

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Fall 2011

VOL XXVII NO. 1

## OCTA Focuses on Southern Trails

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

With an ongoing goal of gaining National Historic Trails status for the southern complex of overland trails, the Oregon-California Trails Association at its annual convention in Rock Springs, WY, has established a Special Committee to be chaired by Albert Eddins. Efforts are already underway to educate Congress and the public about the Southern Trails.

OCTA also is investigating a program to establish a digital publishing project that would place trail journals, diaries, and other manuscripts onto an online database for use by scholars and the general public.

Historian Will Bagley said a Merrill Mattes Web site—digital journals project—would serve as a way to drive new membership. While he said it would be necessary to obtain permission to publish the journals and other documents on a Web site, such work could be done by volunteers. He suggested the project could tie in with *In Pursuit of A Dream*, the OCTA documentary film, that has already attracted a younger generation of trails enthusiast.

Bagley asked the older members of the OCTA Board and membership base, "Are we the last generation to care for the trails?" *In Pursuit of a Dream* is now

available on DVD from Landmark Media. According to John Krizek, chairman of the OCTA Marketing Committee, it is one of the top four sellers for that company out of a product line of more than 1,000 films, "We have never had such a hot product," he said.

Krizek said OCTA can assist in expanding the popularity of this educational package by encouraging its purchase by schools and school districts. Members with contacts at a local school, or school district, are asked to pass those names and e-mail addresses along to OCTA Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway, [kconway@indepmo.org](mailto:kconway@indepmo.org), or Association Manager Travis Boley, [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org).

During the convention, three student cast members for the film were on hand to meet with OCTA members and the public. Those students have formed the Trail Scouts, a youth group that e-publishes its own quarterly newsletter. This new program for young people provides a Trail Scout t-shirt and subscription to the e-newsletter at a cost of \$10. It is open to any student who signs up and provides an e-mail address.

At the convention, Duane Iles from Holton, KS, took over as OCTA president. Serving with him are John Krizek, Prescott, AZ, vice president; Bill Martin, Georgetown, TX, past president; Sandra Waggoner, Zephyrhills

FL, secretary; Marvin Burke, Northglenn, CO, treasurer; and Leslie Fryman, Citrus Heights, CA, trails preservation officer.

New members of the OCTA Board are Jere Krakow of Santa Fe, NM, and David Vixie, of Paradise, CA, while Patricia Fletcher of Sequim, WA, and Barbara Netherland of Scottsbluff, NE, have been elected to second terms. Camille Bradford of Denver, CO, was previously appointed to fill the unexpired term of Patricia Etter, who stepped down earlier this year.

Preservation issues remain a focus of the organization. There are several projects planned by developers in the trail states that have the potential to affect the trails—either physically or to the viewshed. Among the projects being monitored are the Boardman project, a wind generation project in Oregon; the Gateway West Project, which involves development of power transmission lines across Wyoming and Idaho; and the Sierra Madre and Chokecherry projects, which are large wind energy projects in Carbon County, Wyoming. Trail members in the areas of these projects are encouraged to attend meetings and monitor the ongoing developments, and provide reports back to National Preservation

*Continued on Page 4*



## NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

### Editor

Candy Moulton  
Star Route Box 29  
Encampment, WY 82325  
307-327-5465  
nfpocta@aol.com

### Contributing Editors

Duane Iles  
Deborah & Jon Lawrence  
Travis Boley  
Kathy Conway

### Oregon-California Trails Association

*News from the Plains*  
Published quarterly  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO  
64051-0519  
888-811-6282  
816-836-0989 (fax)  
octa@indepmo.org

Copyright 2011

OCTA is a 501(c)(3)  
Not For Profit Organization

♦♦♦

### *News from the Plains*

### Winter Issue Deadline

**November 25, 2011**

Send materials to  
nfpocta@aol.com

## 2011-12 OCTA Officers

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

**Duane Iles, President**, P.O. Box 310, Holton, KS 66436; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com

**John Krizek, Vice-President**, 1190 Tanglewood Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303; JKrizek@aol.com

**Sandra Waggoner, Secretary**, 6441 Silver Oaks Dr., Zephyrhills, FL 33542-4816; SJW6290@msn.com

**Marvin Burke, Treasurer**, 10548 Quivas, Northglenn, CO 80234; mdburke@msn.com

**Leslie R. Fryman, National Trail Preservation Officer**, 6944 La Havre Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621; catrail44@gmail.com

**Bill Martin, Past President**, 706 Country Club Road, Georgetown, TX 78628; bmartinocfa@gmail.com

## 2011-12 OCTA Board of Directors

Camille Bradford, Denver, CO  
bradford@usa.net

Patricia K.A. Fletcher, Sequim, WA  
jpfletcher@olympus.net

Matthew Ivory, West Valley City, UT  
fly\_fisherman5261@yahoo.com

Doug Jensen, Idaho Falls, ID  
jensond@ida.net

Jere Krakow, Santa Fe, NM  
jkrakow@msn.com

Fern Linton, Green River, WY  
flinton@wyoming.com

Barb Netherland, Scottsbluff, NE  
npvm@earthlink.net

Paul Massee, Gig Harbor, OR  
pcmassee@comcast.net

Quackgrass Sally, Bridger, MT  
quackgrasssally@aol.com

Pat Surrena, Littleton, CO  
mtmman1449@aol.com

Bill Symms, Yachats, OR  
wysymms@peak.org

David Vixie, Paradise, CA  
drvixie@yahoo.com

### Committee A - Headquarters Operations, and Publications

Paul Massee, chair  
Matthew Ivory  
Fern Linton  
David Vixie  
Sandy Waggoner, Officer Liaison

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

Barbara Netherland, Chair  
Camille Bradford  
Jere Krakow  
Patricia Fletcher  
Marvin Burke, Treasurer, Officer Liaison

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

Bill Symms, Chair  
Pat Surrena  
Doug Jensen  
Quackgrass Sally  
John Krizek, Officer Liaison

Duane Iles, President & ex officio on all committees

# Committee to Seek Historic Trail Status for Routes

*By Albert Eddins  
Special Committee Chair*

The OCTA National Board has approved a new Special Committee directed at increasing OCTA's effort to pursue the designation of a Southern National Historic Trail. The board also has provided funding to support the committee that I will chair.

OCTA is on record as early as 1994 in supporting the establishment of a Southern National Historic Trail. For the first time this new committee will elevate the project to the national level with the full weight of OCTA behind it.

While a larger number of emigrants traveled over the three northern trails — the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, and the Mormon Pioneer Trail — the Southern Trail played an equally important role in American trail history during the same time period. It was the southern gateway for migration to California, and what it may have lacked in total number of emigrants, it made up for from a military perspective in helping shape America's final borders.

The Army of the West led by Stephen Watts Kearny followed the route of the Southern Trail when the force secured New Mexico and Arizona and moved on to be instrumental in bringing the lands that became the eventual states of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Wyoming and Colorado into the Union. In their momentous effort to get the Army of the West's supply wagons to California, the Mormon Battalion completed the first wagon road

from the United States to the shore of the Pacific Ocean across that southern corridor.

The National Trail System does not recognize the Southern Trails. There is no National Historic Trail across the entire southern half of the United States, even though many emigrants and gold rushers began their journeys from southern jump-off points such as Fort Smith, AR, and Austin and San Antonio, TX, plus gulf ports, and then crossed the region.

The Oregon-California Trails Association served a major role in helping to gain national historic trail status for the three northern trails. This new Special Committee will now focus attention to bring formal recognition to the southern routes.

The new Southern National Historic Trail Project Committee includes OCTA members with experience and knowledge of the structural process and legislative challenges of establishing a new national historic trail. It includes the presidents of the OCTA chapters that touch the trail.

Other members of the committee are Jere Krakow, Vern and Carol Osborne, Bill Martin, Bill and Jeanne Watson, David Miller, T. Michael Smith, and John Winner. A major function of the committee will be to provide support to the chapters who will remain at the forefront of the project. This will include aid with legislative matters, alliances with other interested organizations outside OCTA, strategic planning, coordination across chapter boundaries, preparation of consistent and uniform promotional literature,

and a new Web site dedicated to the project. The committee also will work to get the message about the Southern Trail out on a national basis and assist with the fund raising needed to further the effort.

All members of OCTA are urged to join in this important historic trail recognition and preservation effort. If you would like to get involved in any way, please contact one of the chapter presidents, other members of the committee, or the address below. If you have any special contacts or access to a member of Congress from a Southern Trail state, please let us know.

