

Central Kentucky Heartland

RURAL HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

The RHDI Partners are happy to bring you the May issue of the *Central Kentucky Heartland Rural Heritage Development Initiative Newsletter*. This newsletter is sent out monthly 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**.

-BRIDGES Group Wins Historic Preservation Service Award

Congratulations to the BRIDGES (Building Renewed Interest in Downtown Greensburg through Excellence in Service) who were one of the recipients of the 28th annual Ida Lee Willis Awards for Service to Preservation. The award ceremony took place at the Governor's Executive Mansion in Frankfort on May 25. This award honors those who have furthered historic preservation activities or have had a positive impact in their communities.



Members of BRIDGES after the Ida Lee Willis Award presentation in Frankfort – pictured on the right is their advisor, Brenda Hall. Photo by Mike Mills

BRIDGES is comprised of middle and high school students from Green County Schools, who have worked successfully for over five years to help revitalize downtown Greensburg. The group members are downtown ambassadors who give guided tours of the historic district, volunteer at downtown events, research historic buildings and conduct oral histories among many other projects. They've also won an international problem solving competition for their efforts and have become the model for the RHDI Youth Guide Program.

In addition to preservation leaders from around Kentucky, those participating in the presentation ceremonies included special guest speaker Linda Bruckheimer of Bloomfield and Los Angeles, author and community preservationist; Sally Meigs, daughter of Mrs. Ida Lee Willis; Stephen Collins, chair of the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation; Joanna Hinton, executive director of Preservation Kentucky, Inc.; and David L. Morgan, executive director of the Kentucky Heritage Council and State Historic Preservation Officer.

For more information about the awards ceremony, please visit the Kentucky Heritage Council website, www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/khchome.htm

-African American Heritage Workshop a Success

“Documenting Your African American Historic Resources” was held from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 13 at the Springfield Opera House with over 30 residents of the region present. This workshop was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council, Preservation Kentucky, RHDI, and Springfield Main Street/Renaissance. Alicestyne Adams, Director of the Underground Railroad Research Institute at Georgetown College gave an informative presentation on identifying historic research tools, interviewing techniques and area Rosenwald schools. Other topics discussed included architectural survey work and preservation of rural heritage. A walking tour of historic Springfield followed including a tour of the McElroy house pictured at the right with lunch served after at the Johnson Hill AME church. The RHDI and Kentucky Heritage Council will sponsor other African American Heritage workshops throughout the region.



Workshop participants touring the Wilson McElroy House, Springfield

-Lincoln Wedding Reenactment Receives National Endorsement

May 22, 2006 –Taken from a Kentucky Department of Parks Press Release, for more information please contact Gil Lawson, (502) 654-2172, gil.lawson@ky.gov:
FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has officially endorsed the Lincoln-Hanks Wedding Bicentennial set for June 3 at Lincoln Homestead State Park at Springfield.

The endorsement means the event will be promoted on the commission’s web site and that organizers can use the commission’s logo. The 15-member commission was appointed by the President, the Senate and the House of Representatives following the passage of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act in 2000. The commission is informing citizens about the impact Abraham Lincoln had on the development of our nation. For more information, go to: <http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov>

The 1806 wedding between Lincoln’s parents Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in Washington County, to be presented in a play on June 3, will kick off the three-year Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration in Kentucky.

Mark Your Calendar

The next RHDI Steering Committee Meeting will be from **1-3:30 p.m. (EDT) on July 13, at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill**. The meeting will begin with a performance of Shaker music and end with a beautiful trip on the Kentucky River aboard the Dixie Belle riverboat. Please mark your calendar for this date and more information will follow as the meeting time approaches.

Upcoming Regional Events in June

June 1-4 -US 68/80 Antique Sale

-400 miles of antiques! For more information visit www.1000trails.com.

June 2-3- Bardstown Bluegrass Festival

-For more information visit www.bardstowntourism.com or call 502-252-9004 or 502-507-5449

June 3-Lincoln Wedding Reenactment – Lincoln Homestead State

-For more information visit www.lincolnhanks.net or call the Washington County Chamber of Commerce at (859) 336-3810, ext. 1.

June 3-4 – 4th Annual Shaker Village Antique Show and Sale

-For more information visit www.shakervillage.org.

June 3 - Greensburg Art in the Park

-Art festival with children's activities and live music. For more information visit www.greensburgonline.com or call (270) 932-4298.

June 2-4-Ft. Harrod Beef Festival – Ft. Harrod State Park and Mercer County Fairgrounds

-For more information visit www.fortharrodbeeffestival.org or call Ft. Harrod State Park at (859) 734-9614 or 734-3314 or LeMayne Ellis at (859) 734-5546.

June 10 – 1st Annual Greensburg Adventure Race Challenge

-Run, canoe and bike your way to the finish line! For more information or to register visit www.greensburgonline.com or call (270) 932-4298.

June 10 - Stephen Foster-The Musical – Opening Night

-For more information visit www.stephenfoster.com or call 502-348-5971 or 800-626-1563.

June 8-11 -Great American Brass Band Festival –Danville

-For more information visit www.danvillekentucky.com or contact Danville-Boyle County CVB via email at tourbc@bellsouth.net or via telephone at 800-755-0076.

June 9-10 -Old Mill Days- Bradfordsville.

-For more information contact David Edelen 270-337-3796 or visit www.lebanon-ky.com.

The Rural Heritage Development Initiative is a three year grant program to help preserve rural heritage is an eight county Central Kentucky area. The grant is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Kentucky, The Kentucky Heritage Council and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information please visit www.preservationkentucky.org or call (270) 358-9069.

