



SPOOM

*Semiannual
Newsletter*

Mid-Atlantic Chapter
The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills

*Fall
2025
Edition*



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President's Message

October 2025

At this time in the life of the SPOOM Mid-Atlantic Chapter, I am honored and privileged to be on the Board of Directors as your president on the auspicious occasion of the group's 20th anniversary of its founding. In honor of that anniversary, we held our semi-annual Fall conference at the location of our first conference – Union Mills Homestead near Westminster MD. The buildings of the Mill, Tannery, Blacksmith Shop and Shriver family home comprise an historic district recognized by the Maryland Historic Trust Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) and the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), since 1970. A former tannery building is converted to an event space, used mostly for weddings, and the Homestead Foundation graciously allowed us to have a banquet dinner there on Thursday night, at the start of our conference.

We were honored to have as our guest speaker, the Secretary of Agriculture for Maryland, Kevin Atticks, in that position since early 2023. Mr. Atticks comes to that position, not from an agricultural background, but with more business experience than farming practice. Prior to that, he was CEO (and founder) of Grow & Fortify, a company supporting value-added agricultural organizations and the businesses they represent. Grow & Fortify published the first assessment of the state's value-added agricultural industry, illustrating the expansive impact generated by this sector, which includes wineries, creameries, meat processing, agritourism, equine and other businesses in this industry segment.

Previously, Kevin Atticks was also the Executive Director of the Maryland Wineries Association, Brewers Association of Maryland and the Maryland Distillers Guild, and served as the President of the Maryland Agricultural Resource Council and the Chair of the Wine America State & Regional Associations Advisory Council. Mr. Atticks formerly served on the University of Maryland College of Agriculture's Global Leadership Council, the board of Future Harvest and the board of the Maryland Tourism Coalition.

His speech reflected his strong support of what he calls a "value added approach" to agriculture. Since agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland, he advocates expanding the entrepreneurship that farmers already have, by allowing them to produce additional products from the output of their fruit, grain, dairy or cattle operations. In cooperation with Maryland Departments of Planning (starting businesses) and the Depart-

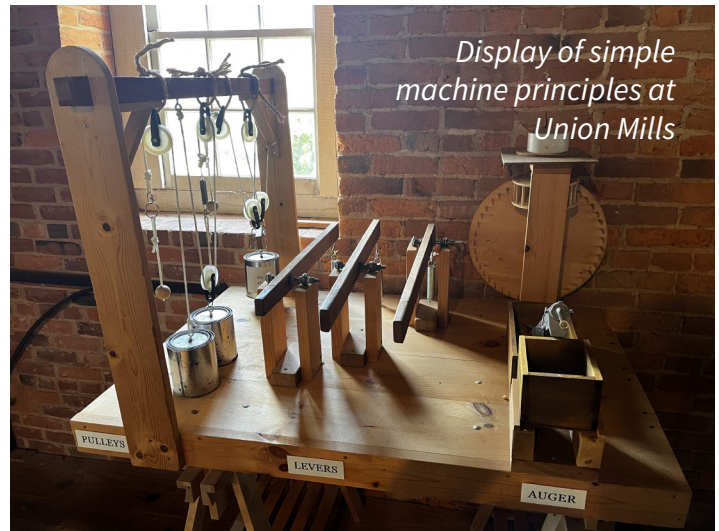
ment of Commerce, his goal is to open pathways to starting new business, processing through the permitting and licensing agencies to lower restrictions to make Maryland more friendly to doing business in the state.

He encourages support for farmers who realize they can make more money growing new things by focusing on policy development. That way farmers who want the option to do something to improve their bottom line can do so; not just growing, but also producing products from that output.

Maryland has some of the strictest environmental constraints compared to the rest of the country, such as clean-up efforts surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. So, Maryland farmers are already working harder than in many other states. He says that we owe it to farmers to give them the most opportunities to make more profits, and a better bottom line. When they are successful, they are better environmental partners and better community partners. This includes poultry and the feed grains that go along with that; graperies and the wine industry from those; dairies and all of the products that come from them – cheese, ice cream, etc.; equine activities, and all related industries and spinoffs from it -- the current Pimlico Race Track redevelopment is important to the promotion of horse racing and breeding.

In addition, Mr. Atticks is keeping in touch with other agriculture departments across the country via conferences which he attends, where there is networking and trading of policy ideas.

