



March 2004

● Legislative Update

-In February and March, House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees are holding several hearings on the FY2005 budget request for the Department of the Interior. On February 25, Secretary Gale Norton testified before the House Subcommittee on Appropriations on the budget for the Department of the Interior. On February 26, Director Fran Mainella testified before Congress on the proposed FY2005 budget for the National Park Service, which would provide increased funding to address the maintenance backlog. FY2005 funding includes \$21 million for the Cooperative Conservation Initiative, which will provide new and expanded opportunities for partner participation through the NPS Challenge Cost Program.

● This Month in the Heritage Areas

-The **Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA)** held its annual meeting in Washington, DC on February 9, 2004, followed by individual meetings with Congressional representatives, and a reception in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building. National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and Associate Director for Cultural Resources Jan Matthews welcomed over 100 attendees and recognized the partnership efforts and support that heritage areas have realized.



-On February 10, a delegation from the **Blackstone River Valley** in Massachusetts and Rhode Island presented 24 *Preserve America* Community Applications to the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation in Washington, DC. Community grants will assist communities in the sustainable uses of their historic and cultural sites and the economic and educational opportunities related to heritage tourism.

-Also this month, Laura Bush announced the first eight *Preserve America* Communities, one of which is Augusta, Georgia. From the ACHP website: "...of particular note is the **Augusta Canal National Heritage Area**, featuring the Nation's only industrial power canal still used for its original purpose. Built in 1845, it was nearly drained and used as the course for a planned superhighway in the 1960s. Realizing the development potential of the canal and its remaining mills, the community partnered with governmental, non-profit, and private organizations to restore related trails and structures." For more information on *Preserve America* grants and communities, see <http://www.achp.org> or <http://www.preserveamerica.org>.



-On **February 19, 2004** the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and the National Park Service held a one-day workshop entitled *The Basics of Heritage Development* on the concept and practice of

planning and implementing heritage areas. The workshop was sold out to more than 40 individuals and heritage area teams. The workshop was followed by a brief boat tour along the Augusta Canal.

● Upcoming Events and Conferences: Mark your Calendars

-For information on future Heritage Development Institute courses or register for an upcoming workshop, visit www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/hdi.htm, email spj2d@mtsu.edu or call 615.898.2947.

-Upcoming Heritage Development Institute Courses: Wednesday, **September 29, 2004**, Louisville, KY: 9-2.30p at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference—*The Basics of Heritage Areas: Getting Started*.

-A basics course will be held during September 2004 in Montana and an advanced course will be held this summer in New England.

-On **March 12, 2004**, a workshop will be held in Cane River National Heritage Area at Melrose Plantation, a National Historic Landmark, on developing tours for historic sites. The workshop, entitled "Great Tours!" is based on a book of the same name published two years ago by the National Trust. The authors of the book will lead the workshop. For more information, contact the Cane River National Heritage Area office at (318) 356-5555 or pantley@caneriverheritage.org.

-**March 25-28, 2004**, Natchitoches, LA: US/ICOMOS Symposium -- *Learning from World Heritage: Lessons from International Preservation & Stewardship of Cultural and Ecological Landscapes of Global Significance*. This conference is being held in the Cane River National Heritage Area and the heritage area is one of the sponsors. For more information, visit <http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/Symposium/SYMP04/2004%20Symposium.htm>

-**June 5-8, 2005**, Nashville, TN: International Heritage Development Institute Conference, sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. For more information, visit <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>

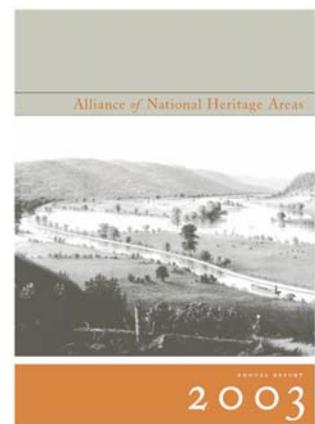
● New Publications

-The new and improved *2003 Alliance of National Heritage Areas Annual Report* is now on the web. Visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/> to view or download a copy. This report highlights the areas' accomplishments and ANHA projects.

● News you can use: *press releases, events, ideas*

-The *Essex Heritage Explorers Program* is a subscription program that offers a quarterly newsletter, product discounts and reduced and free admissions to area events to residents and visitors. Several hundred individuals, families and organizations joined in its first few months. For more information, visit <http://www.essexheritage.org/cwgc/explorers/bonusguide.html>.

-Many national heritage areas, including Essex, Shenandoah, and Illinois & Michigan Canal, regularly distribute press releases and news events via email to keep constituents updated on regional activities, opportunities, and accomplishments. If you send regular updates via email, please notify the editors, or put us on your list so that we can stay informed of events.



- **Promotional Opportunities**

-Travel Industry of America (TIA) will soon unveil a *See America's National Parks Promotion Campaign* to support and promote the NPS system, gateways and surrounding regions. For five **free** ways to promote your area in connection with a unit of the national park system, visit <http://www.tia.org/marketing/default.asp>. Send news releases and story ideas related to your heritage area's activities with a NPS unit to TIA for inclusion on their website, <http://www.seeamerica.org/>, and in their monthly media newsletter. For more information, contact Mike Pina, TIA Manager of Public Relations and Communications at mpina@tia.org, or call 202.408.2137.

- **Upcoming Deadlines:** Grants, awards, conference paper sessions, publications

-**Preserve America History Teacher of the Year:** Preserve America and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History will honor outstanding teachers of American history across the country with a new "Preserve America History Teacher of the Year" award. Finalists will be selected annually from each state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories. State winners will receive \$1000 and a core archive of history materials for their school library. A "National Preserve America History Teacher of the Year" will be selected from the group of state finalists. The winner, together with the nominating supervisor, will be flown to Washington, D. C. for recognition. Deadline to apply: April 30, 2004. For application information, see: <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

- **On the Road**

In February, your editor presented to over 40 attendees on the Federal role in national heritage areas at the Heritage Development Institute Workshop in Augusta, Georgia. March includes a presentation at the US/ICOMOS conference in the Cane River National Heritage Area in Natchitoches, LA.

- **For more information on the heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

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-Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>

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