



# NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS Alliance Update

## Photography contests focus on the best Heritage Areas have to offer

Many National Heritage Areas believe their mission is to share and inform visitors and residents about the natural, cultural and historic resources of a particular area. In an effort to fulfill this goal, a surprising number of heritage areas have begun to hold photography contests that are open to the public. Now that internet photo sharing sites are widely available, a photo contest can be a relatively inexpensive way to bring together images of nationally significant sites in such a volume that would be impossible for heritage area staff members alone.

The Delaware and Lehigh Valley National Heritage Area’s photo contest “Reflections of the D&L” included submissions from both amateur and professional photographers. Rayne Schnabel, Director of Advancement and Administration for the area says, “The response was exceptional; we were ecstatic to receive 96 submissions from each region of the corridor.” The contest seems to have brought a wider view of the landscape to the surface. Schnabel was pleasantly surprised to see the images submitted.

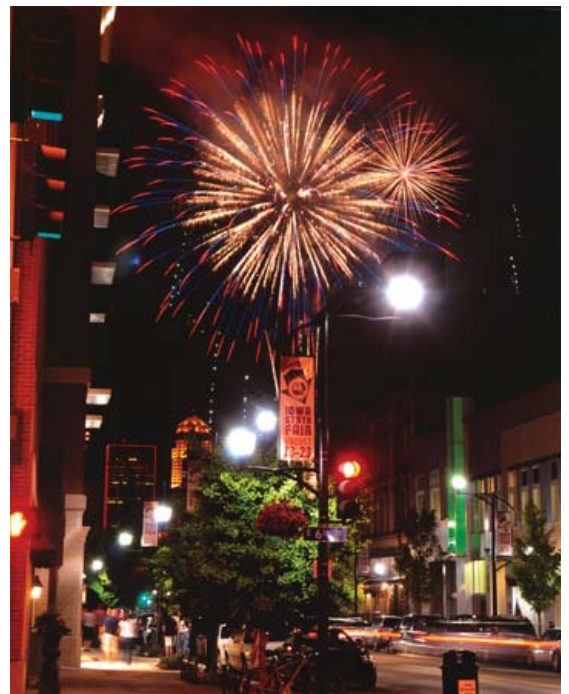
“Places of beauty hidden in plain site or in the nooks and crannies of the corridor. Their cameras captured the beauty of the canal culture, the nature of the canals, historic architecture and engineering marvels or people just having fun. As you can see in each photograph, people take their cameras along when they bike, walk, play and visit their extraordinary surroundings. It was a perfect way to entice people to go outdoors and explore the stunning sites, trails and architecture the communities have to offer.” The photo contest’s Web site is: <http://www.delawareandlehigh.org/index.php/photo-gallery/cat/18/>

The Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area’s photo contest is in its third year. The Capture the Heart of America was up from 49 entrants submitting 150 photos in 2008; this year’s contest brought in 352 photos from 106 entrants. Photos were submitted from visitors from as far away as Alaska and Georgia, as well as Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. View the winners at: <http://www.silosandsmokestacks.org>

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor has an established annual photo contest. Twelve of the photos are subsequently turned into a calendar that is distributed free of charge at selected visitors centers and libraries. Rosemary Button, Administrative Assistant with the corridor states that the photo contest helps to connect the people who visit the area. It especially “reinforces a connection to communities in the off-season (when the canal is closed for winter) via public libraries and heritage



**“A New Beginning”- submitted by Kathryn Triolo to the 2009 Delaware & Lehigh Valley National Heritage Corridor photo contest.**



**Danyell Klein’s photo “Yankee Doodle Pops” was the best in show in the Silos & Smokestacks NHA 2009 photo contest.**

# Legislative Update

- **H.R.4081 Title:** To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Willamette Falls National Heritage Area in Oregon, and for other purposes.  
Sponsor: Rep Schrader, Kurt [OR-5] (introduced 11/16/2009)  
Cosponsors (None)  
Latest Major Action: 11/16/2009 Referred to House committee.  
Status: Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- **H.R. 4004 (Rush, D-IL)** - To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of design-

- nating the study area as the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes. (introduced 11/3/2009)
- **H.R. 4345 (Davis, D-AL)** - To establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes. (introduced 12/16/09)
- **S. 2892 (Shelby, R-AL)** - A bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes. (introduced 12/16/09)

## CONTESTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sites which help distribute the calendars” she says. The Web site for the calendar and photo contest is: [http://eriecanalway.org/get-involved\\_photo-contest.htm](http://eriecanalway.org/get-involved_photo-contest.htm)

The Essex National Heritage Area’s (ENHA) photo contest began with a “Photo Safari” which allowed amateur photographers to spend a day with an expert photographer shooting an historic site in the National Heritage Area. These safaris take place throughout the year. Soon, an annual contest was developed. A small entry fee is charged. A press release from the ENHA describes the advantages: “An added benefit of the Photo Contest is that the images submitted to the contest become property of ENHC. The photos generated through the annual contests are used in Essex Heritage’s promotional materials. Although all of

the entries are amateurs, the quality of the photographs is often excellent and the publicity around the contest and the winning entries has been very good promotion for the Area and its remarkable historic resources and sites.” View this year’s contest winners at: <http://essexheritage.org/photocontest/index.shtml>  
Photo contests can be an excellent way of showcasing the varied and widespread resources of an area’s heritage. They can also provide a way of seeing parts of the landscape, up close, in an intimate way that can’t be captured in a brochure or a quick visit. As Annie C. Harris, Executive Director of the Essex National Heritage Commission says, “It is really exciting to see what the photographers discover in the Area with their cameras, and it is a great way to bring more attention to our remarkable historic, cultural and natural resources.”

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## 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](mailto:Danielle_Feuillan@contractor.nps.gov)
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.



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

## Toward Listing New York's canal system in the National Register of Historic Places

The Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga-Seneca Canals stretch 524 miles across the full expanse of upstate New York. Opened in 1825, the NYS Canal System ranks among our nation's great successes of engineering, vision, hard work, and sacrifice.

To recognize its national significance, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor is preparing a National Register Historic District nomination for the canal system, in collaboration with the Heritage Documentation Program of the National Park Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, New York State Canal Corporation, and New York State Museum.

Preparing a nomination of this scope is no small task. It must include an inventory and evaluation of features along 500 miles of waterway that contribute to the canal system's significance. To complete this critical first step, Erie Canalway engaged the services of the Heritage Documentation Program of the National Park Service.

During the summer of 2009, two National Park Service historians with the Historic American Engineering Record, Laura Black and Jami Babb, documented more than 250 canal structures and sites. The team visited, photographed, and wrote descriptions of every lock, lift bridge, guard gate, building, and dry dock on the four operating branches of the canal system.

Data from the survey must now be summarized to support the National Register nomination. Black and Babb's fieldwork, combined with GIS mapping and archival research at the New York State Archives and the NYS Canal Corporation offices, will result in a comprehensive list of historic features throughout the system. Written reports for each site will eventually be housed at the Library of Congress for permanent care and public access.

You can see locks, lift bridges, and other distinctive canal structures throughout the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. For a virtual preview of some of the most common canal structures you'll find, visit our Web site gallery at [www.eriecanalway.org/gallery](http://www.eriecanalway.org/gallery).



