



Friends of Spring Mill State Park

Newsletter Summer 2023

As another summer in Spring Mill State Park wraps up this Labor Day Weekend, we look back in this newsletter at many memorable events that took place, and look forward to what is happening for the very popular autumn season.

I think we all look forward to cooler temperatures and lower humidity, but will miss all the beautiful flowers and greenery in the park. Stop by and enjoy the change of seasons this fall!

We also feature a new column in our newsletter: The Featured Friend! Each newsletter will highlight one of our members, and let our readers know a little bit about them and why they enjoy being a member of the Friends of Spring Mill State Park.



Rockets!

On the weekend of July 22-23, 2023, Spring Mill State Park celebrated Virgil I “Gus” Grissom Days. The park and Lawrence County Tourism sponsored many different events that weekend. The Friends participated by selling rocket kits to those interested in participating in a rocket launch conducted by the National Association of Rocketry Count Down Cardinals Rocket Club. People purchased the rockets and assembled at the information tent. Several launch times were available for participants. Launches were held in the field near the Sycamore Shelter House. Participants enjoyed watching their rockets shoot up into the air, and then drift down with their parachutes.

The pictures below show assembly and launch activities.



Campground Happenings

The campground is always a busy place in the summer! And the Friends of Spring Mill have been busy creating fun activities for the campers!

Two summer events that annually draw many participants are the Christmas in July weekend, which took place on July 21-23, 2023.

Decorated campsites, visits with Santa, and breakfast with Santa helped make the weekend memorable. Santa also delivered presents to the children, with help from the Friends.

The other annual event is the Vintage Camper Rally, which took place August 18-20, 2023. A large group of vintage campers descend on the Spring Mill Campground, and set up amazing displays of camping in days gone by. It's a walk down memory lane during visiting time, when campers open their doors to guests, so they can view the charming interiors of the campers.

Pictures from Sara Terry are from the summer events.



Volunteers Needed

Friends of Spring Mill State Park is an all-volunteer organization. Members are people who appreciate the beauty and nature and adventure (to name a few things) of the park. In order for our organization to exist, we need people willing to give of their time.

One of the ways our group raises funds for our many projects is by selling items in the souvenir stand near the village. Many of the items are made by members, such as sewn items, magnets, birdhouses, barn quilts, coasters, etc. Our newest additions are crocheted animals by Susan Crawford and magnets by Laura Henley.



If you have a talent, or a craft that you would like to donate to the Friends that can be sold in our souvenir stand, please contact our President, Teena Ligman, and let her know!

We also need volunteers to man the souvenir stand on our busy fall weekends! See our Sign Up Genius website or call Teena Ligman to help out in the stand.

We also need volunteers to help with our entry in the Persimmon Festival Parade! Lawrence County Tourism provided a grant to purchase a parade banner. We are looking for volunteers, can be families or individuals, who are willing to help put the entry together as well as be in the parade with it! We have pioneer costumes, a Gus Grissom costume, or just wear Spring Mill t-shirts.

Volunteers are also needed for the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event to be held October 12 from 5-7 PM at the Red Cross Cabin in the park. It will feature food, door prizes, games and more. If you would like to help plan or help with the actual event, contact Teena Ligman

Volunteers are also needed for a table at the Persimmon Festival on Thursday, September 28. Call Teena if interested

Sign-Up Genius is located on the Friends of Spring Mill Webpage in the Join Donate tab

Docks Update

Progress is being made on the docks thanks to the Friends of SMSP.

If you've been down to the boat rental there are two new docks that were put together with gifted metal decking from Shakamak SP and Starve Hollow SRA and flooring and bolts paid for by the Friends of SMSP using funding from the VFW Post 9107.

The next project is to use this same process of the framework from these other parks with new decking and bolts to complete a floating dock out to the old diving platform. Thanks to the VFW Post 9107 for making these investments possible and watch for more improvements to this dock as we bring this long talked-about project to completion!



Membership

Membership in the Friends of Spring Mill State Park continues to grow. We are very pleased to add two businesses to our group:

Ace Hardware in Mitchell
Beans and Bagels in Chicago

Trail Challenge

The Trail Challenge 2023 is going well. Stickers have been reordered to give to people who have completed the challenge. People who complete the challenge are also encouraged to purchase a Trail Challenge shirt. A couple of groups are signed up to complete the challenge this month! Good Sports is happy to make shirts for anyone who completed the challenge.



Tandem Kayaks

With the help of the Lawrence County Community Foundation the Friends received funding for 2 tandem kayaks. These kayaks are perfect for families with small children or a disabled passenger, or for a couple on a date and want a romantic kayak paddle around the lake, or for people considering buying a tandem kayak to try them out. The seasonal at the Boat Rental (shown in this picture in one of new tandem kayaks) said they've been very popular. The LCCF board liked the idea of supporting the purchase of the kayaks a lot and eager to hear how they went over. Thanks to Amber Hill for writing this grant up for us! Check these two new kayaks and paddles (and we even had money for some new life jackets) out when you go by the boat rental. We appreciate the ongoing support of the Lawrence County Community Foundation!!



Puppets

Eight new puppets were purchased for use by visitors in the Lakeview Activity Center. The “theater” and puppets are very popular with children visiting the Activity Center. The old puppets were loved a bit too much over the years, so new ones were purchased by the Friends. Here is the new cast of characters for many future puppet shows.



CCC Anniversary

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps which brought in the young men that built many of the improvements in Spring Mill State Park and restored the Village Mill and cabins was established here in 1923. We celebrated the 90th Anniversary of their work at Spring Mill Park on the weekend of June 9, 10 and 11, 2023.

Friends of Spring Mill Members Carol and Paul Sanders were instrumental in organizing this event with park naturalist Sheree Belt. Many wonderful activities took place such as history hikes, a catered dinner, a kayak trip to see the work that the CCC members completed in creating Spring Mill Lake, a rollcall experience and much more. Costumes were made for the program, and reenactors gave visitors an experience of what life was like when the CCC workers were at Spring Mill State Park.

The Friends of Spring Mill State Park website has a section about the history of the CCC at Spring Mill. Pictures are from Sheree Belt.



New Feature

A new feature is being added to the Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter. Each issue, we will be highlighting a member of the group.

We are starting this series out by featuring our President Teena Ligman

Background -Teena is originally from Missouri but grew up literally all over the World. Came to Lawrence County in 1985. She has been President of Friends of Spring Mill SP since 2018.

Why Friends? - Asked about why she is involved with Spring Mill State Park "I think this is the best state park in Indiana and how amazing is it that it's in our back yard! Spring Mill has the pioneer buildings, Red Cross history, Gus Grissom's history, and an incredible old growth forest. What an eclectic mix of how far we've come in about 100 years- from log cabins to space. You have to wonder what Hugh Hamer and Gus Grissom would think if they were sitting together down in the Village talking about what we've done with the place!"

Work and Family- Teena worked for the Forest Service for 42 years as a forester, wildland fire fighter, and in public affairs. She also retired after 27 years in the US Army, most of those in Reserves and National Guard.

Teena is married to Dave. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

The Ligmans live on a former cattle farm on the White River south of Bedford but in recent years have put it in pollinator fields, woodland, and warm season grasses.

Hobbies - Teena enjoys backpacking and hiking and outdoor adventures but mostly she volunteers full time for a myriad of organizations and non-profits. She said

making the world and people's lives a little better make her happy.



For more information about the Friends of Spring Mill State Park, visit our web page:

www.friendsofpringmill.com

A link to our Sign-Up Genius is located on the webpage in the Join Donate tab

If you have questions, please call President Teena Ligman at 812-278-0139 or email at

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