



November 2004

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● **Legislative Update**

Congress was in recess during the month of October, and will reconvene for a lame duck session on November 16.

● **Update on the Blackstone River Valley Sustainability Study**

-On October 26, the **Blackstone River Valley Sustainability Study** Team invited key NPS staff and professionals to discuss and recommend steps for the future management direction of the Blackstone River Valley. The Corridor's legislation sunsets in 2006, when the Federal Commission and funding is due to terminate; the National Heritage Corridor designation is permanent. The NPS Conservation Study Institute is managing the project, which will culminate in a report that assesses past and present process and outcomes and makes recommendations on a future management strategy. Workshops, public meetings and interviews are being held to gather constituents' comments and visions. The study team, which consists of NPS staff, Corridor staff, consultants and researchers, continues to gather information on accomplishments, the Corridor's partnership culture and management. Preliminary recommendations will be reported to the Commission's Futures Committee at the end of the year.

-**National Park System Advisory Board Partnerships Committee** will meet again December 1-3 in the Cane River National Heritage Area.

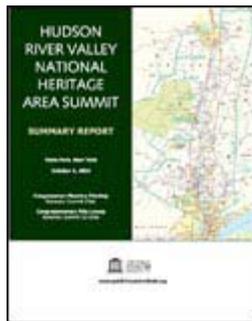
● **Alliance of National Heritage Areas News**

-The ANHA-sponsored **International Heritage Development Conference** preliminary program is now available at <http://www.ihdc2005.org>. You can co-sponsor one or more events or reserve an exhibit booth to educate others about your products, services or region by visiting the website or contacting Van West at 615.898.2947.



● This Month in the Heritage Areas

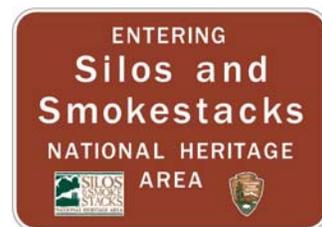
-Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District—On October 21, Diann Jacox, Superintendent, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park met with Rep. Bob Goodlatte, (R-VA) in his district office in Harrisonburg to update him on the park. On October 15, Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-VA) attended commemorative events for the 140th anniversary of the battle of Cedar Creek. Superintendent Jacox and Sandy Rives, NPS Virginia Director, were present. They also attended another event with Mr. Wolf, who announced the sign program installation for the National Historic District on Interstate 81 in Winchester.



-The **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Summit** brought together over 180 community leaders, historians, business leaders, elected officials, educators and others on October 4 to develop a vision and plan for the future of the heritage area. The one-day summit was chaired by Representative Hinchey. Carmella Mantello, Director of the NHA, Paul Bray, LLC and member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Allen Sachse, Executive Director of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor shared histories, initiatives and lessons from this and other heritage areas. During afternoon sessions, participants prioritized heritage area goals, which fed into a discussion of action steps to more effectively achieve the participants' vision of the future of the heritage area. More information is available in a summary report at <http://www.publicforuminstitute.org>.

-This month, Olga Herbert, Executive Director of the **Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor**, hosted a tour for agencies that helped fund the Lincoln Highway 200-Mile Roadside Museum. The 9 murals, numerous gas pumps and over 65 wayside exhibits have been featured in the New York Times, USA Today and even a London newspaper. The Heritage Corridor, PA Route 30, is reachable via the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Southwestern Pennsylvania, or visit <http://www.lhmc.org/content/subpag/muse.htm>.

-Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area--Congressman Leonard Boswell and other dignitaries attended a ceremony on October 22 at Living History Farms in Urbandale to celebrate the installation of five Gateway Signs for Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. The signs are a cooperative effort between the John Deere Foundation, John Deere Waterloo Works, Iowa Department of Transportation and the National Park Service. According to Don Short, Silos & Smokestacks Executive Director, "These signs begin to unite the Heritage Area making it a place. They will serve as a local reminder that this living landscape is nationally significant in telling the story of America Agriculture."



The Gateway Signs are the first phase of signs and markers designed to help visitors navigate and interpret the partner sites and communities of the Heritage Area. In 2005, place identification signs will be installed at each of the 74 sites and points of interest in the Heritage Area, and interactive kiosks will be put in two of Iowa's Welcome Centers. For more information, see http://silosandsmokestacks.org/8media/pr_25.html.

● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-The National Endowment for the Arts and USDA Rural Development Office of Community Development are funding four more **Share Your Heritage workshops** for 2005. Local host applications for the 2005 Share Your Heritage workshops are now available. Applications are due on or before **November 19, 2004**. For more information about Share Your Heritage, evaluation criteria, and an application to be a host, visit http://www.nationaltrust.org/heritage_tourism/shareyourheritage.html.

-The National Trust for Historic Preservation's **Preservation Services Fund** provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 for preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as preservation education activities to educate the public. Funds are not available to support "bricks and mortar" restoration costs. For more information, visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/grants.html>.

-**NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program**--Over the years, national parks, NPS program offices, and public and private sector partners have co-sponsored dozens of diverse undergraduate and graduate students and provided them with outstanding career-exploration opportunities through the NPS. Several of these former interns are now employed by the National Park Service and its partnership organizations. Visit the program's website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/internships/intrnCRDIP.htm> to learn more about the evaluation criteria for hosting an intern and to download a project proposal application. As in previous years, the cost of selected projects will be shared on a 50/50 basis.

The deadline for project proposals is Wednesday, December 8, 2004. If you have any questions about this program, email michele_gates_moresi@nps.gov or call (202) 354-2266.

● Upcoming Conferences and workshops



-**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. Field trips, mobile workshops, evening events and educational sessions will allow participants to experience Southern culture while learning about national and international trends in preserving and celebrating distinctive landscapes. For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.ihdc2005.org>.

-November 18-20, the **Cultural & Heritage Tourism Alliance Conference** will bring tourism folks together from around the country to network and attend networking and educational sessions addressing rural tourism, ecotourism, voluntourism, cultural sensitivity, and what to do with those research numbers once you've got them. Keynote speaker Dr. Leila Rach will provide an overview on Consumer Trends & New Markets. The NPS National Heritage Areas Washington Office will speak on Friday about the MGM2 study on heritage areas during a tourism research session. To view a schedule and register for the Conference, visit <http://www.chtalliance.com>. For questions, contact Melody Laviste, p: 312.742.4984 f: 312.744.0622, e: mlaviste@cityofchicago.org.

-The **2005 International Rural Network Conference and Exchange of Experiences** will be held June 19-24. The Rural Policy Research Institute will serve as host of this event to be held at the foothills of the Appalachian Highlands, Abingdon, Virginia, USA. Building on the previous three conferences held in Queensland, Australia, Vancouver Island, Canada and Inverness, Scotland, this conference aims to bring together practitioners from rural communities with rural policy makers and scholars. The emphasis on the event is on sharing practical experiences and highlighting the role of place and place-based innovation in local development, rural health, education, culture and environment, as well as exploring the implications for rural policy and governance. For more information, visit <http://irn.rupriconvene.org/index.htm>. Session proposals are due January 1, 2005.

● **Publications and other News**

-If you are interested in keeping up with announcements, events and news from the National Park Service and related cultural resource agencies and organizations, subscribe to the monthly *Heritage News*, published by the NPS National Center for Cultural Resources. There are often articles and links to items of interest to heritage area programs. Visit <http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/index/Index.cfm> to view this month's News and to subscribe.

- **2004 ARC Fall Conference**—Sessions and speakers including Virginia governor Mark Warner spoke at the Appalachian Regional Commission's annual conference entitled *Building on Appalachia's Assets* on the economic potential that the region's mountains, rivers, forests, music, and crafts have to build a strong and sustainable "asset-based" economy, bringing jobs and prosperity to rural communities while preserving their character. Brenda Barrett, National Coordinator of Heritage Areas discussed the strategies used by National Heritage Areas, such as tourism and other resource-based development tools, during a panel discussion alongside several economic development experts. A special evening event was held at the Carter Family Fold in Hiltons, VA where Ralph Stanley and other country and bluegrass greats entertained over 400 state and local economic, community, and tourism development officials, chamber of commerce staff, and business and community leaders who attended the conference.

-**Access to NPS programs and services**--NPS partners and friends are encouraged to use the **NPS Digest** website at <http://www.npsdigest.gov> to learn about NPS news and events, partnership opportunities, and information resources such as graphic standards, a staff contact list and policy guides and manuals. To submit National Heritage Area news to the Digest, send a description and image to Suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov.



● **For more information on heritage areas, visit our website.**

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