



The Singing Winds

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

Spring
March
2017

Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site 2017 Board

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Cate Whetzel

Interpreters

Shailey Ostlund

Jim Shackelford

Grounds & Maintenance

Anthony Joslin

Supervisor

Jack Cathcart

Maintenance Assistant

Formal Garden Restored



Before restoration



After restoration

Garden Update

The gang at T.C. Steele was kept busy in 2016 restoring the formal gardens that Selma Steele created circa the 1920s. Anthony Joslin, Maintenance Supervisor, and crew put in the upper stone landing and path, built the rock wall, and planted flowers by the thousands! Designscape erected the deer fence and laid the steps and main walkway. A heat wave in the summer threatened to undo all their hard work, but artificial rain in the form of irrigation saved the day. 2017 will focus on improvements to the lily pond gardens behind the Large Studio, funded by donations from Barbara and Robert Stevens, and to the gardens around the House of the Singing Winds, funded by donations from Ruth and Jenny Johnson. *None of this could be completed without the help of our amazing volunteers—that's you!*

Visitor Center to be Constructed!

Thanks to a recent gift by a major donor, and a matching commitment by the state, we anticipate breaking ground in September 2017 on a new Visitor Center, details soon to be announced. The new building will boast modern support facilities, including office space, restrooms, a new museum shop and classroom/meeting space. The Friends of T.C. Steele will be closely involved with this new development. Watch for more details coming soon!

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
on quarter hour beginning at 9:15 am.
(1:15 pm on Sundays)

Admission to House and Studio

Adults: \$7 Seniors: \$6 Children: \$4

Free to Friends of TC Steele

Contact Information

(812) 988-2785

*The site will be closed on Sunday, April 16th in observance of Easter.
We will be open on the following government holidays: April 14th,
May 29th, July 4th, & September 4th.*

Women of Steele Display to Open This Month

by Cate Whetzel

“Women of Steele,” a portrait display of the four women closest to the painter, will open on Sunday, March 26, as part of the Sunday at Home series, and will offer a light reception from 2-4pm. The display includes portraits by Steele of his mother, Harriett Newell Evans Steele; his first wife, Mary Elizabeth Lakin Steele, known as Libbie; his daughter Margaret Steele Neubacher, known as Daisy; and his second wife, Selma Neubacher Steele. Portraits of Libbie and Daisy have been borrowed for this display, which will become a part of Interpreter tours in the Studio as long as the display is up. Other artifacts on display will include some of Selma’s personal effects that are usually in storage at the House of the Singing Winds. Her hairbrush, mirror, one of her hats and hat pins, and a selection of her gardening books and catalogs will be in a glass case for better viewing. “Women of Steele” will close on Sunday, June 11, 2017. Many thanks to those who have made this display possible, including descendants of T.C. Steele, the Brown County Art Gallery, and the Indiana State Museum!



Our Annual Christmas Event Was a Success!



The band 2 Daves at our annual Christmas event!

Since the 1910s, December has brought adults and children alike to come see our beautiful property during the festive season, and this year was no exception! Interpreters Rebecca Timmons and Shailey Ostlund portrayed characters from German and Austrian folklore as a nod to Mr. Steele’s years in Munich, and to Mrs. Steele’s Austrian Heritage. Rebecca was this year’s

Belsnickel, one of St. Nicholas’s sneaky little helpers who would give candy to the good children and coal and switches to the bad ones. Shailey portrayed Frau Perchta, a witch who would scatter candy on the ground and hit children with a broom as they bent down to grab the candy. As you can see, both of our Interpreters really got into their roles! With a live jazz performance from 2 Daves and over 60 guests, our annual event was a hit. Special thanks to Rex Watters for returning to the role of our St. Nick as he has for several years.

From Left to Right: Rebecca Timmons as Belsnickel, Rex Watters as St. Nick, and Shailey Ostlund as Frau Perchta



Recent Donation!

A 1920s-era Kerosene stove was recently donated for our historic kitchen restoration. Although it is structurally sound it still needs some cosmetic restoration. Donations are being sought to fund the rest of the restoration.

Public Dedication of the New T.C. Steele State Historical Marker by David Steele

A public dedication ceremony of the new Indiana State Historic Marker commemorating the T.C. Steele Home and Studio is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, at 2:00 pm besides Selma's Formal Garden at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site. This dedication will be held in conjunction with the "Festival of Flowers PaintOut."

Visitors to the site may recall there is a current historic marker at the entrance the intersection of SR 46 and T.C. Steele Road (below). This sign receives very little attention due to the need for driver safety when making the turn off of SR 46 to the T.C. Steele State Historic Site. The Friends of T. C. Steele applied for a new marker in 2016 and were selected after a rigorous and lengthy process. The old state markers required the same text on each side, while the newer markers allow for additional copy on each side. This enabled us to



Marker 1 – Belmont, IN

Note: This will be removed and new marker with additional text placed at Selma's Gardens)
SR 46 & T.C. Steele Road (Belmont, IN)
Erected in 1991

add additional copy, supported by primary research regarding Steele's appointment by

Indiana University President William L. Bryan as "Honorary Professor of Painting" in 1922. Steele worked in his IU campus studio until his death in 1926.

