

SRS Heritage Foundation

NEWSLETTER

February, 2014

SRS Museum to Locate in Aiken

The SRS Heritage Foundation has been granted a building in downtown Aiken to be used as the long-awaited Savannah River Site Museum. We are not authorized to reveal the specific building at this time but we expect to be able to make the announcement in a few weeks. The Foundation is continuing to accumulate the capital improvement funds that will be required to adapt and equip the building for Museum use as soon as the building becomes available.



***Aiken
Together ...***

Campaign Raising Funds for Museum

The SRS Heritage Foundation has joined with the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum and the Center for African-American History, Art and Culture in a campaign to raise capital funds for the three organizations. The Aiken Together campaign is a five-year effort to raise \$2.9 million from personal, business and industrial contributions. No tax monies are included in this campaign. The Heritage Foundation allotment is 31% of collected funds. The campaign is chaired by Dwayne Wilson, President and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Monthly meetings with prospective contributors began in October and are being increased to twice monthly during 2014. Commitments to date total \$98,600 per year for five years.

Real Estate License for Ellenton Trail Nears Approval

The final draft of the Real Estate License for the Ellenton Heritage Trail is nearing approval by the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site. This License grants to the SRS Heritage Foundation the right to use the site of the former community of Ellenton to establish the Ellenton Heritage Trail and to conduct escorted tours and historic interpretation. Access to the approximately 6.4 acre site will be granted for five years for a one-time fee of \$1.00. Final approval of the Real Estate License will mark the culmination of efforts by Heritage Foundation volunteers, DOE employees and interested local residents to commemorate the sacrifices of residents who were displaced to make room for the Savannah River Site in the early

Atomic Museum Director Offers Suggestions for SRS Museum

Jim Walther, Director of the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History (NMNSE), visited the CSRA in October. During the visit, he was accompanied by Sarah Fair, an educational program specialist at the Museum. The visitors toured the Curation Facility at SRS and spent time discussing museum operations with Walt Joseph of the Heritage Foundation and Mindy Mets of the Community Reuse Organization.

Mr. Walther is a 35-year veteran of the museum field who moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1996 to lead the NMNSE, a Smithsonian affiliate. The opportunity to interact with experienced professional leaders of an important science-oriented museum provided a rare opportunity to discuss issues related to the establishment of our Savannah River Site Museum in Aiken.

The visitors were impressed with the Curation Facility and asserted that the Cold War Artifact Collection at SRS is more than enough to equip a small museum with permanent and rotating exhibits. However, they suggested that the Foundation should assemble a small collection of artifacts, separate from the larger DOE collection. These privately-owned artifacts could be collected from the community and would improve flexibility to

change Museum exhibits on short notice. Collected items would be cared for carefully and displayed occasionally.

The visitors emphasized that the Museum facility should be comfortable, inviting and serious. Museum exhibits should aim for immersion in a topic with some things to read, some photographs and videos with sound or closed captions. Mr. Walther asserted that “people touch people”; videos of 5 or 6 people who personalize themes should be available. If an elevator is required, it could be used to depict the elevations in a reactor building...simulating the trip from -40 feet to +130 feet.

Sarah Fair discussed programs including scavenger hunts for small children and “Little Al’s Lab”, with hands-on activities in the physical sciences, including radiation. Classroom programs at the NMNSE include “Secrets and Spies” and “The Decision to Drop the Bomb”. “Science on Tap” a non-technical hour-long special at a local bar is popular.

The Foundation plans to consider some of these suggestions in planning for the SRS Museum.





