BIKE RIDERS TO VISIT WAYNESVILLE, MO FOR COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

The Remember the Removal Bike Riders are scheduled to participate in a ceremony in Laughlin Park, Waynesville, MO, at 9 a.m., June 17, 2016. The event is in Remembrance of the detachments that were removed on the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears and part of the 100 Year Anniversary of the National Park Service Commemoration.

City of Waynesville Mayor Luge Hardman, State Representative Steve Lynch and Deloris Gray Wood, President of the Missouri Chapter plan to meet the bike riders the evening before at Laughlin Park. The Missouri Chapter plans to host the Bikers at Hoppers Restaurant for dinner for the third year in a row.

For a TENTATIVE SCHEDULE and a LIST OF REMEMBER THE REMOVAL CYCLISTS see page 3

2016 Atlanta Science Festival Visits a Trail of Tears Site

The Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows Preserve, a Cobb County Park in Marietta, Georgia, was selected as a featured site for the 2016 Atlanta Science Festival. The Cherokee Garden is an interpretive site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail that showcases plants that the Cherokee used for medicine, food, shelter, weapons, tools, art and ceremonial purposes. Tony Harris, a Cherokee Nation citizen and Vice president of the Georgia Trail of Tears, led the participants through the Garden and explained the historic importance of the

See SCIENCE FESTIVAL, page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• 2015 TOTA Conference .................. 2
• RTR Bike Ride Schedule .................. 2
• 2016 Historic Trails Workshops ........ 3
• PNTS Apprentice Program ............... 3
• TOTA Chapter News .................... 4-8

Tony Harris is explaining the medicinal properties of Blood Root.
2015 Trail of Tears 20th Annual Conference in Missouri

Proctor and Gamble was the Corporate Sponsor for 20th Annual Conference hosted by the Missouri Chapter and the Trail of Tears State Park.

Celebrated Cherokee Orator and Dennis Jay Hannah entertained attendees with his banjo at a reception Monday evening. On Tuesday morning he kicked things off with a very well received Keynote Address “Cellular Memory West of the Mississippi”.

The Conference included sign dedication ceremonies at Old Greenville and Bollinger Mill and a ceremony at the grave of Nancy Busheyhead where her descendant, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker, read her biography. Choogie Kingfisher played the flute and Cherokee Opera singer Barbara McAlister gave Cherokee song at these events.

Denise Dowling and her staff at the Trail of Tears State Park hosted a Cherokee/Choctaw Hog Fry prepared by acclaimed Cherokee hog fry chef William Deerinwater, courtesy of the Cherokee Nation Elder Care Program, and a team of Choctaw cooks led by Shirley Ross courtesy of the Cherokee Nation Solutions Dept. The memorable evening closed with Choogie Kingfisher’s performance of his emotional story “Conversation with an Ancestor”.

On the final day Choogie Kingfisher shared stories and encouraged Proctor and Gamble employees from around the country to tell their stories. Chief Baker made the closing address.

Several of the conference speakers were captured on film by George Miller of the Webbers Falls Historical Society and are available online at Vimeo via a link at the Trail of Tears Association website www.nationaltota.org. The quality of the sound and video of these recordings is much superior to what the Trail of Tears Association has been able to capture at previous conferences. The presentations of Dr. Rowena McClinton, D. Jay Hannah, Dr. Julie Reed, Lauren Brand, and the Busheyhead Grave Ceremony are available. Due to technical difficulties the excellent presentation of Anita Finger-Smith on the History of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians was lost.

Science Festival (continued from page 1)

medicinal plants. The emphasis was on Ethnobotany, the study of plants significant to an ethnic group, in this case the Cherokee. The participants not only had many questions about the medicinal plants but also about The Trail of Tears. The Festival is supported by Emory University, Georgia Tech University, Georgia State University, Mercer University, Delta Airlines, UPS and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Over 45,000 people attended over 140 events featured in the Festival last year. At the end of the seven day festival there was an Exploration Expo at the Centennial Olympic Park attended by more than 17,000 people. The Atlanta Science Festival is a weeklong celebration of local science and Technology. Scientists and educators from local schools, museums and companies uncovered scientific mysteries with hands on presentations. The mission of the Festival is to celebrate the integration of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in our lives today. Tony Harris stated that the inclusion of the Cherokee Garden in the Atlanta Science Festival was an excellent opportunity to showcase the Cherokee knowledge of botany and their dependence upon medicinal plants for survival.

