



GRIST From the Mill

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Fall 2013

A publication of the Newlin Grist Mill

Music Festival Celebrates Open Space

On August 10th, the forests and fields of Newlin Grist Mill resonated with bluegrass, folk, blues, and rock and roll music. The Celebrate Open Space Music Festival was a collaborative effort between Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), Beaver Valley Conservancy (BVC), and Save Beaver Valley (SBV). The purpose of the event was to create a day of activities for people to enjoy open space at the mill, raise money for preserving and maintaining open spaces, and, most importantly, to illustrate the importance of open space to our communities.

The day was filled with local music and activities for families. Ten groups performed during the seven-and-a-half hour event with nearly 600 visitors overall. In addition to listening to great music, visitors also played nature games, assembled millstone puzzles, watched blacksmithing and brickmaking demonstrations, and tried their hand at throwing the atlatl (prehistoric spear throwing). Food and beverages were supplied by Victory Brewing Company, Shoo Mama's, and Pizza Wagon. The event raised over \$10,000 for the preservation and maintenance of open space.



The sponsoring organizations (NGM, BVC, and SBV), along with the Sierra Club and Concord Township, set up displays describing their missions and approaches to the preservation and use of open spaces. Open space offers a variety of opportunities for walking, biking, and other forms of outdoor recreation, as well as providing outdoor classrooms for environmental education. Communities are richer for preserving these resources and the opportunities they offer.

The Nicholas Newlin Foundation has been preserving open space around the Newlin Grist Mill for fifty-three years. The Foundation was created to “preserve its land and its historic buildings for the pleasure and education of the public.” Its mission goes on to say, “In an area of urban growth, the Foundation maintains open land as a refuge for plants, animals and birds, and for the people who come to enjoy them. In an era of high technology, it offers visitors insights into the vanished life of the rural eighteenth

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Top to bottom: Music festival visitors and bands at NGM's natural amphitheater.

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Music Festival Celebrates Open Space

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 century. This two-fold objective of environmental and historical concerns is combined in a single theme whenever possible.” After a half century, E. Mortimer and Elizabeth Newlin’s original mission still remains relevant.

During its fifty-three year history, the Foundation has acquired thirty different land parcels to create the 160-acre park. The land contains fourteen different habitat types in fifty-one different zones. They are accessed by the 8.5 miles of trails that cross the property. Early in its history, the organization provided the community recreational facilities for tennis, soccer, baseball, and swimming. As the community grew and other facilities became

available, much of this land was returned to natural open space.

Mr. and Mrs. Newlin also began a tradition of tree planting. Nearly seventy specimen trees remain from their original plantings. This tradition continues today with riparian plantings and a forest restoration project.

Most recently, the organization has cooperated with researchers at Longwood Gardens who are trying to propagate disease resistant sequoia trees for local botanical collections. Newlin Grist Mill provided cuttings from some of its few healthy specimens. This spring volunteers also installed an exclusionary zone to study the impact of white tail deer on Newlin Grist Mill’s forests.

Despite its long tradition of open space and environmental preservation, the land surrounding the Newlin Grist Mill is constantly under pressure. The threats are not bulldozers and chainsaws, but are found in expansion, pollution, invasive species, and public carelessness and abuse. This is especially true at Newlin Grist Mill. It takes an increasing amount of manpower to protect the property from man-made and environmental threats.

We are grateful to all of our volunteers who help to maintain our property. Many thanks to the sponsors, vendors, and attendees who made the Celebration of the Open Space Music Festival a success.

Photo Collage

Top row left to right: Grindstone puzzle, musician guitar cases, blacksmith demonstrations.
 Bottom row: Child practicing the atlatl.



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Grist From The Mill

Design: Andrea Gómez

Editors: Andrea Gómez and
 Patrick Harshbarger

A New Way to Support Newlin Grist Mill

We are excited to announce Newlin Grist Mill's new membership program. Members of the Newlin Grist Mill help to sustain the non-profit mission the organization while enjoying benefits throughout the year. Our mission is grounded in the belief that historical and environmental preservation and education are vital parts of our lives.