DRAFT



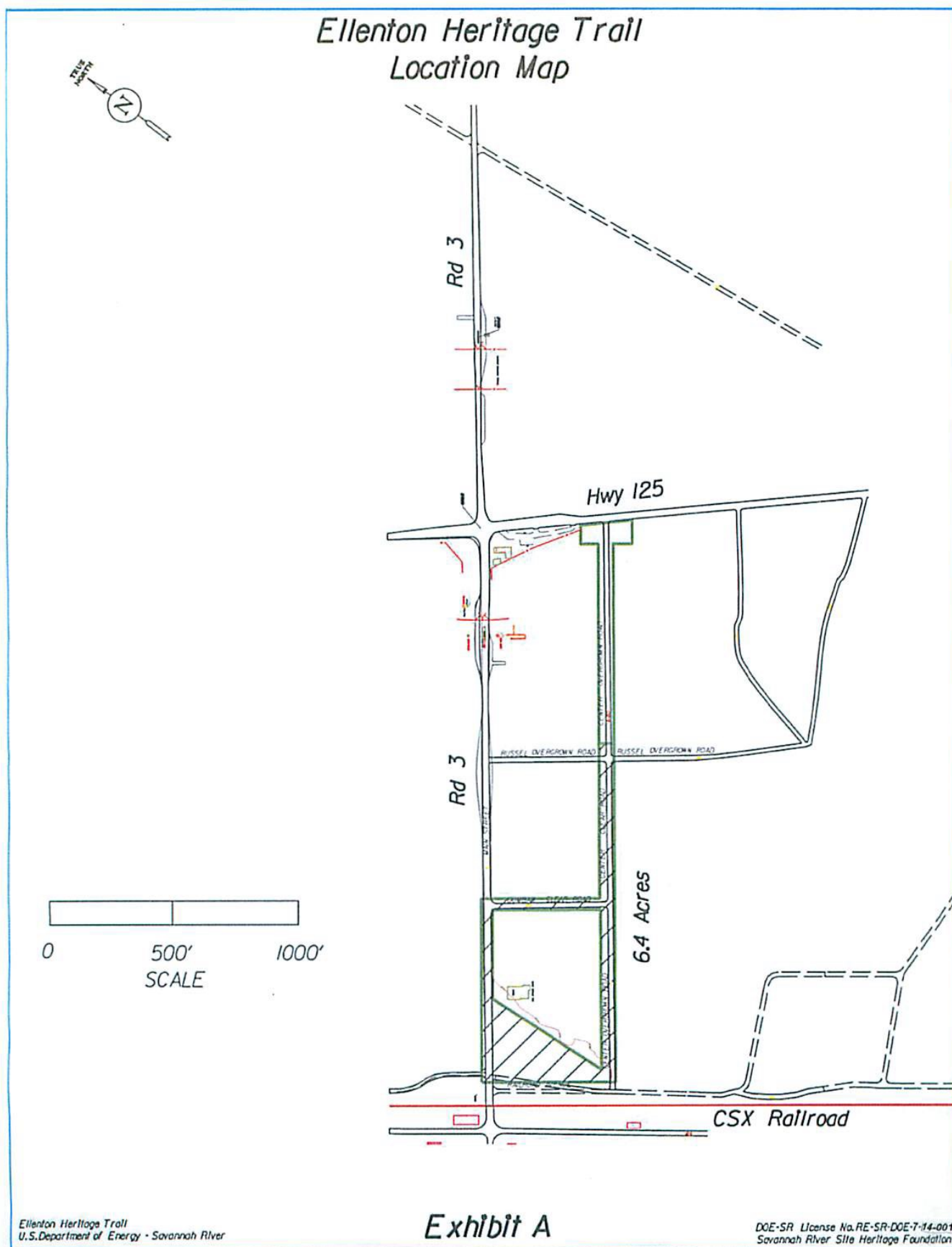
**THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
AIKEN, SC**

REAL ESTATE LICENSE

GRANTED TO

**THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
HERITAGE FOUNDATION
for
Establishment and Operation of
the
Ellenton Heritage Trail**

Ellenton Heritage Trail Page 1 of 5 DOE-SR License No. RE-SR-DOE-7-14-001
U.S. Department of Energy - Savannah River Savannah River Site Heritage Foundation



We have lost good friends...

