

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

Fall 2016

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Left to right, Rosemary Devinney, Leo Ariwite and Darrell Shay from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe spoke at the Fort Hall convention's keynote session.



Leo Ariwite speaks to OCTA members at the monument marking the location of the original Fort Hall location.



Randy'L He-dow Teton, a Shoshone Fort Hall native who was the face of Sacagawea on the U.S. dollar coin first issued in 2000. Today she is the Tribe's Public Affairs Manager.

A Native American View of the Trails

Attendees at OCTA's 34th Annual Convention held at Fort Hall, Idaho heard a somewhat different view of the trails from those who were there *before* the arrival of emigrant wagons and settlers — the Native Americans.

In addition to offering a warm welcome and week-long hospitality to convention attendees, members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe shared with OCTA members the sometimes devastating impact of emigration on tribal cultures and the efforts they are making to keep that culture alive in their communities.

"We are still fighting to regain some of our land that was legally stolen from us," said Darrell Shay, Director of the Language and Cultural Preservation Department for the Tribe. "We are trying to educate people about that."

Once as large as 1.2 million acres, the Fort Hall Reservation today encompasses 546,500 acres due to a number of forced and semi-voluntary cessations in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Shay took part in an opening keynote session with Rosemary Devinney, Manager of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum, and Leo Ariwite, the Tribe's Language & Cultural Preservation Liaison, that explored the impact of the coming of the whites on Native American life.

"The [Lewis & Clark] Corps of Discovery was the beginning of the end and the start of a lot of broken promises," said Ariwite. "My people lost a lot."

Devinney, who noted the now-combined tribes once roamed territory from Canada to Mexico, said the Tribe is working to preserve its language and culture, with a special emphasis on teaching heritage topics in elementary schools on the Fort Hall Reservation.

About 300 OCTA members attended the Convention, held August 1-5. Along with a wide variety of speakers on topics ranging from Goodale's Cut-off and the Lander Road to Fort Hall trading records and Southeastern Idaho trail diaries, convention-goers had an opportunity to see such well-known trail landmarks as Soda Springs, Massacre Rocks, Pierre's Hole and both the original Fort Hall site and the Fort Hall Replica in Pocatello.

Inside:

- OCTA's Bill Watson Passes
- Scenes From Fort Hall

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 2016 OCTA National Convention is history and the first order of business is to give a special thanks to the Idaho Chapter, Convention Chairman John Briggs, Chapter President Jerry Eichhorst and all the volunteers that made the 2016 convention a huge success.

Besides being in great locations, OCTA National Conventions are rich with local history, have excellent speakers, great tours, book rooms and authors, awards and auctions. And... the gathering of friends and the comradery that abounds is priceless. Make plans for Council Bluffs, Iowa in 2017, Ogden, Utah in 2018 and Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2019.

Most of our membership is keenly aware of the fact that preservation of the emigrant trails is one of the primary goals of OCTA. While the "Rut Nuts" of this organization strive to locate, class and map trails so that they can be preserved, much of society doesn't have a clue about the legacy of the mid-nineteenth century expansion westward.

As part of its centennial celebration the National Park Service has embarked on an effort to reach out to urban communities to draw the attention of all ages to the historic importance of the National Historic Trails. This is clearly evident in the Kansas City area where the Three Trails Corridor Project is well under way.

The corridor will include 47 miles of auto tour and hiking and biking from the Missouri River in the town of Sugar Creek, Missouri to Gardner, Kansas where the Santa Fe Trail separated from the Oregon and California Trails.

The NPS is in the process of placing directional signs that will guide the motorist, biker and hiker to follow the trail corridor. This has attracted the recreational enthusiast of multiple generations who are being exposed to a part of history.

While some of us "purists" are out looking for "swales" or "ruts" and want to get out and dink in the dirt, there is no doubt that providing an opportunity for multiple generations to be exposed to trail history through recreational use has to help public awareness of the trails. Already, discussion is underway in other urban communities along the trails to follow suit, a priority of the NPS.

The question is how to best capitalize on this.

As most of you are aware, a portion of OCTA's income comes from the National Park Service through a Cooperative Agreement. Although these funds are restricted for certain functions, some of our programs wouldn't happen without their help. The reporting of your volunteer hours is a major contributing factor for NPS funds. Other sources of income are from dues, conventions, symposiums, small grants and the generosity of our faithful membership.

While we extend our heartfelt thanks, the cost of doing business is ever increasing. Each year new challenges surface as we work to fulfill OCTA's mission. This coming year we are making an effort to expand our fundraising through grants and solicitation of sponsors for various projects. In the meantime your generosity keeps the organization solvent. Keep us in mind for legacy giving, book collections and anything else that may help us "Save the Trails." Again Thanks.

More to come.....

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P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

Phone: (816) 252-2276
Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

OCTA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

Bill Martin, Editor
706 Country Club Road
Georgetown TX 78628
(512) 818-1609
nfpocta@gmail.com

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Send Materials to
nfpocta@gmail.com

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Cecilia Bell, Silver City NM
ceciliajb@aol.com

Ginny Dissette, Brighton CO
vdissette@gmail.com

Duane Iles, Holton KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Jere Krakow, Albuquerque NM
jlkrakow@msn.com

Matt Mallinson, Sugar Creek MO
ms844@hotmail.com

Dick Nelson, Lenexa KS
kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net

Vern Osborne, Cheyenne WY
vcosborne58@gmail.com

Loren Pospisil, Gering NE
loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov

Bill Symms, Yachats OR
wsymms@peak.org

2016-2017 OCTA Officers

John Winner, *President*
Placerville CA
swinner@dataentree.com

Pat Traffas, *Vice President-
President-Elect*
Overland Park KS
ptraffas@opchapel.com

Sandra Wiechert, *Secretary*
Lawrence, KS
wiechert@ku.edu

Marvin Burke, *Treasurer*
Northglenn CO
mdburke@msn.com

John Krizek, *Past President*
Prescott AZ
Jkrizek33@gmail.com

Jere Krakow, *Preservation Officer*
Albuquerque NM
jlkrakow@msn.com

Additional Routes Feasibility Study Due By Year End

A feasibility study of routes proposed for addition to the National Historic Trails System (NHTS) is expected to be released by the end of 2016, the OCTA Board was told at its annual meeting in Fort Hall.

Lee Kreutzer, Chief of Cultural Resource Management for the National Park Service's National Trails Intermountain Region, said the study is expected to include three alternatives, including a "no action" alternative and two "action alternatives."

Initially, the NPS was asked to consider 78 possible routes to be included in the NHTS. The feasibility study is expected to include Alternative B, which identifies 24 routes consisting of 2,500 miles of trail, and Alternative C, which includes 35 routes and 5,000 new miles.

All of the routes in Alternative B are consistent with national trails as they currently exist, while Alternative C routes allow for some expansion of National Trails Act

criteria, Kreutzer said. The "no action" alternative is Alternative A.

Also at the Board meeting, Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the NPS Long Distance Trails office, said his office has completed a strategic management plan for the next five years.

