

SCENIC OHIO NEWS



The Newsletter of SCENIC OHIO an Affiliate of Scenic America

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter 2008

Our mission is to preserve and enhance the scenic character of Ohio's communities and countryside.

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P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, Ohio 43209
scenicohio@gmail.com

Designing for the National Road

The Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio National Road Association were pleased to receive a 2007 Scenic Ohio Award for their joint project, the *Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook*.

The Handbook was produced in recognition of the complexity of context sensitive design and the varying levels of control and governance along the National Road corridor. It is designed for numerous audiences, including regional planners, local governments, property owners and developers. The Handbook offers a variety of tools, resources and design guidance to protect, preserve, enhance and appropriately develop the 227 miles of Road in Ohio. The Handbook has been called a solid model for future planning by byway stakeholders.

Authorized by Congress in 1806, the National Road was the first federally funded interstate highway. The Road extends across six states from Maryland to Indiana. It was designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark in 1976, an Ohio Byway in 2000 and an All-American Road National Scenic Byway in 2002.

The project team of Judith Williams, The EDGE Group, Lincoln Street Studio and Burgess and Niple produced the Handbook. To gather input from stakeholders, and to make the final product relevant to rural, urban and suburban settings along the Road, the consultants created a jurisdictional

database, an interactive website and an electronic questionnaire, supplemented by regional public meetings. High quality graphics and a series of "case histories" or "best practices" helped insure that the Handbook would be user-friendly. A series of workshops are planned to help introduce the Handbook to local communities.

In May, the *Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook* also received national recognition when it was one of eight projects to receive a 2007 National Scenic Byway Award from America's Byways Resource Center, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Federal Highway Administration. The Handbook was the only award winner in the planning category and the only project along the entire National Road to receive an award.

The Handbook project had numerous partners, including the Federal Highway Administration, the Ohio Department of Transportation, regional planning agency's, convention and visitors bureaus and local historical societies.

To view the Handbook or to download a copy, visit www.ohiohistory.org. Also available is *A Traveler's Guide to the Historic National Road in Ohio and The Corridor Management Plan for the Ohio National Road Scenic Byway*.

Glenn Harper

The Scenic Ohio Awards Call for Entries - 2008

Scenic Ohio wishes to honor those communities and other entities who are working to improve and protect their visual qualities, distinctive culture, or historical character. These awards will recognize community and government agencies, organizations, and individuals who have taken positive measures to protect and enhance Ohio's scenic resources.



(Continued on page 4)

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The SCENIC OHIO NEWS is
 published twice a year by
 SCENIC OHIO.
 Gary Meisner, Chairman

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members and Friends:

As you know, Scenic Ohio has a unique history as the premier organization dedicated to the sustained beautification of Ohio's byways and communities. Founded in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council, we have a distinguished heritage as the longest standing non-profit organization dedicated to improving roadway environments and aesthetics. We have worked with a wide range of state agencies, communities, and individuals to achieve our goals.

We are currently working on these major projects:

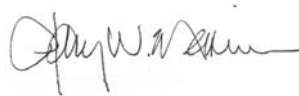
- Developing a regional grassroots Byways effort, utilizing the twelve ODOT districts;
- Educating the public and our elected officials about vegetative walls and green solutions for our highways;
- Encouraging "Context Sensitive Design" when planning highway and transportation improvements together with local community needs and aesthetics;
- Continuing efforts to protect Ohio's visual environment, thereby allowing our cities, villages and townships to control local aesthetics and billboards;
- Developing the educational content of the Scenic Ohio website and written materials;
- Increasing our membership, and building additional effective partnerships.

For many years Christine Freitag has been our dedicated Chairman. She has been a charismatic leader, working tirelessly; writing letters, soliciting donations, writing grants, meeting with legislators and state agencies, and maintaining contact with members. Christine plans to remain active with Scenic Ohio however; she is ready to transition into a reduced role as Chairman Emeritus.

To assist with the ongoing efforts of Scenic Ohio and help strategically plan for our productive future, we have retained consultants Debbie Addison and Julie Stone and moved our central operations to Columbus. Over the next few months and possibly beyond, they will provide management and support as we clarify our mission and goals, and actively build the statewide presence of this remarkable organization.

Our goals are ambitious, but realistic if each of us become involved. Please rededicate yourself to this important organization. Together we will preserve enhance and sustain Ohio's byways and communities.

