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Partners Develop Strategic Plan for the Trail

The future course for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was developed in Memphis this past June. Participants from the Trail of Tears Association, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, and National Park Service met over the course of two days to discuss partnerships, trail administration, the Federal budget process, and numerous other trail-related topics.

Breakout groups explored a variety of challenges and solutions related to trail administration, preservation, development, and interpretation.

Participants were pleased with the success of the meeting and the development of goals and objectives to identify the priorities for the Trail. Further work is still needed by the partners to develop Trail

significance and specific themes. The most significant need identified for the Trail was funding. An additional gathering will be planned to develop a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (See page 7).

Details of the strategic plan, priorities, and actions can be found on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail website at: www.nps.gov/trte.



A breakout group at the strategic planning meeting discusses goals for the Trail. Clockwise from left: Bill Woodiel, Duane King, Ed Henshaw, Bill Jones, Jim Wood, Herschel Price, and John Conoboy.

“This is the first time such a meeting was conducted, and, I believe, it has provided a clear direction in which to focus all our efforts.”



Strategic planning participants prioritize goals for the future course of the Trail. David Rabon (left), Cherokee Nation Historic Preservation Specialist; Bobbie Heffington (middle), Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council Chair; and Jerra Quinton (right), Trail of Tears Association Coordinator.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

7th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference and Symposium

October 16 - 18, 2002
 Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Tentative Schedule

Mark your calendar!

NOTE: Conference activities will begin Tuesday night at 6pm with a reception. Registration will be from 3:00 – 6:00pm on Tuesday.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>8:30 – 10:00am General Assembly Welcome Guard Presentation Welcome by TOTA President Keynote: Cherokee Nation National Park Service</p> <p>10:00 – 11:30am Concurrent Breakouts</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00pm Lunch & Keynote Cherokee Choir</p> <p>1:00 – 2:30pm Concurrent Breakouts</p> <p>3:00 – 4:30pm Concurrent Breakouts</p> <p>Registration 8am – 6pm</p> <p>Evening Reception</p>	<p>8:30 – 10:00am General Assembly Color Guard Presentation Keynote: Trail of Tears NHT Update note: Duane King</p> <p>10:00 – 11:30am Concurrent Breakouts</p> <p>11:30 – 1:00pm Lunch on your own</p> <p>1:00 – 2:30pm Concurrent Breakouts</p> <p>3:00 – 4:30pm General Assembly Business Meeting Chapter Reports</p> <p>Dinner on your own</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T O U R S</p> <p>Cherokee Dinner</p> <p>Stomp Dance</p>

Message from the Trail of Tears Association President

It is with pleasure that I introduce the first combined newsletter of the Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service. This combined newsletter illustrates the working together and partnership of the two organizations and the renewed effort of both to further the interests of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.



Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association.

In June of this year, members of the Trail of Tears Association, National Park Service Trail of Tears Advisory Council, and staff of the National Park Service

met in Memphis to conduct a strategic planning session. During this session all three groups agreed to priorities of the

Trail and plans of action to implement these priorities. This is the first time that such a meeting was conducted, and, I believe, it has provided a clear direction in which to focus all our efforts. (See details of the meeting on the front page.)

Much has been accomplished in the last few months with members of our state chapters working with staff of the National Park Service. A design charrette for the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at Blythe Ferry resulted in detailed conceptual plans for that site. Many of the items in the plans may be completed in stages, as funding becomes available. A cost-share funding from the National Park Service was used to help fund the exhibits at the new interpretive center at the Vann House near Chatsworth, Georgia. Meetings have been held with local officials of Chattanooga, Nashville, and North Little Rock to discuss how to tell the story of the Trail of Tears in those cities. Members of the Association and staff of the National Park Service attended these meetings. All of these efforts, as well as many more, illustrate what can be done when we all work together as partners to tell the story of the Trail of Tears.

It is important that we as U. S. citizens remember the Trail of Tears. It is an example of what can happen when greed combines with prejudice. We need to remember so that we can ensure that it does not happen in the future. (It *can* happen now, as was seen so vividly in news accounts from Bosnia a couple of years ago.)

