Preserve America News | April 2008

Pennsylvania Communities Honored

Seven Preserve America Communities and one Preserve America Grant winner were honored at an event in Gettysburg April 11. The Pennsylvania Past Players, dressed in Civil War-era attire, welcomed the crowd, and the event was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Preserve America Community Gettysburg is planning for the 150th anniversary of its Civil War battle. Preserve America Communities Carlisle, Chambersburg, Hanover, Harrisburg, Lancaster and York were also honored.

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office received its grant presentation of an $80,000 "check" for the Pennsylvania Civil War and Underground Railroad Project which will create a living history program in an effort to increase the visibility of Underground Railroad and Civil War resources in Franklin, Adams, Dauphin, and York counties.

Presentation of the Preserve America Grant to the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

Preserve America Grants Now Available

Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, along with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Chairman John L. Nau III, recently announced 43 Preserve America Grants in 25 states totaling $2.9 million. The application period for round two of 2008 is now open with a deadline of June 30 to apply for grants totaling $4.3 million to be awarded in September. Read more here.

History Channel Offers Grants
This year, the History Channel will again award Save Our History grants up to $10,000 to fund partnerships between history organizations and schools or youth groups on projects that teach students about their local history and actively engage them in its preservation.


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Announced

The National Wildlife Refuge System and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation offer a Preserve America Grant program and have announced the latest winners. The competitive grants ($10,000 - $15,000) help fund national wildlife refuge interpretive and education projects focusing on history and historic sites and how they contribute to conservation and understanding of natural resources.

The latest winners are the following: 1) Backyard Classroom for the Menokin Foundation in Warsaw, Va.; 2) Corps of Discovery for the curators of the University of Missouri; 3) Outdoor Laboratories for Student Scientists at Virginia Tech; 4) the Historic P Ranch at the Harney County Historical Society in Oregon; 5) Ice Age Alaskan Archaeology at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks; 6) Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Centennial Trail and pamphlet by the Friends of Deer Flat NWR in southwest Idaho; 7) the Whaley Homestead Interpretive Project for the Montana Preservation Alliance.

Service archaeologist Eugene Marino said the grant program has been in place for two years, and a call for applications for next year’s round likely will occur in August 2008. For more information, click here.

Section 106 Course Offered

Sign up now for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Section 106 course. It is the only Section 106 course taught by the federal agency responsible for administering the National Historic Preservation Act’s Section 106 review process.

Information about this course is available here. The Section 106 advanced seminar for experienced Section 106 users is taking place in Kansas City. The regular course is being offered in Washington, D.C., San Diego, Seattle, Pierre, Atlanta and Tulsa during 2008.

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Six of the latest Dozen Distinctive Destinations in the United States, named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are Preserve America Communities.

One, Sainte Genevieve, Mo., is home to 2005 Preserve America Presidential Award winner Bolduc House Historic Properties. The other Preserve America Communities are Aiken, S.C.; Columbus, Miss.; Red Wing, Minn.; San Juan Bautista, Calif.; and Wilmington, N.C.

According to the National Trust, these vacation destinations offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture, cultural landscapes and a strong commitment to historic preservation and revitalization. Read more here.

Louis Bolduc House circa 1785

Preserve America Expert Panel Announced

One of the recommendations from the Preserve America Summit of 2006 introduced the idea of having an expert panel examine the structure of the federal historic preservation program. Panel members were chosen by the co-chairs of the Preserve America Steering Committee--John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Lynn Scarlett, deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior. The panel will meet May 8 to begin its work.

The panel members are the following: Susan Barnes, vice chairman, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and president and chief executive officer, The Landmark Group of Companies; Philip Grone, former deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, Department of Defense; Dan Jordan, president, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation and trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Frank G. Matero, professor of architecture and chair of the graduate program in historic preservation, University of Pennsylvania; Richard Moe, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation; David Morgan, former Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer and project panel member, National Academy of Public Administration; Brian Patterson, council member of the Oneida Indian Nation and chairman of the United South and Eastern Tribes; Joseph P. Riley, Jr., mayor of Charleston, South Carolina; Jay D. Vogt, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer and president, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; and Doug Wheeler, partner, Hogan & Hartson.