



# SRS Heritage

Heritage

SRS Heritage Foundation Newsletter

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## **Our Foundation Inaugural was Very Successful**

About 100 people attended the inaugural of the SRS Heritage Foundation on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony, which was held at the Aiken County Museum, was co-sponsored by the Foundation and CNTA. Funding for the event was provided by Washington Group International. Presentations were made by Dr. Susan Wood of CNTA, Walt Joseph of the Heritage Foundation, and Jeff Allison of the Department of Energy. The event was covered by newspapers from Aiken, Augusta, and Columbia.



*SRS manager Jeff Allison and Todd Crawford unveil the new SRS Heritage Foundation logo. (photo courtesy of The Aiken Standard.)*

## **Board of Directors Up and Running**

The Board of Directors held their first meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> in Building 742-A at the Savannah River Site. The Board reviewed the Foundation vision, approved a dues schedule, and recommended the addition of new members for the Board. Current Board members are:

Joe Buggy	Pres Rahe
John Cunningham	Bettis Rainsford
Dan Evans	Lee Smith
Gwen Johnson	Chris Verenes
Ann Loadholt	Joanne Zobel
Bill Mottel	

Todd Crawford and Walt Joseph are serving on the Board until Board officers are elected: They will then resign and serve as staff for the Board. A few additional directors may be selected. The Board plans to meet in January to elect officers and develop a Strategic Plan.

## **Dr. Ruth Patrick Visits Aiken**

Dr. Ruth Patrick visited the area on October 17–19, 2005. Dr. Patrick is well known locally for her monitoring of the ecological health of the Savannah River before and during operation of the Savannah River Site. She is a world famous biologist with many honors and is still making contributions at the age of 97. Her visit was a joint effort between the Ruth Patrick Science Center at USCA and the Foundation.



*Dr. Ruth Patrick (seated) and Linda Perry.*



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Dr. Patrick was accompanied by Dr. Bob Grant who had participated in the Savannah River surveys since the 1950's. They spent time with Mary Beth Reed, Todd Crawford, and Linda Perry discussing the historic preservation program at SRS and the efforts of the SRS Heritage Foundation. The SRS Heritage effort was enhanced by a morning of taped interviews on the early days of SRS with Mary Beth Reed, Dr. Patrick, and Dr. Grant.

## **DOE Issues Letter of Intent for Building 742-A**

Jeff Allison, the Site Manager, issued the letter of intent for Building 742-A on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The letter commits DOE to enter into lease negotiations for the building upon demonstration of adequate financing by the Foundation. The letter is further indication of DOE support for our endeavors and will greatly improve our ability to attract grant funding.

## **Funding Obtained for Artifact Conservation**

DOE has approved the Baseline Change Proposal to fund the Curation Facility in Building 315-A and to hire a Curator to begin to catalog and conserve the artifact collection. Building 315-A, is within easy walking distance of 742-A and its 27,000 square feet will be shared with the Savannah River Archaeological Program.

## **Ellenton Heritage Trail Planning Begins**

Planning for the proposed Ellenton walking trail is beginning. Initial plans focus on defining several blocks of the

former community that contain historically-significant sites for interpretation. Maps and early aerial photographs have been obtained to facilitate the study.

## **Membership Drive Launched**

The SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc. is launching a membership drive to raise money for the preservation and interpretation of the SRS heritage. We plan to include technical, ecological, and sociological aspects of that heritage. Initial plans are to begin design of the Heritage Center and the Ellenton Heritage Trail and to initiate a series of occasional papers on SRS history. Your membership will help support these endeavors.

Please join us in the SRS Heritage Foundation. A membership application is included for your use.



*Board members Chris Verenes, John Cunningham, Walt Joseph, Bill Mottel, Ann Loadholt, and Todd Crawford pose with the new SRS Heritage Center sign at Building 742A.*



# Late-breaking news



## \$30,000 corporate donation! from Washington Group International

On January 30, E. Preston Rahe, presented a check for \$30,000 to the SRS Heritage Foundation. Mr. Rahe, President of WGI, said he was honored to make the donation toward preserving the history of the Savannah River Site, both to memorialize the past and to help ensure the transition to new missions. Walt Joseph accepted the check on behalf of the Foundation. The money will be used to develop a preliminary design to turn Building 742-A into a museum and education center to preserve and interpret SRS history. (Thanks to Denise Jane for the photo of the presentation.)

### *DOE budget in flux*

At this time, the Baseline Change Proposal to fund the Curation Facility in Building 315-A, as well as other preservation activities, has been dropped from the draft SRS budget. We'll keep you posted as concerned historians and archaeologists work to restore this vital funding.