

Lucifer Falls, upper park

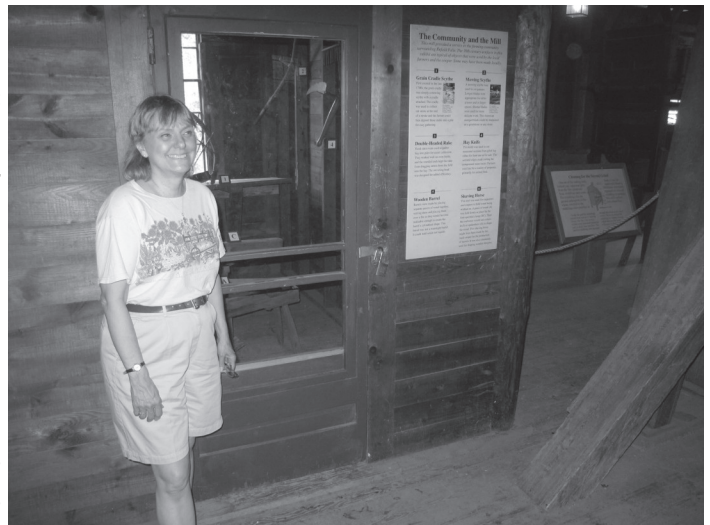
Tales of Tremen

New Exhibit in the Old Mill!

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Come see the new exhibit on the second floor of the historic mill at upper Robert H. Tremen State Park. For almost a hundred years the 19th century mill provided a service for the local farming community. The mill ground the farmers' grain into flour. Though no longer a working mill, the historic structure is preserved and interpreted as a mill museum. The four floors



Professor Sherene Baugher stands by the new exhibit room.

of the historic mill contain self-guided exhibits on how the mill functioned as well as exhibits on the Civilian Conservation Corps and Archaeology in the Park. The new exhibit focuses on the farm community and the mill. (continued on next page)

Friends of Robert H. Tremen State Park

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<http://friendsoftremen.wordpress.com/>





Katherine Seufer, and Sarah Simpson, worked on the exhibit from February through May. The students learned how to display objects and write exhibit labels – not an easy task. Many drafts of the labels were written and various designs for the exhibit were made with numerous helpful suggestions and guidance by board members and park staff. The new exhibit contains: a grain cradle scythe, a mowing scythe, a shaving horse, which could have been used for making wooden barrels or wooden shingles; a wooden barrel, a hay knife, and a double headed rake. Outside the room is a plow (picture on page 1), which was distributed by the Salt Lake City Hardware Company in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1888, but how it ended up in Tompkins County remains a mystery. On your next visit to the park be sure to see the new exhibit.

by Sherene Baugher

In fall 2010, Cornell Professor Sherene Baugher’s museum class, Designing Archaeology Exhibits, worked with the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park to research farm implements that had been donated to the park many years ago. The park has a collection of about twenty-five objects but unfortunately there is no documentation on the objects – not even when they were donated to the park. The five students in the museum class researched ten of the objects. In February 2011, the students presented their findings in a Friends-sponsored public meeting at the Tompkins County Public Library. In the spring 2011 semester four of the students and Professor Baugher worked closely with the board of the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park and park staff to design an exhibit on the farm implements. The students, Songer Gonzalez, Christina Harrington,



Items in the exhibit room (upper left) are numbered and explained in the interpretive sign outside the room (above).



Join the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park

Have you renewed your membership?

For just ten bucks, you can renew or join the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park. With your membership, you support our free educational programs throughout the year, you can attend our monthly planning meetings, you have an opportunity to participate in our fundraising projects; and you know that you are supporting the enrichment of the visitors' experiences at the park and helping protect the park's resources, including the mill.

Our membership year runs from April 1 through March 31 of the next year. To check the latest year you are paid for, see your newsletter mailing label.

To join or renew, just fill out and clip this form and send a check for \$10 to Friends of Robert H.

