**Chief s to Speak at Annual TOTA Conference in October**

October 25 – 28, 2004, the Trail of Tears Association will hold its ninth annual conference and symposium in Catoosa, Oklahoma, at the newly renovated Cherokee Hills Resort and Casino. This year’s conference promises to be full of activities and scholarly presentations on each of the five tribes’ removals. This will be the first conference hosted by TOTA that will include speeches from four of the five tribes’ chiefs at one conference.

In addition to the presentations, tours are scheduled to the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House Museum in Okmulgee, and to the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa.

The new casino facility in Catoosa, scheduled to open this summer, has been expanded to an amazing 80,000 square feet and features more than 2,000 electronic games. In addition, the property now has attached to it a 150-room hotel that includes an indoor/outdoor swimming pool, a conference center, a 24-hour restaurant, and the redesigned historic 18-hole Perry Maxwell golf course built in 1924.

The conference will open with a tour at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. This visit will include a guided tour of the legendary entertainer’s intended retirement home site, which now houses a 16,652-square-foot, nine-gallery museum dedicated to depicting the life of the “Cherokee Kid.” The Museum tells the life of Rogers through several media, including theaters, interactive TV, art, artifacts, and photographs.

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**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, October 25th</th>
<th>Tuesday, October 26th</th>
<th>Wednesday, October 27th</th>
<th>Thursday, October 28th</th>
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<td>Morning</td>
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<td>8:00 - Noon</td>
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<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
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<td>1st Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<td>11:00 AM - Noon</td>
<td>NPS Update</td>
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<td>2nd Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>9:45 - 10:45 AM</td>
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<td>4th Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<td>11:00 AM - Noon</td>
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<td>5th Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Keynote: Jay Hannah</td>
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<td>Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration at Hotel</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<td>3:30 - 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Legacy of Removal: Tim Garrison, Robert Miller, &amp; Lindsay Robertson</td>
<td>Research Update: Dan Littlefield</td>
<td>Research Update: Dan Littlefield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Rogers Memorial</td>
<td>4:00 - 9:30 PM</td>
<td>3rd Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>3rd Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tour</td>
<td>Creek Nation Tour</td>
<td>Gilcrease Museum Tour</td>
<td>Gilcrease Museum Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynotes: Chief A.D. Ellis, Creek Nation, &amp; Chief Ken Chambers, Seminole Nation</td>
<td>Keynote: Governor Bill Anaotubby, Chicksaw Nation</td>
<td>Keynote: Governor Bill Anaotubby, Chicksaw Nation</td>
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<td>Reception at Hotel</td>
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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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This year’s Trail of Tears Association conference will take place at the newly renovated Cherokee Hills Casino and Resort. Pictured is a rendering of what the property will look like after its planned completion in September.

**Photo courtesy of the Cherokee Hills Resort & Casino**

**Photo courtesy of Will Rogers Memorial Museum**

**A tour to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum is scheduled during the TOTA conference.**

**Chief Chad Smith, Cherokee Nation**

**Will Rogers was a Cherokee cowboy who became a legendary figure in wild west shows and on the vaudeville stage.**

**Photo courtesy of Will Rogers Memorial Museum**

**Will Rogers was a Cherokee cowboy who became a legendary figure in wild west shows and on the vaudeville stage.**
We have many members all across the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail that are doing a great job in their local areas identifying and working to preserve trail segments. It is frequently easy to focus on the local area and lose sight of the overall goals of the entire Trail. It is important that we focus on the National Historic Trail and view each project as an integral whole. I see many of the local chapters, and even many of our national board members, thinking only of their own areas and not having a commitment to the National Trail.

One of the reasons for this has been a lack of impacting an overall action plan for the Trail on the part of the National Association. The completion of the Interpretive Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail should enable all of us to focus on the overall goals and plans for the Trail. It is a document to which we should continually refer to ensure that our projects fit into the Trail’s plan. This plan identifies our priority actions as the following:

- Market the trail locally/nationally for the purpose of gaining support and understanding of the trail story.
- Develop and install signs with official logo on the Trail along its entire length.
- Develop research strategy/work plan.
- Identify sites for future certification.
- Develop and implement a Trail monitoring strategy.

It is important that we review all of our state and local projects and make sure that they fit into at least one of the actions identified in this plan. This will facilitate the Trail’s development so that its visitors will have an understanding of the significance of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

I would like to thank all of our partners and members for their work in developing the Interpretive Plan, and especially, Sharon Brown of the NPS for all of her hard work in putting the document together in its final form. The entire Interpretive Plan may be viewed as one of the Management Documents on the website: www.nps.gov/trte.

