



The Singing Winds

Newsletter of the Friends of T. C. Steele State Historic Site

Spring
April
2015

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30th Annual Wildflower Foray April 24-26, 2015



Experience sights and sounds of spring in the southern Indiana forests . . . 30 years of finding spring blooms in Brown County and beyond. Foray founders hit on a winning combination by pairing enjoyable hikes and programs with serious work gathering wildflower data. Knowledgeable guides lead wildflower and bird hikes, boat trips, and hikes exploring local natural areas. Each year, Foray veterans and newcomers share their wisdom and challenge each other to find new species in bloom. Together, they monitor habitat change over time. What doesn't change is the fun!

Since 1986, Brown County's Spring Wildflower Foray has grown from one to three days, doubled the number of hikes and programs and explored new wildflower habitats in Brown County and beyond. A few things haven't changed, though. Experienced hike leaders and enthusiastic participants keep on finding flowers and ways to enjoy spring-time's abundant beauty. Highlights this year include:

- ◇ Hike to historic Waldrip Cabin nestled among ridge tops near Monroe Lake
- ◇ Explore ice age relics at Trevlac Bluffs
- ◇ Join "Moment of Science" radio person Don Glass & botanical illustrator Gillian Harris for a creek walk in Schooner Valley
- ◇ Boat into Monroe Lake backwaters to view wetland wildlife and wildflowers
- ◇ On an easy walk, learn about plants used for therapeutic brews

THINGS TO NOTE

1. All programs and hikes are free, but some properties charge a gate fee.
2. **Some hikes require pre-registration.** Check the description carefully.
3. Hikes are held regardless of weather. However, in case of unsafe conditions, boat trips may be rescheduled and occasionally a hike has been cancelled.
4. Although our leaders are knowledgeable, field guides are always helpful
5. Bring water/sack lunch if you plan to participate in one hike after another.
6. Our parks, nature preserves, reservoirs, wilderness areas, and historic sites are protected. "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints."

HOW TO GET A COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Go to www.tcsteele.org and click on **Programs** at the top of the home page Then click on the **Spring Wildflower Foray logo** at the left side of the page which will take you to another site. Click on **2015 Wildflower Foray Hikes** for a detailed list of hikes and events as well as a location map. Printed brochures will also be available at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site and Brown County State Park.

Certificate of Excellence

— 2014 —



T.C. Steele State
Historic Site

Visit Trip Advisor to read
reviews and comments.

Flowers, Friends and Food Dinner & Silent Auction to Support the Foray Saturday, April 25 - 6:00 pm

Brown County State Park; Rally Campground, Recreation Building

Reservations required: call 812-988-2785 Cost: \$10 payable to Friends of T.C. Steele



General public welcome: \$2 parking fee

Festival of Flowers PaintOut

Saturday, May 16, 2015

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Early Bird Artist Registration April 1- April 30

Adult registration: \$10 (\$9 for members)

Child registration: \$5 (\$4 for members)

Regular Artist Registration May 1 - May 16

Adult registration: \$15 (\$14 for members)

Child registration: \$10 (\$9 for members)

Head to the Festival of Flowers PaintOut and enjoy an outdoor judged plein air art contest and afternoon concert. Pre-registered artists create artwork while visitors have the opportunity to observe the process of creation - outdoors. All work submitted for judging must be created the day of the contest. Food and beverages will be available for purchase with the outdoor concert beginning at 1 p.m.

Cate Whetzel Promoted to Program Developer

Cate joined the TCSSHS staff in January as an interpreter. She has now been promoted to Program Developer for the site. "I am thrilled to be the new Program Developer," stated Cate, "and am looking forward to meeting with, and partnering with, old friends and new to promote the site. We have great programs already scheduled, and I am excited to learn more about them, and to create new events and educational programs to enhance our offerings." Cate has an MFA in Creative Writing from Indiana University and an AB in English from Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. She resides in Bloomington with husband Ben and son James.

Kyle Schwerman Joins Staff as Interpreter

A native of Florida and now a resident of Martinsville, IN, Kyle graduated from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville with a B.A. in History and a minor in Sociology in 2008. He has been doing SAT and ACT Test Prep at Club Z and tutoring in the Martinsville area. Kyle worked for several years prior at Books-A-Million as a sales and customer service associate, where he was named a Service Leader, Employee of the Month, and "Stellar Seller" sales leader multiple times. He has a passion for history and education. Kyle is a welcome addition to the staff just as the busy season for visitors begins this spring.

