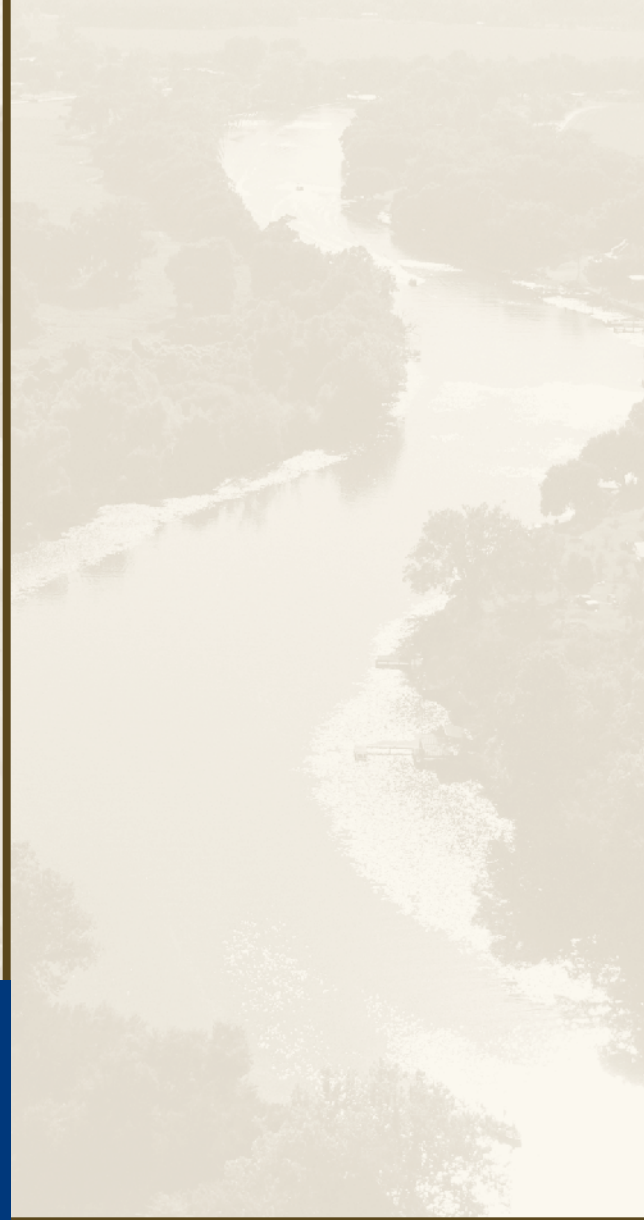




2011
ANNUAL REPORT
CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



CONTENTS

Letter to Friends	3
Economic Impact	4-5
Cane River National Heritage Area	6
Heritage Partnership Program	7
Community Development	8-10
Historic Preservation	11
Marketing and Media	12
Financials	13
Looking Forward	14
Heritage Partners	15



DEAR FRIENDS

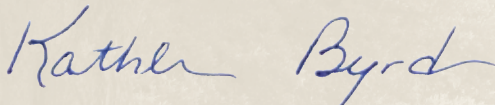
*I*t's been a year of transition that presented both challenges and opportunities for Cane River National Heritage Area. CRNHA, Inc. completed its first year as a non-profit and while federal funding is uncertain for all Heritage Areas, CRNHA continues its mission to preserve and promote the Cane River region.

Building toward a more progressive, well-rounded organization, CRNHA incorporated modern and innovative strategies that promote sustainable growth and economic development within our communities. We have begun the strategic planning process for a new interactive website that will allow our visitors to experience the region virtually. In addition, we collaborated with our heritage partners to develop the *Explore LA Crossroads* iPhone application. We are also approaching the final phase in our scenic byway signage program that includes the production of new user friendly brochures and trail signs for the Cane River National Heritage Trail.

Last year CRNHA met its goals in historic preservation, cultural and landscape conservation, and natural resource initiatives while exploring different avenues to impact the region. These achievements could not be accomplished without the power of local, state, and federal partnerships. Such relationships highlight the importance of working together to achieve quality results in these economically challenging times.

