



Wright-Dunbar Heritage News

The Centenary Of The Wright School Of Aviation At Huffman Prairie Flying Field



Huffman Praire is the first flying field in the world. It is where Wilbur and Orville Wright developed the first practical airplane, flight tested subsequent airplane models and where they operated a flight school.

One hundred years ago, the Wright Company started teaching the art of flying its airplanes to people from across the world at Huffman Prairie Flying Field. Through lessons from the Wright School of Aviation, 119 individuals became pilots from May of 1910, when the Wright Company relocated the school from its temporary winter home of Montgomery, Alabama, to February of 1916, when the company closed the school as it prepared to move from Dayton to New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Several of the pilots trained by the Wright Company later gained fame as aviators. Nearly thirty years after learning to fly from Orville Wright and the company's teachers, General Henry Arnold commanded the U.S. Army Air Corps during the Second World War. Marjorie Stinson, the ninth woman to earn a U.S. pilot's license, taught others to fly at her family's aviation school in Texas, including members of the Royal Canadian Flying Corps, and flew airmail between cities during the 1920s. The Royal Air Force credited A. Roy Brown, a Canadian pilot

trained by the Wright Company with downing Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron, during the First World War (though modern scholars generally believe a ground-based shot killed Richthofen). Griffith Brewer, a British aviation enthusiast and friend of the Wrights, also learned to fly at Huffman Prairie Flying Field through the Wright School of Aviation.

Though the school existed at Huffman Prairie Flying Field for less than six years, its influence crossed decades as it was one of the principal locations where the first generation of North American aviators learned their craft. The work of the Wright School of Aviation at the Flying Field is commemorated by the National Park Service and the U.S. Air Force through the site's designation as a National Historic Landmark and as part of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, and through its inclusion as one of the principal sites of the Dayton Aviation Sites U.S. World Heritage Tentative List nomination.

Race To Dayton's Amazing Aviation Places



Please go to page 3 for details.

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West Third Street Gets A New Face Lift



The two-block section of West Third Street that runs through the Wright-Dunbar Business district is being redesigned. The four-lane street will be converted down to a two-lane thoroughfare with a turn lane in the middle and additional parking along newly surfaced sidewalks. The project is slated to be finished sometime in the spring of 2010.

Local YMCA Kids Participate In America's Best Idea Grant

This past July, local YMCA kids were introduced to the most special places in the country, especially Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Utilizing *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* documentary by Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan, YMCA participants were immersed in the National Park Service idea, preservation and why these places are so special.

Through visual presentations, rangers explained the stories of the National Park Service and provided hands-on activities to the YMCA participants at the park. Using cameras purchased by the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea grant, participants were encouraged to document their experiences both in front of and behind the camera lens.

At the end of each visit, cameras were collected and photos were downloaded. All students were recognized for their participa-

tion in photographing their experience with gift certificates, while 34 individuals received movie rental gift certificates for exceptional photographs. A PowerPoint presentation displaying the YMCA participants' photographs was developed by a ranger and shown to our general visitors.

"National parks embody an idea as uniquely American as the Declaration of Independence and just as radical: that the most magnificent and sacred places in our land belong not to royalty or the rich but to everyone - and for all time," Ken Burns.

Future youth groups will also have the opportunity to utilize the cameras to document their "experience" and hopefully encourage a new generation of Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan storytellers.



Visiting YMCA students take photos and learn about the BAT -- a flying toy that Wilbur and Orville Wright played with as boys.

Replica Demoiselle Aircraft Visits Dayton

On Tuesday, September 22, 2009, a Brazilian Air Force C-130 landed at Dayton International Airport. On board was a replica Demoiselle aircraft. The original was designed in 1907 by Brazilian Alberto Santos Dumont. The plane is on loan to the National Aviation Heritage

Alliance by Brazilian industrialist Fernando De Arruda Botelho. Mr. Botelho is an aviation enthusiast and his private foundation, the Botelho Institute, commissioned the design and construction of four Demoiselle replicas to help celebrate the centennial

anniversary of Santos Dumont's flight. He brought one here in 2006 and flew it with the Wright "B" Flyer, a Dayton-based lookalike of the Wright brothers' 1911 airplane, then took it to the National Air and Space Museum for a temporary display.



