

The Woodbine Twiner

The Official Newspaper of Woodbine, Iowa

May 1, 2013

Front Page



Photos By Jon Burleson

Zell Millard receives the Leisa Collins Historic Preservation Award from the international artist herself (left) at the Merry Brook School he helped rescue and restore.

Millard earns award for preservation effort, brings attention to Woodbine

JON BURLESON
Twiner Reporter

Woodbine's own Zell Millard was awarded the Leisa Collins Historic Preservation Award for his efforts to rescue and preserve the Merry Brook Historic School House.

The award was presented to Millard at the school by the international artist Leisa Collins herself who is a native of Auckland, New Zealand. Collins said she

created the award for people like Millard who make a difference.

"It's for people like Mr. Millard who spearhead the charge for historic preservation," she said. "My husband and I have travel throughout America and seen to many ghost towns."

Collins said small communities are important and that Woodbine sets a wonderful example of what a small community can do. The buildings offer something for people to rel-

ish and the love that has been shown in restoring and maintaining the area's heritage and tradition.

"You have a vibrant, real main street in a rural setting," she said. "It is an absolute gem of a town."

During his acceptance, Millard said the honor was a humbling experience. He thanked the many people involved including Eileen Ehlert and the dozens of volunteers

who restored the exterior and interior of the school.

Millard said that country schools carry many memories for those that attended them. He told the audience seated in the old school desks about being a student in that very room. He pointed to Cindy Pryor and said that her grandmother was his teacher.

"She smacked me in the back

See MILLARD Page 6

Page Two

Millard

From Page 1

of my head one time," he said. "I wasn't doing anything!"

This brought a chuckle from the rest of the group, including Woodbine Mayor Bill Hutcheson, who also went to the country school. Hutcheson said the way Millard got things done was to do them first and take care of the details later.

"When Zell heard they were going to demolish the school, he took action to get it moved," he said. "Only later

did we find out he moved it to a portion of property that belonged to the railroad at the time."

Millard fessed up to that fact. He stated that sometimes you do crazy things in an emergency.

The Historic Preservation Award from Collins consisted of a framed original pen and watercolor painting of the building. This was one of only three such awards presented in the country.