**The power house at Lock 5 on the Champlain Canal**

## Freedom's Frontier is service learning project for students



**University of Kansas students work on a public relations and marketing plan for Freedom's Frontier NHA.**

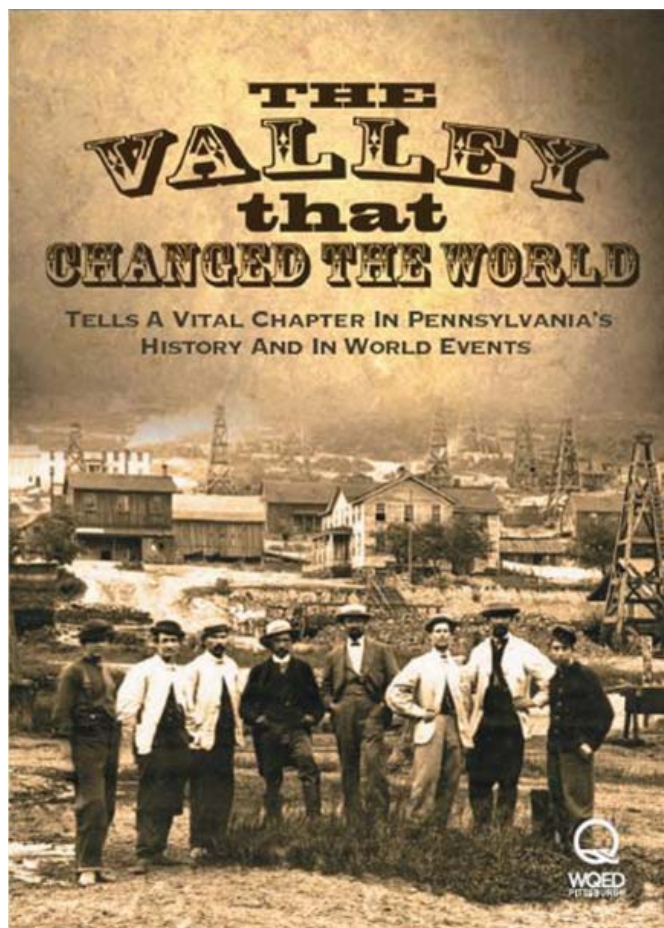
In 2009, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area partnered with the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas to prepare comprehensive public relations and marketing plans. Freedom's Frontier staff met with over thirty upper-level students divided into five groups and discussed the mission, needs, and direction of the heritage area. Students conducted research about the organization and heritage tourism and created marketing plans centered on goals of creating a cohesive partnership group, strengthening the area's sense of place, and increasing heritage tourism. On December 8, 2009, students presented their plans to Freedom's Frontier partners.

Freedom's Frontier provided \$2,000 to offset the cost of materials and travel. Each group's plan provides insightful and innovative recommendations that can be implemented in stages as the heritage area matures. Students in this capstone course earned service learning credit and developed a vested interest in the future of the heritage area.

The student's professor, David Guth, praised the project and noted, "My students have eagerly embraced it." According to student Bethany Asbell, "Working with Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area has been a great experience. We have really enjoyed getting to apply the knowledge we've learned in the classroom to a real-life situation."

**NEWS, continued on page 4**

## Oil history documentary being broadcast on many PBS stations nationwide



*The Valley That Changed the World*, an hour-long documentary film chronicling the development of the petroleum industry in northwest Pennsylvania, is being broadcast this autumn and winter on many PBS stations nationwide. The National Educational Telecommunications Association has accepted its distribution, and already 39 stations scheduled it to appear during October and November, 2009.

This movie was produced by Iris Samson and Pierina Morelli for WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh. It is one of the major projects of "Oil 150," a 17-month celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the start of crude oil production at the Drake Well near Titusville, Pennsylvania on August 27, 1859.

Television stations in the following communities have made the program available to their viewers: Alabama – Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, and Montgomery; California – Chico; Florida – Tampa and West Palm Beach; Illinois – Champaign; Louisiana – Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport; Michigan – Flint-Saginaw and Lansing; Minnesota – Minneapolis; Missouri – Columbia; Ohio – Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, and Youngstown; Pennsylvania – Erie, Johnstown and Pittsburgh; Texas – Cor-

pus Christi, Harlingen, and Odessa; Virginia – Alexandria; West Virginia – Bluefield, Casper, Charleston, and Clarksburg; and Wyoming – Casper.

DVDs of this program can be purchased for just \$19.95 via <http://www.oil150.com> or, the 20-minute classroom version is priced at \$12. It is copyrighted to the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism, which administers the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

Funding for the research, scripting, production, duplication, and distribution of this documentary was provided by the following generous sources: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation; the National Park Service; Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust; the Edith Justus Charitable Trust; the Elizabeth S. Black Charitable Trust; the Philo and Sarah Blaisdell Foundation; Petroleum History Institute; and Edward Jones Investments. Additional promotional funding was provided by American Refining Group.

For more information about this documentary, please contact Melissa Mann, Deputy Director of Oil 150, Oil Region Alliance, [mmann@oilregion.org](mailto:mmann@oilregion.org); (800) 483-6264.

## Hudson River Valley NHA commemorates Evacuation Day

To mark the 226th anniversary of Nov. 25, 1783 (known as Evacuation Day), the day the defeated British finally pulled out of the states, five modern-day beacons were lit in the Hudson Highlands. The lighting took place at Fort Montgomery State Historic Site, Cornwall-on-Hudson Landing, Boscobel Restoration, Constitution Island and Mount Beacon.