Mr. Botelho has visited Dayton numerous times, the most recent being to help reassemble the Demoiselle on September 28. He also attended the Dayton Air Show and spoke with Dayton officials in the hopes of building business ties between Brazil and the Dayton region.

The National Aviation Heritage Alliance is dedicated not only to the aviation history and heritage of the Aviation Heritage Area, but to the continued growth and future of the aviation world as well.



Wilbear Program - The Sky's The Limit!

The world's aviation story is not complete without a visit to Dayton, the Birthplace of Aviation. Begin an exciting journey as you Race to Dayton's Amazing Aviation Places. You'll find the sky's the limit in our community when it comes to innovation, inspiration, discovery and educational fun. "Wilbear Wright" (an indirect descendant of Wilbur and Orville Wright the inventors of powered, heavier-than-air, human-controlled flight) is eager to belong to YOU. Just tour and obtain a passport stamp at the National Park Service's Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and a minimum of five of the remaining amazing aviation sites listed to redeem your passport for your very own "Wilbear Wright" aviator teddy bear.

For additional travel planning information contact the Dayton/Montgomery County Convention & Visitors Bureau at www.daytoncvb.com or the National Park Service at www.nps.gov/daav

Start today: it's top-flight fun!

Sites to visit include:

- ✈ Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center
- ✈ The Wright Cycle Company
- ✈ Aviation Trail, Inc. Visitor Center
- ✈ Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial
- ✈ Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center
- ✈ John W. Berry Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center at Carillon Historical Park
- ✈ National Museum of the United States Air Force
- ✈ National Aviation Hall of Fame
- ✈ Hawthorn Hill (tours provided by Carillon Historical Park)
- ✈ Historic Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum
- ✈ The Wright B Flyer

Boy Scout Service Project At Wright Memorial

On October 21, 2009 the boys and adult leaders of Boy Scout Troop 162 completed the assembly of 8 new picnic tables and benches and 8 new park benches for the Wright Memorial at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Scouts from BSA Troop 162 and Webelos from Pack 162 led by Senior Patrol Leader Adam Moran completed assembly of the park benches and picnic tables on that rainy Saturday afternoon. The Scouts participating in the project were; Branden Bridges, Justin Moran, Sam Ryals, Tristan Heerd, Adam Moran, Alex Heerd, Dallas Pope, and Joshua Hoeger. The boys were assisted by the Troop 162 Scoutmaster, Brigadier General (select) Kenneth Moran, and Troop 162 Assistant Scoutmaster Mr. Jim Marker.



Scouts from BSA Troop 162 prepare to install a new picnic table at the park at the Wright Memorial.

These tables and benches were installed as replacements for the aging ones at the monument by crews from Base Maintenance and Grounds. The new tables and benches are constructed of recycled post consumer plastic lumber in keeping with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's commitment to the environment and sustainability.

Wright Memorial, located on the perimeter of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, northeast of Dayton, Ohio, is within sight of the open field where Wilbur and Orville Wright perfected the world's first practical airplane. Wright Memorial is a designed landscape, planned and constructed between 1922 and 1940 by the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission, the Miami Conservancy District, and the National Park

Service, in consultation with the Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm of Brookline, Massachusetts.

For more information concerning the Park go to this website <http://www.nps.gov/daav> and for additional information about Boy Scout Troop 162 and contact information visit <http://www.troop162wpafb.org>.

Film Producer Speaks At December 17th Anniversary Of Powered Flight

Film producer Adam White, a graduate of Wright State University, was the speaker at the December 17th Anniversary of Powered Flight. The event was held at the National Museum of the United States Air Force and featured the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight and the traditional Wright family holiday dinner.

The event was co-hosted by Aviation Trail Inc. and the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

White, whose production company is Hemlock Films (www.hemlockfilms.com), received acclaim for his film "Red Tail Reborn," a one and a half hour documentary on the Tuskegee airmen who flew during World War II.

"Red Tail Reborn," narrated by Michael Dorn, is a tale of inspiration. Historic interviews, unprecedented access, and emotional honesty bring to light the tale of the Airmen, and of those who honor them.

