



## Trail News

### NPS Obligates \$40,000 for Trail of Tears Signage Over Next 5 Years

by Aaron Mahr and Steve Burns

The National Park Service and the Trail of Tears Association are working closely together to install various kinds of signs to increase public visibility and use of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Both the NPS and TOTA have identified signing as one of the top priorities for trail development for the next five years. In addition to providing sign standards, the NPS has obligated \$40,000 through the cooperative agreement with the Association to fund local initiatives to sign original routes and local tour routes, and directional signs to sites and segments along the trail. These funds are not eligible for signs on major state or federal highways.

The sign standards will be posted on the webpage [www.nps.gov/trte](http://www.nps.gov/trte), and include Original Route, Crossing, and Local Tour Route signs, as well as site entry and directional signs.

This sign fund will support signing initiatives from Trail of Tears Association members. If you know of a stretch of original route or a trail site or segment open to the public in your area that may be a candidate for signing, please contact Steve Burns at the National Trails Intermountain Region office to discuss your idea; his phone number is 505-988-6737. If the project is eligible for using the sign fund, Steve will give you guidance on developing a simple sign plan with sign numbers,

types, and locations, and recommendations for approaching the road authority to seek permission to sign. The NPS is also developing a web-based template that will use Google Earth to simplify and easily create your own sign plan that can

See Signage, page 10



photo by Marty King

(L-R) Aaron Mahr and Steve Burns of the NPS; Jack Baker, Troy Poteete and Gail King of TOTA, Mark Jackson of Lake Guntersville State Park, and Lamar Marshall of TOTA present to the TOTA conference attendees the first sign funded by the new signage fund. It is located on the grounds of the Park.

#### Trying to go GREEN? Go E-NEWS

Trail News is now being offered electronically. If you would like to sign up to receive yours by e-mail, simply send a note to [TOTA@ARindianCtr.org](mailto:TOTA@ARindianCtr.org), with the subject line "E-News." Include your full name in the e-mail. Not only will you save some trees, but you will also receive your newsletter faster!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NPS Superintendent's Message..... 2
- 2010 TOTA Conference Info ..... 2
- TOTA's New Staff Person..... 3
- Calendar of Events..... 3
- TOTA Chapter News..... 4-5
- Friends of New Echota..... 10
- Commemoration in Nashville..... 10

## National Trails System Office Superintendent's Message

Nearly every day I am hearing about great things volunteers are doing across the Trail of Tears. Whether it is in areas of research and trail identification, interpretation and development, or trail protection and preservation, I see and hear about terrific things happening in every state the trail passes through. On the part of the National Park Service, we have several noteworthy things happening that will contribute to the great partnership we share.

Our staff in the National Trails office in Santa Fe continues to expand. Many of you who have worked with us over the years know that our ability to provide professional assistance and expertise in interpretation activities took a hard hit with the retirement of Andrea Sharon last year. In November we took a strong step forward in recovering our



Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails System - Intermountain Region

capabilities with the addition of Carol Clark to our staff. Carol is a professional interpreter who comes to us from Timucuan Ecological and Historic

Preserve in Florida. Carol has already demonstrated a keen interest in identifying ways that we can bring the Trail of Tears story to a wider audience, and is particularly eager to take advantage of new technologies to reach younger folk. Many of you will have the opportunity to meet Carol this year, and I hope you will take advantage of her abilities to tell the trail story in your area.

As I reported in a previous edition of this newsletter, the Trails office has completed the development of a set of sign standards that will facilitate signing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. I am happy to report that an eight-and-a-half-mile stretch of original route of the Trail of Tears in Pope County, Illinois, is the site of the first installation of signs using the sign standards. Signing is critical to the development of the Trail of Tears. It is the most cost-effective and effectual way to bring the trail to the awareness of the American public and help people experience the trail. Please consider assisting this signing effort. Remember, the standards are complete and a modest amount of funding has been allocated to the Trail of Tears Association for local signing on county roads along the trail. For more information on the feasibility of signing original routes, trail crossings, and local sites in your area, contact our office for more information.

