

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Newsletter

Summer 2022

Summer in the Park

It has been a crazy summer; wet, dry, hot and humid and even a few cool dry days! The old saying of “weather in Indiana...just wait 5 minutes and it will change” has certainly been true this year.

But it has not stopped thousands of people from enjoying our beautiful state park. Campers, hikers, swimmers, boaters, picnickers and history and nature lovers have all had much to experience at the park.

Specialists have studied several resources in the park this year from a watershed study to archeological sampling to a Donaldson Woods inventory.

There’s always something interesting happening at Spring Mill State Park. Come visit and see for yourself!



A colorful mushroom along the road.

Turtle Tank Celebration



(Picture from Sheree Belt)

An official celebration of the new turtle tank in the Lakeside Activity Center will take place on September 17th at 1 P.M. Thank you to everyone who donated to our new turtle tank for our Common Snapping Turtle. Come celebrate with us in the back of the Lakeview Activity Center. At 1pm there will be a Turtle Talk with live turtles. From 1:30-3pm there will be snacks, turtle craft, games, and prizes. This event is sponsored by Friends of Spring Mill State Park.

New Cookbook

Friends of Spring Mill State Park Board Members Rowena Cross Najafi and Laura Henley are planning to rewrite the Cook Book that is sold in the Souvenir Stand. According to Rowena, "We are working to make the cookbook more focused on Spring Mill and the Mitchell area; for example, we are adding sections for cornmeal recipes, persimmon recipes, recipes for things to be made with products from the distilled spirits, recipes for camping, and recipes that utilize fresh produce that is grown in southern Lawrence County. We will be adding new recipes and taking away some that don't seem to work with the new focus (like those that depend heavily on processed foods like canned soup). We hope that any new recipes come with a story—Aunt Rose's Cherry Delight that she always brought to the family reunions, or the best spaghetti sauce I ever tasted from my Italian friend Marco, or whatever. We are also talking about asking people to test some of the recipes and maybe even have a competition for "best meatball recipe" or "best brownie recipe," just to name a couple of things we have more than one recipe for."

If interested in helping with this project contact Rowena Cross Najafi rcross11@msn.com

Upcoming Dates for the Souvenir Stand and Volunteer Opportunities

One of the ways the Friends raise funds is by opening the souvenir stand in the Village area. The stand is located along the creek near the Village parking lot. Many of the items that are sold are made by Friends members, or produced locally in Indiana. We can always use more members to help sell items. It's easy to sign up with Sign Up Genius online. Or you can call Teena Ligman if you don't have Internet access.

Help is needed on the following dates:

Souvenir Stand

9/3-5 Labor Day and Fiber Arts

9/17 Tri Kappa Candlelight Tour

10/1-2 Autumn Harvest Days

10/8-9 1800's Music

Selling Tickets

11/5-6 Craft Fair

Holiday in the Village

12/2-3 Sell items in one of the cabins in the Village

Weed Wrangle

Saturday, September 24th, is Public Lands Day, which is the largest single day volunteer effort in the nation. Help Spring Mill and Lawrence County KIC with the removal of invasive plants. Bring garden gloves, bug spray, and a lopper if you have one. We will provide the training and other equipment. Meet at Lakeview Activity Center at 9am for instructions, maps and a volunteer sticker that will be your ticket to a free lunch.

Lunch is served at 12pm-12:30pm for those who participate. Lunch is provided by Friends of Spring Mill State Park. To learn more about Weed Wrangles in your area and how you can get involved visit

<https://www.sicim.info/weed-wrangle-indiana>

(Information provided by Sheree Belt)



Distillery Update

Friends of Spring Mill State Park have been working with the park to recreate an operational still in the Village. Pictured below are some of the items the Friends have purchased to help realize that goal.

You can stop by The Distillery cabin in the Village and see those items on display.

We are currently waiting on the delivery of the boiler and for some additions to the cabin to make it more conducive to the distillery process taking place.



Campground

The campground has been busy this summer with several events such as Christmas in July and the Vintage Camper weekend.

Below are pictures of “Christmas Campers” sites and the Vintage Camper weekend provided by Sara Terry



Upcoming Events

The Friends of Spring Mill State Park will once again participate in the Fall Craft Show at the park on November 5 and 6. We will be selling tickets for the event. We will need volunteers for this event (It's a sit-down job!).

We will also need people to sell items at Christmas in the Village on December 2 and 3. It's a fun time!

On October 15, we will be selling hot chocolate at the Haunted Village registration.

There will be an Adopt A Highway quarterly cleanup in September. Contact John Castrale for details.
jsascastrale@gmail.com

See the Sign-Up Genius site for more opportunities and more details.

www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4da8ab2caaf8c25-souvenir

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT
FRIENDS OF SPRING MILL
STATE PARK CONTACT**

TEENA LIGMAN

tdligman@att.net

812-279-5547