



June 2004

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• Legislative Update

-No heritage area action on the Hill this month. No new bills have been introduced this month. The House and Senate are in recess until June 1st and from June 28th until July 5th.

• This month at the National Park Service



-National Heritage Area Workshop Held for Gullah/Geechee Community Representatives: On May 26, the National Park Service and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas’ Heritage Development Institute (HDI) sponsored an information workshop for community representatives of the Gullah/ Geechee coastal region of South Carolina and Georgia.

The three-hour workshop provided an introduction to the heritage area strategy, from planning to implementation and management. Sessions described the role of the NPS, partnerships and community involvement and support. Presenters encouraged attendees to continue to debate and evaluate the feasibility of this method of heritage development. This workshop was funded in part by a Challenge Cost Share Grant from NPS Southeast Regional Office to the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, which administers HDI.

The workshop followed a press conference at the Penn Center Museum announcing the Gullah/ Geechee region’s designation as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s “11 Most Endangered Places” for 2004. Congressman James Clyburn, Wally Hibbard, NPS Deputy Regional Director for the Southeast Region, and representatives from the National Trust and its Board of Advisors addressed an audience of community members, reporters and guests regarding the “validation” that such national recognition is gives to the region.



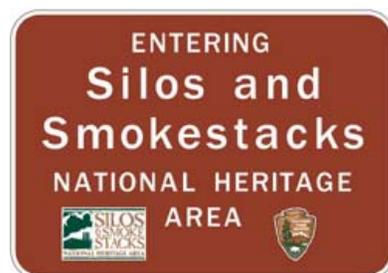
The National Trust designation falls on the heels of a NPS Special Resource Study being completed on the Gullah/ Geechee Culture, which will be submitted with management recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior by the end of the year. Suggested management alternatives include the establishment of costal heritage centers and/ or a national heritage area.

-Advisory Board Update: The partnerships committee of the NPS Advisory Board will be meeting in Cuyahoga Valley National Park June 10-11 to plan the Advisory Board's year-long analysis of the future of the national heritage areas. The process will culminate in a printed report available June 2005. On June 15, Coordinator of the National Heritage Areas Brenda Barrett will present the partnership committee's plan and recommendations to the full committee of the Advisory Board for their review.

● This Month in the Heritage Areas

-On May 15, the **South Carolina National Heritage Corridor** held a reception to commemorate the Grand Opening of the Region II Discovery Center. On the 16th, the Center opened to the public with music, family activities, and exhibit booths. The Discovery Center, located in restored farmhouse from the 1840s that was donated to the NHC, has 6,000 square feet of exhibit space. Visit: <http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/html/guestbook.html>.

-Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area received an Iowa Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Merit Award in the Planning Category for its Signage Design Guidelines. Brian, Clark & Associates is the design consultant.



-MotorCities NHA has launched its new website, along with a new identity and new features: <http://www.experienceeverythingautomotive.com>.

-Lancaster-York Heritage Region has moved and their contact information has changed. Visit their website for more information: <http://www.lyhr.org>.

-The **Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area** was awarded a \$30,000 Challenge Cost Share Grant by the NPS Southeast Regional Office. \$15,000 will be used for Heritage Development Insitute Courses and the remaining will be directed toward the International Heritage Development Conference.

-The **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area** was awarded a \$28,000 Challenge Cost Share Grant by the Southeast Regional Office for implementation of Gateway Community workshops to supplement its management planning process. For more details on these two awards contact this editor.

● Upcoming Events and Conferences

-The **2005 National Association for Interpretation Conference** will include a session by MotorCities, Silos and Smokestacks and the NPS Mid-west regional office on non-traditional interpretation and how it addresses multiple tourism goals in heritage areas—economic development, multiple stakeholders, unusual stories, and atypical locations. Context-based programs in heritage

areas are geographically and landscape based, involve multi-sites, are funded in creative ways and part of the community fabric. Visit the NAI website to register: <http://www.interpnet.org>.

-Heritage Development Institute Courses: July 23, 2004 in Reston, VA, 9-4p: *Heritage Areas: A Forum on Partnership Strategies and Heritage Development*. The morning will cover the basics of heritage development: in the afternoon, there will be a moderated discussion about the different Federal programs that work with communities to achieve conservation goals. The afternoon sessions will focus on sharing best practices and encouraging future interagency collaboration.

-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*. Register after June 1, 2004 at <http://www.nthpconference.org>.

-September 23-24, 2004 in Butte and Virginia City, Montana.

-HDI will be launching a new website in the next month. Until then, for more information or register for an upcoming workshop, visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/hdi.htm>, email hdi@mtsu.edu or call 615.898.2947.

-International Heritage Development Conference: June 5-8, 2005, Nashville, TN: sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. A conference website will be live soon. A call for session proposals is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/>. The deadline for submittals is July 30, 2004.

● **Promotional Opportunities**

-NPS Digest: Send this editor your news items that may be of national interest (please include a 1-2 paragraph description, abstract, title, and image) anytime, and she will submit them to **NPS Digest**. NPS Digest is accessible directly from the NPS homepage (<http://www.nps.gov>) and contains daily headlines and news, information and reports of interest to the public and partners.

● **Upcoming grants, awards, and symposium opportunities**

-American Planning Association is seeking nominations for its **2005 National Planning Awards**. Cane River won an award for *Outstanding Collaborative Planning Project* in 2004 for its Management Plan. To make a nomination: <http://www.planning.org/awards/2005.htm>. Deadline: September 3, 2004.

● **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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