We hope you enjoy this report. It clearly demonstrates the cooperative efforts and excellent partnerships that are characteristic of Natchitoches Parish and provides a distinct overview of the efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of the Cane River region.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Byrd, Chair
Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

National heritage areas expand on traditional approaches to business development, tourism, education, conservation, preservation and recreation by creating networks committed to developing projects that are locally designed, locally implemented and locally sustained.

The work of national heritage areas has continued to strengthen local economies and promote a pride of place among residents, showing a remarkable return on the federal investment to the program.

(Alliance of National Heritage Areas, 2009 Overview)

Overall, in 2010 activities with the Department of Interior lands provided more than **2.2 million jobs** for Americans, which generated **\$377 billion in economic activity**.

Over **285 million people** visited National Parks, Monuments, Heritage Areas, and Recreation Areas in 2010, which supported **246,956 jobs** and provided more than **\$31 million** in economic activity.

The National Park Service invested **\$107.2 million** into 23 National Heritage Areas from

1984 to 2003 generating **\$261.7 million in private sector investment** – a return of more than **two dollars** for every **one dollar** of NPS funding invested.

Economic activity resulting from federal historic preservation tax credits supports **61,200 jobs**, **\$6.6 billion in economic activity** and generated **\$935 million in tax revenues**.

Heritage travelers traveled more frequently than others and spent an average of **\$1050 per trip**, contributing more than **\$203 billion annually** to the U.S. economy.

Every **\$1 million invested** in residential historic rehabilitation generates approximately **36 jobs**, **\$1.24 million in income** and nearly **\$200,000 in state and local taxes**.

Properties in historic districts have increased values, generally around **20% higher** than other similar properties elsewhere.

(Figures provided by the “The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation in the United States” The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 2011)



Cane River National Heritage Area is creating partnerships that include governmental agencies, philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, non-profit groups and private citizens, all engaged toward the same goal of preserving, protecting and sustaining the economic vitality of our community.

Over 14 million people have visited Cane River National Heritage Area, and volunteers have worked over 200,000 hours within the area.

Over \$1 million in local funds has been awarded which leveraged over \$21 million in additional funds.

Partnership development has increased beyond 500 partners through formal and informal cooperative agreements.

Partnership endeavors has successfully managed over 200 educational programs with more than 32,000 participants.



CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

AUTHORIZATION

Cane River National Heritage Area was established on November 2, 1994 by Public Law 103-449; 16 U.S.C. 410. Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. succeeded Cane River National Heritage Area Commission as the federally-approved management entity on August 6, 2010.

MANAGEMENT

CRNHA is governed by a nonprofit board of directors representing area historic sites, cultural organizations, businesses and government.

MISSION

CRNHA embraces a mission to facilitate and implement the programs and policies specified in the enabling legislation which created the Cane River National Heritage Area. More specifically, CRNHA supports preservation, conservation, and educational programs within the Cane River region that lead to recognition and appreciation of the cultural legacy of the Cane River people and their community.

VISION

To be the agent of change that fosters protection, awareness and development of traditional lifestyles, the natural and built environment and a healthy economy compatible with the historic character of the region.

REGIONAL RECOGNITION

CRNHA continues to promote heritage tourism for visitors to ensure a remarkable experience that demonstrates the past, present, and future in the Cane River region.

The City of Natchitoches has been recognized for its efforts by being named:

