



Central Kentucky Heartland RURAL HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

The RHDII Partners are happy to bring you the November/December issue of the *Central Kentucky Heartland 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**.

-RHDII Highlighted at Two Preservation Conferences



Helen Dedman presents RHDII information at the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Pittsburgh

Information about the Central Kentucky RHDII was recently presented at the Kentucky Historic Preservation Conference in Covington and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh.

Sponsored by Preservation Kentucky, Inc. and the Kentucky Heritage Council, the statewide preservation conference, “The Art of Preservation” was held in Covington, September 28-30 and included three days of presentations on state preservation topics with keynote addresses from stonemason, Dr. Gerald Lynch and the preview of James Archambeault’s new book *Historic Kentucky*. The RHDII was highlighted in

a session entitled, “A Regional Approach to Rural Heritage Development”, with over fifty conference goers in attendance.

The Central Kentucky RHDII was also highlighted in the session, “Using Preservation as a Framework for Rural Development” at the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Pittsburgh on October 30-November 5. This panel discussion featured representatives from Central Kentucky, the Arkansas Delta and Martinsville, Virginia in a question and answer session on the RHDII and rural heritage preservation. David Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council; Joanna Hinton, Executive Director of Preservation Kentucky; and Helen Dedman, Chairperson of the RHDII Steering Committee participated in the session.

Youth Heritage Program Update

The Central Kentucky RHDI identified as one of its goals to incorporate Youth Heritage Programs in each county which would actively involve young people in preservation activities. This program was modeled after the successful BRIDGES (Building Renewing Interest in Downtown Greensburg through Excellence in Service) program already established in Greensburg. This group of middle and high school students has been working for several years to help revitalize their downtown by hosting tours and becoming ambassadors for special events.

Currently, the RHDI has initiated youth programs in two other counties; Washington and Nelson with plans to add programs in each five remaining counties.



Washington County Teen Leadership

In Washington County, the 4H Teen Leadership group has been working with the RHDI Historic Assets survey by identifying sites and doing historic research. At their annual retreat, students were asked to take pictures of historic places in their communities and display on a poster. These posters are now displayed throughout Washington County. As the year progresses, each student will research specific properties and use this research to create a booklet featuring the county's historic sites.

New Haven Elementary -8th Grade Oral History Project

After attending the RHDI Crossroads Assessment public presentation, principal Mark Thomas was inspired to create a heritage program for the eighth grade students at New Haven Elementary school. Working closely with Language Arts teacher, Debbie Unger, students are embarking on a project to record oral histories from the community and compose a history of New Haven. Steering committee member and local historian, Dixie Hibbs recently spoke with the class on organizing research for publication and students have filmed a commercial to run on the local access cable station asking for interested residents to submit photographs and stories.



-Crossroads Communities Assessment Update



Bradfordsville Community Members and Assessment Team

On October 10-13, the Kentucky Main Street staff and Todd Barman from the National Main Street center conducted an assessment and resource team for RHDI Crossroads Communities to identify strategies for linking small communities with regional resources.

The team visited New Haven, Magnolia, Buffalo, Bradfordsville, Perryville, Fredericktown, Salvisa, McAfee and Bloomfield.

The weeklong assessment culminated in a public presentation of possible strategies held in the Bloomfield Meeting hall. The presentation highlighted strong community assets such as community pride, rich agricultural tradition, and entrepreneurial spirit as well as unique challenges each community faces including loss of commerce, ability to effectively engage volunteers and need for historic preservation education.

The assessment team also composed preliminary recommendations for the region that the steering committee is reviewing to incorporate into year two programs. Possible preliminary ideas from the assessment include implementing model programs designed after the successful Main Street four point approach to revitalization.



Assessment Team with citizens of Magnolia

RHDI Interpretation Workshop

As a follow up the Interpretation Assessment of Lincoln Sites, the RHDI hosted

Interpretation Workshop, ***“Connecting Visitors to Your Site -An introduction to the Art of Interpretation”***, conducted by Wren Smith of Bernheim Forest with assistance from Sandy Brue of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace; on November 16, at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.



Twenty historic site personnel and others attended this workshop focused on educating historic site personnel and interested volunteers about techniques for creating programs, tours, hikes and informal visitor conversations which bring historic sites to life.

REMINDERS

Next Steering Committee Meeting – January 5th

The next RHDI Steering Committee Meeting will be from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.. (EDT) on Friday, January 5th, at the Washington County Extension Agency. Lunch will be provided.

Please plan to attend this very critical meeting as it is the work session to plan our Year Two goals with representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Mark your calendar for this date and more information will follow as the meeting time approaches.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2007 Photo Essay Competition

In celebration on National Historic Preservation Week in May, Preservation Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council sponsor the annual Photo Essay competition.

The competition is for all Kentucky school students with a deadline for submission of March 31, 2007. Students should look at historic buildings in their own community that reflect artistic touches or fine craftsmanship in its construction and/or those historic buildings that have been preserved through efforts that represent the work of local ‘artists’ who have used their talents to preserve and re-use these places. Art is defined as a craft, or expertise, or know-how and students should seek evidence of ‘art’ not only in the construction of the historic buildings, but also in the work required to preserve, maintain and interpret these. The essays and photographs created by the students can also reflect their own work as ‘artists.’ Students are challenged to tell the story of an important historic place and discuss why the place represents art and how art and craftsmanship skills are applied to its preservation.

