



## Trail News

### 20th Trail of Tears Association Conference to be Held in Missouri

The 20th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference and Symposium is set to take place October 6 – 8, 2015, at the Drury Lodge in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Hotel reservations include breakfast and a light supper for each day of stay. To make a reservation, call 1-800-325-0720 and ask for the Trail of Tears group rate of \$89.99 (plus tax).

Conference registration includes a field trip on Wednesday, lunch on Tuesday and Thursday, and a box lunch and a traditional Cherokee/Choctaw hog fry as part of the field trip on Wednesday. The price for a 2015 TOTA member is \$125. The price for a non-member is \$175 and includes a TOTA membership through 2016. Registration onsite goes up by \$100. (Find a registration form on page 9.)

Celebrated Cherokee orator Dennis Jay Hannah will deliver the keynote address on Tuesday, October 6.

Other presentations include: readings from Moravian missionaries' correspondence by Moravian archivist Richard Starbucks;

See TOTA CONFERENCE, page 3

### TOTA Staff and Members Take Part in PNTS Conference in Tennessee

by Deloris Wood

Trail of Tears Association members and Native Americans were very much a part of the 15th National Scenic and Historic

Trails Conference, hosted each year by the Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS), held June 27 to July 1, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee.

Deloris Gray Wood, TOTA Missouri chapter president and national board member, represented TOTA in the PNTS strategic planning and was a member of the PNTS conference planning committee.



photo courtesy of Deloris Wood

(L-R) Joy Montgomery, Deloris Wood, Alice Murphree, Anita Finger-Smith, Melba Checote-Eads, Ryan Spring, Steve Burns (kneeling), Cleata Townsend, Troy Wayne Poteete, and Aaron Mahr attend the PNTS conference this summer.

Because the Franklin area is in the Chickasaws' ancestral homelands, Kirk Perry of the Chickasaw Nation's Division of Historic Reservation, Culture, and Humanities Department gave the opening welcome. TOTA board member and

See PNTS, page 3

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## Cherokee Garden Dedicated at Green Meadows Preserve

Article and photos by Tony Harris

The Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows Preserve in Cobb County, Georgia, was dedicated on August 29. The garden was recently designated an interpretive site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Green Meadows Preserve is owned and operated by the Cobb County parks system. The garden features plants that the Cherokee used for medicine, food, shelter, tools, weapons, art, and ceremonial purposes. Fourteen Cobb County master gardeners spend one day a week expanding and maintaining the garden. In addition, members of the Georgia Native Plant Society help locate and bring these plants in from the wild. The garden also features a vegetable garden with heirloom plants the



Traditional vegetables the Cherokee used is part of the newly dedicated Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows Preserve in Georgia.



Signs from the National Park Service make the Cherokee Garden easily identifiable as a certified site along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Cherokee used. A future orchard is planned with fruit trees that were found in Cherokee orchards prior to the Trail of Tears.

Tony Harris, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the originator of the idea for the garden, said it is an interpretive site that tells the story of what the Cherokee had to give up after relying on these plants for survival for hundreds of years.

County and park officials were on hand for the dedication along with a large public attendance. Troy Wayne Poteete, executive director of the Trail of Tears Association, was the guest speaker during the ceremony. Everyone in attendance enjoyed touring the garden after the ceremony.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Grave Marking of Trail of Tears Survivor by the Oklahoma Chapter  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Location: Russell Cemetery, Oaks, OK

### SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Oklahoma Chapter Meeting  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: Helmerich Research Center at Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK  
Speaker: Brett Riggs, Ph.D.  
Open to the public

### OCTOBER 5, 2015

Sign Dedication of the Bettis Ford and Old Greenville Sites  
Time: 10:30 am  
Location: Greenville Recreation Area, US Route 67, Wappapello Lake, MO  
Reception and auto tour through Mark Twain National Forest to follow

### OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2015

20th Annual TOTA Conference  
Location: Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau, MO  
Registration fee applies (See p. 9)

### DECEMBER 5, 2015

North Carolina Chapter Meeting  
Time and Place TBA

### OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2016

21st Annual TOTA Conference  
Location: Northwest GA Trade and Convention Center, Dalton, GA

## TOTA Hosts Two-Day Chapter Capacity Building Workshop in June

Twenty members from North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, and Georgia gathered in Brentwood, Tennessee, for an intensive two-day workshop on June 19 and 20.

