



# GRIST From the Mill

Volume 4: Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2010

A publication of the Newlin Grist Mill

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## Through Snow, Wind, Heat, Rain and Flood...



The year 2010 will be remembered at Newlin Grist Mill as the year of weather. Snow, wind, hail, heat, and excessive rain plagued the Mill throughout the year.

In February winter storms dropped 48 inches of snow on the park. Hundreds of trees and limbs collapsed under the weight of the snow. The snow damaged the Grist Mill itself. The weight of the unusually heavy snows forced the rafters to push outward. Emergency stabilization kept the roof from collapsing despite the framed walls moving as much as seven inches in some places.

In May, a wind storm caused several trees to fall in the park. As the staff worked on the cleanup, a micro-burst struck in August. Trees fell on power lines causing a power outage. It took several months to clear the trails and clean up the various limbs and trees. Over a dozen 12-24" diameter trees were blown down. One tree landed on the porch of the Simpson House located above the millrace. Trees fell close to the blacksmith shop, Visitor Center, Miller's House, and spring house. It was only a matter of a few feet, or in the case of the Simpson House, a few inches, that saved the historic buildings from major damage.

In July and August, the heat forced fishing to close and dropped water levels in the millrace alarmingly low. As the heat subsided, the Chester Creek spilled out of its banks pouring through the property the day before Fall Harvest Festival. Water rushed through the cabin and the blacksmith shop, entered the lower level of the Grist Mill, and was within 2 inches of reaching the offices in the Visitor Center. The Foundation's truck was damaged by flood waters that rose into the cab of the vehicle. The Mill lost telephone and computer service for nearly a week and a large trench was cut through the parking lot.

These storms illustrated the historic challenges of living in an agricultural based world. A season's worth of work was lost when hail and wind destroyed the heirloom corn plot in a matter of a few moments. What the storms did not destroy, animals consumed less than 24 hours later. Like the millers and farmers from the past, the staff of the Newlin Grist Mill adapted and carried on. Thanks to everyone who helped Newlin Grist Mill weather the storms in 2010.





# Mill Roof Repair



The February storms that dropped 48 inches of snow caused severe damage to the Newlin Grist Mill's roof structure. The Mill's roof has been altered several times and the added weight caused the rafters to push the upper walls outward. The wall was displaced by nearly 7 inches in some places; the framing walls caused the siding to buckle and bow. (See left photo)

The roof was immediately stabilized with jacks to transfer the load into the building's framing structure. Once the structure was stable, work began to determine a more permanent solution.

To fix the problem, a central beam was assembled and attached to the beams in the upper floor framing. A series of cables and turnbuckles were attached along the length of the building to pull



the rafters and walls back into place. This process will be completed incrementally over the next few months. Framing supports will be added once the rafters are back in place.

Rick Fellows, who headed up the project, worked closely with engineers and architects to develop a long-term fix that is historically sensitive to the character of the building. Joe Barbado of Barbado & Associates and Engineer/Architect Ken Holt donated their analysis and design work on the project. Thanks to everyone who contributed to saving the Newlin Grist Mill during this time of crisis.

## Fishing Threatened at Newlin

E. Mortimer Newlin started trout fishing at Newlin Grist Mill to pass on his love of fishing and help the non-profit generate operating support. Thousands of people catch trout at the ponds each year. Groups include families, schools, veterans groups, and medical care facilities that utilize fishing for therapy. Often several generations congregate at the mill to socialize, be outdoors, and initiate a new generation into the fraternity of fishermen.

Fishing at Newlin Mill has recently seen many threats to its continuation. PennDOT's bridge project on Baltimore Pike threatened to interfere with fishing. During negotiations, PennDOT agreed to not work in the stream during the opening stages of trout season as stipulated in the regulations governing stocked trout streams. When trout season started, Newlin Mill was informed that the cost to the project would be too great so PennDOT gave the contractors special permission to continue. PennDOT cited the fact that it was privately stocked (instead of state stocked) and the cost as their justification for breaking their word.

