



604 Lafayette Street | Suite 202
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Dates to Remember

January 11

SSNHA Grant Programs
Information Session

February 1

Internship Grant Applications Due

April 4

Golden Silo Awards Luncheon

April 25

General & Interpretive Planning
Grant Applications Due



Request to receive this newsletter electronically at:
www.silosandsmokestacks.org under **Contact Us**.
Click the **Go Green** link to update your contact info.

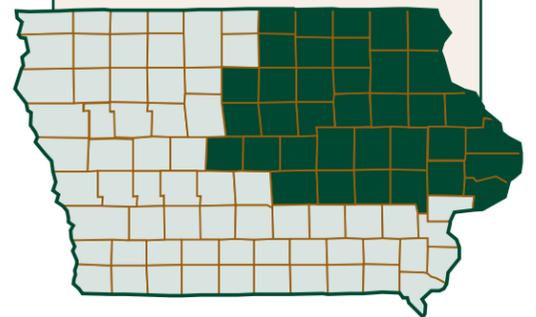


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Silos & Smokestacks
National Heritage Area
(SSNHA) is a federally
designated heritage area
and is an Affiliated Area
of the National Park Service.

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 Aaron Steinmann, Editor, at (319) 234-4567 or email at asteinmann@silosandsmokestacks.org to submit story ideas.



Education Scholarship Fund



The mission of the Education Scholarship Fund is to provide agricultural learning experiences for students of all ages through field trips and locally-based internships.

Please Donate!

Even a penny helps!



"I believe these types of hands-on learning adventures not only foster a love for learning but also a love for preserving our heritage."
- Robin Loes,
Kittrell Elementary | Waterloo

CONNECTING IOWA STUDENTS TO THEIR HERITAGE!

"The intern grant program has allowed us to bring a unique story from our communities past, out from our archives to our young visitors."
- Tracey Koenig, Family Museum | Bettendorf



319.234.4567 silosandsmokestacks.org



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

Or use your smart phone to scan this QR code

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- Amanda Schwartz**
National Farm Toy Museum, Dyersville
- Jean Stowell**
Top of Iowa Welcome Center, Northwood

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Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of the Heritage Area

Over the past 15 years, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area has made great strides in working with regional partners to preserve and share America's agricultural story. As we look to the future, the Heritage Area is faced with a number of opportunities and challenges. To help strengthen the Heritage Area and provide sustainable funding with decreasing federal support, the **Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area Foundation** was recently established.

The Foundation's mission is to support projects, managed by the Heritage Area's coordinating entity, focused on preserving and sharing stories from the past, present and future of American agriculture. Building on current corporate and individual partnerships, the Foundation will be working to establish broader regional and national support from those

"The creation of the Foundation is critical to the Heritage Area's long term success, and we are very proud of the work being done already."

- Don Short, SSNHA President

who value preservation of this important story. The initial goal is to raise nearly a half million dollars over the next year.

We would like to thank and introduce you to the board members who will be responsible for guiding the Foundation, including Governors Robert Ray and Terry Branstad, Honorary Co-Chairs; Audrey Savage, President; Marty Andreas, Vice President; Soo Greiman, Treasurer/Secretary; Jerry Bolton; Dale Gruis and Aaron Pearce.

Through their efforts, along with countless supporters and partners, we hope to build a strong footing for continuing the work of the Heritage Area for another 15 years and beyond.

Show Your Support for Preservation of America's Story

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) was one of nine National Heritage Areas designated by the U.S. Congress in 1996 with a "sunset" date of September 30, 2012. While the region's official designation will never go away, this date marks the end of federal funding for SSNHA, the coordinating entity, should Congress not reauthorize the Heritage Areas.

As part of the reauthorization process, Congress mandated that all nine Heritage Areas must undergo a formal evaluation. To date, only three of the nine Heritage Areas have completed this evaluation, with Silos & Smokestacks being one of them. Documented in

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Silos & Smokestacks Welcomes Four New Partner Sites

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is proud to welcome four new Partner Sites to the Heritage Area. There are now 110 Partner Sites designated with preserving and interpreting their own unique piece of America's

agricultural story. Partner Sites range from dairy farms and museums to vineyards and tractor assembly plants, sharing the past, present and future of American agriculture with visitors to the region.



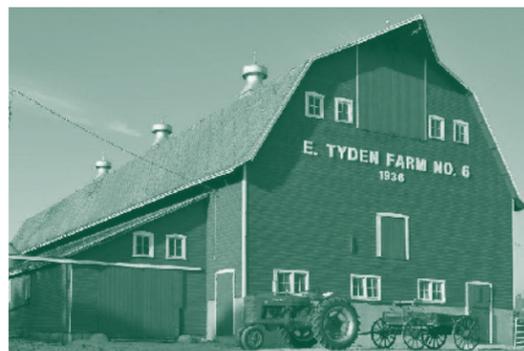
Dysart Historical Center, Dysart.

The center features a historical building, a one-room rural school and a new agricultural museum and interpretive center.