Meredith Benton of the Center for Nonprofit Management in Nashville led an all-day session focused on leadership, board development, meeting skills, and communications within the Association and with outside stakeholders.

Amy Kostine, coordinator and historian for the Trail of Tears Project at the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, hosted a reception at the Heritage Center of

Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, in historic downtown Murfreesboro. Workshop participants were given a very well narrated walking tour of the town square by Leigh Ann Gardner. The tour called attention to witness buildings and also included Civil War sites.

On day two Carol Clark, park ranger interpretive specialist from the National Trails Intermountain Regional Office, Santa Fe, facilitated a workshop on external communications and how the Trail of Tears Association presents itself to the public. The session included a detailed discussion of the creation of a media kit.



Carol Clark of the National Park Service's National Trails System Intermountain Region facilitates TOTA's June workshop on chapter capacity building.

Cherokee citizen Bethany Rosenblum was chosen as one of 24 PNTS trail apprentices.

Jon Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, gave the keynote address. His visual presentation showed over 50 National Park Service sites across the nation.

A workshop titled, "Working With Tribes and Engaging Native People to Help Make and Sustain Our Trails," was presented by Trail of Tears Association Executive Director and Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Justice Troy Wayne Poteete, TOTA North Carolina chapter board member Anita Finger-Smith, who also represented the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Melba Checote-Eads, and Ryan Spring, a cartographer from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Alice Murphree, president of TOTA's Kentucky chapter, and Cleata Townsend, a TOTA board member, also attended. Joy Montgomery, a Sam Houston scholar and a new TOTA member, declared, "This was a great opportunity to learn about trails."

Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, was honored with the PNTS Extraordinary Trail Partner Award. (See related article to left)

## Mahr Receives Award from PNTS at Conference

by Deloris Wood

The "Extraordinary Trail Partner Award" that Aaron Mahr Yáñez, superintendent of the National Park Service National Historic Trails, received at the recent Partnership for the National Trails System trail conference details what Aaron's colleagues and friends already know. Reba Grandrud, Old Spanish National Historic Trail, said it best: "he is remarkable in his successful oversight of not one but nine National Historic Trails, Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, and the 1930s iconic adobe Old Santa Fe Trail Building."

The award reads:

*In recognition of his years... as Superintendent of the NPS Intermountain Region National Trails System office, in personal availability, promoting public-private partnering, high standards for research and trail corridor planning, completing on the ground trail projects, strategic planning, and strong support for the Partnership.*

In addition to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, Aaron also oversees eight other National Historic Trails: California, El Caminon Real de Tierra Adentro, El Camino Real de los Tejas, Mormon Pioneer, Old Spanish (co-administered with Rob Sweeten of the Bureau of Land Management), Oregon, Pony Express, and Santa Fe.

Aaron was named historian at the National Trail System-Santa Fe office in 2000. He was named to the position he currently holds in 2007, which is the superintendent for the Intermountain Region of the National Trails System program, with offices in Salt Lake City and Santa Fe.

Aaron began his career with the NPS in Texas in 1990, working first at the Spanish Colonial Research Center in San Antonio, and in 1993 became the first historian and chief of resource management at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site in Brownsville. Mahr holds degrees in Spanish and Latin American studies from the University of New Mexico. Aaron and his wife Eva live in Albuquerque.

## TOTA CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

information on the prominent Cherokee Ridge Family excavated from the John Howard Payne papers at the Newman Library by Dr. Rowena McClinton of the University of Southern Illinois; the Genesis of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians by Anita Finger-Smith; early Choctaw removal by Rice University doctoral candidate Lauren Brand; the Chickamauga Cherokees by Dr. Julie Reed of the University of Tennessee; and a presentation by Rusty Wiseman from the Missouri Department of Transportation. Cherokee storyteller Choogie Kingfisher will play his flute and perform "Conversations with an Ancestor."

Dr. Brett Riggs and D. Jay Hannah are slated to pick their banjos at a "Pick and Grin" on Monday evening before the conference begins on Tuesday.

A filed trip on Wednesday includes sign dedications at Bolingers Mill and on the Courthouse Square in Jackson; a tour of the Trail of Tears Park; and a ceremony at the grave of Nancy Busheyhead. Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker, a Busheyhead descendant, is scheduled to lead the ceremony.

