

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



# Pathways

*Across America* SUMMER 2020

## THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT

*Preserving the legacy of voting  
rights through Alabama's new  
Montgomery Interpretive Center*

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY • SUMMIT FOR ARIZONA TRAILS  
RETIRED TRAIL PARTNERS RECONNECT • FALL WORKSHOP GOES VIRTUAL  
ICE AGE TRAIL CASE STUDIES • LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL RESEARCH GRANT



# 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 quarterly by the **Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)** under cooperative agreements with four Federal agencies.



**Department of Agriculture (USDA):**  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

**Department of the Interior (DOI):**  
National Park Service (NPS)  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Department of Transportation (DOT):**  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)



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### ABOUT US

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that connects member nonprofit trail organizations and Federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 national scenic and historic trails within the National Trails System.

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## National Trails System

Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968. Today, the National Trails System is composed of 11 National Scenic Trails (NSTs), 19 National Historic Trails (NHTs), almost 1,300 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) including 21 National Water Trails, and more than 2,000 Rail Trails. 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.

### PATHWAYS NATIONWIDE FOR DISCOVERY, LEARNING, AND UNDERSTANDING

**Strengthening communities** through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.

**Enhancing access** to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and outreach efforts.

**Facilitating public-private partnerships** for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



### SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

- Authorized by Congress
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Partnership for the National Trails System**
- Total 55,000 miles through 50 States and the District of Columbia in wild, rural, suburban, and urban areas, connecting with every distinct ecological area or biome in the country
- Connect and travel through 70 wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, 100 BLM field office areas, over 120 wilderness areas, numerous State and local parks, trails, and other protected areas, and 100 major urban areas
- Over 1 million hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain annually

### RECREATION TRAILS

- Designated by Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
  - Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **American Trails**
  - Total 28,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- [www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)

### RAIL TRAILS

- Part of 1983 amendment to National Trails System Act
  - Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**
  - Total 22,000 miles through 50 States and the District of Columbia, and 8,000 miles in progress
- [www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)



Click the National Trails System tab to view a map and learn about our partners:

[www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)



## KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE



## PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

### 11 NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

The National Scenic Trails (NSTs) represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the country is traversed by a NST, including deserts, temperate rainforests and deciduous forests, tundra, mountains, prairies, wetlands, and rivers. NSTs 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

### 19 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

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

- 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

## Cover Photographs

#### FRONT

Representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Montgomery Improvement Association, and Alabama State University lead a voting rights march of 4,000 participants in Montgomery, AL on March 17, 1965. Photo Credit: Dorothy Frazier Collection, ASU Archives

#### INSIDE

Left: Educators from around the country converge in an Earth lodge at Knife River Indian Villages Historic Site, North Dakota during the Lewis and Clark Trail Summer Institute in July 2019. Photo Credit: Robert Haskett  
Center: Chef Walter Staib of *A Taste of History* TV show prepares recipes with Katie Lange at Santa Fe Trail sites. Photo Credit: Joanne VanCoevern, SFTA  
Right: Mountain goats on the Continental Divide Trail. Photo Credit: Bart Smith

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[www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/](http://www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/)







**Karen Crossley**

# A time of accelerated change for the Partnership

The Partnership for the National Trails System continues to sail forward amidst stormy seas. We face myriad uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as societal unrest and upheaval associated with recent events and the Black Lives Matter movement. We are paying attention. And PNTS programs and services are being assessed and adapted in response to current conditions and circumstances. For example, we regrettably felt it necessary to cancel the Spring Workshop scheduled for May 2020 at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. And we have chosen to offer a multiday, virtual Fall Workshop in October 2020, instead of the in-person event originally scheduled to be held in Spartanburg, S.C.

Planning is well underway for the virtual Fall Workshop that promises to be distinctive and like none other hosted by the Partnership in the past. High value, meaningful content will be presented, contemporary topical offerings will be highlighted, and interactive

engagement sessions are on the agenda. Unexpected disruption offers us an opportunity for innovation, experimentation, and learning. We are seizing this moment and feeling excited about what lies ahead.

As noted earlier, sustaining the Partnership's signature programs and services, despite the remote and virtual environment in which we've all been living since March, has not always been easy. Nevertheless, resulting from the extraordinary commitment of staff, contractors, the PNTS Board of Directors and Trail Leaders Council, other volunteers, and partners, we've pressed on. Proud accomplishments include the following activities: Advocacy, particularly at the Federal level (see Kathy DeCoster's message); communications across multiple platforms; varied opportunities for learning and training on contemporary issues of shared interest; support of youth interns; and trail corridor protection. We are committed to providing to our members the services they value, and to supporting the

trails community and National Trails System network, even during these highly unusual times. The beat goes on.

In addition, now well into the second half of my engagement serving as Interim Executive Director, I'm finding that my attention and efforts increasingly are focused upon preparing to welcome my successor, strengthening the organizational infrastructure and daily operation to help position the new Executive Director for success, and moving the PNTS office to Washington, D.C. (see Barney Mann's message). A monumental transition within the Partnership organization is occurring on our stage, and I feel honored to be playing a tiny role in this particular scene. Let the show go on with vigor and promise for exciting acts ahead! Thank you for your support.

We're truly grateful.

*Karen J. Crossley*

by **Kathy DeCoster**, *Advocacy and Policy Director*  
Partnership for the National Trails System



**Kathy DeCoster**

There is exciting news to report! As part of its return to "regular order" legislation, the U.S. Senate voted to pass the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) on June 17. This bipartisan legislation to fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund is something that the Partnership, its member organizations, and many others have been working on for many years. The bill also includes a dedicated fund to address backlog maintenance needs in our national parks, forests, and other public lands—something we expect will aid in addressing trail needs on Federal lands.

The Partnership signed a letter to Congress in early May urging prompt action on the bill, and a statement from the Partnership's Board Chair Barney Mann upon Senate passage was included in a press release issued by the bill's lead Republican sponsor, Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado. The GAOA has been sent to the U.S. House of Representatives for further consideration, where a vote on the Senate-passed bill has been scheduled for the week of July 20th. The Partnership will be working hard up to the final vote to secure "yes" votes on this important conservation legislation.

In other news, the Partnership continued to raise its voice on issues affecting the integrity of the National Trails System. We submitted comments to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol regarding the potential impact of border wall construction on the Arizona National Scenic Trail. And we submitted comments to the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service opposing their proposed rules allowing electric bikes on nonmotorized trails including national scenic trails.

As I continue to lead the Partnership's advocacy and policy work, the expertise and passion of the Partnership staff and member organizations inspires me and many others. We have a lot to offer in these challenging times, especially as the value of access to the outdoors is recognized as a "must-have."