Strategic Planning a Surprising Success

After the spring board meeting, most board members participated in a strategic planning session, despite the dread that often accompanies this activity. For a day and a half, the stalwart group was led by Joanna Donohoe of Seven Sisters Community Development Group LLC, a national consulting firm offering culturally relevant and innovative strategies to support systemic change. Seven Sisters’ clients include nonprofits, national intermediaries, and tribal government agencies. Because previous strategic planning sessions had been deemed arduous by many board members, the Executive Committee determined funds to employ a leading firm in Indian Country would be well spent. And it was a good decision.

Armed with information gleaned from a pre-session survey with a participation rate far above average, Ms. Donohoe gathered information about our organization through their “Wall of Wonder.” This process aided participants in realizing how much we have accomplished since inception. After analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats and a review of our mission and vision statements, the group participated in visioning exercises to form strategic direction, goals and objectives. In the near future, we will be receiving a draft three year strategic plan and one year action plan that will be shared with chapters for input.

As one participant observed, “7 Sisters consulting made it one of the most successful strategic planning sessions in which I have participated.” Another felt we finally will have a meaningful guiding document. We appreciate Ms. Donohoe’s able leadership and we especially appreciate those board members who fully engaged throughout the entire activity. When you see the outcome, you will thank them too.

L-R Lois Bethards, Jack Baker, Wanda McQuire photo Deloris Wood.
At its Spring meeting in Little Rock, AR the TOTA Board of Directors adopted a Resolution of Appreciation honoring American Indian Center of Arkansas staffers, Ex. Director, Lois Bethards and Career Manager Wanda McQuire, for their long time assistance to the Association. The two were presented Pendleton blankets by Association President Jack Baker at a Down Home Southern lunch in their honor following the Board meeting.
2016 Cherokee
“Remember the Removal”
Bike Ride
TENTATIVE Schedule
 Provided by Cherokee Nation communications department.
*Subject to change, according to weather, traffic, injury, etc.

The group will ride from
June 5  New Echota to Red Clay, TN
June 6  Red Clay to Dayton, TN
June 7  Dayton to Pikeville, TN
June 8  Pikeville to Murfreesboro
June 9  Murfreesboro to Nashville
June 10  Nashville to Hopkinsville, KY
June 11  Hopkinsville to Golconda, IL
June 12  Golconda to Cape Girardeau, MO
June 13  Maintenance day at Cape Girardeau, bike to shop for tune ups, clean vehicles, do laundry, etc.
        These are usually very busy days even though they are not riding.
June 14  Cape G to Farmington, MO
June 15  Farmington to Steelville, MO
June 16  Steelville to Waynesville/St. Robert, MO
June 17  Waynesville to Lebanon, MO
         Refer to front page photo of cyclists that will be visiting Waynesville, MO for a ceremony in Laughlin Park.
June 18  Lebanon to Springfield, MO
June 19  Maintenance day at Springfield
June 20  Springfield to Cassville, MO
June 21  Cassville to Springdale/Fayetteville, AR
June 22  Fayetteville to Stilwell, OK
June 23  Stilwell to Tahlequah
         Return ceremony on the courthouse square at approximately 11 a.m.

2016 National Historic Trails Workshop

Join the Partnership for the National Trails System for the 2016 National Historic Trails Workshop at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, June 6th-10th in Independence, Missouri. The upcoming workshop will be hosted by the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, National Pony Express Association, Oregon-California Trails Association, and Santa Fe Trail Association. Technology, innovation, capacity building, trail resources and preservation are the program topics for this historic trails workshop.

Trail of Tears Association membership gives an open door to attend this valuable trails workshop. You have the opportunity to meet other fellow association staff members, volunteers, and federal agency partners involved in historic trails and attend PNTS events.

