



# RIVERS OF STEEL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



February 2009

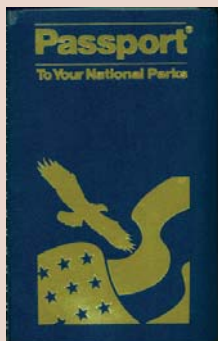
## Thank You!

Rivers of Steel gratefully acknowledges these patrons who have donated artifacts, photographs or documents to our archives in December 2008 and January 2009:

Elizabeth Beres, Bonnie Johnson, Jeanie Little, Vonie Long, Timothy Merrill, Jack and Jolene Polaritz, Michael Pratt, Keith Roessing, and Charles Williams, Jr.

## National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes

Rivers of Steel recently became the first organization in the Pittsburgh area to carry the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass. The annual pass is available to the general public and provides access to Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance fee such as nearby Fort Necessity and Harper's Ferry. Annual passes can be purchased online at [www.riversofsteel.com](http://www.riversofsteel.com). Lifetime passes for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over with permanent disabilities are available in person at the Bost Building, 623 E. 8th Avenue, Homestead, PA or at any participating Federal recreation site.



The perfect companion to the annual pass is the *Passport to Your National Parks*, a compact guidebook that makes it easy to learn about and explore national park sites and national heritage areas. The passport includes color-coded maps for specific regions in the country, pre-visit information, illustrations and photos. It also includes a free map and guide to the national parks. Spaces in each

region are designated for you to collect cancellation stamps at each national park site you visit.

For more information about the Annual Pass or the *Passport to Your National Parks*, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

## 2009 Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Grant Program

The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, in conjunction with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announces that applications are now available for the 2009 Pennsylvania Heritage Park Grant Program. To be considered for a 2009 grant, completed applications must be received by 3:00 pm on April 3, 2009.

Applicants to the grant program are required to address how their project correlates with the industrial heritage themes identified in the Rivers of Steel Management Action Plan. Projects must also be located in the counties of the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland.

Grant applications must also show the ability to complete the proposed project within the grant period. Higher priority will be afforded to organizations that have their match funding in-hand or officially committed.

For an application form and additional information, call Jeff Leber at 412-464-4020 x35.

## Jim Kapusta - 2008 Volunteer of the Year

When Rivers of Steel began offering Hard Hat Tours of Carrie Furnaces, Jim Kapusta became one of the former blast furnace workers to volunteer to interpret the historic furnaces. After more than three decades as a U.S. Steel employee at the Carrie Furnaces, Jim became a tour guide, sharing memories and recalling experiences that give visitors to the National Historic Landmark a sense of what it was like to labor on a blast furnace. A popular personality with visitors, Jim dons his old hot suit for the tours and demonstrates a series of jobs he performed daily at the furnaces.



Rivers of Steel honored Jim and his commitment to preserving southwestern Pennsylvania's industrial and cultural heritage at its annual volunteer appreciation event. His name will be added to the Rivers of Steel's Volunteer of the Year plaque.

Travel and Tourism Economic Summit  
The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) was one of the 40 travel and tourism entities that met in Washington, D.C. on December 16, 2008 to collaborate on the formation of an economic stimulus plan for President Obama's Transition Team. The plan identified immediate top priorities that would help stimulate our nation's economy through increased travel and tourism activities.

Travel and tourism generates 17 million jobs and \$1.7 trillion annually in economic activity in the U.S. The ANHA contributed its insight to one of the fastest growing segments of the travel industry, cultural and heritage tourism. Cultural and heritage tourism is travel directed towards experiencing the arts, heritage, and special character of a region. Celebrating the special character and distinctiveness of a region is a core mission for National Heritage Areas. It makes the ANHA uniquely positioned to offer fresh perspectives on the relationship between the preservation of heritage sites and the economic development that results from tourism in small communities across the United States.

## Rivers of Steel Welcomes Project Assistant Stephanie Boyle

Rivers of Steel welcomes Project Assistant Stephanie Boyle, a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. In January 2006, Boyle contacted Rivers of Steel Cultural Resources Specialist Julie Throckmorton about participating in Westminster College's job shadowing program. As a graduate of Westminster and a former participant in the job shadowing program, Throckmorton was



excited to have Boyle come to Rivers of Steel to learn about her job. Two years later, Boyle once again contacted Rivers of Steel to provide her skills and knowledge through an internship: she assisted with grant writing; transcribing; planning and attending grant workshops; helping to type "The Cookie Cookbook" (a student project partnership with Propel

School in Homestead); and working on the Tradition-Bearers radio series website.

Boyle, an Intercultural Studies Major and History Minor, graduated from Westminster College in August 2008. Currently, Boyle is updating the Routes to Roots Driving Guide focusing on ethnic, cultural, and industrial sites in the region, and will be aiding Rivers of Steel staff with grant writing, grant management, and the creation of a teacher-training course based on the new *Hidden in Plain Sight* curriculum in the folk and traditional arts.

## Donations

The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area Museum and Archives collection is always growing, thanks to donations of individuals, businesses, cultural institutions and corporations. These donations help us fulfill our mission to preserve, interpret and promote the industrial heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania. Accepted donations must relate to Rivers of Steel's mission to preserve records and artifacts of industrial, social, and cultural significance to communities within the Heritage Area (which includes Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties). Examples of items in our collection include:

- Photographs, films, video and other multimedia
- Clothing (industrial and cultural)
- Tools and equipment
- Personal items such as Union and ID badges or cards
- Books and manuscripts
- Brochures, pamphlets, magazines and other ephemera

If you have artifacts or documents that you are interested in donating, please contact [rbaraff@riversofsteel.com](mailto:rbaraff@riversofsteel.com) or [temig@riversofsteel.com](mailto:temig@riversofsteel.com), or call 412-464-4020.