



News From the Plains

Fall 2009

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Oregon-California
Trails Association

Bill Martin Takes Over As OCTA President; Duane Iles is V-P

By **Candy Moulton**
NFP Editor

Bill Martin of Georgetown, TX, has taken over as President of OCTA. Martin comes to the position with years of experience in the organization. He edited *News from the Plains* for six years and was then



Outgoing President Glenn Harrison, right, congratulates new President Bill Martin.

appointed to a vacancy on the OCTA Board when he retired from the editing job. He subsequently won two terms on the OCTA Board, and for the past two years served as Vice-President of

the Board.

Duane Iles of Holton, KS, won a second term on the OCTA Board of Directors while Doug Jensen, former Idaho Chapter President from Idaho Falls, Matthew Ivory of Taylorsville, UT, and Quackgrass Sally of Bridger, MT, were elected to the Board for their first terms in the recent election. Because Iles was subsequently elected as Vice-President of OCTA, his Board seat will be filled by Bill Symms of Yachats, OR, who also ran in the recent election and had the next highest vote tally.

Lethene Parks of Vancouver, WA, a former member of the OCTA Board, is Secretary.

Glenn Harrison of Albany, OR, now serves as Past President while Leslie Fryman of Citrus Heights, CA, continues in her role as National Trail Preservation Officer.

Marvin Burke of Northglenn, CO, has been elected Treasurer of OCTA. He succeeds Turner Rivenbark, of Wallace, NC, who

served as Treasurer for five years and will continue to provide accounting services to OCTA.

Burke is a graduate of the University of Colorado with a degree in Accounting. He is retired from a 38-year career as a Revenue Agent for the Internal Revenue Service and continues to serve as an instructor for IRS classes. He is a certified member of the National Association of Enrolled Agents. He is a member of the Colorado and Nebraska OCTA chapters and most recently served as Treasurer for the Loveland convention.

The OCTA Treasurer serves as the chief budget officer for the national organization, leading the compilation of the annual budget, providing monitoring activities during the year, and making recommendations to the Board of Directors as needed.

“Marvin’s experience, background and appreciation of the trails will make him an immediate asset to OCTA,” said President Bill Martin. “We are very appreciative of his willingness to serve the organization.”



News From the Plains

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Fall 2009 News From the Plains

2009-10 OCTA Officers

Officers, except Preservation Officer, are voting members of the Board

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Committee A - Headquarters, Operations, and Publications

Patricia K.A. Fletcher, Chair
Patricia Etter
Doug Jenson
Matthew Ivory
Duane Iles, V-P, Officer Liaison

Committee B - Finances, Grants, Long-Range Planning, and Governance

John Mark Lambertson, Chair
Barbara Netherland
Pinky Ellis
Bill Wilson
Marvin Burke, Treasurer, Officer Liaison

Committee C - Preservation, Collections, Public Relations, and Property Management

Fern Linton, Chair
Bill Symms
Quackgrass Sally
John Krizek
Lethene Parks, Secretary, Officer
Liaison

Bill Martin, President & ex officio on all
committees

Board Supports Western Nebraska Park

By Candy Moulton
NFP Editor

Proposals that would provide additional protection to Scotts Bluff and Chimney Rock in western Nebraska received support from the National OCTA Board during its meeting in Loveland, CO, in August.

The Board agreed to write a letter of support to Scotts Bluff National Monument to establish a National Historical Park in western Nebraska. This would tie together important historic sites in the area, Scotts Bluff Superintendent Ken Mabery said. The proposed historical park would focus public attention on the trails, integrate projects across agencies and sites, identify broad migration and emigration interpretive themes, add Indian trail themes, enhance protection for nationally significant sites, and be a more accurate designation for the park-like setting.

Among the sites that would be incorporated into the historical park are Scotts Bluff, Fort Mitchell, Roubidoux Pass, Chimney Rock, and the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty site. There would be no change in agency ownership or administration at any of the sites, but the park would allow for coordinated interpretation and likely would also provide an economic and tourism boost for the area, Mabery said.

The Board also agreed to support and encourage the efforts of the Nebraska State Historical Society in conjunction with the Conservation Fund, in seeking to acquire and bring into public ownership and protection approximately 551 acres of land including Chimney Rock National Historic Site in Morrill County, Nebraska.

Work also will begin to obtain

National Historic Trails status for the southern emigrant trails, and the board approved both a name change from Southwest Chapter to Southern Trails Chapter as well as a territorial boundary change for the chapter. (See related story on page 13)

The board appointed retired National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office Superintendent Jere Krakow to serve as OCTA coordinator for the feasibility studies that were approved in the 2009 omnibus public lands bill. As coordinator, Krakow will work with chapters on developing necessary information to provide to Congress in the ongoing effort to add to the Oregon and California Trail systems.

