

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

SPRING 2011

VOL XXVI NO. 2

## Board Adopts Preservation, Archaeology Policies

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

The Oregon-California Trails Association Board approved a new preservation policy, and a new archaeology policy during the Mid-Year Board Meeting held in March in Cedar City, Utah.

The policies strengthen the organization's position regarding trail resources by setting guidelines for use of metal detectors and by requiring minimization of visual impacts over the widest area possible and requiring restoration of trail sites that have been impacted by development.

During his report to the Board, Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the Long Distance Trails office in Santa Fe told the Oregon-California Trails Association Board that a series of public meetings will be held beginning in mid-April to gather public comments about adding routes to the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails.

The meetings are an opportunity for people living along, or interested in the trails, to comment on the feasibility study that is now underway to add alternate routes to the national historic trails.

"It is important that we hear from people along these routes," Mahr

said. The National Park Service, which will conduct the series of meetings, expects to hear from other public land managers, communities, private landowners, energy companies and other people who are interested in the trails and the routes.

The first meeting will be held in Denver on April 18. A full schedule of the meetings is on page 3 in this issue of *News From the Plains*.

The mid-year budget report shows the organization in the black for the first time in several years, but membership continues to decline and revenues could fall both from reduced dues income and potential reductions in federal funding.

Already funding for Challenge Cost Share Projects (CCSP) has been eliminated in the 2011 budget. Although a 2012 budget is expected to restore some of that funding, the CCSP funds may still be restricted in the future as well.

OCTA officially turned the Census of Overland Emigrant Diaries (COED) program over to the Merrill Mattes Library at the National Frontier Trails Museum. Staff members there will be trained using existing federal funds to provide for continuous updating and expansion of the program.

Prior to board approval of the archaeology policy, several chapter

presidents raised concerns that it may limit activities to identify trail sections that are not definitively known. California/Nevada Chapter President John Winner stressed the need for OCTA to "endorse every avenue possible to know where the trails actually are" by utilizing archaeological surveys and even metal detectors. He said not all trails are mapped to MET standards and there is a need to "work with more volunteers to expand mapping projects, to document trails and to write reports."

The use of Passport in Time (PIT) projects, where volunteers work with professional archaeologists on a variety of sites, can involve metal detectors. He objected to strict language in the proposed policy that would restrict such devices, saying all volunteers go through an orientation process. He said OCTA should be doing its own training to be certain volunteers followed acceptable practices when doing trail research on the ground.

"We really need to get people out there to preserve these trails," Winner said. Because many trails are not mapped he wants to "encourage the tools necessary for the preservation of the trails."

"OCTA should take the lead in

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# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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## News from the Plains

## Summer Issue Deadline

**May 25, 2011**

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# Additional Routes Suitability-Feasibility Study Update

*By Jere L. Krakow*

At the current stage of the study project to map and document historic trail routes identified in the Omnibus Public Land bill of 2009, all of the data for the Oregon and California routes have been gathered. The paper copies of the maps have been reviewed and delivered to the National Trails Intermountain office of the National Park Service (NPS), following submission by several volunteers who generously shared time, experience, and knowledge of the trails.

Most of the maps have now been digitized by the University of Utah

and returned to the NPS for another review. In the course of the making the digital files of the maps, some questions arose about the mapped lines on map edges. Volunteers have been sent sections of the maps where map edge questions came up and most corrections have been completed and mailed back to me. When checking is completed, the data will be added to the trail database for use in public scoping meetings and for preparation of the study draft.

Documentation of the routes accompanies the mapping work. That key information includes the volunteer doing the work, his or her

contact information, the years the route had use, the names of groups, individuals or wagon trains, and COED-like information of diaries, journals, and letters that make up the primary sources.

All in all, due to the excellent work of volunteers, the data collection is on schedule. The NPS has succeeded in processing the data, and soon will be adding it to the database for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails. If you have questions about this work, please contact me by email at <jlkrakow@msn.com>, or by telephone at 505-828-0309.

## Public Scoping Meetings Set on Trail Route Study

The National Park Service has scheduled a series of public scoping meetings related to the feasibility study and environmental assessment to evaluate the feasibility of adding historic routes to the existing Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

The agency also has a web site where not only the schedule of meetings, but other information related to the feasibility study.

The web site address is <<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Fourtrail-FS>>

The schedule of meetings:

April 18 – Denver, CO, Four Mile Historic Park, 715 South Forest Street, 6-8 p.m.

April 19 – Casper, WY, Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo Arena Buildings, , 1700 Fairgrounds Road, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

May 9 – Tahlequah, OK, Chero-

kee Nation Complex, Tribal Council Chambers, 17675 South Muskogee, 3-5 p.m.

May 10 – McPherson, KS, the McPherson Public Library, 214 West Marlin, 2-4 p.m.

May 11 – Topeka, KS, Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., 10 a.m. to noon.

May 11 – Independence, MO, National Frontier Trails Museum, 318 West Pacific, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

May 12 – Lincoln, NE Nebraska State Historical Society, E. E. Blackman Auditorium, 1500 R. Street, 6-8 p.m.

May 13 – Des Moines, IA, State Historical Building of Iowa, 600 East Locust St., 3-5 p.m.

May 31 – Salt Lake City, UT, Salt Lake City Library, 210 East 400 South, 10 a.m., noon.

May 31 – Rock Springs, WY, Rock Springs Historical Museum, 201 B. St., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

June 1 – Boise, ID, Idaho History Center, 2205 Old Penitentiary Road, 6-8 p.m.

June 2 – Walla Walla, WA, Fort Walla Walla Museum at Fort Walla Walla Park, 755 Myra Rod, 6-8 p.m.

June 3 – Vancouver, WA, Fort Vancouver National Site, Red Cross Building, 605 Barnes St., 6-8 p.m.

June 4 – The Dalles, OR, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 500 Discovery Drive, 10 a.m. – noon.

June 14 – Carson City, NV, Carson City Library, 900 North Roop St., 5:30-7:30 p.m.

June 15 – Sacramento, CA, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, Distillery Building, 2701 L. St., 5:30-7:30 p.m.



# Board Adopts Policies

*Continued from Page 1*

educating its members on archaeological work,” Winner said.

Crossroads Chapter President T. Michael Smith, who is also an archaeologist, said it is important for OCTA members and volunteers “to work more safely under the umbrella of professional archaeologists.”

NPS Supt. Aaron Mahr also said it is important that OCTA “raise awareness among members, and others. This is a critical issue.”

The Board revised and then approved the policy that now makes provision for future training.

In other action the Board:

- Approved a policy statement concerning revenues from *In Pursuit of a Dream*, with the first \$15,000 received to be placed in the

heritage endowment fund, the next \$10,000 to go into OCTA operating accounts, and called for board review to determine where to place any additional revenue from the film.

- Decided to sell on the open market 50 percent of the remaining inventory of silver medallions and to give OCTA members an opportunity to buy the trail medallions up until Aug. 31, after which date the remaining inventory will be sold on the open market. The revenue from the initial sale will be placed in the operating account with the Investment Advisory Committee to make a recommendation regarding

disposition of funds from subsequent sales.

