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# The Gristmill Gazette

Jerusalem Mill Village  
Newsletter  
Spring 2022



2811 Jerusalem Rd., Kingsville, MD

[www.jerusalemill.org](http://www.jerusalemill.org)

410-877-3560

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## Scheduled Events

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Work Day, 9 AM to noon. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools, refreshments, and protective gear (if required). Please dress for indoor and outdoor work. There's no need to register in advance. Just show up Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! All volunteers are welcome and appreciated!

Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, - Jerusalem Mansion Antique Sale, 9 AM to 2 PM. Hundreds of antique and vintage items available, to include hand tools, toys, garden tools, home goods, cookware, dishes, books, hardware, small furniture, oil and electric lamps, picture frames and prints, etc.

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> –Spring Yard Sale, 8 AM to 2 PM. We'll have a wide variety of household goods, books, DVDs, tools, equipment, toys, hardware, supplies, furniture, etc. Nothing has been held over from the Fall yard sale! If you have any items to donate, call the Visitor Center at 410-877-3560 to arrange for drop-off, or simply bring the items on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please, no chemicals, food, towels or bedding. Most items in the yard sale will not be pre-priced. Take whatever you want, and make a cash donation in whatever amount you think is appropriate. Tables will be spread out across the ball field to accommodate social distancing. 100% of the proceeds go toward the maintenance, repair and daily operations of the Jerusalem Mill Village. Come help us make up for some of the lost revenue due to the pandemic.

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Work Day, 9 AM to noon. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools, refreshments, and protective gear (if required). Please dress for indoor and outdoor work. There's no need to register in advance. Just show up Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! All volunteers are welcome and appreciated!

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Private event in the bank barn. The general public is invited to visit other areas of the village.

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Private event in the picnic area between the blacksmith shop and the falls. The general public is invited to visit other areas of the village.

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – C.A.R.E. 5K walk/run. See the newsletter article on page 3.

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Work Day, 9 AM to noon. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools, refreshments, and

protective gear (if required). Please dress for indoor and outdoor work. There's no need to register in advance. Just show up Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! All volunteers are welcome and appreciated!

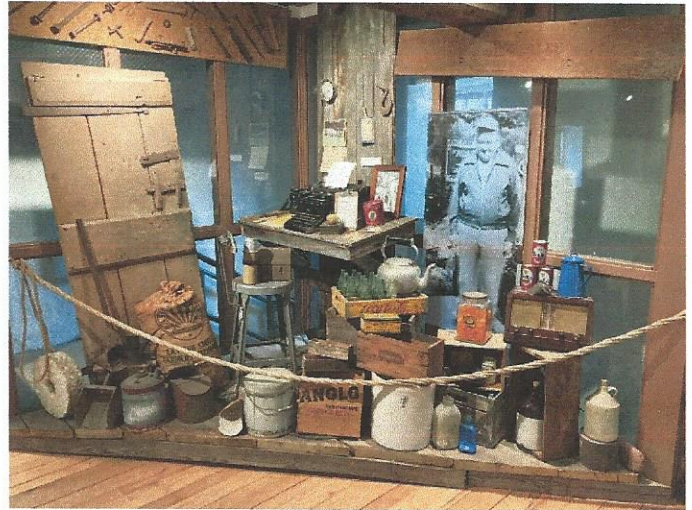
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**In the Spotlight:**



**Jerusalem Mill's Newest Exhibit**

We're pleased to announce a new exhibit in Jerusalem Mill Village, a tribute to James "Jack" Bridges, the last miller to operate the mill. Designed by the Visitor Center – Museum Director, Rebecca Weber, the exhibit displays a number of artifacts attributed to Jack's tenure as the miller from 1944 until his death in 1961. By the time Jack Bridges took over the mill, the milling operation had already transitioned from water wheels, to water-powered turbines, then to electric turbines, and ultimately to electric roller mills, making the wooden water wheels and the millstones obsolete. At the same time, more modern and more efficient mills were being built in the Midwest, and Jack's flour business had declined to milling local wheat only. In order to keep his business profitable, he was forced to diversity by adding a number of other products for sale, to include such things as soda, Gunther beer, candy, duck eggs, gasoline, cigars and cigarettes, animal feed, Ruberoid shingles and more.