Jack D. Baker
President of the Trail of Tears Association

The Trail of Tears Association held a board of directors meeting on April 21, 2004, at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. In addition to board members being present, Principal Chief Chad Smith from the Cherokee Nation attended the meeting in order to join discussion about a Memorandum of Understanding from the Cherokee Nation that states the Association will act on behalf of the tribe in matters dealing with the Trail of Tears. The board voted to approve the MOU, after which Chief Smith thanked the board for their efforts. Also present at the board meeting was another tribal dignitary, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, the Creek Nation’s newly appointed representative to the TOTA board.

Also joining the board meeting were Jere Krakow, John Conoboy, and Aaron Mahr—staff from the National Park Service’s National Trails System Office – Santa Fe. Superintendent Krakow spoke to the board about the cooperative agreement submitted for this year by the Association. He assured the board that the Association’s full request of $65,000 will be awarded.

Several changes by the board to the bylaws will be presented to, and voted on by, the entire membership during the annual October meeting.

Photo courtesy of Creek Council House Museum
A tour to the Creek Council House Museum will be part of the festivities at the 2004 TOTA conference. Photo by Mary Riesberg

Deadlines: Sept. 18, 2004
Groups: Trail of Tears
Call: 1-800-760-6700

American Indian Center Partners with Trail of Tears Association for 8th Year

So, have you ever wondered why, when you call the TOTA, the person answering says “American Indian Center”? Partnership, that’s why. The American Indian Center of Arkansas (AICA) and the Trail of Tears Association have been partners for eight years, working together for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In 1995, the Center was approached from the Cherokee Nation that states the Association will act on behalf of the tribe in matters dealing with the Trail of Tears. The board voted to approve the MOU, after which Chief Smith thanked the board for their efforts. Also present at the board meeting was another tribal dignitary, Second Chief Alfred Berryhill, the Creek Nation’s newly appointed representative to the TOTA board.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

January - December

Membership in the Trail of Tears Association automatically includes membership in one state chapter. Additional state memberships are $10 each.

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

City __________________ State _______ Zip ______

Phone (Day) _______ (Evening) _______

E-mail _____________________________

State Chapter(s) ____________________

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

$25.00

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

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Georgia

Marvin Sowers, Membership Chairman, has designed a contest for all members and any interested parties to submit an essay on the “Why should someone want to become a member of the Georgia chapter of the TOTA” in 500 words or less. Very nice prizes are offered for first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Doug Mabry and J.B. Tate have worked hard on the research committee to pinpoint two of the forts sites in the Rome/Floyd County area. Fort Means, is the eastern part of Floyd County, while the other, Fort Scott, more commonly known as Fort Rome, is in the extreme western part of Floyd County. The Georgia chapter members attending the next regular membership meeting on July 10th will experience a special treat with a trip to each of these sites after the meeting.

Our research committee is asking the chapter to reexamine and streamline its focus, planning, and direction in approaching its goals and objectives. The guidelines laid out in the interpretive plan will be used as a guide to provide planning and organization needed to achieve the chapter’s mission.

Mabry, Research Chairman, provided one opportunity to improve research achievements recently with a proposal he made to the Georgia Department of Transportation to partner with the chapter. The DOT is enthusiastically reviewing Mabry’s proposal, and from their initial input, it appears this proposal will be accepted. Such a partnership would enhance research tremendously and provide great publicity and credibility.

Arkansas

In 2004, the Arkansas chapter is sponsoring public programs focusing on the Benge Route across northern Arkansas, water and land routes that converged at North Little Rock in central Arkansas; and the Memphis-to-Little Rock military road through the east Arkansas swamps.

The chapter’s spring program spotlighted the Benge Route and drew about 70 people to the Baxter County Heritage Museum in Gassville on Saturday, May 15. The museum, on what is now U.S. Highway 412, is on the historic roadway traveled by this detachment. On display were maps provided by researcher Bill Wouwiel of nearby Mountain Home, as well as photographs from the Yokes on the Trail of Tears traveling sculpture project that is being developed into a book by author Pat Musick and photographer Jerry Carr.

Researchers with the American Native Press Association at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock – Littlefield, Paige, and Fuller Bumpers – continue their Indian Removal Through Arkansas project and are now working on a book on Chickasaw Removal.

The chapter’s summer program featured a sightseeing trip to site of the Benge Route through the east Arkansas swamps.

The fall meeting will be Saturday, September 11, at Village Creek State Park near Wynne. A significant remnant of the 19th-century military road survives in the park.

Kentucky

The Kentucky chapter had its first official meeting on July 21, 2004, at the Hopkinsville-Christian County Library. Passing of the bylaws and election of officers took place. More news will be available at the annual meeting in October in Catoosa.

