

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

*Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association*

Spring 2016

Volume XXXI, No. 2



*Fort Hall, Idaho, circa 1850*

## Fort Hall, Speakers Highlight OCTA's Annual Convention

Tribes, cultures and trails of the Fort Hall, Idaho, area will be the focus on the 34th Annual OCTA National Convention scheduled for August 1-6.

The convention, headquartered at the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel in Fort Hall, will have a theme of "Fort Hall: Cultures and Changes."

In keeping with that theme, opening ceremonies on Tuesday, August 2, will feature local tribal dancers and the morning's four speakers from the Tribe will cover various aspects of their history, culture and the impact of the fur trappers and emigrants upon the Native Americans in the Fort Hall area.

Speakers on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday are scheduled to include:

- Jim Hardee on Fur Trapper history
  - Jerry Eichhorst on Diary references on the trail between Soda Springs and Fort Hall
  - Will Bagley on Fort Hall as the Trade Center of a Hungry Land
  - Steve Banks on Robert Stuart and the discovery of South Pass
  - Tom Blanchard on Goodale's Cut-off
  - Clint Gilchrist on the Lander Road
  - Paul Link on the geology of the area and how that determined the route the trails took
  - Clay Landry looking at Fort Hall trading for the early years of the existence of the Post (1834-1836).
  - Martha Voght will look at the way the popular press of the time portrayed the Native Americans.
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## Trails Proposed For NHT System May Be Reduced

The long-awaited feasibility study by the National Park Service of additional routes to be added to the Oregon, California, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails is tentatively expected to be released for public comment in the Fall of 2016.

In comments to the OCTA Board of Directors at its Mid-Year meeting in St. George, UT, the Park Service confirmed that as few as 21 of the 78 routes and segments included in the initial review may be recommended to be added to the NHT System.

Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the NPS Long Distance Trails office, said the study will be presented to the NPS Advisory Board National Historic Landmark Committee in May and to the full advisory board in June.

Asked by OCTA President John Winner about rumors that only 21 of the routes and segments would be recommended for inclusion in the historic trails, Mahr said the number "is changing."

"After we evaluated all the routes, we eliminated some routes because they did not show any evidence of being used by emigrants," Mahr said. "We tried to be as inclusive as possible in order to include routes that met the original definition of historic trails. That did not include all the additional routes."

After Winner noted OCTA's viewpoint that the more trails that are included the better, Mahr said, "the number 21 may or may not survive. It is likely to go higher rather than lower."

Mahr said the NPS will be open to adding additional routes during the public comment period, but it will need to be based on documentation of use as an emigrant route as defined in the National Trails Act.

The Public Lands Act of 2009 authorized the NPS to determine the feasibility of adding 78 new routes to the established National Historic Trails. During the ensuing

*(Continued on Page 21)*

**Inside: OCTA Financials, pages 6-7**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



By [John Winner](#)  
OCTA President

Greetings to all. I hope the winter months haven't been too harsh on you. For some of us who live in a fairly mild climate zone, like Placerville, California, the winter months hopefully will bring us the rains and mountain snowpack that fill

our lakes and reservoirs. For those in the Southwest, it's generally a delightful time of the year. But for some who live in parts of this great country the thought of getting out and doing trail work is merely a wish. I remember as a kid living in Buffalo, NY, I enjoyed the holidays, but it seemed like a long wait for Baseball.

Well this is the Spring issue of *News From The Plains* and that means the snow will begin to melt, the grass will grow, the flowers will bloom, and it's time to plan ahead for some of the events that are scheduled for 2016. OCTA just held its Mid-Year Board meeting in St. George, UT, coupled with an excellent symposium hosted by the folks in Southern Utah and OCTA's Crossroads Chapter.

That was only the beginning. Here's some of what we have to look forward to in 2016:

- The National Park Service is celebrating 100 years with a host of *Centennial Events*, being scheduled.
- The Southern Trails Chapter spring symposium will be in Wilcox, AZ, April 6- 9;
- The Colorado-Cherokee Chapter will conduct an auto tour of the Cherokee Trail in Kansas, April 22-24;

- The California-Nevada Chapter will host its spring symposium in Susanville, CA, April 29, 30 and May 1;
- The annual *Trail Days* at the California Trail Interpretative Center in Elko, Nevada is June 4-5;
- June 4<sup>th</sup>. is *National Trail Days*, a host of events are scheduled across the nation;
- The Partnership for the National Trail Systems will host a workshop in Independence, MO June 7-9, including dedication of the Fairbanks Medallion at the Truman Courthouse on June 7 and the Powder Mill Pedestrian Bridge over Interstate 435 on June 9;
- On September 4<sup>th</sup>, once again enjoy *The Orchestra on the Oregon Trail*, at Alcove Springs, Kansas, featuring the Topeka Symphony Orchestra.
- And by all means mark your calendar for OCTA's annual Convention in Ft. Hall, Idaho, August 1-5.

This is just a sampling of some of the trail events that are currently scheduled for the next few months. Additionally, several chapters are scheduling trail outings, including field trips, trail mapping, trail marking, workshops, chapter meetings and more. Be sure to check the various websites for more information and specifics about each event.

As spring descends upon us and cabin fever subsides, dust off the boots, mark your calendars and get ready for another year of passion for the trails, comradery with fellow "rut nuts" and the protection of the Historic Emigrant Trails Legacy.....*more to come*

## NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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# PRESERVATION

By [Jere Krakow](#)

National Preservation Officer

There are several ongoing projects OCTA chapter Historic Preservation Officers are monitoring and communicating about at present. The largest and potentially most threatening project is the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) transmission line in Idaho and Oregon. Our NW Chapter Preservation Officer Billy Symms and Gail Carbiener pay very close attention to the project. Note the B2H article in this issue of *NFP*. Of particular interest is a lengthy article about B2H in *High Country News* for a March issue written by Sarah Gilman. She has interviewed many about the potential impacts including many OCTA members.

Several energy related projects are ongoing in Wyoming. The BLM offices in Kemmerer and Rock Springs are keeping OCTA informed about them. A key one that we have heard very little about is a supposed transmission or pipeline corridor through South Pass. Nineteenth century fur traders, missionaries, emigrants and gold seekers are not the only ones to use the pass! Perhaps readers of *NFP* have heard about this potentially significant development. Chapter members are monitoring many projects in Wyoming.

The Nebraska transmission line project remains a threat to the Sutherland ruts and nearby resources in the Sand Hills as does the building of two reservoirs along the south side of the Platte River between Lexington and Kearney. The latter will impact trail ruts, the Plum Creek Cemetery and the important trail setting in the entire area. Members of the Nebraska Chapter are also monitoring these projects.

From key members of the Crossroads Chapter, the Utah Legislature has a bill pending to support expansion by 635,000 acres of a Defense Department test range on the west desert. It has been introduced in Congress by Sen. Hatch. This expansion has the potential for major impacts on the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails. In a late-breaking development in Utah the manager of East Canyon State Park east of Salt Lake City is once again posing action to "blade down the trail" at Little Mountain for biking. This section is on the California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails. Stay tuned!

The most recent project to arise is a request by the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (CPB) to significantly increase the number of handcart trekkers in the upper Sweetwater River Valley and over Rocky Ridge in Wyoming. For 10 years the Lander office of BLM has

coordinated handcart activity under a use permit. The permit caps the number of trekkers and support staff and vehicles. Presently it allows 6,000 trekkers annually with a maximum group size of 200. The CPB has requested increasing the number of trekkers to 7,000 annually and the group size to 350.

The request to increase trekkers and support staff apparently surfaced during the summer of 2015, however OCTA did not learn of it until January of this year. Wyoming Chapter members and the National Preservation Officer attended a meeting in Casper in March to learn more detail and express concern over potential impacts. The BLM has had a resource monitoring program in place for several years to assess the impacts. A Wyoming OCTA Chapter Preservation officer has monitored impacts and has compelling photographic evidence of resource damage along the route. The OCTA Board will get an update at the mid-year meeting in St. George, Utah in March.