Jack Bridges was born on May 28, 1906, and passed away on March 13, 1961. His funeral services were held at Lassahn Funeral Home, and he was interred at Mountain Christian Cemetery. A sturdy man who could carry a 100 lb. bag of flour under each arm, he was nevertheless light on his feet, making him popular with the ladies as a dance partner. A teller of stories and imbiber of beverages, he was driven to make the mill a social center to attract more than just milling patrons. The last private homeowner in the village, Dr. Phyllis Pullen, knew Mr. Bridges when she was an intern, and she has described him as a "jolly man". Jack was a "free enterprise" businessman who didn't bother purchasing the required liquor license, and was warned by the government to stop selling beer. Instead, he simply stopped advertising while continuing to sell it!

With animal feed, flour, candy and other tempting sources of food in the mill, mice and rats were understandably attracted to the building. Mr. Bridges found that even a dozen cats weren't aggressive enough to keep the rodents away, and he learned that ferrets were much more prolific. It was rather entertaining to the youth of the village when Jack would open the ferret cages in front of the mill and Jack and the children would watch the ferrets scurry into the building on their hunt!

Although most of the millers that succeeded the Lee family lived in the house on the other side of the driveway from the mill, the miller that immediately preceded Jack Bridges decided to retain the house and only sell the mill, the blacksmith shop and the little stone building behind the mill to Jack. Since blacksmithing was no longer practiced in the village, Mr. Bridges decided to convert the blacksmith shop into his home, partitioning it off into several rooms.

This new exhibit acknowledges Mr. Jack Bridges as the last miller, whose passing ended a stretch of nearly 200 years of milling in the Jerusalem Mill. When you come to the Visitor Center – Museum, you'll see a nearly life-size picture of him standing next to his actual desk that was located in the basement of the mill. You'll also see replicas of many of the items that he sold in the mill, and authentic stationary, feed tags, calendar, etc.

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## Spring Anniversaries

- 335 Years: on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1687, a 318-acre tract of land was surveyed for Nicholas Hemsted and John Walley and was patented as Jerusalem. The general store, often referred to as "McCourtney's Store" to honor the last owner-shopkeeper, sits on part of what was the original plat known as "Jerusalem". Although some mistakenly believe this tract included the area along the Little Gunpowder Falls where the grist mill would be built 90 years later, the mill was actually built on a smaller 286-acre tract of land that was patented as Bond's Water Mills. It was the tract known as Jerusalem that prompted the Lee family to name the village Jerusalem Mills (1840-1895), then simply Jerusalem (1895-1923). The grist mill was originally known simply as Lee's Mill, named after the builder and first miller.
- 160 Years: on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Ralph Sackett Lee died and David Lee (II) inherited "Jerusalem Mills". Ralph Sackett Lee was a Justice of the Peace in 1827, and is believed to have been the miller who introduced a silk-screening process that produced the finest "White Silk Flour". He was also one of the founders and Directors of the Harford Mutual Insurance Company (the Friends of Jerusalem Mill's current insurance agents), and later served as a County Commissioner. He made one of the most significant changes to the Jerusalem Mansion in the mid-1800s, joining what was originally two separate buildings into one. The only surviving original journal of mill sales was Ralph Sackett Lee's, and is on display in the Visitor Center – Museum.
- 135 Years: On April 16, 1887, Garrett Brown resigned as the Jerusalem Mills postmaster and was replaced by Adolph A. McCaslin a week later. Both men operated the General Store during their tenure as postmaster. Mr. Brown married his long-time sweetheart, Mary Boyd Jordan of Baltimore in 1910, when they were each 50 years old. According to the Sun newspaper, Mr. Brown campaigned to establish a law preventing the use of oyster shells as road material or as a component of lime, and instead mandating the return of oyster shells to their beds in the bay.<sup>1</sup> He was also apparently fond of writing letters to the editor of the Baltimore Sun on a variety of topics!

