



Northwest Trails

Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

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Spring 2017

“Vancouver: Layers of History on the Columbia River” OCTA Symposium, Vancouver, WA

The Oregon-California Trails Association and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation 2017 Symposium at Vancouver, Washington, on Friday, March 31, to Sunday, April 2, was an outstanding success with over 225 OCTA and Lewis and Clark members in attendance. The symposium was at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, a beautiful log lodge tucked in the tall firs along the north shore of the Columbia River. The lodge is reminiscent of the grand national park lodges, complete with chirping birds in the hallways and rustic western decor.

The symposium on Saturday, “Vancouver: Layers of History on the Columbia River” had an excellent lineup of speakers on the Ice Age Floods and their influence on regional geography, local American Indian populations, early explorers, the fur trade, Lewis and Clark, the Oregon Trail, and Fort Vancouver. The keynote speaker on Saturday evening was naturalist and teacher Jack Nisbet, the author of several books on the history of the Intermountain West. The weekend event ended with a bus tour on Sunday, including stops at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Frenchman’s Bar, the Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge, Fort Vancouver, and the Clark County Historic Museum.



The Saturday evening dinner with keynote speaker Jack Nisbet was well attended.

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President's Message

The new trail year is off to a good start with our chapter hosting the 2017 OCTA Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting and Spring Symposium. The four-day event was very successful, thanks to the efforts of Lethene Parks who was event chairman for OCTA. The speakers' subject material was well selected to reflect the theme of "Vancouver: Layers of History on the Columbia River." All of the activities/events flowed smoothly due to the many hours of planning on Lethene's part, as well as Travis Boley's contribution on the part of HQ and Barb Kubic of the Lewis and Clark Association. Also, a hats off to Lethene's daughter, Keri, for helping out with the bus tour on Sunday by acting as a tour guide and also helping in laying out the tour route.

This year our annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the NW Chapter picnic, which is scheduled for September 23 in Vancouver at the Clark County Genealogical Society. There just was not enough time during the symposium to fit in our required annual meeting and do it justice, so mark your calendars.

Henry Pittock, as Mapping and Marking Chair, and Paul Massee, as V.P., are coordinating/planning several interesting outings and activities for this summer. Both Henry and Paul are open to suggestions from the general membership for activities that you may want to do or places you want to see. Your input, ideas, and involvement in activities are important to the success of our chapter. We are here to serve you and we are open to your ideas.

Preliminary planning is underway for next year's celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968. We are open to your suggestions.

Gail Carbiener made me aware of the 25th Anniversary of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Baker City. The event is scheduled for May 25 with activities starting at 9 a.m. until Noon. There is a large slate of activities planned with music, food, and of course speakers. Check out their web site.

I have a continuing concern that our actively involved membership is slowly diminishing and that we need to attract new members. My challenge to you is that each of you invite at least one friend or acquaintance to one of our planned outings or our picnic. I also want to invite any new members who recently joined OCTA to attend one of our activities.

—Rich Herman

NW OCTA 2017 Outings

Thursday, May 25, 9:00 a.m. – Noon. Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Grand Opening of the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill, Baker City, Oregon. Remarks and remembrances followed by an encore performance of “Fanny” by Joyce Badgley Hunsaker and a musical presentation. If you plan to attend the no-host luncheon after the celebration, please RSVP by May 17 at 541-523-1843 or email BLM_OR_NH_Mail@blm.gov.

May 26–28, tentatively scheduled to follow the celebration at Flagstaff Hill. Revisiting the Oregon Trail between La Grande and Hilgard to repair/replace damaged Carsonite markers. The actual date is to be determined. It could be only a one day hike from Morgan Lake and that only part of that trail needs attention. Contact Paul Massee at 253-265-3382 or email pcmassee@centurylink.net

Saturday June 24, and Sunday June 25, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days. Liberty Natural – Oregon Lavender Farm's annual Clackamas County Lavender Festival at 20949 S Harris Road, about 8 miles east of Oregon City. A Novalloy OCTA plaque about the Barlow Road is on order and will be installed at the lavender farm. We plan to have its unveiling on June 24, probably around noon. NW OCTA will again have a booth both days. This is a good opportunity to talk with local land owners and others and get information out about the Barlow Road and the Oregon Trail. There will be good food, beer, lavender iced tea, and about two dozen craft booths. If you would like to volunteer to help at the booth, or want more information on the festival, contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com.

