



May/June 2015

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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](http://www.charltonpark.org) (269) 945-3775



Banner photo courtesy of Photographic Memory

## PARK HAPPENINGS

Charlton Park is pleased to welcome Katie Ponsetto back to the seasonal staff! Katie (a recent graduate of Loyola University and a 2010 Hastings High School graduate) has returned as the Programming and Recreation intern. She'll spend her time assisting with public programs, special events, and working on a project involving the trails around the Park.

A new team member has joined the Park's Maintenance staff! Keven Irving of Hastings began working part-time in maintenance and security at the Park on June 5. In his free time, Keven enjoys playing the guitar and spending time with his daughter, Mercedes, and friends.

## INTERN INSIGHTS

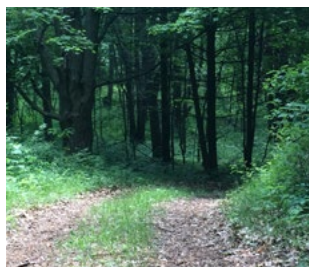


Liz has been busy with her Exhibition Hall project as her internship comes to an end on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Over the past three months she has been working in the Irving D. Charlton Memorial Museum, Exhibition Hall and Pole Barn. During this time, she

has worked with the education programs, special events, and assisted with the installation of *Test of a Nation, Honor of a County* exhibit on the first floor of the museum, as well as the installation of the *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* exhibit on the second floor. Currently, she is working on finishing touches to her Final Report, developing a new Exhibition Hall layout, as well as creating a structure to mount the dugout canoes (photo) in the Exhibition Hall. She is excited to see how the finish product turns out!



Katie is designing signs and educational programming for the Park's trail system as part of the Programs & Recreation Internship. These new signs will highlight different ecological and environmental details surrounding the trails to accentuate the natural resources and landscape of Charlton Park. Katie is already in the process of writing content for several of the planned signs and has thoroughly enjoyed familiarizing herself with the trails over the last couple weeks. In addition to the trail signs, she is working on educational materials to compliment the signs and promote further learning on the trails. She has also worked on the installation of *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, assisted with education programs, and helped out at the special events. She is happy to be back at Charlton Park and has enjoyed the new experiences so far.



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

## EDUCATION

We say it every year, but wow, the education season went FAST! We saw 2,490 students, teachers, and adult chaperones at the Park this spring, and we still have a couple programs sprinkled throughout the summer season. Thanks so much to Colleen Acker, Jennifer Billings, Liz Bonora, Ruby Cairns, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Carol Foley, Claire Herhold, Katie Ponsetto, Wes and Georgia Robinson, and Barb Turkal for all their help this season!

Once again we took part in the “No Family Left Indoors” series of evening programs with “Art in Nature” on June 30 (photo). Participants had a chance to explore the village area and create pieces of art with the items they picked up along the way. Although the skies threatened rain for much of the day, it was a great turnout – we had 53 artists join us.



The calendar is quickly filling up for the fall 2015 education season, and is filling up for spring 2016 almost as quick! If you are, or know a teacher that would be interested, please contact Shannon Pinkster – space for both the 2015/2016 seasons are limited!

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The Civil War Muster will be held on July 18 and 19, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday. Modern-day men, women, and children transform into 1860s civilians and military persons, and are eager to share their love of history with guests! This year, *both* of the battles during the weekend will be held in the High Meadows area of the Park. Please be sure to bring seating and ear protection. See you there!

## COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITS

The Collections and Exhibits department has been busy! Judy Mudge is doing a wonderful job computerizing the ethnographic collection.

*Fossils of the Michigan Basin* closed on June 26, but *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* opened on July 9! This traveling exhibit examines how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War—the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. Thank you to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, Roberta Meeker, Sharon Zebrowski, and Ann Replogle for all of their help installing the exhibit.



The National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized the traveling exhibition, which was made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A series of *free* public programs will be offered during the run of the exhibit, with a special opening event being held on July 17 from 6-8 pm.

## VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

Please give a big Charlton Park welcome to Colleen Acker! Colleen has joined the volunteer corps assisting with the education programs. We are so glad that she has chosen to spend her time with us!

