

Grist from the Mill



Colvin Run Mill Volunteer Newsletter

April 2008



Volunteer Breakfast Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who helped make the March volunteer breakfast a success. Mason Maddox was here at the crack of dawn to cook the grits, brown the sausage, and make French toast. Bob Lundegarad prepared his famous buckwheat pancakes for everyone.

Mike Henry presented the new Master Plan for Colvin Run Mill accompanied by aerial views of the site from 1937 and 2002. He answered questions about what is envisioned and the implementation of the various stages.

Congratulations



At the volunteer breakfast, Mason Maddox III, or Trace as we all know him, received the President's Silver Student Service Award for 75-99 volunteer hours in 2007. Trace volunteers not

only at the site, but has been a valuable assistant when Mason demonstrates the Williams Mill for various functions at Park Authority sites and other venues.

Saturday, April 5, 9am to 3pm Written in Stone



Join us on April 5 at the Colvin Run Barn for a day of demonstrations and lectures. Robert Grassi will dress the mill stones, Pat McGuire will fire up the forge, and Steve Crist will demonstrate broom tying. There is a special rate of \$25, including lunch, for Resource Management staff and volunteers. Register with jennifer.blackwood@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Saturday, April 26, 6-8pm

Campfire at Riverbend Park



Gather 'round a campfire at Riverbend Park especially for Resource Management Division volunteers. Bring a picnic supper or hotdogs for toasting. After dinner, enjoy the sounds and sights of spring during a short riverside hike with naturalist Jim Dewing. Then, explore Riverbend's wildlife with a live animal presentation by the crackling fire. As a finale, celebrate the upcoming National Volunteer Week by toasting s'mores. Bring a blanket/chair, flashlight and picnic dinner. RSVP to mona.enquist@fairfaxcounty.gov by Tuesday, April 22.

What's Buzzin'



Two sets of bee colonies live at the top of the Colvin Run Mill hill. Toni Burnham's hives wintered over well and Toni will be preparing soon for the spring season. MaryEllen Kirkpatrick's girls weakened some over the winter, and she decided to merge the now smaller colony with the bees at her home to strengthen both hives. MaryEllen asked another local beekeeper, Patrick Standiford, to put in and manage two new bee colonies.

We appreciate all the work MaryEllen has done to establish the bee population at the mill, as well as the educational programs she and Toni have done for the public. We will miss MaryEllen, but are happy to have Patrick as our new beekeeper. He is a neighbor of Colvin Run Mill and has bee colonies in his back yard. He sent this message about his plans for Colvin Run Mill's apiary.

I plan on stopping by in the next few weeks to put in a stand to set the colonies up on. I prefer to have them a foot or so off the ground so I don't have to bend over so much to inspect the hives. It also keeps mice and other ground creatures out of the colonies.

The enclosed picture shows the set up in my back yard which I would plan on duplicating. I've ordered 2 new packages as well as the woodware so I'll be setting up 2 colonies in addition to whatever Toni will have. The packages are currently scheduled to be here around April 13, assuming everything is on track with the "bee



producers" down in Georgia where our stock comes from. Weather sometimes slows the process but so far this mild winter is in our favor for producing queens and plenty of new young bees to ship with them.

Tickets are \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$5 student or child and parking is free. For more information and tickets, call 703-442-9404 or see www.newdominion.org.

Jim and Karen Hogan in Istanbul

We just returned from a fascinating vacation in Istanbul. In just a single trip we were immersed in Byzantine, Ottoman, and modern Islamic cultures. We came away feeling that our common picture of Moslems as terrorists, fanatics, etc. is way off the mark: we met many friendly, helpful, and thoroughly rational people. We did not encounter any anti-Americanism, but a rather universal dislike of George Bush. For example, during a taxi ride our driver, upon determining we were Americans, exclaimed "Boosh", giving a thumbs down signal, and then "Cleentun", giving a thumbs up signal.

In keeping with our practice of sending a photo of something off-the-wall, here is the Executioner's Fountain at Topkapi Palace.



After finishing his chores the executioner would wash his hands and sword at this fountain.

Sunday, April 27, 4pm Mass in B-minor

The New Dominion Chorale & Orchestra, with Muriel Levin in the chorale, will perform Johann Bach's Mass in B-minor on Sunday, April 27 at 4pm in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.