*Kathy DeCoster*

by **Barney "Scout" Mann**, *Board President*  
Partnership for the National Trails System



**Barney Mann**

As I write this the Partnership stands at the edge of a cliff, is ready to jump, and—I believe—will soar. How long have we discussed a move to Washington, D.C.? Now, we are on the verge of signing a lease—a great location, a space that will make each of us proud, and a place for our members to hang their hats when they are in town. It's well under budget. Lease terms are negotiated and documents ready to sign. Fingers crossed.

How long have we talked about full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund? Congress is in mid-leap, ready to make that happen.

How long have we talked about Executive Director succession? It was an integral part of the 2016 Strategic Plan discussions. Our founder Gary Werner carried us far, but change is a constant—Gary retired last February. Partnership past-president Liz Bergeron led the Transition Task Force. I know how hard they worked; I was one of them. I'm grateful to Mary Stelletello of Vista Global, our consultant and guide. Hours ago, the ink not yet dry on an agreement, I first spoke to Valerie Rupp in her role as "Executive-Director-in-waiting." You'll read more about Valerie in the next issue of Pathways, but I am hearted by her experience, enthusiasm, and track record bringing diverse communities together.

How long have we talked about diversity, equity, and inclusion? Frankly, not long enough. This subject is so important, to the Partnership, to our public spaces, and to our country. We adopted a Statement of Inclusion in February. We issued a Statement of Solidarity in June. But now starts the hard work. I am personally committed, I am ready to listen, learn, and help us start on this path. Change comes from each one of us; it will not happen overnight.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the incredible work of Karen Crossley and Kathy DeCoster. In this interim, February to August, we have been so ably led. We all owe you a debt.

*Barney Scout Mann*





# The Partnership's Statement of Solidarity

The Partnership for the National Trails System stands in solidarity with the Black community and other people of color in condemning recent injustices—especially loss of life—as well as the systemic racism that has persisted in our country for generations.

The Partnership recognizes that historical injustices have resulted in barriers preventing people of color from accessing nature and the outdoors, including trails and their resources. We are becoming increasingly aware of how unsafe the outdoors is for marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Everyone has a right to connect with nature, history, and culture without being subjected to microaggressions, suspicion, intimidation, and violence.

Tragic events in recent weeks have resulted in the senseless deaths of African Americans, including Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and others. We also know that the experience of Christian Cooper in New York is shared by many other people of color who have been targeted and harassed for simply trying to enjoy nature.

While the habitual occurrence of these incidents exposes a challenge to our society that goes well beyond the National Trails System, we believe trails present an opportunity to connect people, places, and cultures.

Originally focused on the recreational aspects of scenic trails, the National Trails System has evolved to include historic trails—recognizing the multiple paths that have shaped our collective history. For example, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail traces the painful journey of Native Americans who were forcibly removed from their homeland; the multilayered history of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail includes a fugitive slave escape route that has been recognized as part of the Underground Railroad; and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail follows the historic march that Black Americans took for voting rights legislation.

But the current trail experience inadequately addresses the injustices experienced by people of color. We have much work to do within the Partnership and broader trails community. And the time is now.

Recognizing this, the Partnership is committed to working toward justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion for all people. We recognize that the trails community we serve quite often does not represent the diversity of America. We cannot get to our vision of providing recreational benefits for all until we address these inequities and injustices. We must redefine what we stand for, who we represent, and how we do our work.

In February 2020, the Partnership adopted a

formal Statement of Inclusion, which documents our intent to "work to ensure equal opportunities for everyone to access our national scenic and historic trails as well as feel valued and represented." We acknowledge a critical extension of that work is for all people to feel welcome and safe to enjoy not only the trails, but also the parks, forests, rural communities, and urban areas they intersect.

We recognize that intention is not enough, and we are committed to continually learning and striving to recognize and understand our biases. It is our responsibility to engage with, listen to, and learn from the African American community and all people.

We want to hear your voices and ideas as we—our staff, members, volunteers, partners, supporters, the entire Partnership—take steps toward real and meaningful change within the trails community and to make the outdoors a safe place for all.

We respectfully ask all trail advocates and enthusiasts to join us in investing time in broadening our understanding of systemic racism. We are compiling resources on our website for reference to help us all become more aware, informed, and better equipped to take action.

The Partnership aspires to champion a culture of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion to cultivate greater strength and resilience within and beyond our network as we welcome all to protect, enjoy, and support the National Trails System.

This effort may never be perfect, but the Partnership is committed to making the National Trails System safe and welcoming to all people.

In solidarity,  
The Partnership for the National Trails System

—Karen Crossley, Interim Executive Director  
—Barney "Scout" Mann, Board (BOD) President  
—RG Absher, Trail Leaders Council (TLC) Chair



*The Partnership for the National Trails System is compiling diversity and inclusion resources to help us all become more aware, informed, and better equipped to take action. These include articles, books, podcasts, and videos about experiencing the outdoors from the perspectives of people of color; a list of organizations and communities focused on promoting diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion in the outdoors; anti-racism and diversity resources, webinars, and trainings for allies; and statements from organizations in the trails community in response to recent events.*

**[www.pnts.org/new/resources/diversity-and-inclusion-resources/](http://www.pnts.org/new/resources/diversity-and-inclusion-resources/)**

Please email any resources and feedback to:  
**[communication@pnts.org](mailto:communication@pnts.org)**

## MISSION

To empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to develop, preserve, promote, and sustain the national scenic and historic trails.

## VISION

PNTS envisions a world-class system of national scenic and historic trails that preserves natural and cultural values and provides recreational benefits for all.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of PNTS is to promote and support the efforts of national scenic and historic trail organizations, to secure public and private resources, and to serve as a collective voice for policy and action that supports national scenic and historic trails.



## GOALS

1. Outreach and public awareness
2. Resource protection and trail completion
3. Capacity building



# Fall National Trails Workshop moves to virtual format

With much careful thought and deliberation, a consensus decision was reached at the Trail Leaders Council meeting in June to cancel the Partnership for the National Trails System’s in-person Fall Workshop (scheduled for October 26-30, 2020 in Spartanburg, S.C.). This decision was made on the recommendation of the PNTS Conference and Workshop Committee and with the knowledge and agreement of the Board.

We know you value face-to-face interactions, but with so many concerns and uncertainties surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, organization budgets, and travel restrictions, we believe it is the right decision.

With change, and there are so many changes we face in 2020, comes opportunity. The Fall Workshop team has begun planning a virtual workshop to be held over nine days at the end of October. The tentative dates are Wednesday, October 21st to Thursday, October 29th. We are excited about seizing this opportunity to innovate, learn, deliver meaningful content, and provide new ways for us to engage with one another.

The draft schedule clusters presentations over a two day period for each theme. We are proposing to intersperse interactive segments including discussion sessions, "open space," and socials to introduce more opportunities to network, share ideas, and dig deeper into the material presented.

- Expanding Partnerships Within and Beyond Trail Corridors
- Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Increasing Capacity Through Organizational Development

And we know many of you have "Zoom" fatigue, so we are trying to avoid consecutive sessions, limit the sessions per day, and take a break on the weekend. Stay tuned for the exact dates and schedule on our website. We anticipate that a full schedule and details for participation will be available in late July.