Your membership contribution allows us to:

Protect: The heritage, historic resources, and open spaces that serve as home to a rich array of plants, animals, fish, and birds on our 160-acre property.

Preserve: The historic structures, traditional skills and techniques, natural landscapes, and open spaces to ensure a continued legacy for future generations.

Educate: Young and old through historic and environmental public programs, public archaeology, community festivals, Summer Discovery Camp, school field trips, and more!

Maintain: Recreational spaces, hiking trails, and rental areas for community use. The organization also maintains land, water, and nature in an area of increasing suburban development.

Your membership contribution allows you to receive:

- Free admission to guided mill and house tours.
- A 10% discount in the museum gift shop.
- Special event invitations.
- Discounts on select NGM programming.
- *Grist from the Mill* newsletter (Please note: going forward only members will receive *Grist from the Mill*).

Certain membership levels also offer guest passes, discounts on Summer Discovery Camp, stone ground corn meal, and discounts on cabin rentals.

We welcome any questions you may have regarding this program. We hope that you will become a member today! We appreciate the support you provide to Newlin Grist Mill.

WELCOME!!!



Join Today!

Newlin Grist Mill



Contact Information:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Membership

Gift Membership

Membership Levels:

Individual \$35

Family \$60

Student \$20

Contributor \$100

Senior \$30

Sponsor \$250

Total Amount: _____

ADULT Names on Membership:

CHILDREN Names & Ages (17 and under):

Payment Method:

CREDIT Visa Mastercard Discover

CHECK (payment to Newlin Grist Mill)

Please mail completed form to:
Newlin Grist Mill Membership
219 S. Cheyney Road | Glen Mills, PA 19342

Fabulous Fall Fun!

Sat. October 5th, 10am-4pm

Fall Harvest Festival

There are many signs that fall is here. A cool, crisp chill in the air. Pumpkins and corn stalks decorating front porches. Birds migrating south. The leaves changing colors. Newlin Grist Mill's annual Fall Harvest Festival! Fall Harvest Festival brings to life the sights, sounds, and smells of the eighteenth century. Colonial crafts and tradesmen will demonstrate traditional skills like cooking, brewing, distilling, chair caning, and blacksmithing. There are several new additions to the festival this year, including a small market fair featuring fresh baked bread, stone ground corn meal, and handmade brooms for sale in the mill. Deilah, the dairy cow, will also join our farm yard. Festival favorites such as colonial dancing, period toys and games, pumpkin painting, and hayrides (weather dependent) will also be ongoing throughout the day. Fall Harvest Festival is free of charge. Parking costs \$5/car.

Sat. October 19th, 6pm-8pm

Owl Prowl

Hoo, hoo, hoo's afraid of the dark? Not our nocturnal owl friends. Join us for a nighttime hike through the park to find our resident owls. We will visit the Christmas tree maze and metasequoia grove to look and listen. Our target species are Great Horned and Screech owls, but maybe we'll get lucky and add a new species to our list! \$7.00/person. Pre-registration required.

Thurs. October 24th, 10am-10:45am

Springhouse Storytime: Fall is in the Air (for ages 3-5 yrs. old)

Our last Springhouse Storytime of the season focuses on the changing seasons. The program will start with a hayride to the springhouse area of the park and will include books, songs, finger plays, movement activities, and more! The changing colors of the leaves make for the perfect backdrop to learn about fall in the great outdoors. Springhouse Storytime is for our preschool visitors (ages 3-5 years old) and their parents. It is held rain or shine. \$5.00/person. Pre-registration required.

Sat. October 26th 6:30pm-8:30pm

Lighting at Night

Have you ever wondered what the Miller's House and Mill look like lit by candlelight? Now is your chance to find out! Join us for a nighttime tour and historic lighting demonstration. Participants will have the opportunity to try a variety of daily eighteenth-century tasks using period lighting. We hope you will join us for this family-friendly Halloween event. \$7.00/person. Pre-registration required.

