

# OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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**February, 2007**

**www.ovta.org**



***Our Vision:** The Overmountain Victory Trail Association shall forever preserve & 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.*

## Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Conference

**When:** Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17, 2007.

**Where:** Isothermal Community College in Polk County, located on highway 108, 1.5 miles west of Interstate 26, exit 67

Partnerships are a key element to success along the Trail. This third conference of the Trail community will focus on subjects such as preservation, easements, funding sources, trail design, and mapping by a number of regionally acknowledged experts in these fields. Success stories from along the Trail will be highlighted from various organizations and communities.

Our keynote speaker will be Revolutionary War preservationist General George Fields from the Palmetto Conservation Foundation of South Carolina who has spearheaded efforts to save such places as Camden, Blackstocks, and Musgrove Mill.

Other scheduled activities include an opening reception at Lilly Lane Vineyard, which includes a potential new trail segment, as well as an optional Friday afternoon field trip to the trail segment from Gray's Chapel to Alexander's Ford.

## OVNHT Conference Schedule

### Friday, March 16, 2007

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Registration**, Isothermal Community College

2:00 to 2:00 p.m. **Tour of Alexander's Ford Property (Optional)**

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Opening Bar-b-que.** Gather with us for an evening of music, food and drink as we start our conference at Lilly Lane Vineyard. Owned by Frank and Lita Lilly the property is located along the primary historic route of the OVNHT. Prior to the evening activities early attendees will have the option to take a guided tour of the Alexander's Ford property and hear of future plans for that area.

## Saturday, March 17, 2007

**9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.—Opening and Welcomes.** Mayor Kathleen McMillian of Columbus and Chairman of the County Commissioners Mr. Tommy Melton will provide a brief greeting and welcome to the area. Other welcomes will be presented by the Superintendent of the OVNHT and the President of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

**9:20 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.—Call to Muster for the Trail.** A "muster" will be called of the assembled "troops." Please be prepared to give a brief introduction of yourself, your group, and its members.

**9:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.—Break**

**10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.—Success Stories Along the Trail.** Presentations by groups, from along the Trail will be followed by a panel of participants responding to questions and comments from the audience. Highlighted groups and areas include Polk County, North Carolina, Abingdon, Virginia and the Yadkin River Greenway in Wilkes County, North Carolina.

**10:45 a.m. to 12:00.—Trail Funding.** Mr. Rob Ayers from the Federal Highway Administration's North Carolina Division will lead a panel of experts from various states to discuss funding possibilities and opportunities through the Federal Highway Administration, as well as state Departments of Transportation. The National Park Service's Challenge Cost-Share Program will also be covered.

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.—Lunch Presentation.** Representatives of the North Carolina State University's GIS Research and Teaching Program will present a preview of the new Geographic Information System for the OVNHT which is being developed by their department. The new GIS is being jointly funded by the NPS OVNHT office as well as the Washington, DC National Trail Office for the NPS and will be a model for national historic trails nationwide.

**1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.—The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA).** Representatives of the RTCA program will talk on the availability of free planning assistance to interested communities. The RTCA program is administered by the NPS and is dedicated to helping with natural and cultural based conservation and recreation projects such as trails.

**2:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.—Break**

**3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.—Successful Trail Design.** Mr. Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialists will explain the process and guidelines for successful layout of natural surface pathways. Learn about the various options available, the costs involved, and how some of these efforts have been successful in various communities along the route.

**5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.—Dinner Presentation.** General George Fields, USA (Ret.), Director of the Military Heritage Preservation Project for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation will present a talk on "Preserving Our Southern Revolutionary Battlefields." General Fields has served as the lead preservationist for many successful battlefield preservation efforts in South Carolina, including such famous sites as Camden, Blackstocks, and Musgrove Mill. His talk will focus on the challenges of preserving such areas, as well as offer insights on successful methods for achieving your goals.

# Conference Registration

All sessions on Saturday, March 16, 2007 will take place at the Polk Campus of Isothermal Community College. directions for all conference locations and events will be available from the registration desk at the college.

The Polk Campus of Isothermal Community College is located 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Interstate 26 exit 67 on Highway 108.

Registration fee (\$60.00) includes the evening reception on Friday, as well as breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks on Saturday. Checks should be made out to Polk County EDC.

