

*Friends
of the* **Stockdale Mill**

www.stockdalemill.org



Around the Mill

The year 2017 ended with a roof replacement on the Stockdale Mill. Though the majority of work projects are completed by our trusty volunteers, the roof was installed by a contractor. Thanks to your generous donations, the leaky weathered wooden shake roof was removed. New sheathing was laid and painted steel panels were put into place. Winter ice and snow, spring downpours, and stormy gusts have all been kept at bay. Our antique machinery and all-wooden structure are secure for many years to come.

We did a follow-up survey of the aesthetics of the mill. When asked their opinion about the new roof, many visitors responded, "Really, that's a new roof? I would never have guessed. It looks like it

belongs."

Additional safety equipment has been purchased this year and several additional safety barriers have been installed. Many hidden-from-view improvements have been made to our milling machinery. You may notice that riverbank brush has been cleaned out and that signs have been upgraded.

We are pleased that we have welcomed additional volunteers for hosts, tour guides, restoration project workers, and publicity. This being the sixteenth year for our Foundation, each year some of our dedicated volunteers find that they can no longer continue their efforts. Replacements are constantly needed. If you could help with a project or on a regular basis, please contact us.



Parsons Roofing, Peru, IN installs sheathing.



Finishing touches completed in early November, 2017

Historic Picture Comes Home

It's big. It's old. It measures 8' by 3'8". Its age is uncertain. Judging from the automobiles shown, it must have been taken around 1938. The name of the photographer and the original display venue are a mystery.

From 1954 up to 1969 it graced the west wall of the Wabash Cafeteria located at Canal & Miami Street (currently the Ko-We-Ba Building). The Cafeteria was owned and operated by Millard Ritenour. Other large photographs of Wabash County landmarks

were also on display.

When the Cafeteria closed, Addison & Norma Krom (owners of the mill at that time) obtained the photograph and kept it in their home. The Krom family later donated the picture to the Wabash County Historical Museum. The Museum recently transferred it to the Stockdale Mill.

This unique scene is once again on display to the public on the main floor of the Stockdale Mill. We would welcome any additional background knowledge that you may have on this artifact.



Riverside Signs

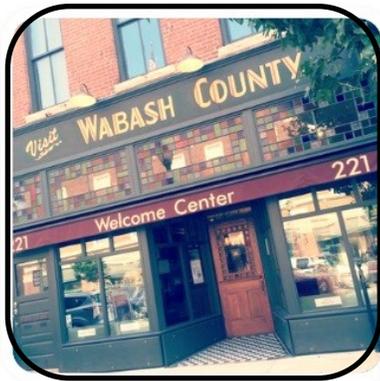
Those who stop along SR16 to view the mill, dam, and fish ladder are now offered information about what they are looking at. The US Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided attractive signs displaying history and data on the Eel River and the Stockdale Mill.

Visit Wabash County

by Christine Flohr
Executive Director of Tourism
for Visit Wabash County

Authentic experiences are harder to come by in an age where everything is mass produced. Visitors are intrigued by places that tell a story and they are even more enticed when they can experience the story hands-on. The Stockdale Mill is one of Wabash County's significant landmarks that invites visitors of all ages to engage with our rich history. The story of an era built on hard work and attention to detail is evident in the working grist mill.

As the team at Visit Wabash County seeks ways to promote our cultural assets, it is easy to see why the Stockdale Mill is among our featured amenities. The excellent care that is dedicated by the volunteers who take



care of the grounds and structure reflects the quality of place that Roann has to offer.

Tourism spending is vital to the overall economic health of Wabash County. Historic sites like the Stockdale Mill enable our team to attract interest from across the mid-west, drawing attention to the story of our past that has shaped our future



Now On Facebook

The Stockdale Mill is now on Facebook. You may find us by searching for **Stockdale Mill Foundation Roann**. [note: the Search Box is at the top left of your Facebook page] [you may be surprised to learn that there is another Stockdale Mill. It is in Canada and seems to now be a restaurant]

On the Mill page you will find photographs from a variety of sources. There are comments from visitors far and near. Announcements and news updates can also be found. It's a great way to keep abreast of Mill happenings.

You may visit the Mill page whenever you wish. If you "Like" the page, you should get updates when they are posted. You are also encouraged to post your own remarks, observations, news or pictures, or you may offer comments on current posts.



Our quest for a Stockdale Mill presence on Facebook began with an offer from Manchester University to pair us with a student volunteer who is versed in current social media. In the fall of 2017 Mill volunteers met with sophomore Tiffany Byers. First we had her look over our established web site. Her review gave insight to several areas to update and brighten up. Next came the process of establishing the new Facebook page. Tiffany's many directions and suggestions allowed us to inherit an old "unofficial" page that was floating around in the clouds. We claimed it, formalized settings, input data, and established policies. Before the end of the year we had an up-and-running Facebook presence. Check it out and join the fun!

Finally Found Our Way Home

by Jerry Sweeten.

