

A Piece of the Trail

Hey. This is Mike Dahl of Knoxville. The \$20,000 OVTA committed this past year to help purchase segments of the Trail put a great big dent in our Trail Protection Fund. We want to build this fund back up. Indeed, if we are to help protect and preserve the Trail and the history it represents, I believe we **MUST** build it back up!

The last two years has seen a tremendous surge in protection projects along the Trail:
The City of Abingdon purchased the Muster Ground.

McDowell County and the City of Marion along with others purchased the Joseph McDowell House.

Polk County just got a \$500,000 grant to go towards purchasing the October 5th Alexander's Ford property.

The CSX Railroad acquisition in the North Cove of McDowell County, and, negotiations at Bickerstaff's Hanging Tree in Rutherford County NC are underway .

And now, we have a chance to add another piece of the trail to this list.

The property owner of the September 26, 1780 campsite across from the Shelving Rock in Carter County, Tennessee called in late May to offer OVTA the chance to buy the 9.2 acres of storied land. This is where the Overmountain Men laid on the very ground to sleep--bet a chill came on during that night because there was snow "shoe-mouth deep" up at Yellow Mountain Gap the next day.

And the Overmountain Men weren't the first to spend the night on this spot. No, this was a night's stop on the road that led from the Carolinas west to the Overmountain Settlements. I've even seen the Shelving Rock referred to as "the resting place".

And before them? Well, the former owners of the property—whose family lived on the land for several generations—have boxes of Native American artifacts that came from this bottom land along the Doe River.

The price to forever protect and preserve the Shelving Rock Campsite is \$465,000. The owner's offer was \$100,000 down and five years to pay at 6% interest. OVTA's **NOT** taking this on alone. We are working with land conservancies and others to help share the cost and to get this done. Our goal is to transfer the title while the Marchers are there on September 26th of this year!.

Once purchased, this property would best be transferred to the State of Tennessee where it would be managed as part of Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area.

To start raising funds, I am going to offer the *Pemberton Preservation Pen*. I will make these pens out of limbs from that Pemberton Oak that I collected the day after the tree fell in August of 2002.



All wooden parts will be Pemberton Oak. The wood will be highly finished with a friction polish to seal and protect the wood. You have a choice of gold or silver fittings. The pens use a "Cross" type screw-in refill and come in black with a medium point tip. The barrel rotates to retract the tip.

I will not "mass produce" these pens. They will be made to order for each person as they make their purchase. That way I can better fit the pen to the person's hand. This also helps ensure that each pen will be a little different.

The OVTA board approved this fundraiser at the June 7, 2008 meeting. Six board members placed orders totaling \$2,000. Tom Holmes was the first to place an order and purchased the four piece set. The very first Pemberton Preservation Pen I made was for Tom.

Here is what I'm offering.

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.

Set 5: — \$10,000 or more

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

The entire payment for the order will go into OVTA's Trail Protection Fund and therefore is tax deductible. Any monies not used in the purchase of the Shelving Rock Campsite will be used to protect and preserve other sites along the trail. Would it not be wonderful for OVTA to have the financial resources on hand to be able to react quickly and step in when Trail lands come on the market or are threatened in some way? That's part of what OVTA is now. To help make sure we never lose another piece of the Trail.

OVTA will reimburse me \$25 "*per order*" from the general fund to cover the cost of materials, supplies and shipping when mailed. I am NOT charging for my time. Since the reimbursement is the same whether I make one pen or a full set of four pieces things will even out over time.

To help you decide to play a part in keeping a piece of the Trail and its story alive, OVTA will offer interest free installments on sets 3 and 4. Those who purchase Set 3 may make two monthly payments of \$250. Those who purchase set 4 may make two monthly payments of \$500. In both cases, you will receive your order when the full amount has been paid. No refunds for cancelling the order part way through the installments.

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.

Thanks for helping,
Mike.