

TAKING CARE OF THE MILL AND CABIN

If you participated on the restoration crew in the past and would like to be involved again, please contact Chuck at 618-977-3909. If you have not been involved before but would like to help, please contact Chuck.

Chuck has finished rebuilding and staining the shutters for 38 windows. Due to settling and aging each window needed a custom-built set of shutters. There will be a period where the shutters will appear a different color than the body of the mill.

This massive project will help keep the pesty bats out of the mill. Some people will miss them. But bats are a health hazard to humans. They carry Histoplasmosis. With the excess wood, Chuck has made some beautiful cutting boards and trivets to sell in the store.



Friends member Ryan Schneider sprayed wood preservative on the cabin logs this fall.

Chuck sealed the wood on the deck to preserve it.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) created a new "State Parks of Iowa Fund 2023" small grant program. We were lucky to be one of only 6 projects in Iowa to be funded. It will be used to replace worn out flat belting such as in the photo. These pilot grants will be used as case studies and stories to share with future potential applicants and with potential donors.



Chuck gives us this interesting perspective: "If you've ever wondered how much it would "cost" Mr. Benjamin Nye to build the Mill today in 2023, think about this. Keeping things very, very simple...please keep that in mind. Mr. Nye "spent" approximately \$10,000 in 1848-dollars to build the Mill. Inflation rates in the United States only began to be tracked in 1913, with the creation of the Federal Income Tax, the Federal Reserve and the tracking of the Consumer Price Index (basket of things). So, if we take the \$10,000 and track what that would be equivalent to in 2023, starting in 1913, the first set of recorded data (even though the Mill was built in 1848), the Mill would "cost" well more than \$314,070 to build. Probably closer to \$380,000, but without reliable, recorded data, it's still interesting to look at the numbers."