

Friends of Spring Mill State Park



Board Members

Teena Ligman
President
tdligman@att.net

Rowena Cross-Najafi
Vice President

John Castrale
Treasurer

Amber Hill
Secretary

Heidi Davis

Hugh McNeely

Wyatt Williams, Park
Liaison

“When was the last time you spent a quiet moment just doing nothing - just sitting and looking at the sea, or watching the wind blowing the tree limbs, or waves rippling on a pond, a flickering candle or children playing in the park?”

— Ralph Marston



August/September Edition 2018

Friends Group Receives Grant from Lawrence County Tourism

The Tourism office awarded the Friends of Spring Mill State Park \$1,300 to upgrade the doors to the Grissom Memorial. Soon the front doors of the Memorial will have ADA compliant levers to automatically open the heavy doors for those who need assistance entering or exiting the building. This will make this popular attraction at the park more accessible to all our visitors. Thanks to Lawrence County Tourism for awarding us the money for the project and park staff for putting in the hardware to accomplish this much needed upgrade!



New Benches Constructed for Spring Mill Trails

A grant from the Lawrence County Community Foundation provided funds to purchase some materials for benches to be installed along trails at Spring Mill. Ray Robison, a board member for the Foundation hikes a lot at Spring Mill and had noticed that there were very few trails at the park and thought adding benches would be good addition. The Friends group contributed some additional funds and the ingenuity of dedicated Friends member and volunteer Mark Campbell who built the benches stretched the funds from what we thought was enough to cover 2-3 benches to five new benches for the park.

Mark used recycled materials to construct the benches and we all agree they look great. Next time you're hiking in the park, take a minute and try out the new benches brought to you courtesy of the Community Foundation, our Friends Group, and the excellent carpentry skills of Mark Campbell!



Events at the Park

September

Saturdays & Sundays

Select buildings open in the village

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

9/1-3 Fiber Arts Weekend

10:00 PM- 4:15 PM

9/1 Monarch Madness –

12-12:30 PM

9/8 Art in the Parks—

Crankies in the Parks

Workshop (1-4 PM) and

Performance 7:00 PM

9/16 Arts in the Parks—

Crankies in the Parks

Performance 2:00 PM

9/22 Tri Kappa

Candlelight 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

9/30 Dinner at the Old

Grist Mill—Contact

Lawrence County Tourism

October

10/6-7 Autumn Harvest

Days (all Day) with

Campground Decorating

Contest on 10/6 6:00 PM -

9:00 PM

10/13 Haunted Village—

All Day

10/14 Scarecrow

Weekend— All Day

10/20-21 Music Weekend—

All Day

10/28 Dinner at the Old

Grist Mill—Contact

Lawrence County Tourism

Office Weekend

Check the IDNR Spring Mill website as new activities are posted at the beginning of each month.



Volunteers Needed

If you are willing to volunteer, one of the things we can use help with is our concession stand. The Friends Concession Stand is open on busy weekends at the park. If you would like to volunteer to work the stand any of the days listed below, please let Teena Ligman know (tdligman@att.net). The first time you work, we'll schedule you with an experienced worker so you'll know what the procedures are, but it isn't hard and those of us who do it regularly really enjoy it.

Available weekends:

- Sept 1-3 – Labor Day Weekend (10-4 each day)
- Sept 22 – Tri-Kappa Candlelight Tour (3-9: PM)
- Oct 6-7 – Autumn Harvest Days (10-4 each day)
- Oct 13 – Haunted Village (10-?)
- Dec. 7—Holiday in the Village—?

We also welcome new ideas for items to sell in the stand. Several items are made by our members. John Castrale has made quilt blocks, bird houses, and bee houses. Amy Phillips has made tic-tac-toe games that have been immensely popular. Emily Engstrom makes lovely note cards that continue to sell well. Amber Hill makes leather bracelets, and in the past we've had people donate tatted bookmarks. Dave Ligman has made carpenter bee traps, Pat Merchant made birdhouse kits, and Teena has brought hen and chicks in shoes. If you have an idea of an item you'd be willing to make for the concession stand, please let Teena know. We need to get permission before we sell any new item.

Our best selling item are UV bracelets that we make with beads that change color in sunlight and glow in the dark. Children and adults alike love the magic of the beads and the \$2 price of the bracelets makes them affordable to everyone.

