Wamp Introduces Legislation for Inclusion of Additional Routes

By Aaron Mahr and Jerra Quinton

On Friday, February 8, 2008, U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee introduced legislation (H.R. 5335) that would add 2,800 miles to the existing Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The proposed additions are the Benge and Bell Routes; the land components of the designated water routes in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee; the routes from the collection forts in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee to the emigration depots; and the related campgrounds located along these routes and land components. In addition, the bill has extensive private property rights protections. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and Congressman Wamp’s office is pushing for enactment of the bill by this summer.

In November, the National Park Service National Trails System office completed the feasibility study and environmental assessment for the additional routes of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. As of early January, the study was under review by the NPS Director’s office. After that is completed, the Department of Interior and the Office of Management and Budget must approve it before it is submitted to Congress for consideration.

The feasibility study, which is actually an amendment to the original 1986 Trail of Tears Feasibility Study, addressed the desirability and feasibility of designating the Bell Route, the Benge Route, the land components of the water detachment routes, the roundup routes, the disbandment routes, and associated camp sites, as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The study concluded that all of the above components met the criteria of the national Trails System Act and that there was public support and interest in them. Ultimately, it will be up to Congress to determine whether they will become part of the National Historic Trail. Keep tuned! For more information visit www.nps.gov/trte and link to the Additional Routes Feasibility Study.

Wamp had 20 co-sponsors for the bill, including: Robert Aderholt and Robert Cramer of Alabama; Marion Berry, John Boozman, and Vic Snyder of Arkansas; Nathan Deal, Phil Gingrey, and Tom Price of Georgia; Ed Whitfield of Kentucky; Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri; Heath Shuler of North Carolina; Dan Boren, Tom Cole,

“Through this legislation, we will honor the historic footsteps taken by the Cherokee, document their courage and highlight their character as a great tribe of strong people.”

Mary Fallin, Frank Lucas, and John Sullivan of Oklahoma, and Stephen Cohen, Lincoln Davis, John Duncan, and John Tanner of Tennessee.

During the week of February 11, 2008, Trail of Tears Association board members Troy Poteete and Duane King and staff Paul Austin and Jerra Quinton met with
Trail of Tears Association President’s Message

On behalf of the National Association, I would like to express our appreciation to the Georgia chapter and particularly the conference planning committee for making our Annual Conference and Symposium a great success. All of your hard work was apparent from the planning and reception and trips to the abundance of great door prizes. Thanks for a great conference!

This year should be a great year for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. All of the chapters have been working diligently to locate and preserve Trail sites. Many of the projects are beginning to come to fruition. I believe that this year there will be a great deal of progress made in the development of sites along all the Trail. This will include additional signage, development of Trail segments and more wayside exhibits. All of these efforts will make for a much more meaningful experience for all visitors to the Trail. Further, this may well be the year that the Trail routes are expanded by Congress!

It is with regret that we accept the resignation of Paul Austin as our Executive Director. Much of the advancement that the Trail has seen in the last few years is a direct result of Paul’s work and leadership. Paul was instrumental in the organization of the Trail of Tears Association in 1993. It was his willingness to accept the responsibility of housing the Association’s office at the American Indian Center that enabled the Association to grow. Without their maintaining our financial and membership records it would have been very difficult for the Association to function. Even more important, his dedication to the Association and someone who possesses all the qualities I believe will make her a superb Trail partner and leader. Dr. Frank Norris, a regional historian in the NPS office in Anchorage, Alaska, has accepted the position of historian in the Trails office. Frank joined our staff in mid-January and you’ll learn more about him in the next newsletter. He will be spending a good portion of his time, as I did (and do), on the Trail of Tears. And Otis Halfmoon has also accepted a position in the Trails office as tribal liaison officer. Otis will be dividing his time between the planning activities we’re involved in across the trails system, and coordinating tribal consultation activities related to the numerous development projects we’re doing along the trails. In the coming months, I hope you all have the opportunity to meet and greet Sharon, Frank, and Otis and welcome them to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Big projects for 2008 include: • TOTAbase, an online cooperative research database for chapter members. • The opening of wayside exhibits at a National Park Service, Nature Conservancy, and ... • An NPS Challenge Cost-Share to perform archaeology on the Removal fort and camp sites researched by Sarah Hill, Ph.D., in 2005. Members can be interpreted and certified. • A February 16th research workshop at New Echota. • The opening of wayside exhibits at a Caddofort park, the former site of a Removal camp. • An NPS Challenge Cost-Share to perform archaeology on the Removal fort and camp sites researched by Sarah Hill, Ph.D., in 2005. Members can be interpreted and certified.

