

HDI Electronic Newsletter, June 15, 2004

Hello Colleagues,

This edition of the Heritage Development Institute (HDI) newsletter comes out early so to announce and promote the next HDI class at Reston, Virginia, on July 23, 2004. The newsletter includes:

- Registration information for July 23 workshop in Reston, VA,
- Recap of Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance Meeting,
- eBay and material culture, and
- New additions to your heritage development reading.

Registration Information for July 23 Workshop in Reston, VA

Registration is open for "Heritage Areas: A Forum on Partnership Strategies and Heritage Development," which will take place at the USGS Headquarters in Reston, Virginia, on July 23, 2004. This course is sponsored by the National Park Service and the Heritage Development Institute of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA). The day-long Friday meeting will focus on fostering more effective relationships and heritage development activities among existing federal agency programs and the National Heritage Areas. In the morning, NHA directors will present the usual HDI workshop material on the key components of successful heritage development.

"The Benefits and Burdens of Heritage Areas," by Augie Carlino, CEO of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and Chair of the ANHA

"The Process and Politics Partnerships," by Dan Rice, CEO of the Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition and former Chair of the ANHA

"Telling the Story," by John Cosgrove, Executive Director of the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania and ANHA Executive Committee Member

"Resource Conservation Through Partnerships," by Carroll Van West, Director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and ANHA Executive Committee Member

After a working lunch with a moderated discussion led by Brenda Barrett, National Coordinator of Heritage Areas of the National Park Service, there will be presentations by different federal agencies/programs on the ways in which partners and federal agencies can collaborate more effectively. Highlighted programs will include:

- American Heritage Rivers (EPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Program (NOAA)
- Farm Service Agency (USDA)
- National Heritage Areas (NPS)

- National Marine Sanctuaries (NOAA)
- National Trails System (NPS)
- Preserve America (AHP)
- Resource Conservation & Development Districts (USDA)
- Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance (NPS)
- Scenic Byways Resource Center (FHA)

The \$50 registration fee helps to underwrite the travel costs of the presenters and the cost of producing the workshop notebooks. It is due by July 12, 2004. For additional workshop and registration information, visit <http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar/new/index.html>. Contact the HDI with questions at hdi@mtsu.edu or (615) 898-5990.

Recap of Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance Meeting

On June 9-11, several ANHA members participated in a two-way brainstorming session of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance. The workshop took place on the campus of the University of Mississippi in Oxford and at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Mississippi. Fifty people attended the workshop, which featured presentations from Augie Carlino of the Rivers of Steel NHA, Van West of the Tennessee Civil War NHA, Dan Rice of the Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition, Becky Anderson of Handmade in America, and Curt Cottle, formerly of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. The participants are preparing an action plan to better coordinate their efforts and to identify partners for their regional heritage projects. Support for the workshop came from the Mississippi Division of Tourism, the U.S. Forest Service, the North Central Mississippi Resource Conservation & Development Council, Corinth Realty, and the University of Mississippi. Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville served as the workshop facilitator while Kent Bain of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance organized the meeting. In its June 11 edition, the Northwest Mississippi Daily Journal quoted Dan Rice as emphasizing that "heritage areas simultaneously preservation and conservation of history and stimulate economic development. 'A heritage area creates a strategy for regional collaboration,' he said." Attending the meeting was Mayor Andre DeBarry of Holly Springs who told the newspaper: "I believe our past is indicative of our future, so it is important to preserve that history. History doesn't leave you."

eBay and Material Culture

Online auction site eBay is not something typically associated with history or preservation. However, as historian Molly McCarthy notes in her article "Consuming History?" (see bibliography), more and more historians, curators, librarians, scholars, and students are turning to eBay as a legitimate historical resource. eBay has become a superb site to search for historic material culture items. McCarthy highlighted several historians

who routinely turn to eBay, not necessarily to shop, but to research. One such scholar, Gretchen Adams, used eBay to "map the commodification of the Salem [witch] trials." Another scholar, who posted a web message after the article's publication, "discovered an enormous amount of material [on eBay] which has been produced over the years to celebrate [Dolley Madison] and to use her as an advertising icon."

Ebay certainly has faults that merit discussion and action, such as questions of authenticity and whether the privatization of otherwise museum-bound artifacts is acceptable. McCarthy cites several news articles about stolen goods sold on eBay and ongoing federal investigations of the online auction site. She adds, "whether we like it or not, eBay's made it easier than ever to consume history."

New Additions to Your Heritage Development Reading

Bray, Paul M. "Rethinking Urban Parks." *Places* 16: 2 (Spring 2004).

Cremin, Dennis H. "From Heartland to Nation: The National Heritage Area Movement at Twenty." *History News* 59: 2 (Spring 2004).

McCarthy, Molly. "Consuming History?" *Common-Place* 1: 2 (January 2001). [available online at www.common-place.org]

Rao, Vijayendra and Michael Walton, eds. *Culture and Public Action*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2004. This new book of essays, according to a description from a website on the book, "includes case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, which examine the role in arts and heritage policy, community-based development, ethnic conflict, famine relief, gender discrimination, and HIV-AIDS interventions. The editors conclude by proposing how a 'cultural lens' can better inform future research and public policy on development."

www.preservationdirectory.com. This is an excellent online resource with the goal of fostering "the preservation of historic buildings, historic downtowns and neighborhoods, cultural resources, and promoting heritage tourism by facilitating communication among preservationists, historical societies, State and Federal historic preservation offices, and the general public."

That's all for June! Thanks for checking in.

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 email addresses, please email us at hdi@mtsu.edu.