This workshop is not open to the general public. Registration is limited to national historic trail staff, volunteers, and federal agency partners including: USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Trail System Program National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Federal Highways.

The program, registration, lodging, and more information can be found on the PNTS website. Registration is $300 which includes all sessions, lunches, opening reception, and Thursday closing dinner. Mobile workshops are extra.

The 2016 Cherokee Nation “Remember the Removal” Bike Ride cyclists are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adair County</th>
<th>Muskogee County</th>
<th>Sequoyah County</th>
<th>At Large</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kylar Trumbla, 23 Proctor, University of Central Oklahoma alumnus</td>
<td>Kelsey Girty, 21 Warner, Northeastern State University</td>
<td>Blayrn Workman, 16 Muldrow, Muldrow High School</td>
<td>Amber Anderson, 23 Warr Acres, North Dakota State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amicia Craig, 24 Tahlequah, Connors State College</td>
<td>Stephanie Hammer, 24 Tahlequah, Northeastern State University</td>
<td>Glendon VanSandt, 16 Siloam Springs, Arkansas, home school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Lewis, 23 Tahlequah, Tabor College alumnus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk will be held this year at Tvshka Homma on Saturday, May 21, beginning at 10 a.m. The annual Walk is held to honor and recognize the Choctaws forced march to march from their ancient homelands to Indian Territory nearly two centuries ago.

Activites will include Gospel singing in the traditional Choctaw style and Chahta Annumpa language, cultural demonstrations, basket weaving, beading, pottery, and Choctaw social dancers. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria and shuttle busses will be available between parking sites and the Capitol.

www.choctawnation.com
**2016 TOTA UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 21st & 22nd, 2016**
Trail of Tears Remembrance - Trail of Tears Park, Battlefield, MO
See Missouri Chapter news for more details.

**June 17th, 2016**
9am - Ceremony with the Remember the Removal bike riders - Laughlin Park, Waynesville, MO

**June 21st, 2016**
10am - Choctaw Nation Trail of Tears Community Walk - Tshka Homma, Choctaw Nation (For more info call 1-800-522-6170)

**July 23rd, 2016**
1pm to 4pm - Arkansas Chapter Annual Membership meeting at the Drennan-Scott House in Van Buren, Arkansas. Tom Wing, director of the Drennan-Scott Historic Site will present a program about the history of the site. The program will be open to all members and the public.

It was also decided to have a public meeting at Lake Dardanelle on the River Route on November 12, 2016. The specific time and program will be announced as soon as details are confirmed.

The Arkansas Chapter is conducting research on several Trail of Tears routes as part of the effort for the original route signage initiative. Members are researching the route from Pea Ridge Military Park to Beattie's Prairie, the route from Fitzgerald's Farmstead to the Old Baptist Mission (Woodall's), and the Bell/Drane/Whiteley route from the Van Buren Area to Evansville. Kevin Eads, Superintendent of the Pea Ridge National Military Park, will be working with the Chapter regarding signs within and in the vicinity of the park. Research is also continuing on the Benge Route in Randolph County.

The 2015 Remember the Removal Bike Riders were able to use a 12 mile portion of the off-road Razorback Regional Greenway that parallels the Trail of Tears through the urbanized area of NW Arkansas. They thoroughly enjoyed being out of the area traffic. The Arkansas Chapter Board suggested that this year the 2016 Riders consider the Trail of Tears route from Pea Ridge Military Park to Bentonville and then utilize 30 miles of the Greenway down to the Tsa-La-Gi Trail in south Fayetteville.

**Oct. 3rd - 6th, 2016**
Trail of Tears Assoc Annual Conference - Dalton, GA (see page 10)

**Early October 2017**
22nd Annual TOTA Conference - Ft. Smith, AR

**Arkansas (continued)**

Kevin Eads will communicate with the Remember the Removal trip organizers regarding this suggestion. The Trail of Tears National Conference will be held in Fort Smith in the fall of 2017, and the Arkansas Chapter is excited about making this an outstanding conference!

