



Friends of Spring Mill State Park

Winter 2023

While walking through the park, I thought about all the places where you can see that our Friends of Spring Mill State Park have made an impact.

When you enter the park office area, the Friends provided the funds for the automatic door entry to the Grissom Memorial. As you hike on Trail 6 behind the office you see the tree identification markers that were obtained by a grant written by the Friends. As you hike around the lake in the summer you will see some kayaks that were purchased by the Friends. Signs at the pollinator garden were provided by the Friends. Hiking from the Activity Center to the Village you see the information sign about the Red Cross Cabin paid for by the Friends. The Village has several items provided by the Friends or grants written by the Friends. The Printing Office, the Root Cellar, the Mill and the Distillery have all received funding of one type or another. In the Donaldson picnic area, you see the playground that was

funded by a grant that the Friends have obtained. Benches on Trail 3 (and a few other trails) were funded by the Friends.

These are just a few of the visible projects that Friends of Spring Mill State Park have made possible. We have also helped fund programs, and meals for Reenactors and Weed Wranglers (to mention a few), entertainment for the Haunted Village, highway cleanup, and speakers throughout the years. But we couldn't do any of these things without your help. If you haven't joined or volunteered, now's the time to join! An application form is on the back of this newsletter. **JOIN TODAY!**



Christmas Activities

The weekend of December 3 was busy for the Friends! We participated in Christmas in the Village by selling items from our souvenir stand in one of the cabins.

We had also provided treats for the Tavern cabin where cookies and hot cider were provided for visitors and children visiting Santa!

That weekend was also the second annual Holiday Lights in the Campground event. Fifty-six campers created a delightful atmosphere for visitors to drive through. Their hard work and creativity certainly shown bright the two nights of the event.

Over 550 cars went through the holiday lights that weekend.

Photographs from Sarah Terry and Micheall Reed.



New Door Opener

A new automatic door opener was installed at the Lakeview Activity Center. The door is located upstairs, and would allow visitors to park on the lower parking area and then take the ramped walkway to the front of the building to enter. Another door is planned for the lower level to allow access to that area of the Activity Center as well. There is an outdoor ramped walkway that leads from the upper to lower entries.

The lower door is still in the planning stages!



The Friends have already provided an automatic door for the Gus Grissom Memorial. A few others for that building are also in the planning stages.

Civil War Reenactment

A winter battle reenactment of the Civil War will take place the weekend of February 18-19. This event will allow visitors to see how the Civil War troops survived life in the cold winter months. A battle will take place each day. The camp will be set up in the Village. Visitors are welcome to visit the troops and ask questions about their trials during the winter.

Weather permitting, the Friends will have the Souvenir Cabin open.

Anyone interested in helping with selling items in the cabin can contact Laura Henley or sign up on Sign Up Genius if already a member of the app.

The picture below is from a past reenactment.



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Spring Mill State Park is coming up on Tuesday March 21. With the Inn closed for remodeling and updates, a location is yet to be determined. Look at the Friends of Spring Mill web page or Facebook page for details as the event gets closer.



A drain needs to be placed in the pot before it is functional.

Distillery Update

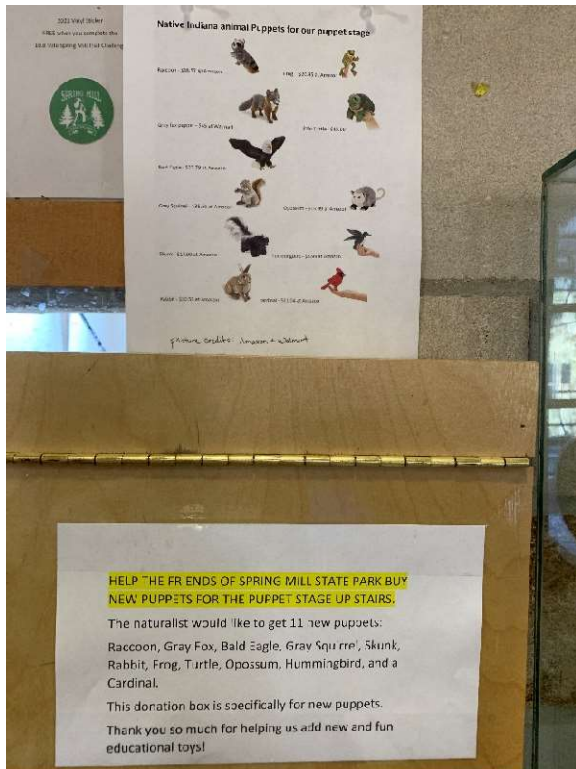
The Friends have been purchasing items that are needed for the working still that is being created in the Village Distillery. Several items are already on display, but the still is not in working order yet. An archeological survey needs to be done before the permanent floor can be put down. After the survey, work can begin on the floor. A drainage system needs to be created for the distillery. A new boiler pot, pictured at top right, has just arrived.



This close-up picture shows some of the details in the boiler pot.

Puppets

One of our new fundraising goals is to provide new puppets for the Lakeview Activity Center. The puppets, and the “puppet theater” are a very attractive and popular spot for children to play and explore. The current set is getting worn, and needs to be replaced. Eleven puppets have been selected for purchase. The Friends are collecting donations in the Activity Center donation box for that purpose. The selected puppets and donation box are pictured below.



Cookbook

Board members Rowena Cross-Najafi and Laura Henley have been busy working on a cookbook update. They have been trying to get a broader range of recipes and to include more persimmon recipes. Plans are still in the works for how this is all going to come together. Thank you ladies for all your work!

New Trail Challenge Logo

The annual trail challenge has begun! The trail challenge is an activity in which a person hikes all the trails of Spring Mill State Park. It is done on the honor system, and can be done in a day or throughout the year. When completed, the participant receives a sticker and has the opportunity to purchase a shirt. (See information page on how to order shirt). This year's stickers are vinyl.



Information Please

For more information about any of the Spring Mill State Park Friends activities, contact information is listed below. (Please leave messages if you have questions!)

General questions

President Teena Ligman

812-278-0139

tdligman@att.net

Adopt a Highway Trash Pickup

John Castrale

812-508-1228

jsascastrale@gmail.com

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Website

www.friendsofpringmill.com

Sign Up Genius – where you can sign up for volunteer opportunities

signupgenius.com/go

You will need to register or

search by creator's email

72henley@gmail.com

Trail Challenge

Go to the Friends of Spring Mill website (the “About” tab) and order your shirt online.

www.friendsofpringmill.com/about

Pick up stickers at park office or Lakeview Activity Center



Friends of Spring Mill Membership Application

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 with your check to:

Friends of Spring Mill State Park

PO Box 376

Mitchell, IN 47446

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or you may sign up on our website using a credit card at:

<https://www.friendsofpringmill.com/join-donate>

Select level of membership (annual dues in parentheses) below.

	Individual (\$15)
	Family (\$20.00)
	Non-Profit Organization (\$50.00)
	Business (\$100.00)
	Corporate (\$500.00)

Annual Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

Additional Gift Always Appreciated: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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