Christy Farm Nature Preserve

The Fence Post

Volume 3, Issue 1 18, October 2014

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CFNP Mission:

- Preserve nature and the environment on the CFNP property in the context of its historic agricultural use;
- Provide a learning environment for area youth groups;
- Establish and maintain a refuge for safe and socially acceptable activities with an emphasis on preservation of the ecology; and,
- Preserve the history of the Christy Family in the Fremont and Sandusky County area.

CHRISTY FARM NATURE PRESERVE

Visit us online at Christyfarmnaturepreserve.org

3-Way Partnership to Provide Outdoor Learning for Fremont Students is Official

On 24, April 2014 the Fremont Board of Education held its monthly board meeting at the Christy Farm Nature Preserve barn in front of a crowd of over 25 people.

At the meeting FCS Superintendent Dr. McCaudy outlined the work that went into building this partnership. Since 2011, the executive committee of the CFNP, the Executive Director of the Black Swamp Conservancy, and the Superintendent of the Fremont City Schools worked to create a partnership to benefit the students in the Fremont City School district.

After introductions, the FCS Director of Curriculum introduced the plan for classes at the Nature Preserve. A few 7th grade students presented their desire and excitement to have an outdoor education program at the Fremont Middle School and the benefits they believe would follow from such a program.

The FCS and CFNP Boards reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement, and each voted to accept the Agreement, making the partnership official.

Classes are planned to begin this spring.

Cours de français au CFNP

In the spring of 2014 Madame Brenda Widman, Fremont City Schools French teacher and local Girl Scout leader, brought her 9th grade French class to the Christy Farm Nature Preserve. The students spent the day at the Cabin and hiked the trails to complete a scavenger hunt in French. The students learned and practiced outdoor and camping vocabulary on a beautiful spring day. It is this type of outdoor learning that D. LaMar Christy, Jr. imagined when he founded the Christy Farm Nature Preserve. We hope this is just the beginning of classes utilizing the 147 acres of the CFNP.

CFNP Receives $3,400 Grant from SCCF

Each year the Sandusky County Communities Foundation (SCCF) provides grant funding to local organizations working to improve the quality of life for Sandusky County residents.

This year, as part of our partnership with the Black Swamp Conservancy and the Fremont City Schools, to bring students to the CFNP for outdoor learning we submitted an application for an SCCF grant.

On November 20th 2014 the CFNP was awarded over $3,400 to help fund the project outlined in the grant application. This award will bring students back to the CFNP for the first time in over 30 years.

The grant award will help kick-start the classes for the 7th graders in spring 2015. The grant will provide funding for the following items:

1. Purchase of native plants for a rain garden and butterfly garden to be installed around the barn;
2. Microscopes, nets, and other science equipment for water testing; and
3. A membership to Leave No Trace.

This grant will provide the CFNP, FCS, and BSC with the funds necessary to provide a unique experience for the 7th grade students beginning this Spring.

CFNP accepts grant from SCCF.

Girl Scout Day Camp a Great Success

In June 2014 the local Girl Scouts held a summer day camp at the CFNP. The efforts were led by Brenda Widman. Brenda has been spending much time at the CFNP with her Girl Scout troop due to the girls' attachment and affection for the Nature Preserve, the Christy Cabin, the trails, and the Muskellunge Creek. Because of her troop's excitement and frequent use of the Preserve, Brenda decided to introduce the broader Girl Scout community to the Preserve through a summer day camp.

The day camp was a great success and provided over 50 girls with exposure to hiking the rolling trails of the CFNP, playing in the creek, and building and marking trails throughout the CFNP.

The day camp was a Survivor theme and the girls were split into teams with many stations spread throughout the Preserve each day. The girls learned to cook over a fire, they built new benches for fire pits at the Cabin and the Barn, they built their own totem poles out of cardboard boxes, and many more activities.

With the closure of local Girl Scout camps, we are thrilled to be able to provide the Girl Scouts with an opportunity to be in the great outdoors. The week-long day camp ended with a one-night campout for the older Girl Scouts. Some of the girls even skipped a much anticipated concert in Cleveland to camp at the Preserve.

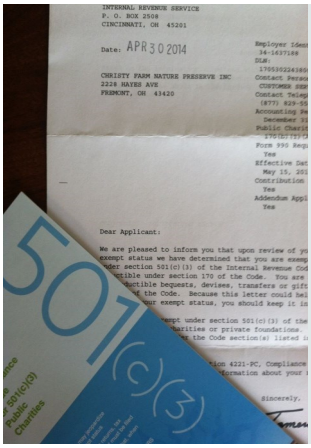
The Nature Preserve provides children a wild place to relax, unplug, and enjoy human interaction in natural settings. We are working hard to continue improving our facilities, trails, and outreach to expand our youth programs to local church youth groups and other clubs and organizations looking for a place with outdoor recreational opportunities.

We hope that the Girl Scout day camp becomes a mainstay for our local Girl Scouts and that we can continue hosting them for many years to come.

2014:YEAR IN REVIEW

Barn Owl box installed at the Barn.

