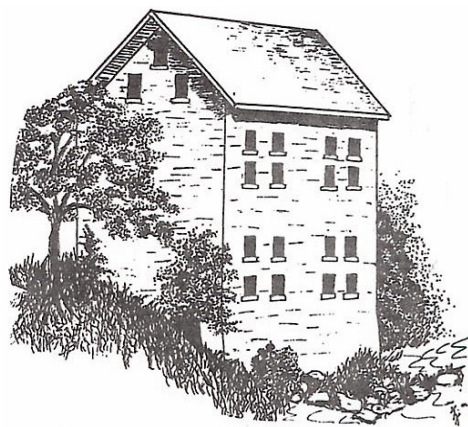


A newsletter from  
The Motor Mill Foundation  
of Clayton County

Number 12 Fall 2008

# Milling Around



## **Join us:**

The Motor Mill Foundation is made up of dedicated volunteers from diverse backgrounds. They meet regularly for planning or work projects.

Nested within the foundation is our Friends of Motor Mill group (FMM). Our friends share information, gain support for and help on various endeavors. To sign up:

## **Contact us:**

Motor Mill Foundation  
of Clayton County,  
29862 Osborne Rd.  
Elkader, Iowa 52043  
563-245-1516. Email:  
[cccb@alpinecom.net](mailto:cccb@alpinecom.net)

Milling Around is available electronically. Email addresses are welcomed to save postage. If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

Look for photos and current happenings at:  
[www.claytoncountyconservation.org](http://www.claytoncountyconservation.org)  
& [www.motormill.org](http://www.motormill.org)

## **Updates:**

- Big Blue Sky Concert is scheduled for Saturday October 25 starting at 6:30 PM. Tickets are \$15. See article on the back.
- P. Buckley Moss prints of Motor Mill are available!!! The cost is \$225 with 50% of the funds going toward the Motor Mill Restoration efforts if the prints are purchased through the Foundation at the Osborne Center. Please call to reserve a print as we have a limited supply.
- The mill will be open for tours again starting in May of 2009. If you would like a group between now and then please call or e-mail us and we can make arrangements.
- The Motor Mill Foundation will have a booth at Osborne's Heritage Days October 11 and 12. Come see what is happening!

## **Updates Continued**

- Work on the interior of the mill has begun after the flood interruption. The floor joists and flooring replacement has started and is progressing now as planned. As the floors are being replaced, windows are starting to go in as well. Thanks for all of your help in this project.
- Several fund raising efforts have started this summer. The Foundation is now selling Motor Mill caps, t-shirts and note cards. Top quality items for yourself and they make great gifts.
- A new work of art of almost ready for print. Artist Gordy Callison of Maryland has constructed two pen and ink historic birds-eye view prints of the Motor Mill Historic Site as it was in the 1870's. These prints will be on sale in a few short weeks.
- Flood repair to the campground and canoe landing has been slow this summer. The Conservation Board had numerous parks damaged along with the Motor Mill Site. The remaining repair should be completed this fall with the area scheduled to be open in late spring or early summer of 2009. The historic buildings have been cleaned out and the road in the park repaired, however the remainder of the work needs to be completed.

## **Big Blue Sky Concert**

The diverse musicians of Big Blue Sky will return to the Elkader Opera House on Saturday, October 25, for the third annual benefit concert for Motor Mill.

Big Blue Sky began with the father-son duo of Jon Stravers Sr. and Jon-Jon Stravers in the mid-90's. Their musical style-inspired by wild places and celebrating the natural rhythms of life-includes the influence of folk, bluegrass, blues and reggae. Following Jon-Jon's death in 2007, the Big Blue Sky musical and educational efforts have continued, including 40 different musicians from 10 states.

The Motor Mill benefit on October 25 will include nationally know singer/songwriter Dave Moore of Iowa City, with his rich tradition of American roots music. Moore has been a guest on "A Prairie Home Companion" and other national broadcasts.

Other musicians will include guitarist Folko Landvoight of Prairie du Chien, Wis; Kevin Dohus, of Gays Mills, Wis., on harmonica and mandolin; Mike Ombascher, of Evenville, Wis., on the 12-string bass; vocalist Kristina Castaneda of Dubuque; and percussionist Scott Rose, aka "Washboard Lou" of McGregor.

Motor Mill Foundation of  
Clayton County  
29862 Osborne Road  
Elkader, Iowa 52043-8247

## **Concert Continued**

The event is sponsored by the Motor Mill Foundation, which is working to preserve, interpret and restore the Motor Mill Historic Site along the Turkey River southeast of Elkader. Funds raised at the concert will go for renovation of the 1869 mill, and to repairs of other buildings at Motor, including the Inn, Stable, Cooperage, and Ice House.

The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Doors will open at 6:30 pm to allow concert goers to bid in a silent auction. Items in the auction will include wildlife art, as well as local foods, crafts and woodwork. All proceeds will go to the Motor Mill Foundation.

All tickets are \$15. They will be available at the door, or in advance from the Clayton County Conservation Board office at Osborne Park, or at businesses in Clayton County. Additional donations for the restoration efforts at Motor Mill are always accepted and appreciated.

For more information, go to [www.motormill.org](http://www.motormill.org), or call Larry Stone at 563-245-1517 or Jon Stravers at 563-586-2621.