In other action the board:

- Endorsed listening sessions with Indian tribes to be coordinated by the National Park Service. These sessions will be held in Kansas and Nevada later this year.
- Approved a convention guide.
- Approved the 2009-10 budget, but noted it allows deficit spending for the third consecutive year.

- Approved a plan to allow phased payment of life memberships over as much as four years at a rate of \$250 per year. The life member will be considered an individual member at the Emigrant level until the dues fee is fully paid.
- Approved former Treasurer Turner Rivenbark as OCTA's accountant and Jon and Deborah Lawrence as Publications Committee Co-Chairs.
- Renamed the Meritorious Achievement Award the Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award.
- Heard a recommendation from Dave Vixie that a professional educational consultant be hired to develop materials related to "In Pursuit of a Dream."
- Appointed Bill Symms to the Board to fill the vacancy created by election of Duane Iles as Vice-President.
- Set the mid-year Board meeting for March 4-6, 2010, in Independence, MO.



Ariane Smith, left, was recognized for her work in editing the Overland Journal. She is being replaced by Bob Clark. They are shown here with JoAnn and Andy Hammond, who last year were recognized for writing the "Look of the Elephant" column, which has now been turned into a new OCTA book.

Credit Card, Convention Kudos, Film Project

Last year, OCTA launched an Affinity Visa Card program, intended both to better market the association and to provide a new stream of income. The program is managed by United Missouri Bank (UMB), a solid community leader with headquarters in Kansas City. OCTA created credit cards with four different designs. The online application process can be finished with great ease and in a secure environment.

Financially speaking, there are two ways in which the program benefits OCTA. First, when a person uses the card within 90 days of approval, OCTA receives a donation of \$50 from UMB. OCTA also receives a percentage of the transaction each time the card is used. With almost 2,000 individual members, OCTA would earn nearly \$100,000 if every member took the time to simply sign up for the card and use it for one purchase, large or small, within 90 days of receipt.

OCTA has managed to come close to balancing its budget over the past three years. But with economic uncertainty in the world today, OCTA needs to be creative in ensuring sufficient revenue to see it through these tough times. Signing up for the card costs you no more than about five minutes of your time; the end result will be a \$50 donation to solidify our coffers. And wouldn't it be incredible if every member signed up for a card and OCTA earned \$100,000 (or nearly one-third of its 2009-10 budget)?

This program can also benefit other nonprofit organizations in similar fashion. If you know of another nonprofit that would benefit from its own Affinity card program, have

one of their representatives contact me at <tboley@indepmo.org> or toll free at (888) 811-6282. They'd receive the exact same benefits as we do, and OCTA would also receive \$10 every time someone signed up for and used the other nonprofit's credit card. Please help us preserve and promote our trails by going to <http://www.octa-trails.org/store/octa_credit_card/php>. There, you can sign up online or download the paper application.

Kudos for Camille Bradford and the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter's convention planning committee for hosting a stellar 27th Annual Convention in Loveland. And a special thanks to both of the previous convention chairs, Ernie Witucki and Mary Ann Tortorich, who laid the groundwork early on.

I've heard one positive review after another, and one long-time member told me she thought it was "the best convention ever!" High praise! Today I received a letter that reads: "A great convention, well-organized logistics, excellent meeting rooms, SUPERB music! This convention was outstanding and will be a very tough act to follow for future sites!"

Suffice it to say that if you missed this year's convention, you really missed a spectacular show. Start making plans now to attend our 28th Annual Convention in Elko, NV, next August. Jan Petersen and her planning committee have a few aces up their sleeves, I'm sure!

Finally, thanks to everyone who helped make the premiere of *In Pursuit of a Dream* possible on August 19 at Loveland's historic Rialto Theater. Both the creation of the movie and the logistics of opening night involved incredible numbers of people, and all of them deserve profuse thanks, there's way too many of them for me to list here., but you all know who you are!

The movie has now had three additional showings, with comment cards collected at each showing. The overwhelming response was positive, but there were also suggestions that will make the movie even better. Our editors will spend the next couple of months synthesizing the comments and making tweaks to finalize the movie.

The comments also made something else abundantly clear—we have not done a good enough job communicating the movie's intent to our internal audience, our OCTA members. This movie was produced with the generalist in mind and is intended to help us engage new people—students, families, and other adults largely unfamiliar with the Oregon and California Trails. It was never intended to be a comprehensive documentary history of the trails. Other films have already accomplished that, but none have really sought to engage new audiences in an interactive, experiential fashion. Our film will achieve that goal, and it will raise the level of awareness for our work to new highs.

