Breezin’ Through our 40th Anniversary Season

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We kicked off the spring season with Woodsmen’s Festival on May 4. The event featured woodworking demonstrations by groups like the Northeast Woodworkers Association and the SUNY Cobleskill Woodsmen’s Team, tree walks by the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP), and demonstrations in the Mill. May and June brought spring field trip season. To date we’ve hosted around 600 students and we will work with many more in the fall.

Visitors to the Independence Day Celebration enjoyed the music of the Catskill Mountain Boys, played traditional games, enjoyed samples of ice cream chilled with ice from the Mill Pond, and were among the first to view the 40th Anniversary exhibition, “Mill to Museum: Celebrating 40 Years of Vision and Dedication.” July 4th also featured the popular kids’ fishing derby and a new addition, a Holiday Pop-Up Farmers’ Market. Later in the month, Wayne Ford taught a fully-enrolled workshop on the basics of timber framing.

Throughout the summer, with the help of some great summer interns we completed several major collections and archives projects, including great strides digitizing the Museum’s collection of historic images. Now photos from the “Mill to Museum” exhibition and the Elma Mitchell Photography Collection are accessible through the Museum’s website on Flickr. We also installed an exhibit on renewable resources and energy at the Delaware County Fair.

Robert Grassi (left), the Museum’s former Millwright, returned to the Museum to help install the Munson Brothers millstone and to train the staff on how to operate the turbine-powered gristmill equipment.

Back to School! We are developing new school programs that align with the Museum’s Interpretive Plan and reflect the Common Core requirements. Beginning this academic year, the Museum is partnering with the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP) program to provide ten area schools with a series of educational programs.

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Hanford Mills Museum invites you to a free 40th Anniversary Pie Social

Sunday, September 22nd

2 to 4 pm
Rain or Shine

RSVP requested by September 17th to Beth Rafter
bethr@hanfordmills.org or 607.278.5744

The Mission of Hanford Mills Museum is to inspire audiences of all ages to explore connections among energy, technology, natural resources and entrepreneurship in rural communities with a focus on sustainable choices.
Help Our Endowment Grow!

In July Hanford Mills launched a campaign to grow the Museum’s Endowed Trust. Each dollar donated to the Trust will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, with a $40,000 matching grant from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation. With the support of over 75 donors, including two anonymous donations totaling $20,000, the Museum has reached 85% of our goal. We now have less than $5,800 left to raise to meet our goal. The Endowment will generate needed funds for Hanford Mills Museum, securing and sustaining this important historic site for future generations. Many thanks to everyone who has donated and to the O’Connor Foundation for its generous matching support!

The Big 4-0!
The 40th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Although our roots as an operating Mill complex traverse over 160 years, during our 40th Anniversary Celebration we are honoring the people who had the vision to save the shuttered Mill complex for posterity, and all of the folks (the members, friends, neighbors, donors, funders, volunteers, staff and experts in a variety of fields) who have supported turning this vision into a successful and meaningful endeavor.

“Mill to Museum: Celebrating 40 Years of Vision and Dedication” features historic photographs, newspaper articles and artifacts from the Museum’s collection, including pre- and post-restoration photographs, and historic equipment. “The Museum is here today because of the entrepreneurial spirit of the people who ran and worked at the Mill as well as the people who had the vision to transform the business into a museum,” says Museum Executive Director Liz Callahan.

This fall the Museum will also collaborate with Dr. Will Walker and students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program for History Museum Studies to gather oral histories about the Mill’s evolution into a Museum. Please take a few moments to share your memories of the Mill before or after it became a museum. Feel free to send us an email or a letter with your memories, or let our staff know if you would like to participate in an oral history interview to explore your memories of the Mill’s history.

We invite everyone to join us in a celebration of our accomplishments of the last 40 years at a free Pie Social in the Mill Yard on Sunday, September 22, from 2 to 4 pm. RSVP requested by September 17 by emailing beth@hanfordmills.org or calling 607.278.5744, x203. Enjoy a piece of pie and share the company of friends who care as much about Hanford Mills Museum as you do. In the event of rain, the social will be held inside.

Fall Events

30TH ANNUAL DAN RION MEMORIAL ANTIQUE ENGINE JAMBOREE AND POWERFEST

Join us Saturday, September 7, at the Antique Engine Jamboree. This year will feature a 1926 Ahrens Fox Pumper, 1930 Model A Ford, 1931 Model A Roadster, and other working steam and gas engines and equipment. The Jamboree also features guided Mills tours, renewable energy exhibits, great food, children’s activities, and live music.

The history of Hanford Mills is the history of innovation. The Hanfords embraced a variety of energy sources to power the sawmill, gristmill and woodworking machines. In addition to showcasing different power sources that were in use at the Mill, including water-power, steam-power, and gas engines, the Antique Engine Jamboree also features engines from the early 20th century, and exhibits of today’s renewable energy options.

MILLER’S HARVEST FESTIVAL AND FOLKWAYS FAIR

On Sunday, October 13, from 10 am – 5 pm, Hanford Mills Museum will hold the Miller’s Harvest Festival, a day of hands-on history and fall fun.

In addition to guided Mill tours, the Festival features the operation of our Gristmill equipment, which served area farmers for generations. This year, we will be featuring our newly installed Munson Brothers Millstone powered by the horizontal water turbine. You can also try your hand at shelling and grinding corn using our hand-powered milling equipment.

Also featured are a farmers’ market, artisans demonstrating and selling traditional crafts, entertainment by the Blue Ribbon Cloggers, live music, kids’ activities, and horse-drawn wagon rides.

Interested in volunteering at either of these events?
Please call 607.278.5744 or email kajsah@hanfordmills.org.
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