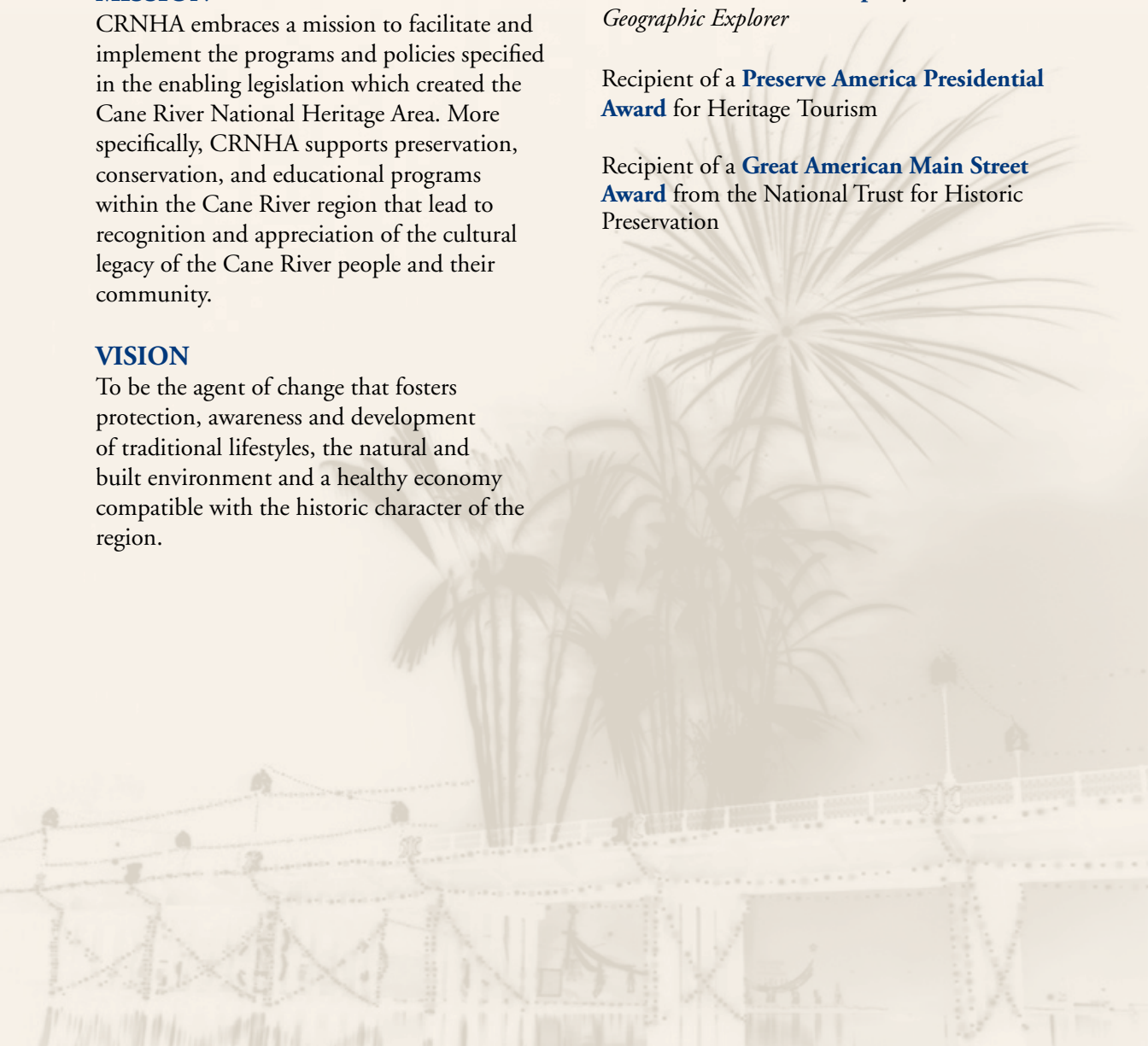
A **Distinctive Destination** by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

A **Top Ten Bargain Retirement Spot** by *U.S. News & World Report*

One of **12 Great Road Trips** by *National Geographic Explorer*

Recipient of a **Preserve America Presidential Award** for Heritage Tourism

Recipient of a **Great American Main Street Award** from the National Trust for Historic Preservation



HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The National Park Service's **Heritage Partnership Program** contributes to the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and the provision of educational and recreational benefits for the American people through partnership programs. National heritage areas receive their funding through this program.

A sample of Cane River National Heritage Area activities utilizing Heritage Partnership Program funding in FY 2011 included:

Resurvey and assessment of the **Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District** to update existing files and create new data for a comprehensive GIS database.

Preliminary planning and assessment to convert the **Old Bermuda Bridge** to a pedestrian walking trail adjacent to Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Oakland Unit.

Initial environmental assessment of the **Old Natchitoches Parish Courthouse** for hazardous materials remediation.

Provided support in partnership with Cane River Creole National Historical Park, National Park Foundation and Louisiana State Museum for the creation of **World of Cane River**, an exhibit showcasing rural life along Cane River.

Continued administrative support for the **Creole Heritage Center** and its goal to digitize their archive for public research.