It is also important that those of us who are citizens of the various Indian Nations remember the Trail of Tears. It shows that in spite of the great adversity of being forcibly removed from our homes, we did survive. This is the true story of the Trail of Tears—one of survival.

I look forward to working with all of you to both protect Trail resources and to tell the story of the Trail of Tears.

Jack D. Baker

Acting Superintendent, National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region

With this column, I send my initial greeting to you as Acting Superintendent of the National Trails System Office-Intermountain Region. The Intermountain Region administers seven National Historic Trails (NHT) from offices in Santa Fe and Salt Lake City. Since 1995, I have been Superintendent of the Salt Lake City office. Before that, I had key roles in the management planning effort for the Trail of Tears NHT, and played a significant role in the management plan for the Santa Fe NHT.

My growing-up years occurred on the Great Plains of Nebraska. An early interest in American trails came about when I was a boy romanticizing about the three national trails that crossed the farm where we lived. It developed further as I completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in American history, with an emphasis on expansion of the nation westward. On the faculty at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield for 15 years, I taught in the field of western history. Of course, that entire area of Missouri is rich with early roads and travelers, including several detachments of the Cherokee.



Jere Krakow, Acting Superintendent for the National Trails System Office - Intermountain Region.

and Use Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In the near future, I will meet many others of you who are active in matters related to the trail. One such opportunity will be at Fort Smith in October during the Association symposium.

Through my work with several other trail groups the past 15 years, I know the importance of advocating for protection of trail resources. It seems that trail resources are often at risk of disappearing and vigilance

is with much anticipation that I undertake this partnership with advocates for the Trail of Tears NHT. I look forward to renewing acquaintances with many of you who assisted with the *Comprehensive Management*

by all of us is critical. I am committed, as is the Santa Fe staff, to protecting trail resources and seeking ways to further that mission.

Educational outreach to tell the stories of each trail is also extremely important. No other national historic trail has as compelling a story as the Trail of Tears. Embedded in the overall story are hundreds and hundreds of individual stories that help this generation and those in the future learn about that tragic chapter in our nation's history. The Santa Fe staff has been very active in working with many partners to interpret the trail. I pledge to continue and expand that effort. Our partnership on behalf of the Trail of Tears will continue and be strengthened. It is good to be joining you.

Jere Krakow

7th Annual TOTA Conference and Symposium

October 16 – 18, 2002
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Holiday Inn City Center

700 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Special Conference Rates

\$59.00 + tax (13.375%) per night
Standard, Double, or King
Cut-off date: **September 27, 2002**

FOR RESERVATIONS

Group Booking Code: **TOT**
(479) 783-1000
OR
1-800-HOLIDAY

Make sure to give hotel the group booking code above when making reservations in order to receive the special conference rate.

- Check-in: 3:00 pm
- Check-out: Noon
- 8 miles from Airport
- Hotel shuttle service to and from airport
- Taxi fee from airport approx. \$9.00
- 4 miles from Cherokee Casino
- Indoor pool
- On-site fitness facility
- Sauna
- Whirlpool
- Iron/ironing board
- Coffee maker
- Hairdryer

REGISTRATION FEE RATES

This fee includes one lunch and two dinners.

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION

RECEIVED ON or BEFORE September 27, 2002
Member -\$65.00
Non-member -\$90.00 (includes membership)

LATE REGISTRATION

RECEIVED AFTER September 27, 2002 or
ON-SITE
Member -\$130.00
Non-member -\$180.00 (includes membership)

BUS TOUR TO TAHLEQUAH

The conference will end on Friday, October 18, with a day of touring that will include visits to the Cherokee Heritage Center, the Murrell Home, several Cherokee National buildings, and Fort Gibson. On that day, Tahlequah will also be hosting its First Annual Kanuche Festival. That evening the tour participants will join their fellow conferees at the Cherokee Heritage Center where the Cherokee Nation will host a traditional Cherokee meal which will be followed by a Cherokee Stomp Dance demonstration.

FEE: \$50.00 (Includes transportation, lunch, and museum fees.)

All registration fees are non-refundable.

