

# Grist from the Mill



Colvin Run Mill Volunteer Newsletter

November 2007



## Winter Calendar

Look over the enclosed Winter Calendar for events in December, January & February. December 1 is the first day of Children's Holiday Shopping program, so it will be here before you know it.

## Thanks Giving

Of all the things we have to be thankful for, volunteers are on the top of the list. Without you, school children would not learn about the mill, simple machines or the community. No one would discover the mysteries of milling or be amazed at the size of the Millard family. Weeds would overtake the gardens and new ideas would wither away. Families would not enjoy dulcimer music, make their own scarecrow or discover the beguiling world of bees. The holidays would be less joyful without excited children with their surprise presents, the model trains chugging around the tracks, the Civil War reenactors singing around the fire, and visits to Santa in his hideaway in the miller's office. Most importantly, our jobs would be a lot less fun without all the unique perspectives that you contribute to make Colvin Run Mill a place where learning about the past is a pleasure. Thank you.



## Friday November 16 Elly Doyle Awards

Kitty O'Hara will be honored for her outstanding volunteer service at the Elly Doyle Park Service Awards when the Fairfax County Park Authority Board "Rolls Out the Red Carpet for our Superstars... Volunteers"

You are invited to come cheer her on and enjoy an evening of entertainment and hors d'oeuvres on Friday, November 16 from 7:30pm to 10pm at The Waterford at Fair Oaks.

Everyone is invited to "Go Hollywood." Come dressed as your favorite film star! Be creative. Prizes awarded to the best dressed personalities. Business attire is appropriate as well. RSVP by Friday, November 2 to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rsvp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rsvp) or 703-324-8264.

## Seasonal Site Decorations



Bob Lundegard's decorative corn shocks will soon be replaced with holiday greens. On November 27, we invite you to help make swags and kissing balls to decorate the site. We need lots of evergreens to make swags and would appreciate any spare spruce, pine, holly, magnolia or other evergreens to add to the holiday décor.

## Ho, Ho, Ho



Be an angel and sign up for holiday programs on the forms in the Volunteer Room.

Children's Holiday Shopping is Saturday, December 1, Sunday, December 2, and Monday, December 3. Country Christmas is on Saturday, December 8 from 3pm to 6pm.

The train display will chug into the barn on Saturday and Sunday, December 15 and 16, rather than in conjunction with the Holiday Shopping as in the past. This will give everyone more elbow room and hopefully attract more visitors to see the trains.



volunteers doing what they do best. I have a head start on this project so that I can capture all of you through several seasons in your various duties. On Fridays and Saturdays, Mary Allen and Crystal Allison will be behind the lens. So smile! You are the stars of the show!

## New Fairfax City Regional Library

If you visit the Fairfax City Regional Library, you should know that the library will close mid-November to move to its new quarters at the corner of Old Lee Highway and North Street, Fairfax City. It will open as the [City of Fairfax Regional Library](#) in its new 44,450-square-foot building with a 199-car parking garage in late January.



The Fairfax City Library houses the Virginia Room, which contains the county's foremost collection of books, photographs, and manuscripts related to Fairfax County government and genealogy. The Fairfax County Public Library website [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/) has information about the library branches and more details of the new building.



## Birthdays

27 – **Mary Allen.** Mary is celebrating her early birthday present -- a vacation home on the

Northern Neck of Virginia. She is taking reservations now for Sundays in the winter and spring and hopes everyone will come down to enjoy the view of the water and wildlife.

## Colvin Run School Fest

On Saturday, October 27, Mike and Diane Moran and Pam Gennari and Bob Lundegard represented Colvin Run Mill at the Dragonfest/Autumnfest at Colvin Run Elementary School. The mill video and old-fashioned toys attracted everyone to the Colvin Run Mill display and let our neighbors know there is more to the site than the waterwheel they see from Route 7.



## Congratulations

Terry Tomasulo was thrilled to be with daughter Laura and son-in law Dan when Sydney Rose Magid was born at 8:57am on October 11, weighing 6 lbs.

13 oz and measuring 20 inches in length. Sydney is Terry's first grandchild and is named in loving memory of her great-grandfather, Sidney Magid, and greatgreat-grandmother, Rose Tomasulo.

## Arti-Facts from Dawn

### I Think You're Going to Like This Picture!

You may have noticed that I am often carrying the site camera wherever I go. I am preparing a PowerPoint program for the 2008 Volunteer Dinner to showcase our

## What's Buzzing



On October 14, MaryEllen Kirkpatrick and Toni Burnham presented the second annual *Bread and Honey* program to almost 200 adults and children. Everyone had the opportunity to see the bees in action at the demonstration hive and to sample the differences in various types of honey. They also brought honey from the Colvin Run bees to sell in the general store.





## From the Miller's Corner

Mason Maddox finished grinding in October and will shut down the machinery

sometime in November, depending on the weather. Mason has ground both corn and wheat, so there should be enough cornmeal, grits and whole wheat flour to last at least most of the winter.

## On the Road with Bob and Marge To the SPOOM Conference

Around 150 members from many states attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills at the Hanford Mill Complex in Meredith, New York on September 20-22, 2007.

On Thursday, there was a mill training program, a timber-framing workshop, a blacksmith workshop, and a steam engine and steam-boiler operations workshop. A tour to the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, the Farmer Museum and the Flycreek Cider Mill, and a tour to the spectacular Howe Caverns, the Cavern Creek Grist Mill and the Bunn Feed Mill were also offered.

