

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION



April, 2009

www.ovta.org



***Our Vision:** The Overmountain Victory Trail Association shall forever preserve and commemorate the route and the story of the volunteer army whose victory at the Battle of King's Mountain was a turning point in the struggle for America's independence. The OVTA will ensure the trail will provide the opportunity to experience a deep sense of these events, the lands on which they occurred, and of the people who lived them.*

***Our Mission:** The Overmountain Victory trail Association will protect, preserve and interpret the route of the Overmountain Men to the Battle of Kings Mountain.*

A few thoughts from the editor...Sort of a "state of the state" of OVTA

Hey. This is Mike. Going to start the newsletter a little different this time. Got a few things worth sharing. First, please include Sam Lloyd in your prayers. He can use them.

Second, please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it says September 30, 2008 your dues have expired. **Please renew today!**

Over the past 3 years or so OVTA has become the very best we have ever been. We are the strongest, best organized, most effective, and, *most respected* in all our 34 years together. Our mantra of "OVTA is worth investing in" has taken legs and is becoming a reality. Let's take a look at what I mean.

We've gained new recognition over the last few years for the improvements we have made on the annual Campaign. Our story telling is by far the very best it has ever been as we reach more people than ever before.

But that's not all. In recent days I've heard folks say things I've never heard before, like OVTA is becoming a player in the historic preservation movement. Once we started providing money for preservation projects like the Muster Ground purchase in Abingdon and the CSX railroad property acquisition below the Blue Ridge Parkway people starting taking notice of us. People started respecting us and our credibility started growing in a whole new direction.

Last fall we saw Patterson School request a grant to purchase Draper's book on King's Mountain and other books about the history of the Campaign for their library. OVTA presented a grant to Richard Luce to tell this Story with his paint brush. We gave Steve Ricker a grant to do the March last year and teach us the ways of the people of that long ago time.

This past week Alan received a new grant request. This one is from the Historic Roads Mapping Congress. They are requesting a grant as seed money to move to the next step in mapping all the old historic roads in North and South Carolina. Most of the efforts in the past have been in the eastern parts of those states. Perhaps OVTA's financial support can lead to research on the old roads the Campaign followed.

The "core" of this group has been around for a while and some of their leaders have worked with others to start producing a wonderful magazine called American Revolution. Leigh Van Blarcom sent me a copy of the first issue and I was might impressed. Very professional. Check them out at www.americanrevolutionassociation.com.

And then, take a look at our finances. At the OVTA annual meeting March 15th, the treasury report showed we had a profit of nearly \$4,700 for the past year. That's after expenses of \$10,854—\$2,078 of which went to education.

Right now we've got a little over \$8,000 in our checking account and nearly \$30,000 in Vanguard Money Market accounts accruing interest.

The newly formed Nolichucky Settlements Chapter will for the very first time retrace the route of John Sevier and his Washington County Militia to the Muster at Sycamore Shoals this year. They will walk in at 3PM in the afternoon of September 25th. The board voted to provide up to \$500 for research on Sevier's route.

And then don't forget about the work Alan Bowen has been doing during the Partnership's annual "Hike on the Hill". Alan met with most of the Congressional Representatives and Senators whose districts are in the Trail corridor. Each year their welcome is stronger as they've gotten to know Alan and gained respect for what OVTA is doing. Alan met the new representative from upper East Tennessee. A fellow name Phil Rowe.

And so you ask, "What's coming next". Well, glad you asked. Lot's of things going on. The 2009 Education Fund raffle will be a painting of a scene of the Battle of King's Mountain. Richard Luce will be doing the painting for a minimal cost to OVTA. Following on the footsteps of "The Backwater Men", the painting for the raffle will be the second in a series of paintings commemorating the March of the Overmountain Men.

OVTA's website is getting a new feature. Over the next few months you will find a new reference library that contains information about references on the Trail and its history, on clothing, on presentations that talk about OVTA and our work on the Trail, on grant writing and how to submit grant requests to OVTA, etc.

