

# THE TURNING POINT



## OVTA MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROTECT, PRESERVE & INTERPRET THE ROUTE OF THE CAMPAIGN TO THE BATTLE OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

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WINTER 2011

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### TRAIL FACTS

*Major Patrick Ferguson was in command of 1,100 men at the Battle of Kings Mountain. In a battle lasting about one hour, 244 of Ferguson's men were killed, 163 wounded, and 668 taken prisoner. Among the Patriots, 29 men were killed and 58 were wounded.*



The Overmountain Victory Trail Association will hold our annual meeting at the Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area on December 3rd, 2011. Sycamore Shoals is located in Carter County, TN, in the city of Elizabethton, TN on Highway 321 and is 30 miles from Interstate 81. From Exit 57 on I-81, take I-26 into Johnson City to Exit 24. Continue on Highway 321/67, traveling approximately 6 miles into Elizabethton. The address of Sycamore Shoals is 1651 West Elk Ave.

## HALLIE B. HOLMES MEMORIAL UPDATE



Hallie Holmes

In 2010, OVTA Board Member Tom Holmes made a \$5,000 donation in memory of his mother and OVTA member, Hallie B. Holmes. Tom then issued a challenge "Raise \$5,000 and I will match it!" The OVTA membership accepted the challenge and raised the funds. Last month, Tom generously issued a check to the OVTA for \$5,000 making the grand total in excess of \$15,000. Thank you Tom....HUZZAH!!



Tom Holmes

# 2 0 1 1 O V T A E L E C T I O N B A L L O T

Below you will find your ballot for OVTA Officers and Board Members for the 2012-2014 period.  
 If you have not renewed your 2011-2012 membership, a check MUST accompany your ballot.  
**PLEASE NOTE: Your mailing must be received no later than December 2nd to be counted.**

**Mail your ballot and membership renewal (if applicable) to:  
 OVTA, 1780 Muster Place, Abingdon, VA 24210**

**Slate As Presented by the Nominating Committee to the OVTA Board of Directors on 11/8/2011**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 (opt.) EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL \_\_\_\_YES\_\_\_\_NO CURRENT MEMBER \_\_\_\_YES \_\_\_\_NO (Check Enclosed)



Entering an "X" in the box represents a "YES" vote for the entire ballot

Cast Vote	Office or Seat	Candidate	Term
YES ____ NO ____	President	Marc Bowen	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Secretary	Leigh Anne Hunter	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 1 - VA	Open	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 1 - TN	Mel McKay	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 2 - NC to Morganton	Bryant Lindsey	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 3 - NC	Donna Absher	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 4 - NC	Albert Dale	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 5 - SC	Ian LeCroy	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	Region 6 - GA	Open	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	At-Large	Ronnie Lail	2012-2014
YES ____ NO ____	At-Large	Tim Massey	2012-2014

The 2011 OVTA Annual March was a tremendous success. We programmed over 10,000 people during our 2 week Campaign and those numbers do not include the numbers for the Greene and Washington County, TN chapters. They will be doing their programming between now and the end of the year and if they have the same numbers as last year, our total will be more than 11,000 total for the March. This is exceptional and the OVTA, the communities and all others that participated should be proud of this accomplishment. Three HUZZAS for us all!!!!

One exciting addition we had, that was made possible by this year's Active Trails Grant, was the ability to bring Jennifer Pharr Davis into our programming. Jennifer had just set the world record for thru hiking the Appalachian Trail. She made it from Mt. Katahdin, Maine to Springer Mountain, Georgia in 46 days. You may ask how this pertains to the Overmountain Victory Trail Association programming. Well, Jennifer was able to relate her modern day experiences and accomplishments to what these great men and women accomplished along the OVNHT 231 years ago. Jen did a great job and excelled in getting the kids excited about hiking and being in the great outdoors.



Jen Pharr Davis

Before delving into the report, I would like to thank everyone that participated and supported this year's effort. You don't know how rewarding this effort is to me and many others. One of the many things that stood out this year was the comments about our programming. Many times I was told by folks that our storytelling continues to get better and better every year. This is important to hear as it lets us know that we are doing our part in KEEPING THE STORY ALIVE. THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!

We started on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Abingdon and had three days of programming for the schools from 4 counties and even one school came up from western North Carolina. They made a 2 hour trip to see this great event. In Abingdon we programmed over 1,340 total Americans with 90% being school children, primarily 9 and 10 year old 4th graders.



On September 24<sup>th</sup> we also traveled to the grave site of Col. William Campbell at Aspenvale near Seven Mile Ford, VA. We had many DAR and SAR representatives there and the program was very successful.



On Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> several of the marchers traveled to Rocky Mount to program school children as they toured this great historic site. We had a total of 328 programmed at this site. Another point of interest here is that the 1<sup>st</sup> annual 15k Overmountain Victory Trail run took place. They started at Rocky Mount State Historic Site and finished at Sycamore Shoals State Park. There were 105 that took part in the race including OVTA's Bob Hardin. Everyone met at Sycamore Shoals in the morning and rode busses to the starting line at Rocky Mount. We had OVTA folks on the busses that told the Story as they rode and musket fire started the race. Great job to the folks at Rocky Mount and Sycamore Shoals for putting this event together and their help in KEEPING THE STORY ALIVE!!!



On September 24<sup>th</sup> several OVTA Marchers attended the Overmountain Fall Festival in Bluff City, TN. We were asked to be in the parade down Main Street. When we arrived we found out we were the parade which was nice. We had the Fife and Drum Corp with us and as we marched many folks fell in behind us and joined in the festivities and storytelling. Thanks to everyone in Bluff City for the invite and the warm reception.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> seven brave OVTA marchers hiked from Rocky Mount to Sycamore Shoals State Park in period dress. The hike was a good one and the scenery was fantastic. It was good to get on the Trail and do some hiking. With all the programming we do it is hard to get in the hiking we have been known for. The goal, when the time is right, to get back to hiking the whole Trail along with being able to do the programming too.





On the 25<sup>th</sup> we also had the annual crossing of the Watauga River and arrival into Sycamore Shoals. The event was very well attended and we only had 1, maybe 1 and a half people go into the River unexpectedly. They were OK and had a good laugh. Many thanks to everyone at Sycamore Shoals for hosting this great event.

The evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> we had a great dinner hosted by local DAR groups. We also had a great program that was enjoyed by all. Thanks again for all the community support along the Trail.



On the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup> Reverend Doak was with us and he preached his rousing sermon to the troops before sending them off with "The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon." Many THANKS to Reverend George Cobb for his efforts in KEEPING THE STORY ALIVE. If you have never heard his rendition of Doak's Sermon, you have no idea what you have missed.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Sycamore Shoals, along with OVTA members, presented their school programming and had a total of 378 attendees with 340 of them being school children. This is a great event and it is another venue where school children are exposed to Revolutionary War history on the frontier. Thanks to all that participated and supported this event.



After marching out of Fort Watauga at the Sycamore Shoals we traveled to the Shelving Rock Camp Site for a day of school programming. We had 131 total attend this event. This was the first year we had this type of participation at this site. In the past we have gone to the schools in Roan Mountain to do programming which was great but having the kids on this historic ground was very rewarding. It also gave the school children the opportunity to get out and do some hiking on the OVNHT. Thanks to Roan Mountain State Park, Tom Burleson and the local schools for supporting this effort.

On the September 27 and 28 the Wilkes/Surry Chapter of the OVTA programmed over 2,000 in Elkin and Wilkesboro, NC. This was a great effort and this set a record for them and I believe the OVTA for the number of attendees over a 2 day program. Great job to all on this effort. They also had all the kids out hiking the Trail.



On September 28 the OVTA programmed 473+ students and teachers where we hiked to the grave of Robert Sevier. The OVTA was set up in stations along the Trail telling the story as the hikers came by. This was another great event where we were able to combine history, the Story and hiking with great success. Many thanks to Unimin for allowing us to not only make the trek across their property but they also provide lunch for all in attendance. Many THANKS!!!! for the support of this fine community partner. That evening we dined and told the story to a great group at the Orchard at Altapass hosted by Bill Carson and Company.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> we split our forces with a contingent hiking the Trail from the Mineral Museum to the Orchard at Altapass. This was a great hike and what made it even better was Keli Dahl, daughter of Mike and Fran Dahl, hiked with the group. Keli has been blind since birth and she is quite the trooper. She hiked this section of Trail with grace and was a pure joy to have with us. Keli has a wonderful voice and she added a great deal to our programming. She would participate by singing patriotic songs in our programs. When we arrived at the Orchard at Altapass we were swamped by about 50 home schoolers that enabled us to tell the story to a great group. Many thanks to Bill Carson and the crowd at the Orchard at Altapass for their support!!

On September 29<sup>th</sup> we also had a contingent of marchers travel to the Historic Joseph McDowell House and site in Marion, NC for a day of school programming. We had 232+ students in attendance and they were treated to the story via stations around the site. That evening we were treated to a great dinner and storytelling at the Joseph McDowell House with many DAR and SAR members in attendance. Many thanks to this great community partners and all that participated and supported this great cause!

