

## Newsletter

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[www.franklincreekgristmill.com](http://www.franklincreekgristmill.com)

Autumn 2015

### Upcoming Events

**Evening at the Mill: Where Bison Roam**  
**Saturday, October 17th, 6:00 PM**  
Cliff Knapp & Rev. Jeff Schlesinger present the various aspects of bison: past, present, future. Tickets are \$25 and includes a meal. Details on page 1.

#### **Headwaters Workdays** **Saturdays in October**

Help us make the headwaters property even better. Join us on workdays throughout October. Details on page 3.

#### **Water/Ways Exhibit** **May 28—July 9, 2016**

Keep your eyes open for more details about this amazing exhibit that will be housed at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Thanks to the Illinois Humanities, this Smithsonian exhibit devoted to water and its use around the world, will be on display for 6 weeks at the mill. Included in this exhibit will be displays with a focus to our local water resources.

### Ongoing Events

**Bird Walk** (next one October 10th)  
Meet at the Grist Mill at 8 AM, Free

#### **Franklin Creek Grist Mill Hours:**

- April through October: Fridays, Saturdays, and most Sundays (check website calendar) from 12pm—4pm. Stop in for a tour or to just look around.
- Grinding demonstrations are held on the last Saturday of every month and stone ground corn is always for sale! See our featured recipe on page 3.

(815) 456-2718

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### What's New at Franklin Creek!

#### **An Evening at the Mill: Where Bison Roam** **October 17th, 6:00 PM**

Bison: big, bold, beautiful, beneficial. These are just a few words that explain bison in the view of today's society. What about the past? This program will entice you to learn more about the past, present, and future of the bison. What is a bison and why is it important today?

Learn more about these magnificent creatures now roaming the Nachusa Grasslands with FGC&PC board members (and bison aficionados): Cliff Knapp, professor emeritus from N.I.U. and Reverend Jeff Schlesinger, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran in Compton and First Lutheran in Lee, IL.

Tickets may be purchased at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill, at the Senior Center in Oregon IL, by calling the Grist Mill at 815-456-2718, or on the FGC&PC website at [www.franklincreekgristmill.com](http://www.franklincreekgristmill.com).

#### **Congrats on receiving Com Ed Grant!**

Great News! In June, Lee County was awarded a \$10,000 grant on our

behalf from Com Ed's Greenest Region Grant Program. The grant will be used to design, fabricate and install a kiosk and signs to help potential visitors find the 80 acre Headwaters property, orient themselves, and learn about its key natural and historic features.

The Headwaters is aptly named because it includes the actual headwaters of Franklin Creek. It is a multi-use open space adjacent to the Village of Franklin Grove that allows FGC&PC to protect the water quality of Franklin Creek from its source. It was purchased by FGC&PC in 2009 to provide a critical link between the Village of Franklin Grove and the Franklin Creek State Natural Area. It will be the starting point of the Gerald Miller Memorial Trail which someday, with support and good-



Photo by Jeff Schlesinger



will, could run the entire length of Franklin Creek from its source to the Rock River.

(Continued on page 2)

# Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation



## *Singing Bird Chautauqua....Thanks for a great weekend!*

Thank you all for making our first annual Singing Bird Chautauqua a great event! The weather was a little warm, but that didn't stop our amazing performers from giving their all while dressed to the nines (I should say the 1860s). Everyone enjoyed two days of history, music, and fun. We listened to the musical sounds of the Drummer Boy of Shiloh while learning of Elizabeth Keckley's connection to the Lincolns'.

We listened to the memories of Mary Lincoln as the first lady of the country, and felt the passion and hardships of being president from Abraham Lincoln himself and via his friend Austin Gullaher and coworker William Herndon. There was tasty food and lively music in-between.

Check out some fun pictures from the event and look forward to details of the second Singing Bird Chautauqua in future editions of this newsletter!



*(Continued from page 1 Com Ed)*

With help from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a conservation plan was developed and implemented for the Headwaters. It is unique in the Rock River Basin because it includes six best use conservation practices including features such as filterstrips, a restored wetland, a pollinator planting, field borders, conservation tillage (cropland) and waterways. FGC&PC and over 50 volunteers have invested time and resources worth over \$100,000 in this restoration effort to date.

Restoration of the Headwaters continues and is focused on eradicating invasive vegetation and planting native species. The restoration work funded with a \$30,000 Stewardship Challenge Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation is underway. Hey and Associates, a regional consulting firm at the forefront of ecological restoration, prepare the Headwaters Stewardship Plan. Restoration work underway this fall includes brush and invasive species removal in the woodlands, woodland trail improvements and native planting, invasive species removal and seeding a prairie butterfly garden near the parking lot.



With restoration underway, FGC&PC is working to improve public access to the site. The Com Ed grant and matching funds being raised will allow us to design, fabricate and install an informational kiosk and signs in 2016 to help potential visitors find the Headwaters, orient themselves on the property, and learn about its key features.