The old marker will be removed and the new marker will be installed on the property near the entrance to the newly restored Formal Garden. There is now a parking area at the bottom of the hill for visitors to Selma's gardens and this will be a perfect stop to view the historic marker, visit the gardens and take photos. Benches are also planned for this area.



Marker 2 – Indianapolis, IN

16th & Talbott Streets

Erected in 2015

State historic markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are over 500 of these markers across the state and all content must be supported by primary research.

T.C. Steele is the only individual in Indiana state history to have two Indiana state historic markers dedicated to his presence and contribution to the state of Indiana. There is another state historic marker at the former Tinker-Talbott site in Indianapolis (16th & Talbott Streets) where Steele lived and painted (from 1885-1901) upon his return from Germany.

The public is invited to attend this dedication ceremony of this new historic marker. For more information about the marker, the Indiana Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau's website at www.IN.gov/history, or call 317-232-2535

Board of Directors, The Friends of the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, Inc. for 2017

by David Steele

The following slate of officers were unanimously approved by the members of The Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site, Inc. at the "2016 Member Art Show and Annual Meeting" that was held at the site on Sunday, November 6, 2016.

President - David E. Steele joined the board in January of 2014 and was elected President for the 2017 officer term. David is a business executive residing in Indianapolis and serves as Managing Principal of The Steele Group, a management consultancy to Fortune 500 firms. David is also a faculty member at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business (Indianapolis) where he has taught for 19 years. David is a distant relative of T.C. Steele; his grandfather Harry Steele and T.C. Steele were both great grandsons of Ninian Steele. David and his wife Lynne are lifetime members of The Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site, Inc. and together with their children, Ben and Emma, they have expanded the awareness and appreciation of the generous restoration of the Boyhood Home of T.C. Steele by David's cousin, Tim Shelly. David and Lynne visited the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the National Academy Museum & School in New York City as part of their research on T.C. Steele which helped win the approval from the Indiana Historical Bureau for a project championed by David which resulted in a new State of Indiana Historical Marker.

Vice President - Charlie Matson has been the Treasurer of the Board for the last eight years. Charlie has also served as Secretary and he began his volunteering at the Site in 1991. Charlie's primary volunteer activity for T.C. Steele beyond the Board is organizing the murder mystery dinner fundraisers. After working for Georgia Power for over 17 years, Charlie moved his family in 1989 to Bloomington where he had purchased a small business he operated for several years. Charlie also worked for Indiana University for 23 years as an engineer and manager until he retired at the end of 2013. Painting has become one of

Charlie's retirement hobbies. Charlie and his wife Katie enjoy collecting Indiana paintings & pottery and they are Life Members of the Friends. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Treasurer - Stephanie Dean first began volunteering at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site over 20 years ago and quickly joined the Board of the Friends. In the past she has served as Vice-President and President. During all her years on the board Stephanie has been the most regular volunteer for events at the Site. She also worked in recent years for the Brown County Art Guild as a gallery docent and gift shop salesperson. Stephanie's husband Rick works at Crane Naval Supply Center but they chose to live in Brown County just north of Nashville where they raised their daughter Megan.

Secretary - Sharon Fansler first volunteered at the T. C. Steele State Historic Site in 2012 when she began portraying Selma Steele at the Festival of Flowers PaintOut and The Great Outdoor Art Contest as well as events at the Indiana State Museum. She became a member of the Board in 2015 and has served as secretary since 2016. Sharon is a longtime lover of art and the T. C. Steele State Historic Site. She is an artist in her own right recently taking 3rd place at the Brown County Art Guild Patron Show. She is married to Steve Fansler who is also on the Board. She enjoys spending time with her three children and six grandchildren.

Visit www.tcsteele.org for a full list of board members and their bios.

Save the Date—Thursday June 22nd

All-friends picnic and potluck for Brown County Friends groups at the Brown County Public Library. Families are welcome. Time TBA

Staff News!

Sad to see you go!

Intermittent Gardeners Morgan and Ashton Morris as well as our Intermittent Interpreter Rebecca Timmons have said their goodbyes to the site. Ashton left his part time position in November of 2016 to pursue work more closely related to his love of mycology, while Rebecca was offered a job as a teacher. Congratulations are in accord, and while they will both be missed we wish them luck wherever the future may take them!

Welcome to our new Interpreter!