Perhaps as important as anything at this stage will be financial support. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks out to OCTA Southern Historic Trail Project and submit them to:

Albert Eddins  
7581 East Pasaro Drive  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85266  
aseddins@msn.com  
480 686-1155

Any amount will be greatly appreciated and tax deductible. All corporate and individual donors will be recognized on our new Web site. It is now under construction and can be viewed at [www.southernhistorictrail.org](http://www.southernhistorictrail.org).

---

Visit the OCTA Store  
[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)  
888-811-6282

---

---

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

### Appreciation for Past Leadership and Looking to the Future

By Duane Iles  
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Bill Martin, Glenn Harrison, and all the other presidents of our great organization beginning with Greg Franzwa in 1982. I will make every effort to continue the tradition. With the help of every member we can make OCTA even better as we move into our 30<sup>th</sup> year.

Whether you simply join to read the journals, belong to one chapter or participate in all that OCTA has to offer, you are a member of the Oregon-California Trails Association. It is the work, support, and dedication of each individual that has made OCTA the premier historic trails organization. All parts working together are necessary for our continuing success. Individuals are the building blocks of our organization, whether marking and

protecting trails, educating, reading journals, or any of the other important work. Our volunteer membership is what makes it all happen.

Congratulations to Fern Linton, Pat Cywinski, and their crew for the wonderful convention they put on. It was a truly great experience with excellent tours, speakers, and programs. They are all to be commended for their outstanding work. It takes a tremendous effort to put on a convention and they have distinguished themselves. The crew at the Trails Head Chapter is already diligently planning the 2012 convention in Lawrence, KS, to make it another memorable experience. Start making your plans to join us.

We owe a big thank you to Bill Martin for the great job he did leading OCTA for the past two years as president. During his tenure, *In Pursuit of a Dream* has gone from a project to an asset.

It has been turned over to a marketing group for distribution. We can use the finished project in our efforts to educate young people and the general public about our emigrant trails.

To help sustain our work and ensure our financial security, the OCTA Trails Legacy Society was created as a way members can remember OCTA in their wills and estates. We have had essentially balanced budgets for the past two years and still accomplished our projects.

The Southern Trail initiative to gain national historic trail status has progressed, and we have established a Special Committee to continue the work. These are just a few of the many accomplishments from the past two years under Bill's capable guidance.

As always, we face a number of challenges. Membership continues to be one of our biggest areas of concern. Unless we preserve OCTA, we cannot hope to preserve our trails. These trails and historic sites continue to face endangerment from energy companies, encroachment by roads and communities, and neglect. With the austere economy, we may well face financial challenges.

Work remains to be done on the Virtual Trail and our efforts to gain national status for more of our trails. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of chapter leaders, board of directors, officers, and staff that give so freely of their time and talents. With the dedicated volunteers of OCTA we can achieve many things.

## OCTA Board

*Continued from Page 1*

Officer Lesley Fryman.

In providing further information about projects that may affect the trails, Fryman said there will be a Programmatic Agreement (PA) soon related to the Boardman project. The Gateway West PA was out for review in August. Early review of Chokecherry and Sierra Madre continues until Oct. 19.

There are ongoing issues related to tribal considerations

and wildlife that are effecting the Antelope Project in Oregon, although Oregon officials have been successful in relocating five turbines at sites farther from the trail. As mitigation OCTA will receive \$3,000 for signs and markers while Oregon Historical Trails Council will receive \$20,000 for additional signs.

The 2012 convention will be held in Lawrence, KS, with the 2013 meeting in Oregon City, OR.



## Fall Symposium Involves Butterfield Trail and Trail of Tears Sites

By Travis Boley  
tboley@indepmo.org

Make plans now to attend OCTA's next symposium in Fayetteville, AR. OCTA is partnering with the Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, as well as Heritage Trails, Inc., a Fayetteville-area trail consortium, and local Butterfield Trail enthusiasts to host this symposium.

You'll hear speakers and experience tours that will help you learn about the end of the Trail of Tears, some of the jumping off points for the Cherokee Trail, the Butterfield route, and even a bit about the Southern Trails to California, some of which begin in Arkansas. Registration materials, speakers, and tour information appears in this issue of *News From the Plains* as well as on OCTA's Web site at <[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)>.

The symposium officially gets underway at 8 a.m. on Saturday October 29 at the Fayetteville Town Center, located at 15 West Mountain in downtown Fayetteville. The morning talks will feature all of the historic trails in the region. A catered lunch also will be served.

On Saturday afternoon, a tour will take participants to Pea Ridge National Military Park, a Civil Battlefield site that features well preserved remnants of both the Trail of Tears and the Butterfield

Trail. The tour will include stops at Butterfield stagecoach sites such as Callaghan's Station in Rogers, Fitzgerald's Station in Springdale, the Old Courthouse in Fayetteville, and Parks Station south of Hogeys. Trail of Tears sites will include the Elkhorn Tavern, Cross Hollows, the Springdale trail marker, and the Fayetteville trail marker.

On Sunday, we'll take an all-day tour west from Fayetteville, making stops in Tahlequah, OK, at the Cherokee Heritage Center, and at Fort Gibson, OK. First established in 1824, Fort Gibson served as a starting point for several military expeditions into the West.

The Candlewood Suites is offering a rate of \$77 for all symposium registrants. Located at the northeast corner of I-540 and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, the Candlewood is very near the University of Arkansas and Town Center in downtown Fayetteville. Contact them at

Candlewood Suites  
2270 W MLK Jr Blvd.  
Fayetteville, AR  
(479) 856-6272

Our goal with this symposium is to help establish a new OCTA chapter in northwest Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma to assist the Southern Trails initiative, which is attempting to gain

National Historic Trail status for the southern complex of trails to California.

In April 2012, we're also planning a symposium in Austin, TX, in partnership with the El Camino Real de los Tejas Association to help establish an OCTA chapter in Texas and to support the Southern Trails initiative.

A very special thanks goes out to Fern Linton and her incredible cadre of volunteers who made the Rock Spring convention a wonderful success. We have heard almost nothing but effusive praise for both the location and the content of the convention.

We are already looking forward to the 2012 convention in Lawrence, KS. Convention chairman Ross Marshall and his hard-working team are meeting monthly and making plans to show off the dozens of trail-related improvements that have been made in the region since the Trails Head Chapter last hosted a convention back in 2000.

We're hopeful that you will come to Lawrence, to celebrate OCTA's 30th anniversary.

And looking beyond, we will be in Oregon City, OR for the 2013 convention.

If you have any questions or concerns contact OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282, or e-mail me at [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org).

FROM THE

# HQ MANAGER

## Membership Recruitment Drive Continues

By Kathy Conway

Kconway@indepmo.org


We have many dedicated recruiters for OCTA. Have you recruited a new member in order to receive a "Got Yours" bandana yet? I proudly wear my one-of-a-kind bandana whenever I can. Don't miss out! Sign up a new member and we will give you a recruiting bandana; a symbol of the legacy you are leaving to OCTA—a new member!

Recent recruiters are Doug Jenson, Duane Iles, Zeke Sicotte, Barb Netherland, Lorna Waltz, Barbara Magerl, Travis Boley, Jerry and Sue Peppers, Michael Trueblood, Charlotte Glinski, Steve and Ann Nordheim, Shannon Perry, and Glenn Harrison.

## New Members

Amanda Ballard, Fairfield, ID  
Cliff Carstens, Reardan, WA  
Ryan Chappell, Los Gatos, CA  
Barbara Cogorno, Redlands, CA  
Mark Collins, Green River, WY  
Cathy Corley and Bruce Jones, New York, NY  
Harold Draper, Kansas City, MO  
Chuck Flood, Bainbridge Island, WA  
Gene Gramzow, Bend, OR  
Tamsen and Ken Hert, Laramie, WY  
Kevin Marcus, Sherman Oaks, CA  
Byron Knutsen, Preston, ID  
Helena Linn, Big Piney, WY


*Continued on Next Page*




**TRAIL OF THE 49ERS**  
**Interpretive Center**  
WELLS, NEVADA

*An interpretive center  
dedicated to the northeastern Nevada  
section of the California Trail.*


Open 9-5 Mon-Sat, 12-4 Sun. through October  
436 6th Street - Wells, Nevada  
(775) 752-3540  
[www.wellsnevada.com](http://www.wellsnevada.com)




Captain Jack  
Modoc leader




General Canby  
assassinated



General Davis  
won the war



Toby Riddle  
war heroine



**THE 1873 MODOC WAR?**  
Visit us to learn about the most significant Indian war in western history, were it not overshadowed by Custer's debacle at the Little Big Horn.


