

Documentation of Draft Plan Meetings

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to:

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran
U.S. Senator Roger Wicker
U.S. Representative Alan Nunnelee
Senator Terry C. Burton, Mississippi Senate
Senator Eugene S. Clarke, Mississippi Senate
Senator Angela Burks Hill, Mississippi Senate
Senator John Horhn, Mississippi Senate
Senator Melanie Sojourner, Mississippi Senate
Senator J.P. Wilemon Jr., Mississippi Senate
Representative Scott DeLano, Mississippi House of Representatives
Representative Herb Frierson, Mississippi House of Representatives
Representative Steve Holland, Mississippi House of Representatives
Representative Jerry R. Turner, Mississippi House of Representatives

Current MHHA Board Members:

Christy Burns – Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Nancy Carpenter – Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau
Theresa Cutshall – Tishomingo County Tourism Council
Jennifer Gregory – Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau
Mary Allyn Hedges – Visit Oxford (formerly Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau)
Sean Johnson – New Albany Marketing and Tourism
Neal McCoy – Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
Lakisha Mitchell-Buffington – Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau
Stephanie Moody-Coomer – Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kim Terrell – DeSoto County Tourism Association

Former Board Members:

Richard Babb – Elliot, Permenter & Babb, Ripley
Duane Bullard – Tippah County Development Foundation, Ripley
Martha Coleman – Pontotoc County Historical Society
Bethany Dalton – Union County Development Association, New Albany
Glenn Duckworth – Union County Development Association
Norman Easterbrook – Ford Center for the Performing Arts, University of Mississippi
Hillary Hamblin – Baldwin Area Chamber of Commerce
Betsey Hamilton – Union County Heritage Museum;
Tanglefoot Trail

(continued)

Mary-Kathryn Herrington – Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau
Linda Butler Johnson – Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
Stephanie Movre – Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau
Richard Ramsey – Howlin’ Wolf Society of West Point, Mississippi;
West Point/Clay County Community Growth Alliance
George Rowland – N. Central MS Resource Conservation & Development Council, New Albany
Arma Salazar – Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau
Amber Smith – West Point/Clay County Community Growth Alliance
Jill Smith – Union County Heritage Museum, New Albany
Deborah Stubblefield – Aberdeen Visitors Bureau
Hugh Stump – Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau
Anne Thompson – Corinth Area CVB
James Tsisminakis – Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau
Kristy White – Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Brian Wilson – Noxubee County Economic Development Office

Current and Former Ex-Officio:

Mike Armour – Appalachian Regional Commission
Ray Autry – Rust College
Debbie Brangenberg – Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association
Mike Clayborne – CREATE Foundation
Jan Eastman – CREATE Foundation
Michelle Jones – Mississippi Department of Archives & History
Sarah McCullough – Mississippi Development Authority-Tourism Division
Danny McKenzie – Blue Mountain College
Sandra Perkins – Appalachian Regional Commission
Kenneth H. P’Pool – Mississippi Department of Archives & History
David Preziosi – Mississippi Heritage Trust
Lisa Stevens – Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District
Mary Margaret White – Mississippi Arts Commission
Bob Wilson – Mississippi Main Street Association

Meeting Participants:

Emily Addison – Community Development Foundation, Tupelo
Wayne Andrews – Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, Oxford
Betty Jo Backstrom – Backstrom’s Country Bed and Breakfast, Columbus
Kim Bennett – Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau
Phylis Benson – Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Starkville
Christina M. Berry – City of Columbus

(continued)

Sherri Bevis – Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office
 Scott Blackley – Itawamba Community College
 Rebecca Bourgeois – Holly Springs Chamber and Main Street
 W.C. Bradley III – W.C. Bradley III & Associates
 Bill Brekeen – Tishomingo State Park, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
 Amber Brislin – Columbus Main Street
 Kenny Brown – North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic
 Sara Brown – North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic
 Sherry Brown – Mississippi Development Authority
 Supervisor, Alcorn County Welcome Center
 Libbi Bryant – Ripley Main Street
 Kelvin Buck – Mayor of Holly Springs
 Whirlie Byrd – Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau Board Member
 Brenda D. Caradine – Tennessee Williams Tribute, Columbus
 Edwina Carpenter – Mississippi’s Final Stands Interpretive Center, Baldwin
 Lucy Carpenter – County Circuit Clerk, Holly Springs
 Chelius H. Carter – Preserve Marshall County and Holly Springs, Inc.
 Clencie Cotton – Rust College Community Development Corporation
 George Crawford – Golden Triangle Planning and Development District
 Doyce Dees – Tupelo Historic Preservation Commission
 Vickie Duke – New Albany Main Street Association
 Victoria Evans – Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau
 Pat Faulkner – City of Tupelo Development Services
 Shamecca A. Fitts – Holly Springs Tourism, Holly Springs
 Shanette Folsom – Holly Springs Main Street/Chamber
 Bob Franks – Itawamba County Development Council
 Theresa Glenn – The Olde Place Bed and Breakfast, Columbus
 Kim Graham – Itawamba County Development Council
 Mary Ann Grant – Tishomingo County Tourism
 Tommy Green – Community Development Foundation
 Chris Gurner – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Sardis Lake
 Dick Guyton – Elvis Presley Birthplace, Tupelo
 Montie Hamblen – Holly Springs
 Timiko Danyelle Hampton – Obviously Positive Productions
 Marleen Hansen – Cartney-Hunt House Bed and Breakfast, Columbus
 Annie Harris – Jackie O. House Bed & Breakfast, Columbus
 Leona Harris – Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum, Holly Springs
 Brian Hicks – DeSoto County Museum
 Shane Homan – Community Development Foundation

Mary A. Howard – Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Pontotoc
 Ralph Howard – Holly Springs Tourism
 Mickey Howley – Water Valley Main Street
 Adam Johnson – Mississippi Department of Transportation
 Russell Johnson – Holly Springs
 Carolyn Burns Kaye – Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum, Columbus
 Sam Kaye – Stephen D. Lee Home and Museum
 Dr. Gloria Kellum – Vice-Chancellor for University Relations (ret.), University of Mississippi
 Tim Liddy – Alderman-at-Large, Holly Springs
 Molly Loden – Southern Studies student, University of Mississippi
 Chris Marsalis – Ripley Mayor
 Jeremy Martin – Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office, Tupelo
 Kristen Maxfield – Interpretive Park Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway
 Matt McCarty – Community Development Foundation
 Ann Miller – Mississippi Development Authority
 Supervisor, Itawamba County Welcome Center
 Jan Miller – Mississippi Main Street Association
 Jennifer Miller – Painted Lady Bed and Breakfast, Columbus
 Annie Moffett – Annie’s Restaurant, Holly Springs
 Harvey Myrick – Grilliary on the River
 Sy Oliver – Holly Springs
 Brad Prewitt – Prewitt Group Law Firm, Tupelo
 Mary Sloan – Yocona International Folk Festival, Oxford
 Lee Eric Smith – Eddie L. Smith Foundation, Holly Springs
 Nellie J. Smith – Ida B .Wells-Barnett Museum, Holly Springs
 Joseph St. John – Jackie O. House Bed and Breakfast, Columbus
 Linda Turner – Byhalia Chamber of Commerce
 Rufus Ward – Billups Garth Foundation
 Allie West – Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association
 Susan Worthey – Mississippi State University
 Al White – Action Communication & Education Reform
 Lewis Whitfield – CREATE Foundation
 Mary Beth Wilkerson – Mississippi Development Authority-Tourism Division
 Agnes Zaiontz – Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway
 Jeannie Zieren – Community Relations/District Director, Mississippi Main Street Association

(continued)

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance also wishes to thank:

Lolly Barnes, Executive Director, Mississippi Heritage Trust
David L. Beckley, President, Rust College
Jim Borsig, Ph.D., President, Mississippi University for Women
Dr. Alice Clark, Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs, University of MS
Juanita Floyd, CREATE Foundation
Sharon Gardner, Executive Director, Northeast Mississippi Planning & Development District
Judy Glenn, Corinth Realty
Matt Harris, Rutledge, Davis & Harris
Jennifer Jameson, Folk and Traditional Arts Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
Rupert L. “Rudy” Johnson, Executive Director, Golden Triangle Planning & Dev. District
Daniel W. Jones, M.D., Chancellor, University of Mississippi
Vernon R. (Randy) Kelley, III, Executive Director, Three Rivers Planning & Dev. District
Dr. Gloria Kellum, Vice-Chancellor for University Relations (ret.), University of Mississippi
Bobby Martin, President, Peoples Bank of Ripley
Mindy Maxwell, Northern District Director, U.S. Senator Thad Cochran
Mabel M. Murphree, District Director, U.S. Congressman Alan Nunnelee
David Rumbarger, President and CEO, Community Development Foundation
Dennis Seid, *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*
Cam Sholly, former Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway
Kyle Steward, Executive Director of External Affairs, Office of the President, MS State Univ.
Mike Tagert, Commissioner, Northern District, State of Mississippi Transportation Commission
Malcolm White, Director of Tourism, Mississippi Development Authority
Terry Wildy, Chief of Interpretation, Natchez Trace Parkway
Dale Wilkerson, former interim Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway
Judd Wilson, CDF

Current and former members of:

Columbus CVB Board of Directors
Corinth Area CVB Board of Directors
DeSoto County Tourism Association Board of Directors
Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau Board of Directors
New Albany City Council
Oxford CVB Board of Directors
Starkville CVB Board of Directors
Tishomingo Tourism Council Board of Directors
Tupelo CVB Board of Directors

Public Outreach and Participation Documentation

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance's (MHHA) public involvement strategy heavily utilized social media and electronic communications.

To inform the public of upcoming meetings, the Alliance issued press releases and/or specially-formatted email notices ("e-blasts") that were sent to media contacts as well as a 4,000+ email address distribution list. This list consists of email addresses of persons who had attended prior meetings and planning sessions (dating back to 2003), as well as addresses of additional local stakeholders provided by members of the Alliance's Board of Directors.

Meeting notices were also included in MHHA and partner e-newsletters, as well as Facebook and Twitter posts. E-blasts were forwarded to specific individuals with a personal note from staff encouraging them to attend. Board members were encouraged to bring members of their own boards, and other local stakeholders, to planning events.

Articles and television coverage of meetings kept the public informed of the progress of planning efforts and provided additional opportunities for interested citizens to contact the Alliance about attending future events and becoming involved in the planning process. The Alliance would often post links to media coverage (including editorials and blog entries) on its Facebook page, and also occasionally wrote its own follow-up articles for its e-newsletter.

See sample documentation below, including:

- e-blasts
- press release
- e-newsletters
- Facebook and Twitter posts
- media coverage (television and newspaper)

(Please note sticky notes/comments throughout.)

Subject: MHAA Presentation of Alternatives Meetings Notice

From: Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (kentbain@mshills.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Wednesday, December 5, 2012 1:35 PM



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PRESENTATION OF ALTERNATIVES
December 18 and December 19

Please join us for a presentation of the Alternatives for the 10-year Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area on Tuesday, December 18th at 11:30 in the MHNHA Exhibit Center (located at 398 E. Main St. in Tupelo), or Wednesday, December 19th at 10:00 at the Oxford Convention Center (located at 102 Ed Perry Blvd.)

Please contact Kent Bain at kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276 to reserve seating or for additional information.

Kent Bain *Bobby King*

Project Manager
(662) 844-1276
kentbain@mshills.org

Program Manager
(662) 844-1277
bobbyking@mshills.org

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MS Hills NHA Draft Management Plan Presentations (41)

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance
To Me
Jun 28, 2013



Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Draft Management Plan Presentations

The Walker Collaborative of Nashville, TN, will give two presentations concerning the full draft of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The plan has been under development for the past two years, and these presentations will provide additional opportunities for public education and feedback.

The first presentation will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9th at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center (398 East Main Street) in Tupelo, and the second will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10th at The Smiling Phoenix Cafe (144 South Memphis Street) in Holly Springs.

The presentations are open to the public; please R.S.V.P. to Kent Bain, Project Coordinator, at (662) 844-1276/kentbain@mshills.org.

Kent Bain
Project Coordinator

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SEPTEMBER 11TH MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP AND SEPTEMBER 13TH FOLLOW-UP PRESENTATION

The next step in the development of the Federally-mandated Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA) will be the Task 3.0 Workshop and Follow-Up Presentation. Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville and his team will be in the heritage area for 4 days to conduct this part of the project.