Did you know, Karen Rosga is the Education Coordinator for the park? And that school groups are more than welcome to visit and explore our facilities.

For more information about programs and what we have to offer, and to make a reservation, contact Karen at 937.225.7705 or karen_rosga@nps.gov

Celebrate Black History Month With Dayton History

The blustery, cold days of winter serve as an ideal time to visit a museum, learn more about our common American heritage and, during February, celebrate Black History Month. Dayton's internationally significant Paul Laurence Dunbar House is a must-see destination for anyone interested in history and for anyone searching to understand the centuries old struggle of African Americans' triumph over racism.

The life of African American author, Paul Laurence Dunbar, reveals this struggle in very real terms. Always a gifted learner, Paul graduated from Dayton's Central High School in 1891 as the only African American in his class. This was a particularly noteworthy accomplishment during a day and age when it was highly uncommon for anyone to complete 12 years of school, regardless of color or creed. It is even more remarkable when one considers that both of Paul's parents were former slaves.

After graduation, however, Paul again encountered the bigotry that was to plague him his entire life. White employers wouldn't hire him for positions suitable for a high school graduate so he was forced to accept a job as janitor for The National Cash Register Company before eventually assuming the role of elevator operator in downtown Dayton's Callahan Bank Building.

While working in this capacity, Paul began to develop an amazing collection of written work and personal contacts. Through a combination of talent, hard work and perseverance, he eventually authored over 400 published poems, lyrics for musicals, short stories and six full-length novels. He became America's first internationally celebrated African American author and remains a major literary inspiration today in the 21st Century for people around the world.

Have you never found time to visit the Paul Laurence Dunbar House even though it's in your hometown? Why not mark your calendar now to visit this February during Black History Month? The site is open for tours on a reservation basis on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11:00 and 2:00. Other tour times are available by advance arrangement.

Finally, it's important to remember that the story of African Americans in the greater Dayton region is far broader and more complex than the story of Dunbar.

To discover more, we encourage you to stop by the Carillon Historical Park Museum Store to purchase a copy of the Park pamphlet, *A History of Race Relations in the Miami Valley* or the acclaimed book, *Dayton's African American Heritage* by Dayton educator Margaret Peters.

Dunbar House Gets A New Coat Of Paint

In cooperation with Dayton History at Carillon Historical Park, the Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP Facility Maintenance Preservation Engineering Division is giving the Cole and Mundy Houses, which are part of the Paul Laurence Dunbar site, a face lift. Members of the division have been scraping & peeling paint on the two main buildings as well as the wood shed on the backside of the Visitor Center. Two of the individuals doing the lion's share of the work are National Park Service student employees Necia Alexander and Mitch Gearhart, both students of Sinclair University. Necia and Mitch have been with the park for awhile now and have done a fair amount of preservation work for the park and its partners.

They will be caulking, sealing and painting the buildings to prevent deterioration of the exterior wood and prevent water intrusion to the inside walls. In addition, after the painting is done, Carillon Historical Park along with Ohio Historical Society will have a contractor come in and repair the gutters and do other needed repairs as required. The joint work effort from the four groups will help preserve the Paul Laurence Dunbar site for future generations of kids and adults to enjoy. This is just another fine example of joint cooperation between the Dayton area museums on a local, state and federal level.



2010 Speaker Series

Our Aviation Heritage Speakers Series continues its 2010 season with presentations this year from Tim Gaffney, Squire Brown, and Paul Dye.

This series is designed to offer the public a variety of knowledgeable speakers addressing topics related to aviation history through engaging discussion and firsthand accounts.

All of these talks are on Wednesday, 7:00 pm at the Engineers Club, 110 East Monument Street, Dayton, Ohio. These events are free and open to the public. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

For more information about these talks and other future speakers coming to the Engineers Club, call Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park at 937.225.7705 or 937.425.0008.