By now, most of you have either seen the *Trail of Tears* DVD or are aware of its release. If you attended the Trail of Tears Association annual conference in Alabama in October, then you probably attended the film's grand premier hosted by Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation. Since that time, we have distributed the film to all the certified sites along the trail and to Association members who continue to play a significant role in trail development. We hope that the film is seen by as many people as possible. In particular, school groups will have opportunities to view the film, and through it will be exposed to, and learn from, this event which is of such essential importance to our nation's history. Supplies of the film are already limited, but if you have a critical need for a copy, please contact [lodi\\_administration@nps.gov](mailto:lodi_administration@nps.gov).

Several other activities are in the works in our office that I should be able to report in the next newsletter. They include the development of an accessible and standardized database for trail data, and even more new staff members that we hope to bring on in 2010 to assist you in your trail development activities. Keep up the great work everybody. I look forward to seeing you on the trail!

Aaron Mahr

## 15th Annual Trail of Tears Association Conference & Symposium

Harrah's Casino, Hotel & Event Center • Metropolis, Illinois  
September 20 - 23, 2010

### RESERVATIONS

1-800-HARRAHS (427-7247)

Special Room Rate: **\$69.99** + tax & facilities fee

Ask for **Harrah's Metropolis** and reference **Group Code S09TEAR** to get group rates.

Deadline for Special Room Rate: August 21, 2010

## SAVE THE DATE!

### National Historic Trails Workshop "Cultural and Heritage Tourism: Trails as Destinations"

**May 12 - 14, 2010 • San Antonio, TX**

hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System  
and the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

Anticipated sessions include Enhancing Visitor Experience, Funding Acquisition, Historic Trail Stewardship and Site Maintenance, and Interpretive Centers.

If your chapter would like to send a delegate to this conference,  
contact Jerra Quinton at TOTA for information on travel assistance funds.

## New NPS Funding Allows TOTA to Hire Part-time Staff

With the help of additional funding from the National Park Service starting in October 2009, the Trail of Tears Association was able to hire a part-time administrative project specialist, Ashley Toler. Ashley started work in August; her duties include processing memberships and product orders, communicating with state chapters, assisting with projects such as the conference DVDs and printed materials, answering phone calls, fulfilling requests

for TOTA information packets, and generally aiding the executive director with a variety of tasks. Ashley's addition to the staff has made a remarkable difference in the time the executive director, Jerra Quinton, can devote to other projects, such as the newsletter, the annual conferences, and visiting chapters.



Ashley Toler, Trail of Tears Association administrative project specialist

Ashley and Lance, her husband of 14 years, have two children, Madalyn, 11, and Hayden, 6. She is originally from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and after 14 years in the northwest part of the state, Lance's career brought them back to central Arkansas. Ashley attended Arkansas State University where she majored in vocal music education. She has worked in banking off and on for over 15 years, as a teller, branch manager, marketing assistant, and executive assistant. She was also a stay-at-home mom for 8 years.

The Toler family is very active in their church, Brand New Church in Bryant, where Ashley serves as Children's Minister to ages K – 5th grades. She also serves on the Worship Team (vocals) there.

Ashley became interested in the job at TOTA because of the history of the Trail of Tears. "I love history and loved the idea of working for an organization that works to preserve bits of history," she stated. Gradually, she is becoming more and more knowledgeable about the details of Removal. To contact Ashley, you can call her at the general office number, which is (501) 666-9032, or by email at [TOTAadmin@ARindianCtr.org](mailto:TOTAadmin@ARindianCtr.org).

## Calendar of Events

### February 20

Tennessee Chapter Meeting, 12 pm EST  
Audubon Acres near Chattanooga, TN

### March 1

Deadline: Unpaid 2010 memberships made inactive

### March 6

Missouri Chapter Meeting, 10 am  
Pizza Inn in Salem, MO  
*See chapter report for more information.*

### March 20

Arkansas Chapter Special Event, 1 pm  
Wayside Panel Dedication in Lavaca, AR  
*See chapter report for more information.*

### March 21

Illinois Chapter Meeting, 2:30 pm  
Vienna Public Library in Vienna, IL  
*See chapter report for more information.*

