



March/April 2017

In this issue:

Exhibits/Collections	p. 2
Foundation/Education	p. 2
Operations Update	p. 2
Exhibit Announcement	p. 3

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

PARK HAPPENINGS

The Park was pleased to host the Barry Conservation District's annual tree sale at the Gas & Steam Barn on April 21-22. Park staff was busy spreading good will and great cheer while participating in two parades recently; the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown Hastings on March 17 and the Vermontville Maple Syrup Parade on April 29.

The West Michigan Tourist Association has chosen Charlton Park as a stop on its "100 Best Places in West Michigan" Summer Scavenger Hunt. Hunters who visit at least 50 of these places will win a free book, 100 Years of Carefree Days in West Michigan, and be entered to win an overnight stay and waterpark passes from Boyne Mountain Resort. Visit www.wmta.org to download the scavenger hunt and contest rules.

NEW FACE

Elizabeth "Ellie" Benedict is this year's Charlton Park Foundation intern. She grew up in the Detroit area and graduated from the University of Michigan Ann Arbor with her Bachelor's degree in Museum Studies and History of Art in 2016. She is fully embracing her new lifestyle here at Historic Charlton Park, where she is focusing on the Exhibition Hall project and enjoying being a part of the education events as well. She hopes to get the Exhibition Hall to a point



where it is well-documented in the database, has safety and way-finding barriers, and has another level of signage by the time she's done here. In her free time, she practices yoga, hikes and backpacks, drinks a lot of coffee, and makes pickles.

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

On April 13, the United Way Volunteer Awards banquet was held at the Walldorff ballroom, with a Wizard of Oz theme. Two of Charlton Park's volunteers were honored with awards based on the theme of the banquet. Board member Rick Moore was given the "Tin Man" award for his heartfelt volunteer work, and education volunteer Bonnie David was given the "Scarecrow" award for her love of learning and teaching others. We are so proud of both of them!



The Spring Volunteer Luncheon and meeting was held on April 29 in the new maintenance shop. Approximately 30 volunteers and their guests attended, enjoying a delicious lunch of sandwiches, salads, chips, and desserts, received updates from staff members, and had a chance to explore the new building. Thanks to Carolyn Murphy for making brownies and cookies, and thank you to everyone who attended!

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

SAVE THE DATE



Park staff are excitedly preparing for the 11th annual Charlton Park Day on Saturday, May 27 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please join us for lunch and lots of family friendly activities and giveaways. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Park office. We need helpers to monitor the bounce houses and exhibition hall. Morning and afternoon shifts are available.

EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS

We are pleased to report that the exhibit, *Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI*, is now open on the first floor of the stone museum building! The speaker series kicked off with Dr. Matthew Daley from Grand Valley State University on May 10, the attendance was wonderful. The next speaker will be on Tuesday, June 27 at 6 pm. Kevin Kenz will present, “United States Air Service in WWI: Problems, People, Planes.” Thank you to the Barry County Historical Society for their partnership. For a full description please visit www.charltonpark.org.

Thank you so much to Jack Boarts, Dave Chase, and Roberta Meeker for their hard work on the WWI exhibit, it would not have been completed without them!

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The Charlton Park Village Foundation Board of Directors is happy to report that the endowment fund has surpassed the \$1 million dollar mark. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our loyal donors for enabling us to reach this important milestone. Projects slated for funding in 2017 include: digitizing 16 mm film footage from 1930s Hastings, renovation of the wood stove at the Historic Bristol Inn, fabrication of plexiglass display cases for use at the museum, and funding a seasonal collections Intern at the Park. We are also saying farewell to the board Chair, Jeff VanNortwick, due to an upcoming move. We thank him for his leadership and involvement in many Park events.

EDUCATION

Spring education programs have started! Our first program was on April 17, and will continue until June 14. This is one of our biggest spring seasons yet – over 100 students more than previous years! Thank you so much to Jennifer Billings, Bonnie David, Elaine Drury, Steve Evans, Claire Herhold, Andrea Hiler, Georgia Robinson, and Barb Turkal for all of their help with ensuring the programs run smoothly.



