



NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS Alliance Update

Legislative Update

Spring gets people outdoors, into National Heritage Areas

On March 30, President Obama signed the Public Lands Omnibus Bill of 2009 into law. This sweeping legislation had wide-ranging implications for the National Park Service, including the designation of nine new National Heritage Areas. Stretching from Alaska to New Hampshire, the regions recognized by the bill encompass some of our nation’s most distinctive natural, cultural and historic landscapes. The new National Heritage Areas include:

- Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area, CO
- South Park National Heritage Area, CO
- Northern Plains National Heritage Area, ND
- Baltimore National Heritage Area, MD
- Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area, MA/NH
- Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, MS
- Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, MS
- Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, AL
- Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, AK

In addition to the new designations, the legislation also reauthorized the Cache La Poudre River National Heritage Area (CO), authorized two new feasibility studies for Chatahoochee Trace (AL/GA) and Northern Neck (VA) and amended existing laws pertaining to four National Heritage Areas.

Check back in the next Update for more detailed information on the nine new areas!



Cruise-goers enjoy an evening along the Augusta Canal.

Outdoor recreation is an integral part of the National Heritage Areas experience for residents and tourists alike. Open-air activities offer participants a direct connection to history, culture and the natural world. Getting outside and into a new environment exposes visitors to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of our country’s unique heritage landscapes in a way that exhibits and brochures can rarely match. It is not surprising then that, as warm weather approaches, many heritage areas are planning programs to promote the outdoor sites and resources in their regions.

Rivers, canals, and waterways are one popular setting for springtime events. The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in Georgia will soon begin hosting its “Moonlight Music Cruises” on a weekly basis. Cruise-goers get to enjoy an hour and half ride on the canal aboard a replica Petersburg boat, while also listening to live music, ranging from blues to folk. A much-anticipated event for those living near the historic waterway, the cruise brings people of the community together to celebrate their landscape and the talent of local musicians.

For those hoping to flex more than just their musical ear, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area in Pennsylvania offers a seven day guided canoe and kayak “sojourn” on the Schuylkill River. Participants come from all over the country and can choose to paddle the entire 112 miles, or stay for only a portion of the trip. Each night the paddlers get to experience a new locale, camping out together and enjoying entertainment around a campfire. From Schuylkill



Paddlers take part in the Schuylkill River Sojourn.



The Essex National Heritage Area is home to New England's largest salt marsh.

Haven to Philadelphia, paddlers experience a wealth of the area's natural and cultural heritage.

Combining classroom and field, the Essex National Heritage Area is sponsoring walks through its Great Marsh during the month of April. Visitors learn about the ecology of the region from a local naturalist, while trekking through New England's largest salt marsh. Aside from the guided tours, many come to enjoy biking, boating, fishing, and bird watching as well.

Outdoor recreation is a wonderful way to learn about history, culture and nature. So grab a paddle, binoculars, or a friend and explore what springtime activities Heritage Areas are offering.

Springtime agricultural traditions come alive in National Heritage Areas



Children visit Emerald Farm in the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor.

From Iowa to Connecticut to New Mexico, farming plays a prominent role in many National Heritage Areas. Traditional agricultural practices, family farms and large-scale agri-businesses are all present in our heritage regions, resulting in a rich tapestry of experience and understanding. In the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC), a series of festivals will be taking place this spring at more than a dozen farms across the state. The events began on April 4, with a special celebration at Happy Cow Creamery in Pelzer and travels down the 17 county Corridor and back up to end on June 28 at Callaham Orchards Blackberry Day in Belton.

The Heritage Corridor Farmer's Association (HCFA) is sponsoring this series of events to provide a family-oriented experience to the visitors and residents of South Carolina, while also educating them on the practices of farming. Elizabeth Harm, marketing director for the SCNHC, commented, "This season long festival series provides children and adults the opportunity to pick strawberries, visit local farmers markets, and even have their picture made with an alpaca,"

For more details on the farm festivals, contact the Freshwater Coast Discovery Center at (866) 915-0842 or visit www.sc-heritagecorridor.org.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority offers grant funding tips for economic crunch

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and members of the LHVA Heritage Valley sponsored their second annual Spring Symposium on March 30. The title of this year's timely event was "Swimming Lessons: Staying Afloat During the Funding Crunch."

