

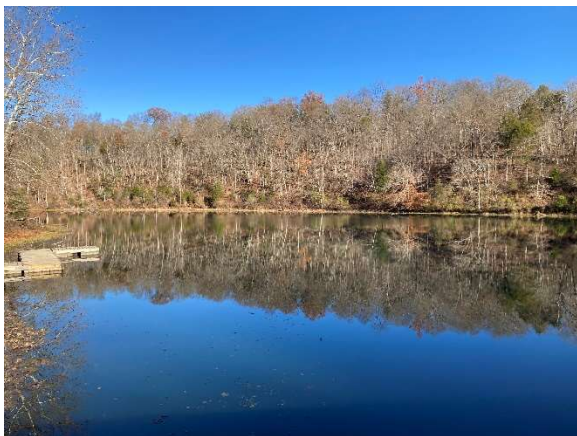


Friends of Spring Mill State Park

It has been a beautiful autumn season at Spring Mill State Park. Many activities and visitors have enjoyed the colorful season. As you read through our newsletter, you can look back on some of the events in which the Friends of Spring Mill sponsored or participated.

But now, as the leaves have mostly fallen, the temperature has begun to drop, and nature begins to take its winter nap, activities at the park begin to slow. But it is a nice peaceful time to take a walk in the woods. The crowds are gone, (and so are the insects!) and the quietness of the forest can be enjoyed.

Take some time to enjoy the beauty of this season at Spring Mill State Park.



Christmas in the Village

The annual Christmas in the Village Program will take place the weekend of December 1 and 2, 2023. During this event, the buildings in the Village are open to the public, and reenactors are portraying what Christmas might have been like when the Spring Mill community was thriving in the 1800's. Christmas dinners are being prepared and celebrated, crafts and gifts are being made, refreshments are being served in the tavern, and Father Christmas is visiting with the children. It is a great family friendly event.

The Friends will be selling souvenirs during the event. The venue for the Friends sale is located in the Village instead of the regular cabin near the parking lot. We will be selling items from the last cabin in the village, (the building between the tavern and the bottom of the stagecoach trail). A few volunteers are still needed, so please check the Sign-Up Genius board if you are interested in helping. Bring your flashlight if you are helping after dark! If you have made any items to donate for the Friends to sell, please bring them to the cabin, or contact Teena Ligman to make arrangements for getting them placed in the cabin to sell. Please include a suggested price on the item.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!

Join the Friends of Spring Mill State Park in the campground the weekend of December 1-2, 2023 (Same weekend as Christmas in the Village) for the Christmas Lights in the Campground. This fund-raising event is now in its third year, and gets bigger each year!

Our campground friend, Sarah Terry, has planned another fun weekend! Campers arrive at their sites and enter the contest for who can get the most votes for their site. Lots of time and effort goes into this fun competition.

Visitors can view the lights while driving their vehicles through the campground. Then those who drive through can vote for their favorite site as they leave the campground. Hours are from 6-10 P.M. There is a \$5 admission to drive through.

Board Changes

Two of our board members have retired their positions in the last few months. Hugh McNeely and Joan Smoke have been on the Friends of Spring Mill board for several years and have been wonderful volunteers! We wish both of these people the best and will miss their wise insights on the board.

We have recruited two new board members to fill these positions. The board welcomes Alan Bishop and Lincoln Merchant to the board.

Anyone interested in serving on our board should please contact Teena Ligman and let her know of your interest. We are currently talking with others who may be willing to serve on the board as well. We have a great, friendly board, and appreciate all who can contribute their time and talent!

Craft Fair

A craft fair was held at Spring Mill State Park on November 4-5, 2023. There were 25 vendors participating. Visitors to the fair paid a \$3 entry fee to view the crafts.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Craft Fair! The Friends were able to add \$5700 to their account by holding this event! We are very thankful for the great teamwork between The Lawrence County Tourism Office, the Spring Mill State Park Staff, and Friends volunteers plus amazing weather. People who attended the event found it very enjoyable and helped a lot of them get started on their Christmas shopping. We got a lot of great comments on the event and have ideas to improve it in 2024!



Vendor located in the Mill

Art Work

Becky Mason, Mitchell High School Art Teacher and very talented local artist, has drawn some amazing art work for the Friend's group. Originally, we were thinking the art could illustrate a customized deck of cards, but the artwork was so amazing that we felt it needed to go bigger! We're trying to decide the best uses of the art work but are very pleased with the drawings Becky has done for us. She is incredible and we're excited about the possibilities of using the art on anything from T-shirts, mugs, to the brand on our whiskey labels, etc. Big ideas for an amazing group of graphic drawings!

