

# NETWORK

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST

Winter 2012

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

TPT looks back with pride on our many accomplishments in 2011: completion of the Durham's Chapel Rosenwald School; successful distribution of *Historic Tennessee* in over 300 high schools and the sale of hundreds more generating thousands of dollars of revenue for TPT; a well-attended conference in Collierville with over 150 preservationists; participation in halting the construction of the Hoover Quarry in Castalian Springs; and moving to our new office where we share space with the Land Trust for Tennessee, providing us more visibility in the community.

TPT has high expectations for 2012, and through your generosity and support we will make a difference. We are determined to build on our network of friends across the state as we carry out our mission to preserve, promote, and advocate for the rich historic resources that are so important to who we are as Tennesseans. Despite the tough economic climate, we are proud to report that your support over the last twelve months, along with the sales from our book, *Historic Tennessee*, has left TPT in a strong financial position to address new challenges. In 2012, we will launch our new website which will provide tools for improving preservation in your community and give you access to lists of preservation professionals and craftspeople across the state. In addition, we will announce our Ten in Tennessee Endangered List for the year, launch a statewide preservation award program, host our largest Statewide Preservation Conference to date, and continue to advocate for the importance of preservation to our elected officials at all levels.

Thank you again for your continued support! We look forward to working even harder in this new year to protect the places that matter!

### 2012 STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 31-JUNE 2

Join us in Nashville for the 2012 Tennessee Preservation Trust Statewide Preservation Conference. This year's conference is shaping up to be our biggest yet and will feature Commission Assistance & Mentoring Program (CAMP), educational sessions, hands-on workshops, tours, networking, and a tradeshow featuring Bob Yapp, former host of the PBS series 'About Your House.'

If you have a ideas or a topic you would like discussed at next year's conference, it is not too late to submit suggestions. Interested in having a booth at our tradeshow Saturday June 2nd to showcase your trade or products related to preservation? Interested in volunteering either before the conference or at one of our many events during the conference?

Email us at [tnprestr@yahoo.com](mailto:tnprestr@yahoo.com) to see how you can get involved and be part of the TPT team!

### DURHAM'S CHAPEL ROSENWALD SCHOOL



The Durham's Chapel Rosenwald school is complete!

The rehabilitation of the Durham's Chapel Rosenwald School, funded by a grant from Lowe's and National Trust for Historic

(Continued on page 5)

## CUMMINS CORNER

It is hard to believe that 2011 has come to an end and 2012 is upon us. 2011 was a year of reorganization and stability for TPT. We had our challenges, but we overcame them and are now stronger than ever.

I extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to our fantastic board, which truly was amazing this past year. Functioning without an Executive Director, they stepped in and guided TPT through challenging times. From planning for the conference to distributing copies of *Historic Tennessee*, and so much more, our Board members are dedicated to protecting Tennessee's historic resources and promoting preservation in every county. Thank you for your commitment to protecting the places that make Tennessee truly unique and special.

And to all our members who made 2011 a success and continues to support preservation in Tennessee, I thank you. I have met and had the privilege to work with many of you during my first year. For those I have not met yet, I look forward to meeting you and working with you in 2012!

Wishing all of you the happiest of new years!

Cathleen Collett

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Looking for a way to get involved? We would love your help! Good with web-design? Have a passion for social media? Feel a sense of accomplishment putting things in order? Have a knack for newsletters? Whatever your interest, we can use your help. Call Cathleen at 615.963.1255 or email [tnprestr@yahoo.org](mailto:tnprestr@yahoo.org). Thank you in advance for helping TPT raise awareness for Tennessee's historic structures!*

## TPT JOINS CORNERSTONES' WINE OVER WATER



TPT Board Chair Greg Vital, Board Member Phil Thomason, and Associate Director Cathleen Collett joined Cornerstones for Wine Over Water in October. Attendees enjoyed a crisp fall night strolling the historic Walnut Street Bridge, sampling wines from over 100 wineries, and enjoying local cuisine. The sold-out event helps protect the architectural heritage and urban fabric of Chattanooga.

Thank you, Ann Gray, Executive Director of Cornerstones, for allowing us to showcase *Historic Tennessee*. Congratulations to Cornerstones on a successful event raising preservation awareness in Tennessee!

### In Memory:

Tennessee preservationists lost a friend with the death of **Charles Howell III** in Nashville on October 27<sup>th</sup>. "Charlie," as he was known to most of us, had a long and varied career in both historic building restoration and politics. Charlie operated Howell Construction Company and his firm worked on the rehabilitation of many historic sites such as the James K. Polk House in Columbia, Wynnewood at Castalian Springs, and the Federal Customs House in Nashville. Charlie helped to promote Historic Nashville during its early years and also founded the Trust for the Future. He was recognized for his dedication to both historic preservation and environmental conservation and made many contributions to non-profit organizations and local and state governments during his lifetime.

**Mai Dee Hendricks**, a beloved TPT board member from 2001-2005, passed away on November 28. Hendricks received a Preservation Leadership Award at TPT's Annual Meeting in Chattanooga in 2003 for her help establishing the Gilliland Historical Resource Center in Shelbyville. We extend our condolences to both families.