Final restoration phase of **Yucca House** renovation project that included elevation of the structure, rebuilding chimneys, interior and exterior wall treatments.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Competitive Grant Programming

remains instrumental in engaging the community in heritage development. It has provided over \$1,000,000 in support for projects poised to become conduits for sustainable economic growth within our community.

Cane River Creoles in the 21st Century, a photo essay celebrating rural life and the people of Cane River.



Natchitoches Parish African American Cultural Heritage Initiative Summer Art Program brought students together with Parisian artist Oumaroe Tajore to explore Cane River history and art.



Construction of Jefferson Street pocket park as an entrance to the National Historic Landmark District within the City of Natchitoches.

Investigation into the origins of indigenous populations at the Spanish colonial site of the Los Adaes mission and presidio.

Publication of a manuscript on the foodways and traditions of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, Louisiana.

3rd Annual Louisiana Studies Conference entitled, “Louisiana Fictions” with Louisiana’s Poet Laureate, Julie Kane, as a keynote speaker.

Special Awards are granted by CRNHA during the year to our heritage partners. These monetary awards contribute to their cultural initiatives.

Northwestern State University, Louisiana Folklife Center: 32nd annual Louisiana Folklife Festival

Cane River Creole National Historical Park: 2nd Annual Cane River Music Festival

Cane River Creole National Historical Park: Christmas Down River Celebration

Cultural Lore, Inc.: Louisianan Civil War Homefront: African American Experiences

Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association: DeBlieux Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Project

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site: Educational Exhibit Enhancement

Northwestern State University, Cultural Resource Office: Military Heritage Assessment and Tour of the Cane River National Heritage Area, Phase II

Northwestern State University, NACAN: Native American Powwow



Cultural Conservation Initiatives link the diverse cultural history of the area with local, regional, and national audiences.

The World of Cane River: An exhibit featuring rural life in Natchitoches Parish was showcased at the Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge in the summer of 2011.

Scenic Byway Signage:

CRNHA completed the third phase of signage for the Cane River Heritage Trail, a Louisiana scenic byway.



Civil War Task Force:

CRNHA was invited to serve on the Lieutenant Governor's Civil War task force charged with developing a state commemoration of its 150th anniversary.

Landscape Conservation Initiatives

focus on educating the public and establishing partnerships to implement practices that preserve and promote the sensitive development of culturally-rich landscapes.

National Historic Landmark District

Resurvey: CRNHA contracted with Coastal Environments, Inc. to resurvey and update all properties within the National Historic Landmark District.

Vascular Plant Survey: CRNHA and Cane River Creole NHP continue its partnership with Auburn University's Alabama Natural Heritage Program to conduct seasonal investigations of the area's flora species.

Urban Ecology Roundtable: CRNHA and National Center for Preservation Technology and Training hosted an urban ecology roundtable that brought together leading experts in historic preservation, urban redevelopment, and community planning to discuss models of sustainable redevelopment for rural areas.

Healthy Living Initiatives connects the changes in landscapes with changes in our lives and includes a measure of social and individual well being that can enhance the impact of conservation on local communities.



Natchitoches Parish Community Gardens:

A grant through The Rapides Foundation will assist CRNHA in developing three community gardens within Natchitoches Parish food desert areas to enhance each community by increasing its livability and sustainability.

Natural Resource Initiatives are a critical component of preserving the natural and cultural resources of the Cane River region.

Earth Day 2011, Greening Our

Communities: CRNHA's Natchitoches Parish African American Cultural Heritage Initiative assisted in the planting of over 300 trees and landscape cleanup throughout the Parish on Earth Day.



Cane River Clean-up: In an effort to clean the banks of the Cane River, volunteers gathered trash, sorted recyclables and sifted for "historic trash" (glass bottles, pottery, etc.).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Creole Heritage Center received funding for administrative support and community based research projects. In 2011, the Center continued its digitization project as part of the *Document Managing Program*. In addition, they continued to translate and transcript oral history interviews for the *Creole Language Project*.

A Creole Heritage Scanning Workshop was held in Marksville, LA to help communities address issues of equipment, techniques and archival storage.

iCreole Forum and Celebration included exhibits, panel discussions, and presentations on Creole culture, heritage and history.

