



Ohio's Hill Country Creates Resource Council

Shawnee, Ohio – January 13, 2010 ----- Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area is seeking members for its newly created Heritage Resource Council. Members of the council will serve as community resources and provide information and advice about heritage issues to local organizations, communities and individuals.

OHCHA is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 that works to enhance the quality of life for Appalachian Ohio residents by promoting the conservation, protection, and appropriate development of the historical, cultural and recreational resources that make the region unique.

The purpose of the Heritage Council is to create a network of experts and is open to all residents and nonprofit organizations in the 31-country Appalachian Ohio.

“It's hard to get to know everyone working on heritage issues in every county within the heritage area,” board member Tim Traxler said. “Lots of important expertise presently goes unnoticed and untapped. Building a network of like-minded individuals will make it easier to share information and, we hope, spur more interest and projects.”

Heritage Council members and their areas of expertise will be listed on the OHCHA website (www.ohiohillcountry.org) so people can contact them directly and seek information and advice about their specific areas of expertise. For example, community members can contact Tom Johnson, Mayor of Somerset Village and OHCHA board member, if they need expert heritage preservation and development opinion regarding local government, grant writing, or understanding funding sources for civic and preservation projects, as Johnson has experience with each.

Other current members of the Heritage Council include Tom O'Grady, president of the Athens Historical Society and an instructor of astronomy for Ohio University, who is especially interested in saving Native American historical sites, John Winnenberg, a founder of the Little Cities of the Black Diamonds project, who actively works on many restoration projects such as the Shawnee Opera House renovation, and Amy Grove, an Ohio State University Extension Agent, who is an excellent resource on community development and tourism.

People with knowledge about heritage projects in general, and also in specific areas such as barn restoration, coal mining, watershed protection, are invited to become part of the Heritage Council network.

Visit www.ohiohillcountry.org for more information.