Updates from the Trail of Tears Association state chapters will routinely appear in future issues of this newsletter. The Trail of Tears Association state chapter coordinator, at (931) 666-9352, will submit information and photographs.
Superintendent Approves a New Shortened Certification Agreement

There have been some new changes in the certification process for the Trail of Tears and other national historic trails that are administered in the Intermountain Region National Trails System Office. Superintendent Jerre Krakow has approved a new short certification agreement, and a new brochure, in cooperation with the Certified Sites Office. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Property, has replaced the former Certification Guide. A copy of the new certification brochure can be found at www.nps.gov/trte/bphmlc/docs/certification.html.

The new certification agreement is only one page long. Trail staff felt that the old three-to-four page form was too bureaucratic and that it interfered with developing a working partnership with some site owners because the key terms of the agreement were not being well understood. The new one-page form uses only those key terms.

Certification really remains the same. The agreement is still a completely voluntary agreement in which the site owner and the NPS agree to work together to protect trail resources and provide for appropriate visitor use of the site. The new agreement has been in use for a few months now on both the Trail of Tears and Santa Fe National Historic Trails and is being well received. It has greatly shortened the time needed to get an agreement approved. On the Santa Fe Trail, site owners who previously were not willing to have their sites certified have signed the new agreement.

The actual form includes a full-color header with the trail name and logo, site name, and owner name, and there are signature lines at the bottom for the site owner and trail superintendent. Here is the main text of the new certification agreement.

This agreement represents the Secretary of the Interior’s certificate, under subsection 19(a)(3) of the National Trails System Act (codified as amended at 16 U.S.C. subsection 1242(a)(3)), that the [name of site] located at [address] meets the national historic trail criteria established by the National Trails System Act and any supplemental criteria prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The National Park Service and the [owner] agree voluntarily to strive to achieve the highest level of resource protection and visitor appreciation of trail resources and history at the site, as provided for in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail “for historic identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.” (National Trails System Act 16 U.S.C. § 1241, et seq. Section 19(a)(3))

Through this agreement, the National Park Service and the [owner] agree to work jointly on planning, interpretation, resource management, and other matters that relate to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail at the site and to strive to meet the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for the Trail.

The [owner] retains all legal rights to the property, and nothing in this agreement is to be construed as granting any legal authority to the National Park Service over the property or any action by the [owner].

This agreement may be canceled by either party at any time by providing written notice to the other party. The National Park Service and the [owner] agree, whenever possible, to identify issues or concerns to allow for resolution. This agreement will remain in effect unless canceled by either party, or until the ownership of the property is transferred to another entity.

Interpretive Plan Finalized

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Interpretive Plan has been finalized. Thanks to the efforts of all the trail partners, the Trail of Tears Association membership and staff, and the National Park Service staff who crafted the document, we now have articulated the primary themes, and identified and prioritized action items that will guide our interpretive efforts for the next five to ten years. The final document can be viewed at www.nps.gov/trte under the Management and Use section. At a future date, the formal plan layout-out will be condensed into a full-color folder with graphics to be used for marketing the trail.

DAH Works on Trail of Tears Efforts in Arkansas

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH), will present a nomination of the Fort Smith to Jackson Road—Cudbert’s Ferry Segment to its State Review Board for consideration for possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places when the review board meets in August. The road segment was traversed by the Benge Detachment in 1838-1839. The AHPP also successfully nominated the Military Road—Cadron Segment to the National Register earlier this year; this section of road bed was used by the Benge Detachment of the Cherokee Trail of Tears but also was utilized in removing detritus of Chocawas, Chickasawans, Seminoles and Creeks.

DAH and the AHPP are continuing work with the National Trails System Office and Arkansas State Parks to place interpretive wayside exhibit panels at six Arkansas locations. The AHPP has funded through a Challenge Cost-Share with the National Trails System Office-Santa Fe, will provide six specific Trail of Tears interpretation at Helena, Village Creek State Park, Cadron Settlement Park, Lake Dardanelle State Park, Pea Ridge National Military Park, and North Little Rock. The AHPP also has received grant funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council to place an additional panel at each of the six sites; this panel will provide information on federal Indian removal policy to establish the context for the site-specific exhibits.

Despite this tragic event in our Nation’s history, the Cherokee and other Southern-eastern tribes built successful communities that exist today. Old traces, historic build-ings, and other sites are being preserved to commemorate the sorrowful journey.

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

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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. Additional sites have been certified and numerous on-the-ground projects have been completed, such as signing the route, visitor-use development, interpretive wayside exhibits, and interior museum exhibits at existing facilities.

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