

Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation

Newsletter

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www.franklincreekgristmill.com

Spring 2015

Upcoming Events

Evening at the Mill Claude Monet

Saturday, June 27th, 6:00 PM

Scott Shepherd presents the artist, Claude Monet. Tickets are \$25 and includes a meal. Contact Alyssa by June 19th at (815) 456-2718 to purchase tickets or for more details.

Singing Bird Chautauqua at Franklin Creek State Natural Area

Saturday & Sunday, August 15-16

First annual family fun event with focus on storytelling, music, food, fun, and more. Check out page 2 for more info.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Saturday, May 23rd, 9:00 AM

Help the FGC&PC restore the Headwaters Property by pulling garlic mustard out of the woods. For more details contact Alyssa at (815) 456-2718.

Ongoing Events

See page 3 for more details.

Bird Walks (next one June 13th)

Monthly, through October, 8 AM Free

Geology Walk (next one May 30th)

Monthly, through October, 10 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

info@franklincreekgristmill.com

What's New at the Mill!

Bison Exhibit at the Grist Mill

Baffled by bison? Here is your chance to get all of your best bison questions answered! Come on out to the Grist Mill and take a look at our newest exhibit on the mighty bison. This exhibit was developed to complement the arrival of the bison at Nachusa Grasslands.



Visitors will have the chance to take a closer look into the world of the American Bison (*Bison bison*). Learn more about the important role bison played economically, culturally, and ecologically, both in the past and the present. Touch a real bison hide and go eye-to-eye with a bison skeleton. View bison up-close through art and photographs. Discover how the Native Americans have used every part of the bison from food and clothes to instruments and tools.

This is your chance to get up close and experience the things that make a bison a bison. And,



while you are there, take a tour of the Grist Mill.

Welcome to our New Coordinator

Look for a new face around the Grist Mill. The FGC&PC has hired a coordinator to provide staff support to the committee and a great experience to the public. Alyssa Rod is originally from Mendota and has more than 15 years of experience developing environmental education programs, tours, exhibits and materials. She has worked with groups of all ages as well as volunteer programs in the past. Alyssa's experience and knowledge of our local ecosystems will be a great asset as we move forward.

Two Big Accomplishments

The Franklin Creek State Natural Area (SNA) expanded by 40 acres when the FGC&PC sold the Hurd property on Old Mill Road to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This high quality woodland will be added to the Nature Preserve at the SNA. It is covered with beautiful wild flowers and provides a great viewing point for two important geological features—Lovers Leap and Steamboat Rock.

And, the adjacent 22.8 acre Kelly property was purchased by the FGC&PC to protect and sell to the State when funds are available.

Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation

Headwater Happenings

A Stewardship Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation has provided \$30,000 to create and begin implementing a restoration plan for the 80-acre Headwaters Property owned by the FGC&PC. Watch for improvements to the upland woods and the wetlands and prairie areas in the coming months.

The Headwaters is adjacent to the Village of Franklin Grove and will eventually serve as a link between the Village and the State Natural Area. This is a matching grant and requires both cash donations and volunteer hours. You can help by volunteering for upcoming garlic mustard pulls, trail making, and planting natives. Call or e-mail if you are interested in helping and watch our website for updates.



An Evening at the Mill with Claude Monet June 27th , 6:00 PM

Through the Eyes of Monet: a theatrical impersonation of Claude Monet, the daring pioneer of impressionism. In the face of public ridicule, Monet talks with us at his home in Giverny France where he illustrates his determination to paint nature as he saw it with his own eyes instead of following the authoritative method. By the end of his triumphant career, still innovating with his water lily paintings by capturing the atmosphere surrounding his subject, he urges us to follow the love in our hearts, to keep us afloat in the bad times.

Scott Shepherd, portraying Monet, is an experienced and highly acclaimed teacher, Golden Apple finalist, Fulbright Scholar, and veteran performer.



Singing Bird Chautauqua

at Franklin Creek State Natural Area

The FGC&PC is reviving a 100 year old tradition this year by hosting their first Chautauqua of this century at Franklin Creek! The Chautauqua will be held at the Norwegian Hill Day Use Area in the Franklin Creek State Natural Area on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 & 16.

What is a Chautauqua? President Teddy Roosevelt once called the Chautauqua "the most uniquely American thing in America." Pronounced shuh-TAW-kwuh, this traditional form of entertainment is a celebration of American life. Historic and contemporary topics are presented at the Chautauqua by speakers and performers with a variety of perspectives on culture, art, history, innovation, philosophy, and nature. The Chautauqua experience is both thought provoking and entertaining at the same time.

This year at the Chautauqua at Franklin Creek, history, culture, and art will abound. Visitors of all ages are invited to meet characters who step out of the pages of history to regale us with the stories of Abraham Lincoln's life and times. With a theme of "Lincoln and The Civil War", you are invited to meet Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Lincoln's boyhood friend Austin Gollaher, Elizabeth Keckley a Freed Woman and First Ladies' Confidant, Lincoln's law partner William Herndon and James Munroe the Drummer Boy of Shiloh.