And, "Connecting with Communities". This is something OVTA is becoming quite good at. It was the theme of the Partnership for the National Trails System workshop in North Little Rock, Ark last November and was so successful the concept was brought down to our Trail and served as the theme for the OVNHT Conference held in Johnson City on March 13 and 14, 2009 sponsored by the National Park Service's Overmountain Victory National History Trail and OVTA.

The conference started on Friday morning with 16 folks boarding a bus for a field trip to Abingdon to see the Muster ground and hear what those folks are doing. The new interpretive panels for the kiosk at the Muster Ground have come in and we got to see them.



Then down to Bluff City where Ambre Torbett, a planner with Sullivan County, presented the work they have achieved in clearing and marking the Trail at Choate's Ford. I just can't say enough about what an inspiring job Ambre has done bringing people together to "put Bluff City on the map" of the Trail.

BBQ lunch from the Ridgewood at the Senior center in Bluff City.

Back on the bus and down to Rocky Mount where the group toured the site and was treated to first person story telling by the staff. Rocky Mount will be hosting us on September 24th this year with supper followed by a candle light tour of the story.

We ran into Austin at Rocky Mount. He's the young fellow who wrote an article that was in our March 2008 newsletter about his experiences in following the Trail down to King's Mountain.

Last stop was Sycamore Shoals where we took the trip down to the river crossing. Jerry Mustin was officially promoted to Sergeant in an impromptu ceremony. It was also here at the crossing where we heard from Jennifer that the funding for the new exhibits had been put on hold because of the State's finances. We also heard that Tennessee DOT has removed all the alternatives for the new highway that would have wiped out the viewshed across the river. Everybody say Huzzah!

Back to Holiday Inn in Johnson City for cleaning up and the evenings snack and sip social. Met some new folks from the communities we are connecting. Good folks you'll hear more about in a minute.



Saturday morning. Conference time. Supposed to start at 9AM. Guess who walks in. Congressman Phil Roe. He used to be the mayor of Johnson City before being elected to his new post. Came by because Alan and Paul had invited him when they were up in Washington on the Hike on the Hill. Came by to say hi and get to know us a bit. Now...that's cool as chocolate straight from the freezer.

That's Congressman Roe in the center with Alan Bowen looking in from the left and Michael Worrell, a planner with the City of Abingdon on the right.



And then the presentations started. Mike Dahl was first with the presentation called 'Connecting Communities' that he had given at the Partnership's workshop in Little Rock. Next up were "success stories" from the trail with Rick Humphreys of Abingdon, Ambre from Bluff City and Teresa Howell and the Absher's from the Wilkes/Surry Chapter talking about the differences they've made.

Dawn Godwin, the North Carolina Project Director for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails Assistance program offered up ways her organization can help local communities define and reach their goals.

Then it got real interesting. Ken Robinson, the Director of Public Archaeology at Wake Forest University was the keynote speaker during lunch talking about his work on the OVNHT. Absolutely fascinating indeed. Since 2003, Ken has conducted surveys at Davenport Springs, Quaker Meadows, and Biggerstaff Old fields where the hanging was done after the battle.

Ken has offered to do a pro bono "archeological certification" of the artifacts that have been collected by the former owners of the Shelving Rock September 26, 1780 campsite. OVTA will photograph pieces that the former owners state came from the campsite and Ken will certify them as to date, etc. The OVTA board approved up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement should Ken determine he needs to visit the site.

After lunch OVTA's Burke County Board member Marc Bowen gave a presentation on the tips of grant writing. Marc gained substantial grant experience while working for Sun Microsystems.

Marc is an incredible asset to OVTA's board bringing new talents and ideas that are helping us move to the next level. But it doesn't stop there. Marc donated a projector to OVTA at our annual meeting following the conference. Mike says, I asked Marc if he could help with a grant to secure a projector. Been wanting to do this for a couple of years and just never got the chance". Well, Marc solved all that with his donation. Thanks.

Ken's up again. This time he's talking about "Identifying Cultural Resources". Man, I can't get enough of his knowledge and wisdom. This guy has it together and the legacy he's building is a wonderful thing.

