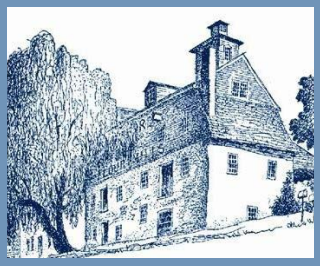

GRIST From the Mill

Volume 17: Issue 2 Fall/Winter 2023 A Publication of the Newlin Grist Mill

The Day Everyone Has Been Waiting For!

October and November witnessed a monumental event for Newlin Grist Mill (NGM), the completion of silt mitigation in the millrace and ponds. Since the first silt plumes floated down Concord Creek from the Rt 322/ Conchester Highway improvement project, they have hung like a cloud over NGM and most of what it does. The fine sediments blocked the millrace making it impossible to run the waterwheel, silted in the Frog Pond Outdoor Classroom affecting important habitat and environmental programs, and closed the trout fishing ponds when they filled with silt that also warmed the water. The silt impacted all the waterways that are integrated into NGM activities, thus impacting most of the operations.

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After six years of waiting, Flyway Excavating Company begins silt removal.

After six years of fighting for recognition of the problem, negotiations with PennDOT and its contractors, completing the design and permitting process, and frustrating delays with each, permits were issued in late September. Two weeks later, Flyway Excavating Company from Mount Joy, Pennsylvania began work. The company was recommended because of its extensive experience working in waterway related projects.

The crew from Flyway were responsible for removing siltation from the half-mile-long millrace, Frog Pond Outdoor Classroom, and three fishing ponds. A collection of tracked vehicles (excavator, skid-steer, and dump truck) were used to remove the silt from the waterways, carry it to a holding area in the back parking lot, and load it into a larger dump truck that carried it to the disposal location. Timber mats were used to work in the ponds and cover sensitive areas that might be damaged by the equipment. The silt removal occurred quickly and smoothly with only a few challenges.

Challenges came in the form of the fall season that brought rains that complicated the silt removal and caused the contractors to shift the calendar of their activities to avoid overly wet

Millrace partially filled with water after being cleaned out.

The Day Continued...

areas. A water main running through the site also forced design adjustments and extra protective measures to avoid accidently damaging the pressurized pipe. The biggest challenges were associated with the Frog Pond.

Protecting the wildlife was at the heart of the project. The timing of the project was scheduled to avoid disturbing winter hibernations and spring breeding seasons. Efforts were also made to protect the wildlife by keeing water in the Frog Pond until the last moment before excavations began to protect the wildlife. Staff and volunteers used nets to recover over 400 tadpoles, 29 crayfish, 47 dragonfly nymphs, over 80 fish of 10 different species, 3 bullfrogs, 1 green frog, and 1 red spotted newt. The animals were placed in a small pool as a holding area until the excavations were complete and water restored. They also recovered 127 mussels from the millrace before the excavations began. Some of the pond life is visible in a new fresh water tank in the Visitor Center.

Because of its proximity and connection to the millrace and Frog Pond, the Wetland Expansion Project was worked on at the same time. The new area to the west of the pond is designed to double the habitat for amphibians and reptiles.

NGM Staff and volunteers rescue frog pond wildlife before silt removal.

It features several braided channels, a couple of deeper pools, natural features like stumps and rocks, and a memorial island. The island will contain a bench and have a cypress tree planted next to it. Boardwalks will provide access to the island and the length of the new wetland. The boardwalks will connect with the current pond boardwalk.

Work will continue on a spillway for the wetland, the boardwalks, plantings, and other millrace features during the coming months. The goal is to open the fishing ponds in April and have the millrace and waterwheel completed for a celebration in June.

Wetland Expansion Project to improve habitat.

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Environmental Intern Michaela Rolecki

This past summer, Susquehanna University junior Michaela Rolecki joined the park for an environmental internship working with naturalist Jessica Shahan. Michaela is working toward graduating with a double major in Ecology and Biology. Her main research goal of the summer was to create a catalogue of the nocturnal moth species in the park, which had never been formally studied before.

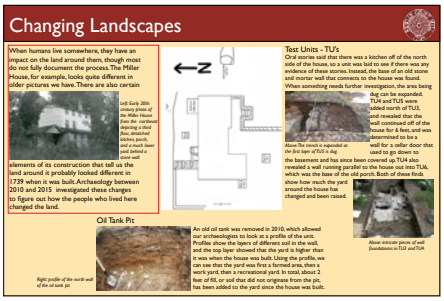
She used two types of traps (bucket and sheet traps) plus daytime observations from staff, volunteers, and visitors to identify 257 individual moths of 126 different species. Some notable species included the black duckweed moth and the feather-edged petrophila, two species of moths that have aquatic larvae. Before this project, the staff had no idea there were aquatic moths, let alone that they exist in the park! Knowledge from these catches helped the Newlin Grist Mill to host two public mothing events and will help inform future programs, restoration plans, and conservation initiatives. "My favorite part of the internship was definitely staying up late for moth catches," Michaela said. "You never know what you're going to find, and it's absolutely thrilling waiting to see what gems will show up each night!"

