

**The singing winds**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF T.C. STEELE STATE HISTORIC SITE**

**VOLUME 10 NO.4 SPRING 2008**

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**CENTENNIAL YEAR LABORS PRODUCE LASTING LEGACY**

Extraordinary events were held in 2006 and 2007 to mark the 100th anniversary of the arrival of T.C. Steele in Brown County and the birth of the Brown County Art Colony.

The signature project of the friends of T.C. Steele Centennial Program Committee was the creation of an Artist in Residence Program to assure that paintings will be produced in the future as they were in Steele’s time.

The Centennial was launched in September, 2006, with an appearance by noted art conservator Barry Bauman of Chicago and completed in September, 2007 with an artist workshop entitled, “Developing Vibrant Painting Through Basic Color Theory,” featuring artists Patricia J. Rhoden-Bartels, MFA, and Frederick Rigley.

The single most popular Centennial feature, however, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view Steele family held paintings on loan from a special exhibit created by Site Manager Andrea deTarnowsky in the artist’s studio. Opened with a reception in late March the exhibit featured 12 Steele paintings on loan from Steele family members. Many of the paintings had not been shown publicly. The paintings were on exhibit from April through November.

An estimated 7000 visitors viewed the exhibit. The Friends of T.C. Steele wish to offer our public thanks to the descendents of T.C. Steele for their role in bringing this unique showing of Steele’s art to the public.

The most tangible and lasting Centennial Year project was the restoration and renovation of the site’s Guest Cottage to allow it to house a new Visiting Artist Program. Spearheaded by a committee chaired by Friends Board Member Charles Matson, the project received a major boost from a $5,000 grant from the Brown County Community Foundation. The Friends of T.C. Steele matched that amount to help pay for the improvements. Many volunteer hours were logged in cleaning and outfitting the cabin in preparation for its new purpose.

Located next to the site office, the cottage began life in the mid 1920’s as a combination chicken coop and tool shed near the House of the Singing Winds. The program will invite artists to work in the studio created in the cottage, greeting guests and explaining the life of a plein air artist. Visiting artists also will be asked to provide instructional programs for children and other groups during their stay. Information about participating in the program is available by contacting Site Manager Andrea deTarnowsky at 812-988-2785.

While the Centennial Year program goals have been accomplished, the site will continue to develop activities which recognize the historic events which occurred following the settlement of the site by Steele and his second wife, Selma Neubacher Steele. This year, that recognition will include a focus on the works of Adolph and Ada Walter Shulz and Will Vander with paintings created by them displayed in the new studio art exhibit which opens to the public on April 1.

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**Schedule of Events**

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**APRIL 25-27**

**WILDFLOWER FORAY**

Celebrate spring with special hikes, a boat trip, and programs at locations throughout Brown and Monroe Counties. Admission is free for most activities, but some participating properties may charge a gate fee. Contact the site for hike times and locations at (812) 988-2785, or visit the Wildflower Foray website at www.fws.gov/wh/hoosier/docs/events/wildflower.htm.

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**MAY 17**

**FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS**

Artists of all ages will set up to capture the beauty of the spring flowers on the property, just as painter T.C. Steele did at the turn of the 20th century. Admission is free for the general public for all outdoor activities, including an outdoor concert from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. There is a $7.50 registration fee for adult artists. Children 12 and under, and teens 13 to 18, may participate free of charge. Artists of all ages must pre-register to participate in the contest. 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.

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**JUNE 15**

**SUNDAY AT HOME**

Traditionally, the Steeles invited visitors into their home on Sundays for music, refreshments, and tours. The site continues this tradition with special tours, old-fashioned music or storytelling. Admission is free for outdoor activities. 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The historic site will be serving as tour headquarters for the Brown County Studio & Garden Tour on June 27-29. Visit the website at www.browncountystudioart.org.

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**SEPTEMBER 13**

**20TH ANNUAL GREAT OUTDOOR ART CONTEST**

To celebrate the birthday of Hoosier Impressionist painter T.C. Steele (1847-1926), artists of all ages paint on site. Prizes are awarded. Admission is free for the general public for all outdoor activities, including an outdoor concert from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. There is a $7.50 registration fee for adult artists. Children 12 and under, and teens 13 to 18, may participate free of charge. Artists of all ages must pre-register to participate in the contest. 7:00 am to 1:30 pm.

