

2019 Awardees for Preservation Celebration Collin County Historical Commission

Collin McKinney Achievement Award

Anna Area Historical Preservation Society which has been in existence for 15 years, has been actively pursuing several projects to help preserve the history of north-central Collin County. One of the first projects of the Anna Society has been to preserve and restore Anna's Houston and Texas Central Railroad train depot which should be rededicated this year as a museum this year. The Society restored stones in the Lair Cemetery, and placed 44 sites on the County Historic Interactive Map. A history book has been completed about the early communities, churches, schools, farms, and families in the Anna Area. Presently the Society is developing the Collin County Trail and map from Sherley Heritage Park to the Van Alstyne museum and cemetery. Within the next few months a 13-foot tall bronze statue of Collin McKinney will be installed in the Sherley Heritage Park.

Excellence in Historical Education Award

Collin County History Museum conducted a summer camp and after school museum programming, "Journey at the Museum." The goal was to provide quality educational experiences for under resourced students in the community that attend a Title I campus in McKinney. They lack the availability of books, computers and I-pads and the associated internet access in their homes. The programming consisted of two parts: a summer camp held each Wednesday for three hours for six weeks, and a fall after-school program held on Wednesdays for 1 ½ hours for eight weeks. The curriculum for both programs were correlated for 3rd -5th grades social studies. During each session students had the use of a museum I-pad to take pictures, participate in interactive activities, conduct research and create movies about their camp and museum experiences.

Leadership in Preservation Award

Page Parker is the owner and founder of Parker Contracting, Inc. He began restoration and remodeling work in this area about 1982 and has been working in Collin County, primarily McKinney's historic district. Page used historically accurate techniques and materials as much as possible. He understands the old and vs new. Page has restored and preserved 15 homes in historic McKinney and others around Collin County. He prefers the restoration aspect of these older

homes, hand making or reproducing accurate trim and features when needed. Guy Giersch, historic preservation officer said, Page is the “go to” contractor when you need help with these old buildings. Some other contractors just do not have skills and understanding of these older structures.

Young Visionaries Award

Chole Frohock is a student at Vines High School in Plano. She started volunteering at the Heritage Farmstead Museum in 2011 feeding animals, helping the farm manager with chores and has easily given over 2,500 hours of volunteer service. Over the years she helped with summer camps, special events and children’s programs. Chole started a Junior FFA program in 2014 for the Heritage Farmstead Museum where she still recruits new members and instruct current members. This program has been the catalyst for the current sheep exhibit that allows the museum to tell the Ammie Wilson story on a daily basis. Also Chole has volunteered over 1,000 hours helping with her FFA animals and working diligently with the breeding, management and birth of the farmstead’s first five live lamb births in over 56 years. She has won numerous agricultural awards with her sheep and goats for the past five years. Chole is a proven winner.

Living Legacy Award

Katherine Irwin started volunteering over ten years ago at the Heard-Craig House, where she curated most of the artifacts in the house. She spent five years organizing, labeling and photographing antiques and when she completed this enormous task, she found herself volunteering at Chestnut Square in 2010. Katherine started volunteering in the curation department where she led a team of volunteers researching, and repairing 19th and 20th clothing. At the Prairie Adventure Camp she taught from old fashioned games to churning butter. Katherine volunteered to docent school groups and assist with the farmers market. Now she plays a critical role in creating exhibits, researching unusual items and repairing intricate bead work on delicate hat wear from the 1920’s. Also, Katherine plays an instrumental role in decorating for the Tour of Homes and Ghost Walk. When time permits, she helps clean houses, textiles and furniture. Her long-time presence at Heard-Craig and Chestnut Square has made a difference in McKinney.

Nominees

1. **Brett Adams**, nominated for the Excellence in Historical Education Award, has done many volunteer activities at the Frisco Heritage Museum. Through his vision and inspiration the Saturday at the Museum lecture series was created. Some of the more recent topics included: Texas and World War I, and Cotton: From Field to Cloth, and Gunpowder Justice: The Trial of Samuel Burk Burnett for the Murder of Farley Sayers. In addition Brett has served as past board president and is a history professor at Collin College.
2. **Collin County History Museum**, nominated for the Collin McKinney Achievement Award, has done outstanding work in creating the exhibit McKinney Then and now. Historic photos, artifacts, and set designs of historic buildings help tell the stories of the people, places and events that helped shaped McKinney. A media room shows McKinney history such as the McKinney Tornado of 1948 and Veterans Hall spotlights the lives of Collin County soldiers through 20th Century wars. Last year over 8,000 people visited the museum.
3. **Tony Battista**, nominated for the Young Visionaries Award, restored an old iron fence in the Old City Cemetery in Plano for his Eagle project from Boy Scout Troop 747 in Plano. This work was performed over the hot Texas summer weeks of 2018. Tony organized his schedule, gathered his tools and materials and led a crew of volunteers.
4. **Curation Team of Chestnut Square**, nominated for the Leadership in Preservation Award, consists of Janice Peacock, Emmie Rickards, Liz Cena and Kathleen Robinson. They have catalogued over 1,000 artifacts in all of the building structures at Chestnut Square. The team has accumulated approximately 1,200 hours identifying, photographing, numbering, describing, researching and entering data from 19th century hats to early 20th century ice-cream freezers.
5. **Ruth Gordillo**, nominated for the Leadership in Preservation Award, have volunteered with her elementary school daughter to clean and maintain the Herring-Hogge Cemetery on Murphy Road and Skyline Drive. On weekends, Ruth can be seen clipping shrubs, trimming trees, or pulling weeds at the cemetery.
6. **Clint Haggard**, nominated for the Leadership in Preservation Award, has a lifelong love of historical preservation which culminated this past year in the rescue of the 1861 house owned by his ancestors. The city of Plano was planning to have the Collinwood House demolished, but Haggard

Enterprises was given approval to move the house. During September, 2018 the Collinwood House was successfully moved and restoration will continue. Clint Haggard saved the oldest house still standing in Plano's city limits.

