

March 30, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- About the *Natural World* Program
- About the 2017 Host Communities

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Ohio Humanities Presents 2017 Ohio Chautauqua: *The Natural World*

Ohio Humanities is inviting all Ohioans to step back in time and come face to face with history through *Ohio Chautauqua: The Natural World*. It is a five-day community event combining living history performances, live music, and educational workshops for a one-of-a-kind cultural event the entire family will enjoy. **This summer, Ohio Chautauqua will travel to four historic communities:**



2017 OHIO CHAUTAUQUA:
THE NATURAL WORLD TROUPE

*STEP BACK IN TIME, COME FACE TO FACE WITH
HISTORY*

1. **June 6-10: Village of Burton**
2. **June 13-17: Village of Clifton**
3. **June 20-24: Warren**
4. **June 27-July 1: Village of Milan**

Pictured (l-r): Novelist Mary Shelley, primatologist Dian Fossey, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, physicist Marie Curie, and Shawnee leader Chief Cornstalk. | Photo: JanetAdamsPhoto.com

Each evening, a scholar-performer brings a different historical figure to life through personal stories and reflections based on historical record. It is followed by a question and answer session which the performer, responds as the historic figure would have likely done so during — and after — their lifetime.

Daytime activities hosted by local community organizations feature engaging adult programs as well as hands-on workshops for youth. **All events are free.**

THE *NATURAL WORLD* PROGRAM

The Natural World features the stories of five historic figures whose life work helps frame the stories of Ohioans and their relationship to the natural world.

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- **Chief Cornstalk** (ca.1720–1777) was a prominent leader of the Shawnee nation just prior to the American Revolution. Dan Cutler’s portrayal of Cornstalk reveals how Native American practices regarding the natural world changed in the face of European colonization.
- **Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley** (1797–1851) was an English novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, and travel writer, best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus* (1818). Susan Marie Frontczak’s presentation will illuminate Shelley’s relationship with the natural world, which for her variously represented healing, romance, adventure, inspiration, adventure, terror, and solace.
- **Marie Skłodowska Curie** (1867–1934) was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity. Susan Marie Frontczak brings Madame Curie to life to share how this tenacious and brilliant scientist strove to understand the invisible force of nature we call radioactivity.
- **Theodore Roosevelt** (1858–1919), often referred to as **Teddy** or **TR**, was an American statesman, author, explorer, soldier, naturalist, and reformer who served as the 26th President of the United States, from 1901 to 1909. Gene Worthington’s Teddy Roosevelt introduces us to this “force of nature” who personified the real debate on wilderness preservation and making use of the resources of that same wilderness.
- **Dian Fossey** (1932—c.1985) was an American zoologist, primatologist, and anthropologist who undertook an extensive study of mountain gorilla groups in Rwanda over a period of 18 years. Dianne Moran’s dramatic depiction of Fossey uncovers a life of passion and trust that furthered scientific understanding—and blurred the lines—of how humans fit into the world of primates in the wild.

2017 HOST COMMUNITIES

The 2017 tour begins in the **Village of Burton (June 6-10)**. Burton was founded in 1798 and is Geauga County’s oldest settlement. Like many other early settlements in the Connecticut Western Reserve, Burton has a town square patterned after the village greens of New England. Historic homes and civic buildings surround the square. The village is home to Century Village Museum, an authentic representation of a Western Reserve Village from 1798 to the end of the 19th century.

Follow the program to the **Village of Clifton (June 13-17)**, which straddles the county line between Clark and Greene Counties. Clifton was a hub for early Ohio industry and travel. The natural geography of the area provided ideal conditions for the establishment of a variety of mills. Clifton was the site of a woolen mill that furnished material for the American army during the War of 1812; Davis Mill, established 1802 and in operation today as Clifton Mill, produced meal and flour for Civil War troops. A major stop on the stagecoach trail, The Accommodation Line, which ran from Springfield to Cincinnati from 1827 to 1840, the village bustled with the commotion of travelers.

Ohio Chautauqua is a community tradition in **Warren**, the third site for the tour (**June 20-24**). Warren first welcomed Ohio Chautauqua in 2004, and has hosted the event regularly since then in its beautiful downtown park, which is adjacent to its historic town square. The county seat of Trumbull County, Warren

was founded in 1798 as part of the Connecticut Western Reserve. Many examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural styles still stand in downtown Warren, including the Trumbull County Courthouse and the Trumbull County Carnegie Law Library, in addition to office buildings, banks, stores, and homes surrounding the Courthouse Square area.

The tour concludes in **Milan (June 27-July 1)**. Part of the Firelands region of the Connecticut Western Reserve, Milan village was platted by in 1817 on the site of a previously abandoned a Moravian Indian mission village. It is the birthplace of the famous inventor Thomas Alva Edison, Milan boasts a history rich in progress and creativity. The New England-style village near Lake Erie has a bustling town square, historical museums, and distinctive architecture.

Visit ohiohumanities.org to learn more.

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Ohio Humanities is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through grants and public humanities programs we help Ohioans interpret the past, imagine the future, and define individual values. We're committed to creating vibrant communities throughout our state.

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NOTE: High-resolution logos and photos are available for media usage. Contact Ohio Humanities Outreach Coordinator Michael Straughter at mstraughter@OhioHumanities.org or call 614-461-7802.

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