

The News Gusher

The Oil Region Alliance is pleased to send you its newsletter. If you have difficulty viewing this format via this email, it will be posted on www.oilregion.org soon. Also, depending upon your computer system, you may need to click on "view images" to see the images. Feel free to contact me at wthomas@oilregion.org with questions and comments concerning the newsletter.

If you wish to be removed from the Alliance's email distribution group, please email wthomas@oilregion.org

QR De-Coding

By Betty Squire, VP, Tourism Destination Marketing

Have you noticed those funny looking boxes popping up on magazine, advertisements, coupons and even business cards? A QR Code, short for "quick response", is a specific matrix barcode (or two-dimensional code) consisting of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. Readable by smart phones, the codes point the user to a specific URL, text message or other data. Get instant access to the Oil Region by scanning the QR code shown here or on the front of our new Official Guide to the Oil Region which have arrived. Phone 800.483.6264 to make advance requests for this guide. Large quantities are available for distribution by contacting Marie at mrainey@oilregion.org.

Alliance Holds Annual Membership Meeting

By Toni Kresinski, Meetings and Events Coordinator

The Oil Region Alliance held its Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 24, at The Commons at Franklin, with more than 125 in attendance. Lt. Governor Jim Cawley was the guest speaker. Frank Hajduk was recognized as the Economic Development Champion; Megan R. Buchman was acknowledged as the Heritage Development Volunteer of the Year; and Wesley W. Ramsey received the Tourism Support Award. Kim Harris was named the 2010 Employee of the Year.

Outgoing members of the Board of Directors were recognized, including: Dennis Beggs, Dr. Timothy Brooks, Lynda Cochran, John Cramer, James Hawkins, Neil McElwee, and Barbara Zolli. Michael Klapac was acknowledged as the outgoing Chairman of the Board. New members elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms were: Janet Aaron, Jack Crawford, Edwin "Bud" Deal, Tod George, Betsy Kellner, Marcia Miller, Joseph Pastor, and Linda Routzhan. At the Annual Board Meeting which followed, directors appointed Sonja Hawkins, Susan Smith and Vincent Witherup to one-year terms. Officers elected for one-year terms are: Rodney Griffin, Chair; Warren Thomas, Vice-Chair; Jack Crawford, Secretary; Susan Smith, Treasurer; and Thomas Surman, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.



In This Issue

[ORA Heritage Volunteer of the Year](#)

[ORA Store](#)

[Do you have Suggestions or New Ideas?](#)

[Alliance Board of Directors](#)

March 2011

Volume 7, Issue 2



Oil History Workshop Scheduled

By Melissa Mann, Sr. Project Manager, Heritage Development

The Oil Region Alliance will present an Oil History Workshop on Saturday, March 26, from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. at the Oil City Library, located at 2 Central Avenue in Oil City, Pennsylvania. The subject of this free workshop is "Hidden Highway: Natural Gas Pipelines and Distribution Past, Present & Future."

David Waples, Manager of Corporate Communications for National Fuel, will present the program. Author of *The*

Megan Buchman Receives 2011 ORA Heritage Volunteer of the Year Award

By Mike Henderson, Project Manager, Heritage Development



Megan became active as an ORA volunteer during the Phase I construction work of the Tarbell House in the summer of 2009. Being a native of Titusville, she had been interested in the project since her return to Titusville in late 2008, and when she found out that volunteers were needed, she signed up. Megan has been an anchor of support with her work at the Tarbell House. She is definitely not afraid to get dirty, and has helped with tasks such as refinishing the cast iron veranda brackets (which were recycled from Pithole's Bonta House),

Natural Gas Industry in Appalachia, Mr. Waples is a seasoned speaker on the natural gas industry and its history. Using historic images, maps and other visuals, he will conduct a program that is both informative and entertaining.

Randy Seitz, ORA President and COO, stated, "We are pleased to have David Waples host the ORA's first 2011 Oil History Workshop. His knowledge of the natural gas industry's past and present will enlighten us at a time when the Commonwealth is returning to the forefront of energy production."

There is no charge to attend this workshop; however, pre-registration is requested. For additional information about the workshop, or to register, please contact Melissa Mann at (814) 677-3152, ext. 103 or mmann@oilregion.org.

New Hydrant to Create Jobs in the Oil Region

By Deb Lutz, Sr. Project Manager, Economic Development

interior demolition, and restoration of the original wooden windows. In the fall of 2009, Megan offered to lend her expertise and do an archaeological dig in the back yard at the house, where she discovered foundation stones from the original stable and various artifacts likely dating back to the 19th century.