Published the third edition of the *Creole Chronicles: Cane River Community*, in Creole French and English.

Contracted with a Creole Liaison to work on community outreach in partnership with CRNHA.

The Master and Bachelor of Arts programs in Heritage Resources at NSU have been a significant partner to Cane River National Heritage Area. As such, CRNHA provided the awards given to the final graduating students who achieved outstanding success in the program.



During their tenure, professors Dr. ElizaBeth Guin and Dr. Julie Ernstein remained steadfast to their promotion and protection of the heritage resources in the Cane River region. Due to budget cuts NSU removed the programs from its catalog.

CRNHA would like to acknowledge and thank them for their commitment and contributions to the historic preservation partnerships and projects within the Cane River region.

Internship Program allows students to gain real working experience in the heritage field. This year's internships included:

MAHR Program Internships

Robert Caldwell assisted in cataloging and documenting artifacts for the Williamson Museum at Northwestern State University.

Rebecca Bonnet assisted CRNHA in developing its scenic byway guidebook, creating the CRNHA portion of the LA Crossroads iPhone application, and performed research on heritage initiatives.

NPAACHI Program

Sharanda Lewis assisted in the administration of the Natchitoches Parish African American Cultural Heritage Initiative (NPAACHI) and its Summer Art Program.



Photography

Annabel Jones, a photography student at NSU captured images of Cane River National Heritage Area. These images were used in the scenic byway guidebook and marketing materials for the heritage area.

Cane River National Heritage Area has remained dedicated to the stabilization and restoration of the National Historic Landmark Melrose Plantation and Yucca House since 1998. Built in the early 1800s, the French Creole design of Yucca House has endured centuries of change and adaptation.

In the early 2000s it was established that Yucca House's foundation was rotting from water damage. A preservation plan was administered advising that the house be raised and trenches, new gutters, and roof leaders be added to the structure. In addition, the plan called for reconstruction of the chimneys and repairs to the bousillage and whitewash.

In 2009, Yucca House was raised and leveled by contractor Greg Duggan of Modern Rustic. Chimneys were reconstructed and the roof was repaired with new shingles and guttering. Repairs to the bousillage and whitewash were needed to complete the preservation plan. Contractors Marcy Frantom and Max Turner of Quality Finish have overseen this last phase of preservation and will complete their repairs in 2011.

Marcy and Max are enthusiastic about their role in the preservation of Yucca House. Using traditional recipes and vintage trade books, they included science and modern technology when it was appropriate. Both consider the conservation of Yucca House a lifetime achievement, but it's their documentation efforts that will have the most impact on the future of Yucca House. The documentation of their preservation efforts will allow future conservationists to learn from their experiences.



MARKETING AND MEDIA

Marketing and Visitor Services

In partnership with Cane River Creole National Historical Park, CRNHA has continued to fund a Heritage Ranger to assist with park tours, special events and public relations.