The Spring Symposium is a daylong professional enhancement workshop for staff and volunteers of cultural, environmental, and heritage sites in the region. Workshops focused on effective grant seeking strategies, with an emphasis on targeted internet research. Learn more at www.lhva.org.

Essex National Heritage Area sponsors spring photo safari



A marsh landscape in the Essex National Heritage Area.

With Spring here, registration for Essex National Heritage Area's 2009 Photo Safaris program is open. Sponsored by New England's largest photography retailer, Hunt's Photo & Video and four major camera equipment companies, the Essex Heritage Photo Safaris provide participants an innovative blend of historic exploration and modern-day digital photography techniques. Photographers of all levels expand their technical skills while visiting beautiful heritage area locations such as Historic Salem, Crane Estate in Ipswich, Rockport's Halibut Point State Park and the Saugus Iron Works.

National Aviation Heritage Area partners to bring aviation history to the big screen



Clay Lacy, renowned aerial cinematographer and Cliff Robertson, Academy Award winner and National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee discuss "The Pilot" as part of the Hall of Fame's Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation.

The National Aviation Hall of Fame, a partner of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA), recently sponsored its second annual Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation. Held from March 12-15, 2009, the event featured a mix of documentaries, classics and new features, all celebrating the adventure of flight. Principal sponsor of the event was NetJets, along with support from Air-Mail Greetings, Gates Frontiers Fund and Think TV in Dayton, Ohio. The National Aviation Hall of Fame is the congressionally chartered non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's outstanding air and space pioneers, located in Dayton, Ohio.

Each screening had its own special introduction with words offered by actors, directors, cinematographers and historians. For example, Academy Award-winning actor Cliff Robertson, a 2006 National Aviation Hall of Fame

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inductee, introduced one feature, while Catherine Wyler, daughter of Oscar-winning director William Wyler, also served as a presenter. Ms. Wyler, introduced her father's 1944 documentary, "Memphis Belle," as well as the 1990 Warner Brothers action-drama of the same name, which she co-produced. A special highlight of this year's festival was the first major North American showing of "Der Rote Baron (The Red Baron)," a German-funded and produced film released in Europe in 2008. The producer/director Nikolai Mullerschoen introduced this exciting film, which portrayed the life of legendary WWI ace, Baron von Richtofen.

Of the student, by the student, for the student - Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership designs innovative multimedia project for local students



Harpers Ferry Middle School students act in a historical portrayal of the John Brown raid in Harpers Ferry.

What does not belong in this group—wireless multimedia, middle school students or the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War? The answer is none of the above.

In fact, they all fit into a groundbreaking multimedia project created by students, for students, and sponsored by Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (HFNHP), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership. With storyboards and scripts complete, eight teams of Harpers Ferry Middle School students recently moved into the video

production phase of a groundbreaking multimedia project created by students, for students. Ultimately, their product will not only be used by thousands of other students visiting HFNHP, it will also be downloadable at the Park or online to personal multimedia players to use while visiting the HFNHP.

This 21st century service-based learning project is a student-inspired initiative that will create six wireless video vignettes or Vodcasts, offering middle-school students' perspectives on the famous John Brown Raid in Harpers Ferry, which set-off fighting in the American Civil War. "We know that today's young people are connected to a high-tech media world," said Dennis E. Frye, chief historian of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. "We saw this as a terrific opportunity to let students connect the past to the present and retell a story in their own voices, in their own vision and in their own medium to enrich the Park experience for visitors of all ages."

Silos & Smokestacks NHA funds internships, sponsors 2009 summer camp

This year, Silos & Smokestacks NHA (SSNHA) awarded \$5,740 in grants for its 2009 Intern Grant Program. The awards will help fund four summer internships at SSNHA partner sites in the region. Intern projects will focus on preserving and telling the story of American agriculture. Sample projects include a placement at the Floyd County Historical Society Museum emphasizing proper collections management and an education-focused internship at the University of Iowa Museums. In addition, an intern at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decora, Iowa will be tasked with updating an interpretive plan and developing new educational materials for the Jacobson Farmstead.