- Approved locations for future conventions with the 2013 convention to be in Oregon City, OR, hosted by the Northwest Chapter and the 2014 convention to be in Kearney, NE, hosted by the Nebraska Chapter. The Trails Head Chapter will host next year's convention in Lawrence, KS.
- Assigned Board Committee C to review the membership dues structure and report back in August.
- Agreed to encourage people to join OCTA chapters and not just the national organization.

## OCTA Preservation Policy

*Following is the preservation policy adopted by the Board of Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association, March 25, 2011 in Cedar City, Utah.*

Whereas the mission of OCTA is to protect the Historic Emigrant Trails legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes, and

Whereas those trails are continually and increasingly threatened by a variety of development activities that may be incompatible with preservation of the emigrant trails, including cultural, historic and visual resources,

OCTA hereby affirms its commitment to protect the emigrant trails. OCTA is committed to working with government agencies and private interests to seek solutions considering the interest of all involved parties but which keep trails preservation a priority. Where reasonable compromise is not attainable or established procedures are not followed, OCTA may take appropriate legal steps. OCTA is also committed to making its members and the general public aware of possible threats to the trails.

OCTA's expectation is that high potential sites and segments, as defined in the trails management plans, will be protected to the

maximum degree possible. Mitigation shall include use of alternative sites away from the trails, careful routing of roads and pipelines, and minimization of visual impacts over the widest possible area. Development activities must include a plan for restoration of the site to its original state after activities cease.

For additional information, refer to the Preservation Committee language in the OCTA Bylaws and OCTA Preservation Training Resources, which is available on the OCTA website at <http://octa-trails.org/preserve/training.php>



# Youth Newsletter Launches

## In Pursuit of A Dream Available on DVD

By John Krizek  
OCTA Marketing Chair

After many months a distribution deal for *In Pursuit of a Dream* is now in place between McLean Media and Landmark Media, a major distributor of educational material. Landmark will have exclusive rights to make the film available to schools and other institutions throughout the United States and Canada.

The package to be offered by Landmark will include a study guide, prepared by Lethene Parks, with input gathered in meetings with educators over the last year. The study guide will direct buyers to the OCTA and movie web sites for all the materials to be available there—such as a lesson plan, and the Virtual Trail.

The package also will include the series of a dozen 5-minute clips from footage not in the film, which focus on such specialized topics as crossing rivers, oxen, trail preservation, and relationships with Native Americans. These clips, which are an integral part of the educational package, will be included in the package as a separate DVD. These clips no longer will be available free on the movie's web site.

Part of the deal with Landmark is that they will make copies of the package available to OCTA for individual sales. The price of the package to school districts will be \$200 (with OCTA receiving 25%); individual schools will pay \$89.95. Schools also acquire a "right of public exhibit" allowing the film

to be shown to large numbers of people. For individuals acquiring the set for home use, the price will be \$39.95. Purchases can be made at <[www.landmarkmedia.com](http://www.landmarkmedia.com)> or at OCTA screenings.

Broadcast and international distribution opportunities are still being explored by McLean. OCTA will continue to show the film at special screenings.

### IPD Educational Package

The study guide to be distributed by Landmark with the film to institutional buyers has been provided by Lethene Parks, as mentioned above. Because this guide will direct purchasers of the package to the OCTA and film web sites, it will be critical that the sites are easily navigable and the information is available. Contact with the Internet Committee is ongoing to assure whatever upgrades needed are provided.

One of the key components of the on-line educational package is the Virtual Trail. At this time, only 60 percent of this project had been completed. Most of the points yet to be completed are in Oregon and Nevada.

See the trails and step right onto a site without leaving your chair! That's what you can do using the Virtual Trail on our OCTA website. This tool for school kids and adults alike, provides aid in for researching stories and information about the Trails.

We want your input and impressions, as this interactive website is for everyone's use! If you see

a site on the maps that has no photo, send us one, or give us details about the importance of the site. Open up the eyes and minds of people who might not be able to travel along the actual on-ground path but would love to discover it using this cyber-trail!

For more information contact: Quackgrass Sally at <[quackgrass-sally@aol.com](mailto:quackgrass-sally@aol.com)>.

### Youth Initiative

Triggered by the film, and the interest among young people it inspires, plans have been taking shape to develop an ongoing youth initiative.

Last year the Board authorized the establishment of a \$10 dues structure for student membership in a proposed youth chapter of OCTA. A "Student Ticket to Adventure" flyer was printed for distribution at screening events, with little or no response. With the youth initiative still perceived as a component of the *In Pursuit of a Dream* project, the following has taken place:

A youth Editorial Board has been established to produce the OCTA *Trail Scout*, a publication geared toward young people. The first issue of that publication is included in this issue of *NFP* so all OCTA members can see it. Future issues will be distributed electronically, posted on the OCTA and IPD web sites, and a limited number of hard copies will be made for distribution at future showings of the film or other youth trail activities.



FROM THE

# PRESIDENT

## Passing on Preservation and Trails Experiences

By Bill Martin

*bmartinocla@gmail.com*

There was a great reminder of why OCTA's mission of preservation is important in remarks made by writer and film producer Dayton Duncan at the Howard R. Driggs Memorial Lecture held adjacent to the OCTA Mid-Year Board Meeting and Spring Symposium, in snowy Cedar City at Southern Utah University in late March.

Duncan worked with documentarian Ken Burns on the acclaimed *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* PBS series. In explaining why our national parks are so ingrained in our national consciousness and our psyche, he noted their unchanging nature is guaranteed by their protected status.

We can seldom revisit the places we grew up, he noted, because they have changed, often dramatically, during the course of our lives. The cities in which we live are constantly evolving, not always for the better. But we can be assured that our national parks are the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

If 25 years ago you visited the Guernsey Ruts, or Alcove Springs, or the Barlow Road, or any of hundreds of sites along the National Historic Trails, you can go back to them today and have the same experience you did a quarter-century past.

Duncan took it a step further, in a way, when he noted the generational impact of our national landmarks. Parents take children back to the unchanged places they visited a generation ago, reliving



Sometimes a trail experience involves a hike in the snow as these OCTA members found at the Warner Ranch during the Southern Trails Chapter Spring Symposium at Borrego Springs. (Photo by Bill Martin)

memories and building new ones that their children will one day pass on to their own offspring.

When we talk about preservation of our trails, we aren't just noting their importance to today's population. We are preserving them for future generations, so that those who follow will one day share our appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who built a nation through westward migration.

That's what makes our current Southern Trails initiative important. Earning Congressional approval for the southern roads to California will help make sure they and their stories are preserved. After a generation of well-deserved focus on the northern routes, it is time that the southern routes are fairly recognized.

The Spring Symposium in Cedar City was the latest in the series of "mini-conventions" OCTA has sponsored, following symposia in Yuma, AZ, and Marysville,

KS. Planning is underway for a symposium in Fayetteville, AR, later this year in partnership with the Trail of Tears Association and there are discussions about a future gathering in Texas, where we'll partner with the El Camino Real de los Tejas Association.

