



Inklings

Bulletin of Interpretive Ideas

September 2006 Volume 6, Issue 3

Current Project List

- Interpretive Sign Design, **J.F. New and Associates.**

Current projects include:

1. *Crystal Creek Prairie Park, Crete, IL*
2. *Saugatuck Center for the Arts Rain Garden, Saugatuck, MI*
3. *Deer Creek Estates Wetland, Winfield, IN*

- Interpretive Sign Design, **Indiana Department of Natural Resources.**

Current projects include:

1. *Mansfield Roller Mill*
2. *Prophetstown State Park*
3. *Indiana Dunes State Park*
4. *Pokagon State Park*
5. *Lincoln State Park*
6. *Harmonie State Park*
7. *Tippecanoe River State Park*
8. *McCormick's Creek State Park*
9. *Spring Mill State Park*
10. *Brown County State Park*

- Interpretive Sign Design, Lewis & Clark, **City of Clarksville, IN.**

- Interpretive Sign Design, B-line Trail, **Bloomington (IN) Parks and Recreation.**

Getting It In the Ground

Considerations About Sign Placement

The new signs have arrived and all that's left to do is get them in the ground. To make sure that the sign is doing its best job, here are some tips to remember:

- 1) **The Best View:** Interpretive signs are site specific. They draw your attention to the object being interpreted: an historic home, a wetland, a panoramic view. Make sure that the sign is placed so that readers are facing the sign **and** the object being interpreted.
- 2) **Read the Text:** Look for phrases such as "on your left" or "before you." The sign must be placed so that such phrases are correct.
- 3) **Maps:** If a map is included on the sign, the sign must be placed so that North on the map points to North at the site.

Mounting Structures

Deciding the exact placement will determine the type of mounting structure.

Some common structures:

1) *In-ground*

- a. *Description.* Long posts are set several feet into a hole with poured concrete.
- b. *Site Requirements.* A hole at least three feet deep will be dug, so watch for bedrock close to the surface.
- c. *Best use.* Settings where there is ample topsoil.
- d. *Avoid.* Highly



*In-ground Mount
Clermont Co. P & R
Clermont, OH*

erosive areas or drifting sand where the concrete ball will become exposed.

2) *Base plates*

- a. *Description.* Square metal plate that is screwed into a hard surface.



*Base Plate Mount
City of Hamilton, IN*

- b. *Site Requirements.* Hard, level surface.
- c. *Best use.* Patio, decks, landings, level bedrock, sidewalks, or for signs that need to be removed seasonally.

3) *Wall mount*

- a. *Description.* Frame or clips on back attached to a vertical surface.
- b. *Site Requirements.* Flat vertical surfaces.
- c. *Best Use.* Buildings, bridges.
- d. *Caution.* Check with preservation authorities before attaching a sign to an historical building.



*Wall Mount
White River Greenway
Hamilton Co., IN*

4) *Railing mount*

- a. *Description.* Sign clamps to a railing.
- b. *Site Requirements.* Check with vendors to make sure that your railings and their

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Visit our website www.interpretiveideas.com

Lise Schools, Owner

lise@interpretiveideas.com

517/347-0861

Okemos, MI 48805-0355

P.O. Box 355

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clamps are compatible.

c. Best Use. Decks, overlooks.

Thinking through sign placement and communicating this information to the sign installers will ensure that your sign will be interpreting for years to come.



This boot brush mount allows people to clean their boots while reading the sign.