



Newsletter

Where the Story of American Agriculture Comes to Life.

Volume 5 Issue 1 2005

Telling the Story Together Conference

Join your Heritage Area colleagues and partners at the Telling the Story Together Annual Conference on May 3-4, 2005, at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo, Iowa.

You will have the opportunity to acquire tools for your heritage development toolbox by attending educational sessions on Iowa travel markets and site planning and interpretation to gain-

ing resources for your goals and barn surveys. You will also hear from local, regional and national leaders about the state of the Heritage Area and where the national movement is heading.

On the second day of the conference, you will have your chance to frame and participate in what happens in the Heritage Area over the next year and beyond through round table discussions. And, you can take a special

tour just for you of the John Deere Tractor Assembly Plant. A complete conference schedule can be found online at

www.silosandsmokestacks.org/conference. To register for this conference, use the registration form on page 3 or download it online.

If you any questions, contact Jodi Verbraken at 319.234.4567 or jverbraken@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Grout Museum District Excursion Launched

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) recently launched the Grout Museum District Excursion as part of the CampSilos Program. This new educational website made possible by a grant from the R.J. McElroy Trust focuses on the story of farmers, factory workers and business leaders, who with their families, built the agriculture-based economy in Waterloo, Iowa.



The Grout Excursion can be found at www.campsilos.org/excursions/grout/. Designed for students in grades 4-8, it includes online student activities, as well as pre- and post-field trip teacher lesson plans using primary resources from advertisements to historic photographs and maps.

For more information, contact Lynne Wagner at the Grout Museum at 319-234-6357.

Heritage Area Sites Grow to 86

Eleven new partner sites join the Heritage Area. They include:

1876 Coralville Schoolhouse Museum, Coralville, *Affiliate Site*. This two room red brick schoolhouse served the children of the Coralville area from 1876 until 1951. Today, you can experience what it was like to attend an ungraded rural school.



Andrew Jackson Demonstration Farm, Andrew, *Point of Interest*. This farm encompasses 360 acres of rolling farm land used to demonstrate the many aspects of modern day agriculture and conservation.



Barn Quilts of Grundy County, Grundy Center, *Point of Interest*. This 64-mile loop through the towns and fields of Grundy County showcases colorful quilt blocks painted on the sides of barns and other farm buildings. It also highlights the many ag-related businesses and small specialty shops along the way.



Cedar Falls Historical Society, Cedar Falls, *Affiliate Site*. The Cedar Falls Historical Society preserves and interprets the history of Cedar Falls, Iowa, through maintaining five historic buildings; an original Ice House, a one-room schoolhouse, the Wyth House Museum, the Victorian Home & Carriage House Museum and the Behrens-Rapp Visitor Information Center.



See New Sites, Page 2

SSNHA Grants \$66,250 to Ag-Projects

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) awarded \$66,250 in grants to help sites, communities, and organizations to preserve and tell the stories of American agriculture in northeastern Iowa. With nearly \$132,000 in requests, SSNHA made grants to the following recipients through the SSNHA 2004 Grant Program:

Amana Colonies Convention & Visitors Bureau, Amana, \$6,000. To develop an educational tour of Amana Society Farms by providing interpretation of the Amana Colonies' agricultural history, and its methods of farming today.

See Grants, Page 2

SSNHA Collaborates with Leopold Center

Silos & Smokestacks will collaborate with the Leopold Center for Sustainable



Agriculture to study the place-based food tourism potential of communities in the Heritage Area. With assistance from the University of Northern Iowa's Sustainable Tourism and Environment Program, SSNHA will conduct research including data analysis of existing tourism resources, intercept surveys which will be used at festivals where place-based food tourism is taking place, and interview surveys with chefs, producers and processors who specialize in place based food.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Grants, con't from page 1

Andrew Jackson Demonstration Farm, Andrew, \$1,500. To develop an interpretive trail through signs and a brochure.