Each symposium has two major purposes: first, to focus attention on preservation of the trails, and, second, to grow our membership. They have proven to be great ways to increase visibility for the trails. I hope you will have an opportunity to attend one in the near future.

Our thanks to Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter President Camille Bradford, step-daughter of Howard Driggs, for making the Cedar City symposium even better by making the Driggs Lecture available for OCTA members. Thanks to SUU Special Collections Librarian Janet Seegmiller, historian Leo Lyman, and OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley for the assistance.



# LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
Legislative Liaison Committee*

It was a very interesting week "On The Hill" in late February with President Obama's 2012 budget being delivered to Congress.

With great help from Vern & Carol Osborne, Bert Eddins, and Jere Krakow our OCTA team delivered a record 86 reports to Congress. We also delivered 30 copies of the National Park Service's new Four Trails Long-Range Interpretative Plan. This information was very well received by the recipients.

Each member of the Utah congressional delegation, the co-chairs of the House Trails Caucus and two others were delighted to receive preview copies the new Utah Auto Tour Route Guide and look forward to getting regular copies for their constituents.

Most of our meetings included face time with a staffer plus a few where a Representative or Senator appeared briefly. We also met with the Senate and House Resources legislative staffs, Senate Interior Appropriations staffs and the President's Office of Management & Budget. During the OMB meeting, Gary Werner, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System, cited the major achievements by OCTA and our National Park Service Salt Lake City and Santa Fe partners as an outstanding example of joint cooperation.

OCTA reported to Congress more than 68,000 volunteer hours plus significant financial contributions with a total value of \$1.4 million under the Congressional formula. We told Congress about several significant achievements with our Park Service partners since 2000 and updated them on OCTA's *In Pursuit of a Dream*, virtual trail and paper trail projects. Our Congressional contacts were quite impressed with Dave Welch's reports about the Pinedale Anticline mitigation in Wyoming and wind turbine agreements on private land in Oregon.

We called Congress's attention to two 2011 Fiscal Year budget problems:

- Aaron Mahr's NPS team is limited to spend only 40 percent of their Congressionally funded travel budget which greatly limits their work with trail partners.

- Zero Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) dollars for 2011 Fiscal Year, which encourages our trail volunteers to donate time and unreimbursed expenses of \$5 to \$10 for each federal dollar received. We also cited the Discovery Trails Project, which took 16 visually impaired students out to experience the Oregon, Lewis and Clark, and Nez Perce Trail and was canceled for 2011 because of the cut in CCSP funds.

We were very well received and Bert Eddins acquired new

supporters for our Southern Trails Study Authorization.

If the \$100 million cut in the FY-11 budget does occur, all federal funding to OCTA, including association manager costs, will be in jeopardy.

For the FY-2012 Budget we believe that our federal partners may face a frozen budget for the next five years, which because of inflation will result in a 15-25 percent progressive cut for each partner. For OCTA this could mean that any new project we want must be a "trade off" within that agency's existing budget for our trails.

President Obama's 2012 budget includes funding for the Challenge Cost Share Program, but since it is not in the 2011 budget, either the NPS budget must allow it by reducing spending in another area, or it will need to be prorated out of the agency's Four Trails budget.

Based upon many conversations we had, the worst case scenario might force each of our federal agency partners to abandon trails and focus only on their core responsibilities: major National Parks, energy leases, and timber harvests.

With our federal partners facing a five year frozen budget, OCTA needs to recognize that the Park Service may not be able to support our association manager position indefinitely. This could lead to cuts as early as this October.

**Bookmark Our Site: [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**

FROM THE

# ASSOCIATION MANAGER

## Volunteer Hours Essential to Trail Funding

By Travis Boley  
[Tboleym@indepmmo.org](mailto:Tboleym@indepmmo.org)

In addition to being dedicated members of OCTA, many of you volunteer to help preserve various aspects of our historic trail experience. Whether it's mapping, marking, and monitoring trail segments, researching emigrant diaries, attending meetings and hearings, maintaining web sites, developing chapter newsletters, or organizing speakers or treks, our members have consistently shown an incredible dedication and spirit when it comes to volunteerism, trail advocacy, and preservation.

One oft-overlooked aspect of our volunteer programs is the collection and reporting of total volunteer hours donated to the cause. Many of our volunteer efforts are grant-supported. All of our volunteer efforts are in support of Congressionally-designated National Historic Trails. Because of this, our agency partners and our friends in Congress are interested in learning how our organization leverages each federal dollar allocated to the trails.

Today, there are 30 National Historic and Scenic Trails. Many of these trails have non-profit organizations dedicated to advocacy, building and maintenance, preservation, and interpretation, all while working in partnership with one or more federal agency land managers and administrators. All 30 of these

trails have a budgetary line-item for support in the federal budget. In order to maintain this funding, it is helpful if we can collect and report the hours donated by our hundreds and hundreds of volunteers. We feed these numbers to an umbrella organization known as the Partnership for the National Trails Sys-

### Contact OCTA

**888-811-6282**

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

tem, which in turn combines all of these numbers onto a "gold sheet," which is then given to Congress. This "gold sheet" is a powerful document, as it shows how volunteers from Maine to Alaska to Hawaii to Florida leverage each and every federal dollar into something more powerful.

For example, in 2010 the National Historic and Scenic Trails community completed 1,115,559 hours of volunteerism, which had a value of \$23,258,407. In addition, volunteers contributed \$12,486,240 in cash to the cause, bringing the grand total to \$35,744,647. And the real kicker is that we KNOW we're under-reporting both our volunteer hours and cash contributions!

Not everyone reports the hours they spent volunteering on a project. Most people do not think to pass along their cash contributions, whether gasoline to get to a project

site, an overnight stay in a hotel, or equipment purchased out of their own pockets. How much more impressive would our program look if we were able to better capture the real volunteerism that happens all along our trails each and every year?

Last year, the Oregon-California Trails Association reported 68,000 hours of volunteerism, which is valued at \$1,417,800. In addition, OCTA members contributed \$604,478 of their own cash to the cause, for a total of \$2,022,278. But again, I know we vastly under-re-

ported both hours volunteered and cash contributions. So this year, I'm challenging everyone to keep excellent records of their volunteerism. Many chapters have people to whom such numbers can be reported, whether on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Contact your chapter leadership to find out who should get such numbers. If your chapter doesn't collect these numbers, or if you don't belong to a chapter, simply report your numbers to OCTA HQ at [<octa@indepmmo.org>](mailto:<octa@indepmmo.org>). We'll compile them and pass them up the line until they are in the hands of Congress. In these times of budget cuts, we're doing our best to help maintain appropriate federal funding levels for our trails. Having you report all of your hours of volunteerism and cash contributions will help us do a better job of it!