On Saturday, the last day of the Fall conference, we began with a round-table discussion among about 20 of our attendees, to learn more about our mill sites, work, trades, and other exchanges of ideas. We discussed continuing with Miller Training at future conferences. Both SPOOM and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter have noticed the decline in millwrights in the U.S., as some have aged out and / or retired, in the recent decade. There is some movement in the education field to provide training to college-aged students in the subjects of historic trades – such as carpentry, masonry, metalworking, glass, etc. to provide the next generation of workers and keep those trades alive. Because millwrighting needs a combination



of those skills, this may be an opportunity for SPOOM and SPOOM M-A to advocate for including millwrighting in those trade schools, in the future. Coincidentally, Preservation Maryland, a state-wide non-profit, is active in coordinating historic trades training across the country.

This training can begin with something as simple as teaching mechanical principles of physics to elementary school students, as we older people remember. Toward that end, Union Mills has a display made by a volunteer which shows the operation of simple machines such as pulleys, levers, an auger screw and gears on a display table in the mill used when school groups visit.

Later we had tables outside the mill with displays of some mill-related mechanical items, mill brochures and past issues of the Old Mill News, the national SPOOM quarterly magazine. Union Mills board members encouraged mill historic sites to send their rack cards to Unions Mills Homestead for distribution to their visitors.

Thanks to everyone who attended this special Fall meeting and 20th anniversary event. If you could not attend, we hope to see you next time! To SPOOM Mid-Atlantic board and all of our members - I wish the best of success in the next 20 years, though I may not be there!

Daniel T. Campbell

—Dan Campbell



Millers and apprentices from nine different local mills attend a miller training at Union Mills.

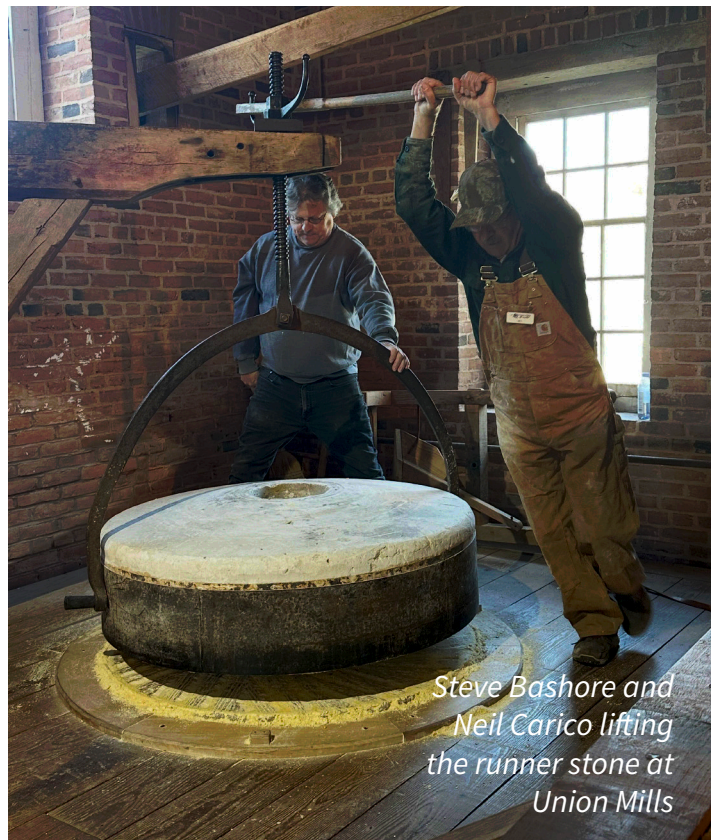
Steve Bashore Leads Miller Training

On Thursday, October 9, fifteen enthusiastic millers—representing nine different Mid-Atlantic mills—attended an all-day training at Union Mills Homestead. The training was led by Steve Bashore, an independent consultant and former long-time miller at George Washington’s Gristmill at Mount Vernon.

Steve began the training with a fascinating slide presentation on the history of milling and the evolution of waterwheels and gearing. Then the group worked together to grease the gears and operate the mill alongside Union Mill’s new miller, Neil Carico. After milling, Steve and Neil demonstrated safe procedures for lifting the runner stone for cleaning.

By bringing together millers from different mills, this hands-on training provided opportunities to share knowledge and learn how other mills work. SPOOM-MA hopes to offer similar trainings in the future!

— Angela Kramer



Steve Bashore and Neil Carico lifting the runner stone at Union Mills



*Roop's Mill and
homestead
(inset).*

Fall 2025 Meeting Recap

BIG PIPE CREEK WATERSHED AND MILLS

Our Friday bus trip began with a scenic drive showcasing the rich mill history of Carroll County's Big Pipe Creek watershed. Big Pipe Creek flows into Little Pipe Creek to form Double Pipe Creek, which then drains into the Monocacy River and the Chesapeake Bay. The creek's power was used for grist mills, sawmills, and tanneries, forming the basis of settlements like Union Mills. Later, the area's level ground along the creek, combined with the existing businesses, was key to attracting railroads, leading to the development of villages like Alesia. Stops at Arters Mill and Roops Mill allowed us to view the exterior and peek through the windows at the unrestored remnants of their former glory.

