GBNHP invites partners to workshop

The National Association for Interpretation Region 9 Spring Workshop 2010 will focus on Preserving Vanishing Vistas. It will be held on Friday, April 24th and Saturday April 25th in Ely, NV hosted by the Nevada Northern Railway Museum. The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership is a sponsor.

In addition, the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership will be presenting a program explaining what National Heritage Areas can do to help preserve vanishing vistas by developing regional heritage related partnerships.

Events commence Friday morning with a ride to downtown Ely for breakfast. This will be followed by a tour of the NNRY Museum and a presentation titled “Fundraising, Yes, It All Boils Down to Money, But from Where? “

Another train ride takes participants to the White Pine Convention Center for lunch followed by concurrent educational sessions.

On Friday afternoon, participants will be leaving Ely and traveling to the Great Basin National Park to tour the Lehman Caves and discuss “What happens to resources when they are not properly understood?”

Then it is on to the nearby Border Inn for a traditional Basque style dinner and back to the Park in the dark for a Night Sky Presentation.

Saturday will be filled with concurrent education sessions in Ely.

Best of all, the Heritage Area, through its National Park regional partners, will be awarding “scholarships” to several of its regional heritage partners to cover the cost of registration for the workshop!

This will provide the best opportunity for local museum associations and operators of heritage features to learn about partnering within the Great Basin National Heritage Area along with better ways to interpret their own heritage features.

For information about the possibility of earning a “scholarship”, contact the Director of the Great Basin National Heritage Area Partnership.
I am always amazed when I sit down to write the president’s report that there are many accomplishments and that we are moving forward in pretty good order.

Of course, for most of January I concentrated on the 7th Annual Old Sheepherders’ Party which was held at the Border Inn on Jan. 15 and 16. The Friday night Appreciation Dinner was the same menu as we have served every year—a sheep camp meal of lamb stew, ham and beans and spuds. Hank Vogler emceed the after-dinner program of sheep stories. Sourdough Slim yodeled and sang songs including That Utah Trail and Nighttime in Nevada.

Saturday night’s sit-down dinner caught us a little off guard as we expected about 100 people and 150 showed up. My staff appreciated the help of NPS regional personnel, Gretchen Luxenberg and Linda Stonier, who reverted back to their long-ago waitressing days and pitched in and helped out. With more attendees, the Sheepherders’ Ball saw some pretty fancy dancing including one dance with regular attendee, Colleen Collard, and a ballet dancer with Cirque de Soleil. This was the first year that Saturday was as well-attended as Friday night.

Board member Dave Tilford recorded the entire event and added more oral histories to his collection. David Toll of the Compleat Nevada Traveler was in attendance and posted an informative article on his website at www.nevadatravel.net/travelgram

It is exciting that we have been included in the National Assn. for Interpretation regional meeting in Ely as a sponsor and presenter and also as a presenter at the Arizona-Nevada History Conference.
Natural heritage celebrated in Millard County

The Great Basin National Heritage Area celebrates its natural heritage as much as its cultural one. One of the most outstanding natural events each year is the return of the snow geese to the wetlands of Millard County. In observance of the return, the Delta, Utah Chamber of Commerce promotes its Snow Goose Festival each February.

Upwards to 20,000 geese, mostly Lesser Snow Goose (Chen caerulescens) but also Ross's Goose (Chen rossii) that have wintered in the Imperial Valley of California rest at Gunnison Reservoir near Delta on their way to nest in the arctic tundra. Each day they spread out into local fallow fields to forage before retuning en-mass to the reservoir in the evening. There is no other place in the State of Utah that offers the chance to see so many snow geese in one place.

The sheer numbers provide an incredible spectacle! And, because the snow goose is the noisiest of all geese a cacophony erupts as the birds settle in.

Along with the wildlife viewing, the Chamber hosts a number of allied events calculated to bring hundreds of tourists into the area. The events include:

- Wild Goose Chase (a fun run)
- Wild Goose Skeet Shoot
- "Piece in the Valley" Quilt Show
- Mother Goose Craft Show

Though the Festival lasts only a weekend, the geese hang around for several weeks. You can see live posts of geese near Delta at:

http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/4881252

For more information on the Festival, contact:

Delta Area Chamber of Commerce
80 N 200 W
Delta, UT 84624
(435) 864-4316
chamber@deltautah.com

Utah partners may qualify for rural development grants

Terry Marasco manages the process that identifies and brings together stakeholders, expertise, and funding sources to address current and future natural resource challenges for communities, businesses, non-profits, and governments. Terry says that heritage partners in Millard County, Utah that can identify projects relating to those topics may be eligible for project support through a Utah Rural Development Grant.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this grant is to further economic development in rural areas in Utah.

ELIGIBILITY
These project grants are available to non-profit organizations, counties, cities, towns, townships and recognized districts.

PROCEDURES

Grants will be selected on a competitive basis by the Rural Development Office. No deadlines for grant applications.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All grants require a vision statement and what has been done to implement the vision.
2. Cash expenditures may be for any direct purchase, labor or services used in the project. Projects may include planning and feasibility studies.
3. Projects should have had measurable outcomes in at least one or more of the following three areas:
   - The project has and will continue to increase employment.
   - The project has and will increase local economic income for the area.
   - The project has and will continue to increase knowledge and local participation.

Collaborative partners are required to supply evidence of support and level of participation in the project.

The GBNHP may be able to help. Successful applicants will sign a contract with terms to be negotiated. Grant applications will be required to report outcome measures.

