

Preservation
Partners of the
Fox Valley

2023



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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WE ARE STEWARDS

Yellowstone National Park just celebrated 150 years of adventure and awe as the first designated national park in the United States. Spanning 2.2 million acres and overlapping three states, the park welcomed over 4.86 million visitors in 2021.¹ If you have visited Yellowstone, you know the variety of experiences you can have and why, as soon as you leave, there's the desire to go back to visit again!

You wonder what Yellowstone and the PPFV museum sites have in common? There are similarities when you read an interview² with Park Ranger, Rich Jehle. The West District Ranger has worked at Yellowstone for over three decades (PPFV has volunteers that beat that!).

What does a typical day look like for you—if there is such a thing as typical?

The thing I like about my job is it's never dull. Right now, I think my main goal is... helping younger folks that are working for me learn about the park, learn about how to share the park's resources and values with the visitors, and providing the best visitor service we can so people learn to love their national parks – and hopefully get inspired to preserve them and pass them on to the next generation.

Have you had a favorite moment with a visitor over your three decades here?

I think the favorite moments are the simplest ones. It's when you get that "aha" moment from a visitor... maybe it's how Old Faithful erupts—just something as simple as that. How does it work? It's not on a clock. It's not something that we schedule.

How has this job transformed your own life?

One thing that I always come back to is this place—I'm a steward of this place. I don't own Yellowstone. I'm lucky, because I've been able to work here, someplace so spectacular, and hopefully do more good than harm in the long run. But ultimately, this place doesn't belong to me. It belongs to the future, to my kids, and their kids, and the rest of the American public, and the rest of the world.

Like Ranger Rich says about Yellowstone—times at our museums are never dull.

- Our volunteers and staff also strive to provide the best visitor experience, so people learn to love their local history and get inspired to preserve it.
- Our volunteers and staff also enjoy those "aha" moments when guests are delighted to learn something new.
- And, our volunteers and staff are the stewards of our museums. These special sites belong to the future and our job is to take care of them so they can be appreciated for generations

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/254231/number-of-visitors-to-the-yellowstone-national-park-in-the-us/#:~:text=Published%20by%20Statista%20Research%20Department%2C%20Dec%209%2C%202022,total%20of%20approximately%204.86%20million%20visitors%20in%202021>
² Christian Science Monitor Weekly Magazine, November 14, 2022. Pages 16-17. <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2022/10/19/Yellowstone-at-150-It-s-never-dull>

FUN FACT:

Volunteers saved
PPFV roughly
\$40,000 in 2022!
WOW!!

PPFV MISSION WORD SEARCH

Aside from being a helpful tool that clarifies the foundation of a non-profit organization, mission statements serve an important purpose for the public. Non-profits can use their mission statements as the basis for messaging and advertising so to best clarify the organization's purpose for the community they impact and the supporters they desire to attract.

For PPFV, our mission statement serves to tell supporters and donors "who we are and what we do" so they feel confident as they make the decision to give their time and their money. Today's donors aren't going to just give their time and money freely. Our Mission Statement is meant to enlighten them and provide them with confidence in their contribution.

While a mission statement is a serious commitment—let's use ours to have a little fun! **In the word search below, see if you can find all the words within the PPFV Mission statement that are three or more letters long. There are 16 of them.** Answers are on page 4.

PPFV MISSION:

The mission of Preservation Partners is to offer heritage education and to promote the appreciation and preservation of the Fox Valley's rich architectural and historical resources.

W	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	V	O	Y	B	T	T	W	W	S
E	G	J	A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N	E	S
B	G	R	J	F	P	E	L	O	T	X	O	N	C	M	N	
V	Q	E	W	Y	N	R	P	G	D	S	X	L	R	T	B	O
A	N	D	J	M	U	O	F	H	A	H	Z	U	X	V	X	I
Q	D	A	J	A	O	M	C	R	M	T	O	U	J	Q	E	T
Y	R	R	E	G	I	O	N	Q	V	S	I	B	B	D	Y	A
N	W	U	G	I	T	T	K	P	E	W	T	R	U	M	G	V
M	Y	A	Z	E	V	E	D	R	Z	R	J	C	E	Y	N	R
A	R	C	H	I	T	E	C	T	U	R	A	L	D	H	F	E
O	V	I	A	Q	N	I	X	E	H	T	P	K	S	K	Q	S
F	V	S	M	E	A	Y	D	I	I	J	P	M	D	B	P	E
F	A	R	H	U	K	P	M	O	R	Q	T	E	A	E	I	R
E	L	T	N	J	R	Q	N	N	Y	I	P	X	O	F	H	P
R	L	A	C	I	R	O	T	S	I	H	C	N	Q	J	Y	N
K	E	M	Y	X	W	C	E	K	L	O	N	H	I	P	G	B
O	Y	V	Z	U	O	U	R	S	R	E	N	T	R	A	P	M



VOLUNTEER BENEFIT

Membership is one critical element of every non-profit organization's financial stability. At PPFV, we offer Individual memberships starting at just \$50 a year.

