

ALHA

ARKANSAS LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume 5, Issue 2

Winter 2011

Always Striving Higher!

Kristyn Watts
ALHA President

Greetings to all! 2011 saw another awesome conference! This year's conference, held on February 25th – 27th in Little Rock, was a joint conference between ALHA and the Southeastern and Mountain Plains regions of the Association for Living History Farms & Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). Huge thanks go to the conference planning committee for organizing this conference and Old State House Museum, Historic Arkansas Museum and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center for hosting this great conference. Over 130 attendees traveled across the country and from Canada to enjoy Little Rock's historical offerings.

Friday started with the pre-conference workshops, both full and half days, at the Historic Arkansas Museum. People were so excited to get started that they began arriving well before the registration table did! The workshops included David Fowler's ever popular Cooking Workshop who cooked a fantastic stew and pickled carrots for the evening's reception, Billy Nations's Bladesmithing which covered some of his participants with a soot



Evening Banquet at Mosaic Templars Museum in Little Rock

that took hard work to scrub off, and Eve King's Art of Dyeing which produced a beautiful display of dyed yarn seen drying at the evening reception.

The concurrent sessions at the Old State House were very diverse, ranging from the music of Zydeco and Creole cultures, to Arkansas Black Bears, to creating a black powder safety program for your site. A big thanks goes out to all who took the time to present. I was able to sit in on Veronica Weise's session on deciphering historic recipes. I loved seeing the actual recipe, hearing someone try to read it, and then trying to figure out the measurements of the ingredients used. The program really drew not only on the knowledge of Veronica, but of the several cooks in the crowd.

Saturday afternoon saw the return of the fieldtrip, but slightly different from last year. One of the goals for this year's conference was to increase the amount of down-time between events. Comments were heard from last year of how participants were practically pushed from one thing to next because the conference had to stay on such a tight schedule. Well, we took those comments to heart and I hope this year gave everyone ample time to get from one event to the next without difficulties. We would not have been able to make this change if it wasn't for those who filled out the overall conference evaluations, so please fill out your evaluation for this year's conference if

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6, 2011; 12pm – 1pm

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture: 'General acclamation shook the building to its very foundations!' Arkansas and the Firing on Fort Sumter.

Old State House Museum

Dr. Michael Dougan will discuss Arkansas's reaction to the firing on Ft. Sumter in April, 1861.

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

Ian Beard

300 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

501-324-8642

ian@arkansasheritage.org

April 9, 2011

Primitive Fishing

Cardon Settlement Park

Conway, Arkansas

Come and enjoy a day of fishing off the Arkansas River.

Admission: FREE

CONTACT:

Ree Walker

513-315-1149

reewalker@hotmail.com

April 16, 2011; 9am—1pm

Battle of Fayetteville Commemoration

Headquarters House Museum

Enjoy a variety of day's activities related to the commemoration of the Battle of Fayetteville, Arkansas. This event is part of the celebrations during the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Admission: FREE

CONTACT:

DeeDee Lamb

118 East Dickson, Fayetteville, AR 72458

479-409-9654

dd.lamb@sbcglobal.net

Visions of the Conference!



Several members received different levels of training approved by the Arkansas Living History Association



A wonderful pig was provided for the evening Awards Banquet!!!



Attendees of the conference enjoyed a variety of field trips in the Little Rock Area such as Toltec Mounds.

April 23, 2011

Civil War Commemoration Event
Fort Smith National Historic Site

The 150th anniversary of the Civil War is upon us. For the next five years the entire nation will be taking part in remembering and reevaluating the effect the Civil War had on America. Fort Smith is no different! On April 23, 1861 Confederate forces from Little Rock successfully took Fort Smith without firing a shot. They would control Fort Smith for more than two years. Exactly 150 years after Fort Smith originally fell, April 23 of 2011, will mark Confederate Occupation Day. Come visit us at the Fort Smith NHS and enjoy a day of living history vignettes and adult and children's programs involving infantry, artillery, and cavalry. Come and see us! Admission: FREE

CONTACT:

Jeremy Lynch
301 Parker Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72902
479-783-3961
Jeremy_lynch@nps.gov

April 30 – May 1, 2011

Museum Open House
White County Historical Society

Enjoy living history programs and other activities during this weekend celebration. Living Historians needed!

CONTACT:

Melinda Lafavers
mlaf@sbcclobal.net

April 30, 2011; 9am – 5pm

Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Kickoff
Old State House Museum

Join us for Arkansas's official kickoff for the five year commemoration of the U.S. Civil War's 150th anniversary. Living historians and re-enactors from around the state will help recreate the May 6, 1861 secession vote, Arkansas militia and state troops preparing for war, flag presentations, theatrical performances, dancing, and other aspects of life in 1861. Governor Mike Beebe will also be present to issue a proclamation, and AETN will show their new documentary "Remembering the Civil War in Arkansas."

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

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ian@arkansasheritage.org

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you haven't done so. If you need another copy of it, you can find it on the Downloads page of our website at www.livinghistory.org. Thanks to all the van drivers and hosts of the fieldtrips!

Saturday closed with a bang! The Awards Banquet held at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center brought out the true colors (or costumes/outfits/ensembles) of the attendees. It also saw the return of the silent auction. We enjoyed a whole hog for dinner and then cleared the way for dancing provided by Roscoe, Lee & Abadie. The annual Parade of Clothes was a great hit with everyone receiving a huge round of applause as we walked across the linoleum stage. Thank you to all who participated; it's great to see the varying time period and impressions.

