

# Grist from Chase's Mill

April 2021



The meeting room upstairs at Chase's Mill will welcome visitors this Summer!

***“Spring is the time of plans and projects.” – Leo Tolstoy***

## Dear Friends,

Like the daffodils springing forth at our feet, the Mill is starting to come alive again. We've got a slate of in-person programs, a new infusion of funding, fresh faces on our Board, and much more ahead in 2021.



## Programs

*February: “Winter Then and Now.”* On Groundhog Day (once known as Candlemas), we continued our online “A Sense of Place” series with a slideshow of photos of Mill Hollow taken in Winter over the years. Hosted by author, historian, and Board Co-Chair Helen Frink, the program included a panel discussion and shared memories of how people once worked and played. You can watch the recording at our [website](#).

## Docent Training Continues

In February, Chase's Mill began its first series of docent trainings. Docents are volunteer guides who will provide group learning experiences through Mill tours, demonstrations, or instruction. Our 12 trainees have been attending Zoom classes about water power led by Bob Brown, mill models and hosting with Juliana Stevens, and cultural history with Margaret Chase Perry. In May, they will receive additional on-site training. Interested in becoming a docent? Contact [info@millhollowheritageassociation.org](mailto:info@millhollowheritageassociation.org).

## Upcoming: Live Classes & Workshops!

This summer, Chase's Mill will begin our series of in-person classes and workshops at the Mill. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to learn new skills, refine old ones, or take a stroll through local history.

## *On-site programs*

Courses begin the week of July 1 and run through

September 13. Instructors live in or near Mill Hollow and look forward to sharing their practical knowledge and fond connections to the Mill. Here is just a sampling.

*July:*

- Mill Hollow History with Margaret Chase Perry (also September)
- Fix-It Repair Shop – learn to repair wood furniture with Berny Cooper
- Pencil Drawing – a series of 4 weekly classes with Ellen Chase
- Spinning: Learn to spin wool with Kathy Torrey



*August:*

- Hand Wood Carving – beginning course in bas relief with Grant Taylor
- Timber Framing: Two-day Workshop with Jim Gruber, Tom Page, and Chris Madigan
- Basic Watercolor with Donna Bascom

*September:*

- Woodworking for Adults: Historic 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Wooden Totes with Jason Breen

All summer long: Water Power Tours – Saturdays and Sundays with Bob Brown and docents

Be sure to join us on May 18 for a virtual program about this summer's course offerings. Registration begins June 1—**check your inbox for a special mailing on how to register!**

For a full list and details of each program, keep an eye on [the Events section of our website](#)

## A Warm Welcome and a Fond Farewell

The Mill Hollow Heritage Association has named four new members to its Board of Directors. They will serve three-year terms. We are thrilled to add Ann, Jonathan, Kathy, and Richard to our Board. Their experience and skills will be key to our success as we launch new events and educational programs.



**Ann Acheson** holds a B.S. in Psychology from Rutgers University and began her 28-year career in the healing arts working with developmentally disabled children and adults. Recently retired as a massage therapist, she brought wellness to

local communities by offering both private clinical massage sessions and classes promoting self-care. These included Jin Shin Jyutsu as well as Coming Into Your Own™ Leadership Retreats for Women. Ann resides in the Mill Hollow neighborhood with her husband, Rees.



**Jonathan Botkin** is a New England native living in California. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley and is a licensed Professional Engineer with 30 years' experience working in renewable energy. Jonathan has held many management

positions and currently works as Vice President of Engineering at a solar start-up. He holds 15 patents for his solar-energy inventions. The grandson of Heman and Edith Chase, Jonathan has a lifelong connection to the Mill.



**Katharine Torrey** is a longtime Alstead resident with a background in teaching, administration, and community organizing. She holds an M.A. in Education from Antioch University, was a co-founder and director of Mill Hollow's Orchard School, and directed the Child First

program at Southwestern Community Services in Keene. A dance caller, storyteller, craftsperson, and consultant in Arts in Early Education, Kathy's wide volunteer work includes serving on the board of the Surry Village Charter School.



**Richard N. Towne, Jr.** holds an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from UNH. Since 2016, he has served as Principal of Fall Mountain Regional High School in Langdon. Richard began his career in 1994 as an instructor in technology education at

Pittsfield High School. He has since held teaching and administrative positions in schools around the state, including Salem High, Spaulding High in Rochester, Pinkerton Academy in Derry, and Franklin High.

***In Memoriam: Dan Curll***



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing on April 5 of our longtime friend Dan Cull, a founder of the Mill Hollow Heritage Association and a member of its original Board of Directors. Dan contributed a tremendous amount to the organization and to the Mill Hollow community, and will be sorely missed. You can read a full tribute to his life by program leader and poet Ellen Chase by clicking Dan's photo at left.

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## Grants

In February, MHHA received a \$10,000 gift from the Bailey Charitable Foundation that will enable us to offer summer stipends to high schoolers to clear invasive plants from Lake Edith and from the Nature Path along Warren Brook, as well as to reduce vegetation that obscures views of Mill features.

With the aid of an education coordinator, students will then identify historic sites that surround Chase's Mill. These amateur archeologists will establish GPS coordinates for these sites and create a downloadable, printable map. A "Quest" program linking the mapped sites to artifacts now in the Mill's collection will lead visitors inside the building to discover firsthand how natural resources shaped New Hampshire industries and communities. It will also facilitate self-guided, digital tours that will allow people to enjoy Mill Hollow's history during the colder months. This pilot program will begin in late spring 2021.

## Construction and Site Improvement

The shed area at Chase's Mill (at right) now offers a ventilated, sheltered space for holding some of our upcoming workshops.

This handsome hemlock floor, leading to our brand-new ADA lift, was built recently by Bob Brown and Jim Gruber. Treasurer Mark Danahy donated sleepers, and Tina Woodell's Langdon sawmill gave us a discount on the rough-sawn planks. Thanks to all of them!



The ancient wagon wheels along the wall and the old table saw parts flanking the door evoke Mill Hollow history, while the lift (now pending state inspection) shows we're up-to-date and ready to welcome all.

## Get Involved!

Chase's Mill is hiring its first part-time staffer! We are accepting applications for a **Programs Manager**, who will work with Board members, volunteers, and interns to support a wide range of local and virtual programs and related activities at the historic Mill and abutting conservation property in East Alstead. The position begins June 1, 2021. Please check out [the announcement](#) on our website for more details.

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We are very excited to launch our first full season of programming and look forward to meeting old and new friends and neighbors— both at the Mill and online. Please come visit us soon: Chase's Mill will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10-12 starting May 1!

***If you would like to make a gift to Chase's Mill, you can do [soonline](#) or by mailing a check to: MHHA / SquareTail, 39 Simon Street, Unit 16, Nashua NH 03060.***

Best wishes,

**Helen Frink**, Co-Chair/Grants  
**Jim Gruber**, Co-Chair/Community Programming

**Ann Acheson**, Programs  
**Betsy Anderson**, Secretary & Governance  
**Dan Bartlett**, Architect, Building Team  
**Jonathan Botkin**, Programs

**Mark Danahy**, Treasurer  
**Jim Howard**, Collections Manager & Curating  
**Bryony Romer**, Fundraising  
**Katharine Torrey**  
**Richard N. Towne, Jr.**



The Mill Hollow Heritage Association (MHHA) operates Chase's Mill in Alstead, NH, as a workshop for hands-on learning and a community gathering space. Our water-powered mill embodies the history of small-town industry, celebrating New England's vibrant past while inspiring the future of sustainable power and rural technology.



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