**City of Battlefield Trail of Tears Remembrance Event**
The City of Battlefield, MO will hold the annual Trail of Tears Remembrance in the Cherokee Trail of Tears Park, May 20-21, 2016. The Seminole Nation Color Guard will open the Ceremonies. The Cherokee Nation Youth Choir will perform several times. Troy Wayne Poteete, Chief Justice Cherokee Nation Supreme Court, will deliver an address, "The Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Perspective." He will also be one of the storytellers telling "Cherokee Dixieland: A Civil War Tale from the Old South of the Cherokee Nation." The Cherokee Braves Battle Flag from nearby Wilsons Creek Battlefield National Historic Park will be on display at City Hall, where art of Talmadge Davis is on display. The event draws 1500-2000.

The Department of Interior National Park Service National Historic Trail of Tears DVD will be showing inside Battlefield City Hall and a shuttle will carry visitors to sections of the original Trial available for walking.

**City of Springfield to Correct Signs**
The City of Springfield is currently working on a sign plan with the National Park Service for placement of Trail of Tears National Historic Trail signs across Springfield. The City paid for the signs, hardware and installation.

**National Forest to Host Bike Riders**
Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) Plans to host the Remember the Removal cyclists at the Potosi Ranger District Office two days before the Waynesville events.
A crew from Southern Illinois University Carbondale will continue documenting segments of the Benge Route on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District. The crew will be walking the trail to get accurate GPS centerlines in several areas, and will be documenting the traces with photos, measurements, and sketch maps. The purpose of this project is to create a product that will assist Mark Twain National Forest with their land management practices in the future.

**ILLINOIS**

In early March of 2016 the National Park Service-National Trails Intermountain Region, in conjunction with the Shawnee National Forest, the Cherokee Nation, and the Illinois Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association, held a design and planning charrette in order to gather ideas about interpreting the Trail in southern Illinois. The goal of this exercise was to engage the public and area stakeholders, and explore the possibility of developing a loop trail experience along the routes followed by the Cherokee as they traveled and camped between Jonesboro, Illinois and the two ferry landings on the Mississippi River. Efforts put forth on this segment of the Trail will supplement the new Wayside exhibit which is currently being developed at the nearby Hamburg Hill site.

By the end of the week the group had determined that the initial efforts toward interpreting this section of the Trail needed to focus on a combination of physical interpretive exhibits, as well as road signs. Further work on this section may include the development of a mobile tour which would offer expanded interpretative capabilities, and the development of local itineraries that would be available to the public offering different trail experiences based upon time constraints or mode of transportation, for example. To guide these interpretive efforts, the group spent part of the charrette identifying key themes that would be appropriate to share with the public about this part of the Cherokee journey. The National Park Service will use the results of the charrette to produce a national historic trail development concept plan document that will guide future work on the Jonesboro to Mississippi River segment of the Trail.

The Illinois Chapter would like to thank the National Park Service and the Shawnee National Forest for their efforts in leading this exercise. It brought together many interested individuals and groups, and facilitated discussions on ways to better share the Trail of Tears story with the public.
Several members of AL TOTA recently participated in a small excavation project at the site of the Willstown Mission situated a few miles north of downtown Fort Payne, Alabama.

In 1823 the American Board For Foreign Missions established the Willstown station and shortly thereafter hired a man to dig a trench to their mission from a nearby cave spring at the base of Lookout Mountain. Cedar pipes carried water from the spring in what was probably the first running water system in Northeast Alabama.

Olivia Cox, TOTA member, who is also active in Landmarks of DeKalb County, made arrangements for the excavation. No evidence was found of the 192 year old at that time aqueduct but the Alabama Chapter decided to conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of a part of the area. This survey was done in March by Duke Beasley of the University of Alabama Museum Office of Archaeology and preliminary results of GPR findings looked promising. Archaeologist Sharon Freeman of Northport, past president of AL TOTA, has directed the overall project. Working on the project with Sharon were Larry

The city of Decatur continues to plan for NPS signage along its trail route. The State of Alabama historical marker is in and the current calendar date for the state sign reveal is May 14th at Rhodes Ferry Park on the banks of the Tennessee River.