"Although the project Work Plan has been designed to encourage strong public input throughout the life of this project, Task 3.0 offers the single greatest opportunity for meaningful 'hands-on' involvement of key stakeholders and the general public, as well as Alliance representatives and public officials," Walker stated. He continued, "The goal of the public workshop is to provide a forum for the public to achieve a consensus on the various Alternatives for the future of the Heritage Area. The most tangible outcome of the workshop will be the finalizing of the Heritage Area's Foundation Statement, as well as the creation of the Alternatives for the MHNHA."

The Workshop will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11th at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center (located at 398 East Main Street, Tupelo) and is open to the public.

Stakeholders from all communities within the heritage area are encouraged to attend and provide input into the Management Plan development process. The Workshop will feature breakout groups that address themes, marketing and implementation strategies, among other issues. (The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance's Board of Directors will also meet at 11:30 a.m. that same day.)

The Management Plan Team will then work Tuesday evening and Wednesday to prepare Alternatives for various aspects of the heritage area, which will be covered at the Follow-Up Presentation on Thursday, September 13th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Center. Please contact Kent Bain or Bobby King for additional information or to reserve seating at these events.

Project Manager
(662) 844-1276
kentbain@mshills.org

Program Manager
(662) 844-1277
bobbyking@mshills.org

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Subject: Mississippi Hills NHA Management Planning Meetings

From: Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (kentbain@mshills.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Friday, August 19, 2011 8:02 AM

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Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Management Planning Meetings Set for Tupelo and Columbus

Two regional meetings are being held in August to gather input for the federally-mandated Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

"These meetings are part of a broader process for developing the plan, which will guide the management of the heritage area over the next ten years," said Kristy White, Executive Director of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and President of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the legislatively-appointed local coordinating entity for MHNHA. "Our heritage area is one of only forty-nine National Heritage Areas, which are charged with conserving and interpreting some of America's greatest cultural, historic and natural treasures," White commented.

The first meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Tuesday, August 23 at the Renasant Center for IDEAs in Tupelo. The Center is located at 398 East Main Street, directly across from the Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau. Stephanie Moody-Coomer, deputy director of the CVB, is a board member of the Alliance and chair of its marketing committee. "We anticipate that the development of the heritage area will aid in increasing visitation to Tupelo and the region, and hope to have good participation in these planning meetings," Coomer remarked.

The second meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, August 24 at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority headquarters, which is located at 318 7th St. North in Columbus. Agnes Zaiontz, business manager of the Development Authority, offered to host the meeting in support of the planning process. "Columbus is a key community within the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, with tremendous heritage assets. The Tenn-Tom Waterway is also a major resource for the region, and it is important for both Columbus and the Waterway to be represented in the planning process," Zaiontz stated.

Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend these meetings, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources. The meetings are not restricted to residents of Tupelo and Columbus, and interested persons from surrounding communities are invited to attend. Two previous meetings were held at the end of June in Oxford

and Starkville for the same purpose.

The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville, TN, in cooperation with MHHA staff. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain for additional information: kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

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Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Management Planning Meetings

10:00 - Noon, Monday, June 27, Oxford Convention Center, and

10:00 - Noon, Tuesday, June 28, Greater Starkville Development Partnership

Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend these meetings, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources. The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative, in cooperation with the staff of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the local coordinating entity for MHNHA. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain to reserve seating or for additional information: kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

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On Friday, June 1, 2012 7:46 AM, Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance <kentbain@mshills.org> wrote:

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June 19th Annual Meeting and Management Plan Status Report/Background Findings Presentation

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the local coordinating entity for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA), will hold its Annual Meeting from 10:00-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19th at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center, located in the Renasant Center for IDEAs, 398 E. Main Street, Suite 128, Tupelo, MS.

Also, at 12:30 p.m. on June 19th in the same location, Phil Walker of The Walker Collaborative will give a status report on the Management Plan for the MHNHA, which will be followed by a presentation on Background Findings.

The public is welcome to attend both events. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain or Program Manager Bobby King to reserve seating or for additional information.

Project Manager
(662) 844-1276
kentbain@mshills.org

Program Manager
(662) 844-1277
bobbyking@mshills.org

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Subject: MS Hills NHA Management Planning Meetings

From: Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (kentbain@mshills.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 9:50 AM

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Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Management Planning Meetings June 27 & 28

Dear Board Members,

*The first Management Planning meetings are scheduled for:
10:00-noon, June 27th, Oxford Convention Center (102 Ed Perry Blvd.),
and 10:00-noon, June 28th, Greater Starkville Development Partnership
(200 E. Main St.)*

*Phil Walker will conduct these meetings, and this will be a good opportunity
for you to invite board members, elected officials and stakeholders to learn
more about this important initiative.*

*Please have anyone planning to attend r.s.v.p. to kentbain@mshills.org.
We hope to see you on the 27th or 28th.*

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mississippihills

National Heritage Area

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 15, 2011

Contact: Kent Bain
Email: kentbain@mshills.org

Mississippi Hills NHA Management Planning Meetings

TUPELO, MS – Two regional meetings are being held in August to gather input for the federally-mandated Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

“These meetings are part of a broader process for developing the plan, which will guide the management of the heritage area over the next ten years,” said Kristy White, Executive Director of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and President of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the legislatively-appointed local coordinating entity for MHNHA. “Our heritage area is one of only forty-nine National Heritage Areas, which are charged with conserving and interpreting some of America’s greatest cultural, historic and natural treasures,” White commented.

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Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend these meetings, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources. The meetings are not restricted to residents of Tupelo and Columbus, and interested persons from surrounding communities are invited to attend. Two previous meetings were held at the end of June in Oxford and Starkville for the same purpose.

The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville, TN, in cooperation with MHHA staff. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain for additional information: kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

-30-

About Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area.

The Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA) was designated by Congress and the President in April of 2009. Although its exact boundaries are spelled out in its enabling legislation, MHNHA's borders are, roughly: the Tennessee and Alabama state lines to the north and east, and Interstate 55 and Highway 14 to the west and south. MHNHA covers 19 full counties and portions of 11 others. The Mississippi Hills Heritage Alliance is the coordinating entity for MHNHA. For more information on Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, please visit www.mississippihills.org.

Subject: Mississippi Hills July 2013 Newsletter

From: Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (kentbain@mshills.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

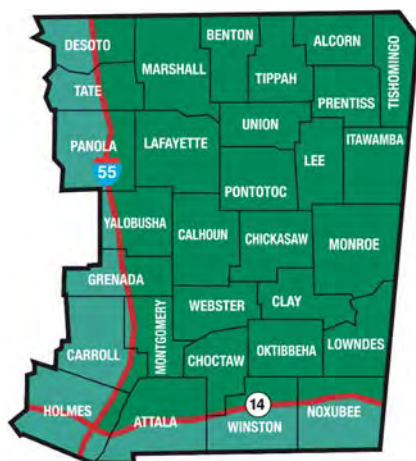
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2013 1:16 PM



VOLUME 4, NO. 4

www.mississippihills.org

July, 2013



 Mississippi Hills Heritage Area



A WHOLE LOTTA BLUES

HOWLIN WOLF * OTHA TURNER

Labor Day weekend, fans of Mississippi Hills music will be treated to a double shot of down-home blues with two events that celebrate the rich musical heritage of our region.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MISSISSIPPI HILLS

COLUMBUS

AUGUST 1-4

Artesia Days

A festival of fun in Downtown Columbus.

Call (662) 272-5104 or click [here](#) for all the details.

AUGUST 23-24

Roast-N-Boast



CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT IUKA, MS * LABOR DAY WEEKEND

This will be a weekend family event where those dusty old history books will come alive. There will be a spectacular battle re-enactment, field demonstrations, a large living history village, living history activities tents, guest speakers, and an extensive sutler area. Hundreds of re-enactors from across the nation will be staging the battle re-enactment. Visit the camps, learn about Civil War medicine, music, weapons and daily life.

Festival including live music and a barbeque cooking contest.

ADMISSION

Call (662) 549-5054 or click [here](#) for more information.

SEPTEMBER 3-8

Tennessee Williams Tribute & Victorian Home Tour

Tribute honoring America's most prolific playwright, Tennessee Williams.

ADMISSION for some events.

Call (800) 327-2686 or click [here](#) for a complete schedule and details.

CORINTH

JULY 8 - AUGUST 2

Honor and Courage WWII Exhibit

Crossroads Museum
221 N. Fillmore Street

Click [here](#) for more information.

AUGUST 3 AND SEPTEMBER 7

Green Market
Crossroads Depot
8am until 2pm

Click [here](#) for more information.

AUGUST 8-11, 15-18

"To Kill A Mockingbird"

Corinth Theatre Arts Playhouse
303 Fulton Drive

Click [here](#) for more information.

DESOTO COUNTY

MAY 3 THRU OCT. 25

Olive Branch Farmers' Market

Olive Branch Municipal Court Building
6900 Highland St., Olive Branch
2 - 6pm: Free

Fresh locally grown fruits, veggies, sauces, jams, jellies, honey and more. For more information, call (662) 893-0888 or [click here](#).

APRIL 20 - OCT. 26

Hernando Farmers' Market

Hernando Courthouse Square
2535 Hwy 51 South, Hernando
Each Saturday morning 8am - 1pm
Over 50 vendors, the market offers a wide variety of local goods while providing a fun, neighborly spot for

For a complete schedule of events, **[click here](#)**.



FINAL STAGES OF MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, July 9th and Wednesday, July

10th, The Walker Collaborative gave a presentation covering the draft of the full Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The plan has been under development for over two years, and although prior public presentations have covered various sections of the plan, this was the first look at the full draft.

The presentations were made at the MS Hills Exhibit Center in Tupelo and at the Smiling Phoenix Coffee Café in historic downtown Holly Springs. Project leader Phil Walker was joined by team members Randy Gross with Development Economics in Washington, DC, and Lee Jones with Third Coast Design Studio in Nashville. The presentations included a summary of the Background Report and Alternatives, as well as an overview of the Strategies, Interpretive Plan, Business Plan and Implementation Plan.

The Tupelo event was attended by Natchez Trace Parkway interim superintendent Dale Wilkerson, as well as representatives from DeSoto County Tourism, Columbus CVB, Three Rivers Planning and Development District, CREATE Foundation, MS Secretary of State's Office and MS Final Stands Interpretive Center. WTVA and the *Northeast MS Daily Journal* provided coverage of the event.

The Holly Springs presentation was coordinated by LaKisha Buffington, director of the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau and member of the



families to visit.

For more information, call (662) 280-6546 or [click here](#).

AUGUST 17

Tri-State Blues Festival

LANDERS Center

4560 Venture, Southaven

6:30pm

Click [here](#) for more information or call (662) 470-2131.

HOLLY SPRINGS

Foxfire Experience

Weekly Blues Concert

Every Sunday 4pm

1465 Old Oxford Road, Waterford

Click [here](#) for more information.

SEPTEMBER 6-8

Hummingbird Migration

Celebration & Nature Festival

Strawberry Plains Audubon Center

285 Plains Road, Holly Springs

For more information, call (662) 252-1155 or [click here](#).

TISHOMINGO

AUGUST 15-17

Hollis Long Memorial Dulcimer & Ole Tyme Music Festival

Click [here](#) for more information or call 662-423-6515.

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1

151st Battle of Iuka

Anniversary

Civil War Re-Enactment

Call 1-800-FUN-HERE (386-4373) or [click here](#) for more details.

OXFORD

AUGUST 27

Oxford Art Crawl

Click [here](#) for more information.

JULY 30

OxFilm Challenge

The Lyric Theatre at 6pm. FREE

Click [here](#) for more information.

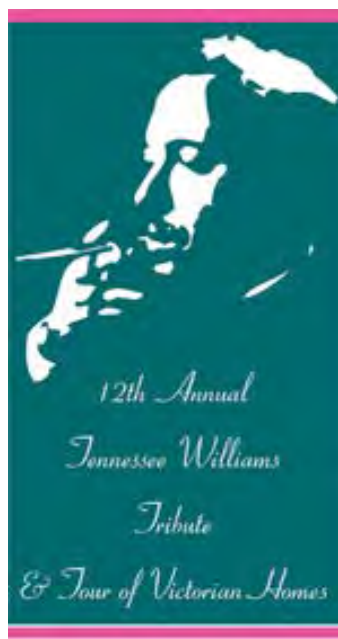
SEPTEMBER 5

Artist's Lecture: The Intimate Landscape of Rowan Oak

University Museum, Noon - 3pm

Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance's board of directors. It was held in conjunction with a ribbon cutting for the Smiling Phoenix Coffee Café, which was presided over by Holly Springs' Mayor Kelvin Buck.

