Grants for Ag History Projects
Awarded to 11 Organizations

Silos & Smokeytales National Heritage Area has awarded $45,141 to 11 Northeast Iowa sites, communities and organizations to help them tell their own unique part of the American agricultural story. We are pleased to announce the following recipients for the 2011 General & Interpretive Planning Grants:

**GENERAL GRANTS**

**Amana Heritage Society, Amana**

$6,500

To research and develop an environmental history driving tour and school curriculum guide that will provide the interpretative framework for a future permanent museum exhibit.

**Eagle Point Nature Society, Clinton**

$2,479

To construct four outdoor interpretive and way-finding signs to help visitors learn about the history behind the barn, prairie, one-room schoolhouse and park.

**Fort Des Moines Museum, Des Moines**

$2,700

For creation of a permanent outdoor exhibit, The Victory Garden at Fort Des Moines, that will serve to enhance knowledge of agriculture through a living garden.

**Brucemore, Cedar Rapids**

$10,000

For design and installation of 11 seasonally rotating signs that will interpret the site’s landscape and agricultural history.

**See Grant Winners, Page 2**

Golden Silo Awards: The Pride of Our Heritage Area

Silos & Smokeytales National Heritage Area honored the best in heritage development during the annual Golden Silo Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. Regional partners gathered at the Sky Event Centre in Waterloo, IA, to honor this year’s award recipients.

Golden Silo Awards are presented to individuals and organizations whose contributions demonstrate outstanding excellence in preserving and telling the stories of American agriculture.

"It is a pleasure to hold this event in honor of such hardworking people who continue to share the story of American agriculture in their own unique ways."

- Don Short, SSNHA President

See Golden Silo Awards, Page 2

Spring Break Camp: Adventures through Time

This past March, 16 students spent their spring break traveling throughout the Heritage Area. Over the course of five days they visited nine Partner Sites and created memories that will last a lifetime.

Some of the more unforgettable moments for staff and campers included cooking bread on a stick at the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, petting calves at Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy, candle dipping at the Floyd County Historical Society Museum and building wren boxes at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

Outstanding Preservation in Agriculture

Tammy & Kelly Rundle, Fourth Wall Films, Moline, IL

Outstanding Partner

Mines of Spain, Dubuque, IA

See Golden Silo Awards, Page 2

Carolina builds a wren box at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Dubuque.

Madi observes an artifact at the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, Aurora.

Best of Luck, Katie! (pg. 3)

City of David Remembered (pg. 3)

“Capture the Heart of America” Photo Contest (pg. 4)

Dates to Remember (pg. 4)
Golden Silo Awards (cont.)

Kelly & Tammy Bundle of Fourth Wall Films provided the keynote presentation, sharing The Story Behind their documentary feature film, Country School: One Room – One Nation.

Also honored were outgoing Board of Trustee and Partnership Panel members for their years of dedication to the Heritage Area. Board of Trustee members included Kris Einsweiler (6 yrs) and Tom Husnik (6 yrs). Partnership Panel members receiving awards included Jerome Thompson (6 yrs), Kathy Bowernmaster (6 yrs), Steve Johnson (4 yrs), and Terry Pitts (3 yrs). We would like to thank all of these dedicated people for their years of service.

Additionally, newly Designated SSNHA Partner Sites were recognized, including Belmond Historical Society Museum; Belmond, Cascade Historic Limestone Silo; Cascade, Wagaman Mill & Museum; Lynnville, Eagles Landing Vineyard & Winery; Marquette and Museums of Story City; Story City.

Grant Winners (cont.)

Friends of the Mines of Spain, Dubuque ---------------------------------- $2,500

To develop a multi-media interpretive exhibit documenting the agricultural history of the 14 historic mines in the Mines of Spain, in partnership with the Preston Heritage Museum.

Franklin County Historical Society, Hampton --------------------- $1,362

To develop and install way-finding and interpretive signage on the grounds of the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm.

Norman Borlaug Heritage Foundation, Cresco ---------------------- $9,000

To develop interpretive signage that tells the early-life story of Borlaug and farming on his farm sites from the 1910s to 1930s.

Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah ---------------------------------- $5,000

For creation of audio tours to share the history of heirloom seeds along with the importance of preserving genetic diversity and the cultural history of the garden.

Vinton Unlimited, Vinton -------------------------------------------- $600

To construct outdoor signage to convey the importance of the Vinton Railroad Depot and a past agricultural machinery business based in Vinton.

INTERPRETIVE PLANNING GRANTS

National 19th Amendment Society, Charles City ------------- $2,500

To develop digital programs for existing multi-touch table at the Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home and Interpretive Center.

Reiman Gardens-Iowa State University, Ames --------------------- $2,500

To identify how to better interpret the agricultural theme of the Children’s Garden through signage, programming, tours, website and other interpretive material.