- Make checks payable to: Trail of Tears Association
- Mail form and check to: Trail of Tears Association
1100 N. University, Ste 143
Little Rock, AR 72207

Some of the presentations you will find at this year's conference are:

- Blue Clark, Ph.D.: "Creek Removal"
- Ted Isham: "Creek Culture"
- Duane King, Ph.D.: "Bell & Bengé Routes"
- Daniel Littlefield, Ph.D.: "North Little Rock Site"
- Hastings Shade: "Cherokee Culture"
- Lewis Stiles: "Research on Choctaw Removal"

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter has been busy in the year 2002 researching several areas of removal, including removal routes of the Choctaw and Creek as well as the Cherokee. Members Leonard Bland and Dusty Helbling have been steadily researching routes from the Fayetteville area to Cane Hill, and from Van Buren into the Cherokee Nation, as well as researching the location of Sequoyah's home and the Dwight Mission north of Russellville. Member Carolyn Kent has been busy with her research on the road from Grand Prairie to Cadron, which is the old Cadron-to-Arkansas-Post route taken by some Choctaw and Creek contingents on their way to Fort Smith. At a January chapter meeting, Daniel Littlefield, President of the Arkansas Chapter and Director and Founder of the American Native Press Archives (ANPA), discussed a site report prepared by researchers from the ANPA of Cherokee removal through Pea Ridge National Military Park, where the meeting was held. At an April chapter meeting, Lewis Stiles of Eagletown, Oklahoma, spoke about his efforts to mark the Choctaw trail in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Additionally, Leonard Bland spoke on Choctaw removal routes from both Little Rock and the southern part of Arkansas to Fort Towson.

The North Little Rock site—where removal parties from all five tribes passed through—has recently received much attention in Arkansas. On May 1, representatives from the National TOTA, the NPS, the Arkansas Chapter, the North Little Rock Historical Society, the Arkansas Department of Historic Preservation, and the Choctaw Nation met with Patrick Henry Hays,



Members of the Arkansas chapter visit Trail of Tears sites at Pea Ridge National Military Park.

mayor of North Little Rock, for preliminary discussions aimed at certification and subsequent development of the site. Follow-up meetings are tentatively planned. On April 20, members Amanda Paige and Fuller Bumpers made a presentation on Creek removal through the North Little Rock site at the Undergraduate Research Conference held at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.

The next chapter meeting will be in late September, and will coincide with a symposium in Batesville, Arkansas, on Cherokee removal through Arkansas. Among the speakers at the symposium will be members Bill Woodiel and Steve Saunders. Contact Dan Littlefield at 501-945-3201, or dflittlefiel@ualr.edu, for more information.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma chapter continues to honor those who were removed west on the Trail of Tears by placing a bronze marker on their grave stones. This was the first project of the chapter, and, since the beginning, a total of 68 have been honored in 15 cemetery marking ceremonies. This has only been possible due to the dedicated committee of volunteers who have spent countless hours researching the requests for these ancestors who came on the Trail. The next marking will be the grave of Red Bird Sixkiller in Locust Grove, Oklahoma, on August 30, 2002, at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Curtis Rohr at 918-341-4689, or cfrohr@doitpc.net.

The chapter has recently begun work on the publishing of its second book, which will be the printing of the 1835 Cherokee census. This census was taken just prior to removal, and will be published in its entirety. Plans are to have it available in the near future.

Many of our members recently traveled to the Eastern Cherokee homeland of Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia, to attend the dedication of the new visitor center and museum at the James Vann House at Spring Place, Georgia. The Moravian Mission Cemetery was also re-consecrated at this

time. Other places of importance to the Cherokee that were visited are Southwest Point, the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, Fort Loudoun, the Kituwah Town site, the Vann House, Spring Place, Red Clay Council Grounds, and Brainerd Mission Cemetery.