Another critical element are our Volunteers. **Adult volunteers that commit 15 hours or more in a calendar year are provided a "Patron Level" (\$150 value) membership for that year.**

We love every one of our PPFV Members!

Visit ppfv.org/membership for more information!

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU??

2023 DOCENT TRAINING

Whether you are a new volunteer or have been involved in the past, we invite you to join us when Museum Directors host educational sessions. We encourage you to attend to ensure you are able to provide our visiting guests with accurate and timely information.

If there is a specific topic that you, as a volunteer, would like to learn more about, please let us know! We would be delighted to create training sessions to support your personal interests and passions.

And feel free to **bring a friend** (or two)! They are welcome to stay for training or just to enjoy coffee, socializing, and a visit to the Museum. Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out!

LeRoy Oakes Dates

Durant House and Sholes School			
Who	Where	What	When
Adult Docents	Durant House	All Volunteer Coffee and Social	Saturday, April 1, 9-10 AM
Adult Docents	Durant House	New Volunteer Training	Saturday, April 1, 10-11 AM
Junior Docents	Durant House	Volunteer Breakfast and Training (for existing AND new volunteers)	Saturday, April 15, 9:30 - 11 AM
Adult Docents	Sholes School	All Volunteer Coffee and Social	Saturday, May 13, 9 - 9:30 AM
Adult Docents	Sholes School	New Volunteer Training	Saturday, May 13, 9:30-10:30 AM

Visit ppfv.org/volunteer or contact Debra for more information.

VOLUNTEER MEMORIES

With **thousands** of hours of volunteer-time given during 2022, PPFV has hundreds of images of the hard work—and the fun—of being a PPFV volunteer. We can't include them all here but we hope you enjoy a look back over the last twelve months.

At this time, we'd like to make an appeal to each and every one of you for 2023: **Please send any new photos you capture of our volunteers "doing their thing in 2023" to info@ppfv.org.** They will be used in our social media, advertising, and any other time we just want to share the great story of our PPFV Volunteers.

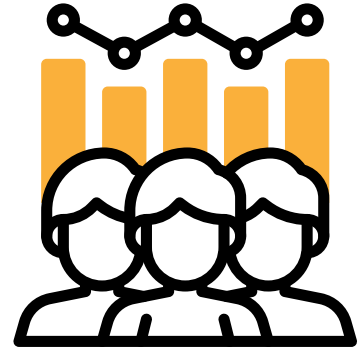
Fabyan Dates

Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	
Held at the Fabyan Villa	
Sunday, March 12 1-4 PM	New Volunteer Training - Session 1 (existing volunteers welcome)
Sunday, April 16 1-4 PM	New Volunteer Training - Session 2 (existing volunteers welcome)
Sunday, April 23 1-4 PM	Docent Refresher

Visit ppfv.org/volunteer or contact Vivien for more information.

SURVEY SAYS...

In 2022, we began to survey visitors, soon after their time at our site or event. The goal was to know about their experience, plus what we are doing well and where we can improve. Using a five-point scale (5 as excellent; 1 as poor) on five questions, our overall results averaged 4.1. We are pleased with the results, and we'll use the data to initiate a few improvements for 2023.



The most impressive result was on the question **“How well did staff and volunteers make you feel welcome?”** which received an average of 4.7 from all our visitors surveyed. This is because of you! Here are a few comments that express the extraordinarily welcome environment you offer visitors to our sites everyday:

Durant House and Sholes School:

- “We, absolutely loved it! The docents were knowledgeable and courteous; Everyone was so kind.”
- “So many good volunteers, and so well prepared.”
- “Everyone did a great job! The kids—I was very impressed with their knowledge and confidence.”

Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden:

- “I just wanted to let you know that [our guide] was a fantastic docent; enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and open to myriad/varied questions!”
- “We were on your last tour on June 19th. I wanted to take a minute to thank you for the tour, but more than that the care and attention you paid to my daughter. She is five and loves tours. You asked her questions and engaged her. We had planned on the windmill but since it was closed, came to the house. You took away her disappointment and gave her a wonderful afternoon. Thank you.”

Winterlights:

- “The volunteers were fantastic! Very welcoming, informative, and personable.”
- “Staff and volunteers did an outstanding job, especially in very cold weather.”

We would love to share every comment—but there’s not enough room! You are appreciated!