All applications will be reviewed and assessed with a composite score totaling 100 percent. Scores will be based upon the following criteria:

- Partnerships- 10 %
- History- 50 %
- Plan of Work- 25%
- Local participation 15%

For more details contact:
Terry Marasco
Natural Resources
Project Management
48 W Broadway Apt 2505N
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
775.293.0189
www.natural-resource-mgt.com

Utah partners may qualify for rural development grants
One of the Heritage Area’s prime partners, The Northern Nevada Railway Museum, recently held its annual Steam Spectacular. Railroad and steam buffs who are also photographers vied for limited registration for a chance to ride, experience and photograph history. One participant came from as far away as Germany and two came specifically from England to witness the glory of steam railroading.

During the first two weekends in February the railroad fires up its steam engines and trots out the original railroad equipment in the original paint schemes. All of this equipment has been on the property for decades and in a couple of cases more than a century, all of it still operating on the original track that was graded and laid a century ago. The crews were in period dress, adding to the experience.

Winter is an excellent time for a steam event. On a cold day in February steam locomotive Number 93 billows white clouds of steam and plumes of black and gray smoke that tower above the canyons and valleys. One weekend, snow added to the ethereal effect, but at times it nearly obscured the scene entirely.

Past participants have won numerous photo contests, recording timeless scenes of a historical railroad.

Backdrops for the event include the depot, engine house, machine shop, carpenter shop, blacksmith shops, and dispatcher building as well as the wide open desert landscapes of White Pine County, Nevada.

The Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark is a time capsule like no other!
GBHAP to present at AZ/NV History Conference

On April 16, the Director of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership will join Mark Bassett, Executive Director of the Nevada Northern Railway and Peter Barton, Acting Administrator for the Nevada Division of Museums and History in presenting a paper at the annual ARIZONA-NEVADA HISTORY CONFERENCE to be held this year in Laughlin, Nevada.

Their topic is: How does one go about building public-private collaboration and appreciation for balancing preservation of the corridor and the surrounding historic landscape from encroachment when land control is outside the control of the historic entity?

Attendees will learn that the two biggest threats to preservation of heritage involve finances and local interest.

Through partnerships, the Heritage Area can attract outside funding and begin to build local appreciation of heritage. Objectives are to:

- Promote local heritage features both to tourists and the local citizens
- Direct funds to heritage partners
- Provide institutional endorsement when partners seek funding
- Encourage protection of the backdrop
- Increase tourism generally
- Sponsor programs that build and excite volunteers
- Help develop collaborative relationships with other institutions
- Promote other attractions that broaden the family visitor experience
- Convince the local population to define itself as a heritage resource

Ultimately, heritage is the best economic driver and source of outside capital that the local community may have. The Heritage Area can celebrate that heritage in a way that in turn benefits all the heritage features.

Grant opportunities announced for our Native American partners

2010 will mark the first year of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation’s grantmaking program. The Foundation will seek to partner with innovative individuals, organizations and communities throughout the U.S.

Grants will celebrate ... the hoop dancer, the totem carver, the basket weaver, the storyteller and those Native artists that cultivate traditional knowledge. They will celebrate the land, the languages, the ceremonies, the fires - these ways of life which uphold native traditions, heritage and cultures. Native ways of responding to the land, to the great mysteries and to the beauty therein - this is what is at stake.

The grants will embrace innovation. They invite the performance artist, the videographer, the painter, the poet-trickster, the seer-orator, the Native artist and culture bearer to adapt to change, modify their tongue and respond to the environment with a critical eye.

The Foundation has identified three areas of strategic interest:

Mobilizing Communities Through the Arts— Mentorships with seasoned artists, culture bearers and cultural teachers for purposes of artistic and cultural transmission to following generations.

Artistic Innovation—Through the Soul of an Artist - The creation and sharing of new work by Native artists.

Strengthening the Arts and Cultures Infrastructure— Supporting the systems and networks that help sustain Native arts and cultures.

Grantmaking may take the form of program or operating grants, fellowships and/or residencies to individuals, nonprofit corporations or unincorporated groups with appropriate fiscal sponsors.

Look for an announcement this spring outlining the guidelines, criteria and application process.

If you would like to receive further information about the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, please contact Lulani Arquette, president and CEO, and Walter Echo-Hawk, board chair, at the address below:

Native Arts & Cultures Foundation
1009 Officer’s Row
Vancouver WA 98661
360-314-2421 (ofc)
360-718-2553 (fax)
info@nativeartsandcultures.org
The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership (GBNHP) was designated as the local coordinating entity for the Area. The Partnership has been in operation formally since 2002 when it was incorporated. It had been active informally prior to that.

In addition to developing a management plan, the Partnership is currently reformulating its relationship with organizations and agencies that were, are or could be partners. Partners are nothing more than individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, or even foundations that have an interest in the Great Basin National Heritage Area and want to participate in what the partnership is doing. Relationships can be formal; the partnership has a written agreement with the National Park Service and we are working on developing memorandums of understanding with local BLM Offices. Or, they can be informal; we have simple letters of support from a number of groups. No written documentation is necessary if individuals want to volunteer.

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership

Our mission is to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.

You may want to know a little about our history and our objectives…

And join us as a partner

The Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA) was designated by Congress in 2006 to recognize its “classic western landscape that contains long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archaeological sites and tribal communities.” The recognized Area is made up of two neighboring counties, White Pine in Nevada, Millard in Utah, as representative of the larger geographic Great Basin.