As a significant part of the mission of OCTA, trail preservation is critical to the effort of OCTA members. Please monitor any possible threats to trail resources and quickly contact chapter Preservation Officers, OCTA's National Preservation Officer or OCTA headquarters.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April 6-9:** Southern Trails Chapter Symposium, Willcox, AZ.

**April 29-May 1:** CA-NV Chapter Symposium, Susanville, CA

**May 20-21:** Wyoming Chapter Meeting and Trek, Casper

**June 4:** National Trails Day, various locations

**June 4-6:** Trails Days, California Trails Interpretive Center, Elko NV

**June 6-10:** Partnership for the National Trails System, Historic Trails Workshop, Kansas City.

**June 11-12:** NW Chapter driving tour Sandy to Brightwood.

**June 15-25:** National Pony Express Re-ride, various locations.

**June 24-26:** NW Chapter tour to Baker City to visit sites affected by the proposed B2H transmission line.

**August 1-5:** OCTA National Convention, Ft. Hall, Idaho

**September 4:** Orchestra on the Oregon Trail, Alcove Spring

# OCTA Joins Trail Partners to “Hike The Hill”

In early February, representatives from organizations within the **Partnership for the National Trails System** (PNTS), including OCTA, were in Washington, D.C., for the annual “**Hike The Hill**” week, which included meetings with members of Congress, congressional committee staff and public land agency officials to convey messages of thanks for supporting the National Trails System.

Our goals included requesting specific support for pending legislation, urging extension beyond three years of the **Land & Water Conservation Fund**, raising awareness of potential threats to trail resources from a variety of development projects, and hearing agency initiatives for the coming year including the celebration of the founding in August 1916, of the National Park Service as a government agency.

We all carried folders and notebooks of materials to distribute, especially the goldenrod- colored summary of volunteer hours and monies compiled by members of the PNTS. **OCTA contributed approximately 100,000 hours, thousands of miles, along with financial contributions of \$2,500,000.** The aggregated total for all PNTS members reached some million hours worth \$24,000,000 and financial contributions over \$12,000,000.

This is an impressive report to share with Congress and illustrates how much each appropriated dollar can be leveraged in protecting, developing and telling the story of the nation’s historic and scenic trails.

Along with **Bill Watson and his grandson, Cole**, I called or dropped off materials at 20-plus offices and met with representatives of the Appropriations Committees and staff, other committee staff, and several federal agency managers who administer and manage the national trails of the USA.

At the Senate Appropriation Committee staff meeting I inquired about budgets for the national trails and the chair said budgets will be “**flat or declining.**” It was not a surprise to hear that reply!

In a bipartisan statement, several offices indicated support for extending the Land & Water Conservation Fund for longer than three years as had been passed by Congress in December of 2015. The fund has benefitted many states and communities with

conservation of lands that have national trails crossing them, with playgrounds, ball fields, hunting and fishing access and more.

As I have done for many consecutive years, I reminded congressional staff of the desire to find a sponsor for a **Feasibility-Suitability Study of the Southern Trails.**

Though I came away once again without a sponsor in either the House or Senate, it has not been for a lack of trying by many of us representing OCTA the past many years. It is quite apparent that a key step for OCTA to take is to secure letters of support from county commissioners, local historic societies, other conservation groups, and Indian tribes. Having those in hand can demonstrate to members of Congress that grass roots support exists for the Southern Trails.

Also during Hike The Hill Week, the Partnership held its annual workshop and business meeting, highlighted by work on its Strategic Plan which has been ongoing for several months. Prior to the meeting, the PNTS Strategic Planning Committee, assisted by an independent contractor, prepared draft purpose and goals statements and continued to refine them through follow-up calls with trail association members across the nation.

With input from the National Scenic Trail member organizations and those of the National Historic Trails, a draft mission and vision statement evolved. The workshop continued to refine the purpose, vision and goals with PNTS Board and Leadership Council members.

Progress became evident throughout the day as the contract expert led representatives through small group activities, reporting and consensus building.

Though not completely finalized, the Strategic Plan is nearly complete and will be distributed for review to PNTS member organizations such as OCTA.

Also, the PNTS Board and Leadership Council members conducted the annual business meeting with committee reports, updates from key partners on a variety of topics like extending the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and any pending legislation that relates to the national trails. The day concluded with reports from federal agency partners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank OCTA for supporting my travel once again this year to attend the PNTS meetings and participate in “hike the hill”.

*- Jere L. Krakow, National Preservation Officer*

Visit the OCTA Bookstore at [www.octa-trails.org/store](http://www.octa-trails.org/store)

## FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



By [Travis Boley](#)

It won't be long before it is consistently warm enough to get back out on our trails. And because this is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service, we are in the midst of planning multiple “Centennial Events” to celebrate

our National Historic Trails.

From June 6 through 9, Independence, will host for the Partnership for the National Trails System's biennial Historic Trails Workshop. Representatives from most of the 19 National Historic Trails and their federal partners will be in attendance. Many local elected officials and administrators from city, county and state governments will also be there. They will all see firsthand how the Kansas City metropolitan area is building a 40-mile long retracement trail in the shared corridor of the Oregon/California/Santa Fe National Historic Trails, from the Wayne City Landing along the Missouri River in Sugar Creek, MO to the point where the trails separate just west of Gardner, KS.

As part of the workshop, there will be two Centennial Events. The first will occur at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7 at the Jackson County Courthouse in Independence. The courthouse is located on the city square and is essentially the beginning of our trails. We are, at long last,

installing our Avarad Fairbanks Oregon Trail bronze medallion (pictured here).



Created in 1925, the medallion weighs 200 pounds and measures three feet in diameter. When it was donated to OCTA by David Fairbanks about a dozen years ago, it was valued at \$23,000. At the time of its donation, OCTA signed a memorandum of understanding with Jackson County to install it at the courthouse once they completed the remodeling of the building and grounds.

The second Centennial Event of that week will occur at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 9 in south Kansas City, where the new Powder Mill Bridge spans I-435. It is the nation's first pedestrian bridge over an interstate built specifically for National Historic Trails. The \$1.5 million bridge is a vital link in completing the retracement trail.

It will connect the Hart Grove Campground to the west and Schumacher Park to the east, sites that already have completed retracement trail on the ground. Cerner Corporation is currently constructing a 4.25 million square foot office complex just to the northeast of the bridge, and once complete, it will house 14,000 employees. As part of the construction process, Cerner is building the one-mile piece of trail across its property to connect Schumacher Park at the Powder Mill Bridge, which will serve as a vital connector for employees of Cerner and local neighborhoods. Because the bridge project was built in a majority African-American neighborhood, the nearby bus stop will soon carry both a mural and interpretation that celebrates African-American women on the trail.

The final Centennial Event currently planned on our trails is set for Sunday, September 4 at Alcove Spring in northeast Kansas. It's a repeat of last year's “Orchestra on the Oregon Trail,” which featured the Topeka Symphony and drew nearly 2,000 people. The orchestra performance will be preceded by an all-day symposium with speakers, re-enactors and live music. Because it is an official NPS Centennial Event, our National Park Service partners will have increased visibility and increased involvement.

If your chapter is interested in creating an event, contact OCTA HQ as soon as you can with your idea. We are also planning several **National Trails Day** events for Saturday, June 4 and encourage our chapters to do the same. In the Kansas City area, we will unveil our new engraved stone benches at Cave Spring in Raytown, MO. These benches were the result of winning a “Placemaking Grant” from the Kansas City Realtors Association and will double as a resting place in a memorial garden and as a bus stop.

On that same day, we will open a segment of swales at Santa Fe Trail Park in Independence. An Eagle Scout is working to create a permanent opening to this last remaining and best preserved swale in eastern Jackson County. It will feature a corral-type opening and signs at the entrance to the site. Interpretation will be added to in a future Eagle Scout project.

Again, if your chapter creates National Trails Day events, let OCTA HQ know so that we can help promote them. These are excellent opportunities to interface with the public and garner lots of free press. These events also serve as great opportunities to gain new memberships, so be sure to show up with membership brochures!

# OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

## Statement of Activities

For the Years Ended September 30, 2015 and 2014

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
National Park Service	167,746	166,799
Membership Dues	73,803	73,548
Convention and Symposium	80,697	54,221
Contributions	48,318	35,984
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	7,157	9,810
Other	6,444	7,632
Total Operating Revenues	<u>384,165</u>	<u>347,994</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Board and Officers	12,056	8,139
Committees	44,493	33,143
Administration and Management	209,677	197,586
Publications	53,151	54,339
Convention and Symposium	60,978	44,919
Other	20,247	49,549
Total Operating Expenses	<u>400,602</u>	<u>387,675</u>
Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(16,437)</u>	<u>(39,681)</u>
<b>Non Operating Income (Deductions)</b>		
Endowment Fund Investment Income (Loss)	(26,567)	105,195
Film Amortization	(35,753)	(35,753)
Endowment Fund Contributions	2,445	9,802
Life Memberships	4,000	5,700
Total Non Operating Income (Deductions) Net	<u>(55,875)</u>	<u>84,944</u>
Increase in Net Assets	<u>(72,312)</u>	<u>45,263</u>

## Statement of Financial Position

### As of September 30, 2015 and 2014

	2015	2014
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents:		
General Operating Accounts	59,237	10,639
Restricted Accounts	9,124	24,289
Accounts Receivable	1,816	1,911
Prepaid Expenses	-	3,500
Inventory (at cost)	34,224	36,523
Investments (Endowment Funds)	1,246,183	1,271,730
Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization	178,766	214,519
Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation	1,304	2,678
Total Assets	1,530,654	1,565,789
 <b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Accounts Payable	78,616	44,126
Note Payable - Bank	13,000	-
Deferred Revenue	6,342	16,654
Total Liabilities	97,958	60,780
 <b><u>Net Assets</u></b>		
Unrestricted:		
Designated by Governing Board	462,131	479,688
Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment	180,071	217,197
General	3,661	8,447
	645,863	705,332
Temporarily Restricted	327,174	342,531
Permanently Restricted	459,659	457,146
Total Net assets	1,432,696	1,505,009
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,530,654	1,565,789

# Candidates for OCTA's National Board of Directors

Three candidates have agreed to place their names in nomination for election to the OCTA Board of Directors. They are **Ginny Dissette of Brighton, CO; Dick Nelson of Lenexa, KS; and Billy Symms of Yachats, OR.**

Nelson and Symms are seeking their second three-year terms on the Board. Don Hartley elected not to run for a second three-year term.

A ballot is enclosed with this issue of *News From The Plains* and must be returned by June 15. (If you have opted to receive the electronic version of NFTP, please use the ballot on page 23 and return it as indicated.) If a majority of members do not return ballots, a vote will be held at the 2016 Convention at Fort Hall in August. Three candidates will be elected.



## **Virginia "Ginny" Michaud Dissette**

(Endorsed by Camille Bradford, Berl Meyer and Jean Coupal-Smith)

Ginny Dissette is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Coloradoan, descended from fur trappers/traders along the Cache La Poudre River in northern Colorado.

They eventually homesteaded northwest of Fort Collins on land not

far from the Cache La Poudre River. The homestead is still standing and is a working farm, situated at the intersection of Overland Trail Road and Michaud Lane.

Her pride in her pioneer stock and interest in the preservation of our historical western heritage was enhanced when she married her husband who was raised in history rich, Casper, WY. For many years, Gary and Ginny drove from their home in Aurora to Casper and searched along the way for signs of the Oregon Trail.

Ginny attended Wright State University School of Nursing in Dayton, OH, then returned to Fort Collins, where she met her husband of 33 years. Today her career in medicine includes directing the continuing medical educational program for physicians at two hospitals and serving as a consultant in continuing medical education. Ginny has served as secretary to the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA for the past three years and has attended every national convention since she joined OCTA.



## **Dick Nelson**

(Endorsed by Duane Iles, Ross Marshall and Roger Blair)

I am completing my first three-year term as a member of the OCTA Board of Directors. I have been a member of OCTA for 28 years and have always supported the mission of the Association during that time. I

have just completed a second three-year term as President of Trails Head Chapter and am now serving as Vice-President. I have been involved in convention planning and helped lead tours of trails in the Kansas City Metro area. I am a member of other historical trail organizations in the area. I retired from the General Electric Co. after a 33-year career in sales and management.

I currently serve as Chairman of the OCTA Awards Committee and am leading a Headquarters Review Committee, AKA Committee A, for the Board of Directors.

If re-elected to the Board I will honor a commitment to attend two Board meetings a year, continue to serve on Committee A, look to strengthen and retain membership and serve OCTA by promoting, protecting and educating about the Oregon- California Trails history and its importance for future generations.



## **Billy Symms**

(Endorsed by Glenn Harrison, Rich Herman and Jere Krakow)

My first term on the board was one of learning all the operations of OCTA and how things are done or in some cases, not done. I am also on the Preservation Committee which is very important because it is one of the

reasons OCTA exists. I have four grandsons that I would like to be able to have the trail experience but we are losing the remaining sections at such a rapid rate that may not be possible.

This year I had over 240 hours of trail work and drove 6,546 miles in trail related activities. I take this job seriously. I have been providing consistent and vigilante oversight on the B2H Project, which has been in the works for eight years and is scheduled to begin construction in 2020. It is a mammoth undertaking that can have long range and far reaching negative impacts for the Oregon Trail in Oregon and Idaho.

My wife and I are geocachers and as a result we have seen places that we would not have seen ordinarily. OCTA could incorporate geocaching into its trail work to reach multiple age groups who don't realize how wonderful the trail experience is until we can open that curtain for them as it gets people of all ages out on the trail. I would like to be involved in helping develop a geocaching program for the trails. Maybe we could pick up some new members that we badly need. We have to find a way to get the 50 and up age group more involved and this could be a way to do it.



# OCTA Award Nominations Due June 1

A deadline of June 1 has been set for the OCTA Awards Committee to receive nominations for deserving candidates to receive recognition at OCTA's 2016 Convention in Fort Hall, Idaho.

Please be aware that recognition comes from the general membership and not from the Awards Committee. **If there are no nominations forthcoming from the membership, no awards will be granted.**

Nominations should be submitted on the Awards forms available on the [OCTA website](http://www.octa-trails.org). To find the forms go to [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). At the bottom of the left hand column, click on Members Area. Scroll down to Activity Forms and you will find the appropriate award nomination form listed. Open the form that corresponds with the award category you are needing.

Complete the form(s), print and email to Dick Nelson, Awards Chair, at [kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net). Alternatively, the forms may be sent via postal mail to Dick Nelson, 12812 W. 100<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Lenexa, KS. 66215. If you do not have access to the internet and need a form, contact OCTA Headquarters at 816-252-2276.

Be sure to provide sufficient justification and qualifications so that the committee can make informed decisions.

Although the forms direct you to contact the nominees before nomination and mentions follow-up publicity, this is not necessary in order to submit the nomination, especially if it discourages you from submitting a deserving nomination. You may ignore these steps if you wish. Using the nomination form is also optional.

## **Deadline for completed nominations is June 1.**

Please use the form best fitting the qualifications of the candidate. The award categories are:

**Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award**—OCTA's highest award granted for long-term significant contributions to OCTA. Only members qualify.

**Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award**—Awarded to OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA shorter term goals and

objectives not rising to the level of length of service or breadth of involvement of Meritorious Achievement recipients.

**Distinguished Service Award**—Recognition of organizations, businesses, or individuals who contribute, participate, or share interest in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. Non-members may qualify for this recognition.

**Friend of the Trail Award**—Presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

**National Certificates of Appreciation**—Given to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope.

**David Welch Preservation Award**--For special efforts regarding preservation. Not necessarily given every year.

**Young OCTAN Award**—Presented to youth 6-21 years of age who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. An entire class or group of school-aged children may qualify as one aggregated nominee. OCTA membership is not required.

If you have any questions about the awards program, please contact Dick Nelson at the email and postal addresses provided above. Again, these are awards to recognize your friends and OCTA co-workers; **if there are no nominations, there will be no awards!** Don't let that happen. There are many deserving individuals in OCTA, but it is up to you to inform the committee who they are.

