



# The Singing Winds

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

Winter  
December  
2017

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## Visitor's Center Groundbreaking

by Paige Southerland

The T.C. Steele State Historic Site in Nashville has broken ground for the new Singing Winds Visitor Center. Members of the arts community along with Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites President and CEO Cathy Ferree, gathered on Saturday for the ceremony at the historic site.



Thanks to the visionary leadership and generosity of Barbara and Bob Stevens, along with a matching gift from the state, the Singing Winds Visitor Center will help enhance the guest experience and allow for additional programming, indoor facility rentals and catering, along with new restrooms on the grounds of the site. The addition will also allow for the expansion of the Artist-in-Residence program as well as the interpretation of the House of the Singing Winds.

The new visitor center will include an orientation area, coffee bar, workroom, expanded gift shop and offices. This will allow for the current ticket sales, gift shop and offices to be consolidated into one location and removed from historic structures.

The 4,600-square-foot, state-of-the-art visitor center will be located in the historic area just south of the large studio and the House of the Singing Winds. It will be built where a large guest cottage was formerly located. The visitor center is scheduled to open in fall of 2018.

## 29th 'Great Outdoor Art Contest' Winners Announced

NASHVILLE, Ind. — Winners from this past weekend's Great Outdoor Art Contest at T.C. Steele Historic Site have been announced. See list below.

### Teens Age 13 through 18

First Place: Anna Kelson, Bloomington, Ind.

Second Place: Hope Cockerham, Seymour, Ind.

Third Place: James Szalkie, Indianapolis

### Children Age 12 and Under

First Place: Barrett Timmons, Bloomington, Ind.

Second Place: Emma Szalkie, Indianapolis

Third Place: Remi Timmons, Bloomington, Ind.

Honorable Mention: Thomas Kinder, Nashville, Ind.

### Adult Oil

First Place: Tricia Hillenburg, Bedford, Ind.

Second Place: Thomas Himsel, Brownsburg, Ind.

Third Place: Donna Shortt, Indianapolis

Honorable Mention: Eric Brock, Morgantown, Ind;

Ann Fahey, Columbus, Ind; Sondra Cromwell,

Arcadia, Ind.; Todd Derr, Owensboro, KY; James

Stahlhut, Franklin, Ind.; Scott Cotton, Morgantown, Ind.

### Adult Acrylic

First Place: Rand McKamey, Nashville, Ind.

Second Place: Anna Oresko, Bloomington, Ind.

Third Place: Steve Miller, Westfield, Ind.

### Adult Watercolor

First Place: Joyce Lupresto, Elizabethtown, KY

Second Place: Cassidy Young, Bloomington, Ind.

Third Place: Tereasa Laakman, Bloomington, Ind.

Honorable Mention: Ronald Hermeling, Indianapolis;

Candace Bailey, Bloomington, Ind.; Donna Whitsitt,

Morgantown, Ind.

### Adult Mixed Media/Drawing/Other

First Place: Lory Winford, Nashville, Ind.

Second Place: Mary Ann Davis, Indianapolis

Third Place: Drew Buys, Indianapolis

Honorable Mention: Corrine Hull, Indianapolis; Kim Brock, Martinsville, Ind.

**People's Choice**, selected through secret ballot by artists and visitors in both the child/teen categories and separately in the adult categories, was awarded to the first place Child Mixed Media by Barrett Timmons, and the first place Adult Oil by Tricia Hillenburg.

Prizes for the First Place and People's Choice winners were donated by Blick Art Materials, Cardinal Stage Company, Jack Richeson & Co, Inc., and Pygmalion's Art Supplies.

Dale Popovich, Maggie Rapp, and Bob and Ellie Haan served as the PaintOut judges. Painting demos by Dale Popovich and Maggie Rapp were sponsored by Marsha Bradford. Raffles for a set of watercolor brushes and an online watercolor course with Dale Popovich were drawn during the award ceremony.

