



NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS Alliance Update

Heritage areas support local agricultural activities

When Michelle Obama invited a group of DC school children to help her build an organic garden on the White House grounds last year it was indicative of a national trend toward supporting sustainable and organic agriculture. Agriculture is a major part of our national heritage and, therefore, it is only natural that many National Heritage Areas are deeply involved in supporting local agricultural activities. As the movement to support local farmers and to eat more organically grows, it is apparent that a focus on our agricultural heritage can bring visitors and visitor dollars to an area.

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (BRNHA) in North Carolina has been working with the Appalachian Sustainable Agricultural Project (ASAP), an organization that works to create and expand local food markets that will preserve the region’s agricultural heritage, provide greater access to fresh, healthy food, and keep local farmers farming. The organization publishes a Local Food Guide (<http://www.buyappalachian.org>) which lists all the farmers markets in the region as well as markets, grocers, and restaurants that are committed to using locally grown products.

BRNHA also gave financial support to this same organization to produce and publish a document, Farm Promotion and Support: Ideas and Tools for Economic Development and Tourism Development Authorities. As the ASAP website states, “Farms create jobs, increase our communities’ tax revenue, attract visitors, and can help keep some of the 370 billion dollars tourists spend on food and drink in our local economies.”

The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) has been working very closely with the Heritage Corridor Farmers Association (<http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/sites/farms/>).



A Christmas tree farm is just one of the agricultural activities found within the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area



Baskets of strawberries can be purchased in the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.

AGRICULTURE, continued on page 2

Message from the New Alliance Chairman...



As in year's past, 2009 saw tremendous growth in the National Heritage Area movement. This growth occurred not only in the number of designated areas, but also in the diversity and scale of our projects and programs.

As the program matures and gains momentum, NHAs are being recognized as a stabilizing force for cultural and heritage based develop-

ment. Our ability to bring about collaborative partnerships, leverage investment and build sustainable projects continues to strengthen as we establish and grow proven track records of success.

The NHA model is successful. I am convinced that the model works because we continue to remain relevant to the needs of our communities. The grassroots nature of the NHA program lends itself to meeting the needs identified by and for the local

people. It is a model that not only encourages, but requires, local investment of time, money and resources.

Despite our successes, 2010 has presented some challenges so far. The ANHA is ready to face those challenges and we're excited that 34 of our nation's NHAs have now locked arms in the fight for the collective good by joining as members. With increased funding at the forefront of our efforts, there is no doubt that we can accomplish more together than we can separately.

I am honored to be serving as ANHA Chairman and I look forward to working with all of our partners to advance the work of all National Heritage Areas over the coming year.

Michelle McCollum

*South Carolina National Heritage Corridor President and
CEO P.O. Box 477 Belton, SC 29627*

(864) 338-4841 - office

(864) 245-7380 - cell

www.sc-heritagecorridor.org

AGRICULTURE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Farmers Association members work with the heritage corridor on cross promotion, marketing, special events and special programming. They have also developed an Agricultural Tourism Trail for which there is an interactive map on their website. This gives the farmers themselves a financial stake in promoting the corridor.

The SCNHC also hosts a Bi-annual Agricultural Conference, a day long educational event for South Carolina farmers. The most recent conference was held January 27, 2010. It was attended by over 180 people. The conference topics ranged from marketing and promotion to tax liability issues and food product safety. Keynote speaker, Diane Green of Greentree Naturals in Idaho, shared her successes of her family farms' marketing of homegrown products and the farm as a destination. A lunch highlighting South Carolina grown and produced foods was provided by local restaurant Juniper,

The John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Area is very supportive of local farmers by promoting the Blackstone Valley Heritage Markets (<http://www.blackstone-daily.com/farmersmarkets.htm>). They helped the Heritage Markets by funding the position of Coordinator. On the Heritage Markets website a quote from Jan Reitsema, Executive Director of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, is featured prominently. "Farms are an important part of the Valley's history and should be an important part of its future. Farmers markets at historic sites are a great way to educate people about history, offer an interesting experience, and encourage us to eat locally produced food which is good for our health as well as the environment and the local economy. It's a great way to protect our working landscapes, too. And it's another great example of how partnerships are key to the success of preserving the heritage of this Valley." These are only a few of the local agriculture initiatives taking



An Agricultural Conference was held last year in the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.

place within the National Heritage Areas. As interest in local, sustainable eating grows so will an interest in preserving and supporting our national agricultural heritage.

Other Agricultural Initiatives:

- Schuylkill River National Heritage Area's Chile Pepper Food Festival
- Essex National Heritage Area's New Fish Festival
- Delaware and Lehigh Valley National Heritage Corridor's Beer Drinkers Guide to the Corridor
- Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area's Country Cajun Crawfish Festival

Congressional Caucus to focus on needs, benefits of NHAs

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) is working with the NHAs and their respective congressional delegations to create a Congressional Caucus to focus on the needs and benefits of all NHAs.

