

**Mid-Atlantic Chapter
Society for the Preservation of Old Mills**

**March 27, 2010
Semiannual Meeting**

Location: Poplar Grove Tide Mill
Matthews County Historical Society
Matthews County Virginia

First Draft - April 1, 2010

Attendees: See Attachment A

President Bob Lundegard opened the business meeting at 9:00 AM. He thanked our host, Peter Preston and the Matthews County Historical Society, for arranging the meeting and welcomed attendees. He displayed the certificate presented on behalf of the Friends of Folck's Mill in appreciation of the technical restoration advice provided through Ivan Lufriu on behalf of the chapter. The certificate will be displayed at Union Mills. Dee LaRoche and Camille Bowman of the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office were introduced as guests with interest and expertise in the Poplar Grove mill site. Ben Hassett, millwright from Lynchburg Virginia, and Bernadeen Teague, owner of Poplar Grove Tide Mill were also introduced later in the meeting.

Dee provided information about a tub mill from the Paul Mellon estate in the VA inventory that is in need of a permanent exhibition site. Contact information will be posted in the next SPOOM Mid-Atlantic newsletter.

Copies of the minutes from the August 15, 2009 meeting at Stover-Myers Mill in Pipersville PA were approved as submitted.

The treasurer, Jane Sewell, reported a balance of \$3,116.87. Deposits from the last meeting were \$915 with expenses of \$428.13 for August meeting expenses and postage for the SPOOM member postcard project.

Committee Reports

SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Newsletter: Susan Langley, editor, welcomes long-term calendar items from participating mills. Pictures in jpeg format are preferred; but include names of any individuals in the photos. Send articles to slangley06@comcast.net by the April 15 deadline for the next issue. July 15 is the next due date.

Mill Preservation: Ivan Lufriu updated the status of current projects.

- **Pungo Creek Mill**, located in Painter VA along the eastern shore, is owned and operated by Bill and Laurel Savage. They grow and mill Indian corn using a Meadows Mill. They are developing local outlets for the product and recently won an award for best new product at the Virginia Food and Beverage Expo in Richmond.
- **Millbrook Grist Mill** in Charles County MD is the last remaining mill in Charles County. The family is seeking help to preserve the mill. Marjorie Lundegard has summarized the history from the late 18th century. The mill was remodeled in 1923 and operated into the 1940s. Hurricanes have destroyed the dam, mill pond and race. Several organizations have taken an interest, mainly Southern MD Resource Conservation and Development.
- **Aberdeen Mill**, located on the edge of Lancaster County PA, dates to 1770. The website www.aberdeenmills.com details the history and provides photos. Merritt Neale and his wife have owned the mill since 2007 and hope to eventually demonstrate milling. The water wheel needs repair. This will be the site of our August 2010 meeting.

- **Poplar Grove Tide Mill** is today's host site. The owner - Bernadeen Teague, Peter Preston - a close neighbor and members of Matthews County Historical Society requested guidance regarding restoration. Discussion following the chapter meeting and a visit to the mill following lunch will begin this process.

Mid-Atlantic Milling History Celebration: Judy Grove chairs this committee.

- **Mill DVD Collection:** Any participating sites that have a DVD (or video that can be transferred to DVD) are requested to forward a copy to Marlene Lufriu or Marjorie Lundegard. These will be shown at the September 2011 National SPOOM convention at Colvin Run Mill. Contact information will be included in the SPOOM-MA newsletter.
- **Watershed Map Project** is designed to summarize the research on the grist mills and transportation routes in the main Mid-Atlantic watersheds (Susquehanna, James, Potomac, and Delaware Rivers). Bob Lundegard and Steven Spring are coordinating this effort. Tony Shahan provided suggestions on possible software. Dee LaRoche noted that each state maintains a database of significant historical sites in the State Historic Preservation Office; this would be a valuable resource for this project. The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Project was also suggested.
- **Keynote Speaker for 2011 SPOOM Convention:** Bob Lundegard presented a motion that *the SPOOM-MA chapter accept the offer from Colvin Run Mill Historic Site (CRM) to serve as a supporting organization for the hosting of the SPOOM 2011 Meeting at CRM. The Chapter role includes the selection and hosting of the keynote speaker and the sharing of the administrative tasks for the meeting itself.* The motion carried unanimously. Brooke Hunter, Steve Dryden and Richard Abbott were suggested as sources of guidance for the keynote speaker. Adam and Laurie Sieminski agreed to ask Abbott or Dryden to explore the possibility of the National Trust for Historic Preservation providing a keynote speaker.
- **2011 SPOOM Convention Planning:** Mason Maddox reported on plans to date for the September 22-25, 2011 SPOOM Meeting which will coincide with the Colvin Run Mill Bicentennial. A pre-conference tour to Mount Vernon is planned for Thursday. Workshops will be held on Friday; send any suggestions for topics or speakers to Mason.maddox@fairfaxcounty.gov. The dinner and keynote speaker would be on Friday evening. Tours through Colvin Run Mill, Peirce Mill and a canal boat ride on the Locks of Great Falls are planned for Saturday. This conference will provide tours to three fully operational Oliver Evans Mills. The SPOOM business meeting and conference wrap-up will be Sunday.
- **Project Name:** *Flour Power – the Golden Age of Flour Milling in the Mid-Atlantic States* was suggested.
- **Project Funding:** Sponsor letters have been prepared. Forward names of potential sponsors to Nick Yannarell at ntyann@verizon.net.
- **National Milling Day/Oliver Evans Stamp:** Mason Maddox has done some preliminary work for this. Judy Grove and he will compile letters to be distributed for contacting elected officials to promote these two items.
- **General Open House Date for 2011:** Participating mills will be asked to be open on the same date in 2011 to promote milling across the Mid-Atlantic region. A date will be set at the August 2010 meeting. Possible ways to expand promotion of the 2011 Flour Milling in the Mid-Atlantic theme and special events will also be considered.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Report to *Old Mill News*: Vice President Robert McLaughlin reported his May 1 deadline to submit items to be included in the July issue. Officers and members are encouraged to submit information of general interest to Rlm101@verizon.net by then.

