

RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION



Major's Exposé: September News on the River Raisin

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 16. World Tourism Day is September 27. Visit us and other military related parks to celebrate tourism with America's National Parks.

The end of summer means back to school! It was great to have so many Cub Scout and YMCA groups visit in July and August. Contact the Park to schedule your visit, (734) 243-7136. The Visitor Center is open 7 days a week with the return to regular hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in September.

[See Calendar of Events](#)



Jim and Cheri Maitland Family Honored

Our beloved Maitland family are super star volunteers who call the River Raisin National Battlefield Park home. Earlier this year we learned of the unexpected passing of patriarch Jim. We recently held a reception with Rick Clark, the Midwest Regional Deputy Director for Science & Resource Management of the National Park Service, who with dignitaries, NPS and the Foundation Board, presented Jim's wife Cheri the Presidential Lifetime Service Award for Jim posthumously. Also presented was a resolution from the City of Monroe, State of Michigan and Congressman Tim Walberg. Jim and family have a legacy of over 4,000 volunteer hours to our National Park Service. Jim had a heart for helping and an avid lover of the National Parks (the family was the first to visit them all!).

Our Community Volunteer Ambassador Will Smith said it best, "It felt like I never needed to be introduced to him and that we had known each other for years...Jim was intentional with his actions, and he knew he wanted to give back to the parks for the rest of his life and be the best he could be."

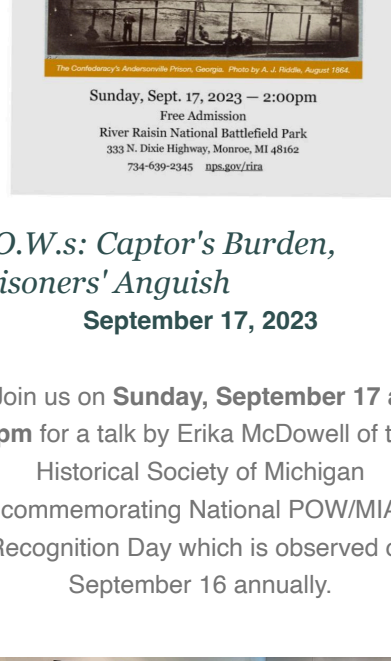
While Jim will be missed, we are lucky to have Cheri, children Jameson and Gerald and the family's international exchange students continue to support us and the National Parks. We are truly grateful for our dedicated Maitland family volunteers!

In Memory of Jim Maitland



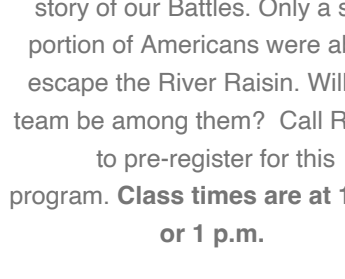
P.O.W. Trail of Remembrance September 15-20, 2023

A trail of over 500 P.O.W./M.I.A. flags will be flown at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Visitor Center along the River Raisin Heritage Corridor east towards the Battlefield Grounds on **September 15-20, 2023** in honor of National P.O.W./M.I.A. Recognition Day.



P.O.W.s: Captor's Burden, Prisoners' Anguish September 17, 2023

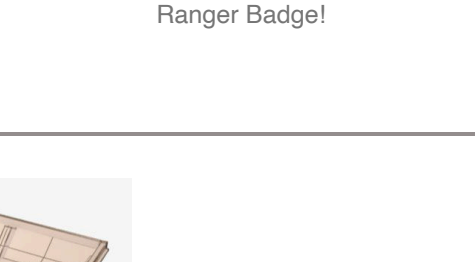
Join us on **Sunday, September 17 at 2pm** for a talk by Erika McDowell of the Historical Society of Michigan commemorating National POW/MIA Recognition Day which is observed on September 16 annually.



