

FRIENDS OF SPRING MILL NEWSLETTER- WINTER 2019

Membership Time!

It's a New Year and time to renew your Friends of Spring Mill Membership. Or if you are not a member yet, now is a great time to join! Annual dues are \$15 for individuals or \$20 for a family membership. Business membership is \$100 and Non-Profit is \$50.

You dues help Friends of Spring Mill fund projects around the park such as the benches and signs completed last year.

Dues can be sent to:
Friends of Spring Mill
C/O Spring Mill State Park
P.O. Box 376
3333 State Rd 60 East
Mitchell, IN 47446



Scenes from the January, 2019 snowfall at Spring Mill State Park

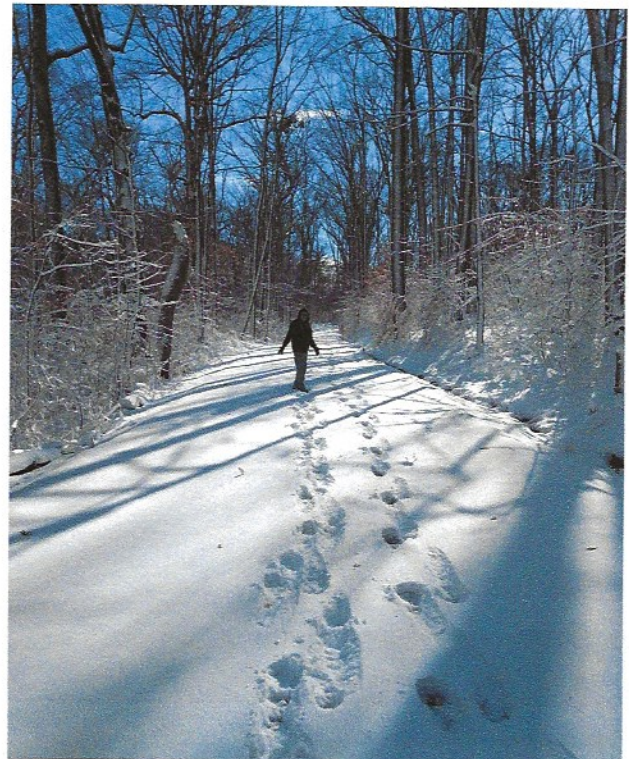
For more information about the Friends of Spring Mill contact Teena Ligman
tdligman@att.net
812-278-0139

Volunteer Opportunities

Upcoming activities:

Civil War Winter Battle - February 16 11:30 A.M.- 3:00 P.M. Friends will have the Souvenir Stand open in the Leather Shop. We will need volunteers to sell items.

Adopt a Highway Clean Up Day - March 24, 1:00 P.M. Meet at the park entrance



Growing Up near Spring Mill State Park

Hugh McNeely wrote the following account. Hugh is a board member of the Friends of Spring Mill, a very active member and hiker.

I was born in 1939 and grew up in Mitchell. Mitchell was a very supportive community with good schools (Emerson, Riley, Burris and Mitchell High School), good teachers and administrators and caring and helpful neighbors. It also had Spring Mill State Park where I spent many a summer day once I was old enough to safely ride my bike. We would explore the Village, trails and caves; but most importantly, go to the beach. It was at the beach where I learned to swim and where I ventured past the ropes and climbed upon the pier for the first time. The iron bars onto which the ropes were attached and the pier are still in the lake, and remnants of the stone wall that marked the boundary of the sand can be seen.

Later as a sophomore in high school I got a job as a waiter at the Inn where I worked until entering IU in the Fall of 1958. There were eight serving stations and the private dining room with each usually manned by a male and a female. The males wore a white waiter's jacket with dark trousers, and the females wore a uniform which I recollect being green with checked apron and trim. The jackets and uniforms were provided by Inn management. We felt pretty professional in the manner we approached our duties. The guys prided themselves on balancing the large metal trays with one hand above their shoulders when bringing food from the kitchen and bussing dishes to the kitchen. During the summer, the footing could be uncertain as the hard wood floors would "sweat" and become very slippery. One time a fellow waiter, Johnnie Mann, slipped while carrying a tray of salad bowls to his station, and the salad landed on a table and the guests at that table.

