

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Fall 2013

VOL XXVIII NO. 4

## Oregon Trail in Idaho Damaged

# Artifact Seekers Dig Holes in Trail

*By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor*

Individuals damaged sections of the Oregon Trail in Idaho this summer after they were allegedly using metal detectors to illegally search for artifacts, and then using shovels to dig in the trail corridor.

The Associated Press reported on the trail damage in late August.

"It is the BLM's responsibility to protect and preserve any sections of the Oregon National Historic Trail under its jurisdiction," said Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burley Field Office Archaeologist Suzann Henrikson.

"The recent damage to the trail near Burley has resulted in a significant loss of history for the American public."

The BLM is seeking information on who did the digging.

"Although owning a metal detector is not illegal, be aware that using this device on lands under federal management may result in a crime," Henrikson said. "If you sink a shovel in an archaeological site on public land, you could be convicted of a felony."

Upon learning of the trail damage, OCTA responded with a series of letters of protest to

the producers of three television programs – including "Diggers" on the National Geographic Channel – which encourage amateur treasure hunters and apparently are behind a disturbing trend in this kind of vandalism on historic sites.

Preservation Chairman Jere Krakow, Idaho chapter president Jerry Eichhorst, OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley, and National President John Krizek coordinated the response in league with the BLM, which reported about 400 holes dug along several miles of the trail, near Burley, ID.

The holes are located within the ruts of the wagon trail, according to the federal officials.

"Television shows like 'Diggers,' 'American Diggers,' and 'Dig Wars' encourage theft on public lands," Boley said. "We'll see more and more theft of our national cultural heritage because of these shows. It was recently reported that the producers of 'Dig Wars' contacted the BLM in Utah about possibly digging at a Pony Express station. And now miles of the Oregon Trail in Idaho are potted with holes dug by 'treasure hunters.' Please respect our historic and archaeological



*BLM employees Suzann Henrikson and Shauna Robinson assess damage to the trail as a result of individuals apparently digging for artifacts. (BLM Photo)*

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# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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## CALENDAR

**OCTA Mid-Year Board**  
March 13-15, 2014  
Independence, MO

**OCTA Convention**  
Aug. 5-9, 2014, Kearney, NE

**OCTA Convention**  
Sept. 21-25, 2015  
South Lake Tahoe

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# Trail Damage in Idaho

*Continued from Page 1*

resources and teach others that it is a crime to do such things on public lands."

The damage in Idaho occurred near the Milner Dam sometime between late June and early July. Henrikson says she had gone to the site for a project they were working on and discovered the damage and theft.

Henrikson says she has never seen an incident this severe in her five years working for the Burley BLM Field office. Henrikson says she believes thefts such as this are on the rise thanks to TV programs such as "Diggers." It's a program where the shows pay property owners money to dig up possible artifacts. However this incident happened on federal land. Taking artifacts, such as an arrow head, from federal lands can be considered a misdemeanor. Henrikson says crews will repair the damage done to the trail but cannot do anything to recover any artifacts that may have been taken.

OCTA Member Kimberly Kropf reported that in late September federal officials along with a southern Idaho Boy Scout troop began restoration efforts on the damaged trail section.

The trail artifacts are protected by the Archaeological Resource Protection Act. Anyone convicted of taking trail artifacts could face fines of up to \$20,000 and a year in prison, even for first-time offenders.



*Idaho BLM employees Suzann Henrikson and Shauna Robinson measure a stretch of trail that has multiple holes dug in it. Restoration of the trail has already begun by BLM with aid from Boy Scouts. (BLM Photo)*

## Volunteer Hours, Miles, and Expenses Needed

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson*

Many thanks to those of you who send in your volunteer hours, miles and expenses through your Chapter coordinator or directly to us. They were very successful in minimizing the impact on our Federal Agency Partners' budgets. Please keep them coming.

We urgently need these reports from all members to help preserve funding for your Trail Projects. Please email your estimated or actual volunteer

hours, miles and expenses reports by month to us at [BillJeanneWatson@att.net](mailto:BillJeanneWatson@att.net), to Headquarters at [KComway@indepmo.org](mailto:KComway@indepmo.org), or to Jere Krakow, OCTA's representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, at [jlkrakow@msn.com](mailto:jlkrakow@msn.com).



# John Krizek takes over as OCTA President

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

John Krizek took over as president of OCTA during the Annual Convention in Clackamas, OR. He will be joined on the board by Vice President John Winner, Secretary Pat Traffas, Treasurer Marvin Burke, and new board members Billy Symms, Don Hartley, and Dick Nelson.

Krizek outlined plans and concerns, and challenged the membership to grow during his two-year term. But a move to expand and improve the OCTA Website divided the board and a motion to authorize a distribution of up to \$8,000 from the Heritage Fund to support the Internet upgrade, passed on a 7-6 vote. This work is now underway and will improve not only the national site, but also coordination with chapter websites.

In another split vote, the Board revised the Investment Advisory Committee to include the OCTA Treasurer and five additional members, appointed by the President. The board must approve the appointments, however.

The Board also approved a new Standing Committee for Governance Policies and Strategic Planning.

The Board discussed legislative concerns including details about the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is generated from royalties from offshore oil. More than a billion dollars in royalties are paid in to the U.S. Treasury each year. The fund is used for federal and state programs for resource protection and recreation. Jere Krakow,

a board member and OCTA representative to the Partnership for National Trails, said there is an effort to tap into this fund by other organizations including both federal agencies and states. As a result some of the money generated annually is being used for projects other than resource protection and recreation. Only one year has this funding gone to the intended purpose. There is a need to try to maintain this fund and get more of the resources devoted to the intended purpose.

The board agreed to a distribution agreement with Washington State University Press for OCTA publications. This will provide greater visibility for books published by OCTA. In other publications actions, the board approved a reprint of *Our Faces are Westward* and authorized plans to digitize the *Overland Journal* and *News From the Plains*. Distribution of the digital copies will not be released concurrently with print publications in order to preserve membership benefits.

Editorial contracts were extended to Candy Mouton, *News from the Plains*, and Marlene Smith-Barziani, *Overland Journal*. Bob Clark has retired from his position as *OJ* Editor. The board also will provide a letter of support to Sandor Lau for his video production, "My Oregon Trail."

The board expects to hold a joint meeting with the Santa Fe and Lewis and Clark Trails Associations in coordination with the mid-year meeting in Independence, MO, March 13-15. That meeting will allow the board an opportunity to see many of the improvements made to trail sites

in the Kansas City area.

The 2014 OCTA Convention will be held in Kearney, NE, with a theme of "Drama on the Medicine Road" to include presentations about the 1864 Indian raids, with presentations by members of the Pawnee, Southern Cheyenne and Lakota tribes. The 2015 convention will be held at South Lake Tahoe, CA, with a theme of "The Bonanza of Trails."

The Board heard that the Colono-Cherokee Trail donated \$1,000 to the Virginia Dale Stage Station restoration project.

A number of sign projects are also underway in Missouri and Kansas, with future plans for projects in Nevada and Idaho.