Tim Gaffney -- Dayton's Air Show History

7:00 pm, March 17
The annual Vectren Dayton Air Show took off in 1975, but air shows and flying exhibitions in Dayton go back 100 years to the Wright Company's exhibition team, which trained at Huffman Prairie and made its flying debut at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in June 1910. Aviation writer Timothy R. Gaffney will discuss Dayton's air show history and highlight past major Dayton aviation shows, including national military shows and a national women's air race. Former Dayton Daily News columnist Tim Gaffney is an aviation writer, children's author, and public relations consultant living in Miamisburg near Dayton, Ohio. He is also editor and publisher of AviationDayton.com

Squire Brown -- Year of the Future

7:00 pm, July 21
Squire Brown is an aerospace engineer who retired from federal service at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1999. Since retirement, he has joined the volunteer program of the Air Force Museum, where he works in the archives of the Research Division. He is the author of *A Genesis Workshop: Five Generations of Engineering Enterprise from the Birthplace of Aviation*.

Paul Dye -- Flying the Space Shuttle

7:00 pm, October 20
Flying the Space Shuttle, Paul Dye has been with NASA's Johnson Space Center since 1980 as Senior Flight Director for the manned spaceflight program, and has served on 27 Space Shuttle missions. Mr. Dye will talk about the Space Shuttle as seen by pilots - how it flies, and how missions are prepared and executed.

2010 VIP Opportunities!

Volunteers in Parks (VIPs) show their support by donating valuable time that allows park staff to run a number of programs that would be impractical or impossible without volunteer assistance.

Volunteers come from all over to help preserve and protect America's natural and cultural heritage for the enjoyment of this and future generations. Young and old alike give of their time and expertise to assist in achieving the National Park Service mission. At Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP, the need for Volunteers-in-Parks (VIPs) will continue to increase due to the wide variety of education and interpretive programs we offer, and the procurement of additional sites throughout the Dayton community.

Currently, the park is seeking motivated applicants to assist with duties such as distributing park literature to visitors, answering questions, staffing an information desk, and more! If you are interested in volunteering, feel free to call our Volunteer Coordinator, Mandy Way at 937-225-7705 for more information.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

INTERPRETIVE ASSISTANT

Activities: Office/Clerical, Tour Guide/ Interpretation, Visitor Information, General Assistance

Dates: 01/31/2010----12/31/2010

SCHOOL PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Activities: Tour Guide/Educational Instruction Assistance

Dates: 01/31/2010----12/31/2010

GARDENER

Activities: Weed/Invasive Species Control

Dates: 06/17/2010----12/31/2010

VIP

National Leadership Council Visits Dayton Aviation



The National Leadership Council of the National Park Service is joined by the Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP staff in front of the Wright Cycle Company prior to their partnership tour of the park. The NLC is composed of the senior managers, along with the Director charged with managing the National Park Service. Director Jon Jarvis and the Midwest Regional Director Ernie Quintana are also pictured.

New Employees At DAAV!

We were fortunate this year to have three new employees join our ranks at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Maribeth Kambitsch was hired in May, 2009, as a Seasonal Park Guide. Her first career was in modern dance and her second career was in a title company in California. A longing to work out of doors led her to work at Agate Fossil Beds, Nebraska, and at Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota, as a seasonal employee. Maribeth has brought a great amount of energy and enthusiasm to her job here at both the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center.



Frank Coleman, Jr., came on as a Park Guide in the student hire program in June, 2009. He is currently enrolled as a Junior at Wright State University in the English Department. Frank has been a huge help in setting up and maintaining a Park blog and twitter site. He hopes to work as a journalist or for a publication firm after graduation.



Ryan Qualls also works for us as a Park Guide in the student hire program, beginning work in June, 2009. He is finishing studies for his Master's degree in History at Wright State University. Ryan is very creative and has helped with visuals for children's programs and keeps our archives up to date. Ryan hopes to work in a museum environment after graduation.