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Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

Ohio

The Ohio chapter held a site-certification ceremony on Tuesday, January 8th, at the Crabbs-Arboretum Farm near Granville, Ohio. Volunteers, with local dignitaries, the entire Ohio chapter board of directors, National Park Service landscape architect Steve Burns Chavez, and a crowd of close to 100 people in attendance. Also present were reporters and cameramen from television and radio stations and broadcast networks – NBC, CBS, and ABC. Newspaper coverage both before and after the event came from various newspapers including the Southern Illinoisan. Trail segment on the Crabbs-Arboretum Farm were researched and identified last fall during a visit to the farm by TOTA President Jack Baker and Steve Burns Chavez. A day of rain did not deter the crowd, and the new NPS sign was unveiled during a moving ceremony. Chapter president Sandra Roza had researched in Buttic’s Journal to find that on January 8, 1839, similar weather — mild temperatures with rain — had prevailed. Patricic wrote of the heavy rain forming streams of water that found their way through the tent. Mark your calendars for the spring general membership meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 29th, at the Saline County Museum in Harnsberg, Illinois. The Museum is located at 1600 Feazell Street, just 0.2 miles north of U.S. Route 45 South in Harnsberg. This will be another oral history collection meeting continuing the Illinois Trail of Tears Oral History Project, which the chapter began last April with a kick-off event at Camp Ground Church in Union County. Videotaping, copying, and scanning services will all be available at the Saline County Museum event to record people’s stories, pictures, and documents. For more information or directions, please contact Joe Crabb at joecrabb@shawneelink.net or 618-949-3355.

Arkansas

Arkansas chapter’s 2008 season includes major events to which all TOTA members and others are invited:

• May 3, Little Rock – We celebrate Arkansas Heritage Month with a 5 p.m. program at Old State House Museum, 300 W. Markham. Amanda Paige will discuss early Arkansas governors and Indian Removal.

• July 19, Van Buren – Our 1 p.m. summer program at the Crawford County Extension office, 109 Frontier Trail West, will focus on river and road routes through western Arkansas. We especially hope TOTA members from Oklahoma and Missouri will join us. One topic will be the University of Arkansas efforts to restore the Van Buren home of Indian agent John Drennen.

• September 21-25, Little Rock – A pre-conference research day at UALR’s Sequoyah Research Center will kick off TOTA’s 13th annual Conference & Symposium. Under Dan Littlefield’s leadership, SRC has amassed the largest collection of Indian Removal documents outside of the National Archives. Little Rock’s location on routes used by all southeast tribes promises a diverse program. Area sites include Mount Holly Cemetery, where Quatie Ross is buried.

• October 16-18, the National Trails Symposium No one.

Tennessee

Tennessee Chapter has now active members from west to east Tennessee working to inform people of the removal and the chapter's efforts to document and preserve sites and segments of the trail. At Knoxville we have Vickie Rozema at the University of Tennessee, at Decatur Larry Smith with the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, on the Cumberland Plateau Agnes and Bill Jones with segments along the Mountain route, at Monticello Doris Treviriongton the Bell Route, at Winchester Floyd Ayers on the Bell Route, at Pulaski

Missouri

Norman Brown was the guest speaker at the spring Missouri chapter meeting on March 21st at the Cape Girardeau County Courthouse. He is the new Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Division of Geology and Land Survey, in Rolla, Missouri. Mr. Brown, who is now retired from the Division of Geology and Land Survey, assisted the NPS with land survey archives for use in developing the Missouri trail segments for the original 1991 Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. The Division’s Records Management office is located just a mile off I-44 at exit 184, about a mile north of the Rolla Visitor’s Center where the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears went through the area. Mr. Brown spoke about the land surveys and the Northern Route and took questions from the audience. Rolla is located between Missouir’s other National Historic Trail certified sites along the Northern Route. The three sites are all located a few miles off I-44 – Waynesville/ Roubidoux Springs to the west about 25 miles, and Marmaduke Spring/ Maussey Iron Works and the Snelson Brinker Cabin to the east about 25 miles.