In addition to the species catalog, she worked on the development of a public mothing program for the park. Her research showed that the best time of the year to host mothing programs is mid-June through mid-July, and identified which moth families and species are the most common. Overall, 15 community members joined Michaela over 2 nights and were able to add a species that Michaela had been looking for all summer—the rosy maple moth!

Along with her research project and program creation, Michaela assisted with tasks related to land management, bird and amphibian sampling, and data analyses. Toward the end of the internship, she reflected, "Experiences such as this help to form young scientists into successful professionals. I'll forever be grateful for the skills I've acquired here. Species identification, organismal surveying techniques, and horticultural practices I've learned this summer are skills I will be able to use for the rest of my career."

Top: The rosy maple moth was added to the species list during the public mothing night in August. Bottom: Michaela helps a visitor identify a moth found during the public mothing night in August.

Museum Studies Intern - Brooke Worrall



Brooke Worrall, a student at Drexel University, completed a museum studies internship by combining a background in archaeology with an interest in exhibits and museum education to work on an exciting new project to expand archaeology interpretation.

She pored through 12 years of archaeological field notes, artifacts, and reports to assemble materials for the four signs. The first is an overview of what archaeology is and what it can tell us.

The second details the work around the Mill, Archive, and Tailrace Tunnel. The third discusses the search for understanding the Miller's House landscape. The fourth sign explains the work around the Trimble House and Outbuildings and how archaeology is helping us understand this complex of buildings.

Brooke's work will be combined with artwork currently being produced to create the signs which are anticipated to be installed in 2024.

One of the signs Brooke worked on to be installed in 2024.

Happy Hours A Success In 2023

The programs, a collaboration of NGM and Deer Creek Malthouse, ran every Thursday Night from April to November combining outreach, market, and biergarten. The goal was to provide locally produced products, information about NGM's programs and activities, and fun family activities. Deer Creek sold locally produced beers, non-alcoholic teas, and grain products while NGM sold local honey and cornmeal. Other vendors included Penns Woods Winery and other local producers. Activities included games highlighting NGM resources, demonstrations of millwrighting, blacksmithing, hearth cooking, and guest visits by Habitat for Humanity, Pennsylvania Wilderness Search and Rescue Dogs, and a presentation by food historian Marc Meltonville on a Tudor Beer Project. Regular music was provided by J P McGrath.

We hope to see everyone back in 2024!

Happy Hour outreach events connect NGM staff with community through information, educational activities, music, and special guests.

Pennsylvania Mills Project Begins In SPOOM Archive

NGM and the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) received a Historical and Archival Records Grant from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission for the Pennsylvania Mills Project. These funds will help us sort and rehouse the Pennsylvania mill files consisting of clippings, articles, correspondence, research notes, and pamphlets, as well as digitize our collection of Pennsylvania mill photos and slides. We need to transfer some documents onto archival paper to halt their deterioration. Identified mill photos and slides will be digitized to facilitate easier access.

The SPOOM database lists 4,092 mills in Pennsylvania! Currently, in the archive, we have paper files for only 85 named and documented mills but we anticipate the individual mill files to increase by a large percentage.

We hope this Pennsylvania Mills project will be a model for future efforts to preserve, reorganize, and increase the accessibility of materials for other states. It will be the only concentrated collection of information on Pennsylvania mills and milling in our area.

We've been fortunate to engage a steady core of volunteers to begin the work of processing these collections so that they can be safely stored and used for many years to come. We need help to sort and identify materials. Do you enjoy identifying old mills in pictures and postcards? Please contact Jessica Shahan, Volunteer Coordinator jshahan@newlingristmill.org.

Volunteer Profile—Girl Scout Troops 5675 and 5073

This fall marked the 4th year that local Girl Scout troops 5675 and 5073 have donated community service hours to the park! Over the years, the scouts have worked on a variety of projects, including trail clean-up, invasive plant management, tree planting, sign cleaning, and 2020 flood cleanup.

Troop leader Phaedra Doukakis-Leslie shared, "I just really liked the park and the people working there and then decided to ask if we could help out! I didn't even know there was a [volunteer] program."