On Wednesday evening a Cherokee hog fry with Choctaw side dishes will be

prepared by Choctaw volunteers and Cherokee Nation employees led by William Deerinwater and Shirley Ross. Cherokee opera singer Barbra McAlister will provide entertainment at the hog fry, performing recently discovered Cherokee lullabies and other songs in Cherokee.

Chief Baker is scheduled to deliver the closing address at the final luncheon on Thursday.

Watch our Facebook page and website for a schedule as plans become finalized.

## Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

### ARKANSAS

The Arkansas chapter (ARTOTA) held its annual business meeting and public program at the historic 1872 Randolph County Courthouse in Pocahontas on Saturday, August 1. The local sponsor for the meeting was Five Rivers Historic Preservation, Inc.

Folks who arrived early were treated to a pre-meeting tour of the Randolph County Museum by ARTOTA board member Bill Carroll. The business meeting included reports from ARTOTA Secretary Nancy Feroe and Treasurer Susan Young. ARTOTA President John McLarty's report to the membership included brief discussions on the Trail of Tears through Arkansas, the River Route initiative, the Original Route sign initiative, witness structures in Arkansas, and the Remember the Removal bike ride through Arkansas. Bill Carroll, Pat Carroll, and Joan Gould then gave an update on Trail of Tears research and public education efforts in Randolph County.

Following the business meeting, ARTOTA Research Coordinator Carolyn Kent

### ARKANSAS (continued)

presented a program on the Bengé Route from Batesville to Liberty.

A research effort is under way by ARTOTA board member Nancy Feroe to locate the Spavinaw Road from Bentonville to Maysville (Beatties Prairie). The process used to establish the location of the old Spavinaw Road west of Bentonville involves using several resources: original land patents for Benton County; the original General Land Office Survey Notes and Plats for the State of Arkansas, 1815-Present; Benton County Road Petitions from the 1850s; the 1903 Benton County Atlas; the 1840 United States Federal Census enumeration; and Benton County Tax records from 1837 through 1839. By platting the earliest land patents for the target area on the 1903 Atlas map, which shows the locations of old roads between the early homesteads, then verifying the actual existence of families living on their land at the time of the Trail of Tears by cross-referencing their names on the 1837-1839 Benton County tax records and the 1840 census enumeration, a factual list of all people living along the roads

### ARKANSAS (continued)

used during this time frame is established. A review of the early road petitions for the Spavinaw Road reveals the names of the men who petitioned the County for assistance in improving the existing road and gives specified points for the beginning and ending of each road segment named in the petition. The ARTOTA research team is planning on using a similar process to determine the route location from Fitzgerald's farmstead to Woodhalls (near present-day Westville). These two routes are the missing pieces of the disbandment routes in northwest Arkansas.

The Arkansas chapter is also beginning a statewide signage initiative, starting in Benton and Randolph Counties. A strategy session is planned for the fall to determine the best method to place signage statewide.

Chapter member Carolyn Kent is working with Aaron Boswell of the Army Corps of Engineers to place interpretive panels on Corps properties along the Arkansas River to the east of Little Rock.

In addition to these initiatives, the Arkansas chapter is making plans to host the Annual Trail of Tears Conference in the fall of 2017 in Fort Smith in conjunction with the opening of the U.S. Marshall's Museum.

The Arkansas chapter had the great privilege to host the Remember the Removal Bike Riders as they passed through Arkansas. They were welcomed at the Pea Ridge National Military Park and treated to a cook out at Park Superintendent Kevin Ead's house. They were able to ride on a section of the newly completed Razorback Greenway through Springdale and Fayetteville, and they also enjoyed special events at the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park and the Fort Smith National Historic Site.



photo courtesy of John McLarty

John McLarty (far right), president of the Arkansas chapter, poses with the Remember the Removal bike riders during their stop in northwest Arkansas.

### ILLINOIS

It was standing room only at the Illinois chapter's summer general membership meeting held on June 17 in Golconda,

# Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

## ILLINOIS (continued)



photo courtesy of Heather Carey

Cherokee actress Delanna Studi (left) poses with Illinois chapter members Phil Stucker and Rosemary Mathis.