Sincerely,



Gary Meisner, F.A.S.L.A.
 Chairman

Debbie Addison and Julie Stone Join Scenic Ohio Team

Debbie Addison has been a development and marketing professional working with non-profit organizations in Columbus, New York City, and Philadelphia since 1981. "Much of my career has been in the arts; however, along the way, I have had opportunities to help other types of organizations and programs strategically focus their missions and achieve their goals. The volunteer Presidency of the Friends of the Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden beginning in January 2006 was my most challenging and rewarding experience in this area. I am thrilled to be part of the team that will help Scenic Ohio reemerge from a small, effective group with a long history of activism to a statewide grassroots organization actively involving as many citizens as possible in initiatives, education programs, and the promotion of sustainable landscapes."

Julie Stone is a Columbus native who after 25 years of management in the Restaurant and Hospitality business has found a home at the Ohio Governor's Residence as the Facility Manager. "In the five years I have been with the residence, we have created the Ohio Heritage Garden, Hope Taft's concept to develop a botanical garden of native plants at the Governor's Residence. We also started a non-profit support group called The Friends of the Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. Through these projects I met Gary Meisner one of the so-called 'Heritage Garden God-Fathers' and Christine Freitag a member of the Friends group. They in turn introduced me to Scenic Ohio and your goals to: create stronger partnerships, promote new scenic byways, educate the public about the value of context sensitive design and vegetative walls and build the Scenic Ohio membership."

Our experience in team building and project actualization seem a good fit to assist Scenic Ohio to move forward. This is an exciting time for Scenic Ohio, and we look forward to meeting you by mail or in person as we work to protect, preserve and sustain Ohio's scenic roadways and communities.

Decibel Testing

Scenic Ohio with the support of the City of Akron continues to urge the Ohio Department of Transportation to begin decibel testing on the city's vegetative sound wall. The city's decibel tests confirmed that vegetative sound walls are effective.

Bare sound walls, regardless of their design, allow the sound to bounce, annoying residents who live further away. We have requested that ODOT allow Akron and other communities to use federal sound barrier dollars to build vegetative sound walls.



Vegetation Removal, not "Maintenance"



Scenic Ohio has sent a letter to Governor Ted Strickland requesting that a committee be created to view the impact of the Ohio Department of Transportation's new Vegetative Maintenance Policy.

We find the title, Vegetative Maintenance misleading. It should be titled "Vegetative Clearing or Removal" and is a "give away" of the public right-of-way to the billboard industry. It allows the taking of public land for private benefit. The public right-of-way belongs to the citizens of Ohio and not the billboard industry. The compensatory vegetative plan in the policy might mitigate the loss of trees and shrubs by relocating them, but it will not compensate for the loss of habitat and biodiversity and the destruction of hundreds of acres of Ohio native landscape.

Ohio's scenic vistas are an important attraction for tourism and economic development and should be protected. It is time for the State to assert its right to control its right of ways in a manner that is in the best interest of all its citizens, not just a select few.



Mark Your Calendar! April 22, Ohio Environmental Council's Lobby Day

Call or e-mail OEC's Ellen Mee at 614-487-2507 or ellen@theOEC.org for more information. This is an opportunity for you to learn about Ohio's environmental issues and to have lunch with your state legislators to discuss your concerns. Our Scenic Ohio board members plan to attend to discuss their highway beautification and sustainable landscape issues. We hope you will join us.

April 22, 2008

YWCA & Statehouse Atrium

Downtown Columbus

Construction of Thousands of Digital Billboards

Scenic America has issued a press release regarding the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation's "cave in" to the billboard industry by offering a "guidance memorandum" on September 25 that will permit construction of thousands of digital billboards along Interstate and federal-aid highways. This "guidance" memorandum was issued without the opportunity for public comment. For more information about this, contact Kevin Fry, President, Scenic America 202-638-1550, ext 11, fry@scenic.org

(Continued from page 1)

Eligibility:

Nominations or Entries are encouraged

We invite nomination of or entries from those in Ohio who have protected and/or improved the scenic qualities or places available to the public through a well-conceived and well-managed plan that has been or could be implemented. Those who may be nominated or who may enter include:

- Cities, Towns, Villages
- Foundations and other Organizations
- Other government agencies
- Design Professionals

Project Types:

Scale of the project – a major public building which has been restored, a town center, a scenic byway, a public garden or park

1. Historic Preservation Restoration Projects
2. Landscape Design, trees, flowers, ground cover, evergreen plants, etc.
3. Good signage and billboard control
4. Streetscape Design, (seating, street lighting, furnishings, free-standing clocks, fountains, pools, streams, other amenities)
5. Ordinances ,Design Guidelines handbooks
6. Public Art

Entry Requirements:

1. A brief statement, not more than one typed page describing the history of the project
2. Site plan indicating size and location including buildings, parking, etc.
3. Before and after photographs
4. A list of activities or supporting documents (ordinances, landscape requirements, sign and billboard control, printed articles) about your project
5. Names and position of key participants, the organizations responsible, with address, telephone and fax numbers
6. Name and phone number of the contact person

Multiple awards may be given

By submitting a nomination, entrants give Scenic Ohio the right to use this information to advance its mission.