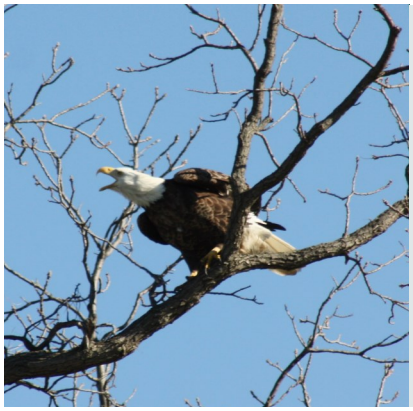
Over 50 volunteers helped at the 2014 Earth Day Litter Pickup.



The CFNP received its 501(c)(3)

Boy Scouts braved the 2014 polar vortex during Camp Alaska.

CFNP hosted a booth at 2 Fremont Farmers' Markets.



Numerous Eagle sightings.

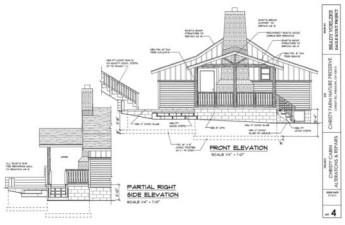
Boy Scouts Tackle Impressive Eagle Scout Projects

The Eagle Scout projects in 2014 have stayed on par with our long history of impressive outdoor projects by our local Scouts.

Brady Voelzke (Troop 307) updated the Christy Cabin. He removed the entire porch, laid new footers, foundations, backfilled the porch, laid new concrete, built stairs, and is installing a bannister and railing.

David Owens took a regular-sized telephone pole and converted it into beautiful totem pole. David designed, carved, painted, and installed the pole near the Christy Cabin.

Your support the CFNP allows our organization to support local Scouts. In the past 4 years we have donated over $1,200 to local scout projects and hosted more at least one project each year.



Membership Committee Update

In 1989 D. LaMar Christy, Jr. founded the Christy Farm Nature Preserve. In that same year he drafted and the board adopted the Bylaws of the non-profit corporation. Mr. Christy made his intentions clear in that he wanted the CFNP to be a member organization. The CFNP has not had members since its earliest days —until recently. In the past 3 years, since re-implementing the membership program, the CFNP has gone from 0 members to almost 30 members! We plan to continue expanding our membership base to ensure we can operate into the future. Join the CFNP Today!

CHRISTY FARM NATURE PRESERVE

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We are fortunate to have so many fantastic members and volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who has helped the CFNP over the past 20 years.

THANKS for your support in 2014

Crown Battery
Albrechta & Coble, Ltd.
Fremont Lawn Care, LLC
Croghan Colonial Bank
Economy Plumbing & Heating Supply Co.
NyeCo Gas
Style Crest
Gary Steinle — Steinle GMC Cadillac
Burkett Industries Electric
Adkins Sanitation
Holland CPA
Christy Knife Company
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Black Swamp Conservancy
Polter's Berry Farm
Healthy Bakes
NuTire
Dean Van Ness — Time Out
Sycamore Hills Golf Course
Metrotex
Bel-Aire
Pumps Landscaping & Garden Center
Pottery Perfection
Fremont Company
Casa Fiesta
Peking
River Cliff Golf Course
Bloom by Jill Gray
Eshelmann Fruit Farm
Plaza Lanes
Imagine Metal Arts
Hayes Presidential Center
Jon-Z's Place
Dave's Lawnmower Repair
Sandusky County Parks

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Kara Adams
Eric Mersmann
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Jeff Opelt
Aaron Opelt
Kristy Reiter
Bill & Erin Flower
Bryant Keaton
Gab Simard and Bart Hoffman
David Morin
Andy Hershey
Terri Gallagher
Aaron Nye
Carole Klingman
Charlie Schwochow
Billy Lee — Fremont Music Center
Bob Carpenter & Baker Bonnigson
Portage Valley Flying Club
Sam Minier — Scentsy
Opelt Fishing Charters
Engler Printing
Benchmark Prints
The Depot
A.M. Korner Café
Billy's
Whitey's
818 Club
Blue Collar Bistro
Creative Cuisine
Larry Michaels
Krista Michaels
Logan Szymanowski
Bob Turner — Haunted Hydro
Root's Poultry
OSS Waste District
Mark and Viola Recny
and YOU!

Renew Your Membership TODAY!

Christy Farm Nature Preserve members will receive The Fence Post (CFNP's Annual Newsletter), membership voting rights, discounts to CFNP programs such as the Annual Barn Party and CFNP Tree Memorial, with more programs to come. Most importantly, your support will help to preserve natural habitat and promote outdoor youth activities and educational programs in Fremont and Sandusky County.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

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Method of Payment

☐ Bill Me
☐ Check
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Christy Farm Nature Preserve Annual Membership

Sign up for:		Number	Price
☐ Maple	($25.00)		$
☐ Buckeye	($50.00)		$
☐ Cedar	($100.00)		$
☐ Catalpa	($250.00)		$
☐ Sycamore	($500.00)		$
☐ Oak	($1,000.00)		$

Total _____

Remove this portion and return to the CFNP at 2228 Hayes Avenue, Suite A, Fremont, Ohio, 43420.