**Klamath County Museum**  
1451 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 • (541) 883-4208 • [modocwar.org](http://modocwar.org)

In 1873, a small band of Modocs, led by Captain Jack, successfully defended their stronghold in the lava beds at Tule Lake in Northern California against over 600 U.S. army troops. When the Modocs assassinated General Canby and Reverend Thomas at a peace parley on April 11, 1873, the Modoc War suddenly became sensational news — international as well as national. Were it not overshadowed by Custer's shocking defeat at the Little Big Horn three years later, historians have written that the Modoc War would rank as the most significant Indian war in America's western history.


The Modoc War is the only Indian war in which a full-ranking general has been killed. Other unique aspects are that it was photographed by Eadweard Muybridge, "father of the cinema," and sketched by renowned British artist/reporter, William Simpson. In 1955, Hollywood made a Modoc War movie, "Drum Beat," starring Alan Ladd as a peace commissioner and Charles Bronson as Captain Jack.

Visit our Klamath County Museum to learn first-hand about the Modoc War. Then drive south to Tule Lake where the war took place. The lava beds there are officially designated as Lava Beds National Monument (LBNM) and managed by the U.S. National Park Service.

The Modoc War is an untold story which you will find intriguing, tragic and suspenseful.



Simpson assassination sketch



General Gillen's camp at Tule Lake

For a free MODOC WAR map, email [klamathhistory@gmail.com](mailto:klamathhistory@gmail.com) or call (541) 883-4208



# Mapping and Marking Program Invites Participation

*By David Welch  
Mapping and Marking Chair*

In Rock Springs the OCTA board approved a budget with \$2,500 for the Graves and Sites Committee (Randy Brown) and \$4,000 for the Mapping and Marking Committee (Dave Welch). This is a substantial increase from the previous year. Use of these funds is dependent upon initiatives from individuals and chapters. Please contact Randy or Dave to start an interpretive sign or trail marking project. Materials are paid for by these funds.

The funds for the Mapping and Marking Committee will also permit an update of the Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Manual. There will be some fine tuning of the basic MET methodology, but no major changes are anticipated since radical

shifts would impact previous work. The revision will include new material on the use of GPS and computer-based mapping software. It will also include new material on trail preservation. While use of paper maps will continue for those preferring that approach, we anticipate that most future work will be done with digital maps and trail information.

At the workshop in Rock Springs, Leslie Fryman presented a description of the photo monitoring process that we hope members will use. It basically involves establishing a "Key Observation Point" (or KOP) with GPS coordinates. While standing at the specified location, pictures are taken in north, east, south, and west directions. The process is repeated once a year or more if there is activity in the area. Pictures should be archived by the chapter on at least two sites. A national archive also may be established.

John Murphy (Colorado-Cherokee chapter) has been busy in Wyoming mapping the trails with the NPS's Trimble Data Loggers. John reports: "I'm in my fourth year of two trips annually to the Guernsey, WY, area. With travel time aside, most trips put me in the field nine days. I started at the Guernsey Ruts and have worked the River Route across Frémont's Bitter Cottonwood Creek and the Black Hills to the south end of the Glendo valley. On the Plateau Route I started south of Register Cliff and have logged west into and up Warm Springs Canyon and up and over the Black Hills Road as far as Porter's Rock. The total straight-line distance logged is about 29 miles but includes parallel swales and braids as required by NPS methodology. I am pleased to report that all owners but one have been trail-friendly and cooperative."

John would welcome help next summer. He is recording data in a format specified by the NPS that goes beyond the MET standard. John notes: "I must recognize Randy Brown's trail marking efforts as time and time again my trail loggings are confirmed by his OCTA markers. He also has found three trail segments not mentioned in the GLO notes and easily overlooked were it not for his markers."

By the time you read this, our summer field work period will probably have ended. You are encouraged to start planning now for work next year. Please contact me if you have any questions at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net).

## Membership Recruitment Drive

*Continued from Previous Page*

Paula McCollum-Cudd, Boise, ID  
Eric Monk, Venus, TX  
Ann Morrison, Encinitas, CA  
Margaret Murdock, Astoria, OR  
Rick Myers, Gering, NE  
Richard Norris, Independence, MO  
Jane Peattie, Los Gatos, CA  
Nate Pedersen, North Mankato, MN  
Heide Presse, Tampa, FL  
Judyth E. Reed, Cheyenne, WY  
Allan Ring and JoAnn Peeks, Houston, TX  
Roger Robertson, Kansas City, MO  
Donna Ryan, Citrus Heights, CA  
Eric Sjoblom, Greenville, RI  
David Slyck, Emerald Isle, NC  
Walt Sorensen, Cairo, NE  
Jon Standley, Boise, ID  
Helen Strader, Mesa, AZ  
Jerome Vogel, Odenville, AL  
Kristine Weaver, Buhl, ID  
Chuck and Barbara Williams, Dayton, NV  
Peg Willis, Pendleton, OR

# National Trails Feasibility Study Nears Completion

*By Jere L. Krakow  
Feasibility Study Chair*

The Historic Trails Feasibility Study Report project is nearly complete. It will be incorporated into a report prepared by the National Long Distance Trails Office with recommendations to Congress about suitability and feasibility of routes studied. Maps and documentation of the routes have been completed by a cadre of volunteers from OCTA and other trail associations.

The maps have been submitted to the National Trails Office in Santa Fe, and to my knowledge, have been digitized for the trail database. Likewise the documentation of the routes by volunteers, and the mapping work have been submitted for the database. Though I did not attend

any of the scoping meetings for the study and have no detailed reports about them, presumably the materials in the database met requirements.

At the mid-year Board meeting, maps were rechecked. Those details have been completed so that digitizing could proceed with completed data sets.

Several OCTA members called with new information about routes in California, Idaho, and Kansas. Perhaps the most significant reports were about routes of the Cherokee Trail in southeast Kansas that appeared after a grass fire moved across unbroken land, revealing secrets of trail resources. Many of you are familiar with this process from past experiences with fire. In addition significant research in Idaho determined revisions to the location of the

North Alternate. All this work adds to our knowledge of trail routes and serves to reinforce the ongoing need for all OCTA members to investigate trail routes, sites, and resources with curiosity, diligence, and rigor.

I sent thank you letters to all volunteers for their generous contributions of time and expenses in completing the maps and documentation of route use. In conversations with them by telephone and in person at OCTA Board meetings, I have emphasized the importance of the assistance they willingly provided the past three years, and appreciation for their work. Should you have questions about this work, please contact me by email at [jlkrakow@msn.com](mailto:jlkrakow@msn.com), or by telephone at 505-828-0309.

## Fernley Sand Swales Project Earns Preservation Award

*By Leslie R. Fryman  
National Trails  
Preservation Officer*

Last year the CA-NV chapter of OCTA was recognized for ongoing preservation efforts at the Fernley Sand Swales, a landmark stretch of the Truckee River Route of the California Trail northwest of Fernley, NV. Tom Fee, "trail boss" for Fernley Sand Swales projects, accepted the award on behalf of OCTA. The certificate of recognition was presented by State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James, who extended thanks from the State of Nevada for OCTA's stewardship of the swales, described by him as a "model for historic preservation."

In 2001, CA-NV OCTA be-

came a partner with Nevada BLM for the Fernley Swales Historic Preservation Easement, the result of a land exchange between BLM and a private developer with long-range plans for both commercial and residential development of the land surrounding the swales. Since that time, chapter members convene every October to remove debris from the easement and to record the changing conditions in the swales using an archaeological site photo-monitoring program established by the BLM. Within the fragile dune environment of the swales, natural and human-caused impacts cause erosion and other changes, both gradual and catastrophic, which the routine photo-monitoring program will

clearly demonstrate over a long period of time.

That OCTA simply "removes debris" from the sand swales is a rather misleading generalization. Several large flatbeds, trailers, and even dump trucks are required for the October clean-up of the one-mile easement, and since 2001, the record of tonnage hauled away has steadily increased.

A combination of factors contribute to continued public use of the swales as a dump for furniture, appliances, vehicles, and other large, hard-to-dispose-of items. One factor is apparent in the swales themselves—the high sand berms along the south side of the wide swales conceal illicit dump-

*Continued on Next Page*



## OCTA Has New Partnership Representative

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
Legislative Liaison, Co-Chairs*

For 26 years it has been our privilege to lead OCTA's legislative activities in Washington, D.C. This includes gathering of those vital volunteer hours and expenses, preparing the report to Congress, coordinating all Washington contacts during Trails Advocacy Week, and testifying before Senate and House Committee hearings.