## Track Your Volunteer Hours & Expenses

Volunteer hours and expenses accumulated by OCTA members are important assets for the organization in securing federal funding for preservation of the trails.

You can help OCTA by keeping track of your hours and expenses, including travel time and costs. A form is available on the OCTA website at [www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms](http://www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms).

Volunteer hours for the year should be reported to Jere Krakow, OCTA's National Preservation Officer, at [jlkrakow@msn.com](mailto:jlkrakow@msn.com) by January 15.

# UTAH CROSSROADS

Even though it was winter, we didn't take much time off. Our fall activities, which included a barbeque with Will Bagley and a lecture with Mike Landon, were well attended.

Our ongoing dialog with the BLM and NPS for interpretive markers and trails is going well. Site and trail markers will be agreed upon for markers to be set at sites wherein trails intersect with frequented public parks. The site for the trail marker at the Salt Lake City & County Building has been agreed upon.

Our effort to keep track of and provide input for the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR) with attending updates is also current, thanks be in part to Linda Turner, our PR person.

In April the Fremont State Park in central Utah is planning the dedication of a Jedediah Smith monument.

We are working with KUEN-9 Television to air our OCTA/BLM Hastings Cut-Off film and working with the Utah State Historical Society whereby they will be our repository for our printed items.

Our spring membership meeting was scheduled for March 31 at the Salt Lake County Complex.

We hope to have a good turnout for the spring symposium in St. George in March. T. Michael Smith will be a principle speaker as will others. We are also looking forward to this year's National Convention at Fort Hall, Idaho. Our spring field trip will be centered around Eli Anderson's "Wagon Town" collection at Tremonton, Utah. Date not yet set.



*Crossroads President Terry Welsh and Past President Gar Elison at the chapter's fall meeting at Ft. Douglas, Utah.*

T-Rail post plans for this year are still being worked out, but it appears it will be three local SLC/Valley sites.

We are still actively involved with the "Trails Consortium Committee," meeting bi-monthly. This is a gathering of like-minded groups to air accomplishments and talk about how we can all work together to accomplish our goals. There are eight to ten entities.

Still nothing on the "ladders" in Echo Canyon.

As of late, we have learned that our vice president and speaker procurement chair is making a permanent move to Oregon due to family health matters. We are saddened that Michael Landon, "historian extraordinaire," will be leaving our midst. We wish him and his family well and hope that they will still be a part of our Utah Crossroads OCTA..

*- A. Oscar Olson*

## CHEROKEE TRAIL

The Cherokee Trail Chapter held its most recent chapter meeting in November. Mark Voth was elected president of the chapter for a two-year term beginning 2016. We have an excellent slate of officers, including Vice President Bill Shanks, Secretary Ginny Dissette, and Treasurer Peggy Watson. Many thanks to Berl Meyer for serving as President of our chapter.

Our chapter has many plans for the upcoming year. We are planning a Chapter excursion to Kansas to trace the first section of the Cherokee Trail. Our hosts will be the Friends of the Cherokee Trail of Kansas. The trip will begin near the OK/KS border and end at McPherson, KS where the Santé Fe Trail splits off from the Cherokee Trail. Due to limited space in some of the

areas we will be visiting, this event is open to only Cherokee Trail Chapter members.

Berl Meyer, our immediate past president, will be leading a trip from Pueblo, CO to Westcliff, CO in July. This journey will retrace part of John Charles Fremont's "Fatal Fourth." This is still in the planning stages and will be updated in our newsletter and on the website.

Mapping is ongoing in El Paso County. T11S-R64W is 70 percent complete. The trail has been mapped with GPS and there is Class 1 trail existing in this township.

T12S-R65W is complete. No Written Information was found in survey notes for T12S-R65W, but a Class 1 portion of the trail has to be GPS when the snow melts. The location of the trail matches with the two adjoining townships.

*- Mark Voth*

# TRAILS HEAD

The chapter's first planned outing of the year was held the last week in March. It was a joint meeting with Missouri River Outfitters - SFTA and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association - KCAHTA. We planned



to walk across the newly completed Powder Mill Bridge, which crosses over I-435.

During the National Historic Trails Workshop June 6 - 9 in Independence, the Powder Mill Bridge will be part of the tours, including the dedication ceremony. Lou Austin, our speaker in March, has

been a pioneer in the development of the Retracement Trail idea in southeast Kansas City. He has been a part of many projects that encompass the 3-Trails Corridor, from securing funding and approval to seeing the completion of the Powder Mill Bridge.

Examples of Lou's accomplishments are:

- Interpretive exhibits and silhouettes at the Hickman Mills Administrative Building site on Old Santa Fe Trail Road south of 87th Street.
- The City's 6th District Community Improvement District.
- The old Bannister Mall site - now the Cerner Three Trails Campus - a huge project.
- The renaming of the Grandview Triangle to Three Trails Memorial Highway.
- Securing the funding for the spectacular overpass over Highway 71 (now I-49) on the MetroGreen Hiking-Biking Trail just south of Bannister Road.

The Kansas City Metro area is the largest city in the nation that has four National Historic Trails. Thus it will be the focal point of NPS investment for developing the first urban Retracement Trail plan. Drivers will be able to follow the Local Tour Route signs which designate where the trail went. It also encourages the continued construction of hiking/biking/pedestrian trails along the same corridors. Interpretive markers will provide the location of the historic trail.

We hope that both these upcoming events will provide community interest and involvement, not only for our chapter but in efforts of keeping our "trails" alive for generations to come.

*- Jean Coupal-Smith*

# WYOMING

The Wyoming Chapter Spring trek will be held in Casper on Friday and Saturday, May 20-21. A chapter meeting with a guest speaker will be held on Friday and a trek on the trails west of Casper on Saturday.

Weather permitting, the trek will stop at Bessemer Bend, Avenue of Rocks, Willow Spring, Ryan Hill and other of Lee Underbrink's favorite trails sites on the way from Casper to Independence Rock.

Members of Lee's family will be with us as well. We will help them scatter his ashes and share his memories on the trek.



*Lee Underbrink on the trail in Wyoming.*

# KANZA

Long-time OCTA members Charlie and Mary Weickert received the L.O.V.E. Marysville Award at a dinner and dance in their Kansas hometown.

The Weickert family has lived in Marysville for more than 40 years and have been heavily involved in the community. Local leadership activities have included the Mother's Day Flea Market, German Fest, the Marshall County Fair, the Marysville Autofest and more.



In addition to OCTA, they have been members of the KANZA chapter, Friends of Hollenberg Station, Friends of Alcove Spring, the Marshall County Historical Society and the Marshall County Railroad Historical Society, to name just a few.

L.O.V.E. is sponsored by the Marysville Chamber of Commerce and stands for "Leadership, Opportunity, Vision & Excellence."

# CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Last year's National Convention at Lake Tahoe is behind us and spring is here; the cherry trees flowered up here on the north coast on February 1. The onset of spring means our Annual Symposium and Membership Meeting soon follows.

This year the Symposium — “Northern Approaches: The Lassen, Nobles and Yreka Trails — will be held in Susanville, CA on April 29, 30 and May 1. The Nobles Trail runs right through the town and Peter Lassen is buried just south of town. The Lassen County Historical Society is assisting local OCTA members Herman Zittel and Bob Bengard in organizing the gathering.

Other activities and projects are moving forward. Several members have spent the last five months working on the locations for placement of National Park Service Auto Tour Route highway signs marking the immigrant trails in California. The chapter's part in this collaborative project is close to completion and there will be a demonstration of this project at our Susanville meeting.

A new project is to provide a subscription of the *Overland Journal* to at least one library in each county of Nevada and California through which the trails pass. The subscription would be donated by a member or group of members who live in the county. At the November 2015 board meeting several members indicated they would make arrangements to get the *Overland Journal* on the shelves of some local libraries.

Board member Steve Shaw is representing our chapter at the spring meeting of the Society for California Archeology in Ontario. Frank Tortorich's project with Kirkwood Ski area and the National Forest Foundation to install interpretive signs for the Carson Trail is progressing. At last fall's board meeting the chapter voted to donate \$500 to the Elko Trails Center for the establishment of a library.