Love in the Studio

An Evening of Music, Art & Romance

On Valentine's Day, over 40 guests enjoyed the ambiance of Steele's historic art studio while listening or dancing to the romantic music of the Lara Lynn Trio. This was a **new** fundraiser for the Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site.

Watch for news of our popular "Murder Mystery" fundraiser coming this fall.



Lara Lynn Trio

Steve Mascari (doesn't he look like a young Cariani?), Lara Lynn Weaver, Kevin MacDowell

Selma Steele's Formal Garden Renovation

Update by Andrea deTarnowsky

It's been a long year since the Winter 2013-14 Friends newsletter, when the Garden Restoration Project was outlined and the "Selma Seven" were introduced. The Spring 2014 newsletter outlined some of the challenges we face: ADA accessibility, and the fine balance between "improvement" and "authenticity." A lot has happened since.

Fund-raising efforts are over two-thirds of the way to the \$300,000 goal, enough to fully restore the Formal Garden and arbor, gardens around the historic home, and the lily ponds and associated garden. Several major donors stepped forward: Gary and Kathy Anderson, Bob and Barbara Stevens, Don and Laura Stuart, and Ruth and Jenny Johnson have all claimed naming rights for different garden areas with major donations and pledges. Several naming opportunities are still up for grabs. The Friends of T.C. Steele cashed in a CD for their own tangible funding commitment. Small donations from individual members added up, too.

Visitors last season watched the stone work around the historic home gradually take shape. The stone patio is now back to its original level and configuration, and the rock walls have been rebuilt. Mrs. Steele would no doubt be breathing a sigh of relief, since she discovered—the hard way—that without something to hold the soil in place, anything planted on top of the hill soon ends up at the bottom. The arbor south of the house was rebuilt and awaits a coat of dark brown stain to match the original. There are lots of little red flags lining the Formal Garden, and the arbor there has also been rebuilt, and historic peonies have been moved out of harm's way into holding beds.

But the most important developments are not yet visible: Research, planning, a long to-do list, because we want to do this right! Now that winter is behind us, all of that will pay off.

Garden designer Christina Kroeger worked with site staff members to draw up Formal Garden plans for everything from ADA access to electrical improvements. The finalized plans remain true to Mrs. Steele's vision for the gardens, while providing visitor amenities to draw in visitors and make the area far more versatile for all types of use. Contractors will soon be hard at work dealing with "hardscaping," including improved parking. Meanwhile, three additional gardeners—temporary employees, hired just for this project as part of the state's commitment to the project—will work with maintenance supervisor Anthony Joslin to install irrigation, level walkways, prepare planting beds, and all the other stuff that will translate plans on paper into a reality.

Stop by the historic site soon to check out finalized garden plans, and watch the renewed gardens take shape throughout the season!



An arbor in the formal garden has been reconstructed from trees available on the property.



Historic peonies have been moved to holding beds to protect them until garden improvements are completed.



Flagstone steps to the west porch have been redone, creating a safe and attractive path to the house.

FOUNDED IN 1825, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY IS THE ONLY INSTITUTION OF ITS KIND THAT INTEGRATES A MUSEUM, ART SCHOOL, AND ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS AND ARCHITECTS DEDICATED TO CREATING AND PRESERVING A LIVING HISTORY OF AMERICAN ART.

June 10, 2014

David E. Steele
2011 Brewster Road
Indianapolis, IN 46260



Dear Mr. Steele,

I am writing to confirm that Theodore Clement Steele (1847 – 1926) was elected to the National Academy of Design as an Associate National Academician (A.N.A) in 1913. In fulfillment of his election as an Associate member, Steele submitted a portrait of himself (*Theodore C. Steele*) by Frank Hector Tompkins (1847 – 1922). This work was accepted by the Council as his Associate diploma piece on April 6, 1914. The National Academy also has in its collection a charcoal drawing on cream laid paper by Theodore C. Steele entitled *Oaks of Vernon* from 1887. This work came to us in 1991 as a gift of the Estate of Isabel S. Kurtz.

