

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Winter 2014

VOL XXIX NO. 1

## Recognizing Longtime Preservation Work

### OCTA to Establish Hall of Fame

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

Establishment of an OCTA Hall of Fame has been announced by President John Krizek. Founding OCTA member and past president Roger Blair is chairman of a special committee charged with developing criteria and procedures for the new institution.

"It's time we recognize and honor those heroes whose dedication and contributions led to the organization and the cause we celebrate today," said Krizek.

"This whole idea came about

because Frank Tortorich took me severely to task for my comments in the last *News from the Plains*, to the effect that OCTA has morphed over the last couple of decades from being primarily a recreational organization to being a serious preservation organization, overlooking the contributions and hard work of our founding fathers, authors, and many others who continue to devote their lives to the preservation cause," Krizek added. "While from a marketing perspective that may still be true, from a historical perspective we should never lose sight of the

essential reason why we're here — those special people whose incredible contributions made it all happen. A Hall of Fame display at our conventions will help our newer members appreciate our heritage and those special people who made it happen."

The Hall of Fame committee—including Dick Nelson, Frank Tortorich, and Dave Welch—will present a plan for launching the new Hall at the mid-year board meeting in March. Anyone with suggestions or contributions should direct them to Blair at [rblair@oregontrail.net](mailto:rblair@oregontrail.net).

## Student Journeys Highlighted at Casper Trail Center

The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center (NHTIC) in Casper, WY, recently hosted a new exhibit titled "Trail Journeys" based on work by students who spent days traveling by wagon and walking on the trail in 2013.

The exhibit is the creation of six high school youth from Casper who participated in a pilot project hosted this summer by the NHTIC staff to engage youth with the history on our national lands.

The students walked and rode in a covered wagon driven by Morris Carter along the overland trails from Sweetwater Station to South

Pass. Participants of the trail ride raised tipis for two nights, and came together as a group through the long days and uncomfortable nights.

"I think for me the most enjoyable part of this endeavor was seeing the students all come together as one, and work as a team to accomplish whatever needed to be done," said Bureau or Land Management Interpreter Jason Vlcan.

The exhibit features poems, photos, and songs of their journey along the trails. "We struck gold in having this very talented

group of students for our pilot project. They have put together a brilliant exhibit showcasing their diverse talents," said BLM Interpreter Stacey Moore.

The student exhibit, which initially was exhibited in the Edna Kennell Gallery at the trail center, will be in place again in May when "Journeys" a new Smithsonian traveling exhibit that deals with diverse journeys will be on display at the NHTIC.

The NHTIC is a public-private partnership between the BLM and the National Historic Trails Center Foundation.

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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Send materials to  
nfpocta@aol.com

## 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

## 2013-14 OCTA Officers

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**John Winner, Vice President**, 3541 Sundance Trail, Placerville, CA 95667;  
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**Duane Iles, Past President**, P.O. Box 310, Holton, KS 66436; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com

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John Krizek, President & ex officio on all committees

**Visit the OCTA Store**  
**www.octa-trails.org**  
**888-811-6282**

# Partnership for National Trails System Meets in Tucson

*By Jere Krakow  
OCTA Board Member*

As the representative for the Oregon-California Trails Association, I attended the 14<sup>th</sup> conference of National Scenic and Historic Trails of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) in Tucson Nov. 3-6. The theme of the conference was, "National Trails: Weaving the Tapestry of America's Cultures, Histories, and Landscapes." Also attending from OCTA was President John Krizek, Association Manager Travis Boley, and longtime OCTA member Dave Welch.

Conference attendees came from throughout the nation, many representing OCTA-like trail associations, and from agencies and departments of federal and state government engaged in administering and managing the 30 national scenic and historic trails.

The conference was organized around plenary sessions, one day of mobile workshops, and three tracks of speakers that mirrored the Decade Goals of the PNTS. Plenary sessions celebrated the cultural diversity of the southwest: American Indians, Hispanic culture; and younger generation attendees who are known as trail

## OCTA Mid-Year Board

OCTA will hold its Mid-Year Board meeting March 13-15 at the Drury Inn in Independence, MO. In addition to the meeting, the Board will hold a joint session with the Santa Fe Trail Association and visit various trail sites in the area.

apprentices.

Key sessions included mapping national trails using digital mapping techniques and making them available on websites; classifying trail settings that has some similarities to Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET); inventorying and monitoring trail resources including locating them through diligent research; and protection of resources at risk, particularly from energy development. A very active, sustained effort presented in one session detailed the activities to prevent a large solar energy development from impacting the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in the desert of southern California.

A very relevant session focused on community engagement within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Reaching out and engaging communities through the length of the gorge, in a collaborative way seems especially important to the efforts of OCTA: present and future. Elements of the outreach included protection of resources, interpretation of and telling the stories of the land and people, and engaging national trails through the gorge, primarily the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. There are many opportunities for OCTA to become much more active in this National Scenic Area, and the Oregon Trail route on the Columbia River.

## Kansas Trail Sites Recommended for National Historic Register

*Reports by Arleta Martin  
and Duane Iles*

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review met Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. Under consideration were the swales on the Art and Lorene Pacha property near Bremen in Marshall County and the Upper Wakarusa River Crossing, near Lawrence in Douglas County, owned by the Fred and Lilian Six.

Both locations were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places. The nominations now will be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., to be considered for addition to the National Register.

The process will take six to eight months.

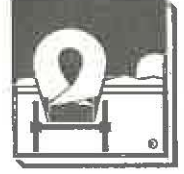
Scott Spring, near Wamego, KS, owned by Jim and Marian Bradley, was recently added to the National Register and the description of Alcove Spring, near Blue Rapids was amended to include on the National Register the entire 223 acres instead of just the spring and waterfall.

These actions are an additional tool in protecting our trails. During the planning for the wind generated energy transmission line that will possibly cross northeast Kansas, serious consideration was given to these sites. The developers gave Alcove Spring and some other important places a wide berth.





