Please join us in celebrating the Heritage Area’s finest in preserving and telling the story of American agriculture.

Wednesday, April 6
Noon – 1:30 pm

Sky Event Centre, Blacks Building
501 Sycamore Street
Waterloo, Iowa

Reservations must be received by Wednesday, March 31, $30 per person

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A former Floyd County Museum intern displays her work.

Silos & Smokestacks Funds Five Summer Internships

Silos & Smokestacks has awarded $10,160 in grants through the 2011 Intern Grant Program; helping five SSNHA Partner Sites hire college interns this summer. The Intern Grant Program assists designated Partner Sites by covering up to 70% of an intern’s wage. Intern projects will focus on preserving and telling stories related to American agriculture and include:

- Froelich General Store & Tractor Museum, Froelich, $1,680
  Home of the first gas-powered tractor, the intern will research the history of buildings on the museum grounds to create interpretive panels based on each building's unique story.

- Grout Museum District, Waterloo, $2,170
  The intern will gather information on local farmers to develop an upcoming exhibit based on current farming practices within the Heritage Area, entitled “It's Not Your Grandparent's Farm.”

- “We're proud to be able to offer these internships that will benefit both the intern and the Partner Sites.” - Don Short, SSNHA President

- Guest Speakers
  Kelly and Tammy Rundle, a husband and wife filmmaking team, will share The Journey Behind, a presentation chronicling their newest documentary feature film, Country School: One Room – One Nation. The film features several SSNHA historic sites, the lasting legacy of America’s country schools, and the importance of preserving these one-room wonders. Highlights from the film will be shared.

- Awards Luncheon
  Wednesday, April 6
  Noon – 1:30 pm
  Sky Event Centre, Blacks Building
  501 Sycamore Street
  Waterloo, Iowa

  Reservations must be received by Wednesday, March 31, $30 per person

  Visit silosandsmokestacks.org for more information and to download the registration form.

- Signing of the Heritage Area
  It has been a long time coming, but the wait is nearly over. By the summer travel season, each SSNHA Partner Site will have received an outdoor sign of their choice to show visitors their affiliation with the Heritage Area. Partner Sites will receive either a place identification sign or a medallion retrofitted to their existing entrance sign.

  Through an Iowa Statewide Transportation Enhancement Grant, a contract for construction of the Silos & Smokestacks Partner Site Identification Signs has been executed with Latimer/ASI of Grinnell. Pre-construction meetings have been held and we have been given notice to proceed, with signs scheduled to be installed no later than June 30, 2011.

  The estimated construction cost to sign the Heritage Area is nearly $95,000, with 70% to be paid by the Iowa Transportation Enhancement Grant, $67,000, and 30% by a local match from John Deere, $29,000.

- Nominees
  2011 People’s Choice site of the year
  www.silosandmokestacks.org
  Vote March 7–13
  Four Mounds
  Heartland Acres
  Museum of Natural History

- Kelly and Tammy Rundle, a husband and wife filmmaking team, will share The Journey Behind, a presentation chronicling their newest documentary feature film, Country School: One Room – One Nation. The film features several SSNHA historic sites, the lasting legacy of America’s country schools, and the importance of preserving these one-room wonders. Highlights from the film will be shared.
Emerging Site Program Assists in Story Development

Since beginning the new Partner Site designation process in January 2010, SSNHA has formally designated 11 new Emerging Sites, with a number of sites currently in the process of becoming Emerging Sites. As part of a mutual agreement, an Emerging Site must sign a Memorandum of Understanding to work directly with SSNHA staff to further develop their agricultural stories. Once each site has effectively interpreted their story through exhibits, tours, brochures or programming, they become eligible for designation as an official SSNHA Partner Site.

Preserves from Miss Effie’s Country Flowers & Garden Stuff.

The addition of the Emerging Site designation to the Heritage Area is enhancing the capacity of the region by helping uncover new stories related to America’s farming heritage. Emerging Sites such as the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm, located in Hampton, will have the opportunity to work directly with SSNHA staff as they interpret the story behind the farm. SSNHA would like to thank all of these sites for their efforts in preserving and telling their agricultural stories. If you would like to know more about partnering with SSNHA, please visit the “Partner” section at www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

Formally Designated Emerging Sites:

- **Black Horse Inn**
  - Sherrill
- **Dysart Historical Society**
  - Dysart
- **Heritage Farm Park**
  - Clermont
- **Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm**
  - Hampton
- **Miss Effie’s Country Flowers & Garden Stuff**
  - Donahue
- **Norman Borlaug Boyhood & Birthplace Homes**
  - Cresco
- **Preston Heritage Museum**
  - Dubuque
- **Skunk River Bridge at Millgrove Access**
  - Grinnell
- **Tyden Farm**
  - Dougherty
- **Wilder Memorial Museum**
  - Strawberry Point
- **Winneshiek Wildberry Winery**
  - Decorah

Grant Programs Available to Help Preserve Agricultural Stories

With General and Interpretive Planning Grant deadlines quickly approaching, Silos & Smokestacks would like to remind applicants that SSNHA staff is available to answer questions and discuss potential projects prior to the submission deadline of April 27, 2011.