The poster features the text "National Trails" in a large, black, cursive font at the top. Below it is the circular logo for the Partnership for the National Trails System, which includes the text "PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM" and "CONNECTING HISTORY, CULTURES & LANDSCAPES". To the left of the logo is the word "October" and to the right is "2020". Below the logo is the text "Virtual Workshop" in a large, black, cursive font. Underneath that, the word "THEMES" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the themes, three bullet points are listed: "Advancing Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion", "Expanding Partnerships Within and Beyond Trail Corridors", and "Increasing Capacity Through Organizational Development".

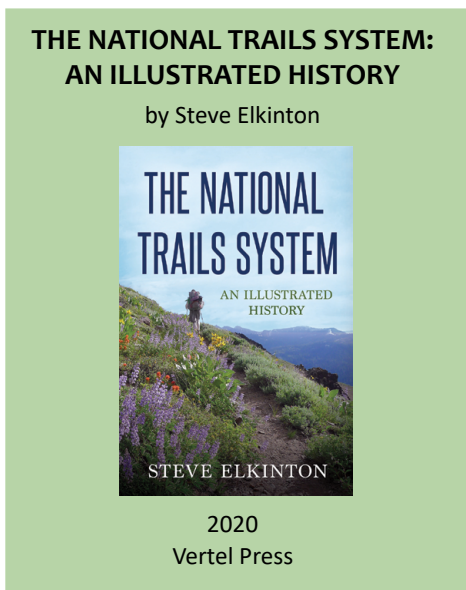
We want to recognize RG Absher, Chair of the Fall Workshop Committee, and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, for their work on organizing the original plans in South Carolina and now being able to pivot with the rest of the members of the team to take the agenda and translate it to a virtual event.

# The National Trails System: How did it happen?

Steve Elkinton’s book, "The National Trails System—An Illustrated History," traces the origins of long-distance trails across America, ties them to the cutting-edge conservation legislation of the 1960s and Earth Day, and explains how this remarkable trails system has evolved over the past 50 years.

Steve served in the National Park Service for 25 of those 50 years helping to build this system of trails. He uses oral history interviews and archived documents to fill in hitherto undocumented gaps in this uplifting story. Citizen dedication, community building, and interagency public-private cooperation are key themes of this story.

At first, there were only two trails—the well-known Appalachian and Pacific Crest



National Scenic Trails. Today, there are 30 national scenic and historic trails creating a network larger than the Interstate Highway System. This is the first comprehensive history of the National Trails System. It is based largely on primary sources and is offered in chronological chapters, with photographs and maps. What started as an experiment has resulted in a nationwide network of trails for all tastes and abilities involving thousands of volunteers and providing recreational and heritage opportunities for millions.

If you enjoy America’s great trails—both for recreation and retracing history—this book is a must for your library! Once publishing expenses are met, all additional proceeds will be donated to the Partnership for the National Trails System.



# STEP into trail crossings

FHWA promotes Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) program

Shared use paths and trails are popular with pedestrians and cyclists, and trail-roadway crossings are increasingly important locations to consider for safety improvements. Where trails of national significance pass through urban areas, such as the Potomac Heritage National Historic Trail in the Washington, D.C. area, officials will improve crossings with signs, high visibility crosswalks, and other devices to improve the visibility of pedestrians.

These and other safety improvements are the focus of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) program. STEP promotes several proven safety countermeasures, including pedestrian refuge islands and pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHBs), for improved safety at pedestrian crossings. The STEP program released the *FHWA Guide for Improving Pedestrian Safety at Uncontrolled Crossing Locations* (2018) to be a resource for evaluating roadway crossings not controlled by traffic signals and to help identify options for countermeasures. The FHWA guide can also be a resource



Photo Credit: FHWA

A trail crossing in Durham, NC with a pedestrian hybrid beacon.

for creating an inventory of trail-roadway crossings. States and regional organizations are creating these inventories to prioritize where to implement safety improvements. A trail-roadway crossing inventory will often include information about the roadway, traffic speed, surrounding land uses, and crosswalk features.



Learn how your agency or nonprofit can improve pedestrian safety with STEP:

[safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped\\_bike/step/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/step/)  
**Rebecca.Crowe@dot.gov**  
**Peter.Eun@dot.gov**

## Brenda Yankoviak selected as Acting USFS Trails Program Lead

by **Partnership for the National Trails System**

*Adapted from emails from the U.S. Forest Service*

The U.S. Forest Service has announced that Brenda Yankoviak has stepped into the role of Acting National Trails Program Lead as of June 8. Brenda has worked around the west in recreation and trails and was most recently the manager of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) program. She has terrific program management and facilitation skills, and the department looks forward to having her step into the role of convening and leading the many trails teams currently working across the country.



Madison, a master's degree from the University of Montana-Missoula in recreation management, and has worked for nearly 20 years with the USFS. She has a strong passion and commitment for public-private partnerships, and has been instrumental in developing documents that support consistent management direction and philosophy across the Federal agencies that manage portions of the CDT. Brenda is an avid outdoors person who enjoys most every form of recreation, especially when joined in activities by her family. To contact Brenda, email [brenda.yankoviak@usda.gov](mailto:brenda.yankoviak@usda.gov) or call 720-618-0262. Welcome, Brenda!



**Brenda Yankoviak**

Brenda holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from James

### Trails Community Resources

 [www.pnts.org/new/resources/](http://www.pnts.org/new/resources/)

#### COVID-19 UPDATES

Since March, PNTS has been compiling national scenic and historic trail organization responses, guidelines, policies, event cancellations, related news articles, and resources.

#### DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Since June, PNTS has been compiling tools for allies, recent statements, and points of view to help us all become more aware, informed, and better equipped to take action. Please join us.

#### FORUM

PNTS launched its National Trails System Forum in 2017. The purpose of this forum is to encourage dialogue and the sharing of best practices amongst trail partners. Log in today!

#### WEBINARS

Since March, this page has also included dozens of additional webinars hosted by other organizations that focus on COVID-19, equity, and trail-related topics. Some are recorded.



# Preserving the legacy of voting rights

Interpretive center opens 55 years after Selma to Montgomery March



"We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest" by John Feagin, muralist, and Vincent Morgan, artist, is part of *The Journey to Freedom* mural series at the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University. It features a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

Photo Credit:  
ASU Archives

Fifty-five years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke the historic words, "How Long, Not Long," challenging America to live up to its democratic principles at the end of the 1965

Voting Rights March, a new National Park Service (NPS) Interpretive Center opened February 2020 in Montgomery, Alabama on the campus of Alabama State University (ASU). The Montgomery site completes the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Two other interpretive centers preserving voting rights history were previously opened in the Black belt areas of Selma and Lowndes County, Alabama.