Through a National Heritage Area Caucus, interested Members of Congress can work together to support legislative, policy, and funding initiatives for NHAs. The National Heritage Area Caucus will be platform for Members of Congress to hold briefings, coordinate legislation and policy, and promote the benefits of NHAs. It will provide a forum for Members of Congress to educate others on the importance of NHAs, and focus on issues affecting this program.

More specifically, creation of a Caucus will:

- Provide a platform for communication with Congress on the

need for federal funding to keep pace with new authorizations.

- Be a clearinghouse of information to Congress on important policy matters such as property rights, sustainability, potential program legislation, and others.
- Strengthen the coalition of NHAs and their Members of Congress to understand trends and issues affecting NHAs.
- Allow for rapid response to legislation and/or amendments that promote or threaten NHAs.

For more information on the National Heritage Areas Caucus, please contact Augie Carlino, Advocacy Committee Chair of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas at arcarlino@riversofsteel.com.

Legislative Update

February 17 - Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Architectural Historian, NPS briefed the following staffers on the Northern Neck NHA Feasibility Study: Kelly Thomasson, Projects Director for Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), Treavor Dean for Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), Brent Robinson, Senior Legislative Associate for Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA)

March 12 – Martha Raymond, National Coordinator for Heritage Areas, Katie Durcan, Assistant Coordinator for Heritage Areas, Alma Ripps, Legislative and Congressional Affairs NPS, and Lara Levison, Deputy Director, Department of Interior Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs met with staff of Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) to discuss Fox Wisconsin Heritage Area legislation.

Alliance of National Heritage Areas/National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin. Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Danielle_Feuillan@contractor.nps.gov
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.



Danielle Feuillan
National Park Service
National Heritage Areas
202.513.7057
Danielle_Feuillan@contractor.nps.gov
www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/

Martha Raymond
National Coordinator for Heritage Areas
National Park Service
martha_raymond@nps.gov

Kathleen Callahan Durcan
Assistant Coordinator for National
Heritage Areas National Park Service
Kathleen_Durcan@contractor.nps.gov



Michelle McCollum
Chairman
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
202.528.7549
mmccollum@scprt.com
www.nationalheritageareas.com

Graphic design services for the *Alliance Update* are provided by **Susan Lepoma Perkins, APR**, Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.

Heritage Areas join coalition



Augusta Canal NHA, Baltimore NHA, Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, National Aviation HA, South Carolina NHC, Wheeling NHA have joined 171 other organizations in a grassroots effort to encourage full and permanent funding of the Historic Preservation Fund. The Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) is the foundation of the Federal historic preservation program, and is the source of funding for countless local preservation initiatives, including the Certified Local Government program, State, Tribal and Territorial historic preservation offices, and for federal preservation grant programs like Save America's Treasures and Preserve America.

Congress established the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) in 1976 as a key amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, authorizing up to \$150 Million annually for the HPF from revenues obtained from the Outer Continental Shelf oil leases, although Congress has only appropriates a fraction of that amount. NPS Second Century Report and the Preserve America Expert Panel Report and Recommendations, recommended full funding of the HPF.

Each year Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the Department of the Interior collects revenue from oil and gas leases, as directed by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953. The revenues provide annual deposits of nearly \$900 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund and \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Fund. Coastal states share revenues: 1) States with offshore leases within 3 miles receive 27% of revenue generated; 2) Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi

and Texas share 37.5% of revenues from Gulf of Mexico leases; 3) FY 2007-2010, \$250 million was shared by states with federal oil and gas leasing off their coasts: Alaska, Alabama, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. What is unspent is sent to the U.S. Treasury's General Fund. In FY 2007, MMS disbursed approximately \$11.7 billion, totaling more than \$176 billion since 1982.

The Coalition for Full Funding is comprised of national, statewide and local organizations whose members believe in the importance of permanent full funding for the HPF including archaeologists, cultural resource managers, historians, preservation commissioners, historians, local and state government officials, tribal leaders, homeowners, business owners, investors, developers, architects, urban planners, farmers, scientists, educators, students, activists, and individuals nationwide.

Modeled after the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the HPF provides dedicated funds to support the programs and activities that were identified in the National Historic Preservation Act. Full funding of the HPF would bring the intended support for local, state, and federal preservation programs. The President has committed to full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 Million by FY 2014.

For additional information on the Coalition for Full Funding or the Historic Preservation Fund, contact Kristen Harbeson, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers or visit www.fullyfundhpf.org.

Yuma Crossing launches innovative campaign to save the Yuma Territorial Prison



It's an all too familiar story. A worthy cause mobilizes community members to right a wrong, take back their streets or save a treasured landmark. Sometimes "it takes a village." In Yuma, Arizona, home of the famed Yuma Territorial Prison, it takes a "chain gang."

