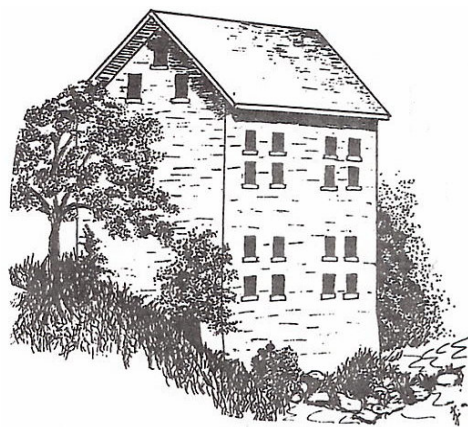


A newsletter from
The Motor Mill Foundation
of Clayton County

Number 6 Spring 2007

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

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
& www.motormill.org

Updates:

- Live from the Elkader Opera House by the Big Blue Sky Band CD's are available for sale. They are \$15 each and a portion of the proceeds goes toward Motor Mill current projects. You may contact the Osborne Office for more information.

- A Public Meeting is planned for Thursday April 19 at the Central State Bank Community Room in Elkader at 7:00 PM. Information will be shared about the future plans for the Motor Mill Site. Come with questions and leave with answers.

- The summer 2007 Motor Mill Open Weekends have been set. Check out the website for specific dates.

- A garlic mustard pulling day on the Robert Grau Savanna is set for Saturday June 9th.

Motor Mill Long Range Plans

The Motor Mill Foundation has developed a long range plan for the Motor Mill Site. The Foundation hired Molly Bagby of Manchester to facilitate the process. Foundation members met five times from December through March of 2007.

The plan looked at the strengths and weaknesses of both organization and the Motor Mill Site. Time was also spent looking at immediate, intermediate and long-term needs and projects. The Foundation tackled the bridge issue and then spent time looking at the needs of each of the five buildings on the site.

A final plan will be presented at an open forum public meeting being held Thursday evening on April 19, 2007 starting at 7:00 PM at the Central State Bank Community Room in Elkader.

Motor Mill Foundation Members will present to all interested attendees their ideas, plans and thoughts for the future of this very valuable historic and tourist attraction in Clayton County. Foundation Members would like to invite and encourage as many of you to attend in order to find out the direction that is being planned for the Motor Mill Historic Park.

Garlic Mustard

The Clayton County Conservation Board has attempted to take an active role in trying to control the extremely invasive exotic plant species called garlic mustard at Motor Mill Park. Garlic mustard is a biennial herb that invades practically any habitat but seems to dominate woodland and low woodland areas. This very aggressive plant will out compete native species for sunlight and will literally push native plants out of an area.

The first year basal rosettes are easy to spot during the dormant season because they stay green and continue to grow. The basal leaves are kidney-shaped with rounded teeth on their edges and originate from a single point at ground level.

The second year plants may be a few inches tall to as tall as four feet in height. The second year plants will begin to grow in April and will continue into June. The flowers have four white petals and are clustered at the top of the stem and side branches.

The fruit begin maturing in late May with seeds ready to disperse shortly thereafter. A single plant can produce hundreds of seeds in long, narrow capsules. The seeds are readily dispersed from any animal passing by including people. Furthermore, the seeds may remain viable in the seed bank for five to seven years.

Work on controlling garlic mustard at Motor Mill began in the spring of 2005. A pre-scribed burn was conducted on the Robert Grau Savanna that spring in an attempt to begin control measures of the plant. During late spring, summer and into the fall hand pulling the adult plants took place. Once the adult plants were pulled, they were also bagged and removed from the site to prevent seeds from entering the seed bank.

During the spring and summer of 2006 control was continued by pulling the adult plants. Efforts were focused on the south end of the savanna. During the late fall and early winter of last year, the first year plants were sprayed with roundup. Research has shown that this can be an effective control method when done in combination with other control techniques.

Plans are to continue these control techniques in 2007 as well. A pre-scribed burn will take place in April. On June 9th a work day will take place on the savanna. Volunteers are needed to help pull the remaining adult plants to help prevent the spread of maturing seeds on the site. Please call the Osborne Center at 563-245-1516 to let us know if you plan to attend. Times will be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with lunch provided. Long pants, long-sleeved shirt, gloves, a hat and bug repellent is recommended for the day.