During 2010, Megan volunteered her time to work with the Natural Gas Collection archives. She set up a database and catalogued items that had been received over the past few years, but hadn't yet been catalogued. She photographed each item so the photos could also be included in the database. Also during 2010, Megan accompanied ORA staff and other volunteers to visit the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry & Labor, where museum staff provided a tour of their archives room and facility.

Having someone on-hand for consultation on various preservation projects with Megan's credentials is a very valuable thing: she carries a Master of Arts degree in Historical Archaeology and a Master of Science degree in Forensic Archaeological Science. Her field work includes archaeological surveys, inventories, and other work in both the U.S. and England, where she attended the University of York and University College London. Thank you Megan for all of your support!



George Sigelakis worked as a firefighter in New York City for many years. In this long career he has spent a fair amount of time around fire hydrants and now that George is retired he decided to work to change the fire hydrants that current and future firefighters will get to work with everyday. The new hydrant is truly an amazing feat of engineering that outclasses any fire hydrant currently on the market. The Sigelock Spartan fire hydrant is able to save water, last longer than any current fire hydrant, is more secure, and can create hundreds of jobs in the Oil Region. With Franklin Bronze and several other local manufacturing facilities getting in on the ground floor of the design and manufacturing, there is a lot of potential for job growth right here. The final jobs creation benefit of this project is based on how many hydrants Sigelock can sell. For right now there is definitely a lot of excitement surrounding this project for all [involved](#). If every municipality and township in the Oil Region would consider replacing their current hydrants with the new Sigelock fire hydrant that would be a great show of support for this great product! You can learn more about the hydrant and George himself online at www.sigelock.com or call the

New Year, New Departments, New Faces

By Willis Thomas, MMC Coordinator



The start of 2011 has been exciting here that the Alliance for a number of reasons, and not least of those are the new

employees and new departments here. In pursuit of our aggressive and specific goals set out in our 2011 Plan of Work, we found an opportunity to improve our communication with our customers, stakeholders, and the general public. With that opportunity we brought on a Marketing, Membership, & Communications Coordinator, Willis Thomas, to market the Alliance, to coordinate membership, and to facilitate communication. Another opportunity that presented itself was Venango Video. Through Venango Video we will be able to ensure continuing public access broadcasting here in the Oil Region, which has been going on since 1975. With Venango Video came General Manager Jonathan Wenner. These two new departments have created excitement in future activities as these departments will allow the Oil Region Alliance the opportunity to provide the community with ongoing public access television, and to share the vision, mission, and values of the Oil Region Alliance with the community, our customers, and our stakeholders. If you would like to contact either of the Alliance's newest team members you can reach Willis at wthomas@oilregion.org or 677-3152 ex. 117 and Jonathan at jwenner@oilregion.org or 677-3152 ex. 123

economic development department at ORA to get a packet of information.

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ORA Offers a Wide Range of Non-Fiction Oil Related Books and an Array of Merchandise

By Kim Harris, Project Manager, Heritage Development

Are you looking for books about the history of oil? The Oil Region Alliance carries over 50 non-fiction oil related titles, and likely has exactly what you are looking for. Titles range from easy to read titles such as "Coal Oil Johnny - His Book" to research books like "The Oil Well Driller: History of The Oil Industry of the World."

A number of years ago the Oil Region Alliance reprinted many out-of-print and hard to find titles. In addition, our inventory includes newer written books such as those written by local historian Neil McElwee; the newly released "Pennsylvania Crude" by Paul Adomites and photographer Ed Bernik; Dr. William Brice's Edwin Drake Biography, "Myth, Legend, and Reality"; "A Walk in The Park" by James Delong; and several others.

The Alliance also offers for sale a nice array of oil-related merchandise from CDs and DVDs to clothing attire. So, whether you are looking for a gift or something for yourself, it is definitely worth your time to check out these items.

To see upcoming events in the Oil Region, go



to

www.oilregion.org

and check out the "Event Calendar" on the home page.

If you have suggestions or new ideas you would like to share, feel free to email them to

chairman@oilregion.org.

We welcome input from you, the Oil Region community.

