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Delaware Greenways and Scenic America Host Scenic Conservation Workshop for the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway

- New Visitors Guide Launched -

- Byway Management Committee Named -

Wilmington, DE (October 7, 2009) - Delaware Greenways and Scenic America are hosting a two-day Scenic Conservation Workshop beginning today at the Goodstay Center of the University of Delaware designed to educate area opinion leaders and key stakeholders within the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway corridor on the importance of preserving and enhancing the visual qualities of the Byway. The Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway encompasses routes 52 and 100 from Delaware to Pennsylvania; it was designated as the first national scenic byway in the state in 2005. Delaware Greenways had been selected by America's Byways™ Resource Center as one of six Byway organizations nationwide to host a Scenic Conservation Workshop in conjunction with Scenic America, which is based in Washington, DC. A luncheon symposium on the second day of the workshop will be held at Winterthur.

“The workshop kicks off the development of a scenic conservation plan for the byway by Delaware Greenways,” said Mark Chura, Delaware Greenways executive director.

“Delaware is the only state without a national park; however, we do have one of the most beautiful and historic national scenic byways – our goal is to maintain and enhance it for generations to come.”

This planning effort is intended to help identify and provide a variety of land preservation options and design guideline tools to permanently protect important view sheds in the Brandywine Valley, and shape growth in a manner that is compatible with the intrinsic qualities of the Byway when development occurs.

"The America's Byways Resource Center is pleased to provide this opportunity to the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway to augment their scenic conservation planning," said Brad Cownover, Scenic America director of conservation services.

In conjunction with the workshop, a new visitors guide for the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway will be unveiled and a management committee for the Byway will be established.

Copies of the new visitors guide for the region, funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will be distributed through the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau. The 19-page, full-color brochure highlights the Byway attractions and lists 18 specific points of interest. The visitors guide can be viewed at the Delaware Greenways website: www.delawaregreeways.org.

Delaware Transportation Secretary, Carolann Wicks, a keynote speaker for the workshop, said, "We applaud the Delaware Greenways on their new comprehensive visitor's guide to the beautiful Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway. This guide captures the natural beauty and unique features of this byway and entices visitors to make the trip to Delaware and through the Brandywine Valley."

The Byway management committee will be co-chaired by Mark Chura and local businessman, Sam Hobbs. Other members of the committee include: Halsey Spruance, Delaware Museum of Natural History; Sarah Willoughby, Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau; Warren Scott, Buckley's Tavern & Centreville DRAC; Gary Linarducci, Highlands Community Association; Ellie Maroney, Kennett Pike Association; Gail Van Gilder, Delaware Greenways; Chris McEvilly, Citizens for Responsible Growth; David Shields, Brandywine Conservancy, Nancy Borda, Byway resident; and Ledee Lickle

Wakefield, The Inn at Montchanin. Delaware Greenways will administer the management committee.

About Scenic America

Scenic America is the only national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated solely to preserving and enhancing the visual character of America's communities and countryside. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. www.scenic.org

About Delaware Greenways

Delaware Greenways is a statewide non-profit organization committed to the preservation and enhancement of Delaware's natural, scenic, historical, cultural and recreational resources. www.delawaregreenways.org

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