

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

May 2009

New Summer Weekend Event Schedule

Starting in June, the site will be hoppin' on the first and third weekends of each month throughout the summer.

Family Fun Weekends will offer something for all ages — including a chance to meet visiting farm animals on loan from Frying Pan Farm Park.

Besides meeting the furry and feathered visitors, families will enjoy watching grinding demonstrations, making ice cream (Saturdays), taking wood carving lessons (Sundays with the Northern Virginia Carvers) and playing old-fashioned games.

Extra hands will be welcome on these special weekends, so if you have time to share on Saturdays or Sundays this summer contact Jennifer Blackwood.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2009 Miller's School	2
Field Trips	2
April Fool's Winner	3
History Day News	3
Double the Fun	3

FAMILY FUN WEEKENDS coming this summer!
1st and 3rd weekends in June, July & August

Noon-3pm

Crank ice cream on Saturdays, learn to whittle on Sundays, play old-fashioned games, visit farm animals and watch the mill in operation.

New Faces at the Mill



Kim Whitacre has joined the paid staff as miller's assistant. She was

born and raised in Gainesboro, VA (just west of Winchester), and describes herself as a "nature fanatic." Kim loves the outdoors and learning about old ways. She is especially interested in Native Americans.

Kim has two daughters, Natasha (16) and Brittany (19) who live in Florida, and a 96-year-old grandfather who is part Cherokee. She will be keeping her nose to the grindstone Sundays through Thursdays.

The second newbie on the mill staff is a familiar face. **Terry Tomasulo** has been assigned to work at the site 20 hours a week. She will be in charge of general store

operations and will soon be giving tours, working with scouts and school kids, and conducting weekend programs.

Terry will spend the other half of her time at FCPA headquarters coordinating the RMD volunteer program.



WEEKENDS IN MAY:

Mother/Daughter Tea
Sunday, May 3, 2—3:30pm
\$17/person
Reservations by 4/29

Blacksmith Demo
Sunday, May 3, 11am-3pm

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert
Sunday, May 17, 2—4pm
FREE, donations accepted



Grinding Grains
Sundays, May 3 & 24
noon—3pm
conditions permitting
\$6 adults/\$5 students/
\$4 children and seniors



Tim describes Mason as “a good teacher who makes you think.”

2009 Miller’s School at Colvin Run Mill

Tim Stengel from Milbank, South Dakota, spent four days last month learning and working alongside Mason Maddox during the second season of “miller’s school.” Tim is a life-long resident of Milbank who likes anything mechanical, especially farm- or wind-related. The City of Milbank asked him to run their newly reconstructed windmill and paid to send him here to learn how.

Tim met Mason last fall when Mason traveled to Milbank to help recon-

struct the historic windmill. (See the October 2008 newsletter for the article about Milbank.) Mason was impressed with Tim’s mechanical ability and after only four days of training here was comfortable allowing him to prepare Colvin Run Mill for grinding and start up the machinery.

Mason has taught Tim to do the right things in the right order to run the mill. Tim expects to open Milbank Mill one or two weekends a month for grinding demonstrations. The city has also asked

him to train a couple of city employees to run the sails, open the mill for visitors and maybe even to grind.

Tim says he has also learned that milling is dangerous and that a miller should always work with a helper, not only to help with the equipment but for safety.



SAVE THE DATE!
2009 Colvin Run Mill Volunteer Awards & Recognition Dinner

**Saturday, June 13
5-7pm**

Enjoy a casual picnic, socialize with fellow volunteers, view an award-winning History Day documentary film and applaud the site’s 2009 award winners.

**SPONSORED BY
THE FRIENDS OF
COLVIN RUN MILL**

MENU:
Bar-b-que and
all the fixin’s.

Field Trips . . . not just for 3rd graders!

It has been quite a while since we have offered an organized field trip for mill volunteers. That sorry situation is about to change, thanks to **Crystal Allison**.

Crys will soon be making a job change — she’s leaving her paid job at the mill at the end of this month. But, luckily, she won’t be leaving us altogether. She has volunteered to plan field trips (doing “the fun stuff,” she calls it).

To start, Crys is looking around the volunteer staff for inspiration. Several mill volunteers donate their time and interpretive expertise to other local attractions: Washington National Cathedral (Jim Hogan); Smithsonian American History Museum (Kitty O’Hara); Smithsonian Natural History Museum (Mike Moran); Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy Center (Lee Boyd & Joe Pruden).

Crys will be planning trips with these folks, but she is also looking for more ideas. If there is a place you want to visit, or a place you want to share with others, please send your suggestions her way.

She would also like to know what days of the week are preferable for most people.

E-mail Crys at:

ckballison@gmail.com



And the prize goes to . . .

Bing Tseng who was the first volunteer to spot the April Fool's jest in last month's newsletter and report it to "Deputy Bobble-Head" Ann Korzeniewski. Bing won a whimsical pair of salt & pepper shakers in the shape of giant ants. Who wouldn't want those?! Based on Bing's reaction, the ants may be headed for a life as garden sculptures.

For those less eagle-eyed than Bing, the joke was the "funny" paid staff titles that appeared on the last page of the newsletter.

Kudos to **Mike Toms** and **Genie Davis** who also found the joke, but were not quite as quick to report in as Bing.



Good sport **Bing Tseng** shows off his April Fool's prize ants.



Recognize the woman in purple?

It's teaching docent **Mary Dettra**, clad in her signature color, helping 3rd graders from Orange Hunt Elementary School use the shaving horse and draw knife on a memorable field trip to Colvin Run Mill in April.

BREAKING NEWS FROM HISTORY DAY STATE COMPETITION

Spencer Gennari and **Grant Pemberton** won the Virginia State History Day competition for their Junior Division Documentary Film on Robert Goddard. Next stop — the national competition in June at the University of Maryland.

Double the Fun!

Twins run in the family, and **Mike and Diane Moran** are the proud grandparents of another set. The latest, Ava Lyn and Davis Allan arrived on March 26.

They join their parents and siblings — the **FIRST** set of twins — 2½ year old Amanda and Austin, in Huntersville, NC.



May Birthdays



5 Bridget Sullivan will celebrate her 25th birthday in Philadelphia at the American Association of Museums conference, where she'll also be job-hunting.

26 Jennifer Kalletta has no special plans, but we suspect she'll celebrate with her 2½ year old niece and 6 month old nephew.



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.

Manager: Mike Henry

Assistant Manager/Newsletter Editor: Ann Korzeniewski

Miller: Mason Maddox

Historic Collections Coordinator: Dawn Kehrer

Programs, Volunteer Scheduling & Sales: Jennifer Blackwood

General Store Operations & Programs: Terry Tomasulo

Miller's Assistant: Kim Whitacre

Jills of All Trades: Crystal Allison & Pam Gennari