One area of work that needs some attention is the Fernley Swales in Nevada. Late last fall Jon Kowlin did the photo monitoring of the site. We still need to conduct a clean-up of the site and find someone to coordinate these activities. The chapter has an agreement with the BLM to perform these two tasks.

- Mark Wilson

## CA-NV Spring Symposium

The California Nevada Chapter will hold its annual general membership meeting and Spring Symposium in Susanville April 29, 30, and May 1.

The symposium will be held at the Monsignor Moran Hall. Saturday evening will include a barbeque dinner at the same location. Sunday morning will include an auto tour of spots on the Lassen and Nobles Trails, lunch (provided), and a visit to Peter Lassen's Grave. An alternative field trip will be arranged if weather conditions prevent access to the trail sites.

Rooms at a rate of \$80 per night are available at the Diamond Mountain Hotel & Casino in Susanville. Mention the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA to receive the special rate. Reservations must be made before midnight April 14 to receive the reduced rate. CA-NV reservations will also include an \$8.00 breakfast voucher. You can reach the hotel at (877) 319-8514.

Registration includes a Friday evening reception at the hotel, a continental breakfast and lunch on both Saturday and Sunday, symposium speakers, and a barbeque dinner, awards, and silent auction at Monsignor Moran Hall

Saturday speakers (subject to change), include:

Richard Silva - "*Fearful 1852 Yreka Trail*"

Ken Johnston - "*Finding Nobles Route*"

Sharynn-Marie Blood -

"*The Nobles Trail on BLM Land*"

Sandy Jonas - "*Susan Roop*"

Frank Tortorich -

"*East Boundary & the Sagebrush War*"

Nolan Darnell & Tom and Sid McBride -

"*2010 Wagon Train on the Humboldt Wagon Road - Silver City Route from Westwood, California to Jordan Valley, Oregon*"

The price is \$65 for CA/NV Chapter members and \$75 for non-members. Please make checks payable to CA-NV OCTA and send to: CA-NV OCTA, c/o Herman Zittel, 1245 N Bunyon Rd., Susanville CA 96130-3149. You can reach Herman at (530) 252-1243 if you have further questions.

*Save the Trail*

## Opinion

# Oregon Trail in Oregon – Can We Save the Last Ruts?

By Gail Carbinier

Greg Franzwa saw a farmer plowing up nearly a mile of ruts of the Oregon Trail prior to planting potatoes in north eastern Oregon about 1971. A picture of these long gone ruts appears in *The Oregon Trail Revisited* on page 371. This was the event that led to the organization of OCTA in 1982, with the purpose being the preservation of the emigrant trails. Greg is gone now, but I frequently wonder if he would think we have done enough?

The Oregon Trail is much more than just ruts on the ground, but it is through ruts that people look to gain the greater experience. It is not the same with the thick dust in the hot blowing wind, smacking you in the face or the freezing rain and mud on your boots, unless you are in the ruts.

Those of us who have been involved in mapping and marking the trail know that Class 1 and Class 2 segments are the most important to preserve. Class 1 is a segment that retains the essence of its original character and shows no evidence of having been altered. Class 2 also shows its original character but is typically a two-track having had no modern improvements such as widening, blading or graveling.

These segments are really special. It is here where folks can daydream, visualize their ancestors or perhaps begin to understand for themselves the difficulty of the trip West. Today in Oregon we estimate that on BLM and National Forest lands there are only about 45 miles of Class 1 or 2, out of the original over 500 miles. That is sad!

Mother Nature takes some each year, but modern progress takes more. Roads, pipelines, power lines, shopping centers, housing developments, mining, oil and gas; it goes on and on. As large corporations propose projects that impact the small remaining segments of the trail, some of us are attempting to obtain significant mitigation. Funds needed to purchase major segments of remaining trail ruts or sites pale when compared to the project costs. It is no longer acceptable to agree to anything less.

The BLM should be OCTA's best friend. I wonder. Just read chapter 3, page 729 of the B2H Draft Environmental Impact Statement: *"The influence of the alternatives under consideration would have minimal impact when compared to the qualities of the entire 2,170-mile long congressionally designated trail, the 529.2 miles of trail in Idaho, or the 519.5 miles of trail in Oregon."* Can the Trail absorb any more impact, even minimal?

After spending hundreds and hundreds of hours, all volunteer, with no end in sight, I wonder if we can save the last ruts in Oregon. It is a difficult battle, trying to present factual arguments against a battery of corporate employees who are paid to do their job. They are good people, work very hard and are extremely knowledgeable.

Eastern Oregon, south of Vale at Keeney Pass, north of Vale at Alkali Springs and Tub Springs, Birch Creek west of Farewell Bend on the Snake River, the Flagstaff Hill Interpretive Center near Baker City all have some of the approximately 45 miles. The Oregon Trail Interpretive Park at Blue Mountain Crossing north of La Grande and Echo Meadows site west of the town of Echo also have short segments of special Trail.

When you visit these places, you get pumped up, energized. Heck maybe we can save these last miles of ruts on the BLM lands and in the National Forests in Oregon.

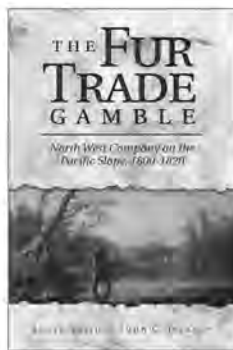
## GRAND AMBITIONS

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## Convention *(continued from page 1)*

- Dave Welch will review trail mapping with reference to the Fort Hall area.

Tours planned for Wednesday and Friday will focus on early trapper sites in Idaho and Oregon Trail sites around Fort Hall, including:

- Fur Trappers in Eastern Idaho
- Oregon California Trail from the East
- Oregon-California Trail to the West
- Scenic Idaho
- Milner Recreation Area Oregon Trail ruts
- Local Tour of the Monument and Ferry Butte

Pre-convention tours will include the Oregon Trail through the Fort Hall reservation and the Hudspeth Cutoff. Post-convention tours include the Goodale Cutoff and the California Trail through Idaho.

The schedule of events:

- Monday – Board meeting, Heritage Fair, Welcome Social.
- Tuesday – Keynote and other speakers, Awards Banquet
- Wednesday – Bus tours, Authors Night
- Thursday – Speakers, Workshops, Presentations
- Friday – Bus Tours, Closing Barbecue

Watch your mail and email in late April/early May for convention registration materials. Registration will also be available online. More information will be available on the Idaho Chapter website at [www.idahoocata.org](http://www.idahoocata.org) and the OCTA website at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

**The Idaho chapter is looking for raffle and auction items for the 2016 convention at Fort Hall. For more information or to make a donation, contact Margie Houdyshell at [houdyshell@cableone.net](mailto:houdyshell@cableone.net).**

Visit OCTA on the Internet

[OCTA-trails.org](http://OCTA-trails.org)

Our Journals site:

[OCTA-journals.org](http://OCTA-journals.org)

OCTA Bookstore:

[www.OCTA-trails.org/store/](http://www.OCTA-trails.org/store/)



## NORTHWEST

The Northwest Chapter has a long list of summer outings scheduled, according to Paul Masee, NW OCTA Vice President and Outings Coordinator.

“We have interest already on the June driving tour of the Devil's Backbone on Marmot Road and the Sandy museum, the Hilgard to Meacham three-day outing in July, and the Lavender Festival in early July,” Masee said. “There's room for more at each outing.”

The schedule includes:

June 11-12 – Driving tour from Sandy to Brightwood via Marmot Road and the Devil's Backbone.

June 24-26 – Baker City to visit sites affected by the proposed B2H transmission line.

July (date TBD) – South end of Hix Road through Tygh Valley ending at the Davis Ranch west of Wamic.

July 9-10 – Lavender Farm and Lavender Festival east of Oregon City.

July 23-24 – Hilgard to Meacham to see pristine Oregon Trail ruts and swales while setting new or cleaning old carsonite markers in the Blue Mountains near La Grand.