Deputy Superintendent John Cannalla told the Board that the NPS has extended its cooperative agreement with OCTA through 2021, reflecting its "strong commitment" to the organization, and has agreed to a new one-year task agreement through September 2017.

The Park Service also reported that it has initiated development of an app for the Oregon National Historic Trail, which will include more than 50 sites on the trail, with text, audio, video, maps and images designed to help the public follow the trail. The app is expected to be completed in 2018.

OCTA Board Approves \$292,450 Budget

The OCTA Board of Directors has approved a \$292,450 budget for fiscal 2016-2017, a reduction of nearly 10 percent from the current fiscal year. The action was taken during the Board's annual meeting at the Fort Hall Convention.

The budget for the fiscal year starting October 1, 2016, projects a loss of \$14,780, but makes provisions for withdrawals from OCTA endowment funds if necessary to cover deficits should they occur.

The biggest share of the endowment withdrawals would be \$10,850 from the Loomis Endowment Fund, which is earmarked for preservation purposes, for line items involving preservation, trail mapping and marking, and graves and sites.

The proposed budget compares with a \$323,525 budget for 2015-2016. The greatest reduction is \$24,830 in the level of support from the National Park System, which will be \$133,470 in the next fiscal year. OCTA revenues will be \$164,200, including \$73,000 from membership dues, \$24,000 projected from the 2017 convention and \$24,000 from the Annual Fund Drive.

The Board was told by OCTA's Investment Advisory Committee (IAC) that the balance in OCTA's three endowment funds – the Loomis Fund (designated for preservation), the Martin Fund (earmarked for legal matters) and the Heritage Fund (unrestricted) – was \$1,312,457 as of July 8, 2016, an increase of 3.15 percent since January 1.

The IAC also said it will continue to look at fund management options, including the possibility of self-management. A further report will be made at the Mid-Year Board meeting.

In other action, the Board elected not to take action on a proposal to create a geocaching program, following a report from Board member Bill Symms. Symms noted implementation of the program would require a significant commitment of time and resources, which the Board currently is not willing to make.

Also, OCTA President John Winner asked Chapter presidents to identify five projects they can accomplish in 2017 that are compatible with OCTA Strategic Plan and report back to the Board at its Mid-Year meeting.

The Board also:

Approved a new three-year contract for *Overland Journal* Editor Marlene Smith-Baranzini.

Tweaked existing bylaws to remove a provision that three directors shall be elected each year, replacing it with language requiring election of directors "sufficient to keep Board membership at nine."

Approved a policy to allow for Board of Directors election ballots to be destroyed after Board members are installed at the annual General Membership meeting held at the Annual Convention.

Smile and Help OCTA!

OCTA members can help preserve the trails while enjoying one of their favorite non-trails activities – online shopping!

OCTA is now part of the Amazon Smile program and each purchase made through Amazon will result in a 0.5 percent donation to OCTA's trails preservation efforts. For instance, for every \$100 you spend on Amazon, OCTA will receive 50 cents. When you consider the cumulative purchasing power of OCTA members that could add up to a significant benefit.



It's very easy to get started. If you have Amazon.com bookmarked on your computer, simply change the bookmark to smile.amazon.com. (If you haven't bookmarked Amazon, visit the Smile

webpage.) The first time you visit, you will be asked to designate the charity you wish to benefit. Following the instructions on the page, search for and designate Oregon-California Trails Association. Then, each time, you shop on Amazon, make sure you enter the online storefront through smile.amazon.com.

There is no additional cost and you will continue to pay the same great Amazon prices. All of your Amazon pre-sets, such as passwords, wish lists and Amazon Prime memberships, will be retained. There's nothing else for you to do. Amazon will track OCTA spending and cut a check for us on a quarterly basis.

It's an easy way to shop and benefit trails preservation at the same time.

Meanwhile, United Missouri Bank has discontinued its OCTA Affinity Credit Card Program. By now, you should have received a new card, but OCTA will no longer receive a portion of charges. Meanwhile, headquarters is looking at potential new sources for affinity cards so stay tuned.



New OCTA Board Members



Taking office as Directors of the Oregon-California Trails Association at the Fort Hall Convention were, Dick Nelson of Lenexa, Kansas, left, and Bill Symms of Yachats, Oregon, right, both re-elected to their second three-year terms, and new Board member Ginny Dissette of Brighton, Colorado.

Future OCTA Conventions



Dates have been set for the 35th Annual OCTA Convention, which will be held August 8-12 in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn on the Council Bluffs riverfront, just across from downtown Omaha. Rooms will also be available at the adjacent Hampton Inn

and Ameristar Casino. Meetings will be held throughout the Holiday Inn and Ameristar properties.

Convention organizers are working with the local Lewis & Clark chapter, the Western Historic Trails Center, the Union Pacific Railroad, the local Westerners chapter, LDS representatives and others. Mark your calendars now!

Meanwhile, tentative future convention sites include Ogden, Utah, in 2018; Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2019; and a yet-to-be determined Colorado/Wyoming location in 2020.

The OCTA Board of Directors will hold its 2017 Mid-Year meeting and symposium in Vancouver, Oregon, March 30-April 2.

OCTA Past President Bill Watson Passes at 89

Former OCTA President Bill Watson, who with his late wife Jeanne earned near legendary status as advocates for OCTA and the Partnership for the National Trails System on behalf of the National Historic Trails, died in Orinda, California on Saturday, August 10, at the age of 89.

Bill has just returned from attending the OCTA National Convention at Fort Hall, where “he had a wonderful time that week catching up with all his friends,” according to daughter-in-law Barb Watson, who accompanied him.

Bill served as OCTA’s National President from 1989 to 1991, then on the Board of Directors until 1994. He and Jeanne served for more than three decades as co-chairs of the Legislative Liaison Committee, traveling to Washington, D.C. to work on trails issues. Jeanne passed away in September 2015.

Bill and Jeanne were instrumental in getting the National Trails System authorized by Congress and continued to work on expansion of the system right up until his death. For 31 years, Bill advocated for the trails system and provided Congress with a progress report summarizing how volunteer efforts were helping preserve America’s trails heritage. He and Jeanne received OCTA’s Meritorious Achievement Award and the Department of Interior’s “Take Pride in America Award”.

“It was always a special treat when Bill and Jeanne came by to visit,” said Nebraska Congressman Alan Feyerherm, who met with them frequently. “They were always so cheerful and enthusiastic about the trails and life in general. Bill and Jeanne both left such a positive legacy.”

“Bill and Jeanne worked as a brilliant team and now they are reunited,” said Vern and Carol Osborne, who served six years with the Watsons on the Legislative Liaison Committee. “When OCTA members consider the many hours, miles and their dedication on behalf of OCTA, words are inadequate to describe our thanks and gratitude. Bill will be sorely missed.”

Bill was born in Berkeley, California, graduated from Berkeley HS and then joined the Navy serving on the USS Raymond W. Herndon during World War II. After the war, he graduated from Bethany College, where his father and grandfather had graduated.

