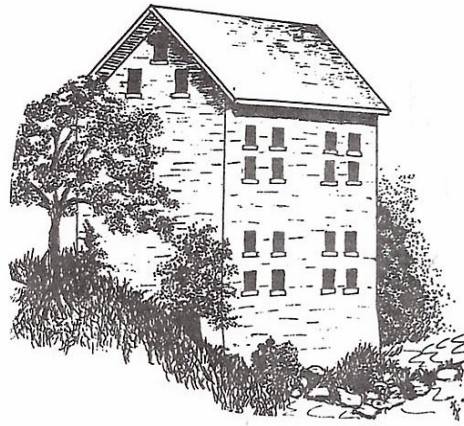


A newsletter from  
The Motor Mill Foundation  
of Clayton County

Number 10 Spring 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:**

- Funds are currently being raised to replace the windows in the Cooperage. The Foundation is looking for sponsors for the 12 windows to be replaced at \$200 each. If you would like more information you may contact the Osborne Center.
- Grant funds were received by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to conduct an assessment on the Stable and Inn. The assessment report will tell us the current conditions, immediate needs and prioritize needed future projects on the two buildings.
- Over the past six months the Motor Mill Foundation has been working with several artists on paintings and drawings of the Motor Mill site. These items will become available for sale starting later this spring. Stay tuned to the website as the projects are unveiled.

## **Spring Work At The Mill**

The Motor Mill Foundation, visitors to the mill and many other interested folks have been waiting for this spring for a long time. We are now ready to start some of the restoration work at the mill!

The Foundation and the County Conservation Board has been able to raise funds through private contributions and grants to purchase floor joists, flooring and windows in the mill to help make the building safer and more secure. This is the first step in our future vision for the mill.

Scheduled work days have not been planned yet. There are still a few items Foundation members need to handle. One such project is simply giving the mill a good cleaning from top to bottom. The second project is to move all of the building material into the mill so it is assessable and the third project is to run electric service into the mill.

Later this spring the Foundation will need assistance from a variety of volunteers to help with the installation of the joists, flooring and windows. If you are available to help we would greatly appreciate your service. The best way to notify us is through e-mail or a phone call to the Osborne Center. Someone from the Foundation will be in contact with you with a future schedule of work dates.

## **Membership Drive**

The Motor Mill Foundation is now accepting memberships to the Motor Mill Endowment Fund. This fund is set up through the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. Once the MMF has reached \$10,000 in the endowment fund, we will be able to use 5% of the funds annually for operating costs. The MMF will also be earning interest on this money as well.

You are in control as to what level you wish to participate. The Endowment Fund Membership is set up on an annual basis ending December 31 of each year.

The funds will be used for on going operation costs which include printing and mailing newsletters, printing brochures and other educational materials, postage, the purchase of display material and many other small items which grant funds cannot be used for.

The Motor Mill Foundation greatly appreciates your support.

## **2008 Tour Season**

The 2008 tour season dates have been set. The mill will be open two weekends a month May through September. The first weekend is May 17-18 the same weekend as the Civil War Living History Camp. Visit the Motor Mill Website for additional dates to plan your summer calendar.

## **Work on the South Side**

The Clayton County Pheasants Forever Chapter has donated \$1,000 toward a prairie restoration project at Motor Mill conducted by the Clayton County Conservation Board. The 19 acre field is located on the south side of the Turkey River across from Motor Mill. The planting is a \$4,000 seeding project to reestablish the Motor Mill landscape to its historical prairie oak savanna timber.

In November of 2007 the 19 acre broom grass field was burned and prepared for the spring planting. The seed choice is a 20/20 Iowa Eco Type mix purchased through Pheasants Forever. This coming spring, the field will be sprayed twice to give a final kill to the broom grass. In late May or June the local Pheasants Forever Chapter will seed the field with the prairie grass mix.

Conservation Board staff will mow the field for the next two to three years keeping the grass short to reduce competition and to allow the native grasses and forbs to establish their root system. The remaining funds for this project have come from a timber sale at Osborne Park.