Please help us go green!
If you know someone that would like our electronic newsletter, please have them email their name and email address to daav_info@nps.gov

Fairwell To A Friend

We lost one of our fold this year; Bill Yandle died this past summer. Bill worked at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park as a Seasonal Park Guide from June of 2002 until his death on June 27, 2009. Prior to working in Dayton, he worked as a seasonal employee at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. After serving in the U.S. Army, his full-time career was as a High School teacher in the Springfield school system. He always exuded energy and enthusiasm and could always be depended upon to help with whatever task needed attending. Bill will always be remembered for his talks at the Wright Memorial. He would work himself up

about 20 minutes prior to the talk and walk through the museum to drum up interest for his program. He would then pick up his hat, put it on at that rakish angle he always wore (pulled down a bit in front), and walk determinedly out to the Wright Memorial. He always looked as if he were going to lasso some visitors and tie them to trees to get them to listen to his talk! Which, of course, he didn't have to do because his knowledge of Wright Brothers' history was extensive and his talks were engaging. Bill will be



2010 Bike-With-A-Ranger Rides

Come join us for a bicycle tour of historic Dayton with Bike-with-a-Ranger 2010. Sponsored by the National Park Service, this is a great way to explore Dayton's history and learn more about the Wright brothers. Choose from two bicycle programs offered this year.

Pre-registration is encouraged for The Gem City: Cradle of Creativity Tour (you can also register the day of the tour). Registration is **required** for the Huffman Prairie & Historic Patterson Field tour (see details below). Please register by calling 937-425-0008 and ask for Mark.

Tours may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Participants are required to bring their own bicycles and personal gear, including snacks and/or lunch. Helmets are required. For the latest information check our website at www.nps.gov/daav or call 937.425.0008.

<p>The Gem City: Cradle of Creativity NEW!</p> <p>June 6, July 11, August 8 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (4 hours) Orientation meeting starts 10:00 am</p> <p>Learn how Dayton became a hotbed of inventiveness, innovation, and creativity. This bicycle ride visits the Wrights' bicycle shop, the home of poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, Carillon Historical Park and various historic sites in Downtown Dayton. The tour ends where we started—in Wright-Dunbar Village. The Wright Cycle Company Complex is located at the intersection of West Third and South Williams Streets, 22 South Williams Street, Dayton OH 45402, just west of downtown.</p>	<p>Huffman Prairie & Historic Patterson Field NEW!</p> <p>June 20, July 25, and August 22 8:30 am – 12:30 pm (4 hours) Orientation meeting starts 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Discover how one of the largest aviation complexes in the world, Wright-Patterson AFB, began as a humble 84-acre cow pasture just a few miles northeast of Dayton. This bicycle ride will lead to Huffman Prairie Flying Field and historic old Patterson Field (present day Wright-Patterson AFB, Areas A & C). <u>Due to Air Force security requirements, all participants must register at least seven days prior to the tour. No exceptions!</u> The tour will start and end at Wright Memorial Hill.</p>
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Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Dayton, Ohio, Birthplace of Aviation

Dayton Wright-Dunbar Heritage News Goes Green

E-NEWS Update



Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP is GOING GREEN and will now be posting newsletters (like this one), our annual park newspaper, and news releases relevant to current issues and events on our website. These electronic publications will also be available to you via email.

Our full color publication Wright-Dunbar Heritage News, is now available at www.nps.gov/daav under "NEWS."

If you know someone who would like our electronic newsletter, up-to-date information about our park, upcoming events and news about our partners delivered to their email inbox, then have them sign up now. It's easy, just have them send us their name and email address to daav_info@nps.gov.

To go green and convert to the electronic version of Wright-Dunbar Heritage News, please send your email address to daav_info@nps.gov. You can also download the newsletter from our website, www.nps.gov/daav. We will not give your email address to anyone, so there is no need to worry about spam emails.

We will also be using email to send out news blasts about important issues and events that affect our park and partners.

To learn more about our park and what our website has to offer visit www.nps.gov/daav.

If you do not have a computer or internet access and would like to have a hard copy of the newsletter we can still mail you one by request. Please contact us at 937.225.7705.

America's Best Idea YMCA Participants (for more information go to page 2).



"While making this series, we discovered more than stories of the most dramatic landscapes on earth. We discovered stories of remarkable people from every conceivable background. What they had in common was a passion to save some precious portion of the land they loved so that those of us who followed might have the same chance to fall in love with that place. Without them, parks would not exist," Ken Burns.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Dayton, Ohio, Birthplace of Aviation