



Grist From the Mill

January 2011

Gearing Up for the Future

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2011 is here and we are preparing a banner year to mark Colvin Run Mill's 200th anniversary.

Right off, you'll notice a new look to the newsletter.

FCPA graphic artist **Joanne Kearney** designed three new logos for us to choose from. Thanks to everyone (50 people in all!) who took the time to comment and vote on their favorite. Versions #1 and #2 — which both depicted the mill and waterwheel — ran nearly neck and neck. Colvin Run Mill volunteer **Brian**

Kendell cleverly combined the two designs and came up with the winner (see above mast-head).

Save These Dates!

The 2011 grinding season will open with the official gala anniversary celebration on **Sunday, April 10**, from noon to 3pm.

Visitors will watch the miller demonstrate timeless techniques grinding the year's first batch of cornmeal, tour the miller's house, enjoy 19th century music, children's activities and a black-

smith demonstration. During a short ceremony at 1pm, local dignitaries and historians will highlight the importance of the mill's past, present and future in Fairfax County.

Later in the year, Colvin Run Mill will host the 2011 Society for the Preservation of Old Mills conference, **September 22—25**. Mill enthusiasts will meet for a day of presentations and then take to the busses for mill tours, a C&O Canal boat ride, and an evening at Frying Pan Farm Park.

The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain, develop and interpret its historic buildings, collections and resources for the enrichment, education and enjoyment of Fairfax County residents and visitors.



Bing Tseng (2nd from right) received a 2010 Resource Management Division Volunteer Excellence award in September.

Also pictured (l to r) are Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; FCPA Board members Harry Glasgow and Frank Vejda; and Ann Korzeniewski, Assistant Manager of Colvin Run Mill.

Changes at the Top

By now, many of you already know that Colvin Run Mill's manager, **Mike Henry**, is temporarily moving to the Park Authority's Frying Pan Farm Park (FPFP) in Herndon to manage the visitor center. In addition to managing the center's programs and rentals, Mike will bring his considerable knowledge of history and museum operations to develop new interpretive activities at Frying Pan.

The historic resources at Frying Pan Farm Park span hundreds of years, from the c.1790 Frying Pan Spring Baptist Meetinghouse and burying ground up through the 20th century represented by the c.1911 Floris Schoolhouse, c. 1917 Moffett Blacksmith Shop (you know Mike will *love* that place) and the c.1920-1950 Kidwell dairy farm.

This is a temporary assignment and Mike will stay connected with Colvin Run Mill throughout the site's bi-centennial year.

Yvonne Johnson (FPFP's visitor center manager) will become acting manager at Colvin Run Mill. She will bring revenue program development expertise to our site and a set of fresh eyes to help expand program offerings and increase income potential.

FY 2011 Mid-Year Review

We've reached the mid-point of the current fiscal year and it's time to reflect on how we're faring. So far, the year has been a mixed bag.

Attendance is up 19% over the previous year.

Since July 1, paid and volunteer staff have welcomed more than 8,000 visitors. Nearly 1/4 of those visitors came to the site on school field trips (up 12% from last year) and another 250 were here for scout programs (up 16% from last year).

The pace of general public tours, however, has slowed — down 24% from this time last year.

Although this year's Children's Shopping revenue (\$9,200) was up 8% over last year, site **revenue** as a whole is off 7% from fiscal year 2010.

But since FY10 saw a 15% drop from FY09, it seems that the site, like the economy in general, may have turned a corner.

Volunteer hours for the first six months of the year total 2,586 — you are indispensable!



Tom Milton giving a tour.



Nick Yannarell used this design to make for commemorative buttons promoting the mill's 200 years.

Field Trip to the Virginia Room at the Fairfax Regional Library

The **Friends of Colvin Run Mill** (FOCRM) have arranged a tour of the Virginia Room at the Fairfax City Regional Library on Tuesday, January 25 at 10:30am. They extend an invitation to all Colvin Run Mill paid and volunteer staff members to join them.

The Virginia Room maintains a rich collection of regional history and genealogy, local and state government information and legal resources. A particular

strength is Confederate Civil War military history. Other resources include maps, an extensive photographic archive, manuscripts, local newspapers and rare books.

If you want to be included in this field trip, plan to meet the group at the library at 10:30am.

RSVP to **Nick Yannarell** at ntyann@verizon.net



The library is located at 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA, 22030.

For more information about the library and the Virginia Room, visit their website: fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/vr/

What's Old Is New Again at the Miller's House

One of the projects due to be completed in early 2011 is the Historic Structures Report on the Miller's House. Part of the work done for this report was interior and exterior paint analysis, performed by Frank Walsh & Associates.

The 'back' door (used by visitors on tour) is original to the house, and exterior paint analysis revealed that the first layer of paint was brown — actually

Spanish Brown, a popular color in the early 1900s.

Since the site's buildings are all getting spruced up for the 2011 bicentennial year, we had the

opportunity to change the house's doors and shutters from colonial revival dark green to a more accurate dark brown,

Miller's House addition door and shutters sporting their new dark brown color.



SPOOM 2010 — Raleigh, North Carolina

Sponsored by Historic Yates Mill County Park

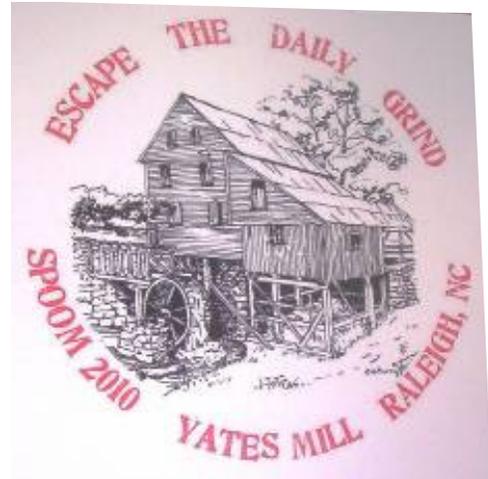
Photos by Dawn Kehrer



Say "Hi" to two volunteers from Yates Mill helping with registration at the Crabtree Marriott.