The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area has announced a campaign to save the Yuma Territorial Prison. The prison is on the list of 13 state parks Arizona officials are closing in response to budget cuts enacted late last year. Charles Flynn, Executive Director of the Heritage Area, announced that the agency would step forward to operate the prison with the hope that the Yuma community would step forward in the next 60 days to match the \$50,000 his agency has pledged.

"Many individuals have stepped forward asking how they can help," stated Flynn. A website, <http://www.savetheprison.com> has been established. Groups wanting to help raise money are asked to become part of the *Territorial Prison Chain Gang* described as follows:

- A group determines they would like to help save the prison in their own way. They might want to sell handmade art with depictions of the prison; hold a bake sale, create a fundraising event, or a door-to-door campaign.
- The group registers in the program, and receives an official endorsement and marketing materials to assist them in their efforts.
- The group is asked to invite another group to "link" to their program. This group then creates their own way of raising funds. After this new group links to their chain, they are asked to introduce another group to their chain, and so on.
- A "lifer" is selected by the Heritage Area to head each chain. "Lifers" will keep the groups in their chain encouraged and provide support when needed. Each chain may have twenty links as a result of the care of this one "lifer."

There may be more than 40 chains with 20 links, all holding a variety of fundraisers throughout the Yuma area. The Chain and the group that raises the most money by March 10, 2010 (the **3:10 to Yuma** fundraising event at the prison) will receive a variety of prizes including overnight camping stays at

the prison, annual passes and entrance fees to planned special events. The Chain Gang will be immortalized in a mural on the wall of the Territorial Prison. Each group that helped will have their place on the wall. As of February 23, \$33,000 had already been raised through this campaign.

On February 17, Senator John McCain visited the landmark. After learning the prison was on the chopping block, Senator McCain says he'll put forth his own money in hopes others will do the same. "I want to help in anyway possible, to preserve this bit of American history." The Senator told KSWT News 13 in a televised interview.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area conducts major trail and greenway study



In spring 2009, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) launched a major planning initiative, the "Lackawanna Greenway Plan and Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) Feasibility Study." LHVA selected the consulting team of Arora and Associates, Campbell Thomas & Co. Architects, and Urban Partners to assist with the study, and it convened a Steering Committee of key resource people to guide the project. Two Public Information Meetings were held at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton to encourage public input on the project. More than 110 people attended the meeting in June. The September meeting hosted 75 participants.

The Greenway study is nearing completion. The Lackawanna Greenway boundaries have been determined, extending from ridge top to ridge top in the Lackawanna Valley, and connecting to the Susquehanna Greenway at both ends. The Lackawanna Greenway will be a key component of the Pennsylvania mega-greenway system. In addition, the study has

NEWS, continued on page 6

identified the connections between the region's natural resources, parks, recreational facilities, open spaces, and spur trails and the LRHT system.

The entire forty miles of the LRHT have been extensively mapped, and proposed routing alignments for each new trail section have been determined. Enhancements for completed sections of the trail, including signage, benches, pet station, parking, and landscaping, have been outlined. The master site plans and construction document packages for sections of trail in Scranton and in the upper Lackawanna Valley will be ready by April. These trail sections will be ready for construction in summer 2010 pending available funding.

LHVA conducted a Cultural and Historic Resource Inventory of the Lackawanna Greenway in the summer and fall of 2009. LHVA identified more than 400 sites from the region's anthracite coal mining, railroading, iron making, and textile manufacturing industries from 1850 to 1950. These sites include coal breakers, railroad yards and roundhouses, industrial and manufacturing buildings, as well as houses of worship and workers' homes. LHVA captured the GIS coordinates for each site in the inventory to assist with future mapping.

A Trail User Survey was initiated in 2009 to monitor the characteristics of trail users and to determine the economic impact of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. Survey forms were available throughout the summer and fall at trailheads, parks, merchants, libraries, banks, and grocery stores, as well as at "intercept stations" along the trail. An electronic version of the survey was posted on LHVA's website, <http://www.LHVA.org>, and it will remain open until summer 2010 so that LHVA can capture twelve months of data. To date, LHVA has received more than 540 completed surveys.

A final report from the trail and greenway study is expected in summer 2010.

Oil Region Alliance unveils new historical marker

On Thursday, December 10, 2009 the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission dedicated a new state historical marker commemorating Byron D. Benson. A crowd of 30 people attended the event at the Benson Memorial Library in Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Speakers at the event included Lois Nazzaro, Benson Memorial Library Board member; Neil McElwee, local historian; Barbara Zolli, Director of the Drake Well Museum and PHMC representative; Randy Seitz, President and COO of the Oil Region Alliance; and Will Wingo, Oil 150 Director.

