

# TrueGrist

NEWS from the FRIENDS of PEIRCE MILL

## The Power of Water

Water Power Day Returns to Peirce Mill on Saturday, July 12

Visitors of all ages are invited down to Peirce Mill to cool off safely in the middle of a hot DC summer with a day of STEM exploration and water power fun!

At Water Power Day, visitors can see Peirce Mill in action, and learn how the water wheel dries the mill's wooden machinery. Kids can also grind corn by hand, experiment with water toys, learn about Archimedean

screws, and construct paper-plate water wheels. Cool off with a misting tent and fresh drinking water from DC Water. And talk with a National Park Service ranger about how you can help protect Rock Creek.

Enjoy free summer fun for all ages at Peirce Mill on **Saturday, July 12 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** (rain date: Sunday, July 13). 🌿



### Summer and Fall Milling Days

Watch a water-powered mechanical marvel turn corn into cornmeal! On milling days, Peirce Mill is open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Milling demonstrations are offered between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on the following Saturdays and Sundays:

June 14 and 15

July 12 and 13

August 2 and 3

September 6 and 7

October 4 and 5

October 18 and 19



The Friends of Peirce Mill, in partnership with the National Park Service and the wider community, works to preserve, restore, and interpret the last working gristmill in Washington, DC for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all generations.

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS

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# Seeking Board Applicants

## Help Keep Peirce Mill Running for Future Generations



Peirce Mill has been grinding grain beside Rock Creek since 1829. But the wheels at Washington's last working grist mill wouldn't keep turning without the support of our dedicated board members.

That support is even more important this year. As the National Park Service faces cuts to its budget and staffing, non-profit organization like the Friends of Peirce Mill are being asked to do more to preserve special places like Peirce Mill.

We're looking for prospective board members to help us keep this unique DC landmark running into its third century. We need folks

with a wide range of skills and backgrounds—no milling experience required!

To learn more, please contact Board President Adam Sieminski at [president@friendsofpeircemill.org](mailto:president@friendsofpeircemill.org). 🌿

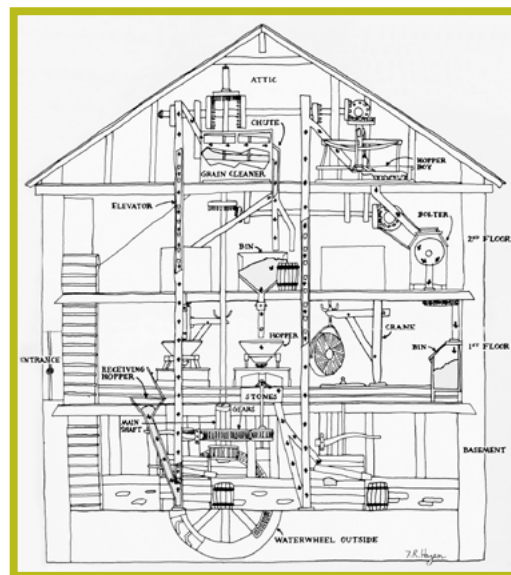
## Funding a Full-Time Miller

The Friends of Peirce Mill work closely with our partners in the National Park Service to maintain and operate the mill's wooden machinery. In March, we trained a new team of rangers and volunteers to run the mill.

But the mill is a complex machine that requires constant maintenance. In the long run, Peirce Mill needs a full-time miller. But the miller wouldn't just care for the building and its machinery. Hiring a miller would enable us to offer even more school and public programming at Peirce Mill.

With that goal in mind, the Friends recently used a capacity-building grant from the National Park Foundation to develop plans to fund a miller position at Peirce Mill. Working with consultants from the Potrero Group, we researched NPS policies and discussed possible funding strategies with park leadership. We also interviewed folks from other mills and historic sites — and learned how they fund operations.

If you'd like to learn more about the work the Friends are doing to fund a miller position, reach out to Executive Director Angela Kramer at [angela@friendsofpeircemill.org](mailto:angela@friendsofpeircemill.org). 🌿





# Bringing Back the Tea House

In March, the Friends of Peirce Mill and Rock Creek Park celebrated Women's History Month by re-creating the Peirce Mill Tea House. From about 1905 to 1934, the old stone building beside Rock Creek was used as a tea house. Back then, tea houses and tea rooms were fashionable gathering places, especially for women. They also provided business opportunities for women at a time of limited career options.

The Peirce Mill Tea House Celebration on March 29 told the stories of the female entrepreneurs who managed the tea house in the early 20th century. The Friends produced a fun, educational booklet for young visitors, and played a short film about Hattie Sewell, a Black woman who lost a contract to operate the Peirce Mill Tea House after a prominent neighbor's racist complaints. 🌿



## Preserving Rock Creek Park's Botanical History

Earlier this year, Friends of Peirce Mill Board Member and Orchardist Tim Makepeace and Rock Creek Park Botanist Ana Chuquin harvested new growths — or scions — from a very old pear tree in Rock Creek Park. This pear tree is a surviving reminder of the orchards that once flourished near Peirce Mill. Tim grafted the scions onto root stock, and we're hoping to keep part of this unusual pear tree growing. 🌿

*Free public programs at Peirce Mill are supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities*



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

# Summer Square Dance on Saturday, August 23

Dance the night away under twinkling lights in the mill yard. All are welcome at this free event — no dancing experience needed. The DC Square Dance Collective will bring a caller to guide us and a band to keep everyone’s toes tapping! 🍷

# Mid-Atlantic Grain Fair on Saturday, October 18



Learn about local grains at Washington’s last working grist mill! Organized by the Friends of Peirce Mill and the Common Grain Alliance, the Grain Fair brings farmers, millers, and bakers from across the region to Rock Creek Park. 🍷



## FRIENDS of PEIRCE MILL

**Let’s keep Peirce Mill running into its third century!**  
Friends of Peirce Mill members support mill maintenance and operations, and free public programs in Rock Creek Park.

- ☐ Student \$25
- ☐ Individual \$40
- ☐ Family \$100
- ☐ Apprentice Miller \$250
- ☐ Miller \$500
- ☐ Millwright \$1000
- ☐ Other donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (please print clearly)

ADDRESS

CITYSTATEZIP

PHONEEMAIL

Make checks payable to Friends of Peirce Mill, mail to 2039 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Apt. 103, Washington, DC 20009. For more information, email [angela@friendsofpeircemill.org](mailto:angela@friendsofpeircemill.org), or visit [friendsofpeircemill.org](http://friendsofpeircemill.org).

*The Friends of Peirce Mill, Inc. is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.*