Illinois. With a record attendance of over 60 people, guest speaker and Cherokee actress Delanna Studi engaged the audience with a discussion of her personal journey on Trail of Tears segments and her work on a project entitled, "And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears." She was accompanied by her father Thomas Studi and videographer Jesse Abdenour, who are assisting her in documenting her experience while on the trip.

Delanna shared that in the past she had become interested in researching her family history and trying to flesh out some of the family stories that she had been told as a child. This led her to her ancestral home in North Carolina where she was able to uncover a wealth of information about her family, the Christies, who had traveled on



photo courtesy of Heather Carey

(L-R) Thomas Studi, Joe Crabb, and Delanna Studi visit after Delanna's presentation at the Illinois chapter meeting in June.

## ILLINOIS (continued)

the Trail of Tears. The knowledge that her family had been directly involved in this historic event led her to a desire to retrace the Trail herself, both for personal reasons, as well as to bring attention to the Trail.

With the assistance of the University of North Carolina, Delanna is making her dream a reality and is traveling the Trail, collecting stories, and learning about different parts of the Trail from a personal perspective. She will eventually use all of the material she is gathering to create a one-person theatrical performance, focusing on the forced removal of the Cherokees.

While in southern Illinois, chapter board members were able to share with Delanna and her group numerous portions of the original trail, local research, and oral histories collected by the chapter.

## KENTUCKY

The Kentucky chapter has just completed the signing project marking the entirety of the Benge Route through the state of Kentucky. The final signs of the project have recently been installed. One can now enter Kentucky at Dukedom and follow the signs of the Benge Route to the Mississippi River where the Cherokee camped during their removal west and crossed the river in mid-November 1838.

In addition to the Benge Route signing project and with the help of Norma Pruitt, the Kentucky chapter is working on getting two wayside interpretive panels for the Columbus-Belmont certified site. Also, a wayside panel is planned for the ninth certified site in Kentucky, the Riverfront at Paducah, which was certified in August 2014.

The chapter has also been in the process of exchanging some of the Auto-Tour Route signs for Original Route signs. The Auto-Tour Route signs were installed more than a decade ago, and since then Original Route signs have been created and are more

## KENTUCKY (continued)

appropriate signage for parts of the trail that run through Kentucky.

Last but not least, the chapter has plans to begin work on a Kentucky-specific Trail of Tears brochure.

Tentative plans are to host a Kentucky chapter meeting next spring in Paducah on the Water Route. More details are forthcoming as plans are finalized.

## TENNESSEE

The Tennessee chapter of the Trail of Tears Association (TNTOTA) held two membership meetings thus far in 2015. Election of officers took place on March 14 and was followed by a pot-luck luncheon at Lou's Chapel in Martin Springs, Tennessee. The slate of nominated officers were elected as follows: Lee Trevino, president; Shirley Lawrence, vice president; Floyd Ayers, treasurer; Carolyn Jones, secretary; Cleata Townsend, national director. Following a report from Cleata Townsend on the possible purchase of Brown's Tavern, a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Landmark, and due to the significance of this site to the Trail of Tears, the membership voted to pledge \$1,000 to support the purchase.

The Tennessee State Museum curator Rex Weeks has requested the counsel of the Tennessee chapter on a project within "The Age of Jackson" gallery. Vicki Rozema and Melba Eads volunteered to represent TNTOTA. They subsequently consulted with and submitted their recommendations for the exhibit to Mr. Weeks.

The board of the Tennessee chapter met on June 6 and again on July 11, 2015, at Monteagle, Tennessee. Vicki Rozema and Patrick Cummins were appointed by the board to fill two open state director positions resulting from resignations.

TENNESSEE continued on next page

# Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

## TENNESSEE (continued)

A membership meeting July 25, 2015, was held at the Warren County Administrative Building in McMinnville, Tennessee. Patrick Cummins, a state director, presented a program on the history of the 1823 Nashville Toll Bridge. Shirley Lawrence gave a report on the Fort Armistead charette.

Three TNTOTA outstanding service awards were presented by President Trevino. Former TNTOTA member Vicky Garland received an award for her research and documentation of the Bell and Benge Routes in Giles, Lawrence and Maury Counties and for her work in establishing National Historic Trail signs along the Bell Route from Pulaski to the Wayne County line. TNTOTA charter member Carlos Wilson received an award for his many years of research and documentation of the Taylor Route and for his role in establishing National Historic Trail signs along the Taylor Route in Hamilton and Rhea Counties. TNTOTA charter member Doris Tate Trevino received an award for her many years of contributions to TNTOTA as a researcher, educator, fund raiser and board member throughout the history of the Tennessee chapter.