Dr. Joy Kinard, Superintendent of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, stated that the trail "symbolizes a tangible and intangible manifestation of the American journey toward civil rights. When visiting the 54-mile trail between Selma and Montgomery, AL, visitors will witness the protesters' struggles through exhibits, oral histories, and displays encountered in



three visitor centers while driving, hiking, or biking."

The National Park Service considered Montgomery as an ideal location for its third interpretive center along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. The city established its place in history as the capital of Alabama and the cradle of the Confederacy, slaveholding States which seceded from the United States in 1861. Nearly a century later, Montgomery became known as the birthplace of the modern civil rights movement when its Black citizens launched a boycott against segregated bus service and the indignities they suffered on the Jim Crow vehicles. Montgomery also became a center of civil rights activities during the Sit-In Movement, the Freedom Rides, and Voting Rights Campaign.

The NPS selected ASU as the site for the third voting rights interpretive center because of its history in civil rights activism. "Alabama State University is honored to have been selected as the site for the new Montgomery Interpretive Center which preserves the rich civil rights legacy of the institution," said ASU President Quinton T. Ross, Jr. "This partnership fosters opportunities for teaching

and learning within the context of higher education and builds on the preservation mission of the National Park Service." The University was one of many Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) founded in the aftermath of the Civil War (1861-1865). These institutions produced outstanding graduates and provided primary, secondary, and college education for African Americans. HBCUs were essential to the civil rights protests and voting rights demonstrations which led to the overthrow of laws and practices that reduced Blacks to second class citizenship status.

In the spring of 1965, students from ASU, Tuskegee University, colleges around the nation, and from area high schools joined the ongoing voting rights crusade in Selma, AL. Following Bloody Sunday, when police attacked nonviolent demonstrators attempting to march to the Alabama State Capitol, the students carried out voting rights protests in Montgomery. Several of these protests emanated from the ASU campus.

The students' participation in the 1965 voting rights protests signaled a new chapter in American history which paved the way for the passage of the historic 1965 Voting





We know that progress is not always linear. Today, as we celebrate the signing of the landmark Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, we must also be realistic about how far we have to go in guaranteeing the most fundamental American right—the right to vote. As we reflect upon the past, let us also recommit ourselves to the future. This year, I was thrilled that the House of Representatives finally passed H.R. 4, which restores those crucial pieces of the VRA gutted by the Supreme Court in *Shelby v. Holder*. We cannot allow it to languish in the Senate. Just as we did in the 1960s, we must make our voices heard and ensure that all Americans are guaranteed their right to vote.

—Congresswoman Terri Sewell, U.S. Representative, 7th Congressional District of Alabama



The Montgomery Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail at Alabama State University opened in spring 2020, the 55th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March.

Photo Credit:  
David Campbell,  
University Photography

Rights Act. This legislation was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This act overturned barriers to the ballot, including a literacy test which kept even educated Blacks from registering to vote. The measure resulted in the registration of thousands of new Black voters and the election of African Americans to local, State and national offices.

In 2020, the year of the 55th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights campaign, the American people are yet again at the intersection of racism and widespread activism, challenging the government to hold true to the principles of its Constitution. Just as the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson in 1965 by Alabama State Troopers led to the Selma to

Montgomery Voting Rights March, the murders of numerous unarmed Black citizens by police officers have resulted in social and political unrest in 2020. The current generation of civic-minded citizens stands on the shoulders of previous activists who agitated for the vote as a means to effect policy changes to ensure justice and equality in American society.

The Montgomery Interpretive Center is a treasure that will be heralded by visitors worldwide. The opening of this new center provides an opportunity to learn lessons from the past while moving forward to a more just and democratic society. Yes, the past meets the present, and understanding our past is as essential today as it was 55 years ago.



Contributing authors for this article include: Janice R. Franklin, Ph.D., Dean, Levi Watkins Learning Center/Project Director; Dorothy A. Autrey, Ph.D., Retired Professor of History/Program Chair; Howard O. Robinson II, Ph.D., University Archivist/Adjunct Professor of History; Destiny Williams, Access Services/Cultural Heritage Manager. Learn more about ASU's National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture and the history of the Selma to Montgomery NHT:

[www.lib.alasu.edu/natctr/](http://www.lib.alasu.edu/natctr/)  
[www.nps.gov/semo/](http://www.nps.gov/semo/)

## Anniversary

by Joanne VanCoevern, Manager  
Santa Fe Trail Association

# Plans underway for Santa Fe Trail's 200th anniversary



The Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) continues to make plans and preparations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Santa Fe Trail throughout 2021. In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail was opened as a commercial route between Missouri and New Mexico by William Becknell and his party of five traders.

A new website, [www.santafetrail200.org](http://www.santafetrail200.org), has been launched to provide information to the public about events that will be taking place throughout 2021, as well as a new "Santa Fe Trail 200th" Facebook page. The premier event will be the SFTA Symposium scheduled for September 22-26, 2021 at La Junta, CO and Bent's Fort National Historic Site. A special website has been created for that event and can be found at [www.2021sfts.com](http://www.2021sfts.com).

SFTA has also been awarded a "\$1,000 Quick Grant," made possible through funding from Humanities Kansas and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funds will be used to develop a podcast, "The Santa Fe Trail Lives On," which will provide a

platform to share the many stories related to the history of the Santa Fe Trail. Deb Goodrich, chair of SFTA's Publicity Committee and the Santa Fe Trail 200th Committee, will be the host for the podcast and will work with Dave Kendall on the production.

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail will be featured in a segment of season 11 of *A Taste of History*, a TV cooking series hosted by Chef Walter Staib that explores America's cooking through history, scheduled to begin airing on PBS stations in July 2020. Filming on location, the chef visited the Santa Fe Trail sites and helped prepare recipes with Katie Lange at Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, Olathe, KS and with Shirley McClintock at Trail Days Café in Council Grove, KS. These forms of communication will allow new audiences to learn about the trail and its 200th anniversary.



For questions about the Santa Fe Trail 200th, contact:

[publicity@santafetrail.org](mailto:publicity@santafetrail.org)



# Virtual CDT Trail Days

COVID-19 cancellations bring events online worldwide

Each March, Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) staff and volunteers from the Gateway Community of Silver City, N.M. face crunchtime in preparation for the annual Continental Divide Trail Days



festival. There are permits to be acquired, bands to be booked, and food to be ordered—but this year, all of that work came to a screeching halt as it became clearer by the day that COVID-19 was going to stop any sort of big in-person gatherings.

Trail Days is CDTC's largest annual event and celebrates not only the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT), but also the welcoming towns like Silver City along its length. We didn't want to miss the opportunity to bring the CDT community together just because we couldn't do so in person, so we hatched the idea for Virtual Trail Days. After confirming that the speakers and performers we had scheduled for Trail Days were willing to switch to a virtual format, we created a month-long calendar of events, including a weekly gear giveaway to help recognize the corporate sponsors who help make Trail Days happen. Pre-show tech checks ensured that our Zoom to Facebook Live events went off (mostly) without a hitch.