After college, Bill worked for W.R. Grace, which included a short stint in Central America. After returning



Bill Watson, center, visits with Dave Vixie and Priscilla Vanderpas while at the Fort Hall Convention. —Photo by Roger Blair

to California he joined Pacific Bell, where he started work in their Traffic Department, first in the Salinas office, then Bakersfield, Sacramento, and eventually in their San Francisco headquarters. In 1972, Bill accepted an assignment to teach at the Bell System’s Center for Technical Education in Lisle IL. In 1975, he accepted a special position in Industry Relations working in AT&T’s Manhattan office, where he continued to work on the divestiture and special projects until his retirement. In 1998, Bill and Jeanne returned to California, where he pursued an interest in genealogy, continued to share his love of the trails and fishing with his family,

While working in Salinas, Bill met and married the love of his life, Jeanne Marie Hamilton, who was working as a reporter for a newspaper in nearby Watsonville. It was Jeanne’s love of the Sierra, specifically the Silver Lake area, that led them to explore the local history and eventually to volunteer with the United States Forest Service “Adopt-A-Trail” program, where they worked to preserve a segment of the Carson route of the California Emigrant Trail. This effort eventually led them to OCTA.

Bill was preceded in death by his wife Jeanne and oldest son Bruce and is survived by Ginnie (Hal) Mathews and Jim (Barb) Watson; and grandsons Hunter Mathews, Kyle Watson, and Cole Watson. Donations in Bill’s memory may be made to OCTA, the Partnership for the National Trails System, or Bethany College.

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



Eighteen months ago, OCTA launched its newest website, www.octa-journals.org. For the first time ever, people the world over had automated electronic access to over 100 overland trail diaries that were originally collected by Merrill J. Mattes, longtime superintendent at Scotts Bluff National Monument and one of the founders of OCTA. In addition, we included an additional 42 documents that are part of the Cave Spring collection in Raytown, Missouri. There are also links back to OCTA's educational and membership areas on our main website at www.octa-trails.org. Finally, we included the interactive trail map developed by our friends with the Long Distance Trails Office of the National Park Service. It was with this original website that the Independence (MO) School District reinvented its entire 8th grade social studies curriculum, and all 1,000 students who attend 8th grade in Independence now utilize actual trail diaries instead of text books to learn about Westward Expansion.

We also added some bells and whistles for our members, including PDFs of every single issue of OCTA's *Overland Journal* dating back to 1983. We also included a link our sister website at www.paper-trail.org, which allows members to access an index to each diary we have posted online thus far (as well as thousands of others we have not yet digitized). It was our hope that these assets would also attract new members who wanted extra access to these resources, and sure enough, people have become members as a direct result of finding our Journals website.

But after a year of evaluation, we thought of more things we could add and decided to also do some site reorganization as part of that process. First and foremost, we are actively adding hundreds of more diaries to the Mattes collection. We have now digitized everything that Mattes personally collected, and we have started digitizing diary transcripts donated by others. It is a lengthy and cumbersome process that involves scanning each page, saving them as a PDF, cropping them, assembling the pages in the correct order, and then finally going through several computing steps to bring the final document to your computer screen. Every week, dozens more diaries get added to our website. At the time of this writing in late summer 2016, we have 210 diaries available to the world and it is likely that number will be closer to 300 by the time you are reading this article.

You will also now find a complete transcript of the

1849 Benjamin R. Biddle (1808-1882) diary as well as transcripts from the Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection of 19th century newspapers that feature lengthy articles about trails from that time period (1835, 1838, 1848, and 1850). These came courtesy of Duncan S. Campbell, a modern-day researcher who recently discovered our website and offered up his own transcripts. We suspect many other such collections will come to us in this manner in the near future, which would allow us to build the world's most extensive collection of online trail diaries.

We didn't stop there, however. Every single issue of *News From the Plains* from 1982 to the present are now digitized and we are in the process of adding these to our password-protected portion of the website, bringing you yet another benefit of membership. We have also included the Independence School District Curriculum, complete with links to myriad other resources.

In December, the Independence School District will present a workshop at the National Council on Social Studies conference in Washington, DC, where they will present their curriculum and our website to thousands of attendees from all over the country. OCTA educational committee co-chairs Audrey Elder and Matt Mallinson will also be in attendance, available in the vendor area to talk with teachers and administrators about each of our websites and other resources in some detail. They will also be talking up joining our association, as membership brings you those added benefits and complete access to every issue of *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal* as well as access to our Paper Trail website.

The final addition in this website includes highlighted buttons that will allow people to easily become members or send in donations. In July, OCTA HQ received three emails from people stating that they joined us because they found this new website. People the world over appreciate the easy access they now have to such rich resources, and in many cases, they are willing to pay for it. Please share this information with your friends, family, school districts, historical organizations, and anyone else who might have an interest in our collections. The Journals website has quickly become a new gateway to the world for us, bringing OCTA an entirely new audience.



Scenes From the Fort Hall Convention



*Convention Photos Contributed by
Roger Blair, Bill Martin, Jerry
Eichhorst, Sandor Lau, Cecilia Bell
and Sue Loucks.*



EDUCATION OUTREACH

An 18-page Independence (MO) School District curriculum will soon be available on the OCTA-Journals.org website, making it available to teachers throughout the country for their use in the classroom.

The curriculum will be found by clicking on "Learning Resources" at the top of the page. Included will be links to topics referenced in the curriculum and about a dozen five-minute film clips from OCTA "In Pursuit of a Dream" movie about youth on the trail.

"The curriculum is adaptable to any region and any school district in the nation to include specific regional trails history," said Audrey Elder, co-chair with Matt Mallinson of the Education Outreach Committee.

The curriculum is based on OCTA's extensive on-line collection of Overland Trail journals and encourages students to create their own journals as part of the educational experience. More than 1,000 students in Independence used the curriculum during the last school year.

The Education Outreach Committee, as it works to establish a national presence for the curriculum, includes members from Missouri to the Pacific. Its goal is to assist educators who might want to incorporate the curriculum into local schools.

Together with Independence School District Social Studies Director Brian Schultz, Elder and Mallinson will be leading a journal curriculum workshop at the National Social Studies Conference December 2-4 in Washington, D.C. OCTA will have a booth at the conference.

"We have been discussing why there are not a million members knowing OCTA is such a beneficial organization, especially for educators," the committee said in its most recent report to the OCTA Board. "We must give them what they want within the scope of what we are, as well as speak to them in their language and upon the platforms of their communication."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 16 - Oregon Trail Run/Bike Race, Alcove Spring, Kansas.

November 5 - Idaho Chapter meeting, 11:15 a.m., Smoky Mountain Pizzeria Grill, 415 East Parkcenter Blvd, Boise, ID.

November 12 - Trails Head Chapter Annual Meeting, 10 a.m., Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO.

November 14-18 - Partnership for the National Trails System, National Scenic Trails Workshop, Pensacola, FL.

March 15-18, 2017 - Southern Trails Chapter Symposium, El Paso, TX.

March 31-April 2, 2017 - OCTA Spring Symposium and Board meeting, Vancouver, WA.

April 28-30, 2017 - CA-NV Chapter Spring Symposium, Grass Valley, CA.



OCTA's 2016 National Award Winners

Meritorious Achievement Awards



Gail Carbiener, left, and Bill Martin, right, both shown with OCTA President John Winner were presented with the Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Awards at the 2016 Convention at Fort Hall.

