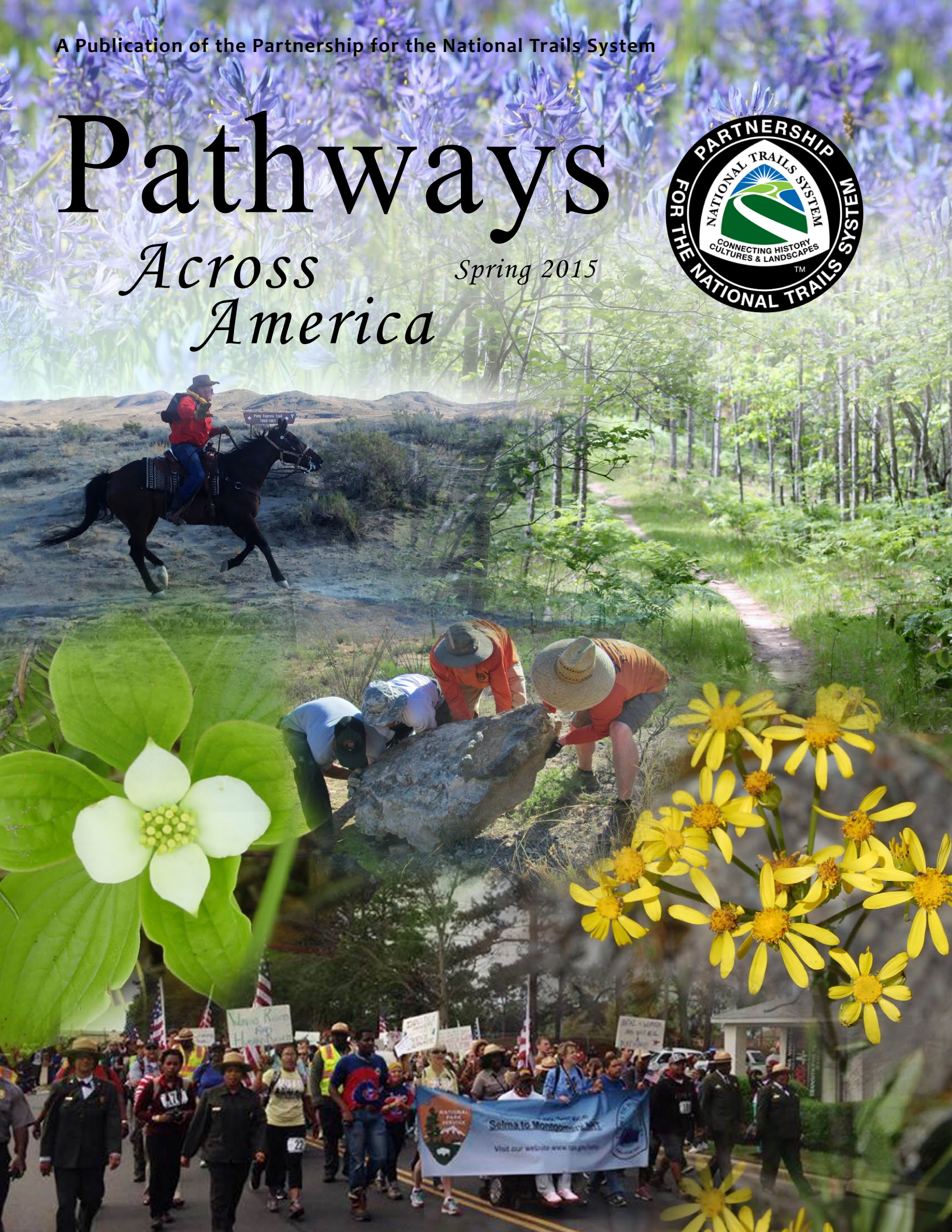


A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Pathways

*Across
America*

Spring 2015



Pathways Across America

Pathways Across America is the only national publication devoted to the news and issues of America's national scenic and historic trails. It is published by the Partnership for the National Trails System under cooperative agreements with:



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Pathways serves as a communication link for the major partners of the following national trails:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

California National Historic Trail

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

Florida National Scenic Trail

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

New England National Scenic Trail

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

North Country National Scenic Trail

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Pony Express National Historic Trail

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

National Historic Trail



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the

National Trails System?

The National Trail System includes 3 main types of national trails: Scenic Trails, Historic Trails, and Recreation Trails.



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

NSTs and NHTs are designated by Congress (see specific descriptions below). The Partnership for the National Trails System (see left) is the nonprofit dedicated to facilitating stewardship of the Scenic and Historic Trails as a group.

National Recreation Trails

Offer local and regional trail experiences in thousands of locations around the country. The nonprofit American Trails encourages the stewardship of the National Recreation Trails (NRTs). NRTs are designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 National Historic Trails

Ala Kahakai NHT

California NHT

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

Iditarod NHT

Juan Bautista de Anza NHT

Lewis and Clark NHT

Mormon Pioneer NHT

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Old Spanish NHT

Oregon NHT

Overmountain Victory NHT

Pony Express NHT

Santa Fe NHT

Selma to Montgomery NHT

Star-Spangled Banner NHT

Trail of Tears NHT

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route NHT

National Historic Trails may be foot or horse paths, travel routes, roadways, or a combination of both designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many National Historic Trails have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they boast wilderness and hiking opportunities as beautiful and diverse as the National Scenic Trails.



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...

Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening Communities

through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.



Enhancing Access to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and community outreach efforts.



Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



11 National Scenic Trails

The National Scenic Trails represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the US is traversed by a National Scenic Trail, from deserts, temperate rainforests, tundra, mountains, prairies, temperate deciduous forests, wetlands, and rivers. The National Scenic Trails offer natural corridors for wildlife preservation and unspoiled views, and they create fitness and outdoor leadership opportunities for all ages.

- Appalachian NST
- Arizona NST
- Continental Divide NST
- Florida NST
- Ice Age NST
- Natchez Trace NST
- New England NST
- North Country NST
- Pacific Crest NST
- Pacific Northwest NST
- Potomac Heritage NST



Hiking • Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

From top to bottom: The Spring 2015 Pathways cover features camas flowers along the Nez Perce NHT by Roger Peterson, USFS; a rider during the annual re-ride along the Pony Express NHT, courtesy of the National Pony Express Association; trail near Guernsey Lake along the North Country NST and Canadian Dogwood along North Country NST, courtesy of the North Country Trail Association; repairing a segment of the Arizona NST, courtesy Arizona Trail Association; Mules Ear along the Nez Perce NHT by Roger Peterson, USFS; and the Selma to Montgomery 50th Anniversary Walking Classroom setting out on the Selma to Montgomery NHT, courtesy of the NPS.