For the first time since 1857 fishes in the Eel River are moving upstream again around the Stockdale dam in Wabash County. Contrary to popular thought, fish other than salmon and trout want and need to move upstream as part of their life history. Yes, even those fishes that live in the cool and gently descending waters of the Eel River far removed from salmon and trout streams are genetically programmed to swim upstream. This instinctive drive for upstream migration is one of the great and remarkable works of nature and leads fish to spawning areas, summer rearing areas and wintering areas. These fish also play an important role in the distribution of larval freshwater mussels. While often called clams, these freshwater mussels are some of the most endangered animals in North America and now protected from harvest. Many folks may be surprised to learn there are 52 different kinds of fish that live in the Eel River



and over 80% of these species are genetically wired to swim upstream or at least until they swim into a wall of concrete. At which time they say, "dam".

What is it that has opened this new opportunity for fish blocked by the dam at Stockdale? This success story has its origin with concerned people who care deeply for the health of the Eel River ecosystem and the rich history associated with the Stockdale Mill. Through visionary conservation partnerships between the Stockdale Mill Foundation, Manchester University Environmental Studies scientists, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a creative structural

engineer, and an innovative fish passage biologist, installation of this new kind of fish ladder has made it possible for fish to make their way around the Stockdale dam for the first time in 160 years.

The success of this project rests squarely on valued and innovative diverse partnerships. Boyd Kynard of BK RiverFish invented this unique fish passageway in a laboratory in Massachusetts. While his laboratory results suggested this prototype ladder should work well, it had never been tested in the "real world" and there was some uncertainty about how well it would work. The ladder arrived at Stockdale from Massachusetts in August and with the help of Fred and Pam Musselman, the ladder was unloaded and gently delivered to the installation site on the southside of the river. In September 2017, the ladder was installed and in October it was opened for the first time. After 30 minutes of anticipation, the fish found the ladder and began to move through the series of baffles toward the ladder exit. To everyone's great joy, especially the fish swimming upstream, hundreds and then thousands of fish used the ladder to climb the wall. It was truly a piece of history to observe this first group of fish move through the ladder and into the river for the first time since 1857. Despite 160 years, the ancestral genetic drive to move upstream is still present. The fish have finally found their way home.

The official date for monitoring fish movement through the ladder began on May 1st, 2018.

** continued next page **



There are two ways scientists are monitoring the fish movement. First, nearly 1,000 fish in the river have been fitted with small microchips just under their skin and behind their head. These are the same kind of microchips used by veterinarians for dogs and cats. In this case the chips are placed in a location where a fish captured and cleaned for eating would not be of concern. To detect these tagged fish there are nine antennas. There are seven antennas each 20 feet long and spanning the bottom of the river. There are also antennas at the entrance and exit of the ladder. If a tagged fish swims close to one of these antennas, it is registered in a computer that sets on the hill just above the fish ladder. This is high tech fish monitoring. The second method used to monitor fish usage of the ladder is a fish trap that is deployed for three days each week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). The trap is checked three times each day. As of the week of August 20th, 2018 nearly 10,000 fish and 39 species have been captured in the net. All this in less than four months!

The Stockdale fish ladder affirms the significance of collaborative partnerships and how sometimes we get it right. A visit to the fish ladder at Stockdale should be a priority destination.

Boyd Kynard, Fish passageway scientist and inventor; Donovan Henry, Biologist, USFWS; Ron McColley, President, Stockdale Mill Foundation President; Martin Duffy, Structural Engineer; Jerry Sweeten, Professor Emeritus, Manchester University and President of Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC



Online Newsletter

Your newsletter will continue to be mailed unless we hear from you that you wish otherwise. We now have an on-line option available. On your computer go to:

www.stockdalemill.org home page,
then select *news*

There you will find the current newsletter along with past issues.

* * DONATION CARD * *

Stockdale Mill Foundation
c/o Pam Musselman
5432 E SR16
Denver, IN 46926

Donation by: _____

Amount: _____

Note :

Your donation ensures the continued preservation of the Stockdale Mill. Thank You !

Great Eel River Duck Race

Sponsor a Duck - Support the Mill



*The only duck race where ducks go over a dam to win !
Sept 9, 2PM*

SPECIAL HOURS

Roann Covered Bridge Festival

four hours:

Saturday Sept 8 10-6

Sunday Sept 9 12-4

Stockdale Mill Foundation
c/o Ron McColley
6836 N SR15
Roann, IN 46974

**Stockdale Mill Foundation
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The Stockdale Mill Foundation is a non-profit Indiana corporation with the purpose of preserving the Stockdale Mill. We are a 501©(3) organization, enabling donors to deduct contributions. All donations are used 100% for historical preservation and restoration. We invite you to come experience what our dedicated volunteers have prepared for your visit.

E-mail us:

info@stockdalemill.org

Find us on the web:

www.stockdalemill.org

Find us on the Facebook:

Stockdale Mill Foundation—Roann

Answering machine:

(765) 833-2019

Regular tour hours are
Saturdays
Noon to 4PM
May through October



**Special tours may be arranged for
your family group or organization.**

SUMMER 2018