"The Oil Region Alliance is proud to make the Byron D. Benson historical marker the 12th state historical marker it has sponsored in Pennsylvania's Oil Region," remarked Randy Seitz, President of the Oil Region Alliance. He continued, "We are pleased to join the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and our regional partners in demonstrating our pride in the region and its history."

The ceremony concluded with the official unveiling of the new marker, which stands in front of the residence at 603 North Perry Street where Mr. Benson lived from 1872 through 1888.

The marker reads as follows: "Byron D. Benson (1832-1888). A founder and first president of Tidewater Pipe Co., est. 1878. He transformed the shipment of oil with a larger 6-inch pipe that covered greater distances than ever before. This pipeline was first to carry Pa. crude directly to coastal refineries. Benson lived here, 1872-1888."

Financial support for the production of the Dodd historical marker was provided by the Petroleum History Institute and the Oil Region Alliance. The City of Titusville furnished the marker's installation while Drs. James and Janet Zehner provided refreshments and hospitality following the dedication ceremony.

Event preserves shepherding traditions



In January the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership hosted its 8th annual Old Shepherders Gathering held on the Utah/Nevada border. The annual event has become a new social tradition that opens a window on old shepherding cultural traditions. The gathering of genuine old timers involved in the sheep industry from around the region affords them a good time and provides the partnership an opportunity to record stories of shepherd heritage.

The sheep industry in the Great Basin is dependent on winter range in the remote desert. As everywhere in the United States, the sheep industry is declining steadily.

In 2004, the Border Inn, a business near Baker, Nevada decided to host an appreciation dinner for the shepherders who had been good customers through the long winters for many years. Ninety old-timers from as far away as Idaho showed up to have a wonderful time. Before the evening ended, the old timers were saying "You will do this again next year, won't you?"

Word of mouth spread the news and the tradition of the Old Shepherders' Party was born.

NEWS, continued on page 7

NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

In 2005, 150 old timers arrived for the Party. At this point, the owner of the Border Inn (also, President of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership) realized that she was on to a good thing and that she needed help. She partnered with GBHAP to plan the 3rd annual event. The Heritage Area received a grant from the Nevada Humanities Committee to record oral histories and to document the heritage of the sheep industry in the Great Basin. The Utah Humanities Committee became a supporting partner in 2006.

The 2007 event was expanded to two days. The event began Friday night dinner followed by a program that is an open mike.

The second day started with a sour dough pancake breakfast. In the afternoon, a band provided a program of old time cowboy music. This was followed by an authentic family style Basque dinner featuring beef tongue appetizer, bean and cabbage soup, lamb roast and sorbet with carafes of wine at each table.

The format for the 2007 event became the template for each ensuing year.

The Old Shepherders' Party is a good example of how a partnership between private business and heritage areas is advantageous to both sides.

National Aviation Heritage Area commemorates first military solo flight



Wright "B" Flyer Inc. volunteers are preparing two of the nonprofit organization's Wright "B" Flyer lookalikes for an unprecedented road trip to San Antonio, Texas.

The one-of-a-kind airplanes — each one independently designed and built to resemble the Wright Company's first mass-produced airplane — are to take part in a ceremony on March 2 at Fort Sam Houston to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first military solo flight. On that date in 1910, then-Lt. Benjamin Foulois made the first flight of Army Signal Corps No. 1 from the parade field at Fort Sam Houston.

A San Antonio-based chapter of the Order of the Daedalians, Stinson Flight No. 2, has commissioned Wright "B" Flyer Inc. to participate in the celebration with preflight operations on Fort Sam Houston's parade field and a flyover.

Wright "B" Flyer's airplanes can't take off safely in the space available on the parade ground, so the organization will deploy two airplanes for the event — a first for the all-volunteer group. It will use its non-flying "Yellow Bird" to re-enact ground operations, and its "Brown Bird" — a familiar sight at the Vectren Dayton Air Show — will perform the flyover.

Foulois was sent to Fort Sam Houston with the airplane, a lot of spare parts, and orders to "teach yourself to fly." Incredibly, he did — in large part by correspondence with the Wright brothers. (He survived to retire as a major general.)

"Old Number One," America's first military airplane, was an earlier machine than the Model B the Wright brothers began building in their Dayton factory in 1910. A distinguishing feature was its front-mounted elevator. But Foulois made so many modifications in consultation with the Wrights, including a tail-mounted elevator, that by the end of 1910 it resembled a Model B. *(Article and photo by Timothy R. Gaffney.)*

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission elects officers

Emory S. Campbell was re-elected as Chairman of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission for a two-year term during its board meeting in St. Augustine, FL, on February 19. "We had one of our most productive meetings," Campbell stated. "Not only did we begin a new phase of soliciting partnerships for our ongoing General Management Plan, but, among other important developments, we also learned about the historical and cultural connections of St. Johns County, FL, to Gullah/Geechee heritage."