Inside cover photos from left to right: 50th Anniversary rally at Edmund Pettus Bridge along the Selma to Montgomery NHT, courtesy of the NPS, firing muskets during the annual March to Kings Mountain, courtesy of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association; and mushrooms along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail; PNTS photo.

Spring – A Time for Beginnings and New Activities Along America’s National Trails

Spring—the season of awakenings and new beginnings—is upon us, heralded by the exuberant blossoming and wafting smells of flowers, shrubs, and trees across the land and the return of birdsong to the north. As the land responds to the warming brought by spring with a reawakening of life from the slumber of winter there is a corresponding stirring of activity along America’s long-distance trails.

The advancing spring brings to an end the cool winter weather hiking season along the Arizona and Florida NSTs and along El Jornado del Muerto on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT. It also melts away the cold snows that enabled travel by snow shoe or ski on the Ice Age, North Country, and New England NSTs and by dog sled on the Iditarod NHT. This spring, hundreds of backpackers are flocking like migratory birds in southern California and New Mexico and at Springer Mountain, Georgia to begin their journeys northward along the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide, and Appalachian NSTs. Horsemen are preparing their livery for the annual late-Spring re-ride of the Pony Express NHT. All across the land the day hikers, bird watchers, and families with young children who hunkered down or hibernated over the winter are emerging to renew connections with their favorite trails.

Another type of reawakening is occurring along the northern and mountain NSHTs. The volunteers who maintain these trails and build new trail segments are preparing their tools for mowing, clearing blowdowns, and reblazing existing sections and laying out the new or relocated sections to be built this year. For the volunteer stewards of the lands protected along the Ice Age Trail in southern Wisconsin, spring brings a hectic and staccato transition from a long winter of clearing woody invasive shrubs and trees, to six weeks of occasionally suitable weather for burning the prairies and oak woodlands along the Trail, to an equally brief season for effectively destroying this year’s potential crop of European and Asiatic invasive weed seeds before they crowd the native wildflowers from the oak woodlands. The work of restoring some of the native plant communities along the Ice Age NST continues throughout the year with one appropriate season to address each aspect of the process blending into the next—seed sowing to prairie weeding to seed gathering—an annual round of the year—attuned to the earth’s seasons from the cold winds of winter to the hot sun of summer.

As spring—this season of reawakenings and new opportunities—washes across the land and our national trails, can we find ways to refresh and invigorate our efforts to sustain our national scenic and historic trails? Can we imagine new tasks and opportunities to invite new people to share in our trail making activities? For instance, the stewards of the Ice Age Trail lands mentioned above are dedicated people who mostly are not interested in doing the work of maintaining the trail tread or building new sections of trail. Although they have many opportunities to do the land restoration work they do with local land trusts or The Nature Conservancy, they have chosen to improve the quality of the ecosystems and hence the scenery along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. They are firmly committed to improving the quality of the experience for the people hiking, running, watching birds, walking their dogs, and backpacking along the Ice Age Trail. They add to the volunteer base sustaining the Trail. Could your National Trail benefit from attracting other land stewards who want to control invasive species or restore endangered native species to do similar appropriate work along it and your organization benefit from a new group of volunteers helping out?

Could law student interns help monitor easements that protect the right-of-way and adjacent lands along your trail? Do you have a surplus of volunteers to lead interpretive walks or tours among your volunteer pool or could your organization benefit from more help? Are we making any special efforts to attract the Baby Boomers now retiring by the thousands to share their knowledge, skills, and energy to benefit our trails and organizations? The core of the Ice Age Trail land stewardship crew consists of recently retired Baby Boomers.

During a recent Sunday workday on the Ice Age Trail near Madison involving a church group of mostly young couples and families with pre-teen and teenage children we were asked if we run summer work camps for those ages of children. Their questions reminded me of similar requests reported by the leaders of the Oregon-California Trails Association that arose around the making of the “In Pursuit of a Dream” video with urban dwelling teenagers reenacting part of the journey of the Oregon bound emigrants across Wyoming. In both cases the response was that we do not. But could we?

With all of the attention on finding ways to connect our young folks with the natural environment and with our history and heritage by our Federal agency partners and nongovernmental organizations there should be many opportunities for fruitful collaboration with new partners who can bring new resources to our trail making and sustaining activities. Our National Trails provide scores of places close to home and in some of the wildest areas of America to make those connections possible. We offer spectacular scenery, compelling stories of our history, and good, muscle stretching, satisfying physical work to match the restless energy and curiosity of young people. I know that most of our National Trails support some special youth-oriented activities, but we could all provide much more, especially through new collaborations with other governmental and private entities bringing fresh resources to the effort.

In this season of new beginnings can we individually and collectively imagine—and try—new or expanded ways to increase the services, and hence the value, of our National Trails and our trail organizations to local communities and the Nation? I would like to know more about what you are doing and would like to do to engage new people of all ages in the joy of sustaining our National Trails. This will be a major focus of the 15th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails June 27 – July 1 in Franklin, Tennessee. Visit our website www.pnts.org for more details and to register for the Conference.

Have a joyous and delightful spring!

Gary Werner

**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IN 2014
TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM
BY NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL ORGANIZATIONS**



Trail Organization(s)	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Private Contributions
Ala Kahakai Trail Association & E Mau Na Ala Hele	5,325	\$ 120,079	\$ 81,000
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	241,936	\$ 5,455,657	\$ 4,176,000
Arizona Trail Association	14,299	\$ 322,442	\$ 182,460
Camino Real Trail Association	1,514	\$ 34,141	\$ 3,000
Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	2,850	\$ 64,268	\$ 65,120
Chesapeake Conservancy and partners		\$ -	\$ 1,787,644
Continental Divide Trail Coalition and partners	20,571	\$ 463,876	\$ 118,500
Florida Trail Association	32,000	\$ 721,600	\$ 177,902
Ice Age Trail Alliance	78,354	\$ 1,766,883	\$ 566,300
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance	15,000	\$ 338,250	\$ 7,420
Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, Anza Trail Foundation, and Other Partners	23,499	\$ 529,902	\$ 1,167
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Lewis and Clark Trust, and Other Partners	165,933	\$ 3,741,789	\$ 243,000
Mormon Trails Association and partners	3,000	\$ 67,650	
Natchez Trace Parkway Foundation	11,420	\$ 257,521	\$ 22,585
National Pony Express Association	27,294	\$ 615,480	\$ 6,109
Connecticut Forest and Park Association & Appalachian Mountain Club	6,750	\$ 152,213	\$ 21,000
Nez Perce Trail Foundation	13,100	\$ 295,405	\$ 7,500
North Country Trail Association	76,450	\$ 1,723,948	\$ 456,439
Old Spanish Trail Association	7,209	\$ 162,563	\$ 9,064
Oregon-California Trails Association	100,379	\$ 2,263,546	\$ 686,060
Overmountain Victory Trail Association	6,800	\$ 153,340	\$ 9,405
Pacific Crest Trail Association	82,000	\$ 1,849,100	\$ 1,841,100
Pacific Northwest Trail Association	38,862	\$ 876,338	\$ 30,155
Potomac Heritage Trail Association	1,460	\$ 32,923	\$ 1,675
Santa Fe Trail Association	56,978	\$ 1,284,854	\$ 315,556
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail	750	\$ 16,913	-
National Trail of Tears Association	18,563	\$ 418,596	\$ 10,533
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT Association (W3R-US)	1,600	\$ 36,080	\$ 10,000
Totals	1,053,896	\$ 23,765,355	\$ 10,836,694

Notes: value of volunteer time calculated using the national 2013 value of volunteer time by the Independent Sector. Some, but not all, trails organizations include Federal reimbursement rates for miles driven for volunteer work as part of their private contributions.