The Cherokee County Historical Museum located in Centre, Alabama, has added an exhibit dedicated to the Cherokee Trail of Tears. On January 16, 2016, the museum hosted a dedication ceremony. Present at the event from the Alabama Chapter were Sharon Freeman, Larry Smith, Danny Crownover, and Shannon Keith. The exhibit includes a tribute to the late Gail King whose research of Cherokee County provided the foundation for the exhibit’s information. Through the course of the ceremony and the remainder of the day approximately 100 people gathered or visited to see the new exhibit.

The April 9th meeting of the Alabama Chapter was held at the Etowah Historical Society & Heritage Museum and Native American Museum in Gadsden, Alabama. After the business meeting the Board and a group of other chapter members and visitors toured the Native American Museum that contains artifacts and displays and the Museum’s Trail of Tears Memorial, a series of panels that tell the story of the Trail of Tears.

SIGN DEDICATION AND TRAIL OF TEARS ADDRESS IN LATE JULY
Norma Pruitt of the Kentucky Great River Region Organization and Alice Murphree Kentucky Chapter President have joined to organize a wayside exhibit sign dedication and unveiling at Columbus-Beltz State Park, Columbus, KY on July 26th. Troy Wayne Poteete, Chief Justice, Cherokee Nation Supreme Court will do a public address about the Trail of Tears on the evening of July 25th in nearby Clinton, KY. He is scheduled to visit local historical sites to speak with staff about how educate the traveling public.

RACK CARD FOR DAY TRIPS SOON AVAILABLE
As part of the NPS 100th Anniversary Discover Your National Trail Program the KY Chapter joined with MO and IL Chapters to work with Carol Clark and Carole Wiedler, NPS Interpretative Specialist to create a Local Itinerary for the three states. The result of the consultations is a rack card for travel centers outlines two days of destinations following Trail of Tears Route signs. It is in final NPS approval stage.

NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER NOMINATION
KY Chapter is currently working with Amy Kostine at Middle TN State Univ. to finalize nomination of a 12 mile section of original Trail of Tears Route thru Caldwell, County, KY. This section offers the visitor a great sense of place because the swells of the original road are visible.

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS ON RIVERFRONT IN PADUCAH
Two wayside exhibits to be located on the riverfront to inform visitors about the water route are in planning with the City of Paducah. Two detachments of Muscogee Creeks and six Cherokee detachments passed Paducah. The Drew, Drane, and Deas detachments stopped.
The Tennessee chapter has been busy with signage on the trail, participating in educational activities, and conducting research. In February, Floyd Ayers spoke to the Franklin County Historical Society on the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Floyd detailed the routes of all the forced detachments but focused on the Bell Route as it made its way over Monteagle Mountain and through Franklin County. In March, several members were involved in helping plan and host a visit by a group from Texas and Oklahoma who visited sites in Tennessee related to Sam Houston and Cherokee history. Stops on the tour included the Cherokee Removal Park in Birchwood, the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum in Vonore, and the Sam Houston Schoolhouse in Maryville, among others. In October TNTOTA hosted a tent at the NAIA powwow in Nashville and Shirley Lawrence hosted a TNTOTA booth at the annual blessing of the buffalo event in Georgetown which promotes land conservation and the Native American Heritage of our area. Working with the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians, Vicki Rozema completed phase 1 of a project to document the presence of Cherokees with mixed-Spanish heritage on the Trail of Tears.

Signs for the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail were dedicated in November at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Birchwood, Tennessee. TNTOTA Treasurer Floyd Ayers read from a diary account of the removal to attendees which included Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park superintendent Brad Bennett, Franklin County Historical Society President David Moore, and TNTOTA members Shirley Lawrence, Lee Trevino, Cleata Townsend, and Carolyn Jones.

