

RIDGE TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy, Inc.—a 501(c)(3) Corporation



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ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org

THE BATTLE OF CHESTNUT RIDGE

Civil War Reenactment Comes to Chestnut Ridge Park August 25 - 27, 2017

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy and the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry are proud to present a Civil War reenactment at Chestnut Ridge Park later this summer. The public is cordially invited to attend this fascinating, family-friendly weekend event which we are calling *The Battle of Chestnut Ridge*.

Members of the 49th New York Reenactors, under the direction of Colonel Mike Lavis, are working with the Conservancy's board led by directors Liz Cash and Toni Cudney, along with Parks Commissioner Dan Rizzo, Parks Supervisor J. J. Thomas, and the county park rangers and staff to organize this event. It is the first time a Civil War reenactment will be held in an Erie County park.

Blasdell resident Lavis is thrilled to be organizing and participating in the event at Chestnut Ridge. He expects approximately 300 reenactors from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada to participate in the reenactment of the South Mountain Campaign which occurred in Maryland on September 14, 1862.

Everything will take place on the Newton Road side of the park. Free shuttles will be available from the parking areas to move park guests to and from the battlefields and encampments.

There is a full slate of events scheduled for the weekend. In addition to two battles on Saturday (one in the afternoon and one near dusk), the reenactors will be in the park most of Sunday to



The Battle of South Mountain by A. A. Fasel

talk with spectators. There will be lectures on life in 1862 and Civil War medicine, presentations on Robert E. Lee and key players from both sides, and other information about the “war between the states.”

The Conservancy has established an entire web site dedicated to this great educational event. It includes the official schedule of events, historical maps, photographs and descriptions about the South Mountain Campaign, a dedicated mailing list to keep you informed, and helpful tips for both reenactors and spectators regarding parking and maneuvering around the park that weekend. Please visit BattleOfChestnutRidge.com.

Note that there are a number of sponsorship opportunities available for companies and organizations interested in getting involved and supporting the reenactment or any of the other CRC events taking place in 2017. More details are available at both ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org and BattleOfChestnutRidge.com.



Mike Lavis



5th Annual Gala Succeeds Again!

The 5th Annual Chestnut Ridge Conservancy Gala was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Orchard Park Country Club.

Richard and Karen Penfold served as this year's Honorary Chairpersons. WGRZ Channel 2 anchor Maryalice Demler was outstanding as our master of ceremonies. Live music was provided by the Mark Mazur Little Big Band.



Maryalice Demler

The Penfolds, along with our generous sponsors, patrons, and attendees helped us to bring in over \$30,000 of revenue to the Conservancy.



Our 2016 Gala Sponsors

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy wishes to thank all of the very generous companies and individuals that sponsored our highly successful 2016 gala.

Platinum Sponsors

Dick and Karen Penfold
Habib Family Charitable Fund

Kustom Workz
Motorcycles and Custom Auto

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

Kristina and Carlos Flores
The Betsy and John Sullivan Family



Patrons

Mike and Janette Neumeister
Ron and Mary Clare Smith
Cohen & Lombardo, Inc.
Sanderson Wealth Management, LLC

Awards Presented at the Gala

In addition to food, fun, and funds, the 2016 gala gave us the opportunity to recognize two of our directors who have made important contributions to the continuing success of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy.

2016 Raymond A. Fabiniak Guardian Award



Ron Michnik

Congratulations to CRC Vice President Ronald J. Michnik, recipient of the 2016 *Guardian Award*. Ron has been the Conservancy's biggest cheerleader, playing important roles in the mural restoration project, outdoor movie nights, the United Way Day of Caring, and the Annual Kite Festival.

The Inaugural Conservancy Benefactor Award

The newly established *Benefactor Award* is presented to an individual or group responsible for significant financial contributions to the CRC.



Mike Neumeister

Mike Neumeister has been a member of the CRC board of directors since the beginning and has been the driving force behind the success of the first five Conservancy galas, bringing in nearly \$250,000 during that time.



The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is indebted to the following individuals and organizations whose efforts made the 2016 gala a great success:

- Dick and Karen Penfold
- Maryalice Demler
- The Mark Mazur Little Big Band
- Mike Neumeister
- Paul Maurer
- Our sponsors, patrons, and advertisers
- The Orchard Park Country Club
- Our many members and volunteers



If you or your organization would like to sponsor the 2017 Gala, please contact Bill Even at 716.245.1634 or by email at BEven@ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org.

A Big Draw for Artify The Park

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, the Conservancy held its first *Artify the Park* event at various locations throughout Chestnut Ridge Park. Seventeen local artists came to the park to paint, photograph, sculpt, and create, all the while sharing their talents and expertise with guests of all ages.

The event was very well attended with an estimated 300 enthusiasts taking advantage of the opportunity to get advice and instruction from professional artists, as well as participating in numerous hands-on projects.