Headquarters Manager...

Kathy Conway
Kconway@indepmo.org

OCTA Merchandise

Your national headquarters staff has just returned from OCTA's wonderful Loveland, CO, Convention. Many thanks go to convention chair, Camille Bradford, and the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter for putting on a most memorable week-long occasion. Comments like "best one yet" were heard as we brought the last event to a close.

We will be offering the Loveland Colorado Tour Guide for sale through the OCTA bookstore for \$7.

Displaying or wearing merchandise with the OCTA logo is a good way to interest non-members about the organization and our preservation purpose. We offer several attractive items.

The "traditional" OCTA t-shirt sells for \$15 and comes in beige, light green, navy, white and light teal blue. It has the OCTA logo over the "heart" position, with an Oregon-California trail map shown on the back.

Colorful OCTA bumper stickers are \$5 each and ball caps with the OCTA logo sell for \$15.

Call us toll-free at 888-811-6282 and we will help you with your order.



The President's View

Bill Martin
bmartinocata@gmail.com

Taking the Reins

It is a privilege to follow Glenn Harrison and 12 other preservationists as President of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Beginning with founder Greg Franzwa in 1982, each President has left a positive mark on OCTA—and on the trails.

I will do my best to continue that tradition. And, while I get to sit at the head of the table, I don't lose sight of the fact that OCTA is a volunteer organization; it is the men and women with boots on the ground who get the work done.

They are the reason OCTA has marked and preserved thousands of miles of trails; has held 27 successful, educational, and entertaining conventions; and is recognized as a national leader in preservation and education.

Looking ahead, OCTA faces challenges. But I believe the water bucket is half full, not half empty.

Our membership has been flat for several years, although we are treading water better than many other membership organizations. Membership Chair Duane Iles (now OCTA's Vice-President) is an energetic leader, but he needs your help to build our membership.

Everything from trails preservation to finances to leadership on trail issues depends on a growing, active, and involved membership. We need to do all we can to recruit new members and get them to participate in OCTA activities.

Elsewhere in this issue, you can read about the new opportunity to become an Ezra Meeker Life Member of OCTA by spreading your payments over time. It's a great

benefit for members and helps build our endowment as well.

Like many nonprofit organizations with endowed investments, we took a significant financial hit when the stock market tanked. But our principal remains intact and growth has returned to our endowments. We need to continue that growth.

For the third successive year, the Board of Directors was forced to adopt an unbalanced budget. In each of the past two years we have been able to make mid-year adjustments that allowed us to break-even. We are encouraged that we can do the same in 2009-10.

Membership, finances, and preservation are closely related, of course. More members generate more revenues and more revenues allow us to do more to preserve the trails and educate people about their importance to our nation's heritage.

I look forward to working with all OCTA members to help accomplish our preservation and education goals. And I won't forget for whom I work.

We have a saying in Texas, where I live, that goes something like this: "If you're riding in front of the herd, it's a good idea to look back every now and then to make sure the herd is still following you."

We are blessed as an organization with a strong, energetic Board of Directors and team of officers. Every one of us is available at any time to listen to your concerns and your ideas.

See you on the trail!

THE NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

PRESENTS

A seven week lecture series:

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



The Friends of the National Frontier Trails Museum will be presenting a seven-week series of lectures on the American Civil War. We will trace the entirety of the confrontation between the North and South from the events leading to the war, all campaigns, and the aftermath. Particular attention will be given to those living in the border region of Missouri and Kansas, before, during and after the war.

You will examine the culture, politics and people of both sides in an attempt to understand events and outcomes of the conflict. The lectures are presented by historian Jim Howk, who has spent a lifetime researching the various aspects of this important chapter of our history. The series is well-illustrated, incorporating numerous images including photos, cartoons, eyewitness drawings from newspapers and magazines of the Civil War era.

DATES AND TOPICS:

Tuesday,
September 29, 2009
7:00 PM
THE LONG AND
WINDING ROAD
TO WAR

Tuesday,
October 6, 2009
7:00 PM
THE LOWER SOUTH
SECEDES -
FORT SUMTER

Tuesday,
October 13, 2009
7:00 PM
OPPOSITE SIDES -
BORDER STATES

Tuesday,
October 20, 2009
7:00 PM
1ST MANASSAS-
SHILOH-PENINSULA
CAMPAIGN

Tuesday,
October 27, 2009
7:00 PM
ANTIETAM-
EMANCIPATION
PROCLAMATION-
CHANCELLORSVILLE-
GETTYSBURG

Tuesday,
November 3, 2009
7:00 PM
WAR ON THE BORDER
I (BLEEDING KANSAS)

Tuesday,
November 10, 2009
7:00 PM
WAR ON THE
BORDER II
(MISSOURI 1861-
1883) YES, 1883!