### March 29 - April 1

"To Bridge A Gap" Conference  
Hosted by the Muscogee Creek Nation in collaboration with the Forest Service  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
*See conference information on p. 6*

### April 10

Alabama Chapter Meeting, (Time TBD)  
Cherokee County, AL (Location TBD)  
*Visit [www.alabamatrailoftears.org](http://www.alabamatrailoftears.org) for up-to-date information on this meeting.*

### April 24

Kentucky Chapter Meeting, 1 pm  
Hopkinsville-Christian County Library  
*See chapter report for more information.*

### May 12 - 14

Partnership for the National Trails System's Historic Trails Workshop  
Hosted by the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association  
San Antonio, TX  
*See conference information on this page*

### September 20 - 23

2010 TOTA Conference & Symposium  
Hosted by the Illinois Chapter  
Harrah's Casino, Hotel, & Event Center  
Metropolis, IL  
*See conference information on p. 2*

## Trail of Tears State Chapter News

### Tennessee

The Tennessee chapter has been in touch with the Tennessee State Parks historian and has been given permission to have a dendrochronology test done on the old Fort Marr blockhouse. Fort Morrow was built on the site of Fort Marr, and three new blockhouses were built onto the one left standing in 1835. It was used to hold the Cherokee rounded up in the Ocoie area. If the blockhouse dates to 1835 or earlier, the chapter will work with the state to repair and protect it and have it displayed as an example of the typical fort used in Removal. This is the only original blockhouse in existence so far as can be determined. It is a real treasure which can raise the public awareness of the Trail of Tears if properly placed where it has a large viewing.

The next Tennessee chapter meeting is scheduled for February 20th, at 12 p.m. (EST), at Audubon Acres, located just outside of Chattanooga.

### Arkansas

The Arkansas chapter continues to work on research and interpretation of the Benge, Bell, and disbandment routes, which added almost 800 miles to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in the state. Specific research in northwest Arkansas will be advanced with the recent discovery of an important 1844 map that shows a representation of what could be a portion of the Northern Route from the Pea Ridge National Military Park area to Maysville, Arkansas.

The Arkansas chapter is utilizing a grant provided by the Department of Arkansas Heritage to mark 10 wayside panels throughout the state. Panels are planned at Carrollton and Maynard on the Benge Route, at Evansville where the Bell Route disbanded; and at Lewisburg where the stranded Whiteley and Drane river detachments camped for several days. Wayside panels recognizing all five southeast tribes will be placed at Lavaca and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Arkansas River Visitor Center at Russellville; on Choctaw routes at Lake Chicot State Park and

### Arkansas (continued)

Camden; and on combined routes at Benton and Old Austin.

A dedication of the marker at Lavaca will be held March 20, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., and will be hosted by the Arkansas chapter, the Military Road Museum, and the City of Lavaca. Representatives from all five tribes have been invited and the public is welcome to attend.

The chapter has a new webpage at [www.artota.org](http://www.artota.org). Chapter representatives that attended the national conference at Guntersville, Alabama, were very impressed with the Georgia chapter website, and the chapter is making plans to add a special researcher's portal to its web page.

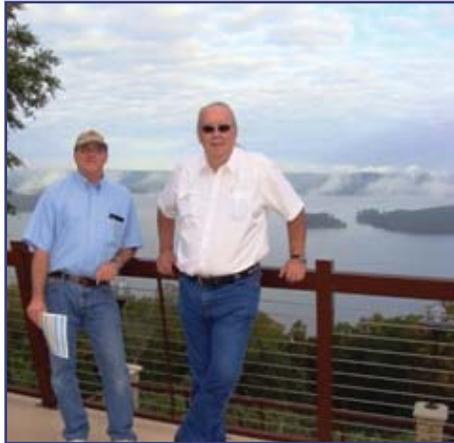


photo courtesy of John McLarty

**John McLarty, Arkansas chapter president, and Glenn Jones, vice-president, on the deck at Lake Guntersville State Park, the site of the 2009 TOTA conference.**

### Missouri

The Missouri chapter held a workshop on Saturday, November 7, 2009, to locate, on county road maps, the 600 miles of the Trail of Tears across Missouri on the Northern, Hildebrand, and Benge Routes. The workshop was held in Rolla, located on the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Russell Weisman, the senior historic preservation specialist with the Missouri Department of Transportation, supplied maps of each of the 21 counties the trails crossed. Each map was marked by chapter members to identify Section-Township-Range for use in ordering copies

### Missouri (continued)

of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Geology, and Land Survey's original land survey maps of the early 1880s. Keri Hicks and Nancy Feakes from Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) in Rolla are locating the trails on the MTNF maps. Hicks is assisting Deloris Gray Wood and Denise Dowling with administrative chapter responsibilities.