Through their volunteerism, the scouts have learned the value of teamwork, perseverance, patience, listening, and following directions! Overall, favorite projects have included tree planting and invasive plant management, which Doukakis-Leslie described as "a good way to get the wiggles out while doing good!"

The NGM staff love working with these troops because of their enthusiasm and willingness to try new things. "They aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and really enjoy working together to accomplish whatever challenge is in front of them!" said park naturalist Jessica Shahan.

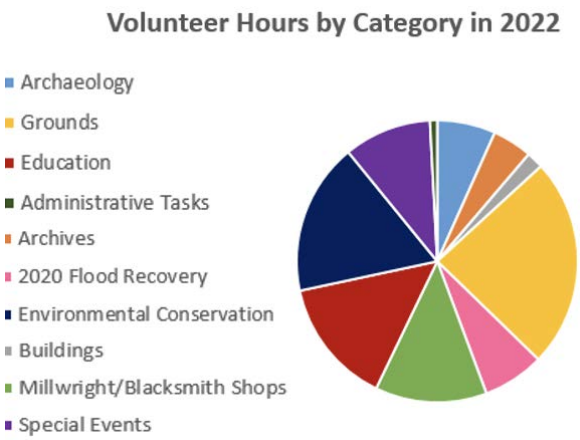
Eagle Scout Makes Park Improvements

Each year Scouts make contributions to the trails, forests, educational programs, and park facilities in a variety of ways that improve the experiences of our visitors. These projects not only improve NGM but they help to teach planning, critical thinking, and leadership while building confidence.

Eagle Scout candidate Rohit Rajagopalan worked to improve the park for visitors by completing his Eagle Project at Newlin Grist Mill. Rohit and his group of volunteers cut out and assembled four new picnic tables and trash can holders with the goal of improving the facilities for our visitors.

The next time you are walking through the park, having a picnic, or just throwing away trash, take a minute to consider the valuable service scouts provide for NGM and what the park would be like without their contributions.

Volunteers Make a Difference



Newlin Grist Mill is lucky to have an amazingly dedicated volunteer group that supports our ongoing projects and programs. In 2022, they truly outdid themselves by contributing over 6,000 combined hours of effort in the park!

This dedicated collection of individuals and community groups more than doubled the site's capacity to provide quality programs, complete special projects, and maintain our unique resources. Their passion and impressive breadth of knowledge and skills have created a truly collaborative experience in which our volunteers are not just volunteers, but colleagues and friends.

Volunteers—thank you for all your contributions. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Race for the Watershed

On June 17, Newlin Grist Mill and Concord Township held the first annual Race for the Watershed 5K Run and Rubber Duck Races to raise funds for water quality monitoring equipment.

The day started with a 5K run and concluded with Rubber Duck Races that allowed everyone to participate in the fun while raising money to protect our watershed.

We are happy to report that we raised over $10,000 for the purchase of this equipment. Monitoring the water in the stream is just one of the ways we take care of our local waterways. Fresh water is crucial for a healthy, diverse habitat, and for the people who live in the watershed. Special thanks to all participants, event sponsors and community supporters for a successful event. Please join us in 2024 as we Race for the Watershed, with a special celebration of the return of the waterwheel.

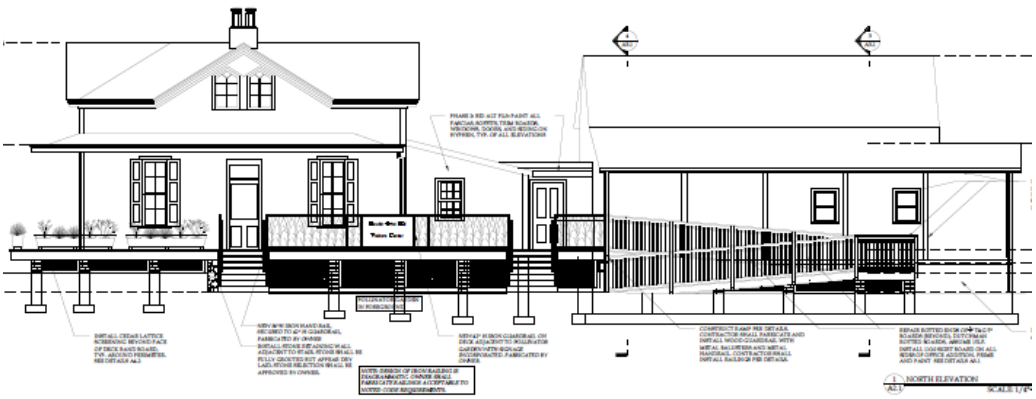
NGM Receives PHMC Keystone Preservation Grant

The Newlin Grist Mill was awarded a Keystone Preservation Implementation Grant of $100,000 for the elevation of the Visitor Center in the Markham Railroad Station. The project is part of efforts to protect the structure and the organization's operations from future flooding threats caused by climate change.

