

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

April 2009

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

APRIL 19–25, 2009

“CELEBRATING PEOPLE IN ACTION”

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WEEKENDS IN APRIL:

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, 4/11, 1—3 pm
\$6/child, ages 2 to 9 years
Pre-paid reservations by 4/8.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert
Sunday, 4/19, 2—4 pm
FREE

McLean Art Society Art Show & Sale
Saturday, 3/25
Sunday, 3/26
1—4 pm
Free demonstrations throughout the afternoon.



Grinding Grains
Sundays, noon—3pm
Conditions permitting
\$6 adults/\$5 students/
\$4 children and seniors

The theme of this year’s National Volunteer Week is “**Celebrating People in Action.**” This annual recognition week, sponsored by the Points of Light Institute, gives us the chance to pause for a moment to pay tribute to all of you who donate your time and talents to Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.

You really ARE people in action — you give tours, teach children, weed flower beds, tend bees, do carpentry, conduct research, bag cornmeal, run the general store, organize our computer files . . . the list is endless.

You’ve heard it before, but we can’t say it enough:

THANKS!

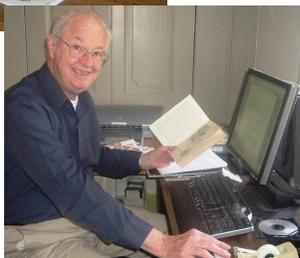
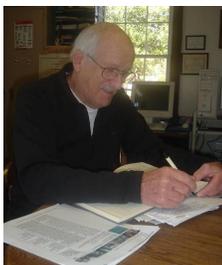
We couldn’t do it without you.

Volunteers Power Our Parks

As a small token of our appreciation, we will be plying you with tasty treats daily in the lunchroom during National Volunteer Week to help keep up your strength and celebrate your actions.

What’s April without a little foolish fun?

The first person who correctly identifies the April Fool’s information in this issue and reports it to Ann Korzeniewski will get a prize!



Men at Work

Mike Moran and **Joe Pruden** have been spending their time wisely the last couple of months, helping Mason Maddox and Dawn Kehrer dig up the facts.

Mike is researching 19th century wheat production in the local area to

find out who might have brought their crop to our mill.

Joe is tracking down accurate period lighting fixtures to furnish the miller’s office. Next he will tackle 19th century almanacs.



Yes, It IS Rocket Science!



Grant Pemberton & Spencer Gennari, award-winning documentary film-makers — & future rocketeers?!

Actually, it's the history of rocket science.

Begun in Ohio in 1974, **National History Day** is a nation-wide annual competition for elementary and secondary students. The 2009 theme is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies."

This year, with more than half a million students participating, a local semi-final winner is one of Colvin Run Mill's very own!

Special events volunteer **Spencer Gennari** is an 8th grader at Loudoun Country Day School in Leesburg and the son of Sunday storekeeper Pam Gennari.

Back in March, he and his partner, Grant Pemberton, entered the regional History Day competition at

George Mason University.

We are proud to report that they won the Junior Division (grades 6-8) group documentary film category for their project on Robert Goddard, the father of modern liquid-fueled rocketry.

They chose Goddard as their subject because they are both interested in science and he was a scientist. And they chose to make a film of his life and legacy to the world because they thought it would be exciting to show a rocket launch.

With a new understanding of "constructive criticism," the

two budding scientists are headed to Williamsburg on April 25 for the state-wide competition.

Their advice for future History Day competitors:

- spend most of your time doing research and don't procrastinate;
- find primary sources and do not rely only on the internet;
- do your best and hope for the best!

Spencer plans to study "green" engineering or robotics while Grant is interested in pursuing aerospace engineering or marine photography.

A special screening of this award-winning film will be held at the site's annual award dinner in June. Don't miss it!

April Birthday



16 — Dawn Kehrer guesses she won't be cookin' (note to Darryl).



Keith, lower left, with bandmates.

Welcome Back, Keith Young

We didn't even know he was out of commission., but Keith Young has returned to the Colvin Run Barn for the umpty-umpth spring season of monthly Mill Run Dulcimer Band concerts after heart by-pass surgery in early February.

Keith is a life-long runner, and when suspicious symptoms had him walking instead, he went to the doctor to investigate.

After his surgery, he was given VIP treatment at Fairfax Hospital, thanks

in part to the fact that his son Scott is a nurse there in cardiac care.

Six weeks into recovery, Keith is enjoying daily walks with his wife, Mary, and dulcimer band activities.



New Gear Model, Up and Running

Rich Thorpe's interactive gear model is now in the barn for you to share with visitors. While the model's primary audience is the elementary students on a field trip, those of you who give tours to the public are also welcome to show it off.

The model demonstrates how the gears move and transfer energy from the waterwheel to the runner stone. Since most visitors do not see the gears move during their tour, this is a great opportunity for them to get a close-up view of how the mill machinery works.

To operate the model, use the removable handle that slides through the Plexi-glas cover and fits onto a screw that turns the waterwheel. This handle is kept in the electric room near the model.

Only paid & volunteer mill staff may use the handle. Turn the wheel slowly, the model is very fragile.

Please do not allow any visitor to operate the model; and always return the handle to its place when you finish talking.

One last tip: the model's base is on wheels, so warn visitors not to lean on the base or cover.

Next time you're here, please take some time to try out the model and think about what you want to tell visitors. There is no script to follow, but generally your description of the gear model will be similar to the description of the actual gears in the mill.

As always, consider your audience, what will interest them most about the model and how best to convey your message.



The new gear model gives visitors a close-up view of the mill machinery in motion.

FOCRM at the Great Falls Spring Festival

by Mary Allen, President

The **Friends of Colvin Run Mill** are looking for a few enthusiastic volunteers to join us Sunday, May 17, 11:30am to 4pm, at the Great Falls Village Green for the 2009 Spring Festival sponsored by the Great Falls Optimist Club.

There will be carnival rides, music, demonstra-

tions and lots of fun activities. What a perfect place to promote Colvin Run Mill as a fun and educational site for family and friends.

We would love to have a few enthusiastic (as you all are) Colvin Run Mill volunteers along with the Friends to expound the virtues of the site and the joys of volunteering.

Join the Friends of Colvin Run Mill

Individual \$25
Family \$40
Business \$100

Contact FOCRM in their office in the miller's house or call them at 703-759-4360.



The Easter Bunny at the Colvin Run Mill Egg Hunt, 2008.



Who was that inside the costume?
Answer below:

Easter Bunny: Julie Bell



COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls, VA 22066

Phone: 703-759-2771

Fax: 703-759-7490

FOR REASONABLE ADA
ACCOMMODATIONS, CALL
703-324-8727



A PUBLICATION OF
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA
AND
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE



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.

Titular Figurehead: Mike Henry

Deputy Bobble-Head: Ann Korzeniewski

His Excellency, the Ambassador of Bumpass: Mason Maddox

Chief of Antiquities & Erudition: Dawn Kehrer

Innovator General for Curricula, Mercantilia & Flora: Jennifer Blackwood

Directors of the Front Line: Crystal Allison & Pam Gennari