Sunday's Business meeting brought about change in our Board members. Ian Beard, Kristyn Watts, and Billy Nations were term-limited out of their positions, and Ben Swadley and Danielle Russell both had to step down from their positions due to changes in their lives. Kristyn Watts, our former secretary, was voted as new president to replace Ian. Brooke Malloy from the Old State House Museum replaced Kristyn as Secretary. Ben Swadley, former Region 2 Rep was voted to Replace Danielle as Region 1 rep. Ian Beard, former President, was voted to replace Ben as Region 2 Rep. George Staples from Historic Washington State Park was voted to replace Billy Nations as Region 4 Rep.

Overall, I think it was a great start to the 2011 year. Our membership continues to grow with new people, impressions and knowledge being introduced to ALHA. One of the chief reasons why the association was created in the first place was to foster communication, education and connections with Living Historians. I'm looking forward to next year's conference to be held in Fayetteville, hosted by the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History among other museums and sites. I'm also looking forward to possibly seeing more educational opportunities offered in each region, from workshops designed specifically for ALHA members to simply reminding members of professional development opportunities being offered at local museums, sites, and parks. If anyone has any comments or questions regarding ALHA, please feel free to contact me. Hope to see you in Fayetteville next spring!

**SAVE THE PLACE!!!
2012 ALHA CONFERENCE
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS**

May 6, 2011; 9am – 3pm

Impact of the Civil War
Hot Springs National Park

Find out how the Civil War affected everyone who lived in Arkansas. Living historians will present characters involved in these trying times.

Admission: FREE

CONTACT:

Gail Sears

501-620-6715

hosp_interpretation@nps.gov

May 21, 2011; 9am – 5pm

Armed Forces Day at Washington
Historic Washington State Park

The service and sacrifice of soldiers is timeless. This special day is set aside to remember the soldiers who fought in wars that have impacted our country since its founding, particularly the time periods interpreted here at the park. There will be exhibits and first person living history attractions related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Texas Revolution, Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Wars, and World Wars I and II. Representatives of the current military will also be on hand. Help us to honor those that have fought for our freedom. Living Historians needed! Admission: Regular Tour Price

CONTACT:

Billy Nations

PO Box 129, Washington, AR 71862

870-983-2860

Billy.nations@arkansas.gov

June 11, 2011; 10am – 4pm

Arkansas Statehood 175th Anniversary
Commemoration
Old State House Museum

Visit Arkansas at the time of statehood as living historians recreate both everyday and political life in the summer of 1836. Merchants, entertainers, politicians, lawyers, doctors, and assorted other characters from Arkansas past will be present to interact with in a historical setting.

Admission: Free.

CONTACT:

Ian Beard

300 W. Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

501-324-8642

ian@arkansasheritage.org

**Put your event or program in the ALHA
Calendar. Send your Summer Event
submissions for the Spring newsletter by**

May 1.

Who's Who!!!

Kristyn Watts ALHA President

We have recently elected a new President of the Arkansas Living History Association. Her name is Kristyn Watts. Many of you of course have met or know Kristyn. She has been a major support to the founding and continuation of this organization. For those of you though, that have not met her, below is brief biography of her. Make sure to get to know your Regional Representatives and express any events or programs you would like to see in your area of the state or part of ALHA.



Kristyn is the Park Interpreter at Powhatan Historic State Park located in northeast Arkansas just south of Black Rock on the Black River. She has been involved with living history to some extent all of her life and even more since joining Arkansas State Parks in 2002.

The time periods she focuses on are the latter half of the 19th century through WWII. At Powhatan, the majority of our buildings were built around 1888 and so we focus on that time period up to WWI. I am the Commanding Officer of the 12 Army Group (AG) Womens Army Corp (WAC) Detachment of the 84th Railsplitters Living History Company located out of Columbia, Missouri.

Welcome to our new ALHA President!!!

Congratulations!

Outstanding Living History
Event of 2010

“Tulip Academy”
Northeast Arkansas Living Historians



Outstanding Living History
Character of 2010

GEORGE STAPLES
“Abraham Block”
Historic Washington State Park



JOIN THE NEW ALHA FACEBOOK PAGE!



SEE PICTURES FROM
THE RECENT JOINT
ALHA/SEALHFAM
CONFERENCE

POST YOUR OWN PICTURES OF
THE CONFERENCE ON
FACEBOOK AND BECOME A
FRIEND!!!

2011 ALHA Officers

President	Kristyn Watts kristyn.watts@arkansas.gov
Vice President	Barbara Ward barbara@arkansasheritage.org
Secretary	Brooke Malloy brooke@arkansasheritage.org
Treasure	Debra Browning histreenactors@wmconnect.com
Comm. Dir.	Josh Williams josh.williams@arkansas.gov

District Representatives

District 1	Ben Swadley ben.swadley@arkansas.gov
District 2	Ian Beard ian@arkansasheritage.org
District 3	Pody Gay pgay@springdaleark.gov
District 4	George Staples george.staples@arkansas.gov

Arkansas Living History Association 2011 Membership Registration

Name: _____
Institution: _____
Position: _____
Street: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
FAX: _____ Web site: _____

Type of Membership:

___ **Individual: \$12** Any adult, 18 yrs of age or older. The member shall have full voting privileges in the ALHA as a general member.

___ **Institutional: \$50** This includes 5 members with full voting privileges. \$10 per additional member over the first 5.

_____ Number of Additional Members X \$10 = _____

Please list the 5 members to receive the newsletter and their email addresses:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Help us learn more about you.

Periods of Interest: _____

Areas of Interest: _____

What you would like to receive from ALHA: (this will help us develop training opportunities, meetings, workshops, etc.)

Please make Checks Payable to: ALHA

Please send Registration along with Payment to:

Kristyn Watts, Secretary

PO Box 93

Powhatan. AR 72458