Advance
Reservations
are requested
Cost: \$5 per lecture,
\$30 for entire series



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM
318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050
816-325-7575

Outstanding Educators Recognized

We're Off and Running! Plans for 2010 Unveiled

By Bill Hill
Education Awards and
Publications Committee

The 2009 Outstanding Educator Awards from OCTA went to Duane Durst, Administrator of Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express Station State Historic Site at Hanover, KS, and the Fourth Grade Eastgate Elementary School in Seattle and its partner Pacific Northwest Ballet with its Discover Dance program.

With awards presented, it is time to renew our efforts to ensure the successful completion of our goals and continuing programs for 2009-10. We have three projects for which we are seeking your cooperation, assistance, and participation. First, we are starting our drive to identify and nominate those teachers and museums to be considered for the 2010 Outstanding Educator Awards. Nomination/application forms are available from headquarters, chapter presidents, and the Education Awards and Publications Committee. If you know of a teacher or museum program that does an outstanding job of teaching about westward expansion, start the process by giving them an application. The deadline for nominations/applications is March 31, 2010.

Secondly, we are continuing our activity book raffle. We will provide a class set of one of OCTA's activity books to the teacher whose postcard is selected from all those cards received by December 11, 2009. The books are appropriate for secondary students and may be adapted for intermediate students. Teachers may select from the books: *Reading, Writing, and Riding Along the Oregon-California Trails*, *Finding the Right Place*,

Following Lewis and Clark's Track, and *Here Comes the Pony!* In order to enter, teachers must send in a postcard to: OCTA-Book Raffle, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519. The postcard must have: 1) teacher's name, 2) level and subject taught, 3) school, 4) school address, 5) school telephone number, and 6) trail or title of book desired. Help us by telling your local schools about the program, or having your children ask their teacher to enter. Teachers may send more than one postcard.

In a related manner, it is hoped that each chapter will have its own program where it selects a deserving school and donates a set of the books to the school or to a class.

Our third project is our trail calendar project. It is designed for elementary school students. Copies of the 2010 calendar, *Landmarks Along the Trail*, are still available by contacting OCTA Headquarters. They cost \$10 each. We will be producing a 2011 calendar featuring original student artwork. The new theme is *Dangers and Hazards Along the Trails*. The artwork must represent a specific danger or hazard encountered by the emigrants as they traveled west.

The artwork must be original, and not be computer generated or a photograph. The work must measure 8 1/2" x 11" and be in color. On the back



Hollenberg Ranch Pony Express State Historic Site Administrator Duane Durst, left, receives the Outstanding Educator Award from Bill Hill. (Photo by Candy Moulton)

of the entry the following information must be included: the specific danger or hazard, child's name, age, grade, school, school address, teacher, telephone and contact information for the individual. The artwork is to be sent to OCTA-Calendar, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519. Deadline for submissions will be April 15, 2010.

One drawing will be selected from the entries for each month. The committee may also chose artwork from the submissions for use on the calendar cover and back. The selected drawings will be combined to make one calendar which should be available for purchase for \$10 at the 2010 convention.

Each selected child artist will receive a check or gift certificate for \$50 and a copy of the calendar for both the child and the school. Encourage your local schools to get involved. It is a fun way to learn about the trails.

Colorado Memories

Old friends and new took part in the 2009 Convention. From left clockwise, Author Dan Rottenberg; Keynote speakers Lee and Jane Whiteley and Denny Miller, who was "Duke Shannon" on Wagon Train; Membership Chair Duane Iles, left, and Jim McGill Gold Rush Member Drive winner; Barb Netherland, left, and Kathy Conway; the tour group at Latham on South Platte River Forts Tour; "Show and Tell" with the Topographical Engineers.



*Photos by
Roger Blair and
Lee Whiteley*



Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter Hosts OCTA

By Camille Bradford
Chapter President

The Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter enjoyed being the host chapter for OCTA's 27th Annual Convention. This year's theme was *Cherokee Trail to the West, 1849-1859*. The convention was held in Loveland, CO, and attended by 350 registrants.

The premiere of OCTA's new film, *In Pursuit of a Dream*, took place during the convention at the historic Rialto Theater in downtown Loveland. The premiere was preceded by a festive celebration organized by OCTA.

The convention coincided with the 150th anniversary of the Gold Rush in Colorado. Lee Whiteley, a chapter member and well-known trail historian and author, delivered the keynote address, *Pathways to Gold: The Cherokee Trail, 1849 and*

The Smoky Hill Trail, 1859.

