



## Friends of Spring Mill State Park

### April showers...

The spring rains have encouraged many beautiful flowers to bloom at Spring Mill State Park! It's great to walk through the park and see the many plants in bloom. There's something different everywhere you look!

It's nice to see the return of hikers on the trails, visitors to the Village, and campers in the campground. Also, great to see all the seasonal workers returning to keep Spring Mill such a beautiful park to visit!

Spend some time and see what's new for 2023!

### CCC Celebration

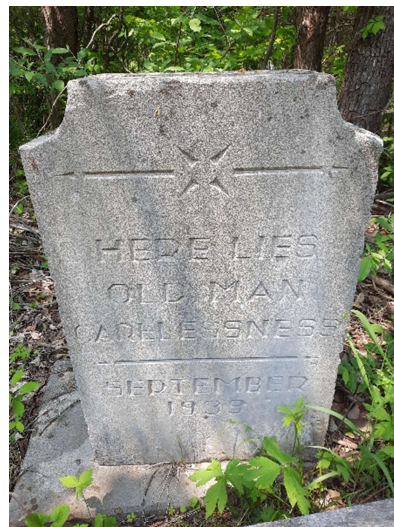
The 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps, is being celebrated at Spring Mill on the weekend of June 9-11, 2023!

The Friends wrote a grant to the Indiana Humanities Council to fund some special events to help honor the work that was done by the corps members who served at Spring Mill.

There will be an interpretive hike to view areas where the CCC help create the trails, and picnic areas in the park. There will be a guided kayak tour of the lake. Spring Mill Lake was a major CCC construction project at the park. There will

also be a dinner at the Grist Mill in the Village. The dinner will feature Carol Sanders as the keynote speaker. Carol is a humanities scholar, and the pivotal force behind making this weekend a reality. A performance by historical reenactors in CCC reproduction costumes is also planned.

A stone marker, pictured below, is going to be relocated to a more publicly accessible location, and a new flagpole and interpretive sign placed along with it to honor the CCC workers in the park. The marker reads "Here Lies Old Man Careless, September 1939" – a hint at the real danger of some of the large-scale construction projects the CCC members faced.



## CCC continued...

For more information about the event or to register for an event, contact Sheree Belt at The Lakeview Activity Center at Spring Mill State Park.



This CCC monument is located in the picnic area in front of the Butternut Shelter. (Just across from the Friends Souvenir Stand)



The Friends of Spring Mill State Park Webpage has pictures of The CCC members working on different projects throughout the park. Go to the history section of the webpage to find the photos.

## New cages

Friends of Spring Mill received a grant from Lawrence County Tourism to purchase portable cages for the Activity Center to help the staff transport animals when doing off-site programs. The new cages, pictured here with one of the turtles, enable the staff to safely transport, in a lightweight cage, the different animals they use for programs at locations such as at the campground or the back patio of the Activity Center.



## Mattresses purchased

When intermittent staff come to work at Spring Mill for a season or two, they often stay at park facilities. One of the locations was in need of new mattresses. Friends were asked if we could assist by purchasing them.

We're hoping someone is getting a good night's sleep now!

# Campground News

## BBQ TIME!

The Friends of Spring Mill sponsored a BBQ Contest in the campground the weekend of April 28-30, 2023. This was the first of what we hope will become an annual event!

The smell of BBQ was in the air as the 12 competitors cooked their specialties. Categories were chicken, ribs, pork, and brisket. First second and third places prizes were given in each category. In order to earn the Grand Champion award, a competitor had to have an entry in each category. The Reserve Grand Champion for the competition was Smoking Kelley's. The Grand Champion was Wild Cherry BBQ.



Other upcoming events at the campground include:

July 21-23 Christmas in July

August 18-20 Vintage Camper Weekend

December 1-2 Drive Through Holiday Lights

## TIDBITS

### Volunteer Opportunities

With Summer rapidly approaching, there are more opportunities to be a volunteer with the Friends group. The Souvenir Stand is always in need of workers on the weekends it is open. Help is always needed on the Adopt a Highway project. There are still items to be scanned and added to the history section of the website. The Friends have an online site (Sign Up Genius) that lists all the volunteer times needed. There is a link to it on the Friends web page in the “join-donate” section. If you don’t have Internet accessibility, call Teena Ligman or Laura Henley to find out opportunities are available. Their numbers are at the end of the newsletter.

### Hiking Week

Due to some storms and rainy weather, the hiking week was not as successful as in the past. Guided hikes were led by various volunteers. Approximately 15 people enjoyed beautiful wildflowers and hiking the trails that week.

### Distillery Update

An archeological survey of the floor of the distillery needs to be completed before work can continue on recreating an operating distillery. A whiskey tasting event

is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> to raise funds for this project.

### Weed Wrangle a Success

The annual weed wrangle rounded up 500 pounds of various invasive plants throughout the park. The main culprit in April is garlic mustard, which is easiest to pull when it is flowering. The “wranglers” were rewarded with a lunch provided by the Friends.



### Puppets

A popular activity when children visit the Lakeview Activity Center is playing in the puppet theater. The puppets have had quite a bit of use and are in need of replacement. A collection box is in the downstairs area to accept funds for puppet replacement. The Friends are monitoring and depositing the donations.

## For more information

### **Website**

Friendsofspringmill.com

**President** :Teena Ligman

[tdligman@att.net](mailto:tdligman@att.net)

812-278-0139

### **Volunteer sign up**

Go to Sign Up Genius

(link on webpage)

Or email

Laura Henley

[72henley@gmail.com](mailto:72henley@gmail.com)

For highway cleanup

John Castrale

[jsascastrale@gmail.com](mailto:jsascastrale@gmail.com)

### **To join or donate to The Friends of Spring Mill State Park**

Go to the web page listed above and click on the join/donate tab.

For all other questions, contact President Teena Ligman listed above