



## Newsletter 2025 1Q

### **Arbor Day Tree Planting at the Old Mill:**

The North Little Rock Tree Board will conduct a tree planting at the Old Mill on **April 25, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.** (weather permitting). The Board will plant a native Fringe Tree to replace the Tulip Poplar planted in October 2023 that never thrived. We invite everyone to stop by for the planting and to also enjoy the Park. NLR Parks keeps the Park in top shape, and the Master Gardeners are doing outstanding work on the grounds – we should have lots of spring flowers blooming!

### **FOM Tour Guide Training:**

Occasionally, NLR Tourism gets a request for a guide to showcase the Old Mill to a tour group (guided tours are offered on the FOM website <https://nlr.ar.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/old-mill/friends-of-the-old-mill/>). We don't get a lot of requests, but it's nice to have a ready group of volunteers to assist when a request is made. For anyone who would like to help conduct tours of the Old Mill, please email Valerie Boyce at [valerie.boyce61@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.boyce61@gmail.com) before **April 15, 2025**; once we have a trainee group set, we will contact the group and set a date(s) for the training. You can do the tours solo or with another guide – whatever works for you! Contact Valerie Boyce if you have questions.

### **The People's Garden Designation:**

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production of the US Department of Agriculture has approved the Old Mill as a People's Garden. People's Gardens are located around the United States. They foster community collaboration; benefit the environment by providing wildlife and pollinator habitat; nurture a green, natural space for the community to gather, enjoy, and reflect; and use native species of perennial flowering plants that build a healthier ecosystem. The Old Mill

was added to the interactive map on the People's Garden website at <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/initiatives-and-highlighted-programs/peoples-garden>. St. Joseph Community Garden and Farmstead is another North Little Rock site that is designated as a People's Garden.

### **In Memoriam Donations to FOM:**

The Board would like to thank the friends and family of Shirley Ann Summers (a former NLR resident, who passed away on February 7, 2025) for their generous donations to FOM, and to thank Ms. Summers' family for designating Friends of the Old Mill for donations in her memory.

### **Save the Date:**

Do you realize that the Old Mill will be 100 years old in 2033? Yes, it's more than 8 years away, but there are more restoration projects to plan and lots of work to do leading up to the celebration so that the Old Mill is the best ever. Save the date: Saturday, **August 6, 2033**.

### **Photographs from March 24, 2025:**



The redbuds, pieris, and tulip magnolia are in full bloom; the dogwoods and azaleas have just started blooming and should be at peak soon.