



RURAL HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
NEWSLETTER
JUNE/JULY 2007

The RHDI Partners are happy to bring you the June/July issue of the *Kentucky Crossroads Rural Heritage Development Initiative Newsletter*. This newsletter is to update interested parties on the progress of the Rural Heritage Initiative and events important to the area. If you would like to submit information to the newsletter or have any questions, please contact **Field Representative, Amy Sparrow Potts, PO Box 262, Hodgenville, Kentucky, 42748, (270) 358-9069, amy@preservationkentucky.org**.

RHDI BRAND INTRODUCED

The new regional brand *Kentucky Crossroads: Where Everything Comes Together* is currently being unveiled throughout the region. The brand is the product of a series of public input sessions and numerous conversations throughout the eight county Kentucky Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI) region conducted during the fall of 2006. The resulting brand is representative of how this eight county region in Central Kentucky is a combination of historical sites, entertainment attractions, and small-town amenities that create a perfect cross-section of rural Kentucky life.



Kentucky Crossroads banner displayed at Springfield/Washington County 4th of July parade – photo by Dawn Pettus, Washington County Chamber of Commerce

In the effort to create more economic development opportunities while revitalizing our small towns and rural landscapes, the *Kentucky Crossroads* brand has been identified as a unifying theme connecting the dots from rural places to town centers. Linking similar cultural and natural heritage and assets together encourages both the recognition of the region as a destination while raising awareness of the unique and distinctive heritage of the *Kentucky Crossroads*.

Throughout the RHDI region, communities, organizations, civic clubs, festivals and sites have the opportunity to incorporate the regional brand in one form or another including adopting the color scheme or the specific type font of the brand, or by adding the Crossroads symbol to an existing logo or as a link on individual websites.

One example is the Springfield/Washington County Chamber of Commerce has recently introduced a new festival “The Kentucky Crossroads Harvest Festival” on October 12-13 using the RHDI logo and brand. Festival organizers are planning this festival to incorporate the rural traditions of the RHDI region. The RHDI will host its first annual regional historic barn tour on this date.

For a copy of the *Kentucky Crossroads* Style Guide and Guidelines for Use, contact Amy Potts at the Kentucky Crossroads Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI) at 270-358-9069 or amy@preservationkentucky.org

-RHDI COMMUNITY SCHOLARS GRADUATE – REGIONAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ANNOUNCED



(L to R): Sarah Milligan, Elaine Simms, Gary Ferguson, Amy Sparrow Potts, Beverly Heath, Hamilton Simms, Jon Allen, Bob Gates. Seated (L to R): Beverly Cox, Awilda Marcum. Not pictured: Wanda Washington, Shirley Sheperson, Carolyn Crabtree.

Eleven Community Scholars from central Kentucky received graduation certificates on June 23rd, joining the growing network of adults trained to collect, preserve, and present local traditions and art forms.

This 12 week training program is coordinated through the Kentucky Folk Life program and is designed for individuals interested in documentation and promotion of community culture, folklife, and traditional arts. Through coursework and training sessions participants became familiar with folklife documentation techniques, ethics of working with communities, research methods, presentation of cultural resources, grant writing, and project development.

Many of the Kentucky Crossroad’s group conducted fieldwork on living traditions linked to Abraham Lincoln in preparation for the upcoming Lincoln Bicentennial. The training was sponsored by the Rural Heritage Development Initiative, the National Endowment

for the Arts, Kentucky Arts Council, Kentucky Folklife program and Preservation Kentucky. The certified Community Scholars are now eligible to apply for Community Scholar Survey grants from the Kentucky Arts Council.

In the fall of 2007, the Community Scholars, RHDI and the Kentucky Heritage Council will partner with the Western Kentucky University Graduate Folk Studies program, to complete an oral history project of the eight county region which will focus on rural traditions.

Graduate students from WKU will work with the certified Community Scholars to interview participants in each county and compile interviews, photographs and information which will become the basis for an interactive DVD telling the story of the Kentucky Crossroads region.

If you interested in volunteering with this project, know someone who should be interviewed or have a story to tell yourself, please contact Amy Sparrow Potts, amy@preservationkentucky.org or call (270) 358-9069.