# FROM THE HQ MANAGER

## Annual Fund Continues to Grow

By Kathy Conway  
Kconway@indepmo.org

The OCTA Annual Fund drive is nearing its goal. Results as of February 25, 2011, are as follows:

General Fund	\$ 8,149
Education	1,243
Endowment	700
Preservation	2,377
Designated	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,469</b>

Thanks to the ever-generous support of our members, this year we are very close to exceeding our goal of \$20,000. In order to do so, we are asking every member to contribute.

On May 1st we will conclude

this appeal so there is still time to make a difference. Please send your donation to OCTA, P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO. In addition to checks we accept VISA, MasterCard or Discover. We will report final numbers in the next issue of *NFP*.

Since November 24, 2010 we have received donations from the following individuals:

Yuji Aisaka  
Carol Bachhuber  
Della Bauer  
Lorraine Bennett  
Alan Bushbaum  
Gail & Muriel Carbiener  
Robert & Sheila Clark  
Raymond & Maura Egan  
Nancy Elig

Don Enneking  
Pat & Jack Fletcher  
Curtis & Nancy Grant  
Paul Grunland  
Glenn & Carol Harrison  
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Judson Parsons & Diana Gardener  
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Turner & Barbara Rivenbark  
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Richard Schmidt  
Zeke & Nancy Sicotte  
Ariane Smith & Sean Girard  
Alan Stockland  
Dick & Mary Anna Swinnerton  
Lorna Waltz  
Steve & Kathryn Wang  
Harold Watts  
Dave & Wendy Welch  
Sandra Wiechert

## Convention Registration, Board Election Ballots to Be Mailed Soon

Registration materials for OCTA's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held in Rock Springs, WY, will be sent to members in April. The ballot for candidates running for the National Board of Directors also will be in your mailbox in just a few weeks.

Renewing your membership in OCTA is easier now than ever. Visit OCTA-trails.org and click "Membership" on the home page. You then can renew your national and chapter affiliation from this page. Your dues will be added to a shopping cart and you can have your charge transaction processed online. To find out your membership expiration date, please check the mailing label on this publication. There you will also find your membership number.

Inserted in this issue you will find a full-page flyer highlighting our newest books we have added to our store. We know you are sure to find a title to order.

"I Got Mine" recruiters during past three months are Mary Conrad, John and Susie Winner, Marilyn Bergum, Pat Cywinski, Dick Davis, Jerry Eichhorst, Vern and Carol Osborne, Bill Robinson, and T. Michael Smith.

# Wyoming Trail Sites Beckon This Year

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

Tours to South Pass, along the Overland/Cherokee Trail, along the Lander Road and the Sublette Cutoff, to Fort Bridger, and across the trails in southwest Wyoming area planned for the Oregon-California Trails Association Convention this summer.

The convention August 8-13, will feature five full days of talks, book sales, banquets, and general history. Other tours will take in the Seminole Cutoff, the Salt Lake Trail, and the Hastings Trail.

Talks will feature trail history as well as the preservation challenges the trails face today.

Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs will host most of the events. About 150 rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn and nearby Holiday Inn Express and Comfort Inn. Saturday's events—outdoor exhibits, food and fun—will be at Expedition Island in Green River. John Wesley Powell launched his boats there for his historic explorations of the Green and Colorado rivers in 1869 and 1871.

The national OCTA board meets on Monday, Aug. 8, at the college with a welcoming reception that evening at the Holiday Inn. Tuesday and Wednesday are reserved for plenary sessions, a panel discussion, workshops,

chapter meetings, and the awards banquet.

Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11 and 12, will feature bus tours to Brown's Park, famed outlaw country where the Utah, Colorado and Wyoming borders meet; to South Pass; to the Lander Road and the Sublette



The Lander Road, seen to right of sign, is one of the trail areas convention attendees can visit this year during the field trips across southwestern Wyoming.

Cutoff; and to Fort Bridger and the western end of the Wyoming stretch of the Overland Trail.

A book room, with exhibits and books for sale from publishers, museums, government agencies, and booksellers will be open at the college Tuesday through Friday. Thursday night will be authors' night, when individual authors will be on hand to sign and sell their books.

Friday, Aug. 12, OCTA will hold a dedication ceremony at the Oregon Trail ruts at Sage Creek School in Rock Springs to recognize the preservation work by the school.

A screening of the OCTA film *In Pursuit of A Dream* is scheduled for Friday night, Aug. 12, at the college

with some cast members expected to be in attendance. During the day Saturday special historical events will be held during Western History Day at Expedition Island in Green River featuring living history camps. This event, which is free and open to the public, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Among the presentations will be a performance by

Painted Past from Casper portraying trail pioneer Fanny Kelly; Jo Foster presenting children's activities; Ann Turpin discussing uses of bison; Willie LeClair sharing Native American stories, a presentation on Sacajawea and another on woman suffrage. The Wells Fargo Stagecoach, a sheep wagon, and handcarts also will be at the island, with a western dinner to be served at the pavilion followed by a program by musician Buffalo

Bill Boycott.

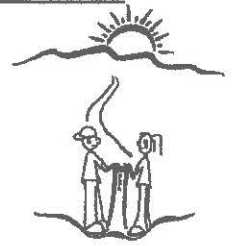
A post convention tour on Aug. 14 will take people to the New Fork Crossing of the Lander Trail. On Aug. 18 the Kemmerer BLM will recognize National Public Lands Day by doing mapping, marking, and cleaning up along the Slate Creek cutoff, a variant of the Sublette Cutoff. Anyone interested in participating in this event can contact the BLM office.

For more information about any convention activities contact Fern Linton, <flinton@wyoming.com>, or Pat Cywinski, <cywinski.pd@gmail.com>. Interested authors and exhibitors should contact Tom Rea, <trea@tribsp.com>.





# OCTA Trail Scout



Young People Today Preserving Yesterday's History for a Greater Tomorrow

Spring 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Editorial Board

Erin Shockley, Editor,  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Melanie Hennings,  
Bear Lake, Idaho

Mikayla Larrow,  
Windsor, Colorado

Brian Larson,  
Paradise, California

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## You can Take Part in a History Camp

Have you ever wondered what it was like to live out on the prairie with only a covered wagon as your home? Can you imagine setting up canvas tents every night and building a buffalo chip fire to cook over and not taking a bath for weeks? To have only your knapsack to carry your personal items in and dancing to fiddle music by the campfire? Well come step back in time and see what an emigrant camp might have been like at our *In Pursuit of*

*a Dream* wagon camp on History Day, Saturday, August 13, during the OCTA convention in Green River, Wyoming.

The conestoga wagon featured in the film *In Pursuit of a Dream* will play host to all who wish to attend. Our wagon and tents will again be home to several of the "stars" from the film, so come join the fun. Ask them how life on the trail really was during the film shoot. Find out what has happened since their trek and just

how the trail has touched their lives. Share some history and maybe make some of your own. Bring your fiddle and your guitar to the campfire, grab a stool or toss down a blanket, everyone is welcome. Why we might even be happy to share some rice 'n beans!