The historic Roop's Mill and homestead in Westminster, MD trace their roots all the way back to 1795. The original mill of log construction would be short-lived, with its useful life being cut short after a devastating fire. Rising from the ashes, a new mill of brick and stone was soon constructed upon the foundation of the original mill in 1816. The new mill was affixed with an overshot water wheel, with which the waters of the Meadow Branch Creek drove the stones that processed the grain. The milling process operated in the traditional Oliver Evans fashion, utilizing the principles of gravity in a top-down processing manner. As time went by and technology improved, the mill was upgraded to a turbine, replacing the overshot wheel. An electric generator



was installed in 1914 by John Roop to provide power for lighting and to operate various types of machinery on the farm, a first in the county. The mill remained in continuous operation until coming to a stop in 1919. New owners have taken up residence and have ambitious plans to repair the mill, which has suffered from neglect over time.

Roop's Mill, like many mills, was a machine of many uses. Across its many years of useful service, the mill operated as a cider mill, a vertically reciprocating sawmill, and most notably as a grist mill for the local community. The property features a unique pedestrian bridge that spans the small waterway and once provided access to the farm and mill, saving time and increasing access in times of high water.

The group enjoyed their visit to this curious yet architecturally pleasing homestead and mill. With plenty of sights to see and a buzz of curiosity in the air about the new owners' ambitious renovation plans, a good time was had by all.

Though the millstones have stopped turning long ago, the Arters Mill stands with a quiet dignity in the countryside of Westminster, Maryland. Though information on old mills can be difficult to come by, some information is known about the history of this mill. Reviewing historical records, the site of the present mill was owned and operated by F. Groff, as appearing on Charles Varle's map of the area. As time and ownership went by, this site came to be known as the Old Graves Mill. At some point, the mill had caught fire and was rebuilt around 1776 by "two Tories named Groff" who had been driven out of Philadelphia. (Loyalists, also referred to as Tories, Royalists, or King's Men, were colonists in the Thirteen Colonies of British America who remained loyal to the British crown.) Chiseled in the stone of the foundation remains the initials "ELB.G and I. Groff 1781" as a vestige to the old mills past, upon which a new mill was constructed. Though I am unable to pinpoint the timeframe of the more commonly known ownership by the Arters', G. Dodrer's is shown on the 1862 Martenet county map, claim-

ing ownership. The final listed owner is recorded as Jonathan H. Herwood, inheriting the mill. The mill was noted as being closed, but in good repair at this time.

The intent of the current owners of both Roops and Arters Mills is to rescue the mills from certain demise until a creative and viable restoration or repurpose is identified and implemented.

— Matt Pyle



SHRIVER HOMESTEAD AT UNION MILLS, MD

It was fitting that Mid-Atlantic SPOOM would commemorate their 20th anniversary at the Union Mills Homestead in Union Mills, Maryland, for that is where the Chapter was formed and held its inaugural members meeting in May, 2005. After Thursday evening's anniversary banquet at the Park's tannery building, our busload of attendees returned on Friday for an in-depth tour of the Shriver grist mill and Shriver family homestead, and were greeted by board members and other volunteers of the Union Mills Homestead, who hosted us for this conference. Although the Mid-Atlantic Chapter has enjoyed Union Mills as a conference site several times over its 20-year history, the story never gets old because it is so rich and well preserved.

Nestled in the rolling hills of Carroll County, Maryland, the Union Mills Homestead offers a unique glimpse into two centuries of American rural life through the story of one remarkable family - the Shrivers. In January 1797, when George Wash-

ington was still our President, brothers Andrew and David Shriver Jr. contracted to build a 4-room house and a series of mills alongside the Hanover Road (now Route 97). This road later became one of the nation's first turnpikes, passing directly between the mill and the millers house, and business boomed. It began as a dual enterprise, combining a large, fully-automated grist mill and sawmill with a family homestead. Over the years, the family managed several thriving businesses at this site, including the grist mill and sawmill, a tannery that still stands, and a cannery, blacksmith shop, and coopers shop. Our visit on this day focused on the grist mill and residence.

Touring the site is an immersive experience. Kyle Dalton, Executive Director of the Union Mills Homestead Foundation, and Sam Riley, a board member, led us on interpretive tours of the grist mill building and the homestead residence, explaining their history and answering questions.