Since the floods in August 2020, we have been discussing ways to protect the Visitor Center from future flooding. Those two floods closed the Visitor Center and NGM's administrative hub for nearly thirteen months. Thanks to an earlier planning grant from PHMC, the plans for elevating the Visitor Center were completed in 2023.

These plans will include elevating the Visitor Center and adjacent offices, extending the foundations by 24", and then lowering and reattaching them. In order to lessen the visual impact on the building, the area around the building will need to be regraded. This will necessitate alterations to walkways, porches, and ramps to ensure appropriate accessibility.

The new PHMC grant is to be used for implementation of the plans. NGM has raised nearly 45% of the funds needed and continues to seek additional funding for this critical project. Thanks to PHMC, the Marshall-Reynolds Foundation, the Thompson family, and the Nicholas Newlin Foundation board for their financial support of this project.



Spillway Restoration Nears Completion

The project to restore the spillway gate has been exciting, informative, and even humbling. The spillway gate is a critical piece of the water system that controls the height of water in the millrace and helps regulate flood waters. It protects the millrace from over topping its berm which would result in erosion damage. The structure had been deteriorating for decades and had reached a point where leaks around the gate were creating sink holes that posed safety concerns. We were ecstatic when a grant from the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust and a donation from Vanessa Alibert made it possible to restore the structure.

Starting in February 2020, an archaeology survey was funded by the Society for Industrial Archaeology and conducted by West Chester University anthropology students assisted by NGM staff and volunteers. Based on the findings, plans were developed to pour concrete walls on both sides of the surviving masonry walls to stop the leaks below the surface of the earthen berm and then rebuild the stone sections of the structure that were crumbling. The plan also called for restoring a secondary spillway designed to handle higher levels of storm runoff.

Excavations for the concrete forms revealed a surprising collection of stone, concrete, and wooden structures that together told a 300-year story of the gate's construction, repairs, alterations, and redesigns (seen to the left of the wooden gate in top right picture). Wooden beams and posts were found at a much lower level than anticipated. The original gate had been made of wood and water originally ran over the gates and back to the creek in a shallow depression. The main beam that ran most of the length of the structure had multiple pairs of vertical posts. In each pair, one was connected with mortise and tenon joints and the other nailed into position. Samples were recovered for later analysis. There were also large blobs of concrete poured into corners attempting to stop the leaks. These are just a few of the examples of maintenance and repair that were found. The leaks continued despite these attempts until the structure had channels running both through and under the gate, which instigated the need for the concrete walls.

When completed, the restored structure will no longer leak, will provide improved flood water regulation, and restore the gate's original features and functionality based on the archaeological evidence.

(Left) The masonry restoration of the spillway gate is nearing completion. (Above) Layers of wooden framing, masonry, and concrete tell a 300-year story of construction and repairs.

(Above) Contractor Rick Frunzi inspects forms before concrete pour. (Below) Keith Doms works to map and record concrete and stone masonry to understand the gate's history.

Around the Mill

Mason Doug Groff of Victorian Restoration builds stone walls of Spillway Gate.

Students from Williamson College of the Trades volunteering during their service week.

Students from Friends Central planting a dawn redwood tree.

Bass removed from Frog Pond during rescue before draining.

Summer Discovery Camper examining fishing spiders.

Kacie of Penns Woods Winery talks to PaWSAR dog Raven's handler.

Volunteer Mike Cassidy cleaning artifacts in the archaeology lab.

Volunteers from Agilent planting trees along Station Road.

Volunteers from WSFS Bank work during their service day.

Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly.

Around the Mill

Pouring concrete for the new spillway in the Wetland expansion Project.

Garnet Valley Interact students preparing to volunteer to help with pumpkin painting.

Kevin Magerr and Jessica Shahan checking on rescued wildlife from the frog pond.

*Pulitizer prize winning author Scott Shane discussing his new book **Flee North**.*

Chuck Demaio performing the valuable job directing parking at a special event.

Spring House Spirits offer their products during a Thursday night Happy Hour.

Volunteers from Wegmans assist with tree planting along Station Road.

Williamson College of the Trades working on new path to Cabin to improve accessibility.

Thursday Night Happy Hours offer local products and family fun in a beautiful setting.