Grundy County Extension, Grundy County, \$1,000. To develop a CD that will guide visitors along the Barn Quilts of Grundy County tour route.

Bennington No. 4 School, Waterloo, \$1,500. To create and install a low profile interpretive sign about the role of the country school had in American agriculture.

Cedar Falls Historical Society, Cedar Falls, \$1,637. To evaluate the current layout of the Ice House Museum and to create a plan for new exhibits.

Country Heritage Community, Postville, \$2,400. To create and print "The Story of Agriculture in Clayton County, Iowa" brochures.

Dubuque County Historical Society, Dubuque, \$9,500. To create an exhibit at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium to tell the story about Iowa agriculture and its relationship to the river.

Four Mounds Foundation, Dubuque, \$2,000. To create and install signs to interpret the gentlemen farm movement at Four Mounds.

Iowa Valley RC&D, Williamsburg, \$3,000. A project to preserve the history of farms along the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway.

Jackson County Conservation, Maquoketa, \$9,500. To construct a diorama depicting the interior of a

limestone kiln cooling shed at the Hurstville Interpretive Center.

Johnson County Historical Society, Coralville, \$2,000. To create an interactive working millstone depicting the actual millstone from the Kirkwood-Miller flourmill c1830s.

Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City, \$7,580. To create and prepare a traveling exhibit that tells the story of pioneer farming and early dairying.

The National 19th Amendment Society, Charles City, \$5,000. To create an exhibit at the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home, showcasing her life, work and rural upbringing on the farm.

Putnam Museum, Davenport, \$4,000. To design and install an interactive exhibit program that explores the past and present land use issues affecting farmers and farmland.

Waterloo Center for the Arts, Waterloo, \$9,500. To produce Grant's Farm, an interactive exhibit which will interpret Midwest agriculture as reflected in the work of American Regionalist artists, including Grant Wood.

Projects funded through the grant program provide a 1-1 non-federal match to the grant award. Since the grant program began in 2001, Silos & Smokestacks has funded \$944,000 to non-profit, organizations, local governments, and communities in Northeast Iowa to help preserve and tell the stories of American agriculture.

New Sites, con't from page 1

Delaware County Historical Museum, Hopkinton, *Point of Interest.* Nine building complex at former Lenox College with various exhibits including two farm-machinery halls, one room school and a Civil War Monument.

Farm House Bed & Breakfast, Fredericksburg, *Point of Interest.* At the Farm House Bed & Breakfast, visitors experience life on a real working dairy farm, where they can feed baby calves, gather eggs, fish in the farm pond, walk, run or bike on the adjoining 5-mile nature trail, view the newly planted vineyard and shop the antique shop in a remodeled machine shed.

Fontana Interpretive Nature Center, Hazleton, *Affiliate Site.* Through educational programs and exhibits, Fontana discovers how visitors can rely on their own home for survival and livelihood.

F.W. Kent Park, Oxford, *Affiliate Site.* A 1,082-acre park featuring a Conservation Education Center, native and restored prairies, forests, wetlands and a 27-acre lake, swimming beach, trails and a playground.

Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, *Affiliate Site.* The 75-acre complex includes a 22-acre wetland and a reconstructed prairie. Displays and programs at the Center help visitors understand their connections to the limestone kilns, wetlands, prairies and other resources.

Iowa State Fairgrounds and Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, *Point of Interest.* The 400-acre Iowa State Fairgrounds, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is home to the Iowa State Fair, one of the largest Fairs in North America.

Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, Aurora, *Point of Interest.* Provides a look back at a nineteenth century home, farmstead and community. The site features the 1851 Richardson-Jakway House that was the center of the now defunct pioneer community of Mudville.

Strategic Investment Partner Sites provide full services, including staff, exhibits, programs and restrooms.

Affiliate Sites are open less frequently and/or have more limited public services.

Points of Interest may not be staffed or have public services.



\$750,000 for SSNHA Federal Appropriation

Congressional leaders secured \$750,000 for Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. The funding will be used to continue the development of a plan to link the diverse sites and attractions and to enhance the existing local heritage sites and attractions through technical assistance and support.