Special thanks to Janet Craig, Tim Massey, William Imhoff, Randell Jones, Emily Kausch, and others for their great photography.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

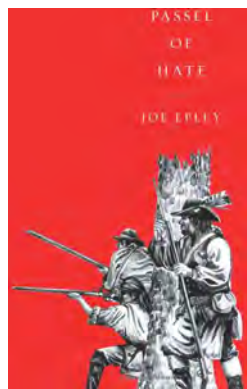
As of November 21st, 2011 the OVTA checking account balance was \$24,071.48. Our Life Membership and Reserve Vanguard account has a balance of \$28,923.57. This brings our total checking/savings accounts to \$52,995.05 which includes the recent \$5,000 check from the Hallie B. Holmes Memorial Fund and matching dollars.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

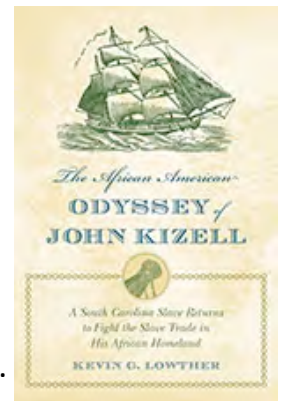
A record number of members is still possible for 2011 but to make this goal, we MUST have all renewals from all 2010-2011 members. As of November 21, we have 99 paid members, composed of 41 Life, 19 Family, 38 Individual and 1 Supporting members. HUZDAH! to all of our members...your support is making a difference!

**R E C E N T A D D I T I O N S T O T H E B O O K S H E L F**

Joe Epley's new book, A PASSEL OF HATE, is a riveting yarn about the brutal struggle for this nation's independence. Brothers fight brothers, neighbors fight neighbors in the Carolina backcountry during the weeks following the destruction of the Continental Army in South Carolina. It is a time where passion for vengeance is often greater than the passion for liberty.



Kevin Lowther brings us the inspirational story of John Kizell. Lowther celebrates the life of a West African enslaved as a boy and brought to South Carolina on the eve of the American Revolution. When Charleston fell to the British in 1780, Kizell joined them and was with the Loyalist force defeated in the pivotal battle of Kings Mountain.



**O V T A B O A R D O F D I R E C T O R S - "D O I N G I T F O R T H E S T O R Y"**

Class of 2010 - 2012 Board Members

Class of 2009 - 2011 Board Members

- Vice-president - R.G Absher
- Treasurer - Scott Bowen
- Region 1 - VA - Blair Keller
- Region 1 - TN - Dan King
- Region 2 - NC - Marc Bowen
- Region 2 - NC - Bill Hendley
- Region 3 - NC - Teresa Howell
- Region 4 - NC - Kim Conner
- Region 5 - SC - Jane Waters
- Region 6 - GA - Tom Holmes
- At-large: Jerry Mustin - TN
- At-large: Garrett Jackson - VA
- At-large: Myra Cook - VA
- At-large: Carol Price - NC

- President - Alan Bowen
- Secretary - Fran Dahl
- Region 1 - VA - Mac Johnson
- Region 1 - TN - Aggie King
- Region 1 - TN - Doug Ledbetter  
Nolichucky Settlement Chapter
- Region 3 - NC - Donna Absher
- Region 4 - Morganton to SC - Albert Dale
- Region 6 - GA - Open
- At-Large - Evelyn Carswell - NC
- At-Large - Tim Massey - TN
- At-Large - Ronnie Lail - TN

*The OVTA Nominating Committee has submitted the slate to fill the 2012 vacancies. (see page 2) Voting will take place at the December 3rd Annual Meeting to be held at Sycamore Shoals State Park. Thanks to all Board Members who served on this committee and to our Nominees!*  
  
*R.G Absher - Chairperson*

## OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Board of Director's Meeting  
Lake James State Park - East Pavilion  
Nebo, North Carolina 28761  
July 30, 2011

Board Members present: Jerry Mustin, Blair Keller, Fran Dahl, Albert Dale, RG Absher, Garrett Jackson, Tim Massey, Alan Bowen, Marc Bowen, Tom Holmes, and Bill Hendley.

Guests in attendance: Mel McKay, Bryant and Linda Lindsey, Sean McElhone, Tim Bowen, Marci Bowen, Paul Carson, Janet Craig, Leigh Anne Hunter and Chivous Bradley.

Board members not in attendance: Scott Bowen, Dan King, Aggie King, Teresa Howell, Kim Conner, Jane Waters, Carol Price, Mac Johnson, Doug Ledbetter, Donna Absher and Ronnie Lail.

Cookout started at 11:00 AM.

Meeting called to order at 12:32 pm.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The OVTA Vision and Mission statements were read by Garrett Jackson.

Agenda was presented. Motion was made by Jerry Mustin to accept the agenda. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by RG Absher. Motion passed.