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DEANNA HYLTON MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

The Friends of T. C. Steele welcomes donations to the Deanna Hylton Memorial Garden Fund. Deanna Lynn Hylton died on Sunday, June 24, 2007 at her home in Brown County, after an eight-month battle with multiple myeloma. She was 49 years old. Ms. Hylton was employed at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site as a Master Gardener. The results of her hard work and enthusiasm for the historic garden restoration project were enjoyed by thousands of site visitors. She will be sorely missed by all.

Donations to the fund may be made payable to "Friends of T.C. Steele, Deanna Hylton Memorial Garden Fund" and sent to T.C. Steele State Historic Site, 4220 T.C. Steele Road, Nashville IN 47448. The fund will be used for historic garden restoration and maintenance.

EARNED MEMBERSHIPS

(25 OR MORE HOURS VOLUNTEERED)

Linda Badger, Nancy Schmidt, Mary McNamara, Nancy Schmidt

Bonnie Banbury, Brown County Women's Club ($100)

Kimberly Kemp, Nancy Schmidt, Ben Shadwick, Martha Tedrowe and the Brown County Rotary Club

Among the outstanding volunteer efforts last year was the large number of persons from the Sherwood Oaks Church in Bloomington who spent several days scraping paint from the House of the Singing Winds to make way for a new coat.

Information on volunteer opportunities in the gardens, gift shop and as tour docents is available by calling the Steele site, 812-988-2785.

STEVE DOTTY RETIRES

Steve Doty loves the T. C. Steele State Historic Site, especially the numerous deer, beavers, bears, and other wild creatures that populate the park's 444 acres. He showed his love every day through the tender care he gave to the trees, flowers, shrubs and other living things — except the deer — on the 211 acre property.

Steve's ongoing battle to keep the park's deer, bobcats, and other wild creatures from feasting on the trees, flowers and shrubs at the site was the source of numerous jokes among his colleagues.

Among other honors, Doty received a gift and special appreciation from the Friends of T.C. Steele in recognition of his service which included:

- Most notable was his crucial role in spearheading efforts to restore the original gardens as well as improvements to the trail system at the site. Your “behind the scenes” work to orchestrate this massive garden restoration while simultaneously maintaining the site’s buildings, equipment and grounds was an extraordinary accomplishment. As a result of your dedication and expertise the experience of thousands of visitors to the site has been and will continue to be a memorable experience.

SUPPORTING ($100)

Mary Louise Fagal, Helen Ruhnke, Fran Holmstrom, Jeni Johnson, Linda Jones, Judith & Emil Aman, Mary & Paul Madison, Martha & David Nord, Michael Quick, Dee Weiman, Ursula & Tim Roberts, Barbara Zieg

LIFETIME ($1000)


MARTZ NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Deanna Hylton's endowment fund established by the Brown County Community Foundation. President Stephanie Dean has announced.

Stephanie Dean's leadership experience as a non-profit executive with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Brown County agency will be a useful tool in her new duties as President of the Friends of T.C. Steele.

Dean, a resident of Nashville is the immediate past vice president and a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of T. C. Steele. She was elected to a one year term as the organization's September meeting. Other officers elected were Charles Manson of Bloomington, Vice President and Treasurer; and Michael Quinn Sr., Secretary. Other board members elected include: Tom Burner, Greens Fork; Patti Pizzoli, Bloomington; Mike Quinn Jr., Indianapolis; Mary Miller, Bloomington and Pamela Demny Rohrbach of Indianapolis. Nancy Hart of Indianapolis serves as the Executive Director.

MARTZ NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mary Martz was named Volunteer of the Year at the recent Annual Meeting of the Friends of T. C. Steele. Unable to receive the award in person due to family commitments and the sent husband, Tom, to receive the award. Mary Martz was cited for her outstanding work in the Garden.

Mary Martz was among outstanding volunteers who earned complimentary memberships in the Friends of T. C. Steele by serving a minimum of 25 volunteer hours each. The others include: Linda Badger, Mike Layton & Donna Tackett, Judy Stewart & Michael Fulton, Don & Laura Stuart, Cathy Sheets & Family, Linda & Phil Stafford, Mr. & Mrs. James Ross, Robert & Mary Orben, Andrew & Candy Morrison, Ed & Ann McEndarfer, Bill & Pat Lloyd, Charles Matson of Brown County as Publications Consultant. Persons interested in serving on the board are encouraged to contact board secretary Mike Quinn Sr. at mjmquinn@inmghbb.com