Gail Carbiener

Gail Carbiener of Bend, Oregon, a long-time member of the Northwest Chapter, was awarded the Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award at the 2016 Convention in Fort Hall. It is OCTA's highest individual award.

"Gail sets a marvelous example of a volunteer for national trails and in particular for the Oregon and California Trails," his nomination stated. "As a longtime volunteer with OCTA and with public land agencies on many, many projects, his work has been exemplary on behalf of identifying and protecting trail resources."

Most recently, he has been a leader on OCTA's effort to protect the trail from negative impacts by the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission (B2H) on the trail in Oregon. His efforts have been dedicated to OCTA's mission of preservation and countering the many threats to trail resources.

Bill Martin

Bill Martin of Georgetown, Texas, an OCTA Past President and current Editor of *News From The Plains*, received the Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award for 2016, OCTA's highest award, at the Fort Hall Convention.

The citation noted his "many years of outstanding achievements in leadership roles, including serving as President, *News From The Plains* Editor, Chair of the Publications Committee, and always being available to fill a needed leadership role or to rescue a stalled or failed project."

Martin guided development of OCTA's "official" trails map in 2005-6, established the Trails Legacy Society during his tenure as President, edited Andy Hammond's *The Look of the Elephant*, one of OCTA's best-selling publications, and revised OCTA's current Convention Manual, among other activities.

Save the Trail

McNabney Volunteer Award

Jesse and Nancy Petersen of Tooele, Utah, John Murphy of Canon City, Colorado, and Victor Heath of Sandy, Utah, were presented with the Elaine McNabney Volunteer Awards at the 2016 OCTA Convention at Fort Hall.

The Petersens have been long-time Utah Crossroads Chapter volunteers, starting with tours of the Hastings Cutoff in 1994. "Jesse and Nancy Petersen are still one of our most faithful supporters," the nomination document said.

Jesse and Nancy have led many tours and field trips throughout Utah and Jesse is the author of *A Route For the Overland Stage: James H. Simpson's 1859 Trail Across the Great Basin* published by the University of Utah Press.

On almost every tour, "Jesse took his dear wife Nancy along, taking in stride the added challenges her wheel chair presented, and in many ways other ways always providing a sterling example of a gentleman's behavior," the nomination noted.

He also edited a collection of emigrant diaries who followed the Central Overland 'Stage' Trail from Utah to California. This book was published by the University of Oklahoma Press as part of the Arthur H. Clark's "American Trails Series."

In 2012, Jesse accepted a Trail Coordinator leadership position in Crossroads and became the leader of the Crossroads T-Rail Post Marker project leading four work parties and placing 22 railposts on the Central Overland Trail in 2013. Then in 2015 he took his team on three work parties and installed more rail posts on the Central Overland Trail, the California Trail/Hastings Cutoff and the Salt Lake Cutoff.

His article on Government Springs published in the *Overland Journal* in 2013 won the coveted Merrill Mattes Award for excellence.

Murphy, who could not be present to accept his award, was recognized for his effort to map the National Historic Trails in Wyoming. Over the past 10 years John has personally mapped over 90 miles of trails in Wyoming. This was accomplished following guidelines and using specialized equipment provided by the National Park Service. John's mapping was fully compliant with the procedures set forth by OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails Manual.

"John's field work was a one-man effort achieved by walking each segment of the trails," his nomination noted. "He often camped in remote locations as part of his multi-day efforts. While the trails in Wyoming are relatively well-known, no one has mapped them in the comprehensive manner used by John. During the latter years of John's field work, he encountered health issues, but this did not deter him from his task."



Jesse Petersen, right, and his wife, Nancy, with OCTA Awards Chair Dick Nelson

Heath, who also was unable to attend, was recognized for his work not only in the Crossroads Chapter, but also trails in Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho and California.

"Victor's dedication and energy inspires many of us who wish we were as physically strong, as skilled in the crafts, and as eager to undertake the hard physical work," his nomination stated. "Victor had some kind of contact with all of the new Utah area steel T-maker railposts on the Central Overland Trail -- if they were not wholly cleaned and scrapped, cut, welded, painted, plaqued, and buffed by him."

Crossroads estimates that in the past three years he has helped create and install about 40 markers during nine work parties around Utah, from Salt Lake City as far north as the Raft River, as far south as central Utah, and as far west as the Nevada border.

"Every trail advocate has benefited from the Victor's years of volunteered time, skills, and financial support," the nomination noted.

More Awards On Next Two Pages

Awards Pictures by Roger Blair

Friend of the Trail Awards



*Friend of the Trail Award winners
Nick and Betty Nettleton.*

Nettletons, DeMale

Idaho ranchers Nick and Betty Nettleton and Steve DeMale received OCTA's prestigious Friend of the Trail Awards at the Fort Hall Convention.

The Nettletons own a large cattle ranch east of Mountain Home. Their house sits on the main Oregon Trail while the North Alternate Oregon Trail runs through their property as well. They are excellent stewards of the land and the trail routes which cross it.

They have fully supported all investigations of a mass burial site on their property, participating in cadaver dog searches and multiple-day ground penetrating radar scans. In addition, they have

cared for a mass grave site just off their property for many years.

Steve DeMale, left, who could not attend the convention, owns a large cattle ranch along the foothills between Mountain Home and Boise, including several miles of the main Oregon Trail and Goodale's Cutoff.

A prime feature on DeMale's ranch is Ditto Creek Inscription Rock, a granite pinnacle where the two



Dave Welch Preservation Award



Preservation Award Winner Bill Symms with award namesake Dave Welch, left, and OCTA National Preservation Officer Jere Krakow.

Bill Symms

Bill Symms of Yachats, Oregon, received the David Welch Preservation Award for 2016 at the Fort Hall Convention.

In addition to service on the OCTA National Board, he has served as Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer. He serves on the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and he long has been active in preservation of Oregon Trail resources, donating countless hours to preservation efforts.

Billy has attended numerous statewide meetings for specific projects conducted under trail preservation law and policy. The diligent efforts he has made have notably involved the Boardman-to-Hemingway Transmission line (B2H), whose proposed routes have the potential to negatively impact extensive miles of the Oregon Trail from western Idaho and in Oregon.

Along with other Northwest Chapter members, Billy has attended many, many meetings and has reviewed and made comments on the B2H project for several years, as the project continues to threaten trail resources. He has written many responses to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

routes come together, which has many emigrant names written in axle grease.

Although clearly posted as private property and a mile off the main road, Steve has always allowed access to the site. He has been supportive in the search for a possible massacre site in the same area, often going along on exploration outings.

Mattes Award Winners



Dixon Ford, left, and Lee Kreutzer, right, shown with OCTA Publications Chair Bill Hill, were awarded the Merrill Mattes Award for outstanding Overland Journal writing for their article "Oxen, Engines of the Overland Emigration," which appeared in the Spring 2015 issue of the OJ.

Young OCTAn Awards

Two Boy Scout troops from Marysville, Kansas, were presented with Young OCTAn Awards for their work in helping the Alcove Spring preservation efforts.