## Newly Elected OCTA Board Member Dies in Idaho

Just weeks after he took his position as a member of the OCTA National Board, Jim Payne was diagnosed with cancer. He died August 9.

Jim was passionate about history, especially the early trappers and fur trade era. He had been active in the Idaho Chapter of OCTA for a number of years as a Director and had recently agreed to serve as co-chairman for the 2016 OCTA convention hosted by the Idaho Chapter.

The Board plan to reduce the number of directors from 12 to nine through natural attrition means Payne's vacancy on the board will not be filled.





## OCTA AWARDS

### Gregory Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award

## Frank Tortorich

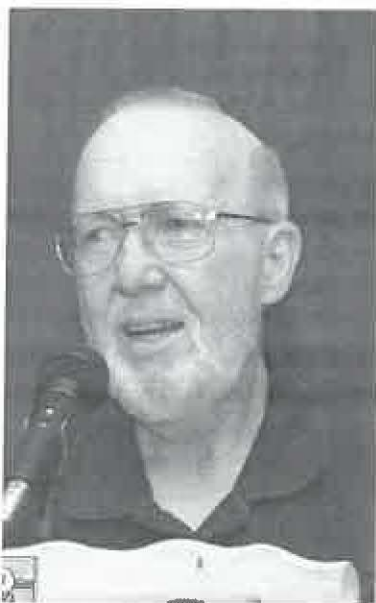
Frank Tortorich winner of the 2013 Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Service Award has contributed to the OCTA mission for thirty years, since joining as a charter member in 1983. He became a Life Member in 1988 and served on the OCTA National Board of Directors from 2000 to 2006. In 1997, Frank was awarded the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award for post secondary level.

He received the Merrill J. Mattes Award in 2005 along with James Carman for their article in the *Overland Journal* regarding research of the Big Tree Road. This road was built in 1856 from Hope Valley on Highway 88, to Murphys on Highway 4.

He was awarded an OCTA Certificate of Appreciation in 2006 and the CA-NV Chapter of OCTA has awarded him President Recognition Award in 2011, Trail Boss Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Certificate of Commendation.

He has served the chapter as a board member or served on a chapter committee since beginning to help with the 1986 Carson City, NV OCTA Convention where he became the chapter's first elected president. His notorious group, called the Wedge Warriors, meets yearly to maintain sections of the Carson Trail in the Eldorado National Forest.

Frank has been a volunteer historian working with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador



Ranger District, on the Carson Pass segment of the California Trail since 1978.

Frank is the author of the two books, *Gold Rush Trail: A Guide to the Carson River Route of the Emigrant Trail* and *Hiking the Gold Rush Trail*. He has authored numerous other articles and has been featured in various publications including the *Los Angeles Times* and *Sunset Magazine*.

He has appeared on Public Television System (PBS) with Tom Bodett on the "America's Historic Trails" series produced by Small World Productions and on the "California Trail" produced by Little Big Horn Production of Salt Lake City.

And of all places, he appeared on the Food Channel leading a hike on the Carson Trail eating gourmet

sandwiches.

Frank was a Park Interpretive Specialist at Sutter's Fort for ten years and was instrumental in having an 1846 wagon replicated for the fort.

For seven years, Frank was an instructor for the worldwide Elderhostel program teaching classes on the westward migration and gold rush. For the past 19 years, Frank has been leading all-day historic tours for Sorensen's Resort, Hope Valley, on the Carson River Route of the California Trail.

Frank, a native of Jackson, CA, retired in 1994 as a school administrator from the Amador County Unified School District.

Presently Frank is working seasonally for the Amador Ranger District of Eldorado National Forest, along State Route 88. Among his duties is consulting on historic topics and works to coordinate numerous Mormon youth handcart three-day re-enactment programs.

This year he was assigned to work the summer at the Carson Pass Information Station where he has his dream job of walking the hiking and emigrant trails. He will be educating the public as to the Native American and emigrant history of the area, along with the fauna and flora.

Since 1978, Frank has worked with archeologists in researching the Carson River Route, first for the USFS, then for OCTA.





## OCTA AWARDS

## Distinguished Service

### Robert Clark

Years of service related to OCTA publications garnered Robert Clark a Distinguished Service Award.

Clark has twice served as editor of the *Overland Journal*, been chair of the Publications Committee, and served a three-year term on the National Board of Directors.

In all of those capacities, he has helped maintain OCTA's reputation as one of the nation's leading authorities on the overland trails.

As editor of the *OJ*, he has helped tell the stories of emigration and the emigrants in fulfillment of OCTA's mission to not only preserve the trails but also preserve the stories and encourage research into the history of emigration. As a result, the *OJ* has established itself as a preeminent scholarly resource.



*Bob Clark, right, is congratulated by OCTA President John Krizek.*

Clark has been responsible for collecting stories, cultivating writers, editing stories, and managing tight deadlines, all with a goal of assuring a publication that is

highly readable and of which OCTA members can be proud.

The stories of the emigrant west are in Clark's blood. As former head of the family business, Arthur H. Clark Company, and in his roles at the University of Oklahoma Press and his current role as editor-in-chief of the Washington State University Press, in addition to his service on the OCTA Publications Committee, he has helped bring many stories of the West to market, making them available to thousands of readers. In addition, Clark Rare Books continues to be a wonderful resource to those who treasure history.

### Rep. Earl Blumenauer



*A congressional aide, center, accepts the award for Rep. Earl Blumenauer from Glen Harrison, left, and John Krizek, right.*

Oregon Rep. Earl Blumenauer received the Distinguished Service Award for his strong commitment to OCTA and the trails since being elected to the House in 1996.

As Chair of the House Trails Caucus, Rep. Blumenauer coordinates support for our Trails' legislation and funding. The Caucus successfully and strongly supported the bill authorizing the California and

Pony Express National Historic Trails plus the Study of Additional Routes/Cutoffs for the Oregon and California Trails.

The House Trails Caucus is ready to support the Southern Trail Study after a bill is introduced. Each year at the Congressional Trails Reception, Rep. Blumenauer congratulates members of the Partnership for the National Trails System and urges us to keep reporting volunteer hours, miles and contributions, which strongly support funding for our Federal Agency Partners.





## OCTA AWARDS

## Distinguished Service

### Patrick Harris



Patrick Harris, curator of the Aurora Colony Historical Society, is a 2013 recipient of a Distinguished Service Award from the Oregon California Trails Association.

Patrick was honored for his more than 30 years of leading efforts

to preserve the unique history of the Old Aurora Colony. He has also been influential in helping to identify, document, and preserve the artifacts, memorabilia, and hundreds of family histories related to Oregon City and the French Prairie of the North Willamette Valley.

Harris developed what was to become a life-long passion for the Old Aurora Colony

while serving as a Portland State University graduate school intern in the 1970s. After receiving his master's degree, he served as Old Aurora Colony Museum Director from 1983 to 1996. From 1997 to 2006, he was Executive Director of the Museum of the Oregon Territory. In 2006 Patrick was

asked to come back to the Old Aurora Colony Museum as its curator.