The Smiling Phoenix is located in an historic commercial structure just off the square, and is owned by Chelius Carter, President of Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs and new interim director/curator of the Marshall County Historic Museum. [Full article.](#)



12TH ANNUAL TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL IN COLUMBUS September 3-8

The play, "Period of Adjustment" -- a Tennessee Williams comedy as fresh as the day it was first performed on Broadway in 1961 -- teases out a love story (or two) in which the earth really does move. Paula Mabry is the director. Four nightly performances during the week-long 12th annual festival in Columbus, MS are interspersed with the "Moon Lake Party" on Thursday night, featuring "Autumn Song", composed by George Maurer with lyrics from the poems of

Tennessee Williams and Rainer Maria Rilke, starring baritone Jared Oxborough as Tennessee and Dieter Bierbrauer as Rilke in a performance of the Provincetown, Mass. Players, accompanied by musicians on saxophone, cello, percussion and bass. [Full article.](#)

[Download Complete Brochure.](#)



HUMMINGBIRD MIGRATION AND NATURE FESTIVAL Strawberry Plains Audubon Center September 6-8

Visitors get to: view the banded,



FINAL STAGES OF MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

On Tuesday, July 9th and Wednesday, July 10th, The Walker Collaborative gave a presentation covering the draft of the full Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The plan has been under development for over two years, and although prior public presentations have covered various sections of the plan, this was the first look at the full draft.

The presentations were made at the MS Hills Exhibit Center in Tupelo and at the Smiling Phoenix Coffee Café in historic downtown Holly Springs. Project leader Phil Walker was joined by team members Randy Gross with Development Economics in Washington, DC, and Lee Jones with Third Coast Design Studio in Nashville. The presentations included a summary of the Background Report and Alternatives, as well as an overview of the Strategies, Interpretive Plan, Business Plan and Implementation Plan.

The Tupelo event was attended by Natchez Trace Parkway interim superintendent Dale Wilkerson, as well as representatives from DeSoto County Tourism, Columbus CVB, Three Rivers Planning and Development District, CREATE Foundation, MS Secretary of State's Office and MS Final Stands Interpretive Center. WTVA and the *Northeast MS Daily Journal* provided coverage of the event.

The Holly Springs presentation was coordinated by LaKisha Buffington, director of the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau and member of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance's board of directors. It was held in conjunction with a ribbon cutting for the Smiling Phoenix Coffee Café, which was presided over by Holly Springs' Mayor Kelvin Buck.

The Smiling Phoenix is located in an historic commercial structure just off the square, and is owned by Chelius Carter, President of Preserve Marshall County & Holly Springs and new interim director/curator of the Marshall County Historic Museum.



The presentation was attended by Mayor Buck, alderman-at-large Tim Liddy and other city officials, Ripley mayor Chris Marsalis, as well as representatives from the MS Arts Commission, Oxford CVB, Tanglefoot Trail, Byhalia Area Chamber of Commerce, Ripley Main Street, Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum, North MS Hill Country Picnic, local businesses and the *South Reporter* newspaper.

Relevant feedback from the two presentations will be incorporated into the document, and a .pdf of the draft Management Plan will be posted on our website in the near future. A notice of the opening of the review and comment period will be sent out along with a link to the document.

We are pleased to be nearing the completion of this later phase in the Management Plan development process. Once the draft of the plan has been finalized, it must undergo a review process with the National Park Service, during which they may suggest improvements or request changes. After the Management Plan receives final NPS approval, the MS Hills National Heritage Area will be eligible for higher levels of federal funding through the Heritage Partnership Program. The approved plan will also provide a valuable roadmap for the development of the heritage area during the coming years.

Our goal is to build a program that is worthy of the rich and diverse heritage of the Mississippi Hills—a tall order, but we believe that we're up to the challenge!

Subject: Mississippi Hills Summer Newsletter

From: Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (kentbain@mshills.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Thursday, August 9, 2012 4:40 PM



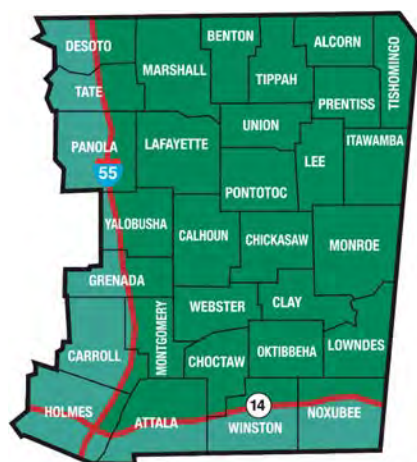
Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



VOLUME 3, NO. 2

www.mississippihills.org

August, 2012



■ Mississippi Hills Heritage Area

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MISSISSIPPI HILLS?

DESOTO

August 18, 6:30pm
10th Annual Memphis Tri-State Blues Festival

Entertainment by Bobby Rush, Sir



New Associate Director is Decorated Veteran and Former Law Enforcement Officer

(National Park Service News Release)

WASHINGTON - National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis today named Cameron (Cam) Sholly as the Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection. As associate director, Sholly

will manage a \$125 million annual budget and a portfolio that includes 20 service-wide program areas including law enforcement, security and emergency services, fire and aviation management, risk management and occupational safety, public health services, regulations and special park uses, wilderness stewardship and the National Park Service component at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

"I am excited to have Cam on my senior management team," Jarvis said. "Cam has a great blend of experiences within the National Park Service and in outside organizations. He also has a proven record of achievement in managing large field operations and headquarters programs. His expertise in visitor and resource protection will help us set a positive trajectory for those programs as we move into our second."

For the past three years, Sholly has been superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway where he managed a three-state national parkway corridor that traverses 41 county and municipal jurisdictions and was the eighth most visited national park in the country. During his tenure, the Parkway completed a multi-million dollar rehabilitation of the Meriwether Lewis death and burial site.

[Click Here for Full Article.](#)



Pioneer Day

The Tombigbee Pioneer Group will perform living history demonstrations that show the challenges faced and creative solutions developed by those Americans who lived in the area from the 1700s to 1840.

Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center
(located at milepost 266 near Tupelo, Mississippi)

For more information, call 662-680-4027 or 1-800-305-7417 or email

Amy_genke@nps.gov

September 13, 6:30pm

Down on Main Free Summer Concert Series
Down On Main Summer Concert Series
at Fairpark Music - Family - Friends -
Good Times. There's a little fun down
on main for everyone. Festivities start at
6:30 PM. Entertainment includes Della
Mae Emmitt and the Nershi Band.

For more information, call 662-841-6598
or click **[here](#)**. FREE

tourism industry in the United States. These are the individuals making their mark in convention and visitors bureaus, destination management organizations, lodging, transportation, education and partners of tourism.

On October 31 through November 2 all of the Forty for the Future honorees will gather and be personally recognized and celebrated during a special presentation at the Southeast Tourism Society Fall Forum in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

These are Mississippi's five representatives on the Forty for the Future:

Selah Havard, Director of Sales
Natchez CVB

Mary-Kathryn Herrington*, Director of Tourism
Oxford CVB

Neal McCoy*, Executive Director
Tupelo CVB

Stephanie McKinney*, Executive Director
Holly Springs Tourism & Recreation Bureau

Alex Thomas, Music Development Program Manager
Mississippi Development Authority

Congratulations to each of these accomplished leaders.
For a complete list of all honorees, click [here](#).

*Members of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area's Board of Directors

PROJECT COORDINATOR NOTES

MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP AND PRESENTATION

The next step in the development of the Federally-mandated Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area will be the Task 3.0 Workshop and Follow-Up Presentation. Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville and his team will be in the heritage area for 4 days to conduct this part of the project.

The Workshop will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11th at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center (located at 398 East Main Street, Tupelo) and is open to the public. Stakeholders from all communities within the heritage area are encouraged to attend and provide input into the Management Plan development process. The Workshop will feature breakout groups that address themes, marketing and implementation strategies, among other issues. (The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance's Board of

GO MOBILE!



Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area has launched a mobile version of the Mississippi Hills website. Accessible from any web-enabled phone or smartphone, the

MISSISSIPPI HILLS' SOCIAL NETWORKS



NEW!

"Follow" our boards on Pinterest by clicking the link above.

Pinterest is a virtual pinboard that allows Mississippi Hills to share with the public what the area has to offer.

Mississippi Hills has established boards for each of our members. These include Corinth, Desoto County, Holly Springs, New Albany and Union County, Oxford, Starkville, Tishomingo County, Tupelo, and the University of Mississippi. We also have a Mississippi Hills board to showcase what the rest of the Hills have to offer.

Directors will also meet at 11:30 a.m. that same day.)

The Management Plan Team will then work Tuesday evening and Wednesday to prepare Alternatives for various aspects of the heritage area, which will be covered at the Follow-Up Presentation on Thursday, September 13th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Center. Please contact me for additional information or to reserve seating at these events.

PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

Check out the new minute-and-a-half promotional video for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area and let us know what you think. It's a shortened version of a longer video we're working on, which you hear more about in the next e-newsletter.

FUNDING UPDATE

We are working closely with MDA Tourism to secure the \$100,000 that the Mississippi Legislature appropriated for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. These funds will allow us to match our Federal appropriation, and our current guidance from the National Park Service indicates an FY13 Federal award of \$143,000.

site connects visitors to the Mississippi Hills region by providing information about local attractions, as well as upcoming events and things to do. The site also has a city locator that allows visitors to find towns close by based on their location.

To check out the new Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area mobile site, just go to
<http://mississippihills.3seventylocal.com>
or scan the QR code.



"Like" us on Facebook by clicking the link above.



"Follow" us on Twitter by clicking the link above.

[Bookmark the Mississippi Hills site](#)

Forward email



This email was sent to kentbain@yahoo.com by kentbain@mshills.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Mississippi Hills | 398 East Main Street | Suite 132 | Tupelo | MS | 38804



Subject: Mississippi Hills Newsletter

From: Mississippi Hills (carolyn@cpdesignsinc.com)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Friday, June 17, 2011 12:26 PM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

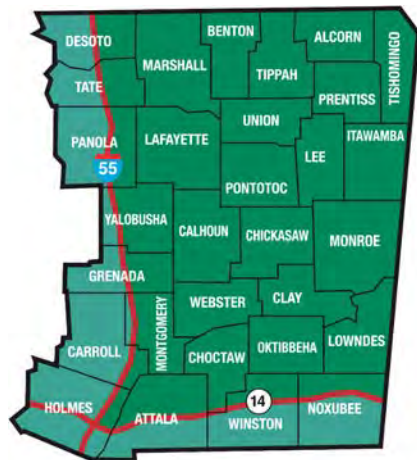


VOLUME 2, NO. 4

www.mississippihills.org

June 2011

2011 NORTH MISSISSIPPI HILL COUNTRY PICNIC



■ Mississippi Hills Heritage Area



Beginning Friday, June 24th at 4:30 pm, the annual North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic will kick off for its sixth year at Fox Fire Ranch in Waterford, MS. Musical artists will provide memorable entertainment, while creating the perfect atmosphere for a relaxing weekend. This family friendly event will occur until midnight on Friday, June 24th and from 10:00 am until midnight on Saturday, June 25th. Tickets are \$25 per day, and children 12 and under may attend for free.

Details available at www.nmshillcountrypicnic.com

What's Happening in The Hills

DESOTO COUNTY

Cedar Hill Farm Pick Your Own Vegetables

June 1-July 3 - [More Info](#)

Blueberry Picking at Nesbit Blueberry Plantation

Mid June 7am-7pm,
Contact: (662) 449-2983 (farm phone number)

[More Info](#)

CORINTH PROMOTIONAL VIDEO WINS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Corinth tourism video highlighting the people and places of Corinth and Alcorn County has won a 2011 Telly Award. The approximately 8-minute video showcases Heritage, Arts & Music, The Outdoors, Agritourism, Shopping and Food.



