Over the course of the summer, SSNHA hosted a summer camp each Tuesday for students in grades 3-6. During the camps, kids spent the day exploring the Heritage Area, where they learned about farming practices and pioneer pastimes of long ago.

Camp days began at Hartman Reserve Nature Center (Cedar Falls), where campers loaded into vans for their day-long journeys. Throughout the summer kids visited 11 Partner Sites, along with Effigy Mounds National Monument (Harpers Ferry). Some of the more memorable moments included exploring the Iowa State Fair (Des Moines), picking fresh strawberries at Heartland Farms (Waterloo) and touring Wagaman Mill (Lynnville), where wheels still turn in time with the Skunk River.

Thank you to each of the Partner Sites who welcomed these enthusiastic kids and showed them the importance of agriculture in their lives.

New Partner Site Sign at Cascade Historic Limestone Silo.

We've all heard many times, "I saw the sign on the highway, but I don't know who or what you are." Now, we are one step closer to helping visitors and residents alike make the connection between all of the Partner Sites that make up Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA). To show visitors their affiliation with the Heritage Area, each Partner Site recently received either a Partner Site sign or a medallion retrofitted to their existing entrance sign. This is a huge milestone that would not have been possible without the support of the Iowa Department of Transportation and John Deere Foundation.

You may have also seen additional SSNHA outdoor interpretive signage going in the ground throughout the Heritage Area. Utilizing the SSNHA Interpretive Signs tell the story of former Mitchell County town of David. 100-year-old Vivian DuShane (3rd from left) led efforts to make sure her hometown wasn't forgotten.

SSNHA Interpretive Signs and Templates, available to Partner and Emerging Sites, 20 sites have been able to tell their unique agricultural stories to visitors. In many cases, grants from Silos & Smokestacks are available to support the manufacturing of these signs.

If you’d like to learn more about how to use the Silos & Smokestacks’ Interpretive Sign Guidelines, please contact Candy Streed, Program & Partnership Director, at 319-234-4567 or cstreed@silosandsmokestacks.org.

For the fifth consecutive year, SSNHA has provided Internship Grants to designated Partner Sites. This competitive grant program pays for 70% of a college intern's wage. The following five Partner Sites received funding and have successfully helped to preserve the story of American agriculture through exhibit development, frontline interpretation and historical research.

Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids
Sara Raus
Cornell College, Mt. Vernon
Major - Environmental Science
Sara got her hands dirty while planting a traditional Native American Three Sisters Garden. Summer camp kids maintained the garden throughout the summer and visited other farms in the surrounding area.

Grout Museum District, Waterloo
Sarah Blevins
Wartburg College, Waverly
Major - History
Sarah compiled information on current farming practices in the region. This information, along with interviews she conducted, will be used in future exhibits at the museum.

SSNHA Welcomes New Trustees (pg. 2)
Vote for Best of Show in the "Capture the Heart of America Photo Contest" (pg. 2)
Students Learn America's Role in Feeding the World (pg. 2)
Heritage Area Harvest Giveaway (pg. 2)
Partnership Profile: Froelich General Store & Tractor Museum (pg. 3)
SSNHA 101 Training (pg. 3)
Teachers Bring Agricultural Heritage Back to the Classroom (pg. 3)
Family Farm at the State Fair (pg. 3)
Build a Better Brand Workshop (pg. 4)
For the 2011-2012 school year, $9,700 is being distributed to Heritage Area schools through the Silos & Smokestacks Bus Grant Program. The program is designed to assist in covering the costs of field study trips to designated SSNHA Partner Sites and will allow over 1,700 students from 35 Heritage Area schools the opportunity to learn firsthand about America’s role in feeding the world.

Since the inception of the program, it has helped more than 10,000 students connect with the past, present and future of America's agricultural story. For more information or to find out how you can help support the Bus Grant Program, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org or call 319-234-4567.

