

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter

Fall 2021

Fall in the Park

The fall season is now in full swing at Spring Mill State Park. A very successful Tri Kappa Candlelight Tour began the festivities. The FSMSP souvenir cabin was open and had brisk sales.

The Autumn Harvest Festival is on October 2-3. Our FSMSP campground group will be hosting many scary guests during the Campground Decorating weekend on October 2.

An 1800's Music Weekend in the Village follows on October 9-10.

The very popular Haunted Village will be October 16 during the Scarecrow Weekend in the Village.

What a great time to get out and enjoy our colorful, fun, and beautiful park!



Can You ID a Tree?

The FSMSP were the recipients of a grant from the Indiana Parks Alliance to place identification signs by trees. The signs are very informative, listing the tree's common name, scientific name and use.

There are 15 signs along Trail 6, which is the paved trail by the park office. Challenge yourself to learn to identify all 15 trees!

The picture features John Castrale, FSMSP Treasurer, Teena Ligman, FSMSP President, and Tom Hohman of the Indiana Parks Alliance.



Hike the trail and look for the signs at the base of the trees. Here's a picture of one to get you started!



Weed Wrangle



In April, Spring Mill State Park held a Weed Wrangle that was co-sponsored by the Friends of Spring Mill SP, and Lawrence County KIC (Keep Invasives in Check). A weed wrangle is an event that invites people out to help control invasive plants (weeds) and make a difference in a natural ecosystem. Sheree Belt said “It’s been amazing and encouraging to see the response by the public to our Weed Wrangles and garlic mustard pull events.” She said it was great to see families bring their children and teach them what it means to be invasive and how we can all make a difference with each invasive plant we pull, each native plant we buy, and each habitat that we restore. At the April event there were 41 volunteers who came out and

pulled 230 pounds of garlic mustard! The volunteers were also served lunch by the Friends group. So, if that wasn’t enough for success – the event just won a Weed Wrangle award from the Indiana Invasive Initiative at their August conference.

Weed wrangles across the state competed for the awards based on criteria like attendance, educational value, and accomplishments. The Spring Mill event won second place which was a “Uprooter” weed tool. These are large wrenches that help pull invasives bushes and trees out by the roots. It will be available for loan with the invasive tool kit for anyone in Lawrence County to check out and use. Call the Lawrence County Soil and Water District to check out the tools.

Belt said she can’t wait to use the new tool at Spring Mill!



Busy Summer in the Campground

Many people have enjoyed the summer at the Spring Mill State Park Campground. The FSMSP Campground Group have worked hard to make that happen!

The Vintage Camper Weekend and the Christmas in July Weekend were just two of the many activities sponsored by the group.

The Christmas weekend featured visits from Santa and breakfast with Santa on a very hot summer day!



A stroll through the campground put visitors in the Christmas spirit.



The Vintage weekend featured many unique campers. Visiting the campground was a walk down Memory Lane.



The campground group is also selling mugs to help finance their many activities. Contact Sarah Terry for more information.



Grissom Memorial Turns 50

A grand birthday celebration took place on July 21, 2021 at the Grissom Memorial. It was 50 years ago that the Memorial was opened to the public.



A large crowd gathered in the parking lot of the memorial to celebrate this milestone. The featured speaker was Lowell Grissom, brother of Gus Grissom. He told stories about Gus's career as an astronaut and spacecraft engineer, as well as some fun family stories.

FSMSP purchased and served cake to the guests. Also, authors of Grissom books attended and The Lawrence County Visitor's Bureau gave away items to visitors.



Tours of the Gus Grissom Memorial were given, and other activities continued throughout the day.

Pollinator Garden

The Pollinator Garden at the Lakeview Activity Center has blossomed this summer! Many plants and their ID markers have been added, thanks to a grant from the Indiana Parks Alliance. It is a beautiful addition to the Activity Center.



Fall Village Craft Fair Planned November 6-7

The Friends will sponsor a Craft Fair in the Spring Mill Village on the first weekend in November. This event has been popular in the past, and vendors are looking forward to returning to the Village this year.

Each building in the village will have an artisan or crafts person set up with home-made items for sale. The village will be open for the public for this unique opportunity for holiday shopping from 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, Nov 6; and from Noon to 4 PM on Sunday, Nov 7. Setup is on Friday.

The Friends are working with the Lawrence County Tourism office to coordinate the vendors. There may still be space for additional artisans. To reserve a space or for questions about the event, call Lawrence County Tourism at 812-849-1090. Volunteers from the Friends group will be needed not only to work our concession stand that weekend but also to help all three days with coordinating with vendors, and selling tickets to anyone attending the craft fair. A \$3.00 fee is charged for those visiting the village for the craft fair on those two days.

Christmas Lights in the Campground



A new event will take place this year at Spring Mill State Park. As part of the Holiday in the Village Weekend, the FSMSP will be hosting Christmas Lights in the campground as a fund-raising event. With the many activities and programs, the Friends assist financially, it is important that we are able to raise the funds to continue our support of Spring Mill State Park. With that in mind, it is hoped this new event will be a fund raiser as well as the start of a new tradition. The campground will be hosting a Christmas event in which the campers will be decorating their sites for the holiday. On the nights of December 3 and 4, the campground will be open to visitors driving through to view the lights at each site. There will be a charge to drive through. A prize of two nights of free camping will be awarded to the site voted the best decorated. All campsites are filled, so it promises to be a fun event. (If you are interested in getting on the campsite waiting list, call Sarah Terry at 812-276-6235) We are hoping for a great turnout!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are always needed for different projects.

Please contact Teena Ligman if you are interested in helping in any or all of the following:

- **Making items to sell in the souvenir cabin**
- **Highway cleanup (done 4 times a year)**
- **Grant writing**
- **Fall Craft Show**
- **Selling at souvenir cabin**



Contact Information

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