Horn Lake Farmer's Market

June 4-Oct 29, 2pm-7pm,

Contact: (662) 393-6187

[More Info](#)**"Sunset on the Square" Summer Concert Series**

June 16 and 23, 7pm-9pm

[More Info](#)**Olive Branch Farmer's Market**

Contact: (901) 517-2396

[More Info](#)**Hernando's Farmer's Market**[More Info](#)**The 9th Annual Memphis Tri-State Blues Festival**

August 13, 6:30pm, Tickets are \$50.75, \$45.75, and \$40.00.

[More Info](#)**HOLLY SPRINGS/MARSHALL COUNTY****North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic Blues Festival**

June 24 & 25

[More Info](#)**Bikers & Blues in the Historic Alley**

July 14, 21, 28 & August 4, 11 at 6pm

[More Info](#)**Ida B. Wells Festival**

July 15-17

[More Info](#)**OXFORD****Mid-Town Farmer's Market**

Wednesdays 12-5pm June 22 and 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27 & Saturdays 7-11am June 18, 25;

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

[More Info](#)**Taylor Farmer's Market**

Saturdays 8am-12pm June 18, 25, & July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

[More Info](#)**TUPELO****Junior Ranger Program-Whose Track is That?**

June 18, 25 July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 10am free event

Contact: 1(800) 305-7417

[More Info](#)**Wildflower Walk**

June 18 at 9am, free even

Contact: 1(800) 305-7417

[More Info](#)**Pioneer Day**

June 25 & July 23 10am-4pm, free event;

Contact 1(800) 305-7417

[More Info](#)**Dulcimer Day**

July 9 & August 13, 10am-1pm, free event;

Contact: 1(800) 305-7417

[More Info](#)

The Telly was awarded to Tupelo, MS-based video production company Palmtree Productions, Inc., which produced the project for Kristy White and the Corinth Convention and Visitors Bureau.



"Working with Kristy White and the entire staff at the Tourism Office has been a delight," remarks Palmtree president Anne Palmer. "Team effort and the wonderful, down-to-earth people we met around Corinth and Alcorn County, MS are what make this video special."

The video can be viewed at www.corinth.net/media.htm.

"We are very fortunate to have the talented, visionary Anne Palmer and her staff just minutes down the road in Tupelo. Anne has been working in Corinth for almost five years and has captured its essence in the video promoted as part of a Preserve America Grant."

Since 1978, the Telly awards have honored outstanding local, and regional TV commercials and programs, as well as film and video productions. Winning entries represent the best work of advertising agencies, production companies, TV stations, cable operators and corporate video departments around the world. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world.

The Corinth Visitors Bureau has incorporated the video to promote via its website, on-line magazines across the Southeast; and in Welcome Centers across the State.

Palmtree Productions, Inc. (palmtreestudios.biz) is a full-service video production company serving clients across the State of Mississippi and the Southeast.

New exhibits and sites open at Brice's Crossroads-Tupelo/Harrisburg battlefields



Newly interpreted sites and an expanded exhibit were opened Wednesday at Mississippi's Final Stands Interpretive Center and Battlefields (formerly Brice's Crossroads Visitor's Center and Battlefield) at 607 Grisham Street in Baldwin.

More than 50 people attended the ribbon cutting and exhibit opening and several enjoyed a driving tour of new sites at Brice's and Tupelo/ Harrisburg. The 1200 sq. ft. expansion includes a gallery that interprets both

the Battles of Brice's Crossroads and the Battle of Tupelo/ Harrisburg, and the second day of the battle at Old Town Creek through interactive exhibits and maps. The diary of Rev. Samuel Agnew is featured in the front gallery of the center and includes his daily accounts of events, both at home and abroad, for 50 years between 1852 and 1902.

This newly created center, Mississippi's Final Stands Interpretive Center and trails project, is the result of Transportation Enhancement Act funding in the amount of a 1.5 million grant administered through the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The Brice's Crossroads National Battlefield Commission applied for and was granted money that funded construction of the expansion and the design of a permanent exhibit interpreting the two last major battles in Mississippi during the summer of 1864.

[Click for complete article.](#)



Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA) Management Planning Meetings

TISHOMINGO**Champions Tenn -Tom Team Trail Fishing Tournament**

June 25, July 16, & August 6; located at J.P. Coleman State Park

American Bass Anglers Fishing Tournament

June 25, located at P.P. Coleman State Park
[More Info](#)

COLUMBUS**Hitching Lot Farmers' Market**

Mondays from 5pm-7pm, Thursdays from 6am-10am, Saturdays from 7am-10am;
 Contact-(662) 328-6305
[More Info](#)

CORINTH**Green Market at the Depot**

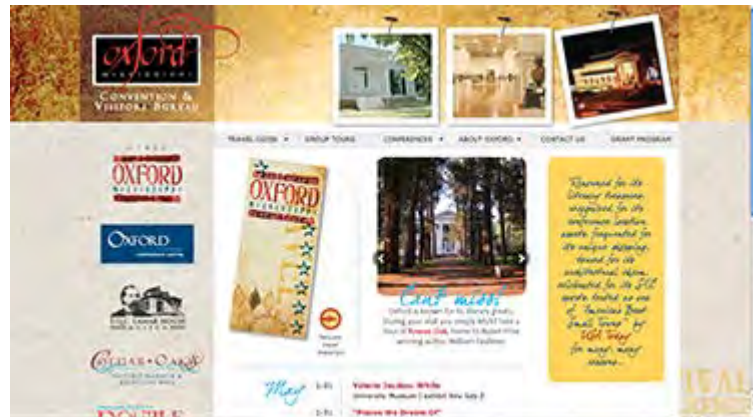
July 2 & August 5, 6; 8am-2pm;
 free admission;
 Contact: Karen Beth Martin (662) 287-8300
 or email karenbeth@corinth.net
[More Info](#)

JUNE AND JULY**Junior Ranger Program
Each Saturday • 10:00****Natchez Trace Parkway****June 18****Wildflower Walk • 9:00**

For more details on any
 Natchez Trace events,
[visit www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr)

**10:00-noon, Monday, June 27th, Oxford Convention Center, and
 10:00-noon, Tuesday, June 28th, Greater Starkville Development Partnership**

Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend these meetings, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources. The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative, in cooperation with the staff of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the local coordinating entity for MHNHA. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain to reserve seating or for additional information: kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

OXFORD CVB ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

The Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to announce the launch of a new website to promote tourism in Oxford. The site, which features new logos, branding and content all designed to promote Oxford as a tourism destination and work as a resource for potential visitors planning travel to Oxford, went live over this past weekend.

"We are so excited to finally launch this new site," said Mary-Kathryn Herrington, Director of Tourism, "Our old site was more than 5 years old and was in need of updating. We feel like our new site is much more user friendly and offers many more features for those looking for information about Oxford."

In addition to a new format, the site offers several new components that make navigating all the information easier for visitors. In addition to searching for information on lodging, dining, shopping and history, visitors can book hotel rooms directly through the site and see a list of upcoming events. The CVB Grant guidelines are also available for download on the site as well as pre-planned itineraries for groups. The CVB is also using social media to promote Oxford including a blog and facebook and twitter pages that offer opportunities to share things that might not normally be on a website. These pages are linked from the CVB homepage.

There are still a few components being tweaked, the majority of the site is now functioning. "In the coming months we will continue to update the website and add more interactive components to the site," said Herrington. The new webpage was designed by Webz Media, an award winning creative company that focuses on community branding.

The Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau is organized to promote and develop Oxford as a tourist destination. By encouraging tourism in Oxford and Lafayette County, the Bureau is able to increase economic development in the community as well as cultivating a strong cultural life in Oxford. In 2004 the Oxford Tourism Council and the Oxford Conference Center merged and operate together under the name Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau.

To learn more about the Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau, visit
<http://www.oxfordcvb.com>

Subject: News from the Greater Starkville Development Partnership

From: Robyn Cain (rcain@starkville.org)

To: kentbain@yahoo.com;

Date: Friday, June 24, 2011 10:21 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

Greater Starkville Development Partnership

E-View

June 24, 2011

Join us for a Grand Re Opening
Celebration!

Mary Virginia's Children's & Maternity
Consignment
Friday, July 1
1:00 p.m.
119 E Main Street

Come support this Partnership
Business!!

**Join us in
Starkville's Downtown District
for Christmas in July!**



G R E A T E R
STARKVILLE
D E V E L O P M E N T
P A R T N E R S H I P

Don't forget to visit the
Starkville Community
Market Saturday
Mornings beginning at
7:30 a.m.!

Dogs Days of
Summer Events





**10:00 - Noon, Tuesday, June 28,
Greater Starkville Development
Partnership**

Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend this meeting, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources. The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative, in cooperation with the staff of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the local coordinating entity for MHNHA. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain to reserve seating or for additional information: kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

Award is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, film and video productions, and web commercials, videos and films. Winners represent the best work of advertising agencies, production companies, tele-vision stations, cable operators and corporate video departments around the world. Broadcast Media Group is an award-winning media production company serving clients across the state of Mississippi and the Southeast.

Broadcast Media provides video production, Web and duplication services. The project can be seen at www.getBMGNow.com. A complete list of Telly Winners for the 32st annual competition is available at www.tellyawards.com. For more information on Broadcast Media, contact Robbie Coblentz at (662) 324-2489 or robbie@broadcastmediagroup.com

MSU Summer Camps and

MS Hills National Heritage Area

You are posting, commenting, and liking as MS Hills National Heritage Area — [Change to Kent Bain](#)

MS Hills National Heritage ... Timeline 2013

MS Hills National Heritage Area
July 9, 2013 near Tupelo, MS

Join us at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center this morning at 10:00am to hear the Walker Collaborative present the first draft of the MS Hills NHA [Management Plan](#). You can express your input into the future plans of this organization that focuses on the preservation of the culture and heritage found in North MS. The MS Hills Exhibit Center is located in the Renasant Center for Ideas on East Main Street in Tupelo.

Like · Comment · Share

252 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area
July 3, 2013

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Tanglefoot Trail Grand Opening Date Set
www.wcbl.com

After ten years of planning and preparation, the Tanglefoot Trail has a grand opening date set. Continue reading →

Like · Comment · Share

39 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area changed their cover photo.
July 8, 2013

Chat (18)

Management Plan

Highlight All Match Case

MS Hills National Heritage Area

You are posting, commenting, and liking as MS Hills National Heritage Area — [Change to Kent Bain](#)

MS Hills National Heritage ... Timeline 2013

MS Hills National Heritage Area
July 3, 2013

The Walker Collaborative of Nashville, TN, will give two presentations concerning the full draft of the [Management Plan](#) for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The plan has been under development for the past two years, and these presentations will provide additional opportunities for public education and feedback.

The first presentation will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9th at the... [See More](#)

Like · Comment · Share

265 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area
July 8, 2013

SUMMER IN THE mississippihills

Visit mississippihills.org for more information.

Like · Comment · Share

15 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area
July 1, 2013 near Evansville, IN

Chat (18)

Management Plan

Highlight All Match Case

MS Hills National Heritage Area

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MS Hills National Heritage ... Timeline 2011

WTVB.com - Mississippi Hills Heritage Area meets

Tupelo National Battlefield
Looks for input on regional tourism

Like · Comment · Share

156 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area
June 15, 2011

MS Hills National Heritage Area shared a link.
August 16, 2011

Tupelo and Columbus Management Planning Meetings, Aug. 23 and 24

<http://www.facebook.com/topic.php?topic=346&uid=120285881341919>

Like · Comment · Share

78 people saw this post

MS Hills National Heritage Area shared a link.
April 14, 2011

Chat (15)

Management Plan

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MS Hills National Heritage Area

Home 20+ Kent

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MS Hills National Heritage Area

Timeline
2012

Create Post

Admin Panel

Promote Page

Recent
2014
2013
2012
2011
2010
Opened

MS Hills National Heritage Area

August 31, 2012

121 people saw this post

Boost Post

Management Plan Workshop and September 13th Follow-up Presentation

The next step in the development of the Federally-mandated **Management Plan** for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA) will be the Task 3.0 Workshop and Follow-Up Presentation. Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville and his team will be in the heritage area for 4 days to conduct this part ... [See More](#)

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Boost Post

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Kent Bain Find Friends Home

MS Hills National Heritage Area

Timeline Now Highlights

Admin Panel

Create A Page

MS Hills National Heritage Area

2 seconds ago

JUNE 19th ANNUAL MEETING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS REPORT/BACKGROUND FINDINGS PRESENTATION

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the local coordinating entity for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA), will hold its Annual Meeting from 10:00-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19th at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center, located in the Renasant Center for IDEAs, 399 E. Main Street, Suite 128, Tupelo, MS.