About the “GOLD SHEET” of Volunteer Hours and Contributions

The trail stewardship organization partners of the national scenic and historic trails provide the critical private support of the unique public-private partnerships that have characterized the National Trails System since its inception. Together, these partners contribute over a million volunteer hours each year, organizing outreach events, building and maintaining trail, working to protect ecosystems and viewsheds, and interpreting the trails. Many of these invaluable volunteer hours are performed in collaboration with Federal projects; volunteers provide critical assistance for many of the functions of the land management agencies. These hours do not represent all of the volunteer hours performed on behalf of the National Trails System, only those recorded by the official stewardship organizations affiliated with each trail. Many other organizations have invested considerable time, energy, and funds into the national scenic and historic trails.

The strong volunteer involvement on the National Trails System leverages Federal, State, and local investment in the trails. While the process of recording volunteer hours can be an arduous and complicated one, particularly given the vast range of activities of trail volunteers, the Partnership for the National Trail System is proud to be able to demonstrate the commitment of its private partners in its advocacy efforts on behalf of the trails.

Interesting Factoids About The Pony Express National Historic Trail



Les Bennington during the "Message to Congress" ceremony in 2010. NPS Photo.

Annual Re-Ride Participation

The original Pony Express riders rode about a total of 75 miles per day, pausing to get fresh horses at stations about 15 to 20 miles apart. Currently, in the annual re-ride hosted by the National Pony Express Association (NPEA), participants usually ride between two and five miles to allow more than 700 people to participate each year.

What Gets Carried in the Mochila?

During the re-ride, riders carry both commemorative and personal letters on Pony Express letterhead in a mochila, a leather saddle bag like the ones used by the original Pony Express Riders. Anyone can send a letter for a small fee that support the re-ride, and each piece of mail gets a special postmark.

Who Rides?

Riding as part of the Pony Express annual re-ride is open to male and female NPEA members over the age of 14. Ride captains from each State make sure each segment of the trail has a rider; the number of years a rider has participated helps determine order of selection for high-demand segments.

Slide Ride of 1983

Following a major landslide along California's American River Canyon, many small communities along the original Pony Express route had their road access and mail blocked. The National Pony Express Association rose to the challenge, and within 48 hours was providing mail service on horseback to the cut-off communities with a contract with the U.S. Postal Service. Carrying over 1,000 pieces of mail a day for six weeks, the modern-day Pony Express riders attracted worldwide news coverage.

Carrying a Message to Congress

As part of the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express in 2010, the National Pony Express Association presented an educational program at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, and held a ceremony at Union Station Plaza below the National Capitol (photo above).

Ride Uniform

Riders during the Pony Express have worn a "ride uniform" since 1985 consisting of a brown western hat, red long sleeved western shirt, yellow tie, a brown vest with the NPEA logo on the back, blue jeans, and brown boots.

Photo at right: Lyle Ladner (left) and Dean Atkin (right) pose in full Pony Express Rider uniforms with a mochila, the letter-carrying saddle.

Special thanks to Dean Atkin, who assisted with the assembly of this article.



Re-Ride Schedule

The Pony Express Re-ride, like the original Pony Express mail service, operates continuously for 24 hours a day during the event. This means that in some areas, each year riders participating are always riding in the middle of the night! The schedule takes into account best times to traverse urban areas, as traffic sometimes needs to be stopped and riders need a police escort in certain areas.

Photo at right: during the Re-ride in California. In urban areas and even the downtown areas of small towns it is common for the riders to be accompanied by a police escort sometimes on horseback, such as in the photo at right .



Pony Express and the Olympics

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) played a significant role in carrying the Olympic Torch for both the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

In 1996, NPEA members were involved in the design of the Olympic torch, stressing the need for a highly-wind resistant design. While the Olympic Torch Relay typically halted during the night, Pony Express members carried the torch for over 56 non-stop hours from Colorado to Missouri along the usual annual re-ride route. During parts of the relay, winds reached over 40 miles an hour, so a back-up flame traveled along in a hurricane lantern or in a support vehicle.

For the 2002 Olympics, the Torch was again carried by the NPEA, and a Pony Express station recreation was on display at the Olympic Games.

Pony Express in Europe

The Pony Express is commemorated in Europe with considerable enthusiasm through organizations in several countries including the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The European Pony Express organizes an annual re-ride across Europe with over 250 riders.

In 1989, a group of Pony Express enthusiasts from then-Communist Czechoslovakia enlisted the assistance of Ambassador Shirley Temple Black to get permission to visit the US to partake in the 1990 Re-ride. Later that summer, eight members of the National Pony Express Association traveled to Prague to participate in the European Re-ride.

To some extent, European enthusiasm for the Pony Express can be traced back to performances by former Pony Express rider "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who became famous for his traveling western-themed shows across the US and Europe.

Ham Radio on the Pony Express

With the Pony Express passing through some of the most remote areas of the county, Ham radio (radio frequencies reserved for two-way communications by amateur radio enthusiasts) plays a major role in the annual Pony Express re-ride where other communications services are limited. Communications between Riders and Ride Captains is facilitated by amateur radio operators, who convey status updates on rider location and times.

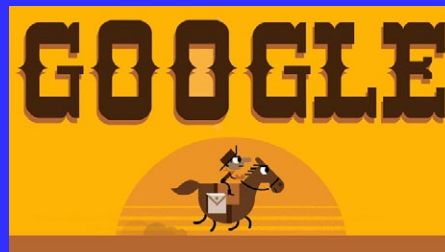
GPS Tracking of Riders Along the Pony Express

www.ponyexpresstracker.com

A GPS (Global Positioning System) unit is now carried in the mochila along with the letters during the annual re-ride so enthusiasts can follow the progress of the riders along the trail in real-time .

Article content adapted with permission from the National Pony Express Association (NPEA) Website www.xphomestation.org, The Pony Express 150th Anniversary Year commemorative book compiled by Members of the NPEA, and consultation with Dean Atkin of the NPEA. Unless otherwise stated, all photos courtesy of the NPEA.