Participants requiring overnight accommodations must make their own arrangements and reservations. A special conference rate of \$49.50 per night, single or double occupancy, is available at the Days Inn in Columbus, North Carolina. Reservations may be made by calling, (828) 894-3303. Callers should identify themselves as attendees of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Conference.

Anyone needing additional information may call the headquarters of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail at (864) 936-3477.

## OVNHT Conference Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend:    Friday Afternoon Field Trip \_\_\_\_\_    Friday Evening Reception \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Conference is limited to first 90 participants due to meeting room restrictions. If needed, any applicants beyond the first 90 will be placed on a waiting list and their funds returned if no space is available. Fee for first 90 registrants is non-refundable.

**Please mail this form with a check or money order for \$60.00 per person made payable to:**

**Polk County EDC, P.O. Box 308, Columbus, NC 28722**

**All registration forms must be received no later than Friday, March 2, 2007**

# Annual Meeting of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association Sunday, March 17, 2007

The Overmountain Victory Trail Association will hold its 2007 annual business and membership meeting at 12 Noon on Sunday, March 17th at Isothermal Community College. The meeting will include a membership vote on by-law changes, the election of officers, presentation of awards and reviewing the accomplishments of the past year and set goals for the coming year.

**By-Law Change:** The OVTA board of directors approved the following By-law change at the meeting on February 17, 2007. The change is bold faced and underline.

“SECTION VIIIa. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be **set by the board providing there are a minimum of at least one meeting held each quarter during the fiscal year.** Special meetings may be called by the President or any two (2) directors. Ten (10) days minimum written notice shall be given of all meetings of the Board of Directors. Minutes of the Board of Director meetings shall be published in the next Association newsletter. All regularly scheduled Board of Director meetings shall be open to the general membership.”

The ballot for the election of offices and the By-law change is on the following page. Please be sure to mail your ballot **BEFORE MARCH 10, 2007.**

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## ALONG THE TRAIL

Everybody say “Hey” to **Bill Jarrett** of Raleigh, OVTA’s newest life member. Bill, a member of OVTA since 2004, upgraded his membership in January.

**Dwight Harley** of Lincolnton, Georgia contacted board member Scott Bowen wanting to make a donation to have a marker made and installed for his ancestor William Wofford. Wofford had operated an iron works in South Carolina that was burnt out by Tories in the spring of 1780. He removed to North Cove in North Carolina and established a fort. This was the site that Campbell and his men camped on the night of September 29th, 1780.

Scott has approached Paul Carson about using Dwight’s donation to have an “official Trail” wayside exhibit fabricated. Scott will contact the principal at the new North Cove Elementary School—which is in sight of where Wofford’s Fort stood—to see if they would be willing to have the exhibit on their grounds.

**Mike Dahl** met with Tim Miner of Crown Communications which is working with Crescent Resources in the 1780 Community on Lake James on February 12 and 13 in Charlotte, NC to do a sound studio recording of the Story of the Overmountain Men. The recording will be made available to property owners and put on Crescent’s website for people to download to their MP3 players to be able to hear the story as they walk the Trail in that area.

—Continued on page 6—

# 2007 OVTA Election Ballot

On this page you will find the ballot for OVTA officers and board members for the 2007-2008 year. Your dues **MUST** accompany your ballot unless you've already paid for 2007. Check the mailing label on this newsletter. The status of your membership is at the bottom of the label.

**Dues and ballot must be received by OVTA no later than March 15, 2007 to be counted at the annual meeting on March 18th.**

**Send this ballot to  
OVTA, 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Individual (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_; Family (\$40) \_\_\_\_\_; Life (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_; Supporting (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Slate of Officers as Presented by the Nominating Committee at the February 17, 2007 Board of Directors meeting**

<u>Cast Vote</u>	<u>Office or Seat</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Term</u>
Yes No	Vice President	R.G. Absher	2007—2009
Yes No	Treasurer	Mike Dahl	2007—2009
Yes No	Region 1-VA	Blair Keller	2007—2009
Yes No	Region 1 TN	Bob Hardin	2007—2009
Yes No	Region 3	Donna Absher	2007—2009
Yes No	Region 4	Nancy Ferguson	2007—2009
Yes No	Region 6 Georgia	Tom Holmes	2007—2009

*Thanks to all who have agreed to serve!*

Yes No I approve the By-law change regarding board meetings as approved by the Board of Directors.