Sat. November 2nd, 7pm-9:30pm

Tavern Night

Join us on November 2nd for an evening of eighteenth-century food and drink at our period tavern night. The log cabin will be transformed into the Nine Tun Tavern, lit by lanterns and the fireplace. There will be five courses of period-inspired food to sample. Each dish represents typical food served in taverns. A tavern would not be complete without drink. Each food course will be paired with sample-sized flip, rum, punch, ale, bounce, mead, or cider. In addition to food and drink, other typical live entertainments will be provided, including live music and period games like Shut the Box, Admiral's Mistress, Cribbage, Bridge Board, 9 pins, and dice games. The tavern opens its doors at 7pm in the log cabin. Space is limited and tickets sell fast, so don't delay! To reserve tickets, fill out the enclosed registration form with payment, stop by the Visitor Center, or call 610-459-2359 to register by telephone. Admission for this fundraiser is \$60 per person. Proceeds support the Woodfin Internship program.

Pre-registration is required for most of our fall events. Please call 610-459-2359 or email info@newlingristmill.org to register or purchase tickets.



Heritage-breed chicken at Fall Harvest Festival.



*Great-horned owl at night.
All rights reserved © Douglas Brown.*



Springhouse Storytime: Colonial Kids.



Candlelit entrance to Nine Tun Tavern.

Beer Brings Past and Present Together at Newlin Grist Mill

Brewed and distilled beverages played a major role in the lives of colonial Pennsylvanians and recent research has revealed that the Newlins were no exception. We have discovered that much of the grain grown in the township was designated for alcohol production. Based on inventories of the Newlins, they both made and sold alcoholic beverages. These traditions have been incorporated into our Fall Harvest Festival and Tavern Night events with beer making demonstrations and period drink samples.

NGM continues to build upon these beverage traditions. In 2013, NGM once again began grinding products for brewing. Rich Wagner, local brewer and brewery historian, used the mill to grind barley malt that was used for his Colonial Brewer demonstrations during Philly Beer Week.

The TV show *Brew Dogs* on Esquire Channel also visited and ground corn in the mill for an upcoming episode. Martin Dickie and James Watt are brewers from Scotland who replicated one of Benjamin Franklin's corn beer recipes. The Brew Dogs are known for their "extreme" brews like their 35% alcohol beer.



Left: Tony Shahan and Rich Wagner grinding malt.

Right: Martin Dickie, Tony Shahan, James Watt during Brew Dogs Filming.

If you are interested in discovering more about historical beverages, attend the Harvest Festival or Tavern Night and watch for future beer related programs.

Environmentally Speaking: Managing Invasive Plants



We often hear about invasive plant species and how it is important to control them in order to prevent them from spreading. Why? In short, invasive species take over natural ecosystems and push native species out of their habitats. This means native plants have to compete for resources. Invasives may use too much water or sun, provide too much shade, affect the chemical make up of water, or deplete ground water. This decreases the overall biodiversity in an area. Invasive plants are marked by the large number of new plants they produce each season, how easily they spread, how rapidly they grow, and whether or not they are highly tolerant of a variety of soils and weather conditions.

Newlin Grist Mill is currently working hard to battle the spread of invasive plants, thanks to the efforts of interns, volunteers, and staff. This summer Nick Guarino (pictured left) worked diligently removing Amur honeysuckle and autumn olive. Nick is an environmental sciences major at King's College and was an intern at NGM for 2 months this summer. He also created an invasive species plant identification manual for use by staff and volunteers. John Price (also known as JP, pictured right) worked to remove vines throughout the grounds focusing specifically on bittersweet and grapevine. These vines often strangle trees and other plants. JP has extensive experience helping other community groups manage invasive species and continues to volunteer at NGM in this capacity. The work of Nick and JP has already made a marked improvement on the Park's landscape.

What can YOU do?

Invasive plants are everyone's concern. Here are some ways that you can help manage and control their spread.