Two other returning officers were Vice Chairman Eulis Willis of Navassa, NC, and Treasurer Ralph Johnson of Sunrise, FL. Charles Hall of Sapelo Island, GA, was elected Secretary, replacing Jeanne Cyriaque, who is rolling off the Commission.

Essex heritage legislative & municipal leader breakfast a success!

A broad cross section of regional elected officials and business leaders representing a majority of Essex County's cities and towns, gathered at the Marriott Hotel in Peabody for an update on Essex Heritage activities and strategic priorities on Jan. 25.

The audience received a federal update from Congressman John F. Tierney, the meeting's keynote speaker. Attendees included Mayors, Town Managers, Administrators and Selectmen from the 34 cities and towns within the Essex National Heritage Area, state officials, regional partners and business leaders. All were provided an opportunity to network and share concerns before and after the formal program, highlighting Essex Heritage activities past, present and future.

NEWS, continued on page 8

Blue Ridge NHA on the radio



Lives of men and women in the North Carolina hills and mountains are being respected with a weekly storytelling on the radio waves. “Living Traditions Moments celebrate the people and places that have preserved the traditions unique to the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina,” said Angie Chandler, executive director of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area (BRNHA).

The hope of the radio segment is to keep the deep and wide existence of mountain lives in the minds of new generations. For those who have lived past their youth in the hills, the segments are meant to be reminders of their great heritage. “We don’t want to give (listeners) information that everybody knows, but things that they would love to know about.” K.C. Cronin, of BRNHA, said. “It’s recorded, so it’s forever.”

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area is partnering with WNCW radio to air short stories of the area. The two minute segments will air on Fridays just before 8 p.m.

Living Traditions Moments will cover traditions and knowledge of the Western North Carolina’s crafts, music, Cherokee agriculture and natural heritage. These insights will be drawn from 25 counties and the Qualla Boundary that make up the heritage area. Segments will be changed weekly and play at different times on Fridays. “Not only is it our intention to share these rich stories, but to preserve them before they disappear,” Chandler said.

Cronin started Living Traditions of the Blue Ridge several years ago to help preserve the rich stories of Western North Carolina. When BRNHA partnered with WNCW, it seemed natural for the stories to be shared. “I have talked to local people who have lived for generations and generations (in the area) and they tell me incredible stories,” Cronin said.

“These hidden stories of the mountains have been told on the front porch for many generations, and they really speak of the cultures and traditions that have been going on for hundreds of years,” Cronin said. “They have never lost their cultures and traditions here, but they might lose their stories.”

New Civil War Web site launched for Tennessee

The launch of the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Web site marks the upcoming 150th anniversary of the war. The full commemoration of the anniversary lasts from 2011 through 2015.

The Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area developed the site together.

Five major features on the Web site provide a comprehensive look at Tennessee’s pivotal role in the war.

- The History section gives a detailed picture of how the war evolved through Tennessee and altered the lives of residents.
- The Timeline explores the many national stories that unfolded because of the state’s involvement in the Civil War.
- The Trails section provides a map to help plan trips in the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage area. It also highlights the 150 markers on the state’s new Civil War Trail.
- The Attractions feature gives information about the trails, markers, battlefields, Civil War-related museums and other attractions in Tennessee.
- Teaching Tools offers photos, videos, maps, flags and educational links related to the war.

These tools will help with planning visits to Tennessee, plus provide teachers with lesson plans and other tools. The Web site also has details on a series of five conferences, one each year, sponsored by the commission. Presenters will discuss the battles, events and stories of the war. The web address is: <http://tnvacation.com/civil-war/>

Workshop to help organizations plan for visitors of all abilities

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will be hosting the workshop “Inclusion Programming and Universal Design” on Wednesday, March 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the African American Museum of Iowa in Cedar Rapids.

Whether you work with a farm, museum, historic site or park; we all strive to offer our visitors the best experience possible. We should plan for the inclusion of people with special needs from the beginning. This session will cover the philosophy of inclusion, respectful accommodations and supporting positive behavior. Learn the best practices to engage audiences in positive participation at your facility.

We will also look at the basic principles of Universal Design in creating environments, products and communications within the workplace. Participants will learn how to design for people of all abilities without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

The workshop will be presented by Susie Lund and David Thomson. Susie is the Inclusion Director with the Family

NEWS, continued on page 9

YMCA of Black Hawk County and is a trainer of Kids Included Together (KIT). David is the Outdoor Recreation Planner and Midwest Region Accessibility Coordinator for the National Park Service.

“We believe all should be able to experience our heritage. Not just because it is the law, but because it is the right thing to do,” remarked Candy Streed, SSNHA Program & Partnership Director.