Convention events also included an OCTA grave-marking ceremony at Lakeside Cemetery in Loveland for the dedication of the relocated grave of H. L. W. Peterson. Peterson was an early trail pioneer who was killed and originally buried beside the Cherokee-Overland Trail in 1854. The ceremony was part of a tour organized by the Loveland Historical Society and Berthoud Historical Society, "Trails Across the Thompson Valleys."

OCTA welcomed several special guests to the convention. Dan Rottenberg, author of *Death of a Gunfighter: The Quest for Jack Slade, the West's Most Elusive Legend*, spoke at the opening ceremony and participated in the tours to Virginia Dale and other convention events. His book recently won the Wild West History Association's Best Book of the Year 2008 Award.

Transworld Tractor Treks, a group of tractor enthusiasts from Western Australia on a 5,000 mile tour of the United States, participated in the convention on Tuesday and Wednesday. Ron Bywaters, the leader of the group, spoke at the opening reception. The Australian Consulate lent us an Australian flag to welcome them and the OCTA Band played "Waltzing Matilda" in their honor at the reception. Their visit to the convention is described in the *Trip Diary* at <www.transworldtractortreks.com> along with photos.

Denny "Scott" Miller, who played Duke Shannon in *Wagon Train* in the 1960s, spoke at the movie premiere and participated in other convention events with his wife, Nancy. We all appreciated having the opportunity to relive the enjoyment of the *Wagon Train* series.

On behalf of the chapter, I extend many thanks to everyone who participated in the organization of the convention. We are grateful for many dedicated volunteers, strong community support, and assistance from members of other OCTA chapters.

Special thanks go to chapter member Jane Leche, who organized the entertainment at the convention. Jane, who works for the U.S. Forest Service, also participated in the entertainment as a member of the Fiddlin' Foresters group and joined the OCTA Band for the opening reception.

We extend our appreciation again to the 2009 convention sponsors—City of Loveland, Commerce Bank, Engaging Loveland, Inc., National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service. Many thanks also to Loveland Mayor Gene Pielin and the Downtown Loveland Association for their participation.

Young OCTAN Award



The 24-member student cast of *In Pursuit of a Dream* received the 2009 Young OCTAN Award. The students came from Massachusetts, Colorado, Texas, Wyoming, Oregon, and California. Many were at the convention.

2009 OCTA Awards

Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award

David Vixie received the Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest award, at the 2009 Convention in Loveland. He was recognized for his six years of service on the OCTA Board. He was a principal planner, developer and actor in *In Pursuit of a Dream*. For more than a dozen years he has taken students onto the Trail in California and Nevada, introducing new generations to the Trails.

Vixie, a middle school teacher in California, gained national attention for his work and for OCTA as a result of recently being selected as the Disney Teacher of the Year.



David Vixie

Merrill Mattes Award

The Merrill Mattes Publications Award went to Kristin Johnson for "Survivor: Sarah Graves Fosdick," which appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of the *Overland Journal*.

OCTA also recognized Ariane Smith for her three-year term as Editor of the *OJ*.

Distinguished Service Awards

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Bernie Weynand, Assistant Field Manager for Resources in the BLM Rock Springs Field Office, and to the Douglas County History Research Center, a division of the Douglas County

Libraries, which is actively involved in the acquisition and presentation of trail-related material.

The Rock Springs BLM Field Office has been a leader in the development of procedures that have permitted development

along with his associates Terry Del Bene and Colleen Sievers, located and marked much of OCTA's recognized Cherokee Trail.

of energy resources while respecting the need to protect historic trails. Weynand was instrumental in the South Pass Historical Study. He was manager behind remarking the Overland Trail and,



Bernie Weynand, left, and Bill Martin.



Annette Gray and Johana Harden, Douglas County History Research Center.

Friend of the Trail Awards

OCTA Friend of the Trail Awards were presented to Ruth Ann Steele, Ian Griffis, LaFarge North America for their contributions to the Trails.

Ian Griffis is recognized for his interest in the Cherokee Trail. Traces of the trail are located on land he is developing in Elbert and Douglas counties in Colorado. He has placed a "no build" easement with a 100-foot-wide pedestrian easement along the length of the trail across the property,

and has also placed an interpretive sign in the area. Accepting the award with him was Katie Moon.

Ruth Ann Steele of Elbert, CO, has placed a conservation easement on her property



Katie Moon and Ian Griffis

in northern El Paso County, in the process preserving traces of the Cherokee Trail, the 1858 grave of Charles Michael Fagan, and the spring that made the location a favorite trail campsite. She allows historical society groups access to the property and personally escorts the groups to the trail site.

