



August 2004

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• **Legislative Update**

July was a busy month for heritage areas legislation.

-Introduced, marked up, and passed in the House: H.R. 4492, to amend the Omnibus parks and Public lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes. The bill was marked up and passed by the Resources Committee on July 14, and passed with amendments by the House on July 19. Amendments provide for the designation of the National Aviation Heritage Area and the Oil Region National Heritage Area, a boundary revision and change of authority for the National Coal Heritage Area, a reauthorization of appropriations for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, and a transition, extension, and provisions for a new management entity for the Illinois and Michigan National Canal Heritage corridor.

-Introduced on June 24: S. 4683 – (Clyburn, SC) - A bill to establish the **Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor**, to enhance the preservation and interpretation of the Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage, and for other purposes.

-A bill to study the feasibility of a **Western Reserve Heritage Area (H.R. 3527)** was marked up and passed by the House Resources Committee on July 14.

-The National Heritage Partnership Act (S.2543) was also marked up on July 14.

-Congress is in recess until September 7.

• **Update on the NPS Advisory Board Report on the National Heritage Areas**

-NPS Advisory Board Meeting--On July 15, members of the Advisory Board met in Estes Park, CO. Brenda Barrett and Chair of the Partnership Committee Mayor Jerry Hrubby presented a report on the Committee's work to compile a report on the *Future of the National Heritage Areas*. The NPS Advisory Board was created in 1935 to advise the Director and Secretary on issues relating to the National Park System, the National Park Service and its programs. The Partnership Committee of the Advisory Board has been asked to review the National Heritage Areas program

and to make recommendations for how the NPS should be involved in national heritage areas in the future.

-The Partnership Committee members have now been selected, and will meet in the Blackstone River Valley NHC September 7-8, 2004.

-Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Sustainability Study--Staff from the National Park Service, NPS Conservation Study Institute and the Corridor met in the Blackstone River Valley on July 26-27 to outline a plan of action for the sustainability study, which will analyze the Corridor's progress and recommend future steps. Research and analysis begins the first week in August. The study is scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2004. Senator Chafee (D--RI) has introduced a bill to outline the purposes of such a study (S. 2646).

● **This Month in the Heritage Areas**

-The NPS Northeast Regional Office reports that management plans for Lackawanna Heritage Valley and Wheeling National Heritage Area are on their way to Washington this month for approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

-MotorCities made the front page of the *Detroit News* this month for its current efforts and future potential to provide Auto Heritage Tourism activities—to read the article, visit <http://www.detnews.com/2004/autosinsider/0407/28/a01-225259.htm>.

-Nothing else to report—submit future event reports of note to suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov.

● **Upcoming Events in the Heritage Areas**

-None to report—but events are certainly happening. Submit upcoming events of note to suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov.

● **Upcoming Conferences and workshops**

-Visit the **new Heritage Development Institute** website for course descriptions and registration information: <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>.

-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 through the National Trust (separate registration fee—conference attendance is not required) at <http://www.nthpconference.org>.

- September 23-24, 2004 in Butte and Virginia City, Montana. HDI Chair Van West reports that the Montana workshops in July had good attendance and that the reaction to heritage area development was very positive.

-**2005 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. Visit the new conference website: <http://www.ihdc2005.org>.

-2005 George Wright Society Conference: March 14-18, 2005. Formerly geared toward academics and National Park Service employees, this biennial conference is now attracting attendees from other disciplines and private and public sectors. This year's conference addresses the linkages between nature and culture, and highlights current hot topics such as education and interpretation and social justice. Abstracts for papers, sessions, workshops, field trips, and side meetings must be received by October 8, 2004. Visit <http://www.georgewright.org/2005.html>.

-2005 Society for Applied Anthropology Conference: All abstracts must be received by October 15, 2004. Visit <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2005/2005instruct.html>.

- **New websites**

-The website for the Alliance of National Heritage Areas is now up and running, so visit:

<http://www.nationalheritageareas.org>

- **Other happenings in the Washington Office**

-Visitors from **Morocco** and **Miami Beach** visited the Washington office this month. Artist Asmaa Benachir works with women and children to foster the continuation of local crafts and indigenous traditions, and with her Moroccan partners envisions developing a cultural center in a former palace as a keystone to future sustainable development and tourism efforts. South Beach, Miami is exploring a comprehensive approach to preservation which includes the celebration and promotion of cultural heritage and living traditions in an increasingly diverse city. The city receives 150 million visitors a year—while herein lies a great opportunity to integrate and market a rich and complex mixture of cultural, natural and historical resources, visitors simultaneously put intense pressures on these resources.

-Report on the Reston, VA HDI workshop on Improving Federal Partnership Strategies: Federal partners from American Heritage Rivers Initiative, National Scenic Byways, Conservation Reserve Program, Coastal Zone Management Program, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Trails System, Preserve America, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, and Resource Conservation and Development Programs discussed program challenges and how to improve coordination and partnerships with local constituents.

National Heritage Area directors Carroll Van West, Dan Rice, and Augie Carlino spoke about resource conservation, partnerships, and the benefits and burdens of heritage areas. After lunch Brenda Barrett and Jacquelyn Tuxill of the NPS Conservation Study Institute moderated a discussion about the theory and practice of Federal partnerships, challenges to program coordination and next steps for achieving better coordination and communication with partners. Next steps include using the NPS Federal Preservation Institute's new Historic Preservation Learning Portal (www.historicpreservation.gov) and preparing a best practices manual or "hot paper" on Federal partnerships. A workshop report will be available.

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

-Reach the editors at brenda_barrett@nps.gov or suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov

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

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