The artwork will be revealed in an upcoming newsletter. Thank you, Becky, for sharing your wonderful talent with the Friends of Spring Mill!



Red Cross Cabin Rocks from Business After Hours Event



Business After Hours Hosted

The Friends hosted a Business After Hours event for the Mitchell Chamber members on October 12. We were fortunate to have Kim Hicks from Bloomington Regional Rehabilitation Hospital offer to co-sponsor the event and provide the food for the event. She had the event catered by McAllister's and was very generous with all that was provided. The Friends purchased a cake and no one should have gone home hungry. Although we were hoping that more people would come, we were told it was a relatively good size crowd. The event was held in the Red Cross cabin and Naturalist Sheree Belt gave a short program about Clara Barton and her ties to Lawrence County and Teena talked briefly about the accomplishments of the Friends of Spring Mill State Park and invited any one there to join . Food left from the event was donated to Becky's Place Homeless Shelter which was very much appreciated by those staying there. Those who came were also given Red Cross rocks which were gathered from the creek that ran through the Red Cross farm that Clara Barton once helped manage. They were then painted with the Red Cross logo. Door prizes were also given away at the event.

Surprise!

Friends of SMSP were very honored to be chosen by the Lawrence County Community Foundation for one of their ten surprise grants given out this fall in honor of their 30th anniversary. Each of the ten grants were for \$3,000 and is to be used at the organization's discretion. We'll need to use it all on one project and send in a final report on how it was spent to better the Park. The board is now deciding how the money might best be spent and is very pleased to have made the cut as one of the 10 organizations selected by the Foundation to be awarded a grant! Teena said she's proud of the group for making the Friends an organization that has that level of respect in the community!

Parade Float Coordinator

Do you just love a parade, or like to be in a parade? Friends of Spring Mill received money to purchase banners for parades. We are in the process of getting volunteers to begin forming a plan for parades in 2024. Shannon Lagle has agreed to be our parade chairperson. Thank you, Shannon! Please contact Teena Ligman or Shannon Lagle if you would like to be a part of the parade planning group! Any and all help is greatly appreciated!

Cookbook

The new edition of the Friends of Spring Mill Cookbook is getting close to being ready to go to press. Anyone who has a recipe they want to get in this edition of the cookbook - especially if

it uses ground cornmeal, whiskey or brandy, persimmons, or Dutch oven/pioneer style

cooking - please submit your recipes quickly for review. This extensive revision to the cookbook

should be uniquely Spring Mill with recipes catering to what we can offer to our visitors –

our fresh ground cornmeal (which should be available again in 2024), local persimmons and soon whiskey and brandy brewed in the Village distillery! (See following article)

Distillery

The distillery is getting close to resuming forward momentum. Alan Bishop attended our board meeting and was explaining the next steps and thinks the gridlock of recent months is about to break and we can move forward again. He's working on some plans with others and we hope to get back on track soon and get the flume rebuilt from the spring to the distillery and the mill to provide water for the distillery, a new floor for the building, ventilation for the building for the fires that will cook the product, and all the myriad things remaining to get the distillery across the finish line. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months!

Volunteer Opportunities

Check the Friends of Spring Mill Website, in the Join/Donate tab to find the Sign-Up Genius. Volunteer times are listed there. Or call Teena Ligman if you have questions.

If you have ideas for projects, or want to find out more, attend one of the meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00P.M.(no meeting in December). Meetings are held in the park. Call ahead for location, as it changes depending on time of year.

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

www.friendsofspringmill.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

tdligman@att.net

Meet the Members

This newsletter's highlighted member is John Castrale. John has been on the board for 5 years and is the current Treasurer. The group doesn't know what they would do without his steady calm presence on the board. And he and his wife can always be counted on to work the concession stand. His crafts are among our best sellers with people stopping back to see what new quilt squares he's painted, even if they don't purchase them, they are a source of interest to people who stop by the stand. His tic tac toe games are amazingly popular. At the State-wide friends meeting a man told me he'd bought one of our tic-tac-toe games and his grandchildren played with it regularly. Makes me happy to know the things we sell help people make memories. John is good at that with his birdhouses and other wood crafts.

John enjoys walking the trails at Spring Mill, and the variety of activities available .