Trail Life USA Troop 0007 has worked with the Alcove Spring Preservation Association for over 10 years. They have camped at the park on a regular basis for years, using the site for learning all-weather camping using natural materials for shelters, learning primitive pioneer skills, trail and Indian lore among their many other projects. They carved out a beautiful trail along a stream and maintain it.

Along the trail near the original homestead, they have built one bridge and have another one across the nearby stream under construction. They set up a campsite and were part of putting on the 2015 Orchestra on the Oregon Trail.

Trail Life USA has been a valuable partner of the Alcove Spring organizations and make possible beautiful trails that might be otherwise impossible and assist in making our events more meaningful.

Boy Scout Troop 180 has been a partner of Alcove Spring in excess of 15 years, working with several generations of scouts. Over the years, they have camped there many times a year, taking pride of ownership in the park. It has been a site that provides a perfect setting to work on a variety of merit badges. They have developed and maintained a section of trail that is nearly one-fourth mile long.

Six Named to OCTA's ETHoF

Two individuals and two couples have been voted into OCTA's Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame. They are **Paul and Mary Henderson, Minnie Howard, John McLoughlin** and **Marcus and Narcissa Whitman**. (See profiles of inductees on page 14.)

They join individuals who were elected to the Hall of Fame's inaugural class in 2015: Howard Driggs, Ezra Meeker, Gregory Franzwa, Merrill Mattes and William Henry Jackson.

In addition, 10 men have been nominated as possible inductees for 2017, with final selections to be announced at the OCTA Annual Convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa. They are Merle Wells, Aubrey Haines, Bernard DeVoto, Walter Meacham, Jesse Applegate, John Unruh, John C. Freemont, Dale Morgan, John Ellenbecker and Robert Stuart.

The Emigrant Trails Hall of Fame was established to honor those whose work formed the foundation of preservation upon which OCTA is based. There are six categories for selection, including Preservationist, Trail Pioneer, Author, Philanthropist, Public Official and Executive.

Potential nominees are evaluated annually by a committee composed of three OCTA past presidents (currently Dave Welch (chair), Roger Blair and Bill Martin) and two members appointed by OCTA's President (currently Camille Bradford and Robert Clark). A successful candidate must receive at least 60 percent of the votes cast. Living persons are not eligible for election.

For questions or additional information, send an email to ETHoF1846@gmail.com or visit the OCTA's website: www.octa-trails.org/learn/emigrant-trails-hall-of-fame

In 2015, one of their members began work on a permanent toilet facility near the campground as his major Eagle Scout project.

In April, 2016 the troop held a three-day camporee at the park, using many parts of the park as training sites. Goals of the camporee were to fulfill requirements for the Historic Trails Award. As part of the project, they learned about the trail and the visit of the Donner Reed Party at Alcove Spring from Alcove reenactor, Laura Musil, portraying Eliza Donner. Completing the requirement, performing a work project, the scouts cleared and opened a new section of trail that is over one-fourth mile long. The camporee had nearly one hundred scouts in attendance from ten different troops in two states.

2016 Emigrant Trail Hall of Fame Inductees

Paul & Mary Henderson



Paul and Helen Henderson are considered by many to be the Deans of Oregon Trail scholars. The legendary Merrill Mattes called Paul "the spiritual forebear of OCTA, Oregon Trail scholars

and preservation advocates." The Hendersons worked as a team for more than a half century to research, document and map the Trail and other western history sites. Largely because of their efforts, trail locations such as Ft. Phil Kearney, Fort Fetterman, Fort Bridger, Scotts Bluff National Monument and Fort Laramie will be protected for all time. Over the years, numerous trail scholars relied on the Henderson's knowledge base, including planners who worked on adding the Oregon Trail to the National Historic Trails System. Their papers were donated to the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, Nebraska, where researchers can study the hundreds of boxes containing nearly 375 diaries, letters, and journals, more than 10,000 slides and 1,000s of photos, clippings, correspondence, and numerous topographic, GLO, and personally drafted maps.

Dr. John McLoughlin



When the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Vancouver in the Pacific Northwest, Dr. John McLoughlin was established as the Chief Factor. Under his leadership, more than 20 fur gathering posts were built for trappers and their families. Despite opposition from the Company, McLoughlin

provided 1840s emigrants with supplies from the Fort's warehouses. Numerous trail diaries indicate that McLoughlin saved the lives of many American pioneers. After being forced to retired from HBC, McLoughlin build a large house in Oregon City, a community he had platted in the early 1840s. Today, he has officially been designated the "Father of Oregon" and his statue has been placed in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. Schools, streets, neighborhoods, and even a mountain are named for him in Oregon, acknowledging his role in saving many pioneers and helping create the Oregon Territory.

Minnie Howard

Minnie Frances Hayden Howard began her career as a school teacher in Kansas. After she and her husband obtained medical degrees, they moved to Pocatello, Idaho



in 1902. She became interested in the history of Fort Hall after Ezra Meeker's trek across the Oregon Trail brought him through Pocatello in 1907. A leader in the Fort Hall Memorial Association, she wrote extensively about its history. Dr. Howard was also active in the Nathaniel Wyeth Chapter of

Daughters of the American Revolution, was a Regional Director of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association and a leader in a number of other historical and civic organizations. In 1916, Dr. Howard and her husband were in the group with Ezra Meeker that placed the first marker at the original site of old Fort Hall. In the 1920s she worked closely with Meeker in the movement that led to the issuance of the Oregon Trail Memorial half-dollars, authorized by Congress in 1926. Her papers are archived in the Special Collections Library at Idaho State University

Marcus & Narcissa Whitman



After their marriage in 1836, Marcus and Narcissa Prentiss Whitman crossed the plains to establish a mission near today's Walla Walla, Washington.

Prior to their marriage, Narcissa, a teacher, had wanted to travel west as a missionary, but single women were forbidden to do so at that time. Narcissa's much publicized journey and many letters helped open the way for other women to migrate west in later years. The Whitman mission was established in the Cayuse Indian territory and became an important stop on the Oregon Trail. Marcus, who was a doctor, farmed, ministered and provided medical care, while Narcissa established a school for Native American children. In 1843, Marcus helped lead one of the first large parties of wagons over the trail from Fort Hall, Idaho, helping establish a viable route for emigrant families. After the Indians blamed a disastrous 1847 measles outbreak on the Whitman, the Cayuse killed Marcus and Narcissa and a dozen other settlers, leading to the Cayuse War. The site of the former mission is now preserved as the Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

CA-NV Chapter officers for the 2016-2017 year were installed at the National Convention in Fort Hall. They include President Dick Waugh, Vice President Mark Wilson, Immediate Past President John Winner, Secretary Kathy Koester and Treasurer Phyllis Smith, along with Board members Steve Knight, Steve Shaw, Howdy Hoover and Ken Johnson. John Winner will continue as the CA-NV Chapter Preservation Officer for the immediate future.

Also at the convention meeting, the chapter allocated funds to replace a damaged display stand at Caples Lake on the Carson Trail. Last winter's snows caused the legs of a display panel to buckle. Frank Tortorich is leading the project to replace the damaged display.