Sam Riley giving a tour



Shriver Mansion front porch

A stop at the gift shop, located in the original miller's house, provided more resources for information.

The award-winning Shriver grist mill is restored and functional, allowing visitors to witness an Oliver Evans design in action, demonstrating the water-powered mechanics that were essential to early American industry. Although many mills once existed along the Pipe Creek watershed, the Shriver mill is the only functioning mill remaining. The original water wheel built in 1797 was replaced in 1848 with turbines. In 1882 the mill was upgraded with roller mills. During the 1900s it experienced a decline in flour production, as all mills did, and operations ceased when the rear wall collapsed in 1942. Much of the metal was then scrapped for the war effort, and the building was in decay until the 1970s.

Equally compelling is the Shriver Homestead, a

rambling, 23-room mansion that evolved from the original 1797 four-room double house. Several additions were made to the original home, as (6) Shriver generations inhabited the home from 1797 until the 1960s. In its heyday, it was surrounded by gardens and orchards. What sets this historic building apart is the staggering collection of original artifacts. Unlike many historic homes, the furniture, décor, and possessions are genuinely those of the six generations of Shrivvers who lived there.

In 1964, the Shriver descendants then owning both the mill and the house established the Union Mills Homestead Foundation. Ownership of the property was then transferred to Carroll County, who leased it back to the Foundation for operation as a historical site with a museum for public use. That arrangement continues to this day. In the 1970s, the mill was stabilized with a new wall, roof and repairs, thanks to a grant from the US

Department of Housing & Urban Development. Grants do matter for historic preservation! In 1982, restoration was made to the flume, water wheel and gearing, thanks to Derek Ogden, an English engineer and millwright, using original designs. The water wheel, of course, wears out over time. However, it was replaced this year by a replica that was constructed with white oak, using the same type of hand tools used in the construction of the original wheel in 1797.

The Homestead's history is especially rich during the Civil War. Sitting along a major route of the time, it witnessed the passing of both Confederate and Union forces just days before the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. In a famous moment of divided loyalty between North and South, family members loyal to the southern cause hosted Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart and his officers for one night, only for Union General James Barnes to be hosted there the very next day by the other side of the family loyal to the northern cause.

Today the Union Mills Homestead serves as a historic teaching tool for school groups and public tours, including an active demonstration of the production of stone-ground grain products. The guides are to be commended for bringing the family's stories to life, from their roles as influential community and political leaders to their everyday life and business dealings. A visit to Union Mills Homestead is more than a history lesson; it's a journey into the past, preserved with extraordinary care.

— *Larry Sutton*

RISE AND FALL OF UNION MILLS

The union of the grist mill and a saw mill by the two brothers, Andrew Shriver and David Shriver, Jr inspired the name "Union Mills." The large, four-story grist mill, built with bricks made on the site, replaced an earlier log mill at the same location. The 1797 mill is among the earliest documented mills in Carroll County based on the automated system patented by Oliver Evans in Maryland in 1787 and at the US Patent Office in 1790. The Shriver brothers were using the most modern flour milling technology of the time.



*Hopper full of corn at
Union Mills*



*The new water wheel
at Union Mills*



The property purchased by the brothers for the enterprise is located seven miles north of Westminster, Maryland, along Big Pipe Creek. The creek furnished a strong flow of water for a mill in the wide valley, and gentle slopes on either side provided land for grazing, farming, and settlement. Abundant groves of oak supplied bark for the tanning of leather and wood for lumber. In addition to the mills and tannery, the site included a variety of supporting trades, including a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright business, and a cooper's shop for barrel-making.

David Shriver relinquished his share of Union Mills in 1803 when he was appointed superintendent for the construction of the Baltimore-Reisterstown Turnpike that passed through the Union Mills property. At that time, Baltimore was the leading flour market in the United States. Andrew Shriver continued the business and grew the family's enterprises that included a dry goods store, a tavern and inn, as well as the family farm. Andrew Shriver also was appointed the local postmaster.

Later, Shriver's grandson, B.F. Shriver, founded a cannery at the site.

Like most mills, the building has gone through many ups and downs. The wooden water wheels were replaced with turbines in 1848, and roller mills were added in 1882. The rear wall collapsed in 1942 and mill operations ceased. The Union Mills Homestead Foundation was created in 1964 and the mill was stabilized in 1970s. In 1982, millwright Derek Ogden completed the restoration of the grist mill, the flume, waterwheel, and gearing—bringing the mill full-circle to the early 1800s era. The Shriver Grist Mill at Union Mills is the last functioning grist mill along Big Pipe Creek, and the Foundation has continued to restore and reconstruct the historic complex.