Georgia

The Georgia chapter's efforts to locate, confirm, and mark removal sights continue. Thanks to the NPS staff's commitment to our goals and Research Chair Sarah Hill's diligence in developing a grant proposal, the State of Georgia will soon receive NPS challenge cost-share funding. The funds will facilitate a partnership with the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) to complete a systematic review of all known Georgia removal site documentation, complete site visits with the OSA, refine existing maps, prepare a report to the NPS to



Thanks to research by Jeff Stancil and Charles Walker, and the generous contribution of signage by J.B. Tate, the Georgia chapter recently marked its first removal site at Fort Newnan. Pictured left to right: David Gomez, Jeff Stancil, Dola Davis, Patsy Edgar, Charles Walker, Jean Belew, J.B. Tate, and David Dailey.

encourage site certification, and produce a driving tour brochure. The report will also form the basis for the OSA's development of a preservation planning document. The past and future work of each chapter researcher will contribute to these goals.

Other member contributions include the generous donation by Will Rogers of his artwork honoring his Cherokee heritage, used to produce fundraising note cards; and Doug Mabry's presentations on the TOTA and the chapter at two productions of a touring Trail of Tears drama.

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 System Office - Santa Fe.

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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 National Historic Trail 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 National Park Service's trail plan.

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National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe



The National Trails System Office - Santa Fe (former Long Distance Trails Group Office) administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is administered jointly by Lodi 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; non-government organizations; and private landowners.

National Trails System Office - Santa Fe PO Box 728 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Phone

505-988-6888

E-Mail

lodi_administration@nps.gov

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Are you a member of the TOTA?
If not, and you would like to support the efforts of TOTA,
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State Chapter(s) _____

State Chapters: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee

Membership in the
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membership in one state
chapter. Additional state
memberships are \$10.00 each.

**ANNUAL
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Payments to the Trail of Tears Association are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.

7th Annual Trail of Tears Association

Conference and Symposium

October 16 - 18, 2002
Fort Smith, Arkansas



Cherokee Supreme Court building in Tahlequah.



Cherokee Capitol building in Tahlequah.



Trail of Tears National Historic Trail wayside exhibits at Fort Smith National Historic Site.



Oral history interviews in the visitor center at Fort Smith National Historic Site.



Entry to the new Trail of Tears exhibits at the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah.



Tactile "Bead Wall" at Trail of Tears exhibits in Tahlequah.



Life-cast figures depicting travel along the Trail of Tears.

Tentative Schedule

NOTE: Conference activities will begin Tuesday night at 6pm with a reception. Registration will be from 3:00 – 6:00pm on Tuesday.

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<p>8:30 – 10:00am General Assembly Color Guard Presentation Welcome – TOTA President Chief, Cherokee Nation National Park Service</p>	<p>8:30 – 10:00am General Assembly Color Guard Presentation Trail of Tears NHT Update Keynote: Duane King</p>	<p>T O U R S</p>
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Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council Update

The first meeting of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council was held in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in September 1991. As the meeting progressed, the dedication of the members of the Council and their determination to see to the preservation and development of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail became apparent. That dedication has never wavered. In fact, dedication became determination.

The incorporation of the Trail of Tears Association was a giant leap forward as chapters began to develop in each state. The local chapter meetings grew, and now we have a wonderful annual meeting that includes field trips to Trail-related sites and scholarly papers giving all of us a chance to share new research with others.

The Association now has an office and a full-time staff person to assist each state chapter.



Bobbie Heffington, Chair, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council.

It was the first joint planning meeting of all the Trail partners, and I think that we all left with a sense of excitement knowing that we were in agreement as to what needed to be done, and clear as to what each partner could and should bring to the full

And we now have this new combined newsletter to allow us to share information more readily. The June strategic meeting in Memphis was a new chapter in Trail develop-

ment. We left that meeting with assignments and deadlines, and with that same determination and dedication that we had at the Tahlequah meeting so many years ago!

I look forward to the strengthening of the partnership between the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Advisory Council, the Trail of Tears Association, and the National Park Service, as we develop the Trail, interpret the stories, protect the resources, and commemorate this tragic event in our nation's histories.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the annual meeting in Fort Smith!

Bobbie Heffington

Trail of Tears Association & National Park Service Combine Newsletters

This newsletter is a combination of efforts by the Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) and the National Park Service's National Trails System Office - Santa Fe (LODI). While visiting Santa Fe to discuss funding for the Association, Jack Baker, TOTA President, and staff members from TOTA sat down with staff from LODI to plan this new path in the partnership of the two offices. It is a first for both offices—the first time TOTA is putting out a newsletter and the first time LODI is combining newsletter efforts with one of its partners. This project is a prime example of the renewed dedication of both offices to remain open in communication and demonstrates the synergy of the two offices after the June Strategic Planning Session.



