



HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

MILLWORK

THE NEWSLETTER OF HANFORD MILLS MUSEUM

Spring 2016

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Note from the Executive Director, Liz Callahan



The Lumber Drying Shed is ready for its roof replacement.

There's always room for improvement and sometimes the improvements we make at Hanford Mills Museum are not easy to see. This spring we are improving the energy efficiency of the Walter Smith Hardware Store (now the Post Office building) and the Monroe House as we prepare to install a bulk feed wood pellet boiler that will heat both buildings. Most of the purchase and installation of the pellet boiler will be funded by a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) pilot program working to improve the capacity for the distribution of locally-produced bulk wood pellets

in the region, with additional support for the improvements, equipment and installation from generous local foundations. The implementation of the improvements and the Museum's participation in the NYSERDA pilot program are active examples of the Museum's mission in action. We are excited to lead by example and we are eager to participate in the NYSERDA's wood pellet research and to support efforts to build a market for locally-produced wood pellets.

Some improvements are easier to see. This spring the metal roof that protects the Mill's steam power plant was replaced, and the wood shingle roof of the Museum's Lumber Drying Shed will be replaced soon. The Mill dock (facing the mill yard, outside the doors of the miller's office, grist mill) is also being re-built this summer.

I hope you will visit HMM soon! When you do, look for these improvements and watch for the upcoming stabilization of the headrace and footbridge, and accessibility improvements that will accompany the preservation of the Walter Smith Hardware Store façade (the historic elements of the building's second and third floors that face the road).

Upcoming events include the Independence Day Celebration, Free Family Saturdays, as well as workshops. You can connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We look forward to seeing you at the Mill, and as always, thank you for your commitment to Hanford Mills Museum!



HMM is producing shingles this season for the Catskills Interpretive Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18
Free Family Saturday

June 18-19
Steam Power 101 Workshop*

July 4
Independence Day Celebration

July 16
Free Family Saturday

July 23-24
Historic Coopering Workshop*

August 6
Free Family Saturday

August 28
Intro to Dyeing with Native Plants Workshop*

***Pre-registration required.**

**To register for workshops, please visit:
www.hanfordmills.org
Or call: 607.278.5744**

Ice Harvest Festival Welcomes 1,100

Ice Harvest in February was a huge success! The ice was relatively thin this year at 7.5 inches, but the warmer weather and our soup buffet kept our 1,100 guests warm between trips of hauling ice to the ice house, visiting our vendors and demonstrators, and playing games in the Hanford House. We're already planning for next year's harvest on February 4, 2017 (and hoping that we get some colder temperatures!) but in the meantime we're looking forward to using this year's ice crop to make delicious ice cream on Independence Day!



Connecting with Kids in the Classroom and at Hanford Mills

Our education staff has been hard at work this past year as Hanford Mills Museum continued in its role as a program partner in the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership. Through the CROP program Hanford Mills has had over 2,300 student interactions and has provided 180 programs to schools in Delaware, Greene and Schoharie counties during the 2015-2016 school year. All of our after-school programs focus on hands-on activities and we've worked with students on team-building, solar power, archaeology, power-transfer, and water pollution, among other topics. The CROP program has been extended through the 2016-2017 school year and we're already developing programs and working with schools to make next year a success!

Looking towards the summer, we have over a dozen field trips scheduled with more to come, including schools visiting from Troy, Middleburgh, Hunter, and Oxford. We're excited that so many students and teachers are returning to Hanford Mills each year and that we're attracting new classes from all around the region. In the coming year we hope to expand our outreach programs to schools and classes outside of the CROP program so that we can connect with more students and promote ideas about sustainability, innovation and technology.

Through a grant from Stewart's Holiday Match program, Hanford Mills Museum will be hosting a series of Free Family Saturdays during the summer. These events will allow any family that brings a school-aged child (preschool through high school) free admission to the site for up to two accompanying adults. In addition to mill tours, we will be offering special hands-on activities for children of all ages!

Collections Inventory Initiative

The HMM team has begun a comprehensive two-year project to fully inventory all of the Museum's three-dimensional object collections. Staff and volunteers will be going through all of the objects on the HMM site to make sure that we have each item documented and know where each is located. As of the writing of this article, the team has already worked through more than 3,500 objects at the museum. The project is made possible in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant has provided funding for the Museum to hire a Collections Technician to work on the inventory for two years. Aaron Graham, who started as the Technician in March, worked most recently at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. He also has worked on a similar inventory project at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. Karissa Carlson and Katie Curran are also working as Collections Assistants for the project.

This project is an extension of collections work that began in 2014 with the Museum's participation in the Conservation Assessment Program, a partnership of Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional funding support from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation and an anonymous funder. The inventory project is a major part of the Museum's Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2017.

New Workshops Enhance Perennial Favorites

This year, Hanford Mills Museum will be hosting a series of workshops designed for life-long learners. The first workshop of the season took place during our Build-Fix-Grow Festival, and our participants made a delicious breakfast of waffles with fresh-churned butter, eggs, and breakfast meats using the Royal Bride wood-fired cook stove in the John Hanford House. We'll be doing two more cooking workshops this year, including one intended for children and their parents.

For those who would like to get a hands-on experience working with a steam power, our Steam 101 workshop will surely be of interest! Join Joe Michaels and the Hanford Mills Museum steam volunteers in a two-day workshop which involves firing a boiler, creating a head of steam, and operating a steam engine, culminating in the full operation of the Hanford Mills steam plant. Beginners are welcome and no technical expertise is required.

New this year at Hanford Mills Museum is a coopering workshop. Participants will be working with historical cooper Bob Allers to make a bucket from start to finish, including forming the staves, hoop, and head of the bucket. Space is limited for this unique workshop so register soon!

In the fall, Tabitha Gilmore-Barnes, of the Tabitha Gilmore-Barnes Studio in Roxbury, will be hosting two textiles workshops. The first, Introduction to Dyeing with Native Plants, will offer participants the opportunity to identify and use plants to create natural dye baths and dye up to six batches of local wool. The second, Tapestry Weaving, will allow for participants to design and weave their own tapestry project using a frame loom and tapestry bobbins.

For more information on these workshops, visit www.hanfordmills.org, call 607-278-5744, or email brendanp@hanfordmills.org.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Monday, July 4

Celebrate an old-fashioned Fourth at Hanford Mills

FREE Mill-made ice cream samples, made on a steam-powered churn and chilled with ice from February's Ice Harvest Festival (while supplies last).

JUNE 18

JULY 16

AUGUST 6

SEPTEMBER 3

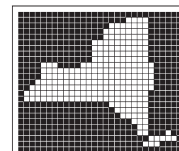
FREE FAMILY SATURDAYS

Free admission for school-age children and for up to two accompanying adults. Children 12 and under always receive free Museum admission.

For more information visit www.hanfordmills.org
or call 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.

State of the Arts



NYSCA

Funded in part by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.