Thanks to the efforts of former TNTOTA State Director and Native History Association President Pat Cummins, the Johns-King House in Rutherford County was placed on the top ten list of most-endangered historic properties in Tennessee. The list is compiled annually by the Tennessee Preservation Trust to draw attention to historic sites that are worth preserving. The 1807 Johns-King house is a “Trail of Tears Witness House.” Pat reports that the Jesse Bushyhead, Evan Jones, Moses Daniel, and Old Field detachments passed by the house in October 1838. These four detachments containing approximately 4,200 Cherokees followed the Rutherford County alternate route through Old Jefferson, bypassing Murfreesboro en route to Nashville. In March, as part of a chapter meeting, TNTOTA website manager Toye Heape took members on a field trip to a section of the alternate route through Old Jefferson and explained how he and Pat are working toward getting better protection and interpretation for a section that lies on the East Fork of Stones River at the East Fork Recreation Area which belongs to the Army Corps of Engineers. Pat and the Native History Association also continued to work closely with representatives from TDOT and the NPS to finalize interpretive plans for the Nashville Toll Bridge site.

While TNTOTA has witnessed several success stories this past year regarding interpretation, preservation, and education, we were disappointed to learn that negotiations between Cornerstones, Inc. and the owners of the 1803 Brown’s Tavern in Chattanooga to purchase and protect the former Cherokee tavern from development fell through at the last minute. The future of the tavern, which is a certified site on the Trail of Tears, remains in danger. TNTOTA had made a small monetary pledge to help defray costs of the purchase and had pledged to assist Cornerstones in developing plans to raise money for ongoing support costs.

GRAVE MARKING IN THE OLD COO-WEE-SOO-WEE DISTRICT

On November 14, 2015, a marking and memorial tribute for two Cherokees who endured and survived the Trail of Tears, was held at the Schrimsher Cemetery at Vinita, Oklahoma. The Cherokees honored were Arminda England Schrimsher Jenkins and Irene England Schrimsher. Previous to the marking, a luncheon was held at the Cherokee Nation Vinita Health Center where family of the Cherokees being honored and members of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association gathered before the ceremony at the cemetery.

At 2:00 p.m. everyone assembled at the Schrimsher Cemetery for the memorial tributes. Curtis Rohr, President of the Oklahoma Chapter, welcomed everyone in attendance. A hymn was sung by Casey Henderson, the 2015-2016 Little Cherokee Ambassador. Remarks were given by Troy Wayne Poteete, Executive Director of the Trail of Tears Association. Troy spoke of the resilience of the Cherokee people during a time of great upheaval and hardship. The biographical tribute to Arminda England Schrimsher Jenkins was read by Wesley Harris, a
The Oklahoma Chapter held its spring meeting and memorial marking in conjunction with the National Park Service Local Interpretation Workshop at Webbers Falls, Oklahoma on April 1 and 2, 2016 next door to the Webbers Falls Museum. The workshop was led by Carol Clark, Park Ranger Interpretive Specialist of the National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The primary purpose of the workshop was to create a local area itinerary interpretive media plan identifying multiple types of interpretive materials to connect places and increase meaningful trail experiences. A reception and later a guided tour of Webbers Falls Historic Sites in a horse drawn wagon were held the afternoon of April 1, after the first day of the workshop concluded.

The workshop continued April 2 with a review of the previous day’s ideas and accomplishments. The Oklahoma Chapter spring meeting was then held with Troy Wayne Poteete as the speaker whose topic was The Community at the Mouth of Illinois River and Webbers Falls at Removal Time, Before and After.

At approximately 11:00 a.m. workshop participants and members of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association proceeded to the Still Cemetery on River Road near Gore Landing for the marking and memorial tribute for Melvina “Nellie” McGhee Hair. President of the Oklahoma Chapter, Curtis Rohr, welcomed those in attendance. Music was provided by Aaron Miller, who played the flute. Remarks were given by Jack D. Baker, President of the National Trail of Tears Association, and Cherokee hymns were sung by the Still Sisters of Webbers Falls. The biographical tribute to Melvina “Nellie” McGhee Hair was read by Sharon Henry Duke, a great great-great granddaughter. Amazing Grace was sung by those assembled and closing prayer was given by Rev. Kurt Henry, a great great-grandson of Melvina McGhee Hair. Booklets of the biographies and genealogies of the Cherokees being honored in the Vinita marking and the Gore marking were researched by David Hampton and given to all in attendance. The workshop resumed with the topic: From Grave Marking Ceremony to Visitor Experience and wrapped up at 4:00 p.m.