The Trail of Tears Association meets with the National Park Service in Santa Fe to plan the combined newsletter. From left to right: Paul Austin, John Conoboy, Jerra Quinton, Jack Baker, and Andrea Sharon.

New Employee Joins the Trail of Tears Association Office

Just two months after graduating with a Masters of Tourism Administration, with a Concentration in Events Management, from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., I started working for the Trail of Tears Association on February 2, 2002. (I received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Lyon College in Batesville, Arkansas.) After hearing about the job, I knew this was the job for me! I had always been proud of my Cherokee ancestry, but this job really gave me the opportunity to learn more about my heritage and to become more involved in preserving it. In addition, not only does this job allow me to put my graduate degree to use, but also my undergraduate degree—which is wonderful considering the vast difference between the two. My dream had come true!

Since starting this job, I have been busy learning all that I can about the organization and getting to know the members. I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to welcome me into the fold. Because of your time and efforts, this organization is taking off! With the completion of our strategic planning session, I think we all now have common goals, and our efforts are now complementing one another. As you can see with the partnership involved in this newsletter, the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe and the Trail of Tears Association are



Jerra Quinton, the new Trail of Tears Association Coordinator, is located in the Association's office in Little Rock.

working together to see that the National Historic Trail comes to fruition.

Please feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do to aid in your efforts. I can be reached by phone at 501-666-9032; FAX at 501-666-5875; or e-mail at: TOTAJerra@aol.com.

Jerra Quinton

Partners Celebrate Dedication of New Visitor Center and Exhibits at the Vann House Site

A dedication ceremony for the newly constructed Robert E. Chambers Interpretive Center at the Vann House State Historic Site was held in the morning of July 27, 2002. The Vann House is a certified historic site for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The new visitor center was the culmination of years of work by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Friends of the Vann House.



Principal Chief Chad Smith

Principal Chief Leon Jones of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation

“We are not a people of the past. We are a people of the future.”

— Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith, July, 2002

were the keynote speakers for the event. Jack Baker, President of the Trail of Tears Association also spoke, and John Conoboy, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management for the National Trails System



Participants in traditional-Cherokee-dress celebrate the visitor center and exhibit opening at the Vann House.

Office - Santa Fe gave a short presentation about the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The National Park Service provided Challenge Cost-Share Program funding toward the cost of the new exhibits in the center. Members of the Vann family also attended the ceremony. An afternoon ceremony also took place at the site of the Springplace Mission. Principal Chief Smith laid a wreath at the location of the cemetery, which was recently discovered by the Georgia State archeologist. The cemetery site is now part of the Vann House Historic Site.



Challenge Cost-Share funding from the National Park Service helped to fund the new Trail of Tears exhibits at the visitor center.

Georgia (continued)

Wanda Patterson joined the board as secretary. Marvin Sowder continues his fruitful membership campaign, and Dola Davis continues her diligent efforts as treasurer. Additionally, Jean Belew arranged a moving meeting for the chapter at the Etowah Mounds State Historic Site, where the chapter observed the threats of development to one of the most significant archeological sites in America. The chapter wrote the Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns to voice concern for increased development in the vicinity and to pledge support of the Council on behalf of the Etowah site.

On a sad note, we lost a friend and valued researcher in May. Martha Redus was a talented genealogist, always ready to share her skills, and she will be sorely missed.

On a positive note, we enjoyed seeing many TOTA members from other chapters at the recent opening of the Vann House Visitor Center.

The next chapter meeting will be September 21, 2002. For more information, contact Jean Belew at 770-382-6676, or jbelew@bellsouth.net.

Tennessee

In January, the NPS, the Tennessee Chapter, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, and the Tennessee Division of Archeology hosted a workshop in Nashville, Tennessee, on the sections of the Bell and Bengie Routes that run through the state. Those in attendance included NPS staff from the Santa Fe Office, the Arkansas Department of Historic Preservation, the Tennessee



From left to right: Shirley Lawrence, Doris Tate Trevino, Bill Jones, Steve Burns, and Vicki Rozema discuss research and trail development opportunities in Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

Department of Transportation, and the Tennessee Historical Commission.