James Johnson, who is military historian of the Hudson River Valley and executive director of the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, said the commemoration was being held "to remind people of how critical the two states (of New York and New Jersey) were to America's success in its war for independence."

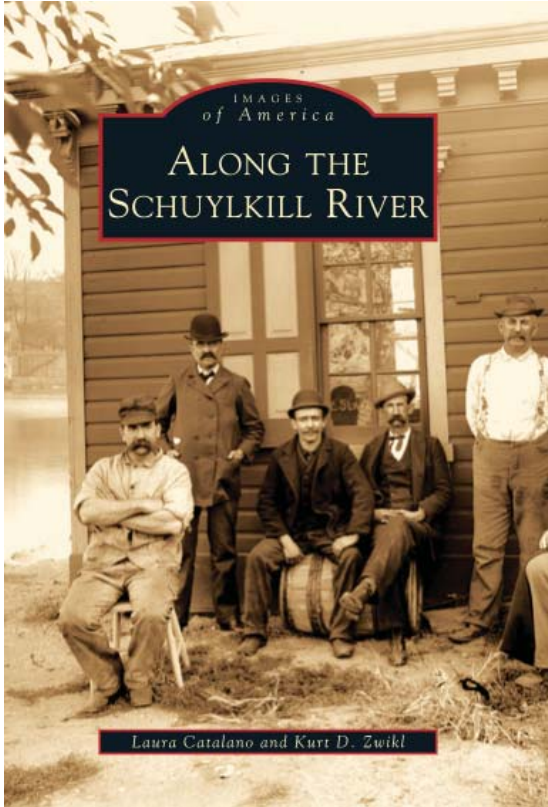
The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and New Jersey's Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area were also among the participants. According to a news release, Gen. George Washington used visual signals to communicate during the Revolution. The beacons were usually wood towers filled with hay and dried grass rising up to 20 feet high. If British troops were seen approaching at night, American soldiers would ignite the beacons, located on hilltops, and fire a cannon. During the day, the beacons were lit and a red and white flag was waved.

The beacons were represented at this event by twelve Xenon TrackSpots, four-bulb searchlights programmed to light up the skies from 6 to 9 p.m.

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## Schuylkill River Heritage Area publishes pictorial history

One goal of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) is to educate people about the multifaceted history of the region. To accomplish that objective, and several others, SRHA Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl and Staff Writer Laura Catalano, worked with Arcadia Publishing to create a book of over



200 vintage photographs with captions. The new book, *Along the Schuylkill River*, was released this fall as part of Arcadia's popular Images of America series. It has been well-received and recently went into its second printing. It is available in major bookstores, gift shops, at tourist sites, and is also sold directly through the SRHA.

The authors spent nearly two years visiting historic societies and photo archives in communities all along the river, in search of the most interesting and unique images available. They then wrote captions and, using the publisher's layout template, organized the photographs by community, so the book takes the reader on a historical journey up the river from Philadelphia to the headwaters of Schuylkill County.

Included are stories from the American Revolutionary War, multiple images of the Industrial Revolution, and fascinating photographs from the cleanup of the river during the Environmental Revolution.

*Along the Schuylkill River* has enabled the Schuylkill River Heritage Area to address a number of the goals outlined in its management plan. It tells the history of the river, it educates a wide and varied audience about that history, it helps build a regional identity, and it has fostered new partnerships with museums and historic societies.

Since sales of the book directly benefit the SRHA, it has also been a very worthwhile fundraiser, at once bringing in thousands of dollars while raising awareness about the SRHA.



**Interpretive Plan discussion was facilitated by Communications professor Dave Bucy of Corvallis, Oregon.**

The management plan for the Great Basin National Heritage Area is taking shape. The plan that will guide the area's development for the next 10 to 15 years must be completed by August of next year and be approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior. A significant step in development of the plan is the creation of its interpretive section that explains how heritage features of the area will be presented to the public.

Representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, businesses and individuals met on the Utah /Nevada Border recently to begin planning for interpretation of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Participants were asked to identify primary and secondary target audiences for the Partnership's messages and helped to define the objectives of the communications. They also helped to confirm and add to the list of significant heritage features within the Area. Finally, they assisted in compiling stories to interpret those features.