TPT Board Member Kathie Fuston presents Roy Dukes, Marshall County Director of Schools, with copies of "Historic Tennessee," for the high schools in Marshall County.

## *HISTORIC TENNESSEE*

TPT board members continue to actively distribute *Historic Tennessee* throughout the state. Our mission is to place *Historic Tennessee* in each college and high school library in Tennessee. In the past 4 months, we have successfully placed copies in 35 of Tennessee's 95 counties. We have made great progress but still have a ways to go to reach our goal.

TPT would like all students to have access to this great resource. If your high school, college, or public library has not received a copy, or you know of a high school in your area needing a copy, please contact the office at 615.963.1255 or [tnprestr@yahoo.com](mailto:tnprestr@yahoo.com).

If you haven't ordered your own copy yet, visit: [www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org](http://www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org).

## HANGING WITH THE GHOSTS IN DENMARK

(Article & photos courtesy of Scott Williams *Haywood County Line*: [haywoodcountyline.blogspot.com](http://haywoodcountyline.blogspot.com))

Last weekend I was in Amsterdam. This weekend I was in Denmark. Denmark, Tennessee, that is. Denmark is in Madison County which is just North of Haywood County.

I didn't know a lot about Denmark but I have come to find out it's a historically significant small town that is very active in preserving the history of West Tennessee through the efforts of The Big Black Creek Historical Association which also has a really great Web site (<http://bigblackcreekhistorical.com>).

In 2007 the organization began work to restore the Denmark Presbyterian Church and they are also hard at work restoring several cemeteries and historic homes.

We were in Denmark to check out their "cemetery walk." This event, which seems to be timed pretty close to Halloween, features people who were buried in the cemetery popping up long enough to tell some interesting facts about their lives or the lives of the people in the area in the past.

Many times I have stood at the grave of someone buried more than 100 years ago and wished they could dig out and share a few details about their lives rather than having to spend hours going through old records.

Well at least for one afternoon in Denmark, that happens and I couldn't resist getting a few photos:



Also, before hanging out with the ghosts, we checked out the Denmark Presbyterian Church. A half million-dollar contract for restoration of the old church building was recently awarded and work to restore the church is about to begin. They have some great photos of the historic church on their Website and you can also check out their Facebook page.

Local historian, activist and president of the BBCHA, Bill King, who led the efforts involved in securing the funds to save the church, has also published a really great book on the history of the area, "Big Black Creek, Volume 1" and he's currently working on the next volume. You can purchase his book here on the Big Black Creek website. If you are at all interested in the history of West Tennessee, this is a great book to have.

I bought one today and am about to head upstairs and start reading it. I hope none of those ghosts slipped into my car and are hiding under my bed.

## 2012 Board of Directors

### Chair

Greg A. Vital, *Chattanooga*

### Vice-Chair

Ernie Bacon, *Franklin*

### Secretary

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### Ex-Officio Member Organizations

*Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities*, Robert Notestine

*Tennessee Department of Tourist Development*, Lee Curtis

*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*, Mike Moore

*Tennessee Historical Commission*, Patrick McIntyre

*Tennessee Main Street Program*, Kimberly Nyberg

*The Center for Historic Preservation*, Middle Tennessee State University

*The Land Trust for Tennessee*

### Associate Director

Cathleen Collett

*The Tennessee Preservation Trust is a not-for-profit membership-based organization that provides leadership, education and advocacy to promote the preservation of our state's diverse historic resources. We are the statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

STATEWIDE PARTNER

NATIONAL TRUST FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

**TEN IN TENNESSEE ENDANGERED LIST—UPDATE**

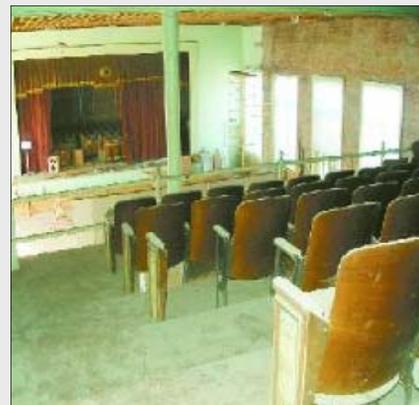
The Tennessee Preservation Trust's annual "Ten in Tennessee," a roster of some of the state's most endangered historic sites, highlights ten endangered places across the state to help garner support for saving threatened historic resources.

**ENDANGERED****Franklin P. Blue Municipal Building (The "Blue" Building), Warren County**

The "Blue" Building, originally built in 1839 as a mansion for Col. E.W. Munford, was listed on TPT's Ten in Tennessee in 2008. The mansion, built as a showcase home with tennis courts, flower gardens, and grand ballroom, was converted into a school when acquired by the Board of Education in 1915. In 1977, the school became the city municipal building. In 2008, the City acquired new property for municipal offices and, shortly thereafter, moved out of the building. At the time of listing on the Ten in Tennessee, we reported demolition as a high possibility.