Escape Room Program September 2, 2023

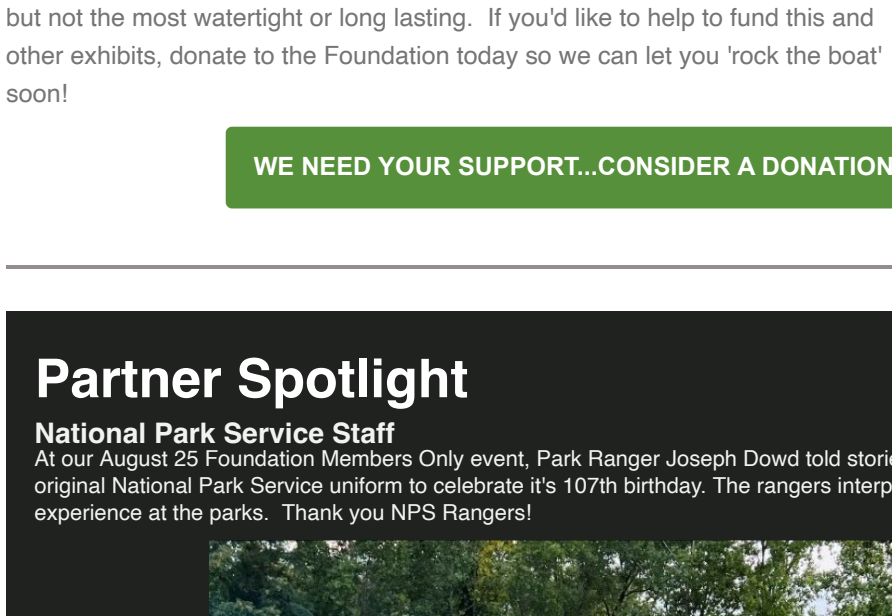
An "escape room" is a room set up with multiple puzzles to figure out for your team to exit the room. Today's solutions to the puzzles help tell the story of our Battles. Only a small portion of Americans were able to escape the River Raisin. Will your team be among them? Call RRNPB to pre-register for this program. **Class times are at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.**

Pre-register by calling (734) 243-7136.



Are you a Junior Ranger?

Kids of all ages can become Junior Rangers. The program invites you to learn more about the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and vow to protect all National Parks. Ask to participate in the program at the information desk to earn your Junior Ranger Badge!



Bateaux Exhibit for Education Center Underway

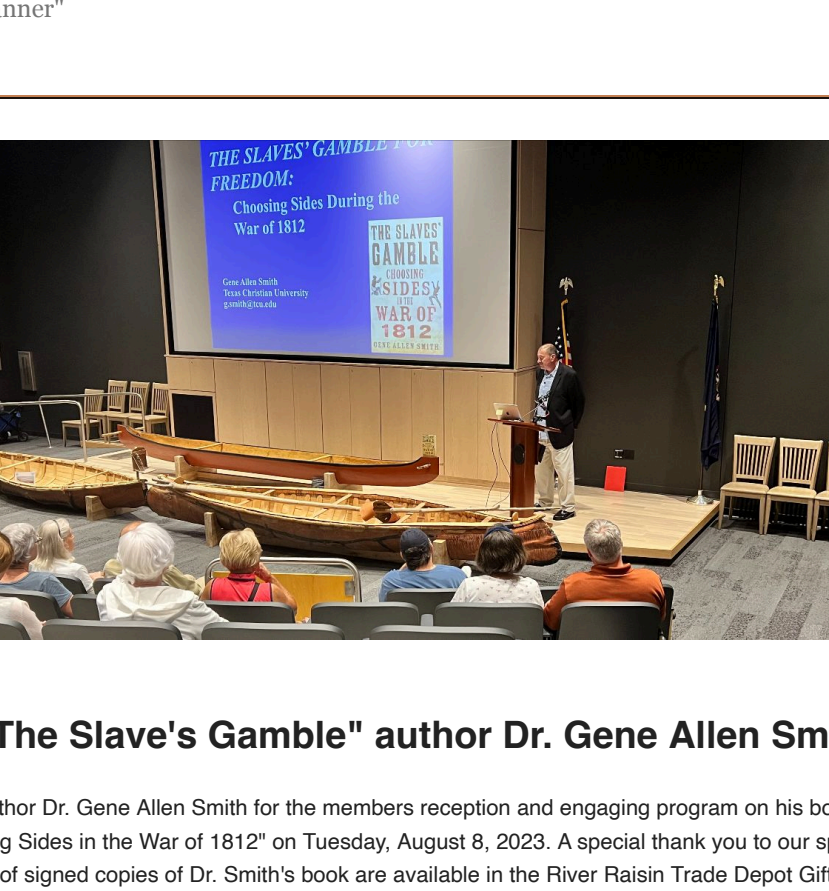
Another partnership alert! Exhibit designer Gerry Wykes and the engineering team from Monroe County Community College are building a bateaux 'don't rock the boat' activity for the Education Center. The vessels are quick to build, but not the most watertight or long lasting. If you'd like to help to fund this and other exhibits, donate to the Foundation today so we can let you 'rock the boat' soon!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...CONSIDER A DONATION TODAY!