**Fort Kearny State Historical Park  
OCTA Annual Convention  
Kearney, Nebraska August 5-9 2014**



## *Drama on the Medicine Road*

May 16, 1864 Southern Cheyenne Wolf Chief

“As soon as they saw us, the soldiers ran together and made a line. Lean Bear rode out to shake hands with the officer and show his papers. He wore a medal given to him by President Lincoln. When he was within twenty or thirty yards the officer called out in a loud voice and the soldiers fired on Lean Bear.”

*Life of George Bent*  
by George E. Hyde

Sept. 5, 1864 Albaville, N.T.

“Our country has ben thrown in confusion by the Indians. Most of the settlers left there homes, some for good, many have ben driven off by Indians. Hundreds of familys had to leave all but there stock, that was left to the Missouri... I wated till the last - till the Indians got within 4 miles, then I started with the family. I took 4 good horses and left 2 of the fastest horses for Hank and man to come when they couldn't stand it no longer...I drove 75 miles that knight...some of the crowd are still going to Iowa, Ills, and god onely knows where.”

Squire Lamb, Stage Operator;  
letter to his brother in New York

*1864, one hundred and fifty years later*

*...Both sides of the story*

It was a year of trauma for trail travelers and Native Americans alike in the Nebraska Territory. The 2014 Oregon-California Trails Association Conference will examine this intense time with respect to all parties involved. Kearney Nebraska is uniquely situated on the westward trails and is widely recognized for its historical relationship to the Native American Nations. During this OCTA conference participants will:

- Honor descendants of pioneers and Native Americans involved with the drama on the Medicine Road
- Tour various 1864 sites including Plum Creek Massacre, Martin Brothers Incident, Oak Grove/The Narrows, Genoa Indian School and Midway Station
- Relish the stories and analyze the 1864 mindsets of Native Americans (hearing directly from Southern Cheyenne, Lakota and Pawnee tribal speakers), trail travelers and settlers.
- Explore Historic Fort Kearny and The Great Platte River Road Archway

*It is the RIGHT Time, the Right Place, and the Right Program.  
Please plan Right now to attend the 2014 OCTA Conference in Kearney, Nebraska*

Registration Materials will be available in March.

Oregon-California Trails Association

888-811-6282

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

# Board Nomination Deadline February 15

*By Duane A. Iles  
Chairman Nomination &  
Leadership Committee*

Nominations are now being accepted for the National Board of Directors. Each year, elections are held for positions on the Board. Directors can serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms on the Board.

As you may recall, the board voted to conduct the election via *News from the Plains*. In action taken at the March 2013 board meeting, the size of the board will be reduced to nine members. Due to the sad loss of Jim Payne and the completion of second term members Barb Netherland and Pat Fletcher, we will have two seats up for election this year to bring the board to nine members. Jere Krakow and Dave Vixie will complete their first three-year

terms this August and are eligible for reelection. Vixie has indicated he will not be running, while Krakow will seek reelection.

In addition to policy and priority-setting responsibilities, members of the Board also serve as important liaisons with OCTA's chapters, with an opportunity to represent the interests of the chapters at Board meetings and in the organization's national affairs.

Serving on the OCTA board of directors is a very rewarding way to serve our organization. I strongly encourage you to consider becoming a candidate. Board members are expected to provide leadership for the affairs of the Association and attend two Board meetings, one held in conjunction with the annual convention and a mid-year meeting, usually held in the spring. Financial assistance is available to help defray costs

of attending the Mid-Year meeting. Board members are also responsible for electing OCTA national officers.

In order to be a candidate for the Board of Directors, all that is required is a short statement of qualifications and experience, and the endorsements of three members of OCTA.

Candidacy papers should be sent to Duane Iles at [96cruisin@embarqmail.com](mailto:96cruisin@embarqmail.com). If you have any questions please contact Iles. For more information about the elections process, you may also contact Nominations & Leadership Committee members Jack Fletcher at [jpfletcher@wavecable.com](mailto:jpfletcher@wavecable.com) or Fern Linton at [flinton@wyoming.com](mailto:flinton@wyoming.com). Additional information may also be found in the Members Area of the OCTA website.

Deadline for submission is February 15.

## Our Business Sponsors

### Lewis Seed and Fertilizer Company



OCTA member Charlie Wieckert, left, and Duke Lewis at the Lewis office. (Photo by Duane Iles)

Please support our business sponsors. Many support OCTA and its efforts to protect the trails with no expectation of getting more business. This is the case of the Lewis Seed and Fertilizer Company of Home, KS.

Its owner, James "Duke" Schramm is a loyal supporter of OCTA and its goals. Home is near Marysville and Alcove Spring. Duke who was born in the area has always supported the important heritage of our trails.

If you can, stop in and thank Duke. If possible, maybe you can even use some seed!



# 2013 Volunteer Reports Now Due

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
OCTA Legislative Liaisons*

The Federal budget was frozen in 2012. "Sequester I" in early 2013 was a Congress mandated cut of five percent, and there is always a risk of further budget reductions that would affect trail partner organizations.

Therefore, we need all estimated or actual volunteer hours, unreimbursed expenses and contributions submitted so we can report to Congress in early February. OCTA and its Federal Agency Partners are recognized on Capitol Hill for our very effective use of every private and federal dollar received.

If your volunteer report has already been sent to your chapter volunteer coordinator, to OCTA headquarters, or to us we thank you very much. If not, please send it now. (Note to chapter volunteer coordinators: We need your best available information now).

With OCTA Board approval, CA/NV Chapter President John Winner and two other OCTA Trail authorities met with three representatives of Noble Oil & Gas to discuss drilling plans on Nevada BLM lands. They then walked along two California Trail segments discussing drilling plans and alternatives. We hear that it was a very successful meeting! Congratulations to the OCTA team.

