

# Newsletter

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

Winter 2017

## Upcoming Events

### Last Chance to Visit Franklin Creek Waterways Exhibition

**On display April 1—May 14, 2017**

Special exhibit devoted to water and the Franklin Creek area on display at the mill. Including new graphics about the mill and milling process.

### Spring Wildflower Walks

**April & May 2017**

Enjoy a spring afternoon viewing the beautiful native woodland flowers. Details in the Spring newsletter and on the web.

### Trees and Woodlands in the Prairie State Exhibition

**On display May 27—October 31, 2017**

NEW—Learn more about the ecological, psychological and spiritual importance of trees and woodland areas such as Franklin Creek. Details in the Spring newsletter and on the web.

## Evening at the Mill

Saturday, April 29th 6:00 p.m.  
Selected Stories and Poems that

## Celebrate The Forest And The Trees

Read by: Scott Shepherd

Dinner and Program \$25 per person

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Call (815) 456-2718. Details on the web.

### Franklin Creek Grist Mill Hours:

- April through October: most Fridays, Saturdays, and 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](mailto:info@franklincreekgristmill.com)

## What's New at Franklin Creek!

Help us protect nature for you  
and the children in your lives...

Water sustains life, but nature sustains children. By protecting our natural resources we work towards creating a healthier lifestyle for our children and ourselves.

◆Nature teaches children what's really important in life.

◆Nature reminds grown-ups of what they value and helps them regain their balance.

◆Nature is the antidote to smart phones, instant messages, relentless newscasts and the stresses of daily living.

The Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation is working towards expanding, protecting, and sharing the irreplaceable peace and beauty of the Franklin Creek through contributions to our annual finance campaign. These activities have a lasting impact on so many lives—plants and animals, as well as people— young, old and in-between.

Campaign contributions support::

- Land acquisition and restoration,
- Grist mill improvements and maintenance,

- Indoor exhibits and outdoor education, and
- Community outreach and partnerships.

Help us reach our goal of \$50,000 and make the protection of nature a priority in this fast paced technological world.



Find your way back to nature this year through visits to the Franklin Creek State Natural Area and Grist Mill by joining in a variety of tours and programs throughout the year.

Make your gift today by mail to: FGC&PC, 1893 Twist Rd, Franklin Grove, IL 61031 or online at [www.franklincreekgristmill.com](http://www.franklincreekgristmill.com).

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"Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives."

~Thomas Berry



# Franklin Grove Creek and Preservation Corporation

We accomplished a lot with your 2014-15 Campaign contributions:

- Develop a land restoration plan for the Headwaters property,
- Purchase and begin restoring the 23-acre Kelley property to add to the Nature Preserve,
- Create directional and educational signage and continue land restoration activities at the 80-acre Franklin Creek Headwaters property,
- Install a contemplative memorial sculpture and a memorial picnic table at the 40-acre Hurd property,
- Host the **Smithsonian Institute "Water/Ways"** exhibit to build community understanding about the importance of water to all life and cultures,
- Create ten companion exhibits that highlight local water resources and issues on display at the Grist Mill,
- Custom design and purchase new exhibit hardware that reflects the unique beauty of the grist mill for current and future educational exhibits,
- Repair lightning damage to the Grist Mill electrical systems, elevator and computers,
- Hire a full-time program coordinator with outdoor education experience,
- Conduct educational programs and activities such as River Watch, Closer to the Creek children's activities, nature walks, corn grinding, an interpretive bison exhibit, Evenings at the Mill, and the Singing Bird Chautauqua.

These are major investments to protect high quality lands adjacent to Franklin Creek, educate the community about the precious environmental resources here and build our organizational capacity.



**"Time in nature is not leisure time;  
it's an essential investment in  
our children's health (and also,  
by the way, in our own)."**

~Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods:  
Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Elmer Stauffer retired as Site Superintendent of Franklin Creek State Natural Area in December 2016. His replacement has not been hired yet. We will miss Elmer and wish the best for him in this next chapter of his life.



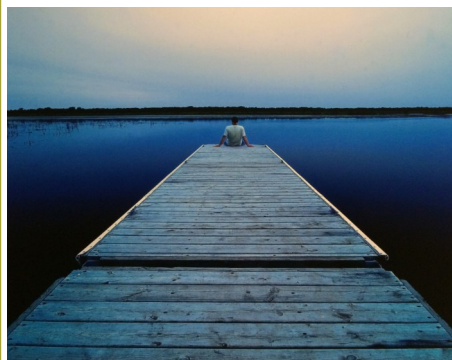
## Nature as Seen through Photography and Painting

During 2016, guests had the chance to join in the art of water through three unique opportunities: a photo contest, a photo shoot-off, and a watercolor painting raffle. A few images from these events are below.



One of the photo shoot-off winning images. This event gave photographers the chance to photograph the creek area during a 3 hour period. The winner of "Creek Scenes" is Angela Dunlap.

This Sydni Rubin watercolor painting of the Franklin Creek State Natural Area was raffled off in October.



During the photo contest "Water Shots," guests could enter photos into 1 of 6 water themed categories. Best-of-Show, a photo under the category of "Open Water" is an image titled "Solitude" by Mike Vaughn.

# Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation

## *Events of 2016—Reviewing A Season of Water Adventures*

Last year we hosted a variety of programs, special events, and new exhibits all focused on water and water ways. The year started with a presentation by Sara Grady about water and it's cultural connection throughout history. Next, an amazing new exhibit "Water/Ways" traveled to Franklin Creek from the Smithsonian Institute. During the summer, children enjoyed a day learning about water critters during "Closer to the Creek" nature day. At the August Evening at the Mill Lee Murdock sang his renditions of the music and stories of people who work on the water. In autumn guests took a virtual roadtrip following the path of a raindrop down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico with author Gayle Harper. The Season of Water Adventures ended with the Singing Bird Chautauqua that included two days of river songs, the travels of a French voyager, Mark Twain's soliloquies, up-close times with live frogs, turtles and stories of the wildlife found in wetlands, wagon rides and great food. Look forward to the adventures in store during the 2017 Year of the Woodlands!



### FEATURED RECIPE

#### Cornmeal Corn Dogs

##### Ingredients:

- 1 cup **STONEGROUND CORNMEAL** (available at the grist mill)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- 1 quart vegetable oil for frying
- 2 packages hotdogs (16 ounce)
- 16 wooden skewers

##### Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, combine cornmeal, flour, salt, pepper, sugar and baking powder. Stir in eggs and milk.
2. Preheat oil in a deep saucepan over medium heat. Insert wooden skewers into hotdogs. Roll hotdogs in batter until well coated.
3. Fry 2 or 3 corn dogs at a time until lightly browned, about 3 minutes. Drain on paper towels.



#### 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.

#### Geology Walks

~The last Saturday of every month, May-October at 9am. 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.

#### Become a Volunteer

You can help, In so many ways!

Become a tour guide at the Grist Mill. Help develop educational exhibits. Become a land steward to help restore and maintain the natural beauty of the area. Teach our children about the great outdoors. Become our social media expert. Lead nature walks. Join the board and help chart our future. Help maintain the mill in great work order. Plan festivals and events. Stuff envelopes. There is a role for you. Contact Alyssa for more info: (815) 456-2718 or email [info@franklincreekgristmill.com](mailto:info@franklincreekgristmill.com).



Franklin Grove Creek & Preservation Corporation  
1893 Twist Road  
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Return Service Requested



## So Much to See and Do!



Memories of 2016

*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.*