TNTOTA invites all to drop by its booth at the 34th Annual NAIA Tennessee Powwow Oct 16-18 at Long Hunter State Park in Nashville, Tennessee. More information about this event can be found at [www.naiatn.org/powwow](http://www.naiatn.org/powwow).

## OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma chapter held its spring meeting on April 11 at the Cherokee Casino in West Siloam Springs, Oklahoma. After welcoming attendees and calling the meeting to order, President Curtis Rohr acknowledged guests including the Remember the Removal bike riders of the Cherokee Nation. After the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were read, President Rohr announced that

## OKLAHOMA (continued)

David Hampton, treasurer of the Oklahoma chapter, and Jimmie Johnson were reelected to the Oklahoma chapter board of directors, and Joseph Erb, Remember the Removal coordinator for the Cherokee bike riders, was newly elected as a director. The speaker for the spring meeting was Jay Hannah, a Cherokee citizen, executive vice president of BancFirst of Norman, chairman of the Cherokee Constitutional Convention of 1999, and well-known speaker and master of ceremonies. Mr. Hannah's topic was *Teachings from Tragedy: The Post Removal Era*.

On April 18 a marking and memorial tribute for three Cherokees who endured and survived the Trail of Tears was held at Round Springs Cemetery at Eucha, Oklahoma. The Cherokees honored were Principal Chief Charles (Oochalata) Thompson, Anderson Springston, and Charlotte Chopper. Plaques that designated them as survivors were placed on their monuments. The event was widely attended and included Jack Baker,



photo courtesy of Marybelle Chase

**Former Cherokee National tribal councilor Melvina Shotpouch reads her ancestor's obituary at the gravesite ceremony in April.**

## OKLAHOMA (continued)



photo courtesy of Marybelle Chase

**TOTA President Jack Baker (right) reads about a Trail of Tears survivor at the April gravesite ceremony as Oklahoma Chapter President Curtis Rohr reads along.**

president of the national Trail of Tears Association. David Hampton researched the biographies and genealogies of the honorees and provided a booklet for everyone in attendance. Following prayer and hymns sung by the Shotpouch sisters, a memorial tribute at each gravesite was read by a descendant of the person who was honored. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the hymn *Amazing Grace* in Cherokee and English.

The Oklahoma chapter board of directors attended a retreat hosted by David Hampton at his country home July 11. The board discussed several issues regarding the memorial markings and also plans for several board members to attend the national conference at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The board unanimously appointed Joe Allen to replace Gene Norris who resigned as a board member.

A marking and memorial tribute for four Cherokees who endured and survived the removal will be held at the Russell Cemetery near Oaks, Oklahoma, on Saturday, September 19, 2015, beginning at 2:00 p.m. The four Cherokees who will be honored are Watt Russell, Daga Foster Russell, David Miller, and Lucy Israel Miller.

# Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

## OKLAHOMA (continued)

The fall meeting of the Oklahoma chapter will be at the new Helmerich Research Center located at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Saturday, September 26, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Dr. Brett Riggs. The meeting is open to the public.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina chapter (NCTOTA) has been busy this spring and summer and is looking for a rewarding and productive end to 2015. The chapter board met February 7 in Andrews to organize the year's committees. The first chapter meeting was held at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian on March 21 and included a presentation on the land issues faced by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) by Mary Wachacha, an EBCI member and NCTOTA secretary.

Chapter board members attended an all-day leadership and organizational workshop on May 16 in Sylva. Topics of discussion were identifying and engaging potential partners, recent successful projects and partnerships, historic preservation, and the national historic trail certification process.

The chapter contributed to the Remember the Removal Riders' send-off on Friday, June 5. Sue Abram spoke on the history of the creation of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail within the National Park System. Members David Smith, Mike Abram, and Mary Wachacha also attended, along with Anita Finger-Smith who assisted with the preparations. The chapter presented a \$1,000 check in support of the ride. National TOTA President Jack Baker also attended.