Saturday August 19, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Philip Foster Farm is holding its annual Family History Day at 29912 SE Eagle Creek Road, Eagle Creek, OR. NW OCTA will have a booth again this year, and there will be about six booths dealing mainly with local history and genealogy. There will be free ice cream at the end of the day. Come by to talk, or if you would like to volunteer for the booth, or want more information on the festival, contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com.

Still in the planning stages; date to be determined. Auto tour of part of the Barlow Road. We will probably meet for a short while at the Sandy Museum and Historical Society in Sandy (across from the famous Joe's Donut Shop), carpool to Government Camp, then follow the Barlow Road back to Sandy. The number of vehicles will be limited. Contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com for more information.

Still in the planning stages; dates to be determined. There will also be some small mapping and marking projects along the Barlow Road. Possible areas are the scout camp at Zigzag, along Marmot Road, Deep Creek, Eagle Creek golf course, Feldheimer Ford, Gerber Road, and Moss Hill. Because of limited access, some of these projects will most likely be limited to 5–6 people. Please contact Henry Pittock at hpittock3@icloud.com so he can put your name on the list.

Saturday, September 23, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Annual Meeting and Picnic at the Clark County Genealogical Society Annex, Vancouver, Washington. Contact Paul Massee at 253-265-3382 or email pcmassee@centurylink.net.

Note for Annual Meeting and Picnic

2018 is the 175th Anniversary of the Oregon Trail. At the Annual Meeting and Picnic we will discuss ways to celebrate and promote this important anniversary, so please think about it and bring your ideas!

OCTA Symposium Photos



Registration desk in the hallway and the red bags from Alaska donated by Lethene Parks' family.



Sarah Hill and Sam Robinson spoke on the Chinookan peoples of Cathlapotle.

As part of his presentation, Sam performed a memorable welcome with a Chinookan song and drumming.



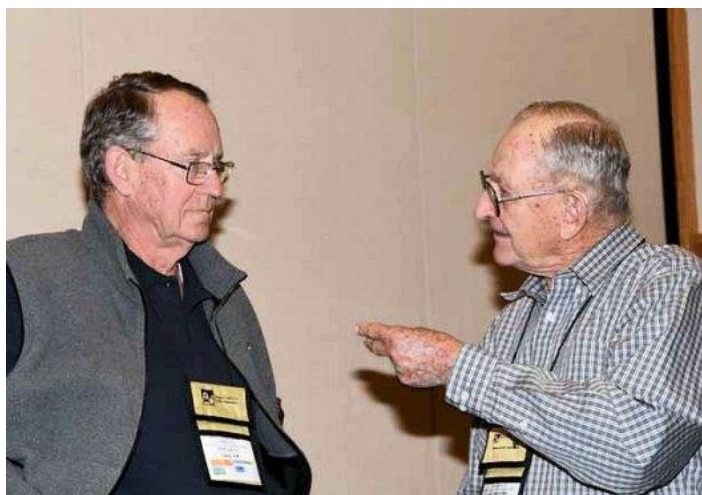
Alys Webber



Lethene Parks



John Winner



David Welch and Gail Carbiener in a trail discussion.



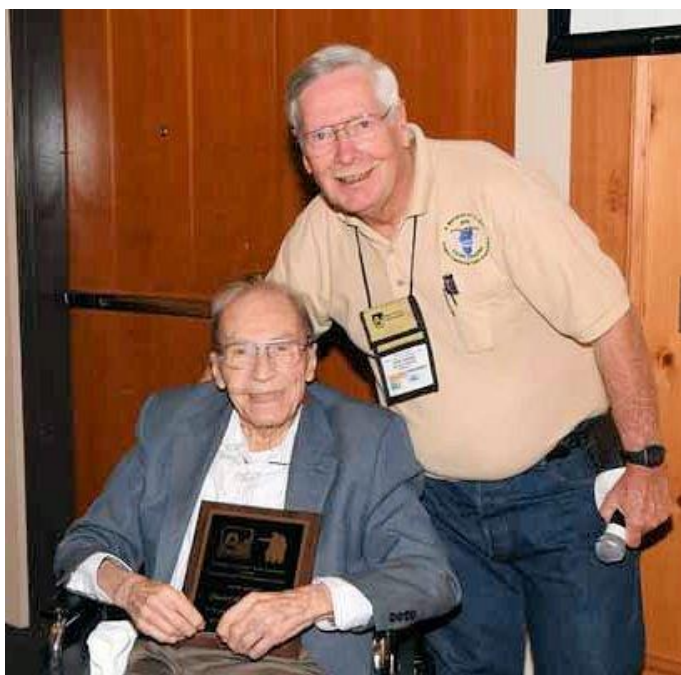
Leta Neiderheiser looking at a display of markers.