The bridge at Union Mills, built in 1879 to carry Old Hanover Road over Big Pipe Creek, is a unique example of the restoration process. Robert M. Vogel, noted curator from the Smithsonian Institution, documented the bridge in 1968 - urging preservation. In the 1980s, the bridge was relocat-



*Pony truss bridge
at Union Mills*

ed a few hundred yards from the original setting to its present site for use as a footbridge. According to historicbridges.org, it is an exceedingly rare example structure associated with famous civil engineer Wendel Bollman. Noted for its cast iron elements, the 3-panel, pin-connected, queen post bridge is called pony truss because the structure is not tall enough to have overhead cross-bracing, unlike a through truss bridge.

— Adam Sieminski

WELLERS MILL

After lunch on Friday, we boarded the bus and made our way toward Union Bridge, MD. Weller's Mill was built in 1853 along Roop Branch of Little Pipe Creek on the site of an earlier mill built c.1750 by John Winter that included a saw mill. In 1833, William Engleman purchased the property and built the current mill in 1853.



*Exterior
Wellers Mill*

According to the Maryland State Archives, the 1880 Census of Manufactures reported that Engleman's original wooden overshot water wheel was three feet wide and took advantage of a 24-foot fall generating 8 hp at 10 rpm. The mill race is over a mile long and was said to be dangerous to clean because of the snakes! Annual output was rated at 160 barrels of flour, 18 tons of meal, and 36 tons of feed. George Waltz bought the mill in the 1890s and replaced the wooden wheel with a 60-bucket steel wheel. Joseph H. Weller purchased the property in 1925 from Waltz. The current owners are Krista and Alexandra Towns.

A book published in 1947 (Maryland and Pennsylvania Historical Sketches) asserts that during Engleman's time, the saw on the property ascended and descended very slowly and was dubbed by the less patient customers an "up-today-and-down-tomorrow saw." Sketches also notes that Waltz won a silver medal at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 for hominy made by a process of his own invention – and a corn-beating machine with rotating blades to remove the outer covering is still situated in the mill. The mill was listed in



*Interior
Wellers Mill*

1970 with production of cornmeal, hominy, and scratch grains (a mixture of whole or cracked grains, like corn, wheat, and oats, that are fed to adult poultry as a treat to encourage their natural foraging and pecking instincts).

J. H. Weller & Co. was a sales outlet for Wirthmore Feeds. Multiple phases of operation are still visible at the mill including 20th century electrical-powered machinery. A dominant feature of the second and third floors is a Sprout-Waldron vertical mixer that was used to blend ingredients for various applications, most notably for creating animal feed by swirling dry ingredients like grains and hay with liquids such as molasses, oils, and water. The property also features an old cannery.

The Maryland State Archives note the significant canning business in Westminster MD that was owned by the B. F. Shriver Company. The Carroll County Historical Society records show that the Shriver's company grew from a small plant in Westminster with 20 workers to five plants in Carroll County and Littlestown, PA employing 650 workers with an annual output averaging 350,000 cases of canned vegetables which were distributed through the eastern and southern U.S. SPOOM members who are very familiar with the fire dangers of flour mills will appreciate the article published in Central Maryland News, November 25, 1965, reporting that "the Renahan Cannery on Rt. 32, a seasonal business with 200 employees, was burned following a boiler explosion. The works had produced cooked sliced apples and apple butter."

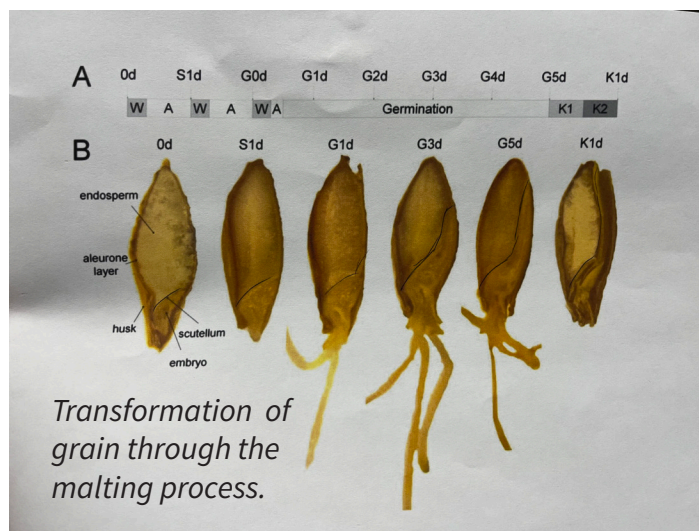
— Adam Sieminski

BEAR BRANCH MALTING AND PUB DOG BREWERY

Towards the end of our day of touring local mills and industry the group traveled to Bear Branch Malting, a craft malthouse on a fourth-generation family farm in Carroll County. The facility sources grains locally—primarily barley and rye—and transforms them into brewing malt through a carefully controlled process that bridges agriculture and fermentation science. By preserving traditional malting techniques while integrating modern technology, Bear Branch plays a key role in sustaining Maryland's historic grain industry,

