Golden Silo Awards Honor Heritage Area's Best

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area honored the best in heritage development during the annual Golden Silo Awards on April 4 at the Waterloo Center for the Arts, Waterloo, IA. Golden Silo Awards are presented to individuals and organizations whose contributions demonstrate outstanding excellence in preserving and telling the stories of American agriculture.

This year’s keynote highlighted an excerpt from the Grout Museum District’s farm story video history project, featuring Keith Elwick, who shared his inspiring story as an inventor on his farm near Vinton. Thank you to the Grout for providing the keynote presentation and to the Iowa Farm Bureau for sponsoring this year’s event. Additionally, newly designated Partner Sites were recognized, including Dysart Historical Center, Dysart, Johnson County Historical Society Museum, Coralville; Miss Effie’s Country Flowers & Garden Stuff, Donahue; and Tyden Farm No. 0, Dougherty.

Outstanding Partner
Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Ed Gruenwald, Cedar Falls, IA

Alan Hutchings Outstanding Visionary
Dan McFarland, w/ Martha McFarland, Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, Fredericksburg, IA

Outstanding Preservation in Agriculture
Ice House Museum, Don Redfern and Karen Smith, Cedar Falls, IA

See Golden Silo Awards, Page 2

$59,147 Awarded to 12 Heritage Area Projects

Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area has awarded $59,147 to 12 Northeast Iowa sites, communities and organizations to help them tell their own unique story. We are pleased to announce the following recipients for the 2012 General & Interpretive Planning Grants:

General Grants
Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue, $1,162

Through development of an agricultural heritage tour, the chamber will tell the story of the rich heritage of the St. Donatus-Bellevue area, including the history and evolution of local farming and farm families.

See Grants Awarded, Page 2

Reconnecting with Silos & Smokestacks Partner Sites

Over the last 15 years, the Heritage Area has established a reputation as a national leader in heritage development, with the strength of the region lying in its grassroots network of partnerships. Through these partnerships, the region has made its own unique piece of America’s agricultural story.

An effort is being made to review and continue to improve the connections between individual SSNHA Partner Sites as well as the coordinating entity for the Heritage Area. First, each Partner Site was asked to complete a Self-Evaluation survey relating to how their site continues to tell America’s agricultural story along with the agricultural experiences they offer. Second, regional Partner Site Meetings were held in May to reaffirm our partnerships and set out clear expectations for Partner Sites and the Heritage Area. Not only did these meetings provide an excellent networking opportunity, but also allowed us to work with the Iowa Farm Bureau for sponsoring this year’s event.

See Reconnecting, Page 3

See Grants Awarded, Page 2

Grout Museum District, Waterloo, $10,000

The museum will begin the next phase of its “Sharing the Farm Story” project, documenting the oral video histories of Iowa farmers.

Iowa Valley Resources, Conservation and Development Council – Iowa Valley Scenic Byway, Amana, $2,000

An interpretive signage program will be developed to further share the story of the Amana Colonies.

Jasper County Historical Society, Newton, $9,815

Through indoor and outdoor exhibits, the history of wind energy in Jasper County will be interpreted.

Johnson County Board of Supervisors, Lisbon, $4,920

The history of the Sutliff Bridge and surrounding area, including the Cedar River and native people, will be told through interpretive signage.
Golden Silo Awards (cont.)

Also honored were outgoing SSNHA leaders, including the Leadership Advisors who were formed in 2002 to provide vision and guidance to the Heritage Area during its early years.

Leadership Advisors
Willard Jenkins (10 years)
Susan Judkins Josten (10 years)
Kenneth Quinn (9 years)
Robert D Ray (10 years)
Gerald Schnepf (5 years)
Neal E Smith (10 years)
Governor Terry Branstad (8 years)

Grants Awarded (cont.)

Kansas Public Telecommunications Service, Inc., $8,150
The past and present of Iowa's portion of America's second longest transcontinental highway, U.S. Route 6, will be explored through development of a documentary film titled "River to River: Iowa's Forgotten Highway 6."

Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta, $1,900
Interpretive signs will be developed to introduce and designate four distinct habitats within the 28-acre campus and gentleman's farm. A designer will be hired for preliminary interpretive sign and exhibit illustrations.

Midwest Lumber Museum, Inc., Clinton, $3,000
The relationship between the early settlers of Eastern Iowa who primarily worked as farmers and those who primarily worked as lumbermen or mill owners will be researched. The National Cattle Congress, Waterloo, $5,000
The cultural and historical significance of the National Cattle Congress (NCC), including McElroy Auditorium and Electric Park Ballroom, will be researched to create an introductory video for visitors, with the research used to submit an application for the NCC to be added to the National Register of Historical Places.

St. Lucas Historical Society, St. Lucas, $1,000
To hire an expert to help preserve and interpret America's agricultural stories as they pertain to the Haure Blacksmith Shop in St. Lucas.

Camp Makes Learning Fun!

The 2012 Spring Break Camp, “History in the Making” was a huge success. Two passenger vans filled with 16 talkative campers traveled throughout the Heritage Area visiting eight Partner Sites, a food co-op and a dairy farm. Some of the more memorable moments included watching a Holstein get artificially inseminated, eating samples of locally-grown organic meats, preparing a garden for spring planting and locating a historic farm site based on historical photos and archaeological artifacts.

After five days in the Heritage Area, the campers took home all they learned, with many planning to explore the Heritage Area this summer with their family and friends. With the success of the camp program, Silos & Smokestacks is once again offering camp on Tuesdays throughout the summer. For more information please visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

SSNHA Announces New Trustees

Dan Schurr is the First Vice Chairman for the Cenex Harvest States (CHS) and has served on numerous committees since he joined CHS in 2006. Dan holds a BA in agricultural business, with a minor in economics, from Iowa State University. He currently lives near Le Claire, where he farms and owns a heavy equipment repair business in neighboring Bettendorf. Dan is also active in numerous agriculture and community organizations throughout the state and was named the Iowa Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer in 2004.