Environmental Club Forming

This fall, NGM was proud to host the first meeting of the new Youth Wildlife Initiative group. Founded by Garnet Valley High School student Kendel Cottrell, the group's goals are to provide hands-on community service for students while conducting activities that make a meaningful impact on the preservation and protection of natural resources in the community.

The group's first meeting was in late October when they helped park staff and volunteers restore riparian buffers along the headwaters of Concord Creek. This area along Station Road was clear-cut as part of the Route 322 expansion, which left the headwaters susceptible to increased erosion, impervious surface runoff, and increased average temperatures. In order to address the concerns around stream health, NGM has been working to return tree cover to the headwaters, starting last year with the planting of 80 trees.

This fall, the Youth Wildlife Initiative helped to install 50 trees, including American sycamore, black cherry, red maple, box elder, willow oak, and red osier dogwood. These trees grow well in locations that sometimes flood. Their roots will help stabilize the banks, while their leafy canopies will help provide shade that reduces water temperatures.

Besides tree planting, the Youth Wildlife Initiative will be holding meetings on site for students to learn about conservation topics and meet with experts. They will also be hosting several habitat improvement projects in the park this year, including building winter bird habitat and helping with invasive plant management.

The group is open to any students in 8th-12th grades in the area, including those outside of the Garnet Valley School District. Visit www.newlingristmill.org for more information!

Honeybees Return

NGM has participated in serval activities to promote and preserve pollinators over the past few years. These efforts included honeybees that were kept in the heirloom apple orchard until 2022. In 2023, a new collaboration was established to return honeybee hives to the site and promote these important pollinators.

Local beekeeper Tom McKinney has worked for the past twelve years promoting beekeeping and working to stop the decline of honeybees. He teaches classes to beginning beekeepers as a member of the Chester County Beekeepers Association. He maintains several hives in both Delaware and Chester Counties.

Tom approached NGM about potentially installing hives on the property at the same time we were looking for a new beekeeper. He set up and is maintaining three hives behind the barn. The collaboration has produced honey for our cooking programs and was used for making honey whole wheat bread for the recent Tavern Night. The locally produced honey is available in NGM's gift shop and has been a big hit throughout the year. The honey comes in three sizes with 8 oz, 12 oz, and 24 oz bottles.

We are thrilled to welcome Tom and have hives back on the property as part of our bigger effort to help pollinators. In addition to the honeybees, NGM releases leaf cutter and mason bees each year. We support other forms of pollinators through the native pollinator garden, moth surveys, and butterfly activities.

A Fisherman's Letter

By Tom Callahan

The last time I caught trout at NGM I was a young boy fishing with my Dad in the trout ponds over 50 years ago. We would go regularly and it was always great fun.

I moved from the area long ago and in August I was back visiting family. During my stay I stopped to stand by the ponds and fondly recalled fishing with my Dad, using a bamboo pole, length of fishing line with a hook and Velveeta cheese for bait. Since those days I've become an avid fly fisherman. Though I was only going to be in the area for a short time, I couldn't resist and bought a fly fishing membership.

In my 4 afternoons of fishing, I caught a bunch of energetic sunfish and managed to get a couple trout. I enjoyed watching a big snapping turtle swim by my feet. And I had a heart stopping moment when a big lunker trout rose to my fly from a deep pool, only to have a sunfish gobble my fly right in front of him.

As I packed away my gear, something occurred to me that had been lost on me these last few days. Though fly fishing requires a bit more technique, there was still a lot in common with the simple rig I used when fishing with my Dad. My Dad passed on 25 years ago but wherever he is I hope he got a grin out of me fishing at NGM again. Thanks for keeping NGM such a special place.

(Top Right) Tom Callahan in the creek during his recent fishing trip!
(Bottom Right) A family making their own memories with bamboo rods in the park's trout ponds.

