

Friends of Colvin Run Mill

Summer—Fall 2022



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COMING EVENTS

Mill Tours: Every Saturday: 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2 pm.

Behind the Scenes Tours: 2nd and 4th Sunday: 11am, 1pm, 3pm.

Milling Day and tours: 1st and 3rd Sunday: noon-3pm; April thru October.

Tea Tastings: Saturday Sept 10 and October 29. *See page 6 for details.*

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

Northern Virginia Carvers: Sundays, Open carving for the public on Sept 18, Nov 6, and Nov 20. Advanced classes on Oct 16, 23, & 30. *See Page 5 for details.*

See Other Offerings on Page 7

FRIENDS OF COLVIN RUN MILL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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

Officers:

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

STEVE GOLOBIC PRESENTED OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD

During the pandemic and “...when the site was without management staff, Steve kept the mill and the site safe, kept acting managers informed of the site’s needs and answered questions from staff, visitors, and other sites. Colvin Run Mill is the county’s only operating mill and Steve the only miller. Steve brings alive this important site for history, engineering, community, and education. He consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, commitment to the work and performance.” *



* FCPA Employee Awards Ceremony. 24 June 2022

CONGRATULATIONS STEVE!

BECOME A FRIENDS MEMBER. SEE PAGE 5!

DAN DYKE SELECTED AS COLVIN RUN MILL’S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Past FoCRM President Dan Dyke as been selected as Colvin Run Mill’s Volunteer of the Year by the site staff. He was recognized for his outstanding contributions during the Covid pandemic in continuing support to the site including the refurbishment of rooms in the Education Center, purchase and installation of a new freezer, installation of a Dip-Jar donation station, and many other efforts.



CONGRATULATIONS DAN!

BOARD MEMBER BOB COBLENZ ATTENDS MILLING CONFERENCE

In addition to the Great Falls community, we are also part of a community of historic mills that can be found around the country with a shared goal of preserving old mills. The organization that brings this community together is the Society for Preservation Of Old Mills, SPOOM.

The Mid-Atlantic chapter of the society, SPOOM-MA, recently held its spring meeting at Newlin Grist Mill in Glen Mills, PA. (see below and [Newlin Grist Mill – Established in 1704](#))



Most of the time we learned about the Newlin Grist Mill (established 1704) from guidance of local experts or unguided exploration and discussion among SPOOM members. Visits to other mills always makes me compare and contrast them to Colvin Run Mill and consider aspects I had taken for granted. This includes both the existing hardware of the mill as well as the circumstances at the mill when it was built and how it changed over the years. This was surprisingly wide ranging at Newlin due to the archaeology currently underway (see below) there as well as their activities for conservation.



For more information about SPOOM-MA meetings, visit their website: <https://spoommidatlantic.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Friends of Colvin Run Mill continue to be busy. Always something to do around the ole mill, house (have you see the newly renovated rooms?), the Education Center, and grounds. Gardening, managing invasive plants (weed pulling), giving tours, and lending a helping hand when needed are our mainstays. This quarter we also paid for the first treatment of invasive plants by a professional (the Fairfax County Park Authority had no money for the job and we reckoned that the fast-spreading invasive wouldn't wait), approved defraying the cost of participants from Title I school in field visits, took delivery of a truly awesome mailbox in the form of a mini-mill that will be the envy of the neighborhood, and purchased a backup motor for the Meadows Mill used to grind grain to supplement that ground by the water wheel.

Our largest project to date will be spending around \$15,000 to revive the family garden on the south side of the house. We have retained a professional landscape company to clear out the old, including the nasty poison ivy and pernicious wisteria, and bring in the new, an assortment of flowers and shrubs suited for this shady spot. We are exploring purchasing commemorative benches and a round picnic table so that visitors can enjoy serenity of the surrounding lush landscape at their leisure. More details are found in the [President's Grindstone article](#). [Donations](#) designated for the Garden Fund gratefully accepted.

We continue to engage leadership of the Fairfax County Park Authority on building a trail on the south side of the newly constructed tunnel under Route 7. We understand that the trail project will be placed on the Park Authority's workplan for the coming year, a necessary and good first step. The big "HOWEVER," is that the project is not funded. Our efforts and your support will continue to be necessary so that the magnificent tunnel will not lead to nowhere, but, rather, provide safe, convenient access to the natural beauty of the other half of Colvin Run Mill Park and to Lake Fairfax and the Cross County Trail. See page 4 for how to communicate your support to the FCPA.

Jim Wallar

President, Friends of Colvin Run Mill

COLVIN RUN MILL AS A MODEL FOR MUSEUM INTERPRETATION

During the summer, the site has been fortunate to host two academicians in the process of obtaining credit hours for Masters degrees in English and Humanities. Alex Block and Elizabeth Pierce, finishing their studies at Marymount University, chose the site as a location suitable for their research and the fulfillment of a practicum on historic preservation, museums and their role in education.

