For the sixth consecutive year, Silos & Smokestacks is helping fund summer internships within the Heritage Area. For 2012, the SSNHA Intern Grant Program has awarded $9,608 to help the following five designated Partner Sites with projects focused on agricultural heritage preservation:

**Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy, Hudson** | $3,000  
The intern will help develop hands-on exhibits for the newly constructed interpretive center, as well as create educational curriculum and lead guided tours of this working dairy farm.  

**Johnson County Historical Society, Coralville** | $1,512  
Through careful examination and documentation, the intern will inventory agricultural artifacts that were displaced after the 2008 flood and place them in a new storage area.  

**Museums of Story City, Story City** | $840  
The intern will assist in curriculum development and marketing for the museums’ first agriculturally-based summer camp, along with support of day-to-day operations for the museums.

"It's truly a privilege to be able to help fund interns that play such an influential role in the Heritage Area”  
- Don Short, SSNHA President

**Intern working at Froelich General Store & Tractor Museum last year.**

In 1984, legislation was signed into law for the first National Heritage Area (NHA), the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. This designation set in place a new model for preservation of the important cultural narratives that have helped shape America. Nearly 30 years later, there are now 49 NHAs sharing stories that are uniquely American, along with a number of emerging Heritage Areas waiting to tell their story.  

Since the beginning, NHAs have established a proven record of fostering job creation and advancing economic, cultural, historic, environmental, and community development. Built around a public-private partnership model, NHAs are one of the Department of Interior’s most cost effective initiatives, with every federal dollar matched with an average of $5.50 in other public and private funding.

**Heritage Area Program Legislation**

While NHAs have had countless success stories, there continue to be many challenges, including lack of standardized program legislation. To help strengthen and reform the NHA Program, the bipartisan National Heritage Area Act of 2012 (H.R. 4099) was recently introduced to the House of Representatives. The act establishes the first ever standard criteria for the designation of new NHAs, which are currently authorized on an individual basis. The act also outlines a process to evaluate the progress of NHAs and make recommendations on their future relationship with the NPS, including developing a formula for future funding. Through having a clearly defined structure to oversee the management of NHAs, it will help ensure long term sustainability for the program.
Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

New Additions

Board of Trustees
Beth Hansen, Swisher & Cohrt, P.L.C., Waterloo

Partnership Panel
Martha McFarland, Hawkeye
Buffalo Ranch, Fredericksburg

Mary Suchla, John Deere
Tractor Cab & Assembly Operations, Waterloo

Paula Mohr, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

Michael Wagler, Main Street Iowa, Des Moines

Funding & Reauthorization of SSNHA

Despite cuts to many federal programs, the coordinating entity for Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area will again be receiving federal appropriations during FY12. The Heritage Area has been approved for $709,733, which must be matched one-to-one with non-federal funds. While this is a tremendous demonstration of bipartisan support for the work of Silos & Smokestacks, authorization for federal funding is set to ‘sunset’ on September 30, 2012. To ensure continued federal funding, Senator Tom Harkin recently introduced S. 2133, a bill reauthorizing America’s Agricultural Heritage Partnership (Silos & Smokestacks’ coordinating entity) for another ten years. This reauthorization is vital to ensuring continuation of Heritage Area programs while a plan to move away from reliance on federal funding is implemented.

Maintaining & Strengthening Our Partnerships

This coming year, Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area (SSNHA) will celebrate 15 years as a designated National Heritage Area with the mission of preserving and telling America’s agricultural story through partnerships. Shortly after receiving federal funding in 2001, the coordinating entity for SSNHA and the Partnership Panel officially launched a Partner Designation Program. Today, 110 Partner Sites have been designated and are actively interpreting important pieces of America’s agricultural story.

In order to continue to build on our successes as a region, Partner Sites identified the need to maintain and strengthen our network of partnerships. In response to this feedback, an improved Partner Site Designation process, focused on strengthening long-term relationships between partners, was developed. The process includes an Emerging Site path to help develop potential sites, along with a simplified Partner Site classification.

Over the coming months, we will be embarking on an ongoing Heritage Area evaluation as part of the next phase toward strengthening the network of partnerships. Partner Site meetings will be held to reaffirm our relationship and outline clear expectations for Partner Sites and the Heritage Area. Each Partner Site will also be asked to complete a self-evaluation detailing how their site continues to preserve and share America’s agricultural stories with visitors to the region. Based on the results of the evaluations, individual site visits will be schedule over the next few years to allow SSNHA staff and Partnership Panel members to address any concerns and reconnect with Partner Sites.

The sustainability of the Heritage Area is dependent on the strength of the partnership network and each partners’ future capacity to preserve and interpret our American agricultural stories. This is an exciting occasion to reaffirm our work together and jointly seek out new opportunities.

Heritage Area’s Most Endangered

In times of economic uncertainty, cultural assets are often the first things that are forgotten, though preserving our past is important to our future. While many cultural institutions are facing the same struggles, the future of two SSNHA remains uncertain.