More than 60 artists participated. First-place and People's Choice winning artwork was on display until September 30th at the Brown County Art Guild in downtown Nashville.

This year's event was co-sponsored by the Friends of T. C. Steele State Historic Site.



Tricia Hillenburg | People's Choice & First Place Adult Oil

## Memories from a Steele Descendent

*by Catherine Bengson*



*Brandt Steele in 1902.*

(Photo from *Traces of Indiana and  
Midwestern History*, Winter 1994)

When I was 12 years old, Woodruff Place was magical. Great Granddaddy Brandt Steele, T.C. Steele's son, was a real storyteller. The house always seemed quiet and a little dark, with rows of books and other beautiful pieces of art. Perhaps I was attracted to his gruff voice, silky white hair, and wonderful pipe smell.

My brother and I liked to investigate the maze of rooms including the basement where Granddaddy had his pottery studio. But on this Sunday afternoon we sat down next to his chair. I remember Granddaddy taking

a match box and making it stand up straight on the back of his hand.

Can you guess the trick – he had pinched some of his soft wrinkly hand to the matchbox. But I really thought it was magic. One of his other tricks was marking a black bird on one of this finger. Singing the song he would make the black bird fly away and then return or sit on the other hand, "Blackbird Bye Bye".

One of the other stories was about a grasshopper that got caught in a sprinkling can and his frustration on how to get out. It had a simple moral and surprise ending. (If anyone knows the story, let me know) I am sorry not to remember his moral to the story.

We then went out to the front porch where there was a beautiful magnolia tree. I know Granddaddy had pulled out a picture of a little girl sitting on his shoulder next to the blooming tree. He then reached over to my sister Sue, who was about three years old. Granddaddy hoisted her to his shoulders. With flashbulbs flashing we all enjoyed the reenactment of the picture of my mom sitting on Granddaddy's shoulder, just like the picture in front of us.

I wish now I would have asked more questions about Granddaddy's life. His sweet nature and positive attitude were a needed influence of balance in my life.

## Steele's Murder Mystery — A Huge Success!

October 20th and 21st of this year brought merriment, music, and murder to T.C. Steele State Historic Site. The party was set in 1960, and hosts Alma and Alfred Hitchcock (played by Deb Davis and Tom Shafer) reserved an artist's studio in the hills above Hollywood (or as we know it, the T.C. Steele State Historic Site).

The Hitchcocks invited the stars of "Psycho," and several of their recent blockbuster films, to celebrate the "Psycho" premiere. Also invited were two noted movie critics to conduct a live radio program. Both nights were SOLD OUT thanks to you!

Special thanks to Ric Heeter, who played the keyboard as our Hoagy Carmichael, Kathleen McConahay, who sang for us in the role of Doris Day, Hotel Nashville for catering the delicious dinner, and Sun King Brewery for donating the beer.



The audience was shocked when a surprise uninvited guest—played by Charlie Matson—came to the Studio.

### SITE HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm | Sunday: 1 to 5 pm

The last tour of the day is always 4:15pm!

Closed Mondays and most holidays

Closed December 25th and 26th, and January 1st and 15th, 2018

Admission to House and Studio

Adults: \$7 Seniors: \$6 Children (3-17): \$4

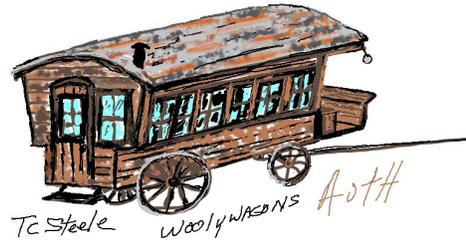


## Friends of T.C. Steele Win A Heritage Support Grant!

Steele's Studio Wagon to Be Reconstructed in 2018!

by Cate Whetzel

The Friends of T.C. Steele State Historic Site are excited to announce the award of a Heritage Support grant from the Indiana Historical Society! The project, to reconstruct T.C. Steele's Studio Wagon and make it a permanent, interactive outdoor exhibit, will begin in January 2018.