"These funds will help communities, sites and attractions tell the story of American agriculture in Iowa. Bringing as many as one million new visitors to Iowa, Silos & Smokestacks is a good investment to promote tourism and create jobs. This is an investment that preserves our past and invests in our economic future."

-Senator Tom Harkin

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Silos & Smokestacks Partner Profile

Wallace House Foundation

The Wallace House Foundation commemorates the remarkable influences of the Wallace family on Iowa, the nation, and the world. It preserves the rebuilt and restored home of the first Henry Wallace as an historical and interpretive center and promotes discussion of and education about contemporary issues in agriculture, conservation, democracy, and quality of life.

In the 20th Century, four Iowans served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture: James Wilson, 1897-1913; Edwin T. Meredith, 1920-21; Henry C. Wallace, 1921-24; and Henry A. Wallace, 1932-40.

Together, they had a major influence on policies for agriculture, resource conservation, rural life, and food and nutrition programs that still exist today.

In 2002, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area awarded the Wallace House



Former President Roosevelt and his cabinet, including Iowa native James Wilson who served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture 1897-1913.

Foundation a grant to create and install five traveling display panels that showcase the importance of agriculture and the influence four Iowans who served as U.S. Secretary



of Agriculture had on the state of Iowa. The traveling display consists of five pillars that each detail this rich history. The first pillar highlights additional museums and historical sites related to the exhibition and

a general outline of the display.

The other four focus on each

individual Secretary of Agriculture and include a timeline of their lives and accomplishments.

The display at the Wallace House was also part of the 2004 World Food Prize celebration. The "Iowas Four Secretaries of Agriculture" exhibit, which had its premier October 19, 2004, is now available to community organizations and museums throughout Iowa.

For more information about the Wallace House Foundation or the traveling displays, you can call 515-243-7063 or visit www.wallace.org.



One of five displays featuring the four Iowans who served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Guided Tour Workshop

In late 2004, Silos & Smokestacks hosted, "How to Create a Seamless Guided Tour," a workshop on how to prepare for all types of visitors. With over 70 participants, the workshop was held at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque.



With the overwhelming response to this workshop, Silos held a second Guided Tour workshop on February 24 at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. An additional 30 individuals participated.

When asked about lessons learned, one participant said, "...It is not a tour--it's an experience."

Welcome Jodi!

Help us welcome Jodi Verbraken to the Silos team. Jodi is the Special Events & Communications Coordinator.

Before coming to Silos & Smokestacks, she served as the Sales & Marketing Director for



Jodi Verbraken
Special Events & Communication
Coordinator

the Pipac Centre on the Lake. Jodi and her husband

own Verbraken's New Look Painting & Wall Covering. Together they have two sons.

As Special Events & Communications Coordinator, she is coordinating for the 2005 Silos & Smokestacks Annual Conference, trustee and panel meetings, as well as support person to the staff.

SSNHA Annual Conference Registration Form

May 3-4, 2005

Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE () _____ FAX () _____

Additional Organization Members or Spouse

NAME _____

NAME _____

Refund Policy: We realize circumstances may require you to cancel your pre-paid registration, however conference expenses are projected on your attendance. You may request to have your registration transferred to another individual. Refund requests must be made in writing and received to Silos & Smokestacks prior to April 20, 2005. No exceptions can be made.



Sponsored by the City of Waterloo Hotel/Motel tax Hotel reservations can be made through the Ramada Inn at a special conference rate of \$69 a night by calling 319-233-7560. Code: Silos & Smokestacks NHA Annual Conference.

\$ _____ \$75, Early Bird Registration
Postmarked on or before March 18, 2005

\$ _____ \$100, Registration

\$ _____ \$75, Additional Member
Registration

\$ _____ \$35, Twilight Evening Event
Tuesday May 3
Not included in registration fees

Count me in for the John
Deere tour!
There are no additional charges for this
event, only 50 seats available!

