

NHOTIC STAFF

Sarah LeCompte, Center Director
Kelly Burns, Park Ranger
Cheri Garver, Visitor Information Assistant
Calvin Henshaw, Visitor Information Assistant
Dave Jason, Visitor Information Assistant
Roger Eubank, Maintenance
Phoebe Charbonneau, Oregon Trail Shop Manager
Rachael Nickens, Trail Tenders Bookkeeper
Diane Youngblood, Oregon Trail Shop
Betty Duncan, Oregon Trail Shop
Jessica Applebaker, Oregon Trail Shop

2011 TRAIL TENDERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Bainter, President
Dave Noble, Vice President
Tonia Johnson, Secretary
Susan Kolb, Treasurer
Carol Bradford, Past President
Jack Jacobson
Mable Lee Conley
Jean Day

TRAIL TIDBITS

OREGON TRAIL MUSIC FEST

The Oregon Trail Music Fest on October 8th was well attended, with well over 500 visitors for the day long music show, and many staying for an extended time. All the programs in the theater were well attended and greatly appreciated, with many positive comments about the variety and quality of music from Hank Cramer and friends, The Dead Fiddlers Society, and the Hanson Family Singers. The last program of the day was a “jam” with all the musicians in the middle of the lobby, and visitors gathered around. Thanks to all who helped with the event.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Family Fun Day is scheduled for November 25th (Friday after Thanksgiving Day). Programs and activities for parents, grandparents and kids to do together are scheduled from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, including living history, frontier crafts and games, and a scavenger hunt.

PAPER ORNAMENT WORKSHOPS

Add new flair to your holiday décor this year with ornaments made from wrapping paper, recycled paper, or even your own photographs. Join NHOTIC staff for an ornament-crafting workshop and learn how to fold simple boxes, stars, flowers and more. All ages and all skill levels welcome.

Wednesday, November 16-noon-2:00 pm @ Don’s Jewelry, drop-in, free, downtown Baker City

Saturday, November 19 – noon – 2:00 pm @ NHOTIC, drop-in (\$5 general admission)

UPCOMING INTERPRETIVE PLANS FOR 2012

Although we’re still in the process of planning events and exhibits for the upcoming year, here are some highlights to mark on your calendar:

EXHIBITS

February 17th – May 28th: Pack Your Wagon Kid’s exhibits

June 7th – September 3rd “Home! Sweet Homestead!” The 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act. This exhibit will focus on themes of defining “home” and how we have created and protected our homes since settlement of the West began. Artifacts and replicas will demonstrate the tools and materials used for building, farming, cooking and sewing in the mid-19th century. The exhibit will also include a component on Native American concepts of home, and the effect of the Homestead Act on their lives.

September 21st – November 12th Trails Through Time: Contemporary Photography Along the Oregon Trail. This exhibit will trace the Oregon Trail from beginning to end with a selection of artists reimagining the landscape and how pioneers might have captured their journey if they had today’s cameras packed in their wagon.

Parades: We will be in the Baker City Historic Downtown Christmas Twilight Parade December 3rd, the Portland Rose Parade June 9th, and the Miner’s Jubilee Parade July 21st

Meet the Pioneers - - this is a newly proposed program for Memorial Day Weekend Wagon Encampment (we got tired of trying to cook in blustery weather!). Instead, we will feature our living history interpreters throughout the facility, outdoors if weather is good, indoors if bad, plus some featured performers in the theater.

Wagon Encampment – Labor Day Weekend Wagon Encampment is becoming a classic – with lots of out of town visitors. This year, we plan to invite more re-enactors from other site, with onsite camping, and activities for these special living history buffs.

Run to the Ruts – on National Trails Day June 2nd. The feedback from runners and the local community for this event was very enthusiastic, so we’re doing it again.

Hells Canyon Relay – NHOTIC and the Oregon Trail will be the starting point for the inaugural running of this 2-day race between Baker City and LaGrande via the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway. (We’re not sponsoring it, but it will bring a lot of folks to our site.)