President Obama has nominated Neil Kornze as the BLM Director. Neil served on Senator Harry Reid's staff for many years handling Interior legislation and appropriations. We have

worked regularly with Kornze and his people for California and Pony Express Trails authorization; Four Trails Additional Routes Study authorization, and to support the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, NV. He is highly qualified for his new position and well respected by the BLM staff.

Just after the OCTA Convention, Jeanne's health grounded us for nearly three months. She is now out and about.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Several friends urged us to attend the early November Partnership for the National Trails System conference in Tucson. It was with great surprise and delight that we received their Lifetime Achievement Award. We are also humbled as this puts us in the same league as our early mentor on the Hill – George Cardinet founder of the Anza Trail.

George's early advice to us was: "You Go Back, Go Back, Go Back (repeated additional times) until Congress gives you what you want."

We thank each member of the Trails liaison team and each OCTA member for all your support over the years that helped qualify us for this special award. It is displayed near our OCTA awards and our Interior Department "Take Pride in America" award received in 2005 at the BLM's first ever National Trails Conference.

We hope to join the OCTA and Partnership Trails Advocacy Week teams in Washington, D.C., in February. It will begin our 29th year of calling on Congress on behalf of OCTA and our trails.

## Thank You to OCTA

Dear Editor:

I take this time to thank those OCTA folks who chose me as this year's recipient for the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award.

I never thought that I would ever receive OCTA's highest award. I am honored, humbled and proud to have been selected.

While I was sitting at the awards dinner, as Dick Nelson was introducing the award, I was looking over the room trying to guess who this year's recipient might be. When Dick announced my name I did not recognize that it was me. My wife Mary Ann, nudged me and said that it was me!

I sat there for a few seconds before I could compose myself to get up and walk to the stage. My emotions were running amuck. Tears were welling up and I did not think I could talk.

I also want to thank *News From The Plains* for the nice article and picture that was published in the last issue regarding my receiving the award. I have loved being an OCTA member since the beginning. There are so many people who have supported me and worked with me over the years, all because we share the same passion, a love for the Trail.

Greg was a good friend of mine so the award is that much more special.

My deepest gratitude to all who helped me over the years, for they are the ones that made this award possible. My biggest supporter is my wife Mary Ann.

My very best,  
Frank Tortorich

# Education Projects Continue Full Steam Ahead

By Bill Hill  
Chair Education Awards and Publications

OCTA's website is now updated to include the latest information and necessary forms for our education projects. Letters and fliers have been sent to hundreds of parks and museums, elementary and secondary schools, and colleges and universities explaining our Outstanding Educator Award program, our school book raffle, and the student calendar contest. It is impossible to send out information to all the parks, museums, schools and colleges so we must also rely on you, our members, and the website to help spread the word. Please share these details with teachers and students you may know.

Deadlines for these activities are staggered over the months of February, March and April, and it is important to know that these deadlines are all earlier than those for OCTA's other awards. Every year we hear from someone who missed the deadline because they believed all the awards and contests had the same deadline.

In the last issue we asked that all postcard entries for the book raffle be sent to OCTA no later than the end of January as the drawing is at the beginning of February. The winner of the raffle receives a class set of their choice of one of OCTA's educational activity books – *Reading, Writing and Riding along the Oregon-California Trails*, *Finding the Right Place*, *Following Lewis and Clarks' Track*, or *Here Comes the Pony*.

This year's recipient will be announced in the next edition of *News From the Plains*. We are again hoping to have lots

of entries and only wish OCTA could present more than one class set of books. All schools and teachers should avail themselves of this yearly opportunity to take a chance on receiving educational resources at no cost.

While our Outstanding Educator Awards are presented at our annual convention, the applications/nominations are due no later than March 31. This is necessary to allow time for the committee to review all the applicants, make its selection, and notify the recipients before the school year ends. OCTA is dedicated to recognizing educators and the important work they do in passing on our history and the important story of westward migration. If you know of a teacher or program that is worthy, please see that information about our recognition program is made available to them.

Awards may be given in the following levels: Elementary; Middle School/Junior High; High School; College/University/Adult Education; and Parks/Museums. The recipients receive a certificate and a check for \$250. With education and teachers under fire in many places, it is important that we draw attention to those teachers and programs that deserve to be recognized. By highlighting their work we encourage others to improve their own programs, and this benefits not only our students, but also all of us.

Our third project is the calendar contest for 2015. It is open to elementary school aged children, and is already well underway. We try to have a different topic each year, but one always related to the

trails. If you have a topic that you think would be appropriate, please relay it to our committee.

This year's topic is *Plants Along the Trail - Edible, Medicinal & Dangerous*. It is hoped that teachers will introduce this and students will study various plants found along the trails and used or avoided by the Indians, early travelers, and settlers. Then students are asked to submit original artwork depicting and identifying the nature of one of the plants they researched.

Twelve to fourteen submissions are selected for the calendar. The student recipients have their work displayed and they also receive a copy of the calendar and a check for \$50. Their school also receives one copy of the calendar. Each year we have received more and more submissions as more schools see the value of incorporating art and history into their programs.

Some teachers and schools have made it an integral part of their class and their students have participated every year. It is also hoped that this might spark a lifelong interest in the trails in our young people, and they will take over for us in later years. The deadline for submissions is April 15. We are also aware that present changes in education are placing more demands on our children and class time. Please encourage your schools to participate. The story of our westward migration is an integral part of our history and deserves its place in class. Individual students may submit a drawing even if their school does not participate in the project, and we have had such submissions and selections in the past.



# Nebraska Trail Marker Placed

By Randy Brown  
Chairman Graves and Sites Committee

The Graves and Sites Committee has placed a marker at the grave of Daniel Sanford Johnson in Ash Hollow Cemetery, near Lewellen, NE. Bill Peterson, Nebraska Chapter president, assisted the committee chairman with the installation. Sanford Johnson was a young man from Plymouth, VT, who died in 1850 while en route to California. Unusual for a trail emigrant, he died of smallpox. For more information on the grave and Ash Hollow see the story "Buried in Ash Hollow," *Overland Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 23, 1990.