CHARLIE FREDRICKSON BUILDS A NEW WALKWAY



The Durant House Museum has a beautiful new stone walkway to welcome visitors! We thank Charlie Fredrickson, who is working toward his Eagle Scout award, for the well planned and perfectly executed project. **Job well done!**

While there were many hours of planning, documentation, getting approvals, and getting supplies, over the course our four days at the Durant House Charlie led his volunteers and completed the project. Final volunteer hours committed to the project was 115.5. Amazing!

Come Help in the DURANT GARDEN!

Mondays, 9:15 - 10:45 AM

Starts May 15



Word Search Answer Key:





BEHIND-THE-SCENES VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

While the vast majority of volunteer hours are spent with the public, there are times that volunteers can help with behind-the-scenes projects. If any of the projects below sound interesting, please reach out to the contact person listed and let them know. Contact information is located on the back of this newsletter. Thank you in advance!

Project	Description	Skills/Materials Needed	Dates and Times	Contact
#1 Research on Historic Properties in the Fox Valley	Assist AI in identifying properties and sites in the Tri-Cities that could be added to a city's historic property list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being inquisitive • Online, library, and local museum research • Visit Kane County Recorder's office 	Following an initial meeting with AI, work on your own, with your computer.	AI
#2 Fabyan Garage Documentation	Go through boxes of files at the Fabyan Garage left over from Friends of Fabyan and help decide what to keep and what to get rid of. Organize what is there.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with filing and paper documents • In person organization and sorting • Curiosity about institutional history 	Thursdays in April from 1-4pm. Possibility of continuing independently after that.	Vivien
#3 Durant Artifact Inventory	Using prior inventory reports, document measurements and condition of all artifacts in the museum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bending, measuring, and reaching • Use a camera • Record artifact data on paper or computer 	At the Durant House 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Thursdays in June (1, 8, 15, 22, 29) and other days as needed	Debra
#4 Create Preservation Resource Directory	Following guidelines established by AI, complete research and record data in a database for future use by PPFV staff and members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Excel or Word • Online research • Comfortable calling people 	Following an initial meeting with AI, work on your own, with your computer.	AI
#5 Deep Clean the Villa Basement	Assist Vivien & Staff with a deep clean of the Villa Basement. This is hard physical work, as there is a lot of debris, vacuuming, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to do basic manual labor • A desire to explore the Villa Basement • Work boots & gloves 	Wednesday, April 12th 11 AM - 4 PM	Vivien
#6 Non-profit and Grant Research	Identify and record particular non-profit information as defined by Kelsey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Excel or Word • Online research 	Following an initial meeting with Kelsey, work on your own, using your computer.	Kelsey
#7 Fundraising Committee	Research and connect with local businesses to pursue sponsorships, donations, or grants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Excel or Word • Online research • Comfortable calling and visiting people 	Following an initial meeting with Kelsey, work on your own, using your computer.	Kelsey

And: feel free to suggest a volunteer project of your own... like Janet Herreras and her husband did. While Janet was volunteering at the Durant welcome table, she noticed that the stoves in the Durant House were quite rusted. She said, "Jerusha [Durant] probably would not have let her stoves look so bad." So, Janet did the research, bought the supplies, and she and Gil spent hours sanding off the rust and applying the new finish. They look amazing now!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

These are some of the events we have scheduled for 2023—and there will likely be more!

Fabyan Estate	
May 3	Fabyan Villa Opens for the Season! Wed., Sat., and Sun. through Sept. 30
May 3	Fabyan Japanese Garden Opens! Wed. and Sun. through Sept. 27
May 28	Estate Walk
Jun. 16	Summer Solstice
Aug. 26	Japanese Lantern Festival (tentative)
Nov. 24	Winterlights Opens!
Dec. 15	Winter Solstice Event

Durant House and Sholes School	
Apr. 16	Historic Garden and Farm
May 21	Sholes Spelling Bee
Jun. 4	Sunday Funday
Jun. 18	Tool and Textile Day
Jul. 2	Sunday Funday
Jul. 16	Pickle Palooza
Jul. 24-27	Durant Day Camp
Aug. 6	Sunday Funday
Aug. 20	Bread and Butter
Sept. 5	Sunday Funday
Sept. 17	Applefest
Oct. 15	Family Trees and Genealogy
Nov. 19	Ready for Christmas
Dec. 2 & 3	Candlelight Open House

PPFV Staff

Feel free to contact us with questions about PPFV, membership, or volunteering... or just to chat!

Kelsey Shipton, Executive Director
shipton@ppfv.org

Al Watts, Community Engagement
community@ppfv.org

Debra Corwin, Durant and Sholes
durantandsholes@ppfv.org

Vivien Lasken, Fabyan Estate
fabyanvilla@ppfv.org



PRESERVATION
PARTNERS of the
FOX VALLEY

P.O. Box 903 • St. Charles, IL 60174

It's here! Your
2023 Volunteer
Newsletter!