The summer Missouri chapter meeting will be held at the Trail of Tears State Park in Jackson, Missouri, at 1 p.m. on July 21, 2008.

For more information on either meeting or the Missouri chapter, contact either Delores Gray Wood at (773) 729-2545, sequoyahresearch@embarqmail.com, or Denise Dowling at (573) 290-5268, trail.of.tears.state.park@dnr.mo.gov.

Alabama

In 2008, the Tennessee chapter met for the 13th annual Conference & Symposium in Little Rock. Under Dan Littlefield’s leadership, SRC has amassed the largest collection of Indian Removal documents outside of the National Archives. Little Rock’s location on routes used by all southeast tribes promises a diverse program. Area sites include Mount Holly Cemetery, where Quatie Ross is buried.

Tennessee state has been a perfect circle, was the highlight of the two days spent at the site. A great deal of gratitude goes to Landmarks for fencing the site. The chapter will be returning in February to finish the survey.

Arkansas’s efforts to restore the Van Buren home of Indian agent John Drennen.

For more information on either meeting or the Missouri chapter, contact either Delores Gray Wood at (773) 729-2545, sequoyahresearch@embarqmail.com, or Denise Dowling at (573) 290-5268.

Illinois

Trail of Tears Association State Chapter News

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The sign is unveiled at the Crabbs-Arboretum Farm site certification ceremony.

The Illinois chapter held a site-certification ceremony on Thursday, January 8th, at the Crabbs-Arboretum Farm near Granville, Ohio. Members, with local dignitaries, the entire Illinois chapter board of directors, National Park Service landscape architect Steve Burns Chavez, and a crowd of close to 100 people in attendance. Also present were reporters and cameramen from television and radio stations and broadcast networks – NBC, CBS, and ABC. Newspaper coverage both before and after the event came from various newspapers including the Southern Illinoisan. Trail segments on the Crabbs-Arboretum Farm were researched and identified last fall during a visit to the farm by TOTA President Jack Baker and Steve Burns Chavez. A day of rain did not deter the crowd, and the new NPS sign was unveiled during a moving ceremony. Chapter president Sandra Roza had researched in Buttic’s Journal to find that on January 8, 1839, similar weather — mild temperatures with rain — had prevailed. Butticc wrote of the heavy rain forming streams of water that found their way through the tents.

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The following are the Tennessee chapter meetings for 2008:

• June 28, Chapel Hill – 11 a.m. Central Time, Henry Horton State Park, located 40 miles south of Nashville on US 31A, between Chapel Hill and Lewisburg.

• August 9, Birchwood – 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Blythe Ferry, located just off Hwy 66 at the Tennessee River, between Dayton and Georgiana.

• November 1, Lawrenceburg – 11:00 a.m. Central Time, location to be determined.
Conoby Retires from National Park Service

John Conoby, chief of interpretation and resource management, retired on January 3rd after 32 years with the NPS.

John received a bachelor’s degree in geology from Case-Western Reserve University in 1967 and did graduate work in geology and paleontology at California Institute of Technology and the University of California at Davis. While living in California, John took up hiking, camping, and rock climbing, spending considerable time in Yosemite and other parks, and like many, would wonder every time he saw a park ranger: “How do I get a job like that?”

The answer came while teaching science and photography at Sandy Springs Friends School in Maryland in 1975 when John got his first NPS job as a seasonal interpreter/park technician at C&O Canal National Historical Park. In July of 1976, he accepted a permanent position at the C&O Canal as part of the river safety team.