Internet Search Engine Google Commemorates Pony Express 155th Anniversary with Interactive "Doodle"



that day could click on the interactive image to play a simple but delightful video game to collect mail along a route dotted with various natural obstacles. The game was divided into multiple sections with horse-changing stations and a cheering crowd welcoming riders to the final destination. The game also featured links to online educational resources about the Pony Express.

Images are a collection of screenshots from www.google.com on April 14, 2015.

On April 14, 2015, the 155th anniversary of the first Pony Express delivery, the internet search engine Google featured a commemorative interactive Pony Express game as its iconic daily "Doodle". Anyone going to use the search engine on



Selma to Montgomery NHT Celebrates 50th Anniversary of Civil Rights March



Martin Luther King at the original march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. Public domain.

About the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Until 1965, counties in Alabama used preventive measures in order to discourage African-Americans from registering to vote. Civil rights activists began to protest in Selma in order to bring attention to this injustice. These protests were often met by violence from the local sheriff's department.

Following the death of protestor Jimmie Lee Jackson, on March 7, approximately 600 nonviolent protestors departed from Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma with the intention to march 54 miles to Montgomery. As they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, they were attacked by law enforcement officers with nightsticks and teargas, causing at least 50 protestors to require hospital treatment. The brutality displayed was captured by the media and caused outrage around the country. The day became known as "Bloody Sunday".

Two days later, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a second march which again had its path blocked by law enforcement officers. This time they decided to turn back and not risk a violent confrontation. The civil rights protestors then sought and received an injunction for a third march. On March 21, the official Selma to Montgomery March began with the final number of supports reaching near 25,000 people on March 25. Five months later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in voting practices or procedures because of race and color.

50th Anniversary Commemoration

With "Bloody Sunday" taking place on March 7, 1965, and the final successful march from Selma to Montgomery on March 21-25, 1965, celebratory events for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail spanned much of the month. In Selma, The Selma Bridge Crossing is organized by the nonprofit Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, an organization specifically established to commemorate "Bloody Sunday" and its impact on the civil rights movement. While the event typically draws thousands of participants, the 50th anniversary march, taking place on March 8, drew an estimated 70,000 people carrying banners, singing, and celebrating as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Participants in the original 1965 march, local leaders, and President Barack Obama addressed the huge audience. Civil and human rights workshops, educational lectures, dance performances, a parade, reenactments, themed luncheons and breakfasts, a mock trail, a youth summit, and even a Miss Jubilee pageant rounded out the celebration in Selma.

Many more developments and events marked the 50th anniversary. Through collaboration between the City of Montgomery, the City of Selma, the National Park Service and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Selma-Dallas County Tourism, a website, thedreammarcheson.com, was launched to tell the story of the Selma to Montgomery March and provide information about commemorative news and events. A wide variety of youth programming took place, including a Youth Educational Tour for 7th-12th grade students from the area and the National Park Service Walking Classroom (featured on the next page), engaging young people ages 18-25 from around the county. These participants joined up with thousands of the public for the final leg of the March, from the City of St. Jude to the Alabama State Capitol on March 25.



President Obama speaks to the crowds who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge as part of the Jubilee Bridge Crossing on the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail during the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

In Montgomery, a civil heritage trail based on Boston's famous Freedom Trail was opened by the Downtown Montgomery Business Association, linking sites crucial to the civil rights movement, the Civil War, and civil aviation. Additionally, free Montgomery trolley tours were introduced during the month of March to carry visitors to sites significant to the civil rights movement in the city. A commemorative ceremony and concert, "The Dream Marches On" was held at Alabama State University, and a temporary photographic exhibit, "The World Saw Your Pictures: Spider Martin and the Voting Rights Campaign", was featured at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Following the 50th anniversary festivities, the commemoration continues on social media and at the many sites along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Many of the groups involved are already gearing up for next year's events and marches, and those who participated in the 50th anniversary celebration will carry with them memories for a lifetime.



NPS Walking Classroom Program Engages Young Adults in Commemorative March

To further engage the public, especially young adults, in the commemoration of the Selma to Montgomery civil rights march, the National Park Service organized “The Walking Classroom”, a combination reenactment march and educational program. This journey aimed to provide participants with a closer look at the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the story behind the Selma to Montgomery NHT. It also established an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing struggle for human rights and the impact the events of 1965 have had nationally and worldwide.

The program focused specifically on the third and final march of the Selma to Montgomery Voters Right Movement (March 21 – March 25) with a reenactment from Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma to the State Capitol in Montgomery. It included a public section and a more in-depth component for youth between the ages of 18 and 25. Both groups took a guided journey including a reenactment of mass meeting, an evening lecture with civil rights leader and Selma Voting Rights Movement coordinator Bernard Lafayette, a memorial program for martyrs of the movement, commemorative program, the Rally of the Stars concert at City of St. Jude Catholic Church, and the walking of portions of the 54-mile national historic trail. The event culminated with the march to Alabama State Capital and rally.

The youth portion of the walking classroom also included a living history experience, with the participating 66 youth camping each night at the location of historic “Tent City”, now the Lowndes Interpretive Center. Each night included educational programming and dialogue sessions with speakers including NPS Associate Director of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers Julia Washburn, Alabama State Representative Thad McClammy, and social issues researcher and author Dr. Joy DeGruy. Through dialogues with foot soldiers from the original 1965 March, participants learned of the strife and sacrifice that was endured by participants in the Selma Voting Rights Movement. All youth documented their experiences through social media sites. Each of the five days of the program had a separate theme, such as “Struggle, Hope”, “Leadership”, “Sacrifice and Movement Martyrs”, “Reflection”, and “Celebration”.



Top page photo: The Walking Classroom begins their march toward the Capitol, just as the original marchers did 50 years ago.

Second from top: The Walking Classroom reaches the David Hall Farm, site of Campsite 1 during the Selma to Montgomery March. One of the Hall daughters greets the group and talks about the family’s history and the march.

Third from top: Members of the general public begin to gather at the City of St. Jude to join the participants of the Walking Classroom and National Park Service staff for the final march to the capitol.

Photo at left: a group photo of the participants of the Walking Classroom (featured in the photo are (front row: left to right) Stan Austin, Regional Director, Southeast Region; Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL); Sherri Fields, Deputy Regional Director, Southeast Region; and Sandy Taylor, Selma to Montgomery NHT Superintendent.

All photos courtesy of the NPS.



