October Update from the Director

Dear Friends,

As I write on a crisp October day, I look around Newlin Grist Mill and cannot help but feel the loss, especially on what would have been our busiest day of the year - Fall Harvest Festival. Normally we would be welcoming demonstrators, tradespeople, performers, and our ever-expanding community for a day of fun and learning. Today the parking lot is torn up, the site is closed, and we miss our friends and neighbors. The pandemic and multiple floods have inflicted serious wounds to the organization but one of the biggest is separating us from members of the Newlin Mill family - our colleagues, volunteers, members, visitors, and our community.

As I write on a crisp October day, I am very thankful! While damaged, the things that make Newlin Grist Mill a special place remain – the buildings, trails, habitats, and open space. While we cannot gather at the mill currently, people in the Newlin Grist Mill community have shown us they are with us. The number of donations is inspiring and has enabled us to begin the cleanup and reopening process. Important donations have been received from Maguire Products Inc. and MOR Construction. The outpouring of volunteer assistance has been greater than we can safely handle. Support from our donors, members, and volunteers is making a real difference!

As I write on a crisp October day, I am optimistic about Newlin Grist Mill’s future. The buildings have been stabilized and plans for repairs are in place. We expect materials to arrive soon that will allow us to begin repairing the trails. Work on repairing the front parking lot should begin next week. We hope to have the trails open later this fall. Our virtual programing is allowing NGM to reach larger audiences. We are using the challenges presented in 2020 as an opportunity to reduce future costs from flooding, use new technologies to connect with broader audiences, and evaluate all aspects of our organization and its programs.

We are a long way from the finish and still need lots of help, but our progress has been amazing. Thanks to everyone who has contributed time and resources to help Newlin Grist Mill. We will be back soon!

Wishing you all the best,

Tony Shahan, Director
Newlin Grist Mill