In the last seven years Harris, under the Historical Society's direction, has expanded the museum collection, created an outreach program and expanded database for descendants of the original Colony Families, recruited a much-needed assistant curator, brought grant dollars to exhibits and educational programs, including the highly successful living history program for 4th grade students at the historic Stauffer-Will Farm.

His primary focus continues to be the development of Aurora family history files to encourage greater appreciation for family history while also increasing knowledge of family roles in larger historical trends.



## OCTA AWARDS

## Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer

### Camille Bradford

The 2013 Elaine McNabney Volunteer Award was presented to Camille Bradford in recognition of her outstanding volunteer achievements as an OCTA leader and specifically for reviving and reorganizing the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter. She served as the chapter president for

many years, edited the Colorado Chapter newsletter, and helped to lead trail preservation work in Colorado. She also chaired the 2009 Loveland, CO, convention. She just completed a term on the National OCTA Board and will continue serving OCTA as a committee worker.





## OCTA AWARDS Certificate of Appreciation

### American Cowboy "Legends"



Candy Moulton, author of an article about the Oregon Trail, accepts a Certificate of Appreciation for American Cowboy magazine from John Krizek.

OCTA awarded *American Cowboy* a National Certificate of Appreciation, for the special issue, "Legends—Great Trails of the West."

The special issue of *American Cowboy* is filled with information about national trails, especially the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails, plus shorter articles on Lewis and Clark, Kit Carson, and cattle trails.

Candy Moulton wrote the article on the Oregon Trail for the special issue of *American Cowboy*. It included 14 pages of text, photos, maps, and travel recommendations for the Oregon Trail.

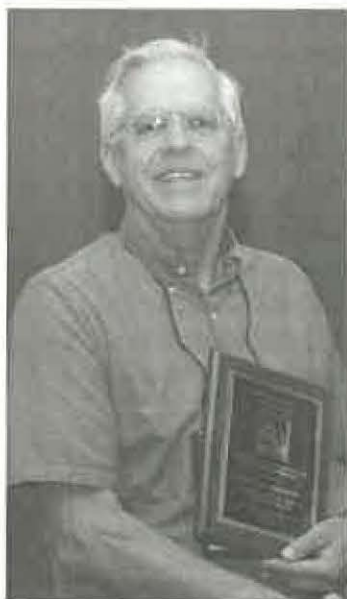


### Jim Tompkins

Jim Tompkins, above, received a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as chairman of the National Convention this year in Oregon City. Jim helped with all aspects for the convention from planning tours to making sure panels went off as scheduled.



### Merrill Mattes Award



Receiving the Merrill Mattes Award for best article published in the *Overland Journal* are John Grebenkemper, Kristin Johnson, and Adela Morris for "Locating the Grave of John Snyder." The article appeared in the Fall 2012 issue.

Grebenkemper, shown left, was the only member of the authoring team who could attend the annual convention and receive his award.

All 2013  
Convention  
Photos by  
Roger Blair





## Eagle Creek Golf Course

The Eagle Creek Golf Course is a recipient of a Friend of the Trail Award for care and preservation of Barlow Road ruts located on the golf course. The owners contacted NWOCTA representatives and asked that they come to the golf

course to verify and mark the trail ruts.

The trail in this area was written about by Benjamin Cleaver, on September 18, 1848: "This day we crossed Eagle Creek, on which we were Camped & traveled about

3/4 of a mile & up a tolerable hill & Camped on a Branch at the side of small buggy Prairie near a farm (George Weston's land claim first settled in 1847)...we can see Mount Hood from this place."

## Stan Norstebon



*Stan Norstebon (with plaque) and family in front of Canyon Creek Station. (Photo by Jerry Eichhorst)*

Stan Norstebon of Mountain Home, ID, is a recipient of a Friend of the Trail Award for his many efforts to preserve and allow access to historical places on his property.

Canyon Creek is nestled on the Oregon Trail in a surprisingly beautiful and secluded valley 10 miles north of Mountain Home, Idaho. Often called "Barrel Creek" in emigrant diaries because of its round, nearly vertical basalt walls, this oasis in the sagebrush desert features a year-round stream and lush, green pastures. The

valley was a popular camping place on the trail and later, when a stage station was built to service the Overland Road, became a popular overnight location for travelers and freighters.

Stan Norstebon, owner of the Canyon Creek area, for many years has helped preserve and share the history of his property. Stan opened up the stage station and lawns around it for an OCTA convention bus tour lunch stop in 1989. He allowed access for several bus loads of visitors during tours with Elderhostel and the

OCTA convention of 2008, as well as many tours of the byway, with stops at the station. He has supported the installation of historical monuments and interpretive signs at the station site. Stan and his family have always been extremely friendly and open about sharing the old stage station, cemetery, and surrounding property.

The family is currently undertaking an effort to restore the stage station. After a fire in the late 1970s, the station has deteriorated significantly. The family is working with the Idaho Heritage Trust to develop plans and has received a grant from the Trust to help with some of the restoration costs. IOCTA has pledged another \$2,000 to help as well. Additional funding will be required to complete the restoration of the walls and add a roof to keep the building stable for many years to come.





## OCTA AWARDS Educators of the Year

### Jenessa West, Beth Hepler, Kathy Gregory

*By Bill Hill*

*Education Award and Publication  
Committee Chair*

The Oregon convention gave the Education Awards and Publication committee the opportunity to bring attention to OCTA and our committee's three major projects – Outstanding Educator Award, activity book raffle, and student calendar. New to the convention's programs was a Heritage Fair. Both the public and convention attendees were invited to the gathering of more than twenty different historic organizations from genealogical societies to museum and historical societies. Each organization had an area to showcase and discuss its programs. We were invited to represent OCTA and its education programs. We had displays and literature available to read and take and we spoke with many individuals. As a result of the Heritage Fair, more people and organizations are aware of OCTA and its mission, which will hopefully result in increased membership and wider participation in our different programs.

This year's Outstanding Educator Awards were presented to two organization recipients.

OCTA recognized Jenessa West for her "Head West" program developed for the Sacramento History Museum. "Head West" was designed to meet the California education standards.



*Beth Hepler, left, OCTA Education Chair Bill Hill, and Kathy Gregory.*

The program uses a two-prong approach in which docents are utilized to make presentations on various topics such as, the different trails west, types of tools and equipment, various foods, different modes of transportation, and types of obstacles encountered. Students are divided into groups and introduced with hands-on activities using actual or reproduction artifacts. The groups have to plan their trip west and decide what to bring. As they "move" west they are faced with selected obstacles, which they must overcome to successfully reach the end of the trail.

The second award was presented to Beth Hepler and Kathy Gregory, Fourth grade teachers at Washington Elementary in Pendleton, OR. Their program "The Oregon Trail – a Balanced

Approach" focuses not only on the emigrant experience but also on the Indian experience. The Pendleton schools include a significant number of students from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. This provided the opportunity for a broader approach with many new and different resources. With the input and assistance of tribal

members the school's earlier program was expanded and improved. The usual classroom discussions and simulation games were used but new Indian perspectives and activities were included. The culminating activity was the Oregon Trail Day with pioneer and Indian hands-on presentations involving pioneer dress, foods, wagon and handcart technology and Indian dress, foods, hunting technology, and tribal drumming and singing.