Along with the Intern Grant Program, SSNHA will also be facilitating day camps in partnership with several partner sites. Campers will spend the summer exploring the sights, sounds and smells of Iowa. Each day, campers will go on a new and exciting adventure within the Heritage Area. Planned activities include a prairie walk at Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, a canoe trip and an opportunity to milk cows at a local dairy farm. For more information on SSNHA internship or summer camp programs visit: www.silosandsmokestacks.org or e-mail areid@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Oil Region sponsors "The Birds & Nature in Your Backyard" contests

The Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism (PA) recently selected finalists in two nature-themed art contests. The first, a poster contest open to all fourth and fifth graders in the region, received more than 60 entries from a wide variety of school districts. The second, a 3-D art competition, accepted submissions from students in grades 6, 7 and 8. In recognition of their selection, finalists' work will be on display for the month of April at a local gallery.

Following the close of the exhibition, finalists and their parents have been invited to attend a "Birder's Banquet" on Saturday, May 2, where the grand prizewinner for each contest will be announced. Don Riepe, the Jamaica Bay Guardian, will provide a keynote address for the event. Riepe, an avid birder and naturalist, has written extensively on natural history subjects and his photographs have appeared in "Scientific American," "National Wildlife," "Audubon," "Defenders," "Underwater Naturalist," "Parade," and "The New York Times."

ANILIA

VISIT THE ALLIANCE OF
NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREAS ONLINE:

www.nationalheritageareas.com



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



Eleanor Mahoney
National Park Service
National Heritage Areas
202.354.2268
Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/

Dayton Sherouse
Chairman
Alliance of National Heritage Areas
202.528.7549
sherrouse@augustacanal.com
www.nationalheritageareas.com

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Disaster Preparedness Workshop

Is your institution prepared for a disaster? How can you know for sure? This workshop, offered by the Minnesota Association of Museums, prepares participants on salvage techniques, but also goes one step further by staging a mock disaster.

Participants will observe the mock scenario and apply what they have learned from the morning's lecture to "rescue" damaged artifacts. The workshop will cover salvage operations including an overview of various disasters and their effect on different materials. E-mail info@pre-serveart.org for more information on this event.

American Folklore Society to hold annual meeting in Boise, ID

The American Folklore Society will be hosting its annual meeting in Boise, Idaho on October 21-25, 2009. Presentations will focus on the theme of "ethics of place", examining how folk cultures interact with the physical environment and the reverberations within broader contexts. The deadline for registration to attend is August 31, 2009. More information is available at <http://www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm>.

National Extension Tourism Conference focuses on connections between recreation and tourism

The National Extension Tourism Conference will take place June 14-17, 2009 in Park City, Utah. This conference will draw connections between recreation and tourism nationwide, as well as provide a forum for professionals to network and share information about related projects. The theme for this year's conference is "The Tourism Connection: Sustaining People, Places, and Communities."

For additional information on the conference, visit <http://extensiontourism.net>.

Exploring war and conflict through oral history

The Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) is holding its annual Spring Conference in Washington, DC this year, with the theme, "Exploring War and Conflict Through Oral History." The event, sponsored by OHMAR and the Veterans History Project, American Folk Life Center, and the Library of Congress, will take place April 30 – May 1, 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.ohmar.org/confcurrent.html>.

ASSISTANCE/AWARDS

National Trust for Historic Preservation blog provides information on federal grants

Are you interested in tracking federal grant opportunities? Show Me the Money, a blog sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offers wide-ranging information on federal assistance for all manner of preservation-related projects. Visit <http://nthpgrants.blogspot.com/> to learn more!

History Channel grant opportunities

The History Channel has posted its 2009 grant application online at <http://www.saveourhistory.com>. Grants are available for organizations that engage students in community history through partnerships with schools or other youth groups. The due date for applications is June 5, 2009.

PARTNER UPDATE

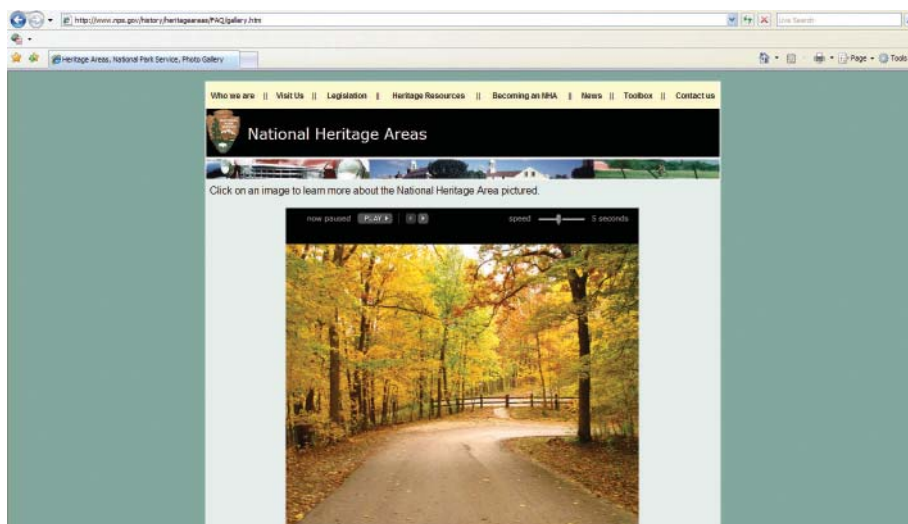
NPS Heritage Area Web site adds new interactive content