Virtual Trail Days turned out to be a fantastic way to celebrate the CDT and engage people who would never have made it to Silver City for in-person celebrations! The live presentations were marked with high levels of engagement and great questions from the audience, and Facebook's large user base ensured that our videos reached tens of thousands of people—almost half of whom weren't already CDTC Facebook followers.

A conversation with the first two African-American Triple Crowners, Will "Akuna" Robinson and Elsy "Chardonnay" Walker, and a concert with thru-hiking musical duo 3,000 Miles, were especially big hits. More than 750 people entered

our gear giveaway, and our Facebook following grew by more than double what it had in March. Moving forward, we have great video content that we can reshare on all of our social media channels in the coming months.

Although some States began to lift stay-at-home orders at the end of April, we knew that many people were continuing to stay close to home, and we wanted to find a way to keep our audience engaged after the success of Virtual Trail Days. We decided to launch a virtual "group hike" of the entire CDT. Using ChallengeHound, we set a goal of 3,100 miles, and invited our audience to sign up and track their walks, hikes, and runs through the website. Along the way, we posted to Instagram and Facebook two to three times a week with updates on how far we had made it and interpretive information on those sections of the trail. With almost 100 participants, it only took 27 days to make it from Mexico to Canada! Several folks emailed or commented to express their appreciation for the opportunity to learn more and feel connected to the trail from afar.

Both Virtual Trail Days and the virtual hike kept CDTC's audience connected at a time when people couldn't connect with the trail in person. These events even had the added benefit of engaging folks who live far from the trail and may never have stepped foot on it before. Virtual Trail Days involved quite a high commitment from staff and would be challenging to pull off while concurrently planning an in-person festival—though CDTC is hoping to stream at least one or two Trail Days events next year after the success we saw with the virtual format. The virtual hike, on the other hand, took minimal time to plan and execute, and we are considering making this an annual tradition to kick off another year of enjoying the CDT.



Screenshots: "Trailblazers" Zoom video. From top, CDTC's Teresa Martinez and Amanda Wheelock host a virtual conversation with hikers Will "Akuna" Robinson and Elsy "Chardonnay" Walker.



Amanda Wheelock has worked, volunteered, and occasionally lived on national trails for most of the last decade. This fall, she is embarking on a new adventure as a graduate student at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, and is eager to find new favorite places along the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Learn more about Virtual Trail Days:

[www.continentaldividetrail.org/trail-days-2020/](http://www.continentaldividetrail.org/trail-days-2020/)

Learn more about event logistics:

[akurth@continentaldividetrail.org](mailto:akurth@continentaldividetrail.org)

## Hiking Challenges Gain Attraction During Pandemic

### NEW ENGLAND TRAIL

#Hike50NET

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association and Appalachian Mountain Club worked closely with the Center for Community GIS to redevelop the New England National Scenic Trail website, which features a new interactive map and overnight site reservation system and pages for long-distance hikers and Hike50/100 Challenge participants.



### NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL

#Hike100NCT

It's only halfway through 2020, but the North Country Trail Association reports that Hike 100 Challenge participation numbers have far exceeded those of previous years: Almost 3,800 have registered and nearly 800 people (and 200 pets) have finished logging 100 miles on the North Country Trail. Learn more on NCTA's revamped website.





# Summit for Arizona Trails

## Statewide trails network discusses shared challenges and opportunities

In February 2020, a small volunteer committee of trail managers, builders, and enthusiasts convened the inaugural Summit for Arizona Trails at the historic Community Club House in Cottonwood, AZ. People from more than two dozen organizations, 10 local governments, several small locally-owned businesses and five State or Federal agencies participated. This was the first such gathering in Arizona in 12 years and the first to include both motorized and nonmotorized trail recreation interests. For those who participated, and those who have been drawn into the resulting Network for Arizona Trails work, the Summit was just a first step in a long game strategy to elevate trail-related recreation in the State.

The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) provided leadership in the development and execution of the Summit, in large part because we identified a need for more effective advocacy for trails Statewide. The recent surge in the popularity of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) has put the ATA in a unique position within Arizona's outdoor recreation community. The national attention the trail garners means economic opportunities for Gateway Communities and business partners, and that opportunity translates to a unique cachet for the ATA with elected officials, land managers, and local nonprofits.

While many of the challenges of protecting, maintaining, and sustaining a resource such as the AZT are unique to long-distance trails, so many other times we found camaraderie with other trail advocates in our struggles to have the value of these trail resources truly reflected in the decisions made at local, State, and Federal levels. Activating this diverse community toward advocacy and mutual support could help find movement on long term critical issues such as recreational use of State trust lands, complications faced with National Environmental Policy Act clearances, the State grant funding process, and volunteer recruitment and management across jurisdictions.

With support from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, we collected a volunteer team of organizers who were chosen as much by their willingness to participate as their ability to think strategically. We were intentional in our efforts to keep the core group diverse, with representatives from



Photo Credit: Summit for Arizona Trails

Over 100 advocates, planners, users, and managers from across Arizona came together to network and discuss shared challenges and opportunities during the Summit for Arizona Trails in February 2020.

motorized as well as nonmotorized recreation groups, nonprofits, private businesses, conservation corps, local governments, the U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service. Because we were trying to represent as many different communities across the State as possible, the group only met virtually until the actual date of the Summit. We recruited sponsorship from trail-related businesses and participating agencies, and worked hard to keep participant costs to a minimum to engage as broad a group as possible. We were even able to offer scholarships to students and young professionals to foster the next generation of trail stewards.

The Summit itself was structured to be a work session rather than a conference or training. Discussion topics were identified in advance through a participant survey and one-on-one conversations with recreation leaders. Participants were able to share their challenges and victories in multiple topics and begin brainstorming ways to bring about positive change.

After a successful Summit, the ad-hoc and volunteer Steering Committee began to look at creating a more formal structure to support work on the initiatives generated at the meeting. However, when the global pandemic hit, priorities shifted multiple times in the course of just a few weeks as organizations found their operations scrambled and public need for outdoor spaces and safe recreation outlets exploded. The beginnings of a network, however, turned out to be a boon. Steering Committee

leaders used the contacts from the Summit to begin a trails COVID response forum. Zoom meetings provided space for people working on trails to share updates on management strategies, compare notes on the changing use patterns, and begin to work together to create and share messaging. While many who attended the initial meetings were also at the Summit, the nature of this work expanded the Network even further, bringing in more community managers and nonprofits trying to respond in a constructive way to the crisis. As we enter the next stages of the pandemic and eventual recovery, the group will continue to share resources and keep the trails community connected.