*Candace Manley of Powderly, Texas, takes a moment with the mules while traveling the trail for the filming of In Pursuit of a Dream.*

*(Candy Moulton Photo)*

By: *Quackgrass Sally*

A screening of *In Pursuit of a Dream* will take place on Friday August 12, in Rock Springs at 7 p.m. at the Western Wyoming Community College

Theater. The DVD of the film will be on sale following the show. Buy your own copy and while experiencing History Day on Saturday, have it autographed in our camp! Happy Trails.

For more information send an e-mail to: [Quackgrass Sally c/o octascout@gmail.com](mailto:Quackgrass Sally c/o octascout@gmail.com)



*Quackgrass Sally*

## Upcoming Showing of *In Pursuit of a Dream*

March 23—Southern Utah University Theater, Cedar City, Utah, 7 p.m.; \$5 admission.  
August 12—Rock Springs, Wyoming, OCTA Convention 7 p.m.; \$2 admission

## Trail Scout Launches

Young people are the future preservationists of the overland trails and the *Trail Scout* is their publication. Its mission is: Young people today preserving yesterday's history for a greater tomorrow. It will be written and published quarterly by young people for young people (and those who are young at heart).

This issue carries articles and photos about *In Pursuit of a Dream*, the documentary film created by Boston Productions for the Oregon-California Trails Association, which was the first major activity intended to attract a younger audience. The film has played at festivals, special venues, and in schools across the country and with distribution to the educational and home markets this spring, it will be even more readily seen.



Trail ruts in Carbon County, Wyoming.

(Candy Moulton Photo)

People throughout the world have learned more about the film, and overland trails story, by visiting the *In Pursuit of a Dream* Website and Facebook page. Now, with this newsletter, another outreach to young people is being made.

Four young people have taken positions on the *Trail Scout* Editorial Board. All are experienced trail travelers. Let me introduce them.

Erin Moulton Shockley rode her first wagon on the Bridger Trail when she was five years old. She later explored trail sites such as Independence Rock, Chimney Rock, and Scotts Bluff with her family, before traveling with the California Trail Sesquicentennial Wagon Train. As an elementary school student she wrote about that experience for *Scholastic Magazine*. She has also traveled on the Cherokee Trail in Wyoming, working for a wagon train as a camp jack. She lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and serves as Editor of the *Trail Scout*.

Melanie Smith Hennings began riding on wagons, or her horse, with her family in southeastern Idaho when she was in elementary school. She had her first long-distance trail experience in 2001 when she traveled the Bozeman Trail from Fort Laramie, Wyoming to Virginia City, Montana. She has participated in other wagon trains since then and also worked as an interpreter at the Oregon-California Trail Interpretive Center in Montpelier, Idaho.

Mikalya Larrow of Windsor, Colorado, first learned about the Oregon Trail when she was an elementary school student in eastern Wyoming, but her early experience in traveling the trail came as a cast member of *In Pursuit of a Dream*. She is currently a student at Windsor High School.

Brian Larson of Paradise, California, is another cast member of *In Pursuit of a Dream*, who has continued his involvement in promoting the trails by attending OCTA conventions and film festivals to promote the film. He organized the showing of the film in Paradise, which led to a sell-out of the 500 seat theater. He is currently a student in Paradise, California.



Candy Moulton

Continued on Page 4



## *Kansas Students Build a Trail*

*Photos By: Duane Iles*

Alcove Spring Park in Blue Rapids, Kansas, has a new trail thanks to the hard work of students from Valley Heights High School of Blue Rapids/Waterville. A dozen students worked two days a week for a two-hour period each time to build a trail from the visitor area to a wayside exhibit on a hilltop.

The work involved first clearing brush and rock. Then using shovels and mattocks the students groomed and laid out a one-half mile long trail. It was finished by placing limestone stones along the borders of the trail and pouring crushed rock on the trail.

As part of the project, members of the Alcove Spring organization gave the class history programs about the immigrants who traveled to the area for the Independence Crossing of the Big Blue River.

The project is part of the high school's service learning class. As a requirement for graduation, students must complete a community service project. The work they did provided a great benefit to this trail site. "Without their assistance, much of this work would have been very expensive and taken a lot more time," OCTA Vice President Duane Iles said. The class has worked for Alcove Spring a number of years doing similar projects and clearing trail. In exchange for the labor by the students, the Alcove Springs organization gave t-shirts to the class and had a cookout for them.



*During the summer of 2006 I went on the Overland Trail with my brother, my Aunt, and my Grandma. It was a long, hot journey just to travel a couple of miles. I can relate to how tired and depressed the pioneers must have felt throughout their journey. I was glad to be riding in the stagecoach, instead of the covered wagon or walking, because it was more comfortable. We had fun camping and we got french toast for breakfast in the morning. It was a great adventure and I will never forget it!*

*—Brandon Walters: age 11*



*Kyle, Penny and Brandon Walters on the Trail.  
(Candy Moulton Photo)*



## Places Along the Trail

### National Frontier Trails Museum - Independence, Missouri

Emigrants who were headed to Oregon, California, and other places in the West began their journey by "jumping off" from places along the Missouri River. Independence, Missouri, is one of those early "jump off" towns. You can learn about what routes to take, the kinds of supplies to pack, and the people who were traveling the trails at the National Frontier Trails Museum. It is located at 318 W. Pacific in Independence, Missouri.

### Hollenberg Station - Kansas

In 1860 the Pony Express began carrying mail on horseback, with young riders braving all kinds of weather and terrain as they raced over the country from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California. They would change horses, and new riders would take over, at stations located about 20 miles

apart all across the trail. One of those change points is Hollenberg Station near Marysville, Kansas. You can visit this station and learn more about the Pony Express, which is continuing to celebrate its 150th Anniversary—or Sesquicentennial—this year.



### Chimney Rock - Nebraska

Chimney Rock is the most recognized trail site in Nebraska. It looks like an upside down funnel and trail travelers could see it for many hours (sometimes for days) before they actually reached the site that was popular for camping.



Trail Scout Editorial Board members Brian Larson and Mikayla Larrow lowering a wagon down a steep hill in Oregon during the filming of *In Pursuit of a Dream*. (Candy Moulton Photo)

[August, 1831] As we traveled up the river, we occasionally came in contact with cliffs of rocks and hard clay, from two to three hundred feet above the level of the plain. One of these cliffs is very peculiar in its appearance, and is known among the whites as "Chimney cliff," and among the natives as "Elk Peak."

—Zenas Leonard, 1831

### Launch continued from page 2

The Summer (July) issue of *Trail Scout* will focus on Wyoming and Independence Rock. All trail travelers know that if you are to make it to your destination in Oregon or California before winter, you need to be at Independence Rock by the Fourth of July. If you have something to submit send it to [octascout@gmail.com](mailto:octascout@gmail.com) by May 25.