The North Carolina Chapter is excited to announce our new website at http://www.nctrailoftears.org/. Let us know what you think! We will soon have a new map/brochure that the National Park Service assisted us in designing. Both were possible through a $5,000 matching grant from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. Dr. Andrew Denson chairs the Committee, which includes Anita Finger Smith, Paige Tester, Lamar Marshall, Anne Rogers, and Dr. Sue Abram. In addition, Dr. Brett Riggs graciously took his time to consult with the Committee.

NCTOTA Board of Directors met March 26 at the Sylva Public Library. Guests Rodney Sneedeker and Andrew Triplett from the Nantahala Forest Service presented information and tentative plans regarding their
revision of the Forest Service’s management plan, which includes 26 miles of the Trail of Tears. The area will be divided into nine themed districts for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Committee also produced a sign assessment packet and presented it during the first Chapter meeting held at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian on April 9 in Cherokee. The Membership agreed that the Committee should produce a plan of action for sign repair/replacement/upgrades. Darlene Goins from the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Tennessee then gave a presentation on their recent charrette with the National Park Service. The presentation highlighted the history of the Center and its ongoing plans for interpreting the Trail of Tears and Fort Cass.

Jessica Metz-Bugg, program director of “Seeking Paths in Nature,” in partnership with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, invited the NCTOTA to the community send-off for the Cherokee Middle School, held at the Oconaluftee Visitor’s Center in the National Park, for a field trip to tour Cherokee sites in Georgia and Tennessee. President Sue Abram and Treasurer and National Board member Anita Finger Smith spoke to the students on the importance of preserving the Trail and presented NPS maps from the Georgia and Tennessee Chapters to the group for use during their trip. Secretary Mary Wachacha had earlier conducted sessions on Cherokee history for the entire group.

Anne Rogers and Anita Finger Smith, recently traveled to the National TOTA Spring Board and Strategic Planning Sessions in Little Rock to represent NCTOTA.
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

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

Editor: Troy Wayne Poteete

Contributors: Patsy Edgar, Heather Carey, Marybelle Chase, Tony Harris, John McLarty, Deloris Gray Wood, Sue Abram, Alice Murphee, Linda Cox, and TOTA state chapters.

Comments/Address Changes?
Contact: Troy Wayne Poteete
Trail of Tears Association
412 N. Hwy 100, Suite B
P.O. Box 329
Webbers Falls, OK 74470

Phone: 918-464-2258
EMail: TOTA@arindianctr.org
Website: www.NationalTOTA.org

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.

Trail of Tears Association
412 N. Hwy 100, Suite B
P.O. Box 329
Webbers Falls, OK 74470

Phone: 918-464-2258
EMail: TOTA@arindianctr.org
Website: www.NationalTOTA.org

National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region, Santa Fe

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

National Trails Intermountain Region
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Phone: 505-988-6098
EMail: lodi_administration@nps.gov
Vision Becoming Reality
Using Partnerships to Develop the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