Oregon State Wagon Train – we’re not sponsoring this one either, but are providing the starting point for a wagon train between Baker City, and the Whitman Mission Historic Site in Walla Walla, starting July 8.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...all of you who volunteered on that Sunday last January to meet a special tour of international tour group organizers? It worked! We’ve been receiving calls and sending out information to book more tours for this upcoming summer. In particular, people were impressed by our exhibits and by our costumed interpreters – something special that you don’t find everywhere in the west.

REPAIRS TO OUR NHOTIC BUILDING...sometime over the next few months, BLM staff will be doing major repairs to the front deck and walkway...replacing joist hangers and tightening down decking. There has been some damage over the years which we believe is due to using ice melt on the walkway deck. As planned, the project will be completed in less than a month, and should have minimal impact to visitors – perhaps a day or two of having to use the back doors. Scheduling the work of course depends on weather forecasts and getting all the materials and workers together, but may start as soon as late November.

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES DEPARTING FOR WINTER.

Dave Jason, who provides the very popular living history presentations of mountain man “Probably George” and mine camp entrepreneur “Albert Fenner” and general western rascal “Alonzo Balch” in addition to being a fee cashier and visitor services assistant, will be leaving after November 3rd this year. Sidney Cruickshank who helped in the Oregon Trail Shop this summer finished his work for the summer in mid-October.

Check out Trail Tenders online!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/trailtender>

<http://trailtender.blogspot.com/>

<http://trailtenders.org>

<http://oregontrailshop.com>

<http://twitter.com/#!/OregonTrailCtr>



Recognition of Volunteers and Other Staff

Lobby Greeters this month were:

Mike Bainter, Georgia Wells, Bruce McMillan,
Dave Noble, Howard Brooks, Jack Jacobson,
Ralph and Judy Brazofsky

Oregon Trail Shop Volunteers were:

Dorothy Wooters, Judy Brazofsky

Trail Tenders, Inc.

P.O. Box 987

Baker City, OR 97814

ON THE NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**November 1
Shop Meeting**

**November 2
Board Meeting**

**November 9
General Meeting**

**November 12 & 26
Trail Menders**

TRAIL MIX

NOVEMBER, 2011

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill

WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO IN WINTER?

Although we know visitation slows down as the cold wind picks up at Flagstaff Hill during winter time, there is still plenty for our volunteers to do. True...the visitor service volunteers sometimes take a break during winter months, but the volunteer jobs listed below keep us busy! This is a great time to recruit some new volunteers or introduce friends to volunteering with you – plenty of time to get to know everyone and have fun.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – hosting, entertainment, activities, decorating

BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE ON TRAIL TENDERS– share your special talent by stepping up to be a board member or shop committee member. Officers are also needed, Vice President and Secretary.

TRAIL MENDERS – lots of projects creating and repairing historic costumes and products for the shop.

ANNUAL BANQUET – help plan the annual party and celebrate our great volunteers!

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING – Help NHOTIC staff with developing outreach boxes, educational handouts, and student activities for school tours that start in early spring.

EXHIBITS AND PROGRAM RESEARCH – see schedule of this year's exhibits; if you can help with research on homesteading, or putting together the photography exhibit...we have a job for you.

LIVING HISTORY – many of our volunteers have recently taken training in interpretation – so winter is the time to develop and practice new programs and living history characters in time for the 2012 season.

Remember – it may be cold outside, but there's always hot coffee, probably some cookies, and lots of friendly warm hearted staff and volunteers inside!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

We still need volunteers to serve on the committees for the Holiday Open House on December 4th. Call Dave Noble or sign up at the general meeting. We need all the help we can get to make this be a wonderful start to the holiday season. We will have our decorating potluck on the Sunday (November 27th) after Thanksgiving. Come and get in the holiday spirit. Please come in to be fitted for your outfit for the open house on Saturday, November 26th, from 1:00-3:00 or on Sunday, November 27th, 11:00 am -1:00 pm.

DUSTY RUTS BANQUET

It's time again for the Dusty Ruts Banquet. We need people to be on the committee and someone to chair the committee. We will discuss the banquet at the next general meeting. So please give it some thought.

FREE FEE DAYS

There are three free fee days this month, November 11th, 12th, and 13th. Bring your family and friends up to the center.