The Inn was booked solid from Memorial Day to after Labor Day, and we served breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hours for Sunday dinner (lunch) were extended with a standard menu of deep fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans. Haven't had a better chicken dinner since. This was a very popular meal with not only the guests but also people from the surrounding communities, and we would serve several hundred people at this meal.

There were dorms for the males and females, and many of us basically lived at Spring Mill Inn during the summer. We would often walk to the beach between lunch and dinner and join in Inn activities after the work day. I learned how to play bridge and square dance during those summers but haven't done either since. I have many fond memories of the people who were part of the Spring Mill crew, but I want to mention Mrs. Kate Pope, the manager for most of the time I worked at the Inn, and Eugene "Smitty" Smith, the chef. Both had a very positive influence in my maturation.

After completing my undergraduate degree at IU in 1963, I entered the Air Force and did not return to Mitchell other than to visit my Mom and Dad and siblings. I became a runner some time during this hiatus and always looked forward to running the trails in Spring Mill with my nephews, Mike and Tom Goldsby. Circumstances brought me back to Indiana in 2003 when I relocated to Indianapolis. I was still running the trails at this time but have morphed from being a runner to a hiker. You will often see me with my camera hiking in Spring Mill with my friend, Loisanne, and her dog, Lucy. It has been a heck of a ride from my beginnings in Mitchell to where I am today, and Spring Mill State Park played a major role in preparing me for that ride.

The Souvenir Stand

An ongoing fund raising activity for the Friends of Spring Mill is selling items from the souvenir cabin, which is located near the bridge to the Pioneer Village. The stand is only open for “special” weekends, such as Civil War weekends, Fourth of July and Persimmon Festival Candlelight Tour, etc. The items sold must be pre-approved by the park in order to not duplicate what souvenirs the park is selling. Several members have donated their creative works to help us raise funds and have unique items to sell. Wooden tic-tac-toe games, miniature barn quilts, bluebird houses, greeting cards featuring pictures taken in the park by a member, shoe planters, bee condos, bee catchers and jewelry are just a few of the many items created by our talented members. If you have an item that you think might sell well at the stand, give Teena a call!

Another benefit of the souvenir stand is the great PR it creates! It is very interesting to be a volunteer at the stand and hear the stories visitors share about the cabin and their history with Spring Mill. Many people remember the cabin being open when they were children, perhaps visiting the park with family or on a school field trip. It brings back memories for many people.

We are also a source of information and directions for visitors! We hand out trail maps, and the park office workers give us a list of events and times that we can share with inquiring park guests.

Volunteers are needed to sell souvenirs for the Winter Battle on February 15 and 16. It is easy to do, and you can sign up by giving Teena a call or emailing her. (Her information is on the first page) Due to the cold weather and no heat in the souvenir cabin, we will be located in either the leather shop or summer kitchen in the village. Both locations will have a fire going to keep us warm!

Pictured below are some of the items sold in the souvenir stand.





John Castrale, the Treasurer for Friends of Spring Mill, donated a barn quilt to the park last fall. It is located at the Camp Store. Stop by and check it out!



Friends of Spring Mill will need to clean up our 2-mile stretch of road four times this year. The first clean up date is March 24 at 1:00 P.M. Please join us!

Friends of Spring Mill Officers and Board of Directors

President – Teena Ligman
Vice-President – Rowena Cross-Najafi
Secretary – Amber Hill
Treasurer – John Castrale
Board of Directors
Kaydy Miller, Hugh McNeely, Amy Phillips

Friends of Spring Mill Annual Meeting

When: Thursday, March 28, 2019

Where: Spring Mill Inn – Oak Room

Time: 6:00 P.M.

All members are encouraged to attend!!!