Both "Head West" and the "Balanced Approach" programs enabled the successful teaching of the westward experience and impact in meaningful ways that reflected the needs of all the students. We are now beginning our new search for those to be

*Continued on Page 11*





## OCTA AWARDS

## Young OCTAN

### Emma Holm

Emma Holm of Placerville, CA, is a winner of the Young OCTAN award. She came to the El Dorado County Historical Museum in Placerville, CA, a year ago, and was interested in doing a project that would qualify her for the Girl Scout Gold Award. Because of her interest in archaeology and because she spoke highly of her experience on the 2010 Passport in Time project on the Carson River Route/Mormon Emigrant trail, she was encouraged to create a traveling exhibit using the artifacts in the museum's collection that had been found on the Mormon Emigrant Trail.

She researched the Mormon Emigrant Trail – who and how it was created, who used it, what traveled on it (wagons, etc.) and where it went. Then she worked with museum collections to research, catalog, and in some cases accession the museum artifacts described in museum records as coming from the Mormon Emigrant Trail. She then created labels and text for the artifacts and built an exhibit using the information and artifacts.

The exhibit was placed in a box built by her grandfather and was on display at a number of locations including the El Dorado County Historical Museum, the Placerville Main Library at Fountain Tallman Museum, and at the Eldorado National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Emma has continued to volunteer at the Museum on Friday afternoons after school. Her

volunteering at the Museum averages about 10 hours a month, and she has been helping with research and assembling exhibit information.



*Emma Holm with a display she created.*

## Educators Recognized

*Continued from Page 10*

recognized next year in Kearney, NE. The materials for the 2014 Outstanding Educators are available on the OCTA website ([www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)). Mailings to a limited number of schools will be sent out this fall. We ask that you assist us by letting your local teachers and schools know about our program. As reflected by this year's recipients the award is for those who go beyond basic classroom lectures and have appropriate programs for all the students. The award includes a plaque and check for \$250.

Information about our raffle for a class set of one of our activity books is also on the website. Teachers are asked to mail in a postcard for a drawing set for this

coming January. It is a perfect way for teachers and schools to obtain materials for their students.

Our Calendar project for 2015 is now underway. The theme for 2015 is "Plants Along the Trail – Edible, Medicinal & Dangerous." Guidelines are on the website and will also be sent to a limited number of schools. It is open to elementary aged children. Twelve to fourteen original pieces of art are selected for the calendar. The award includes a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50.

Any way you can assist by telling your local schools of our three programs or even purchasing a 2014 calendar, Military and Mountain Men Clothing & Equipment" will be appreciated.



## OCTA Convention 2013

### Board Members, Past President Recognized



*OCTA Board members recognized for service to the organization included above from left, Camille Bradford, Fern Linton, incoming president John Krizek, and Paul Massee. Below, left, John Krizek presents the Past President's Award to Duane Iles. At right, Susan Badger Doyle shows one of the quilts included in a special display. Below right, the OCTA bookroom always draws a crowd looking for new (and old) titles about the overland trails.*





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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## *Guardians of the Trail - Change is Necessary*

*By John Krizek  
jkrizek33@gmail.com*

OCTA today is different from the organization I joined some 20 years ago. We've morphed from being primarily a recreational club, for hobbyists who just enjoy getting out there on the trails, to being serious guardians of the nation's historic trail legacy. We still love getting out there to enjoy the trails—but they are under threats like never before.

For a variety of reasons, some of which have to do with the society we live in, our membership has declined from the 2,700 level a decade or so ago to around 1,400, where it has held steady for the last year. We're all getting older. We live in a noisy, competitive world. It's hard to get people's attention. But for the sake of the trails, we must.

There are a lot of bromides out

there about change and the need for organizations to change in order to survive. Change can be hard to confront—especially for people in my generation. But those pioneers we revere were risk-takers.

Those of you who know me, and of my background in public relations and marketing, won't be surprised if I may be inclined to at least want to take a fairly aggressive approach to reaching out to new audiences.

It's important that OCTA be a vital, growing organization. We have an obligation to the trails we love to replace ourselves, so that the trails' legacy lives on, for our grandchildren and all future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Toward that end, I hereby propose the goal that by the end of my presumed two years in this office, we will have grown to

1,700 members. I think that's an achievable goal, and it certainly would strengthen our position as guardians of the trails.

I would also like to ask for more participation in committees. For the last couple years, the membership committee has been Duane Iles. The marketing committee has been Pat Surrena. The public relations committee has been me. The fundraising committee doesn't have anybody. If you're not involved in some leadership role, in your chapter or at the national level—even if you've been there done that before—please step up and contribute. Let's all pitch in and get it done.

OCTA needs your help. I'll need your help. Let's make sure those trails out there are not only available for us to enjoy now, but for the generations that follow us, to experience and enjoy.



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

1-888-811-6282

## Kansas City Focuses on Trail Projects

By Travis Boley  
tboley@indepmo.org

When most of us think about historic trails, things like ruts, swales, graves, inscriptions, and viewsheds come to mind. To be sure, the most iconic sections of America's nineteen National Historic Trails include sites like Chimney Rock and Scott's Bluff in western Nebraska along the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails, Santa Fe Trail sites like Bent's Old Fort in Colorado and Fort Union in New Mexico, and the virtually untouched Upper Missouri River Breaks along the Lewis & Clark Trail in Montana.

But our historic trails also traverse many major and minor metropolitan areas all throughout the nation's diverse topography, including cities on the prairie (Kansas City, Lawrence, and Topeka), cities of the inter-mountain West (Casper, Salt Lake City, Pocatello, Boise, and Reno), and cities of the fertile farmlands of the West Coast (Portland and Sacramento). Each of them have a few remaining sites that hearken back to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but for the most part, development has laid waste to the historical and archaeological resources that are part and parcel of our historic trails.

There remain hundreds of miles of two-track to be explored on public lands all throughout the West. But what

of our cities? How can the public explore historic trails in a leafy suburban neighborhood or amidst skyscrapers and other urban landscapes? Yes, there are museums and historic houses and buildings where we can interpret the trails and provide exhibits revealing how the trails once crossed the hills and creeks that are now largely buried beneath homes, warehouses, shopping centers, and soccer fields. But surely we can develop ways to make the trail come alive and become vibrant for the millions of Americans who live in cities that were once criss-crossed by the trails that spurred the development of our nation.

In the Kansas City metropolitan area, we are well on our way to establishing an incubator for ideas on how best to "rebuild" the trail in a meaningful, tangible way. Many of you who have visited Kansas City in the past have likely seen parkland developments at places like the Wayne City (Upper Independence) Landing in Sugar Creek, McCoy Park in Independence, the Town of Kansas site along the Missouri River in downtown Kansas City, Schumacher Park and Minor Park in south Kansas City, and Lone Elm Park and the Gardner Junction in Johnson County, KS. Most of you have likely visited the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, the Rice-Tremonti Home in Raytown, and the Shawnee Indian Mission

State Historic Site in Mission, KS. But have you ever tried to drive the route from Wayne City to Gardner? Have you ever tried to hike or bike it? If you have done these things successfully, consider yourself in a distinct, microcosmic minority. These things are not easily done today.

