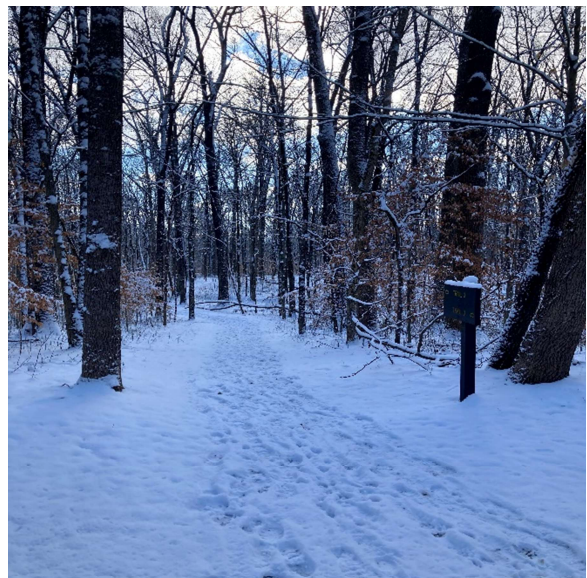


Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter - Winter 2021

Winter at Spring Mill

Although most of the winter weather in southern Indiana has been pretty quiet, except for Christmas, winter is making a strong comeback in February. The cold and snow make all of us wish for some warm spring days, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the peacefulness of winter at the park. From the footprints in the snow, you can see that several people did just that!



Playground Update

As a quick reminder, Amber Hill wrote a grant for The Friends of Spring Mill State Park. From that application we received two grants last year for playground equipment to replace what was at the Donaldson Cave picnic area. The grants were from Smithville Foundation, Schneider Recreation and Burke Playground Equipment. Work has begun this winter with the removal of the old playground equipment.



The new equipment has been ordered and delivered. Installing the new playground will begin soon, weather permitting!



The picture above is the final playground layout. It looks like lots of fun will be had there!

Turtle Tank

Funds are still being donated for the new turtle tank at the Lakeside Activity Center at Spring Mill. Naturalist Sheree Belt, Kaydy Fults and Evie Phelps are getting estimates on different possibilities for a new tank for the resident snapping turtle. Treasurer John Castrale has been checking the donation box and depositing the funds into the account. Nearly \$1800 has been collected so far. Other fundraising plans are being discussed.

Take a Hike

Once again, FSMSP are sponsoring the Trail Challenge. The Trail Challenge is a fund raiser for FSMSP. It's a very simple, honor system program. Participants hike every trail (10.8 miles total) at Spring Mill. After completing the trails, the hiker is eligible to purchase a shirt. A portion of the shirt sales go towards FSMSP. It's an easy way for FSMSP to earn income and also promotes hiking and outdoor activity.

To help promote the program, during the week of April 1-7 there will be a daily hike on a different trail each day. If a person participates each day, they will complete the challenge and hopefully meet a few new people while getting some exercise.

Contact Teena Ligman for hike updates.

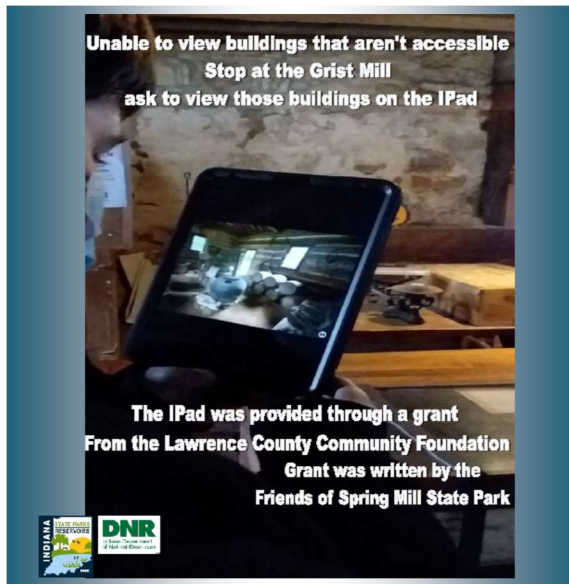
Each year features a different shirt design. Below is this year's version, available in short or long sleeves. Stickers are also available if not interested in a shirt.



