



Arkansas Studies Institute To Host Summer Meeting, July 25

The Arkansas chapter, Trail of Tears Association (ARTOTA) summer membership meeting and program will be held at the brand-new Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) in downtown Little Rock on Saturday, July 25.

A joint project between the Central Arkansas Library System and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, ASI is the state's largest free-standing facility dedicated to the study of Arkansas, and a beautiful gathering place for ARTOTA! ASI is located at 401 President Clinton Avenue, in the heart of Little Rock's River Market District. For a modest fee, visitors can park in the Central Arkansas Library System parking lot just south of ASI. Parking is also available just east of ASI at the River Market parking deck.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday morning—on your own

Tour Historic Arkansas Museum's new permanent exhibit, *We Walk in Two Worlds: The Caddo, Osage and Quapaw in Arkansas*. The exhibit is a partnership with the Caddo, Osage and Quapaw Nations and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The museum is open from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Admission to the galleries and parking is free; tours of historic grounds are \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for children under 18 and \$1.50 for senior citizens. Historic Arkansas Museum is located at 200 E. Third Street, just west of ASI.

A variety of dining choices await you in the River Market District, so enjoy lunch while you're there!

1:00 pm

Welcome

David Stricklin, head
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

1:00-1:15 pm

Report to the Membership

John McLarty, president
ARTOTA

1:15-1:45 pm

Ten on the Trail

Carolyn Kent, grant project director
ARTOTA

1:45-2:15 pm

Arkansas Heritage Trail Initiative

Marilyn Heifner, board of directors
Heritage Trail Partners

2:15-2:30 pm

BREAK

2:30-3:00 pm

An Update from the TOTA Office

Jerra Quinton, executive director
Trail of Tears Association

3:00-4:00 pm

Removal of the Other Four Tribes through Arkansas

Daniel F. Littlefield Jr., director
Sequoyah National Research Center

4:00 pm

Tour of Arkansas Studies Institute

Along with these great sessions, we'll have door prizes! The ARTOTA member who brings the most NEW members to the meeting will win a special grand prize. Bring a bunch of friends and join us in Little Rock as we work together to support the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and to preserve the history of Indian removal routes through Arkansas.

Sequoyah Research Center Research Day

Prior to the July 25 ARTOTA meeting activities, on Friday, July 24, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield Jr. and staff have graciously offered to host a research day at Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC).

Seating in the SNRC reading room is limited, so we are asking ARTOTA members who want to attend the research day to preregister for ONE of two sessions: 8:30 a.m.-noon OR 12:30-4:00 p.m. Each session is limited to 30 participants. The sessions will be devoted to research activities only (no special programs). To make the best use of your time and SNRC staff time, Dr. Littlefield asks that participants please come with research goals in mind. To preregister, phone Carolyn Kent at 501-650-3384 or email carolke5@aol.com.

SNRC has the largest collection of Indian removal documents outside of the National Archives. The center also houses the American Native Press Archives—the world's largest collection of tribal newspapers—and the J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection.

The Sequoyah National Research Center is located at University Plaza, Suite 500, on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 5820 Asher Avenue. To learn more about SNRC, visit www.ualr.edu/sequoyahcenter or <http://www.anpa.ualr.edu/>.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

John McLarty

I want to offer a big THANK YOU to all who have renewed your membership or joined in 2009. We cannot continue to make progress without your involvement and without your membership.

I'd like to update you on 2008 accomplishments and to inform you of exciting upcoming events for the Arkansas chapter, Trail of Tears Association (ARTOTA).

In 2008, ARTOTA hosted the national Trail of Tears Association conference in Little Rock, sponsored the first Trail of Tears Research Day at the Sequoyah National Research Center, produced Trail of Tears classroom materials, provided Choctaw removal wayside panels for Historic Washington State Park, and helped add Fitzgerald Farmstead in Springdale as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail! Thanks to everyone who helped with those projects.

Two important meetings are scheduled for 2009:

- The annual ARTOTA membership meeting and summer program will be Saturday, July 25, at the new Arkansas Studies Institute in Little Rock. And we'll have another Sequoyah Center research day on Friday, July 24. See page 1 of this newsletter for details.
- The 14th annual Trail of Tears Association Conference will be October 5-8 at Lake Guntersville State Park in Guntersville, Alabama.

Much has already been accomplished this year by both the Trail of Tears Association and ARTOTA. Federal legislation was passed and signed into law that added the Bengé and the Bell routes and other significant segments to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The additional routes will extend the trail in Arkansas by hundreds of miles and provide many interpretation possibilities.

In Arkansas, Act 728 of 2009 also was enacted into law creating the Arkansas Heritage Trails System to mark Indian removal routes and other historic roads.

Your Arkansas chapter continues to work on Trail of Tears wayside panels that will be placed at significant locations around the state. This project is made possible by a generous grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Watch for news about those installations and dedications.

Please let us know what goals and projects you think the chapter should undertake and how you can help. We need volunteers to help with projects such as research, updating the chapter website, using technology to communicate, recruiting new members, and more. If you're interested, contact me at john@nwarpc.com.

As always, please encourage others to join the Trail of Tears Association and help us tell the story of Indian removal through Arkansas.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail now includes Bengé, Bell, others

Kitty Sloan

On March 30, President Obama signed Public Law 111-11 which more than doubled the length of the original 2,219-mile Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (TOTNHT). Arkansas went from 59 miles of the TOTNHT land route to about 800 land miles. This means ARTOTA will need more help than ever to mark and interpret the trail.