L'Hermione Voyage 2015



Schedule of Ports of Call for L'Hermione:

June 5, 6, 7 – Yorktown, VA
June 9-Mount Vernon, VA (ship at anchor)
June 10, 11, 12 – Alexandria, VA (city dock)
June 16, 17 – Annapolis, MD (city dock)
June 19, 20, 21 – Baltimore, MD (adjacent USS Constellation & Pride of Baltimore)
June 25, 26, 27, 28 – Philadelphia, PA (with Tall Ships America/Independence Seaport)
July 1, 2, 3, 4 – New York, NY (with educational ships from U.S. east coast)
July 6, 7 – Greenport, NY (with Tall Ships America)
July 8, 9 – Newport, RI (with Oliver Hazard Perry – Fort Adams)
July 11, 12-Boston, MA – (Rowe's Wharf)
July 14, 15 – Castine, ME
July 18-Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

The National Park Service (NPS) is bringing together national parks, national heritage areas, national trails, national rivers and national programs in the Northeast Region to share the revolutionary story as reconstructed French frigate L'Hermione arrived for its East Coast Tour. The voyage began in April, when L'Hermione set sail for America. The journey started from the mouth of the River Charente, in Port des Barques, where Lafayette boarded on March 10, 1780. The transatlantic crossing itakes 27 days in total before making landfall at Yorktown, Virginia.

In 1780, L'Hermione brought Lafayette from France to Boston where he then met with General Washington informing him of the alliance with France. The frigate joined French Admiral de Grasse's fleet for the Battle off the Capes on the lower Chesapeake and the siege at Yorktown. It then sailed to Philadelphia in 1781 where the Continental Congress visited and paid tribute to her.

As the L'Hermione moves up the eastern seaboard this spring and summer, it is accompanied by a range of pier-side activities. These include, in some ports, a traveling exhibition and a heritage village that will be accessible to the public. L'Hermione Voyage 2015 is part of an expansive outreach program with cultural events, exhibitions, and educational programs that celebrate the trip and mark its progress. A robust digital activation for the voyage expands the reach of the project to millions of people. Thanks to support from the Northeast Region, we are providing funding to develop a mobile NPS display, provide publications and educational materials, and to have NPS staff stationed at ports where the L'Hermione will dock. This is a great opportunity to reach a diverse group and tell them about not only the NHT, but all of our National Parks and Programs, the NPS Centennial, and the many outstanding natural and cultural resources along the way.

Jeff Reinbold Becomes NPS Assistant Director for Partnerships and Civic Engagement

National Park Service (NPS) Director Jonathan B. Jarvis named Jeff Reinbold as the Bureau's assistant director for partnerships and civic engagement. Reinbold will be responsible for partnerships, philanthropic stewardship, national trails, wild and scenic rivers, and hydropower assistance programs. He will also oversee the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, which supports community-based natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country.



Since 2011, Reinbold has served as superintendent of the National Parks of Western Pennsylvania, which include Flight 93 National Memorial, Johnstown Flood National Memorial, Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site, Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Friendship Hill National Historic Site.

In more than 20 years with the National Park Service, Reinbold has led planning and partnership projects around the country: protecting historic sites and Civil War battlefields, developing new ways for national parks to work with their neighboring communities, and exploring ways to connect people to the national parks. Previously, he served as the National Park Service partnerships and government affairs liaison to the National Park Foundation for two and a half years. There, he was responsible for congressional affairs and the organization's relationship with park philanthropic partners. He started his National Park Service career as a seasonal ranger in 1990 at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial.

Reinbold holds a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in city and regional planning from the Ohio State University. He will start his new assignment in March. He is married to Jacqueline Reinbold and they have two sons.

Adapted from the January 21, 2015 NPS press release.

Join the National Trails System GIS Network!

Do you like National Trails? Are you interested in mapping, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and other technologies? If you answered yes to one or both of these questions, then you should join the National Trails System GIS Network! The network was formed in 2011 to facilitate information sharing and discussions with interagency staff and partners who are interested in National Trails System mapping efforts. Webinars and teleconferences are hosted on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The network is open to anyone and membership includes representatives from agencies that administer national trails as well as members of trail associations, scholars conducting trail research, and affiliates from educational institutions.

Though GIS and mapping are the focus of the network, the monthly webinars cover a wide range of subjects and feature presentations on both national scenic and historic trails found nationwide. Some past topics of these webinars have included:

- Web-based Collaborative Mapping on the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail
- Data Development and Information Sharing Strategies at Overmountain Victory NHT
- Developing the Interactive Trail Atlas and Story Maps for the Lewis and Clark NHT
- Collaborative Conservation Prioritization Tools for the Star-Spangled Banner NHT
- Research and Analysis Using GIS Software by the Oregon-California Trail Association
- GIS Planning of the Cherokee Removal Routes by Bicycle Tour along the Trail of Tears NHT
- Creation of a Web-based Development Visibility Tool in the Chesapeake Bay
- New Mobile Mapping Technologies (including tablets, smart phones, GPS units, and software)
- Monitoring and Tracking Physical Assets Along Thousands of Miles of the National Trails System
- Assessing Viewsheds and Inventorying Visual Resources for National Trails
- Creating Linear Feature Tours for Long Distance Trails Utilizing Mobile Apps
- Sign Plan Development for Long Distance Trails
- Selecting Appropriate Web Mapping Technology for Trail Networks
- Creation of a National Geodatabase of Recreational Trails
- Implementing Federal Trails Data Standards

To find out about upcoming webinars, connect with National Trails System GIS Network members, and/or join the NTW GIS Network email list, send an email to: ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov.

For more information, contact one of the NTS GIS Network Co-Leads:

John Canella (GIS Coordinator) – National Trails Intermountain Region (john_cannella@nps.gov)
Ryan M. Cooper (Geographer) – Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (ryan_m_cooper@nps.gov)
Matthew Jagunic (Outdoor Recreation Planner) – Chesapeake Bay Office (matt_jagunic@nps.gov)

Voluntary Thru-Hike Registration System Works to Protect the Appalachian NST

In order to enhance the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) experience for thru-hikers and better manage this natural resource, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), in cooperation with its partners, has launched a new voluntary registration system for those attempting to hike the estimated 2,185-mile-long Trail in one year. This registration system, available at www.appalachiantrail.org/thruhikeregistration, exists to ease impacts from the increased number of hikers expected after the release of two hiking related films, “Wild” and “A Walk in the Woods.”