The chapter held its second meeting in Franklin on June 13. NCTOTA board member Lamar Marshall shared information on the historical ecology of the Cherokee Territorial Claim. Afterward many joined Lamar to tour the Needmore Tract to see an original segment of the Trail.

## NORTH CAROLINA (continued)

The preservation committee, under Chairman Alan Keith, continues to advise the Tatham family who is considering preserving and restoring the family's Removal-era cabin in Andrews. The chapter is hoping to connect the family with a restoration specialist while serving in an advisory capacity.

Certification Committee Chairman Andy Denson and committee member Sue Abram met with Rodney National Forest Service staff on June 11 to discuss National Historic Register nominations of Trail of Tears sites within the Nantahala Forest. With the aid of a summer intern, the nominations should be ready this fall for examination by Brett Riggs.

On June 20, chapter members Sue and Doc Abram, Anita Finger-Smith, and Mary Wachacha attended the national TOTA workshop in Brentwood, Tennessee. Carol Clark and Meredith Benton provided great programs on chapter organization and leadership which complemented the chapter's earlier workshop.

On July 13-17, Sue Abram, Anita-Finger Smith, and chapter national board member Anne Rogers attended the National Park Service's charrette in Tellico Plains, Tennessee, regarding Fort Armistead's interpretive development. After a personal tour, the invited stakeholders used the week to brainstorm. The final product will be forthcoming next year.

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area granted the NCTOTA a \$5,000 grant, with the chapter matching the amount, for the development of a chapter website and companion brochure. The committee is working with National Park Service designer Lynne Mager to produce a chapter-specific brochure along the lines of those created for Tennessee and Georgia. They are also working closely with Brett Riggs on the content, art, and graphics for the website and printed material.

The Cherokee Tri-Council Meeting, between the Eastern Band, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band,

## NORTH CAROLINA (continued)

met at the historic site of the last council grounds of the Cherokee before Removal at Red Clay State Historic Park in Cleveland, Tennessee, on August 28. The NCTOTA had an informational booth near the interpretive center.

NCTOTA's first fall meeting was at Mission Farm in Murphy. This is the location of the Removal era Valletown Baptist Mission. Chapter member Diane Wells hosted the event. Brett Riggs presented on the Valletown Baptist Mission and its archaeology.

The NCTOTA's last chapter meeting of the year is scheduled for Saturday, December 5. The time and place is to be announced shortly. Guest speaker will be Darlene Goings from the Hiwassee River Heritage Center. The Center's recent charrette with the NPS focused on the site of Fort Cass and the Cherokee Agency. She will discuss the outcome of that workshop with the chapter.

## MISSOURI

It was standing room only at Waynesville City Hall on June 19 when Missouri Chapter President Deloris Wood, TOTA President and Cherokee Councilman Jack Baker, and local elected officials, including Mayor Luge Hardman and State Representative Steve Lynch, welcomed the Cherokee Remember the Removal Bike Riders. Missouri State Representative Rocky Miller, the only Cherokee Nation citizen in the Missouri legislature, addressed the crowd and was later appointed to the Missouri chapter board of directors.

Representative Miller replaced Keri Hicks of Mark Twain National Forest; Keri has recently transferred to Alaska. Keri is fondly remembered for her great contribution to the marking of the Benge Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail through the state of Missouri.

**Trail of Tears  
National Historic Trail**



*Trail News* is produced by the partnership of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe.

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Troy Wayne Poteete

**Contributors**  
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**Comments/Address Changes?**

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**Trail of Tears  
Association**



The Trail of Tears Association has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and preservation of the Trail of Tears NHT resources; to promote awareness of the trail's legacy, including the effects of the U.S. Government's Indian Removal Policy on the Cherokee and other tribes; and to perpetuate the management and development techniques that are consistent with the NPS's trail plan.

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**National Park Service  
National Trails  
Intermountain Region,  
Santa Fe**



The National Trails Intermountain Region administers the Trail of Tears NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT and Old Spanish NHT are administered jointly by the National Trails Intermountain Region and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; nongovernment organizations; and private landowners.

**National Trails Intermountain Region**  
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**Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504**

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
January - December 20\_\_\_\_

All levels of membership  
include one (1) state chapter affiliation.  
Please send \$10 for each additional  
state chapter you would like to join.

Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ I want to join the following state chapter(s): AL AR GA IL KY MO NC OK TN

**Membership Levels**

Basic Individual: \$25 to \$99 Patron: \$500 to \$999 Student: \$10 (enclose ID)  
Sponsor: \$100 to \$499 Benefactor: \$1000+

**Note:** Sponsors, patrons, & benefactors are listed prominently in two issues of the newsletter *Trail News* and on the TOTA website.

**PLEASE FILL OUT**

MEMBERSHIP: \$25 + \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (this amount determines your membership level)  
*(optional donation)\**

# of additional chapters \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\*Of this *optional donation*, please give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to TOTA, and  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ state chapter.



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium

October 5 – 8, 2015  
Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau, MO

### REGISTRATION FORM (One form per Registrant Please)

#### Contact Information

<b>1. Name</b> (as wanted on name badge):	<b>2. Organization Representing</b> (if applicable):	
<b>3. Mailing Address:</b>		
<b>4. City:</b>	<b>5. State:</b>	<b>6. Zip Code:</b>
<b>7. Telephone:</b> (      )      –	<b>8. Fax:</b> (      )      –	
<b>9. Email:</b>		

#### Registration

<b>10. Regular Registration</b> <input type="checkbox"/> TOTA 2015 Member: \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member: 175 <sup>♦</sup> <sup>♦</sup> <i>Non-member registration includes TOTA membership through 2016.</i>	<b>11. On-Site Registration</b> <input type="checkbox"/> TOTA 2015 Member: \$225* <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member: \$275 <sup>♦</sup> <sup>♦</sup> <i>Non-Member Registration includes TOTA membership through 2016.</i>
<b>12.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday Field Trip: Sign Dedications, Grave Marking, Tour of Trail of Tears Park and Visitors Center, Cherokee Hog Fry with Choctaw side dishes followed by Cherokee Opera singer Barbra McAlister	
<b>Please sign up to participate. Bus Seating is limited.</b>	
<b>13. Meals:</b> - Hotel provides breakfast and supper -Lunch will be provided Tues, Wed, and Thur. -A traditional Cherokee/Choctaw dinner will be served Wednesday night as part of the field trip.	<b>Update Notifications</b> Please check whether you wish to receive confirmation and updates via regular mail or by Email. <input type="checkbox"/> USPS mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email

**14. Guest Meals** I need to register my guest, \_\_\_\_\_, for the following meals:  
(Guest's First & Last Name)

Tues. Lunch - \$25   
  Wed. Lunch - \$25   
  Thurs. Lunch - \$25   
 **TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEES**

15. Registration Fee from Line 10 or 11 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

16. Guest Meal Fees from Line 13 and 14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For TOTA office use only:**

CK AMT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_    CK No.: # \_\_\_\_\_    CASH: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.O. AMT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_    P.O. No.: # \_\_\_\_\_    CONF #: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL RECEIVED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_    RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_    DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Conference Registration - PAGE 2

## **Field Trip Waiver** *Please sign this liability waiver if you plan to participate in the field trip.*

The undersigned hereby agrees that neither the Trail of Tears Association (TOTA), its chapters, directors, officers, employees, and agents, nor to the extent legally permissible any private or public (state or federal or instrumentality of either), landowner or tenant or licensee in possession of any land or over which any tour, field trip, or outing takes place, or through which it travels, in connection with or as a part of any meeting or convention of TOTA shall have any responsibility or liability, in whole or in part for any loss, damage, injury to person or property, delays and delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, cancellations, changes in schedules, program, or itinerary, or mechanical defect or failures, or for any negligent act or omissions of any nature whatsoever which results from, or arises out of, occurs at or during any activities, programs, tours, field trip, or outing thereat, or part of any of the foregoing. All persons registering at or attending any such meeting or convention shall be bound by the foregoing and deemed to have consented and agreed to the same by such registration or attendance.

