

# Friends of Colvin Run Mill

Winter— Spring 2022



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## COMING EVENTS

**Maple Syrup Boil Down:** Feb 6 and 20, March 6: 12:00 and 1:00. Registration required.

**Wood Carving Lessons:** Sundays, February 6, and 20. From 1-3 pm. See details on page 5. Registration required.

**Tea Tastings:** February 12 and March 12, 1:00. Registration required. See Parktakes to register.

***See more on Page 4.***

## VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT!

Board Member and 2002-2023 Friends President Jim Wallar was named an outstanding volunteer by the Fairfax County Park Authority for 2021. The award was presented at a virtual awards ceremony on November 19, 2021.

**CONGRATULATIONS JIM!**



## Message from the Out-Going President Friends of Colvin Run Mill

The usual winter maintenance and repair of the mill is taking place, we have a new full-time manager and restrictions of the pandemic are slowly being lifted in accordance with FCPA policies. We are seeing signs of back-to-normal at the mill and I couldn't be happier about it. There is a schedule full of events, programs and new programs and summer camps planned. We are anxiously awaiting for the staff to restart the program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-graders that supports the simple machines portion of their curriculum.

We're working with mill staff to see what improvements can be made in the landscaping and how we might reach out to people in the community who have never visited the mill. Also, we are always on the lookout for new members to our Friends group who would like to volunteer a few hours a month giving tours, helping in the store, gardening, researching, or helping with our educational programs. I'm optimistic about the coming year and anticipate seeing more visitors at the park.

I congratulate our newly elected board members and officers and look forward to continuing to support my favorite Fairfax County Park as a Friend of Colvin Run Mill.

As I conclude my service as President and pass the baton to Jim, let me express my thanks to all who given to the site in so many ways and to say it has been a distinct pleasure to see the site survive and begin to flourish under these trying circumstances.

***Dan Dyke***

***President, 2020/2021***

## Become an Official “Friend of Colvin Run Mill”

### Membership Dues Changes

At the Board of Directors Meeting in April, the Board approved new amounts for membership dues. The new dues levels are: Individual - \$35 a year, Family - \$55, Business - \$100.

If you join, in addition to receiving the Newsletters you will have opportunities for special tours, receive samples of stone ground grains at special events, and you will have the right to vote for members of the board of Friends of Colvin Run Mill (one vote for individuals and businesses and two votes for families). Best of all, your membership supports an historic treasure that continues to educate and inform and grind out fine whole wheat flour, not to mention cornmeal, grits, and buckwheat flour.

You can join now by completing the membership form on the Friends of Colvin Run Mill site ([focrm.org/be-a-friend](http://focrm.org/be-a-friend)). If you have paid dues during 2020 or 2021, you will be official members through the end of 2021.

## Election of the Board of Directors and Selection of Officers

Results of the 2021 Board of Directors election have been announced and 2022-2023 officers selected:

**Members:** Gene Bacher, Dan Dyke, Wes Callender; Bob Coblenz, Mike Henry; Amanda McKnight; Kitty O’Hara; Jim Wallar.

### Officers:

President:	Jim Wallar
Vice President:	Gene Bacher
Treasurer:	Kitty O’Hara
Secretary:	Amanda McKnight

## FRIENDS OF COLVIN RUN MILL

### ADWARDED EAKIN PHILANTHROPIC

#### AWARD 2021

This award recognizes visionary financial and material contributions which enhance Fairfax County parks and is named after LeRoy Eakin, Sr., who donated the 14 acres of land which became Fairfax County's first park.



Left to right: Julie Gurnee, site manager; Board members Larry Herman, Jim Wallar, Dan Dyke, Bob Coblenz, Kitty O’Hara, Mike Henry, and Gene Bacher

## ROUTE 7 WIDENING CONTINUING

To repeat what has been included before but may have been missed, Route 7 construction is moving apace and is really impacting that stretch that passes by the mill site. It may delay 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 (see photo below) and permit a better connection with the county trail system.



**The tunnel under Route 7, southwest side. Northeast side (mill side of Route 7) to be built in 2022. See article on Page 4 regarding status of trail connections that should connect to the tunnel.**

## “SANTA AT THE MILL” A BIG SUCCESS

Staged to accommodate pandemic protocols and decorated in festive holiday traditions, the site hosted over 300 visitors, young and old, on Saturday, December 11 to give Santa their wish lists for the coming holiday. Nearly 200 of them also toured two rooms in the

Miller’s house which had been set in period authentic holiday decorations (1810 and 1890). The House has been furnished so that visitors are permitted to sit on the chairs and play with the period specific toys. The toy train was a special delight as it was propelled around the carpet in the 1890’s parlor. In all, a much welcomed respite from the restrictions of the past several years.



**Santa at the Mill 2021**



**The Annual Holiday Tree**

### FRIENDS OF COLVIN RUN MILL

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021

##### Summary of Assets and Obligations

#### **Assets**

Certificates of Deposit	\$11,120.67
Checking Account	\$27,746.22
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$38,899.89</b>

#### **Earmarked Funds**

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Restoration Fund	\$ 7,659.62
Sam Swartz Education Fund, Historic Research	\$ 2,000.00
Mastenbrook Grant	\$ 456.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,151.68</b>

<b>Operating Reserves (not earmarked)</b>	<b>\$28,715.21</b>
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## COMING EVENTS AT COLVIN RUN MILL (con't)

**February 2022 through April 2022**

(REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR SOME EVENTS)

**Colvin Run Book Club February 12 and March 10, 7pm-8:30pm.** Jane Austen novels: February – Emma, and in March – Sense and Sensibility.