The largest landholder in the area, and subsequently, the largest holder of significant heritage features is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the US Department of the Interior. Representatives attended from both the Ely, Nevada and Fillmore, Utah BLM offices. Important stake holders for the development of the Heritage Area include the Utah Travel Council and Nevada Commission on Tourism. Representatives from each of these agencies were among the 25 participants at the planning session. Other attendees represented ranching interests, a municipality, local tribes, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, local museums, and local businesses.

The session was facilitated by Dave Bucy, of Corvallis, Oregon who is a professor of communication and a professional interpretive planner. A draft interpretive plan will be produced over the winter and a second stakeholder meeting will be held in early spring.

**NEWS, continued on page 6**

## Rivers of Steel NHA celebrates the holidays creatively



**Shoppers visit one of the vendors at the first annual Holiday Artist Market.**

Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area held its first annual Holiday Artist Market featuring locally-made, one-of-a-kind functional and decorative ethnic crafts at the historic Pump House and Water Tower. The artist market promoted local artists, their crafts and ethnic foods. The event communicated to the public the cultural history of the artists and their art forms as well as Rivers of Steel's mission to preserve the traditional and cultural heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania. More than 300 shoppers came to search through tables of Hmong embroidery, African fiber-arts, Bulgarian pottery, Native American beadwork, Peruvian Day of the Dead figurines, and traditional Hungarian block prints. The market's café featured Hungarian and Bulgarian ethnic foods.

Rivers of Steel staff offered free tours of the Pump House, site of the 1892 Battle of Homestead.

TourAnytime, Rivers of Steel's self guided cell phone audio service for visitors to southwestern Pennsylvania continues



**Visitors to Rivers of Steel NHA can take a self guided cell phone audio walking tour.**

to expand. Partnerships with the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy resulted in new cell phone tours of Grant Street and Mellon Square. The cell phone walking tour of Grant Street, part of Pittsburgh's National Register Historic District, visits major historic buildings and modern skyscrapers along one of the city's main thoroughfares. As the subject of its first cell phone tour of the city's parks system, The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy chose Mellon Square. Constructed in the 1950s, Mellon Square is nationally significant as a master work of Modern design and as the first park to be created on the roof of a parking garage.

## Educational mini-grants support heritage and environmental projects in local schools in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) presented Educational Mini-Grants of \$500 each to ten schools and nonprofit organizations in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National Heritage Area at an awards ceremony in December 2009. The grants support an array of innovative projects for children from preschool through grade twelve for the 2009-2010 school year. The event was held at the Electric City Trolley Museum in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The LHVA Educational Mini-Grant Program, now in its fifth year, awards funds for educators based on a competitive grant process. The criteria is based on proposed classroom or community projects that promote students' awareness of Northeastern Pennsylvania's rich heritage and the region's significance to the history of the nation, or projects that expand the students' understanding of their role as caretakers of the environment, particularly in the Lackawanna River watershed.

"We saw very creative and dynamic projects during this grant cycle," according to Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli. "We are pleased to facilitate projects in which teachers and students will work together to build a sense of place and an appreciation for the region's heritage, culture, and natural resources," she added.

Examples of proposals that were funded include:

- A 12th grade British literature class will learn about the tradition of the British and Scottish folk ballads, research local folk ballads, and will create and perform their own folk music.
- A high school environmental club will construct and place composting bins in the school cafeteria; the entire school will participate in disposing food from their meals into the bins.
- Students in Science and Family and Consumer Science classes in grades 9 to 12 will learn about local ecosystems; the high school students will mentor preschoolers on a field trip to the Lackawanna State Park.
- Fourth grade students will learn the history and ecology of the Lackawanna River and will create informational plaques to

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## NEWS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

be installed along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

- The Lackawanna County Conservation District will teach students from an urban high school about the region's industrial history and its environmental challenges, including scientific tests at the Lackawanna River.
- A high school engineering club will construct an unmanned balloon vehicle to capture aerial images of the Lackawanna Valley to compare to the same geographic areas depicted in historical photos.
- Students in drafting and art classes will design an outdoor courtyard amphitheatre in the school's National Wildlife Federation certified schoolyard habitat using recycled materials.