The Bengé and Bell routes are now part of the TOTNHT along with new dispersal routes in northwest Arkansas and the roads traveled by steamboat passengers stranded on the Arkansas River.

The new total includes 343 miles of the Bengé Route, 340 miles of the Bell Route, 89 miles of new

disbandment routes, and 96 miles of land components of the water route. Almost 100 miles of the new routes overlap, so the new total does not match the sum of the parts.

On the water route, six miles have been added in Arkansas—mainly the so-called White River Cut-off that provided a short-cut from the Mississippi to the Arkansas River. Added to 112 miles along the Mississippi River and 337 miles of the Arkansas River, the addition brings the total water route mileage in and bordering Arkansas to 455.

Total TOTNHT mileage in Arkansas is now estimated at 1,257. Maps of the new routes are posted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm>

[?parkID=448&projectId=17939&documentID=21329](http://parkID=448&projectId=17939&documentID=21329).

The trail expansion—a first for the National Trails System—means that the awesome road remnant in Village Creek State Park is now on the official TOTNHT along with the rest of the Memphis to Little Rock Road that was traveled by thousands of Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Muscogees as well as the 650 Cherokees with the Bell Detachment.

Trail expansion was part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, posted at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h146enr.txt.pdf (Section 5206, page 169).

Interpretive Panels Update

Carolyn Kent

CHOCTAW REMOVAL THROUGH OLD WASHINGTON

With help from an Arkansas Humanities Council grant, ARTOTA has designed and developed two interpretive panels on Choctaw removal through Washington, Arkansas, which will be installed at Historic Washington State Park. *Long Walk*, the painting for the panel, was done by Ruby Bolding of Uchille, Oklahoma. Ruby was born in Arkansas, has Cherokee ancestors and works for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The panels are currently on exhibit in the Historic Washington State Park visitor center while plans are finalized to permanently install the panels at appropriate locations within the park.



TEN ON THE TRAIL

ARTOTA has received a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage for ten interpretive panels depicting Indian removal in Arkansas. The panels will be placed at appropriate locations across the state:

1. Lavaca/Military Road Museum (Sebastian County). All five tribes traveled here.
2. Lake Chicot State Park (Chicot County). Choctaws crossed the Mississippi River at Point Chicot.
3. Camden (Ouachita County). Choctaws traveled here by steamboat and overland.
4. Benton (Saline County). Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Quapaws traveled the Southwest Trail.
5. Old Austin (Lonoke County). Choctaws and Muscogees (Creeks) traveled here on the Arkansas Post/Cadron Road.
6. Lewisburg (Conway County). River route for all five tribes; now part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail as a land component for two parties of Cherokees forced to leave steamboats due to low water levels in the Arkansas River.
7. Maynard Pioneer Park (Randolph County). Cherokee Bengé route; now part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

8. Carrollton (Carroll County). Cherokees Bengé route; now part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.
9. Natural Dam (Crawford County). Cherokee parties camped here; now part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.
10. Arkansas River Visitor Center (Pope County).

Some panels will feature a stirring depiction of the Trail of Tears by Arkansas artist Max Standley, courtesy of R. Michelson Galleries. The original painting is on exhibit at the Bradley House Museum in Jasper, Arkansas. You can view the Standley painting online at http://www.maxdstandley.com/giclees/the_trail_of_tears.html.

Ruby Bolding, artist for the panels at Historic Washington State Park, is also providing the artwork for the Point Chicot and Camden panels. Created especially for our *Ten on the Trail* project, Bolding's painting portrays a multigenerational Choctaw family landing from a water crossing. Members of the Choctaw Nation, including a 106-year-old elder, served as models for the painting. Bolding's painting will be displayed at the July 25 ARTOTA meeting in Little Rock.

Will you help us GO GREEN?

Help us save trees (not to mention printing and postage costs) by receiving this newsletter as an online edition. Also let us know if you would like to be on the ARTOTA email list to receive notices about upcoming events, programs, and noteworthy items related to the Trail of Tears. To subscribe to the online edition of the newsletter and/or the email list, contact ARTOTA secretary Susan Young at syoung@springdalear.gov. Many thanks!

Join the Trail of Tears Association for 2009!

Membership year is January through December. All levels of membership include one state chapter affiliation. Additional state affiliations are \$10 each. Sponsors, Patrons, and Benefactors are acknowledged in *Trail News*, the newsletter of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail Partnership.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Individual, \$25 Sponsor, \$100 Patron, \$500 Benefactor, \$1000
 Student, \$10 (include copy of current ID)

Membership: \$25 + optional donations: \$_____ to TOTA, and \$_____ to the _____ state chapter

of additional state chapter(s) _____ x \$10 = \$_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$_____**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Circle state chapter(s): Alabama Arkansas Georgia Illinois Kentucky
 Missouri North Carolina Oklahoma Tennessee

Send form and dues to Trail of Tears Association, 1100 N. University, Suite 143, Little Rock, AR 72207-6344

Arkansas chapter, Trail of Tears Association
1311 Clayton Street
Springdale, AR 72762

ARKANSAS CHAPTER, TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John McLarty, Fayetteville
john@nwarpc.com

Vice president and TOTA delegate

Glenn Jones, Lowell
gjsooner@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer and newsletter editor

Susan Young, Springdale
syoung@springdalear.gov

TOTA delegate

Kitty Sloan, Paragould
kittysloan@gmail.com

Research coordinator

Carolyn Kent, Jacksonville
carolke5@aol.com

Visit the **TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION** website at
www.nationalTOTA.org

Executive director

Jerra Quinton
TOTA@ArIndianCtr.org
1-800-441-4513