*Trail Scout* will be distributed electronically, if you want a copy sent to someone, please provide an e-mail address by sending it to [octascout@gmail.com](mailto:octascout@gmail.com)



## *Melanie's Journal June 1, 2001*

The Morning air was warm and still this morning, except for all the energy radiating from everyone. We all waited for the first "Wagons Ho!" that would begin our seven week journey on the Old Bozeman Trail. At eight thirty this morning "Wagons Ho!" was heard and the wagons rolled out of Ft. Laramie. We broke down camp and shuttled everything forward to our next camp, The Old Timer's Arena. Everything went great except Ben's truck broke down. The wagons I am told did 13.7 miles today. I am also told that we are camped a half mile from Oregon trail ruts and are 1.8 miles from Register Rocks. I hope we get to go see.

It feels good to be out on the trail again. I love trying to get a feel for what our ancestors went through, plus the open country and sleeping under the stars every night is hard to beat. It should be a good journey full of many adventures and friends.

—Melanie Smith Hennings, 2001



OCTA Scout Editorial Board Member Melanie Smith with her family on the Bozeman Trail at Fort Laramie. From left, Melanie, Quade, Loretta and Becky Smith.

*"If you erase the trail, you erase history."*

—Arielle Klagsbrun 2008

## *Would You Leave it All Behind?*

By: Mikalya Larrow

The 2,000 miles of untamed wilderness, few forts, and the scare of possible Indian attacks aren't something that made pioneers feel warm and cuddly inside. These men and women were leaving their homes forever. There was no e-mail, no phone calls, but if you were lucky, you may have received a letter every once in a while via the Pony Express.

Today we can barely imagine what this must have been like. We're so connected to friends and family that to leave them forever is beyond our imagination. College is the first time many of us leave home and even then many stay close to family. For our generation, there is no West to tame. We're safe in a day and age when most things have been made easy.

Could any of us imagine telling our parents goodbye, forever, when we are 18 or so years old? Think about the newly married couples deciding to travel west exploring a land completely unknown to them, realizing they will probably never see what they remember as home again. The journey they made was one of liter-

ally being on your own as part of a wagon train, being subject to dysentery and many other perils the journey will bring, sometimes without the security of a doctor along for the journey.

Most families, who left former lives behind, had no idea what awaited them. Who was going to die? Who was going to get sick? How would the Natives treat them? How long would the weather stay good for them to make the given check points? Certainly, they had no answers to their questions and only faith to guide them along the sometimes perilous journey.

We have these brave men and women to thank for the western states we enjoy living in today. Someone ventured out west, before we were born, to establish a place where electricity is common-place, and roads are neatly marked out on a map to be traveled upon to safely direct our passage. The lives we have in places like Colorado and westward are possible only because of these Pioneers.



## Miles on the Trail

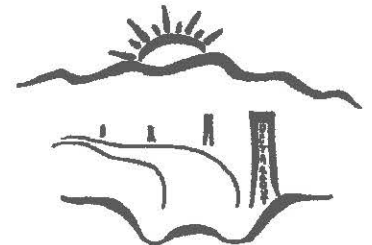
By: Melanie Hennings

Summer is almost here! What better way to celebrate our ancestry and the many wagon trails of old than to get out and visit them. Are you member of a horseback riding club, exercise group, or just looking for something to do? The staff of *Trail Scout* would like to encourage everyone to get out on the trails this summer as much as you can.

If you live near parts of the trail or are vacationing near some, we encourage you to hike, bike, or trail ride as many miles as you can and report back to us where you went and how far. If you would like, include pictures of you and your group on the trail.

All responses will be grouped together and a graph of cumulative miles for each category (walker/joggers, bicyclers, wagon train re-enactors, and horseback riders) will appear in our next issue. The individual/group with the most miles on the trail from each category will be recognized in our next issue and will receive a prize.

Have fun and remember to be respectful and safe on the trail. We look forward to hearing from you all. Please email your response to [octascout@gmail.com](mailto:octascout@gmail.com)



## From the Editor

By: Erin Shockley

When I was in elementary school we learned about the trails in 4th grade during Wyoming history. The best part about this was we would get to play "The Oregon Trail" and it was the original version still on a floppy disk. We got to pick our travelers, what supplies we needed and when we left. Sometimes we made it to the end of the trail and other times we did not. We usually died off being bitten by a snake or trying to cross the river. Playing this game on the computer is very different that actually being on the original trail.

I have traveled and worked along portions of the Oregon, California,

Mormon, Bridger and Cherokee Trails. I have endured long days, wind, hot weather, and days without a shower. The experiences taught me a lot, but I truly enjoy my air conditioned office job that I now have.

It is essential for young individuals to become involved in preserving the historic trails. We want all young people to become involved. If you have traveled the trails, learned about them in school, or just know an interesting fact please send us your experience and we will get it published in a future edition of *Trail Scout*.



Shawn, Erin, & Candy Moulton on the Mormon Trail.

(Candy Moulton Photo)

## How to get Involved

Do you want to become a Trail Scout and work on a project related to the trails? It's easy, contact the Oregon-California Trails Association headquarters with your name and contact information and they will forward it on to the chapter nearest to you. You can reach OCTA at 888-811-6282 or send an email to Association Manager Travis Boley at [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org).

If you have traveled on the trail, or visited any trail sites, please write about your experiences and send them to us for publication in the *Trail Scout*. Perhaps you have not yet visited the trail, but you want to. That's cool. We'd love an article about a site you want to visit! Send articles and photos to [octascout@gmail.com](mailto:octascout@gmail.com).



**June 1 Deadline**

## **OCTA Award Nominations Sought from Members**

*By Dick Nelson  
Awards Committee Chair*

The Awards Committee seeks nominations for deserving candidates to receive recognition at OCTA's 2011 Convention in Rock Springs, WY. Please be aware that recognition comes from the general membership and not from the Awards Committee. If there are no nominations forthcoming from the membership, no awards will be granted.

Nominations should be submitted on the awards forms available on the OCTA web site. To find the form go to [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). At the bottom of the left hand column, click on "Member Resources" and then click on "OCTA Award Nominations" in the list of forms. Scroll through all the forms to find the appropriate one(s). Complete the form(s), print, and e-mail to Dick Nelson, Awards Chair, at [kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net).

Alternatively, the forms may be sent via postal mail to Dick

Nelson, 12812 W. 100th Terrace, Lenexa, KS. 66215-1704. If you do not have access to the Internet and need a form, contact OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282.

Be sure to provide sufficient justification and qualifications so that the committee can make informed decisions. The forms direct you to contact the nominees before nomination and the end of the forms mentions follow-up publicity. This is not necessary in order to submit the nomination, especially if it discourages you from submitting a deserving nomination. You may ignore these steps if you wish. Deadline for completed nominations is June 1.

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

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

**Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award**—Awarded to

OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA shorter term goals and objectives not rising to the level of length of service or breadth of involvement of Meritorious Achievement recipients.

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

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

## **Convention Photos Now Available Online**

Photos from the 2009 and 2010 conventions are now available for review online. Members can view and download images from <http://nwocta.dyndns-home.com/photo>. Click "Sign in" located in the upper right corner and then enter the user name (octa) and password (octa-trails). The OCTA logo will come up. Click on it and then click on the year you wish to review. Images are arranged by category, which you access by clicking on the appropriate folder. If you find an image you would like to have,

you should be able to download it to your computer by right clicking on the image you want, select Save As and identify the Desktop or any folder that you wish to save it in. When finished, click on "Sign out" in the upper right corner.