Daniel M. Ogden Jr.

Daniel Ogden was Chairman of the Study for the National Trails System Act. He was a special guest at the Symposium. His article on the creation of the Act begins on the next page.

Daniel Ogden received OCTA's Special Achievement Award in a mid-afternoon ceremony on Saturday, seen here with OCTA President John Winner.





President Lyndon Johnson signs the National Trails Act on October 2, 1968.

The Creation of the National Trails Act by Daniel M. Ogden Jr.

In February, 1965 I was serving as Assistant Director for Planning and Research with the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) in the U.S. Department of the Interior. In that capacity I was named chairman of the "Trails for America" study, and participated in the drafting of the bill to authorize the nationwide system of trails.

The National Trails System Act was part of a much larger effort by the Johnson administration to save the outdoors for the American people. Indeed, the Trails Act itself was part of the "conservation grand slam" of October 2, 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson signed four bills into law: the National Trails System Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Redwood National Park Act, and the North Cascades National Park Act.

The drive propelling this burst of activity in the late 1960s came primarily from a 1962 report of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission headed by Laurance Rockefeller. Among other things the report recommended the establishment of a new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), which would not manage lands or forests but would seek new and inventive ways to provide for outdoor recreation. The bureau was promptly established in the Department of the Interior and Edward C. Crafts, then Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, was tapped to be the director. Ed set about getting an organic act for the BOR and, more importantly, passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964.

At about this same time, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC, now Appalachian Trail Conservancy) came to the Department of the Interior, fearful for the future of the Appalachian Trail (AT). Founded in 1922, at the urging of Benton McKaye, the AT had been built by volunteers and extended some 2,000

miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. About 866 miles, or 40 percent, of the trail was on private lands. Access to these lands had been negotiated by trail clubs with limited documentation. In some instances, there was just the memory of a handshake to seal the deal. The ATC told the BOR, "We need a national park which is 2,000 miles long and 100 yards wide."

After Lyndon Johnson become President in 1963, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall enlisted the support of First Lady Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson in the pursuit of preserving natural beauty. We all worked hard to get language in a Presidential message which would call for a national trails study, and succeeded with President Johnson's message "On the Natural Beauty of Our Country" of February 8, 1965. In that message Johnson said, "I am requesting, therefore, that the Secretary of the Interior work with his colleagues in the Federal Government and with State and local leaders and recommend to me a cooperative program to encourage a national system of trails, building up the more than hundred thousand miles of trails in our national forests and parks."

In April 1965, Secretary Udall asked the BOR to lead the study and I, Daniel M. Ogden Jr., Assistant Director for Planning and Research for the BOR, was named Chairman. Joining me were Theodore Swem, Assistant Director, Cooperative Services, National Park Service; Hamilton K. Pyles, Deputy Chief, Forest Service; and Eldon F. Holmes, Chief Recreational Staff, Bureau of Land Management. We worked diligently with our field offices and with trail organizations across the nation to develop a well-rounded study. The AT leaders were also especially helpful in developing the administration bill. Our report, "Trails for America," was issued in December 1966.

We recommended three types of trails: National Scenic Trails (like the AT and Pacific Coast Trail), which would require an act of Congress; Park and Forest trails; and Metropolitan area trails. The Administration bill was promptly introduced as S 827 by Senator Henry Jackson (Washington) and HR 4865 by Representative Roy Taylor (North Carolina). Hearings followed beginning on March 6, 1967.

Our study had recommended the authorization of four national scenic trails: the AT, PCT, Continental Divide, and Potomac Heritage trails. Objections from Wyoming to the Continental Divide Trail and from Senator Symington (Missouri) to the Potomac Heritage Trail led to their being placed in the "study" category in the House version of the bill. The House-passed version also placed the PCT in the "study" category, but the Senate prevailed in conference and the PCT was authorized by the Trails System Act.

The House version also altered the categories of the trails from the administration bill. They kept National Scenic Trails, but replaced Park and Forest trails with the new category: National Recreation Trails. A fourth category was added some years later: National Historic Trails.