Where would you like to go today? Now you can explore a number of National Heritage Areas all across the country via the photo gallery on the NPS National Heritage Areas Program Web site, available at <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ/gallery.htm>.

The new photo gallery includes thumbnail images that, when clicked upon, bring up a larger photo and a descriptive caption of a Heritage Area. "This is a way for visitors to heritage areas to be able to share their experiences with the wider public," said Eleanor Mahoney, NPS assistant national coordinator for Heritage Areas.

Thanks to Flickr, the very popular photo-sharing website, heritage area staff (along with visitors and supporters) are now able to upload photos to the group pool for enjoyment by all. Users can then choose whether to view the photos through the Flickr website or through the NPS/NHA website viewer noted above.

The Flickr group and photo gallery Web site are new ways to bring together heritage areas as a cohesive group. Sharing photos of important landmarks, events and people will enable group members to stay informed about each other and to gain insights about their own heritage community. It should prove to be an excellent and fun networking tool.



Visit the new NHA photo gallery on the Web at <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ/gallery.htm>

How to upload your NHA photos

- In order to join the group you must have, or create, a Yahoo ID and email account. This is free and easy to do at <http://mail.yahoo.com>.
- Once you have the email account you can set up your own Flickr account and upload photos to it, you can then cross-post them to the National Heritage Areas group.
- Once you join the "group," you can add images easily. The website will walk you through the uploading procedure. Flickr allows users to place restrictions on images if they choose (i.e. copyright protections, etc.) or to make the image free and open through their "creative commons" feature.
- To upload photos to the group pool, visit http://www.flickr.com/groups/national_heritage_areas.

Northeast Region welcomes Peter Samuel as National Heritage Areas Program Coordinator

The National Park Service's Northeast Regional Office recently welcomed Peter Samuel as National Heritage Areas Program Coordinator in the Division of Preservation Assistance and Heritage Areas. Peter brings to the position a depth of experience in landscape architecture and planning. Peter began his career with NPS in 1991 in the Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, where he was primarily involved with park planning and special studies. He later helped lay the foundation for the Wheeling National Heritage Area, and gradually focused on heritage area planning throughout the region, working with Areas such as Rivers of Steel, Delaware & Lehigh Canal, and Lackawanna Heritage Valley. After a one-year stint as the Manager of the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor in 1997, Peter returned to the NPS to work on heritage area plans for National Coal Heritage, the Oil Region, and an

updated plan for the Wheeling NHA.

For the past three years, he has worked in the Northeast Regional Office's Park Planning and Special Studies Division, and in the past year completed a Special Resource Study in the state of Delaware to make recommendations for the first NPS park unit in the "first state." Peter has a wide range of experience with the development and implementation of heritage areas in the Northeast Region. He has also been closely involved with the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, numerous heritage conferences, the drafting of heritage area legislation, and the development of publications and guidelines for heritage areas. Contact info: Peter Samuel, National Heritage Areas Program Coordinator, NPS Northeast Region, 200 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 597-1848, Peter_Samuel@nps.gov

Featured Wheeling National Heritage Area

For almost a decade, the Wheeling National Heritage Area, in the northern panhandle of West Virginia, has been engaged in an ambitious urban revitalization program. Promoting sustainable economic development, through preservation and utilization of the city's natural setting and historic resources, the heritage area seeks to recognize, communicate and preserve Wheeling's unique history as a manufacturing and transportation crossroads.

The Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC), a non-profit organization, serves as the local coordinating entity for the NHA. Led by a community-based board of directors, the WNHAC focuses on the core of the Heritage Area and its unique Heritage Port, acting as a catalyst in the development of public/private partnerships. All WNHAC activities support the goals laid out in the "Plan for the Wheeling National Heritage Area," available at www.wheelingheritage.org

In recent years, WNHAC has been leading the effort to bring the Capitol Music Hall back to



Announcement of the purchase and reopening of the Capitol Theater was celebrated by Wheeling Mayor Andy McKenzie; legendary Jamboree USA musician, Doc Williams; Hydie Friend, Wheeling NHA director; Frank O'Brien, Wheeling CVB director; and Denny Magruder, Wheeling Municipal Auditorium Board director.



Nighttime at the historic Capitol Music Hall in downtown Wheeling, WV.

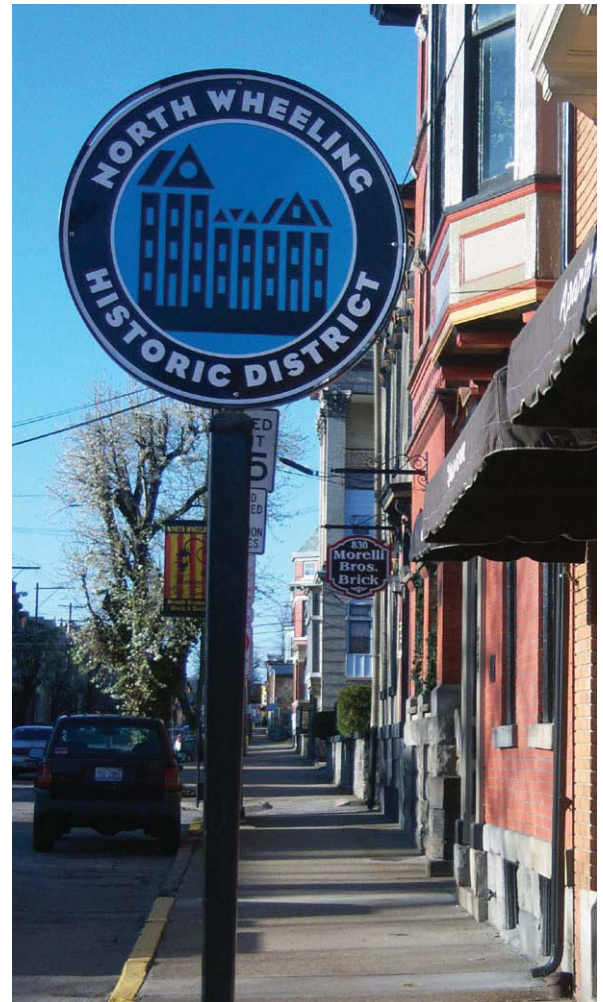
life in downtown Wheeling. Since its opening in 1928, this grand Beaux-Arts theater played a vital role in both the city's image and its economy. Listed as a "pivotal structure" in the Wheeling Historic District, the theater was home of the legendary Jamboree USA, the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra and various other musical, dance and theater groups. Closed since May 2007, the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia named the Capitol Music Hall to its Endangered Properties List for 2009.

A consortium of Wheeling area governments, organizations, institutions, businesses and individuals have worked diligently to purchase and plan for the phased rehabilitation of this local landmark. Exploration of

public/private partnerships is underway to allow for investment and tax credits for historic preservation. The city of Wheeling and its Municipal Auditorium Board, the Regional Economic Development Partnership, the Wheeling-Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau have all joined WNHAC in this significant effort.

In addition to the Capitol Music Hall project, the Heritage Area has also recently been involved in the development of a new signage program for the region. This spring saw the placement of gateway signs for the six historic districts that adjoin the Historic National Road, a National Scenic Byway that runs through the Wheeling NHA. Funded by the National Scenic Byways Program through the WV Department of Transportation, the signs feature an icon developed for each historic district atop a 6-foot cut nail sign post. Wheeling, once known as Nail City, is the location of the world's largest operating cut nail factory, Wheeling LaBelle.

Cultural heritage also plays an important role in Wheeling, as evidenced by the 13th annual Wheeling Celtic celebration this March. This annual WNHAC event celebrates the sights, smells, food and traditions of the city. Other ongoing Heritage Area projects include the design and installation of interpretive waysides in historic neighborhoods; a community archives project highlighting the story of Wheeling's streetcars using oral histories and photographs; and continued funding of the Wheeling Heritage Partnership Grant Program.



New signage in Wheeling.



Celtic dance traditions are passed on to a new generation.