**LHVA Executive Director Natalie Gelb Solfanelli (back row, fourth from left) at the 2009-2010 Educational Mini-Grant awards ceremony accompanied by the grant recipients and their students, as well as the Chair of LHVA's Board of Directors Thom Welby (second from left), Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael Washo (far left) and Corey O'Brien (far right). PHOTO CREDIT: Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.**

## Legacy of Stones River Symposium to be held March 20

"The Legacy of Stones River: Why They Fought" symposium will take place March 20, 2010, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The program features talks by Keith Bohannon, Sam Davis Elliott, and Kenneth Noe at the Rutherford County Courthouse in the morning, followed by park ranger-led programs at Stones River National Battlefield in the afternoon. Bohannon of the University of West Georgia has written extensively about the war, including essays on John Bell Hood and the Battle of Chickamauga. Elliott, an attorney in Chattanooga, is the author of the forthcoming *Isham G. Harris of Tennessee: Confederate Governor and United States Senator*. Noe is the Draughton Professor of Southern History at Auburn University. His *Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army After 1861* will be published this year. The \$10 registration fee includes continental breakfast. Call (615) 893-9501 or visit [www.nps.gov/stri](http://www.nps.gov/stri) or [www.tncivilwar.org](http://www.tncivilwar.org) to download a registration brochure.

## SVBF to Expand and Reorganize Staff

In a move designed to increase the effectiveness and capacity of the organization, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation is expanding and reorganizing its staff.

At a meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees in Winchester on Tuesday, Executive Director W. Denman Zirkle announced the creation of two new staff positions and the streamlining of Foundation's work into two new departments, one which will encompass all of the organization's preservation, planning, and property management programs, and the other which will group together the Foundation's external communications, marketing and interpretation, and government relations programs. The changes will become effective on January 1, 2010.

In a newly-created position, John D. Hutchinson V will become the Foundation's Director of Preservation and Planning. He is a certified land use planner who from 2001 to 2006 managed the Foundation's preservation program. In his new position, Hutchinson will direct all of the organization's land preservation, land use planning, and property management work

"We're pleased to have John rejoin the organization," said Zirkle. "As a planner, conservationist, and a Valley native who has been involved with the Foundation and battlefield preservation in the region for 20 years, John's experience in working with our programs and landowners, his institutional knowledge, and his planning background will greatly strengthen the Foundation's preservation and stewardship work."

The Foundation's external communications, outreach, and government relations programs will be directed by Elizabeth Paradis Stern, the organization's Director of Policy and Communications. Stern was promoted to her current position in July.

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## 2nd Century Report

In 2008, the National Parks Conservation Association convened an independent commission charged with developing a twenty-first century vision for the National Park Service, and for the magnificent collection of unique places it holds in trust for the American people. The National Parks Second Century Commission consisted of a diverse group of nearly 30 national leaders and experts with a broad range of experience, including scientists, historians, conservationists, academics, business leaders, policy experts, and retired National Park Service executives. It met five times, and heard from conservation and preservation experts, teachers, volunteers, and a range of park advocates and stakeholders. At three additional public meetings, Commissioners solicited ideas and priorities from concerned citizens. National Heritage Areas are prominently mentioned a number of times throughout the report. Read the entire report at: [http://www.npca.org/commission/Commission\\_Report.pdf](http://www.npca.org/commission/Commission_Report.pdf)

## National Heritage Areas Office welcomes new assistant coordinator

Katie Callahan Durcan joined the staff of the Washington, DC office in December, 2009 as Assistant Coordinator for National Heritage Areas. Katie hails from Buffalo NY along the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor although most recently was the Trails and Byways Manager for the Baltimore National Heritage Area. Durcan's background is in historic preservation and museum studies having worked at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Garden, Carlyle House in Alexandria, Va, and Decatur House in Washington, DC. Previously, Katie was Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's Press Secretary and the Public Relations Manager for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is a graduate of the George Washington University Museum Studies program and has her bachelor's degree in history and English from John Carroll University in Cleveland Ohio.