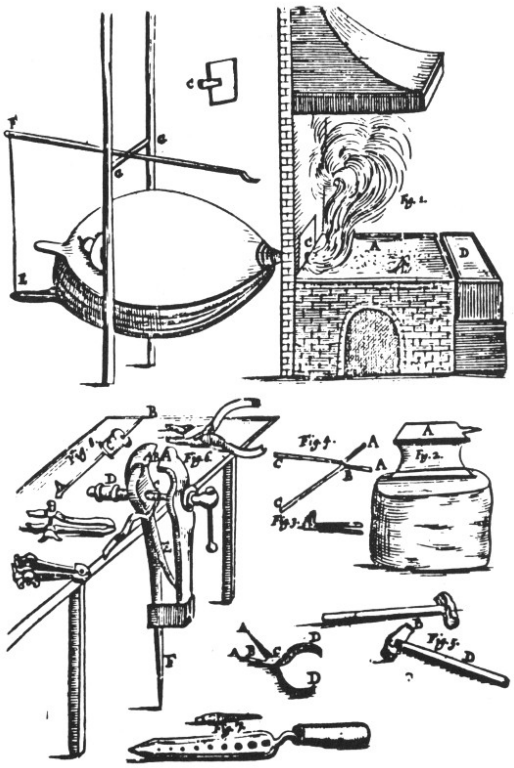
Blacksmith Shop to Get A New Look

Thanks to a grant from the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust and a generous bequest from C. James Luther the blacksmith shop will receive improvements in the next few months.

The goal of these improvements will be to recreate a more accurate early 18th century blacksmith shop, make it easier for multiple smiths to work at the same time, and improve the conditions for staff and volunteers who work in the shop.

The plan is to recreate an English style blacksmith shop as described and illustrated in Joseph Moxon's 1703 Mechanical Exercises. This includes installing a back wall to the hearth, a hode (hood) and flue over the hearth, side fed tuyeres to supply air flow, and a finishing bench. The hode and flue will significantly reduce the smoke and ash in the shop. New leather will be applied to the current bellows and a second set of bellows will be constructed for better control of the fire when multiple smiths are working at the forge.

The work will be done throughout the winter and spring so the restored shop will be ready for the 2024 season.



(Above) Illustration by Joseph Moxon that is being used to plan the restoration.
(Left) The shop today including the bellows that need repairs.

Exploring Historic Foodways at Newlin Mill

Years of research and restoration are paying off as the 1739 Trimble House kitchen and pantry come to life! To celebrate the completion of this experimental historic kitchen, foodways were prominent in 2023.

The Newlin Series explored the "Mid-Atlantic Melting Pot" and food traditions that made our region unique. Author and food historian Dr. William Woys Weaver spoke about the foodways of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Tina Ellor, mycologist at Phillips Mushroom Farms, discussed the Kennett Square mushroom industry and historic cook Pamela Cooley talked about the author of the first American cookbook.

Each lecture was complemented by cooking demonstrations in the Trimble kitchen for the History at Work including Dr. Clarissa F. Dillon cooking early German dishes, Tony Shahan and Laura Adie showed 18th-century uses of mushrooms, and Pamela Cooley prepared a selection of "receipts" (recipes) from *American Cookery*. The Trimble kitchen and pantry were also utilized this year for school field trips, group programs, fundraisers, and special events like the Fall Harvest Festival whose theme was Food Traditions.

In 2024, we plan to continue expanding our foodways programming with regular demonstrations in the newly restored kitchen. Interested in cooking and want to get involved? Contact jshahan@newlingristmill.org about volunteering! No experience required, just bring your enthusiasm, a desire to learn, and willingness to share.

(Left) The Trimble Kitchen has hosted a series of demonstrations this year.
(Right) Pamela Cooley cooks in the Trimble Kitchen during a History at Work demonstration.

(Left) Dr. William Woys Weaver presents a talk for the Newlin Series.
(Right) The Trimble Pantry is well-stocked with reproduction cookware.

(Above) Campers show off their homemade musical instruments during Imagination & Innovation camp and (below) Campers made fluid art in Water Wizardry camp.

Summer Discovery Another Hit!

The 2023 summer camp season was one of the best ever! For those who are unfamiliar with it, Summer Discovery camp is a three week long nature and history camp that emphasizes hands-on exploration and learning.

The theme for nature week was Nature Detectives. Each day, campers solved mini-mysteries to earn clues to the week's big mystery- who is the special guest visiting on Friday? (The answer was owls!)

The history week's theme was Imagination & Innovation, in which the campers investigated all kinds of historic inventions, art, and explorations. The highlights were making bread and butter for snack and having a dance party with homemade musical instruments.

The final week of camp was Water Wizardry, in which all water-based games, art, experiments, and wildlife were explored.

Special guest (and former camp staff) Parker Staud led the campers in a large-scale fluid art project and everybody enjoyed the all-camp water Olympics! Registration for Summer Discovery 2024 opens for returning campers in January and for new families two weeks later. We hope to see you there!

Fall Harvest Festival Returns

On October 7th, NGM hosted the first Fall Harvest Festival since 2019. After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, floods, and a hurricane, it was exciting to welcome everyone back for this community favorite! While the rainy weather wasn't ideal, over 660 participants still came out to learn and enjoy the festivities.