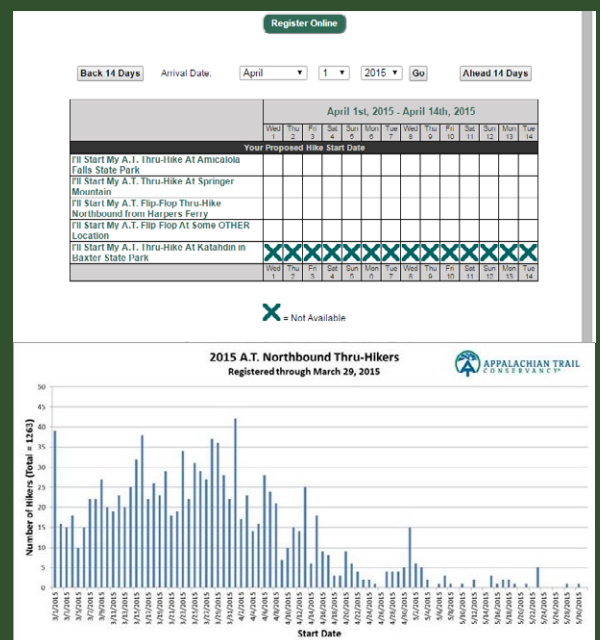


In recent years, the A.T. thru-hike experience has at peak use times suffered severe overcrowding at the southern end of the Trail. Crowding intensifies because hikers tend to start thru-hikes around specific dates, such as March 1, March 17, and especially April 1 and weekends. Overcrowding puts undue pressure on the finite number of shelters and campsites and on the water, plants and wildlife near these accommodations. When too many people are crammed together at campsites, vegetation is trampled, trash may accumulate and unsanitary conditions can ensue. These issues that arise due to overcrowding are detrimental not only to the A.T. but also to the hiker’s overall experience.

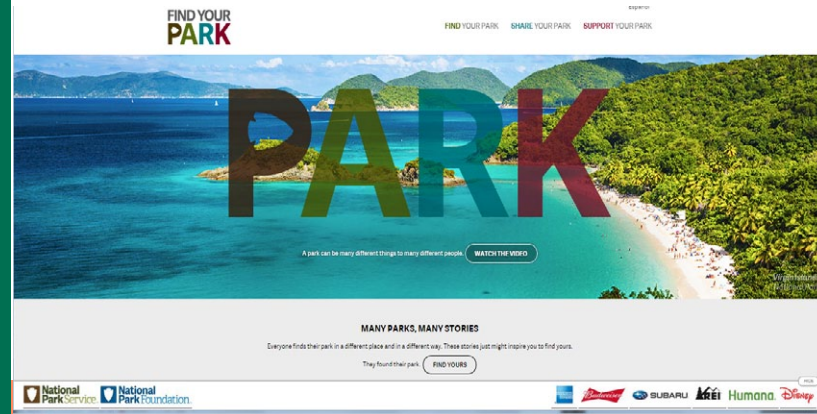
“With a large number of new hikers expected along the Appalachian Trail in 2015 and 2016, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy hopes that this new voluntary thru-hike registration system will allow hikers to know in advance when overcrowding along the Trail will exist, and then adjust a thru-hike start date to his or her advantage – the solution is simple, the hikers need to spread out,” said Morgan Sommerville, the ATC’s regional director.

Users of this voluntary registration system should keep in mind that it does not provide hikers with guaranteed spaces along the A.T. or serve as a substitute for any required permits. At this time, registration is only open for 2015. Registration for 2016 will be available on Dec. 1, 2015.

Adapted with permission from the February 9, 2015 ATC press release.



National Park Service Celebrates Centennial Anniversary with *Find Your Park* Public Awareness Campaign



The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation have recently launched *Find Your Park*, a public awareness and education campaign celebrating the milestone centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 and setting the stage for the next 100 years. First Lady Michelle Obama and Mrs. Laura Bush will serve as honorary co-chairs to promote the celebration of the 2016 centennial and to encourage people to connect with their favorite parks and public lands. First Lady Michelle Obama recently filmed her *Find Your Park* story, highlighting President's Park, home to the White House, and her family's connection to one of the newest national parks, Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

Find Your Park invites the public to see that a national park is more than just a place—it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. Beyond vast landscapes, the campaign highlights historical, urban, and cultural parks, as well as National Park Service programs that protect, preserve and share nature, culture, and history in communities nationwide. Further, *Find Your Park* encourages people to find their own personal connections within the network of national parks and public lands.

As co-chairs, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush will engage young Americans, connecting them with parks and National Park Service programs, and encouraging them to share *Find Your Park* stories and experiences.

“There is something for everyone in our 407 national parks, whether it is the breathtaking landscapes or the historical and cultural sites that tell the story of our country,” said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. “As we approach the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, this is a perfect time for all Americans—especially young people—to *Find Your Park*, from neighborhood parks to national parks and all public lands in between.”

“The centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the National Park Service to reflect on our accomplishments and to use all of our parks and programs to connect all Americans and visitors from around the world with the natural, cultural and historic treasures in our care,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “As a new generation responds to *Find Your Park*, I am confident that this campaign will have a powerful impact that will last through our next 100 years.”

“We believe that *Find Your Park* will inspire people everywhere to engage more deeply and more often with the National Park Service and its transformative work in communities across the country,” said National Park Foundation Interim President Dan Wenk. “By connecting the next generation with our national parks in meaningful ways, we are building a movement that will help ensure that these special places are protected well beyond the next 100 years.”

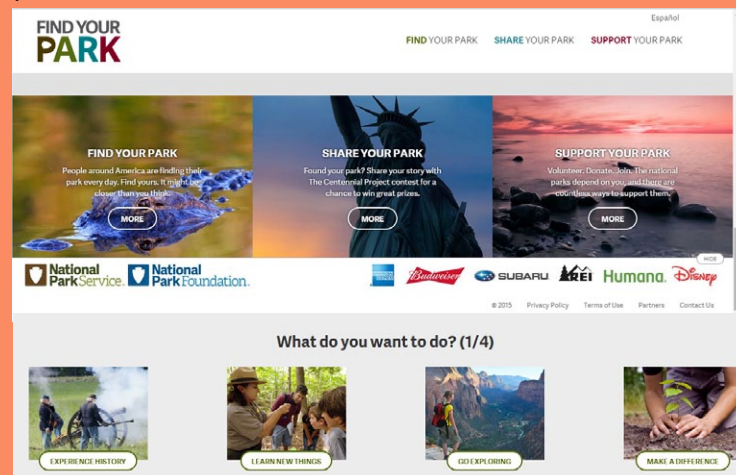
Centennial Ambassadors Bill Nye (scientist), Bella Thorne (TV and film actress), Roselyn Sanchez (TV and film actress), Terrence J. (TV personality), and Mary Lambert (singer/songwriter and LGBT advocate) are helping to reach the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. To inspire participation in the *Find Your Park* movement, each of them has filmed and shared their own personal national park story at different places across the country.

At the heart of this engagement effort is the public invitation to share park experiences and memories at FindYourPark.com, which will feature an interactive gallery of inspirational stories from the general public, National Park Service employees, and celebrities. Content will be socialized with #FindYourPark. Also on FindYourPark.com is a searchable list of ideas for ways to find your park, including in-park and digital activities.

Some of the most admired companies in the world are supporting the National Park Foundation's efforts for *Find Your Park*, including American Express, Budweiser, Subaru, REI, Humana, and Disney. Additional partners include Coleman, Coca-Cola and Accenture.