The increased cost of fish and pond maintenance forced the Foundation to raise prices to cover costs. The increase did not affect the number of fishermen early in the season but other factors closed fishing by mid-July. The excessive heat raised the water temperature to a level unhealthy for cold-water loving trout. This caused fishing to close for the season.

The flood at the beginning of October helped to flush the creek and ponds. Water tests are being conducted over the next few months to guarantee the water quality meets appropriate standards before restocking the ponds. Thank you for your patience and we hope to see you in 2011 fishing at Newlin Mill.

## Lenape Wigwam Project

During the summer, a Lenape style wigwam was constructed along the mill race.



Archaeologist Keith Doms along with Tony Shahan selected materials

from the park and constructed the frame of the dwelling using traditional techniques. The project is part of a plan to incorporate the story of the Lenape into the interpretation at Newlin Grist Mill.

One of the weekly themes of Summer Discovery was Native Americans. Campers learned about the lives of the Lenape, explored the wigwam, discussed obtaining food and equipment from nature, and played games.



Unfortunately, vandals destroyed the wigwam the week following camp. Plans are in place to construct



# 30 Years of Dedication to Newlin Grist Mill



This year marks a milestone for two Newlin Grist Mill employees; Steve Harkins and Rick Fellows have both worked for the Nicholas Newlin Foundation for thirty years.

Steve Harkins is the Site Manager and Rick Fellows is Newlin Grist Mill's Master Carpenter and Landscape Manager. Together they take care of the buildings, the landscape, the grounds, and make sure the resources of Newlin Grist Mill are well care for. They also work to ensure the safety of the site for all of our visitors and keep the grounds beautiful.

Steve and Rick are both extraordinarily talented, and the mill would not be the place it is today without them. Both of them were a part of all the site's restorations including the mill, the miller's house, the granary, the raising of the barn, the visitor's center, and the creation of the hiking trails. Where ever you go on this site - you are sure to see the work of Rick, Steve, and all of the other dedicated Newlin Grist Mill employees throughout the years.. Thank you Rick and Steve for your dedication!



Top (left to right): Rick and Steve restoring the mill roof. Bottom (left to right): Rick during water wheel restoration; Lucy Bell Newlin Sellers, Rick, Steve during tree planting commemoration for Ralph Kaufman; Steve restocking trout.



# Meet Lauren



Newlin Grist Mill is excited to welcome Lauren Vitelli to the staff as the new Bookkeeper, Visitor Services Manager, and Volunteer Coordinator. Lauren has an important job at Newlin Grist Mill. She is in charge of all of the financial record keeping, welcoming visitors to the site, and building a volunteer program. If you've visited the Visitor Center recently, you have probably seen Lauren's smiling face welcoming you to our site!

Lauren brings a wide variety of experiences to Newlin Grist Mill. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2006 with a degree in History and a minor in Art History. She worked for the Delaware Historical Society for eight years as the Education and Museum Assistant. Lauren also worked as the Visitor Services Liason with the Valley Forge Convention & Visitors Bureau and Valley Forge National Historic Park. There she managed over 40 Park and CVB volunteers. Most recently Lauren worked at the Delaware Museum of Natural History. She has extensive experience leading summer camp and is looking forward to helping out with Summer Discovery next year.

Lauren is very excited to be part of the Newlin Grist Mill team and hopes to use her volunteer management experience to build a strong volunteer group at Newlin Grist Mill. She has already developed a volunteer handbook and is working on developing a volunteer training program.

On a personal note, Lauren and her fiancé Robert have just purchased their first home in Newark Delaware, and look forward to their wedding in May 2011. Their Beagle puppy, Darwin, can't wait to hit the trails and explore Newlin Grist Mill.