As we lost two part time employees we have gained one! Jim Shackelford is the historic site's new Intermittent Interpreter. Jim is a freelance writer consultant., and a volunteer docent over in Bloomington at the Wylie House. He has his masters degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Education. *We are still looking to fill the position of Intermittent Gardner, so we will be relying on our wonderful friends members and volunteers—YOU!—to help in the meantime.*

Congratulations, Cate!

Program Developer Cate Whetzel and her family have welcomed a new baby, Charlotte, on November 16th. We missed her during her maternity leave, and now we are glad to have her back!

New Board Member!

Jane DeVoe is one of the newest board members, which is especially exciting as she is a descendent of Steele through his oldest son, Rembrandt. She is excited to get involved with the Friends of T.C. Steele especially in educational programming for children. Jane has two children, Elizabeth Anne, a broadcast journalism and film production major focusing on documentaries at Central Michigan University, and Theodore, a Fine Arts and Art History Major at Northern Michigan University, where she especially enjoys painting and wood block print making. A volunteer at heart, current volunteer interests include Teacher's Treasures Board of Advisors, Gleaners Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry. IPS School 43, Scholastic REAL Program, Art for the Heart and Fairview Presbyterian Church. Jane also enjoys reading, cooking, textile art work, gardening, meditation and yoga and being in nature! One of her favorite places to be in nature year round is the T.C. Steele State Historic Site.

32nd Annual Wildflower Foray!

April 28-30, 2017

A link to the 2017 schedule will soon be posted on the Friends of T.C. Steele website: www.tcsteele.org. The Friends of TC Steele serve as the fiscal agent for this cooperative nature event. Activities include: wildflower, butterfly, and birdwatching hikes, nature photography, and a boat trip on Monroe Lake.



Upcoming Events

- ♣ *March 25, 2017, 1-4pm. . Arts in the Parks: Watercolor Pencil Workshop with Betty Wagoner Free with standard admission. Registration required, limit 12 teens and adults. Please call to register.*
- ♣ *March 26, 2017, 2-4pm. Sunday at Home: "Women of Steele" opening reception. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *April 22, 2017, 1-3pm. Arts in the Parks: Earth Day painting demo with Patricia Rhoden Bartels. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *April 23, 2017, 2-3:30pm. Sunday at Home: Matinee Music in the Studio with Amanda Webb, Carolyn Dutton and James LaVelle. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *April 28-30, 2017. 32nd Annual Wildflower Foray, (schedule available soon!)*
- ♣ *April 30, 2017, 1-3pm. Arts in the Parks: Formal Garden paint-along for ages 16 and under! With Patricia Rhoden Bartels. Free with standard admission. Registration required, limit 10. Please call.*
- ♣ *May 13, 2017, 1-4pm. Arts in the Parks: Watercolor Workshop with Betty Wagoner. Paint the historic buildings. Free with standard admission. Registration required, limit 14. Please call.*
- ♣ *May 13, 2017, 11am-1pm. Talk & Book Signing: Jon Kay will be at the site to talk about his new book: Folk Art and Aging, and will sign copies. Free with standard admission.*

Schedule of Activities for the 18th (and final!) Festival of Flowers Paint Out

May 20, 2017



7:00 a.m. Gates open; artist check-in begins in site classroom

11:30 a.m. Brozinni Pizzeria opens to sell lunch

2:00 p.m. All artwork must be in the judging area to be considered! Historic marker dedication ceremony begins beside Formal Garden

3:15 p.m. Announcement of awards in Child/Teen categories, followed by announcement of awards in Adult categories

5:00 p.m. Historic site closes

First place and People's Choice winners will be displayed at the Brown County Art Gallery following the contest. Don't forget to check out the judges' artwork, on display in Steele's Large Studio during the Paint Out! Registration materials will be available on tcsteele.org on April 1st.

- ♣ *June 4, 2017, 2-3:30pm. Sunday at Home: Matinee Music in the Studio with Amanda Webb, Carolyn Dutton and James LaVelle. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *June 15 & 22, 2017, 1-3pm. Arts in the Parks: Folk Art Afternoons with Jon Kay. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *July 8, 2017, 1-4pm. Arts in the Parks: Plein air watercolor workshop with Betty Wagoner. Free with standard admission. Registration required, limit 14. Please call.*
- ♣ *July 21, 2017, 1pm. Artist in Residence performance: Peggy Melchior Pearson's Peewinkle's Puppet Show at Melchior Theatre in downtown Nashville.*
- ♣ *July 23, 2017, 2-3pm . Sunday at Home: History of Puppetry talk with July Artist in Residence Peggy Melchior Pearson in the Large Studio. Free with standard admission.*
- ♣ *August 6, 2017, 2-3:30pm. Sunday at Home: Craig Brenner Presents Music in the State Parks and Historic Sites. Free with standard admission.*

Please call the site 812/988-2785 for questions

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