The shirts can be ordered on the FSMSP website or Facebook page. They are printed at Good Sports in Bedford. We are trying to support a local business! Various colors and sizes are available. Free pick up at Good Sports is available.

iPaD!!!

FSMSP has purchased, with a grant from the Lawrence County Community Foundation, an iPad for use at the mill in the village. This enables visitors that are unable to climb the stairs to the museum on the second and third floor of the mill to see the items on display.



A tripod was purchased by FSMSP to help with filming additional footage to interpret other buildings in the village.

The iPad is available to anyone who wishes to check it out. The primary target audience is people with disabilities who are

unable to use stairs. The iPad allows the upper floors of the mill and the cabins to be accessible with a virtual tour of the buildings and their contents. The miller said the iPad has been popular in that he has been able to show people up close details of how the corn meal is ground “behind the scenes” which hasn’t been available before.

Next time you visit the park, ask to use the iPad to enhance your visit to the village!

Adopt a Highway

The FSMSP have adopted a two mile stretch of Highway 60 for trash pick-up. This task is performed four times a year. The next pick-up will be around the beginning of March. Many hands make light work, so if you would like to participate, contact Teena or John Castrale (812-508-2849).

ANNUAL MEETING

Our FSMSP Annual Meeting, March 16, will be Virtual this year.

The details are still being worked out, but we think this has the potential to be easier and perhaps the best-attended Annual Meeting ever! Even those of you who live out-of-state can easily log into a Zoom meeting and listen to our accomplishments for 2020 and our plans for 2021.

Mark Young has agreed to be our Speaker to give a 10 minute or so talk on how Spring Mill has changed over his almost 30-year tenure in the Park. Many of you have been visiting the Park for decades and we'd like to hear your memories as well.

Registration information will be available soon for the Zoom Annual Meeting. The link and other information will be sent to you before the meeting. We plan to have door prizes and think, though this is a new format, we can still make it work and have an interactive meeting. If you've never done Zoom, this might be a good time to try it out. You can call Teena before the meeting for information on how to use Zoom.

WEED WRANGLE

A Weed Wrangle is planned on April 10, 2021 to pull invasive garlic mustard in the park and Friends are invited to come out and help rid our Park of some of these pesky invasive species. During the weed wrangle event, a brief program will be held to introduce wranglers to garlic mustard, and an explanation of what wranglers will need to do will be given. Participants will go to various areas around the park, and pull garlic mustard and collect it in bags. The bags will be returned to the nature center, and the person with the most garlic mustard will win a prize. Naturalist, Sheree Belt, is coordinating this event. Call her at the park office if interested.

**For more information about
FSMSP contact**

Teena Ligman

812-278-0139

tdligman@att.net

FSMSP Website and Historical Scanning

Another project is in need of volunteers to scan historical documents. Any person interested in the history of this area would enjoy seeing the many items that need to be scanned. FSMSP has been involved with providing some resources for this project. FSMSP received a grant from the Indiana Humanities Council to purchase a slide scanner and a photo scanner. If you have an interest in seeing how this process works, or anyone who would like to donate some time doing the actual scanning is encouraged to call Sheree Belt at Spring Mill State Park. This process will ensure that many important items will be preserved digitally.

The items that are scanned will then be added to the FSMSP website, which Teena Ligman, our President, has been busy

creating. One section of the website focuses on the history of the park. The scanned items are a part of this section. Several new audio recordings have been added. These voices from the past, bring to life the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps, or talk about the days when the speaker visited the Village when the mill was still in operation and the smell of apple jack whiskey filled the air from the distillery run by Jonathan Turley. Listen to the stories that take you back to another time in Spring Mill State Park.

The website also includes information about FSMSP, an area where interested supporters can join FSMSP or make donations to help support our efforts. Several items are also available for purchase from our store. Check out the great job Teena has done at friendsofpringmill.com

CRISP RIDE

The CRISP (Charity Ride for Indiana State Parks) motorcycle ride is planned for June 26. They are planning to have rides between several southern Indiana parks. If you have an interest in participating in this ride, or helping with logistics at our park to support it, let Teena Ligman know. Details are still being worked out.



Park visitor taking a rest on the trail