Professional photographer Tom Burns (center) shares his expertise on taking better outdoor photographs with Artify The Park participants

The CRC wishes to thank our sponsors: Art Services Initiative of Western New York (ASI), M&T Bank, Meibohm Fine Arts, Hyatt's, and the County of Erie. We also wish to acknowledge all of the artists that participated in *Artify the Park*, especially local artist Charlie Houseman who gave so much of his time and talent to planning and organizing this successful event.

The Conservancy will have another *Artify* event on Saturday, September 23, 2017. This year's event will be bigger and better, thanks to another generous grant from ASI. The event will again be open to the public. More information is available at ArtifyThePark.com.



Artist Judson Brown discusses Plein Air techniques with Artify guests

Sledding Hill or Kite Hill?

Despite concerns about a lack of wind at the park, the CRC invited everyone to put down their electronic devices and spend some family time outdoors with the first annual "Go Fly A Kite" festival on the sledding hill Saturday, October 8, 2016.

An ominous morning sky gave way to a beautiful, breezy, autumn afternoon—just in time for 100 kite fliers of all ages to enjoy a great day at Chestnut Ridge.

The festival was the brainchild of board members Ron Michnik and Liz Cash. The Conservancy wanted to offer yet another reason for Erie County residents to come out to the park and experience its many natural offerings. The CRC sold kites and provided technical assistance to those in need. Face painting was provided by Gene Blamowski.

Thanks to a very successful (and blustery) day, we'll do it again on October 7, 2017.



Who knew? Conditions for kite flying are perfect at Chestnut Ridge.



Commissioners Photograph Comes Back Home

In February, CRC Advisor Bill Even presented *The History of Chestnut Ridge Park* to the Orchard Park Historical Society. While researching his slideshow, Bill discovered a 1924 photo of the original six Erie County Parks Commissioners for sale on Ebay.

The seller was located in California. He had purchased the picture at a Florida flea market and expressed his desire to find a buyer in Erie County.

Bill purchased the framed photo, autographed by all six commissioners with the original plaque, for \$38. It was presented to John Bailey at our 7th Annual Meeting in appreciation for his years of service to the Conservancy. After a 93-year journey, this historic photo has finally found its way home.



The 2017 Schedule of Events

All events are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

Erie Federation/NYSDEC Free Youth Fishing Clinic
 June 24 from 9:30am to 1:30pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park Lake and Shelter #10

Firefighting Demonstration
 June 24 from 12:30pm to 2:00pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park Fire Training Grounds

3rd Annual Summer Classic Tennis Tournament
 July 6-9 at the Chestnut Ridge Park Tennis Courts

American Legion Band of the Tonawandas Concert
 July 14 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the sledding hill

Free Outdoor Movie — Disney’s Ratatouille
 August 20 from 8:15pm to 10:30pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park sledding hill

Civil War Reenactment: South Mountain Campaign
 August 25-27 at the Newton Road entrance

Free Outdoor Movie — Disney’s Beauty and the Beast
 (animated) September 16 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park sledding hill

Artify The Park 2017
 September 23 from 11:00am to 4:00pm at the MacKinnon Shelter and various locations throughout the park

2nd Annual Go Fly A Kite Festival
 October 7 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at the Chestnut Ridge Park sledding hill and casino

Santa Land
 December 9 & 10 at the Chestnut Ridge Casino

The 6th Annual Gala will be held later this year. We are still evaluating venues and will announce the date and time on our web site, Facebook page, and to our mailing list members.

For updates and details on all Conservancy events, visit ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org. For more Civil War reenactment information and the official schedule of events, visit BattleOfChestnutRidge.com.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the CRC’s 2017 events, please download the sponsorship document on our web site.

About the Conservancy

Mission Statement

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy was formed to support the restoration and preservation of the rich natural, recreational, and historic resources that comprise Chestnut Ridge Park.

Chestnut Ridge Conservancy, Inc.

**P. O. Box 1376
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Facebook: [Facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy](https://www.facebook.com/ChestnutRidgeConservancy)

Our office is located at the Casino in Chestnut Ridge Park.

Ridge Times Editor and Administrative & Marketing Consultant: William C. Even, *The Coming Wave, LLC*.

The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

The **Chestnut Ridge Conservancy** is working to restore our local treasure. Your assistance is very important! Please select a membership level and return this portion with a check for your tax-deductible contribution made payable to the *Chestnut Ridge Conservancy*.

Thank you for your support!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Membership Levels:

- Chestnut Family Membership \$100
- Family Membership \$50
- Individual \$30
- Senior Membership (55 & up) \$25
- Community Groups \$125
- Conservationist \$500
- Preservationist \$2,500
- Park Benefactor \$5,000

Join online: ChestnutRidgeConservancy.org/membership
 or send your check to:

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