In return for the recording work, Tim will help OVTA design our new color brochure. The board set the scope for the brochure—what they wanted in it—at the February 17th meeting for Mike to report to Tim. The points the board offered were to include a detachable membership and order form for T-shirts, videos, pins, etc., who we are—our “vision and mission statements”, what we do—“Keeping the Story Alive” and the on-going preservation work, and the historic timetable of the campaign (so people can find us during the March). Mike says his goal is to have the new brochure ready for this year's March.

**Paul Carson** was not able to get the National Park Service Report on the trail to us by print time. We'll let you know what he's been doing in the next issue.

OVTA president **Alan Bowen** and OVNHT superintendent **Paul Carson** spent the week of February 11-15 in Washington D.C. for the annual “Hike on the Hill” sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System. Alan met with the congressional members whose district the trail passes through requesting funding for three Trail projects.

The first project was for \$115,000 to do a feasibility study to determine the best location for a Headquarters and visitor center for the Trail.

The second project was requesting \$195,000 to purchase land in the North Cove area of McDowell County for a trail head.

The third project was requesting \$50,000 for the historic preservation study at Gilbert Town in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

**George Cobb** just called to let us know that he is carrying his Reverend Samuel Doak to the far reaches of his home state of Alabama. George, a descendent of William Cobb at Rocky Mount who portrayed Doak during the 2006 March at Sycamore Shoals, is giving Doak programs at civic and school groups and is writing a book called “Faith on the Frontier” on the role religion played in the people's life during the settlement of the frontier.

## **Treasurer's Report**

OVTA currently has \$40,930.60 in our bank account plus another \$6,000 in a CD that matures in December. The CD is the Life Membership dues that have been paid into the account starting in 1979.

A few months back board members starting questioning whether or not we were making our money work for us as much as possible. The CD is (currently) re-

turning an interest rate of 3.25%. During all of 2006, we only earned \$36.11 interest on our \$40,000 bank account.

At the November, 2006 board meeting Scott Bowen was charged with the task of seeing if there were alternative ways to place our funds to earn more interest. Scott reported back at the February 17th meeting that he had researched the Vanguard Company and found some enticing facts. We could place a large portion of our bank account with Vanguard and earn the going prime interest rate—currently 5.25% and still have full access to the funds should we need them by merely doing a voucher transfer back into our general fund. The board authorized the president to direct the treasurer to invest our funds when all the questions were answered to his satisfaction. Investing in this way—without losing any access to our funds when needed, would greatly increase the interest earning—up from some \$36 per year to some \$2,000 per year.

The board is also exploring the value of keeping the Life Membership fund in the CD. The board discussed and voted that the Life Membership Fund should be kept as a “rainy day fund” to only be used in the event of a catastrophic situation where the funds would be needed to keep OVTA solvent. Unfortunately, being in a CD, we do not have quick access to the funds should they be needed.

The By-laws currently stipulate that the Life Membership Fund can only be used for activities that further the objectives of OVTA and requires a 2/3 vote of the 43 life members to be used. A letter is being prepared to send to the life members presenting this plan and requesting the board be given the authority to access the fund should it be necessary.

**Tom Holmes**, OVTA's board member from Georgia, asked Treasurer Mike Dahl at the February 17th meeting to report on what our annual operating costs were. Mike reported back to the board by email the next day that our basic annual operating expenses in 2006 was some \$4,100.

