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WHAT IS AN OHIO CHAUTAUQUA?

Ohio Humanities Chautauqua 2016: *The Natural World* to Tour State

Building on a nineteenth-century tradition established on the shores of New York's Chautauqua Lake, Ohio Humanities Ohio Chautauqua is a five-day community event that combines living history performances, music, education, and audience participation into a one-of-a-kind cultural event. Daytime activities feature mind-provoking programs aimed towards adults and hands-on workshops for youth.

Each evening, family and friends gather as live music fills the air. Then, a knowledgeable history scholar brings a historical figure to life through personal stories with deep historic detail. This enriching and delightfully entertaining experience, with its warm, nostalgic vibe, is sure to open minds and stimulate conversations.

CHAUTAUQUA HISTORY

After their debut in 1874 as a summer class for Sunday school teachers, Chautauqua assemblies quickly expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. Chautauqua assemblies brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America."

By 1915, at the height of the Chautauqua movement, nearly 12,000 communities had hosted a Chautauqua. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the movement died out. Most historians cite the rise of car culture, radio, and movies as the causes.

OHIO HUMANITIES OHIO CHAUTAUQUA: BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1999

A handful of independent Chautauquas did survive and are thriving; others are being resurrected. Leading the way are several state humanities councils have organized Chautauqua events. In 1999 Ohio Humanities established Ohio Chautauqua as part of its mission to help individuals and communities explore, share, and be inspired by the human experience.

Additional information about this event is available at OhioHumanities.org/Ohio-Chautauqua. **NOTE:** *High resolution images of the OHIO CHAUTAUQUA photos below as well as additional scholar photos are available.*

Ohio Humanities is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through programs and grants, Ohio Humanities helps Ohioans use history, literature, and philosophy to explore the past, inform the present, and envision the future.

OHIO HUMANITIES' CHAUTAUQUA 2016 TROUPE (Left- Right):



Novelist and the author of *Frankenstein*, **Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley** (Susan Marie Frontczak); primatologist **Dian Fossey** (Dianne Moran); U.S. President **Theodore Roosevelt** (Chuck Chalberg); physicist **Marie Curie** (Susan Marie Frontczak); and, Shawnee leader, Chief Cornstalk (Dan Cutler).



The OHIO CHAUTAUQUA tent during a living history performance.

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