A trail adventure on November 28, 2009, was led by Weisman. Assisting were Susan Zornek-Stevens of MTNF, Earl Pennington and Joy Boyer of Poplar Bluff, and Wood of Salem. The group caravanned from Lake Wappapello just west of where the John Benge Detachment forded across the St. Francis River and ended the day near the ford where Benge crossed Current River into Arkansas.

The next chapter meeting is set for Saturday, March 6, starting at 10 a.m., at the Pizza Inn in the town of Salem. The Pizza Inn is located at the junction of Highways 19-32-72, and is about 4 miles north of what is believed to be where the Peter Hildebrand Detachment crossed. The lunch buffet starts there at 11 a.m. At noon, the group will follow (as close as possible) the Hildebrand Route in Dent County west to Montauk State Park to where it is believed the Detachment crossed Current River, about 100 miles north of where the Benge Detachment crossed.

### Illinois

The first 2010 general meeting of the Illinois chapter will be Sunday, March 21, at 2:30 p.m., at the Vienna Public Library. Hosted by the Johnson County Genealogical and Historical Society, the program will include viewing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail interpretive film, which premiered at the 2009 national conference. Because the chapter is often asked for help with genealogical questions, Dr. Herman Peterson of the Southern Illinois University Library will share his experience researching his family's Cherokee connections. The library is on the south side of Vienna square. From I-24 or I-57, take

## Trail of Tears State Chapter News

### Illinois (continued)



photo by Joe Crabb

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Pope County, Illinois, on the Crabb/Abbott Farm

State Route 146, which is the Trail of Tears auto tour route and Illinois Trail of Tears historic highway, to the Vienna Business District to the square.

With the 15th Annual TOTA Conference in Metropolis in September, the chapter is expecting a banner year. Hopes are high that many projects and much research can be completed to share with the other chapters who travel to the state for the conference.

Already, board member Joe Crabb has researched original trails in Pope County. The Cherokee entered Illinois by crossing the Ohio River on the only steamboat ferry in the region. After completing his research, Crabb secured donated funds to put the information into a Pope County brochure on the Trail of Tears with a map showing the relation to present-day roads. With mileage given for one's odometer, the brochure allows today's pilgrims to follow the actual trail on an 8.15 mile stretch of public road that has been signed with the assistance of the National Park Service.

### Kentucky

The site certification for Big Spring in Princeton was finalized with the signing of the National Park Service certification agreement by Princeton Mayor Gale Cherry on June 30, 2009. Big Spring, located in downtown Princeton, was a major water

### Kentucky (continued)

source for removal detachments during the drought of 1838.

July brought the bike tour with Principal Chief Chad Smith and youth of the Cherokee Nation to the trail route through Kentucky. A photo display of this event was part of the chapter table at the annual conference in Alabama last October.

A Kentucky Education Television (KET) crew spent the last week of August filming the six certified sites in Kentucky for part of a program that called attention to National Park Service parks and historic sites. Production aired on KET the first week in December, which provided TOTA and the Kentucky chapter statewide exposure on cable TV.

The October general membership meeting was held at Berry's Ferry Site on the Ohio River in Livingston County. The group met at Joy Grocery to purchase picnic lunches and then traveled to the ferry site. A beautiful day provided a great outdoor activity with a good number of interested persons attending.

The spring 2010 chapter meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 1 p.m., at the Hopkinsville-Christian County Library in downtown Hopkinsville. All interested persons are invited to attend. Please park behind the library and use the rear entrance.



photo courtesy of Alice Murphree

Princeton Mayor Gale Cherry (left center) signs the National Park Service certification agreement at Big Spring. Joining her were Kentucky Chapter President Beverly Baker (right center), (standing, l-r) Barbara Gillihan, Judy Boaz, Sherry Jordan, John Humphries and Alice Murphree.