And then, the last session of the 2009 conference; Planning Between Communities—the final session of the day will bring neighboring communities and organization together to brainstorm on possible action items for the trail in the coming year".

And that folks was what this conference was all about. For the first time folks from Abingdon and Elkin, the northern and eastern trailheads of the OVNHT, had a chance to sit down and compare notes and borrow from each others experiences and successes. Tony Delucia of SAGA, whose specialty is "health and wealth" had a chance to share his vision with the OVNHT and to see ways his greenways organization can learn from what we've all done. Andy Brown of Equinox Environmental Consultation and Design—the folks who did the Blue Ridge Heritage Area plan, was beside himself with excitement about the trail and how our various strategies are coming together. He's planning on bringing his family and joining the March this year.

We saw a great turn out from Virginia with OVTA board members John Elliot and Blair Keller, civic leader Rick Humphreys and the towns planners Garret Jackson and Michael Howell. We saw Shelia Steel Hunt, the director of Sullivan Counties Archives and Tourism office. And then, we me June Childress and Velma Rutherford. They own the property in Sullivan County where the site of Fort Womack stood back in the day.

And so, to the 31 people who attended, good for you. Good for us. Good for the Trail.

Lastly, Huzzah's to Paul Carson and Fran Dahl and all the others for all the organizing and registering and everything it takes to put on a conference on. Been waiting to say this. I'll say it now. Paul, you're doing an outstanding job and you are great to work with. That makes each of us better. That makes the Trail better.

ALONG THE TRAIL

The following information is provided by Paul Carson and OVTA members along the Trail.

Trail Wide News

Paul gave a briefing on the OVNHT to employees of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in Raleigh (NC) on November 5th. Cultural resource and preservation issues along the trail were discussed at length. Threats to Gilbert Town were also part of the briefing as well as possible inclusion of the trail on the National Register of Historic Places.

Paul met with the representatives of the North Carolina Horse Council in Raleigh on the afternoon of November 5th. A briefing on the trail and its development was provided and possible projects for participation by the Council were discussed.

A daylong forum for the proposed Carolina Thread Trail took place in Mooresville (NC) on December 11th. Paul represented the OVNHT and joined members of the Cherokee County (SC) Overmountain Victory Trail Committee for the meeting. Cherokee County has endorsed the Carolina Thread Trail concept and is seeking funds to do a comprehensive trail plan for their county. The OVNHT will be a main component of that network.

The feasibility study for a permanent HQ/VC for the OVNHT was discussed at a meeting on January 9th at the NPS Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta. Paul explained the initiative to the Southeast Region's Assistant Director for Partnerships Chris Abbett. Steve Wright, the primary NPS planner from the regional office also participated in the discussion.

Paul provided a briefing on the OVNHT to employees of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on January 15th in Columbia. Most of the staff had never heard of the trail and its resources and were quite interested in learning the story and understanding how the trail is being developed.

The winter 2008 edition of the OVNHT Progress Report was printed in mid-January. Copies for distribution to the public have been provided to visitor centers at Kings Mountain NMP (SC), Cowpens National Battlefield (SC), W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir (NC), Blue Ridge Parkway's Mineral Museum (NC), and Sycamore Shoals SHA (TN). The document will also be posted on the OVNHT website.

A meeting of the NPS Superintendents from the Appalachian Zone of the Southeast Region took place in Knoxville (TN) on February 13th. The new Regional Director, David Vela was present and discussed various NPS issues with the group.

The first round of public meetings concerning the feasibility study for a Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Area took place during the last two weeks in February 2009. Paul participated in meetings in Morganton (NC) and Greensboro (NC) on February 17th and 18th. Turnout was very good, with several members of the OVTA participating and providing input. Paul is serving on the committee, along with other NPS officials and representatives from North and South Carolina. The study will take two years and will provide a recommendation to the U.S. Congress as to whether or not a heritage area for the Southern Campaign of the Revolution should be established and under what parameters.