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Shown in this picture of our concession stand you can see several of the items we sell: quilt square blocks, bird houses, shoes with plants in them, etc.. In the picture above right is a stack of the tic-tac-toe games and coasters made by volunteers.



Volunteers of all ages are welcome to work in the concession stand. Shown here: Hugh McNeely, Kayden, Amber Hill, and Elsie. Kayden and Elsie are Teena's grandchildren and enjoy helping at the stand when they're in town.



Friends Bylaws Proposed Changes

The Friends of SMSP current bylaws were adopted in 2015. These bylaws call for 7 board members of which 4 must be present to conduct business. One issue in the last two years is having enough board members at some meetings for a quorum. We are proposing to change the bylaws to allow “no more than 11 board members” and a simple majority for a quorum.

Adding more board members will bring in more ideas and may expand our capacity to take on new projects. According to the bylaws, in order to make any change, the proposed change must be presented at a general membership meeting and then voted on at the next scheduled membership meeting.

Since we generally only have a general membership meeting once a year, it would take two years to change the bylaws. However, if we announce to the membership the intent and dates of our board meetings— anyone can attend and provide input. Members are always welcome at our board meetings, but if you wish to provide input to this change to the bylaws, please attend on **Thursday August 30 at 6:00**, or to vote on the change **Thursday, September 27 at 6:00**. Both meetings will be held at the Nature Center—if the weather is nice we meet outside in back, otherwise downstairs in the big room. If you can't attend but have an opinion on this change, please let Teena know (tdligman@att.net).

NEWSLETTERS REVIVED —

In reviewing the bylaws we saw we were required to send out a regular newsletter. Sorry!

We all understand the importance not just to do good things, but to communicate to our membership what those good things that we're doing are so we continue to have our member's support and get their feedback. We have dropped the ball.

Andrea Castrale has offered to help me get out future newsletters so between us we are committed to doing a better job of keeping you informed. Let us know if you have questions or comments.

All-Terrain Wheelchair Still a Goal



We had hoped to receive a grant this summer for an all-terrain wheelchair. We were turned down for the grant; but we're looking for other grants and raising funds for a match so we can purchase a wheelchair for people like Sue Kelsey, shown here headed out to enjoy trails in an all-terrain wheelchair at Pokagon with her family.



Friends Group has Facebook Presence!

Thanks to the efforts of Amy Phillips, our group now has a Facebook page. Amy volunteered to take this on and has been helping promote us on social media.

She can use your help— if you can like her page and share it that would be great, or if you're at the park and take some good photos, send them to her to post on our site. She's always looking for new material.

Its your Highway and your Park, lets keep it looking good!

Last spring the Friends Board decided to adopt the stretch of Highway 60 in front of Spring Mill State Park. We agreed to adopt a 2-mile stretch of highway. Once we pick up the trash twice to show a good faith effort to do our part, the Indiana Department of Transportation will put up a sign like the one shown here at each end of our adopted section of highway. We have committed to picking up the highway four times a year. We plan to schedule another trash pickup in October. If you'd like to pick up trash with us, please let Teena know and we'll keep you informed of the dates we'll pick up trash. We also plan to pick up trash along the park's west boundary which also affects the beauty of our park.



Mission and Goals of Friends

Friends of Spring Mill State Park

Membership Application Year: _____

Members of Friends of Spring Mill State Park work in partnership with the park to:

Support the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources that are unique to Spring Mill State Park.

Support interpretation and education which encourage land use ethics and appreciation for the beauty of Spring Mill State Park.

Support scientific research of the park's resources.

Support the design, construction, and maintenance of facilities that enhance our visitors' experiences.

Generate funding, separate from revenue and legislative appropriations, to be used for the conservation of resources, facilities, and interpretation.

To become a member, please complete this form and return it to:

Friends of Spring Mill State Park
PO Box 376
Mitchell, IN 47446
friendsof.springmillstatepark@yahoo.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle your level of membership (annual dues in parentheses) below:

Individual (\$15.00)

Family (\$20.00)

Non-Profit Organization (\$50.00)

Business (\$100.00)

Corporate (\$500.00)

Annual Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

Additional Gift: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ Check here if you would like your name to be added to our list of volunteers.