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COMING EVENTS

*******Limited Opening*******

Details/restrictions at web site:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>

Resumption of grinding is planned for Sunday May 2, protocols permitting. Blacksmithing demonstrations are also planned to resume then.

STAY TUNED!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

Despite the pandemic, the site is available to the public on a limited basis. The mill is open for tours though no milling is occurring. Tours are basically on advanced notice basis for

intact family groups. Visit the web site to register: **<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>**

REPLACEMENT OF THE WHEEL AND FLUME



Replacing the Flume

Work is well underway to replace the water wheel and the flume. This is essential for grinding to resume which is planned for May 2, depending on weather and pandemic protocols.

The work is being accomplished by Ben Hassett—Millwright with assistance from the HITT corporation and oversight by Heather Lynch of the Park Authority. Ben has had years of association with the mill having been responsible for bringing the building up to its full four floor operational capabilities in 2014. Together, a great team looking to beat their schedule.

Access to the outside of the mill is restricted while the work is being accomplished so please observe barriers if you visit.



UPDATE ON PAGE 4

Removing the Wheel

MILLER'S HOUSE OPENING

Delayed due the pandemic, the opening of the miller's house (circa 1811) is scheduled for May 2nd with restrictions. The building was restored in 2019 making two ground level rooms available for public use. The staff has worked diligently to furnish these rooms in period reproduction pieces (mid 1800s and early 1900s) so that they can be used, not just viewed. Details of the opening are being finalized to conform to pandemic protocols and will be announced shortly. See the site's web site for details.

MAPLE SYRUP BOIL DOWN A GREAT SUCCESS



Despite social distancing and restrictions on numbers, a record sap run and clear, sunny weather let Steve Golobic conduct four days of sold-out demos (three each day) for 240 visitors. With fire tending by Tom Milton and Dan Dyke, Steve covered the steps a home maple syrup enterprise should entail. From identifying the maple trees, to tapping them and collecting the sap, how best to boil off the water (always outside!) that will reduce the quantity from 40 gallons of sap to one gallon of syrup, to methods of storage, it's all there to make home-made maple syrup.

TEMPORARY SITE MANAGER IN PLACE

Despite county budget restrictions and the pandemic, the FCPA is in the process of selecting and assigning a full time manager to replace Mike Henry. Until that selection is made, temporary managers have been assigned to serve in that capacity while retaining responsibility for their formal assignments.

Assigned now is **Sarah Oberther** who retains responsibilities as manager of Lake Fairfax. We have been working with Sarah as the site navigates its reopening under, at best, trying circumstances. Please welcome her to the site and pass on any suggestions you may have that might mitigate the challenges being faced.

NEW WEBSITE INSTALLED

Check out the upgraded Friends of Colvin Run Mill web site. It includes links to all kinds of useful information:

Bob Coblenz's Restoration Video

The Smithsonian's Air and Space "STEM in 30" video which highlights the use of the Mill's simple machines program

The site's simple machine program

And much more including recent photos of events occurring at the site.

<http://friendsofcolvinrunmill.org>

Friends honored Kirk Kincannon, Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority, upon his retirement.



ROUTE 7 WIDENING

In case you haven't been to the mill lately, getting there can be a little delayed.

The Route 7 construction is moving apace but will impact accessibility for some time to come. But, the good news is that there is to be a tunnel under Route 7 permitting access to site land on the southwest side of the road. Discussions are underway to determine how to connect this underpass to the Cross County trail system.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2020

At the end of the year, FOCRM had assets of \$37,387.90. While programs and other activities on site were extremely limited last year, there were several important projects undertaken with the help of FOCRM funds and volunteers. The biggest project was significant upgrades in the Marjorie and Robert Lundegard Education Center which included painting, adding more and better storage facilities, and repositioning exhibits (below).



Through the generous donation of a descendent of the Millard family – the last to run the mill commercially – a number of pieces were purchased to complete the furnishing in the Miller's House. Another new addition was a working model of an Archimedean screw which we look forward to allowing visitors to try out. Through donations and grants both large and small, FOCRM was able to help Colvin Run Mill through an unexpected year with some great additions.

Kitty O'Hare

Treasurer, Friends of Colvin Run Mill

To help us continue to provide this support to the site, please consider a donation which can be made by visiting our web site or sending a check to: Friends of Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 22066.

NEW FRIENDS' BOOKMARK AVAILABLE



The bookmarks are available in the general store and as handouts for site events. They include a listing of site activities and links to the Friends of Colvin Run Mill's new web site and even have a QR code to make that quick and easy.



Friends of Colvin Run Mill purchased a new freezer to help store milling products

THE PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

I was invited to the mill today (March 15) to see the progress on the flume and wheel repair. I met with the millwright, Ben Hassett and the FCPA project manager, Heather Lynch. The flume is nearly complete—just missing the gates. The arms of the wheel and shroud plate are in place so it definitely looks like a wheel. The buckets will be installed starting tomorrow. It all appears fresh and new. I'm told it is on schedule to be finished, tested and ready for our first grind.

I don't know about everyone, but this winter seemed longer and darker than winters past. I've missed my time volunteering during grinds and talking with visitors about the history and technology of the mill. As I stood watching the millwrights work on this sunny day, I started thinking about that wheel turning again. I started looking forward to seeing more visitors venturing out to join tours of the mill and house. Yes, they will include social-distancing and smaller groups initially, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. I love this old mill especially when it's grinding - with the sound of the gears turning the mill stones, the smell of the flour dust and the faces of people as they experience 19th century technology. And I love sharing what knowledge I have about the mill, the house and families who lived there.

The first grind using the new water wheel is scheduled for Sunday, May 2 (weather permitting). Details will be posted on the Colvin Run Mill Park web site as well at the Friends of Colvin Run Mill Facebook page. Pre-registration will be required. I hope you will check out some of the events and programs at the mill this Spring and Summer and maybe I'll see you at one of the grinds.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/events>

Dan Dyke, President
Friends of Colvin Run Mill

PROGRESS REPORT



AS OF MARCH 15



AS OF MARCH 19

WE'RE ALMOST THERE !