

**Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park, Annual Report
Fiscal Year April 2023 through March 2024**



The Old Mill, with its new roof!

This fiscal year, April 2023 through March 2024, has been very productive for the Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park. Because so much has been accomplished, the yearly report covers events in monthly order.

The year started with the Friends providing refreshments for **I Love My Park Day** in May 2023. There was plenty to eat and not a lot left over. Bob Kellogg, Friends Vice-President, and Nancy Austin, Friends Trustee, were thanked for organizing this, with help from Friends Treasurer Alice Garey and Friends Secretary Alice Linton in setting up. Seventy-five volunteers distributed mulch around the playground area, replaced plantings in front of the pool house, planted 250-275 bare root trees, cleaned up in front of the falls, and cleaned the Old Mill. Trustee Sherene Baugher and Friends president Tony Ingraham photographed the event for our newsletter. Tony Ingraham created a five-minute video of the event. (<https://vimeo.com/owlgorge/ilovemyparkday2023-rht?share=copy>)



Figure 1: I Love My Park Day volunteers installed plants in front of the bathhouse.



Figure 2: I Love My Park Day volunteers spread fall-safety mulch in the playground in the campground.

Friends Trustee Carol des Cognets, Robert H. Treman’s granddaughter, was in Ithaca and could meet with the Friends at their monthly board meeting. Tony Ingraham arranged this special meeting at the Cornell University Kahin Center, which used to be **Robert H. Treman’s home**. Carol found that a lot had changed since it was her family home, but the building had been put to good use. Tom Pepinsky, Director of the Southeast Asia Program located in the Center, gave a tour of the house and explained some of the projects being worked on. He was given an honorary membership to the Friends.

Last year (2022), the Friends worked with archaeologist and graphic designer Brant Venables to design new large **signs for the granite footprints of the Budd House, the Enfield Falls Hotel, and the Tryon House**. Josh Teeter, Chief Interpreter for the Finger Lakes Parks, donated extra metal frames that were in the park’s inventory for our new signs. Jim Brophy, Park Manager, announced that cement bases were poured for the frames and that the three new signs were installed in the Upper Park in May 2023. The signs are part of the Archaeology Walking Trail in the Upper Park.



Fig.3: The Tryon sign in the upper park.



Figure 4. Work on the mill roof replacement.

In the fall of 2022, the Friends submitted a proposal to Parks and Trails NY for a **grant to replace the mill's roof**, which had water damage in the CCC extension of the building.

The grant was successful. Roofers started on the Old Mill roof before Memorial Day 2023, and all asbestos was removed. However, a change order was needed, as the

roofers found that more work was needed on moisture-damaged areas. The mill was closed while the work was going on. The mill was re-opened to the public in July 2023. Because of the extensive water damage to the walls and ceiling of the **CCC room** (building extension), the park's staff, when time is available, must replace the water-damaged ceiling and walls. The CCC room was closed throughout 2023 and all of 2024.

Before the roof work started, a Treman Park carpenter **repaired** Cornell student-built **exhibit cases**. Sherene Baugher and her Cornell students then cleaned all four exhibit cases on the mill's first floor and installed a **new exhibit about the Enfield Falls Hotel**. The exhibit was opened to the public when the mill reopened in July 2023.



Figure 5: Sherene Baugher and some of her Cornell students in front of the exhibit that they designed and installed. The exhibit is about the Enfield Falls Hotel and is in the mill museum in the upper park.

Sherene Baugher led a **walking tour** of the archeology site and exhibit cases at Upper Treman for the 50 Cornell Class of 2003 alumni in June during Cornell University's alumni weekend.

Starting in the summer of 2023, Sherene Baugher and Tony Ingraham worked with Josh Teeter and his staff to plan for the **Centennial exhibit of New York State Parks** at the local museum, The History Center of Tompkins County. Tony and Sherene were responsible for designing the exhibit on Robert H. Treman State Park because 2024 was also the 100th anniversary of the park's opening. The exhibit planning took months of work to decide on the themes, visuals, and objects in the limited space available. The dates of the exhibit are from April to the fall of 2024. (You can see the exhibit on our website, tremanparkfriends.org.)