Registration is due March 17 and limited to 40 participants. The registration fee is \$25 per person affiliated with a designated SSNHA Partner Site and \$50 per person for all other participants. Registration forms are available online under the “Resources” section at <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org>. For additional information contact Candy Streed, Program & Partnership Director at 319-234-4567 or cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org.

SVBF releases biennial report

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation has released its biennial report for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, which ran from September 2007 through October 2009. The report highlights successful battlefield preservation projects at Third Winchester and Cedar Creek as well as progress made in interpretive and promotional programs in the National Historic District.

In 2008 and 2009, the Battlefields Foundation protected almost 400 acres at two of the largest battlefields in the region, bringing to almost 3,000 acres the total area owned or preserved by the organization since its inception nine years ago. In July 2008, the Foundation announced the purchase of a 189-acre farm at Cedar Creek and in August 2009, the 209-acre Huntsberry Farm at Opequon (Third Winchester) was permanently protected.

Both efforts involved a variety of partners. The Virginia Land Conservation Foundation—a state-funded agency—provided more than \$1.5 million for the two projects. The National Park Service’s American Battlefields Protection Program, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Frederick County, and a private donor provided significant funding for the preservation of the Huntsberry Farm. The Battlefields Foundation’s federal funding was used in the Cedar Creek project.

The biennium also saw the opening of the second and third of five planned Civil War orientation centers in the eight-county National Historic District. The first center opened in McDowell in 2005. It was joined by centers in Winchester in 2008 and Harrisonburg in 2009. All of the District’s orientation centers provide an overview of the Valley’s Civil War history as well as the role of the local community in that history. Information is also provided to visitors about how to find sites where they can experience that history today.

The Winchester-Frederick County orientation center is nested inside the regional visitor center operated by the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, which is housed in a facility on the campus of Shenandoah Univer-

sity. The orientation center in Harrisonburg serves the central Shenandoah Valley, including the city of Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, and portions of Page and Augusta counties. Co-located with the regional visitor center for the area, it is managed by Harrisonburg Tourism & Visitor Services.

In 2008, the Battlefields Foundation released the first official Visitors Guide to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. Production of the free, 48-page guide was a key recommendation in both the marketing and interpretive plans for the District and is intended to make it easier for visitors to find and explore the Valley’s Civil War sites.

Copies of the Battlefields Foundation’s 2008-09 biennial report are available at its New Market offices by calling 888-689-4545 or online in the news area of the District’s Web site: <http://www.ShenandoahAtWar.org>

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area boosts Scandinavian Heritage Festival

For more than twenty-five years prior to the formation of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, the city of Ephraim, Utah, had celebrated the Scandinavian Heritage Festival (<http://www.scandinavianheritagefestival.com>) in recognition of the pervasive influence of the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian settlers who made up more than two thirds of the area’s pioneer settlers.

But over the course of the festival’s existence, many of the practitioners of the heritage arts which were hallmarks of the festival have moved out of the area or passed away, leaving no one to carry on their cultural traditions.

Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts (<http://www.upharts.org>), the programming affiliate of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA), was called upon to find resources to renew those cultural traditions in “Little Denmark”, the northernmost region of the MPNHA. Networking to locate practitioners and mentors both within and outside of the state of Utah, UPHA has successfully reinstated Scandinavian dance, vocal and instrumental music, cuisine, decorative painting, and traditional costumes in the festival this year (2010).

In the coming years grants will be sought to extend the reach of these efforts to include more out-of-state Scandinavian performers and artists, who can mentor local practitioners, increasing their ability to interpret long-standing local traditions.

Living history re-enactors are being brought to the festival to enhance the strength of the interpretive part of the festival, and, at the request of UPHA, they are learning Scandinavian cultural elements as well.

UPHA is also sponsoring songwriting and story/poetry writing/telling contests to motivate artists statewide to apply their talents to recasting the stories of the early settlers of Sanpete County in settings that will become enduring cultural heritage assets to the MPNHA. (*Article by Clive Romney, Executive Director, Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts*)

NEWS, continued on page 10

Travel writers honor Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership



Pictured, from left, SATW's Laura Overstreet, Frederick CVB's John Fiesler, Loudoun CVB's Cheryl Kilday, VTC's Alisa Bailey, Maryland's Tourism's Marci Ross and Gettysburg CVB's Norris Flowers

With nominations from across the globe, the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) selected the JTHG Partnership as a winner of the highly coveted Phoenix Award.

An accolade given annually since 1969, the Phoenix Award honors organizations "actively involved in improving the quality of travel experience and appeal of North American travel destinations through conservation, preservation, beautification or environmental efforts."

SATW associate member Laura Overstreet who presented the award said, "The JTHG Partnership has made a lasting difference in how citizens and visitors experience this breathtaking region and our nation's heritage."