### Alabama

Hosting the 2009 Trail of Tears Association Conference at Guntersville State Park Lodge was truly a landmark event for our five-year-old chapter. The event was opened with a research workshop organized by chapter member Mike Wren. There were so many positive comments about the workshop that it was certainly a great way to begin a conference, as well as invite the public to an event associated with the conference. The opening reception on Monday night at the Guntersville Museum was unique with a performance by the Cherokee National Theatre Company. The Museum deserves a huge thanks for its outstanding preparation for the reception. On Tuesday evening the reception was hosted by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians with a welcome message by Robert Thrower. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma hosted the Wednesday evening reception with a welcome message from Joyce Bear. Presentations at both receptions on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings provided in-depth information on the Creek Removal, which constituted the largest area of Indian removal in the state of Alabama. The funding provided by the Marshall County Convention and Visitor's Bureau was unbelievable and was responsible for both the Trail of Tears Association and the Alabama chapter ending the conference in great financial condition.

Since the conference the chapter members have been working on site certification and deciding where chapter funds would most benefit certified sites. On January 16, the chapter board met and voted to fund an excavation of the well at the Fort Payne Cabin Site. Signs are now being designed for this site, as well as the Willstown Mission Cemetery Site. The chapter has already received signs for the wagon road traveled by the Bengé Detachment in Guntersville State Park.

The next chapter meeting will be held on April 10, in Cherokee County, Alabama. This meeting will focus on Fort Likens and its future as a certified site.

# 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 System Office -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

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 Heritage Center, OK  
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA  
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR  
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL  
Delta Cultural Center, AR  
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR  
Fort Gibson, OK  
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL  
Gray's Inn, KY  
Hair Conrad Cabin, TN

The Hermitage, TN  
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge's, GA  
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN  
John Ross House, GA  
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC  
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR  
Mantle Rock, KY  
Maramec Spring Park—Massey Iron Works, MO  
Mount Nebo State Park, AR  
Murrell Home, OK  
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC  
New Echota State Historic Site, GA  
Petit Jean State Park, AR  
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR  
Port Royal State Park, TN  
Radford Farm, KY  
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN  
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN  
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO  
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO  
Tennessee River Museum, TN  
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY  
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL  
Tuscumbia Landing, AL  
Vann House Historic Site, GA  
Village Creek State Park, AR  
VC/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand's Gravesite-Trail of Tears State Park, MO  
Waterloo Landing, AL  
Waynesville Cherokee Encampment, Roubidoux Spring, Waynesville, MO  
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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**Oklahoma**  
**Curtis Rohr**  
**Phone: 918-341-4689**  
**E-mail: clrfnr58@att.net**

You're invited... **9th Annual "To Bridge a Gap" Conference** \$90 or \$35/day

**hosted by the Muscogee Creek Nation  
in collaboration with the National Forest Service**

**March 29 - April 1, 2010**

**Southern Hills Marriott Hotel • Tulsa, OK**

Guest Speaker: Jefferson Keel, Lt. Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and  
President of the National Congress of American Indians

For more information, visit [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov),  
or call Joyce Bear at (918) 732-7731.

Topics include:

- GPS, GPR, & GIS for preservation
- We Are Distinctly Unique Peoples and Cultures
- Tribal Consultation Best Practices
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Vandalism Issues
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
- National Tribal Historic Preservation Program



**Trail of Tears Association**  
1100 N. University, Suite 143  
Little Rock, AR 72207-6344

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
January - December 2010

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*.

**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.

**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 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 System  
Office - Santa Fe**



The National Trails System Office - Santa Fe administers the Trail of Tears NHT, the Santa Fe NHT, and the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT is administered jointly by the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe 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**  
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# Snapshots from the

## Tribal Involvement



Top: (L-R) Robert Thrower of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians speaks at the reception his tribe sponsored. Joyce Bear of the Muscogee Creek Nation tells a story at the reception her tribe sponsored. Principal Chief Chad Smith of the Cherokee Nation introduces the new Trail of Tears Interpretive Film that was premiered at the conference.