The National Academy is the only institution of its kind that integrates a museum, art school, and association of artists and architects dedicated to creating and preserving a living history of American art. In brief, the New York Drawing Association was founded in 1825, becoming the National Academy of Design the following year. Formed by artists whose mission was to “promote the fine arts in America through instruction and exhibition,” the National Academy of Design combined membership, a drawing school, and exhibition opportunities in its Annual Exhibitions. Artists were elected to membership by their peers and joined the organization either as painters, sculptors, architects, printmakers, or, beginning in 1943, as watercolorists. As the Academy’s constitution evolved, it was decided that the newly elected members, called Associates (a level of membership discontinued in 1994), should donate a portrait of themselves. Upon advancing to the level of National Academician, members were asked to contribute a representational example of their work. Known as “diploma pieces,” these submissions grew over time to form one of the largest collections of American painting, sculpture, and works on paper in the country.

In 2011, the name of the institution was officially changed to The National Academy Museum & School of Fine Arts to avoid confusion created by the difference between the 19th century understanding of “design,” referring to *disegno*, or drawing, considered to be the essential foundation upon which all art education is based, and our contemporary use of the term in association with the applied arts.

Today, the Academy includes over 300 prominent artists and architects, with over 2,000 having been elected since the Academy’s founding in 1825. It also boasts an esteemed collection of American art – over 7,000 works of art - donated by its artist and architect members. The legacy of the National Academy in the history of American art, of which Theodore Clement Steele is a part, is indeed a rich one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Thompson".

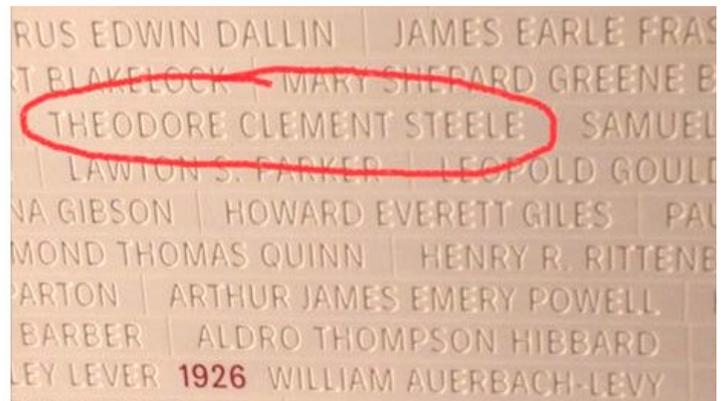
Diana Thompson
Curator, 19th and Early 20th Century Art

T.C. Steele was Inducted into the National Academy of Design in 1913



David Steele, Vice-President of the Friends of T.C. Steele, visited the National Academy in NY in December, 2014, where Assistant Curator Diana Thompson let him sit in the archive room to review all the information they have on Steele, including correspondence with H. Lieber Company and Brandt Steele, and a charcoal sketch Steele donated as part of the requirement when he was elected to the academy.

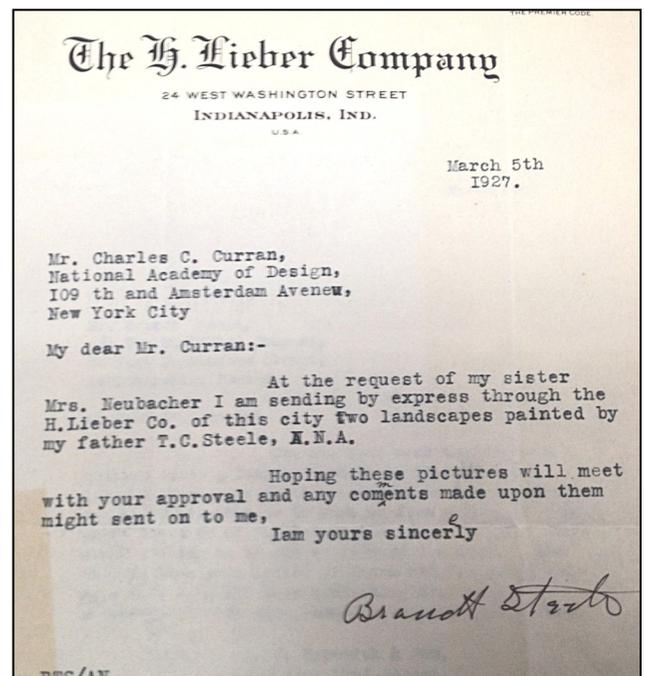
At left: In fulfillment of his election as an associate member in the Academy, Steele submitted a portrait of himself by Frank Hector Hopkins.