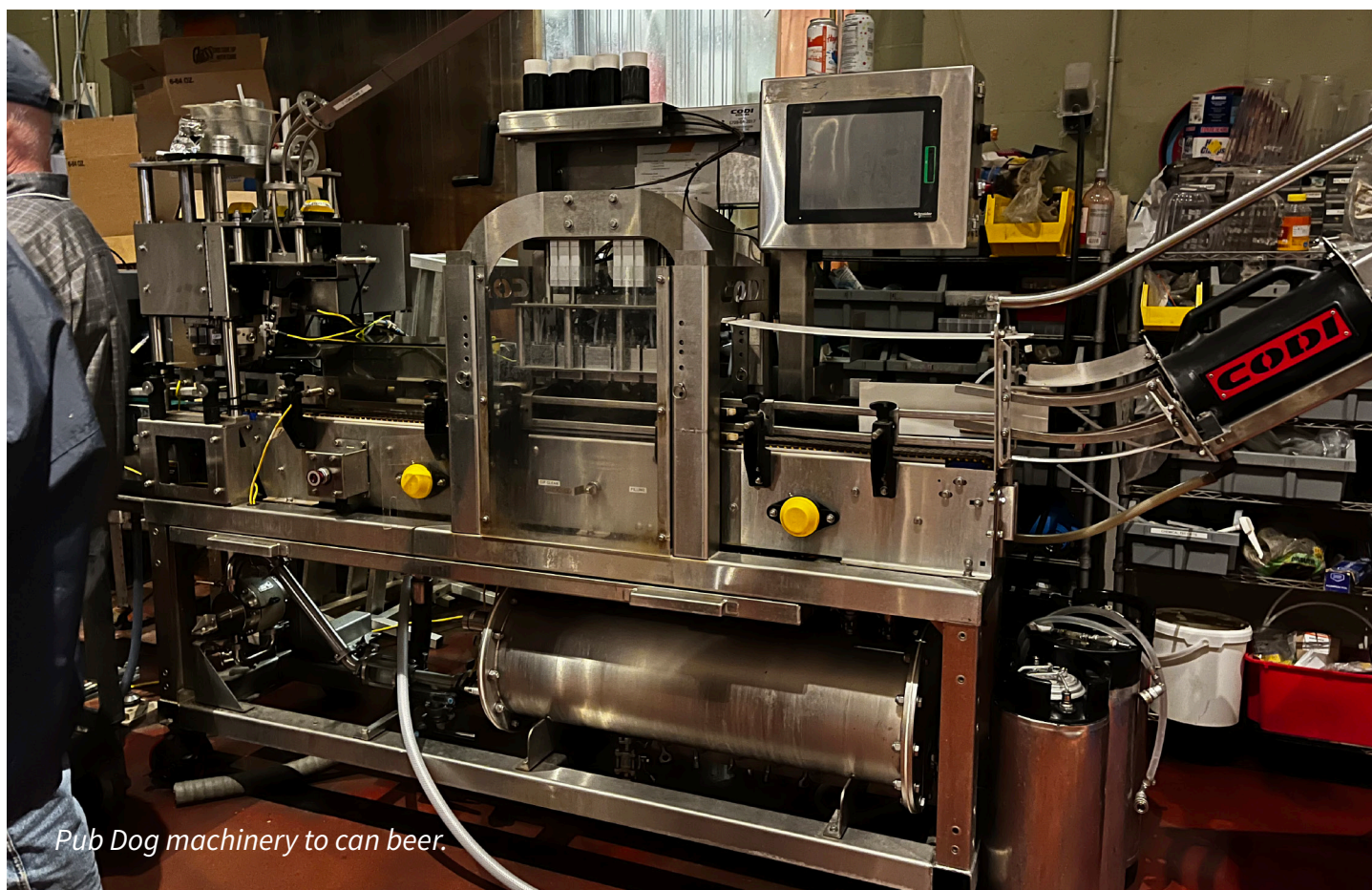


Brad Humbert explains the shipping process.



ensuring that these skills and processes continue to support local agriculture and craft brewing.

