From the President

Rocky Mountain National Park centennial, which kicked off September 3 and 4, 2014, and will culminate with rededication ceremonies on the same days in 2015, is an excellent opportunity to discover some of the lesser known treasures and history of a world famous national park, fondly nicknamed “Rocky,” in our own great state. One of those treasures is Rocky’s west side. Trail River Ranch sits at the confluence of the Bowen and Baker streams and the Colorado River. Preservation efforts are being made so that the property can serve as an educational and activity center on the park’s west-side.

The theme of the yearlong celebration of centennial events is “Wilderness, Wildlife and Wonder: Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Inspire the Future.”

With its rich, distinct history, honoring Rocky’s past means honoring the past of a place unlike any on earth.

If you think about writing the history of any park with the words Rocky Mountain in its name, you’re just going to have to start with the beginning of the mountains, so essentially the from the earth’s beginning, There are rocks in the park visible from Trail Ridge Road that are a billion years old.

Ten thousand years ago humans lived intermittently in the mountains in areas that now fall within the park’s boundary. The Ute people lived there 6,000 years ago, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho occasionally made excursions to the mountains but mostly lived on the plains.

Fur trappers and traders arrived in the early 1800s. A half century later, the gold rush was in full force and tourism increased as word spread about the beauty of Estes Park and Grand Lake.

Whether it’s to be part of a profound lake blessing, join ranger-led snowshoe walks and ski tours, visit a museum, ice fish, attend a historic re-enactment or to enjoy a wealth of other memorable experiences, plan a visit to wish Rocky a happy birthday this year. You’re the one who will go home with a gift.

Special events in connection with OCTA’s Mid-year Board meeting:

- **Friday, March 6 – 6:00 p.m.**
  Private reception
  The Philadelphia Print Shop West
  201 Fillmore Street, Denver (entrance on 2nd Avenue)

- **Saturday, March 7 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**
  “Trails to the Shining Mountains”
  Symposium at Four Mile Historic Park
  715 South Forest Street, Denver
**Friday evening:**
The reception on Friday evening will be hosted by Christopher Lane, the owner of The Philadelphia Print Shop West. He is also the appraiser of prints and maps on *Antiques Roadshow* and will be one of the speakers at the Symposium on Saturday. The Print Shop has a large collection of antique prints and maps, with a special emphasis on the American West.

**Saturday morning:**
“Trails to the Shining Mountains” will be hosted by OCTA’s Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter and the Rocky Mountain Map Society at Four Mile Historic Park. Four Mile House was the last stop coming west to Denver along the Cherokee Trail. It is now the oldest standing structure in Denver.

Speakers include:

- **Robert Lowdermilk: Welcome to Four Mile House and the Legend of Ned Wynkoop.**
  Ned Wynkoop was one of the founders of Denver City at the confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek. He was later appointed Sheriff of Arapahoe County in 1859, the year Four Mile House was built, when the area was still part of the Kansas Territory. Robert Lowdermilk, a Trustee of Four Mile Historic Park, will describe the early years of Four Mile House and the excitement of Wynkoop’s reign as Sheriff.

- **Tom Noel: The South Platte River Road**
  This presentation will take you on a trip up the South Platte River, which Mark Twain described in *Roughing It* as a "a melancholy stream ... sicker and sorrier" than any other western river. From the fur trade to the Gold Rush to its recent resurrection as a recreational corridor, take a closer look at the river two French explorers named with the French word for flat, dull, insipid and spiritless. Yet this stream is anything but that as it gushes out of the Rocky Mountains to water Denver and northeastern Colorado. Tom Noel is a Professor of History at the University of Colorado at Denver. He is also the author of more than 40 books, writes a history column for the Denver Post, and regularly appears as “Dr. Colorado” on Colorado & Company, a program on Channel 9 (NBC) in Denver.

- **Wesley Brown: How the 1859 Gold Rush Put Colorado on the Map**
  In the spring of 1858, Colorado’s Front Range area was uncharted and inhabited only by natives. But by the close of 1859, 100,000 fortune seekers had thoroughly explored the Front Range, north of Pueblo to the Wyoming border. In their quest for gold, they left their footprints on the landscape, establishing dozens of settlements and blazing numerous trails. This slide show and lecture will describe the excitement surrounding Colorado’s gold rush and how this important chapter of history influenced
Colorado maps of today. Wesley Brown, a founder of the Rocky Mountain Map Society, has been a map collector and student of cartography for over 30 years. He serves as an advisor on the acquisition of maps to the Library of Congress and the Denver Public Library.

- **Christopher Lane: Maps of the Ways West**
  The West called to Americans even before it became part of the United States. Its lure was strong, but the question was, 'how to get there?' The trails leading from "the States" developed over time, mostly by trial and error, and knowledge of the ways West was passed on mostly by word of mouth. Still, this was crucial information which cartographers were keen to include on their maps, adding the routes as they were able to gain information from those who had traveled along them. Once drawn on the map, others were drawn to follow these trails, standardizing the routes and increasing the movement west. This talk will look at the history of how these trails were depicted on maps as an understanding of their nature and of how the American West grew through the nineteenth century. Christopher Lane, established The Philadelphia Print Shop West in Denver as a branch of the Philadelphia Print Shop in Pennsylvania. He is the Program Director of the Rocky Mountain Map Society.