Jim Iwert 1935-2013

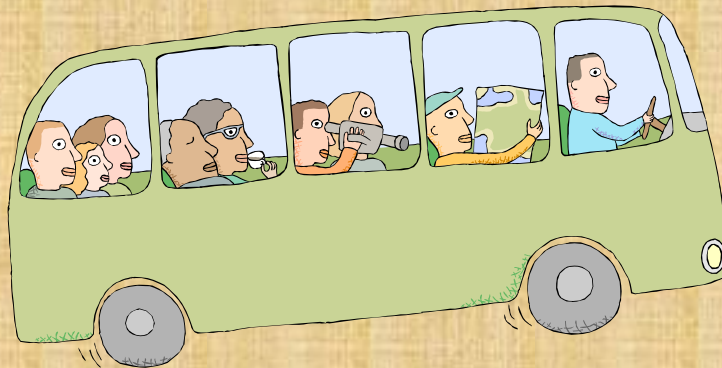
James Witter Iwert passed away suddenly November 19th in South Dakota where he was pheasant hunting with friends. Jim was active with the Foundation and led the team planning the Ellenton Heritage Trail from 2007 to 2011.

As planning for the Ellenton Trail nears fruition, we regret that he did not live to see his efforts succeed.

Dick Benjamin 1935-2013

Richard Walter Benjamin passed away peacefully at home December 9th. Dick was a PhD Physicist, retired after a distinguished career at SRS. He and his wife, Sally, operated Wine World in North Augusta.

They were faithful members of the Foundation and contributors to Foundation programs.



SRS Public Tours Announced

The Department of Energy has announced the schedule for free public tours of the Savannah River Site in 2014. Each tour begins at 12:30pm at the Aiken County Applied Research Center, located off highway 278. A typical tour ends by 4:30pm. Tours are available to US citizens, 18 years or older.

Tour dates are:

February 13, 25

June 3, 17

October 7, 23

March 11, 25

July 8, 24

November 11

April 15, 22

August 5, 21

December 9

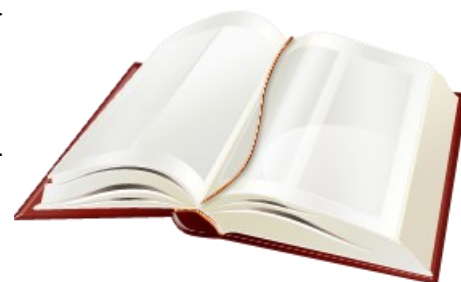
May 6, 15

September 9, 18

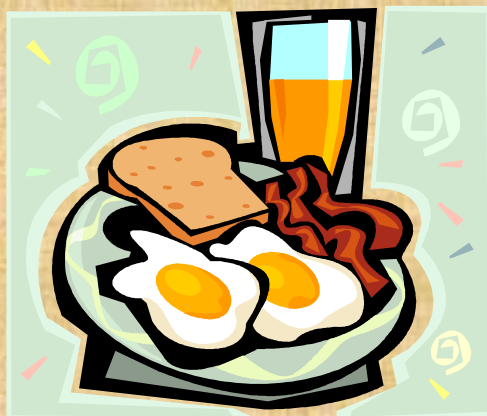
Registration for the public tours is at www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm
For registration by phone, call 803-952-8994.

New Book on Savannah River Plant

Dr. Kari Frederickson has written a new book that describes the impact of the Savannah River Plant on the communities it created, rejuvenated or displaced. Dr. Frederickson is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Alabama. Her book explores the parallel militarization and modernization of the South during the Cold War era with emphasis on the economy, social relations and politics of the region. Dr. Frederickson quotes extensively from local residents and refers to the SRS Heritage Foundation in her work.



The book, *Cold War Dixie* is available from the University of Georgia press or other booksellers at a cost of \$24.95 for the paper edition with photos and maps.



Save the Date...March 26th

Dr. Kari Frederickson will speak at a breakfast meeting in Aiken at 7:30 am on Wednesday, March 26th. The breakfast will be sponsored jointly by the SRS Heritage Foundation and Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness at Newberry Hall. Plan on purchasing a signed copy of her new book after her presentation. Reservations are required...call the CNTA office at 803-649-3456 to make your reservation.

When DuPont accepted the contract to design, build and operate the Savannah River Plant in 1950 one of the first priorities was the characterization and definition of the as found environmental conditions. DuPont was already recognized as an industrial leader in safety, fire protection and employee policies. A 1938 Executive Committee resolution placed "industry responsibility to control trade waste on a par with safety and fire protection". Teams of scientists and engineers quietly entered the site in the early 1950s. Their task was to create a comprehensive environmental picture of the entire 300 square mile site. This provided a "Before Environmental Baseline" against which all future plant operations could and would be compared to accurately measure the impact of the site's operations.

