks to Jenn, Emma and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, Lisa and Tim Rumsey, Sandy Daniel, and Walt Eavey for their help in the village!

The first County Wide Yard Sale of 2014 was held Saturday, June 28. Hundreds of buyers searching for that special treasure and sellers looking to make some extra cash united for the day in the Park's beautiful Walnut Grove setting. Join us for another sale on July 26 and August 16!

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Operations department has been busy with event preparations and facility rentals this season. The seasonal campground was inspected and annual water testing is underway at the beach thanks to the Barry Eaton District Health Department. The stone restrooms received a fresh coat of paint and the Sixberry House steps have been rebuilt. A big part of their job this time of year is mowing. All of the rain has led to very healthy grass and extra hours on the mowers!

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VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

Charlton Park held an open house on April 9 for people interested in learning about volunteer opportunities at the Park. As a result, there are four volunteers that have been added to the corps! Please give a warm Charlton Park welcome to Lydia Endsley, Katie Endsley, Micala Klipfer, and Jane Supri. Lydia, Katie, and Micala have been a wonderful addition to the special events volunteer group, and Jane has taken on the task of assisting with collections projects. Welcome ladies!

Mary and Doug Brinks researched, designed and installed a new vegetable garden at the Bristol Inn. The raised beds help eliminate the drainage issues that have plagued the garden plot and the final design is wonderful! The gardens throughout the village look better than ever thanks to Roberta Meeker, and Mary and Doug Brinks.



EDUCATION

We had a bit of a later start to the education programs this season due to the cold temperatures of early spring, but it was a great season nonetheless! We saw 2,491 students and adults here this spring, and we're not done yet! There have been more summer education programs than we have had in many years. Thank you to Lois Bremer, Christyl and Jonah Burnett-Evans, Ruby Cairns, Janice Crane, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Kendra Friend, John Gallagher, Bess Gross, Wes and Georgia Robinson, and Barb Turkal for their assistance this year.

We continued our participation in the "No Family Left Indoors" series with "Compass Crusaders," a program about using a compass and orienteering. Participants learned the proper way to use a map compass, completed



a couple activities to hone their skills, and some even worked to complete our orienteering course. The program was well attended, and everyone had a great time!

The calendar is quickly filling up for the fall 2014 education season, and is filling up for spring 2015 almost as quick! If you are, or know a teacher that would be interested, please contact Shannon Ritzer – space for both the 2014/2015 seasons are limited!

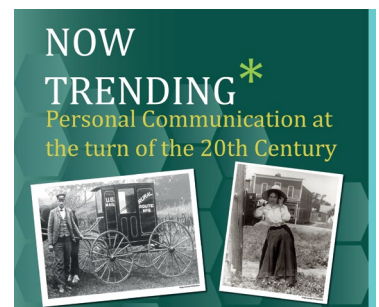
INTERN INSIGHTS

Exhibits and Collections intern Katie Ponsetto is pleased to announce the opening of her upcoming exhibit, *Now Trending: Personal Communication at the Turn of the 20th Century*. The exhibit focuses on the ways in which a faster postal system and the invention of telegraphs and

telephones changed people's communication patterns

just as cellphones, computers and the Internet have changed our own. Featuring a selection of postcards, telegraph keys, telephones, and other items, Katie hopes the exhibit makes visitors think about the impact these items had on the daily lives of the people who used them. *Now Trending* is the culmination of Katie's work as an intern this summer, which also included cataloging and educational programs. The exhibit opens July 19th during the Civil War Muster. Katie hopes visitors enjoy her exhibit as much as she has enjoyed putting it together.

It's been a busy few months for Claire Herhold as the education intern. She's been helping welcome field trip groups, leading programs in the Bristol Inn, Township Hall and Lee Schoolhouse. She put her blacksmith skills to good use interpreting the shop during the Father's Day Car Show. In addition, she has also developed a day camp program for ages six to ten in partnership with the local YMCA. The programming highlights the unique natural and cultural resources here at Charlton Park and two groups of campers have already had a great time!



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Office Hours:

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11-12 **43rd Annual Gas & Steam
Engine Show**
8 a.m. – Dusk Both Days
\$5/adults \$3/children 5-12

July 19-20 **Civil War Muster**
9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sat.
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sun.
\$5/adults, \$3/children 5-12

July 26 **County Yard Sale &
Antique Outboard Motor Show**
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. FREE

August 8-10 **Longbow Invitational**
\$5/Adult, 16 & under FREE

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

www.facebook.com/charltonpark