To the left: Sue Folsom and Olin Williams of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma visit after lunch. Sue serves on the TOTA board and Olin presented at the conference.



Above: The Cherokee National Theatre Company gave TOTA conferees a taste of their production of Nancy Ward.

Below: Shannon Sloan and Laurie Brockman, two of the many volunteers who helped with onsite tasks, that made the conference the success it was!



Above: Keynote speaker Jay Hannah, chair of Cherokee Nation Enterprises



Top-right: Long-time TOTA supporters, Billie and Tom Napolitano



Right: Tona Headrick, a college student who attended the conference

Left: Cherokee Nation citizens pose for a picture at the conference

# 2009 TOTA Conference



Left: Ross Homeplace in Fort Payne, Alabama, was part of the field trip.

Right: Mike Wren and Gail King from the Alabama chapter and Jerry Clark (far right) from the National Archives and Records Administration present at the pre-conference research workshop



## A Night of Unwinding and Storytelling by the Fireplace



TOTA President Jack Baker offers warm cookies before sitting down to read to the crowd the newly translated (from German) Moravian records. The recordings were about daily Cherokee life as recorded by the missionaries. This was merely an impromptu gathering in the lobby of the lodge. Conferees just slowly gathered, one by one, to hear Jack read. It was a site to see upon walking into the lodge!

## Budget Cuts Inspire Friends Group Charter

by David Gomez, New Echota State Park

Despite all the doom and gloom about Georgia's (and everyone's) budget condition, New Echota's newest supporter, the Friends of New Echota State Historic Site, was officially chartered in October and had already started helping out before the official paperwork was complete. Diving into the annual Frontier Day in October and the very popular Christmas Candlelight Program on the first weekend in December, the group's strength and energy enabled

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**...Trail of Tears Association members have jumped aboard the New Echota Friends group and are sure to become a strong presence.**

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the public to participate in these popular events, despite site personnel positions being abolished and budgets being slashed. "We've always had great volunteer help from the local community over the years. The group will enable the volunteers to help New Echota in a more organized, efficient way," said Site Manager David Gomez. Not surprising, a lot of familiar Trail of Tears Association members have jumped aboard the New Echota Friends group and are sure to become a strong presence. Both the Frontier Day and Christmas Candlelight programs were better than ever this year, thanks to the efforts of this group.

With Georgia's budget woes hitting the State Parks & Historic Sites Division extremely hard, this group will grow to be an essential part of the site's efforts to continue teaching about the significance of this important site. Training during this winter for group members will focus on assisting the site staff in areas including guided tours, visitor center services, library research assistance, grounds and building maintenance, and any of the many other tasks associated with site operations. Reduced operating hours and abolished positions at New Echota, Vann House, and Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Sites mean efforts from groups like this will ensure the availability of the site to the public for visitation, preservation of the



photo courtesy of Georgia State Parks  
**One of the buildings at New Echota is a reconstruction of the first Cherokee Phoenix printshop.**

historic sites, and continuation of special events. For information on joining the Friends of New Echota State Historic Site, visit [www.gastateparks.org](http://www.gastateparks.org), or call David at 706-624-1321.

## SIGNAGE

Continued from page 1

**Willstown Mission  
Cemetery**



OR FETPV3 DRGWY  
**Trail of Tears  
National Historic Trail**

Steve Burns of the NPS designed sign standards like those above for the Trail of Tears signage project.

then be sent to the NPS. Once approval is received from whomever has right of way jurisdiction, the proposal is given to the Trail of Tears Association executive committee for final review and prioritization. The NPS will have the signs delivered to the project lead, or whoever will be responsible for installation as per the agreement reached with the road right of way jurisdiction.

## Tennessee Commemorates Trail of Tears in Nashville

by Robert Richards, State of Tennessee

Dickerson Road (Pike) received a face lift in May 2009, but did not forget its beginnings. The project, managed by the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, spent funds to build sidewalks, reworked the road, and created the gateway to Dickerson Road with a herd of buffalo. Marty Lang, vice-president of the Dickerson Road Merchants Association, was adamant that the Trail of Tears be included as part of this project! He is still working on getting a Tennessee Historical Marker for this section of Dickerson Road that mentions the Trail of Tears.