Three times we asked you to write to Congress in support of our Trails Bills and each time you responded with 300 to 500 letters. This got us over the next hurdle in Washington. Thank you to each and every one of you who have helped over the years to make our job easier. We also represent OCTA on the Leadership Council of the Partnership for the National Trails System, which we helped create. Bill Martin has graciously agreed to be OCTA's new repre-

sentative to the Partnership. During the next year we will gradually turn over other responsibilities.

Our National Park Service Trails Superintendent Aaron Mahr received significant new funds and started the Additional Routes/Cut-offs Feasibility Studies authorized by Congress in 2008. His team is making great progress this year, including hosting numerous public meetings across these four trails. In 2010 Congress stopped further special funding of new projects to help control the federal budget.

Beginning October 1, 2011, Aaron will have to complete these studies from his Fiscal Year 2012 - 13 operations budget. This will probably mean extending project completion for several more years. Congress will understand the need for these delays.

The current Fiscal Year 2011 funding for our Federal Agency Partners was not significantly reduced and the first part of Fiscal Year 2012 will probably be funded

at the 2011 level. The House is considering a five percent cut in Interior funding for 2012. The much-discussed spending cuts to help solve America's debt problem are not scheduled to occur until after next year's elections.

Please keep your volunteer hours and contributions reports coming in to us as they play a vital role in the level of Congressional funding for our Federal Agency Partners. We get a credit of \$20+ for each volunteer hour reported, which is partially matched in funding to our Partners.

The Legislative Liaison Committee will have strong leadership with Vern and Carol Osborne as Vice Co-Chairs. Burt Eddins will chair the newly created Southern Trail Special Committee reporting to the OCTA President. In the future, we plan to serve/advise both committees, and to participate in Trails Advocacy Week.

## Fernley Sand Swales Cleanup

*Continued From Page 8*

ing activities from sight, and the swales are easily accessible by any high-clearance or 4WD vehicle from the adjacent grade of the historic Central Pacific Railroad, now a well-used dirt road. Rising area population, as well as higher fees at the local landfill, are also resulting in increasing mounds of trash in the desert around Fernley.

Among the many threats that OCTA fights at the Fernley Sand Swales are low levels of local awareness, interest, and concern for protecting and preserving this type of historic site. Community organizations that are helping

OCTA try to change this include the *Fernley Leader-Courier*, the Fernley Preservation Society, and the City of Fernley Parks and Recreation Department.

Local businesses, such as the city's waste management contractor, the adjacent Truck Inn, and Arnold's Wrecking Yard, have chipped in on the annual cleanup by waiving dumping fees and helping the OCTA crew tow abandoned vehicles from the swales. Fernley citizens and youth groups have also contributed their volunteer efforts.

A part of this certificate of

recognition must be dedicated to Gary Bowyer, the BLM archaeologist (Carson City) who established the preservation easement at Fernley Sand Swales in 1998, pushed it through many roadblocks to fruition, and made certain that OCTA was on board as a permanent caretaker of the swales. Gary died of cancer in December 2005. The majority of recognition, however, is much deserved by Tom Fee for coordinating and leading OCTA's annual activities at Fernley, and for being a "model trail boss" to the great sand swales.



***Outgoing Board members, Pinky Ellis, left, and John Krizek, right, receive certificates from President Duane Iles. John will continue his service to OCTA as the newly elected vice-president.***

## 2011 OCTA Convention

*Photos by Roger Blair*



***Edna Kennell shares a story with Convention Keynote Speaker Fred Gowan.***



***This doll was one of the many items included in the OCTA Auction held following the Awards Banquet.***



***Convention Chairwomen Pat Cywinski, left, and Fern Linton receive certificates of Appreciation from President Duane Iles.***





## OCTA AWARDS

### Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award

#### Roy Tea

Roy Tea is a recipient of the Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award.

Tea's work with the Utah Department of Transportation undertaking road survey and highway engineering assignments placed him into extremely close and regular contact with many historic trails. He saw them in ways few people ever do. He became an historic trails advocate and early OCTA organization member. Roy is now an authority on many trails, most particularly on the Hasting's Cutoff within western Utah and Eastern Nevada. With foresight Roy has made arrangements for much of his trail library, publications, photographs and notes to go to the Brigham Young University library in the future. He takes pleasure in knowing that much of his work and insight will be available for future generations.

In 1998 Roy worked with others to place rail post markers along portions of the Hastings, Bartleson-Bidwell, Salt Lake Cutoff, and Salt Lake to Southern California trails in Utah and Nevada. Roy has written or contributed to 17 tour guides many of which have seen use outside his home chapter. Many of us participating in last year's National Convention preconference tour experienced his trail commentary as we traveled from Donner Springs to the Elko convention site. He has

lost count of how many trail trips he has guided. Roy has published five substantial articles in *The Overland Journal*. His article "Limitless Plains" was recognized as the best journal article of 2006. Roy also received the Distinguished Volunteer Award from OCTA in 2005.

Tea also has received certificates of achievements and the Covered Wagon Award from Crossroads Chapter. Because of Roy's outstanding research, photographs, and commitment to preserving Utah historic Trails, the Utah Historical Society recognized his outstanding contribution in 2008.



*Crossroads Chapter members Roy Tea and Linda Turner received National OCTA recognition. He was honored for Meritorious Service, while she received the Elaine McNabney Award as an outstanding volunteer. (Photo courtesy of Oscar Olson)*

### Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer

#### Linda Turner

Linda Turner, Utah Crossroads president during 2009 and 2010, is the recipient of the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. In her role as chapter president she organized and managed board meetings and membership meetings, and attended field

trips. She has been involved in many work parties for OCTA trail preservation projects. Last year Linda managed the book room at the National Convention in Elko. She is truly an enthusiastic trails and history volunteer.



## OCTA AWARDS

### Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award

#### Edna Kennell

Edna Kennell, recipient of the Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, has been a long-time active member of OCTA. She served two terms on the National Board, and attended numerous national board meetings throughout her active career. She was Convention Chairwoman of the Casper National Convention and served as program chair for this year's convention in Rock Springs. She has been and is still active in the Wyoming Chapter serving as President and board member for numerous years.

Through many years Edna de-

veloped working relationships among government agencies, energy companies, and OCTA. She was the "ramrod" for the building and operation of the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, WY, for which she became the first executive director.

Most recently, Edna was one of the few persons instrumental in raising funds for OCTA's film, *In Pursuit of a Dream*.



*Edna Kennell receives her award from OCTA President Duane Iles. (Photos by Roger Blair)*



Randy Brown, above, is a one-man preservation program for OCTA in the state of Wyoming. He has been responsible for the carsonite marking program in Wyoming and has personally placed most of them. He maintains

### David Welch Preservation Award

#### Randy Brown

a close, friendly relationship with landowners, who with Randy's encouragement have protected historic trail remnants and allowed OCTA access to visit those remnants. He serves as trail monitor for much of the state. His efforts to record trail inscriptions—not just in Wyoming, but throughout the lengths of the Oregon and California trails—predate OCTA.

Randy also has a longstanding interest in researching the history, including genealogic research into the emigrant's family tree, of known burials along the trails. This research has translated into marking and fencing several burial sites. His inscription endeavors and this research into trail grave

sites have resulted in two OCTA publications preserving in writing what onsite resources might otherwise be lost or forgotten. He has long been responsible for OCTA's sign program. He works with others to develop interpretive texts, but frequently develops his own texts and installs the signs alone, often leaving Wyoming and travelling hundreds of miles to make the installations.

His preservation efforts have had an impact on the next generation, thus helping to assure that the history of the trails will endure. As a teacher, he has instilled his love of historic trails in the students he has taught, some of whom have been recognized with the Young OCTAn award.



Hello,

At the recent OCTA Annual Convention in Rock Springs, your Board of Directors authorized a survey to be taken of our members to help guide our future direction and growth. What our members think about OCTA helps us to not only better plan and develop the services we provide to give you the best experiences possible, but it will also help us in finding new members.

So please take a few moments to share your thoughts with us. Your responses can remain anonymous if you wish. You can complete this form and return it in the enclosed envelope, OR, to help us tabulate the results faster and more accurately, you can complete the online version. If you receive OCTA's E-News, you'll receive an email with a link to the online survey. It can also be accessed through the OCTA website at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). If you prefer the paper version, please feel free to use this one. Either way, we'd love to hear from you and we look toward the future growth of OCTA.