Treman State Park, 105 Enfield Falls Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

(If you give us an email address, you will receive updates of activities.)

Signing in at the Mill

The Friends of Treman maintain a sign-in book at the Mill in the Upper Park, so that visitors can record names, hometowns and comments on what they like about our Robert H. Treman State Park. Here's a taste of what was written in 2010 (June 12 through November). There are 51 pages, with one or two blank or partly filled pages. Many visitors are from New York State and quite a few are from Pennsylvania. Almost every state is represented by at least one visitor or family. We also have visitors from Canada, Spain, The Netherlands, Australia, France, Switzerland, Belgium, the United Kingdom and China.

Some of the comments are frivolous, but most show appreciation of the history that the Mill represents and of the beautiful scenery of the gorge. One hiker suggests installing a water fountain half-way up the gorge, but many more appreciate the educational information they find at the Mill.

EB, of the Bronx, writes "Glad I made it! Took me 85.5 years to get here." BT, of Seneca Falls, notes that she "Lived in Park in 1947," when her husband was caretaker. A visitor from Liverpool, NY, says "NYS needs to keep all its wonderful parks, like this, OPEN." PM from Rochester says "A real Jewel. A wonderful piece of history -- very well presented."

SM of Lafayette, NY, writes "spent 5 years going to school in Ithaca, and never experienced Treman -- Awesome." DB, from Williamsport, writes "fantastic!! Will bring family."

A visitor from Versailles, Ohio, notes that the Mill is "Just like Bearsmills in Greenville, Ohio." Also from Ohio, we read "I usually come to RTSP with my sister Linda. This year came with my daughter Katie and her good friends Ashley and Liberty. Having a great time." MW, visiting from New Jersey, "first time, very interesting! Great educational lesson. I will show my students in Newark, NJ, the pics that I took and then have them do a research on this park." From Maine, "beautiful spot! Thank you for keeping the mill open!"

From Moscow (Russia) we get "Love[heart] Ithaca"; child writes "Long Trip." That was August 8, when the visitors came from Georgia, Maryland, Connecticut, New York (7), New Jersey, California, Ohio, Illinois, Florida, China and Quebec, besides Russia. MV came from Madrid [Spain]: "Amazing!! I love it!!" IJ, from Denmark, notes "breathtaking, both ways."

Keeping a park like Treman open and presentable takes a lot of work. Won't you come visit and express your appreciation?

by Molly Adams



NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ROBERT H. TREMAN STATE PARK

105 Enfield Falls Road
Ithaca, New York 14850

Park office telephone:
607-273-3440

Kathie Notarfonzo, Park Manager



"The Old Mill" in the upper park

This Past Year, We...

Supported development of the **new exhibit** on farm tools in the Old Mill; received a **\$3,000 grant** from the **Delavan Foundation** to purchase granite pavers for the outdoor archeology exhibits; held a **fall open** house in the upper park, that included tours of the mill, the archeology site, and the Gorge Trail; **published** two issues of our newsletter; held a public annual meeting featuring a **presentation** by park environmental interpreter, Josh Teeter, about workers behind the scenes at the park; and we sorted and returned **47,420 beverage containers** from park campgrounds, **raising \$2,371.20** to help the park with our projects.

Summer Park Programs

State park nature interpretation staff offer programs at various state parks in the area, including Robert H. Treman, Buttermilk Falls, Taughannock Falls, and Watkins Glen State Parks. For information, call Finger Lakes State Parks environmental education supervisor Josh Teeter at (607) **273-5092**. For all park programs, go to <http://www.nysparks.com/events/>.

Monthly Meetings

The Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park meet monthly (usually the first Wednesday) to plan our activities. Our summer meetings take place at 4:30 p.m., on the porch of the picnic shelter at the end of the parking lot in the upper park. Beginning in the fall, we move to the lunch room of the lower park maintenance building. Contact our president, Pauline Halpern, ptahalpern@earthlink.net, if you would like more information. Also, check our website, <http://friendsoftreman.wordpress.com> for schedules and news.