Recent examples of funded General Grant projects include the Johnson County Historical Society’s *A Home on the Farm: Changes in Farm Life in the Mid-20th Century* permanent exhibit, the National Farm Toy Museum’s *History of the AGCO Corporation* exhibit, and the Grout Museum’s Farm Life Video Project. Interpretive Planning Grants have helped fund projects like Motor Mill Historic Site’s Visioning Plan and Interpretive Signage Planning at the Mathias Ham House and the Amana Colonies.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local or regional governments, or federally recognized Indian tribes, with projects based within the 37-county Heritage Area. Applicants must provide a 1-1 match to the grant request, with at least half of the applicant’s contribution a cash match from a source other than federal funds. Grant applications and guidelines can be found under the “Grant” section at www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

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**SSNHA Grant Programs**

**General**

- Preserve & interpret America’s agricultural & agricultural industrial stories
- Enhance the sites’ agricultural connection
- Raise the quality of the attraction
- Develop positive visitor experiences
- Build capacity of the Heritage Area

**Range of Awards**

- $50,000 available
- Awards range from $1,000 to $10,000
- All effort will be made to fully fund projects

**Interpretive Planning**

- Assist sites & organizations that need interpretive planning assistance in identifying their interpretive significance, story and/or themes as it relates to agriculture
- $10,000 available
- Maximum request is $2,500
- Must identify professional service
- All effort will be made to fully fund projects

**Eligible Projects**

- Interpretation, educational programs, marketing, event programs, interpretive exhibits & signs
- Greater consideration given to projects that directly impact visitor experience

- Professional assistance by consultants, contractors, designers
- Research & thematic writing
- Preliminary design & layout of exhibit & interpretive signs

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**Supporters!**

SSNHA would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support during 2010. Their contributions go to help support programs like the Silos & Smokestacks Education Scholarship Fund:

- Central Iowa Tourism Region
- Colleen & Harry Carson
- Dennis & Mary Donlea
- Eastern Iowa Tourism Association
- Steve & Polly Eberhardt
- Phyllis Ewing
- Friends of Jackson County
- Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch (Dan McFarland)
- Tom Huisnik
- Susan Judkins Josten
- Sherrir Murphy
- National Association for Interpretation
- National Park Service
- Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.
- Audrey Savage
- Dr. Joan Schreiber
- Jean Stowell
- George & Mary Ellen Warren

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Visit our site at www.silosandsmokestacks.org.
One of the first SSNHA Partner Sites to be designated in 2001, the Carl & Mary Koehler History Center dates back to 1969 when it was the Linn County Historical Museum Association. Throughout the years the center has seen many changes, before moving to its current location in downtown Cedar Rapids in 1999, providing a gateway orientation to Linn County, the center includes many permanent and changing exhibits preserving stories from prehistoric occupation and rural farming communities to urban immigration and the resulting industries.

Continuing with preservation of Linn County’s history, the History Center brings corn production, processing, and innovation to the forefront with a new exhibit funded in part by Silos & Smokestacks, entitled Corn Country. Running through May 21, “Corn Country” examines and highlights the many ways corn helps to stimulate the local economy and lets people discover just how prevalent corn is in their daily life. Visitors learn that corn is not just for eating, but can also be found in items such as soap, lipstick, toothpaste, charcoal, spark plugs, and laundry detergent. Additionally, the exhibit chronicles the history of corn production and its many technological changes.

Throughout the year, the History Center also hosts a variety of events to help share Linn County’s story with visitors. An upcoming event entitled, Your Grandpa and Grandma’s Farm, further expands on the county’s deep agricultural roots through telling the compelling story of Joshua Secret, a successful livestock farmer who lost his farmstead during the Great Depression. The presentation will be held on April 21 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. with Rich Tyler presenting.

For more information on current and upcoming events or exhibits at the History Center, call 319-362-1501 or visit www.historycenter.org.

"Exploring the Prairie" Educational Traveling Trunk

Thanks to a mini-grant from the National Association of Interpretation, an educational trunk based on the prairie curriculum located on Silos & Smokestacks award winning website, www.campsilos.org, will soon be available for teachers to use in classroom activities. The "Exploring the Prairie" trunk contains lessons that correlate with the website and primary resource materials that can be used to facilitate classroom discussions. The trunk includes field guides, prairie seeds, buffalo fur/bones, interactive felt board, plant press, story books and a number of other great learning tools. For more information on this new resource, contact Angi Reid, SSNHA Education & Interpretation Manager, at 319-234-4567 or areid@silosandsmokestacks.org.

Volunteer Work on Cascade Historic Limestone Silo Receives National Recognition

Cascade Community Enhancement Corporation (CCEC) recently received national recognition as the first Preserve America Steward in the State of Iowa. The CCEC was recognized for their work on the Cascade Historic City Jailhouse and Cascade Historic Limestone Silo, a newly designated SSNHA Partner Site.

There are currently 34 Preserve America Stewards nationwide, each recognized for programs that have demonstrated a successful use of volunteer time and commitment in order to help care for our historic heritage.

The efforts recognized by Preserve America Stewards are representative of the work found in countless communities throughout the Heritage Area and the CCEC would like to encourage other SSNHA Partner Sites to join them by applying for this outstanding recognition. For more information on the Preserve America Stewards program, visit www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html.
Please contact Aaron Steinmann, Editor, at (319) 234-4567 or email at asteinmann@silosandsmokestacks.org to submit story ideas.

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.