*OVTA will be discontinuing it's PO Box in Charlotte in the near future. So, from now on make sure you send all mailing to 2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924.*

**And speaking of members, there are 94 members who have NOT renewed their membership for 2007. SEND IN YOUR DUES!!!**

# 2004 - 2005 OVTA Officers and Board



**President: Alan Bowen** 2006 - 2008  
(770)-382-2863 abowen@sharptoptree.com  
102 Aubrey Rd NE, White Ga. 30184

**Vice President: R.G. Absher** 2004 - 2007  
336-921-3750 absher-r@juno.com  
160 Brenhaven Drive, Elkin, NC 28621

**Secretary: Fran Dahl** 2006 - 2008  
(865)-933-0883 fran@esper.com  
2517 Shipe Road. Knoxville, TN 37924

**Treasurer: Mike Dahl**  
(865) 850-1797 miked@esper.com  
2517 Shipe Road, Knoxville, TN 37924

## OVTA Board Members

### Region 1 Virginia:

**Blair Keller** 2004 - 2007  
(276) 628-3070  
20081 Good Hope Rd, Abingdon, VA 24210

**Mike Denton** 2006—2008  
(276) 356-8243  
24058 Berry Creek Drive. Abingdon, VA 24211

### Region 1 Tennessee:

**Bob Hardin** 2004 - 2007  
(423) 612-0242 rvhardin@charter.net  
141 Celedon Lane, Elizabethton, TN 37643

Other Seat Vacant

### Region 2 NC Line to Morganton:

Both Seats Vacant

### Region 3 Wilkes-Surry:

**Charles Gilreath** 2006 - 2008  
336-835-5624. PO Box 650, Elkin, NC 28621

Other Seat Vacant

### Region 4 Morganton to SC Line:

**Albert Dale** 2006 - 2008  
(828) 287-4338  
Rt. 1 56-7A Victory Trail, Union Mills, NC 28287

**Nancy Ferguson** 2004 - 2007  
(828) 287-3509  
771 Centennial Road, Union Mills, NC 28167.

### Region 5: South Carolina:

**Buck Jolley** 2004—2007  
(864) 489-5459 bjolley@bellsouth.net  
526 Filter Plant Road, Gaffney, SC 29340

**Jane Waters** 2006—2008  
(864) 489-7043 jandpwaters@charter.net  
1555 Overbrook Drive, Gaffney, SC 29341.

### Region 6, Georgia

**Tom Holmes** 2004 - 2007  
tc\_holmes@bellsouth.net  
6810 Stringer Lane. Flowery Branch, GA. 30542

**Scott Bowen** 2006—2008  
770-317-3674 sbowen@sharptoptree.com  
39 Saratoga Drive, Rydal, GA 30171

### At-Large BOD Seats

**Evelyn Carswell** 2006 - 2008  
(828) 245-4708.  
162 Flack Rd. Forest City, NC 28043

**Joe Harris** 2006 - 2008  
910-246-6184 jharris8045@nc.rr.com  
6 Hunter Court, Southern Pines, NC. 28387

**Jim Somerset** 2006—2008  
307 Bradford Parkway, Syracuse, NC 13224

### 2007 Reenactment Campaign Commander:

Alan Bowen (770)-382-2863 ga6thcav@aol.com

## OVTA Activities and Support Contacts

### Newsletter Editors: Mike & Fran Dahl

(Home) (865) 933-0883 Email: miked@esper.com

### Ancestral Research: Karla Zimmerman

(909)-592-5505 Karlaz@msn.com  
2326 Calle Petula, San Dimas, CA. 91773-3981

### National Park Service OVNHT Superintendent:

Paul Carson, Superintendent OVNHT ,  
(864) 936-3477 paul\_carson@nps.gov  
2635 Park Road, Blacksburg, South Carolina 29702.

**Overmountain  
Victory Trail  
Association  
Newsletter**

2517 Shipe Road  
Knoxville, TN  
37924

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



February, 2007 Issue

Protect, Preserve & Interpret the Overmountain Victory Trail

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

***Please pay your  
2006--2007  
Dues!***

**Individual Dues are \$30**

**Family Dues are \$40**

**Supporting Dues are \$150**

**Life Dues are \$500**

## *Upcoming Events*

### **BOD Meetings and Activities**

Board of Director meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome to participate. All BOD meeting begin at noon.

2007 OVNHT Trail Conference: March 16-17, 2007, Tryon, NC.

OVTA Annual Membership Meeting: March 18, 2007, Tryon, NC

Pioneer Days at the Old Fort Museum: April 28, 2007.

OVTA Board Meeting: June 16, 2007, Sycamore Shoals.

OVTA Board Meeting: August 18, 2007, W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.

2007 Campaign Reenactment: September 23—October 7, 2007.

OVTA Board Meeting: November 17, 2007, Gaffney, SC.