Items of Business

SPOOM-MA Penguin Sites Web Page: Bob Lundegard has been working on a prototype for a Chapter web site that would include a document and photo archive, links to mill/mill history web sites, news and announcements as well as other features to maintain records and communication among the membership. He moved *that the development of the <http://spoommidatlantic.org/> web site be continued for an additional 12 months and all the “open to the public” mills be approached to contribute minimum of \$25 toward the total \$425 cost in return for recognition as a sponsor on the Home Page.* The motion carried and Bob was authorized to make the necessary contacts for this.

Election of SPOOM-MA Officers: Bob Lundegard moved *that Marlene Lufriu and Marjorie Lundegard be appointed co-chairs of the nominating committee for the 2011 slate of officers.* The motion was unanimously approved.

SPOOM Membership Growth Initiative: Bob Lundegard moved *that the SPOOM-MA Chapter accept the \$400.00 grant from the SPOOM Board to develop and test a “rack card” to be distributed by participating “open to the public” mills in our region.* The motion carried. Interested mills would pay half of the \$.60 printing cost per card to order a batch of 500 SPOOM membership recruitment cards for \$150 which would feature a photo of the sponsor. In addition, a batch of generic cards, perhaps featuring a picture of the host site for the national meeting that year, would be printed. These could be ordered in smaller lots. This experiment may then be expanded to other regions based on the results of our test case.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings:

- **August 2010: Aberdeen Mills** with host Merritt Neale, the owner of this museum/park property. Ivan Lufriu suggested August 28th for the meeting date. Details will follow.
- **April 2011: Peirce Mill** with hosts Richard Abbott and the Friends of Peirce Mill. The newly restored mill will be described and demonstrated. Adam Sieminski reported that the National Park Service will fund the restoration of this mill which should be operational by the chapter meeting date.
- **August 2011: Colvin Run Mill and the Friends of Colvin Run Mill (CRM).** This will be a prelude to the 2011 SPOOM national meeting at CRM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Grove, Secretary

Following the chapter meeting, Peter Preston and Becky Foster Barnhart - Head of History and Genealogy at the Matthews Memorial Library led a round table discussion on possible steps the owner Bernadeen Teague and members of the Matthews County Historical Society could pursue in order to preserve the Poplar Grove Tidewater Mill. After lunch, the group toured the mill.

Chapter Meeting Attendees, March 27, 2010

Attachment A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mill</u>
1. Judy Grove	Wallace Cross Mill PA
2. Tony Shahan	Newlin Grist Mill PA
3. Ivan Lufriu	Union Mills MD
4. Marlene Lufriu	Union Mills MD
5. Jane Sewell	Union Mills MD
6. Len Schott	Wallace Cross Mill PA
7. Bev Schott	Wallace Cross Mill PA
8. Doris McMurphy	Wallace Cross Mill PA
9. Bob Kinsey	Mill Photographer
10. Laurie Sieminski	Peirce Mill DC
11. Adam Sieminski	Peirce Mill DC
12. Nate Bond	Peirce Mill DC
13. Susan Langley	MD Historical Trust
14. Bob Lundegard	Colvin Run Mill VA
15. Marjorie Lundegard	Colvin Run Mill VA
16. Dee LaRoche	VA Dept of Historic Resources - Richmond
17. Camille Bowman	VA Dept of Historic Resources - Newport News
18. Bob McLaughlin	Union Mills MD & Mill at Anselma PA
19. Steve Spring	Colvin Run Mill, VA
20. Mason G Maddox, Jr	Colvin Run Mill VA
21. Trace Maddox	Colvin Run Mill VA
22. Earl Edles	Matthews County Historical Society