But this is changing. Before the calendar turns to 2014, it will be possible to drive the trail routes through Sugar Creek and Independence without need of a map or directions. By mid-2014, it should be possible to continue on through Raytown and Kansas City in much the same way. And we are hopeful to make such a journey possible all the way to the Gardner Junction by 2015.

With the assistance of OCTA's National Park Service cooperative agreement, we have been able to contract with the cities of Sugar Creek and Independence to develop localized sign plans that both identify the historic route of the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe National Historic Trails and point to many of the aforementioned sites (and others) that people can visit. (We also used some of the funding to develop similar sign plans for Doniphan County, KS, which is just to the west of St. Joseph, MO, and another for the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho.) With the new federal fiscal year that started on October 1, we will have

*Continued on Page 15*



# Kansas City Projects

*Continued from Page 14*

money to contract with Raytown and Kansas City to develop and implement similar sign plans.

But beyond the development of localized sign plans, 10-foot-wide hiking and biking trails are also being built in the old Three Trails corridor. Already, pedestrians and bicyclists can utilize trails that were built in south Kansas City alongside Hickman Mills Middle School, 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, Blue River Parkway, Red Bridge Road, and at Avila University. A pedestrian bridge is already in place over U.S. Highway 71, and a new \$1.5 million pedestrian bridge is currently being built over I-435, which will connect new trail being built along Bannister Road with trails already in place to the east and west. Most of these new pathways include interpretive wayside exhibits and markers to identify the trails.

In September, Cerner Corporation announced their intent to build a new 4.2 million square foot office complex at the old site of Bannister Mall. The Three Trails Community Improvement District (CID) in the Kansas City's 6<sup>th</sup> District holds a trail easement through the development, and Cerner will be working with Lou Austin and the Three Trails CID to develop a greenway through their property, complete with new interpretation, to connect all of the trails in place or being built in that part of town.

There is more, though. The Katy Trail, widely regarded as one of the most successful rail-to-trail conversions in the country, is set to be extended from its current

terminus in southwest Missouri to a new end-point, which will be just to the southwest of the Cerner development. This means it will soon be possible to set out on our three National Historic Trails, connect with the Katy Trail, and then hike or bike all the way to the St. Louis suburbs. Many other small, disconnected trails are also already built in Johnson County, KS and in Independence. The political leadership of Sugar Creek and Independence has expressed their desire to begin building trail in their corridors as well, and Raytown already has narrower pedestrian paths built along much of their corridor.

Now is the time to sign the routes, to build a retracement trail in the old Three Trails corridor, and to add new exhibits and other markers. Now is the time to show how a National Historic Trail can become the impetus for economic development, improved property values, heritage tourism, and community pride.

OCTA is taking a leadership role to bring all of the players to one table. We have tentatively set the dates of March 13-15, 2014, to meet at the Independence Drury Inn (and other locations around town) to discuss how to most expeditiously push this project forward. Both OCTA and the Santa Fe Trail Association have committed to holding their individual, one-day board meetings at this time. The Lewis & Clark Trail Foundation will have representatives on hand. (The Three Trails join the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail at the Wayne City Landing and are an

important component of our plans in Kansas City).

We will, of course, have our National Park Service colleagues on hand. But after our board meeting, we plan to bring all of these players together with local decision-makers, from mayors, city council people, parks directors, public works directors, trail coordinators, school districts, chambers of commerce, convention & visitors bureaus, and county, state, and federal legislative officials and staff, among others. We will spend part of one day touring the area, seeing what has been done and what opportunities remain. Then we plan to reconvene and discuss how best to get approvals and funding for truly creating a unique, first-of-its-kind urban National Historic Trail experience.

The National Park Service is working with us to develop a GIS base-map of the Kansas City metropolitan area. We will be able to utilize this map to quickly reference sections that are complete and obstacles that remain. This grand experiment, if successful, will surely be replicated in urban areas all around the country. Make plans to be in Independence next March to see first-hand how we are doing this so you can take ideas back to your own chapters and get your own local trail development projects underway.

FROM THE

# HQ MANAGER

## Life Members Urged to Support Chapters

By Kathy Conway  
Headquarters Manager

May we suggest for the upcoming holiday season – a gift membership in OCTA – makes the perfect present! Just clip and complete the membership application with check or credit card number, send to Headquarters and we'll do the rest!

We want our Ezra Meeker Life Members to know it is time to renew your chapter membership affiliations. Even though some of you lifers aren't members of one

of our chapters, you may want to consider supporting one or more of our eleven chapters. You may also want to consider supporting the chapters to further our preservation efforts throughout the western and southwestern states.

A form is provided below for you to cut out and fill in with your essential information along with the chapters you wish to join or renew.

Then either mail a check or provide a credit card number with the form and send to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO

64050. You may also renew online through the OCTA website, or call us toll free at 888-811-6282. It is that simple! As always, should you have questions or concerns, please e-mail us at [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org), or give us a call at 888-811-6382.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life member, you can join at that level at any time. We can even work out a payment plan if you are interested in upgrading. Increasing your membership support allows us to continue the work of trails preservation and education.

### OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

524 South Osage Street  
PO Box 1019 / Independence, MO 64051-0519  
Phone: 888/811-6282 FAX: 816/836-0989 E-Mail: [octa@indepmo.org](mailto:octa@indepmo.org)  
[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)



Name(s) (First) Please Print (Last)

Address

City State Zip

Telephone ( ) Day Phone

Email Address

Amount Enclosed \$

Payment Method: Visa Mastercard

Card #

Expiration Date

Check here to learn about volunteer opportunities:

Payments to OCTA are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

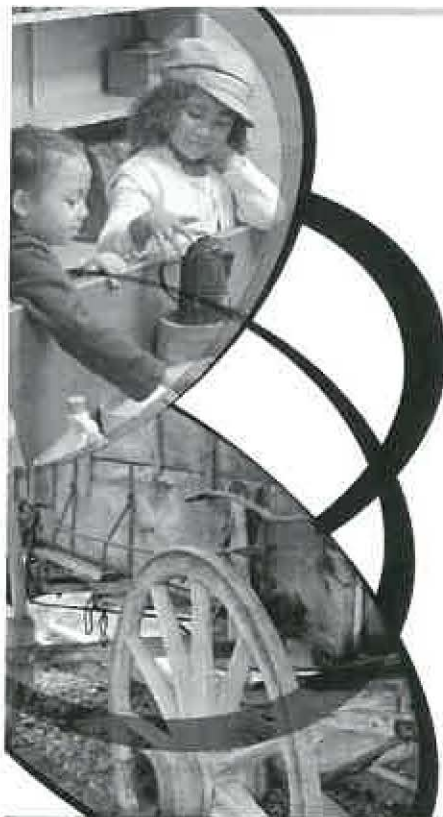
(Please Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Emigrant (Individual)	\$50/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer (Family)	\$65/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder (Individual or Family)	\$90/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Patron (Individual or Family)	\$125/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Merrill J. Mattes Society (Ind. or Fam.)	\$250/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional (Libraries, Museums, etc.)	\$300/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$1250.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Ezra Meeker Life Member	\$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> College Student*	\$20/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Educator	\$45/year

Joining a chapter is optional, and you may join as many chapters as you would like. Benefits of chapter membership include local newsletters, invitations to chapter events, lectures and treks, opportunities to make a difference at a local level and the opportunity to make new friends. Please check the chapter you would like to join and add the additional amount to your payment.