## Volunteer with Us

If you are interested in volunteering for Newlin Grist Mill, please fill out the form below or email Lauren for more information at [lvitelli@newlingristmill.org](mailto:lvitelli@newlingristmill.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Interests  
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Interpretation (school tours and programs, adult tours, walking tours, living history demonstrations, work shops, family programming)
- ☐ Foodways Project
- ☐ Environment (trail maintenance, monitoring, data management)
- ☐ Library and Archives (inventories, cataloguing, data entry, processing, organization)
- ☐ Research (background research, scope and content notes, program research, etc.)
- ☐ Collections Management (cataloguing, artifact handling and maintenance, inventories, data entry)
- ☐ Special Events and Family Programs (Fall Harvest Festival, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, etc.)
- ☐ Clerical (filing, typing, computer skills, computer software, mailings, filing, marketing)

Please return to Newlin Grist Mill | Attn: Lauren Vitelli  
219 S. Cheyney Road  
Glen Mills, PA 19342



# The Newlin Foundation's 50th Anniversary



In the midst of the Great Depression, Mortimer and Elizabeth Newlin rediscovered the old mill that was built by their ancestor Nathaniel Newlin in 1704. They were captivated by its history and the possibilities it had to tell the stories of their family and of the past. In 1956, the Newlins purchased the mill, began restoring the structure and purchasing land in the area to work on re-creating the mill, the water system, and 18th century life.

On December 27, 1960 the Nicholas Newlin Foundation was formed with the vision that Newlin Grist Mill would become "a place of historical and environmental introspection that would last forever." Today, 50 years later, this vision still shapes the fabric of Newlin Grist Mill. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we

proudly stand upon the work of those who came before us.

In its 50 year history, the Foundation has restored the mill, the miller's house, and numerous other historic structures. It has embarked on a tree planting program and created an environmental haven for plants and animals. The Foundation also created a recreational space for walking, hiking, fishing, and the enjoyment of nature. Public programs, school tours, and Summer Discovery are all important ways that Newlin Grist Mill serves the surrounding community.

Today the Newlin Grist Mill has 160 acres, 12 historic structures, and is a center of historic and environmental preservation and education.

We will celebrate this milestone throughout 2011 by offering a wide variety of public programs commemorating the hard work and vision of those who founded the organization. The first events were held in the fall. Two historic workshops marked Newlin's dedication to preserving historic skills. In November, a tree planting ceremony was held to memorialize Ralph Kaufman, one of the mill's first two employees. Events like this will celebrate the Foundation's continued dedication to historic and environmental preservation and education. The enclosed 50th Anniversary brochure lists the programs that we will hold throughout the year.

We hope that you will celebrate with us as we honor those who came before us and continue to build upon their legacy!



Top (Left to Right): Mill before Restoration, Mortimer and Elizabeth Newlin, Granary Restoration  
Bottom (Left to Right): Tree Planting Ceremony, Summer Discovery, Public Archaeology Day



# Newlin Grist Mill

## February 2011

### **Beginner Fly Tying School**

**February 2, 9, 16, 23 7:00pm-9:00pm**

Led by The Sporting Gentlemen, participants will learn basic tying tools, how to use them, common fly tying techniques, how to choose flies, essential fly tying techniques, fly design, and fly construction. Tools are not supplied but can be purchased for a 10% discount at The Sporting Gentleman.

Cost: \$89.00

School fee includes a basic materials package for the materials and hooks needed for the flies tied in class.

Call 610-565-6140 to register.



## April 2011

### **April 2: Trout Fishing Opens at Newlin**

Both stream fishing and pond fishing at Newlin open on Saturday April 2nd. Fishing in our ponds costs \$5.00 per person plus \$4.00 per fish. For information about stream membership visit [www.newlingristmill.org](http://www.newlingristmill.org).

### **April 16: Fiber Arts and Sheep Shearing Day 10:00am-4:00pm**

Newlin Grist Mill pays homage to the Needlework Fairs and Sheep Shearing Festivals of its past with a day of Fiber Arts. There will be sheep shearing demonstrations ongoing throughout the day. We are looking for artisans who will demonstrate and display a variety of Fiber Art techniques such as quilting, cross stitching, knitting, spinning, felting, dying, etc.