Partner Spotlight

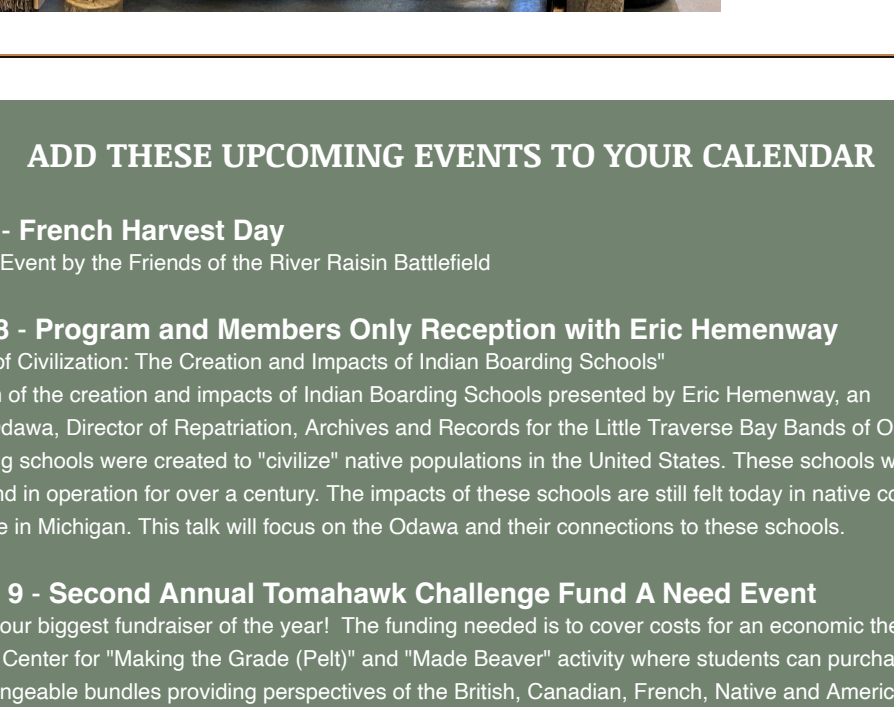
National Park Service Staff

At our August 25 Foundation Members Only event, Park Ranger Joseph Dowd told stories by the campfire wearing an original National Park Service uniform to celebrate its 107th birthday. The rangers interpret and guide us in our experience at the parks. Thank you NPS Rangers!



War of 1812 Historical Events in September

- September 10, 1813 Battle of Lake Erie
- September 11, 1814 Battle of Lake Champlain
- September 12, 1814 Battle of North Point
- September 13, 1814 Bombardment of Fort McHenry
- September 14, 1814 Francis Scott Key writes the first lines of the poem with what would become the "Star Spangled Banner"