<input type="checkbox"/> California/Nevada [\$10 individual and \$15 family, \$35 Sustaining]	<input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado/Cherokee [\$10, \$200 life membership]	<input type="checkbox"/> Northwest (Oregon, WA, W. Canada) [\$10, \$15 family, \$20 corporate life membership at 20 times annual amount]
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossroads, (Utah) [\$10, \$5 students]	<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Trails (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas) [\$15 individual, \$20 family, \$50 Sustaining; \$200 Ind. Life; \$300 Family Life]
<input type="checkbox"/> Gateway (St. Joseph, MO., NE Kansas) [\$10, \$15 family]	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Head (Kansas City metro areas) [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> Idaho [\$10]	<input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming [\$10]
<input type="checkbox"/> KANZA (Kansas, excluding K.C. and St. Joseph areas) [\$10, \$15 family]	





## NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

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

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

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

## Business Sponsors

State Bank of Blue Rapids	PO Box 157	Blue Rapids, KS
Little Hap's Bar and Grill	211 2nd St	Home, KS
Lewis Seed & Fertilizer, Inc	208 2nd St	Home, KS
Wagon Wheel Café	703 Broadway	Marysville, KS
Marysville Surf Motel	2105 Center St	Marysville, KS
Heritage Inn Express	1155 Pony Express Hwy	Marysville, KS
First Commerce Bank	902 Broadway	Marysville KS
Y Loop Road Trips	PO Box 222,	Wapiti WY
American Fire and Safety	PO Box 272	St Joseph, MO

*Please Support These Businesses Who Support OCTA*

*Do you know a business along the trail that supports our Mission?  
You can obtain more information about this Business Sponsorship  
Program by contacting OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282.*

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Your business can become OCTA's partner to **Save the Trail.**

*Low annual price of \$50*

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- Increased patronage by tourists following the trails
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- Framed Wall Certificate
- Window Decal
- OCTA Trail Map

call 888-811-6282 to join  
[www.octa-trails.or](http://www.octa-trails.or)

# New Marketing Push Underway

A renewed marketing campaign aimed at attracting new members and donors to OCTA is under way.

The campaign includes two-part direct mail effort aimed at a list of known contributors to historic causes in the trail states – with the first part, keyed to the Pilot Valley potash mine threat in Utah, that went out in September and

a series of display ads in *Wild West* magazine, starting with the December 2013 issue, which comes out in October.

*Wild West* is a history-oriented national publication with strong circulation in the western states. It also is available on newsstands including Barnes & Noble

book stores. One of its regular contributors is OCTA author/historian Will Bagley.

Chapters are being encouraged to have a membership chairman or contact, so that any leads generated by the marketing program can be followed up with local chapter information.

## Membership Challenge Issued

*Duane Iles*  
Membership Chairman

At the general membership meeting in Clackamas, OR, our new president John Krizek announced a goal of reaching 1,700 members up from the current 1,400 by the time he leaves office in 2015. That means we need to have a net gain of about 150 memberships each of the next two years.

To make it interesting, we'll have a contest among our chapters. To level the playing field among large and small chapters, we'll use a 10 percent increase per year as the goal. Chapter presidents will be receiving their individual goals shortly.

Chapters who meet these goals will receive one free registration and one free bus tour at the next national convention, to be awarded to a member of their choice who has never attended a national OCTA convention.

To help create new memberships, our national office is waging a marketing campaign, including mass mailings to a targeted list of people with a history of donating to historic preservation causes. Similar direct mail efforts have worked for other trail organizations. In addition, ads are being placed in *Wild West*, a western history-oriented magazine with a national circulation. Any new memberships or leads

generated by this campaign will be referred to the appropriate local chapter for follow-up.

In order to effectively respond to this campaign, we're asking each chapter to appoint a membership chairperson, who can not only follow up with new members, but also keep in touch with older members.

Folks, we face a great challenge to maintain OCTA's position as the preeminent historic trail organization. We must stem the loss of members. Nothing works better than individual contact. The national office will continue to work hard at this, but YOU as a member can do much more. We're all in this together. Help by bringing in ONE new member.



Visit the OCTA Store

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

1-888-811-6282



# Major Changes in Store for OCTA Website

*By Marley Shurtleff  
Internet Committee Chair*

With support from the OCTA Board and following discussion with chapter representatives, OCTA is beginning an overall campaign to upgrade to a new web presence.

OCTA's website is being redesigned to provide the vast majority of today's United States residents who depend on their computers, laptops, and web-capable phones with a clear look at who we are, and what we do.

The board of directors approved funding to support this essential

website redevelopment.

Chapter webmasters and others met to discuss what they would like to see in the updated website. The meeting generated positive energy about our electronic communications, and led to some immediate results. Because of the group's discussion of a new direction for chapter website access, there is now an NPS-funded project to develop chapter website portals, which will more effectively tie in chapter web pages with the national site. Attendees also heard from Chuck Milliken about progress toward getting the new version of the

Virtual Trail running by the end of the year.

In addition to the new chapter portals, and expanded search capabilities, sections that will be receiving major upgrades (including some slide shows) include preservation, education, Virtual Trails, membership, and news events, as well as the online store.

The Internet Committee welcomes individual and chapter feedback as we work to improve the website. Just send a note to Kathy Conway at headquarters, [kconway@indepmo.org](mailto:kconway@indepmo.org), and she'll be sure to pass it along.

## Kansas City Trail Improvements Continue

*By Travis Boley  
Association Manager*

OCTA and the National Park Service are teaming up with various other non-profits and city, county, and state governmental agencies in the Kansas City metropolitan area in the hopes of one day completing a 40-mile long hiking/biking trail in the corridor of the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe National Historic Trails (NHTs), from the old Wayne City (Upper Independence) Landing in Sugar Creek, MO, to the spot where the Santa Fe branches off from the Oregon and California NHTs just west of Gardner, KS.

Already, large sections of trail are built near the Truman Library in Independence and (largely because of the ingenuity of the 3-Trails Community Improvement

District) throughout most of south Kansas City, including some new segments being poured at this very moment along 93rd Street near Schumacher Park. Already complete are sections through the Avila University campus past Hickman Mills Middle School, and over US 71 Highway. MODOT is breaking ground on a new \$1.5 million dollar pedestrian bridge over I-435, and in the next several years, this 3-Trails Corridor will tie in with the Katy Trail Extension, widely regarded as America's most-successful rail-to-trail conversion to date.