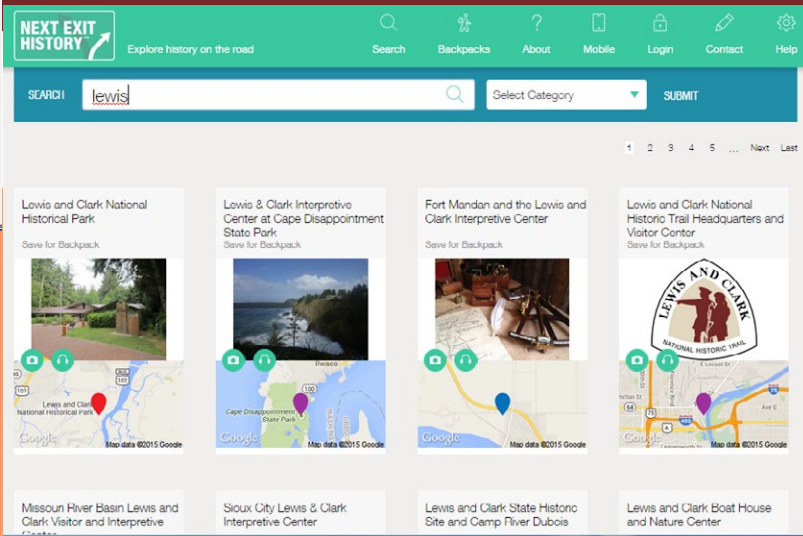
The National Park Foundation is working with GREY NY, one of the world's leading advertising and communications agencies, to develop and implement the integrated campaign. *Find Your Park* will include a stream of programs, exhibits, events, and public activities throughout 2015 and 2016 that will encourage everyone to find their park.

Excerpted from the March 30, 2015 National Park Service press release.



Screenshots from www.findyourpark.org.

New Lewis and Clark Next Exit History™ Mobile App Facilitates Visits to Lewis and Clark Sites



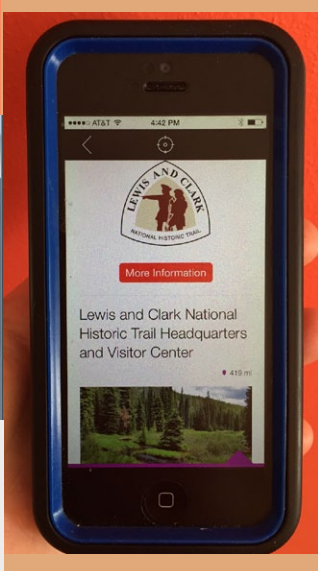
The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) has completed a major digital initiative developed with Historical Research Associates (HRA), Inc., of Missoula, Montana, to promote 25 Lewis and Clark Centers and Native American attractions across the nation through the addition of these sites to HRA's mobile app, Next Exit History™. The LCTHF celebrated the project completion at a “virtual ribbon cutting ceremony” at the Lewis and Clark NHT Interpretive Center.

The Next Exit History™ app was developed by historians at the University of West Florida. This global app has over 56,000 sites in its worldwide database. Downloading the app is free and is available through iTunes and Google Play. For those interested in Lewis and Clark, the 25-site Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center “digital backpack” provides a multi-media experience of the Corps of Discovery. The project also features an interactive game called History Hunters which allows visitors to check in at heritage sites, answer trivia and scavenger hunt questions, win points, earn virtual badges, and compete with friends via social media. You can download content to your mobile device for those times when you find yourself without cell or wi-fi coverage.

“As a Montana-based company, HRA is excited to be on the cutting edge of technology and heritage tourism, and to help interpret the Lewis and Clark Expedition for a 21st century audience,” said HRA Project Manager Dave Strohmaier. “Not only is our Next Exit History™ initiative putting Montana on the map, but it also demonstrates how public-private partnerships contribute to economic development—locally and nationally.”

“This smart phone app will entice tourists and local residents to visit and explore special places and walk or paddle the trail where Lewis and Clark made history many years ago,” said Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director, LCTHF. This project was made possible by a grant from the National Park Service.

Adapted with permission from the LCTHF press release.



Above: Screenshot of the computer version of Next Exit History™ which allows people to search for sites in advance of a trip and “save” sites they are interested in visiting. Left: the mobile app features a simple design for identifying and learning about individual sites either in advance or during a trip.

Visit www.nextexithistory.com to search Lewis and Clark NHT sites or find historical sites near you or along your journey!

Chesapeake Conservancy Launches the Mamie Parker Journey Youth Program

In 2014, the Chesapeake Conservancy launched *The Mamie Parker Journey: Inspiring Youth to Embrace the Chesapeake* speaker series. The series aims to engage students in the Baltimore area and encourage them to experience the Chesapeake Bay watershed through facilities such as the Masonville Cove Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. In speaking to students across the city, the Conservancy also hopes to expose them to career options in environmental science and environmental studies. By the end of 2014, 180 students across four schools participated with the series, with nine additional presentations scheduled in 2015.



Dr. Mamie Parker, former Assistant Director of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and first African American USFWS Regional Director of the 13 Northeastern states shares her conservation story and encourages students at Ben Franklin High School at Masonville Cove to embrace the Chesapeake.

Photo Credit: Devin Ray, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Submitted by Emily Myron, Chesapeake Conservancy

A Historic Collaboration: Rerouting the Florida NST Through A Trail Community's Historic Downtown

By Jeff Glenn, Florida Trail Association, North Florida Regional Representative

The historic and scenic town of White Springs, Florida was coined the first Gateway Community along the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) eight years ago. Geographically it is accessible and centrally located, culturally it offers some of the Old Florida that makes the State so wonderful, scenically it features beautiful forests and rivers, and recreational opportunities abound in and around the town. This quaint Florida town, which is located in north Florida along the Suwannee River, can now boast that the Florida Trail travels right down the historic main street.



With several local, State, and Federal partners involved, the relocation of the trail into town helps White Springs' reputation as an ecotourism hotspot. "Effective partnering with the Town of White Springs, Suwannee River Water Management District, the Suwannee Bicycle Association, The Florida Trail Association, and the US Forest Service has helped us generate a more robust eco-tourism strategy, as part of our overall economic development plan for the Greater White Springs area," said Miller.

Located right near the junction of I-75 and I-10, White Springs is known for an array of outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, cycling, and paddling. In addition to walking right down the main street, hikers will also enjoy several new additional miles along the Suwannee River by joining up with what is also known as the Bridge to Bridge Trail. This section of trail is a multi-use trail and is open to mountain bikers. All safety concerns related to shared usage have been examined and mitigated, and this section of trail will serve as a prime example of how different recreational groups can work together to form strong partnerships and build great trails. By joining forces with the well-organized and very popular Suwannee Bicycle Association, the local FTA chapter increases its volunteer capacity in the area, which in turn will hopefully attract new members to the organization.