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## C.A.R.E. 5K Walk/Run

Join us on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, for the For C.A.R.E. 5 kilometer walk/run, starting in the Jerusalem Mill Village at 9 AM. The walk/run is sponsored by For Cancer Research and Education (For C.A.R.E.), in honor of Nicholas "Nick" Flowers who was diagnosed with melanoma at the age of 20 and sadly passed away at the age of 24 from the cancer on November 29, 2016. Nick was raised near Jerusalem Mill Village, in Perry Hall, and he had attended Gunpowder Elementary and Perry Hall Middle schools, and graduated from Eastern Tech and Stevenson University.

The Founder and President of For C.A.R.E. is Dr. Vadim Gushchin, Director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Center at Mercy Medical Center. Nick Flowers was one of his patients. One of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Baltimore Sun, March 12, 1891, page 4.

goals of the run/walk is to raise awareness of the potentially serious impact of melanoma as a result of overexposure to the sun. Funds raised at the event will be used to purchase sunscreen dispensers for local YMCA youth summer camps, to help protect the campers from overexposure to the sun. In addition to the run/walk, there will be a presentation for children, to educate them on the importance of using sunscreen. Light refreshments will be available after the run/walk. There will also be music performed by young musical artists who have attended sessions at Stages Music and Arts.

The run/walk was held at Jerusalem Mill in 2019, but the pandemic prevented For C.A.R.E. from repeating it in 2020 and 2021. Tickets are \$30 for participants over 18, and free for anyone younger. Preregistration is required, by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5k-melanoma-awareness-walkrun-tickets-275168134297>, where you can also purchase your tickets. Everyone registering will get a run/walk bib and be entered in a drawing for free sun care items that will be awarded at the concert.

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## Gardening Tips

by Mark McDonald

As Spring approaches, many of us begin to think about our gardens. Now is the time to plan. Unfortunately, many of us forget about unwanted visitors to our gardens: DEER! While cute, they can be very destructive. But with some planning and careful plant selection we can minimize the damage.

First, let's consider the plants and trees in our ornamental gardens that deer love to eat. Deer favorites include: hosta, daylilies, yews, American arborvitae, evergreen azalia, rhododendron, roses, Wintercreeper euonymus (poisonous to dogs!), tulips and cherry trees.

Generally speaking, deer do not like hairy or fuzzy plants, or plants with strong fragrance. There are several options to consider that are deer resistant shrubs and plants:

- Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) – can tolerate shade or sun; slow-spreading
- Hellebore (Lent/Christmas rose) – can be cut for display 2'-5'
- Daffodils – plant in Fall; varieties bloom March-May
- Red Twig Dogwood – fire engine to dark red branches
- Japanese Holly – alternative to boxwood
- Eastern Redbuds – Wikipedia reports "The flowers can be eaten fresh or fried."<sup>2</sup>; various shades (Forest Pansy, Rising Sun); likes sun; grows to 20'-30' in height.
- Coral Bells (*Heuchera*) – green, maroon, pink; snip off flowers
- Asters – purchase native plants; various colors and heights
- Ornamental Peppers – green, yellow, red
- American Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis Virginiana*) – yellow; fall-winter bloom; part shade; 15' to 30'
- Winterberry (*Ilex Verticillata*) – pale green leaf; sun, sun/part shade or shade; persistent red berries in winter, need 1 male for 7 females; 6' to 12'
- Sweet Pepperblush Summersweet (*Clethra, Alnifolia*) – yellow fragrant flowers; 6' to 12'
- Silky Dogwood (*Cornus Amomum*) – white flowers; Fall colors orange, red, purple leaves; blue fruit; 6' to 12'
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum Densiflorum*) – blooms in yellow flat clusters; 1.5' to 6'
- Sleep Laurel/Lamb Kill (*Kalmia Augustifolia*) – flowers white, pink, purple, red; evergreen; 2' to 3'

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cercis\\_canadensis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cercis_canadensis), accessed on 2/15/2022.

