

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter Fall 2022

Fall season

As the days grow shorter and leaves have all fallen down, our thoughts turn to holidays, family and friends. With Thanksgiving arriving very soon, it's time to think of all we are grateful for this year.

One item is certainly the beauty of nature, and that we have such a beautiful park like Spring Mill to enjoy. It's been such a joy to be able to hike, swim, visit caves, camp, picnic, relive history and enjoy nature.

We've had the opportunity in our group to help with various projects in the park and help fund some projects, as well as meet new people and make new friends.

Hoping everyone has a great Thanksgiving Holiday!



The main road in the park on a beautiful fall day!



Volunteer Opportunities

Adopt a Highway

Friends of Spring Mill have adopted a two mile stretch of Highway 60 along and near the park and December is one the months the trash is picked up. For information on times and dates and what to do contact John Castrale at 812-508-2849.

Christmas in the Village

Friends of Spring Mill dress up as pioneers and sell items in one of the cabins during the Christmas in the Village Weekend, December 2 and 3. Contact President Teena Ligman if you would like to volunteer for this fun task. Don't worry if you don't have pioneer gear! Colletta Pruitt, will find some finery for you!

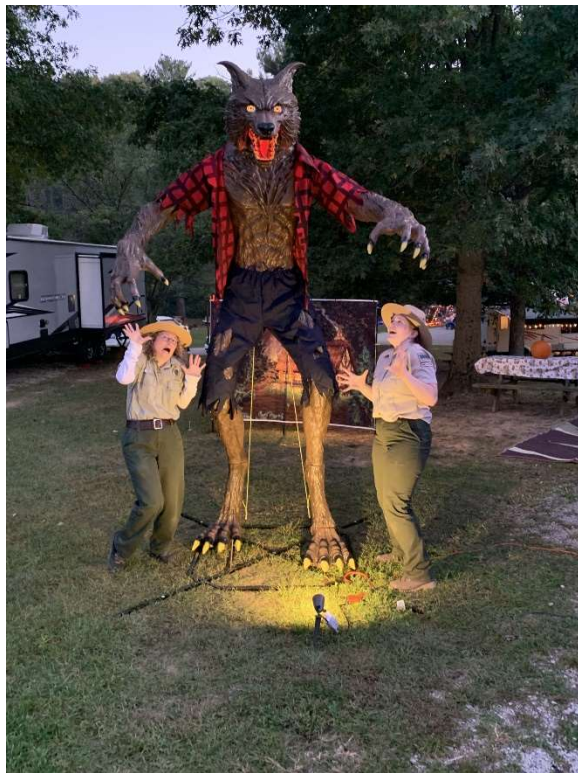
Keep checking the online sign-up board for other opportunities as they pop up during the winter months! You can register on Sign Up Genius (SignUpGenius.com) Or you can call Teena Ligman for more information.

Christmas Lights in the Campground

The second annual "Lights in the Campground" will take place the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd from 6 P.M. to 9:45 P.M. Last year, the Friends of Spring Mill State Park Campground Group started this event. It was a huge success with many cars driving through the beautiful winter scenes. It is hoped that this year's "Lights" will be even more spectacular. The cost to drive through the campground is \$5.00 per car. Proceeds from the event go towards the Friends of Spring Mill. Get in the holiday spirit and drive through the "Lights in the Campground" this year!



The campground had a busy summer, hosting several major weekend events. They are very popular with the campers. Pictures are from the Christmas in July event and The Haunted Campground. Board member Sara Terry is selling hot chocolate to people waiting to purchase Haunted Village tickets. A video of the Vintage Camper weekend can be found by doing a YouTube search of “Vintage Camper Rally, Spring Mill State Park 2022”



Turtle Party

This past summer, a party was held at the Lakeview Activity Center to celebrate the new home for the resident Snapping turtle! Games, activities and refreshments were available to the more than 150 guests who attended, and over 60 prizes given to children. Sheree gave a great turtle talk and prepared 3 different craft activities. This party was a celebration of the generosity of our donors to the project!