The new name for the effort—the Network for Arizona Trails—is continuing efforts to establish a collaborative decision-making structure. With the ATA providing the backbone, we have been working on grant funding for education and community development, as well as continuing to solicit support from the business community. The ATA has been diligent to be sure that providing leadership does not become sole ownership. We know that the real power of an effort like the Network comes from the passion and commitment of its participants, and that it can only be made stronger as it draws energy from a diverse coalition of interests.



Learn more about the network:

[sites.google.com/view/  
summitforaztrails](https://sites.google.com/view/summitforaztrails)



# Reflections in retirement

## PNTS founding Executive Director and Federal agency 'Trail Buds' reconnect

Last summer, when the Partnership for the National Trails System announced the forthcoming retirement of its founding executive director and subsequent move to Washington, D.C., many people—myself included—thought that would be the biggest news for the National Trails System community in 2020. As the months went on, one by one the Partnership's main Federal agency partner leads revealed (to each other's surprise) they would be retiring, too.

Rita Hennessy, National Park Service (NPS) Program Lead for Wild and Scenic Rivers and the National Trails System, retired on New Year's Eve; Gary Werner, Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) Executive Director, retired at Hike the Hill in February; Deb Salt, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Program Lead for the National Scenic and Historic Trail Program, retired a few weeks later on Leap Day; and Jaime Schmidt, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) National Trail Program Manager, retired in April.

What these four longtime colleagues and friends also didn't expect was that their introduction to life in retirement would include a global pandemic. Thanks to video call technology, we caught up with them via Zoom in June to find out how they have been adjusting to their "new normal" in an otherwise abnormal time, what some of their most memorable moments were working together, as well as what their vision is for the future of the National Trails System (NTS).

This is a snapshot of that conversation, which you can view in full on our website. And, for the record, while the idea piqued their interest, none of them will be applying to the brewery that's looking to pay someone to drink its beer while hiking the Appalachian Trail. They have other adventures in mind.

### POST-CAREER PLANS

**Gary:** I've been volunteering up to four days a week along sections of the Ice Age Trail since the end of April when invasive species control work was deemed essential in Wisconsin. People are effusively thankful for what we're providing them—opportunities to get out. So, I'm hoping that sort of reaction is happening through other sections of trails in the country. The other half of my time has been indoors doing continuation of some "work stuff" in this transition. Melanie and I have also been going for bicycle rides.



Photos Submitted

Left: Gary Werner inducts people into the National Trails System Honor Roll at the Oviedo, FL Conference in 1997. Right: Jaime Schmidt visits her daughter's first grade class with Smokey Bear during "Parent Career Day" in 2000. "I'm pretty sure that she and her classmates thought I had the coolest job and coworker."



**Jaime:** I've been catching up on some resting, rejuvenating, and work around the house and yard. We got a little camper trailer and were planning to head straight to southern Utah, but then all the shutdowns happened. So we've been picking out new local trails to hike or bike near Coeur d'Alene. Andy and I are going to roam around for awhile since we're pretty much self-contained. Within a year or so we'll start to sort out some volunteer things that we'll want to focus on.

**Deb:** Same thing here. We bought bikes and a camp trailer and we were all set to go on a big retirement extravaganza to California and see the grandkids, but we've decided to hang out and hole up for now. All of the classic boat shows Tim and I normally participate in were canceled, so it's going to be a quiet year for us. But I've been busy in all the ways I want to be busy right now. I started digging into my family history and genealogy, and I've spent weeks planting flowers and getting the gardens all beautiful again.

**Rita:** Sean and I retired at the same time, but we recently experienced the death of his father (a great biologist who had been the lead science writer for the National Institutes of Health). Otherwise we've been working outside, planting trees, and building a trails system through our wooded area and a 30-foot long Hugelkultur (German for cultured hill) raised bed for strawberries in our orchard. We've also been doing webinars for the Potomac Valley Audubon Society on our two-acre meadow about design, maintenance, and native/invasive species.

### MEMORABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

**Rita:** I've only been the second person in that NPS position after Steve Elkinton. Deb did an excellent job of reviving the National Trails System Council and renewing the MOU. That process was a wonderful learning experience and amazing introduction to the NTS.

**Deb:** I think the establishment of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System made a big difference. I was in the right place at the right time with the right skillset. However, it would have been extremely difficult to do what we did without PNTS and Gary's steadfast leadership. And I want to thank Jaime and Rita for their incredible support and the information sharing between our agencies, including the lead up to the recent Supreme Court ruling (USFS and Atlantic Coast Pipeline), certainly a career capstone.

**Jaime:** I feel really fortunate to have worked early on with the NTS Council on co-leading the development of the Federal Trail Data Standards. It's got staying power. Also, each of you have been super wonderful, patient mentors to me for years.

**Gary:** In addition to reimagining the NTS Council, the National Trail Administrators Roundtable was a really innovative move that you three put together. I also want to commend you all on creatively finding extra money from within your agencies to provide greater support for the 50th anniversary activities and the trail intern grant program. You're unsung heroes that have made a huge impact throughout the National Trails System.



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: 32 YEARS



Deb Salt

Deb grew up atop a hill along the Allegheny River in rural western Pennsylvania. The wooded and historic trails (Oil Region National Heritage Area) she often walked as a child led her to a 34-year career of public service "out West" (1985-2020). She has degrees in forestry and outdoor recreation administration from Paul Smith's College, NY and the University of Idaho. Her work adventures include 32 years with the BLM and seasonal time with county,

State, and national parks. She ultimately moved "back East" to work in Washington, D.C., establishing the first-ever comprehensive National Trails System program and policies. She now resides near Glacier National Park, MT and enjoys camping, hiking, biking, skiing, gardening, and classic wood boating with her husband, Tim.

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE: 31 YEARS

Jaime grew up hiking and camping in the Pacific Northwest with her family. A ranger talk made a lasting impression on her at Glacier National Park, where years later she would meet her husband, Andy. After getting her degree in wildland recreation management, they served as Peace Corps volunteers in Honduras and the Galapagos Islands. Then Jaime began working with the USFS in recreation management. She later led development of the Route of the Hiawatha Rail-Trail in Idaho and Iditarod NHT on the Chugach National Forest before becoming the USFS's Assistant and then National Trail Program Manager. Her career of Federal public service spans 35 years. Jaime and Andy enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and spending time outdoors.



Jaime Schmidt

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: 30 YEARS



Rita Hennessy

Rita was set on becoming a park ranger after reading "The Bears and I" by Robert Franklin Leslie as a child. She wrote to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, volunteered for local nature centers, worked for the Youth Conservation Corps, and got a degree in recreation resource management. These experiences led her to the Appalachian Trail as a ridgerunner with the Appalachian Mountain Club and later with the National Park Service for 18 years as a Recreation

Specialist, Deputy Superintendent, and creator of the Trails to Every Classroom program. She became the NPS National Trails Lead in 2015—the capstone to her career. She and her husband, Sean, enjoy gardening and trail building at home in the Harpers Ferry, WV, area.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM: 29 YEARS

When Gary was 10 years old, his father read "My Boyhood and Youth" by John Muir and initiated Sierra Club activities and route planning for the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin. Gary's family spent summers visiting national parks and interpretive centers—deepening his interest in geography and history—and he followed in his parents' footsteps toward a path of land preservation and environmental activism in the trails world. Gary was the first full-time employee of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and served as the founding Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System for 29 years. When not volunteering on the trail, Gary and his wife, Melanie, enjoy biking and visiting farmers markets in Madison, WI.