**Grinding:** First and Third Sundays, April through November, 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Fee required.

**Blacksmith demonstrations:** Coincident with Grinding days when Blacksmiths are available. Call the site at 703-759-2771 to confirm. Free.

**Camps:** Numerous Summer camps are planned. All planned for 9 AM to 4 PM except number 1 which will be from 9 AM to 1 PM

1. All-American Girl: Living Dolls (5-9 yrs). 06/13-17; 06/21-24; and 7/25-29
2. Camp Colvin (8-12 yrs). 7/18-22 and 09/08-12
3. Camp Colvin (8-12 yrs) - Spring. 04/04-05 and 04/06-08
4. Cooking and Crafts Camp (5-9 yrs). 06/27-07/01 and 08/15-19
5. Cooking and Crafts Camp (8-12 yrs). 7/11-15
6. Fashion and Design Sewing Camp I & II (8-12 yrs) 7/5-8

Please see Parktakes and or the Mill web site for full descriptions and registration forms:  
[FairfaxFCPA - Programs And Special Events \(usedirect.com\)](#) [FairfaxFCPA - Programs And Special Events \(usedirect.com\)](#)

### NEW MAIL BOX

The Friends have purchased a new, mill appropriate mail box which be installed soon at the entrance to the parking lot.

Look for it!



### NEW RMD DIRECTOR SELECTED

The Fairfax County Park Authority has announced the selection of **Laura Grape** as the **new Director of the Resource Management Division (RMD) which includes Colvin Run Mill.** The appointment will be effective Feb. 12, 2022. The Park Authority's Resource Management Division Director provides leadership, strategic direction and guidance to the division's 200-plus merit and limited-term staff. Ms. Grape will focus on matters related to identification, preservation and interpretation of the cultural, natural and horticultural resources of Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

### CONTINUED STUDY TO CONNECT SITE TO TRAILS

Board members, site staff, and Mike Moran examined the existing county trail system that could be connected to the site via the new under Route 7 tunnel. The results of this examination were discussed at the January Board meeting with Jai Cole, the newly appointed FCPA Executive Director. She took it under advisement and indicated the she would engage the FCPA staff in assuring careful consideration of what needs to be done to make it happen.

## Girl Scouts Carve at Colvin Run Mill

By Joyce Spieler

Sunday, November 21, 2021 was a monumental day. Girl Scout Troops 5782 & 40 joined the Northern Virginia Carvers (NVC) in the first teaching session in the Lundegard building at Colvin Run Mill, Great Falls, VA, since Covid restrictions.



All girl scouts were beginner carvers. With the guidance of the volunteer carvers the girls were able to learn the basic woodcarving cuts and more. Everyone was versed in practicing safe use and handling of carving knives. The carvers' wood blank supply gave each girl an opportunity to choose a blank to utilize their new found skills.

We thank the leaders of both troops for supporting the NVC to make this a fun and successful day. Also, thank you to my member volunteers Marc Tranche-montagne, Michael Wine, Todd Andre-Colton, Phuong-Anh Nguyen, and Jack Edwards. Join the Northern Virginia Carvers at 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 2206 in 2022. Call ahead to check dates and times for carving demonstrations and teaching sessions for 2022. 703-759-2771. You may also register for semi-private beginning carving lessons through Fairfax County Parks – Parktakes Online.

Class series includes Sundays, February 6, and 20. From 1-3 pm at Colvin Run Mill.



**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF COLVIN RUN MILL  
HELP PEPETUATE THIS PARK'S MANY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD CLASS STATUS OF THE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK SYSTEM.**

## GRINDING GRAIN CIRCA 200 AD VOLUBILIS, MOROCCO\*

### “The preparation of bread in a bakery in Volubilis”



*Picture of Roman millstone  
circa 200 AD found in Volu-  
bilis, Morocco*

“The main stages of bread preparation in the 16 bakeries discovered in Volubilis have not changed since antiquity.

To obtain the flour, the wheat was ground in a millstone consisting of a cylindrical base in stone surmounted by a bell-shaped basalt cone named meta. On this one was installed the upper part of the wheel, the catillus stone in basalt in the form of two cones inverted. Wheat is poured in the space between the catillus and the meta. Using two wooden pieces inserted in the catillus, the latter was rotated to crush the grains of wheat. The cylindrical base of the grinding wheel receives the falling flour.

After grinding, the flour obtained is screened and mixed with sourdough, salt and water. The pasty mixture is put into a round or squared shaped kneader to stir it.

The kneaded dough is cut into pellets modeled on a circular preparation table to obtain loaves of uniform size which will be placed subsequently in the oven.

The baking is done in an oven made of stone and brick, it is equipped with a charging opening to introduce the bread using a wooden board with long handle. Under the furnace floor, the fire is maintained with an opening at the fireplace.

Once baked the bread is spread on shelves and then presented for sale to customers in the shop of the bakery.”



*Model of Roman miller, Volubilis  
Morocco (2021)*

\* **Footnote:** Volubilis, Morocco, is the site of a Roman settlement in North Africa which flourished from about 47 AD to 200 AD. It is estimated that it supported a population of some 20,000 people, perhaps a quarter of which were Roman, the rest Berbers and slaves.

The quoted description of the process of making bread was displayed in the site’s museum. The site is continuing to be excavated and is a major tourist attraction in Northern Morocco. It is located about 10 miles north of Meknes and about 30 miles west of Fes. I concluded that the grinding of grain in 200 AD wasn’t too much different from what we do at Colvin Run Mill (though the mill stones were turned by hand) but the movement of the grain and flour was all by hand.

*Gene Bacher, Friends of Colvin Run Mill traveler, October 2021*