Sketch of Studio Wagon

The wagon will be an approximate replica of the one used by the painter from 1896-1913. There are no photographs of the original wagon, as it burned in a barn fire in 1913, but we do have descriptions of the wagon from the painter's daughter, Daisy, published in part I of *The House of the Singing Winds*. We will be using these descriptions as a guide in creating the exhibit. The wagon will be furnished with art supplies and other objects that will allow visitors to pretend that they are out on the road with the painter, traveling Indiana at the turn of the century.

One of the reasons the Friends have supported the wagon project is because the site as it is now is primarily for adults. Nothing here is designed for children, or was created with children in mind. This wagon answers that need by offering a learning opportunity for kids and their families. Children and adults can "play" frontier, play painter, and will hopefully engage with the history and frontier narrative when they have an actual wagon, and art supplies for their own drawings, and facsimile food to play camping. Other questions will naturally arise--how did a whole family sleep in a wagon? Where would they have gotten food to eat while on the road? How would they keep warm? How far could they expect to travel in one day? How would Steele's family keep occupied when they were camped for days at a time and the painter was at work? By setting the scene we know we can capture the imagination of our visitors and make history come alive through play; we hope this will widen the audience for T.C. Steele State Historic Site.

The IHS Heritage Support award amount is \$44,000.00, with the understanding that the Friends must raise a 15% match of the awarded amount, approximately \$6,600.00, by the end of year 2018. To reach the goal, the Friends are beginning a fundraising campaign to raise \$7,000.00 for the Studio Wagon, and have committed \$10,000.00 to the wagon's maintenance over the next ten years. Expect to hear more about the fundraising efforts soon! We are incredibly honored to have been fully funded (every penny requested was awarded!) for this highly competitive grant. We believe that the new Singing Winds Visitor Center has helped demonstrate that T.C. Steele State Historic Site is a beloved and necessary place, worthy of support and attention. Many thanks to the Friends and donors who make all of these new projects possible, and for helping us offer new experiences for our visitors! The Heritage Support grants are provided by the Indiana Historical Society and made possible by Lilly Endowment Inc. If you would like to donate to the Studio Wagon match, or assist with fundraising efforts for the wagon, please contact Cate Whetzel at [cwhetzel@indianamuseum.org](mailto:cwhetzel@indianamuseum.org), or call the site: 812-988-2785.

### Introducing Board Member Pauline Archambault

Born and raised in Strasbourg, France, Pauline currently lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she works as a Fine Art specialist and appraiser at Cowan's Auctions. After coming to the United States in 2007 to study English literature at Indiana University, she obtained a Master's Degree in Art History from the University of Cincinnati, and has since become very interested in American Impressionism. T. C. Steele is a particularly fascinating artist to Pauline because, while counting as an important figure of the American Impressionist movement, he also emerged as a precursor to the Regionalist School of the 1930s. His devotion to the landscapes of Indiana indeed paved the way for the artistic attention that the Midwest would enjoy a few years after Steele's death. In the context of her work, Pauline has examined, researched and sold several paintings by Steele, and has witnessed the consistent appeal of his work to art collectors. Although the market for American Impressionism in general has softened in recent years, outstanding works by remarkable artists still achieve impressive prices. Steele is no exception to this rule: while his smaller landscapes fetch prices averaging \$7,000-10,000, his more sizable works, specifically rural scenes featuring paths and figures, continue to bring in the \$20,000-40,000 range.



## Upcoming Programs and Events

- 33rd Annual Wild Flower Foray ..... April 27-29, 2018
- 30th Annual Great Outdoor Art Contest..... September 8, 2018
- Steele's Country Christmas ..... December 2, 2018

### STAY TUNED!

- **New programs and special events are coming in 2018!** Special events including the Studio Wagon Unveiling, the Singing Winds Visitor Center Open House, and a new Spring 2018 program are in the works! Follow us on Facebook, or check [www.tcsteele.org/programs](http://www.tcsteele.org/programs) for the latest news!