- Admission to both events is free to members of OCTA and others attending the Mid-year Board meeting.
- Donations are welcome at the Symposium to help defray the cost of this event.

RSVP by March 1 if you plan to attend either or both events:
Symposium@octa-colorado.org.

**Planning Ahead:**

The Newton, Kansas April meeting will not be held this year 2015. Presently planning for 2016.

**2015 Fur Trade Symposium**

Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site  
La Junta, Colorado  
September 23 – 26, 2015

The fur trade, with special emphasis on the Southern Rocky Mountain trade, will be examined and embodied through scholarly presentations, informal seminars, and Living History representations of those involved in the Southern fur trade during its peak.

The 2015 symposium intends to inform and entertain a wide-range of attendees on the full scope and diversity of the Southern fur trade. The goal of the 2015 symposium is to examine the breadth of the fur trade’s effects, including animal populations, people involved in the business, their lifestyles, interactions, economics and more. The conference will enrich scholars, fur trade interpreters and enthusiasts, students, teachers, the general
public and all who have an interest in the history of the fur trade, the growth of the nation, and the distinct cultural interactions of the era.

Featured presenters will include Dr. James Hanson, editor for the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska; Dr. Barton Barbour, Boise State University, who’s 2001 book, Fort Union and the Upper Missouri Fur Trade was a finalist for a Western Writers of America SPUR Award; and Dr. Elliott West, University of Arkansas, winner of the Western Heritage Award and the Francis Parkman Prize for his writings on Westward Expansion.

The event opens on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015 with registration and a reception at Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site. Thursday will feature fur trade tours of Southern Colorado and an evening social at the fort. Friday and Saturday will include formal presentations at Otero Junior College in La Junta and ongoing living history at the fort. The event will wrap up with a banquet and fandango in the fort plaza on Saturday, Sept. 26.

For a full list of events, and to register for what will surely be one of the highlights of the year along the Western trails, go to www.2015fts.org.

The Southern Trails Chapter, OCTA invites all Colorado Cherokee Trail members to our symposium. April 8-11

SOUTHERN TRAIL CHAPTER, OCTA SILVER CITY SYMPOSIUM
Western New Mexico University Campus

Thursday, April 9

8:00  Registration / Refreshments
8:30  Welcome: President Western New Mexico University
9:30 - 10:15  Earliest Trails: Mogollon / Mimbres - Marilyn Markel, U.S. Forest Service Break
10:30-11:15  New Trails:  Spanish Arrival: Paul Harden, Board Member CARTA Socorro  
11:15-12:00  Military Trails in Glenwood Area: Ronald Henderson, retired US Forest Service

Lunch: Cafeteria-on your own

1:00-1:45  “The significance of Bonanza Silver mines in Spain’s Expanding and Controlling her Northern Frontier Into New Mexico, 1545-1800”: Dr. Henry Hewitt  Ph.D. Midwestern State University
1:45-2:30  Apache Women: Captives and Escapees: Louis Perez, Historian Break
2:45-3:30  Janos Trail: Anthony Romero, Historian, Film Maker
3:30-4:15  “Kearny’s route west of the Rio Grande.” Tom Jonas, Researcher, Topographer
4:15 – 5:00  “Kit Carson in Silver City “:  David Remley, Retired Professor, Author.
6:30 Buckhorn Restaurant/ Opera House- Entertainment: Vanann Moore presenting “Mame Aguirre”

Friday, April 10  8:00 Registration

8:30 “ Lt. Emory” Doug Dinwiddie, Retired Professor of History, Colorado State. University

Break
10:15 “Military in southern New Mexico”  Bill Kupke:
11:00 "Geronimo and the Apaches: From Silver City to Yale's Skull and Bones Fraternity": David Miller, Retired Professor
Lunch: Cafeteria-on your own
1:00 “US Mining in Grant County”  Terry Humble
1:45 “Freighting and the Mail on the Southern Roads, Vignettes, 1846-1881”: Doug Hocking, Author, Researcher
2:30 “Southern Trails” Claude Hudspeth & Trails Associations of the Silver City area.
3:30 “Southern Trails Chapter meeting”

Dinner

Saturday April 11

8:30 am – 4pm Tour  Gila Cliff Dwellings
5 pm - Tour & Fort Bayard--- Dinner-BARBQUE??

CA-NV 2015 Convention
Auction and Raffle

Susie Winner, Chairman

"Time is flying by and September will be here before we know it. The 2015 Convention in South Lake Tahoe is going to be awesome. I hope you have had a chance to discover something beautiful, handmade, useful, educational or just plain fun to contribute to our annual auction. We will have a raffle, silent auction and live auction with John Winner as our auctioneer. All of this sounds great but we need a lot of items to make it successful. Anything you can bring will be most appreciated.

If you need any information, please contact me at:

winner@dataentree.com

…and finally, we want to wish our past president, Sharon Danhauer a speedy recovery from a heart valve replacement. If you would like to send Sharon a note or a card, her address is 1345 E 7th St # 7, Loveland, CO 80537-5407