In the Media

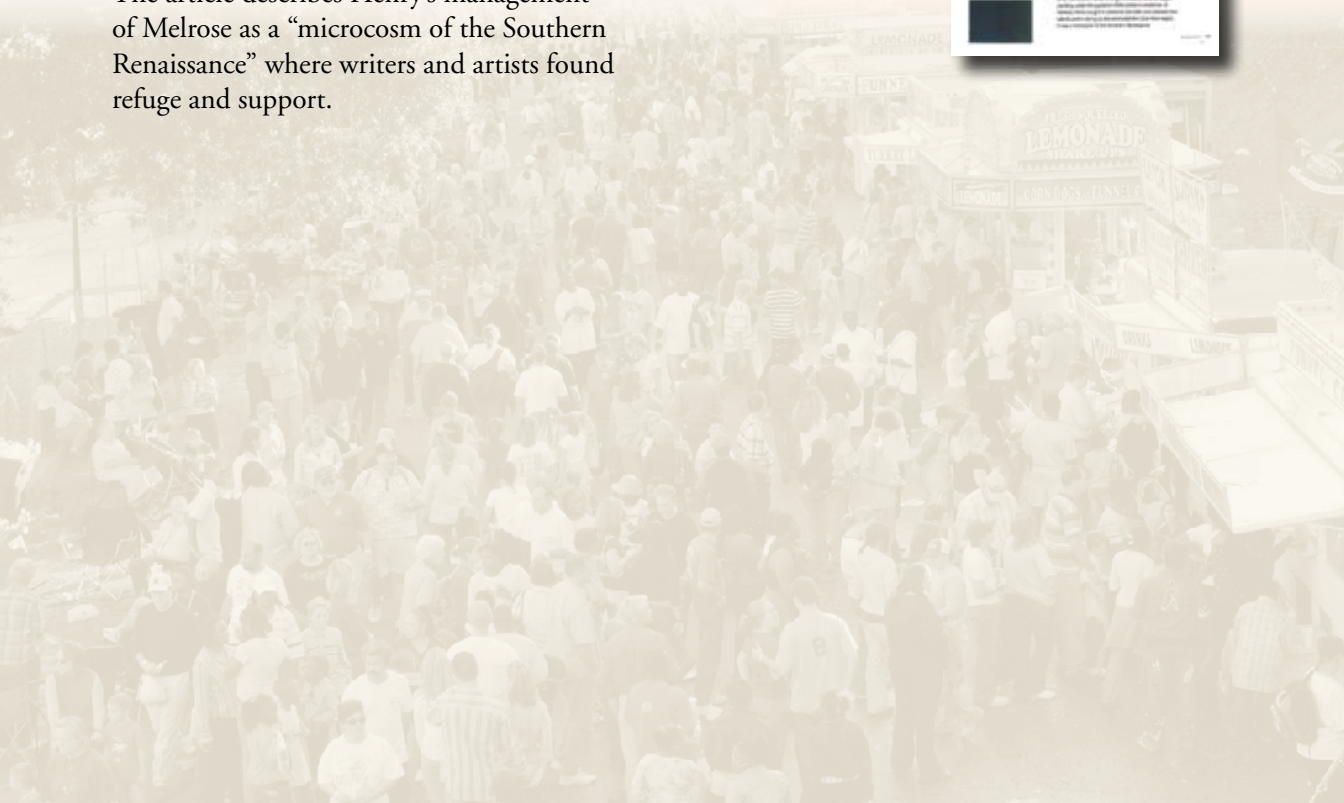
Explore LA Crossroads iPhone Application:

CRNHA joined with its heritage partners to develop a free iPhone application. This application provides the public with information about our Historic Walking Trail and the Scenic Driving tour.



Cane River Creole NHP was featured in the August Issue of *American History Magazine*. The article titled, “History Happened Here” recommends five little known heritage sites visitors should go out of their way to visit.

Melrose Plantation and the legacy of Cammie G. Henry were featured in the summer 2011 issue of *Fine Books & Collections Magazine*. The article describes Henry’s management of Melrose as a “microcosm of the Southern Renaissance” where writers and artists found refuge and support.



CRNHA has received federal funding through the Heritage Partnerships Program of the National Park Service since 1999 and appears annually in the President’s budget. Other sources of income include project funds from various local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as private organizations.

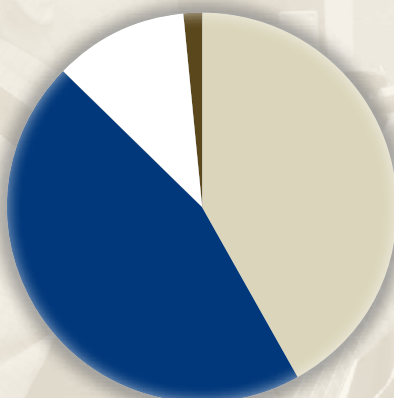
INCOME	2011
Federal Appropriation	\$ 623,000
State Funds	\$ 25,000
Private Funds	\$ 12,500
Income Total	\$660,500

EXPENSES	2011
Marketing & Visitor Services	\$ 92,000
Planning	\$ 36,000
Resource Development	\$ 152,722
Creole Heritage Center	\$ 40,000
Administration & Operations	\$ 339,778
Expense Total	\$660,500

LEVERAGE

CRNHA leveraged its federal appropriations for \$8,473,586 in matching funds and in-kind support through partnerships on historic preservation, landscape conservation, research, economic and heritage development projects.