Students from 35 Area Schools will Visit 27 Heritage Area Partners

Amnon Heritage Society Museums
MFL MarMac, Monona
Fort Atkinson State Preserve
Poyner Elementary, Evansdale
Kingsley Elementary, Waterloo
Kittrell Elementary, Waterloo
Orange Elementary, Waterloo
Fontana Interpretive Nature Center
Benton Community Schools, Norway
Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve and Center
Washington Elementary, Charles City
Robert Blue Middle School, Eagle Grove
Nashua-Plainfield Elementary, Nashua
George Maier Rural Heritage Center of Clayton County
Postville Community School District, Postville
Grout Museum District
ACWR Community Schools, Ackley
Northeast Hamilton, Blairsburg
Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy
Highland Elementary, Waterloo
Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch
Nashua-Plainfield Middle School, Plainfield

Hawkeye Community College Farm Laboratory
Highland Elementary, Waterloo
Heartland Acres AgriBition Center
Benton Community Schools, Norway
Lambert Elementary, Ryan
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum
Bryan School, Dubuque
Prescott Community Schools, Preston
Hurstville Interpretive Center
Bellevue Elementary, Bellevue
Cedar Valley Nature Center
Cedar School, Cedar Rapids
Iowa State Fair
Rolling Green Elementary, Urbandale
Laura Inghals Wilder Park & Museum
Neola, Crawford County

Motor Mill Historic Site
Postville Community School District, Postville
Museums of Story City
Roland-Story Middle School, Roland
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Immanuel Lutheran School, Waterloo
Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
New Providence Elementary, Eldora
Reiman Gardens - Iowa State University
Decora Elementary School, Decorah
State Historical Building
Decora Elementary School, Decorah
Blessed Sacrament, Waterloo
Sacred Heart School, Waterloo
St. Edward, Waterloo
The Dairy Center
Wapsie Valley Elementary, Fairbank
University of Iowa Museum of Natural History
Postville Community Schools, Preston
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
Nashua-Plainfield Middle School, Plainfield
Wagaman Mill and Museum
New Providence Elementary, Eldora
Wapsipinicon Mill Museum
Lambert Elementary, Ryan

SSNHA Welcomes New Trustees

Bruce Gaarder
works with
the Iowa Corn Growers and Iowa Corn Promotion Board where he services 33 counties in Northeast Iowa. Bruce graduated from Brown College with a degree in broadcasting and worked as the agricultural director for a number of radio stations in the Midwest, including work at WHO and KWMT. He also worked as Sales Manager for Asgrow Seeds for a number of years.

Maureen Hanson
is a freelance writer and public relations consultant, with 20 years’ experience specializing in dairy/veterinary topics. Maureen graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in public service and administration with an emphasis on agriculture/animal science. She has also received her accreditation by the Public Relations Society of America.

Tom Witt
has worked with Pioneer Hi-Bred International for 31 years. Tom received his MBA from the University of St. Thomas. He is currently instrumental in developing the Next Generation Project at Pioneer, which focuses on equipping 25 to 35 year olds with the management, marketing and financial skills they will need to assume leadership roles in their family farm enterprises.

Intern Grant (cont.)

Living History Farms,
Urbandale
William Lestasseur
Central College, Pella
Major - History
As a frontline interpreter, William spent the summer dressed in period clothing teaching visitors about farming practices during the early 1900s. Other duties included constructing exhibits and cleaning stalls.

Froelich General Store & Tractor Museum, Froelich
Samantha Connor
Southwest Tech, Fennimore
Major - General Studies

Win a Getaway! Sept. 14-Nov. 13

Capture the Heart of America PHOTO CONTEST
BEST of Show
Oct. 31- Nov. 6
silosandsmokestacks.org
Silos & Smokestacks Partnership Profile

Froelich General Store & Tractor Museum

In the small Northeast Iowa town of Froelich, you’ll find a very important piece of America’s agricultural story being preserved. Frustrated with the heavy and bulky steam powered tractors that often threatened to set fire to fields, in 1892, village native John Froelich invented the first ever gasoline powered engine that could be propelled both backward and forward. John’s revolutionary invention would soon change the future of agriculture, with the launch of the Waterloo Gasoline Traction Engine Company, later purchased by John Deere.