With diverse backgrounds including small business management, professional photography, farming (including growing corn and wheat), and parenting, they were able to view the site from many relevant perspectives. Not only did they learn much about the technology of early milling, but were able to observe and analyze how the site is being presented to the public. From this they have been able to update a guide for docents that will permit more consistent and comprehensive tours now that the Miller's House is open to the public.

In pitching in to assist in the presentation of some of the summer camps, they were in a position to go way beyond their academic requirements and become very much involved in the educational aspects of the site including the popular simple machines program designed to satisfy Virginia's standards of learning on the subject and the newly opened Miller's House.

Both Alex and Elizabeth, who fortunately live in the area, have volunteered to continue to support the site and provide suggestions for improving how the site is interpreted, presented and marketed.

Thank you both for your enthusiasm, interest, and commitment in making Colvin Run Mill a historically accurate, inviting, and educational destination for the public.

THE MYSTERIES OF THE MILL STONE

By JIM WALLAR

In a recent article distributed to the newsletter recipients, Jim described how the massive one ton milling stones gently transform the

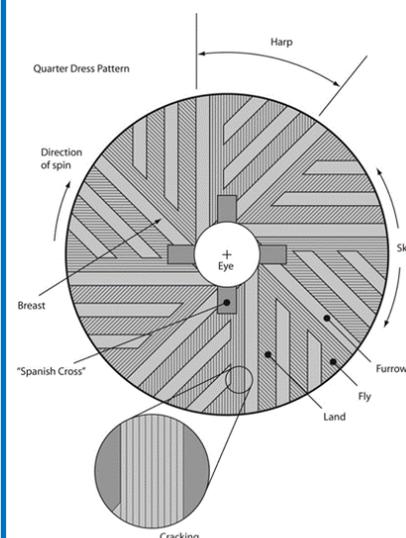


wheat berries into fine flour. While this technology has been known for many centuries, it is still an awe inspiring adventure to watch it in operation at the mill. The moving or runner stone on top must be perfectly balanced on a dime sized steel spindle protruding through the base stone. It must be perfectly balanced and level so that it maintains a paper thin separation from the base stone without ever touching it while spinning at some 80—90 revolutions per minute for hours at a time.

Jim's article details how the stones are "dressed" so that the grooves chipped into them act as scissors to gradually break down the wheat berries as they move from the center of the stone to the outside. The article also identifies the sources of

the stones that are used in the mill and their history of use within the United States.

To read the full article, please go to the FoCRM web site and scroll to Jim's fascinating summary of how the mill stones turn wheat berries into flour.



FRIENDS OF COLVIN RUN MILL

TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

ROUTE 7 WIDENING



SOUTH SIDE

Route 7 construction is moving apace and is really impacting the stretch that passes by the mill site. It may delay accessibility for some time to come.

NORTH SIDE

Both sides of the tunnel are nearing completion. We are working with Supervisors John Foust (Dranesville) and Walter Alcorn (Hunter Mill) in whose jurisdiction the potential trail connections reside *to persuade the county to make the necessary trail connections that will permit the full usefulness of this grand tunnel and provide routine access to the mill site property on the south side of Route 7.*



If you share the view that the tunnel would be a boon to visitors to the mill, to families who wish to take a stroll to Lake Fairfax, to Cross County Trail hikers who want to experience historic aspects of the area, and to naturalists who enjoy investigating wildlife, please write to your Fairfax county supervisor with two simple pleas: Please "No Tunnel to Nowhere" and Please "Fund a Trail on the South Side of Route 7 to Connect to Existing Trails."

WOOD CARVING INSTRUCTIONS AT COLVIN RUN MILL

The Northern Virginia Carvers would like to expand your horizons with creative hand wood working skills. Instructions are held at the Education Center at **Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066**. It is fun and relaxing. It is a great way to meet new people in this zenful art adventure. Experienced instructors of all levels can ignite your creativity and carry it to new heights.

Two types of events:

1. Open carving for the public: Basic wood carving.

Sundays continuous from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm (at least one hour attendance is recommended) (nominal fee for blanks)

September 18, 2022

November 6, 2022

November 20, 2022



Please come at least 1 hour prior to closing to take advantage of the teaching structure.

2. Class Package: Three advanced semi-private 3 hour sessions, Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 PM (vice 3 PM as reflected in Parktakes) (\$45 plus \$60 for supplies)

October: 16th, 23rd, and 30th

Registration required in Parktakes

QUESTIONS? CONTACT: Joyce Spieler 703-915-3239 cell or moonbeam4mj-carver@yahoo.com Or call Colvin Run Mill at (703) 759-2771

Become an Official

“Friend of Colvin Run Mill”

At the Board of Directors Meeting in April, the Board approved membership dues as follows: Individual - \$35 a year, Family - \$55, Business - \$100.