One of the basic site selection criteria was size and remoteness from population centers. The distances necessary for safety and resistance to catastrophic accident or enemy attack were defined. The process areas, five reactors and two separations plants were located two to three miles apart within a seven mile diameter circle located in the center of the site. They were also placed at least 8 miles up on tributary creeks flowing into the Savannah River. This manufacturing 7 mile core circle was cited so there was an additional six mile safety envelope between any production facility and the site perimeter. This arrangement provided additional protection for the public in case of a nuclear accident.

The Atomic Energy Commission AEC's Division of Biology and Medicine brought local universities onto the scene to perform ecological terrestrial studies. Scientists from the Universities of Georgia and South Carolina collected data on the plant and animal communities. The Savannah River was studied and characterized by a team from the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences led by Dr. Ruth Patrick. And DuPont's Site Survey Team of Health Physics personnel led by William Reinig completed a landmark study of the naturally occurring radioactivity between June 1951 and January 1953.

The University of Georgia's Institute of Ecology professor Dr. Eugene Odum began working with three graduate students. The early 1950s work concentrated on inventory and also took advantage the site offered for ecological work and long term studies. The University of South Carolina completed its work and departed leaving UGA to move forward with future research on the reservation. Dr. Odum was subsequently joined by other researchers and academics. The scope of their work was primarily studying the effects of radiation on the various flora and fauna. In 1961 the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory was established as a permanent facility. From 1962 to 1967 Dr. Frank B. Golley directed the lab which was at that time housed in abandoned military barracks. The staff was about 15 or 20 research students and scientists.



Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Staff in front of second laboratory, military barracks, 1968.

Courtesy of SRS Archives, negative DPSPF 12927-1.

SRS at Sixty

By Art Osborne

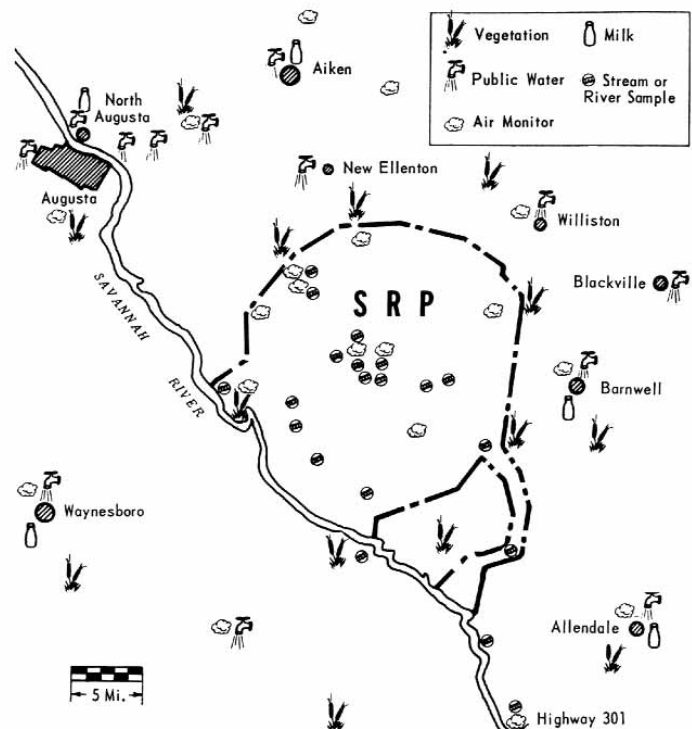
It was clearly recognized from the beginning that the site's reactor operations would have a direct thermal effect on the Savannah River due to the discharge of heated cooling water from the reactor areas. DuPont was aware of the work Limnologist Dr. Ruth Patrick had completed in Delaware. They recruited her to join the team at SRP to characterize and study the river in a detail heretofore unknown. The work she completed became recognized as a landmark study for its thoroughness, novel approaches and brand new scientific methods. When her work started the site was dotted with abandoned farms and animals. Dr. Patrick once recalled that they would often have to get to their small boats to get away from the dog packs that roamed about. Dr. Patrick remained a friend and benefactor to the site and Aiken for many years. Today at the University of South Carolina Aiken there is a building and science center dedicated to her and the outstanding work she accomplished.