On February 2, Cherokee Indian Heritage Day was held in Birchwood, Tennessee, where member Shirley Lawrence, Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief Hastings Shade, and cultural presenter and storyteller Sammy Still spoke. Lawrence gave a presentation on the progress of the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, where Cherokees and Creeks camped during removal. The conceptual design and applications for funding have been completed, while grants to complete construction documents for the project have been received. The Tennessee Chapter of TOTA, along with the Friends of the Cherokee Removal Memorial and the Chattanooga Indigenous Resource Center and Library (CIRCL), held a reception for Hastings Shade and Sammy Still while they were in town for the celebration.

In March, researchers from the chapter were busy assisting NPS staff in identifying significant sites in Hamilton County in an effort to educate Chattanooga City leaders about the significance of the sites to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail before the city started redevelopment of these sites, which would affect any plans for interpretation of Ross' Landing. A panel discussion, hosted by CIRLC, was held May 3 in Chattanooga, where the Tennessee chapter had the opportunity to explain the TOTA mission to the riverfront decision-makers. As it stands now, paperwork is being completed to certify Ross' Landing as an official TOTNHT site.

In May, members Bill and Agnes Jones toured Moccasin Bend and Lookout Mountain with Fran Mainella, Director of the NPS. Members from the chapter also toured part of the Northern Route with staff from the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* as a prelude to their project of following the route from Tennessee to Oklahoma.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for early November in West Tennessee.

Contact Floyd Ayers at 931-967-9275, or wfayers@tnns.net, for more information.



National Park Service Director Fran Mainella (middle) and Congressman Zach Wamp (right) visit Moccasin Bend with chapter members and National Park Service staff at the dedication of the Blue Trail along the Tennessee River in Chattanooga.

Missouri

The Missouri Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association will hold its next meeting on Saturday, August 10, 2002, at Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob, Missouri. A board meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., with the membership meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the library. Members and friends of the Trail of Tears Association are encouraged to attend so that the Missouri Chapter may begin building a database for use in future research. Those who know of 19th-century maps of southern Missouri are encouraged to attend and bring copies of old maps or information about them. This will be a working meeting, with members attempting to locate possible trail routes on maps from the Civil War era that are in the archives at Fort Davidson.

For information on the August meeting, please contact the office of the Missouri Chapter at the Trail of Tears State Park, 429 Moccasin Springs Road, Jackson, Missouri 63755; phone 573-334-1711; FAX 573-334-5162; or e-mail Hershel Price at hprice@accessus.net.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. Contact Jerra Quinton, Trail of Tears Association Coordinator, at 501-666-9032, to submit information and photographs.

8th Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails

“Telling Our Trails’ Stories - Educating the World about the National Trails System”

The 8th National Scenic & Historic Trails Conference is an invitation to learn together how to understand and express the many cultural perspectives inherent in the National Trails System.

**October 17 - 21, 2002
Holiday Inn City Center
Fort Smith, Arkansas**

For further details, contact:
Partnership for the National Trails System @ 608-249-7870 or NATTRAILS@aol.com

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USDA Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
Federal Highway Administration
American Hiking Society

HOSTED BY:
Trail of Tears Association
Cherokee Nation



News from the Association Office

What an exciting time for the Trail of Tears Association! Our first newsletter! New chapters forming! A new Superintendent for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail! Our first full time employee! Chapter activities are at their highest! A visionary planning session with the National Park Service! Another exciting conference and symposium coming in October! The vision we all have for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is beginning to take shape—and it looks great!

So, what will the Trail of Tears look like in 10 years? I think everyone will agree that visitors to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail should have the opportunity for an experience with the trail in each of the nine states. There should be at least two places in each state for the public to learn about the Trail of Tears, not just the story of the Trail, but something specific to the site. What happened there and why? What was the impact of the occurrence to the overall story of the Trail, to the story of removal, and to the story of the United States? Then one could truly travel the

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and come away with a better understanding of what really happened and its role in American history.