Designated as a SSNHA Partner Site in 2002, Froelich General Store and Tractor Museum lets visitors discover the story behind the tractor’s invention and 1800s rural culture. In the museum’s restored 1890 blacksmith shop, find a working replica of the “Froelich Tractor” constructed from the original blueprints which are on display in the 1891 general store. The general store was the hub for the village, serving as the freight depot, post office and “cracker barrel” gathering place. Also on the museum grounds is an 1866 one-room schoolhouse, where visitors can learn what it was like for students in the 1880s. Each year during the annual Fall-der-All Celebration, the village comes to life with vintage engine and tractor displays, museum tours, barn dance, mini-tractor pull and much more.

Froelich’s history couldn’t be preserved without dedicated volunteers. We’d like to honor one of Froelich’s most devoted supporters, Denny Eilers, who passed away this past June. Denny was a past president for the Froelich Foundation, with his vision for the site instrumental in making it what it is today. Denny was also involved with SSNHA, serving on the past judging committee for the annual photo contest. Denny’s contributions to the Heritage Area will truly be missed.

For more information on Froelich, call 563-536-2841 or visit www.froelichtractor.com.

Teachers Bring Agricultural Heritage Back to the Classroom

Partnering with Effigy Mounds National Monument for their Summer Teachers’ Workshop Series, Silos & Smokestacks hosted nearly 50 teachers on a tour of the Heritage Area. Through visits to three SSNHA Partner Sites, teachers learned valuable knowledge about past and present day agriculture to bring back to the classroom.

The first stop on the excursion took teachers to Motor Mill Historic Site, Elkader, where they discovered the story behind the grist mill and the role it once played in grain production. Next, participants visited George Maier Rural Heritage of Clayton County, Elkader, where an educational journey demonstrated how rural life evolved in the Midwest, including pioneer games and take-home activities to use in the classroom. The day concluded at Eagles Landing Vineyard & Winery, Marquette, where participants observed the production of wine and learned about Iowa's growing wine industry.

Silos & Smokestacks would like to thank Effigy Mounds, Merle Frommelt and all of the Partner Sites for their dedication to this workshop series. To learn more visit www.nps.gov/efmo or call 563-873-3491.

Family Farm at the State Fair

During the 2011 Iowa State Fair, Silos & Smokestacks continued to support preservation of the American family farmer’s unique story through sponsorship of the “Family Farm” class at the fair’s annual photography salon. Following a year as the special theme class, the “Family Farm” class ranked third for number of photos submitted during its first year as a permanent special division class. Of the 119 “Family Farm” photos submitted, the top three photos this year all came from the youth division.

Congratulations to this talented group of young people for their outstanding photography.

1st Place, “Harvest Sunset
Benjamin Sanders - Newton

2nd Place, “Welcome
Mandy Teig - Jewell

3rd Place, “One Hungry Pup
Kristin Acheson - Urbandale

SSNHA 101 Training

We are extremely excited at all of the work that has been done in creating awareness for the Heritage Area, but we have more work to do to help prepare sites and communities for visitors to the region. “Silos & Smokestacks 101” is a free training session available to Heritage Area sites and communities to help demystify explaining what Silos & Smokestacks is and how their site is a part of the National Heritage Area. We also familiarize them with the tools available to better serve those guests and tell their agricultural story. Equally important, SSNHA staff listens to Partner Sites needs and suggestions to make a stronger Heritage Area.

To schedule your training session, please contact Kaylena Jensen at 539-234-4567 or kaylena@silosandsmokestacks.org.
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.

Dates to Remember

September 14 - November 13
“Heritage Area Harvest” Giveaway

October 31 - November 6
Capture the Heart of America Photo Contest Online Voting

November 2
Build a Better Brand Workshop
Registration Deadline

November 9
Build a Better Brand Workshop

Go Green

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

Find us on Facebook

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.

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