For information about any of the outings, contact Masee at [pcmassee@centurylink.net](mailto:pcmassee@centurylink.net).

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## THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION

*"Our mission is to enhance the California Trail Experience through education, interpretation, and care of the California Trail for our community, visiting public and future generations."*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Annual Trail Days – June 4-5, 2016**

**Western Heritage Festival – August 4-5, 2016**

### THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER FOUNDATION

421 Court Street \* Elko, Nevada  
ctcf1849@gmail.com | 775-340-2031  
[www.TrailCenterFoundation.org](http://www.TrailCenterFoundation.org)



# FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

## Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support the work of OCTA through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Gifts in the last several months include those from:

Lynne Alvord	Hal & Sharon Manhart
Ronald Becher	Hugh & Carol March
Todd & Betty Berens	Tom Maynor
Dan Bolen	Neil McCallum
Kelly Breen	George McClellan
John & Patty Brissenden	Carole McClellan
Dennis Brown	Mary Mueller
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Joan Kelleher	Mark Vangen
Joye Kohl	John & Hazel Willmarth
Jere L Krakow	Gareth & Deann Wilson
Al & Sharon Lopez	Dick & Joan Young
Brenda Lozier	

## Welcome New OCTA Members

Lila Aamodt, Mission, KS  
Ted Anderson, Washougal, WA  
Ivan Baker, Beaverton, OR  
Blaine Benedict, Las Vegas, NV  
Dona Blakely, Carlotta, CA  
Dan Bolen, Prairie Village, KS  
Carol Brooks, Yuma, AZ  
Susan Christensen, Orting, WA  
Hugh Clark/John Day River Club, Fall City, WA  
Virgel Clark, Boise, ID  
Paula & Doug Davina, Eagle, ID  
Theodore Davis, San Diego, CA  
Tim Ford, Twain Harte, CA  
Carl Fowler, Williston, VT  
Lisa Mealoy/Friends of Sutter's Fort, Sacramento, CA  
Julie Gibbs, Hayden, ID  
Lynn Henry-Sharp, Kenmore, WA  
Julian B Holt, Sacramento, CA  
Tony & Sandy Jonas, Susanville, CA  
Kristine Peterson/Laramide Geosciences, Denver, CO  
Robert Leonard, Marysville, UT  
William & Cynthia Leutzinger, Sugar Creek, MO  
Beverly Lewis, Belgrade, MT  
Mary Jo Meyer, Arkdale, WI  
Anna Morrow, Anacortes, WA  
Dr Susan Pappas, Fresno, CA  
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Jenna Smith, Greenville, SC  
Mary Beth Stepan, Cheyenne, WY  
Tom & Irene Switajewski, Hanford, CA  
Jim Varner, Gladstone, OR  
Craig Voorheef, Lawrence, KS  
Douglas Wickre, Joseph, OR  
Robert Winchell, Van Meter, IA  
Donald Wind, Rigby, ID

## Business Sponsorships

For just \$50 a year, you can become a business sponsor, connecting your business to tourists following the trails.

Business sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

Current business sponsors include:

**Heritage Inn Express**, 1155 Pony Express Hwy, Marysville, KS

**Little Hap's Bar and Grill**, 211 2nd St, Home, KS

**Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau**, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE

**Wagon Wheel Café**, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS

**Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd**, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY

**State Bank of Blue Rapids**, PO Box 157, Blue Rapids, KS

**Lew Printing**, 227-B East College St-LL, Independence, MO

**First Commerce Bank**, 902 Broadway, Marysville, KS

**Weaver Hotel**, 126 S Kansas, Waterville, KS

## Memorial & Tribute Gifts

**Memorial and Tribute gifts are wonderful way to recognized the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.**

**Leave your own legacy on behalf of those whose lives were marked by dedication to our Western heritage.**

Visit

[OCTA-trails.org/donate-online](http://OCTA-trails.org/donate-online)



## OCTA Eliminates Toll Free Number

OCTA has discontinued its seldom-used toll free number for its Headquarters office. Usage has fallen drastically in recent years because of the growth in digital and cellular phone service. As a result, OCTA was spending almost \$1,100 annually on a service that was infrequently used. In the future, please call HQ at (816) 252-2276 for all inquiries, orders, membership updates, and other needs.

## Help OCTA With AmazonSmile

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to 501(C)(3) organizations like OCTA. Simply go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0962140](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0962140) in order to help OCTA every time you shop on Amazon. That link is tied in directly with OCTA. Each eligible purchase will result in one half of one percent of your total purchase being donated to OCTA on a quarterly basis. Save the link and make your Amazon purchases to benefit OCTA.

## IAC Vacancy

OCTA's Investment Advisory Committee is seeking a new member. The committee is responsible for oversight of OCTA's endowment currently held by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

This includes developing investment guidelines, recommending fund allocations, monitoring performance, and coordinating with the board and officers.

An understanding of investments is essential, but it may be from the perspective of a private investor. Professional experience is desirable, but not required.

Please contact the IAC chairman, David Welch, at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) for further details.

## OCTA Endowments Drop 2%

The value of OCTA three endowment funds declined by almost two percent in 2015, with most of the decline due to fees and withdrawals. One tenth of one percent was due to investment performance, according to a report from the Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) presented to the Board of Directors.

The Heritage, Martin and Loomis Funds are all managed by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF). Investment performance, while small, exceeded benchmarks against which performance is measured.

The IAC is considering recommending a change to a "self-managed" portfolio to eliminate an administrative fee (\$9,000 in 2015).

"Recent discussions with the GKCCF have revealed that OCTA receives little or no benefit from this fee since investment decisions are not made by the GKCCF and we do not receive grants from the GKCCF from other donors," the IAC said in its Board report.

A formal proposal will be presented to the Board in August.

In addition, the IAC said, "The GKCCF has stated that under current market conditions it is advisable to limit withdrawals to four percent" instead of the current five percent of the average three-year fund balance.

Withdrawals totaled \$24,900 during 2015, about 80 percent of what was available under the five percent cap. With the new limit, about \$20,000 would be available during 2016.

Year-end fund balances compared to the previous year were:

	<u>12/31/14</u>	<u>12/31/15</u>
Martin Fund	365,300	361,553
Loomis Fund	267,322	268,825
Heritage Fund	664,686	641,948
Total	\$1,297,308	\$1,272,326

Use of the Martin Fund is restricted to legal expenses, while the Loomis Fund can only be used for preservation expenses. There are no restrictions on use of the Heritage Fund.

The logo for "Save The Trail" is written in a stylized, cursive font. The word "Save" is in a larger, more prominent script, while "The Trail" is in a smaller, more delicate script. The text is white with a subtle drop shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance as if it's floating above a light-colored surface.

## GRAVES & SITES



*New OCTA marker at gravesite in Little Box Elder Creek in Wyoming.*

OCTA's Graves & Sites Committee, under the leadership of Chair Randy Brown, has placed two markers since the last convention at Lake Tahoe, both in Wyoming.

The marker for Mary Hurley, Andrew Sharp, Noah Tyler, Franklin Sullivan and Arthur Wright is at Little Box Elder Creek in Converse County, about 15 miles west of Douglas, on the Barber Ranch, now owned by Scott Barber. Text on the marker reflects recent research that better identifies those who died in an Indian attack in July 1864. The original OCTA marker was damaged by cattle prior to the installation of the new fence around the graves.

The marker for Ann Roelofson Scott and two other emigrants, one of whom may have been named Jesse Cole and the other unidentified, was placed at Box Elder Springs on the ranch of Larry Cundall which is located north of Glendo. This is on the Child's Cutoff of the Oregon-California Trail. The marker was placed at ground level and mounted in concrete per the request of the landowner.

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## EDUCATION OUTREACH

The Independence Missouri School District is once again using the Trail Journals Curriculum that OCTA pioneered last year, the Education Outreach Committee reported to the Board of Directors' Mid-Year meeting.

The District will have high school drama students portraying young pioneers during the final field trip lunch period as well as performing journal-based monologues at Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek, MO. Additions to this year's program include:

- Students will be doing their own journals with a guided format. The journals will be held within the district for 30-50 years, then will be given to the Missouri Valley Room in Kansas City for future public archives.
- All students are expected to be able to attend the field trip at the end of the program. There are roughly 1,200 eighth graders in the district.