Paul met with employees of the American Battlefield Protection Program in Washington, DC on February 20th. The latest news and initiatives along the trail were discussed, as were pending grant applications with that office concerning trail resources and preservation activities.

A number of congressional and senatorial offices were visited during the week of February 22nd in Washington, DC by Paul. Briefings on the trail and other related activities were provided to staff and representatives. Paul provided these prior to contacts with the same offices by OVTA President Alan Bowen.

A joint conference of museum organizations from both North and South Carolina took place in Rock Hill (SC) from March 4th through the 6th. Paul represented the trail for the gathering. Several of the trail's partners also attended.

Paul participated in the first meeting of a historic roads research committee that is considering developing a resource base which would include information about the road network in the Carolinas during the 18th century. The meeting took place in Charlotte (NC) on March 7th.

A meeting of planners involved with the feasibility study to determine the best site for a permanent HQ/VC for the trail took place at the trail's headquarters on March 10th and 11th. A purpose and need statement for the project was discussed, as well as the possible schedule and locations for public meetings in fall 2009.

The latest plans for the possible development of a realignment or improvement to SR 91 in Elizabethton (TN) was received by the OVNHT headquarters on March 11th. The new document proposes the removal from consideration of alternatives that would have adversely impacted trail resources in that community, as well as resources associated with Sycamore Shoals.

The 2009 OVNHT Conference took place March 13th and 14th in Johnson City (TN). The gathering was sponsored jointly by the OVTA and the NPS.

Virginia and Tennessee

Meetings of the planning committee in Abingdon (VA), which is overseeing the management and preservation of the Muster Ground took place on December 17th and January 3rd. A checklist of action items involving planning and improvements for the site was reviewed and a visit to the area to discuss needed actions took place. Paul and OVTA members Blair Keller and Rick Humphreys participated.

Paul and Sullivan County Planner Ambre Torbett met with the owners of the Fort Womack Site (TN) on January 27th. The area is listed in the trail's CMP and is eligible to be certified.

The Town of Abingdon received the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities 2009 Award for Outstanding Public Sector Project for their preservation efforts for the Mustering Ground. The award was presented in a public ceremony in Richmond on February 2nd. This is the second time in the last two years that a project associated with the trail has been recognized by a well-known professional organization.

Paul provided a briefing on the OVNHT to employees of the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Richmond on February 19th. The resources and preservation efforts along the route in that state were discussed at length.

Avery, Mitchell, Northern McDowell and Burke Counties

Paul participated in meetings of the Joseph McDowell House Planning Committee in Marion (NC) on November 13th, December 10th, and January 28th. An archaeological survey of the property was discussed and has been funded. The NPS is assisting in underwriting this effort. The group is also applying for a number of grants to assist with preservation and restoration efforts. The NPS continues to participate in the planning process and will be providing help and technical assistance on the project as needed.

Surry, Wilkes and Caldwell Counties

A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Revolutionary War exhibits at the Wilkes Heritage Museum (NC) took place on December 13th. Paul spoke about the trail at the event, as did OVTA Board member RG Absher and former U.S. Senator James Broyhill. The displays include information about the trail and its story. The design and fabrication of the exhibit was partially funded through NPS Challenge Cost-Share Program grants.

A meeting to review possible new trail segments in W. Kerr Scott Dam & Reservoir (NC) took place at that site on January 23rd. Trail segments which would extend further west along the Yadkin River are being proposed. These would be on, or very close to, the identified Primary Historic Route. Possible completion and certification could take place as soon as fall 2009.

Southern McDowell, Rutherford, & Polk Counties

Nothing new to report this issue.

South Carolina

Paul participated in meetings with the Cherokee County (SC) Overmountain Victory Trail Committee on December 1st and January 26th. The group continues to pursue trail easements with several landowners for an additional two miles of trail. This would eventually connect the Cowpens trailhead to the Furnace Mill site.

Paul provided a briefing on the OVNHT to employees of the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on January 15th in Columbia. Most of the staff had never heard of the trail and its resources and were quite interested in learning the story and understanding how the trail is being developed.