## NPS Supports Trail Mapping Projects

The NPS will provide up to \$150 per day per person to support mapping of the trails. The funds expire on September 30, 2014, so it is imperative that projects be defined now and through the spring and summer. Projects must be approved in advance.

Contact Dave Welch at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) for details. The application is a simple one-page form describing who, what, where, and when. Welch can also provide information about where mapping is needed along the trails.

## SANFORD JOHNSON

Forty-niner diarists passing this point of land at the mouth of Ash Hollow describe two notable graves side-by-side: Rachel Pattison and Josiah C. Keeran, spelled Keenan by diarist James Hutchings on July 11, 1849. He wrote: "Rachel Pattison, died June 19th, aged 18; J. C. Keenan, died June 15th, Pleasant Hill, aged 46."

Josiah Keeran was a member of a wagon train organized in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, destined for California. Traveling with Keeran were his son John Keeran and three other men related to the Keerans by marriage, all of whom, with the exception of John, died on the journey. Diarist W. J. Pleasants noted the death of Josiah Keeran in his memoirs: "There is one other cholera victim here an old man named Kearns." (The Keeran family pronounced their name "Kerns.")

Two diarists of 1852 describe three "old graves," meaning graves of a previous year, at this location. John Clark wrote on June 5: "Just before leaving the valley we visited a graveyard pleasantly situated on a rising mound. There were four newly made graves and three of an older date." The next day Caroline Richardson wrote: "We left Ash Hollow and came out to the river and saw three old graves on top of a knoll." The third "old grave" noted in 1852 is believed to be the final resting place of Sanford Johnson who died in 1850.

Daniel Sanford Johnson was a native of Plymouth, Vermont, born there on March 4, 1824, to Luther and Nancy (Damon) Johnson. The Johnsons had six children, Sanford being the youngest boy, while his sister, Nancy, born in 1827, was the youngest child in the family. When Nancy married in 1848, Sanford left home to find work in New York. Late in the summer of 1850 Mother Nancy Johnson received a letter from a Joseph Green informing her of the death of her son. (This Joseph Green is not thought to have been related to the husband of Nancy Johnson Green, Sanford's sister.)

"It becomes my painful duty to inform you of the melancholy news I have heard from Sanford . . . He started the first of March to go the Overland route to California. On the way he was exposed to the small pox and when about 300 miles beyond Council Bluffs he sickened with it in its worst form and died in a few days . . . He died the 26th of May and was buried about 140 miles east of Ft. Laramie at a place called Ash Hollow. His grave is by the side of two who died last year."

Sometime in the 1940s, Walton Green, son of Nancy Johnson Green, contacted Irving E. Tilgner, longtime Lewellen postmaster, asking about Ash Hollow and the site of his Uncle Sanford's grave. The key for locating the grave came from the Joseph Green letter: "His grave is by the side of two who died last year." Mr. Tilgner investigated the supposed site just to the south of the Pattison grave where he found buried a rough, blank headstone, and interviewed early settlers, one of whom, M. P. Clary, said that he "well remembers the time when three mounds, side by side, were in evidence at this particular spot, and as far as it was known to him, no other combination of three graves of that period exists in the cemetery or elsewhere in Ash Hollow." Cemetery officials have kept the area open due to the belief that several graves of the gold rush era are located here. This allows us to identify, commemorate, and continue to preserve the graves of J.C. Keeran, Sanford Johnson, and the other unknown pioneers buried in Ash Hollow Cemetery.



Sanford Johnson

Research and Funding by  
The Oregon-California Trails Association

2013

In Cooperation with the  
Ash Hollow Cemetery District

This is a part of your American heritage. Honor it. Protect it. Preserve it for your children.  
**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**, P. O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519



Deadline June 1

## OCTA Award Nominations now Sought

By Dick Nelson  
Awards Committee Chair

The OCTA Awards Committee seeks nominations for deserving candidates to receive recognition at OCTA's 2014 Convention in Kearney, NE. 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 presented.**

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. 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 email to Dick Nelson, Awards Chair, at [kenelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenelson42@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:

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

**Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award**—Awarded to OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA shorter term goals and objectives not rising to the level of length of service or breadth of involvement of Meritorious Achievement recipients.

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

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

historic resources.

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

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

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

## South Pass History Forthcoming from OU

The University of Oklahoma Press has announced the forthcoming publication of *South Pass: Gateway to a Continent* by Will Bagley. "An American place so rich in historical significance," Bagley argues, "deserves the best of historical preservation efforts."

The hardcover edition of the book will be out in May.

## Preservation Scorecard: Much to be Proud of

By John Krizek  
jkrizek33@gmail.com

As we turn the page of a new year, it's a good time to look at the scorecard, and see how we've measured up as we pursue our goal of preserving the trails and their legacy.

In Utah, the Crossroads Chapter, with OCTA support, campaigned vigorously in opposition to the planned potash mine in Pilot Valley, that was proposed right on top of the Hastings Cutoff of the California Trail. In September the Bureau of Land Management denied the mining company's permit request. (We've recently learned that this decision is being appealed by the company.)

In Oregon, the developer of the controversial Antelope Ridge Wind Energy Project—subject of much debate and an OCTA news release objecting to certain siting practices in April, 2010—formally withdrew its application for a permit.

In Idaho, the destruction of a stretch of Oregon Trail by presumed treasure hunters prompted a vigorous response by OCTA to the television programs that encourage such activity. And while we got no formal response from the producers, a BLM partner reported, "We got their attention" in Washington, and the investigation goes on. (A national petition is now being circulated protesting this type of television program.)

For the Gateway West transmission line project between

Wyoming and Idaho, OCTA is participating as an "interested party" in the finalizing of routes and assessing the mitigation of adverse effects. This is part of the development of a programmatic agreement.