If you join, 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.

In addition, you'll continue to receive the Newsletters, 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).

Join now by completing the membership form on the Friends of Colvin Run Mill site (focrm.org/be-a-friend).

IN PERSON EDUCATIONAL TEA TASTINGS ARE BACK AT THE MILL

We are offering 2 seminars this fall - both at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls, VA

Saturday, Sept 10th, 2022 – A World of Tea – Learn about and taste teas from around the globe – white, green, oolong, black, and dark styles - their history, how they are similar to, and different from, each other, and how to best brew each style for optimum flavor. Tea infused treats and a take home tea sampler included. With certified Tea Specialist Laurie Bell of Great Falls Tea Garden 1pm – 3 pm, \$45 per person per seminar at Colvin Run Mill, Great Falls. Registration required **Use ID Code OSY.ONE1**

Saturday, October 29th, 2022 – Celebrate Diwali with a Primer on Teas from India – As this Festival of Lights concludes, learn about and taste the many nuances of traditional and modern styles of teas produced across the subcontinent. Tea infused treats and a take home tea sampler included. With certified Tea Specialist Laurie Bell of Great Falls Tea Garden 1pm – 3 pm, \$45 per person per seminar at Colvin Run Mill, Great Falls. Registration required **Use ID Code QHP.2989**

If you have signed up for seminars through Parktakes in the past, you know how to register. If you haven't there are several ways: through Parktakes Magazine Online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes

If you already have a Parktakes account, use the Catalog ID Class Codes (listed above) to register online. You can create your own account online at your convenience 24/7

Please note that the request for a date of birth when opening an online account is only to differentiate for childrens, adult, and seniors classes.

OR:

Talk to an Operator: 703-222-4664

Operators are standing by 9 a.m. - 4 p.m, Monday-Friday. For ease of reference, fill out a registration form before calling or have the Class Activity Codes and your credit card (VISA/MasterCard only) handy.

Fax It: 703-631-2004

VISA/MasterCard payments only. Sorry, but due to registration volume, the county cannot confirm fax receipt. Faxed registrations are processed beginning 9 am on the first day of registration. Faxed registrations received prior to the first day of registration will be held until that date.

Mail It

Mail registrations with check, VISA or MasterCard payment to: FCPA/Parktakes, P.O. Box 4606, Fairfax, VA 22038. Mailed registrations are processed beginning 9 a.m. on the first day of registration. Mailed registrations received prior to that date will be held until that date.

Print a registration form for reference when registering offline via telephone, fax, or mail.

Or call Colvin Run Mill 703-759-2771 for additional help in registering.

If a seminar should be full and you'd like to join a wait list, please email Laurie@greatfallsteagarden.com with the seminar name, date, number of attendees for the wait list, and a contact phone number.

Enjoy the rest of summer - would love to see you in fall for tea!

All the Best, Laurie

**SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT THE MIL
SEPTEMBER THRU DECEMBER 2022**

title	cost	date	time	ages
Children's Holiday Shopping at Historic Colvin Run	\$5	Saturday and Sunday 12/3 and 12/4	11am-4pm	5-12 years old
Santa at the Mill	\$10	Saturday and Sunday 12/10 and	3pm-7pm	all ages
A world of Tea	\$45	9/10/2022	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	16 and up
Beginning Wood Carving	\$45	10/16/2022 - 10/30/2022	Sundays 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	16 and up
Celebrate Diwali with a Primer on Teas from India	\$45	10/29/22	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	16 and up
Cider Making	\$60	Weekends October and November	see website for schedule	all ages, up to 10 people per program
Harvest Day at the Mill	\$10	Sat, 10/22/2022	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	all ages
Jingle Bell Tea Party	\$15	Sat, 12/17/2022	2-3:30pm	3 and up
The War of 1812 and the Homefront	\$10	Sun, 11/13/2022	12:00 PM - 3:00 PM	8- and up
American Heritage Merit Badge	\$48	10/24/2022 - 10/24/2022 Mon :	1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	11 yrs-18
CGS-Woodworker	\$11	Tue, 11/08/2022 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	10yrs-15
Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge	\$48	10/24/2022 - 10/24/2022 Mon :	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	11 yrs-18



CIDER MAKING AT THE MILL LAST YEAR

Just to remind you, here is how Steve set up the demonstration of cider making last year. A usual problem is that the sweet cider and apple residue attracts insects, particularly bees. So Steve set up a insect proof tent to protect the participants.

Participants bring their own apples, Steve provides the press.

COME JOIN HIM ON WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2022. REGISTRATION REQUIRED