Inside...

Five New Partner Sites Join SSNHA

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area is proud to welcome five new ag-related sites to the Heritage Area. There are now 108 Partner Sites designated to interpret different stories of American agriculture, ranging from dairy farms and museums to vineyards and tractor assembly plants. New Partner Site designations include: Belmond Historical Society Museum in Belmond, Cascade Historic Limestone Silo in Cascade, Eagles Landing Vineyard & Winery in Marquette, Museums of Story City in Story City, and Wagaman Mill & Museum in Lynnville.

Each SSNHA Partner Site works to interpret and preserve its own unique part of America’s agricultural story. If you are interested in learning more about the process to become a Partner Site, please visit the Partner section at www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

Photo Contest Showcases the Region's Rich Talent

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area’s Capture the Heart of America photo contest continues to showcase the region’s rich talent. During the fourth year of the contest, 553 photos were received from 129 entrants. Photos came from visitors as far away as Arizona and Virginia; as well as Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

Following the judges choosing their top picks, first place in each of the five categories was posted online for the public to determine the Best of Show. During the first week of November, nearly 600 visitors voted for their favorite photo, with “Sunset at Our State Fair,” taken by Terry Kruse of Clive, Iowa, being named Best of Show. To view all of this year’s entries, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

See 2010 Photo Contest Winners, Page 2
Partnership Panel Additions

The SSNHA Partnership Panel is made up of leaders from throughout the region and plays a key role in the development of the Heritage Area. We would like to welcome the following additions to the panel.

Barbara Mitchell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Des Moines

Roger Halvorson, Owner, Eagles Landing Vineyard & Winery, Marquette

Tracey Kuehl, Museum Director, Family Museum, Bettendorf

Amanda Schwartz, Manager & Membership Coordinator, National Farm Toy Museum, Dyersville

Marcia McKelvey, Director of Administration, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

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We would also like to say farewell and thank the following for their years of service on the panel: Jerome Thompson (six years), Cathy Bowermaster (six years), Steve Johnson (four years) and Terry Pitts (three years).

Learning How to Tell Your Story

Alison Mathis, Science and Education Outreach Coordinator for the Grand Canyon National Park, presents during the SSNHA workshop, Interpreting Your Story: The PAIR Model of Success. The workshop, held at the Mines of Spain E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center in Dubuque on November 9, brought nearly 60 participants from around the region to learn from Mathis expertise.

Premiere of "Country School: One Room - One Nation"

One room schoolhouses were once an integral part of America’s education system and instrumental in the evolution of our nation. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, these remnants of our nation’s past could be found scattered throughout the countryside. With more than any other state, Iowa alone had 13,000 one-room schoolhouses. Even today, Iowa still has 3,000 existing buildings and 200 restored schools.

The latest film from Tammy and Kelly Rundle, "Country School: One Room - One Nation," explores the dramatic true story of Midwestern rural schools. Funded in part by a grant from Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, the documentary includes footage and interviews from a number of SSNHA Partner Sites, including: 1830s Arriandeu Township #5 Schoolhouse, Dows Historic District; 1876 Coralville Schoolhouse Museum; 4-H Schoolhouse Museum; Bennington No. 4 School; Little Red Schoolhouse, Cedar Falls Historical Society; Locust School, Winneshiek County Historical Society; Marshall Center School, University of Northern Iowa Museums; and Vernon Township #5 Schoolhouse, Dows Historic District.

“If we can understand the role that country schools played in our culture, then we can better understand who we are and how we evolved into the country, the state and the communities that we are.” - Bill Sherman, Preservationist

On November 19, the documentary made its world premiere at the State Historical Building in Des Moines, with future showings to be announced soon. For more info on the film, including a sneak preview, visit www.countryschoolmovie.com.

2010 Photo Contest Winners (cont.)

Second Place
Farm Life, Richard Isaacson, Coggon, IA; Farmscapes, Beth Burrell, Cedar Falls, IA; Festivals & Fairs, Joyce Meyer, Spillville, IA; Heritage Area Sites, Mitchell Palmer, Nevada, IA; Images of the Past, Paula Maxheim, Des Moines, IA.

Third Place
Farm Life, Linda Hopper, Clear Lake, IA; Farmscapes, Scott Fairbairn, Prairie City, IA; Festivals & Fairs, Kim Adams, Ames, IA; Heritage Area Sites, Bob Rude, Coralville, IA; Images of the Past, Craig Richmond, Evansdale, IA.

Partner Sites (cont.)

Eagles Landing Vineyard & Winery, Marquette
Located along the banks of the Mississippi River, Eagles Landing treats visitors to a true taste of Iowa. Guests can find a variety of products made from grapes grown in the vineyard, including jams, jellies, table syrups and the wineries award winning wine.

Museums of Story City, Story City
The four museum sites in Story City tell of the hardships and successes of the Scandinavian and pioneer immigrants. Visitors learn about the transformation of the prairie into rich productive farmland along with the development and sustenance of a thriving community.

Wagaman Mill & Museum, Lynville
Built in 1866 by John R. Sparks as a paddle wheel saw mill on the North Skunk River, the mill was converted into a grist mill in 1848 with a hydraulic turbine added in 1858 to allow year-round operation. Through an interactive tour, visitors learn of the mill’s history producing flour, animal feed, meal and electric power.

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area
Partners and Students Benefit from Intern Program

In 2010, three Heritage Area Partner Sites received funding from SSNHA to hire summer interns. Each site had specific agricultural projects the enthusiastic college students could focus on. After a summer of hard work, their accomplishments can be seen throughout the Heritage Area.

At the Family Museum in Bettendorf, Brenna Ross and Denise Czachura researched the history of onion farming in Bettendorf during the mid 1900s. Through their efforts, oral histories have been recorded for use in future exhibits and historical photos can now be viewed in an online archive at www.umvphotoarchive.org. They also developed “Fun with Onions!” an educational curriculum guide for youth.

Evonne Moore joined the staff at Floyd County Historical Society in Charles City to help digitize hundreds of aperture cards from the Oliver/Minneapolis Moline Tractor Company. These one-of-a-kind blueprints will be used throughout the world in rebuilding and maintaining Oliver Tractors.

“This internship has exposed me to the workings of a museum and has given me some great ideas to get involved in the museum/historical field.” - Evonne Moore

Courtney Lang took a lesson from her grandmother’s cookbook and spent the summer learning how to can and preserve food at Reiman Gardens in Ames. She then took this knowledge and shared it with others through a vegetable garden, canning displays and canning demonstrations.

Congratulations to all the interns for a job well done in preserving and telling the story of American agriculture.
Dates to Remember

**January 1 - 2011 General and Interpretive Planning Grant Applications Available**

**February 1 - Internship Grant Applications Due**

**February 1 - Spring Break Camp Registration Opens**

**April 6 - Golden Silo Awards Luncheon**

**April 27 - Interpretive Planning Grant Applications Due**

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Your gift will assist student learning by providing students with field trip experiences and connecting college students to valuable internships.

"Thank you for the hands on activities, all of the facts and history about the mill and Iowa’s farming history."  
Joyce L.

This grant made a huge difference for our intern and thousands of visitors who have benefited from her work.”  
-Teresa McLaughlin, Reiman Gardens, Ames

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You can connect Iowa students to their heritage!

**Siros & Smokestacks Education Scholarship Fund**

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To learn more visit silosandsmokestacks.org & click on Giving on the black bar at the bottom.

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