In Wyoming, a long-awaited BLM programmatic agreement for South Pass includes much of the language and the protections advocated by OCTA.

In California, the Forest Service regularly asks the trail detective experts of the CA/NV Chapter for help identifying trail segments for potential protection measures.

In Nevada, an energy company planning a well development project came to us before they even got to the permit stage, to ask how they could pursue their development without harming the trail.

The new BLM trail management manuals adopted in September, 2012, are being used in the field, and have led to increased and earlier notice of proposed projects on or near historic trails.

In Washington, the National Trails Inter-Agency Council—including top officials of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration—meets monthly to discuss trail issues.

The threats keep coming—new proposals for wind farms, a planned open-pit gold mine in Nevada, a transmission line across Kansas—but the strong

bonds created over the years by our preservation people, and the respect and the reputation they've earned working with our agency partners and land owners across the West, is paying off.

Bravo to our hard-working OCTA volunteer preservation team members.

## Interpretation Focus of NPS Workshop

The Long Distance Trails office of the National Park Service hosted its annual workshop in Albuquerque Dec. 9 – 12. Since interpretation was the focus, it was especially apropos that OCTA participants included Clint Gilchrist and Dawn Ballou from Pinedale, WY, who are preparing for the grand opening of the New Fork River Crossing park in June. That site—and Alcove Springs in Kansas—were showcased as examples of how cooperation with the skilled staff of the NPS office can turn such trail sites into attractive and educational visitor destinations.

OCTA also was represented by: myself; Association Manager Travis Boley; and Preservation Chairman Jere Krakow, who also was representing the Partnership for the National Trail System. Also participating was former OCTA board member Quackgrass Sally, on behalf of the Pony Express.

While there were many ideas and

*Continued on Page 13*



## Vigilance, Laws, and the Trails

By Travis Boley  
tboley@indepmo.org

Pipelines in Utah. Solar arrays in the Mojave. Wind projects in Oregon. Treasure hunters in Idaho. Potash mines at Donner Spring. Ski lodges in the Sierra. Transmission lines in Kansas. Wells in Wyoming. Gold mines and highway projects in Nevada.

These are but a few of the headlines that have filled the pages of this publication and OCTA's E-News over the past few years. Everywhere you look, our historic trails are under increasing pressure from a variety of development projects. And the pace at which these projects are being proposed is on the increase, meaning OCTA needs to be increasingly vigilant in making sure we remain front-and-center whenever a project of any type is proposed on or near historic trails.

OCTA's 30+ years of conservation efforts have made an impact, both in terms of what our organization has managed to protect and preserve and in terms of being among the first groups contacted whenever a company proposes a project on public lands. Our work has also paid dividends in terms of legislation and increased appropriations, from the California Trail garnering National Historic Trail status in 1992 to the Omnibus Public Lands Bill of 2009, which led directly to the Bureau of Land Management creating three new trail manuals

governing how National Trails are managed from their offices. These manuals – 6250 (National Scenic and Historic Trail Administration), 6280 (Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study), and 8353 (Trail Management Areas) – were first introduced about two years ago. But already, state and district offices cite these manuals



whenever they contact OCTA about a proposed project.

And these manuals are having an effect. For example, their existence played a role in preventing a 405 square mile potash mine on top of the California National Historic Trail and adjacent to Donner Spring this year. But that decision is being appealed by the company wanting to develop that section of land. The battle is not over. While the legislation and manuals are a quantum leap forward for protecting historic trail corridors, we must remain ever vigilant in protecting the swales, inscriptions, graves, and viewsheds that are now, as a result of the Omnibus

Public Lands Bill of 2009, also a part of the National Landscape Conservation System on BLM lands.

And the reason we must be watchful is because development on federal lands and along historic trail corridors is not going away. In fact, it is going to increase as untapped oil shale is recovered, as more wind and solar projects are proposed, as more transmission lines to transfer the power thus generated are installed, and as more mines are opened.

During the last week of November, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill that would expedite the processing of permits. House Resolution 1965, the "Federal Land Jobs and Energy Security Act," has several key elements

These include:

- A stipulation that if the Department of the Interior has not made a decision on an application within 60 days of receipt, the application will be considered approved (currently, there is a 309-day average wait time for a decision on federal applications).

- Requires the Secretary of the Interior to collect a \$5,000 documentation fee to accompany each protest for a lease, right of way, or application for permit to drill.

- Requires a percentage of fees collected by the Bureau of Land Management to remain in the offices where they were collected

*Continued on Page 12*



# Vigilance and Trails

*Continued from Page 11*

to be used for "permit approval activities."

- Requires a "Federal Permit Streamlining Project" in every Land Management office that permits energy projects on federal land.

- States that the Secretary shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances related to a categorical exclusion in administering the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005) with respect to review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

(A "categorical exclusion" under NEPA is a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a federal agency in implementing environmental regulations and for which neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.)

- Forces the Secretary of the Interior to offer at least 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease.

- Shields such acreage from protest and the test of extraordinary circumstances, but makes it eligible for certain categorical exclusions under EPA 2005 and NEPA.

- Limits the Secretary's methods for denying permits

- Prohibits additional lease stipulations (except certain emergency stipulations) after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee.

The bill was passed on almost completely partisan lines, with one Republican voting no and seven Democrats voting yes. It is not expected to pass the Senate (a vote had not yet occurred as of the time of this writing), and if it does, the President has already stated that he would veto the bill. However, as election cycles come around, the balance may shift to additional support for such bills. So we must remain aware of proposed legislation, the appropriations process, and how federal agencies implement any new laws or regulations.

OCTA always attempts to work in bi-partisan fashion, and as an organization, we recognize the nation's energy needs as well as the need to develop more domestic energy. Nevertheless, our mission dictates that our primary goal is to protect Western historic trails and their settings. We try to work with developers and land management agencies to minimize impacts, and when impacts cannot be minimized, we try to negotiate the best mitigation possible. Our success over the past three decades depended on our advocacy, and that vigilance is going to remain important in the years to come.