Through Dysart's inspiring stories, experience Iowa's rich agricultural heritage and culture.

Miss Effie's Country Flowers & Garden Stuff, Donahue.

This u-pick flower farm encourages guests to relax and enjoy the beautiful Grant Wood landscapes in the shade of an 1892 Classic L Victorian Farmhouse. Select and create a beautiful bouquet from a variety of 90 different flowers.



Tyden Farm No. 6, Dougherty.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this farmstead was originally owned by Emil Tyden, a Swedish immigrant and mechanical genius holding

200 patents in his lifetime. The sixth of eight farms, Tyden No. 6 was developed from 1915 to 1939 and is still in use today by the Pitzenberger family. No. 6 features a massive 40'x140' barn and a 26,000-bu concrete-block corncrib, both an unheard of size at that time.

Johnson County Historical Society Museum, Coralville.

The exhibits and interactive displays show how the land, people, transportation and business, including agriculture, evolved to create today's Johnson County community.

The museum's newest permanent exhibit "A Home on the Farm" explores the changes in the lives of Johnson County farm families from 1930-1990.



To learn more about the Partner Site Designation Process visit the "Partner" section at www.silosandsmokestacks.org



Free Grant Info Session

**— No registration required!
Wednesday, January 11
1:30-3:00 p.m.**

Grant Programs

Internship Grants due February 1
General Grants due April 25
Interpretive Planning Grants due April 25
Bus Grants available August 1



**Find out everything you need to know
about Silos & Smokestacks 2012 Grants!**

Silos & Smokestacks Office
604 Lafayette St | Suite 202
Downtown Waterloo



319.234.4567 silosandsmokestacks.org

Remembering Ross Christensen

One of our cultural buzzwords over the last few years is “the tipping point,” the pivotal moments when a small group of committed, persuasive, visionary people make something new happen. It’s exciting and inspiring to work with these people—they help us see how today’s work creates tomorrow’s opportunity. In the Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, we witnessed the role Ross Christensen had in our own “tipping point.”

Silos & Smokestacks sadly says farewell to Ross Christensen who passed away on November 27, following a long illness. Ross joined the Board of Trustees in 1996, serving as Chairman of the Board of Trustees until 2002, then served from 2002-2004 in the Chairman

Emeritus position before retiring from the Board. Ross’s leadership and financial commitments, together with the work of the other Board members, guided Silos out of its lowest point. Not only did Ross play a critical role in our transition to being nationally designated and beyond, he put his own resources on the line to ensure that SSNHA, and more importantly the heritage it represents, would not be ignored or forgotten.

Ross showed by example what it means to never give up. The Heritage Area has lost a dear friend who will be greatly missed. His legacy will shine on brightly throughout the many communities his life has touched. Our thoughts are with his wife Pat and his loving family.



Photos Document the Region's Unique Agricultural Stories

They say a photo is worth a thousand words. If this is true, then the stories being preserved by photos submitted in the Capture the Heart of America photo contest could fill nearly ten novels. In its fifth year, the contest brought 540 photos from over 150 participants from as far away as Georgia and Texas as well as Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

During the first week of November, the top photo in each of five categories was posted online for the public to determine

Best of Show. Nearly 400 visitors voted for their favorite photo, with the photo “Fall Fields,” taken by Josh Goodell of Waterloo, Iowa being named Best of Show. Additional entrants receiving recognition may be viewed at www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

First Place
Jason Arends, Lake Mills, WI, Farm Life; Josh Goodell, Waterloo, IA, Farmscapes; Jerry Ranch, West Des Moines, IA, Festivals & Fairs; Marty Jacobs, Slater, IA, Heritage Area Sites; Ed Siems, Marshalltown, IA, Images of the Past.

Second Place
Kim Powell, Blue Grass, IA, Farm Life; Ronald Tigges, Dubuque, IA, Farmscapes; Jason Mrachina, Pleasant Hill, IA, Festivals & Fairs; Howard Vrankin, Newton, IA, Heritage Area Sites; Elaine Walker, Oelwein, IA, Images of the Past.

Third Place
Nancy Hayes, Stanley, IA, Farm Life; Gary Hamer, Robins, IA, Farmscapes; Phil Roeder, Des Moines, IA, Festivals & Fairs; Gary Hamer, Robins, IA, Heritage Area Sites; Ann Cejka, Cedar Rapids, IA, Images of the Past.

Honorable Mention
Thomas DeHoff, Worthington, IA; Tracy Belle, Independence, IA; Juanita Andersen, New Hampton, IA; Rebecca Kauten, Cedar Falls, IA; Matthew Mason, Coralville, IA; Jerry Ranch, West Des Moines, IA; Jason Mrachina, Pleasant Hill, IA; William Connor, Manchester, IA; Ronald Tigges, Dubuque, IA; Delores Rohlf, Tipton, IA; Scott Fairbairn, Prairie City, IA; Ed Siems, Marshalltown, IA; Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA; Bob Rude, Coralville, IA; Ann Highum, Decorah, IA; Dona Bark, DeWitt, IA.