In closing I want to use a modification of the last paragraph I wrote for a talk given to the ATC on May 21, 1967: "All of these efforts are occasioned by one central purpose — to save the out of doors for the American people. The Pacific Crest Trail is one of this nation's most important recreation assets. In the years ahead, as our urban population multiplies and the pressure of urban living presses ever more pervasively around most Americans, we want the Pacific Crest Trail to offer an opportunity to return to the land as our forefathers knew it, to enjoy it, and to respect it in all its primitive beauty. If hundreds of years from now American boys and girls can tramp along the Pacific Crest Trail and bless us for all that we have done to save this great wilderness pathway, all our effort and all our striving and all our work will have been worth it. No greater monument to our concern for our fellow human beings could be our legacy to the future."

50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act Fact Sheet



ABOUT

In his 1965 “Natural Beauty Message” to Congress, President Lyndon B. Johnson inspired a national “system of trails” for the American people. Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Johnson on October 2, 1968.

Today, the National Trails System (NTS) includes 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails authorized by Congress, and more than 1,200 National Recreation Trails (including 21 National Water Trails). Preservation and development of Rail Trails is also fostered in this act.

These trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities, promote resource preservation and public access, and encourage the appreciation of the great outdoors and America’s history and cultural diversity.

National Scenic and Historic Trails

- 11 National Scenic Trails and 19 National Historic Trails authorized by Congress
- Over 55,000 miles through 49 States in wild, rural, suburban, and urban areas
- Connect and travel through 70 wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, 100 Bureau of Land Management field office areas, over 120 Wilderness areas, numerous State and local parks, trails, other protected areas, and 100 major urban areas
- Over 1 million hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain annually

National Recreation Trails

- Over 1,200 trails, including 21 National Water Trails designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture through regional foresters to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance
- Total over 26,000 miles
- Run through all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico

Rail Trails

- 22,000 miles of completed rail-trails and 8,000 miles of projects in progress
- Over 2,000 rail-trails exist in 50 states, crossing rural, suburban, and urban communities
- 1983 amendment to National Trails System Act allowed unused rail corridors to be preserved for future use by converting them to trails
- Enjoyed by millions of people for recreation, physical activity, and active transportation each year

Barlow Road Website

By Glenn Harrison

Donna Gunn, a Nebraska teacher, sent a letter of commendation about the Barlow Road website developed by the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council. It was funded by the Oregon Historic Trails Fund, the Oregon-California Trails Association, the Northwest Chapter of OCTA, and several of its members, plus the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office and Dr. Erica Rieberg, President of Shared Context Consultants, LLC. The website was considered for an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award. Several members of the OHTAC and NW OCTA assisted with this project. Check out <http://oregontrail-barlowroad.org> and look over each of the locations and listen to diary quotes written by several emigrants. Her letter states:

I write in support of the Interactive Oregon Trail - Barlow Road Website that has recently been completed and is available on line. I am a performing artist-educator based in Lincoln, NE. I have been performing and leading residencies/workshops that focus on the Oregon Trail Experience since 1985. Although my programs are accessible to all ages, I particularly target students in grades 3-5 to complement Nebraska history social studies benchmarks.

As part of my ongoing work, I access primary sources and do field research. I have retraced much of the Nebraska leg of the Trail and have accessed many primary sources available to me here. I have now begun expanding the reach of my research. Most recently, I traveled to Oregon to deepen my understanding of the final leg of the journey.

I retraced [the] Barlow Road and spent time at the Oregon Historical Society, accessing primary sources. Although the quality of the materials I have found over the years has been outstanding, I have yet to find any resource that provides educators and students as comprehensive, engaging, and user-friendly experience as the Barlow Road Website. The innovative approach that provides panoramic views, historical pictures, and relevant audio-journal entries is unmatched.

As I revise my program as a result of my most recent research, the Barlow Road Website will be-an integral part of the "end of 'the trail'" experience for all participants. The website is an excellent tool that I will use and leave behind [for others] to allow learning to continue long after I have completed a residency.

I highly recommend that the Barlow Road Website receive all possible support and recognition possible. It is a treasure that should be experienced by all who wish to learn more about the Oregon Trail and Oregon history.

— Donna Gunn

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MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avard Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



**35th OCTA Convention
Council Bluffs, Iowa
August 8–12, 2017**