## NEW MEMBERS

These new members have recently joined OCTA.

Kenneth Allen, Placerville CA  
Anderson Family, Sunnyvale CA  
Tom Bache, La Jolla CA  
Bill and April Bolte,

Central City NE  
Robert Briggs, Fullerton CA  
William Buster, Oak Glen CA  
Nancy Drew, Sausalito CA  
John and Linda Gorman,

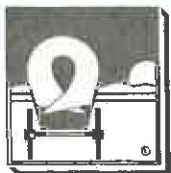
Overland Park KS  
Scott and Tamara Grigsby,  
Portland OR

Sophie Hagan, Vancouver WA  
Michael Harris, Pullman WA  
Alison Harvey, Sacramento CA  
Chris J B Harvey, Graeagle CA  
Gloria Hermann, Evansville IN  
Sharon Holmes, Chico CA  
Lynn and Margie Houdyshell,  
Meridian ID

Rollie Johnson, Larkspur CO  
Whitney E Kerr Sr.,

Prairie Village KS  
Mary Korpi, Elko NV  
Nancy Leek, Chico CA  
Michael G Martin, Hesperia CA  
Ford Maurer, Mission Hills KS  
Michael McLaughlin, Paradise CA  
Dan Murray, Rohnert Park CA  
Deborah Needell, Monument CO  
Heidi Pierson, Vancouver WA  
Terry Presley, Wagoner OR  
Cindy Salisbury,

Portola Valley CA  
Sharon Lynn Sherman,  
Coronado CA  
Sherry Warren, Vancouver WA



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# FROM THE HQ MANAGER

## Members Support Annual Fund Drive

*By Kathy Conway  
Headquarters Manager*

Our Annual Fund Drive is well underway. Our goal this year is \$23,500.

We need your support more than ever as increased threats to the trail are now occurring with greater frequency. So we ask if you haven't already contributed to please support this campaign by mailing your check today. You may also donate directly by visiting our website

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

As of November 25:

General Fund	\$4,000
Education Fund	500
Endowment	335
Preservation	2,230
Total	\$7,065

Those contributing to the campaign so far:

Jim Allison  
Jean Bennett  
William Bieber  
Janet Boom  
J Cordell Bott  
Joseph Boyes Jr  
Camille Bradford  
Kelly Breen  
Marvin Burke  
Glenn & Peggy Calhoun  
Gail & Muriel Carbiener  
Geo Carruthers & Marilyn Gaddis  
Robert & Karen Corder  
Arthur & Nancy Costa  
Robert Coward  
Virgil Culler  
Jo Anna Dale  
Charles Edwards  
Nancy Elig

Janet Highley Elliott  
Shirley Evans  
Kathy Franzwa  
Charlotte Glinski  
Vern & Ilene Gorzitze  
Paul Grunland  
Glenn & Carol Harrison  
Robert Henderson  
Scott Hendricks  
Barbara Hesse  
Connie Holbrook  
Chuck & Suzanne Hornbuckle  
Betty Hughston  
Lu Ann Hunter  
Art & Kathy Iworsley  
Marianne Kidder  
John Kissane  
Joye Kohl  
Lyle Lambert  
Stephen Larmore  
Bob & Karen Larson  
John & Terry Latschar  
Charles & Harriet Lewis  
Edward Lynch  
Francis J Madsen  
Tom McCutcheon  
Dan Miller  
Charles Milliken  
Jack Moore  
Paul & Tomi Moreno  
Amy Murphy  
NW OCTA Chapter  
Dick & Ruby Nelson  
Virginia Nelson  
Alma O'Hare  
Mary Olch  
Stanley Paher  
Keith Palmquist  
Lethene Parks  
Judson Parsons & Diana Gardener  
Mary Louise Rawlings  
George Riser  
Louise Hammer Rossi  
Joe Rowan  
Tom & Carolyn Russell  
Paul Scherbel  
Richard Schmidt

Ray Schoch  
Bernadine Scoles  
Ron & Marcia Smith  
Fran Sumberg  
Nancy Surdoval  
Julie Videon  
Dave & Wendy Welch  
Nelson Weller  
James Whitworth  
Nola Wilkerson  
Dr & Mrs John Willmarth  
John & Susie Winner  
Roderick Wisemann

To mail your contribution: OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051

## Interpretation Workshop

*Continued from Page 10*

lessons shared, these impressions stand out in my mind:

The experienced and dedicated staff of Superintendent Aaron Mahr's office represent a tremendous resource in the effort to protect and share our historic trail resources. We need to do more to share all that with our membership.

Understanding audiences is important when interpreting trail history. I was reminded of the Tribal Listening Session organized by Otis Halfmoon last March at Fort Hall, Idaho. Our Shoshone chief host greeted us with: "For those pioneers you celebrate, it was the beginning of a new life. For us, it was the end of one."

There is much to be learned—and shared—when it comes to trail history.



## 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:

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- 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.

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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

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# Trail Turtles return to Southern Trail in New Mexico

By Rose Ann Tompkins

There were 17 participants in the fall Trail Turtles mapping in New Mexico. This included Jane Childress and Jim Renn, from the Las Cruces BLM office.

Before the entire group met on Wed. Oct 30, six folks spent several days at the Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences, NM, to look at the research of Keith Humphries. He was a former civil engineer at White Sand Missile Ranges, and was a New Mexican author, historian and painter. He wrote a book titled *Apache Land from Those Who Lived It* and painted wild west scenes to recount some of the older stories.

In 2000 Humphries received a New Mexico Historic Preservation Award for his lifelong devotion to the preservation of Southwestern history. Besides scanning some of his extensive notes, articles and personal photographs, we photographed more than 80 of his historical paintings. We plan to give the museum a digitized record of all the information and photographs when we have

processed everything.