Fortunately, thanks to the awareness raised by its listing on the 10 in TN, the Blue Building remains standing. Stabilization work is needed on the building, including the desperate need of a new roof. Concerned citizens of McMinnville are working on creating a brochure with the details of the building and are actively looking for a new use for the structure. All possibilities are being considered, from a convention center to a law school, to keep this building functioning and continuing to serve the community as it has for 172 years.

If interested, or know of someone who may be, please contact TPT at 615.963.1255.



*Façade of Pinckney's Tomb (above) and the east wall where stones have fallen due to pressure from tree roots.*

**Hufstedler Cemetery/Pinckney's Tomb, Linden, Perry County**

The Hufstedler Cemetery / Pinckney's Tomb is a rare example of 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular, dry-stone constructed rural cemetery architecture. The cemetery, located in the Hurricane Creek section of the Buffalo River Watershed, is tranquilly situated near the top of a bluff overlooking the river. The main feature of the cemetery is the large grave house, called Pinckney's tomb. Originally constructed to be a walled cemetery to accommodate ten to twelve plots, the graves were eventually covered with a wooden roof. The wall is made of cut limestone and is nearly 5 feet high.

The Hufstedler Cemetery / Pinckney's Tomb made TPT's 10 in Tennessee in 2009 due the failing foundation and lack of financial resources to provide for necessary repairs. The structure is threatened with eventual collapse if repairs are not made. Some of the east wall has fallen and the northeast corner which supports one of the massive beams has cracked away from the north wall. The south wall is beginning to bow outward as well due to the pressure of roots from trees to close to the tomb.

Members of the Perry County Historical Society and Perry County Mayor John Carroll met with TPT and the South Central TN Development District to discuss options for stabilizing the structure, minimizing further deterioration, and setting of the fallen stones. Plans are underway which we hope will protect this grave house for at least another 100 years.

*(Durham's Chapel continued from Page 1)* Preservation, is the result of the great partnership between TPT, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, and Durham's Chapel Community Club. Funds from the grant provided critical stabilization and conservation and returned the school to its 1923 appearance. Enhancements increase the center's functionality enabling the school to be used as a community center. Repairs included rebuilding sections of the foundation, reconnecting the balloon framing, repairing and replacing windows, and repairing siding. Work extended to the interior, as well, including stripping and refinishing of the floor, repairing plaster, and replacing hardware.

The Durham's Chapel Community Club intends to use the school to hold regular club meetings and will be hosting a "Community Homecoming" in 2012 to celebrate the restored school and its rich history.

TPT would like to thank Paul Hoffman, Anne-Leslie Owens, and Dan Brown for their hard work and attention to detail and to John Garrot and Reggie Mudd for their financial assistance which allowed work to continue to completion. Thank you to the National Trust and Lowe's for the grant and for helping us preserve yet another site vital to our state's history for future generations to enjoy.

*For more photos of the work at Durham's Chapel Rosenwald School and Cairo Rosenwald School, view our album at [www.facebook.com/TNPresTR](http://www.facebook.com/TNPresTR).*



***Never a dull moment**—Steve Buckner removes bees who have been residing at the school for many years, Project Manager Paul Hoffman works on finishing interior touches and Karen Schneider reglazes an exterior window. Just a few of the many projects completed to enhance the school and increase its functionality.*



***What a difference!***

*Before and after shots of the interior of one of the two school rooms. The windows in these classrooms are breathtaking.*



**SAVE CASTALIAN SPRINGS! - UPDATE**

In our last newsletter, we informed you of the proposed rock quarry, asphalt and cement plant in the heart of Castalian Springs, home to Wynnewood, Cragfont, Hawthorne Hill, Bledsoe's Fort Historical Park, and Cheskiki Mounds. Hoover, Inc. purchased 350+ acres in June and applied for a conditional use permit to place a quarry in an area zoned residential. TPT was there when the Sumner County Zoning Board of Appeals denied Hoover's request on July 14.

The legal battle continues, however, after the short-term victory. Hoover filed two lawsuits: one stating the Board of Zoning Appeals acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" and the other basically stating Sumner County, since it does not have any provisions in its Zoning Ordinance to accommodate quarries, should allow Hoover, Inc. to locate their quarry in Castalian Springs.

The "Save Castalian Springs" group has retained David Amonette to continue to represent the group in the ongoing case against Hoover even though Sumner County has its own attorney defending the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals. No date has been set before the Chancery Court, but we will continue to keep you posted as developments occur.

For the latest news and updates, like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TNPresTR](http://www.facebook.com/TNPresTR) or follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/TNPresTrust](http://twitter.com/TNPresTrust).



TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST  
*Promoting Preservation in the 21st Century*

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WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! LIKE US AT  
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## NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TPT TODAY!

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST  
*Promoting Preservation in the 21st Century*

*Your membership dues support Tennessee Preservation Trust programs. Tennessee Preservation Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.*

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- \$200 per month or \$2,400 annually
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*I understand I can cancel my monthly contribution at any time by contacting the TPT office*