A big thanks goes to all of our volunteers for all the hard work that you do to help us keep the Park looking and running great! Special thanks to Positive Directions for their assistance with keeping the buildings dusted and taking care of paper recycling in the Park office. Thanks also to Mary and Doug Brinks and Roberta Meeker for all their hard work in keeping the gardens looking great, and to Doug for his assistance with maintenance and exhibits projects.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring Into the Past: Tri-Rivers Museum Tour was held on May 2 and 3. It was a beautiful weekend to visit the Park, and we had many visitors come to enjoy the signs of spring and all of the historic buildings. All museums who participated in this event reported great attendance this year.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Charlton Park Day, held on May 23, was another huge success. The day featured perfect weather and many family-friendly activities; including food, balloons, music and more. Thanks to Linda Antonini,



Shirley Barnum, Tammy Borden, Jamie Bowman, Doug Brinks, Daleen Buckhout, Tom “Cowboy Tommy” Campbell (photo), Daryl and Lori Cheesman, Elaine Drury, Carol and John Foley, Phyllis Fuller, Rob Garrett, Ben Geiger, Chris Geisert, Hoot Gibson, Josh Graham, Pat Graham, Jim Halliwill, Judith and Eugene Kidder, Micala Klipfer, Karen Koontz, Katie Koontz, Living History group, Brad Lamberg, Paul Leavitt, Butch and Fran Lindstrom, Jan Lydy, Gayle McAleenan, Laura McBeth, Herb McPeake, Jon Merrick, Jack Miner, Jim Newkirk, Melissa Patton, Ann Replogle, John Resseguie, Tim Rumsey, Jr., Kelly Schaafsma, Jenn, Emma, and Rosa Seif and Micah Miller, Joyce Snow, Mike Snyder, Bob Spaulding, Craig Stolsonburg, James and Brogan Tyler, Nick Viau, Bill Voight, Mr. Vohlken, Russ Yarger, and Sharon Zebrowski, for all their help in making the day such a success.



Two new events were held at the Park on June 13, the American Cancer Society Bark For Life 5K and a mini-horse pull organized by the Michigan Mini-Horse Pulling Association. The Park was excited to partner with both organizations, and many people enjoyed coming out for both events.

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Father’s Day Car Show was well received with close to 800 classic cars and

over 4,000 spectators in attendance. In addition, 78 vendors set up at the swap meet and 12 food vendors were present. It was a grand celebration! Thanks go out to Sandy Daniel, Elaine Drury, John Foley, Hoot Gibson, Veronica Klein, Micala



Klipfer, Paul Leavitt, Joe Medendorp, Jon Merrick, Rick Moore, Keith Murphy, John Resseguie, Tim and Lisa Rumsey, Mike Snyder, and Sharon Zebrowski for their assistance in the village.

The first County Wide Yard Sale of 2015 was slated for Saturday, June 27. However, Mother Nature had other plans, and the event was cancelled due to inclement weather. Hope to see you at the July 25 and August 15<sup>th</sup> sales!

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

The operations department has been very busy with event preparations and facility rentals this season. The grass seems to grow a foot overnight due to the recent rains, but they have been working hard to keep up with lawn mowing and landscaping. The gates and fences around the Park have received a fresh coat of paint and look wonderful. Work is also being done to repair the train shed and give it a new coat of paint as well. Thanks to all of the maintenance volunteers including Jennifer Billings, Rick Figger, Tim Sleeman for their assistance with these projects.

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Park would like to thank Bliss Clearing Niagara (BCN) Technical Services of Hastings for its generous donation of time and materials to refinish the grate on the large fire pit at the Park’s Pavilion. The original was also donated by the Bliss and was very well loved. Numerous rentals occur at the Pavilion site and the Park is very grateful to BCN for its donation.



## Contact Information

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Office Hours:

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>July 18-19</b> | <b>Civil War Muster</b><br>9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sat.<br>9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Sun.<br>\$6/ adults \$4/children 5-12 |
| <b>July 25</b>    | <b>County-wide Yard Sale</b><br>Antique Outboard Motor Show<br>9 a.m. – 3 p.m. FREE                          |
| <b>August 1</b>   | <b>Chris Vallillo Concert</b><br>FREE - bring your own seating   |
| <b>August 7-9</b> | <b>Longbow Invitational</b><br>\$6/adult, 16 & under FREE  |

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

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