Also, at 12:30 p.m. on June 19th in the same location, Phil Walker of The Walker Collaborative will give a status report on the Management Plan for the MHNHA, which will be followed by a presentation on Background Findings.

The public is welcome to attend both events. Please contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain (844-1276 or kentbain@mshills.org) or Program Manager Bobby King (844-1277 or bobbyking@mshills.org) to reserve seating or for additional information.

Like Comment Share

Recent Posts by Others

See All

Chickasaw.tv

Have you visited MS Hills National Heritage Area lately? If ...

3 May 8 at 4:20pm

Archie Storey

ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS!! The North Mississippi Hill Country ...

1 April 24 at 12:57pm

Renee Douglass

Witch Dance Trail. Charity (left), and Renee' (right). Chari...

April 16 at 12:34pm

Chickasaw.tv

Check out some of the groups we like: National Congress of ...

1 March 27 at 5:04pm

Patricia Cory Parsons

Hello, I was the winner in the Discover DeSota Giveaway an...

1 4 March 27 at 9:37am

More Posts

Chat (1)



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Mississippi Hills

@ms_hills

A National Heritage Area working together to preserve, enhance, interpret and promote cultural and heritage assets of the hills region.

Tupelo, MS · mississippihills.org

TWEETS

1,568

FOLLOWING

322

FOLLOWERS

387

Follow

Tweets



Mississippi Hills @ms_hills · Jul 10

If you missed the Mississippi Hills Management Plan draft presentation by the Walker Collaborative yesterday at... fb.me/VVBnfozB

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More



Mississippi Hills @ms_hills · Jul 9

Join us at the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center this morning at 10:00am to hear the Walker Collaborative present... fb.me/JDYWD5eE

Expand

Reply Retweet Favorite More

Heritage plan for north Mississippi nears completion

Video Images



Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area makes plans



Reported by: Wayne Hereford
Email: whereford@wtva.com



Print Story

Published: 7/09/2013 4:38 pm

Share

Updated: 7/09/2013 7:30 pm

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

TUPELO, Miss. (WTVA)--According to tourism professionals, north Mississippi has a unique and diversified cultural heritage.

From its historic Civil War battles, country blues and bluegrass music, literary giants- the area has a lot to offer.

However, tourism experts say we often overlook what is in the area.

"But what we don't know is how many people come every year. Thousands upon thousands that show up to come to these events and come to these sites that they had no idea was here. Or, that their interest is Civil War or Civil Rights or it's agri-tourism. Whatever it might be, we have it here and people need to come and see," says Kim Terrell, president of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area.

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area has been planning now for the past two years to tackle that issue.

Phil Walker, of Nashville, has helped the organization draw up a three year plan to make the entire 30 county area an attraction.

"All you have to do is look at other heritage areas that are further along in their development. And, they've had some great results, because anytime you can draw more people into your area and they're spending time that just naturally translates into more dollars in the area," said Walker.

Walker says there is a financial side to the plan, and it will enlist government monies to get rolling.

Natchez Trace Superintendent Dale Wilkerson agrees.

"It appears that the heritage area has a nice conservative plan and they've established realistic targets. So, I think they're on the right track here," said Wilkerson.

The National Park Service will have to approve the plan before it is implemented.

Wilkerson says National Heritage Areas are specially set aside by Congress to insure the correct interpretation of culture history across the United States.

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Consultant says area needs more visitors centers

by Associated Press

Published: December 20, 2012

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NORTH MISSISSIPPI — A consulting firm has recommended seven to eight visitors centers to capitalize on the cultural and tourism heritage in north Mississippi.

The *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal* reports Phil Walker, of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative, and his team presented findings to the board of the Mississippi Hills Area Alliance.

The Alliance board is in charge of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, a federally recognized region bordered by Interstate 55 on the west, Mississippi 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east. The group is funded with local, state and federal money.

The board has been working with the consultants for several months to put together a management plan for the heritage area.

The preferred plan Walker presented called for interpretive centers to be in Tupelo, Hernando, Oxford, Holly Springs, Corinth, Pontotoc and Columbus.

The centers in Tupelo and Hernando would have interpretive information for all of the themes African-American, Civil War, music and literature, Native American and architecture while the other centers would focus on a specific theme.

After another meeting in Oxford, the consultants will tweak the plan and start putting together cost estimates and a proposed budget.

— *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*



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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Consultants: Hills region needs concise identity

Posted on **September 14, 2012** by **Chris Elkins** in **Business, News**

By Carlie Kollath Wells/NEMS Daily Journal

TUPELO – Consultants on Thursday recommended to Northeast Mississippi tourism leaders that they capitalize on their African-American, Civil War, Music & Literature and Native American heritage.

The recommendations came as part of a research process from the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, which manages the Hills national heritage area.

The information came partly from focus groups gathered Tuesday to hear what residents and tourism leaders thought was important to market to tourists.

The focus group feedback led consultants to replace an architecture theme with the Native American theme.

The consultants, led by Phil Walker of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative, also recommended a better marketing approach for the region.

"We're trying to figure out how to give the Mississippi Hills more of a concise identity," said Randy Gross of Randall Gross Development Economics. "People around the world get the Delta. They know what it is and they think Delta Blues. International tourists don't know what the Mississippi Hills are."

They proposed "Mississippi Hills: Where Appalachia meets the Delta" as a possible marketing phrase.

The ideas will be incorporated into a management plan for the heritage area.

The national heritage area is a federally recognized region bordered by Highway 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east.

The region gets local, state and federal funding. As part of the national heritage area program, the board must develop a management plan.

It's paying Walker \$150,000 to do the research and put together the plan.

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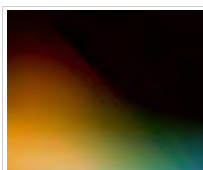
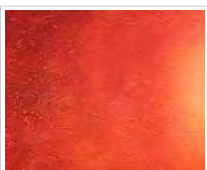
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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Consultants encourage leaders to focus

Posted on **June 20, 2012** by **Chris Elkins** in **Business**

By Carlie Kollath

By Carlie Kollath
 Daily Journal

TUPELO – Tourism leaders from around the region met Tuesday to help drill down what makes Northeast Mississippi special to travelers.

The overarching themes for the region – as identified by a preliminary report from consultants – were black history, the Civil War, the Arts and architecture. The board of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance also discussed an itinerary themed around the region's Native American history.

The board is responsible for overseeing the Hills national heritage area, a federally recognized region that gets local, state and federal funding.

As part of the national heritage area program, the board must develop a management plan. It's paying Phil Walker of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative \$150,000 to do the research and put together the plan.

The board is made up of representatives from member communities throughout Northeast Mississippi. Attractions include everything from Elvis' birthplace to the contraband camp in Corinth to William Faulkner's house in Oxford.

"It's tricky because there are a lot of stories," Walker told the group. "But you have to focus if you want to market it. ... If you have a visitor from San Diego, you can't throw everything at them. You have to have an elevator speech that you can sum up why people should come here."

Consultant Randall Gross is working with Walker on the plan. During Tuesday's six-hour meeting, he said the region has many strengths and weaknesses.

He said the region has a wonderful diversity of attractions, but that the size of the region and the many attractions make it challenging to market one message to visitors.

According to his research, almost 60 percent of the region's visitors to heritage sites came from the South, with many signing in from small towns.

International travelers make up 5 percent of the area's tourists, he said.

He encouraged the board to use the research to help market to the appropriate segments.

For example, his research found that the music heritage attractions, such as Elvis and the Blues, draw more affluent, international and big-city visitors.

His research shows that festivals have the fastest growing audience of heritage events and the board should market to festival-goers in Memphis, Jackson and throughout the immediate region. He also found that the fastest growing audience support is for art/music/design venues, followed by Native American museums, then science and industry and history.

He reiterated that much of heritage tourism is driven by education. The more education a person has, the more likely he or she is to visit a museum or a historic site.

"Only one in 10 people with less than high school education will visit those," he said.

carlie.kollath@journalinc.com

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Hills heritage area rolls out management plan

Posted on **July 10, 2013** by **Dennis Seid** in **News**

By Dennis Seid/NEMS Daily Journal



TUPELO – After years of development, the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance has a draft management plan to boost tourism in the region. The Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area – one of 49 federally funded heritage areas across the country – comprises 30 counties bordered by Interstate 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east.

The management plan, presented Tuesday by Nashville-based Walker Collaborative, pulls together ideas garnered via focus groups and studies. It focuses on four primary themes: Native American

heritage, African-American heritage, the Civil War and the arts (focusing on music and literature). "We've been working on this for two and a half years with the management plan, and this is our first look at the full plan," said Kent Bain, MHNHA project coordinator.

The marketing theme for MHNHA is "where Appalachia meets the Delta," and seeks to tap into the growing popularity of cultural heritage tourism.

"The plan is grounded in economic realities," said Phil Walker. "What will people come to see?" Under the plan, two major Mississippi Hills interpretive centers would be in Hernando and Tupelo. Then, each theme would have its own interpretive centers, to serve as a springboard for other destinations related to the major theme.

Pontotoc would be the center for Native American heritage, Holly Springs would represent African-American heritage and Corinth would represent the Civil War. Tupelo would be the starting point for music, while Oxford would represent literature.

"You've already got great events tied to the themes, but there are other abundant opportunities," Walker said. "Heritage tourism is not just seeing things, it's also about experiencing the culture." Over the next few months, officials will seek public input about the management plan, then submit paperwork to the National Park Service.

Once approved, the plan will be posted on the NPS website and distributed to the relevant parties. Walker hopes that will happen in the next few months.

From there, the real work begins – finding funding to implement and maintain the plan. Federal and state funding are available, but not guaranteed, so the business plan includes fundraising, sponsorships, memberships and other activities. dennis.seid@journalinc.com

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

More visitors centers recommended for the area

Posted on **December 19, 2012** by **Chris Elkins** in **Business**

By Carlie Kollath Wells/NEMS Daily Journal

TUPELO – Consultants on Tuesday recommended seven to eight visitors centers be used to interpret the region's heritage for tourists.

Phil Walker, of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative, and his team presented findings to the board of the Mississippi Hills Area Alliance, as the members continue to research the best way to interpret and monetarily capitalize on the cultural and tourism heritage in the region.

The Alliance board is in charge of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, a federally recognized region bordered by Highway 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east. The group is funded with local, state and federal money.

The board has been working with the consultants for several months to put together a management plan for the heritage area.

The preferred plan Walker presented Tuesday called for interpretive centers to be in Tupelo, Hernando, Oxford, Holly Springs, Corinth, Pontotoc and Columbus.

The centers in Tupelo and Hernando would have interpretive information for all of the themes – African-American, Civil War, music and literature, Native American and architecture – while the other centers would focus on a specific theme.

Participants at Tuesday's meeting suggested looking at partnering with an existing visitors center in Kosciusko. They also suggested that the plan be open to other towns that could house the centers.

Walker is having another meeting today at 10 a.m. at the Oxford Convention Center to present his findings and gather input. Then, he and the consultants will tweak the plan and start putting together cost estimates and a proposed budget.

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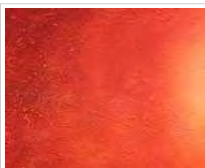
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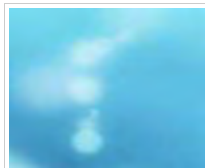
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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tourism group seeks input

Posted on **August 19, 2011** by **Chris Elkins** in **News**

By Carlie Kollath/NEMS Daily Journal

TUPELO – A regional tourism group will host two meetings next week to get input about the direction of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area.

The heritage area is federally designated and is governed by the National Park Service. The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, which is based in Tupelo, is responsible for coming up with a management plan for the area.