The Chapter's Spring Symposium is being planned for April 28-30 in Grass Valley, CA.

The fund drive for the donation to the Western Emigrant Trails Library at the Elko Trail Center has been a success, raising \$5000 which was presented at the National Convention general membership meeting at Ft. Hall. My thanks and sincere appreciation to all who made the donation possible!

OCTA National President John Winner challenged the 11 chapters to come up with five chapter projects that they could complete before the OCTA National Mid-Year meeting scheduled for March 30, 31, April 1 and 2, 2017 in Vancouver, Washington.

Projects could be anything to promote OCTA's Mission and/or Goals and meet OCTA's Mission to "Protect the



Helen Hankins of the California Heritage Trail Alliance (formerly the Elko Trail Center Foundation) with a \$5,000 check presented by OCTA National President John Winner and CA-NV Chapter President Mark Wilson.
—Photo by Bill Martin

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." I have a couple of ideas in mind and am looking for others to come up with some innovative activities.

Let me know at camolobo@comcast.net

See you on the trails!

- Dick Waugh

KANZA

The National Park Service is working with local leaders in the Topeka, Kansas area to transform 41 acres on the Kansas River into a park marking the landing site of Pappan's Ferry.

The location was an important link on the Oregon and California Trails. The proposed park will include historic educational and recreational activities.

More than 100 people attended a planning "charrette" (shown at right) August 22-26 to start the process. Landscape architects and interpretive specialists from the National Park Service participated, along with OCTA



members Ross Marshall, Travis Boley, Terry Hobbs, Mary Conrad, Pat Traffas, Sandra and Allen Wieckert, Carolyn Matthews, Duane Iles, and others.

NORTHWEST

This spring and early summer have been a busy time for NWOCTA. Henry Pittock led a June 11 marking outing along the Barlow Road. The group started at Oregon Lavender Farm in Oregon City to locate, map, and mark ruts that were suspected to be in the vicinity. Adjacent local landowners also invited the group to inspect portions of their properties and install markers where ruts were found. On one of these properties Jim Tompkins discovered a scar on a tree that was typical of those made by the rubbing of wagon wheel hubs. Traces of ruts were also found here. Five carsonite markers were placed in total for the day, and stickers denoting "private property" were put on the markers where appropriate.

On July 23-24 Gail Carbiener led a group of some twenty people marking four miles of the trail in the La Grande area from the Pelican Creek crossing to the Blue Mountain Crossing interpretive area near Meacham. As Jack Evans wrote in his book *Powerful Rocky* about this section of the trail – *The pioneers of 1843 was the first great emigration, a mobile community that included at least 1,000 people, 120 wagons and around 5,000 horses and cattle. The average wagon was drawn by three yoke of oxen – six animals. These people were the first settlers to attempt the Blue Mountain crossing in wagons. Nearly all of them arrived safely in the Willamette Valley, confounding the many prophets of doom who had sworn that all of them would die on the way.*

The Blue Mountains offer some of the finest ruts in Oregon and they have been previously marked. The purpose of this outing was to check the condition of the markers, GPS their locations and place American flag decals on them. On Saturday morning participants were shuttled to the creek crossing where all waded across. Lunch was on the trail. Out of this outing came a suggestion that members share their best trail stories. Paul Masee agreed to compile and distribute them. Gail is also continuing to keep the chapter informed about B2H transmission line issues as they impact the trail in Oregon.

Lethene Parks is coordinating the 2017 National Board Meeting and symposium that will highlight the Ft. Vancouver area. Lethene also informed the chapter of Rinker Buck's lecture and book signing held at Fort Vancouver on June 25. Mr. Buck donated 20 percent of the proceeds to the Friends of the Fort.

Glen Harrison has been working with an OHTC for a multimedia educational project for the Barlow Road. The grant was funded for \$4000. Some \$750 in matching funds are still needed.



Northwest Chapter members on the Blue Mountain hike in July.

— Photo by Gail Carbiener

We would also like to note the passing of our valued NWOCTA member Weldon Rau, author of *Surviving the Oregon Trail*. His obituary can be found at this link: <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Weldon-Rau&lc=6739&pid=180334317&mid=6969831>

The summer issue of *Northwest Trails*, NWOCTA's quarterly newsletter, published Dave Welch's account of his search for the Naches Trail routes from the base of the Blue Mountains to the Columbia River crossing at Fort Walla Walla. From 1841 to 1847 most Oregon Trail participants followed a route north from the Blue Mountains to or near the Whitman Mission before turning west to the Columbia River. In 1910 Ezra Meeker traveled this route on his second monument expedition, placing markers (galvanized pipes with an inscribed brass top) in the Oregon towns of Milton-Freewater, Weston, Athena, and Adams. Dave has been researching this route since 1996. His work is highly detailed. He and Meeker agree the route went through Adams. From this point opinions diverge, but let's just say Dave has made an excellent case for his route.

The Fall Picnic was scheduled for the DuPont-Steilacoom, Washington area on September 10-11. Steilacoom was one of the first American settlements on Puget Sound and it was the home of Ezra Meeker from 1853 to 1862. DuPont was the site of Fort Nisqually built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1833. Picnic were treated to a narration on the history of Fort Nisqually by Drew Crooks, undoubtedly a Northwest's expert on the topic. They also visited the site of the Wilkes Expedition Observatory and a 5,700-year-old Native American village site.

-- Dennis Larson

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

Greetings from Colorado!

Our Chapter had a field trip in June to visit the Signature Rock ruts in northern Colorado. The Overland Trail ruts are located near State Highway 287 and County Rd 80 and are on private property. We were able to walk about a half mile along them and explore teepee rings in the saddle of the hill. Wayne Sundberg and Sharon Danhauer planned this trip and provided excellent narrative along the way.

Upon leaving the ruts, we caravanned north a short distance north to Virginia Dale Station where we were treated to a very informative narrative by Wayne. Virginia Dale Station was a stage stop on the Overland Trail built in 1862 and it is slowly being restored at its original location. Our Chapter continues to support the renovation of such a historic structure.

Our field trip ended with a group lunch at the historic Forks Food and Fuel in Livermore.

Kent Van Wyk, Marvin B. Wolf and Rich Deisch have completed mapping five sections in Otero and Crowley



Chapter members in ruts near Signature Rock.

Counties and submitted their results to the National Park Service.

John Murphy was awarded the Distinguished Volunteer Award at the Fort Hall Convention. A special thanks to John for all of his effort in mapping many miles of trail.

- Mark Voth

GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter was planning an October 1 bus tour for members and non-members. A major goal is to introduce the Oregon-California Trails Association to new people. The tour was to begin at the Remington Nature Center next to the Missouri River in St. Joseph, then progress to Lexington, Missouri.

Lexington was founded in 1822 and in the 1840s freighters Russell, Majors and Waddell had headquarters on Main Street. During the 1850s many wagons left carrying goods to the West. The town was also the site of one of the largest Civil War battles on the western theater. The Gateway tour will have a guided tour of that site and the Anderson home which was used as a field hospital.

The next stop will be Independence. The first tour will be the Bingham Waggoner Mansion, built in 1864 on the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails. Swales are visible within walking distance of the Mansion. One of the owners of the house was artist George Caleb Bingham. The Waggoner milling family later owned the Mansion.

