

Trust lauds Culpeper museum Civil War Preservation Trust honors Culpeper Museum of History

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By DONNIE JOHNSTON

The Civil War Preservation Trust yesterday presented its Discovery Trail Site of the Year award to the Museum of Culpeper History, citing its extraordinary work in promoting both county and national heritage.

"Attracting the public to come and visit part of our heritage is very important," Trust President Jim Lighthizer said in presenting the award to the museum.

Lighthizer said Culpeper has a rich Civil War heritage and that the CWPT is committed to preserving as much of it as possible.

"In Culpeper County, we've committed millions of dollars and saved 900 acres at the Brandy Station Battlefield site alone," he told the gathering. "We have a commitment to this county to preserve history and promote tourism."

He added that the Culpeper museum's work exemplifies CWPT's goal of educating the public.

The CWPT created the Civil War Discovery Trail, which features more than 500 sites in 32 states, to help teach the story of the war and its impact on America. The National Park Service and tourism departments in various states are partners in the educational endeavor.

"We have been successful because of good partnering," Museum Director Zann Miner said. "We hope to become even more successful."

Culpeper Mayor Pranas Rimeikis and Board of Supervisors Chairman John Coates both praised the museum's work.

Wirt Confroy, director of electronic marketing for the Virginia Department of Tourism, called the museum "a shining star."

"It breaks local and regional boundaries," he said. "This is just another feather in [Virginia tourism's] cap."

The Museum of Culpeper History was established 30 years ago. It was upgraded and moved into its present quarters in 2000.

"We are very proud to be a partner with Culpeper," Lighthizer said.

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