Hey everyone, say hi to new members Andy and Savannah Brown of Asheville, and new life member Marc Bowen of Lake James, NC.

What does it mean to be a member of OVTA. Some people join because they had an ancestor in the Battle of King's Mountain. Others join because they want to see the trail protected and preserved. And then there are those who believe that this story is one of the greatest stories in America's history and want to support us in what we do.

Whatever your reason might be, your membership counts by helping us protect and preserve the Trail and tell the story. Whether we are negotiating with landowners, standing in front of school children or meeting with congressmen in Washington, our message is clear; "When we lose a piece of the Trail we can never stand on that spot and tell the story quite as well ever again.

So join us. Be part of Keeping the Story Alive!

Circle Your Membership Choice

Individual Membership = \$30

Family Membership = \$40

Supporting Membership = \$100

Life Membership = \$500

Tax Exempt Donation \$ _____

Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Total Amount for Memberships and Merchandise enclosed \$ _____

**Send to:
OVTA, 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924**

OVTA Merchandise Order Form

Proceeds from OVTA's merchandise goes to protect the Trail & to tell the story.

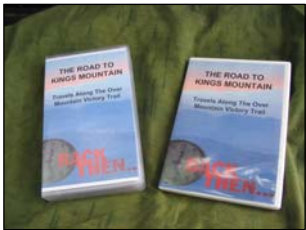
Shipping and Handling for pins and patches is \$3.00, for T-Shirts and Videos \$5.00



OVTA Pins are \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00. Number _____ Amount \$_____.



OVTA Patches, \$5.00 each. Number _____ Amount \$_____



The Road to King's Mountain DVD or VHS 28 minute video is \$20 each.

Number _____ Amount \$_____



Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Logo T-shirts,
sized small through XXL,

\$20 each. Number _____ Amount \$_____

The Report on the 2008 Campaign to King's Mountain. Part Deux.

Here we are. Early morning of September 29th at Herman Baker's for our traditional Eggs Benedict breakfast. The new folks just couldn't believe that such high hospitality still lived. Great job Herman and Friends. Thanks.

Walking off the Blue Ridge today. Another treat for the new folks on the March. Deep road bed remnants along our left. Stop and listen to nothing. Just silence. Turns out Branson Bill knows quite a bit about trees, shrubs and other things that grow. He did a good job of teaching as we descended down the Trail.

Well, I'm afraid I'm out of space here now so I must stop for this issue. Will the Marcher's make it to King's Mountain? Will they be ambushed by the enemies of freedom and independence? Will Albert Dale ever cease to amaze us with his knowledge of history and dedication to what we do? Will Mike's ear ever stop hurting? Will they be visited by ghosts at Gray's Chapel? Will we...Ah, You'll have to wait until the next issue to find out. Take care, Mike.

Hey folks. It's time to find out

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Alan Bowen offers up his words on the last week of the Campaign. At Alan's request Mike will grout some of the cracks in his memory.

September 30th We had a great day with several schools from the Morganton area. We shuttled over on the evening of the 29th because the kids were due in at 9AM and we wanted to be ready. Nine of the AM and the first little ones from area elementary schools started streaming in. A special treat in being able to include Scott Coley's boy in one of our programs. Scott is the director of Historic Burke and his boy Douglas was all decked out in period dress ready to do battle.

One of the neat aspects was that we had a class of hearing impaired students. It was fascinating to watch the interpreter do her work while the Story was being told. Her expressions were great.

We told the Story during an evening program. Then we had a great dinner provided by Historic Burke. Their lasagna and salad on high on our traditions list now.

October 1st. Our numbers dwindle as Marchers are paroled to return home—some like Alan for just a couple of days, some for the year like Tom and Ula Wendle and this year's camp scamp Darla.

First time in nearly a decade now. Went to Freedom High school just down the road from the McDowell House. Outside along the paved walking trail. A class approaches from out of the fog. We get started. Lots of folks say that high school kids are the very hardest to program. We did just fine. Got to fine the way to engage them. We used the 18th century boy and girl introductions to "warm up the crowd".