- Little Henry/Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea Virginica*) – flowers white in Spring; Fall red-purple leaves; 6' to 10'
- Spicebush (*Lindern Benzonia*) – flowers yellow; scarlet fruit; fall yellow leaves; 6.5' to 16'
- Steeplebush (*Spirea Tomentosa*) – flowers pink to purple; 3' to 6'
- Maple Leaf Arrowhead (*Viburnum Acerifolium*) – flowers creamy white; pink fruit; Fall orange, red, purple leaves; 3' to 6'



Even with proper plant selection, deer can still invade the garden. In this case, you may be able to discourage them by applying Milorganite or Bobbex. Milorganite is an organic fertilizer made in Milwaukee from treated human waste (deer don't like the smell). Apply Milorganite with a spreader around the outside of your garden or tree. Bobbex is a deer stationary repellent. You might also Google "Predator Pee" to purchase the urine of the predator of the animal you wish to repel, whether it be deer or some any other nuisance animal. "Predator Pee" also has urine to discourage ground hogs, rabbits or squirrels (like fox urine).

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## Summer Concert Series

The 2022 schedule for the Jerusalem Mill concerts by the falls has been set! Ticket prices will remain the same as they have for years, and will still cost only \$10 for members of Friends of Jerusalem Mill, active military with ID, children 12-15 years old, and children-at-heart who are more than 60 years old. Tickets for everyone else will still only cost \$15. Children under 12 years of age will not require a ticket, if they are accompanied by a paying adult. All of the concerts are held in the picnic area between the blacksmith shop and the Little Gunpowder Falls. The bands play from 6 PM to 8 PM (with breaks). Bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs. To join the Friends of Jerusalem Mill and get discount tickets, go to [jerusalemill.org/membership](http://jerusalemill.org/membership).

June 12<sup>th</sup> - The Melting Pot Big Band – The Melting Pot Big Band was a hit at their first appearance at Jerusalem Mill in 2021, so we've invited them back in 2022! The band is made up of a some of the area's finest players, all pulled from various other local bands in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington DC and Virginia.

June 19<sup>th</sup> – The Fabulous Hubcaps – Since 1974, The Fabulous Hubcaps have been bringing young and old alike a taste of the American Music Scene from the 50's through the 70's. The Hubcap's flair for capturing the true likeness of the original artist will amaze you. Their costumed impersonations of some of the greatest legends of Rock and Roll will take you on a musical journey you won't forget. The Hubcaps are high-energy personified and their shows have taken them all over the country from venues as diverse as The White House, national conventions, theatres, casinos, corporate events and many state fairs and festivals. They have been inducted into the Southern Legends Performing Arts Hall of Fame, the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame, and named the 2015 Vocal Group of the Year by the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame.<sup>3</sup>

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Charlie Zahm – One of the most popular soloists at Celtic music festivals, Maritime, and American Traditional music events anywhere east of the Mississippi. With a baritone voice some have described as "coming along once in a generation", Charlie has become one of the most successful performers on the Celtic festival circuit, weaving magical moments of Scottish and Irish history for the listener and viewer, with a passion for the performance and a chosen repertoire

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<sup>3</sup> [thehubcaps.com](http://thehubcaps.com)

pleasing to all members of the family. A master of guitar as well, Charlie brings an authentic love and respect for the music he sings – and with dashes of humor and a light in his eyes, he will draw you into the stories of his songs! Charlie also performs period North American music from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>4</sup>

July 24<sup>th</sup> – Appaloosa - Appaloosa has been entertaining fans for 50 years, with an original vision of a full vocal band and steady playing of songs, while pleasing the crowd with their party atmosphere. The band consists of a lead guitarist, bass guitarist, drummer (original member), lead vocalist, and keyboardist (original member). Appaloosa was inducted into the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2016. With a great song selection, tight vocal harmonies and crowd interaction, they will leave you wanting more. As their web site says, “Rockin’ Baltimore since 1971”.<sup>5</sup>



August 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Train Robbery – The Kings of Classic Rock. They have entertained audiences for over 35 years, with their classic smokey southern sound. The Baltimore-based outfit has released 8 albums and played well over 5,000 shows at night clubs, colleges, festivals, fairs, and corporate events. The band is proud to have shared the stage with many well-known acts such as The Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Foghat, Blue Oyster Cult, .38 Special, Marshall Tucker, BTO, Blackfoot, and many more.<sup>6</sup>

August 21<sup>st</sup> – Free Range Blue – A four-piece acoustic Americana band. Instrumentation includes guitar, mandolin, bass, banjo and bouzouki. With tight vocal harmonies and exceptional instrumentation, the band never fails to captivate their audience. The Free Range Blue repertoire includes folk, bluegrass, classic country, Celtic, jazz, blues and much more. They play classic tunes that you are sure to know, some obscure songs sure to become favorites, a selection of originals, and hot pickin’ instrumentals.<sup>7</sup>

In case of inclement weather, please check our web site for possible location change or cancellation. Any changes to this schedule due to weather will be posted on our FaceBook and Instagram pages, and of course will also appear in our July edition of this newsletter.