The Cavern Creek Gristmill was built by Peter Lowe Myers in the 1790s to grind grain for the local farmers. It



was converted to a high capacity mill in 1860 and continued production until closing in 1930. It was bought by the Lynes family in 1971 and opened as a museum in 1981. This beautiful red mill has a 12 foot overshot water wheel with 33 buckets. Two runs of

millstones are in the loft above the first floor. Grain enters the second floor via a water-powered hoist and is cleaned on the third level. The dry millpond is currently full of weeds and the millrace needs to be dredged. The present owner, Mr. Ralph Harvey, hopes to restore the mill and to produce flour again.

The Bunn Tillapaugh Feed Mill is the last remaining mill of five mills that were below the Bear Gulch Canyon.



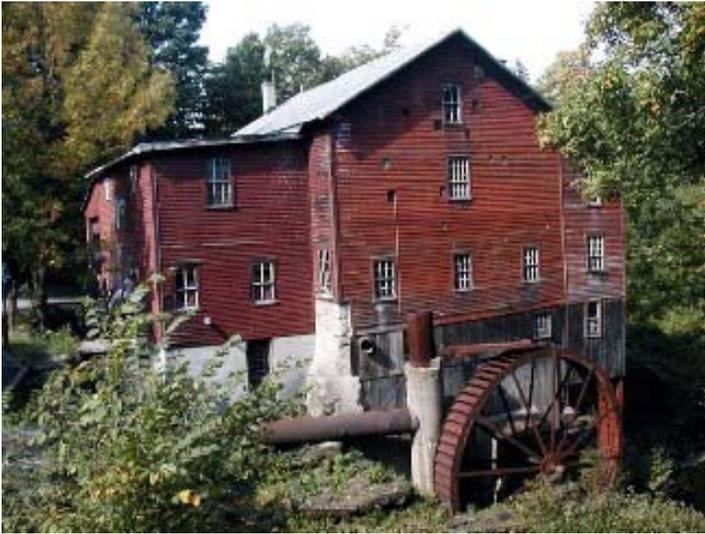
The three-level mill was constructed around the mid 1880s, replacing a cradle factory that burned around 1883. The original mill had a large steel water wheel under the lower floor of the mill. It converted to a feed mill in 1990 and, in 2002, the local historical society purchased it for \$80,000.

On Friday morning, Jim Kricker gave a history of reciprocating saw mills. Steve Hirsch talked about the Esopus millstones, Katie Boardman spoke about interpreting your mill site, and Bill Petetjean discussed engine and machinery lubricants. After lunch, we visited the Wightman Lumber Yard, a modern lumber yard where most operations are done by noisy high tech machinery, making it difficult to understand the tour guide. Next, the group visited the hydroelectric plant at Colliersville Dam, built in 1906-07 to produce electricity for the area. The dam has a unique inverted "V" shape and is hollow inside. We were scheduled to go down inside the dam but for some reason we were not permitted to do so.

The day ended with a barbecue at the Hanford Mill complex which includes a forge, lumber shed, ice house, barn, sawmill, miller's house and a gift shop. There has been a mill at this site since 1846, and the family of David Josiah, who bought the mill in 1860, still own and operate the mill.

Saturday was an all-day milling experience. We visited the Greene Brass and Aluminum Foundry where we watched molten aluminum being poured into a form for a park road sign. The building is full of samples of work being done.

The New Hope Mills Inc., a flour mill and a sawmill built by Charles Kellogg in 1823, are the only two mills left of the 15 water-powered mills along the Bear Swamp Creek in 1850. The flour mill has an overshot



waterwheel and three runs of stones. In 1851, Howard Weed, Hubert Latta, and Leland Weed bought the mills, called them The New Hope Mills and installed roller mills in 1892. Leland became the sole owner in 1953 and installed a metal overshot waterwheel in 1972. The mills passed on to Leland's two sons in 1980. The millpond has a 28-foot waterfall. However, power is supplied by a water turbine under the mill. Today the mill does not grind, but flour bought from a mill in Auburn, NY is used to make various mixes sold at the mill.

The Enfield Mills was built in 1817 by Isaac Rumsey. An 1828 map showed three sawmills and a manufactory. By 1866, there were stores, a shoemaker shop, a blacksmith shop, a shingle shop, a cooper's shop and a carding factory. The mill burned in the 1830s and Jared Treman, grandfather of Robert H. Treman, rebuilt the mill that is the present mill. The mill ground grain from 1839 to 1916 when Robert Treman became the owner. In 1926, he restored the mill and opened it to the public in 1927. In 1935, a flood destroyed the log dam and millpond. Today a camp site occupies this area. The mill had three runs of stones, a buckwheat shucker, a smutter and a sifter. There were three old signs in the mill: "This mill

opens every week day. No business done on Sunday", "Notice—we toll all grist unless notified that you wish to pay in cash", and "Enfield Falls admission: glen and grounds 10 cents."

In 1989, Wayne Myers' employer bought the Albright Feed Mill to use for storage. He offered Mr. Myers all the equipment inside the mill. To house this equipment, Mr. Myers enlisted 80 family members and friends to build a 20 foot x 30 foot two-story post and beam mill on a stone foundation. The mill has a ten foot, 42- inch wide breast waterwheel that functions with the aid of an air pump. One run of stones is on the first level of the mill. The miller's quarters, complete with bed and cooking utensils, are on the second level. The rest of this level has many hand tools hanging on the walls.

After completing our day of milling, we ended the day with a banquet at the hotel and an interesting talk about the area by a local historian. Fond farewells were given to old and new friends with hopes to meet next year at Grantsville, Maryland.

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

A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia and Colvin Run Mill Historic Site [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm)

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