Entries should be thoughtful and creative essays about the importance of preserving and recycling Kentucky’s historic resources for future generations. For the competition, students should photograph a historic building or structure in their community and then write an essay describing the historic resource and explaining its relationship to the theme.

The Kentucky Heritage Council and Preservation Kentucky hope that the Photo-Essay Competition will stimulate young people’s interest in historic preservation and will provide an opportunity for students to interact with their local decision-makers (mayors, city council / commission members, county judge/executives, magistrates, etc.) regarding

the importance of historic preservation. As part of the competition, students are required to submit a copy of their essay to at least one local decision-maker in addition to judges.

First, second, and third place essays will be chosen from three categories:

Primary (Grades 1-5)
Intermediate (Grades 6-8)
Secondary (Grades 9-12)

- ***The school submitting the most entries to the 2007 Competition will also be recognized and presented with an award for participation.***

Photo-essay winners will receive cash awards and other prizes and all competition participants will receive a certificate of recognition. Photo-essay winners will present their winning essays and photographs and will be recognized at a celebration in May 2007.

To download an application or to view winning essays from previous years online at Preservation Kentucky's website -- <http://www.preservationkentucky.org>.

Kentucky Bicentennial High School Oratory Contest

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in cooperation with Lincoln Days Celebration and Eastern National Book Stores is sponsoring a state-wide high school oratory contest. This event, open to all Kentucky High School students will provide a challenge in developing, organizing, and communicating ideas related to the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. Students will use critical thinking, independent research, and proper speech to compete for cash prizes. Contestants will be judged on originality, accuracy and presentation. Speeches are limited to fifteen minutes.

Competition will take place on February 10, 2007 in the Lincoln Museum Community Room on the Square in Hodgenville with the winner presenting their speech during the annual Lincoln Days Luncheon, Monday, February 12, 2007.

Application, guidelines, and resource materials are available on the park's webpage, www.nps.gov/abli under the link, "For Teachers," by calling Steven Brown, Education Specialist, 270-358-3137 or writing to the park at the above address. High School students in all public, private, parochial, and charter schools in Kentucky are eligible to participate, as well as home-schooled students. This competition is free and open to all Kentucky High School Students. Prizes of \$300, \$200, \$100, will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

Smithsonian “Key Ingredients” Displayed in Harrodsburg

The newest exhibition from Museum on Main Street, a partnership of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the Kentucky Humanities Council,



“Key Ingredients” will open at Old Fort Harrod State Park’s Black Box Theatre on Saturday, December 9th and be on view through Saturday, January 20th.

Through a selection of artifacts, photographs, and illustrations, “Key Ingredients” examines how culture, ethnicity, landscape, and tradition influence the foods and flavors we enjoy across the nation. The exhibition also looks at the evolution of the American kitchen and how food industries have

responded to the technological innovations that have enabled Americans to choose an ever-wider variety of frozen, prepared, and fresh foods. The exhibition also addresses the entrepreneurial spirit on which many food production companies are based, such as food pioneers Heinz, Campbell, and Borden.

Harrodsburg will welcome the Smithsonian exhibit in December and will also host other events to correspond with the exhibit. The Grand Opening will be held on Saturday, December 9th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Mercer County Public Library will have aprons on display throughout the months of December and January and will also host an opening reception on Sunday, December 10th from 3 until 5 p.m. . The local Rotary Club will host Kentucky Humanities Speaker, Hugh Ridenour, on Wednesday, December 13th.

The exhibit will be closed December 23rd until January 2nd for the holidays. Events will begin in January with Terry White speaking about food traditions in Harrodsburg on Sunday, January 7th at the Ragged Edge Community Theater. Chef Mark Williams with Brown Forman will also have a Slow Food Reception during this time.

Tony Shirley, the local County Extension Agent, will host a Vegetable Gardening 101 class on Tuesday, January 9th at 11 a.m., Thursday, January 11th at 2 p.m. and Saturday, January 13th at 11 a.m. All classes will be held at the Black Box Theatre at Old Fort Harrod State Park.

Kentucky Humanities Speaker, Daryl Harris, will speak at the Mercer County Public Library on Sunday, January 14th at 3 p.m. Mark Sohn, Kentucky Humanities Speaker, will also present in Harrodsburg on Thursday, January 18th.

The exhibit will be open for the public to view at Old Fort Harrod State Park’s Black Box Theatre Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.

until 2 p.m. For more information contact 859-734-6811 or 859-734-9614 or view the website at www.keyingredients.org.

Nominations Accepted for Kentucky History Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the Kentucky History Awards. Nominations can be submitted in one of three categories: service, special and general. **Nomination forms for all categories must be submitted to the HCK office by January 26, 2007. All award winners will be notified by February 9, 2007.**

There are several subgroups within the special and service award categories, with one award recipient in each subgroup. For general awards, there are also several subgroups, but there is no limit to the number of recipients, and the nomination form asks that you note the organizations budget (Shown as class A, B, C or D on the nomination form). **I am pleased to announce that the general award category has been expanded for 2006 to include web sites.** This is your chance to recognize those web sites that have shown exemplary design and content.

Nominations should be sent to The Historical Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Historical Society. If you would like to receive a nomination packet or have any questions about the nomination form or the awards ceremony, please contact Ann Johnson at 502-564-1792, x4404 or annj.johnson@ky.gov.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

For a complete listing of RHDI Regional Events, remember to Visit our Website at www.preservationkentucky.org.

The Rural Heritage Development Initiative is a three year grant program to help preserve rural heritage in 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.



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