Historically, malting began as a way to preserve excess grain harvests. By germinating and drying grain, farmers extended its shelf life and created a more stable ingredient for food and drink. Today, that same process—steeping, germination, and kilning—remains central to brewing.



Pub Dog machinery to can beer.

At Bear Branch, grain is soaked to initiate germination, then transferred to a temperature- and humidity-controlled Saladin box, where enzymes activate and begin converting starches into sugars. Our host and owner, Brad Humbert, described to us how he monitors progress using temperature checks, moisture readings, and the smear test—a simple method of pressing a kernel to assess starch breakdown. Once the target modification is achieved, the grain is kilned to halt growth and develop flavor and color.

Brad, who has a background in farming, engineering and brewing, described his equipment as “full Frankenstein”—a creative blend of high-technology and repurposed parts, engineered in-house to meet the needs of a small-scale, farm-based operation.

The visit brought to life the message shared earlier in the conference by Kevin Atticks, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, who emphasized vertical integration as key to agricultural success. His remarks—“corn into moonshine, rye into whiskey, grapes into wine”—perfectly illustrated what

Bear Branch achieves in practice: adding value through local processing and creative, small-scale production.

Atticks noted that agriculture remains Maryland’s largest land use, with over two million acres in production, and that new farmers are showing renewed interest statewide. His “back to basics” message underscored how innovation and diversification can strengthen family farms, local economies and preserve industry knowledge.

Our visit to Bear Branch made that vision tangible—showing how Maryland’s farmers and maltsters are building a sustainable, regionally rooted supply chain for craft beer.

Following Bear Branch, we visited Pub Dog Brewing in Westminster for a behind-the-scenes look at their brewery operations. The tour, led by George Humbert, the brewmaster, highlighted mashing, fermentation, and packaging, showing how malted grains are transformed into finished beer. George talked with real enthusiasm about experimenting with Monocacy hops—a hop va-

riety recently confirmed as native to Maryland—and it was clear how much he enjoys the challenge of balancing consistency and innovation. He walked us through his approach to recipe development and yeast management, giving us a glimpse into how much craft and care go into each beer.

This second tour reinforced the connections between local agriculture, malt production, and craft brewing. Together, the visits demonstrated the full journey from field, to mill, to brewery, to table, highlighting the importance of supporting and preserving all of the steps in the micro-brewing industry as a vital part of Maryland's agricultural heritage. By keeping these traditional processes alive, Bear Branch and Pub Dog exemplify how local craftsmanship sustains both community and industry.

— Lisa Reed

Grain Sack Collection

My paper sack collecting started in the 1970's. I would find them in antique shops and at flea markets and Bonnie would surprise me with some at Christmas and birthdays. Over the years some have decorated our house walls and the rest were stored in the attic. Just prior to the 2015 SPOOM event in Union County PA, Bonnie and I took a course from a Lewisburg historian called The Mills Of Union County. This caused me to organize and document the bags that I had, probably about 100 at that time.

Since then, my collection has expanded, in part due to eBay. Currently I have about 500 different bags: about 450 bags relating to flour and corn meal and about 50 relating to animal feed, coffee, tea, potatoes, salt, ice cream, agricultural implement parts and other miscellaneous products. The bags range in age from the early 1900's to present day. Many of the older ones were used and the later ones never used. The older ones are sized based on a portion of the weight of a barrel, like 24 1/2 pounds. Many of the newer sacks that were actually used for retail sale of mill products have a year that the bags were produced stamped on them.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The main item of business for the 32 members attending October 10's noon meeting was to elect the officers. Angela Kramer as Vice President (2026), Judy Grove as Treasurer (2027), and Charles Yeske and Tony Shahan as Directors (2027) were unanimously approved. The position of secretary remains vacant. The following persons continue in their positions: Dan Campbell, President (2026), Steve Childers and Matt Pyle, Board Members (2026), and Robert McLaughlin, Past President.

Tentative plans are underway for the Spring 2026 Meeting to be held in Union County PA the Fall 2026 Meeting at Sunrise Mill, Schwenksville PA. Full minutes of this membership meeting and the October Board Meeting will be posted on our website. (Roow)

— Judy Grove



*There's more than grain sacks in
Galen Ingram's collection*

This is the third SPOOM event that I have displayed sacks, the 2015 Union County event, the 2024 Penns Cave event and the 2025 Union Mills event. I enjoy showing them and offer to set up at any indoor facility that has space.