Finished up early afternoon and headed for Dysartsville Community Center.

October 2nd: A Day of new lands for Exploration. Off to meet Chivous Bradley, chair of the Rutherford County commission, who will give us a tour of the Biggerstaff property where the Nine were hung after the Battle.

The grave sites of those who were hung has never been positively located. But, Steve walked over a small piece of ground that spoke bad words to him. I listen to Steve when that happens.

October 3rd. A rest day. We've already surpassed last year's all time record for program attendance. Planned these rest days in so we could enjoy the trail in our own way for the new people on the March this year. A small group of us, Mike, Jerry, Fran, Richard, Steve, Mel from Charlotte went to Gilbert Town. Back

through the woods to Cathy's creek. Couldn't find a ford, so we hid our tracks by walking up the creek shoes in hand. Climbed out into an open field. Struck with the towering visage of the past—a past that once held great glory. But now...only holds silence. Steve approached slowly. Kneeled down, gave prayer and gift, and then he spoke with the silence.

Supper on our own tonight. This is fun. Sherrill and Aggie off to the store for supplies. Eatin' good.

October 4th: Well, it's a Saturday. And if its October 4th and a Saturday, that means were in Rutherfordton for the Heritage festival and parade. We set up our booth and displays. The town folks did good for us getting us up front and with good places to park. Lots of folks in awe and wonder at the way we look and the things we do.

Rutherfordton deserves a big Huzzah for how they've raised the celebration of their heritage to such a high level.

Day's done. Sun's setting. We're at Gilbert Town. Crowd gathers. Steve sits upon his Black Bear rug. Pile of sticks, tow, flint and steel. Soon we have fire. Draws folks in closer. The story telling starts. Program ends. Mike's up front now. Talk turns to the threat of the US 221 by-pass and how all this around us might be lost to concrete, cars and big trucks. Mike's voice emerges, strong, almost a roar as he compels the local folk to stand for what they believe in. His voice raises even more, echoes off Ferguson's Ridge and comes back to punctuate the power of his words. The crowd responds, "Yes, we will fight to save what is ours—our past, our history and our heritage. All around us, the echo of voices races around coming back to us from all directions.

Day's done. Whew. Off to Boy Scout Camp Bud Schiele to watch the stars and smile with satisfaction for a day well done. Thanks to Roger Byers for his work on arranging the camp and Gilbert Town.

October 5th: It's Alan again. I rejoined on the 5th at Gray's Chapel. Another easy day with trail exploration the plan of the day. Had a hike down to the Green River and sniffed around a bit. We had a group of Cub Scouts join us along with some home schooler's. We took a look at the old cemetery along the way and heard many comments as to it's origin.



We had a great dinner and storytelling that evening hosted by the Gray's Chapel Church folks. Then things got interesting. Sarah and Leigh joined us with Reese. About 9:30 Lee put Reese down for the night and went in for some domino playing. After 30 minutes or so, Reese woke up crying for no apparent reason (this is unusual for her). Sarah came out and got her back to sleep. Little did we know that this would be just the beginning of a long night for some in our party.

Richard and Steve were sleeping in their van . David King's truck was parked right behind them. As the night worn on, Steve, who was sleeping in the front seat of the van, was awakened by a distinctive knock on the door of the van, right next to his head. He investigate but to no avail. Nothing. He dozed off again and, it happened again. This time he looked and saw, against the wall a church, a mysterious light that floated about. He described it as if someone was reflecting light off of a DVD onto the wall. He explored some more and could not find a source of the light. He said he walked all around the Church and cemetery

Then it was David's turn. He was awakened by a loud crash against the top of his camper shell. He took a look and did not see anything that could answer what caused the loud crash. No rocks or limbs had hit his camper. No nothing.

Oh, by the way, did I mention that we were camped right next to the church cemetery ...you decide!