These are relatively high resolution images, most being in the 1.5 to 3 MB range. This resolution allows good quality 4x6 to 8x10 inch prints. Please be cognizant that these are copyrighted images, but OCTA members are being permitted to retrieve any images

they wish for their own personal use.

Future and some additional past conventions will be added in to the site. If you have images that you would like to add, please send them digitally on CD to Roger Blair. Your contributed images will be credited.

If you have any questions, or have difficulty accessing the site, please contact Roger Blair via email at [rblair@oregontrail.net](mailto:rblair@oregontrail.net).

## Planning Begins for 2012 Convention

By Pat Traffas  
Chapter President

Planning for the 2012 OCTA convention in Lawrence, KS, at the Holiday Inn is in high gear. The planning committee meets monthly with lots of people involved, eager to help. Among those that are helping to lead subcommittee and task work are Mary Conrad – speakers, Craig Crease – tours, Jim Conway – logo and graphics, Eva Allen – souvenirs and registration, Travis Boley – hotel and other tasks, and Ross Marshall – coordinator.

The planning is going well and we anticipate an exciting convention next year. It is not too early to mark your calendars now!

The last chapter meeting was February 5 at the Monticello Historical Society on the west edge of town. The program was led by Bertha Cameron, local historian, who covered subjects such as the Westport-Lawrence (California Road), various ferry sites on the Kansas River, and the beginnings of Monticello in the 1850s. The program was followed by a tour of their new facilities.

Our next event will be a May 7 bus tour through the Lawrence-Topeka area dealing with the Oregon-California Trail, the border war, John Brown, Quantrill's 1863 Raid on Lawrence, the Underground Railroad, etc. All are subjects that will be covered during the convention next year.

## A Year in Review

By John Winner  
Chapter President

The California-Nevada Chapter will hold a spring symposium in Quincy, CA, April 29, 30, and May 1. Trail mapping teams will be out again in 2011 to continue mapping several California and Nevada trails. Other outings are in the planning stages. A chapter membership directory is being prepared and a new webmaster is on board.

This year's activities follow a very busy year for the chapter in 2010 when the spring symposium in Bakersfield, CA involved the dedication of the recently discovered gravesite of Elisha Stephens, leader of the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy emigrant party of 1844. An OCTA plaque was placed alongside of the grave's monument depicting the history of Stephens' life and his leadership of the first emigrant party to take wagons over the Sierra Nevada. The story of this 1844 journey is chronicled in the documentary film, *Forgotten Journey*, by John Krizek, executive producer, which was shown at the symposium following the dedication.

Last year the chapter's trail mapping activities continued on several emigrant trails in Nevada and California, including the Yreka, Lassen, California Trail (in northeast Nevada), Johnson's Cutoff, Grizzly Flat, The Carson

River Route, and Hennes Pass. Work will continue this year on many of these trail segments finalizing maps to MET standards.

Of course the biggest event for the chapter in 2010 involved hosting the 28th annual OCTA convention in Elko, NV. The convention offered tours on the Fort Hall Road (California Trail), Hastings Cutoff, Simpson Trail, and Applegate Trail along with tours to Wells/Ruby Valley, Gravelly Ford, Newmont Mine, Tuscarora Mining Town, Lamoille Canyon, Greenhorn Cutoff, and Historic Elko. Speakers discussed mountain men, Joseph Walker, The Bidwell-Bartleson Party, The Hasting Cutoff, and the California Trail.

Throughout the remainder of 2010 the chapter had outings including annual trail monitoring and maintenance of the Carson River Trail in the Hope Valley area, trail tours on the Johnson's Cutoff in preparation for the placement of rail markers by Trails West Inc., expected this year, the annual cleanup of the Fernley Swales near Fernley, NV, and a tour to the Hawley Grade-Luther Pass on the Luther Pass Trail connecting the Carson River Trail to the Johnson's Cutoff. In addition to the chapter sponsored events the Forest Service hosted several PIT (Passport in Time) Projects on trail segments that are currently in work in progress for trail mapping.



## Books Donated to OCTA Library Collection

By Glenn Harrison

Weldon Rau has donated his trail related library to NW OCTA and Nancy Bolon donated the books that Victor Bolon had in his library. Together they are worth about \$7,000. NW OCTA in turn is donating these books as prescribed in a carefully written Memorandum of Understanding. Hopefully several

other OCTA members will donate books to NW OCTA for support of OCTA libraries. Thanks to Rau and Bolon for the donations and to Rau and Harrison plus Wendy Welch and Chuck Hornbuckle for assisting in transporting many boxes of books for sorting and placement.

On January 21, 2010, the completed and signed MOU establishing a Northwest OCTA Library at the Oregon State Library in Salem, Oregon was presented to James Scheppke, Oregon State



Glenn Harrison, right, presents the MOU establishing the Northwest OCTA Library to James Scheppke, Oregon State Librarian. Others participating are Robert Hulshof-Schmidt, left, Program Manager for Government Research Services, and Information Specialist David Hegeman, second from right, who helped coordinate this effort.

Librarian by OCTA Past President Glenn Harrison.

OCTA's Mattes Library in Independence has first pick of the books and other material. Then the Oregon State Library gets those books that it doesn't already have at least two copies. Other OCTA libraries will be offered the remainder to fill out their holdings.

"We know these books will be well cared for and used for research," said Harrison, who chairs the Northwest OCTA Library Committee. OCTA Secretary and

NW OCTA Library Committee member, Lethene Parks, also assisted in reviewing draft MOUs and in meetings with Hagerman. The MOU is signed by Scheppke and Hulshof-Schmidt and, after electronic approval by their boards, William Martin for OCTA and James Tompkins for NW OCTA.

The Oregon State Library, which is across the street from the Capitol Building in downtown Salem, holds the Northwest OCTA collection on the second floor.

### Don't Miss Out

Last Chance to Purchase OCTA produced silver coins commemorating National Historic Trails  
\$35 each. All medallions are 1 troy ounce silver.

**Series I Lewis and Clark • Series IV OCTA 25th Anniversary**

Order by August 31, 2011 by visiting the OCTA Store [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) or calling 888-811-6282



## Officers Elected, Program on Fort Douglas

By Oscar Olson

Ephraim Dickson, curator of our Fort Douglas Museum in Salt Lake City, discussed military roads in the West, military forts, and how they tied in with western expansion during the January meeting of the Crossroads Chapter. He also shared early photographs.

The chapter elected new officers with T. Michael Smith, who served as our chapter preservation officer, chosen as the new Crossroads chapter president and Leo Lyman selected to serve as vice president (residing in southern Utah, he can be a big help with our Southern Trail preservation goals). Our treasurer, Drew Wanosik, and secretary, Craig Fuller, will serve in those roles for another year. Committees will be formed, and the search is underway for a new chapter preservation officer.