The Friends of Spring Mill helped to raise funds for the new tank for the turtle, who had outgrown his old tank. This special turtle, who engages visitors to the Activity Center, continues to be a nature ambassador in his new tank.



Kudos to Paul Sanders

Paul Sanders, the Village Printer and member of the Friends of Spring Mill was recently featured in the Orange County REMC magazine. Paul spoke of his interest in the printing process in the article. The Friends of Spring Mill is the recipient of grants that were awarded by Orange County REMC to help support the printing process in the Village. Paul is the author of those grants. He also mentioned Friends of Spring Mill in his article.



Cover of [Orange County REMC Indiana Connection October 2022](#)

Craft Show

In spite of a rainy day the Friends of Spring Mill were able to make nearly \$5000 on the annual Craft Show held in the Village on November 4th and 5th. Various crafters sold their goods to the many shoppers who came through the show.

Our thanks go to all the vendors, shoppers, Lawrence County Tourism for managing the vendor registration, and the park for setting up the space in the village and coordinating this popular event. We are very grateful to all for all the work involved with setting up the craft show.



FRIENDS Board

Members of the Board of Spring Mill State Park. Pictured is John Castrale, Rowena Cross-Najafi, Laura Henley, Joan Smoke, Amber Hill, Loisanne Williams and Hugh McNeely. Not pictured Teena Ligman, Betsy Mundy, Sara Terry and Kaydy Fults.

For more information about The Friends of Spring Mill State Park contact: President Teena Ligman

tdligman@att.net

812-279-5547

Books and Mice

Paul Sanders, a member of the Friends, has printed a children's book entitled *The Mouse in the Mill*. His wife Carol has made the cutest little stuffed mice to go along with the story. It's the story of a little mouse who lives in the Village. He makes friends with all the mice who live in the other Village buildings. Books are available in the Village Print Shop. Proceeds from the sale of the book and mice go to the park. The book is written by Lora Crumb and illustrated by Jessica Beaver.

Cute idea for a Christmas gift for a young child!



Weed Wrangle

The Friends of Spring Mill State Park, Lawrence County Keep Invasives in Check, and Spring Mill State Park partnered on a Weed Wrangle this fall. Perilla Mint and burning bush were the outlaw invasive plants at this event. Sheree had maps and identified areas to pull the culprits. Friends provided lunch for the participants.



Souvenir Stand

A few new items will be available in the Friend's Souvenir Cabin. The sticker pictured above will

sell for \$1. There have been requests on numerous occasions for a Spring Mill Sticker. There are also some new ornaments available. The stuffed mice that Carol Sanders is making to go with the Spring Mill Mouse book will also be available for sale soon.

Anyone that has an idea for items for the souvenir stand is encouraged to call President Teena Ligman. Items do need approval from the park, but new ideas and items are always appreciated!

Trail Challenge

We recently received \$360 for Trail Challenge shirts! Which means that 36 more hikers have hiked all the trails this year! We still have a bit of November and December to get the challenge wrapped up. Winter hiking gives you a new perspective of the trails, and hiking in a dusting of snow is beautiful too!

Distillery Update

The Village Distillery is still a work in progress. The last large piece needed is a Copper Boiler that is due to arrive any day. The DNR needs to decide what kind of floor to lay, and how to proceed with piping water into the building and draining the water out again. The Friends group will continue to get items for the distillery once the plans are ready.

Other Projects.

The Friends are continuously adding new projects and goals and fulfilling needs at the park.

Several of the components for the floating bridge near the Activity Center have been purchased. Work on this project will take place as time and weather allow.

Discussions that took place at the latest meeting include the purchase of new puppets for the Activity Center, the possibility of a dog run and dog park, purchasing more kayaks for the boat rental (tandem kayaks so parents could take their children out for a paddle) , interpretive exhibits and more!

If you are interested in attending any of the meetings, they are open to the public. The Friends meet on the third Tuesday of every month except December. The meeting is at 6:00 P.M. in the Activity Center or Park Office. In warm months they meet at the Donaldson picnic area shelter

Bring along your ideas to share!