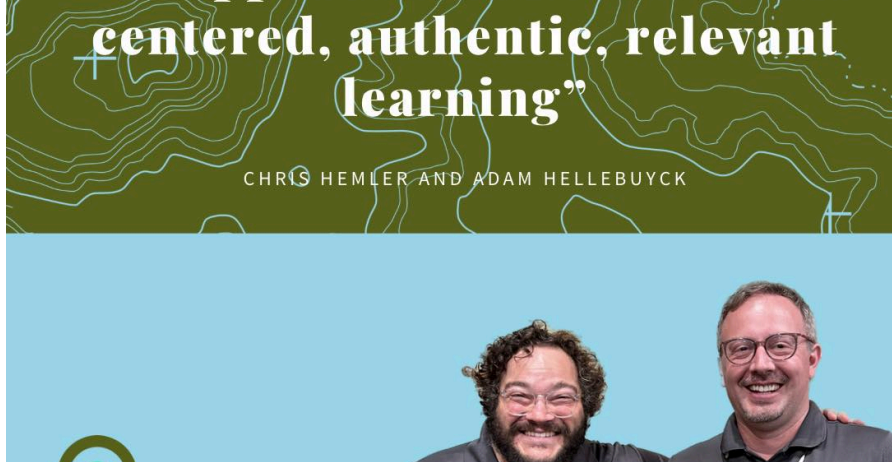


"The Slave's Gamble" author Dr. Gene Allen Smith

We welcomed author Dr. Gene Allen Smith for the members reception and engaging program on his book, "The Slave's Gamble: Choosing Sides in the War of 1812" on Tuesday, August 8, 2023. A special thank you to our sponsor La-Z-Boy. A limited number of signed copies of Dr. Smith's book are available in the River Raisin Trade Depot Gift Shop.

River Raisin Trade Depot open seven days a week!

Stop in the gift shop for Michigan art, apparel, and trade goods! You'll find art, books, Cherry Republic brand salsa and toys for all ages. Gift Shop is open during Visitor Center hours, 10am to 5pm, 7 days a week.



ADD THESE UPCOMING EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR

October 7 - French Harvest Day

Living History Event by the Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield

October 18 - Program and Members Only Reception with Eric Hemenway

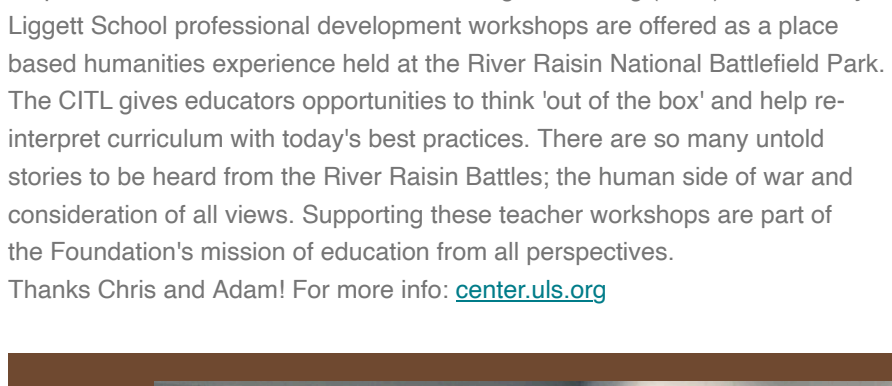
"The System of Civilization: The Creation and Impacts of Indian Boarding Schools"
An exploration of the creation and impacts of Indian Boarding Schools presented by Eric Hemenway, an Anishnaabe/Ojibwa, Director of Repatriation, Archives and Records for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Indian boarding schools were created to "civilize" native populations in the United States. These schools were widespread and in operation for over a century. The impacts of these schools are still felt today in native communities, including those in Michigan. This talk will focus on the Odawa and their connections to these schools.

November 9 - Second Annual Tomahawk Challenge Fund A Need Event

Plan to join in our biggest fundraiser of the year! The funding needed is to cover costs for an economic themed exhibit in the Education Center for "Making the Grade (Felt)" and "Made Beaver" activity where students can purchase pelts to make interchangeable bundles providing perspectives of the British, Canadian, French, Native and American economy as during the fur trade in the early 1800's. Tickets go on sale soon, \$30 per person or \$25 for members! \$75 for 3 person Axe Throwing Team. CALL (734) 243-7136 ext 171 or email info@battlefieldfoundation.org for more details.



