

FALL 2009 FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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The Conservancy's mission is to preserve existing drystone structures, and to revive and promote the ancient craft of dry-laid stone masonry.

TRAINING & RESTORATION PROGRAM

This fall, the Conservancy has spent most of its time way up in Minnesota, restoring the granite walls at **Camp Ripley**, a 53,000 acre military and civilian training facility operated by the



Crew at Camp Ripley

Minnesota National Guard. The project was a great training opportunity for many DSC-certified and local area masons. All in all, the masons restored 4,088 linear feet, a tremendous feat by any stretch of the imagination. In November, the Conservancy returned to the National Park Service's **Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site** in Everson, Pennsylvania to complete Phase 3 of the restoration work there on the site's East Headrace Retaining Wall. The race was originally part of a channel that brought water from a spring more than a mile away to the furnace, relying on gravity alone to move the water.

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Vo-Tech Students at Hopewell

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING COURSES

Fall workshops were held in five locations with two workshops out of state in Dayton, Ohio and Everson, Pennsylvania, and three in Kentucky at Hebron Cemetery in Anderson County, Shaker Village in Mercer County, and Lower Howard's Creek Nature Preserve in Clark County. More than one hundred people participated in workshops this fall. Our spring schedule will be posted sometime in early February, so be on the lookout and come join us!



Hopewell Workshop Site - PA

KENTUCKY OUTREACH PROGRAM

On October 30th the City of Frankfort Parks and Historic Sites and the Conservancy cut the ribbon on the **River View Park Outdoor Drystone Exhibit**, officially opening Kentucky's only outdoor exhibit dedicated to the craft of dry-laid stone masonry. Since 1996, the Conservancy has partnered with the City of Frankfort and the Kentucky Historical Society to construct nine drystone structures during the Kentucky Folklife Festival. The shelter structure in the photo was built by traditional timber framers during the Preservation Trades Network's Mini Rendezvous held in July. The Conservancy demonstrated during the event, building a unique entrance feature to the park that incorporated all three styles of Kentucky rock fence. In other news, the **Boyle County Rock Fence Survey** is done, and the Scott County survey is underway. The survey



River View Park Dedication

results will be used to identify fences endangered by encroaching construction, and will help identify fences for placement on the National Register of Historic Places and as candidates for a **Rock Fence Heritage Marker**.

6TH NATIONAL WALLING COMPETITION

On October 10th, the Conservancy hosted its 6th Annual National



Walling Competition at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. Although the rain held off that day, it was very wet still, but the competing masons held their own. 28 masons from 10 states competed for prizes and recognition. In the Professional Class, Juan Centeno placed 1st; Lee Troutwine placed 1st in the Amateur division, and Brad Knight placed 1st in the Novice division. Five masons passed their Level 1 DSC Certification, two passed their initial DSWA Certification, and nine more passed various special features required for their upper level DSC Certification.

Congratulation to everyone who competed and passed their exams!

PUBLIC AWARENESS & DEMONSTRATIONS

The Conservancy strives to raise awareness of its mission throughout the community. Since our last newsletter, we have spoken to the Lexington Greenspace Commission, the Lexington Rotary, and the National Association of Women in Construction. We are making connections now to ensure that we have a presence at the World Equestrian Games next fall, and will hopefully be represented in the Kentucky Experience Pavilion.

COMING NEXT YEAR!

This fall, the Conservancy is in planning mode, working on at least three projects for 2010. Next year, prior to the World Equestrian Games, the Conservancy will hopefully be offering community workshops for a Community Learning Wall, as part of **The Legacy Trail**, a multi-use, non-motorized trail stretching from downtown Lexington all the way to Interstate 75.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MASONS & DONORS

On Sunday, November 22nd, DSC-certified masons, board members, staff and others gathered at Shaker Village to mix and mingle, while learning more about the Conservancy during a slideshow presentation. The event was followed by a tour of rock fences at Shaker Village restored by the Conservancy.

Board of Directors

Lee Troutwine, President; **John Park**, Vice-President; **Patricia Knight**, Treasurer; **Carolyn Murray-Wooley**, Secretary; Peter Andrew, Joe Bell, Barbara Graves, Christina Harrison, Zachary Kinneman, Chris Kubale, and Eric Thomason

Staff

E. Chris Harp, Executive Director; **Jane Wooley**, Restoration Program Manager; **Neil Rippingale**, Training Program Manager; **Donna Chaffin**, Administrative Assistant