**Durcan**

## Updates to NPS NHA Web site

The NPS National Heritage Areas Web site has undergone a few changes. The home page now features a slideshow highlighting some of the very best images we have in our files. It also links to news stories that feature heritage areas. If you have an image or a news link you would like featured, please e-mail it to [Danielle Feuillan@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Danielle.Feuillan@contractor.nps.gov).

There is also a new Toolbox for Heritage Area Professionals on the site. It features an array of useful links to information everything from program development to federal requirements to planning. It will be a frequently changing and evolving area of the site and we hope you find it useful. The link to the toolbox is <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/toolbox>

## Save America's Treasures Grant recipients announced

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH) and the National Park Service (NPS), jointly announced the awarding of \$9.5 million in federal competitive Save America's Treasures (SAT) grants, which are made in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis congratulated the 41 recipients of the Save America's Treasures awards saying, "The recipients of these grants deserve great credit for their commitment to the preservation of our nation's history and culture. The historic properties and collections protected by Save America's Treasures grants for the last 10 years benefit all Americans, today and in the future. The National Park Service is proud of our role in administering this exceptional program with our partners."

To view the list of recipients go to <http://www.pcah.gov>



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# PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

## ACHP offers course on Section 106 Essentials



The Section 106 Essentials is a two-day course designed offered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for those who are new to federal historic preservation compliance or those who want a refresher on the Section 106 regulations and review process. This course explains the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which applies any time a federal, federally assisted, or federally approved activity might affect a property listed in or eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places. For more information go to <http://www.achp.gov/106essentials.html>

## UIC offers online courses

### UIC Great Cities Institute

The Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago is offering online courses in Program Planning & Evaluation, Leadership Ethics, Mastering Grant Writing as well as a Nonprofit Management Series and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Some of these could be very useful for Heritage area professionals.

Course descriptions and more details can be found at <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/pe/courses.htm>

## Guide provides info on funding opportunities

The Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (New York) has put together *A Guide to Historic Preservation and Cultural Tourism Funding Opportunities and Incentives: How to Navigate the Process*, which provides useful information for those working in heritage preservation and tourism. The guide provides excellent information on funding opportunities and a wealth of contact information.

Download the pdf at: [http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/grants\\_central/](http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/grants_central/)

# ASSISTANCE/ AWARDS

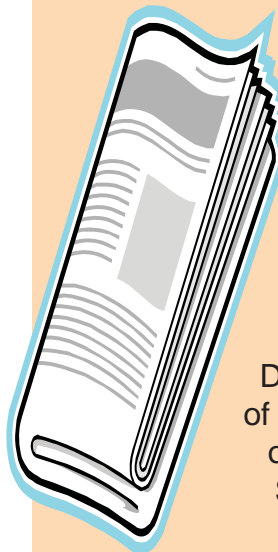
## NEH Challenge Grants in United States History and Culture CFDA 45.130

APPLY FOR A GRANT  
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

National Endowment for the Humanities invites applications for Challenge Grants in United States History and Culture. This grant opportunity is designed to help institutions and organizations strengthen their ability to explore significant themes and events in American history, so as to advance our understanding of how—since the nation's founding—these events have shaped and been shaped by American identity and culture. Applications are due by February 3, 2010. Visit [http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/CG\\_UShistory.html](http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/CG_UShistory.html) for more information.



## 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 Feullan at [Danielle\\_Feullan@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:Danielle_Feullan@contractor.nps.gov)

# Featured National Coal Heritage Area



**Visitors to the National Coal Heritage Area learn about coal mining during an underground mine tour.**

The National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA) encompasses hundreds of square miles in southern West Virginia where thousands of miners labored to produce the coal which helped create modern America. In the NCHA's rugged industrial landscapes, hard-working miners of many races and ethnicities labored to extract and transport the coal that helped to fuel the rise of American industrial might, from steel production in Pittsburgh and Chicago to shipbuilding in Baltimore and Norfolk. While the coal mining history of southern West Virginia shaped the nation it also shaped the communities and people of the region as well.

The designation of the National Coal Heritage Area in 1996 came about as a result of the concern of the citizens that the essential elements of this nationally significant story were being lost through neglect. Since that designation, the West Virginia legislature has created the National Coal Heritage Area Authority as the entity responsible for the development of the National Coal Heritage Area and for the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the NCHA.