For more details and to register to participate call 610-459-2359 or email [info@newlingristmill.org](mailto:info@newlingristmill.org).



## Mark your calendars!

Summer Discovery Sessions run July 5-August 18, 2011

# Calendar of Events

## May 2011

### **May 21: Barn Dance Fundraiser 6:30-9:30pm**

This evening of music and dance is the perfect way to enjoy Newlin Grist Mill's preservation heritage by dancing the night away in one of our restored buildings. This dance is open to one and all - new and experienced dancers alike.

Cost: \$25.00 per person. Pre-registration is required. Call 610-459-2359 or email [info@newlingristmill.org](mailto:info@newlingristmill.org) to register.

### **May 8: Community Fishing Day 9:00am-4:00pm**

Join Newlin and The Sporting Gentlemen on this day of hands-on activities, fishing, and family fun. Regular fishing costs apply.

## June 2011

### **June 4: Dabbs Day: A Day of Remembrance**

Join Newlin Grist Mill, the Concord Township Historical Society, and the Concordville/Chadds Ford Rotary for the 2nd annual memorial event to remember Dabbs Woodfin

### **June 18: Historic Foodways a Time of Sharing 10:00am-4:00pm**

We invite period cooks from around the region to bring a period receipt or technique to share in this open forum program. The public is welcome to attend.

## **Heritage Walks in the Park**

**May 14th:** History of the Landscape

**July 16th:** The Trees of Mortimer Newlin

**October 15th:** Historic Water Walk

**10:00am-11:30am**

Join Newlin staff on these walks that will explore the park's historic and natural heritage. Tours combine history, environment, and physical fitness.



# GO GREEN

with Newlin Grist Mill

send an email to  
[info@newlingristmill.org](mailto:info@newlingristmill.org)  
to sign up for our  
electronic newsletter.



# Fall Harvest Festival A Success



On Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>, over 600 people visited Newlin Grist Mill for our annual Fall Harvest Festival. Despite heavy flooding the day before, it was a beautiful fall day. The sun was shining and visitors came from near and far to immerse themselves in a day of 18th century activities.

Families learned the steps to some English Country Dancing with the Heritage Dancers. The Colonial Revelers provided music and entertainment. Moms, dads and kids all tried their skill (and luck) with the colonial games, while children decorated pumpkins and made their own fish prints.

Demonstrators from across the area showed home grown gourds, paper making techniques, marching and musket firing, dying, and cooking. A working cooper set up a working shop in the mill to demonstrate his trade. In addition, mill grinding demonstrations were ongoing throughout the day. Visitors were also able to watch the bloomery furnace in action by our special guests from Colonial Williamsburg.

Even though rain made it too wet for hay rides, the Fall Harvest Festival was a rousing success. This was thanks to everyone who attended and the many volunteers who helped make this event possible. We are already hard at work planning Fall Harvest Festival for 2011. Save the date now for October 1, 2011. We hope to see you then!

## Hands-On Workshops at Newlin

Over 20 participants came to Newlin Grist Mill for two hands-on workshops about baking and iron making

Participants at the iron making created wrought iron from scratch using a bloomery furnace. This workshop was led by Shel Browder and Steve Mankowski from Colonial Williamsburg. This images on the right depict this process. From top to bottom:

1. Shel and Steve heat the iron ore in the bloomery furnace with charcoal.
2. Finished bloom iron taken out of the furnace.
3. Hammering the bloom iron into wrought iron.
4. Forging wrought iron into a mill bill..

Participants also learned basic blacksmithing techniques with Wallace Badur.

The baking workshop was led by Classrissa Dillon and Deb Peterson of Past Masters. The workshop featured various 18th century cooking techniques and recipes and demonstrated the varied ways people cooked in the past using a hearth, dutch ovens, bake ovens, and local ingredients. The menu included: chestnut pudding, ginger bread, mutton pie, rice pancakes, and Marlborough cake.