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed

There is no one day conference fee.

Please send check and registration form to:

SSNHA

Attn: Carol Klein

P.O. Box 2845

Waterloo, IA 50704-2845

ALL REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 15, 2005



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Waterloo, Iowa 50704-2845

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Dates to Remember...

March 16, 2005 - Partnership Panel Meeting.


March 24, 2005 - Executive Committee Meeting.

April 20, 2005 - Board of Trustees Annual Meeting.

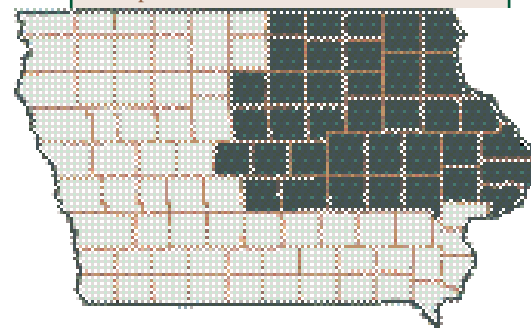
April 20, 2005 - Board of Trustees Orientation.

May 3-4, 2005 - Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area's Annual Conference. See page 1 for more information.

June 4-8, 2005 - International Heritage Development Conference, Nashville, TN.



Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) is a federally designated heritage area and is an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service. Through the development of a network of sites, programs, and events in these 37 Iowa counties, SSNHA interprets farm life, agribusiness, and rural communities – past and present.



The Newsletter is published by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Please contact Candy Streed, Editor, at (319) 234-4567 or email at cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org to submit story ideas.

Scholarships Available for IHDC

Silos & Smokestacks is offering five \$500 scholarships for individuals who will be attending the International Heritage Development Conference (IHDC).



IHDC will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 4-8, 2005. During the five-day conference, attendees will concentrate on the mechanics, economics, stories and possibilities of heritage development. Please visit www.ihdc2005.org for more information. This conference is held every other year, and it is the only conference held for National Heritage Areas.

Please contact Candy Streed at 319-234-4567 for more information.

The Year of the Barn and the Family Farm

2005 has been proclaimed "The Year of the Barn and the Family Farm" by Governor Tom Vilsack. To celebrate the proclamation, the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance (IHPA) is launching an Iowa barn farm survey project.

In 1920, Iowa had more than 200,000 farms and at least one barn on every farm. Currently, the state has 85,000 farms with an estimated 60,000 barns. "One hundred years from now, people will want to study the state's history and architecture and connect with farmsteads of the past," said Rod Scott, IHPA board member. The project "will leave a permanent record of our rural Iowa Architecture." If you would like to get involved with the barn survey, contact Rod Scott at 641-373-1171 or rodscott@iowaconnect.com.

Leadership Advisors

- Terry Branstad**
Former Iowa Governor, President & CEO, Des Moines University
- Ross Christensen**
Christensen, Christensen, Bigelow, Day
- Willard Jenkins**
Iowa House of Representatives
- Patty Judge**
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture IDALS
- Susan Judkins**
Director of Government Affairs, Iowa League of Cities
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- Robert Ray**
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Attorney, Wythe Willey Law Office

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Partnership Panel

- Kathy Bowermaster**
Iowa Division of Tourism, Des Moines
- Robert Cole**
ISU Extension, Mason City
- Phyllis Ewing, Chair**
Effigy Mounds National Monument, Waukon
- Geoffrey Grimes, Vice Chair**
StruXture Architects, Waterloo
- Phil Hemesath**
Farm Bureau District 1, Calmar
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Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation & Development, Maquoketa
- Samuel Lankford**
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Tabor Home Winery, Baldwin
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- Mary Ellen Warren**
Community Leader, Waterloo
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Living History Farms, Urbandale

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- Peter Jorgensen**
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- Jodi Verbraken**
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- Emily Nauman**
Program Assistant Intern

**Check out Silos & Smokestacks on the web at:
www.silosandsmokestacks.org**