LaFarge North America is recognized for work at a site located at the overlook above the Missouri River in Sugar Creek, MO. The company partnered with the National Park Service, local historic and civic groups, and the Trails Head Chapter

of OCTA to create a historic trails interpretive park. The site is one of the few that is traversed by four national historic trails (Lewis and Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, and California).



Jess Rodriguez

Improvements include wayside exhibits, landscaping, fences, walkways, and a dedication plaque.

A Friend of the Cherokee Trail Award was presented by the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA to Jess Rodriguez.

David J. Welch Preservation Award

The David J. Welch Preservation Award was presented this year to Tom Hunt for his many years of service. He became OCTA's first National Trails Preservation Officer after completing his term as the organization's second president, but his work to preserve emigrant trails began long before his involvement with OCTA. He has been involved in trail research and mapping. During his tenure as National Trails Preservation Officer, he established many of the guidelines the organization continues to use today, including the Mapping Emigrant Trails Manual, which has become a national standard for trails research and classification.

Hunt also was instrumental in establishment of the High Rock/Black Rock National Conservation, and in the establishment of the City of Rocks National Historic Reserve.



Ruth Ann Steele

Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award

Sharon Manhart received the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Manhart has been an active member of the COED committee since 2003 working to organize thousands of trail documents and surveys that had been collected by Kathy Roubal and Chuck Dodd. The data organized from these documents became the foundation for the Emigrant Names CD and the new Paper Trail Web Site.

Presenting the award to Manhart was OCTA President Bill Martin.



Sharon Manhart

Agency Appreciation Awards



OCTA presented Appreciation Awards to several Agency partners, clockwise from upper left: Jude Carino, representing the Wyoming State office of the Bureau of Land Management; Aaron Mahr, National Park Service, Long Distance Trails Office Superintendent; Nina Trapp, Rawlins, WY District BLM with Bill Martin OCTA President; Laura Nowlin, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office; Kay Threlkeld, NPS Long Distance Trails Office; and Mary Sanderson, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest. Laura Joss, Assistant Deputy Regional Director, NPS, Rocky Mountain Region, center, was the keynote speaker at the luncheon.



*Photos by
Roger Blair*

2009 OCTA Awards

Certificates of Appreciation



National Certificates of Appreciation were presented by President Bill Martin to Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter President Camille Bradford, left, who also served as chair of the 2009 Convention, and to outgoing Board Members Robert A. Clark and Lethene Parks. Clark will remain active in OCTA as Editor of the Overland Journal, while Parks continues to serve as Secretary of the Board.



Photos by
Candy Moulton

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Tour & Theatre
 Tickets Sold On-line

Juni Fisher
 August 28th

Allinger Community Theatre
 © The National Oregon-California Trail Center

Nino Reyos
 September 11th

History Day Presentations Made

By Pat Fletcher
OCTA Board Member

National History Day program students from Wyoming gave their award-winning presentations during the 2009 Convention. These performances at the convention were the first time many convention attendees had an opportunity to learn about the National History Day program, which was endorsed earlier this year by the OCTA Board.

The 2010 National History Day theme is "Innovation in History: Expression, Ingenuity, Enterprise" which could be perfect for trail-related student projects.

Individual members, as well as Chapter leaders, are encouraged to contact their state and local National History Day programs now to become involved with this program by serving as volunteers, coaches, judges, or resource people for students who may incorporate the story of western migration into their projects for 2010. Financial support to the program could also be an opportunity for OCTA to forge relationships with young people.

Hopefully we will continue to highlight National History Day student excellence at subsequent conventions.

Crossroads Chapter

Fall Field Trip Set for October

By A. Oscar Olson
Chapter Past President

The Loveland Convention is over, and by all reports, was a huge success. Utah Crossroads had 18 in attendance. Fall events for the Chapter include a work party detail Aug. 29 to re-oil some kiosks, and a Sept. 12 Annual Fall Social at Benson Mill in Tooele County. Another fall field trip in October will begin in Cedar City

with E. Leo Lyman directing us along the Southern Emigration Route that linked Salt Lake City with Los Angeles during the 1850-60 era. Our trip will take in the section between Cedar City, UT, and Mesquite, NV.

We are saddened by the death of our longtime supporter and Crossroads member, Jerry Dunton, who died Aug. 19. He was a tireless trail work and sterling historian.

OCTA Publications Committee Seeks Input on Cost-saving Measures

By Deborah and Jon Lawrence
Publications Committee
Co-Chairs

On the occasion of the change/renewal of editorship of the OCTA journals, Bob Clark will assume editorship of *Overland Journal*, while Candy Moulton will continue as editor of *News from the Plains*.