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

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

Certified Sites
Andrew Ross House, AL
Arcadia Valley Campground, MO
Audubon Acres, TN
Berry’s Ferry and John Berry Homesite, KY
Big Spring, KY
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, TN
Browns Ferry Tavern, TN
Campground Cemetery, IL
Cedartown Cherokee Removal Camp, GA
Chattanooga Regional History Museum, TN
Cherokee County Historical Museum, NC
Cherokee Garden at Green Meadows, GA
Cherokee Heritage Center, OK
Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home, GA
City of North Little Rock Riverfront Park, AR
Columbus-Belmont State Park, KY
Crabb-Abbot Farm, IL
Crider Tavern Complex, KY
David Crockett State Park Trail Segment, TN
Delta Cultural Center, AR
Fitzgerald Station and Farmstead, AR
Fort Gibson, OK
Fort Payne Cabin Site, AL
Funk Heritage Center, GA
Giles Co. Trail of Tears Interpretive Center, TN
Green County Trail Segments, MO
Golconda Riverfront, IL
Gray’s Inn, KY
Hair Conrad Cabin, TN
The Hermitage, TN
Historic Road from Ross to Ridge’s, GA
Hiwassee River Heritage Center, TN
James Brown Cherokee Plantation, TN
Jentel Farm Trail Segment, IL
John Martin House, TN
John Ross House, GA
Junaluska Memorial and Museum, NC
Lake Dardanelle State Park, AR
La Petite Roche, AR
Laughlin Park, MO
Mantle Rock, KY
Maramec Spring Park/Massey Iron Works, MO
McGinnis Cemetery Trail Segment, IL
Mount Nebo State Park, AR
Murrell Home, OK
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, NC
New Echota State Historic Site, GA
Paducah Waterfront, KY
Petit Jean State Park, AR
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, AR
Port Royal State Park, TN
Radford Farm, KY
Red Clay State Historic Area, TN
Rockdale Plantation/George Adair Home, GA
Running Waters, John Ridge Home, GA
Sequoyah Birthplace Museum, TN
Snelson-Brinker Cabin, MO
Star City Ranch Trail Segment, MO
Tennessee River Museum, TN
Toler Farm Trail Segment, IL
Trail of Tears Commemorative Park, KY
Trail of Tears State Park, MO
Trail of Tears State Forest, IL
Tusculumina Landing, AL
Vann Cherokee Cabin, GA
Vann House Historic Site, GA
Village Creek State Park, AR
Wagner Farm Trail Segment, IL
Wayside Store and Bridges Tavern Site, IL
Waterloo Landing, AL
Willstown Mission Cemetery, AL

Federal Protection Components and Interpretive Sites
Arkansas Post National Memorial, AR
Cadron Settlement Park, AR
Cherokee Memorial Park, Blythe Ferry, TN
Fort Smith National Historic Site, AR
Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN
Mark Twain National Forest, MO
Moccasin Bend, TN
Pee Ridge National Military Park, AR
Shawnee National Forest, MO
Stones River National Battlefield, TN

TOTA State Chapter Contacts
Alabama
Shannon Fuller Keith
Phone: 205-887-0791
Email: sfkeith72@gmail.com

Arkansas
John McLarty
Phone: 479-751-7125
Email: jmclarty77@gmail.com

Georgia
Leslie Thomas
Phone: 770-757-0931
Email: preshifi@etcmail.com

Illinois
Sandy Boaz
Phone: 618-833-8216
Email: skboaz@yahoo.com

Kentucky
Alice Murphree
Phone: 270-886-5375
Email: amurphree1139@bellsouth.net

Missouri
Deloris Gray Wood
Phone: 573-729-2545
Email: lostgeneration@embarqmail.com

North Carolina
Susan M. Abram, Ph.D.
Phone: 828-227-2735
Email: smabram@email.wcu.edu

Oklahoma
Curtis Rohr
Phone: 918-341-4689
Email: clrfnr58@yahoo.com

Tennessee
Lee Trevino
Email: tandt05@bellsouth.net
The Trail of Tears Association
would like to thank the following for their generous upgraded membership support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefactors $1000+</th>
<th>Patrons $500 – $999</th>
<th>Sponsors $100 - $499</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proctor and Gamble</td>
<td>Ms. Carolyn Nohria - $525</td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Denson - $290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Nation</td>
<td>Ms. Dorothy Horner - $525</td>
<td>Mrs. Lucie Atkerson - $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choctaw Nation</td>
<td>Mr. John Wible, Jr. - $500</td>
<td>Ms. Rowena McClinton, Ph.D. - $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Diana Threadgill - $175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Paul Gary Phillips - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Jillie Napolitano - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Sarah Hill, Ph.D. - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Gary Payne - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Vivian Cottrell - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent. Mississippi River Pkwy Commission - $150</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Andrew Denson - $290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. H. Riley Bock - $125</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Lucie Atkerson - $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Bobbie Heffington - $125</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Rowena McClinton, Ph.D. - $200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Maxwell Ramsey - $125</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Diana Threadgill - $175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Mary Wachacha - $125</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Paul Gary Phillips - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Glenn Jones - $120</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Jillie Napolitano - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Donna Lichtenegger - $120</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Sarah Hill, Ph.D. - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jack Baker - $110</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Gary Payne - $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Cara Cowan-Watts - $110</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs. Vivian Cottrell - $150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>