Monday, Oct 6th: We motored to Cowpens for a full day of school programming. We had, what seemed to be a thousand school kids come through. The kids, for the most part, were all very attentive and asked some pretty good questions. That afternoon OVTA's were there to answer any questions presented by visitors to the Park. Some of our group took a guided tour of the battlefield. Later in the evening we told the story to about 45 local folks that came to the park for the telling of "The Night before the Battle".

We camped at the picnic area as our custom and had a great dinner of chili and dogs and everyone cleaning out leftovers from their coolers.

And we had a birthday cake and party. Turns out, Steve Ricker's birthday is October 7th and this year was number 50.

Then we had a visit from Pleasure. Been waiting for her the whole March. She made her rounds and made quite an impression. Big Daddy even had a comment or two that brought the house down.

Tues, Oct 7th:

We motored to Kings Mountain for the 10:00 am wreath laying ceremony. Saw many old friends there and make several new ones. Then off to Antioch Church for the great lunch that several DAR groups have for us each year. The food was great and none went away hungry.

We had the drawing for Draper's 2nd edition and the winner was Tom Bowie from Bristol Tn.

After lunch and the drawing we headed back to Kings Mountain for the 3:00 ceremony.

And that is all I have to say about that—Alan.

Hey, it's Mike again. I want to thank everyone along the Trail who helped plan this year's March—it was the most aggressive schedule we have ever had. And thanks for all that Fran and Jerry Mustin and Dan King did. We simply could not have gotten down the Trail nearly as well without them.

And then, got to thank all those who took their time to come to this thing we do. We had more hikers and more new people on the March than in many a year. A big huzzah to every one.

We've already started scheduling the 2009 March with a several of the days filled in. I hope to have the schedule pretty well set by mid-summer.

Late Breaking New

The original oil painting "**The Backwater Men**", the first painting in the Richard Luce "Campaign of the Overmountain Men" series, has been sold to Marc Bowen of Lake James, North Carolina .

Richard reports the prints of the painting will be available soon. Please contact him at richardluce@insightbb.com, or by phone at 502-241-7046 for more information or how to purchase a copy of the print.



The Backwater Men

The Pemberton Oak Pen and Pencil Sets—A Trail Protection and Preservation Fund Raiser

Since we rolled this fund raiser out last summer, OVTA has raised \$5,000 from the Pemberton Oak pen sets.

Please consider investing in the protection of the trail with this fine piece of heritage



Set 1 — \$125

The Pemberton Preservation Pen in a box and I will provide a letter of the wood's authenticity. You may choose gold or silver.

Set 2 — \$250

The Pemberton Preservation Pen and Pencil set in a box and the Letter of Authenticity. Gold or silver.

Set 3 — \$500

The Pemberton Preservation Pen and Pencil set in a box with a letter opener and the Letter of Authenticity. Gold or silver.

Set 4 — \$1,000

The Pemberton Preservation Pen and Pencil set in a box with a letter opener and magnifying glass and the Letter of Authenticity. Gold or silver.

Please make your check to Overmountain Victory Trail Association, with Trail Protection Fund written on the "for" line of the check. Our address is 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924. Phone number is 865-933-0883. Or, you can order by email at miked@esper.com. Be sure to give color.

**Overmountain
Victory Trail
Association
Newsletter**

2517 Shipe Road
Knoxville, TN
37924

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Knoxville, TN
Permit # 909



April, 2009 Issue

Protect, Preserve & Interpret the Overmountain Victory Trail

*The Road to Kings Mountain
Video. \$20 plus \$5 shipping
Order yours Today!*

***Please pay your
2008--2009
Dues!***

Individual Dues are \$30

Family Dues are \$40

Supporting Dues are \$150

Life Dues are \$500

Upcoming Events

BOD Meetings and Activities

May 15-17, 2009, Sycamore Shoals. "Attack on Watauga" living history reenactment weekend.

June 13, 2009: OVTA BOD meeting, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkesboro, NC.

July 3—9, 2009, Atlanta, GA. SAR Conference.

August 29, 2009: OVTA board meeting, Gray's Chapel

September 23 through October 7, 2009: Annual March to King's Mountain.

November 7, 2009: OVTA board meeting, Morganton.