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HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A training initiative of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas

Update: National Heritage Partnership Act Recent Capitol Hill Testimony Involves Potential NHAs

Heritage resources are increasingly becoming an integral part of tourism strategies and economic development. With 27 designated National Heritage Areas and numerous heritage organizations pursuing national designation, supporters of the National Heritage Partnership Act are seeking the implementation of a formal system to coordinate assistance and provide information for ongoing heritage initiatives.

Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY) introduced the National Heritage Partnership Act (S. 243) on February 1, 2005. Similar to legislation (S. 2543) passed by the Senate in the 108th Congress, this bill calls for the establishment of a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas.

The Senate referred S. 243 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for further study. The committee issued its report on March 9 recommending that the Senate pass the bill, which has been placed on the Senate legislative calendar for consideration.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House (HR 760) on February 23, and was referred to the Committee on Resources. This bill remains in subcommittee.

In related NHA matters, the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks received testimony on March 15 from heritage development professionals regarding the following bills: S. 175, a bill to establish the Bleeding Kansas and Enduring Struggle for Freedom NHA; S. 322, a bill to establish the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership in the State of Vermont and New York; S. 323, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial NHA in Missouri; and S. 429, a bill to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley NHA in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

To view the status of this pending legislation, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>. To read the full testimonies from this hearing, visit <http://energy.senate.gov/hearings/witnesslist.cfm?id=1412>

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Conference Sessions to Address Current Challenges



www.ihdc2005.org

The Alliance of National Heritage Areas has announced the preliminary program for this year's International Heritage Development Conference to be held in Nashville June 4-8. The program features twenty sessions ranging in topic from heritage tourism strategies to case studies in heritage development. The sessions are designed to address the needs of all types of heritage organizations, both established and developing.

For a complete listing of sessions and speakers, and to register, visit the conference website at www.ihdc2005.org. The following is a partial list of sessions:

- Tools of Engagement: Using Projects to Create Partnerships
- Doors Open: National & International How-to Examples and Best Practices
- Developing Partnerships to Combine Preservation, Interpretation, & Econ. Development
- Forum on Tourism in National Heritage Areas: Finding Our Place
- Telling Stories with New Media
- Different Approaches for Heritage Development in the American West
- From "Cain't" to Can: Lessons from Two Emerging NHAs in the American South
- Building Relationships with Corporations
- Faith-based Heritage Areas
- Advisory Board of National Heritage Areas Update: Breaking News
- International Partnering, Sister-style: Regional Connections as a Professional and Heritage Tourism Development Strategy

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www.nationalheritageareas.org

Additions to Your Heritage Development Reading List

- Alliance of National Heritage Areas. Annual Report 2004. Available at www.nationalheritageareas.org/reports.htm.
- Kaufman, Ted. "Historic Places and the Diversity Deficit in Heritage Conservation." *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* 1:2 (Summer 2004), 68-87.
- National Park Service. "Coal Town Revival: An Interview with John Cosgrove." *Common Ground* (Spring 2005): 18-29. Available at www.cr.nps.gov/CommonGround/.
- Page, Max, and Randall Mason, eds. *Giving Preservation a History: Histories of Historic Preservation in the United States*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

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The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) established the Heritage Development Institute (HDI) as a way of providing leadership to the heritage development field as well as creating training and analysis of the best practices in our heritage areas across the country. The HDI Newsletter is sponsored by the ANHA, Middle Tennessee State University's Center for Historic Preservation, and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. To submit information and update e-mail addresses, please e-mail us at hdi@mtsu.edu.