This curriculum has been approved by the Independence School District to be shared free of cost (with due credit) to other school districts.

Education Outreach Committee Co-Chairs Audrey Elder and Matt Mallinson participated in a national conference of social studies educators held in New Orleans in November.

Interested educators will be personally contacted and directed to a link from the Independence School District that will be added to the OCTA website. Reaching out to conferences in this manner and offering this turn-key educational tool has endless possibilities, the committee said.

Meanwhile, the Eagle Scout and Boy Scout OCTA badge program is growing with intensity. These young men have continued to be a part of OCTA projects as well as committing to future projects. Many will be working on specific areas in and along the development of the forty mile trail in Missouri and Kansas.

All OCTA members are asked to report educational opportunities coming up in their areas and encourage all members to reach out for help if ever needed. You can email [audreyLelder@gmail.com](mailto:audreyLelder@gmail.com) or call at (816) 419-2710.

"As we grow, we are realizing the need to expand the scope of this committee," the committee said in its report to the Board. "We are also looking at ways to incorporate more history education of American Indigenous People."

# REMEMBRANCES

## Reg Duffin



Reg Duffin, long-time OCTA member and author of many excellent *Overland Journal* articles and co-author of OCTA's *Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails*, passed away on January 15 at the age of 79.

Born December 10, 1927 in London, England, Reg served in the Royal Air Force during

WWII. He later moved to Wellington, New Zealand in 1952 where he met and married his wife Dorothy, who survives him along with his daughter Lynne and son Philip.

Reg moved to the U.S. in 1957 and spent his career as a tool and die maker for General Motors in the Fisher Body Division in Willow Springs, Illinois.

Reg was a very early member of OCTA and immensely proud of his article "Here Lies Nancy Hill?" which appeared in Vol 1, No 1 - July 1983 issue of the *Overland Journal*. He was OCTA's first Chairman of the Graves and Sites Committee. Along with his longtime very good friend Randy Brown, they co-authored the committee's first

Graves and Sites publication in 1991, the aforementioned *Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails*. Reg received OCTA's Award of Meritorious Achievement at the 10th Annual Meeting in Rock Springs Wyoming in August 1992. He also contributed research to many other *Overland Journal* articles, along with several of his maps.

At his request, there were no traditional funeral services. Reg asked that his ashes be spread along the Oregon Trail.

All of Reg's articles and publications are still available through OCTA's bookstore. His works appear in the following:

"Here Lies Nancy Hill?" - *Overland Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 5 (July 1983)

"The Grave of Joel Hembree" - *Overland Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 1985)

"Nancy Hill Revisited" - *Overland Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 8 (Fall 1986)

"The Miller-Tate Murder and the John F. Miller Grave" - *Overland Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 8 (Fall 1991)

*Graves and Sites on the Oregon and California Trails*, Reg Duffin and Randy Brown (1991, 1998)

## Living Life with Purpose

By Melissa Shaw, CFP®,  
OCTA Fundraising Chair

When we walk the trails our Pioneer ancestors walked, and feel the hardships they endured, we gain humility for all the good things we have. If we had told them 150 years ago what would become of those trails, they would never believe us. That time would move faster than three miles an hour, by a long shot. What took six months to walk, took six days by train, or faster by telegraph, telephone, fiber optics and cables that all come together in what we call the Internet. With the satellites above us and our phones and navigation systems, we easily navigate and nearly anyone can find their way. Personally, I still love maps. I want to see where I'm going, trace back where I've been, and log our times, experiences and travels along the trail. Our audit trails are the photos and posts we make along the way so we can remember where we've been in this fast paced world of today and tomorrow.

The trail led me to my own Pioneer in Lucy Ward Cole, who married Barnet Cole at Fort Bridger in November of 1856, after she was rescued from the Willie Handcart Company in October of 1856. I felt like I'd found a "rock star" on my own family tree, and my mother's bloodline was responsible for this DNA. It opened up lot of fun, and a visit

to Ogden, UT where she is buried with relatives, but not until 1920 after living a full life. These amazing stories are our own, and they bring history and the trail alive for the next generations. If we don't preserve them, honor them, share them, and allow the trail to find another generation of believers who need to see it firsthand, we will miss an opportunity. Education is in, school is out! Learning and rural tourism go hand in hand and it is happening across America. The National Parks Service is our friend. Those parks are the assets of America. Family vacations and travels are the glue that keeps a family together with stories and memories that last lifetimes.

One of the finest Planned Giving ideas of late is using a beneficiary designation on an IRA to a specific charity that enjoys 100 percent use of those monies. When you leave that same IRA to your kids, the imbedded income tax obligation is passed onto the heirs, which dilutes its value. It's always nice to inherit anything, but letting money go where it is meant to go is part of the planning process. Get out your Trail Map and see how your estate is laid out. If you need help checking your work, you may reach out to me by email at [Melissa@JonesFinancial.com](mailto:Melissa@JonesFinancial.com) to start a conversation or give me a call at 800-729-6344 x204 and we can explore your options. Planning the trip helps add fun to the journey!



*Keynote Speaker T. Michael Smith gave an overview of field research at Mountain Meadows*

## St. George Symposium

OCTA's Spring Symposium in St. George, UT, "A Celebration of the Historic Trails of Southern Utah," attracted nearly 140 attendees.

Heard a full day of speakers on topics ranging from the Old Spanish Trail to Jedediah Smith and Mountain Meadows.

The Symposium concluded with a pair of field trips to the Mountain Meadows massacre site and the Utah/Nevada/Virgin River area.



*At the registration table, l to r, OCTA intern Kelsy Sackrey, volunteer Jean Coupal-Smith, and OCTA Vice President Pat Traffas.*



## NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the National Frontier Trails Museum offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

**318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • [www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org](http://www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org)**

# PUBLICATIONS

For those interested in our 2017 Student Calendar contest on the subject of **Emigrant and Indian Modes of Transportation**, the deadline is April 15, 2016. The art work should be mailed to OCTA headquarters and must not be postmarked later than April 15. The artwork of 12-14 elementary students will be selected. Each child will receive a check for \$50 and a copy of the calendar. If the work is submitted through a school the school will also receive a copy. However, individual children may submit their artwork. For further information please refer to [OCTA's website](#) under **Learn, Opportunities, and Western Calendar**.

We hope everyone is enjoying OCTA's publications. As you know, *News from the Plains* is now available in an electronic mode. We have introduced this as both a way for our members to receive the publication faster and safer, with the benefit of color, and also in our attempt to cut down on our expenses and save needed funds. As of January 31, we had 187 members signed up. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so. Call HQ & tell Kathy. The comments from those receiving it electronically have been very positive. Thanks too for the suggestions, they only help to improve it! Editor Bill Martin takes a lot of pride in his work! Be sure to read every part of it so you can keep up with all the activities in which our members participate. It may inspire ideas for you or other chapters.

Our winter *Overland Journal* is out and Editor Marlene Smith-Baranzini has some terrific articles again. The Spring edition is being prepared. It will focus on our convention site with topics relating to Fort Hall and the trails in Idaho, with some new surprises that are sure to catch your eye!

We have also begun a program of expanding circulation of the *OJ*. One aspect of the program focuses on the parks, museums, and visitor centers along the trails. We are now in the process of contacting a number of them and making the *Overland Journal* available for sale in their gift shops. A second aspect is to encourage libraries to carry our journal, AND that is where our members can help us. We know many people visit their libraries and they could find the *OJ* if it is available. We are asking if you would please speak to your local library. Bring along one of your copies. Ask them to consider carrying it in their magazine section. Have them contact OCTA about our special reduced trial subscription. This is just another way we can help bring the trails' attention to the public and expand our role in educating them about the history of the westward expansion.

-- [Bill Hill](#), Publications Chair

## OCTA Board

(continued from page 1)

study period, OCTA members have been heavily involved in providing information related to the additional trails.

Following the public comment period, it is expected that the Final Study will be submitted for final consideration by Congress in 2017.