The NCHA Authority depends on partnerships with other organizations and communities to accomplish its mission. Grants to local organizations have resulted in the development of new exhibits at existing museums, planning for the development of an interpretive trail linking two coal

communities, restoration of an historic train depot, and the restoration of an historic downtown park. A key project involved the creation of a new interpretive center at the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, where visitors may now gain an understanding of the coal culture as well as experience the underground mine tour led by former coal miners.

The NCHA Authority, in partnership with the Coal Heritage Trail, a national scenic byway, operates an interpretive center in a reconstructed train depot in the small community of Bramwell. Bramwell, a well-preserved Victorian community, was home to

many of the early coal barons. It retains its historic commercial district, many of the coal baron homes and is surrounded by the towns and "coal camps" where the miners lived.

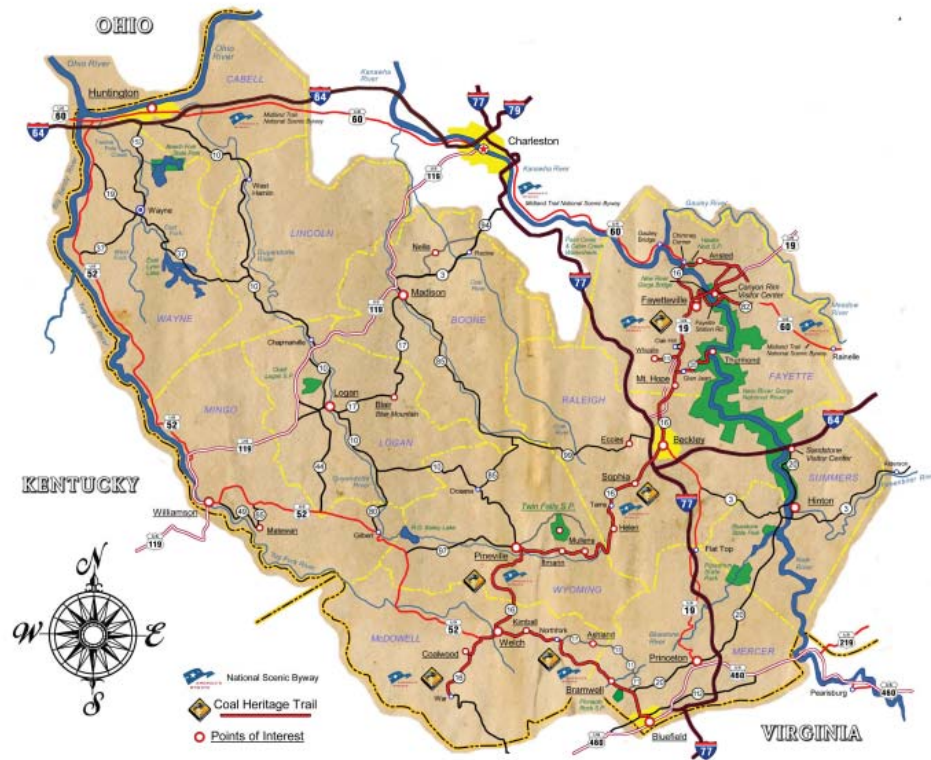
Some NCHA projects during the past year have included



**Participants celebrate Octoberfest in the National Coal Heritage Area.**

the development of five interpretive kiosks, located along the Coal Heritage Trail and assistance to the Paint Creek Scenic Byway in moving forward with their designation and development. A photography exhibit, Coal Camps, Coal Miners and Molasses Making, featuring the work of Marion Post Wolcott and Ben Shahn, recently debuted and is now traveling throughout the region along with two other interpretive exhibits created by the NCHA. Plans for the coming year include the awarding of educational mini-grants to schools and other youth serving organizations, continued planning for restoration of a historic structure donated to the NCHA for use as a headquarters and interpretive center, the restoration and interpretation of a series of historic coke ovens, and the development of an interpretive center in partnership with the Country Roads Scenic Byway. Through these and other projects, and with the continued support of our Congressional delegation, the NCHA and its partners continue the work of preserving elements of this uniquely American story and sharing that story with the world.

## National Coal Heritage Area Map



*The National Coal Heritage Area Authority, along with the Coal Heritage Trail, operates an interpretive center in a reconstructed train depot in Bramwell.*