Gary Werner



Photos Submitted

Left: Deb Salt and the horse she rode to the top of Scalplock Mountain near the Continental Divide, Glacier National Park, MT in 1986.

Right: Rita Hennessy, who was an Appalachian Trail ridgerunner, canoes on her favorite spot at Upper Goose Pond in 1988.

## VALUE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

**Jaime:** We're all really good friends and partners, we trust each other and have great chemistry, and we are all very fortunate to have worked together on something that we're super passionate about. I think that we did help make a difference. Of course not just individually, but primarily with the wonderful collection of nonprofit and Federal agency partners.

**Rita:** I think at every single level of a national trail, there's always that public-private partnership and multijurisdictional aspect, and to have that modeled at the Washington level I think was very important. I know I could text you all about just about anything; these days about meadows with Gary and Jaime and Deb just as "Trail Buds" (the title of our weekly call).

**Deb:** You've got to have that local, regional, and national perspective, and everybody working together to have the system function as a whole. And our agency leadership knowing that you (PNNTS) were there, you cared, and you came back to meet with them cannot be overstated. You have been such a great partner, Gary. We couldn't have done it without you.

**Gary:** And I couldn't have done it without all of you. That's the magic, I think, that we inspire one another by our creativity, imagination, commitment, and graciousness. It's been a process of essentially making up the rules of the game as we go along since there wasn't a handbook or pattern. My biggest regret is I didn't get more of an opportunity to work with you. So the times we were able to collaborate were really special.

## VISION FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

**Deb:** It's going to be increasingly important for the organizations to have very good relationships with the local land, district, and park managers and other agencies and nonprofits, because I think that will result in good decisions. And I think it's important that my position is filled full-time.

**Jaime:** I agree with strengthening the collective partnership and Congressional awareness, especially in these challenging times and with pending LWCF legislation and infrastructure funding for public lands. And I think we need to reimagine the user and support base and foster future citizen stewards who will fulfill the vision of the National Trails System Act.

**Rita:** Yes, we need to change the paradigm in regards to diversity and inclusion. Another focus should be communications to bring awareness to the cooperative management system and NTS, because I believe the trails are going to be slammed by people walking off the pandemic.

**Gary:** The big task for the nonprofit side will be having ongoing robust land acquisition programs underway through at least half of the trails and programs to include the people that we need of all aspects of our culture and ages in these efforts to sustain them. The nonprofits can't do it alone, so it's got to be a partnership with the Federal agencies, States, and local governments whenever possible to make systemic changes.



Answers have been edited significantly for space and clarity. View the full version of the interview, bios, and more photos online:

[www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/](http://www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/)



# Partnerships propel research grant

## NEH funding enlivens native history at Lewis and Clark Trail Summer Institute

During 2018-2020, Dr. Stephanie Wood, of the University of Oregon's College of Education, in collaboration with Tom Smith, Education Specialist for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT), demonstrated the value of partnership in securing a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to underwrite a three-week Summer Institute held in July 2019 on parts of the LCNHT in Montana and North Dakota.

Stephanie is not a novice in the arena of NEH grants or working with the LCNHT; she was one of the authors and editors of the two-volume *Honoring Tribal Legacies* (HTL) handbook (2015) designed to support curriculum development. The HTL team has also edited and published nine free teachings for broad educational use that bring to life presentations of Tribal people in the Tent of Many Voices that were preserved during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (2003-2006).

Curriculum development continues today, with 10 additional curricular units in production for HTL, plus many lesson plans for the Native Histories website that were produced by the teachers who took part in the Summer Institute. The institute was a classroom without walls that followed the exploration segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Auto Tour Route from Billings, MT to Bismarck, ND. The Lewis and Clark story served as the backdrop to the institute, which had as its focus various historical and contemporary American Indian cultures, involving 25 educators coming from New York, Washington, California, and South Carolina, among other States.

These K-12 teachers experienced place-based learning and presentations by Indigenous Elders and other prominent scholars. Learning opportunities were provided by Apsáalooke (Crow), Northern Cheyenne, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara and Lakota Tribes. Drs. Janine Pease and Tim McCleary at the Little Bighorn College, former Northern Cheyenne Tribal Chairman Conrad Fisher, and Calvin Grinnell (Mandan), among others, provided deep insight into both historical experience and some of the many points of view of Tribal people today. The Summer Institute visited 19 locations that included Federal, State, and local historic sites and parks, plus a Fourth of July Powwow on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Testimonial statements from participants reassure us of the institute success and the



Left: From left, Rose Williamson (Apsáalooke), Indian Battle Tours guide at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, and Dr. Stephanie Wood, the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Director.

Right: Tom Smith, Education Specialist with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, displays handmade artwork in Bismarck, N.D. during the Summer Institute in 2019.

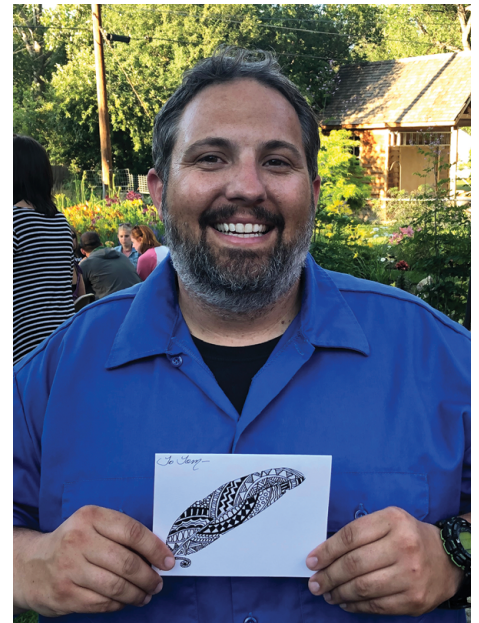


Photo Credits: Robert Haskett

ripple effect this will have in classrooms across the country.

"Being able to learn hands-on and to visit important historical and cultural sites helped me bring my ideas into focus and shape my learning objectives for my students. It also helped me create more relevant and engaging curriculum, because I had a personal connection to what I was teaching," wrote one teacher.

"As a kindergarten teacher at a low-income school, I'm always finding new ways to build community and relationships with my students. During our NEH journey last summer, I was reminded of the role that nature has traditionally played in our daily lives and was able to bring that into my classroom by teaching my students traditional native games. This opened the door for my class to learn how to trust, work together, and become a family, all while using the sticks and rocks they gathered around our school. These games helped struggling students find connection with others and gave them something to be proud to teach their families," another teacher shared.