The kiosk will be located by the parking lot. Educational panels installed throughout the property will describe key features of the Headwaters including signs highlighting the agricultural resource conservation practices and the CRP program and, signs about natural and historic features including the creek, upland forest, old quarry, and historic bridge. Directional signs will guide visitors to the Headwaters from Highway 38 because the entrance is not obvious.

After the signage is complete, the next phase of improvements will include completing a hiking trail that connects the Headwaters to the Franklin Creek State Natural Area. It will include an accessible portion leading to an observation deck overlooking the wetlands.



# Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation

## FEATURED RECIPE

### Mormon Johnnycake

#### Ingredients:

- 2 c. STONEGROUND CORNMEAL (available at the Grist Mill)
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 c. buttermilk
- 2 T. molasses

1. Preheat oven to 425°.

2. Mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased 9-inch pan.
3. Bake for about 20 minutes.
4. Remove from oven and cut into 16 squares and enjoy.
5. To make a lighter cake, add 2 beaten eggs and 2 table-spoons melted butter. Increase the baking time by 5 minutes.



## Become a Volunteer

Do you love spending time at the Grist Mill? Do you enjoy nature, the outdoors, or mill works and machinery? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, think about becoming a volunteer. We will be looking for volunteers to help with our Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibition next year between May 28-July 9. Please contact Phyllis Dupre for more info: 815-519-7969 or [phylbdupre@gmail.com](mailto:phylbdupre@gmail.com) (leave message or text).

## Headwaters Workdays—We need your help! Saturdays in October starting at 10:00 AM

The FGC&PC is currently working on the restoration of the Franklin Creek Headwaters Property. This 80-acre parcel is located between Franklin Grove and the 880-acres of the Franklin Creek State Natural Area. Thanks to an Illinois Clean Energy Foundation Grant, the FGC&PC Board is working with volunteers to restore the site to its natural state. Our current project is working on the area closest to the parking lot which will include planting shrubs, controlling invasive species, and incorporating interpretive signage.

We are looking for volunteers to help with these projects over the month of October and more in the future. We will be working on the preparation of the area and planting shrubs on the following Saturdays: October 3, 10, and 24. If you are interested in helping out, finding out more information or signing up for our email list to find out about future workdays, please contact us at 815-456-2718 or [info@franklincreekgristmill.com](mailto:info@franklincreekgristmill.com). You can also show up at the headwaters property on these dates at 10am. Bring work gloves, shovels, and clippers if you have them.

To access the Headwaters parking lot and work area, take IL 38 to Franklin Grove and turn south onto N State Street. Drive 0.1 miles and turn right (west) onto K Street (gravel road across from United Methodist Church). Drive 200 feet and turn left (south) onto gravel alley and drive straight into the parking lot at the end of the alley.

## Future Generations Campaign Moves Closer to \$450,000 Goal—\$27,682 still needed!

A \$50,000 donation from the Ivan and Maxine Hullah Memorial Fund moves FGC&PC's Future Generations Campaign much closer to its \$450,000 goal. We have received \$181,200 in grants from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation along with \$103,318 from 48 additional individual and business contributors—large and small. So, \$284,518 or over 63% of the goal is in hand. Another \$137,800 is in the works!

**This leaves only \$27,682 to be raised. With your help, we can make this goal!!!**

If you are a friend of Franklin Creek, love high quality natural areas, sandstone bluffs, and winding streams, have a passion for wildflowers and wildlife...hiking, hunting, birding, and fishing, are inspired by volunteer efforts and local initiatives or like the challenge of accomplishing a lot with a little, support the Future Generations Campaign! It provides a golden opportunity for you to contribute to and protect this precious community asset today and for tomorrow. The Future Generations Campaign is supporting three initiatives to secure and expand the legacy already created by hundreds of volunteers over the years at Franklin Creek.

1. Protect the Franklin Creek Watershed by purchasing additional land and restoring existing and future acquisitions for eventual incorporation into the Franklin Creek State Natural Area. Acquisition of the Kelley property as well as stewardship work and the creation of public access at the Headwaters property are immediate priorities.
2. Expand the ecological and local heritage education programs and exhibits at the Grist Mill and outdoors; and
3. Develop a Friends of Franklin Creek program to establish strong partnerships and build up the visitor, volunteer and contributor base of the Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation.

Please support, nurture and grow this beautiful, unique and valuable local resource for today and for future generations! Make your contribution today at our website [www.franklincreekgristmill.com](http://www.franklincreekgristmill.com) or mail your donation to:

Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation  
1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031



Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation  
1893 Twist Road  
Franklin Grove, IL 61031-9315

Return Service Requested



## So Much to See and Do!

Thanks for a great  
Chautauqua!



Headwaters Workday  
for Volunteers (pg 3)



Evening at the Mill  
this October 17 (pg 1)

Evening at the Mill with  
Bison!



*The Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation strives to preserve and protect high quality natural areas in the Franklin Creek watershed, while providing educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for the public to discover, explore and experience the area.*