## Summer at Newlin

### Summer Discovery

This summer the sound of children's laughter abounded as Summer Discovery campers explored plants, wildlife and the environment throughout Newlin Grist Mill. Over 350 children (ages 4 to 12 years old) learned about nature and the world around them. They took nature walks, played games, went hunting for tadpoles, created their own caterpillars, saw tarantulas and millipedes, and even touched snakes! Each week of camp centered on a theme such as Bugs and Butterflies, Rocks, Animals of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Native Americans, Birds, and Reptiles and Amphibians. Guest presenters from area organizations helped all of us learn more about these themes and nature in our lives today.

The afternoons were also busy with themed workshops. In these workshops campers gain in-depth knowledge and hands-on experiences with historic cooking, ice cream making, fishing, paper making, milling, and blacksmithing!

Judging by the smiles on campers faces at the end of each day – Summer Discovery this year was a success! We are already looking forward to camp next summer. Look for information about Summer Discovery 2011 coming soon!

### Immersion Camp

For five days in August, a group of enthusiastic students entered the world of 18<sup>th</sup> century trades. The campers explored colonial trades by immersing themselves in the professions associated with gristmills and their construction. They investigated the world of the millwright and miller, bakers, masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, and iron mongers. Through hands-on activities, models, and projects, students learned about technologies that built America. Some of the activities from the camp included grinding corn meal and baking with it, casting a gear in pewter, building a 1" = 1' scale model of a building, making rope, and building a stone wall.

The campers were part of the Summer LIFE Programs offered through Valley Forge Educational Services, whose programs focus on experiential learning opportunities for youth with learning challenges. This program provides youth with a varied cross-section of "real world" experiences that allows them to generalize academic, social and behavior skills across a variety of settings. We are looking forward to hosting a Summer LIFE Program next summer.



# The 2010 Annual Appeal Needs You!

Throughout history, mills have been at the mercy of a variety of natural disasters, including floods, fires, and other catastrophes that have destroyed buildings and equipment. The most dedicated millers rebuilt their mills so that they could continue to serve their communities and support the families that relied on their goods and products.

This past year, the Newlin Grist Mill experienced an unprecedented series of weather-related challenges, including a record level snowfall that damaged the roof and exterior walls of the Mill; hurricane-force winds that toppled numerous trees throughout the Park; and a severe rainstorm producing eight inches of rain in eight hours that flooded the Visitor Center and seriously damaged the phone, Internet, and other electrical equipment.

As you finalize your yearend charitable gifts, we hope that you will consider a gift to the Newlin Grist Mill. Like our forefathers, we have survived the challenges of 2010 and continue to be an important resource to our community. Whether you come to the Mill to share our love of history or walk throughout the Park because of our commitment to maintaining open space, we hope that you will support our efforts to be there for you.

Susan Rapp, Chair of Friends and Fundraising Committee

## Friends of the Newlin Grist Mill

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support Newlin Grist Mill

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\$250-\$999

☐ Master Miller  
\$1,000 and above

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes! I would like to sign up for the Newlin Grist Mill e-mail list

Please Make Checks Payable to: The Newlin Grist Mill

Mail donations to: The Newlin Grist Mill  
219 South Cheyney Road  
Glenn Mills, Pennsylvania 19342

**Help us double your donation!** If your employer has a matching gift program, please obtain the appropriate forms and enclose them with your contribution. We'll be happy to do the rest.



# Thank You For Your Support!

The following is a list of people and businesses who supported Newlin Grist Mill as of December 6, 2010. It would not be possible to provide the programs and services we offer without your support.

## Annual Giving

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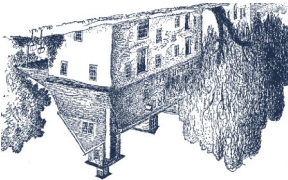
**Hours: Visitor Center**  
**December-February:**  
**10am-3pm**

**March-November:**  
**9am-4pm**

**Hours: Park**  
**9am-4pm**

**Tours**  
**Monday-Friday:**  
**11am & 2pm**

**Sat. & Sun:**  
**10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm**



[www.newlingristmill.org](http://www.newlingristmill.org)

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