First Place Winners



**Festivals & Fairs
Jerry Ranch**



**Images of the Past
Ed Siems**



**Best of Show
Farmscapes, “Fall Fields,” Josh Goodell, Waterloo, IA**



**Heritage Area Sites
Marty Jacobs**



**Farm Life
Jason Arends**

Silos & Smokestacks Partnership Profile

National Farm Toy Museum

Retrace agricultural history and discover present day practices at the National Farm Toy Museum (NFTM). Founded in 1986, the museum is hidden amongst patchwork fields of green and gold in the small Iowa community of Dyersville. Famously known as the “Farm Toy Capital of the World,” Dyersville is the home to five farm toy stores, three farm toy companies and two national farm toy shows. Designated as a SSNHA Partner Site in 2002, the museum connects both young and old with the story of American agriculture through its exhibits featuring thousands of miniature farm machinery replicas.

As part of the museum’s dedication to highlighting the manufacturers whose implements inspire the toys, the museum features a continually changing Manufacturer’s Showcase. In August 2011, the NFTM opened its most recent showcase, *AGCO: The Evolution of a Company*, which was funded in part by SSNHA.

The National Farm Toy Museum in Dyersville features exhibits for both young and old alike.



This exhibition features the AGCO Corporation, and shares the story of how the company’s innovations have contributed to farming over the years. Past showcases have also featured companies who have been instrumental in changing the face of agriculture, including *Decades of Deere* and *Farmall: First in the Field*.

In addition to the showcase, there are a number of permanent exhibits portraying America’s agricultural story in miniature. A life size John Deere tractor illustrates the scale of the toys to visitors, while dozens of dioramas display historic farm



scenes. Visitors can also learn about the local toy making process through exhibits like the original Ertl Company assembly line display. Other treasures visitors can discover include the National Farm Toy Hall of Fame Exhibit, Lil’ Farmer Children’s Play Area and many others.

The NFTM also hosts a number of annual events to bring together farm toy enthusiasts from across the country, including the Summer Farm Toy Show in June and the Toy Farmer’s National Farm Toy Show in November. For more information on the National Farm Toy Museum, call 563-875-2727 or visit www.nationalfarmtoymuseum.com.

Welcome New Intern, Josh!



In November, SSNHA welcomed Joshua Peter who will be a new program assistant intern. Josh studies at the University of Northern Iowa where he is a Graphic Design major with Art History and Business Communication minors. Josh is currently in his third year at the University, where he is also involved in the University of Northern Iowa Cycling Club and the Northern Iowa Potters and Sculptors. Josh is originally from Ogden, Iowa, where he graduated in 2009. We are very thrilled to welcome Josh to SSNHA, where he can utilize his creativity and design while promoting the heritage of agriculture.

Show Your Support (cont.)

the evaluation were the critical accomplishments that the coordinating entity for the Heritage Area has made in preserving and sharing America’s agricultural heritage with both young and old.

With the importance of these evaluations, the nine National Heritage Areas are collectively working with our federal legislators to seek a four-year extension until all of the mandated evaluations can be completed. Iowa’s political delegation has already shown their support of this four-year extension. We are asking you to contact your congressmen, along with Senators Grassley and Harkin to let them know you support the four-year extension and share with them the impact the Heritage Area has had on your community. Contact info for your legislators may be found at www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml.

Cleaning Kits Encourage Sign Care

This holiday season, each site and organization that has a Silos & Smokestacks outdoor interpretive and wayfinding sign was given a Sign Care Kit to help maintain their sign and serve visitors for years to come.



The Sign Care Kits were designed with staff and volunteer convenience in mind and include: Simple Green multi-purpose cleaner, graffiti remover packets, soft cloths and cleaning instructions.

“Heritage Area Harvest” Giveaway Showcases Region’s Variety

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area ran a Facebook campaign themed the “Heritage Area Harvest” Giveaway from September 14 through November 16. The giveaway featured a variety of prize packages showcasing the cultural experiences visitors and residents alike can find within the Heritage Area. Some of the prizes included free admissions, overnight stays and tours of Designated SSNHA Partner Sites. Of the 1,275 individuals who entered the giveaway, eight winners were selected at random.

Silos & Smokestacks would like to thank our generous contributors for their great donations that made this giveaway such a success. We hope that each of the winners enjoys their getaway in our beautiful 37 county region of Iowa!

- Plentiful Harvest Grand Prize Winner:** Ilo Rhines, Edgewood, IA
- Farm & Garden Prize Package Winner:** Sherry Schons, Marion, IA
- From Field to River Prize Package Winner:** Kurt Hoeft, Charles City, IA
- Tastes of the Heritage Area Prize Package Winner:** James Wadle, Bettendorf, IA
- Art & History Prize Package Winner:** Delbert Clubine, Waterloo, IA
- From Prairie to Pasture Prize Package Winner:** Alicia Palmer, Broken Arrow, OK
- Family Fun Prize Package Winner:** Andrew Buchanan, Riverside, CA
- Museum Madness Prize Package Winner:** Jeff Novak, Shawano, WI