Alisa Bailey, president and CEO of the Virginia Tourism Corporation, who was one of the JTHG Partners who accepted the award offered, "The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area is truly the region where American history unfolded. This award demonstrates that it's where visitors can connect that history to their everyday lives. The VTC is thrilled to be part of the JTHG Partnership. It serves as the perfect example of how localities can work together, share the culture, heritage and beauty of this unparalleled region with visitors from across the globe and in doing so make a sustainable economic difference for those communities."

Augusta Canal Authority to buy Sibley Mill

The Augusta Canal Authority has entered into a contract with Avondale Mills, Inc. to purchase the Sibley Mill, Authority Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse and Authority Chairman Robert Woodhurst announced today. The purchase price is \$800,000.

The property includes the landmark 19th Century textile mill

and outbuildings and approximately 20 acres of land stretching from the banks of the Augusta Canal to the Savannah River and the hydroelectric plant.

Avondale ceased textile manufacturing at Sibley in 2006, but continues to operate the mill's hydroelectric power plant. The Authority will take over the hydro operation, stabilize the buildings and perform required environmental remediation. The Authority acquired Sibley in order to safeguard and protect the property, located within the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, explained Sherrouse.

The Authority doesn't plan to be the long-term owner of the mill. "We want to protect this important historic resource," said Sherrouse. "When the economy improves, we will consider offers from interested developers. In the mean time, we want to protect the structure from 'demolition by neglect,'" he said, referring to the fate of some historic properties that have been lost through deterioration or collapse.

The acquisition will enable the Authority to complete many of the pre-development activities that will ultimately make the property more marketable for a developer to complete the redevelopment Sherrouse said. He stressed that the canal was originally built in 1845 to promote economic development and this purchase is consistent with that goal and will be the first step in returning the property to active use as a viable component of the local economy.

The Authority has a 120-day inspection period prior to final closing in order to identify any unknown structural and environmental problems. Barring unforeseen inspection findings, closing is expected on August 31, 2010. Sherrouse stated that the Authority would be conducting their own environmental inspection of the property to complement previous assessments by Avondale. "Our goal is to have the site approved under the Brownfield Program pursuant to Georgia's Hazardous Site Reuse and Redevelopment Act," he said.

The Authority will file for the transfer of Sibley's hydropower license and operation from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission after closing and continue producing electricity from the operation of the hydroelectric plant.

Within the next several months the Authority will finalize funding of the \$800,000 initial purchase price from several available options.

The property behind Sibley reaching to the Savannah River is part of the purchase. Acquisition allows the Authority to complete a long-delayed recreational trail project along the Savannah River levee that had been postponed due to right-of-way issues. Work to install pedestrian bridges across the tailraces (the outflows to the Savannah River) from Sibley and King Mills will begin after final closing.

The Sibley is the second historic mill purchased by the Augusta Canal Authority to promote preservation along the canal. In 2001 it purchased the Sibley's neighbor, King Mill, for approximately \$225,000 after that mill was abruptly shuttered by its owners. The authority then leased the building to a new operator, Ohio-based Standard Textile. Standard continues to operate King to make textiles for the health care industry.

EDUCATIONAL AND GRANT RESOURCES

- **The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation** held a program evaluation workshop series in November 2009. The resulting presentations are available online. Evaluation on a Shoestring Budget, a tip sheet and presentation from Wilder Research program evaluation workshop series held on November 13, 2009 is available at [http://www.wilder.org/reportssummary.0.html?&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2211&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=111&cHash=2520f13c0d](http://www.wilder.org/reportssummary.0.html?&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2211&tx_ttnews[backPid]=111&cHash=2520f13c0d)

- **The National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grants program** provides merit-based funding for byway-related projects each year. Applications are now available with the first application deadline being April 16, 2010. For more information, please go to <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>

- **Advancing Beyond Borders, the 2010 International Heritage Development Conference**, will take place in Charleston, SC June 27 – July 1. Registration opens March 1. Visit <http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org> for more details.

- **Heritage Impact 2010, Brighton, England April 22-23, 2010** - This is the fifth annual symposium on the socio-economic impact of heritage to be held in Brighton. For more information, and the full programme, please visit <http://www.heritageimpact.org>

If you have any queries regarding the symposium please contact Christopher Matthews, C.R.Matthews@brighton.ac.uk

- **Grant applications for the FY 2010 Federal Save America's Treasures Program** are now available on *Grants.gov*. Detailed program guidelines and instructions for using *Grants.gov* to apply are found on our Web site:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/treasures/index.htm>

Applications must be submitted through *Grants.gov* by the due date of May 21, 2010. In FY 2010, we have \$14.3 million to award (a nice bump of \$4 million more than FY 2009). Please spread the word!

