

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter June 2021

Hello Summer!

The heat has begun and the crowds have returned! After a year of isolation due to the Covid virus, the park is starting to return to some semblance of what we remember! A few things are still closed in the park, such as the swimming pool and the cave boat tours, but most other activities and areas are in full swing! The cicadas are singing and flying after their 17-year underground life cycle. It's a great time to visit the park and see all that is happening, hike a few trails, enjoy a picnic, camp for an evening or two, view the wild plants and animals, visit the Activity Center, paddle the lake,

visit the Gus Grissom Memorial, or just take a drive around!

Green Dragons



Puttyroot Orchid



These are two unusual plants found in the park this spring.

BOOST GRANT

A Boost Grant, was awarded in June. The \$1400 grant will be used to restore two items in the Village, the Root Cellar and the Spring House. This grant will help bring those two locations closer to their original look and use.



This grant is provided by the Lawrence County Community Foundation.

The \$1400 grant which we received will allow the Park to refurbish two structures in the Village back to the way they would have looked in the 1800s. The grant will also allow us to purchase props to "furnish" the rooms to interpret the buildings the way the pioneers would have had them look when the Village was being used.

For instance, the mud will be cleaned out of the Spring House to reveal its original trough across the floor where clear cold water runs. The cold water was where clean drinking water was accessed, and a barrel and a drinking dipper will be set up to explain how the Spring House provided water to residents. Milk, butter, eggs, and other items that needed to be kept cool were kept in the spring house since refrigeration

didn't exist in those days. We'll be able to purchase milk cans, "fake" eggs butter, and other items that would have been stored in the spring house along with an interpretive sign.



The root cellar is located under the current nursery/school room behind the 2-story house across from the Hamer Mill. It has long been used as an employee break room but has been cleared out and is being returned to its original use. Shelves will be installed and jars, baskets, urns, and barrels will be put in the cellar and produce which would have been stored in the cellar will be displayed in this room. We will be buying fake potatoes, apples, hams, cheese, pumpkins, and other produce to store in the root cellar. An interpretive sign in this room will explain the importance of this storage area for food to early settlers.

Anyone who has an old crock or barrel or something that would be appropriate to put in the spring house or root cellar, should let us know. We're still compiling a list of what to put in the spaces.

Camping Fun!

Summer and fall are great times to camp at Spring Mill State Park!

Many activities are being planned in the campground this year, thanks to the members of the Friends of Spring Mill Campground, which is part of the Friends of Spring Mill State Park!

Christmas in July is planned for the weekend of July 23-25



Santa will be there for the children as well as have a breakfast with children on Saturday July 24!



The vintage camper weekend is August 19-22. An Open House to visit the campers is on Saturday August 21.

Once or twice a month a pet parade will take place on Saturday evenings at 7 P.M. on the VIP loop.



Visit the FSMSP campground Facebook page to see all the fun activities that happen at the campground!

Grant updates

You may wonder what has happened with some of the grants we have recently received. Below is a photo of the playground in the Donaldson Cave picnic area. Children enjoy playing on this wonderful equipment.



This year two benches will be added to the area to allow people to watch their children play. One bench will list its' amazing sponsors. The other bench was donated by the Lawrence County Community Foundation in memory of Ray Robison.

POLLINATOR GARDEN

The grant to help with the pollinator garden on the lake side of the Activity Center has been used to purchase materials and the signage for the plants. Work was recently completed on the structure,

and plants are beginning to thrive and bloom.

Tiers for the garden were built with recycled timbers made from car parts. These sturdy, heavy duty timbers were made after the metal was removed from the cars. The rest of the car parts were forged into an epoxy material that will hold for a long time. A great tribute to reuse and recycle!



Return of the Souvenir Stand!

A Volunteer Opportunity

The FSMSP have been busy this year with the Souvenir stand located near the Village. We are once again selling items to help fund our projects. After a year's break, sales were brisk the two weekends. A big thank you to Sara Terry and Vicki Phipps for doing a fantastic job of cleaning out the cabin after the recent flooding.

Anyone interested in helping to work in the stand should call Teena to volunteer for a time.

Upcoming weekends when the stand will be open are:

Limestone Weekend

6/26-27

Old Fashioned Independence Day

7/3-5

Gus Grissom Weekend

7/17-18 and 21

Heritage Days

7/31-8/1

Labor Day

9/4-6

Tri Kappa Candlelight Tour

9/18

We are also in need of items to sell in the stand. Several members have been busy making items to sell, such as bird houses, bee condos, leather bracelets, aprons, tic tac toe games, jewelry, notecards, etc. Please let President Teena Ligman know if you are interested in making items for the stand! Items need approval from the park before we can sell them.

Highway Clean-Up

Volunteer Opportunity

The FSMSP have renewed their commitment to the Highway cleanup in front of the park and along Hwy 60. This area needs to be cleaned up four times a year. If interested in helping out, please contact John Castrale at 812-508-2849 and leave a message.

TURTLE

Funds are still being collected for the Activity Center's turtle tank project. The turtle continues to charm visitors as he and his fund grows.

July 31 has been tentatively set for the Turtle reception/dinner. It's not locked down yet, but a dinner reception is being planned for our very special snapping turtle to celebrate his birthday.

Everyone is invited to come to a dinner at the Lakeview Activity/Nature Center, hear a fun program on turtles, see the new pollinator garden, and bring your checkbook to help get the turtle's new home across the finish line! For more information, date confirmation and details call Sheree Belt. She can be reached by calling the park office 812-849-3534. Mark the date and join us to celebrate this amazing turtle's happy disposition and wish him a long and happy future in a bigger tank!



Gus Grissom Memorial Anniversary

Volunteer Opportunity

July 21 will mark the 50 Year Anniversary of the Gus Grissom Memorial at Spring Mill State Park. A program is planned for the day and FSMSP will be providing cake and bottled water for the event. We will also be selling our limestone coasters that feature area astronauts, among other pictures. If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Teena Ligman (contact information at the end of the newsletter).

CRISP Ride

The CRISP (Charity Ride Indiana State Parks) ride will take place on June 26. Spring Mill

State Park is one of the six participating parks this year. Each Park is offering specials for the riders. Cost is \$42/rider. The proceeds will benefit park projects.

For more information on the routes and to register see

Indianastateparksride.org



IPA GRANT

Tree ID Made Easy

Another grant was awarded by the Indiana Parks Association. This \$300 grant will provide 15 metal signs for tree identification on Trail 6, which is located across from the Grissom Memorial.



For more information about
the Friends of Spring Mill
State Park contact

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