One day was spent revisiting the lower Ft. Thorn road just west of the Rio Grande. However the bulk of our time was continuing our spring work east and west of the Mimbres River as a number of miles were mapped and some interesting artifacts spotted along those miles. As usual, they were recorded with GPS waypoints and photographed. One bonus was the fact that the Mimbres River was running; it is usually bone dry. We met the manager of a gravel pit in the Mimbres flood plain. He gave us permission to go through their operation to intersect the trail just north of the gravel pit. A local rancher also provided us with information about the trail in his area closer to Cooke's Canyon.

There were the usual glitches that seem to come along. Tracy DeVault got stuck in the sand of an arroyo. Newcomer Claude Hudspeth of Texas lost his GPS



Mike Volberg and Tracy DeVault make sure their FRS radios are on the same channel before heading out on the trail. (Photo by Judy DeVault)

one day and surprisingly found it the next day. Neal Johns tried to undo his recent cataract surgery by mistaking super glue for his eye drops. This necessitated a trip to the emergency room, but all was ok. And a rattlesnake tried to join several in the group on the last afternoon. Though posing for photos, it soon went on its way, as did the mappers.

This trip was very successful in many ways. There are always various adventures in the group that lead to more memories of hunting for the emigrant trails.



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## Power Company Supports OCTA's Preservation

*By Frank Tortorich  
California-Nevada Chapter  
Member of OCTA*

Four or five years ago when I was leading a tour on the Carson River Route of the California Emigrant Trail near the legendary Snowshoe Thompson's cave, a site along the river in the Carson Canyon, the eight or 10 non-OCTA members and I came upon a utility company crew from Sierra Pacific Power Company. They had driven a very large rubber-tired loader onto on a Class I segment of Trail.

Class I is the designation given a segment of Trail that is still in its most pristine state. This segment dates back form 1848.

These workers had already brought in two power poles to be used to replace some existing 40 plus-year-old deteriorating poles.

I stopped my tour and told the folks that I needed to talk with the workers. When speaking with the supervisor, I asked if he knew that they were working on a National Historic Trail. He said he did not. When I asked if they had a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service, he looked a bit puzzled, and said he did not know.

I explained to him that the area was a nationally protected Trail and that no work is allowed without approval from the Forest Service. He was very cooperative in wanting to learn what it was that was in need of protection.

I asked him to join my tour group and he received a mini tour of

this segment of the Trail. Thanking me, he took his crew and immediately vacated the area. However, the two replacement poles on the ground were left as well as a large rock on top of some beautiful rust and polished rocks.

Folks on the tour, after realizing my strong reaction to what was happening and after seeing the Trail in all its glory, whole-heartily supported my actions.

The next day I contacted the U.S. Forest Service Archaeologist at the Carson City Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, in Carson City, NV., to report what I had seen. He thanked me. That was the last I heard and the two replacement poles remained on the ground.

In the early fall of 2012, CA-NV Chapter President John Winner received a phone call from Joe Garrotto, the present Carson Ranger District Archaeologist.

Garrotto explained that Liberty Power Company (who officially bought out Sierra Pacific Power Co. in 2011) was planning to replace a series of power poles in



*With OCTA permission, power company workers had to drop this tree between the two rocks that define the Trail. They did it perfectly with no damage to the trail and all debris was removed or chipped. (Photo by Frank Tortorich)*

the entire Carson River Canyon. He was requesting OCTA to work with Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., which was doing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) survey of the canyon.

Winner contacted me for assistance and we met with Albert Garner, an archaeologist for Far Western.

Then, Garrotto, who had not seen that half-mile segment near Snowshoe Thompson's cave, met with me to see that section of Trail on September 12, 2013.

Garrotto informed me that Liberty Power Company was going to replace about seven poles along that segment of Trail. Those new replacement poles near the Trail would be placed by helicopter and the holes would be hand dug.

*Continued on Page 17*



# Power Company

*Continued from Page 16*

On October 31, 2013, Garner contacted John Winner that Liberty Power was going to be cutting down and trimming trees near the Snowshoe Thomson cave. According to their US Forest Use Permit, they were required to have an archaeologist and some OCTA members present during this project to be sure no sensitive areas were disturbed by their work team.

OCTA member and retired forest hydrologist Larry Schmidt and I volunteered to be on site for the two days it would take to complete the work. As we monitored the work on November 11 and 12, 2013, we showed the supervisor for Liberty Power the areas needing protection, and shared trail history.

The tree work was completed in a day and a half with no impacts to the Trail.

Installation of the new poles is scheduled for the spring of 2014.

Our chapter and OCTA thanks Vegetation Manager of Liberty Power Jessica Drummond, Stu Wik, the tree crew supervisor, and the Liberty Power company for their cooperation.

Those also deserving of our respect and gratitude are Albert Garner and Lizzie Bennett, archaeologists with Far Western, and Joe Garrotto with the Carson Ranger District for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for keeping us informed.

Next spring when the replacement of those old power poles is scheduled likely there will be a renewed need for OCTA members to monitor that work.



*OCTA members installed seven interpretive signs in the Carson Pass and Hope Valley area this year, concluding a multi-year effort to better mark and interpret the area. (Photo by Dee Owens)*

## Historical Signs Dedicated

*By Mary Ann Tortorich*

Seven interpretive signs are in place at notable historic locations in the Carson Pass and Hope Valley areas, along California State Route 88 as a multi-year project concluded with a formal dedication last summer following installation of the last two signs at the El Dorado Irrigation District Caples Lake boat launching facility.

OCTA member Frank Tortorich worked closely with the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region, the Eldorado National Forest, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to bring this project to reality. Funding for the \$10,000 project came from the CA-NV Chapter of OCTA.

The NPS took the responsibility

for having the signs constructed, Tortorich provided the historical background for the text, and volunteers from the CA-NV Chapter provided the labor to install the seven signs. Also supporting the project were the U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest and Alpine County.