ANIA

VISIT US ON THE WEB

nationalheritageareas.com

NPS NEWS

Park visitation increased in 2009

Despite Economic Downturn, Americans and Foreign Visitors Flocked to Our National Parks in 2009

Ten million more Americans and foreign tourists visited the nation's national parks last year than in 2008, a 3.9 percent increase that marked the fifth busiest year ever for the National Park System, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced today.

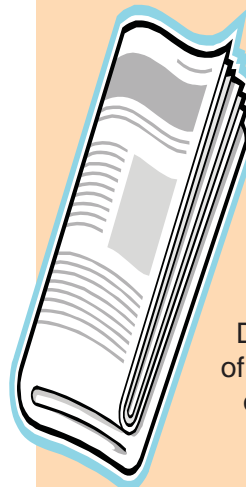
"People both here and abroad know that our national parks are America's best idea, even during an economic downturn," Salazar said. "Our national parks are treasures that tell the story of our country and celebrate its beauty and culture, and they provide vacation bargains for families living on a tight budget. They offer priceless opportunities to inspire adults and children alike with our wonderful natural, cultural and historic heritage."

Possible reasons for the increase in visitation include three weekends last summer when the Park Service waived entrance fees, the visits by President Obama and his family to Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, the publicity generated by Ken Burns' documentary on the history of the national parks, a decline in gasoline prices, and the continued strong exchange rate the Euro enjoys against the dollar.



NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Alliance Update



GOT NEWS?

Don't get left out of the next issue of *Alliance Update*. Share the news of your National Heritage Area.

Submit articles and photos to Danielle Feuille at Danielle_Feuille@contractor.nps.gov

Featured

Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor

The Last Green Valley is a number of things: it is the popular name given to the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor (designated by Congress in 1994) and it is the name of the non-profit organization that manages the National Heritage Corridor. The Last Green Valley is the region roughly defined by the watershed of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers, consisting of 35 towns and nearly 1,100 square miles in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts. Yankee Magazine calls it “an unexpected oasis of peace... deeply and profoundly green.” It is also the last predominantly undeveloped tract of land in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington DC (that is, within an hour of the coast).

The region remains 78% forest and farmland with abundant water resources in the midst of the most densely developed area of the East Coast. The region appears distinctly dark in the surrounding glow when viewed at night from satellites or aircraft. In fact, pilots use the darkness as a navigational point. This is both a blessing and a curse. An abundance of land, the relatively low price of land, the lowest mortgage rates in decades, and the location of The Last Green Valley within a one-hour commute to three of the four largest urban centers in New England has created tremendous development pressure. Even in

an historic recession, the present lull in development is only a temporary halt of an inevitable explosion of building unless the economic value of land and water changes dramatically.

Water resource protection has focused over the past couple of years on water quality monitoring and the Source to Sea Expedition: Connecting the Drops Through The Last Green Valley. Paddlers from the nine-week expedition began at the source on April 19th and successfully reached Long Island Sound on June 13, 2009. Along the way more than 95 partners and sponsors hosted 90 events to showcase the natural scenic and cultural treasures in the watershed. The goals were to connect people to their place in the watershed, connect individual behavior to water quality, and to highlight recreational opportunities and attract new river stewards. As a result, 70 new volunteers came forward to work in the water quality monitoring program. [For greater details on Source to Sea, see the TLGV 2009 Annual Report, soon to be released and accessible on our website.]

TLGV has spent the past year developing a research paper on the state of the present food system for southern New England and why the expansion of food production

FEATURED AREA, continued on page 13



A group of participants ends its nine-week paddling expedition as part of the 2009 Source to Sea Expedition. (Photo by Charlene Cutler.)

in The Last Green Valley is the key to increasing the economic value of working land. During 2010, work on the TLGV Foodshed Plan will produce an unprecedented and comprehensive roadmap to optimize the expansion of the agricultural economy of the region, develop successful processing, value-added and support endeavors, and provide a safe, local food system for residents of southern New England.

Want to know more?

- It is the mission of TLGV to preserve the significant natural and cultural resources of the region while encouraging compatible economic development.
- TLGV forests filter and store 1.2 million tons of carbon from the air while producing oxygen for 8.3 million people.

The Last Green Valley has:

- Two of the most scenic and productive river systems in New England
- Hundreds of clean ponds, lakes and rivers
- Seven state forests
- Five state parks
- 16 state wildlife management areas
- Thousands of acres of preserved open space
- Hundreds of miles of hiking and water trails

For more details about TLGV programs and projects, as well as information about visiting The Last Green Valley, please explore our website: www.thelastgreenvalley.org. Request the full color, 112-page Visitors Guide to The Last Green Valley by emailing Michelle@tlgv.org.



A bald eagle was photographed from The Last Green Valley eagle survey in January. (Photo by Wendy Brennan.)