From Stephen Foster State Park, the trail now leads directly past one of the original tourist destinations in Florida. The trail passes the original sulfur spring house where bathers came from around the world to soak in the healing waters of the spring. As the trail follows the main street through town it passes many historic homes and businesses that have been lovingly restored in recent years. Most notably is Adams Country Store, originally built in 1865. This historic icon brings a sense of awe to Florida Trail hikers as they pass by, giving them a glimpse back in time. The trail emerges on the east side of White Springs at the Suwannee River Wayside Park Trailhead, which will soon house new FNST/FTA kiosks. In addition to these upgrades, the trail in the surrounding area will also receive new kiosks at Bell Springs, Big Shoals, Little Shoals, and at the Nature & Heritage Tourism Center in town. These are great changes to the trail in the north region, and ones that will hopefully bring about very positive feedback for the FTA and the trail.



"Reblazing the Florida Trail through historic downtown White Springs resulted in immediate benefits to local businesses. The White Springs Bed'n'Breakfast, our cafes, and retail stores all enjoyed increased sales from hikers on the trail," said Dr. Helen Miller, Mayor of the Town of White Springs.



Photos above courtesy of Jeff Glenn. Top photo depicts FTA Regional Representative Jeff Glenn with Helen Miller, Mayor of White Springs, as she paints the first orange blaze marking the Florida NST through the historic downtown. The background of the top photo depicts the historic Adams Country Store, shown from front in the bottom photo.



In the past year, the Town of White Springs has hosted a Florida Trail Association board meeting and the highly-popular I-Did-A-Hike fundraiser put on by the North Florida Trail Blazers Chapter. In addition, the town also created a limited edition stamp to celebrate the reblazed section of trail through the area.

Overmountain Victory Trail Association Celebrates 40th Anniversary with Launch of Interactive Online Story Map

Submitted by Randell Jones, Overmountain Victory Trail Association



Creative Story Telling

The music tracks under the narration of the interactive map stories are original, Celtic-inspired compositions written and performed by The Forget-Me-Nots of Banner Elk, North Carolina (above). These musicians, who have been performing together since preschool, wrote and recorded the tracks heard on the website while in high school.

Details from several paintings by talented historical artist and OVTA member Richard Luce comprise the artwork used in the presentation, such as the image below from his painting "The Patriot Victory at Kings Mountain". Other illustrations of the storyline are created from photographs taken by Randell Jones, author and a past-OVTA president, during his visits over the last 15 years to historic sites and reenactments around the Southeast.



Forty years ago this fall, Revolutionary War enthusiasts first trekked the route of the Overmountain Men to Kings Mountain in commemoration of the October 7, 1780 journey that turned the tide of the American Revolution. Five years after that first commemorative trek, a dedicated group of volunteers, many belonging to the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Inc. (OVTA), secured Congressional designation in 1980 of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT). It was the first National Park Service historic trail east of the Mississippi River.

Members of the OVTA have traveled this route from September 25 to October 7 annually since 1975 on foot, by horse, and by bicycle. In recent years, reenactors have interacted with 10,000 students and adults during each two-week commemorative march. Several annual grants totaling more than \$100,000 from the National Park Foundation, as underwritten by the Disney and Coca-Cola companies, plus funding from a National Park Service (NPS) Cooperative Agreement have been essential to bringing students out to the Trail and immersing them in the lifestyle and story of this turning point of the American Revolution.

Looking for ways to reach new audiences with Overmountain Victory Trail story, the OVTA hosts the "Online Tour of the OVNHT" on its website, www.ovta.org. The "Online Tour" is actually three separate and themed "tours" users can select individually. The technology behind these tours is the powerful and innovative Omeka+Curatescape toolkit which combines interactive maps, images, text, audio, and video to engage site visitors.

One of the tours enables users to explore sites and stories along the OVNHT in any order they like, accessing 40 locations with multiple photographs and stories. Even those students who will be visiting the physical trail can learn something before they get there. For others, the online tour is their way of experiencing the story. Another tour includes an audio track, a narrated story with music, photographs, and artwork. The online tour components work together to present in just 40 minutes a concise, engaging, entertaining, inspirational, and educational overview of the part of America's story which is commemorated along the OVNHT. And, because the presentation is online, OVTA is now helping reach students who are far removed from the Trail, helping make them feel connected to the OVNHT, its story, and America's history. A third tour creates new opportunities for engaging historians and scholars. It presents new historical findings that expand the telling of the Trail's story into new landscapes and beyond the geographic extent of the Congressionally-designated trail corridor. "Route of the South Carolina Militia and Lincoln County Militia" helps resolve some troubling aspects of the historical record, and it will more actively engage the citizens of Charlotte, North Carolina, in the story, too. This new footprint of the story passes through metropolitan Mecklenburg County.

Beyond providing a way for sparking dialogue about the Revolutionary War history the Trail is intended to commemorate, this online presentation also points out a critically important aspect of trail partner groups: independent groups can work outside the restrictions which limit the activities of the NPS. Plans are already underway to tell other parts of the story which also fall outside the designated footprint of the Trail and its current management plan.

Visit www.ovta.org and take the Online Tour of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. OVTA will be pleased to have you join us along the trail, helping us celebrate our 40th anniversary. Huzza!

The "Online Tour of the OVNHT" is a private educational effort. It is separate from and in addition to resources for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail available through the National Park Service at www.nps.gov/ovvi. You can see Richard Luce's paintings at <http://richardluce.com>. You can read about Randell Jones's books and other online history projects at www.danielboonefootsteps.com.



Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
 222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13
 Madison, WI 53703

www.pnts.org/

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Trails Events Calendar

June 27 - July 1, 2015	National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference	Partnership for the National Trails System	Franklin, TN	www.pnts.org
July 17-24, 2015	Appalachian Trail Conservancy Biennial Conference	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Winchester, VA	www.appalachiantrail.org
August 1-5, 2015	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Kansas City, MO	www.lewisandclark.org
September 10-14, 2015	North Country Trail Association Rendezvous	North Country Trail Association	Cortland, NY	www.northcountrytrail.org
September 17-20, 2015	Three Trails Conference	Santa Fe Trail Association, Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, Old Spanish Trail Association	Santa Fe, NM	www.3trailsconference.org
September 20-22, 2015	Pennsylvania Trails and Greenways Summit	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Warren, PA	www.dcnr.pa.state.us/
October 5-8, 2015	20th Annual TOTA Conference and Symposium	National Trail of Tears Association	Cape Girardeau, MO	www.nationaltota.org
October 16, 2015	El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association Annual Meeting	El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	Laredo, TX	www.elcaminorealde los tejas.org