We Took the Path Less Traveled

Road Show Brings History to the People

The best way to learn about history and historic preservation is to see where and how it happened. And, on June 11 to 14, over 100 people did just that, gathering in Lewistown to join MPA at the Path Less Traveled: Montana Preservation Road Show.

We packed into old-fashioned yellow school buses, headed out to historical sites across the Judith Basin and visited with locals, experts, and agency people all along the way. We drove and drove and paddled and paddled (despite the wind) to a wide variety of off-the-beaten-path landmarks from tiny homestead towns along the railroad to a remote Missouri Breaks homestead, and further on to breathtaking ancient rock art sites and working barns. Our intrepid Road Show group now has not only a richer understanding of Central Montana’s historic sites, but also a deeper appreciation for these local places as they relate to state and national history.

Back in Lewistown, talks on rock art, ethnographic landscapes, lost and found towns, Main Street preservation and Central Montana’s literature, sparked compelling discussions and encouraged participants to make connections with people and places they might not have thought about before.

We thank all in Lewistown who rolled out the red carpet for us and look forward to another great turnout for our next Road Show in 2016!
NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Farewell to Amy

In June 2004, our good friend Amy Sullivan took the reins as the director of the Montana History Foundation (MHF). During her time with the MHF she accomplished remarkable things – no one could have done more to grow the endowment and mission of the foundation to truly be a strong statewide force, as she always said “for all history in Montana.” She worked hard like the rancher’s daughter that she is, reminding people of the importance of Montana’s heritage, growing the MHF endowment to $1.2 Million, raising funds for the MT Historical Society and the MT Heritage Commission, launching the Foundation’s Preserve Montana Fund and supporting many community projects here at MPA. For all of this we are so grateful, and it is with sadness that we share her news that she has moved to be the Director of Gift Planning for the Montana Community Foundation. They are lucky to have her joining their talented staff. And so farewell to Amy, thank you for all you have done for history in Montana. And most of all, heartfelt thanks for your friendship across the years.

New Project!

Restore MT! Big Sky Rural Preservation Initiative Will Identify AND Preserve

With support from our friends at the Montana History Foundation, MPA is launching the Restore MT! Big Sky Rural Preservation Program, an urgent effort to preserve endangered rural properties throughout Montana. The project will systematically identify historic properties under greatest threat, assess their condition, and provide assistance to rescue, stabilize and preserve them. Our primary focus will be rural properties, where people are most challenged to keep them in good condition and on our landscapes for years to come.

Working thematically to address at-risk properties, MPA will begin with rural schoolhouses. MPA is working against time to preserve them now before they are gone forever.

Mark Your Calendars!

Helena, September 17 @ 5:30 pm
MPA Annual Meeting & Preservation Excellence Awards
Montana Club, 6th & Fuller

Each year MPA throws an elegant party to give our annual report of activities, elect new and returning board members, and honor our state’s latest crop of outstanding preservationists!

Helena, September 18 to 20
41st Annual History Conference
Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena

Join in the celebration of Montana’s territorial sesquicentennial. From 1864 to 1964, Montana’s milestones tell the story of the Treasure State. For information, visit mhs.mt.gov.

Yellowstone National Park, September 31 to Oct 3
Rustic Architecture Preservation Conference
Old Faithful Inn, Yellowstone National Park

Architects, engineers, carpenters and owners of rustic-style buildings will learn from the experts how to preserve and maintain these very special buildings and structures. To register, visit www.PreserveMontana.org/ynprustic.

Helena, September 24 to 26
Montana Downtown Conference
Holiday Inn, Downtown Helena

Harnessing pride, placemaking, and potential is the theme of the 7th Annual Montana Downtowns conference. For details, visit http://mtmainstreet.mt.gov/conference.mcpx
New Preserve Montana Grants
Montana History Foundation Awards $75,000!

MPA is happy to report that the Montana History Foundation (MHF) will give $75,000 to 17 historic preservation projects across Montana. That’s $30,000 more than last year and more power for an inspiring crop of grassroots preservation efforts.