Lynette Telleen has worked for John Deere Waterloo Works for 14 years where she is the Manager of Planning and Process Improvement, including project management for the 2013 John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum. She has an accounting degree from the University of Northern Iowa, and is currently pursuing a MBA from the University of Iowa/Masters of Engineering Systems from Iowa State University. Lynette lives with her family in Waverly where she raises horses and operates the Draft Horse Journal.

EXPLORE & DISCOVER
A NEW STORY

To request your copy of the 2012-2013 Visitor's Guide, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org. Bulk requests may be directed to Aaron Steinmann, Marketing & Communications Manager at 319-234-4567, or asteinmann@silosandsmokestacks.org.
Silos & Smokestacks Partnership Profile  

George Maier Rural Heritage Center

Located in the scenic city of Elkader, the George Maier Rural Heritage Center is a tribute to one man’s dream of chronicling Midwestern rural life combined with an undying interest in “things.” After returning from World War II in 1945, lifelong Clayton County resident, George Maier, began his collection, acquiring countless treasures as he traveled to auctions and sales across the Midwest. Today that collection is housed in the historic 1919 Elkader Sales Barn and includes thousands of rural artifacts and agricultural implements dating back to the mid-1800s.

During a visit to the Heritage Center, you can almost hear the auctioneers of the past calling a sale or cattle rustling as you pass by George’s collections, which document nearly every facet of rural culture. If you are lucky or call ahead, you can even get a personal tour from George Maier himself, now 94-years-old and full of stories about each piece in his collection. Conjuring up images of what it was like to live in a rural agricultural community of the past, this intriguing tour has become a popular stop for SSNHA spring/summer camp participants, as well as teacher workshops held in partnership with Effigy Mounds National Monument.

To help bring the community together around the Heritage Center, Tom Chandler, a retired music teacher from Elkader Central High School is currently in the process of restoring George’s 1915 Studebaker for display at the center. Chandler is volunteering his time and raising funds to cover the restoration costs through donations from local businesses. When completed this summer, the vehicle will be used to promote the museum and available for rent to raise money for continued preservation of George’s collection.

“By George, we think you’ll like it!” is how the George Maier Rural Heritage Center describes the museums vast collection to visitors, and we think you’ll like it too. For more information on the Heritage Center, visit www.elkader-iowa.com or call 563-245-2377.

Good Luck, Kaylena!

After a year and a half of service with SSNHA, Kaylena Jensen, Program Assistant Intern, has graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Communication Studies. Kaylena has accepted a position at Maharishi Health Partnership in Oskaloosa as a Marketing Specialist. We will miss Kaylena greatly and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Filling Kaylena’s position is Alicia Herzog, a senior at the University of Northern Iowa double majoring in Leisure Youth & Human Services and Earth Science.

Photo Contest Expands to Capture Broader Agricultural Story

Since 2007, the Capture the Heart of America Photo Contest has been giving photographers the opportunity to actively participate in sharing their own part of the region’s agricultural story. While the heart of America’s agricultural story lies within the 37-county Heritage Area, important pieces of the story can be found scattered throughout the entire country.

2012 SPONSORS

BEST OF SHOW

Porters

Top of Iowa Welcome Center

Tamron Image Stabilizing 70-300mm Lens & 12” x 18” Custom Frame of Winning Photo

FIRST PLACE

$100 in each Category

SECOND PLACE

$50 in each Category

THIRD PLACE

Silos & Smokestacks Gear

Photo contest entries are due by October 5, 2012. For more information on the contest and online entry form, visit www.silosandsmokestacks.org.

With Silos & Smokestacks’ designation to preserve and share the entire American agricultural story, the 2012 Capture the Heart of America Photo Contest is being expanded to include agriculturally-related photos from across the country. The contest includes five categories, with four of them now open to photos taken nationally, which include American Farmscapes, Life on the Farm, Celebrations of Agriculture and America’s Agricultural Industry. The fifth category, Silos & Smokestacks Partner Sites, will still be exclusive to the Heritage Area and let visitors share their experiences at the more than 100 Heritage Area Partner Sites.

This year’s contest includes over $1600 in prizes, including:

BEST OF SHOW

Tamron Image Stabilizing 70-300mm Lens & 12” x 18” Custom Frame of Winning Photo

Reconnecting (cont.)

opportunity, but it provided time to discuss ways to share our story more effectively. Third, site visits to Partner Sites will begin this summer by Silos & Smokestacks Staff & Partnership Panel.

In order to continue to build on our success as a region, we need to maintain and strengthen our network of partnerships. We hope this process will help us continue building and celebrating the strong network of partnerships we have already created, as well as forge the way for more quality partnerships in the future.

Partners strengthening and building networks through partnerships.
Workshop

Sowing Stories, Reaping Meaning
DEVELOPING AN INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY FOR YOUR SITE

Why is interpretation important, and how do you go about creating an interpretation strategy at your site that links to your larger themes and mission? Learn how to implement interpretive tools at your site through the use of a new manual created by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area.

Each participant will receive a copy of the manual, which contains hands-on worksheets along with supplemental information on the art of interpretation and interpretive planning.

**Dates to Remember**

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**Workshop Details**

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  - **Photo Contest Entries Due**

**Location**

- Iowa Transportation Museum
  - **829 Spring Street**
  - **Grinnell, Iowa 50112**

**Contact Information**

- **319.234.4567**
- **silosandsmokestacks.org**

The Newsletter is published by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area. Please visit silosandsmokestacks.org to submit story ideas.