***-STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PHOTO ESSAY WINNERS FROM THE
RHDI REGION***

Students from across Kentucky were honored last May for their photo-essays exploring the theme *The Art of Historic Preservation* during an awards ceremony for the 9th Annual Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky Photo-Essay Competition. Two students from the Kentucky Crossroads RHDI region were honored. The ceremony took place at the Henry Clay Hotel in Louisville in

conjunction with the 29th Annual Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards.

The middle school winner was **Hannah Elizabeth Wilson of Lebanon**, a 6th grade student at Lebanon Middle School, who wrote about the Dodd House. **Allie Evans of Lebanon**, a 3rd grader at Calvary Elementary School, who wrote about the Bradfordsville School.

Pictured above –photo-essay winner Hannah Wilson – right, photo-essay winner Allie Evans – others pictured, Donna Neary, Executive Director, Kentucky Heritage Council; Joanna Hinton, Executive Director, Preservation Kentucky, Inc.; Dana Beth Lyddan, Chairman, Preservation Kentucky, Inc. Lindy Casebier, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Arts and Cultural Heritage



Participants were required to select and photograph a historic building or structure in their community and then write an essay, based on the theme, describing its historic significance and its current and future value to the community. To encourage students to become preservation advocates, each participant was also required to submit a copy of his or her essay to a local decision-maker – such as a mayor, city council member, county judge-executive or magistrate – before it was considered for competition.

For more information or to receive a photo or a copy of a student essay, call the Kentucky Heritage Council at 502-564-7005, ext. 120 or Preservation Kentucky at 270-358-9069.



Shown above is one of the original 1960s Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail markers, located in Perryville.

LINCOLN HERITAGE TRAIL UPDATE

The Kentucky Heritage Council, on behalf of the State Lincoln Commission received Transportation Enhancement Act grants to update the existing 1960s Lincoln Heritage trail which traverses many sections of the Kentucky Crossroads RHDI Region.

The Kentucky Heritage Council is partnering with the Kentucky Historical Society to update the existing map, provide new directional and interpretational signage, as well as to produce new maps, brochures and other interpretive elements including a website. The website will contain information on each site, as well as offer visitors side trips relating to Lincoln's Kentucky connection.

Tony Curtis was recently hired to help complete the process and plans to have interpretive signs in place by the kick-off event to the National Lincoln Bicentennial celebration in February 2008 in Hodgenville. Curtis is from Ashland, Kentucky and graduated from Morehead State University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts in History, and received his Masters of Arts in History from Marshall University in 2005.

He says of his role in planning the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, "I am very excited about my role as historian for the Lincoln Heritage Trail project and its role in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln". Curtis is being assisted by Karen Keown of the Kentucky Heritage Council and Stuart Sanders of the Kentucky Historical Society as well as an advisory committee and other staff members of each agency.

Also, the RHDI has recently applied for a Corridor Management Plan Grant from the National Scenic Byways program as the first steps toward receiving a Lincoln Heritage American Byway designation within all eight of the RHDI counties.

According to a report issued for the RHDI region by John Whiteman of Whiteman Consulting, the National Scenic Byways Program was established by Congress in 1991, “The program's intent is to support the protection of important resources in rural areas that are associated with American historical, cultural and natural resources and to support local rural economies by strengthening tourism”.

Information on funding should arrive by late summer of 2007. For more information on the American Byways program in the RHDI region, contact Amy Potts, Field Representative, amy@preservationkentucky.org or call (270) 358-9069. For more information regarding the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, contact Karen Keown (Karen.keown@ky.gov) or Tony Curtis (tony.curtis@ky.gov) or by calling the Kentucky Heritage Council, (502) 564-7005.

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR – FARMLAND PRESERVATION SYMPOSIUM
SCHEDULED – MARCH 4, 2008***

The RHDI Farmland Preservation Symposium will be held at the St. Catharine’s Motherhouse in Springfield on March 4, 2008. This day long symposium will feature topics relating to farmland preservation and preservation of the cultural and built environment. Please mark your calendars, and more information will follow.

The Rural Heritage Development Initiative is a three-year demonstration program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in collaboration with Preservation Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council, to help develop and implement preservation-based economic development strategies in the eight county Central Kentucky area of Boyle, Green, LaRue, Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Taylor and Washington. The initiative is funded largely through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information, please visit www.preservationkentucky.org or call (270) 358-9069.