The group next planned to go to the National Frontier Trails Center for a tour and visit to the OCTA headquarters. Association Manager Travis Boley will join the group and lead a tour of the newly completed Kansas City trail corridor.

- Jackie Lewin

UTAH CROSSROADS

The 34th Annual OCTA Convention at Ft. Hall, Idaho, is history now. It was great to see so many old friends and discuss plans for OCTA's future. I understand there were over 300 people in attendance from 26 states, including 18 Crossroads members (not counting "crossover" members from other chapters).

The speakers that I heard on Tuesday (Jim Hardee, Will Bagley and Jerry Eichorst) were exceptional. It was a pleasure to hear from tribal members also. The facility was splendid. The achievement awards banquet was also great. We were proud that some of our Crossroads members received awards -- Jesse and Nancy Petersen, Lee Kreutzer and Dixon Ford. Victor Heath (who was not in attendance) received a volunteer award.

Thanks to all from the Idaho chapter who put the convention together. Ft. Hall is a logical place for a convention. There is not a trails book, journal or diary that does not mention Ft. Hall in trails history.

Our Crossroads fall social was held on September 9 at the Ft. Douglas Museum facility. Scheduled speakers included Craig Anderson from the Grantsville, Utah, who was to talk about trails history through the Tooele Valley/Grantsville, Utah, area.

Our fall field trip tentatively will be on the Bartleson-Bidwell Trail across northern Utah. Also coming is the November membership meeting. Plans will be discussed for our 2018 Ogden, Utah, convention site.

- A. Oscar Olson

IDAHO

Congratulations IOCTA!! What a great convention the chapter hosted at the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center in Fort Hall on August 1-5. Over 300 people from 26 states came to enjoy the speakers, participate in the tours, meals, ceremonies, and auctions. My original goal four years ago when the idea first started to gel in my mind was to have one of the best OCTA conventions of all time. I think we accomplished that goal!

My sincere thanks to all of the chapter members and other friends of the chapter who helped with the planning and execution of the convention. It could never have been done without the great leadership of John Briggs and the multitude of hard-working people he organized into a well-run group. By delegating the work of various areas to the group while maintaining oversight of the whole planning process, John capitalized on the talent of the group and utilized the skills of many people. From the speakers, tours, accommodations, book room, auction items, finances, sale items, registration materials, meals, ceremonies, Indian relations, BBQ, mountain men, etc., etc., etc., the hard work of planning was rewarded with a fantastic convention. *Thanks to all of you!!*

We gained a handful of new members from the convention. We also saw a few people who had been silent members of the chapter attend and have their interest sparked, so hopefully they will become active members. One of the greatest benefits from hosting this convention, however, is the bonding which has occurred within the chapter membership. Approximately 30



A few of the I-OCTA Chapter members at Fort Hall.

— Photo by Roger Blair

people worked hard this past year, striving for a common goal. Many were relatively new to IOCTA. Many had never been to an OCTA convention. Many only knew a few people in the chapter. But now we are all friends and looking forward to regular outings to renew those friendships.

I am looking forward to getting back into having trail outings every month as I firmly believe that having fun outings is a key to keeping an active chapter. The urge to go exploring is coming back already, so I am planning an outing on the California Trail from Goose Creek to Highway 93 on Saturday, October 8. I'm also trying to squeeze in a Boy Scout project this fall and possibly do some ground penetrating radar work at a suspected massacre site on Goodale's Cutoff. Then it will be time to recuperate through the winter and be ready to head back out on the trail in the spring.

Thanks again to everyone who helped with the convention. It would not have happened without your great work!

- Jerry Eichhorst

SOUTHERN TRAILS

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Southern Trail Symposium, scheduled for March 15-18 in El Paso, Texas. The theme will be "The Southern Trails Into and Out of the Pass of the North."

There will be a mapping workshop and tour visits will include San Elizario, Yselta, Socorro on the Mission Trail, Jornada del Muerto, Hueco Tanks and more, including a post symposium tour to Fort Davis.

If you are interested in presenting a paper on this theme, please contact Cecilia Bell ceciliajb@aol.com or Dave Miller dmiller1841@yahoo.com.

Southern Trails Chapter leader and OCTA National Board member Cecilia Bell was awarded the L. Bradford Prince Award for significant work in the field of historic preservation by the Historical Society of New Mexico.

The award cited in particular her "extraordinary work in the preservation and promotion of Fort Bayard, from the establishment of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society and the hosting of Fort Bayard Days, to conducting tours and maintaining a museum."



Cecilia Bell, right, with Janet Saliers, President of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

TRAILS HEAD

Trails Head Chapter along with the other local trail organizations, including the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trails Association and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, were hosts for the Partnership for the National Trails System biennial National Historic Trails Workshop in Independence, June 6-9, 2016. Attendees from across the nation, including some from Hawaii, gathered here under the theme *Trails Enhancing the Quality of Life* to learn about and see first-hand how the Kansas City area has developed "retracement" trails along the 40-mile-long 3- Trails Corridor from Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek, MO to Gardner Junction, KS.

We had 14 members from the Trails Head Chapter attend the 2016 Fort Hall Convention. Pat Traffas, OCTA National Vice President/President Elect; Sandra Wiechert, OCTA National Secretary; Ross & Shirley Marshall; OCTA Board Member Dick Nelson and his wife Ruby; Shirley Coupal; OCTA Board Member Matt Mallinson; Audrey Elder and her mother, Sandra Emrick; Kelly Breen, and our members from the furthest distance Jerry & Sue Peppers of Scarsdale, NY. During our brief Chapter meeting we congratulated Sue for attending her first convention. Another special acknowledgement and congratulations was given to Kelly Breen for becoming an OCTA Trails Legacy Society member. This is a very important and worthy donation to OCTA and the future of this trail organization; thank you Kelly for your most generous gift and being a Trails Head member.

"Fort Hall: Cultures and Changes" was most enjoyable, from the speakers to the tours. A lot of hard work and



Kelly Breen, left, with OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley, became the newest member of OCTA's Trails Legacy Society.

— Photo by Roger Blair

planning goes into these Conventions and the Idaho Chapter did a great job hosting this year's main event.

As we look forward to the rest of this year, Trails Head has challenges to meet.

During the Chapter Presidents lunch at Ft. Hall, OCTA President John Winner enlisted

our help to promote OCTA's Mission and Goals. We are to accomplish five projects that will involve our chapter

members and the communities we live in. At this time those projects are being considered by our Planning Committee. In the near future I will be reaching out to our membership for its help and support in getting these projects underway.

Our Annual Meeting is set for November 12, 2016 at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO from 10 a.m. to noon. Our hope is to see more of our membership attend this meeting. We want to give them an opportunity to become more active in their chapter, which in turn will give new life and direction for the future of Trails Head Chapter.

- Jean Coupal-Smith

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[www.octa-trails.org/preserve/
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Native American Market and Rendezvous — October 15–16, 2016

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FROM OCTA HEADQUARTERS

Thank You!