Jack, Jerra, and I recently returned from Alabama, where we met with TOTA members interested in forming an Alabama Chapter. Our meeting was attended by over 20 members and resulted in the formation of an organizing committee. The committee has already met once and is working with Jerra to develop their by-laws, schedule a chapter meeting, and elect their board and officers. Our next project is to meet in Illinois to get their chapter going and then to wind up in Kentucky which will give us chapters in all the states that the Trail of Tears passes through.

This newsletter is a part of a Challenge Cost-Share project funded by the National Park Service. The project will result in the newsletter, a journal of Indian removal studies, and a plan for the development of an association website.

The vision we all have for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is beginning to take shape—and it looks great!

We hope to start with two issues of the newsletter this year, possibly more in 2003. We will have chapter reports in every issue as well as current Trail of Tears news, including research activities, National Park Service updates, and partnership news.

Please pay particular attention to the information about the 2002 TOTA Conference and Symposium being held in Fort Smith, Arkansas. You do not want to miss what promises to be an excellent event. So, send your registrations in on time and be sure to sign up for the tour.

See you in Fort Smith!

Paul Austin

Vision Becoming Reality - Developing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Through Partnerships

Despite this tragic event in our Nation's history, the Cherokee and other Southeastern tribes built successful communities that exist today. Old traces, historic buildings, and other sites are being preserved to commemorate the sorrowful journey.

A variety of local, state, and national efforts have commenced to preserve and interpret Trail resources. A growing awareness of this important story—and those of other removed tribes—has stimulated interest to nationally recognize this chapter in our Nation's past. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail tells of the Cherokee's ordeal—but many tribes can tell similar stories.

In 1987, Congress acknowledged the significance of the Trail 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 National Historic Trail Advisory Council, the Trail of Tears Association, and the National Park Service National Trails System Office-Santa Fe have all been working with Trail partners to increase visibility for the Trail and to develop it for visitor use. Additional sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects, such as signs marking the route, interpretive waysides exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities, have been completed. Many more are being planned.

What Is a CIP?

Professional interpreters use a variety of processes to plan and develop services and media products to help visitors gain a better understanding of and appreciation for a natural and/or cultural resource. In the National Park Service (NPS), that process is called a *CIP* or *Comprehensive Interpretive Plan*.

Developing a *CIP* involves all the stakeholders gathering together to develop an effective framework for strategically

Certified Sites

Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
Vann House Historic Site, GA
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
The Tennessee River Museum, TN
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK

Pending Certifications

Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
City of Chattanooga trail routes and historic sites, TN
Audubon Acres Spring Frog Cabin, TN
John Brown Tavern, TN
Chieftains Museum/Ridge Home, GA
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
George M. Murrell House, OK

Federal Protection Components

Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Blythe Ferry, TVA land, TN
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR

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comes appreciation, and through appreciation comes preservation." Is this the goal we are all ultimately working towards?

One of the action items from the strategic planning meeting in Memphis this past June, was to develop a *CIP* for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. To learn more about the *CIP* process and to see an example of a completed plan, visit the Trail website at: www.nps.gov/trte.

\$\$\$\$ Challenge Cost-Share Program - 2003 \$\$\$\$\$

As you read through the many projects mentioned in this newsletter, you might notice that quite a few are receiving funding from the National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program. Your project might qualify, too. Give us a call and we can send you a project proposal form and instructions.

If you have a possible project, contact John Conoboy by mail or phone (505-988-6888) right away.

Projects should support the programs and goals of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as set forth in the *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan*.

Remember, Challenge Cost-Share funds are not a grant, but rather are funds for mutually-agreed-upon national historic trail projects.

Site-specific projects can generally only be funded for certified sites. Projects can be related to

resource protection, management, visitor use facilities, interpretation, education, or research. Projects require a 50/50 match of Federal and non-Federal funding. However, the non-Federal match can include the value of volunteer time and other in-kind services, donated equipment and supplies, and so forth. If you're not sure whether or not your project will qualify, call us anyway, and let's talk.

Project proposals should be received at the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe by January 31, 2003.