Thanks for your help,

Travis Boley  
Your Association Manager

1. How did you originally hear about OCTA?  
☐ Through a friend, family member, or word-of-mouth  
☐ Professional interest: job, educational role or research  
☐ News, advertising, or publicity  
☐ An event, convention, or symposium  
☐ Through other historical organizations, activities or sources  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you been a member of OCTA?  
☐ Less than 2 years  
☐ 2 – 5 years  
☐ 5 – 10 years  
☐ 10 – 15 years  
☐ More than 20 years
3. What prompted you to join OCTA? Please check all that apply.  
☐ Interest in trail history  
☐ Access to information: research, literature, publications  
☐ Opportunities to visit trail sites, and learn about the trail experience  
☐ Opportunities to contribute in a hands-on way to trail preservation  
☐ Interest in protecting or enhancing a community historical resource  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what kind area do you live?  
☐ City or part of a large metro area  
☐ Mid-sized or small town  
☐ Rural area  
☐ Retirement community  
☐ More than one location  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. How do you prefer to get communication from OCTA? (please check all that apply)
- ☐ Printed newsletters and correspondence
  - ☐ E-mail
  - ☐ Online newsletter
  - ☐ Web site postings
  - ☐ Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, other "new media"
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
6. How would you rank your interests in OCTA, with "1" being your top interest, "2" being your second interest, and so on?
- ☐ Taking an active role in, or supporting, historic trail preservation
  - ☐ Arm-chair interest—just learning more about Western trail history
  - ☐ Genealogy—family research
  - ☐ Learning more through meetings, field trips & tours
  - ☐ Opportunities for community service (i.e. helping to create a local monument/site)
  - ☐ Expanding public interest & appreciation for trail history
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. What OCTA activities/programs/benefits are of most interest? (check all that apply)
- ☐ National conventions
  - ☐ Chapter meetings/outings
  - ☐ Regional symposia
  - ☐ Field trips & tours
  - ☐ *News From the Plains*
  - ☐ *Overland Journal*
  - ☐ Chapter newsletter(s)
  - ☐ Web site
  - ☐ Access to libraries/research sources
  - ☐ Access to books & literature on related topics
  - ☐ Genealogy—family research
  - ☐ Connection with friends and like-minded souls
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
8. What factors are most likely to influence your participation in activities? (please check all that apply)
- ☐ Health
  - ☐ Cost
  - ☐ Time available/date conflicts
  - ☐ Subject interest
  - ☐ Location of activity
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
9. How important do you consider these activities for the future of OCTA? ("1" for most important, "2" for 2<sup>nd</sup> most important, etc.)
- ☐ Active trail preservation programs & efforts
  - ☐ Community outreach, development of local resources & tourism
  - ☐ Collaboration with other historical organizations to achieve common goals
  - ☐ Public education—including youth—about trail history
  - ☐ Keeping in touch with trail friends & aficionados
  - ☐ Fundraising
  - ☐ Publicity
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Please rate the items on #10 as something you are likely to do down to something you are unlikely to do, with the number "1" being "most likely" and "5" being "least likely":

10. How likely are you to:
- ☐ Serve on a committee?
  - ☐ Run for office?
  - ☐ Help with an event?
  - ☐ Speak to a group about a trail topic?
  - ☐ Participate in a trail related field activity, such as mapping, marking, or cleaning/maintaining a site?
11. Are you, or have you ever been, a chapter or national officer or committee person?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No
12. What items have you purchased from the OCTA store? (please check all that apply)
- ☐ Books
  - ☐ Clothing
  - ☐ Maps
  - ☐ CDs, DVDs, films etc.
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ None of the above
13. If you've made purchases from the OCTA store, how did you make those purchases? (please check all that apply)
- ☐ Catalogue
  - ☐ Website
  - ☐ Phone order
  - ☐ On-site at OCTA HQ
  - ☐ At a convention or event
  - ☐ Other
14. How many OCTA-related events do you attend in a year?
- ☐ 0 ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-4 ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7+
15. Have you ever attended an OCTA annual convention?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
16. If yes, how many conventions have you attended?
- ☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-4
- ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7-8
- ☐ 9+
17. Other than OCTA publications, to what other history-related publications do you subscribe? (please check all that apply):
- ☐ Wild West
  - ☐ True West
  - ☐ Smithsonian
  - ☐ History Channel magazine
  - ☐ American Heritage
  - ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Are you a member of other historical organizations or societies?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. If yes, which ones?

---

---

---

20. Do you think OCTA is a good value for the price?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please describe why "yes" or "no":

21. How likely are you to recommend OCTA membership to others, with "1" being "least likely" and "5" being "most likely"?

☐ 1   ☐ 2   ☐ 3   ☐ 4   ☐ 5

The following questions are optional. All answers will be kept confidential. You may also submit your answers anonymously.

22. What is your age range?

☐ 10-21   ☐ 22-30   ☐ 30-39   ☐ 40-49   ☐ 50-59  
☐ 60-69   ☐ 70-79   ☐ 80-89   ☐ 90+

23. What is your annual income range?

☐ \$0-\$19,999   ☐ \$20,000-\$29,999   ☐ \$30,000-\$39,999  
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999   ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999   ☐ \$60,000-\$69,999  
☐ \$70,000-\$79,999   ☐ \$80,000-\$89,999   ☐ \$90,000-\$99,999  
☐ \$100,000-\$249,999   ☐ \$250,000 - \$499,999   ☐ \$500,000+

24. Please feel free to add any other comments that you think will be helpful to us as we assess our membership program. Attach additional sheets of paper if necessary. And thank you for taking a few moments to complete this survey!





## OCTA AWARDS

## Friends of the Trail

### Clint Gilchrist



*Clint Gilchrist, left, visits with new OCTA President Duane Iles on the tour to the New Fork River Crossing. (Photo courtesy of Bill Martin)*

Clint Gilchrist and the Sublette County Historical Society received the Friend of the Trail Award for trail preservation work along the Lander Trail.

Beginning in 2008, longtime Sublette County, Wyoming, historical activist Clint Gilchrist began nurturing a series of collaborations among public agencies, oil and gas companies, a power company, and a private landowner that have resulted in the preservation for public benefit of a crucial river crossing in western Wyoming on the historic Lander Road.

Built by the U.S. government in 1858 and '59, the road splits off from the Oregon Trail at South Pass and heads west more than 200 miles to Fort Hall, Idaho. Until the 1990s, much of the country it crossed was wide-open sagebrush steppe, as it had been since the road was built. Beginning in the early 1990s with development of the Jonah Field and Pinedale Anticline south of Pinedale, WY,

natural gas drilling in the area has boomed. Now there are many thousands of wells in the area, and many thousands more planned. Most of the land surface is owned by the federal Bureau of Land Management.

In 2008, the BLM reopened negotiations with two of the fields' main operators, Shell and Ultra, toward a new agreement that would govern mitigations to make up for the damages from the development

to still more historic resources.

Gilchrist, who serves on the boards of both the Sublette County Historical Society, a private, nonprofit organization, and the Sublette County Historical Preservation Board, an arm of county government, was asked to sit in on the negotiations. Because the public board had already been working with landowners and others on preservation questions regarding the trail on private land, Gilchrist knew of an 80-plus acre piece of property for sale along the west bank of the New Fork River, just north of an area of heavy gas development—and right at the spot where the historic Lander Road crossed the river. (The New Fork is a tributary of the Green River, and runs parallel to the larger stream for many miles.)

Gilchrist suggested that outright purchase of the land for preservation and public education about the trail might be a better approach

to mitigation than videos, brochures, or signs in the area about what had been there before the damage was done. Once purchase was proposed, the Pinedale office of the BLM did historical research and archeology, and recorded the historical importance of the site.

"The BLM had a major, major role in this," Gilchrist says now. "It was BLM buy-in that made it happen." He says he came up with the original idea for purchase only because the status of the property was "on my radar."

Negotiations for purchase began in the fall of 2008, and final agreements were signed in August 2010. Shell, Ultra, and Rocky Mountain Power together put up the purchase price of \$933,000. Also working collaboratively throughout the negotiations toward the final agreement were the Pinedale office of the BLM, the Wyoming State Historical Preservation Office, the National Park Service National Trails Office, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, Wyoming OCTA, the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, the Lander Trail Foundation, the Sublette County Historical Society, and the Sublette County Historical Preservation Board.

