

A Newsletter from
The Motor Mill Foundation
of Clayton County

Spring 2006

Get Involved:

The Motor Mill Foundation assists the Clayton County Conservation Board to plan Motor's future. Volunteers are needed from diverse backgrounds, to share their expertise in the following areas:

- Bridge building
- Tours
- Land restoration
- Fund-raising
- Other skills

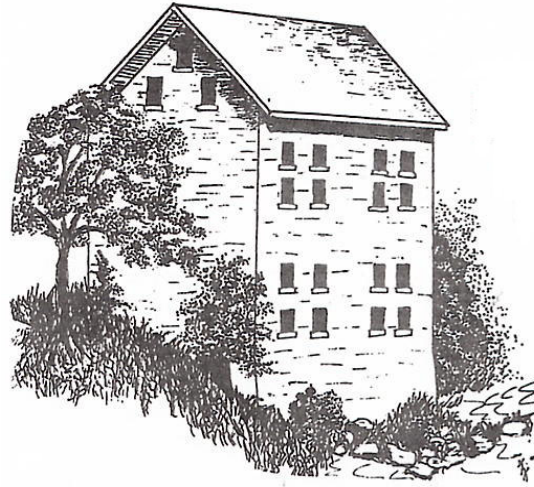
If you are willing to share your time and talents in these areas, please contact us. Training for volunteers will be provided.

Contact us:

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

Thank you,
Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County,
29862 Osborne Rd., Elkader, Iowa 52043
563-245-1516. Email: cccb@alpinecom.net

Milling Around



2006 Tours:

The Motor Mill Historical Site will be open for tours eleven weekends from May through September and group tours by appointment.

Spring Open Weekends are:

May 20-21 (also, Civil War Re-enactors camp at Motor)

May 27-29

June 10-11 and June 24-25

Material is added to tours by: researching, visiting other mills, museums, and asking area residents questions about their memories. Please contact us if you have any Motor-related stories, old photographs, 1800's mill equipment, tools, or know-how to share.

Savanna Restoration:

In an effort to restore the historic landscape of the mid-1800's, the Clayton County Conservation Board is restoring an oak savanna at the Motor Mill Site. The project area is located on the ridge north of the cooperage.

An oak savanna is made up of scattered oak trees above a layer of prairie grasses and forbs. The trees' spacing allows sunlight to reach the prairie plants below. These rare plant communities once covered 10% of Iowa's landscape. Fire frequently swept through these areas and was critical in maintaining this ecosystem.

In early 2005, many of the smaller trees were removed leaving only the dominant bur, white and red oak and walnut trees. This opening up of the over-story will allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor, thus promoting the resurgence of native prairie plant species. Two prescribed burns were conducted in 2005 as well.

The project is part of a memorial from the Robert Grau family. Robert was a charter member of the Clayton County Conservation Board and enjoyed spending time outdoors in both woodlands and prairies. The area will be known as the Robert Grau Memorial Savanna.