Our theme this year was "Food Traditions, Past & Present," featuring demonstrations and displays related to food and drink in addition to other historic skills and trades. Clarissa Dillon cooked at the Trimble kitchen hearth, NGM staff baked "ship bread" in the site's bake oven, and the Chinese American Community Center highlighted traditional tea culture. We also welcomed new historic vendors to the event – Justin Cherry's Half-Crown Bakehouse, and Niel De Marino's Georgian Kitchen. Tucker's Tales Puppet Theatre, the Colonial Revelers, and the Heritage Dancers provided entertainment. Young visitors enjoyed playing 18th-century games, face painting, pumpkin painting, and much more!

NGM welcomed new demonstrator Justin Cherry of Half-Crown Bakehouse.

The "Community Corner" area featured some of our sponsors, partners, and other local businesses. Modern food vendors Uncle John's BBQ, Fast Eddie's Jag Stop, Tyler's Water Ice, and Mister Softee Ice Cream offered visitors options for lunch and snacks. Adult visitors could enjoy the Colonial Tavern in the afternoon, featuring Deer Creek Malthouse and Penns Woods Winery.

The 2023 Fall Harvest Festival was sponsored by Team Toyota of Glen Mills and Univest Bank & Trust Co., with additional support from Chandler Funeral Home, Harry Tillman Automotive LLC, Hoffman's Exterminating Co., IT Edge, R. Webb Excavating LLC, Tobin's Feed & Seed, and WSFS Bank.

Special thanks go to the 56 volunteers whose 300-plus hours of effort made the event possible, including Amerihealth employees and Garnet Valley High School's Interact Club.

(Above) Young visitor enjoys decorating a pumpkin. (Below) Bob Bardsley discusses 18th century spices and herbs.

For 2024, we have decided to combine the Fall Harvest Festival with the Archaeology Festival, allowing us to consolidate our resources and present a bigger and better event to the public. The new Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, September 21, 2024 – mark your calendars now!

Archaeology Festival

This year's Archaeology Festival took place on September 9th, attracting over 450 visitors. Under the direction of NGM Archaeologist Keith Doms, a team of professional archaeologists, trained volunteers, and West Chester University anthropology students worked on three excavations in the historic area.

Work resumed behind the Archive, where previous excavations had uncovered an historic midden or trash pit. A test unit was dug by the Trimble brewhouse, where bird bones were among the artifacts found. The largest excavation area was at the Trimble barn site, where our archaeology program has been focused all season. The day's efforts there yielded 19th-century artifacts and animal bones.

Visitors helped screen dirt as it was excavated and cleaned artifacts in the lab. Our younger visitors also enjoyed the Kids' Dig mock-excavation, a pottery assembly activity, and artifact illustration. Local organizations displayed their archaeological finds.

The 2023 Archaeology Festival, held in partnership with the Delaware County Planning Department, was sponsored by Visit Delco. Thanks also to the 66 volunteers who braved heat and humidity to make the festival a success!

Storm Clean Up

On the evening of August 7th, a large thunderstorm ripped through Concord Township with high winds and heavy rain. Route 1 and numerous smaller roads were shut down for several days, and the park itself did not have power for over a day.

Luckily, the buildings were unharmed, but the high winds did cause significant tree damage in a wide swath across the park.

Over 20 trees were lost or removed due to extensive damages, as well as untold numbers of branches large and small. The most significant loss was the American elm near the trout ponds which had been planted to provide shade for the fish. The Chinese chestnuts near the Log Cabin were also damaged. These trees provide valuable shade for summer camp, so we have started new replacements in the greenhouse.

We want to extend our thanks to our volunteers who helped with getting trails cleaned up so quickly and to our visitors for their patience during that cleanup!

(Above) American elm tree behind the Visitor Center. (Below) Damaged Chinese chestnut tree near the Log Cabin.

Preparing for the Newlin Log House

The Newlin Log House was saved in 2021. After being documented and disassembled, the logs were placed in storage until ready to be reassembled. While the organization has focused on silt mitigation, the water wheel reconstruction, and spillway restoration projects, it has also been working to prepare for the Newlin Log House project.

The planning taskforce evaluated several possible locations and chose the one that best suited the characteristics and needs of the building. The location needed to provide access to both the first floor and basement levels, be easily accessible for the public, and have minimal impact on already existing buildings. The location chosen was the hillside along the farm lane behind the Trimble House.

Volunteer excavating back corner of Trimble barn.

The initial site chosen had to be modified after several unexpected discoveries. First, archaeological investigations uncovered remnants of the Trimble bank barn, which had been thought to be located further away. Excavations and survey work also discovered what appears to be a dairy structure, the stone walls for a barn yard, and a large retaining wall that stretched along most of the hillside above the orchard. The excavations also showed that the elevation difference was much greater than initially thought. These discoveries convinced planners to shift the proposed location fifty feet to an area where no evidence of previous structures was found.

