

GRIST FROM THE MILL

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

COLVIN RUN MILL
HISTORIC SITE

June 2009

What's THAT Thing?

Have you noticed the big purple triangle hanging from a tree in the parking lot? Neither a piñata nor a Chinese lantern, it's a glue trap — one of 2,000 hung throughout Fairfax County as part of a state-wide survey to detect **emerald ash borers**.



Called “the green menace” by the USDA, these insects are a serious threat to ash trees and have killed more than 25 million trees in the United States so far. They were found in several locations across Fairfax County last summer, resulting in a quarantine of ALL firewood and ash nursery

stock, green lumber and other ash material in Fairfax County and nearby areas.

Emerald ash borers do not generally spread far on their own. They mainly spread when various ash articles (firewood, wood chips, nursery stock, etc.) are transported from infested areas to uninfested areas.

The adult beetles feed on ash leaves with minimal damage, but the larvae cause the most destruction by feeding on the inner bark of ash trees. This disrupts the trees' ability to transport water and nutrients and kills them in a matter of years.

Federal, state and local staff will monitor the traps throughout the summer; however, the USDA has



recommended that no eradication action be taken in Fairfax County due to the extent of the infestations and to the fact that similar eradication attempts in other states have failed.

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WEEKENDS IN JUNE:

Family Fun Weekends
June 6 & 7, noon-3pm
June 20 & 21, noon-3pm

Price varies by activity.

Crank ice cream (Saturdays), take a carving lesson (Sundays), watch grinding, visit farm animals and play old-fashioned games.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band Concert

Sunday, June 14, 2-4pm
FREE

Donations accepted

Father's Day Celebration
Sunday, June 21, 11am-4pm

FREE tours of the mill for all Dads accompanied by their children.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS & RECOGNITION PICNIC

Saturday, June 13, 5—7pm
Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

Enjoy a casual picnic, socialize with fellow volunteers, recognize volunteering milestones and applaud the site's 2009 award winners.

Bar-b-que sponsored by the Friends of Colvin Run Mill

RSVP by June 5 to jennifer.blackwood@fairfaxcounty.gov



SUMMER CAMP RETURNS

The 2009 season of Local Heritage day camp begins Monday, June 22.

Eight one-week sessions continue through August 14.

Millers-in-training learn about rollermills in Bollinger Mill.

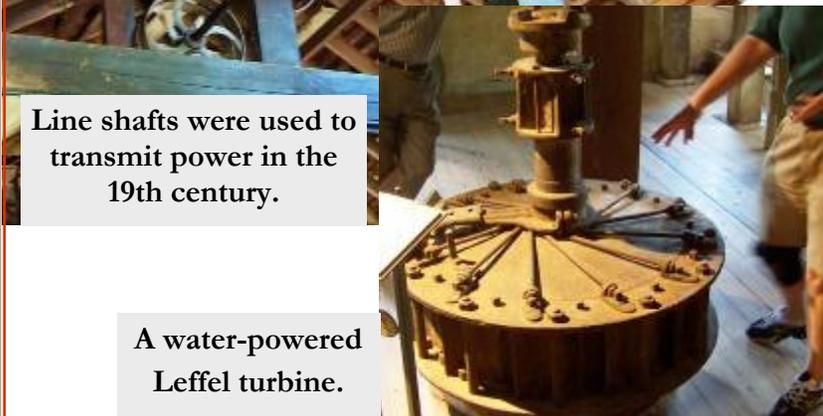
It's Official. . .He's A Miller

Our miller, **Mason Maddox**, is among the first three people to complete the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills' (SPOOM) **Miller Training Program**. SPOOM members began the program in 2006 after many years of discussing the need for such training. About 30 people are currently participating in it.

The program covers 11 core subjects, the last one being a series of optional topics. Training sessions have been offered as pre-conference workshops at

the annual SPOOM conferences and at different times and locations as stand-alone sessions. To complete the program, a participant must attend at least nine sessions.

In May, Mason traveled to Bollinger Mill in Burfordville, MO, to complete his final three sessions. He taught one session at Bollinger Mill on sanitation and making a safe food product in historic mills. He will receive his certificate of completion at an upcoming SPOOM conference.



Miller training curriculum elements:

- Grains
- Millstones
- Millstone grinding
- Millstone bolting (sifting)
- Power transmission: colonial period
- Power transmission: 19th century
- Water power: waterwheels, turbines
- Rollermills, attrition mills, hammermills
- Sanitation
- Products, co-products & by-products
- Options: i.e., interpretation, history of grain milling, wind power

Line shafts were used to transmit power in the 19th century.

A water-powered Leffel turbine.



Shh! It's a Secret!

Arti—FACTS
by Dawn Kehrler

“Shh – It’s a Secret” is the new exhibit on display in the General Store. It shows a variety of faux foods and the materials from which they are made. Scoops of ice cream, a pie crust, coffee beans, a chocolate cake and a slice of red beet are a few of the artfully prepared “foods” that are now on view to the public.

I got the idea for this exhibit because one of the most popular exhibit items with children taking a tour has been the faux chocolate

cake that was on the dining table in the Miller’s House.

Susan Clark, of the Museum Collections Section, “baked” this cake for us a couple of years ago. When kids asked if the cake was real, we could take advantage of this teachable moment to tell them about museum, or *faux*, food.

We exhibit faux food because vermin, varmints, fungi and mold will ravage the real thing, a detriment in itself and to the historic artifacts around it.

Youngsters, especially, may be interested in this fun exhibit.



Intern Robbie Nitzberger making a cup of faux tea.



June Birthdays

4 Bing Tseng is planning a quiet birthday this year.

17 Mike Henry will be recognizing the 26th anniversary of his 21st birthday.



COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

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AND
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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm



Don Sweeney, FCPA

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

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Miller: Mason Maddox

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