Also at the Mid-Year meeting, the Board of Directors:

- Heard planning reports for the 2016 Convention at Fort Hall, ID and the 2017 Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and tentative planning for a 2018 convention hosted by the Utah Crossroads chapter, possibly in Ogden, UT.
- Was told that as of the end of February OCTA had 1,377 memberships, compared to 1,361 for the same month in 2015.
- Approved a Convention Planning Management Team to support chapters in holding OCTA's annual convention beginning in 2018. The team will consist of the Association Manager, two future convention sites chairs, and two past convention chairs, plus others as needed. One of the team's first tasks will be to identify planning tasks which are the responsibility of the host chapter and tasks which are the responsibility of the team.
- Heard of plans to host the 2017 Mid-Year meeting in March in Vancouver, WA.
- Received a report from Board Committee A concerning a headquarters operational review now underway, with a further report expected at the Board's meeting in August.
- Tasked Board member Billy Symms with providing an outline of how a geocaching program can benefit OCTA, with a report due in August.

### Help Yourself To A Great Business Opportunity

*The Overland Journal and News From The Plains* are offering special advertising opportunities. Ad rates range from \$75 for a "business card"-size to \$325 for full page ads.

In addition, advertisers who buy in both publications will receive a 50 percent discount on the second ad. OCTA members also receive a 10 percent discount.

It's a great opportunity to reach an audience interested in your message while supporting OCTA's preservation mission.

For information about advertising in OCTA publications, contact OCTA headquarters at [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org).

# Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame Approves New Procedures

The OCTA Board has approved a new statement of purposes and procedures for OCTA's Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame Committee that includes election of new members by the committee rather than the membership.

According to committee chair Dave Welch, the change was recommended because of very low participation by members in last year's inaugural election and to eliminate significant costs incurred with contacting the membership for votes.

In addition to Welch, committee members include Roger Blair, Bill Martin, Bob Clark and Camille Bradford. All committee members are appointed by the OCTA President. Procedures call for the committee to be made up of three past presidents (Blair, Martin and Welch) and two other OCTA members (Clark and Bradford).

Elected to the Hall of Fame in 2015 were Howard Driggs, Greg Franzwa, William Henry Jackson, Merrill Mattes and Ezra Meeker.

Candidates for 2016 are Bernard DeVoto, Aubrey Haines, Paul Henderson, Minnie Howard, John McLaughlin, Merle Wells, and Marcus & Narcissa Whitman. In May, the Committee will select up to four new members of the Hall of Fame. Support from at least three of the committee members is required. The new selectees will be announced at the Convention in August.

The new policies and procedures also define six categories for the nominees so that their contribution to the trails can be better understood. The categories include:

- **Preservationist:** Promoted trail marking, interpretation and preservation through significant activities with lasting impact.
- **Trail pioneer:** Made significant contributions to trail development and migration to the history and culture of the areas where they settled.
- **Author:** Enhanced public awareness and understanding of trail history through first-hand accounts or research of original source materials.
- **Philanthropist:** Made significant financial contributions to support the trail preservation movement or the preservation of cultural resources associated with it.
- **Public official:** Helped promote public recognition of trail history and/or expansion of trail marking and monument programs.
- **Executive:** Led corporate initiatives to support the trail preservation movement or enhance public awareness.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor those who formed the framework of historic trail promotion, preservation, research, and education, upon which OCTA finds foundation; to educate OCTA members of its philosophic and historic roots; and to motivate OCTA members and the American public to respect and preserve its historic trails heritage through the examples of others.

To be considered for inclusion in the Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame, candidates must have been a trail pioneer in the context noted; demonstrated a passion for overland emigrant trails and promoted trail preservation and study; elevated the public conscience for awareness and preservation of trails and the overland experience through written word, presentations, legislation, marking, or local, regional, or national trail promotional efforts; or made significant contributions to public promotional efforts and preservation activities that align with OCTA's mission and goals.

The potential inductee need not have been involved in all the above criteria, but must have demonstrated significant contributions in one or more of the aforementioned areas.

Candidates can be organizations, associations, or governmental agencies. OCTA membership is not a requirement and OCTA awards or offices do not automatically qualify anyone for consideration.

The Hall of Fame will consist of a plaque with the name of each inductee, a short biography and a picture if possible. The displays will be permanently housed at the National Frontier Trails Museum, OCTA headquarters, or another appropriate public venue. A virtual Hall of Fame shall be incorporated into the OCTA website. A portable display may be developed for display at OCTA conventions, exhibits, or other activities to promote either OCTA or trail history. Selectees will be honored by articles in the *Overland Journal*.

For questions or comments, please contact Dave Welch at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net).



# Historic Trails Workshop Set For Independence

“Trails Enhancing the Quality of Life” will be the theme of the biennial National Historic Trails Workshop sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System to be held June 6-9 at the new Stoney Creek Hotel in Independence. Online registration is available at [pnts.org/new/2016-historic-trails-workshop/](http://pnts.org/new/2016-historic-trails-workshop/).

PNTS has a national Long Distance Trails Conference every other year. During the alternate years, both a National Historic Trails Workshop and a National Scenic Trails Workshop are held. Kansas City hosted the very first NHT Workshop in 2006.

It was virtually a unanimous decision to hold the 2016 NHT Workshop in the Kansas City area because of the national focus on what is being done locally with Retracement Trails.

The Retracement Trail is a concept of providing not only Local Tour Route signs in order to follow the trail, but also to encourage the construction of hiking/biking trails along the same trail corridor, along with interpretive trail markers.

The Kansas City Metro area is the largest city in the nation that has four National Historic Trails and is the focal point of National Park Service program to develop the first urban Retracement Trail plan.

## Get NFP Electronically

What are you waiting for?

You can help OCTA and enjoy more colorful reading by signing up for free email delivery of *News From The Plains*.

It will help OCTA save thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs each year. Plus, each issue is delivered promptly to your e-mail address, with benefits such as full-color pictures and clickable links to websites mentioned in articles in the newsletter.

To sign up, just shoot an email to [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org) and it will start with the next issue.

Best of all, you're helping OCTA be a good steward of its preservation resources.

*(Please clip and return to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051 no later than June 15.)*

### OFFICIAL 2016 BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF DIRECTORS TO THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION.

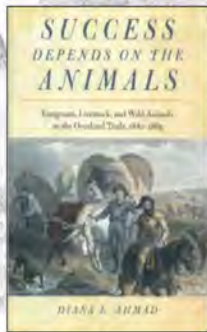
*All current members are eligible to vote. Membership levels with two members listed have two votes.  
(Check the mailing label to see if multiple names are listed for your membership, or contact Headquarters at 816-252-2276.)*

#### VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE DIRECTORS FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS (2016-2019)

	<u>Member 1 Vote</u>	<u>Member 2 Vote</u>
Ginny Dissette	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Nelson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Billy Symms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write In Candidates:	_____	_____
	_____	_____

**Your ballot needs to be marked clearly and postmarked no later than June 15, 2016 to be included in the election. Return to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051.**

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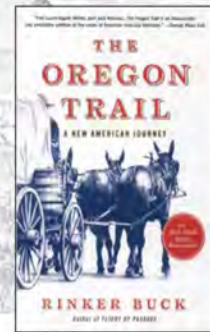
*Success Depends on the Animals* by Diana L. Ahmad, \$31.95



*Wagons to the Willamette: Levi Scott and the Southern Route to Oregon*, edited by Stafford J. Hazelett, \$29.95



*The Great Medicine Road Part 1 and 2: Narratives of Oregon, California and Mormon Trails, 1840-47*, edited by Michael L. Tate, \$39.95 each



*The Oregon Trail, A New American Journey*, by Rinker Buck, \$28.00

Call OCTA Headquarters 1-816-252-2276 to receive an overall 10% discount (not available) for your phone order. Shipping and handling additional. Visit [octa-trails.org](http://octa-trails.org) and the OCTA Store for many titles available for discount when ordered by phone.

*Spend your Labor Day Weekend in Marshall County!*

**SUNDAY  
SEPT. 4,  
2016**

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