A WORD IN EDGEWISE

By Chris Beyer, Director of Preservation Eastern

Last January, The Michigan Historic Preservation Network in collaboration with Partners for Sacred Places, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization committed to the preservation of religious architecture, kicked off a state-wide initiative to help congregations with historic buildings address historic preservation issues.

This program, known as New Dollars/New Partners, consists of four training sessions that teach the participants how to develop a case statement, identify and make use of their resources, and effectively conduct internal and external fund raising. While Partners has been conducting this program for several years now, this is the very first time that they have done it on a statewide scale. It is also unique because it was done in conjunction with a secular institution, MHPN, rather than a religious entity, such as a Catholic diocese. As a result, the planning committee worked to recruit as many faith groups as possible. While the program drew a diverse array of Christian congregations, the planners hope that future initiatives will include Jewish and Muslim congregations.

I have had the good fortune to be a part of this program from the beginning. I participated in the selection process, attended the workshops, and have been serving at the "coach" for one of the participant congregations. I have learned a lot about practical preservation issues and fund raising from this experience.

In October MHPN and Partners hosted a follow up session with the congregations to gauge the effectiveness of the program. The response was very positive with many congregations making unsolicited pledges to help fund a second year of ND/NP for more faith organizations. I am hopeful that programs like this will help to preserve some of the most beautiful and endangered historic structures in our communities.

PRESERVATION IN OUR BACKYARD

By Meredith Long

Would you like to spend your weekend in an old toilet?

Take a look at "Scott's Privy Page" www.privymaster.org

Scott O'Neal and his partner Dan Argentati operate Urban Archaeologists, a part-time hobby business that locate and excavate old privys. As most of you well know, privies are an excellent source for archaeological material as many were used as garbage dumps for individual homes. When ceramics broke they were thrown in. When a bottle was emptied it was thrown in. Once homes were updated with indoor plumbing, nature took over and covered the Privy. Scott says outhouses "are in their own way time capsules, guarding their surplus with the utmost keen of disguises". It is his passion to reveal the true nature of these spots.

Scott O'Neal is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in Aviation Management. He is a commercial pilot employed at Willow Run and excavates privies in his spare time. If you take a look at his website, you can read the journal entries from digs all over the region. Many from our own backyard!
PRESERVATION POINTS TO PONDER

Compiled by Preservation Eastern Members

Riverfront Development: Back in the Building
By John Gallagher


For all those who keep abreast on Detroit’s revitalization, this article is a must read. It is exciting information about the Globe Trading Co. and its $15 million redevelopment deal. This will greatly impact the waterfront and help preserve and important part of Detroit’s history. This building is testament to a once thriving shipbuilding center here in the 1860’s.

Historic Candle Factory Adds Sparkle to New Kids Books

http://www.prweb.com/releases/2006/10/prweb453940.htm

This article illustrates how important identity is for a community. A small book publisher in Davison, Michigan decided to incorporate a local historic candle factory into their children’s book series. To both companies surprise, they were a huge success. The book series was picked up by a national distributor and the candle factory is experiencing new support from the community. Support Michigan Art and preservation- consider ordering their books (or perhaps locally made candles) this year for the holidays!

Loans to Poor Could Help Revitalize Detroit
By Cecil Angel


This article is about duplicating loan programs in some developing nations to help revitalize Detroit Communities. It is based on the concept of “micro loans” and would directly impact individuals that often do not qualify for conventional loans.

BASF Announces $100 Million Facility Relocation to Michigan


During days of deep rooted fears that Michigan is losing its manufacturing base, this is calming news. BASF is relocating from Wisconsin to Wyandotte. The news gets better as it is acknowledged that they will remediate and develop a Brownfield site for their new facility.

"DO IT BECAUSE YOU LOVE IT. YOU WON‘T GET RICH BUT YOU CAN MAKE A COMFORTABLE LIVING AND ENJOY GOING TO WORK”
-RICK FINCH
RYAN'S ADVENTURES WITH MDOT—THE THRILLING CONCLUSION

By: Ryan Schumaker

Currently I have been researching the first state funded road called a "state reward road," located on M-81 in Tuscola County. MDOT wants to place a Michigan State Historic Marker on the road to commemorate the construction and dedication of the road. The major project that has just had its official kickoff is the 2006 Historic Bridge Inventory for the state. This project will be reviewing all the bridges in Michigan and creating a database in which to organize historic bridges in the state. The project will conclude in about one year and I will be assisting in the process.

The experience at MDOT has been very informative and has given me a great deal of experience in the real world. I now more fully understand how the Section 106 process works and how it is applied to projects, like building and repairing roadways. The job is never boring and is always changing. While doing research I have learned of several more sources that I had not known about before. I have also been able to apply what I have learned in the classes, like Research Techniques, to this experience. This assistantship is a great experience and I recommend it to anyone who wants real world experience while still in school.

WIESEL BRIDGE PROJECT

By Meredith Long

Over the summer I participated in a Heritage conservation Network Program near Quakerstown Pennsylvania, helping restore a masonry bridge. It is a pedestrian bridge from the turn of the nineteenth century and we diverted the creek, removed incompatible mortar, mixed appropriate Lime mortar, rebuilt sections of the walls and repaired the collapsed arch. It was a big job but with the help of a few local masons, our supervisor master mason Andy deGruchy and twenty volunteers, the job was done in the allotted time. Not bad for a group of volunteers! Mr. deGruchy went out of his way to educate us on the chemical principles behind masonry and made even the novice feel welcomed and skilled. Our hosts, the Weisel Hostel, also went out of their way to appreciate our work and welcome us.

I feel this is one of the best projects I have ever been affiliated with. Not only did we get to preserve a bridge for future use, but I got to be part of a community event that will be talked about for years to come. I am now part of the bridge's history. I would highly recommend to all of our students to take advantage of this program—especially if you need to fill a Mat Con 2 requirement! It is an amazing opportunity to learn hands on preservation and network with colleagues and experts. The fact that these hands on workshops are held around the world only serves to make them more attractive. Make a difference, volunteer!
Preservation Eastern is an active student organization affiliated with Eastern Michigan University's award winning graduate program in Historic Preservation. Taking part in Preservation Eastern activities allows members to gain valuable practical experience in the many different areas of the historic preservation field.

Fall 2006 Board Members:

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Annual membership dues are fifteen dollars ($15.00) per person. Please contact the Business Officer for more information.

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Want to join Preservation Eastern? Lovingly dubbed "PE" by its members, Preservation Eastern has a lot to offer, both professionally and socially!

Applications are available in the PE folder on Dr. Ted's door. Pick up one today!

Membership in Preservation Eastern can make you a stronger candidate when interviewing for HP jobs!