Family Farm Secures Permanent Spot in Salon

Following a successful year as the 2010 theme category, the “Family Farm” has gained a permanent spot in the Iowa State Fair Photography Salon. This category, which salutes thousands of family farms across the state and nation, will be a great asset in helping preserve this important part of America’s agricultural story. Following sponsorship of this category during its initial year, Silos & Smokestacks is proud to show support for the “Family Farm” category through continued sponsorship during the 2011 photo salon. For an entry form or to learn more about the Iowa State Fair Photography Salon, visit www.iowastatefair.org and click on ‘Competition.’

Celebrating History Day

Every year students celebrate history by competing in History Day; a national event that encourages youth to research historical topics and then publish their findings in papers, documentaries, dramas, websites or exhibits. SSNHA staff supports this event by judging student entries and awarding $50 to individuals or groups that tell a compelling agricultural story. This year SSNHA awarded Derek Willert & Craig Friedman of Rockford Senior High for the website entitled GMO’s and Brenda Moore & Jackson Gereau of Akron-Westfield Middle School for their website, Garst and Krushchev: Peace through Agriculture. Congratulations to these students for preserving and telling the story of American agriculture through their website designs.

Friends of the Mines of Spain, Dubuque

“People’s Choice” - Site of the Year

Heartland Acres Agribition Center, Independence, IA

“Family Farm” - Permanent Spot

SSNHA Partner Site

Cascade, Iowa

For creation of audio tours to share the story of American agriculture. Congratulations to these students for preserving and telling the story of American agriculture through their website designs.

Friends of the Mines of Spain, Dubuque

Michael Zahs next to a feed sack quilt in Grabrudin’s Flower Garden pattern

Affiliated with SSNHA

Partner or Emerging Site:

– $35/person

– $90/group of 3 individuals

All other Participants:

– $45/person

Fee includes lunch and materials. Registration Deadline July 28!
$10,000 in Bus Grants Available

For the 2011-2012 school-year, the SSNHA Bus Grant Program will have $10,000 available to help schools within the Heritage Area offset the costs associated with field study trips to SSNHA Partner Sites. Grants will be accepted beginning August 1, and cover 75% of the total amount of transportation costs, not to exceed $350. Educators are encouraged to submit their applications early, as grants are awarded on a first-received, first-funded basis, with one grant available per school building.

City of David Remembered

On June 5, the David community celebrated its past and dedicated this sign to remember the story of its rural heritage. Vivian DuShane, former resident of David who turns 100 this year, attended the ceremony and was the driving force behind this project. Kurt Meyer, President of the Mitchell County Historical Society and Preservation Commission, gave the dedication remarks. This project was supported by the Mitchell County Historic Preservation Commission, Mitchell County Board of Supervisors and SSNHA.

Best of Luck, Katie!

This past May, Program Assistant Intern, Katie Jensen, graduated from the University of Northern Iowa after a wonderful year of service with SSNHA. An Art major and Marketing minor, Katie was a great asset to SSNHA and had a hand in many significant projects. From here, Katie hopes to attain a career in the graphic design field where she can continue to showcase her eye for detail and creative ingenuity. We will miss Katie greatly and wish her nothing but success in the future.

Filling Katie’s position is Terrin Conlon who is a senior at the University of Northern Iowa studying Graphic Design.

Preparing for Heritage Area Visitors

2011-2012 VISITOR GUIDE

Just in time for the peak travel season, the 2011-2012 Visitor’s Guide was released in early April. With 65,000 copies printed and distributed at nearly 400 sites, the visitor guide helps guests learn about the Heritage Area and the 107 Designated Partner Sites that actively share their own parts of the American agricultural story.

To request your copy of the 2011-2012 Visitor’s Guide, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org. Bulk requests may be directed to Aaron Steinmann, Marketing & Communications Manager at asteinmann@silosandsmokestacks.org or 319-234-4567.

“SILOS & SMOKESTACKS 101”

SSNHA will also be holding “Silos & Smokestacks 101” trainings this summer to help sites and communities prepare for Heritage Area visitors. Formerly called SSNHA Resource Training, “Silos & Smokestacks 101” is a free, one-hour training session where SSNHA representatives travel to sites to help staff and volunteers around the Heritage Area explain to visitors what SSNHA is, as well as familiarize them with the tools available to better serve those guests.

To schedule your “Silos & Smokestacks 101” session, please contact Kaylena Jensen, Program Assistant Intern, at kaylena@silosandsmokestacks.org or 319-234-4567.
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Staff

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, State of Iowa, Des Moines

Director, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

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.

Dates to Remember

July 28 - Registration Due for History in Your Hands Workshop

August 1 - Bus Grant Cycle Opens

August 4 - History in Your Hands Workshop

September 30 - Photo Contest Entries Due

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.