The plan is to complete the designs in early 2024 and begin fundraising for the project. The intention is to begin construction in 2025 or 2026. When completed, the Log House will preserve an important Newlin building while providing space for educational programs and special events including foodways and craft demonstrations, period meals, and tasting events.

(Above) Newlin Log House being disassembled. (Below) Some of the walls and doorways discovered during the investigations

Thanks to everyone who has supported this project with donations, space to store the logs, and expertise during the design phase of the project.

Planning for the Future

Have you considered including Newlin Grist Mill in your financial planning? When you do so, you are securing the future of this site as a refuge for wildlife and as a center for innovative historic and environmental education and preservation.

Bequests are not subject to federal estate taxes, they are flexible to accommodate your interests, and they are revocable. There are many options for planned giving, such as naming NGM as a beneficiary in your will either in whole or in part, but the most important step is to say yes!

If you are interested in learning more, or you have already included Newlin Grist Mill in your future plans, please let us know! Contact Brenda Orso at 610-459-2359 or borso@newlingristmill.org.

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VISIT US!

Park Hours:
Changes seasonally –
check website for times

Visitor Center Hours:
9am-4pm daily

Mill Tours:
Monday-Friday:
11am & 2pm
Saturday & Sunday:
10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm

Phone: 610-459-2359
Email: info@newlingristmill.org
Web: www.newlingristmill.org

Find us on Facebook & Instagram!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March
16 Public Archaeology Day *(10am-3pm | Free)*

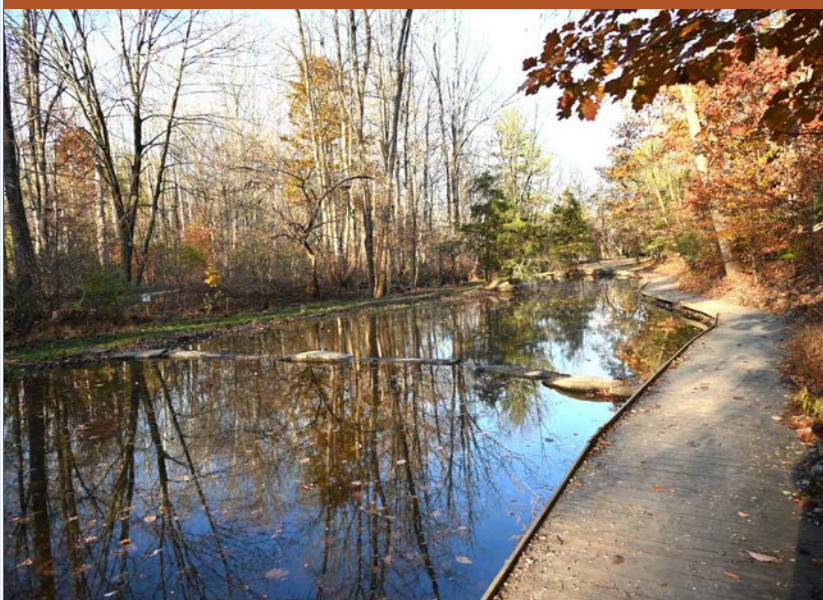
April
6 Trout Fishing Opening Day
13 Earth Month *(9am-12pm & 1-4pm | registration req.)*
20 Public Archaeology Day (*10am-3pm | Free)*
27 Earth Month *(9am-12pm & 1-4pm | registration req.)*

May
11 Tasting Through Time Dinner
(4:30-6:30pm & 7:30-9:30pm | $75 | registration req.)
18 Public Archaeology Day (*10am-3pm | Free)*

June
15 Race for the Watershed: 5K & Rubber Duck Race
22 Public Archaeology Day (*10am-3pm | Free)*
24-28 Summer Discovery Camp: "Habitat Helpers"

July
8-12 Summer Discovery Camp: "Early American Kids"
20 Public Archaeology Day (*10am-3pm | Free)*
22-26 Summer Discovery Camp: "Wings & Things"

September
21 Fall Festival: Experience history, archaeology, & family fun! *(10am-4pm. Parking | $5: per car)*

November
2 Tavern Night Dinner
(*4:30-6:30pm & 7:30-9:30pm | $75 | registration req.)*

Monthly Bird Walks
Saturdays, 9-11am (Nov-Mar), 8-11am (Apr-Oct) | Free
Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 25, Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 31, Sep 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 21