T. C. Steele's name is chiseled into the ceiling of the entrance of the National Academy on 5th Avenue in New York City. The Academy is across the street from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and on the adjacent corner to the Guggenheim (89th & 5th).



The National Academy has in its collection a charcoal drawing on cream laid paper by Steele entitled "Oaks of Vernon: (1887). This was a gift in 1991 from the Estate of Isabel S. Kurtz.



William Forsyth: The Hoosier Group's Go-Figure Modernist

by YAËL KSANDER* (excerpts from article posted February 9, 2015 on WFIU website)

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

The museum's Curator Emerita of Fine Arts, **Rachel Berenson Perry** and I scanned the Benton murals in the grand lobby of the IU Auditorium to locate the subject of Perry's latest book, *William Forsyth: The Life and Work of an Indiana Artist* (IU Press, 2014). We found Forsyth in the middle of Cultural Panel number 8, the section dedicated to leisure and literature, hung over the staircase on the north side of the lobby.

"It looks like he's hunched over with a very small brush," Perry notes; "hunched over an easel painting and leaning forward." And this is not the way Forsyth's biographer imagines him at all. "I just never picture him painting like that," Perry reports. "He was gestural, he was uninhibited and he had very almost violent brush strokes sometimes." According to Perry's research, the portrayal doesn't accurately convey Forsyth's body language or working method. But the very fact of his inclusion in this definitive pictorial history of the state might be the ultimate testament to his personality. "Only the strong persist." Perry reminds me.

THE UNDERSUNG MEMBER OF THE HOOSIER GROUP

"It is kind of strange that Forsyth was chosen instead of T.C. Steele," notes Perry, "who was of course the dean of all artists in Indiana." But Steele had passed away in 1926, so seven years later when the mural was being painted, Forsyth was the last living member of the fabled "Hoosier Group"—five painters who started getting noticed around 1894, "for painting their own home territory," Perry explains, "things that actually hadn't ever before been noticed for being particularly beautiful."

Though comrades in promoting the Indiana landscape, "Forsyth was always jealous of T.C. Steele," Perry concedes, "even though they were pretty good friends." Such good friends, in fact, that Forsyth lived with Steele's family while both artists were studying in Munich. "But he was always writing letters back," Perry explains, "like, 'Oh, poor T.C. Steele, he's getting a little better and he's trying really hard, but he's never going to be much of an artist!'"

Despite Forsyth's prediction, Steele returned from Munich to become Indiana's premier portraitist, and Forsyth, a life-long teacher. Both men became known for their landscapes painted on-site across Southern Indiana. But, as Indiana University Art Museum curator Nan Brewer explains, Forsyth kept pushing past the impressionistic look of the Hoosier Group. "There's more of a range of stylistic approaches in Forsyth than in Steele," says Brewer, "who, once he comes to the Impressionist style, really adheres to that for the rest of his career."

THE GO-FIGURE MODERNIST

Forsyth was experimental, but he identified himself as a traditional painter. For example, when he attended the 1913 Armory show (the exhibition that introduced European modernism to the US), he was "horrified," Perry concedes. "Part of that was the feeling that a lot of the modern artists hadn't paid their dues the way he and the Hoosier Group had. But he seemed to have some misgivings later. I think some people would identify him as a modern artist if they were to look at some of those paintings that are very gestural and just barely representational." Like *The Red City*, the prize-winning 1913 canvas which marks a shift in his approach. "This was completely done from Forsyth's imagination," Perry elaborates. "He stopped at one point making paintings from looking at things to summoning his own imagery from his own imagination, which is a very modernist sensibility."

It might be a stretch, but Forsyth's latent modernism may have secured his place in history—Benton's version at least. Forsyth was one of the rare members of the Indiana art establishment who weren't outraged by the choice of a non-Hoosier, modernist painter for the World's Fair mural project. "Given the changes in Forsyth's own style over his career," Brewer speculates, "he would have understood this progression in American artistic styles." The portrait may have been Benton's way "to really thank him visually for his support," explains Brewer. "There wasn't as much negative sentiment about Benton after Forsyth's support because of his stature within the arts community." But it was more than just a political move, Brewer suggests. "Benton puts William Forsyth center stage in a panel devoted to the art and culture of the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth century in Indiana, so he recognized his importance and the importance of the Hoosier Group in really raising the profile of Indiana on the world stage."