7. **Noel Hellquist**, nominated for the Young Visionaries Award, has assisted in Prairie Adventure Camps in the summer of 2018 where she led groups of campers and taught them everything from how to churn butter to how to walk on stilts. During the 2018 Ghost tours at Chestnut Square she played the roles of a ghostly bride and a mourning bride. In addition Noel played the role of Mrs. Faires in the oldest house in McKinney at the Annual Holiday Tours of Home.
8. **Linda Hess**, nominated for the Living Legacy Award, has preserved and recorded the history of eastern Collin County. She has procured a phenomenal 24 Texas state historical markers, 7 Collin county historical and 1 Historic state Cemetery Marker—32 in all. Some of the Texas marker applications include Central National Road of The Republic of Texas, Empire College, Frognot, and Snow Hill Community. Linda has put all the historic assets of the community of Josephine on the Historic Interactive Collin County Map. She is a member of numerous professional, lineage organizations and two cemetery associations.
9. **Harold Larson**, nominated for the Excellence in Historical Education Award, since 2009 has been a volunteer docent at the Interurban Railway Museum. Most people know him as "Motorman Harold", as usually seen in his period Interurban Motorman outfit. He has interacted with thousands of school children, senior groups and visitors from the country and the world. Also Harold leads the "Traveling Motormen" in appearances at schools, libraries, and history and science fairs.
10. **William (Bill) McRae**, nominated for the Leadership in Preservation Award, president of Routh Cemeteries has obtained a number of stone memorials. In 2014, small granite stones marked "Unknown" were placed on 60 of the 104 unmarked graves. In 2018, Bill in his final year as president he worked with a Memorial Service to design a large monument that could take 200 names and dates to list all known burials in the pioneer cemetery. This huge monument was placed at the entrance of the cemetery.
11. **Wylie Girl Scout Troop 4193**, nominated for Young Visionaries Award, raised funds for the Murphy Veterans Tribute Project. This small troop consisted of Megan, Kaliya and Cora who hosted a garage sale at the

Maxwell Creek Club House with the proceeds going to the veterans' project. The troop also helped to fold flyers and stuff envelopes for the project.

12. **Murphy Historical Society**, nominated for Excellence in Historical Education Award, works with local schools in many ways. It has worked with the Archaeology Club at Murphy Middle School on a dig at the old Murphy School site. Some of the society's historic photos were shared with the Murphy Middle School Art department. Historical Society members have served as judges at history fairs and guides at the Decatur/Maxwell/Murphy Cemetery. As members of the Tri-Cities Historical Society they conducted a venture called "Cotton, Farm to Market, which was to teach students about the cotton economy of Texas.
13. **North Texas Civilian Historians**, nominated for Collin McKinney Achievement Award, is a group of reenactors who have provided three Murder Mystery Dinner Theater productions, four Ghost Walk skits and demonstrations on canning and women's wear from the 19th Century at Chestnut Square in McKinney. Its most recent contribution took place during the annual Yesterday and Today Fashion Show.
14. **Gordon O'Neal**, nominated for the Excellence in Historical Education Award, has been volunteering at Chestnut Square for over ten years. He is the go to Blacksmith during School Field Trip time. His passion for education shines as he explains to the students the history behind the blacksmith trade. Often times, the blacksmith is noted as the children's favorite station during the field trip. Gordon is also very generous with his time during the summer, often volunteering to come during Prairie Adventure Camps.
15. **Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation**, nominated for the Collin McKinney Achievement Award, has been extremely active in helping to preserve and interpret the historic cemeteries in Collin County. Wayside signs were installed, gravestones were leveled, repaired and cleaned, and new fences and gates were added. The following cemeteries were assisted: Bethany, Baccus, Bush Elkin, Davis, Dunaway and Leach Thomas.
16. **Patty Shore, Curator, Heritage Farmstead Museum**, nominated for the Excellence in Historical Education, devoutly does the research and sets out to create innovative exhibits that educate visitors every day to Heritage Farmstead Museum. One exhibit that was created "Down, But Not Out" offered a look at Black land Prairie life during the Great Depression.

Another exhibit was the Golden Age of Radio in Texas, from the humble crystal sets on the farm to the birth of the transistor at Texas Instruments.” For the 100 year anniversary Patty had an excellent World War I exhibit. Her current exhibits at the museum include the “Spanish Flu” and “Spring is in the Air”: Victorian Celebrations and Traditions. Over 35,000 people visit the museum annually.

17. **Bert Wetherill, nominated for Leadership in Preservation Award**, has researched, developed and built a detailed diorama of the “Old Town of Anna” as it was in the late 1890’s. He has displayed the diorama at the Collin County History Museum, Anna Alumni Homecoming, and the Anna harvest Festival. He has participated with the Collin History Museum with the World War I and “Then and now” exhibits.