"These meetings are part of a broader process for developing the plan, which will guide the management of the heritage area over the next ten years," said Kristy White, executive director of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and president of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance.

The first meeting is in Tupelo on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until noon at the Renasant Center for IDEAs. The second meeting is Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon in Columbus at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority headquarters.

Two previous meetings were held in June in Oxford and Starkville.

The meetings are open to the public and stakeholders in the region's tourism industry are encouraged to attend.

The meetings, according to a press release, will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various issues, including potential impacts of the heritage area on existing cultural and natural resources.

The Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area was designated by Congress and the president in April 2009. The rough borders of the area are the Tennessee and Alabama state lines to the north and east, Interstate 55 to the west and Highway 14 to the south.

carlie.kollath@journalinc.com

Want to Go?

THE MISSISSIPPI HILLS Heritage Area Alliance will have to public meetings next week to gather input:

- Tuesday 10 a.m. to noon at Renasant Center for IDEAs in Tupelo
- Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon at Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority headquarters in Columbus For more information, contact project coordinator Kent Bain at kentbain@mshills.org or (662) 844-1276.

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tourism group to gather research for region's future

Posted on September 11, 2012 by Chris Elkins in Business, News

By Carlie Kollath Wells/NEMS Daily Journal



TUPELO – The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance has a workshop at 1:30 p.m. today to discuss the future of the region's national heritage area.

The group is gathering input to form the management plan for the area. The free workshop is at the Mississippi Hills exhibit center, which is inside the Renasant Center for IDEAs at 398 E.

Main St. in Fairpark.

The national heritage area is a federally-recognized region bordered by Highway 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east. The area covers 19 full counties and portions of 11 others in the northeastern part of Mississippi.

The alliance board met in June and heard research findings from Phil Walker of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative. He said Northeast Mississippi has many stories to tell, but it needs to focus on a few things that are easy to market to visitors.

The overarching themes for the region – as identified by a preliminary report from consultants – were black history, the Civil War, the arts and architecture. The board of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance also discussed an itinerary themed around the region's Native American history.

The board is responsible for overseeing the Hills national heritage area, a region that gets local, state and federal funding.

As part of the national heritage area program, the board must develop a management plan. It's paying Walker \$150,000 to do the research and put together the plan.

The organization's managers in a news release said stakeholders from all the communities within the heritage area are encouraged to attend and provide input this afternoon. The workshop will feature breakout groups that address themes, marketing and implementation strategies.

On Thursday, Walker and his team will have a follow-up presentation with what they've done this week. The presentation is at 1:30 p.m. in the exhibit center.

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NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFESTYLE OPINION OBITUARIES BLOGS SUBSCRIPTIONS

OUR OPINION: Tourism, culture alliance holds potential for region

Posted on July 11, 2013 by Chris Elkins in Opinion

By NEMS Daily Journal



Tuesday's delivery of a management plan by a Nashville consulting firm to the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance substantially increases the possibilities for coordinated tapping of cultural resources in 30 northern counties – an effort under development for a decade. The draft management plan from Nashville-based Walker Collaborative is a big step forward in presenting a final plan for approval to the southeastern region of the National Park Service. Then, after qualifying as a full participant, the alliance would be able to compete for federal funds with 48

other heritage alliance areas nationwide. It is capped at receiving \$150,000 per budget year from federal sources, and all of it must be matched dollar for dollar.

The alliance has been able to fully fund the match from local government, the state, memberships and other supporters. It has a \$325,000 operating budget, but it could gain more funding once a management plan is in place.

Corinth resident Kent Bain and Tupelo resident Bobby King, a professional marketer, have guided the alliance. King said being able to raise the matching amount and go with money in hand to the next levels of funding has been a big plus.

King said on Wednesday he hopes a marketing plan can be presented to the NPS regional office by Oct. 1, the beginning of the federal fiscal year.

The national heritage area covers all of the area from I-55 on the west, Alabama on the east, Tennessee on the north and Mississippi Highway 14 on the south. King said the management plan would provide the marketing structure for the area, with retiring Baby Boomers as a primary demographic target for tourism. The plan focuses on four primary themes: Native American heritage, African-American heritage, the Civil War and the arts (focusing on music and literature). The heritage areas have been capped at least temporarily at 49, so the time is ripe for taking advantage of every opportunity.

The primary focus sites would be spread across the area from Corinth to DeSoto County, with Tupelo, Oxford and Pontotoc playing key roles. The idea has been carefully developed, and the payoff could be enriching.

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Live from Mississippi Hills mtg 9/11/12

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We're live at the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area workshop. We're at the exhibit center, which is inside the Renasant Center for IDEAs.



The board members and all interested stakeholders are here to help flesh out tourism themes for the hills. The group is gathering input to form the management plan for the area ([previous coverage in today's paper](#)).

The national heritage area is a federally-recognized region bordered by Highway 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east. The area covers 19 full counties and portions of 11 others in the northeastern part of Mississippi.

There are about 20 people here, include reps from MS Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, MS Corps of Engineers, Tupelo city planning, Tupelo CVB, Downtown Tupelo, De Soto County and Tishomingo County.

Disclaimer: I'm typing as people are talking. There may be typos. People also have a tendency to talk at the same time, so I can't always hear everything.

And, I'm not typing every word. Think of this more as the highlights of the meeting.

Something doesn't make sense? Corrections? Have questions? Ask.

—

The meeting started at 1:30.

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Phil Walker of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative is leading the conversation. He's going over his background information from before (what is a heritage area, etc.) A lot of this is a repeat from his presentation in June that we covered. [Click here to read his report about the region's strengths and challenges.](#)

Today, the goal is to have breakout groups to discuss the various themes. Judge the validity of the themes on this criteria:

- Does the theme have significance to the region's story?
- Are there substantial resources to interpret?
- How unique is the theme withing a broader national context?
- How inherently is the theme (degree of market appeal)?



The themes:

1. African-American

- Freedom Arrives – Contraband camp
- Reconstruction and post-reconstruction – Hill Crest Cemetery, Union Academy
- Civil Rights – Civil Rights monument at Ole Miss

2. Civil War

- Clash of amateur armies – Iuka Methodist Church
- Quest for Vicksburg – Grenada Lake
- Play's Final Acts – Brice's Crossroads and Tupelo

3. Arts

- Literature
- Music

4. Architecture

- The idea of Appalachia meets Delta. A subtheme worth pursuing?
- Residential
- Commercial architecture
- Worship, learning and governance

Should there be a 5th theme - Native American?

We've done inventory for all of these themes. Native American is more difficult because the people who know them are more covert because they don't want them to be pilfered.

Lots of crowd discussion that there's a lot of Native American history here – names of towns, creeks, battles, homes, trails, etc.

Crowd comment: I would put Native American before architecture theme. What if we combined Arts & Architecture?

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Walker: We'll come back to this in the breakout groups and Thursday when we present the findings.

—

Now for an **economic update from Randy Gross:**

In 10 years, you've lost 30,000 manufacturing jobs. You've got an opportunity to fill that void with heritage tourism.

You've got a lot going on here, but it's hard for someone in California to understand what the Hills is.

(Carlie note: he's doing a lot of the same presentation from June. We liveblogged that presentation. [Read it by clicking here.](#))

More than one-third of your current visitors at the attractions are coming from within the hills – people from Tupelo visiting Corinth.

Some of your key markets:

- Memphis
- Jackson
- Birmingham
- Dallas-Fort Worth
- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Nashville

Five percent of your visitors are coming from overseas. Musical and heritage sites are very popular for overseas visitors. The visitor base at your attractions are very different. Visitors at Elvis Birthplace are very different from visitors at Brice's Crossroads.

Participation in heritage areas have been slightly declining in past years. This is partly because school groups that used to visit a site now can look it up and "visit" it online.

25 percent of people visit heritage sites. After age 70, rates drop because of a decrease in mobility.

Survey data: The more educated a person is, the more likely he/she is likely to visit a cultural or heritage site such as a museum or historical home.

This heritage area has the potential to attract up to about 75,000 additional visitors by 2017. Fastest support will be in art/design/music, then in history/Native American and then in science & industry.

Your events and festival audience is supposed to grow 9.5 percent by 2017. This potential growth is generated from outside the core areas.

—

Walker:

Time to break up into four planning teams:

1. Civil War
2. African-American
3. Arts & Lit
4. Architecture

Questions for each team:

- Key resources in heritage area for this theme to promote and interpret (historic sites, museums, districts, etc.)?
- Approach to preservation, enhancement and stewardship for resources?
- Key sub-themes and stories to interpret
- Approach to interpretation (tour routes, interpretative centers, interpretation mediums, etc.)
- Approach to marketing the theme and the MS Hills National Heritage Area
- Implementation strategies (management, funding, phasing, etc.)






The audience is breaking out into groups. It's 2:40 now and they are planning to brainstorm for the next hour. Then, they'll get back together and discuss some of their ideas.

The four consultants will take all the ideas and spend the next two days refining them and coming up with a plan. The plan will be presented at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the exhibit center. The meeting is open to the public. But, if you can't make it, we'll be here live-blogging it.

We've got to write some stories so we can't stick around for the brainstorming, but we'll be back Thursday with eager ears.

Questions so far?

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Written by Carlie Kollath Wells

September 11, 2012 at 2:22 pm

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Mississippi Hills planning meeting comes to Columbus

 Dispatch Staff Report
 August 21, 2011 12:36:00 AM

TUPELO -- Two regional meetings are being held in August to gather input for the federally-mandated Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

"These meetings are part of a broader process for developing the plan, which will guide the management of the heritage area over the next 10 years," said Kristy White, executive director of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and president of the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance, the legislatively-appointed local coordinating entity for MHNHA.

"Our heritage area is one of only 49 National Heritage Areas, which are charged with conserving and interpreting some of America's greatest cultural, historic and natural treasures," White commented.

The first meeting will be from 10 a.m. until noon on Tuesday, Aug. 23, at the Renasant Center for IDEAs, 398 E. Main St., Tupelo.

The second meeting will be from 10 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, Aug. 24, at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority headquarters at 318 7th St. North in Columbus.

Agnes Zaiontz, business manager of the Development Authority, offered to host the meeting in support of the planning process. "Columbus is a key community within the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, with tremendous heritage assets. The Tenn-Tom Waterway is also a major resource for the region, and it is important for both Columbus and the Waterway to be represented in the planning process," Zaiontz stated.

Stakeholders and the general public are invited to attend these meetings, which will introduce participants to the project and solicit public input on various related issues, including potential impacts of the Heritage Area on existing cultural and natural resources.

The meetings are not restricted to residents of Tupelo and Columbus, and interested persons from surrounding communities are invited to attend. Two previous meetings were held at the end of June in Oxford and Starkville for the same purpose.

The meetings will help to fulfill federal legislative requirements for the Management Plan, as well as compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Sessions will be conducted by Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative in Nashville, Tenn., in cooperation with MHHAA staff.

Contact Project Coordinator Kent Bain for additional information at kentbain@mshills.org or 662-844-1276.

Heritage Area

The MHNHA was designated by Congress and the president in April 2009. Although its exact boundaries are spelled out in its enabling legislation, the borders are, roughly, the Tennessee and Alabama state lines to the north and east, and Interstate 55 and Highway 14 to the west and south.

MHNHA covers 19 full counties and portions of 11 others. For more information, visit mississippihills.org.

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Firm includes Columbus among sites recommended for cultural center

The Associated Press
December 20, 2012 11:29:53 AM

TUPELO -- A consulting firm has recommended seven to eight visitors centers to capitalize on the cultural and tourism heritage in north Mississippi.

The Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal reports that Phil Walker, of Nashville-based Walker Collaborative, and his team presented findings to the board of the Mississippi Hills Area Alliance.

The Alliance board is in charge of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, a federally recognized region bordered by Mississippi Highway 55 on the west, Highway 14 on the south, the Tennessee state line on the north and the Alabama state line on the east. The group is funded with local, state and federal money.

The board has been working with the consultants for several months to put together a management plan for the heritage area.

The preferred plan Walker presented Tuesday called for interpretive centers to be in Tupelo, Hernando, Oxford, Holly Springs, Corinth, Pontotoc and Columbus.

The centers in Tupelo and Hernando would have interpretive information for all of the themes African-American, Civil War, music and literature, Native American and architecture.