April Birthdays

16 - Dawn Kehrler. Pope Benedict will celebrate his birthday on April 16 at an official White House reception. Since that is also Dawn's birthday, she is looking for her

invitation any day now. If it gets lost in the mail, she will probably just go out for dinner with the family – probably a lot more fun, and she won't have to buy a new outfit.



laws were ever developed for an orderly succession to the throne, it essentially came down to bumping off all rival sons and mothers.

For example, Roxelana, a Russian slave girl, through personal charm and guile, worked her way up to becoming Sulieman the Magnificent's First Wife. She bore him three sons, and along the way arranged for the quiet elimination of all potential competition. Two of her sons showed exceptional promise- apparently a tad too much for Sulieman, as he had them both strangled. The third son eventually succeeded to the throne as Selim II, aka Selim the Sot. Selim had an avid interest in archery, and in his lucid moments would practice by skulking along the walls of the palace, shooting unwary pedestrians in the bustling streets below.

This approach of murdering one's rivals was eventually tempered by having them confined in cages instead. For example, Sultan Ahmet II was confined to a cage for 43 years before being taken out and placed on the throne. By this point, of course, he was completely witless.

Despite all this foolishness at the top, the Ottoman Empire controlled much of the civilized world for over 700 years; due in no small part to a highly competent corps of viziers and caliphs.

New Volunteer

You may have met Patrick Standiford, our new beekeeper, at the volunteer breakfast. He stopped by for a quick bite before installing the new bee stand that he refers to in his article.

Patrick is a registered architect and has a master's degree in structural engineering – we are waiting to see the home he designs for the girls on the hill who will be arriving in April.

Patrick also enjoys furniture making. He joins Richard Thorpe, Mike Murphy, Mike Henry and Mason Maddox in savoring a fine piece of wood.



From the Miller's Corner

Drew Foulis, our summer seasonal employee, was here to work over spring break.

Mason used the opportunity to clean out the head race and put linseed oil on the water wheel in preparation of the upcoming grinding season.

Mason plans to begin Sunday operation of the mill in early April. We are out of yellow cornmeal, so restocking will be high on the grinding priority.

Artifacts from Dawn New Exhibit in the Miller's House

The large photo of the Millard family greets you as you enter the new exhibit in the miller's house. In our early 20th century parlor are an upholstered settee and chairs, a paisley shawl, a paper fan, a stereoscope and slides and various children's items, most of which are new to



the site. A small framed photo of Virginia McGavin, Sam Millard's daughter, is on the tea table. The table, the green upholstered chairs and the revolving bookcase are from the previous display.

We are especially pleased to welcome back the Millard family Bible and the large photographic prints of Emma and Addison Millard and Florence Millard.

The drop leaf table and Windsor chairs have returned to Collections storage. The Flow Blue dishes are back in the cupboard; the archaeological exhibit and exhibit of items from behind the mantel are put away.

Please familiarize yourself with the new exhibit before you take visitors into the house. The Room Guide on the windowsill should answer any questions you or visitors have about the furnishings and the parlor arrangement.

The original stereoscope and reproductions slides on the windowsill are for visitors to enjoy using. Please let me know if you have any questions about the exhibit.

On the Road with Bob and Marge

Red Jacket Mill Site in Centerville Indiana



When Norris Jones built this steam-powered flour mill in the 1850s, Centerville had a bank, organized in 1836 with a capital of \$56,000. It was an active town with tinkers, wagon makers, churches, carpenters and undertakers. At the time the flour mill was operating, Bert Bertsch operated a sorghum mill at the east end of town. In 1885, the two story brick flour mill stood on North Morton Avenue, at the railroad. Today, not a single stone or plaque are at the empty lot that once had this beautiful mill.

The mill had many owners and was known as the Rising Sun Flour Mill until 1909 when it was converted to a grain elevator and became the Red Jacket Mill. The origin of the name was thought to have been an Indian Chief of the same name, or perhaps it was named for the red color of the mill. Goodrich Feeds operated the elevator for many years. The business then became known as the Centerville Farm Supply.

We stopped at the local public library; however, there was not much information about the town or the mill.

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 19th century rural northern Virginia.

A publication of Fairfax County, Virginia and Colvin Run Mill Historic Site www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm

Site Administrator:

Mike Henry

Asst Site Administrator:

Ann Korzeniewski

Volunteer Coordinator/

Newsletter Editor:

Mary Allen

Collections Coordinator:

Dawn Kehrner

Programs Coordinator:

Jennifer Blackwood

Miller:

Mason Maddox



For reasonable ADA accommodations, call Gary Logue 703-324-8727 or TTY 703-803-3354