1. Find out what plants are invasive species for your area. In Pennsylvania, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has in-depth information on invasive plants. (www.dcnr.state.pa.us/)
2. Refrain from planting invasive species. Sometimes plants such as bamboo or butterfly bush look pretty but very quickly grow out of control.
3. Manage invasives wisely. Some plants, such as English ivy, can be contained by vigilant pruning. If you already have plants like this in your garden, take extra time to care for these plants so they don't spread.
4. Become familiar with laws regulating invasive species. A good place to start is the Federal Noxious Weed Act. (plants.usda.gov/)
5. If you see an invasive, remove it, especially if it is a seedling.
6. VOLUNTEER to help control invasive species in your community. There is still much to be done to remove multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, wineberry, bamboo, and more at NGM. Interested in joining NGM's invasive species removal team? Call Lauren at 610-459-2359 or email lburnham@newlingristmill.org.

Archaeology Festival Held September 14th



On September 14th, Newlin Grist Mill and the Delaware County Planning Department partnered to host an archaeology festival. Expanding on the popularity of our regular Saturday community archaeology programs, the Archaeology Festival worked to raise awareness and introduce more people to what archaeology is, how it's done, what we can learn from it, and why it is important in understanding the past.

The archaeology festival featured three different excavations—an excavation site next to the Miller's House, an area in a stone ruin (previously thought to have been a privy), and a new pit behind the library and archives where surface artifacts are often found. Visitors were invited to actively participate in each of the three excavations. They helped dig, sift, and clean artifacts. The pictures above illustrate visitors helping to sift, Cub Scout Bears Pack 85 practicing in the mock dig site for kids, and a volunteer assisting at the Miller's House.

An important part of the archaeology festival was the inclusion of an archaeology lab. Lab work is a vital, and often overlooked, part of archaeology. It consists of cleaning, sorting, identifying, labeling, and cataloguing artifacts. Because many archaeological artifacts are fragments or remnants, a lot of material is generated that needs to be stored and cared for. Visitors assisted with the cleaning of artifacts, usually the first stage of lab work.

Local Delaware County historical societies and professional archaeology firms also set up displays about projects they have completed in the county. The Caleb Pusey House in Upland and the Museum of Indian Culture in Allentown each displayed information about what they learned about the history and culture of their site from archaeology. The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology also set up a display and assisted with the excavations.

The Archaeology Festival generated quite a bit of enthusiasm and was the perfect time to learn about archaeology in Delaware County. If you are interested in archaeology, join us for our community archaeology days on Oct. 12th and Nov. 9th.

Research Highlight: Winterthur Fellows Gain Practical Experience at Newlin Grist Mill

What did a grist mill look like between 1740 and 1765? That is the question that Newlin Grist Mill staff members are currently researching in preparation for a future exhibit. While it sounds like an easy question to answer, the focus of most milling research has been on technology, usually after 1790. The search for a better understanding of early mill organization and material culture has relied on a range of resources from industrial spies in the early 19th century to medieval sources.

This summer NGM received assistance from the Winterthur Summer Institute with members of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture class of 2015. The students researched the material culture found in a mill. The team of researchers divided a list of topics that included measuring devices, textiles, brooms and brushes, money and exchange documents, barrels and boxes, furniture, and business records. The project will help identify the design and materials of these objects and furnishings during this period. The students presented their findings in August and will submit written reports late this fall.



Summer Institute students left to right: Natalie Wright, Sarah Leonard, Emily Rebmann, Neal Hurst, Michelle Everidge Anderson, Lea Lane, Christian Roden, Elisabeth Mallin, Lily Higgins, and Katie McKinney.

Volunteer Highlight: John Thomas

This summer Newlin Grist Mill was fortunate to have a local Garnet Valley High School student volunteer at the site. John Thomas generously donated over 150 hours of volunteer service to Newlin Grist Mill during his school vacation. John assisted the Site Manager and other staff with numerous projects including environmental resource management, special events preparation, and Summer Discovery Camp.

John is the Vice President of the volunteer-based Interact Club at Garnet Valley High School. He got to know Newlin Grist Mill through a volunteer partnership the two organizations shared during the 2012/2013 school year. Once a month during the school year, 15 students from Interact volunteered at the site to gain experience in the non-profit museum field. John not only attended many of the Saturday events but also took a leadership role in actively promoting the opportunity to the over 250 members of the club. John even recruited his fellow students to volunteer for the Open Space Music Festival held in August during their summer vacation.