After another meeting in Oxford, the consultants will tweak the plan and start putting together cost estimates and a proposed budget.

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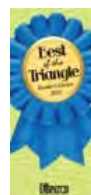
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The South Reporter



Planners roll out tourism strategies

By SUE WATSON
Staff Writer

Consultants for the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance recently held a public hearing in Holly Springs to explain what heritage area tourism is all about in Northeast Mississippi.

The MHAA exists to enhance, interpret and promote the cultural and heritage assets of the Hills region. It exists to increase jobs and visitations to the area and support projects that sustain the heritage tourism industry.

[Full Story](#)

By SUE WATSON
Staff Writer



Letters of Support and Partnership

Letters of Commitment

- Mike Armour, Director, Mississippi Appalachian Regional Office
- Malcolm White, Director of Tourism, Mississippi Development Authority
- Bob Wilson, Executive Director, Mississippi Main Street Association
- Kenneth H. P'Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Lolly Barnes, Executive Director, Mississippi Heritage Trust
- Jennifer Jameson, Folk and Traditional Arts Director, Mississippi Arts Commission
- Mike Tagert, Commissioner, Northern District, State of Mississippi Transportation Commission
- Daniel W. Jones, M.D., Chancellor, University of Mississippi
- Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University
- Jim Borsig, Ph.D., President, Mississippi University for Women
- David L. Beckley, President, Rust College
- Sharon Gardner, Executive Director, Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District
- Vernon R. (Randy) Kelley, III, Executive Director, Three Rivers Planning and Development District
- Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson, Executive Director, Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc.
- David Rumbarger, President/CEO, Community Development Foundation (Tupelo)
- Mike Clayborne, President, CREATE Foundation
- Christy Burns, Executive Director, Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Kim Terrell, Executive Director, DeSoto County Tourism Association
- Jennifer Gregory, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Starkville Development Partnership/Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau
- LaKisha Mitchell Buffington, Executive Director, Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau
- Sean Johnson, Executive Director, New Albany Marketing & Tourism
- Neal McCoy, Executive Director, Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Mary Allyn Hedges, Director, Visit Oxford
- Theresa W. Cutshall, Administrator, Tishomingo County Tourism Council



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL OFFICE
MIKE ARMOUR
DIRECTOR

March 6, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior

As the State Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Mississippi, I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

ARC Mississippi has supported the heritage area initiative in years past through multiple grants and the participation of personnel in planning efforts, board meetings, and other events. ARC has also involved the Alliance in a technical assistance program targeted at tourism attractions in disadvantage counties.

Particularly given the substantial overlap between the official ARC Mississippi and MHNHA's geography, we will continue to look for opportunities to support the Alliance and the counties and communities in our shared area. We will give consideration to specific project proposals that are of mutual benefit to MHNHA and Mississippi's ARC counties and which meet the criteria for our grant programs.

We have reviewed the draft Management Plan and the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA and will assist MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike".

Mike Armour
Director
Mississippi Appalachian Regional Office



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT, GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BRENT CHRISTENSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 11, 2014

National Park Service/Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the director of the Tourism Division of the Mississippi Development Authority, I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

MDA Tourism promotes the many historic communities and heritage assets within MHNHA to national and international markets, and our personnel have been involved with the planning and development of the heritage area since its inception in the early 2000s.

One potential opportunity for collaboration would be for MDA Tourism to co-host a workshop with MHNHA for tourist attractions to educate them on ways to enhance the visitor experience, promote their sites more effectively, and increase tourism. This could lead to staff consulting with individual attractions more on a more in-depth basis.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm White".

Malcolm White, Director of Tourism
Mississippi Development Authority



March 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior

As the executive director of the Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

MHNHA includes more than 20 official MMSA communities, and our organization has supported the heritage area initiative in years past through the participation of personnel in planning efforts, board meetings and other events, and most recently, at a wayfaring presentation sponsored by the Greater Starkville Development Partnership and the Alliance.

The downtowns of regional communities are collectively among the strongest assets within the heritage area. Although many of the key communities within MHNHA are already members of the Mississippi Main Street Association, others are not, and we will fully support the addition of new communities where adequate local support and funding exist.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

We envision an ongoing partnership with the Alliance as they seek to preserve, develop and promote the heritage assets within their region, and we will gladly partner with them on specific projects. One possibility for collaboration would be for MMSA to partner with MHNHA to host a forum with existing Main Street programs within the region on how downtowns can leverage being included in the NHA for various purposes.

We will of course continue to support the individual Main Street communities within MHNHA, helping to enhance these vital centers of community identity and economic growth.

Sincerely,

Bob Wilson
Executive Director
Mississippi Main Street Association

**MISSISSIPPI MAIN STREET
ASSOCIATION**

THE ELECTRIC BUILDING
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JACKSON, MS 39201
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
P. O. BOX 571
Jackson, MS 39205
601-576-6940 Fax 601-576-6955
mdah.state.ms.us

April 14, 2014

To: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), I would like to express our agency's support for and intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA). MDAH regularly funds projects and programs that positively impact the communities and historic resources within MHNHA, and MDAH personnel have been involved with various stages in the planning and development of MHNHA, including the Management Plan process.

There are numerous National Register sites and districts within MHNHA, as well as over fifteen Certified Local Government (CLG) communities. MDAH will continue to review and approve appropriate sites for inclusion on the National Register and to work with qualifying local governments on their "certification" into the CLG program.

Further, MDAH will continue to provide technical assistance to communities and sites within the MHNHA and will strongly consider proposals from the Alliance for projects and events that benefit the historic resources in the region.

In an effort to provide technical assistance to communities, MDAH regularly sponsors workshops for communities seeking to add new National Register or locally designated historic districts, as well as directs efforts to encourage various local preservation programs. Future workshops will cover preservation ordinances, preservation commissions, historic districts, and design review guidelines, and we would be pleased to co-sponsor these with MHNHA. Another possible means by which MDAH might be able to support MHNHA could be to modify the selection criteria for our grant programs to add bonus points to applications from any community in an NHA.

MDAH has been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and has also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

Sincerely,

Kenneth H. P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

March 21, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The Mississippi Heritage Trust is committed to assisting the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of its Management Plan.

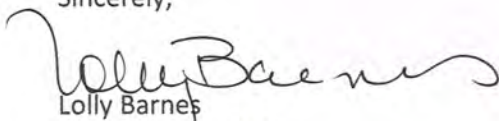
The Mississippi Heritage Trust works to save and renew places meaningful to Mississippians and their history, including the diverse architectural heritage of the Mississippi Hills region, through programs including the "10 Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi" and "Mississippi Heritage Awards", which highlights preservation successes throughout the state. Our organization has lobbied successfully for the passage and reauthorization of the state historic tax credit, which has encouraged the rehabilitation of many wonderful historic places throughout the heritage area.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. To assist the heritage area in its efforts to meet these goals and objectives, the Mississippi Heritage Trust will continue to provide technical assistance to communities and sites within the heritage area and will welcome proposals for collaboration from the Alliance involving projects and events that benefit the historic resources in the region.

A wonderful example of our partnership is the 2014 Historic Preservation Conference and Heritage Awards, which will be held in beautiful downtown Tupelo, the headquarters of the Alliance. We look forward to working with the Alliance's helpful and welcoming staff members to bring people from all over Mississippi together to learn about historic preservation, celebrate our many preservation victories and explore the diverse cultural heritage of the Mississippi Hills.

Mississippians care about their history. It is through the dedication and hard work of groups like the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Alliance that the stories of our rich and colorful past will continue to be told. The Mississippi Heritage Trust applauds their efforts and welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,


Lolly Barnes
Executive Director



Mississippi Heritage Trust

Post Office Box 577

Jackson, Mississippi 39205

(601) 354-0200

(601) 354-0220 Fax

www.mississippiheritage.com



March 20, 2014

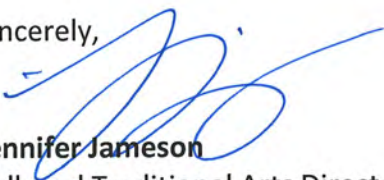
To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Director of Folk and Traditional Arts at the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA). MHNHA's mission to "preserve, enhance, interpret and promote the cultural and heritage assets of the hills region" falls right in line with our commitment to cultural sustainability, and we will continue to serve as an advisor to the project in years to come. I look forward to serving as a consultant for various initiatives of MHNHA's Management Plan, such as the proposed oral history project, the development of region-specific K-12 curriculum, and in the production of accessible programs and events related to the cultural traditions of the Heritage Area.

MAC funds projects and programs that positively impact the arts organizations and communities within MHNHA. MAC may continue to provide technical assistance and funding to arts groups and projects within the MHNHA, and will strongly consider proposals from the Alliance for projects and events that benefit arts in the region.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Jameson
Folk and Traditional Arts Director
Mississippi Arts Commission

jjameson@arts.ms.gov
601-359-6034



State of Mississippi
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER MIKE TAGERT
NORTHERN DISTRICT

March 19, 2014

National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Sir or Madam:

As the Commissioner of the Northern District of the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance (MHHA) in the implementation of the management plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

MDOT has provided staff support and technical assistance to the Alliance during the development of its management plan, specifically on the issue of signage. Most recently, we participated in a wayfaring presentation hosted by the Greater Starkville Development Partnership and the Alliance. We will continue to assist the Alliance on all relevant matters, and give all due consideration to proposals for directional signage or other projects that fall within MDOT's established guidelines.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft management plan and have also been provided with a copy of the goals and objectives for the MHNHA. Having reviewed the goals and objectives closely, we are committed to assisting the MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

There are many vibrant communities and important historical resources throughout the Northern District and MDOT will make every effort to support the Alliance as it engages in its important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Tagert".

Mike Tagert
Commissioner



March 20, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior

The University of Mississippi played a vital role in the development of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, and faculty and staff members have been involved in various planning phases for MHNHA. Both the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Relations (under the leadership of Dr. Gloria Kellum) and the Office for Research and Sponsored Programs (under the leadership of Dr. Alice Clark) were instrumental in obtaining federal designation. In 2004, the university hosted a Heritage Area Conference at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, and Norman Easterbrook, the director of the Ford Center, previously served on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance.

In 2006, the University established the Mississippi Hills Institute for Heritage Resource Management to assist with the development of MHNHA. In its current role as the university's official point of liaison with MHNHA, the Institute will continue to foster relationships between MHNHA and the university to benefit the heritage area.

We have been offered an opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. The university welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with MHNHA in support of those Goals & Objectives that fall under our institutional mission. The University possesses expertise related to the key interpretive themes of the heritage area as well as expertise in leading oral history programs, and we welcome opportunities for collaboration in these areas. Potential partners within the University include the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and the Southern Foodways Alliance. Additionally, internship opportunities for University of Mississippi students will be encouraged; in fact, one of our seniors is interning with the Alliance this spring semester.

We believe collaborations between the Alliance and the Institute would benefit both the communities of MHNHA and the university. We are committed to fostering these relationships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel W. Jones', is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel W. Jones, M.D.
Chancellor



**MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

April 14, 2014

To National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

Mississippi State University played a supporting role in the development of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, with faculty and staff members from the MSU Extension Service, Carl Small Town Center, Department of Landscape Architecture and other university units involved in various planning phases.

As the Alliance seeks to implement the MHNHA Management Plan, there are numerous logical partners within the University, including those previously mentioned as well as the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and others, whose involvement could strengthen the Alliance's efforts.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. We look forward to collaborating with MHNHA to assist in achieving goals and objectives which fall under our institutional mission. For example, Mississippi State possesses the expertise to aid in research and interpretation initiatives related to the key interpretive themes of the heritage area as well as oral history programs tied to these themes.

A vibrant collaborative partnership between the Alliance and the University could yield substantial benefits for the communities of the MHNHA region and our faculty, staff and students.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Keenum
President

March 13, 2014

www.muw.edu

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance seeks to implement the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area, there are logical partners within the Mississippi University for Women whose involvement would benefit the Alliance.

For example, MUW possesses the expertise to assist with research and interpretation related to the key interpretive themes of the heritage area and could also support MHNHA through internships.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our institutional mission.

A vibrant collaborative partnership between the Alliance and MUW could yield substantial benefits for both the communities of MHNHA and our staff and students.