The experiences, programs, and new lessons described above were made possible thanks to NEH funding. The Tribal Legacies

presentations made during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, which were the forerunner to the *Honoring Tribal Legacies* project, are still paying dividends after 17 years, and skillful grant writing made for a perfect combination.

When considering an NEH grant or any other financial award, imagine forming partnerships, especially with individuals and organizations that have a strong track record in obtaining Federal support to underwrite programs that benefit future generations. In 2019, \$28.6 million in NEH grants were awarded for only 233 projects. Among them was the \$175,000 grant to Dr. Stephanie Wood to research Native American histories along the Lewis and Clark Trail. While these NEH grants are very competitive, the Lewis and Clark Trust is honored to share this grant success story.



Learn more about NEH and other resources:

[www.neh.gov/information-first-time-applicants](http://www.neh.gov/information-first-time-applicants)

[blogs.uoregon.edu/honoringtriballegeries/](http://blogs.uoregon.edu/honoringtriballegeries/)

[blogs.uoregon.edu/nativehistories/](http://blogs.uoregon.edu/nativehistories/)



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

by Halle Goldstein

2018 PNTS Trail Intern and Apprentice

# From trail intern to conservation organizer

When I first began my internship with the Florida Trail Association, I was originally pursuing a psychology degree so that I could attend graduate school for occupational therapy. However, the experiences I had during this internship helped develop my love and passion for the environmental field and interpersonal relationships. I soon realized that I did not want to continue on with the medical field.



Halle Goldstein

aquatic preserves, and wetland determinations. Recently, I have accepted a position with Audubon Florida to work as a conservation organizer to expand their base of advocates for Everglades and climate issues along the west coast of Florida.

I highly recommend applying for the PNTS internship if you have a passion for the environment, even if you do not have a degree in the field. It is a great way to learn and build experience while gaining new perspectives.



Halle Goldstein is a 2018 Trail Intern grant recipient with the Florida Trail Association and Trail Apprentice scholarship recipient who attended the National Trails Conference in Vancouver, WA. Learn more about the Partnership's youth programs:

[www.pnts.org/new/our-work/next-generation/](http://www.pnts.org/new/our-work/next-generation/)

After the National Trails System internship, I went on to work for the Florida Department of Environmental protection where I garnered experience with the agency's permitting program,

## RESOURCES

by Don Owen, Consultant and Case Study Author

Partnership for the National Trails System

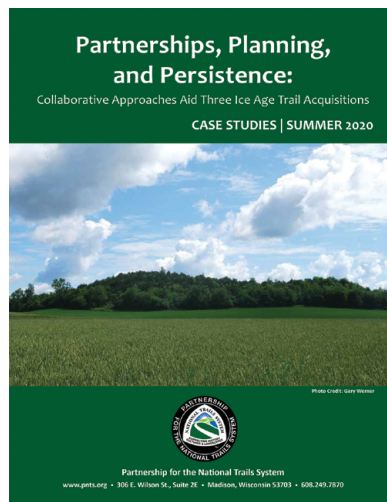
# PNTS publishes Ice Age Trail case studies

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has published its third case study about national trail protection efforts. "Partnerships, Planning, and Persistence: Collaborative Approaches Aid Three Ice Age Trail Acquisitions" tells the story of how the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), Groundswell Conservancy, and Dane County worked together to conserve three key properties along one of the most popular sections of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

After years of planning and negotiations, all three acquisitions were completed in a span of six months. The end result is a remarkable patchwork of protected land that will allow the IATA and its partners to move the trail footpath off of State and county roads into a setting that highlights the remnants of Ice Age glaciation that shaped the State of Wisconsin.

"It's vital that the Ice Age Trail Alliance work collaboratively with our public and private partners to secure trail rights to complete this amazing project," said Kevin Thusius, IATA Director of Land Conservation. "We have to find common ground with partners, advocate for funding and other support, and negotiate with multiple parties so that everyone has a stake in a successful outcome."

This case study was produced with support from the Federal Highway Administration.



Download the publication to read the full story of how the Ice Age Trail Alliance and its partners conserved three key properties to close gaps in the Ice Age Trail corridor:

[www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/](http://www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/)



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Mike Wollmer • Ice Age Trail Alliance

Kaleo Paik • Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Elizabeth Stewart • Anza Trail Foundation

Bridget Likely • Appalachian Mountain Club (NET)

Morgan Sommerville • Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Matt Nelson • Arizona Trail Association

Susan Shingledecker • Chesapeake Conservancy

Clare Cain • Connecticut Forest & Park Association (NET)

Teresa Martinez • Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Jim Wolf • Continental Divide Trail Society

Marcie Davis • E Mau Nā Ala Hele (Ala Kahakai NHT)

Steven Gonzales • El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association

Kelly Wiener • Florida Trail Association

Judy Bittner • Itdarod Historic Trail Alliance

Sarah Cawley • Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Ron Andersen • Mormon Pioneer Trail Association

Tony Turnbow • Natchez Trace Parkway Association

Pat Hearty • National Pony Express Association

Ellen von Karajan • National Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US)

Jim Zimmerman • Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Andrea Ketchmark • North Country Trail Association

Reba Wells Grandrud • Old Spanish Trail Association

Bill Martin • Oregon-California Trails Association

Justin Kooyman • Pacific Crest Trail Association

Jeff Kish • Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Ric Francke • Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Marcia Will-Clifton • Santa Fe Trail Association

Deloris Gray Wood • Trail of Tears Association





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# Event Calendar

[www.pnts.org/new/events/](http://www.pnts.org/new/events/)



Event dates/details are subject to change.

August 2020	North Country Trail Association Celebration	Virtual	<a href="http://www.nctacelebration.org">www.nctacelebration.org</a>
August 2-5, 2020	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Conference	Virtual	<a href="http://www.lewisandclark.org/meeting/">www.lewisandclark.org/meeting/</a>
August 5, 2020	NPS: Partnering with Tribes on Conservation	Webinar	<a href="http://www.pnts.org/new/webinars/">www.pnts.org/new/webinars/</a>
August 11, 2020	NWSA: Back Country Horsemen of America Update	Webinar	<a href="http://www.pnts.org/new/webinars/">www.pnts.org/new/webinars/</a>
September 2, 2020	NPS: Tribal Tourism and Park Conservation	Webinar	<a href="http://www.pnts.org/new/webinars/">www.pnts.org/new/webinars/</a>
Fall 2020	SORP: National Outdoor Recreation Conference	Virtual	<a href="http://www.2020norc.org">www.2020norc.org</a>
Fall 2020	National Wilderness Workshop	Virtual	<a href="http://www.wildernessalliance.org">www.wildernessalliance.org</a>
October 21-29, 2020	National Trails Fall Workshop	Virtual	<a href="http://www.pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/">www.pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/</a>

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