Thanks to many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

Lynne Alvord
Jacqueline Ball
Jim Barr
Jerry Bedell
Brad & Jennifer Bennett
Linda Berger
Gary Bjorge
Lee & Sandi Black
Margaret Bowen
Dr Bonnie Breen-Wagner
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Mark & Lynn Voth
Steve & Kathryn Hamilton Wang
Dick Waugh
Dave & Wendy Welch
Nelson S Weller
Joyce White
Max Williard
John Willmarth
John & Susie Winner

In addition, Memorial Gifts were received from:

Mary Bywater Cross (Barbara Magerl)
Hal & Sharon Manhart (Chuck Martin)
Joann Jackson (LeRoy P Jackson)
Leona & Donald Davis Fund (Richard Davis)

Welcome New Members

David Book, Reno NV
E Darleen Brown, Yucaipa CA
Don C Buehler, Malad ID
Clackamas Heritage Partners, Oregon City OR
Stephen Clark, Framingham MA
Gordon Cruikshank, Menlo Park CA
Kathleen DeJardin, Bearsville NY
Carol Doerr, Kirkland WA
J D "Sam" Drucker/BLM, Pinedale WY
Sean Dunnahoo, Portland OR
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Justin Thomas & Elizabeth LaRue Thomas, Puyallup WA
Jim & Barb Watson, San Rafael CA
Lisa Wenner, Williamsburg MA
John White, Urbana IL
David Wren, Greenwich NY



REMEMBRANCES



Weldon Rau

Longtime OCTA member, well-known Northwest Chapter member and author Weldon W. Rau has passed away at the age of 95 in Olympia, Washington.

A Tacoma native, he spent many years with the U.S. Geological Survey in Chehalis, WA, Portland, OR, and Menlo Park, CA before working for the State of Washington until his retirement in 1982.

He later authored *Surviving the Oregon Trail 1852*, a book about the overland journey of his great-grandparents Willis and Mary Ann Boatman, which was published by the Washington State University Press in 2001.

He was pre-deceased by his wife of 65 years, Jane, who died in 2010. He is survived by his son, Greg.

OCTA Members For Life

If you are an **Ezra Meeker Life Member** of OCTA, it is time to renew your chapter membership affiliations. For your convenience, you can renew your membership online by visiting OCTA-trails.org and click on the "Become a Member" section. You can also call headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

If you are not an Ezra Meeker Life Member, you can join at that level at any time. The cost is \$1,000, which can be spread over several regular payments. Call headquarters for more information.

Funds from Life memberships goes directly to OCTA Endowments, helping create a legacy of support for trails preservation and education.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Memorial and Tribute gifts are wonderful way to recognize the contributions of loved ones to the legacy of the trails.

Leave your own legacy on behalf of those whose lives were marked by dedication to our Western heritage.

Visit

Business Sponsorships

For just \$50 a year, you can become an OCTA business sponsor, a great way to connect your business to tourists following the trails.

Business sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276.

Current business sponsors include:

Heritage Inn Express, 1155 Pony Express Hwy, Marysville, KS

Little Hap's Bar and Grill, 211 2nd St, Home, KS

Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau, 2930 Old Oregon Trail Rd, Gering, NE

Wagon Wheel Café, 703 Broadway, Marysville, KS

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd, P O Box 96, Big Piney, WY
State Bank of Blue Rapids, PO Box 157, Blue Rapids, KS

Low Printing, 227-B East College St-LL, Independence, MO

First Commerce Bank, 902 Broadway, Marysville, KS

Weaver Hotel, 126 S Kansas, Waterville, KS

Track Your Volunteer Hours & Expenses

Volunteer hours and expenses accumulated by OCTA members are important assets for the organization in securing federal funding for preservation of the trails.

You can help OCTA by keeping track of your hours and expenses, including travel time and costs. A form is available on the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Volunteer hours for the year should be reported to OCTA Headquarters Manager Kathy Conway kconway@indepmo.org by January 15.



PUBLICATIONS



Copies of the 2017 OCTA Student Calendar – *Emigrant and Indian – Modes of Transportation* – are available through OCTA Headquarters for \$10 each.

Meanwhile,

planning is underway for the 2018 Calendar, with the theme of *Emigrant and Indian - Musical Instruments*. Information is available on the OCTA website at www.octa-trails.org. We continue to work to expand the number of participating school districts and hopefully recent contacts with different Indian groups/tribes will increase their participation.

The project is designed to increase interest in the trails in our younger children/students and to integrate learning history, culture and art. We ask that you please bring this project to the attention of your local school or district.

The drawing for a class set of any one of OCTA's educational activity books will be held during January of 2017. Information about this is also on OCTA's website. All a teacher has to do is send in a postcard to OCTA with their name, school, address, and the title and number of books needed. It is that simple. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to ask their teacher to participate.

Information about OCTA's Outstanding Educator Awards is also on the website. Applications and nominations close in the spring, but it would be wise to start the process now. If you have any questions you may also contact HQ.

-- Bill Hill, Publications Chair

FUNDRAISING

The Importance of Planning Ahead

The nice thing about OCTA folks is they love history and knowledge. They say history is written by the winners, so many times it really is slanted in our favor. We visited the Garibaldi Maritime Museum while in Oregon this summer and their old maps from 1787 and 1803 were worth reviewing. When I think of the Pioneer Trails across America, 1847 to the railroad completion in 1869 were the years that tend to be counted.

Since I grew up in the Portland, OR area, the Columbia River was part of our everyday lives. The fact that I lived in an area where Lewis and Clark passed through didn't really sink in as a child. I'd heard about the pioneers, but I was glad we weren't them! There was a lot about history I missed as a child because I lacked perspective of time.

Now that I've traveled the trails and taken time to gain perspective as well as knowledge, I'm more tolerant and share a greater understanding for the winners and losers. Time is a valuable teacher, and if you're lucky enough to live a long time, then you gain more knowledge through your experiences. We value the old folks, because they know some things! We need to be sure they share their knowledge and perspective with others who are passionate about where we came from, and where we are going.

America struggles right now, trying to decide who we are to become. We only need to look backwards to what was important to those that endured through the tough times. Maybe we have it too easy now, so no one wants to work hard or suffer through the tough spots.

Together, as OCTA, our voices are louder and clearer. Our mission to grow our organization and preserve the historic trails is dependent on our ability to reach out and educate others. It's important to save the trails so we have a reference point, but it's also important to share the stories of hardship and determination that made America the land of opportunity. Anyone could own land in America.

Planned giving is an opportunity to plan ahead and include OCTA and our mission statement in a legacy that will outlive us. Thank you for supporting the annual planned giving drives, and please consider including a small gift for OCTA in your estate plan.

To learn how easy that is visit OCTA's [Trails Legacy Society webpage](#). When you help "replace yourself" then others will pick up the ball and continue to run with it. Progress feels good, and OCTA and the National Parks Service are bringing awareness and reverence to another generation of Americans. You don't have to walk across America any more, but you still need to get out there and see it!

-- Melissa Shaw, CFP®, OCTA Fundraising Chair

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2017 OCTA Convention

August 8-12

Council Bluffs, Iowa



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
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- 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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