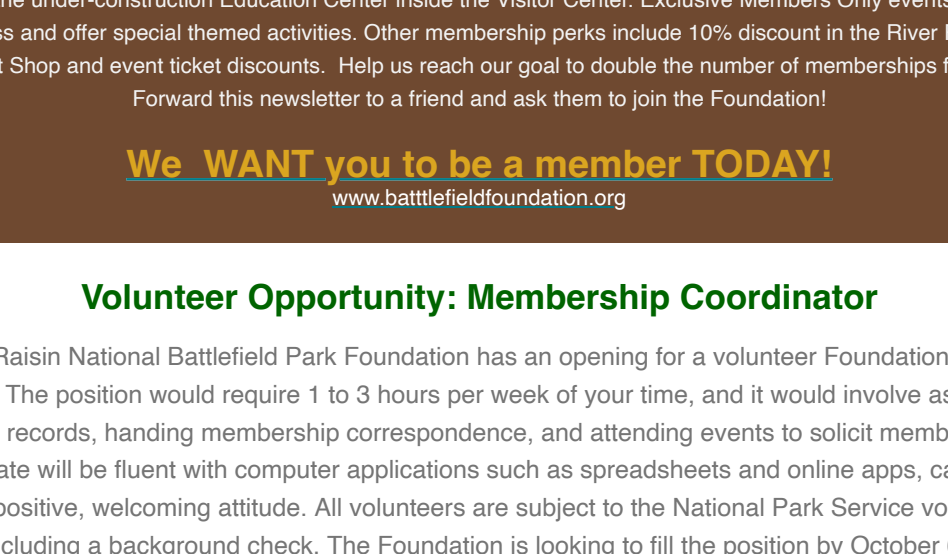
Email us for Sponsorship INFO HERE



FOUNDATION MEMBERS AT WORK

In July we welcomed a workshop with Foundation Members Chris Hemler and Adam Hellebuyck of University Liggett and the National Park Service staff. As part of The Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning (CITL) at University Liggett School professional development workshops are offered as a place based humanities experience held at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The CITL gives educators opportunities to think 'out of the box' and help re-interpret curriculum with today's best practices. There are so many untold stories to be heard from the River Raisin Battles; the human side of war and consideration of all views. Supporting these teacher workshops are part of the Foundation's mission of education from all perspectives.

Thanks Chris and Adam! For more info: center.uls.org



Invite a friend to become a Foundation Member in September!

Foundation membership funds our educational and programming efforts of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park including the under-construction Education Center inside the Visitor Center. Exclusive Members Only events showcase our progress and offer special themed activities. Other membership perks include 10% discount in the River Raisin Trade Depot Gift Shop and event ticket discounts. Help us reach our goal to double the number of memberships from 2022!

Forward this newsletter to a friend and ask them to join the Foundation!

We WANT you to be a member TODAY!
www.battlefieldfoundation.org

Volunteer Opportunity: Membership Coordinator

The River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation has an opening for a volunteer Foundation Membership Coordinator. The position would require 1 to 3 hours per week of your time, and it would involve assisting with membership records, handing membership correspondence, and attending events to solicit memberships. The ideal candidate will be fluent with computer applications such as spreadsheets and online apps, can write well, and have a positive, welcoming attitude. All volunteers are subject to the National Park Service volunteer guidelines including a background check. The Foundation is looking to fill the position by October 6. If you are interested, please contact Alisha Cooley by email at: alcooley@cooleyservices.com or info@battlefieldfoundation.org or call (734) 243-7136 ext. 171.

[Looking for Volunteer Opportunities? CLICK HERE](#)



About the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation

The mission of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation is to build enduring, diverse relationships through a world-class experience that shares the untold stories of the Battles and their aftermath inspiring conversation, understanding, and respect.

The River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to preserving and enriching the River Raisin National Battlefield Park with expertise, private funding and in-kind support for development, construction and restoration projects. To learn more and to support our mission please visit/contact us: www.battlefieldfoundation.org



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