Along with these stories, you will hear the music and taste the food and fun of America in 1865 to mark the 150th anniversary of both the end of the Civil War and Lincoln's life. Visit our website for more details as the event draws closer.



Moving Forward

Our "Future Generations" finance campaign is raising \$450,000 to purchase and restore additional land, expand ecological and local heritage education programs and exhibits at the Grist Mill and outdoors, and to develop a Friends of Franklin Creek program to increase our impact. A



big thank you is due to Jenette Lehman who recently contributed \$20,000 to the campaign in the name of her late husband Robin Lehman and to the many other contributors who have given what they can to the cause so far.

The Franklin Creek Future Generations Campaign has received two matching grants totaling \$181,200 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and another \$10,000 matching grant is pending. We need your help to raise the \$56,100 match for these grants.

**Every \$1 you give now generates
\$3.40 in grant funds for land
acquisition, public access
improvements and restoration!**

Please, make your gift now. Thank

you for your continued interest and support. We would love to hear your ideas about how we can better serve you, your friends, and family—or get you involved in our work!

Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation



Future Generations Campaign What will he see?

The goal of the Future Generations Campaign is to raise \$450,000 in the coming year in order to secure and expand the legacy already created by hundreds of volunteers over the years at Franklin Creek. Help us to make the public use and access improvements at the Headwaters property and achieve our educational goals at the Grist Mill. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Future Generations Campaign. For more information or a tour call us at (815) 465-2718.

Count me in at the following level!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ___ Hummingbird (up to \$499) | ___ Wood Duck (\$5,000-\$9,999) |
| ___ Swallow (\$500-\$999) | ___ Pheasant (\$10,000-\$24,999) |
| ___ Oriole (\$1,000-\$4,999) | ___ Eagle (\$25,000+) |

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to:

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

Geology Walks

~The last Saturday of every month, May-October at 10am. Meet at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Get ready for a lesson in geology! For starters Franklin Creek State Natural Area has the oldest exposed bedrock in Illinois. At 500 million years old, the New Richmond Sandstone is remarkable. **Mark your calendars for May 30, June 27th, July 25th, August 29th, September 26th and October 31st.**

Bird Walks

~The second Saturday of every month, May-October at 8am. Meet at the Franklin Creek Grist Mill. Join seasoned birders as they lead a walk through the Franklin Creek State Natural Area highlighting the migrating birds and the ones who make the natural area their home. **Mark your calendars for June 13th, July 11th, August 8th, September 12th and October 10th.**

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. Please contact Phyllis Dupre for more info: phylbdupre@gmail.com or 815-519-7969 (leave message or text).

FEATURED RECIPE

Lime & Cornmeal Cookies

Prep time: 12 minutes
Inactive time: 90 minutes
Cook time: 17 minutes
Yield: 12-14 cookies



Cookies:

- 1/2 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- Zest of 3 large limes
- 1 egg, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons of lime juice (zest the limes first, then use the juice from 2-3 limes to get the 3Tb of juice)
- 1/2 teaspoon of pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups rice flour for cookies and a bit more for dusting
- 1/2 cup CORNMEAL
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt

Glaze:

- 1 1/3 cups powdered sugar
- Zest of 2 large limes
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Cookies:

1. Line baking sheet with parchment or silicone pad and set aside.
2. Using a food processor plus together the butter, sugar, and lime zest until combined. Add the egg, lime juice and vanilla and continue to process until smooth. Add the rice flour, cornmeal, baking powder, and salt. Continue processing until a ball of dough forms.
3. Place the dough on a lightly rice floured surface and knead for 20 seconds. Form into a ball and cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 20 minutes.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and place rack in the center of the oven.
5. On a lightly rice floured surface, using half of the ball of dough at a time, roll each half into approximately a 9" circle. Roll to 1/4" thickness. Dip the cutter lightly into the rice flour every few cookies to prevent sticking. Place cookies on the prepared baking sheet.
6. Bake until light golden brown around the edges. Approximately 15-20 minutes. Cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes and then transfer to baking rack and cool an additional 15 minutes or until completely cool.

Glaze:

Whisk together powdered sugar, lime zest, and lemon juice until smooth. Spread each cookie with about 1 teaspoon of glaze, leaving a bit of edge around the cookie. Allow the glaze to harden for about 45 minutes before serving.

This is a super gluten free cookie. If you substitute all purpose flour for the rice flour you will need to INCREASE the all purpose flour from 1/3 cup to 3/4 cup.

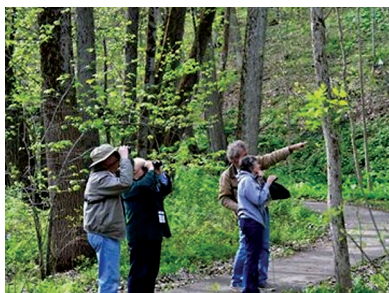
Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation
1893 Twist Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031-9315

Return Service Requested



So Much to See and Do!

Take a hike with a
volunteer guide.



Take a peak at our
newest exhibits!



Singing Bird Chautauqua
this August 15-16 (pg 2)

Family and group tours
available!



Evening at the Mill
this June 28 (pg 2)

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.