— Galen Ingram



20th Anniversary Banquet at Union Mills

The Beginnings of SPOOM Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SPOOM traces its beginning to a May 14, 2005 planning meeting at The Shriver Homestead at Union Mills. Sixteen supporters of mill education and preservation gathered to formalize prior discussions among national SPOOM members in this area who recognized the value of a regional chapter to expand the impact of the national group to a larger audience. The Charter Members at this meeting were Chuck Ives and Susan Langley (MD historians); Ivan and Marlene Lufriu, Jane and Bob Sewell, Chris Gillis, and Dick Peeling (Union Mills, MD); Richard Abbott (Peirce Mill, D.C.), Tom Brant (Wallace Cross Mill, York PA), Jeff Donat (White Hall Historical Society, PA), Bob and Marge Lundegard (Colvin Run Mill, Great Falls VA), Steve Spring (Mill Photographer), Karen Peterson (Elkton MD), and Arthur Neuman (Tacoma Park MD).

Chapter goals, description of duties for officers and board members, plans for two meetings and two newsletters a year, membership dues (\$10 or \$15), and a proposal for a chapter website resulted. Chuck Ives was nominated as President, Bob Lundegard as Vice President, and Jane Sewell as Secretary/Treasurer.

This proposal was approved by national SPOOM in late June. A Chapter meeting was held September 11 following the SPOOM 2005 conference at Union Mills to confirm elections and other details. Twenty years later we gratefully affirm the wisdom and foresight of those who envisioned the expanded impact of a regional chapter that now encompasses Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C.

— Judy Grove

The Future of SPOOM Mid-Atlantic



Much of what resulted from the founding of our chapter remains the same. Although we are now officially an affiliate, rather than a chapter, we continue to support and expand the work of the national SPOOM group. We advocate for preservation and education of mills and milling through our semiannual meetings and newsletters, website resources, networking opportunities, and provision of technical advice. (And our basic membership prices are still \$10 and \$15!)

New ideas have merged through the twenty years of our existence. One of my favorites is the addition of an optional Thursday night Meet and Greet gathering which grew out of our August 18, 2012 Fall Meeting at Double Mills in Mardela Springs, DE. Our members were treated to a delicious, covered dish picnic, including homemade chicken corn soup from a large iron kettle. We decided that the fellowship and connections experienced there bore repeating so this tradition was begun.

Traditionally, business meetings have been held on Saturday, but at our Fall 2024 meeting at Lockes Mill in Berryville VA, a member suggested these be moved on Fridays since more members attend that day. At the same meeting, the seeds were planted for a Saturday Open House Event to reach a larger audience by inviting the general public. This meeting at Union Mills was a small start in that direction. In addition to information about SPOOM and SPOOM MA, a few mills provided

displays and artifacts from their mills. The “Guess what it is?” items attracted interest, especially the gudgeon-like clamp Photo for a waterwheel axle which stumped some of the “mill experts” until Bill Dixon used his Early American Industries Association background to solve the mystery.

Most importantly, our secretary of agriculture banquet speaker and malt house and brewery hosts serve as a reminder to broaden our scope to include present and future applications of mills and milling while at the same time respecting and preserving the past.

— Judy Grove



Mystery Tool: The bit on each of the three legs is adjusted to securely clamp the end of a wooden water wheel shaft so the handle can be used for manual rotation while making repairs.

RooW (Resources on our Website)

Visit the Resource pages of www.spoommidatlantic.org for such treasures as the link to the Craft of the Miller Network and Tide Mill Institute under Mill Organizations, or Brooke Hunter's German industrial espionage report under Mill History. Most of our past newsletters, meeting highlights, and bylaws, minutes, and finance reports are found as

ribbons on the Chapter Activities page. Our membership and sponsor pages are important for our current and potential new ones. We have someone interested in managing our Photo Gallery, so stay tuned FMI. Otherwise, snoop around and be surprised.



Join us next time!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for the Preservation Of Old Mills

Please Print

Name: _____

Milling Connection: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

(Newsletters are emailed and posted on our web site when possible to save postage.)

Subscription ☐ New ☐ Renewal

***Current members should wait for a
personal notice of renewal in December.*

Please Check One:

☐ Individual, Member of SPOOM - \$10.00 ☐ Individual, Not Member of SPOOM - \$15.00

☐ Sustaining Membership - \$25.00 ☐ Organization Membership - \$50.00

Please indicate level of membership and mail this form with your check or money order to **Membership Manager, 613 Green Valley Road, York PA 17403. Please make your checks out to SPOOM Mid-Atlantic.** Online membership payment is available through the membership page of our website www.spoommidatlantic.org as well. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is a member in good standing of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and serves MD, DE, PA, VA, and DC.

Unsure of your membership status? Contact spoommidatlantic@gmail.com or 717-741-4366.

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**Membership Manager
Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SPOOM
613 Green Valley Road,
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