**Sign** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Cancellation Policy**

A written and signed notice of cancellation must be submitted to the Trail of Tears Association, 1100 N. University, Suite 143, Little Rock, AR 72207, fax number (501) 666-5875, in order to receive a refund. A 50% refund will be granted if notice is received by September 25, 2015. **NO refunds will be granted after September 25, 2015.**

## **Mail Your Registration**

**Send to:** Trail of Tears Association  
1100 N. University, Ste 143  
Little Rock, AR 72207

**Make Check or Money Order Payable to:**  
Trail of Tears Association

## **Hotel Information**

Drury Lodge  
104 South Vantage Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO  
[www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)

**Call:** 1-800-325-0720 for reservations  
Ask for Trail of Tears group rate  
Guest rooms are \$89.99 plus tax

## **Questions?**

Contact Mike Killingsworth at [TOTAadmin@ARindianctr.org](mailto:TOTAadmin@ARindianctr.org) or (501) 666-9032 or Troy Poteete at [troywaynepoteete@gmail.com](mailto:troywaynepoteete@gmail.com)

# Vision Becoming Reality

## Using Partnerships to Develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of this tragic event in our Nation's history by establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The National Park Service administers the Trail in cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies; the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; interested groups; and private landowners.

The Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe have been working with trail partners to increase visibility for the trail and to develop it for visitor use. Old traces, historic buildings, and other resources are being preserved. Many sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as route signing, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities.

### Certified Sites

Andrew Ross House, AL  
Arcadia Valley Campground, MO  
Audubon Acres, TN  
Berry's Ferry and John Berry Homesite, KY  
Big Spring, KY  
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN  
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN  
Campground Cemetery, IL  
Cedartown Cherokee Removal Camp, GA  
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN  
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC  
Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows, GA  
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK  
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA  
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR  
Columbus-Belmont State Park, KY  
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL  
Cridler Tavern Complex, KY  
David Crockett State Park Trail Segment, TN  
Delta Cultural Center, AR  
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR  
Fort Gibson, OK  
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL  
Funk Heritage Center, GA  
Giles Co. Trail of Tears Interpretive Center, TN  
Green County Trail Segments, MO  
Golconda Riverfront, IL  
Gray's Inn, KY  
Hair Conrad Cabin, TN  
The Hermitage, TN

Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA  
Hiwassee River Heritage Center, TN  
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN  
Jentel Farm Trail Segment, IL  
John Martin House, TN  
John Ross House, GA  
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC  
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR  
La Petite Roche, AR  
Laughlin Park, MO  
Mantle Rock, KY  
Maramec Spring Park/Massey Iron Works, MO  
McGinnis Cemetery Trail Segment, IL  
Mount Nebo State Park, AR  
Murrell Home, OK  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC  
New Echota State Historic Site, GA  
Paducah Waterfront, KY  
Petit Jean State Park, AR  
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR  
Port Royal State Park, TN  
Radford Farm, KY  
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN  
Rockdale Plantation/George Adair Home, GA  
Running Waters, John Ridge Home, GA  
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN  
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO  
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO  
Tennessee River Museum, TN  
Toler Farm Trail Segment, IL  
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY  
Trail of Tears State Park, MO  
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL  
Tuscumbia Landing, AL  
Vann Cherokee Cabin, GA  
Vann House Historic Site, GA  
Village Creek State Park, AR  
Wagner Farm Trail Segment, IL  
Wayside Store and Bridges Tavern Site, IL  
Waterloo Landing, AL  
Willstown Mission Cemetery, AL

### Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites

Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR  
Cadron Settlement Park, AR  
Cherokee Memorial Park, Blythe Ferry, TN  
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR  
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN  
Mark Twain National Forest, MO  
Mocassin Bend, TN  
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR  
Shawnee National Forest, MO  
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

## TOTA State Chapter Contacts

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## TOTA Gives Report Tri-Council

Dr. Brett Riggs, TOTA at-large board member, Patsy Edgar, TOTA board secretary, and Troy Wayne Poteete, TOTA executive director, reported to the Cherokee Tri-Council on August 28, 2015, at Red Clay State Park in Cleveland, Tennessee. The short report focused on how the resources provided by the tribal governments is leveraged with National Park Service funds and volunteer hours to accomplish the marking and interpretation of the Trail of Tears.

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA**

**The Trail of Tears Association**

would like to thank the following for their generous upgraded membership support:

**Benefactors \$1000+**

Cherokee Nation – \$10,000	Choctaw Nation – \$6,700
Eastern Band of Cherokee – \$7,200	Hardin Co., KY – \$1,500

**Patrons \$500 – \$999**

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Meg Thompson (In memory of Lauren Franklin Thompson) – \$125	Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park – \$100	Robbin Skinner – \$100
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