In February of 1977, he transferred to Mount Rainier NP as a visitor protection/climbing ranger at Paradise. It was here, he says, a quintessential ranger job, as it included emergency medical services, search and rescue, mountaineering, back-country skiing, avalanche prediction/rescue, interpretation, law enforcement, and shoveling historic foot-loads of snow. When daughter Heather started school, he became the Nisqually area ranger at the Longmire District and was in charge of fee collection, campground operations, road patrol, and area backcountry. He also served on a details as a protection ranger at Crater Lake National Park in the winter of 1980, where he further honed his ranger skills and snow shoveling technique. For several years, John was also a reserve police officer for the city of Buckley, Washington.

John became chief ranger at Cedar Breaks National Monument in June 1982, with responsibility for all day-to-day operations in the monument. These included protection, interpretation, fee collection, resource management and maintenance, with additional ranger duties in the Kolob Canyon section of Zion National Park. From August 1986 to November 1996, he served as acting superintendent at Cedar Breaks and for several years was a member and then a team leader for one of the Rocky Mountain Region SET teams. Outside of work, he served as a volunteer EMT on the Cedar City ambulance and was a National Ski Patrol senior patrol at nearby Brian Head Ski Area.

John transferred to the Southwest Regional Office Planning Division in August 1989 as an outdoor recreation planner for the newly established Branch of Long Distance Trails, working on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The office soon took over responsibility for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and in 1995 the trail office split from the regional office to become a field area under a superintendent with John as chief of interpretation and resource management. The trail office has since grown, with the addition of responsibility for three more national historic trails, the Route 66 corridor preservation program, national trail feasibility studies and plans, and the NPS Old Santa Fe Trail Building.

From early January to mid-April 2007, John served as acting superintendent for the Intermountain Region trail offices in Santa Fe and Salt Lake City. John says it has been an exciting opportunity to participate in a period of rapid development of the National Trails System, completing numerous projects with hundreds of trail partners, making many friends for the National Park Service beyond traditional NPS units, and helping develop policies and procedures for administering national trails.

John and his wife Carol, a teacher in Bernalillo, New Mexico, will continue to reside in Corrales, where he will devote time to playing Irish music, continuing to serve on the board of directors of Zoukafest (a Santa Fe-based world music camp), reading, traveling, trying to control almost two acres of tumbleweeds, and other interests. John can be reached at jconoby@verizon.com.

Sequoyah Research Center, Arkansas Chapter to Offer Pre-conference Research Day

A research day at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock’s Sequoyah Research Center will kick-off the September 22-25, 2008, conference of the Trail of Tears Association.

Sponsored by TOA’s Arkansas chapter, the schedule at SRC that Monday, September 22, will include Cherokee Trail of Tears presentations with new information on the people of the Benge Detachment and on the route of the Bell Detachment as clarified by military journals from Muscogee Removal. There will also be opportunities for researchers to exchange information about the many removal routes traveled by southeast tribes. Details will be provided with the conference schedule. Workshop sessions are free, but pre-registration will be required.

Throughout the TOTA conference, SRC will be open 8 am to 4:30 pm and, by then, will be located in new quarters in Suite 500 of University Plaza at the northeast corner of Asher and University avenues, now part of the UALR campus.

SRC has amassed the largest collection of primary Indian Removal documents outside of the National Archives. The collection includes microfilm, photocopies, transcriptions, and site reports as well as TOTA’s archives. Some of the most recent additions were located by members of the Oklahoma chapter during two 2007 research trips to Washington, D.C., funded by the National Park Service’s Challenge Cost Share program. An every-name index of all non-microfilm Cherokee Removal documents currently at SRC will be ready by the conference.

At its new location SRC will also have a gallery to display selections from the Dr. J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection. Watch for more details to be posted at www.ualr.edu/sequoyahcenter.