The Caples Lake boat launching facility, completed in June of 2010, was constructed in cooperation with and with grant monies provided by the Eldorado National Forest - \$280,000; the EID - \$610,000; and California Department of Boating and Waterways - \$1.6 million.

A publication will be produced directing the public to the each of the signs and will be available at the local visitor and recreation sites.



# NEWS FROM CROSSROADS

## Chapter Stays Busy with Tours, Work, and Programs

*By A. Oscar Olson*

We have had a busy year here at Crossroads. Things are slowing a bit as winter approaches. However, we recently held our last membership meeting of the year and re-elected our officers. Historian Michael Landon gave a great talk about cattle and we also gave out 17 awards for this year, discussed accomplishments, and in general, had a great time socializing.

At an earlier event, Steven Heath spoke about the Spanish Trails in Utah.

Last year we had three great field trips in May, the Spanish Trail/1881 R.R. Grade in central Utah, a joint trip with the Idaho Chapter on part of the Hudspeth cut-off, and in October we met with a group of Old Spanish Trail Association supporters from Southern Utah for a look at more of the Spanish Trail in that area.

We have had several good work parties to include four trips to mark the Central Overland Trail with Jesse Petersen in Utah (22 T-Rail markers set). It was a huge accomplishment after years of planning. We had a volunteer day with BLM/NPS to place informational signage at Horseshoe Springs in historic Skull Valley (Tooele County). Also work has been done at Donner Springs in west Utah.

In June, Vice President Terry Welch got a group of LDS church youth to descend on Donner



*Members of the Crossroads work group included, from left, Ed Otto, Bryce Billings, Jeff Pashley, Vic Heath, Ray Kelsey, Craig Fuller, and Jesse Peterson. Not shown are Terry Welsh and Gar Elison. (Photo by A. Oscar Olson)*

Springs and did a magnificent job of re-oiling the fence. It still looks good. He also went out with a small party to see what can be done to control invasive weeds at the springs. New owners at the TL Bar Ranch (Tanners and Christiansens) are optimistic we can keep our good relations with the Donner Springs site, a paramount objective with Crossroads. They are committed to help our projects.

It appears the Mesa Bounty Potash, Canadian strip mining of the Pilot Peak Playa is over for now. We appreciate all of the

support from so many including Crossroads President Gar Elison, Preservation Officer T. Michael Smith, Chapter Public Relations Chair Linda Turner, Utah historian and author Will Bagley (who wrote an exceptional letter/document), OCTA National with Travis Boley and John Krizek, BLM - Ray Kelsey, Rob Sweeten, and Steven Bonar, and of course Roy Tea who wrote "The Final 10 Miles to Donner Spring." Roy's book with diary quotes helps newcomers understand the heart wrenching 1846 American history of this delicate, pristine area.



## Idaho Tours Introduce Trail to New People

*By Jerry Eichhorst  
Idaho Chapter President*

Community Education classes on the byway and North Alternate Oregon Trail will be held in mid-March in Boise and a spring meeting is being planned for Saturday, May 3, in Pocatello. Lyle Lambert will lead a tour of Oregon Trail sites west of Pocatello after the meeting. Plans are also being developed for a tour of the Oregon Trail from Vale to Farewell Bend in eastern Oregon in conjunction with the Northwest chapter.

The Idaho chapter had another good year in 2013. Boise Community Education classes and a tour of the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway in April in conjunction with the BLM's "Get Outdoors" program introduced many guests to the Oregon Trail in southwest Idaho. Chapter outings included a spring meeting in Burley with a tour of the Milner Recreation Area and Caldron Linn, a tour of the South Alternate Oregon Trail, a tour of Pierre's Hole and early fur trapper sites in eastern Idaho, a tour of the Hudspeth Cutoff with the Utah Crossroads chapter, and the fall meeting in Boise. Attendance was excellent at all activities with many new members participating. We experienced many new sites not previously or recently visited by the chapter. My thanks to all who helped arrange and lead these

outings. All were very interesting! A pictorial summary of the year can be seen on the chapter website at [www.IdahoOCTA.org](http://www.IdahoOCTA.org).

Over 20 people attended the fall meeting held at the Kopper Kitchen restaurant in Boise on Saturday, October 5. Elections were held with the following people elected: President, Jerry

Eichhorst; Vice-President East, Doug Jenson; Vice-President West, Suzi Pengilly; Treasurer, Bill Wilson; Secretary, John Briggs; Director, Dan Dunne; and Director, John Briggs (to complete Jim Payne's term)

My thanks to all who have volunteered to help serve the chapter.

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NEWS FROM

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## TRAILS HEAD

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### New Officers Selected

*By Dick Nelson  
Chapter President*

The Trails Head Chapter annual meeting took place Nov. 16 at The Trailside Center in Kansas City, MO. Election of officers for the upcoming year was part of the proceedings and the following were elected. Dick Nelson, President, Sandra Wiechert, Vice-President, Mary Conrad, Secretary and Arnold Cole, Treasurer.

Planning sessions will take place beginning in early 2014 to set an

agenda for the new year. One of the major events that will be on the chapter agenda is participation in the symposium in conjunction with the OCTA Mid-Year Board meeting, which will be held in March in Independence. This will include all the local trail associations in the Kansas City metro area. Planning is well underway and should be a great opportunity to partner with other local groups to further progress on initiatives at this end of the Trail.

### NPS Launches Online Exhibits about Santa Fe Trail

Several new online trail exhibits about the Santa Fe National Historic Trail have been added to the National Park Service website. Sites in Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico are featured, and some have connections to the Oregon and California Trails.

Among the sites included are McCoy Park in Independence,

MO, as well as Minor Park and the New Santa Fe Cemetery sites in Kansas City. Also included are sites in Kansas such as Strang Park and Sapling Grove in Overland Park.

Bent's Old Fort is one of the sites featured in Colorado showing wayside signs that have been put in place there by Boy Scouts.



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