Yates Mill offered an array of products.



Mill Tours

Sanford Milling Company

Grain elevators and mill



Early 20th century roller mills still in use.



Spouts move flour in and out of the roller mills.



Buffaloe Milling Company

Grinding and Tasting:

The folks at Buffaloe Mill fried catfish, chicken and hushpuppies using their products for a yummy snack.





North Carolina's official *Cornbread Man*, Ray Wheeler, owner of Atkinson Milling Company, with Dawn Kehrer.

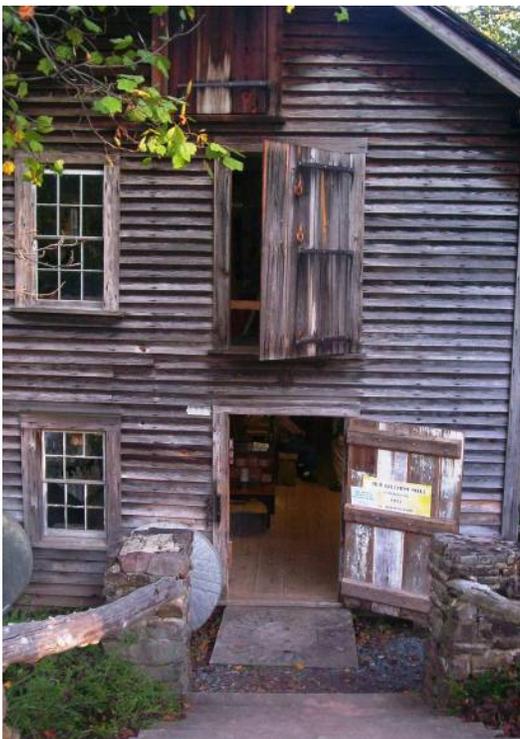
Atkinson Milling Company

Atkinson Milling Company, photo from atkinsonmilling.com. A complex of buildings and a new mill are under construction.



Atkinson warehouse. Ray treated all SPOOMers to an Atkinson product of their choice. Thank you, Ray!

Old Gilliam's Mill Park — Sawmill and Gristmill



Gristmill and surrounding park established and built by SPOOM member Worth Pickard.

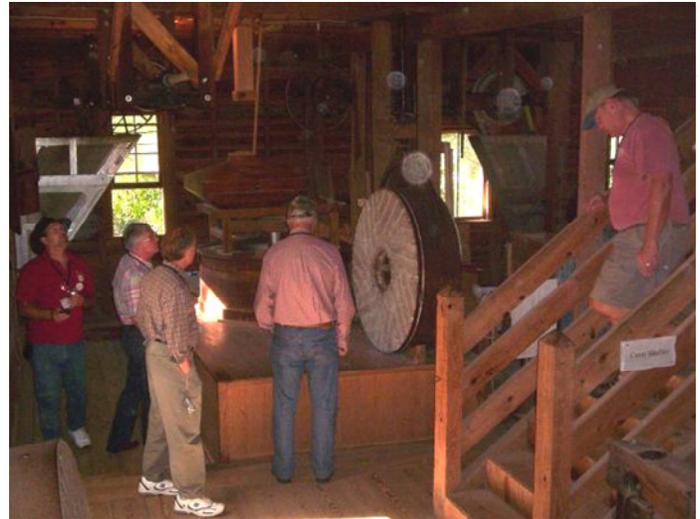


waterwheel

Steam powered sawmill



West Point Mill

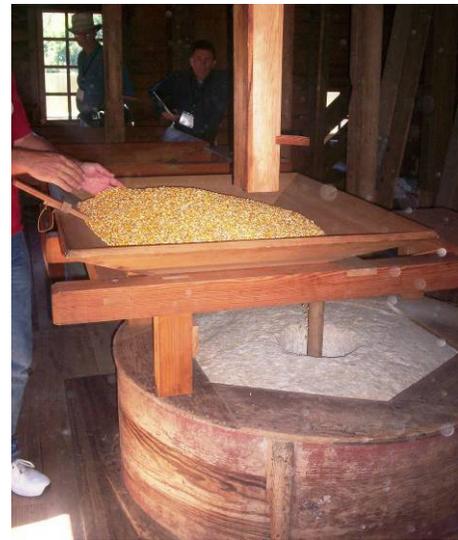


Mason Maddox (left) inspects the interior of West Point Mill.

Historic Yates Mill County Park



Historic Yates Mill



Grinding



Oliver Evans' hopper boy as re-built by Yates Mill miller, William Robbins.

Look closely and you will see that the flights on the arms of the new hopper boy fit into the grooves of the original hopper boy.



Fairfax County Park Authority

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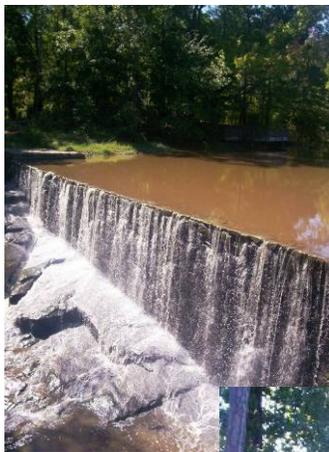
Jill of All Trades: Pam Gennari



SPOOM 2010, continued



Yates Mill visitor center exhibit



A stone dam holds back the waters of Steep Hill Creek.



Visitors can rock and enjoy the scenic view from the visitor center terrace.