

# Indiana CHAPTER

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Indiana Chapter has 5 current members

**RESTORATION:** The Friends of McCormicks Creek State Park are raising funds toward restoring their fire tower. They have raised \$14,439 toward the needed \$85,000. See their website for progress: <http://www.friendsmccormickscreek.org/>

**ACTIVITIES:** In the spring I was invited by Dennis Goen, also a member of the Indiana Chapter of FFLA to speak to the Friends of McCormicks Creek. They asked me to talk about lookout towers in general and how Indiana lookout towers- it was a great program and the group was really excited, and I honestly thought several would send in their membership to join FFLA. I had taken some old Lookout Magazines and left them with the membership and they were very impressed with our membership. I also left some brochures with them at their nature center to promote FFLA with their efforts to restore the tower. Sadly, I guess no one followed up with membership.

In September, we hosted a motorcycle rally with a scenic byway group that toured a scenic byway that went through the area and wanted to make several stops of interest and get short briefings on each. One stop was a lookout tower, so I briefed them on lookout towers and how the towers operated and were functional for many years. People thoroughly enjoyed the scenic view and the historic tower. Again, a few people picked up the FFLA brochures- but apparently no one followed up with joining.

I submitted an article to Lookout Magazine about my aunt and uncle, Ed and Mary Caldwell and their experiences at Happy Valley Lookout in Arizona. It isn't Indiana- but I still thought it was a good story! I continue to look for stories in Indiana and have some possibilities to interview people, just haven't gotten out to interview them.

### **PLAN OF WORK FOR 2015 (sadly much is moved forward from 2014);**

- Hope to interview both the widow of the German Ridge towerman and re-interview the Hickory Ridge towerman's widow. I'll write a story for the magazine if I can get good stories from these women.
- Hope to get school history classes in the communities around lookout towers involved in researching their history. This should help us with the nominations for the towers up for selection for the Register. We also want to get the rest of our towers on the Register so will get classes to research those as well. We also hope to get a new generation interested in lookout towers.
- Generate an inventory of needed work on towers and update the information on towers that we currently have.

**Respectfully submitted:** Teena Ligman, Chapter Chair  
13 January 2016