The study of natural radioactivity on or near the project site was another matter. For this work DuPont looked internally to C. M. Patterson who had led the radiation protection program at Hanford for DuPont. He recruited and staffed the SRP survey team; which at this time was no easy task. In the early 1950s there were probably thirty or fewer scientists involved in this type of work in the entire country. The team that arrived the summer of 1951 led by Bill Reinig was made up of personnel from other AEC sites, universities and DuPont plants.

This team broke new ground almost every day with the work they accomplished. Existing wells from the abandoned farms and homes were used as the first groundwater sampling points. When nuclear fallout was expected from atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons they would collect the fallout on ordinary flypaper. When film was exposed to the collected flypaper samples radioactivity would show up as tiny spots. Once a helpful clerk decided that an order for flypaper should be replaced with fly swatters, the team had to nearly exhaust the CSRA supply of flypaper to measure the fallout from an unexpected test of an atomic bomb by the USSR.

The site, in just a very few years, became, and is today, one of the most characterized and monitored locations in the world. Today SRNL and other site personnel are recognized around the world for their expertise in measuring and identifying the source of radioactivity



**THANKS TO OUR
SRS HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
SPONSORS
2013**

We are please to recognize our sponsors who have made substantial contributions to Foundation programs.

Corporate Sponsor
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions

Business Members
Security Federal Bank

A special thank you to the individual members for their continued support of the Foundation

**JOIN THE
SRS HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
TODAY!!
WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Time To Renew!!

2014 is a **SPECIAL YEAR!** The SRS Heritage Foundation has a building... a building in Aiken for a museum! Our mission to preserve and present the heritage of the Savannah River Site has come to fruition.

We need you to renew your membership to help us go forward to continue preserving the history of SRS and making it available to all.

Your continuing membership is **very** important to the Foundation. Financial support helps us with projects to preserve Site history. But, **numbers** of members are also important to establish a broad base of support and to show to government entities and other sponsors that the Foundation represents a strong segment of the population.

The membership term is on an annual basis running from January through December of each calendar year. The SRS Heritage Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization open to all individuals, businesses and corporations. Membership dues are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Please renew your membership and continue your support of the SRS Heritage Foundation as it moves to a new level of meeting our mission. Complete the membership form and mail it to:

SRS Heritage Foundation
P. O. Box 2226
Aiken, SC 29802

The membership list is confidential and is not released or sold.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! We will be posting news and tidbits during these exciting times of Foundation progress. The SRS Heritage Facebook page is open for business. Please join us at <http://www.facebook.com/srs.heritage>. And don't forget the news and archives at the website, <http://www.srsheritage.org/>.

**DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE GREAT NEWS AND EVENTS
THAT ARE COMING....JOIN TODAY...(use this form to become a member)**



SRS HERITAGE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the SRS Heritage Foundation in the following level. (Please Check One)

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Benefactor</i> | <i>\$120.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Patron</i> | <i>\$ 60.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Sustaining</i> | <i>\$ 35.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Student</i> | <i>\$ 15.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Small Business</i> | <i>\$ 250.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Corporate Member</i> | <i>\$1,000.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Corporate Sponsor</i> | <i>\$5,000.00</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*I would be willing to help with Publications____, Membership____,
Fundraising____, Publicity____, other____*

This membership is valid through December 2014

| |
|-----------------|
| Name: |
| Address: |
| City, Zip Code: |
| Phone: |
| Email (s): |
| Fax #: |

My check, made out to the SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc. is enclosed. Contributions to the Foundation are tax exempt. Federal ID#20-1629370

Please mail to:

SRS Heritage Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 2226

Aiken, SC 29802

Phone: (803) 226-0116 or 648-5634

Email: SRSHeritageFoundation@gmail.com or qualityprt@aol.com

**If your information hasn't changed,
you can just put your check in the mail!!!**