Deadline for nominations is May 1, 2008

Send nominations to: Scenic Ohio, P.O. Box 09816, Columbus, OH 43209

For more information call: 614-657-4716

Scenic Ohio will honor the recipients of our Community Awards at our Annual Meeting in July.

Scenic Ohio collaborated with Ken Cochran, Program Coordinator for the Secret Arboretum to present a "hands-on" workshop for the Ohio Department of Transportation's 12 ODOT Districts, August 20, 2007. Entitled **Sustainable Aesthetic Roadways**, topics covered sustainable plantings, plant health management, selection and design, native plant and pollinator habitats, and why trees matter.

This workshop was made possible through a grant from the family of Mrs. William G. Mather, founder of the Ohio Roadside Council, later renamed Scenic Ohio.

Current Donors

Ms. Jane Ackley
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Allan
 Alpha Garden Club
 Ms. Janet Austin
 Mr. David Beach
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 Mr. and Mrs. Irving Bieser, Jr.
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District Deputy Directors

For Your Information, District Deputy Directors appointed to represent ODOT's 23 Districts as of 11/2007 and the counties they serve.

1. Tim Burkepile [Defiance, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Wyandot, Hardin, Allen, Van Wert] 1885 N. McCullough St., Lima, Ohio 45801 419-999-6804
2. David Dysard [Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, Henry] 317 East Poe Road, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 419-353-8131
3. John Hart [Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Wayne, Ashland, Richland, Crawford] 906 North Clark Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805-1989 419-281-0513
4. Eric Czetli [Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning, Stark, Summit, Portage] 2088 South Arlington, Akron, Ohio 44306, 330-786-3100
5. Don Barber [Knox, Coshocton, Guernsey, Muskingum, Perry, Fairfield, Licking] 9600 Jacksontown Road, S.E., P.O. Box, Jacksontown, Ohio 43030, 740-363-1251
6. Thomas Wester [Marion, Morrow, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway, Fayette, Madison, Union] 400 East William Street, Delaware, Ohio 43015, 740-363-1251
7. Rex Dickey [Mercer, Auglaize, Logan, Champaign, Clark, Montgomery, Miami, Selby, Darke] 1001 St. Marys Ave., P.O. Box 969, Sidney, Ohio 45365-0969, 973-492-1141
8. Hans Jindal [Preble, Warren, Green, Clinton, Clermont, Hamilton, Butler] 505 South State Route 741, Lebanon, Ohio 45036-9518 513-932-3030
9. Jim Brushart [Highland, Ross, Pike, Jackson, Lawrence, Scioto, Adams, Brown] 650 Eastern Avenue, P.O. Box 467, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601, 740-773-2691
10. Larry Woodford [Hocking, Morgan, Noble, Monroe, Washington, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Vinton] 338 Muskingum Drive, Marietta, Ohio 45750, 740-373-0212
11. Richard Bible [Columbiana, Jefferson, Belmont, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Holmes, Carroll] 2201 Reiser Avenue, S.E., New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663-3333, 330-339-6633
12. Bonnie Teeuwen [Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga] 5500 Transportation Blvd., Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5396 216-581-2100

Scenic Ohio plans to establish an effective network within the 12 ODOT districts to communicate and advocate. Please join us!

Scenic Ohio, P.O. Box 09816, Columbus, OH. 43209 or scenicohio@gmail.com

Mr. and Mrs. Richey Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith
 Ms. Nancy Stevenson
 Ms. Doris Swabb
 Mr. Bert Szabo
 Mr. Nelson Talbott
 Dr. and Mrs. Chris Van Devere
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Vitatoe
 Mr. and Mrs. John Vittum
 Elizabeth Ring Mather and
 William Gwinn Mather Fund
 The Glenmede Trust Co. Trust Funds
 Mr. Ken Wobbecke

From Judi Brozek, Chair

Project SOUL (Save Our Unique Landmark): The battle continues to save the Historic West Orange Road Bridge within the Olentangy Heritage Corridor State Scenic Byway. For information, go to www.bridgehunter.com.



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Columbus, Ohio 43209
scenicohio@gmail.com

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SCENIC OHIO

... Our mission is to preserve and enhance the scenic character of Ohio's communities and countryside.

- Promote Scenic Byways
- Protect open space
- Support highway beautification
- Encourage billboard control

----- Join us and help us protect your scenery. -----

- _____ \$20 Senior/Student
- _____ \$30 Individual
- _____ \$50 Family/Organization
- _____ \$100 Sponsor
- _____ \$500 Patron
- _____ \$1,000 Advocate

Name _____

Address _____

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