The concerts are made possible through donations from our sponsors and members, and a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.



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## Remembering the Sawmill

By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jerusalem Mill Village already had established itself as an early example of a growing industrial village. According to the National Register of Historic Places, by 1800 the village already had a gun shop, saw mill, and grist mill, and a blacksmith shop was under construction. The only one of those original buildings that does not exist today is the saw mill, although its original location is well known based on early photographs, an 1860s map, and a 1933 water engineering study. The engineering study described the saw mill as “a wooden shed 54’ x 25’, but noted the building was in “poor condition” and in 1933 “does not seem to be used to any extent”.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.charliezahn.com/About.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.appaloosaband.net/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.greattrainrobbery.com/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.freerangeblue.com/>

The report described the saw mill as having 1 log carriage and 1 circular saw, “both run by water wheel and belting”.<sup>8</sup> According to Ralph Sackett Lee’s journal of 1833-1837 (on display in the Visitor Center – Museum), lumber for the Jerusalem Covered bridge was cut in the saw mill in 1833. Although we don’t know exactly when the sawmill was razed, based on a photograph taken in 1942, provided by Donna May Plott, we know it was still in place at that time, although apparently abandoned. We also know it had been torn down by 1961 when the State purchased the property.

Although we currently have an interpretive panel at the location of the sawmill, we would like to more prominently mark its location and size. We had considered rebuilding the sawmill, but decided that was too ambitious for several reasons: 1) permits would be difficult to obtain, 2) it would block the view of the mill as cars are approaching from the west on Jerusalem Road, 3) it would be very expensive, and difficult to accomplish without a grant, which is rarely given for reconstruction, 4) the actual design would be notional, since we have no engineering drawings of the original building and there are no remnants remaining (it was made entirely of lumber). So instead, we’ve decided to mark the size and location with a bayscape garden, designed by our master gardener, Mark McDonald, and jointly funded by Friends of Jerusalem Mill and a grant from the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. Mark has designed the bayscape garden entirely with plants native to Maryland, including some pollinators.



Grist mill on left; sawmill on right - 1910

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A bayscape replaces a lawn with native plants that support wildlife, reduce landscape maintenance and erosion, and filter rain water. Strategically placed on the hillside where the sawmill once stood, this bayscape garden will intercept and filter rainwater, which in turn reduces water pollution prior to the water entering the Little Gunpowder Falls.

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## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members. We’re excited to have them as part of the Jerusalem Mill family!

Rosalie Elder  
Lucy Hagopian  
Joseph Jordan  
Mark & Linda McDonald  
Peter Lapetina (lifetime)  
Tom & Karen Lattanzi  
William Lee  
Benjamin & Mary Weber (lifetime)

Francis and Kay Murphy  
Alan Schwartz & Carla Rosenthal  
Rick & Doline Serra  
Dianne Smith  
Shirley Snyder  
Luke Yanos  
Cindy & Dutch Stevens

If you’d like to become a member and support our mission to preserve our 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century village and share it with visitors through tours and living history, you can simply reply to the e-mail you received with this newsletter and we’ll send you the membership information, or visit our website at <https://jerusalemmill.org/membership>.

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<sup>8</sup> “Little Gunpowder Falls Project – (Water and Water Power Rights)”, Prepared for Advisory Engineers on Water Supply by the Bureau of Water Supply, Baltimore. August 30, 1933.

## Thanks to our Sponsors

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Special thanks to the Harford County departments of Special Grants, Cultural Arts Board, and Office of Economic Development for their continued support! Our concerts are sponsored in part by the Harford County Cultural Arts Board.



Funding for our general operating costs as been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Maryland Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and the NEH Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) initiative.



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