Under the agreement, the Sublette County Historical Society will own the land, and the BLM will manage it for public access. The Society is now raising funds to conduct more archaeology on the site. A parking lot and a self-guiding trail will be built.





## OCTA AWARDS

## Friends of the Trail

### Pat & Margaret Davis

Oregon residents Pat and Margaret Davis have more than a mile of Barlow Road on their private property and have been cooperating with Northwest OCTA to mark the trail.

Pat and Margaret have preserved the trail segment pretty much the way it was when Pat's father acquired the land years ago. His mother made him promise to never destroy the Barlow Road as it was a part of their family heritage and history. Davis recently purchased a 46-passenger bus and invites small groups of school children and adults to come visit the ranch, where he takes them out on a personal tour.

For years Pat and Margaret let anyone who wanted to come and look at the trail to do so, but he found that people have a way of trashing things and destroying property. Now he provides a guide service to better protect the trail.



### Rob & Martha Hellyer

Rob and Martha Hellyer own Burnt Ranch in central Wyoming and have grazing leases for much of the surrounding area. The main routes of the Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer NHTs pass through the ranch, and the Lander Road originates in the area.

The Hellyers have a long history of protecting the trails that pass through their property and leases. This year they are recognized with the OCTA Friend of the Trail Award. They have demonstrated a continuing sensitivity to the need to preserve the trails and associated historic sites. They have often opened their property to visits when requested. Their willingness to take an extra step to protect the trail is commendable given the many challenges of cattle grazing in an area of conflicting requirements for management and development. They have demonstrated a willingness to give priority to protecting the trail over development.







## OCTA AWARDS Distinguished Service

### Dave Crowley, Dave Vlcek, Sam Drucker

Dave Crowley, Dave Vlcek, and Sam Drucker are responsible for cultural resource issues in the Pinedale, WY, office of the BLM. All three are recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. The primary National Historic Trail in the Field Office area is the Lander Road, which is in the area of the Pinedale Anticline Gas Field. These three federal employees

have worked diligently to protect the Lander Road and to develop mitigation plans for impacts to the viewshed and road.

Recently Crowley led efforts to develop a programmatic agreement to mitigate new impacts to the viewshed which resulted in the purchase and donation of the New Fork River crossing site. In the course of this work an original

route of the Lander Road was re-discovered. Careful documentation of the route and river crossing area by the Pinedale staff insured its designation as an important trail site appropriate for protection. In this and other examples, the Pinedale team deserves appreciation for taking the additional step to insure the Lander Road received maximum protection.

## Judyth Reed

Until her recent retirement, Judyth Reed served as the BLM's Wyoming State Office coordinator for national historic trails. As such she participated in the development of management and mitigation plans for projects in all of the field office areas with historic trails.

This included the Atlantic Rim Programmatic Agreement (PA), White Mountain PA, Hiawatha PA, the Pinedale Anticline PA, and others. Judyth's technical knowledge of the laws and regulations was a key contribution in the development of these PAs.

Judyth was always a strong voice supporting appropriate mitigation for adverse impacts. She also supported the concept that much of what was done in the past with respect to mitigation was inadequate.

The State Office's strong support made the acquisition of the New Fork River Crossing site possible.



*Bureau of Land Management employees recognized by OCTA are, from left, back row, Dave Crowley, Craig Bromley, and Sam Drucker. Front row from left, Lynn Harrell and Judyth Reed. Not shown is Dave Vlcek. (See additional articles on next page.)*





## OCTA AWARDS

## Distinguished Service

### Lynn Harrell



Lynn Harrell, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, is an archaeologist in the BLM's Kemmerer Field Office and as such has led efforts to protect the National Historic Trails.

Over many years she diligently worked to insure that proposed projects have minimal or no impact on the trails. This included site selection for oil wells that were hidden from the trail and routing of power lines to minimize impacts to the trail viewshed.

Harrell also organized and led volunteer efforts with OCTA to locate trail routes, mark the trail, and improve fencing around historic graves along the Sublette Cutoff.

### Craig Bromley

Chuck Milliken. (Photo Courtesy of Oscar Olson)

### Chuck Milliken

Chuck Milliken is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. He has been with the National Park Service Long Distance Trails office in Salt Lake City since 2002. He has worked with various chapters of OCTA and other historic trails organizations to develop and produce dozens of interpretive wayside exhibits, publications, maps, and plans, and to help organize events.

Milliken has worked with several state departments of transportation to obtain funding and coordinate production and placement of trail-side auto tour route signs. He has collaborated with other federal agencies concerning local tour route and byway signing, interpretation, preservation, and exhibit planning. He has been the point person for nearly all of OCTA's Challenge Cost Share interpretive proposals since 2002, helping with project planning and budgeting, and he has been an outspoken trails advocate.

For many years Craig Bromley has been an advocate for the historic trails within the BLM's Lander, WY, Field Office. The Field Office's area includes the critical Sweetwater Valley approach to South Pass, which in turn contains many pristine trail segments and a mostly undisturbed viewshed. Craig is currently participating in the development of the revised Lander Resource Management Plan, which will define management of the area for the next 20 years. He has been a strong advocate for the trails within an often contentious environment. He has also sought and encouraged OCTA's participation in trail management processes.

## Youth Initiative Launched

For \$10 and an e-mail address, any youngster can acquire "Trail Scout" status, a T-shirt with the Trail Scout logo, and be connected via "new media" to the network of



young historic trail fans that has grown out of the production of the *In Pursuit of a Dream (IPD)* film project. An initial wave of orders for the new T-shirt were taken at the Rock Springs convention.

OCTA members are encouraged

to sign up sons, daughters, grandchildren, neighbors, even school classes, for inclusion in the new affiliation.

The youngsters will receive the *Trail Scout* newsletter, and be connected with other teens through the Facebook page created by the IPD alumni. In order to receive the OJ and other regular OCTA membership benefits, regular memberships need to be purchased.

Chapters will be encouraged to include the young people in activities, and outings.





## OCTA AWARDS Young OCTAN

### Oregon Trail School, Casper, WY

The Young OCTAN Award is presented to children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-one who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails.

Winning the award this year are Oregon Trail School fourth and fifth graders from Casper, WY.

This school is located near the Oregon-California-Mormon Pioneer Trail along the North Platte River. Students are involved in place-based education and know the science and history of the North Platte as it flows through Wyoming.

When the opportunity for a special project came along, a mural-sized banner was a perfect fit for aspects the school considers important. Enrichment activity funds from the Natrona County School District No. 1 were available for a special project. Paul Taylor, an expert in Australian aboriginal culture who lives in Laramie, WY, was engaged for a week's residency to guide Janet Wragge, fifth grade teacher, Anne Halle, school art teacher, and their students in the Rainbow Snake project. The project used art to deepen the students' feel for history—especially trails history—and used history to deepen their experience of the symbolic power of public art.

The mural was received enthusiastically in January and February 2011 when it was displayed in the main lobby at the Bureau

of Land Management's National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper.

The mural the students created focuses on the people who passed through this area, including American Indian tribes, westbound emigrants, the residents of Casper, and Oregon Trail School staff and students.

The Rainbow Snake—symbolizing the North Platte River—was

the Big Horn Mountains (which can be seen from Casper); to the south is Casper Mountain, and to the northeast, the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. The ever-present Wyoming wind is represented by a breeze coming in soft puffs from the gentle ox's nose and by a strong wind snorting from the war pony's nostrils.

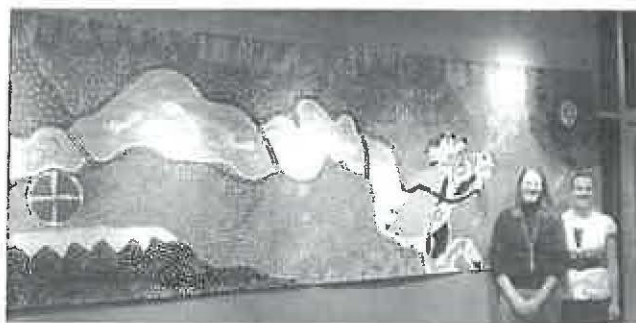
Every detail is a symbol for something significant to the area.

The use of "fours" was coincidental, not deliberate: the four cardinal directions; the four elements of the earth; the four sacred colors. The four major trails through the area are emphasized, shown on lines on both sides of the river and crossing in four places; the ox has four ribs

which can be perceived as wagon bows, and a four-chambered stomach; the shields have four spokes; the war horse has four stripes. The heart of the ox symbolizes Oregon Trail School.