PNTS to Host Historic Trails Workshop

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is hosting a Historic Trails Workshop in Phoenix, Arizona, May 6-8, 2008. The three-day meeting will take place at the Bureau of Land Management’s Training Center and at the Sonoran Desert National Monument. The theme for the workshop will be “Historic Trails Preservation.” Items that will be discussed, among other topics, are strategies, essential tools, applicable laws and regulations, and MET techniques (mapping, classification, etc.) for trail preservation.

If you are interested in attending this workshop, contact Jerra Quinton at the National TOTA office at (501) 666-9032. TOTAshop, contact Jerra at the National TOTA office at (501) 666-9032. TOTA chapters are encouraged to send at least one representative from their chapter, preferably someone who is interested in trail preservation. PNTS chapters will have some funds available for assistance in getting people to the event, so please contact Jerra if your chapter cannot afford the cost for someone to go. Registration for the event is expected to be under $100.

The PNTS has reserved rooms at a special rate for conference participants.

Passport to Your National Parks Trail of Tears 2008 Site Participants

Continued from page 1

Congressman Wamp about the legislation. The Congressman was very enthusiastic about the bill. He stated, “The real human side of the Cherokee removal still needs to be told. While the existing Trail of Tears National Historic Trail routes include trails from the collection forts to where the Army marched them in Oklahoma, the additional trails would show where the original villages, camps and emigration depots of the Cherokee once lay to enhance public understanding of American history. Our greatness as a nation is our ability to look at our own history objectively, and in proper perspective, being mindful of the errors of the past in order not to repeat them. Through this legislation, we will honor the historic footsteps taken by the Cherokee, document their courage and highlight their character as a great tribe of strong people. The Trail of Tears is a tragic story, but properly told and interpreted, it represents the development of strong character and determination by the Cherokee people.” Poteete, Austin, and Quintron met with 3 co-sponsors of the bill, as well, during their week in Washington—Marion Berry of Arkansas, Phil Gingrey of Georgia, and Dan Boren of Oklahoma. All three were very supportive of the Trail and of the Association.

To see the exact language of the bill, and ask for the “PNTS Historic Trails Workshop” room block.

Working in the National Trails System - Santa Fe office, his work in preserving and developing the national historic trails through partnerships will have a positive effect on the trail system for many decades to come.

For almost two decades, John Conoby has worked in the National Trails System - Santa Fe office. His work in preserving and developing the national historic trails through partnerships will have a positive effect on the trail system for many decades to come.

LEGISLATION

Continued from page 1

Following is a list of Trail of Tears certified sites that are currently participating in the Passport to Your National Parks Program. If you are a certified TRTE site with a staffed visitor facility (visitor center, museum, etc.) and post regularly scheduled hours of operation, you may be able to participate in this program. Contact Andrea Sharon at (505) 988-6842 for further details.

Alabama
• Little River Canyon National Preserve
• Russell Cave National Monument

Arkansas
• Lake Dardanelle State Park
• Mount Nebo State Park
• Petit Jean State Park
• Pinnacle Mountain State Park
• Fort Smith National Historic Site
• Pea Ridge National Military Park
• Arkansas Post National Historic Site

Georgia
• New Echota State Historic Site
• Chief Vann House/Major Ridge Home
• Vann House Historic Site
• Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park

Illinois
• Trail of Tears State Forest

Kentucky
• Trail of Tears Commemorative Park

Missouri
• Mark Twain National Forest-Potosi Ranger Station
• Visitor Center/Moccasin Springs Road/Nancy Hildebrand’s Gravesite in Trail of Tears State Park
• Marmamc Spring Park

North Carolina
• Museum of the Cherokee Indian
• Cherokee County Historical Museum
• Junaluska Memorial and Museum
• Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Oklahoma
• Cherokee Heritage Center
• Murrell Home

Tennessee
• Red Clay State Historic Site
• Sequoyah Birthplace Museum
• Audubon Acres
• Tennessee River Museum
• Chickatootega Regional History Museum
• Stones River National Battlefield
• Great Smoky Mountains National Park

All TRTE States
• National Trails System - Santa Fe office
• Trail of Tears Association National Office, Little Rock, AR

Watch for more details to be posted at www.ualr.edu/sequoyahcenter.
IMLS Accepting Grant Applications to NANH Museum Services Program

Application Deadline: April 1, 2008

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting grant applications to the Native American/Native Hawaiian (NANH) Museum Services Program. NANH promotes enhanced learning and innovation within museums and museum-related organizations, such as cultural centers. The program provides opportunities for Native American tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge through strengthened museum services in the areas of program, professional development, and enhancement of museum services. Projects will benefit their communities and audiences by connecting people to ideas, information, and learning experiences.