John enjoys being involved with the community and making new friends. Aside from his numerous school and volunteer activities, John likes participating in competitive food eating challenges. John plans to continue his volunteer work with Newlin Grist Mill during his senior year, and we look forward to having him and his fellow Interact students volunteer throughout the school year.



Get Involved!

We are always looking for new volunteers. Like talking to people? Working with objects? Being outside? Working on computers? Learning about history and the environment? We have a wide variety of volunteer projects for people of all ages, interests, and commitment levels. We rely on volunteers to help us preserve the history and nature of our site. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lauren at lburnham@newlingristmill.org or call 610-459-2359.

New Faces at Newlin Grist Mill



Sherry Hensley, *Front Desk Volunteer*

Sherry Hensley is a recent addition to the Newlin Grist Mill volunteer corps. Her background lies in corporate America but she is lending her skills two days a week welcoming the public to the site at the Visitor Center and working on numerous administration and organization projects. Sherry loves history and admires Newlin Grist Mill's commitment to community involvement. She feels that open space environmental education sites are becoming rare and enjoys volunteering for such a unique organization. Sherry is originally from California and moved to the area in 1997. She and her fiancé love the outdoors and have also become Newlin Grist Mill stream fly fishing members. Please stop by the Visitor Center and join us in welcoming Sherry to Newlin Grist Mill!



Kelsey Ransick, *Woodfin Fellow*

This year, we welcome our new Woodfin Fellow, Kelsey Ransick. She hails from Colorado—a place with some history and significantly more nature, which makes Newlin Grist Mill an excellent fit for her hobbies of reading and writing history, running, and observing the outdoors. She received her BA in history, art history, and business from the University of San Francisco. Then, she trekked across the country to earn an MA in history and museum studies from the University of Delaware in 2013. Her focus has been on medieval and early modern Europe, and she has come to Newlin to learn a bit more about “what happened after the Middle Ages anyway?”

During her year-long fellowship, she will serve as Assistant Camp Director for the Summer Discovery Camp, help design and implement a new website, conduct research in the archives, learn the art of historic blacksmithing, and aid with routine activities and projects, such as brick making and mill tours.



Newlin Grist Mill
219 South Cheyney Road, Glen Mills PA 19342
610-459-2359 | www.newlingristmill.org

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VISIT US!

Newlin Grist Mill
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P: 610-459-2359
info@newlingristmill.org

Hours: Visitor Center
March-November;
9am-4pm

December-February
10am-3pm

Hours: Park
9am-Dusk

Tours:
Monday-Friday:
11am & 2pm

Saturday and Sunday
10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm

www.newlingristmill.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Saturday
October
5
Fall Harvest Festival
10am-4pm Free, Parking \$5/car

Mon.-Sat.
October
7-12
Brick Firing in Outdoor Brick Kiln
24 hours a day Free

Saturday
October
12
Community Archaeology
10am-3pm Free

Saturday
October
19
*Owl Prowl**
6-8pm \$7/person

Thursday
October
24
*Springhouse Storytime for PreK**
Fall Is in the Air
10-10:45am \$5/person

Saturday
October
26
*Newlin at Night: Lighting at Night**
6:30-8:30pm \$7/person

NOVEMBER

Saturday
November
2
*Tavern Night Fundraiser***
7-9:30pm \$60/peron

Saturday
November
9
Community Archaeology
10am-3pm Free

POND FISHING

Saturdays and Sundays
\$5/person, \$4/fish

Closed October 5, Open October 6
October 12 & 13
October 19 & 20

October 26 & 27 (last day for the season)

GO GREEN!

Email info@newlingristmill.org to sign up for Newlin Grist Mill's e-mail list to receive electronic updates on upcoming programs and events. Please make sure you recycle or share this newsletter with others.

*Pre-registration requested. Walk-ins if space available

**Reservations Required