Awards were given out by outgoing President Linda Turner including two for her for service to the chapter. Roy Tea was selected to receive the prestigious "Covered Wagon Award" for his many successes in 2010 including leading a three-day Hastings Cutoff Tour, leading a Bidwell-Bartleson Tour, serving as a speaker at the OCTA convention, and writing an article for the *Overland Journal* on James Hudspeth. In all 22 awards were presented.

OCTA National Board member Matt Ivory updated the chapter on



Crossroads Award honorees, from left to right, Lyndia Carter, Craig Fuller, Matt Ivory, Charlie Burkhalter, Drew Wanosik, Oscar Olson, Linda Turner, Bill Quist, Victor Heath, Kathy Franzwa, Doc Weaver. (Photo by T. Mike Smith)

geocaching. BLM officials Ray Kelsey and Jennifer Theisen, and National Park Service employees Chuck Milliken and Lee Kreutzer spoke to us briefly on working together to help achieve our goals in trail preservation.

President Turner then turned the gavel over to new President T. Michael Smith to conclude the evening.

It was snowy outside, but we still had near 40 in attendance. At the next week's leadership meeting, we met with President Smith to structure the new year. The next membership meeting will be April 14. We encouraged members to attend the Cedar City, UT Symposium and also the OCTA convention in Rock Springs this August. We're glad to report that Vern Gorzitze, after his fall in August, is doing well.

## NEWS FROM NEBRASKA

### Swales Protected Near Susan Haile Grave

Nebraska Chapter President Bill Petersen and member Eugene Hunt have partnered with the Adams County Historical Society in a project to preserve the trail swales just west of the Susan Haile Grave. They hope to have the site held as a nature preserve with wagon tires in the ruts and interpretive panels installed. The two have also assisted in development of a historical map of Kearney County.

Loren Pospisil presented a program on "Eastbound Travelers on the Historic Trails" at a meeting of the Nebraska Chapter in January.

The chapter will host the 2014 OCTA convention in Kearney.



## Marker Placed at Pawnee Ranch Grave of Francis Huff

The OCTA Graves and Sites Committee placed a marker at the site of Pawnee Ranch on the Oregon Trail route along the Little Blue River near Clay Center, NE. The post cemetery contains one marked grave, that of emigrant Francis Huff who died in 1860. The Paus family, current owners of the ranch, cooperated in placing the marker. The Clay County Road Department gave permission to position the marker in the county road right-of-way.

Additional markers are being planned for the Lander Trail crossing of the New Fork River, and for the grave of Nathan Pattison, husband of Rachel Pattison, who is buried near Olympia, WA. Rachel's grave is along the Oregon Trail in Nebraska.

## NEW MEMBERS

Connie Bauer, Provo, UT; Andrew Bodner Jr. & Dr Joanne Bodner, Prairie Village, KS; Margaret Bowen, Darnestown, MD; Dick and Mary Beth Boyd, Norton, KS; Ross Buckwalter, Sandy, UT; Lowell Chamberlain, San Rafael, CA; Alan Culver, Lander, WY; Marion Dauer, Cheektowaga, NY;

Jean Eichhorst, Mesa, AZ; Richard Einspahr, Sacramento, CA; Bran Ferren, Glendale, CA; Sandra R. Finegan, San Francisco, CA; James R. Ford, Merlin, OR; James Guthmann, Hastings, NE; Emmett and Ruth Harder, San Bernadino, CA; Jeffrey Hayes, Muenchen, Bavaria, Germany; Cliff Heck, Tokeland, WA; Theodore Hinshaw, Portola Valley, CA;

L Horgan, Topeka, KS; Jeffrey Hunt, Salt Lake City, UT; Glenn Jones, Lowell, AR; Dolores Justin, Pittsfield, MA; Suzanne Linford, Bend, OR; Dell M. Mangum, Blackfoot, ID; Anne McKibbin, Eagle, CO; Bill Meirath, Loveland, CO; Guy and Pam Padgett, Casper, WY; Chris Plummer, Kingston, WA;

Lisa Pridmore and Richard Jenson, Borrego Springs, CA; Mark Rayback, Sherwood, OR; John Razmus, Yuma, AZ; William Scoggin, Rawlins, WY; Thomas Smith, Taylorsville, UT; Gary Taylor, Aguanga, CA; Nathan Thomas Cedar City, UT; Leasa Transue, Quincy, CA; Erick Wadsworth, Nampa, ID; Kathy West, Milford, CA; and Terry Wirth, Cardiff, CA.

## "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 Bill Martin,  
OCTA President, [bmartinoccta@gmail.com](mailto:bmartinoccta@gmail.com)



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS ASSOCIATION**



Captain Jack  
Modoc leader



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.



General Canby  
assassinated



General Davis  
won the war

## 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 Gillem's camp at Tule Lake

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

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

**Assets**

Cash and Cash Equivalents:

General Operating Accounts 8,004

Restricted Accounts 24,727

Accounts Receivable 24,834

Inventory (at cost) 40,223

Investments (Endowment Funds) 904,524

Intangible Asset-Film 357,531

Furniture and Equipment-Cost \$43,337 less  
\$36,388 Accumulated Depreciation 6,949

Total Assets 1,366,792

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable 20,915

Payroll Taxes and Other Payables 4,860

Deferred Revenue 21,527

Total Liabilities 47,302

**Net Assets**

Unrestricted:

Designated by Governing Board 331,743

Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment 364,480

General 42,131 738,354

Temporarily Restricted 180,411

Permanently Restricted 400,725

Total Net assets 1,319,490

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 1,366,792



**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

**Operating Revenues**

National Park Service Grants	217,123
Membership Dues	70,944
Convention	75,881
Investment Income Allocated to Operations	25,000
Contributions	24,936
Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs	13,342
Other Income	11,857
Total Operating Revenues	<u>439,083</u>

**Operating Expenses**

Board and Officers	10,352
Committees	15,017
Personnel-Compensation and Benefits	116,677
General and Administrative	64,066
Publications	55,239
Convention	48,418
NPS-Challenge Cost Share Program Expenses	47,525
NPS-Task Agreement Expenses	58,260
Film Marketing and Showing	23,715
Books and Mdse. Promotion	2,062
Total Operating Expenses	<u>441,331</u>

Decrease in Net Assets from Operations	<u>(2,248)</u>
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**Non Operating Income**

Endowment Fund Investment Income	72,247	
Less Portion Allocated to Operating Income	<u>25,000</u>	47,247
Grants for Acquisition/Production of Assets		30,000
Life memberships		6,867
Endowment Fund Contributions		1,766
Total Non Operating Income		<u>85,880</u>

Increase in Net Assets	<u>83,632</u>
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Oregon-California Trails Association  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO 64051-0519

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

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

### **Upcoming Showings**

May 20 & 21 - Casper, WY  
August 12 - Rock Springs, WY

**NOW AVAILABLE on DVD**  
**contact OCTA 888-811-6282**



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