The buffalo trail turned into North 1st Street and this was the original route of the Trail of Tears after the detachments crossed the Cumberland River. The 1838 bridge is just upstream (south) from the current Woodland Street bridge adjacent to the public square in Nashville. Tennessee chapter member Deborah Kirk has completed extensive research on the location of the bridge and found a picture of it in the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The Northern Route detachments of the Trail of Tears followed the Nashville Pike from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This is the modern day U.S. 41 North. Benjamin C. Nance described the route through Nashville in his 2001 study (pp. 30-31) by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology of the Trail of Tears in Tennessee. The Trail of Tears continues north on Dickerson Road, then turns left (west) onto Trinity Lane, and then turns right onto Whites Creek Pike.



photo courtesy of Richard Roberts  
**The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail runs along Dickerson Road in Nashville, Tennessee.**

# Trail of Tears Association

## Volunteer Log Sheet

Only **ONE (1) PERSON** per log. Only **SEVEN (3) ACTIVITIES** per log.

Mail to: Trail of Tears Association  
1100 N. University, Suite 143  
Little Rock, AR 72207

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Volunteered: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Information for Volunteer Participation	
Date(s) of Activity	
Start Time*	
End Time*	
Type of Activity <small>(i.e., membership or board meeting, research, conference, school or club presentation, etc.)</small>	
Place of Activity <small>(i.e., Campground Church, Anna, IL)</small>	
Subtotal hours volunteered	
Activity Information for Volunteer Participation	
Date(s) of Activity	
Start Time*	
End Time*	
Type of Activity <small>(i.e., membership or board meeting, research, conference, school or club presentation, etc.)</small>	
Place of Activity <small>(i.e., Campground Church, Anna, IL)</small>	
Subtotal hours volunteered	
Activity Information for Volunteer Participation	
Date(s) of Activity	
Start Time*	
End Time*	
Type of Activity <small>(i.e., membership or board meeting, research, conference, school or club presentation, etc.)</small>	
Place of Activity <small>(i.e., Campground Church, Anna, IL)</small>	
Subtotal hours volunteered	

These volunteer hours are reported to Congress each year. Please take time to count your hours, which demonstrates the public's interest in the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and encourages Congress to support it, as well!

\* Start time should be the time you left from home. End time should be the time you returned to your home.



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

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Cherokee Nation - \$10,000  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians - \$10,000

**Patrons \$500 - \$999**  
Jay Hannah, OK - \$500  
Principal Chief Chad Smith - \$500

**Sponsors \$100 - \$499**

Robert Conley, W. Carolina Univ. - \$225	Cherokee Co. Historical Society - \$100	Guy Parmenter - \$100
Lori Vann - \$120 ('09) + \$220 ('10)	Andrew Denson - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)	Gary Payne - \$100
Hank Saunders - \$200	Patsy Edgar - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)	Herman Peterson - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)
Jean Wall Davis - \$125	Debra Eskie	Maxwell Ramsely - \$100
Robert Girty - \$125	Gwen Grayson - \$100	Ansley Saville - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)
Patsy Hanvey - \$100 ('09) + \$125 ('10)	Patsy Hanvey - \$100	Robin Skinner - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)
Bobbie Heffington - \$125 ('09) + \$125 ('10)	Elmer Hogue Jr. - \$100	Marvin Sowder - \$100
Rowena McClinton - \$125 ('09) + \$125 ('10)	Glenn Jones - \$100	Adam Stone - \$100
Billie Napolitano - \$100 ('09) + \$125 ('10)	Ernest Klatt Jr. - \$100	John Tissue - \$125
Robert Akerhielm - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)	Mark Twain National Forest - \$100	Greg Trammell - \$100
H. Riley Bock - \$100 ('09) + \$100 ('10)	Mary Ellen Meredith - \$100	Gary Wood - \$100
Terence Brennan - \$100	La Myra Morton - \$100	