Minutes were presented along with the email minutes. Motion by Tim Massey to accept the minutes after some changes were made: Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Mustin. Motion passed with one (1) abstained. Changes to be made are: Change the wording of City of Abingdon to the "Town" of Abingdon. Change from planning for exhibit to later this year; and Yadkin River.

Treasurers Report was presented. Motion was made by RG Absher to accept the financial statement. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Garrett Jackson. Motion passed.

#### MEMBERSHIP

We have 19 new members moving toward the 100 new member's goal.

#### NPS Report by Paul Carson

##### Highlights:

Morganton, NC at Rocky Ford has been selected for the permanent HQ/Contact station. OVTC in Cherokee County, SC received a grant from Carolina Thread Trail. OVNHT will be included as part of the trail. The OVNHT received its 2<sup>nd</sup> Active Trail's Grant of \$20,000. The conference on the National Scenic and Historic Trails was held in Abingdon, VA in May. New Bluff City trailhead was completed in May. The long range interpretive plan for the OVNHT was completed in May. There were two (2) Teacher-Ranger Teachers hired this past summer, both worked at The Muster Ground in Abingdon, VA. The Joseph McDowell House Committee has developed a Master Plan and awaits the Historic Structure Report for the building. Polk County closed on the Alexander's Ford property in June. Rutherford County received the title to the Biggerstaff's Old Fields property in June.

First guide to the OVNHT has been published by Randell Jones.

No report from the Nominating Committee.  
The March preliminary schedule was presented...

#### Fundraising

IRS changed the non profit qualifications in 2006. So OVTA's 501(C)(3) has been revoked. Everything was completed correctly in 2010 but most of the non profits who filed during the extension period lost their status. So OVTA currently is not a 501(C)(3). OVTA has reapplied. A Motion was made by Marc Bowen to enlist the services of a CPA to restore the 501(C)(3) status and to maintain that status yearly. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Garrett Jackson. Cost is about \$150 to \$200 an hour. Motion passed. Fundraising is on hold for now.

#### Yadkin River Greenway:

Group wants a visitor's center. Wants to complete a three (3) mile section of the greenway from Elkin to Wilkes County line (around 3 miles). Greenway wants help with the easements.

Motion made by RG Absher that OVTA help fund in the amount of \$1000 to the Town of Elkin, NC to execute and record the first pilot test easement on the OVNHT. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Blair Keller. Motion passed.

#### Town of Abingdon, VA

Myra is no longer with the Town of Abingdon but is at the Gateway Interpretive Center down the road. The home Retirement (on the Muster Ground) may be a Civil War Museum. The Smithfield Plantation is giving a painting for display The September Lecture series was announced. History symposium was suggested to develop papers strictly about the history to be biannually.

Motion was made by Garrett Jackson to form a committee to look into the feasibility of creating a bi-annual symposium of scholars with the partners. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Massey. Motion passed.

OVTA voted previously to help The Gilberttown Conservation group monetarily of up to \$5000 and they are requesting this money now.

The Brite Agency has hired a new sales rep. Since OVTA has not seen any return on its investment, OVTA is going to ask the Brite Agency to pay for the next couple of newsletters.

Motion was made by Garrett Jackson for the next Board meeting to be scheduled for 12/03/2011 at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Elizabethton, TN and have the Annual meeting immediately after the Board meeting. Board meeting to start at noon. The Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by RG Absher. Motion passed.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:08PM by Jerry Mustin. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Massey. Motion passed.

End of minutes



OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY  
TRAIL ASSOCIATION  
HEADQUARTERS  
1780 MUSTER PLACE  
ABINGDON, VA 24210

### **DO IT FOR THE STORY!**

**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

### **MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**

Individual Dues: \$30

Family Dues: \$40

Supporting Dues: \$150

Life Dues: \$500

### **NEW YOUTH ENLISTMENT LEVEL\***

Young Patriot: \$5 for one year!

\* - Non-voting, email newsletter  
only - great **HOLIDAY** gift for the  
future historian in your family!!!

### **OVTA 2011 IMPORTANT DATES**

Sycamore Shoals State Park, TN

2011 Board of Directors Meeting - December 3rd, 2011

2011 Annual Membership Meeting - December 3rd, 2011

(Meeting will follow the Board Meeting which starts at Noon and  
typically lasts 2-3 hours)

### **OVTA HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS**

Overmountain Victory Trail Association  
1780 Muster Ground  
Abingdon, VA 24210  
276.525.1050

### **EMAIL NEWSLETTER OPTION**

Help the OVTA save on printing and postage costs!!!

Starting in 2012, all members have the option to  
receive their newsletter by email.

To select this option, send a confirming email to  
[overmountain@me.com](mailto:overmountain@me.com) or by ballot (see page 2).