Grant funding ranges from $3,000-$50,000, and is available under the following three categories: (1) Programming: Services and activities that support the educational mission of museums and museum-related organizations; (2) Professional development: Education or training that builds skills, knowledge, or other professional capacity for staff—either paid or volunteer—who provide or manage museum service activities; (3) Enhancement of museum services: Support for activities that enable and improve museum services.

Applicants must apply online through Grants.gov. Awards will be announced in September 2008. For more information, including guidelines and application, go to www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/nativeServic es.htm.

IMLS has scheduled an audio-conference call to give prospective applicants an opportunity to ask IMLS staff questions pertaining to the Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program. Participants will need the information below to participate:

- Date: Wednesday, February 27
- Time: 3:00 PM EST
- Dial-In Number: 800-663-9527
- Conference ID: 2577995

TOTA State Chapter Contacts

- Alabama
  - Gail King
  - Gail@kingsatt.net
- Arkansas
  - Pat Proctor
  - PatProctor@nps.gov
- Georgia
  - Jeff Bishop
  - JeffBishop@nps.gov
- Illinois
  - Sandy Fong
  - SandyFong@nps.gov
- Kentucky
  - Beverly Baker
  - BeverlyBaker@nps.gov
- North Carolina
  - Anne Rogers
  - AnneRogers@nps.gov
- Tennessee
  - Bill Jones
  - BillJones@nps.gov
- Missouri
  - Delores Gray Wood
  - DeloresGrayWood@nps.gov
- Oklahoma
  - Curtis Riley
  - CurtisRiley@nps.gov

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- Illinois
  - Sandy Fong
  - SandyFong@nps.gov
- Kentucky
  - Beverly Baker
  - BeverlyBaker@nps.gov
- North Carolina
  - Anne Rogers
  - AnneRogers@nps.gov
- Tennessee
  - Bill Jones
  - BillJones@nps.gov
- Missouri
  - Delores Gray Wood
  - DeloresGrayWood@nps.gov
- Oklahoma
  - Curtis Riley
  - CurtisRiley@nps.gov

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

About the National Park Service

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 and exterior 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 and exterior museum services at existing facilities.

Certified Sites

- Audubon Area, TN
- Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
- Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
- Campground Cemetery, IL
- Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
- Cherokee Historical Museum, NC
- Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
- Chefield Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
- City of Nashville trail routes, TN
- City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
- Coke Ovens Museum Trail Segments, TN
- Delta Cultural Center, AR
- Fort Gibson, OK
- Gray’s Inn, KY
- The Hermann, TN
- Historic Road from Ross to Ridge’s, GA
- James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
- John Ross House, GA
- Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
- Lake Dardelean State Park, AR
- Major Ridge Ferry Site and Farm Fields, GA
- Mantle Rock, KY
- Maramec Spring Park—Missouri 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
- Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
- Running Waters John Ridge Property, GA
- 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 Forest, IL
- Van Winkle House Historic Site, GA
- VGCassimain Spring Road/Nancy Hildebrand's Graveline-Trail of Tears State Park, MO
- Waynecville Cherokee Encampment, Roodhouse Spring, Waynecville, MO
- Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites
  - Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR
  - Berry Ferry, KY
  - Cadron Settlement Park, AR
  - Cherokee Memorial Park Bluffs Ferry, TN
  - Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
  - Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
  - H. T. W. Tract National Forest, MO
  - Mocsain Bend, TN
  - Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
  - Shawnee National Forest, MO
  - Stones River National Battlefield, TN

The Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office-Santa Fe has entered into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to promote and engage in the protection and management of the Trail. The Trails of Tears Association and the National Park Service 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 by the National Trails System Office - Santa Fe.

