

# Tennessee Trail of Tears Association

## July-September News

### June Meeting

The June meeting of the Tennessee Trail of Tears was held on Saturday, June 22, 2019 in Tellico Plains at the Great Tellico History Day. The educational booths and exhibits around the Charles Hall Museum were very well attended. Over 150 people attended the TNTOTA meeting to meet the Keetoowah Youth Conservation Group and their family members. Quentin Bass and Dr. Brett Riggs were the guest speakers.

A short storm interrupted our planned commemorative walk from the church to the museum. We were soon able to gather together to remember the NC Cherokee that came through Tellico Plains during 1838. Flute music was provided by Kyle Coatney and Faye Callaway sang. Jr. Miss Keetoowah and Miss Keetoowah presented the wreath.

Thanks to everyone who attended.



Member of the United Keetoowah Band of Indians from Oklahoma are seen with several members of the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association in this Tellico Mountain Press photo.

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Tennessee Trail of Tears President Debbie Moore was a guest speaker for the Virgin Falls State Natural Area's Summer Speakers Series. The event was held at the White County, TN Courthouse on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over 100 people attended the presentation. This

photo was taken by Patara Marlow. Please note the beautiful mural on the wall and the standing room only crowd.



### Upcoming Events

**July 12 & 13- The River Town Festival in Calhoun, TN. This is a family friendly event. TNTOTA will have a booth set up at the Meadowlands Park from 10am until 2pm. Shirley Lawrence has volunteered to man the booth but we need at least one other person. Please plan to attend. Please see the River Town Festival's Facebook page for a listing of all the events. This is a free event. The NC Cherokee marched through this area to the Hiwassee River.**

**July 25<sup>th</sup> - We will have a board meeting on Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Hiwassee Heritage Center in Charleston, TN at 10am EST. Everyone is invited to attend. Only board members may vote on business.**

**August 4- Sequoyah Birth Place Museum in Vonore, TN will be having the Sequoyah Remembrance Day from 12:30pm until 4:00pm EST.**

**August 10 & 11 – The Tennessee Trail of Tears will have an educational booth at the Cherokee Cultural Celebration 2019 at Red Clay State Historic Park in Cleveland, TN. We will be there from 10 until 5 EST both days. We will need several workers. Please volunteer.**

**Sept. 7 & 8- The Cherokee Fall Festival will be held at the Sequoyah Birth Place Museum in Vonore, TN from 10am until 5pm EST both days.**

**Sept. 12 or 13 - Troy Wayne Poteete will be in Tennessee in September and has agreed to participate in a TNTOTA Educational Symposium. We will send out a**

notice as soon as we have booked a venue and confirm the event with Troy Wayne Poteete. Patara Marlow and Debbie Moore will be chairing this event.

Sept. 14- TNTOTA will have an educational booth at the International Cow Pea Festival at the City Park in Charleston, TN. Charleston is the former site of Fort Cass during the 1838 Removal. There is a \$5 fee for parking that benefits the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston. Our booth will be open from 10am until 5pm EST. Workers are needed.

Sept. 15 - Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk in Woodbury, TN. TNTOTA member Melba Checote Eads has organized this Trail of Tears walk for years. Participants will gather at First Woodbury United Methodist Church on High Street in Woodbury, TN at 12:30pm CST. There will be tribal singing and a program. After the short walk the ladies of the church will serve lunch.



Mark the date:

**Saturday, November 23, 2019**

Land Route signs will be dedicated to commemorate the Bell Detachment that came through Shelby County and Memphis in November of 1838. The markers will be located on the river in Memphis, TN. Thanks to Graydon Swisher for working to obtain these important signs. More information will be sent out later.

## Other things of Interest

The late Bill Jones worked for decades to secure a portion of a natural road bed that was used by many groups on the Northern Route through Van Buren County, TN. Huber Corporation owned the land. After years of work and climbing mountains of red tape the Huber Corporation has given this strip of land to the State of Tennessee. I have started the wheel turning to get signage for the area. The area is an acre wide and 4.7 miles long! I will keep everyone updated.

Graydon Swisher has also requested additional signage to mark the Bell Detachment Route through Shelby County. The signs will be put up along Highway 64 and Jackson Ave/TN 14 which is the "original route" of the Bell Route that came through Shelby County in November of 1838. These signs will join signage that was put up in 2014. Thanks, Graydon!

Vicky Garland is working on securing signage for Maury and Wayne County, Tennessee.

Patara Marlow, Pam Hall Mathews and Debbie Moore with the cooperation of a lot of other people--are working to obtaining Trail of Tears signage from Tellico Plains in Monroe County to the Hiwassee River in McMinn County. Eventually, signage will be placed from the North Carolina state line through the Cherokee National Forest to Tellico Plains.

Patara Marlow, Debbie Moore and Shirley Lawrence will be working to obtain more signage through Dayton in Rhea County, TN.

The new walkway at Blythe's Ferry Cherokee Memorial Removal Park had suffered delays while officials tried to find a contractor to complete the work. Two contractors have now shown an interest in bidding the work – so hopefully work will start there soon. The project has been extended until June of 2020.

If you are interested in obtaining a Tennessee Trail of Tears Association name badge, please contact Debbie Moore at [bradleyfolks@aol.com](mailto:bradleyfolks@aol.com). The cost is \$10 when you receive your badge. I still have Lawrence and Beth's name badges....I'll get them to you soon. I will order the badges on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Shirley Lawrence and I have been working with an artist to design a logo for the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association. She will also be helping us make a nice, heavy duty board for our educational booths.

We need a newsletter editor. Please volunteer.

Please remember Doris & Lee Trevino's son in your prayers. He was hurt in an accident a couple of years ago and is still struggling with severe pain.

Follow the Tennessee Trail of Tears Association on Facebook at TN Trail of Tears.

Best regards,

Debbie Moore

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