MHF received 46 applications requesting $199,592 in grant funds for total project costs worth $727,457. MHF is able to offer this funding thanks to the support of numerous donors including The Mary Alice Fortin Foundation, Inc. and Charlotte Caldwell through her truly extraordinary book: Visions and Voices: Montana’s One Room Schoolhouses (see below). For more information about the Preserve Montana Funds grants, please visit www.mthistory.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bert Mooney Airport</td>
<td>Restore Charles Lindbergh hangar</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer Lodge Dev. Group</td>
<td>Roof repairs to Hotel Deer Lodge</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Assiniboine Pres. Assoc.</td>
<td>Replace porch on South Guard Stable</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana Tech, Butte</td>
<td>Create, distribute &amp; archive oral history interviews</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>History Dept, Carroll College</td>
<td>Purchase equipment for oral history recording</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Stoneberg Holt</td>
<td>Re-roof Tallow Creek School, near Malta</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monarch/Neihart Historical</td>
<td>Rehabilitate 1902 Great Northern Train Depot</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT Historical Society</td>
<td>Add 1,300 images to MT Memory Project</td>
<td>$4,994.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT Preservation Alliance</td>
<td>Create Big Sky Rural Preservation Program</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Museums Association of MT</td>
<td>Provide Helping Hands outreach to museums applying</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine Mile Community Center</td>
<td>Install wood storm windows on Stark School</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay Scott</td>
<td>Oral histories at Bakken Oil Fields in northeast Montana</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom and Pam Stevens</td>
<td>Rehabilitate Big Elk School, Two Dot</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town of Virginia City</td>
<td>Assess cemetery sites in Virginia City</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Blackfoot Valley Hist. Soc.</td>
<td>Apply wood preservatives to four log buildings</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Swan Valley Hist. Soc.</td>
<td>Complete video series on Swan Valley Lodges</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Heritage Center</td>
<td>Digitize and share 150 historic documents</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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More properties on the National Register of Historic Places means better stewardship of Montana’s most significant buildings and places. Here’s the latest batch of Treasure State listings.

- Helena Historic District Addition: Central School & 7th Avenue Gym
- Montana State University District
- Haight-Bridgwater House, Helena
- Cottonwood Creek Bridge, Fallon Co.
- Yodeler Motel, Red Lodge
- Judith Landing Historic District Boundary Increase, Hayden Paleontological Site, Fergus Co.
- St. Wenceslaus Church, Danvers

New Books Give New Insights

Visions & Voices: Montana’s One-Room Schoolhouses by Charlotte Caldwell sold out in no time! The 2nd edition will arrive in August, just in time for the book to represent MT at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. on Aug 30!

Frank Lloyd Wright in Montana: Darby, Stevensville, and Whitefish by Randall LeCocq, Drumlummon Institute, 2013.


The Stark School at the Nine Mile Community Center near Missoula was awarded $3000 for new wood storm windows.
Threatened Properties Alert

Central School, Helena
With an abrupt about face, the Helena School Board recently decided to demolish Helena’s oldest and most beloved Central Elementary School and 7th Avenue Gym after voting in July 2013 to keep and expand the campus. MPA is working with many in Helena to persuade the Board to retrofit these buildings for modern teaching needs and save this wonderful school and gym. You can offer your comments to the Helena School Board at boardoftrustees@helena.k12.mt.us or call 406-324-2001.

Rainbow Dam Powerhouse, Great Falls
The Rainbow Dam Powerhouse (1909) was the first long-distance power plant in Montana, generating and sending power from Great Falls to Butte and Anaconda. The building now sits unused next to a new powerhouse, and its owner, PPL Montana, wants to sell its Montana interests to Northwestern Energy (NWE). On July 17 at a Public Service Commission hearing, NWE President, Bob Rowe pledged Cascade County $50,000 to fund a feasibility study for adaptive-reuse of the powerhouse in response to a request for support from Cascade County Commissioner, Jane Weber. You can offer your comments at (888) 467-2669 or corp_comm@northwestern.com.
(continued below)

New Look for MPA website!
We love most historic things, but we’re happy to report that we’ve retired our vintage 2001 website and upgraded to a new format. Easier to navigate and smartphone friendly, the new site has handy donation and registration forms, and sports a highly visual format to showcase all the wonderful preservation work happening across the state. And with this new design we’ll be unveiling the Preserve Montana Blog featuring a monthly essay from preservationists across Montana. Be sure to check out the new site at www.PreserveMontana.org and return often!

Mills Hall, Helena
Mills Hall stands proudly as the only building remaining of the MT Deaconness School (now Intermountain) when the campus was located on 11th Ave. The MT Dept. of Administration owns the property and has let it languish. Now, the MT Dept. of Natural Resources (DNRC) is interested to redevelop the property for use as office space. Options outlined in their RFP sadly include full demolition and new construction; or preservation of Mills Hall and an addition. Rather than encourage reuse, the DNRC has stated the high likelihood that Mills Hall will be demolished. The ultimate decision on acceptance of a proposal rests on the State Land Board comprised of the state’s top five elected officials. You can offer your comments to the State Land Board at landboard@mt.gov.