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Certified Sites

- Trail of Tears Association and the National Park Service National Trails System Office - Santa Fe
- American Indian Movement National Historic Trail, AR
- Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR
- Cadron Settlement Park, AR
- Cherokee Memorial Park-Blythe Ferry, TN
- Congaree National Park, SC
- Curtin Settlement Park, AR
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Reservation, NC
- Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC
- H. T. W. Tract National Forest, MO
- Mocsain Bend, TN
- Pea Ridge National Military Park, AR
- Shawnee National Forest, MO
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On March 14, 2008, Paul Austin’s last day with the American Indian Center of Arkansas and the Trail of Tears Association, Paul has been appointed executive director of the Arkansas Humanities Council.

Paul has served as executive director of ACA for 24 years, and for the last 12 years he has also served as executive director of TOTA. During his tenure, TOTA has grown from an ad hoc advisory council into the important organization it is today—one that has established chapters in each of the nine states; successfully lobbied Congress to increase the budget for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail; developed true partnerships with the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokees and the National Park Service; created the successful and popular annual Trail of Tears Conference and Symposium; and created an exciting and useful web page and newsletter for members and the public.

Upon reflection, Paul says, “It has truly been a joy to work with all the wonderful people involved with the Trail of Tears Association. I have made many lifelong friends, and I know that I will always be a part of the Association and committed to its good work. Looking back over the past 12 years, I am amazed by what has been accomplished by so few with so little resources, with only their passion for the story of the Trail of Tears and a commitment that the story will be told correctly and never be forgotten. I want particularly to thank the boards of TOTA and the American Indian Center of Arkansas for all their support over the years. It has been an honor to work with so many dedicated individuals and organizations to Washington. NMAI’s object collection includes several early-to-mid 19th century Cherokee hunting coats made from deerskin. One memorable item is an elaborately beaded bandolier bag. It is believed to be Cherokee and dates to before the removal. The words “For Genl. Jackson from Sam Houston” are embroidered under the flap. In retrospect, the visit provided an insightful glimpse of Cherokee treasures held in our national museums that can be used to enhance the public understanding of Cherokee culture and history.

AICPaul@aol.com for a while to come.

August 9
Tennessee Chapter Meeting, 11 am Central Henry Horton State Park, Chapel Hill, TN

September 22-25
18th Annual TOTA Conference & Symposium DoubleTree Hotel, Little Rock, AR Look for info at nationaltota.org/general-info/conf-info/

November 15 - 18
Sequoyah Research Center Symposium, Little Rock, AR

.about the Partnership for the Trails System’s “Hike the Hill” week, Paul Austin, Jerra Quinton, Troy Potente and Duane King toured the collection facilities of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian in Sulland, Maryland. The two museums together hold the finest assemblage of Native American material in the world. Of particular interest to friends of the Trail of Tears Association is the 19th century Cherokee material. The National Anthropological Archives has an outstanding collection of historical photographs including hundreds taken by James Mooney, a Smithsonian ethnologist, who regularly visited the Qualla Boundary between 1887 and 1912, and published the classic works, Cherokee Sacred Formulas, in 1891 and the Myths of the Cherokee, in 1900. He photographed ball games, dances, and individuals that he met. He also collected items associated with ball games, ceremonies and everyday life. The items in the Smithsonian collections brought back by Mooney include dance masks, eagle wands, water drums, rattles, ball sticks, steatite smoking pipes, pottery and basketry. This material is housed at Natural History’s Museum Support Center which is next door to the Cultural Resources Center of the National Museum of the American Indian. The NMAI collection consists of more than 110,000 historic photographs and more than 800,000 objects related to Native Americans. The collection contains a large number of 19th century photographs of Cherokee people in North Carolina and Oklahoma, including some of visiting deerskin beaded hunting coat

Kanuga (scratcher made from turkey bone)
The Trail of Tears Association
would like to thank the following for their generous support:

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