2011 NPS Heritage Partnerships Program Funding	\$ 623,000
2011 Leverage	\$8,472,586



State	\$3,545,571
Local	\$3,853,957
Private	\$ 942,576
Other	\$ 131,475

LOOKING FORWARD

Capital Improvement Program

CRNHA is committed to restoring and rehabilitating historic structures and buildings located within the heritage area.

Texas & Pacific RR Depot Renovation

In partnership with City of Natchitoches, CRNHA is dedicated to facilitating the renovation and adaptive reuse of the Texas and Pacific Railway Depot.



Bermuda Bridge Project

In partnership with Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and Cane River Creole National Historic Park, initial discussions have taken place to pursue the renovation of the Old Bermuda Bridge as a pedestrian walkway linking Cane River Creole National Historical Park with a public recreation area.

Natchitoches Parish Old Courthouse

In partnership with the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, CRNHA has provided technical assistance in contracting an environmental assessment as a first step in the preservation and adaptive reuse of the Old Natchitoches Parish Courthouse.



CRNHA continues to move forward with major programming and projects currently underway.

We are committed to seeking partnerships and initiating projects that document, conserve, and promote the cultural, historical, and natural resources of the Cane River region.



*P*artnerships are a critical ingredient for the success of CRNHA initiatives. Cane River Creole National Historical Park is the premiere partner, however the Heritage Area regularly works with a diverse network of like-minded community, state-wide, and federal organizations. Those partners include:

Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Alliance of National Heritage Areas
 American Cemetery Association
 Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches
 Auburn University
 Breda Town Cemetery Association
 Caddo Adais Indians, Inc.
 Cane River Waterway Commission
 City of Natchitoches
 Coco Green, Inc.
 Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University
 Cultural Lore, Inc.
 El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association
 Friends in Support of the Hatchery
 Louisiana Association of Non Profits
 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
 Louisiana Main Street Program
 Louisiana Office of State Parks
 Louisiana Regional Folklife Program
 Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts
 Louisiana State Museum
 Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation
 Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce
 Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association
 Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission
 Natchitoches Parish Police Jury
 National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
 National Park Service, Heritage Partnership Program
 National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center
 National Trust for Historic Preservation
 Northwestern State University Foundation
 Northwestern State University of Louisiana
 Red River National Wildlife Refuge
 St. Charles Chapel Society
 Saint Matthew School Community Association, Inc.
 State of Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
 State of Louisiana Department of Historic Preservation
 State of Louisiana Department of Transportation & Design
 Stephen F. Austin State University
 The Rapides Foundation
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

**Cane River National Heritage Area, Incorporated
 Board of Directors**

Kathleen Byrd, Ph.D., *Chair*
 Richard Gill, *Vice Chair*
 James Durham, *Treasurer*
 Payne Williams, *Secretary*
 Rufus Davis
 Sandra Dickens
 David Dollar
 Sharon Gahagan
 Steven Horton, Ph.D.
 Will James
 Victor Jones
 Randy LaCaze
 John Vandersypen
 Edward Ward, Jr.
 Sue Weaver, Ph.D.
 Terrel Delphin, *Chair Emeritus*

