

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

March 2009

Listening Forum at Colvin Run Mill

Park Authority Director **John Dargle** is LISTENING. Beginning this month, Fairfax County residents will have a new way to share their comments, concerns and ideas regarding the Park Authority: **Listening Forums**. It's a new twist on an old concept: go to where the people are and reach out!

Input from the community regarding how the Park Authority can best meet the community's needs is invited. Staff hopes to systematically obtain, organize and use information gathered at these forums to make decisions regarding the organization and the agency's service delivery.

The ten forums are scheduled on Thursday nights at 7pm at the following locations:

- 3/19 Colvin Run Mill Barn**
- 4/30 Green Springs Garden Park
- 5/21 Oak Mar RECenter
- 6/11 Audrey Moore RECenter
- 7/30 South Run RECenter
- 9/17 Huntley Meadows Park
- 10/22 Laurel Hill Golf Club
- 11/19 Government Center
- 1/21 Cabell's Mill
- 2/18 Frying Pan Farm Park

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WEEKENDS IN MARCH:

Maple Syrup Boil-Down
Sunday, 3/3, noon-2pm
FREE
Outdoors!
Dress for the weather.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert
Sunday, 3/15, 2-4pm, FREE

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Virginia Association of Museums Conference
March 21-24, 2009
Founders Inn
Virginia Beach, VA
vamuseums.org



Our Friday Crew will be a man down for a while as **Jim Hogan** recuperates from a cardiac adventure. After a lifetime of ignoring his aortic valve, it recently spoke up and demanded his attention. He promises to be back later in the spring, stronger and more bionic than ever. Fair warning to his fellow Friday crew members: he's already looking forward to being treated to lunch when he returns.



And the winner is...

...us!

Dawn Kehrer, Kitty O'Hara, Nick & Tina Yannarell, Ann Korzeniewski and Mike Henry represented Colvin Run Mill at the Small Museum Association's 25th annual conference in February. The banquet theme was "SM'Oscars" which gave us the opportunity to dress up for an elegant evening of fine food, good friends and lively dancing.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8.

Don't forget to **spring forward.**



These are challenging times for every organization, but especially so for small museums that typically operate on a shoestring and rely heavily on volunteer staff, donations and grant funding.

In his keynote address, Jim Vaughan of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, stressed the importance of museums thinking

outside the box and removing barriers to give visitors authentic experiences they will value.

We like the idea of giving visitors more value, and Dawn is planning ways to make the miller's house parlor exhibit more inviting and visitor friendly.

In the sessions we learned where to apply for free collections conservation books (which we did immediately), heard about new rules of marketing in the digital age, how to protect artifacts from theft, how friends groups can raise money and work to support programs, and even considered presenting history via bicycle!

Networking is always an important part of conferences and we all enjoyed getting to know Linda Gouazé from the Arlington Historical Society better. A field trip to the society's Hume Schoolhouse might just be in the future.

Attendance at the conference was a bit down this year — no surprise as training budgets have been slashed. But as usual, there were as many first-timers as there were 20+ year veterans. The future of museums in the mid-Atlantic region seems securely in the hands of passionate, energetic, knowledgeable and flexible people who feel able to cope with the challenging times ahead.





What's New in the Parlor?

Arti-FACTS

by Dawn Kehrler

Have you noticed the new piano scarf in the parlor in the Miller's House? This green fringed and patterned scarf, along with the other colors and patterns in the parlor, helps to show the over-decoration and layering of textures and fabrics common at the turn of the 20th century in American parlors.

More was better in the good old days. Not only were a variety of colors, patterns, fabrics and furniture styles in place in the parlor, home owners treated their parlor as their family museum, displaying framed photographs, marriage certificates, decorative artifacts and natural objects.

According to Thomas Schlereth in *Victorian America*, parlors served "as the repository of a family's

treasured possessions, and as the exhibit space in which the lady of the house demonstrated her artistic and cultural refinement."

Watch for more additions to the parlor this spring as we continue to emulate the Victorians to see if more really is better.



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THOMAS SCHLERETH,
VICTORIAN AMERICA

A Half-Dozen March Birthdays

3 Karen Hogan will be celebrating her first birthday in retirement. She'll be with friends and family and says, "nothing could be better!"

4 Terry Tomasulo

12 Muriel Levin gave herself an early birthday present back in January when she went on an Elderhostel trip to California's wine country.

16 Joe Pruden plans to stay healthy this year and reach his NEXT birthday in good form.

19 Pam Gennari is planning dinner with friends at Blue Ridge Grill in Ashburn, where she envisions someone in chef's garb cooking up delicious lobster bisque. After dinner, Pam and friends will stroll next door to take in a movie.

20 Perennial "spring chick" Debra Gee does not usually plan any special celebrations for her birthday. She will take a day off work and visit a local historic site that she's not been to before. Destination TBD.





COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm



Photo by Ann Korzeniewski



The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain and interpret its historic buildings and collections for the enrichment of Fairfax County residents and visitors as they relate to the themes of technology and community in 19th century rural northern Virginia.

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