Tony Ingraham wrote and designed our summer 2023 **newsletter**. It was mailed to members of the Friends of the Park. It was also placed on our website and our Facebook page.

September 2023 was the big unveiling of the new Robert H. Treman sign. Brant Venables, who designed the walking tour signs in the Upper Park, worked with the Friends and members of the Treman family to design the new Treman sign. The new sign was installed near the bathhouse in the lower park so that it is visible to the majority of the summer daily tourists. Fred Bonn, Director of the Finger Lakes Region of New York State Parks, Dave Banfield, Chair of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission, Jim Brophy, Park Manager, Josh Teeter, Finger Lakes Environmental Educator, and Tony Ingraham, President of there Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park, all spoke at the unveiling. Carol des Cognets and her grandson represented the Treman family.



Figure 6: Dedication of the the new interpretive exhibit honoring Robert H. Treman in the Lower Park in September 2023. Park Manager Jim Brophy speaking.

Figure 7. The exhibit unveiled!

WHO WAS ROBERT H. TREMAN?

First Chairman of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission (1924-1937) whose vision, generosity, and leadership helped create numerous parks and natural areas in the Finger Lakes Region.



Robert H. Treman as a young man
Photo courtesy of the Treman family

Robert Henry Treman was born in Ithaca on March 31, 1858 to Elias and Elizabeth Lovejoy Treman.

As a Cornell University student, he played varsity baseball and graduated in 1878 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.



In 1885, he married Laura Hobbie. They had two sons, Robert E. Treman and Allan H. Treman. Allan followed his father's footsteps and served as chairman of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission. The Allan H. Treman State Marine Park is named for him.

Photo courtesy of The Treman family



Robert H. Treman (center) and fellow members of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission.
Photo courtesy of Finger Lakes State Parks Regional Office

Treman was a successful businessman in the hardware firm Treman, King & Co. Later, he served as President of the Tompkins County Bank (now Tompkins Trust Co.) and a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Robert H. Treman was a long-serving member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University.

As philanthropists, Robert H. Treman and his wife Laura purchased hundreds of acres which they donated to state and local entities to be preserved in perpetuity. Scenic areas we all enjoy, born of the Treman's generosity, include Robert H. Treman State Park, Buttermilk Falls State Park, Taughannock Falls State Park, Six Mile Creek Natural Area, and Cascadilla Gorge and Trail (near downtown Ithaca).



BUTTERMILK FALLS
Photo courtesy of Tony Ingelbrecht



Robert H. Treman died on January 4, 1937 at the age of 78. President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote to Treman's widow Laura "A many-sided career which included devoted public service has been brought to a close in the death of your distinguished husband. To you and to the members of the family I offer sincere sympathy."

Photo courtesy of Finger Lakes State Parks Regional Office

Figure 8. The Robert H. Treman exhibit!

This was another successful year for recycling cans and bottles. The Friends raised \$1,030. The money raised yearly from cans and bottle recycling is used to print additional brochures on birds, membership, and archaeology, plus material for other park needs, including contributing money to our grants. This fiscal year (2023-2024), 2,000 more brochures were printed.

In Spring 2024, Tony Ingraham and Sherene Baugher met with Donna Isaacs, whose father was a member of the CCC in 1935 and 1936 at Robert H. Treman State Park. She donated many photos that her father, Thomas E. Sloniger, had saved. Some of the photos even showed the inside of the dining hall. Josh Teeter offered to scan some of them, and Tony Ingraham did some scanning. Some photos could be worked into a future exhibit or presentation. The photos were labeled very carefully with the names of all the CCC members.

Tony Ingraham released *Walk in the Park* shows during the summer and fall of 2023 and winter of 2024. The show can be viewed online or on local cable TV. He shared it on Facebook, the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance, and to other groups.

Tony Ingraham designed another newsletter in the winter of 2024 to inform our members and friends about all the park events and the Friends organization's multiple projects.

The year ended with much anticipation of the big centennial exhibit, which opened in April at the start of our 2024 fiscal year. (See our website tremanparkfriends.org)

**Friends of Robert H. Treman State Park
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