Staff

Cynthia Sutton
President

Katherine Johnson
Assistant Director/Grants Administrator

Patricia Antley
Office Manager

Jean Carter
Heritage Ranger

Rebecca Bonnet
Northwestern State University Intern

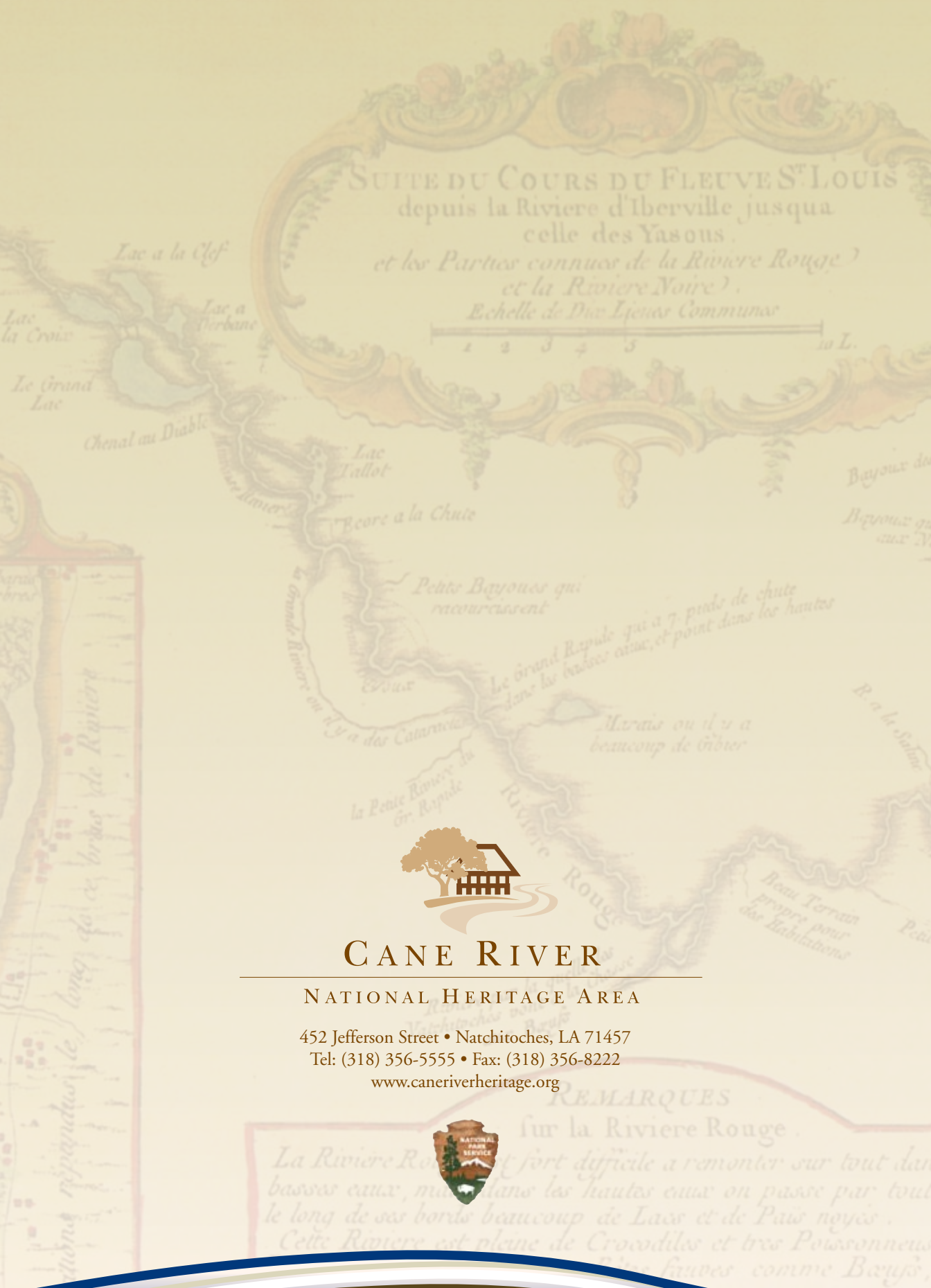
Robert Caldwell
Northwestern State University Intern

United States Legislators

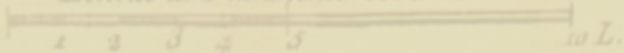
U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
 U.S. Senator David Vitter
 U.S. Congressman John Fleming
4th District

Louisiana State Legislators

Senator Gerald Long
 Representative Rick Nowlin
District 23



SUITE DU COURS DU FLEUVE S^T LOUIS
depuis la Riviere d'Iberville jusqu'à
celle des Yasous.
et les Parties connues de la Riviere Rouge
et la Riviere Noire.
Echelle de Dix Lieues Communes



CANE RIVER

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

452 Jefferson Street • Natchitoches, LA 71457
Tel: (318) 356-5555 • Fax: (318) 356-8222
www.caneriverheritage.org



REMARQUES sur la Riviere Rouge.

La Riviere Rouge est fort difficile à remonter sur tout dans
basses eaux, mais dans les hautes eaux on passe par tout
le long de ses bords beaucoup de Laçs et de Pais noyés.
Cette Riviere est pleine de Crocodiles et tres Poussonneuse
dans les saues comme Bayou,