One hundred hands of children touched this mural. The initialed handprints of every fifth grader created the barely discernible border.

The Rainbow Snake was a project that brought the students together as a community, fulfilled the Oregon Trail School place-based curriculum criteria, and resulted in a teaching tool as well as a durable banner which, when not prominently displayed in the community, is hung high in the school library for students and visitors to admire.



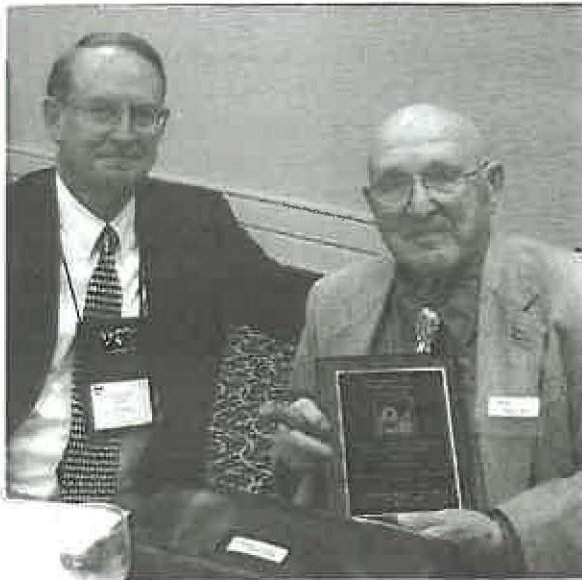
sketched out and the painting began. Just as the two-headed snake has tradition and importance in Australia, the students devised a "two-headed snake" denoting the Platte River. With undulating banks, the blue river sweeps across the canvas. Also, human footprints in white moving westward on the water signify reliance on water by all who passed this way. To the west (left) is a docile ox drinking from a pool. The ox represents emigrants moving west. To the east is the powerful war pony, symbolizing Indians returning to the Black Hills.

Important mountains are depicted in dark blue with light blue dots, light blue with dark dots, and white on white to represent snow. To the northwest are





## OCTA AWARDS



David Welch, left, congratulates Rush Spedden.

### Merrill Mattes Award

## Rush Spedden

Winner of the 2011 Merrill Mattes Award for Excellence in Writing in the *Overland Journal* is Rush Spedden, for his article "Lansford Hastings, Orson Pratt, Google Earth, and GPS" in the Winter 2010 issue. In the words of two of the reviewers:

"Outstanding research, combining analysis of diaries, Google Earth maps, GPS, and field work to determine an important trail route."

"Rush has been conducting trail research . . . with the mind of a detective. He searches for material in all available archives, interviews countless people, and conducts exhaustive field work to get it right . . . He has mastered modern tools such as Google Earth and GPS for trail identification and verification. [The result is] his fine article."

## OCTA Recognizes Kathy Conway

OCTA President Duane Iles recognized Kathy Conway for 20 years of service in the headquarters office of OCTA. She manages the office, the OCTA store, and provides information to members and others who have inquiries about the organization.

Thanks, Kathy, for all you do!



## Education Award Winners

Education Chair Bill Hill, left, congratulates Mark Trotter, center, for being the OCTA Museum/Institution Education Award Winner, and Phil Roberts, right, for the Education Award for Post Secondary/University. Mark works at Camp Floyd State Park in Utah, while Dr. Roberts teaches history at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.



# New Calendar Focuses on Forts, Posts & Stations

*By Bill Hill  
Education Awards  
& Publications Committee*

The contest is over, the artwork selected, the individual students notified, and the awards sent for the 2012 calendar "Forts, Posts & Stations Along the Trails."

Each year the Education Awards and Publications Committee sponsors a calendar contest for elementary students during the school year. A topic is selected and in the spring students are asked to submit an original drawing reflective of the subject. Information about the contest is available on OCTA's Web site and a limited number of notices are mailed to various school districts in the fall. Teachers and students research the topics and then submit artwork depicting the theme.

This year the topic was "Forts, Posts and Stations Along the Trails." The artwork of 14 students was selected which depicted different sites found on the Oregon, California, Mormon, and Santa Fe Trails. The fact that there were many more than 14 possible sites made the project challenging for both the students and the judges. This project is one way OCTA helps to introduce students to the trails. It also provides an interdisciplinary approach to teaching combining both history

and art.

Congratulations to our budding artists/historians! They are listed with their teachers and schools.

**Anna Harris**, c/o Mr. Lee, Monroe Intermediate School, Green River, WY; **Mary Harris**, c/o Mrs. Hower, Harrison Elementary School, Green River, WY; **Bryan Harris**, c/o

**Thomas**, c/o Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Marri Brown**, c/o Mrs. Jensen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT; **Amelia Olds**, c/o Mrs. Hansen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT; **Eliza Nelson**, c/o Mrs. Hansen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT; **Colton Cravens**, c/o Mrs. Jensen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT; **Grace Whitehead**, c/o Mrs. Jensen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT; **Anna Laver**, c/o Mrs. Nielsen, Upland Terrace, Salt Lake City, UT.

Each student whose artwork was selected receives a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50. One copy of the calendar also goes to the student's elementary school. We also thank their teachers for their cooperation and for integrating our project into their busy schedules.

Contest guidelines for our 2013 calendar project "Emigrant & Indian Clothing and

Equipment" can be viewed on OCTA's Web site. Why not have your children and grandchildren tell their teachers about the project. If a school or teacher does not have sufficient time to devote to the project, individual students may still enter the contest and be judged the same as those submitted by a school/teacher. It is the artwork that is judged and selected.



*Anna Harrison, left, and her sister Mary signed all of the copies of the 2012 calendar available at the Convention. The two had their artwork included in this year's production. (Photo courtesy of Quackgrass Sally)*

**Mrs. Winquest**, Jacks Valley Elementary School, Carson City, NV; **Jarek Campbell**, c/o Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Ben Templin**, c/o Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Hattie Sagers**, c/o Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Nash Goddard**, c/o Ms. Leisha Black, Canyon Rim Academy, Salt Lake City, UT; **Nathan**

## 2011 Mid-Year Fund Drive a Great Success

Our mid-year fund drive proved a great success due to the generous response of our members who gave close to \$9,000.

General Fund	\$4,040
Education	750
Endowment	1,300
Preservation	2,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,915</b>

### Contributors

Harry Abraham  
Paul Ackerman  
Diana Ahmad  
Lynne Alvord  
Norman J. Barker  
Rich Bartke  
Mary Glennys Baker Bay  
Roy and Zelma Bernd  
Harold Biebel  
Joyce P. Bolerjack  
Carolyn Bowser

Marvin and Dorene Burke  
Helen Kennedy Cahill  
George Carruthers & Marilyn Gaddis  
Arnold L. Cole  
Arthur and Nancy Costa  
Dr. Howard Cramer  
Patricia Curtis  
Jo Anna Dale  
Sherrie Dux-Ideus  
Elmer and Betty Eberhardt  
Bob Evanhoe  
Dr. Jack and Pat Fletcher  
Kathy Franzwa  
Paul Grunland  
John and Norma Haner  
Koichiro Harada  
Scott Hendricks  
William and Jan Hill  
Eugene and Elaine Hill  
James E and Virginia Hoelter  
Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle  
Herbert Hunn in memory of Lois

Hunn  
Robert A. Iverson  
Art and Kathy Iworsley  
Joann Jackson in memory of LeRoy Jackson  
Drs. Robert and Hedy Jones  
Wayne Keen  
Barbara A. Kelly  
Esther Kreek  
Lyle and Nadine Lambert  
Jackie and Jerry Lewin  
David Livingston  
Edward Lynch  
Francis Madsen Jr.  
Paul C. "Skip" Massee  
Carolyn McGregor  
Dan Miller  
Bill and Connie Moe  
Martha Morris  
Judson and Virginia Mygatt  
Dick and Ruby Nelson  
Barb and Gary Netherland  
James T. Owen  
Keith A. Palmquist  
Lethene Parks  
George and Joan Paulikas  
Jerry and Sue Peppers  
Jim Rhine  
James and Sallie Riehl  
Richard Schmidt  
Raymond E. Schoch  
Gene Serr  
Gary and Marley Shurtleff  
Ariane Smith and Sean Girard  
Fran Sumberg  
David and Sharon Taylor  
Richard and Shirley Treallee  
Linda Turner  
Harry L. Tuten  
David Valentine  
Julie Videon  
Mark and Lynn Voth  
William Weaver  
Nelson S. Weller  
Joseph Whitehorne  
James P. Whitworth  
Gareth and Deann Wilson  
Dick and Joann Young

### *"A Legacy of Preservation"*

Planning a gift to the Oregon-California Trails Association in your will or trust secures the protection of the overland emigrant trails beyond your lifetime.