Given the current economic environment, the officers of OCTA have asked the Publications Committee to consider ways to reduce costs in the publication and distribution of both *OJ* and *NFP*. Proposals under discussion include the electronic distribution of *News*

from the Plains, combining the two publications into a single journal, reduction in the number of pages in the journals, and the publication of *News from the Plains* and/or *Overland Journal* three times a year, rather than four.

We seek your input and suggestions about these and other approaches to cost reduction. Please contact us by e-mail at <dlawrence@fullerton.edu> or at the address given below.

Deborah and Jon Lawrence
OCTA Publications Committee
Co-Chairmen
338 1/2 Camino Cerrito
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Diary of Southern Trail now Online

The holograph version of an overland diary kept by George F. Sniffen, who traveled to California with the Havilah Mining Company out of Fort Smith and by the Southern Trail in 1849, can now be read online. The diary had been unavailable in the Mandeville Special collections

Library at the University of San Diego, but now is available through the library's catalog at <http://roger.ucsd.edu>. To find the diary search for author, George F. Sniffen, and the partial title "Notes by the Camp Fire."

Southwest Chapter

Chapter Reorganizes, Changes Name, Territory

By Albert Eddins

By every measure, OCTA's 27th annual convention in Loveland, CO, was a complete and total success. Our hats are off and thanks go to Camille Bradford and members of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter for an excellent job of hosting the convention.

The convention was especially meaningful to the Southern Trails Chapter as three major chapter issues went before OCTA's Board of Directors.

The first, a vote to officially approve our chapter name change from the Southwest Chapter to the Southern Trails Chapter, was granted.

We also received approval to change the territory assigned by OCTA to the Southern Trails Chapter to include the routes of the Southern Trails to Californiam and not be focused along the geographic state boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico. The existing charter stated our territory as Arizona and New Mexico only.

We found ourselves "landlocked" in that our assigned territory only covered a portion of the southern trail routes. The origin of southern trails in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma were not included, and neither were the terminal points in southern California.

The Board approved these changes and our charter now reads "Southern Trails Chapter of the Oregon-

California Trails Association" with the new territory assigned to us by OCTA as the "Southern Trails to California."

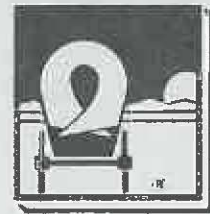
We want to thank the CA-NV Chapter for their cooperation in agreeing to share a portion of Southern California with us, as it relates to routes of the southern trails terminating in San Diego and Los Angeles.

Our third request to the Board of Directors was to approve and support the Southern Trails Chapter initiative to begin the work to obtain National Historic Trail Designation for the Southern Trail. A summary of our proposal to the Board and a map of the trail for which we are seeking National Historic Trail status will appear on our website southern-trails.org. This request was approved by the Board.

We especially want to thank Bill and Jeanne Watson, Don Buck, Patricia Etter, Reba Wells Grandrud, Rose Ann Tompkins, and Tom Jonas for all their work and input into formulating the plan for our historic trail project.

A plea now goes out to all chapter members and OCTA members who would like to join us, to volunteer to help in this major effort to gain National Historic Trail recognition for this important emigrant trail to California that has been ignored far too long. It's been a long time coming, so please help us make it a reality now by joining the cause.

Bookmark Our Site



www.octa-trails.org

Quick and easy links to trail facts, people and places, resources, events, partners, and more.

The best bookmark for trail and heritage information.

Upcoming Events

Mid-Year Board Meeting
Independence, MO
March 4-6, 2010

♦♦♦

OCTA Convention
Elko, NV
Aug. 10-14, 2010

♦♦♦

News From the Plains

Winter Issue Deadline
November 25, 2009

Send materials to
nfpocta@aol.com

OCTA Members Contribute to Mid-Year Appeal

With the ever-generous support of our membership, we are delighted to report the following results to our Mid-Year Appeal:

General Fund	\$6,056
Education	\$255
Endowment	\$550
Preservation	\$2,090
Total	\$8,951

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David and Wendy Welch
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Richard and Ffion Wilkes
Dr. F. Michael Williams
Daniel Woodhead, III
Charlotte Wright

Special remembrances from the Mid-Year Appeal

Many donations were sent in honor or memory of someone special—we list these as follows with the donor first.