Sincerely,



Jim Borsig, Ph.D.
President



RUST COLLEGE

Holly Springs, MS 38635 • Phone (662) 252-2491/252-8896 • Fax (662) 252-8863

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
David L. Beckley
www.rustcollege.edu

March 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior:

Rust College played a supporting role in the development of the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA) with staff members involved in various planning phases. As the Alliance seeks to implement the MHNHA Management Plan, there are logical partners within the college whose involvement would benefit the Alliance.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals and Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our institutional mission. Our faculty and staff in the Humanities and the Social Sciences are available to assist with research and interpretation related to the key interpretive themes of our area. It is also noted that the College is the owner of one of the estates mentioned in the plan (Airliewood). We also see the project as a possible internship agency for our students interested in community development.

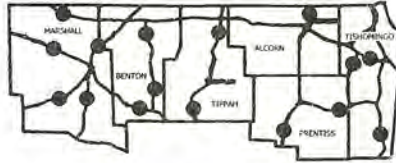
A vibrant collaborative partnership between the Alliance and the College could yield substantial benefits for both the communities of MHNHA and our staff and students.

Sincerely,

David L. Beckley
President



"An Institution of the United Methodist Church"



NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

**619 E. PARKER DRIVE ♦ POST OFFICE BOX 600
BOONEVILLE, MS 38829**

**SHARON GARDNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

TELEPHONE
(662) 728-6248
Fax (662) 728-2417
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
(662) 728-7038
1-800-745-6961

March 17, 2014

Mr. Kent Bain, Project Coordinator
Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance
398 East Main Street, Suite 115
Tupelo, MS 38804

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District (NEMPDD), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area(MHNHA).

Our organization works to assure that communities have the physical infrastructure necessary for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life, and we assist them in gaining access to financial and technical resources to help build dynamic local economies.

NEMPDD has provided staff support and technical assistance on heritage-area-related grants prior to the establishment of MHNHA, and our organization's support of the initiative helped lay the groundwork for federal designation.

In the future, we will look for opportunities to support the Alliance as it implements its Management Plan. Assistance could take the form of grant identification, preparation of grant applications, financial reporting, periodic and grant-closeout reporting and other related tasks.

As but one example, NEMPDD could assist MHNHA in working with local governments on community enhancement projects: holding workshops devoted to transforming strip commercial corridors of offering technical assistance to individual communities interested in pursuing enhancements.

Mr. Bain
March 17, 2014
Page 2

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

MHNHA covers all counties served by NEMPDD, and helping the Alliance be successful in its efforts is yet another way we can serve our designated counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Gardner".

Sharon Gardner, Executive Director
Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District

THREE RIVERS

PHIL MORGAN
CHAIRMAN

ANDERSON McFARLAND
VICE CHAIRMAN

VERNON R. KELLEY, III
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

P.O. BOX 690
75 SOUTH MAIN ST.
PHONE 662/489-2415
FACSIMILE 662/489-6815
PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI 38863

March 18, 2014

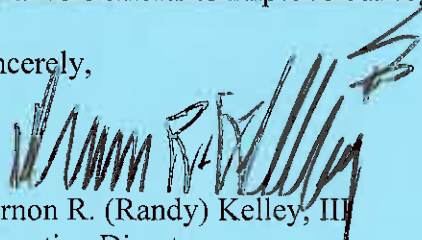
To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the Three Rivers Planning and Development District (TRPDD), I would like to express our support for the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

TRPDD remains open to exploring opportunities to assist the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. Assistance could take the form of research, preparation of grant applications or technical assistance.

MHNHA covers all 8 counties served by TRPDD, and we support the Alliance's efforts to improve our region.

Sincerely,



Vernon R. (Randy) Kelley, III
Executive Director,
Three Rivers Planning and Development District



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Planning and Development District, Inc.

Post Office Box 828

• Starkville, MS 39760-0828

• Telephone (662) 324-7860

• Fax (662) 324-1911

Cecil Hamilton
President

Robert E. Boykin
Vice President

Jimmie Oliver
Secretary / Treasurer

Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

April 8, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

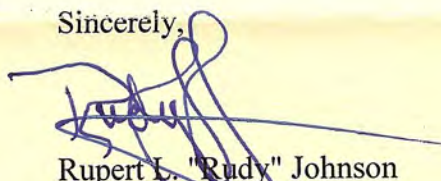
As the Executive Director of the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District (GTPDD), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

GTPDD staff members have been involved with the planning process for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. In the future we will look for opportunities to support the Alliance as it implements its Management Plan. Assistance could take the form of grant identification, preparation of grant applications or technical assistance.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

MHNHA covers all seven (7) counties served by GTPDD, and helping the Alliance be successful in its efforts is yet another way we can serve our designated counties.

Sincerely,



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director,
Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc.



Community Development Foundation
398 East Main Street, CDF Center
P.O. Box A
Tupelo, MS 38802-1210

March 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the President/CEO of the Community Development Foundation (CDF), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

CDF has been a long-time supporter of the Alliance and will continue to assist the organization in its efforts. CDF has provided ongoing staff support and substantial in-kind donations to the Alliance during the past several years.

The Alliance was approved as a client of the Renasant Center for IDEAs (Tupelo/Lee County's business incubator, operated by CDF) in 2006, and has remained in the facility since then.

Typically, CDF prefers for clients of the incubator to 'graduate' within a three-year time frame and move to a permanent business location, but we have viewed the Alliance—as the local coordinating entity for a National Heritage Area—differently and allowed them to remain with us.

In addition to its management office, the Alliance also operates the Mississippi Hills Exhibit Center in our business incubator. By providing reduced-cost space and business-support services for both these enterprises, we have helped ensure the sustainability of the heritage area, and we will continue to provide this source of support as long as it is beneficial to this important regional initiative.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those that fall under our organizational mission.

We will also look for additional ways to aid the Alliance as it implements its Management Plan and works to preserve and promote the region's heritage and expand the cultural & heritage sector of the region's broader tourism economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Rumbarger', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Rumbarger
President/CEO,
Community Development Foundation



CREATE

NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI'S
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Counsel

March 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the President of the CREATE Foundation, I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

CREATE and its Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi have been long-time supporters of the heritage area, with CREATE providing funding, staff support, technical assistance and grant-administration services in support of the initiative.

The Mississippi Hills Heritage Area was adopted as a Special Project by our organization and the Commission officially endorsed the project as part of its regional economic development strategy, of which tourism is a key component. CREATE and the Commission will continue to look for ways to support the Alliance as it implements its Management Plan.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

In closing, as but one example of our continued commitment to the project, we have placed Phil Walker of the Walker Collaborative (the lead consulting firm on the Management Plan) on the agenda for our Annual State of the Region meeting this May to give a presentation on MHNHA.

Sincerely,

Mike Clayborne
President,
CREATE Foundation



March 10, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

CACVB has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

CACVB will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote Corinth and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

Corinth has many valuable heritage resources—including the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center and the Crossroads Museum—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

Corinth looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Burns", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Christy Burns
Executive Director,
Corinth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

HISTORY IS ONLY HALF OUR STORY.



April 4, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the DeSoto County Tourism Association (DCTA), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

DCTA has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website and e-newsletter.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

DCTA will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote DeSoto County and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our county a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our county.

DeSoto County has many valuable heritage resources—including the DeSoto County Courthouse and DeSoto County Museum—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

DeSoto County Tourism Association looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our county and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Terrell", is written over the typed name.

Kim Terrell

Executive Director,

DeSoto County Tourism Association

SoDeSOTO.COM



GREATER
STARKVILLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TOURISM

MAIN STREET

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 5, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior:

As the CEO of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership/Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau (GSDP/SCVB), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

SCVB has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

SCVB will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote Starkville and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

Starkville has many valuable heritage resources—including the John Grisham Room at Mississippi State University Library and the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

Starkville looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gregory
Chief Executive Officer,
Greater Starkville Development Partnership/
Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau



HOLLY SPRINGS TOURISM AND RECREATION BUREAU
148 East College Avenue, Holly Springs, MS 38635
Phone: 662-252-2515 Fax: 662-252-2696
www.visithollysprings.com

Date April 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau (HSTRB), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

HSTRB has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

HSTRB will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote Holly Springs and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

Holly Springs has many valuable heritage resources—including numerous antebellum homes, extant slave dwellings, an Audubon site, historic Rust College and more—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

Holly Springs looks forward to continue its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

LaKisha Mitchell-Buffington
Executive Director,
Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau



March 3, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of New Albany Marketing & Tourism (NAMT), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

New Albany has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2010, providing funding and support to the organization. New Albany civic leaders have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

NAMT will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote New Albany and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

New Albany has many valuable heritage resources—including our historic downtown, the Union County Heritage Museum and Tanglefoot Trail—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

New Albany looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

S. Johnson

Sean Johnson
Executive Director,
New Albany Marketing & Tourism



April 9, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of the Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau (TCVB), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

TCVB has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

TCVB will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote Tupelo and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

Tupelo has many valuable heritage resources—including the Elvis Presley Birthplace and Museum and the Natchez Trace Parkway Headquarters and Visitors Center—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

Tupelo looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

Neal McCoy
Executive Director,
Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau

TUPELO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

P.O. Drawer 47 ■ 399 E. Main St. ■ Tupelo, MS 38802

Phone 662-841-6521 ■ Toll Free 1-800-533-0611 ■ Fax 662-841-6558 ■ www.tupelo.net



April 3, 2014

Visitors Center 415 SOUTH LAMAR BOULEVARD
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 38655 | *phone* 800.758.9177

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Executive Director of Visit Oxford (formerly the Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

Visit Oxford has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008, providing funding and staff support to the organization. Our staff members have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and we have helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

Visit Oxford will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will of course continue to promote Oxford and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our community a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our community and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our community.

Oxford has many valuable heritage resources—including William Faulkner's *Rowan Oak*, the L.Q.C. Lamar Home, the University of Mississippi Lyceum building, the historic Lafayette County courthouse and town square, and many others—to protect and promote, and many intriguing stories to tell.

Visit Oxford looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our community and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Allyn Hedges". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary Allyn Hedges
Director,
Visit Oxford

**Tishomingo County Development Foundation
Tishomingo County Economic Development Authority
Tishomingo County Tourism Council**

An Economic Development Partnership of the Board of Supervisors, City of Belmont, City of Burnsville, City of Golden, City of Iuka, City of Paden, City of Tishomingo, Tishomingo County Electric Power Association, and the Private Sector

1001 Battleground Drive Iuka, Mississippi 38852 USA

Telephone: 662-423-9933

Toll free: 800-386-4373

Fax: 662-423-1017

e-mail: info@tishomingo.org

Web Site: www.tishomingo.org

March 4, 2014

To: National Park Service/Department of the Interior,

As the Administrator of the Tishomingo County Tourism Council (TCTC), I would like to express our intent to assist the Mississippi Hills Heritage Area Alliance in the implementation of the Management Plan for the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area (MHNHA).

TCTC has been a dues-paying member of the Alliance since 2008. We have served on the Alliance's Board of Directors and participated in numerous Management Plan events, and also, helped promote MHNHA through our website.

We have been afforded the opportunity to review the entire draft Management Plan and have also been provided with a copy of the Goals & Objectives for MHNHA. Having reviewed the Goals & Objectives closely, we are committed to assisting MHNHA in achieving those which fall under our organizational mission.

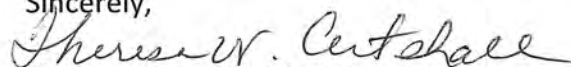
TCTC will continue to support and help guide the Alliance and promote MHNHA. We will continue to promote Tishomingo County and its many heritage assets, as well, showcasing the resources that make our county a vital and contributing part of the Mississippi Hills NHA.

We will look for additional opportunities to partner with the Alliance on projects of mutual benefit, and aid the organization as it works to preserve, enhance and promote the diverse heritage assets within our county and our region. We will assist the Alliance as it works to expand its partnership base and involve other key groups within our county.

Tishomingo County has many valuable heritage resources—including Tishomingo State Park, J.C. Coleman State Park, Woodall Mountain and the Iuka Battlefield—to protect and promote. .

Tishomingo County looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Alliance as it expands its critical work in service of our county and the entire MHNHA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa W. Cutshall".

Theresa Cutshall, Administrator

Tishomingo County Tourism Council