The Wapsipinicon Mill Museum, Independence, was recently added to Preservation Iowa’s Top Ten Most Endangered Properties. While this icon of Iowa architecture is in remarkably good condition, the roof and adjacent timbers have experienced rapid deterioration in recent years. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this six-story structure was built in 1867-1870 and is the only mill of its kind in the Midwest. Visit www.preservationiowa.org/programs/endangered.php to learn how you can assist the mill.

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Cedar Falls, recently released a list of program cuts to make up for budget shortfalls, including closing the UNI Museums. If approved, the museum will close its doors on June 30. Having served the region for 120 years, the museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and shares important stories with over 70,000 people annually. Please visit www.facebook.com/saveunimuseums to see how you can help.

Agricultural Heritage Preservation Grants

General Grants due April 25
Available for agricultural heritage preservation and interpretation projects

Interpretive Planning Grants due April 25
Available for interpretive planning of agricultural heritage preservation projects

Bus Grants available August 1
Helps fund transportation costs associated with field study trips to designated Partner Sites

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(Photos of Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area)
Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area

Silos & Smokestacks Partnership Profile

**Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch**

Designated as a SSNHA Partner Site in 2004, Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch offers visitors the rare experience of interacting with these gentle giants that once roamed throughout the Midwest. This 500-acre family farm consists of rolling hills and timber that Dan McFarland and his family have lived and worked on for 156 years. When this land outside of what is now Fredericksburg, Iowa, was settled by his grandfather, it was still wild and his family lived in a small sod house.

Like many farm families, the McFarlands have adapted to the changes in agriculture over the years. After several years of declining beef prices in the early 1990s, the family made the decision to raise buffalo instead. This has allowed the family to maintain their farm, while supporting the growing farm-to-table movement. Though buffalo are now the focus of the ranch, the McFarlands also raise chicken and cattle, as well as other typical barnyard animals that visitors can interact with while on the farm.

Described as one of the most memorable experiences by SSNHA Youth Camp participants, the ranch offers a truly hands-on experience. During a tour of the ranch, visitors take a tractor ride into the timber where they come face-to-face with these awesome creatures. A staple to Native Americans, visitors can also sample buffalo meat or arrange for a home-style meal. For those wanting to delve deeper into the heritage of the buffalo, they can participate in a traditional Sioux “smudge” feather ceremony or make arrangements to hunt the buffalo on foot, just as settlers once did.

Through their active preservation of this iconic beast, the McFarland family is truly helping share an important piece of our country’s history. For more information on Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, visit www.hawkeyebuffalo.com or call 563-237-5318.

**A young boy feeds a buffalo from the wagon during a tour of the ranch (Above).**

**Dan McFarland drives the tractor as youth camp visitors view the buffalo (Below).**

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Special Thanks to Silos & Smokestacks 2011 Supporters & Contributors

SSNHA would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support during 2011. Their contributions help support the various programs SSNHA relies on to best preserve and tell the unique stories of American agriculture.

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Grout Museum District
Hansen’s Farm Fresh Dairy
Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch
Heartland Acres Agribition Center
Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum
Hickory Hills Park
Holiday Inn Express (Waterloo)
Hotel Winneshiek
Hurstville Interpretive Center/Lime Kilns
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
Iowa Masonic Library & Museum
Iowa State Fair
Johnson County Conservation Board
Amana Heritage Society

(C) (Lanny Haldy)
Laura Ingalls Wilder Park & Museum
Living History Farms
Montauk Historic Site
Carrie Lane Chapman Catt
Girlhood Home
National Farm Toy Museum
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation
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University of Northern Iowa - Department of Geography
University of Iowa Museum of Natural History
Waterloo Center of the Arts

* Contribution to SSNHA Foundation.
** Contribution to SSNHA Coordinating Entity & SSNHA Foundation

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Summer Interns (Cont.)

**National Farm Toy Museum, Dyersville | $2,856**
To help develop an agricultural group tour program, the intern will conduct research and create both display and marketing pieces for the program.

**Richardson-Jakway Historic Site, Aurora | $1,400**
The intern will plant an heirloom garden and apply a new coat of linseed oil to the house to aid in its preservation, as well as provide assistance for both public programs and youth camps.

Funded through the SSNHA Education Scholarship Fund, the Intern Grant covers up to 70% of wages for internships focused on agricultural heritage preservation at Partner Sites. Through generous donations from individual and corporate sponsors, along with matching federal funds, these internships are made possible. For more information on the SSNHA Education Scholarship Fund or to donate, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org online and click on “giving.”
Workshop
Wednesday, Mar. 28 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm | Registration 9:30 am
Iowa State Historical Building | Classrooms A & B | 600 East Locust, Des Moines, IA

Revisit the Past: CREATING SUCCESSFUL LIVING HISTORY PROGRAMS

Living history is defined as an attempt to accurately replicate the past through the use of a physical environment and the sights, sounds and smells of the period being represented. Learn the secrets to successful living history programs with John C.F. Luzader, Vice President of Programs for the National Association for Interpretation. Mr. Luzader will discuss the basics of living history, the use of interpretation as a professional tool and the guidelines for creating an interpretive character.

Affiliated with SSNHA
Partner or Emerging Site:
$3/person or
$90/group of 3 individuals from same Partner Site
All other Participants:
$45/person
Registration Deadline: March 23!

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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.