



NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF PINE CREEK MILL

WINTER 2023

“complicated gadgets performing simple tasks”

It was a busy year at Pine Creek. Here are the highlights. A big thank you to all involved. Volunteers. Heather and Rita and the rest of the interpreters. Park staff. And teachers who brought their students.

INTERPRETATION

Attendance broke a record with 11,353 visitors. For part of the 2023 season, Friends experimented with increasing hours that the mill is open. It was a **huge success**. The mill was open 33 hours per week during peak season, as opposed to the traditional 20 hours.



What did we do? It was open in the morning for the first time. Afternoon hours were increased. Attendance was up about 30% in the months we increased hours. We also experimented with opening Fridays in the fall -- 10 AM to 5 PM.



The world came to Pine Creek. Visitors came from 39 states and the countries of Ukraine, Kuwait, France, Canada, Australia, Brazil, England, Spain, Mexico, Germany, and Ghana (Africa). It was probably more than that since many people do not sign the guest book. One day we had about 100 refugees from Burma.

The mill was part of the Park's expanded summer day camp program. About 366 campers came, mostly from Ys in Iowa City and Rock Island.

In the spring, 930 children with adults came for school field trips. They came from schools in Muscatine and from surrounding communities. We also hosted home school groups.



Our interpretation program relies on donations - corporate, private, and visitor donations. Even though the mill is in a state park, no funds for interpretation come from the State of Iowa. Because of expanded hours our expenses increased to \$20,000 in 2023. We hope to continue the expanded program in 2024.



BIG NEWS for 2024 American Cruise Lines has scheduled 10 passenger side trips to the mill in 2024.