



Arkansas Studies Institute To Host Summer Meeting, July 25

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

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

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday morning—on your own

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

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

1:00 pm

Welcome

David Stricklin, head
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

1:00-1:15 pm

Report to the Membership

John McLarty, president
ARTOTA

1:15-1:45 pm

Ten on the Trail

Carolyn Kent, grant project director
ARTOTA

1:45-2:15 pm

Arkansas Heritage Trail Initiative

Marilyn Heifner, board of directors
Heritage Trail Partners

2:15-2:30 pm

BREAK

2:30-3:00 pm

An Update from the TOTA Office

Jerra Quinton, executive director
Trail of Tears Association

3:00-4:00 pm

Removal of the Other Four Tribes through Arkansas

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

4:00 pm

Tour of Arkansas Studies Institute

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

Sequoyah Research Center Research Day

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

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

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

John McLarty

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

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

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

Two important meetings are scheduled for 2009:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kitty Sloan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join the Trail of Tears Association for 2009!

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

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

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