Later this summer, new Auto Tour Route signs will be installed in local neighborhoods throughout Sugar Creek, Independence, and Raytown, as well as in Doniphan County, KS (just west of St. Joseph, MO). Next year, south

Kansas City will be targeted for Auto Tour Route signs. OCTA also has commitments from several local communities to co-sponsor various federal, state, and private grant applications to speed this process along over the next couple of years. We invite all chapters to submit project ideas for signing trail in your local areas. There will be a big focus on these projects at OCTA's board meeting next March in Independence, so stay tuned for details and make plans to attend if you can. Email [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org) for more information about the Auto Tour Route signing program.

It is hoped that urban trail development projects like this can be replicated all along the National Trails System, in particular the Oregon and California National Historic Trails.

Peggie Adamson, Oroville CA  
 Diane Berquist, Oxford PA  
 Derek Blount, Royal Oak MI  
 Christine S Brown, Pullman WA  
 Brynn Burns-Holm, El Dorado CA  
 Foster Clark, Napa CA  
 Dawn Creighton, Glendale AZ  
 Buford Crites, Palm Desert CA  
 Gentry Cutsforth, Candy, OR  
 Elsie Deatherage, Vancouver WA  
 Dan M Dunne, Eagle ID  
 Mark Edmondson, Port Republic MD  
 Kathy Hardy-Ungari, El Dorado Hills CA  
 Donna and Larry Hazel, Oregon City OR  
 Jeremy Hill, Vancouver WA  
 Emma Holm, Placerville CA  
 Susan E Holway, Oysterville WA  
 Edward R Hoover, Wamego KS  
 John Jakubs, Colulmbia SC  
 Rachel Janzen, Happy Valley OR  
 Joye Kohl, Cooke City MT  
 George Koukeas, Denver CO  
 Kimberly Kropf, Hesston, KS  
 Robert Larson, Port Angeles WA  
 Joel and Lana McAllister, Sacramento CA  
 Susan Mires, St Joseph MO  
 Thomas O'Brien, Fort Jones CA  
 Virginia Parks, Yreka CA  
 Nancy Prince, Colorado Springs CO  
 Patricia Russell, Lake Oswego OR  
 Michael Sothan, Wilcox NE  
 Glenn Stelzer, Greenville DE  
 Tara Stiles, Sacramento CA  
 Joyce Stockman, Des Moines WA  
 Melissa Voth, Lakewood CO  
 Beth Webber, Vancouver WA  
 Theo Wirt, Richmond CA

## Chapter tours Watkins Museum

*By Dick Nelson*  
*Chapter President*

Trails Head Chapter had 12 members in attendance at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual OCTA Convention in Oregon. The speakers were very interesting to hear and the tours were also well done. For a chapter meeting in late August in Lawrence, KS, we

toured the Watkins Museum with Museum Director Steve Nowak where we saw a new exhibit relating to the William Quantrill Raid and burning of Lawrence.

Work is underway to transcribe audiotapes for an oral history of the Chapter. These transcriptions will be an exciting addition to the Chapter archives.

## Donations Help Restoration Efforts

*By Sharon Danhauer*  
*Chapter President*

Colorado-Cherokee Chapter of OCTA is happy to have been able to assist restoration efforts at more than one Colorado location along the trail this year.

Virginia Dale's Overland Stage Station is the last one standing at its original location, which makes it doubly worth saving. The Virginia Dale Community Club has undertaken to raise \$200,000 to restore the log building. The membership of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA agreed to help with a sizable donation from its coffers. Representing the chapter, I presented Sylvia Garofalo, President of VDCC, with a check for \$1,000 at the club's annual Open House, June 8, 2013.

I also took the opportunity to speak about why the Oregon-California Trails Association is interested in this spot in Colorado, since it is not on the old Oregon Trail, telling about the Cherokee Trail connection between the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon-California Trails.

The chapter has also been involved with another 1862 Stage Station Restoration project, and at a May 18, 2013, dedication ceremony, donated a permanent plaque to Loveland Historical Society, erected at the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery west of Loveland, CO, where the trail crosses the Big Thompson River. The money for the plaque was part of the chapter's profits from the successful 2009 OCTA Convention held in Loveland.



## **Chapter to Host National OCTA in 2015**

*By John Winner  
Chapter President*

The CA-NV Chapter will host the OCTA National Convention. the week of Sept. 20, 2015, at Harveys Resort and Hotel in South Lake Tahoe, NV.

The chapter held its annual General Membership Meeting and Spring Symposium, "A Trails End – A New Beginning," in April at the Feather River Falls Resort and Casino in Oroville, CA. Dick Waugh organized the symposium. Events included a reception, bus tour to historic downtown Oroville, a stop at the Butte County museum, and a visit to Bidwell Bar State Park to learn more about John Bidwell and Bidwell Bar.

Plenary sessions dealt with such topics as "Steamships and Steamboats in California," "Evolution of the Relationship between the California Indians and the Settlers," "Historic Graffiti," "Firearms and the Emigrants," "LaPorte and Mining Town Cemeteries," and "The California State University Chico Meriam Library Special Collections."

### **Trail Mapping**

The chapter is spending another year of active mapping of emigrant trails to MET standards in northern Nevada and northern California. Work is ongoing for the Johnson's Cutoff, Grizzly Flat Trail, Georgetown Pack Trail, and Beckwourth Trail. Other proposed mapping projects include, the Luther Pass Road, the Big Trees

Road, Volcano Road, and a review of portions of the Carson Trail.

In May the Johnson's Cutoff mapping team completed its field work and mapping of the infamous Johnson Hill, one of the most difficult accents that the emigrants experienced.

The journey was best described by William Gobin in a Nov. 22, 1852, letter to his brother Charley, "It took fifty men of us and all the oxen we could hitch to the wagons to take thirteen wagons up in two days. It takes all the men that possibly can get a hold of a wagon and four yoke oxen to move an empty wagon and then sometimes they don't move it. It is just like climbing a tree only worse"

### **Trail Marking**

In May chapter members installed 41 carsonite markers in an area on the Yreka Trail known as Sheep Rock. The project was coordinated by Chapter Past President Bob Evanhoe with guidance from Richard Silva and BLM representative Eric Ritter.

In July the CA-NV Chapter hosted a dedication and celebration with the installation of the seventh interpretive sign on the Carson Emigrant Trail. The seventh sign, titled "Seeing the Elephant" was installed at the El Dorado Irrigation District boat ramp on Caples Lake. From the sign's location, West Pass the highest Sierra emigrant crossing can be seen.

The project began in 2005 when the CA-NV Chapter agreed to fund and install seven interpretive

signs along the Carson Trail from Carson Canyon to Caples Lake. After eight years and a couple funding increases, the project is finally completed at a cost of \$11,000. The National Park Service took responsibility for having the signs constructed, Frank Tortorich provided the historical background for the text, and chapter volunteers installed the signs. The dedication was a media event with remarks from representatives of OCTA, CA-NV Chapter, The National Park Service, Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District, and Alpine County.