We’re always on the lookout for more historic presenters for the education programs. The education presenters are a fun group of people, and they’re a joy to work with! If you’d like to find out more about becoming a presenter and shadow a program, please contact Shannon Pinkster. We’d love to see you out here!

The education department is gearing up for a busy summer season! Local day care and summer camp groups are quickly booking their trip for a day of summer fun at the Park. Look for us at the Very Barry Family Event on June 10 at Tyden Park. For the 6th year, we’ll be participating in No Family Left Indoors on June 27. This year we’ll be doing activities relating to the *Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI* exhibit, including making navy flags, practicing our calisthenics, and learning about Morse code.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The maintenance department has been using an early spring to take advantage of putting a fresh coat of paint on buildings, and mowing the grass as often as spring showers will allow us to do. The recreation area is opening up with picnic tables put in place, the boat launch dock going in, and the wells being turned on. It has taken some time to do spring clean-up in the recreation area due to the heavy flooding in March. The trails have also been cleaned, mowed, and are ready for hiking.

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



Tangled Alliances: The United States in WWI **Speaker Series at Historic Charlton Park**



This series is presented in partnership with the Barry County Historical Society. All talks will be given at Historic Charlton Park in the Stone Building on the first floor at 6 pm. There is no cost to attend, although donations are welcome. For more information please visit www.charltonpark.org or call 269-945-3775.

May 10, 2017

A Great and Vital Hysteria: America Joins the First World War
Dr. Matthew Daley, Associate Professor of History, Grand Valley State University

Less than six months after a campaign by President Wilson claiming "He Kept Us Out of War," the United States joined the maelstrom of the First World War. The passions unleashed by the entry into the war shaped industries, volunteering both for military and civilian service, and the efforts to marshal the nation's strength. This talk discusses these efforts to get the nation ready for entry into the killing fields of Europe and how it reshaped the nation.

June 27, 2017

United States Air Service in World War I: Problems, People, Planes
Kevin Kenz, Air Zoo Docent and Member of The League of WWI Aviation Historians

This presentation will cover America's difficulties in trying to get a viable air service up and running, a brief review of aircraft used, and note some of the men (including Eddie Rickenbacker) who flew for the United States Air Service.

July 11, 2017

The Psychological Effects of World War I - 'Shell Shock' and its Legacy Today
Dr. Jason Crouthamel, Professor of History, Grand Valley State University

This presentation will focus on the history of psychological trauma ('shell shock') in the First World War and its long-term legacy. The talk will give an overview of the medical diagnosis of 'shell shock' in World War I, its cultural significance, and the social and political significance of psychological wounds for veterans' health care and the memory of the war.

August 8, 2017

The War That Should Not Have Happened
Dr. James Smither, Professor of History at Grand Valley State University

World War I was one of the most catastrophic events in human history, and, and one that could have been prevented. This presentation examines the long and short term causes of the conflict, and what might have been done to prevent it, and goes on to consider why the war was so long and so costly, and why it still matters today. Dr. Smither also directs the Veterans History Project at GVSU.

www.charltonpark.org
269-945-3775



2545 S. Charlton Park Rd.
Hastings, MI 49058

Contact Information

Dan Patton - Director
dpatton@barrycounty.org

Roger Smith - Operations Manager
rsmith@barrycounty.org

Stacey Graham - Office Manager/Event Coordinator
sgraham@barrycounty.org

Claire Johnston - Curator/Exhibits Coordinator
cjohnston@barrycounty.org

Shannon Pinkster - Programming/Education Facilitator
spinkster@barrycounty.org

Ben Strimback - Maintenance Supervisor
bstrimback@barrycounty.org

www.charltonpark.org
(269) 945-3775 - Fax (269) 945-0390

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 27 **11th Annual Charlton Park Day**
11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open
County-wide Yard Sale 9-3 p.m.
FREE

June 18 **36th Annual Father's**
Day Car Show
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open
\$6/ adults \$4/children 5-12

July 4 **Old-Fashioned 4th of July**
and Salute to Veterans
12 p.m. – approx. 4 p.m.
FREE

July 7-8 **46th Annual Gas & Steam**
Engine Show
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Village Open
\$6/ adults \$4/children 5-12

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

www.facebook.com/charltonpark