To view the selection of books and merchandise carried by the Oil Region Alliance visit our online stores at www.oilregion.org, or www.oil150.org. You may also contact Kim Harris, Project Manager at 814-677-3152, Ext. 120 or email kharris@oilregion.org and request a catalog. Of course, you're always welcome to drop by the ORA office at 217 Elm Street, Oil City, weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Businesses interested in carrying any of our items in their store or on their website, are invited to contact Mrs. Harris for wholesale pricing and additional information.



Alliance Board of Directors

The Alliance is fortunate to call on some of the most distinguished citizens of the area, its Board of Directors, for guidance. Their visionary reach and wise counsel are among its greatest assets. For a listing of the board members, visit www.oilregion.org, click on "About ORA," then "Board Directory."

Venango Video to Offer New Programming

By Jonathan Wenner, General Manager, Venango Video

Since its inception in 1975, Venango Video has aired over 20,000 hours of quality programming in Venango County. In addition to current programming like "Stethoscope" with Dr. Robert Pilewski, Sam Gordon's "Out & About" and Bryan Hogue's "Sleepy Hollow Theater," Venango Video will be adding new programming to the schedule in the near future. Some of the new programs will include two cooking shows, "Cooking with Papa Tuck" and "The Culinary Kid" and a music program called "World Music" from Link TV. We are always looking for new content that is of interest to the community. If you have an interest in producing your own television program or would like to volunteer, please contact Jonathan Wenner, General Manager of Venango Video at 814-677-3152, ext. 123 or jwenner@oilregion.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Thanks to the Oil Region Alliance's Major Members!



Presidential "America's Great Outdoors" Report Includes Backing for National Heritage Areas

By Marilyn Black, VP Heritage Development



On February 16, 2011, President Barack Obama released a report entitled "America's

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Operated by Gulfstream International Airlines

Great Outdoors: A Promise to Future," which includes a recommendation to make locally-controlled National Heritage Areas like the Oil Region a permanent part of the National Park System.

The outcome of a national conversation involving 51 listening sessions with over 10,000 Americans, the report reflects the American people's ideas about how the Federal Government can better support the many communities, farmers and ranchers, businesses, conservationists, youth, and others who are working to protect the places that matter most to them.

Action Item 8.6c of the report recommends "Establish through legislation clearly defined standards and processes to support a system of regional and community-based national heritage areas that promote locally supported preservation work, promote heritage tourism, and create jobs."

Chairperson of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, Michelle McCollum, responded positively to this recommendation, saying, "Now is the time for legislation which will put in place a system that will encourage local initiative to improve our communities. National Heritage Areas are all about voluntary and cooperative efforts to preserve our communities, create jobs, increase tourism, and enhance our landscapes."

Randy P. Seitz, President of the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism which administers the Oil Region National Heritage Area, added, "National Heritage Areas are on the front lines of preservation, conservation and job creation. Here in northwestern Pennsylvania, we have helped promote major improvements such as rehabilitation of the Tarbell House, linking and lengthening the region's bicycle trails, enhancing scenic overlooks, multiple walking tours, visitor centers, educational symposia, and much [more.](#) We think National Heritage Areas are a good vehicle for local communities to take control of their futures."

The Alliance Thanks These New Members

**RR Hardwoods Inc.
Willis Thomas
Brookdale Family Campground
Integrity Wealth Consulting
Johnson, Mirmirman, & Thompson**

...and These Renewal Members

**Rep. Scott Hutchinson
Wiegel Brother Marine Inc.
Venango Museum
Venango Area Chamber
Moxie Media
WKQW AM/FM
Cranberry Township
Gustafson General Contracting
Franklin Fine Arts Council
Fine Line Design
Red Brick Inn Bed & Breakfast
James & Janet Zehner
Child Development Centers Inc.
Schiffer Excavating Inc.
Janet Aaron
Sharon & George Dorogy
Mark Gammello, DMD**



Gulfstream International Airlines serves Venango Regional Airport with daily flights between Franklin and Cleveland -- Continental Airlines' hub -- with connections to more than 60 locations. Travelers can park for free at the airport while on their trip. There are same day departure and arrival capabilities.

The Alliance urges business and pleasure travelers to use this valuable asset when planning trips.

To FLY Franklin (FKL), simply work with your travel agent, go to your favorite travel web site, or call O.C. Bell at the airport at (814) 432-5333.

Membership benefits everyone that lives, works, and plays in the Oil Region of
Northwestern PA

Find out how you can help your community by calling
814-677-3152 or logging on to www.oilregion.org .

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