### **MET Manual**

The update to OCTA's MET Manual (Mapping Emigrant Trails) is well under way with completion scheduled for late this year or early 2014. The revised MET manual will be divided into several "Parts." Part A. "Investigative Procedures and Trail Classification." Part B. "Overview of GPS and Mapping Software." Part C. "Planning and Executing a Mapping Project." Other areas of discussion will include: Trail Archaeology, Use of Aerial and Satellite Images, National Register Nominations, Photo Documentation of Trails, and Visual Resource Classifications. Members of the CA-NV Chapter have been very active in the revision process. Plans are under way for the chapter to host a "hands on" mapping workshop this fall.

## Teens Join Chapter Members on Work Projects

*By A. Oscar Olson*

We had a small contingency of members at the Oregon Convention. At last reporting, I mentioned our work projects to set rail posts on the Central Overland Trail (Simpson's Route). Well, we had two good work days, during which we set 11 rail posts. The rail posts were set at Faust, Vernon, Lookout Pass, Erickson Pass,

Simpson Springs, Indian Springs Canyon, Keg Springs, 5-Mile Pass, and Judd Creek. They are all in Utah. As we neared the Nevada border, workers included Jess Petersen, Bryce Billings, and Vic Heath (and his truck and trailer), Ray Kelsey (BLM), Ed Otto, Jeff Pashley, Craig Fuller, Gar Elison, Terry Welsh and myself, Oscar Olson.

In early June OCTA member

Terry Welsh organized a bunch of energized teen volunteers to go out and paint the fence at Donner Springs. Which it needed! It took them less than two hours to oil the rail fence surrounding the phragmite infested pond (another problem to deal with). Way to go Terry and your fine church group!

Our concern with the Bounty potash mining is still in the forefront and we are glad to have OCTA National, John Krizek, and Travis Boley involved with this. Also we appreciate Will Bagley's letter of concern, Roy Tea's letter and book, *The Final 10 Miles to Donner Springs*. The efforts by Crossroads President Gar Elison, T. Michael Smith, and Linda Turner have all been on-going. We still need and appreciate any support in writing to the Utah BLM and Congressmen to support the Utah BLM in declining permission for Canadian company Mesa to dig for potash in the historic Donner Spring-Pilot Playa salt pan. The Utah Rock Art Research Association is getting on board with us, too, as there are significant petroglyph sites located near creeks that drain into the area. One wonders what other Native American pre-history lies here.

For fall activities we held our annual Fall Social with a catered BBQ and talk by Dr. Leo Lyman regarding some of the Southern Trails issues especially the Los Angeles Southern California Road and the Old Spanish Trail.

We are glad to have Kent Malan back on board with us.

## Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project Moving Forward in Permit Process

*By Travis Boley  
Association Manager*

The Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line (B2H) Project is proposed by Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power) to design, construct, operate and maintain a new single-circuit, 500 kilovolt (kV) power line between Boardman, OR and Melba, ID. The proposed route is approximately 300 miles long and crosses federal, state and private lands, in six counties in Oregon and Idaho. The B2H Project would provide additional capacity for exchanging energy between the Northwest and the Intermountain West, depending on which region is experiencing the highest demand. The project is advancing through two separate, but simultaneous review processes:

\* Federal process under the National Environmental Policy

Act (NEPA) led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

\* State process administered by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to obtain a Site Certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC)

The Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Oregon Department of Energy have published the fourth issue of the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project newsletter.

You can stay abreast of developments and potential threats to the Oregon National Historic Trail by subscribing to their E-Newsletter. The current issue contains numerous maps of the potential routes. For more information, visit the project website at [www.boardmantohemingway.com](http://www.boardmantohemingway.com).



## Idaho Fire Reveals Trail segments

*By Jerry Eichhorst*

Stan Norstebon, longtime owner of the Canyon Creek stage station, received the OCTA Friends of the Trail Award at this year's convention. Stan and his family have been extremely supportive of the Idaho chapter (IOCTA) in sharing their site with bus tours and other activities for many years. Many members of his family were present to share in the honor when I presented the award to Stan in early August. Stan was very excited and appreciative of the award.

The small town of Driggs, Idaho, nestled on the west side of the Grand Tetons, was the gathering point for the Fur Trappers History Tour led by Jim Hardee, an IOCTA member and expert on the fur trappers in eastern Idaho, in August. Seventeen people joined

Jim as he led us to an overlook of the Teton River Valley and the sites of the Battle of Pierre's Hole, Fort Henry, and Camp Henry. One of the highlights was the large rocks with "Camp Henry 1810" carved in them.

Although an unusual venue for an IOCTA outing since it is not an emigrant trail, this was an opportunity to learn about the early fur trapper history of eastern Idaho. And the scenery was beautiful! Jim was an incredible source of information and led a tour enjoyed by all. Jim's book, *Pierre's Hole!*, provides an excellent history of the fur trapper era in the Teton Valley of Idaho as well as other areas.

IOCTA is partnering with the City of Boise to develop a pamphlet for

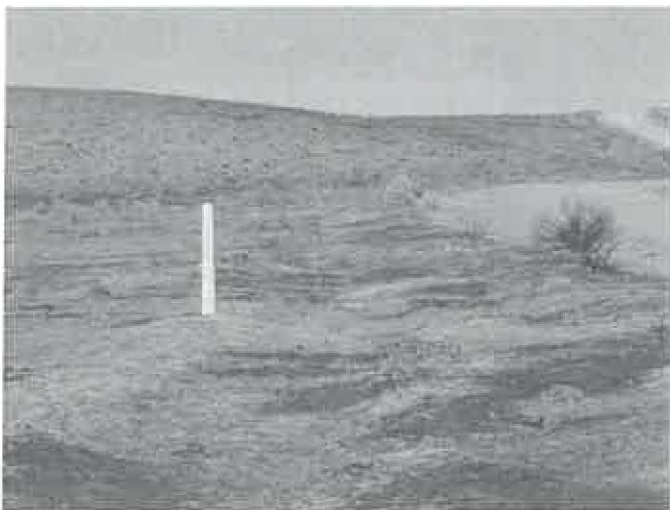
touring the numerous Oregon Trail monuments within Boise. IOCTA Director Dave Taylor researched the monuments and developed a map. The City of Boise will complete the development and publish the pamphlet, which will be offered where tourist information is available.

Recent large fires in central Idaho appear to have burned across portions of the Oregon Trail, Goodale's Cutoff, and Kelton Road routes. Because they are still actively burning it will be some time before the damage can be assessed.

Other recent activities in Idaho include the City of Rocks 25th Anniversary celebration on September 14 and the fall chapter meeting in Boise on October 5.



*Wildfires swept over significant acreage in Idaho this summer including several areas with trail segments. (Photo by Jerry Eichhorst)*



*Recent fires have burned over sections of the Oregon Trail, Goodale Cutoff, and Kelton Road in Idaho. In some cases the burn removes vegetation that formerly obscured trail ruts. (Photo by Jerry Eichhorst)*



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