There are many ways to do this:  
Cash gifts, stocks, real estate, life insurance, annuities or other assets.

For more information, contact  
Travis Boley, OCTA Association Manager,  
[tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org)



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**



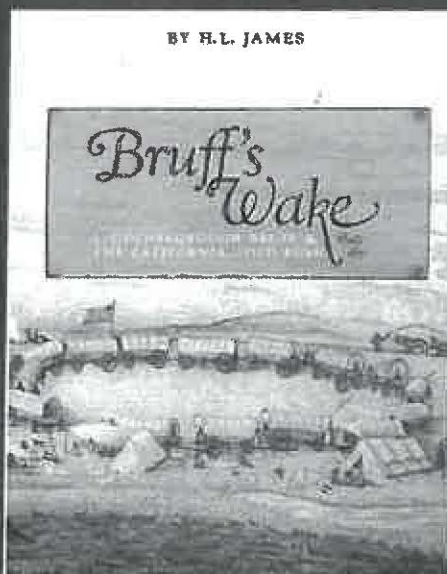
# Bruff's Wake

1849-1851

"Bruff's Wake" written by Harold James, tells the story of J. Goldsborough Bruff's overland journey to the California Gold Rush, his experiences in California, and his return trip to New York via Panama. It includes entries

from Bruff's journal and couples a number of the drawings that Bruff made while on the trail with photos that James made recently at the sites of the drawings.

BY H.L. JAMES



Bruff's drawings are a primary source for historians and trail buffs, allowing visualization of what the emigrants encountered on the overland trail.

The published versions of Bruff's journal and

drawings have, however, been out of print for more than 50 years. James' book makes this material available for a general audience.

Available late fall 2011!

**Bruff's Wake**  
by Harold James  
Softcover \$34.95

**Special Pre-Sale**  
Price \$28.00

Available  
Late Fall 2011.  
Size: 8.5" x 11"  
64 Images

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_ Check (to OCTA)

Please charge my credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEND ORDERS TO:  
**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64051-0519  
(888) 811-6282 or (816) 252-2276  
Fax: (816) 836-0989  
email: [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org)  
Payment must accompany orders.

#### Shipping:

For domestic orders, please add \$6.00 USPS shipping for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional book.

For UPS/Priority shipping, add \$8.00 for the first book, and \$2.00 for each additional book.



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

News From the Plains



## Congratulations to Award Winners; Fall Events Planned

By A. Oscar Olson

After a busy spring, the Utah Crossroads Chapter concentrated on the Rock Springs Convention. We also have plans for a busy fall. But first, let's cover the national convention from Utah Crossroads' point of view.

I counted upwards of 30 in attendance at our chapter meeting held during the convention in Rock Springs including about 20 from Utah and the others from outside the state. It was good to see so many old friends again, and it is always great to see Richard Wilkes from England. The speakers were outstanding. We are always glad to hear from our own Lyndia Carter discussing "The Route of the James G. Willie Handcart Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Crossing of the Green River," a presentation she gave with Gary Long. Our chapter member and National Board Member, Matt Ivory, led a successful workshop on GPS and geocaching.

We at Crossroads were especially proud of our members getting awards in Rock Springs. The Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest award went to Western historian Roy Tea, author of "The Tragic Decision of James Hudspeth and The Limitless Plain." Soon to retire National Trails System NPS employee Chuck Millikan received an award of distinction for his dedication and service to OCTA. Also one of our former early members,

author and historian Rush Spedden received the Merrill Mattes Excellence in Writing Award for "Lansford Hastings, Orson Pratt, Google Earth, and GPS." Finally, the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award was given to Utah Crossroads Past President and Volunteer Coordinator Linda Turner. We are happy with all of their accomplishments. Congratulations to Duane Iles as new National President.

In August we also had our annual fall social and barbecue dinner at the Fort Douglas Museum in Salt Lake City. Our very own VIP and well-loved leader Al Mulder gave a talk about the 1857 Utah War. He spoke about the type of wagons used by the army.

We also planned a September field trip led by Roy D. Tea and A. Oscar Olson to the Hensley's Salt Lake Cutoff and to the City of Rocks in Idaho. Another fall activity is a workday at the historic Donner Spring area.

We are still concerned with the effect of pipeline-power line construction here in Utah on the historic Salt Lake Southern California Road (SLSCR) and trail sites such as Mountain Meadows and Holt Canyon. Crossroads' President T. Michael Smith, Linda Turner, Bryce Billing, and A. Oscar Olson have been attending public hearings related to this project to share our concerns. Thanks to all those who continue to attend these public meetings to present OCTA viewpoints.

## Chapter Elects New Officers and Further Effort for National Trail Status

During their board meeting at the Rock Springs Convention, the OCTA Board approved Southern Trails Chapter President Bert Eddins' proposal to establish a new OCTA Special Committee to facilitate national trails designation of the Southern Trail. Bert will chair this new Southern National Historic Trail Project Committee. Bert is also developing a Web site to help facilitate national trails

designation.

At the Southern Trails Chapter meeting, John Fromm reported the chapter election results. Officers for 2011-2012 are President, David Miller; Vice President, Reba Wells Grandrud; Secretary, John Fromm; Treasurer, Jud Mygatt; Historian/Archivist, Rose Ann Tompkins; Webmaster, Tom Jonas; and Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Nelson.



## Chapter Explores North Alternate, Malad River Crossing



*Two canines, one in the sagebrush, wait on the trail for the opportunity to seek trail graves in the Canyon Creek and Soles Creek areas. (Photos courtesy of Jerry Eichorst.)*

*By Jerry Eichorst  
I-OCTA President*

The Idaho Chapter is offering a variety of chapter activities this year. In June, 9 members and guests explored and hiked on portions of the North Alternate Oregon Trail. The Malad River crossing was explored as the group viewed the Kelton Road bridge abutments, the natural bridge referred to in numerous emigrant diaries, and the stage station site on the north side of the river.

In the afternoon, the group hiked a two-mile stretch of the North Alternate as it descended from a ridge towards Clover Creek. For most of the people in attendance, it was their first time hiking in the

footsteps of the pioneers and their first experience pounding trail markers.

The California Trail tour planned for July was cancelled and replaced with an outing to search for a massacre site using cadaver dogs. Ann and Max Christianson brought their two certified dogs to join us for the day. We verified a site with five graves east of Canyon Creek and a grave on Soles Rest Creek. The dogs were then turned loose to search for a possible massacre site mentioned in several diary accounts and believed to be on Soles Rest Creek.

Although nothing definitive was discovered, the dogs clearly indicated the presence of several

graves in the area. One of the dogs was unfortunately bitten by a rattlesnake during the outing. Luckily, it only nicked him on the elbow and he will be fine. Our thanks to Ann and Max, and their dogs Rocco and Kessa, for a very interesting outing. We look forward to similar outings in the future as we have lots of suspected graves to verify.

Some of the group then drove in 4WD-low to the top of the ridge separating Ditto Creek and Soles Rest Creek. It was a beautiful location with a hundred-mile view stretching from the Owyhee Mountains to the Trinities. We could also follow a branch of Goodale's Cutoff as it left Ditto Creek and crossed the ridge over to Soles Rest Creek and the area we had explored earlier in the day.

A tour of the Hudspeth Cutoff in eastern Idaho was planned for September 17-18.

The fall chapter meeting and elections will be held on October 15 at the Idaho State Historical Society Archives and Library. A tour of the facility will be held after the meeting. Details of both events will be available on the chapter Web site, <[www.IdahoOCTA.org](http://www.IdahoOCTA.org)>.

---

**Visit the OCTA Store**  
**[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**  
**888-811-6282**

---





Oregon-California Trails Association  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64051-0519

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit # 321

## Inside

*Important  
Member Survey  
Inside this issue*

Marking Program.....7

Fernley Swales.....8

OCTA Awards.....11

---

## ***In Pursuit of a Dream***

[www.inpursuitofadream.org](http://www.inpursuitofadream.org)

**NOW AVAILABLE on DVD**

[www.landmarkmedia.com/inpursuitofadream](http://www.landmarkmedia.com/inpursuitofadream)  
**800-342-4336**