**As WFIU's Arts Desk Editor, Yaël Ksander seeks out and shepherd the stories of artists, musicians, writers and other creative. She co-hosts A "Moment of Science", writes essays for "A Moment of Indiana History", produces "Speak Your Mind", hosts music and news hours throughout the week. Yael has an MFA in painting from Indiana University, an MA in art history from Columbia University, and a BA from the University of Virginia where she studied languages and literature.*



Arts Village Cinefest
Saturday, June 13 & Sunday, June 15

A new film festival with five films about art and artists along with two workshops and gala after-party. Events available on weekend pass or individual basis. Purchase tickets online at BrownCountyPlayhouse.org/tickets or at Brown County Playhouse Box Office, 70 South Van Buren, Nashville, Indiana.



Partake: Art Classes at the Winery
Chateau Thomas Winery in Nashville
Fourth Saturdays the months of April to November
3:00-5:00 pm

Art classes in a variety of mediums with Brown County artists. Enjoy wine, refreshments and individualized instruction; all supplies provided. No experience needed. Workshops are \$40 each; \$5 off for Art Alliance members. Register online.



Second Saturday Art Walks
2nd Saturdays in May-November; 5:00-8:00 pm

Local Nashville galleries remain open with refreshments, music or special events. Free! Participants include John Elmore, B3 Galery, Hoosier Artist Gallery, Ferrer Gallery, Iris Garden Gallery, Brown County Craft Gallery, Weed Patch Music, Brown County Art Guild, Amy Greeley Studio at New Leaf, Sweetwater Gallery, Spears Pottery and Brown County Art Gallery.

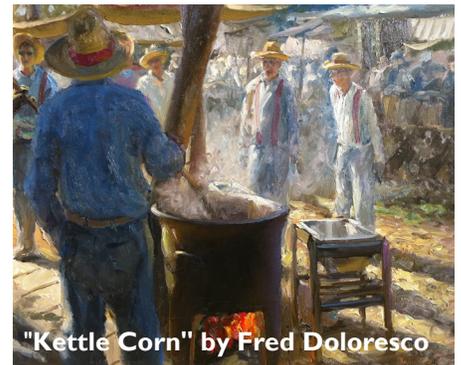
INDIANA HERITAGE ARTS

37th Annual

EXHIBITION AND SALE

A JURIED FINE ART EXHIBITION OF INDIANA ARTISTS

June 6 to June 20, 2015
Brown County Art Gallery



"Kettle Corn" by Fred Doloresco

Artist Eligibility: Any artist 18 years or older who is a present or former resident of Indiana is eligible to enter.

Eligible Work: Work must have been completed in the last two years and not exhibited in any previous juried show. Two dimensional work only; no photography or computer art.

Rules: All work must be framed and ready to hang and be hand delivered to the Brown County Art Gallery, Nashville, Indiana on May 31, 2015 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. No wet paintings.

Sales: All submissions must be for sale. Indiana Heritage Arts, Inc. will retain 33% on all sales and collect sales tax.

Entry Instructions: Entry form with fee must be postmarked by May 18, 2015. Entry fee (total of up to 3 works) is \$40 for non-members; \$30 for members. Entry forms will not be accepted on delivery day.

Over \$20,000 in prizes to be awarded.

812-988-4609 • Indianaheritagearts@gmail.com • www.indianaheritagearts.org

Entry forms will be available online mid-April, or phone or e-mail to request a form.

The Site will be closed **April 5**
in observance of Easter Sunday.



Stop by the **Museum Shop** (now located in the small studio) to check out the new items including local pottery, hand blown glass, nature books, t-shirts and jewelry.

Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site, Inc.
4220 T. C. Steele Road
Nashville, IN 47448-9586

SITE HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm

Sunday: 1 to 5 pm

Closed Mondays and some holidays

Guided tours of home and studio
available on quarter hour
beginning at 9:15 am.
(1:15 pm on Sundays)

Admission to House and Studio

Adults: \$7 Seniors: \$5 Children: \$2
Free to Friends of TC Steele

Contact Information

(812) 988-2785

friendsoftcsteele@gmail.com

www.tcsteele.org

www.indianamuseum.org/explore/t.c.-steele



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