

## 2010 Volunteer Award Winners

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



**Muriel Levin** is a talented and enthusiastic multi-tasker. For more than a decade, she has worked weekly as a teaching docent helping 3rd graders learn about simple machines and the history of the mill.

Recently, she has stepped up her commitment to the site. The paid staff shortage has made it increasingly difficult to keep up with daily operations and Muriel's welcome response has been to ask, "How can I help?"

She has helped by filling in on Sundays when she sees we need her — she gives guided tours of the mill to visitors and has adapted to the free-form interpretation offered

during grinding demonstrations.

In the office, she has continued to tabulate the monthly volunteer hours and tracks down missing data to ensure everyone gets proper credit.

She has delved into the research files and shared what she found by writing three articles for the site's newsletter.

Muriel can also run the general store and willingly takes a turn at the cash register to fill a vacancy.

### DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER



For the past six years, **Bing Tseng** has worked weekly in the site office, using his computing skills to tackling a variety of tasks.

He set up two databases, one to track school program confirmations and the other to catalog the site's library.

He charted monthly environmental data to document the site's collections stewardship practices. This project is especially important right now as we have been working on museum reaccreditation.

This year he willingly changed his volunteer day to accommodate paid staff schedules in light of shortages.

He has read through folder after folder after folder of Sam Swartz's research materials and is currently digitizing Mason Maddox's vast collection of mill restoration photos.

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Turn to page 2 for photos of other volunteers recognized for their length of service milestones.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 
- 2010 Volunteer Milestones **2**  
Interpretation Tips **3**



### WEEKENDS IN JULY

**SITE CLOSED**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 4**

**OPEN**  
**MONDAY, JULY 5,**  
**11 AM – 4PM**

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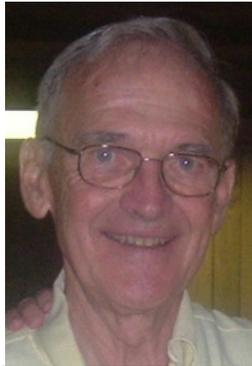
#### SUNDAY, JULY 18

**Northern Virginia Carvers**  
noon-4pm  
FREE woodcarving lessons.  
Nominal charge for wood blank

**Grain Grinding Demo**  
Noon-3pm  
\$6 adults, \$5 students 16+,  
\$4 children and seniors



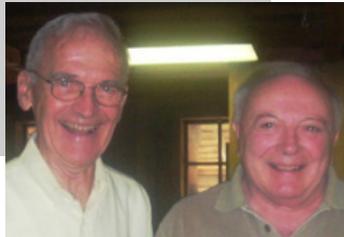
## 2010 Volunteering Milestones



Lee Boyd  
Teaching docent  
**20 YEARS**

We hardly ever see one of these guys without the other — at least on Fridays.

Lee Boyd &  
his pal Jim Hogan



Pat Hill  
Touring docent  
**1 YEAR**



Mary Dettra,  
Teaching docent  
**15 YEARS**



Pat McGuire  
Blacksmith  
**10 YEARS**

NOT PICTURED:

Jennifer Kalletta  
Debra Gee  
**5 YEARS**

Crystal Allison  
**15 YEARS**



### CAL RIPKEN AT THE MILL?!

A pair of orioles has moved into the neighborhood recently. It's been many years since one has been spotted in our park, but we've seen these two several times lately.

They make a welcome addition to our regular cast of wild visitors.



## Interpretation Tips

*With thanks to:*

**Rich Gillespie**  
**Director of Education**  
**Mosby Heritage Area**  
[www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org)

Here are some tips for engaging visitors as you guide them through a tour. The advice is true for any history site — you just need to personalize it for *your* visitors and *your* tours.

If you have successful examples you have used at the mill, and want to share that experience, tell Ann Korzeniewski. She will include them in future newsletters.

**SET THE SCENE**  
**Orienting visitors is crucial.**

- *Where* are we? Help them locate the site. Explain why the location is important.
- *When* are we? Give them cues about what was happening at the time.
- *Who* are we? What were Virginians like at the time? What were they doing then?

**Beware:** Don't bore folks with too much background — just a few quick cues will do.

**PAINT THE PICTURE**  
**This is key to interesting interpretation.**

Don't get so lost in a sea of facts, figures or milling jargon that you forget about the good *story* you have to tell.

Flesh out your story with details visitors can see, hear, smell and feel. Use words to create images that evoke those sensations.

**TELL THE TALE**  
**What are the compelling stories at the site? Find the details that will bring these stories to life.**

A good story flow logically — like telling a good joke. When you lose the logical flow, nothing makes sense.



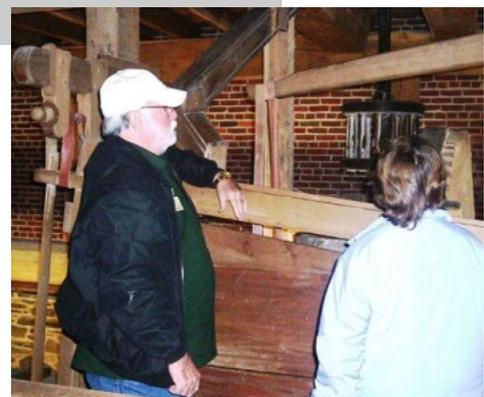
**ON-SITE INTERPRETATION SHOULD USE THE SITE**

**Otherwise, why not just stay home and read about it?**

Visitors need to be glad they came to this site. Help them get a sense of place and interact with it — *look* at the millrace, *listen* to the waterwheel, *smell* the stones rubbing together and *touch* the millstones on the hillside.

Consider carefully the backdrop/setting you will use to tell each part of your story so that one enhances the other.

**Mike Toms tells the tale and uses a unique setting to enhance the story.**



**Tom Milton sets the scene by orienting visitors to the site at the beginning of their tour.**



## July Birthdays

**1 Kim Whitacre**  
**12 Kitty O'Hara**  
**16 Mike Murphy**  
**17 Ann Korzeniewski**



## COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE

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FOR REASONABLE ADA  
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703-324-8727



A PUBLICATION OF  
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AND  
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm](http://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

**Assistant Manager/Newsletter Editor:** Ann Korzeniewski

**Miller:** Mason Maddox

**Historic Collections Coordinator:** Dawn Kehrer

**General Store Operations & Programs:** Terry Tomasulo

**Miller's Assistant:** Kim Whitacre

**Jill of All Trades:** Pam Gennari