Harry Abraham
Living Pathfinder, Paul Grunland

Ms Lorraine Bennett
Dr. Robert Bennett

Todd and Betty Berens
Dale L. Morgan

Lee and Sandi Black
Robert Black family - 1857 (St. Joe to Shingletown, CA)

Joyce P Bolerjack
Carol Buss

Sandra Sue Dragoo
Jeanne Miller

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Col. James Carter USAF

Dave Green
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Herbert Hunn
Lois Hunn

Joann Jackson
LeRoy P. Jackson

Martha Pettyjohn Morrise

Honor of Glenn Harrison & Memory of John Nelson Williamson, gggrandfather

June Otto
Milton E. Otto

Raechel Parker
Raechel Rankin Parker

Continued on Page 19

New Members

Jean and Steve Albert
Prescott, AZ

George Gray
Florence, OR

Denny Miller
Las Vegas, NV

Jack Phillips
Littleton, CO

Annette Anderson
Fromberg, MT

Rod Henderson
Johnstown, CO

Douglas Miller
Williamstown, MA

John C. Roberts
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Pete Andresen
Salinas, CA

Wayne Keen
Huntsville, TX

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Vancouver, WA

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Boise, ID

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Myra Lindgren
Casper, WY

Jonmikel Pardo
Lander, WY

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Carla Goetz
Geneva, IL

Leland Medearis
Greenleaf, KS

Bud Parriott
Rogue River OR

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In Pursuit of a Dream



CALL FOR PAPERS

**Oregon California Trails Association
27th Annual National Convention**

**ELKO, NEVADA
August 10-14, 2010**

THEME

**Emigrants, Elko and THE ELEPHANT
History of the California Trail**

TOPICS

**California Trail
Native Americans
Trappers, Explorers
Early Settlement
Transportation**

The Convention will feature tours of the California Emigrant Trail in Northeastern Nevada, including cutoffs and alternates. A highlight of the event will be the celebration of the new BLM California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center. Featured in the Center are the Bidwell-Bartleson and Donner Parties whose routes down the South Fork of the Humboldt River joined the main trail near the site of the Center. While papers related to travel through, and development of, Northern Nevada are preferred, any submissions related to the cross-continent emigrations in the 19th Century will be considered.

**Send one page abstract by December 15, 2009 to:
Bob Evanhoe, President, CA-NV OCTA Chapter
POB 1521, Yreka, CA 96097
Email: canvocta@sbcglobal.net**

NW Chapter Marks Applegate Trail

By Stafford Hazzlett

On a September 11-13 field trip lead by Bob Black, members of the Northwest Chapter installed eight new markers and replated one marker on the Applegate Trail between Pot Hole Spring and the junction with the Yreka Trail (west of Goose Lake).

This completes the marking of the Applegate Trail as far as the California/Oregon state line north of Dorris, CA.

Annual Fund Drive Contributions

Continued from Page 16

- Virginia Ricketts
Clair K. Ricketts
- Patricia Curtis Rothwell
Dr. Robert Rothwell
- Nancy E Smith
Paul M. Beard
- Mrs. Fran Sumberg
Mort Sumberg, Charter Member
- Bill and Jeanne Watson
Jeanne Miller

These individuals made contributions as Memorials to OCTA Founder Gregory M. Franzwa:

- Norman J. Barker
- Jo Ann Berkenbush
- Robert & Sheila Clark
- Lois Fairfield
- Kathy Franzwa
- William G Hartley
- Lu Ann Hunter
- William & Margaret Nolan
- William and Joyce Tapley
- Roy D. Tea
- Bill & Jeanne Watson
- David & Wendy Welch


New Members

Continued from Page 17


- Jean Voldseth
Columbus, MT
- Clinton Waugh
Oroville, CA
- Sabra White
Yakima, WA
- Bruce Williams
Eagle Point, OR
- Cheryl Woods
Centerville, WA
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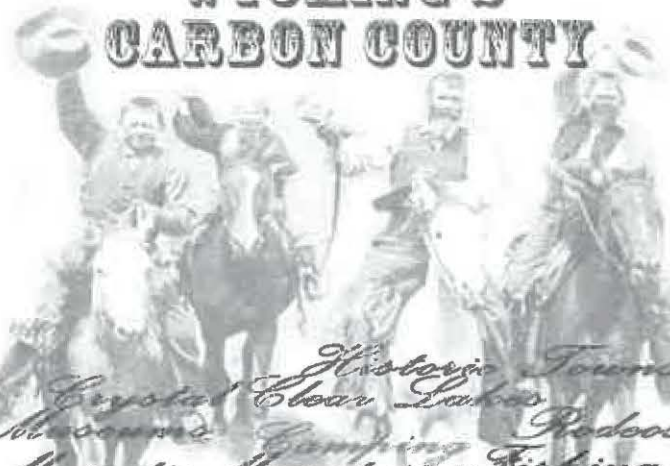


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Just Announced: OCTA's 29th annual convention to be held in Rock Springs, Wyoming.
 Start making plans to attend August 9-13, 2011!

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