

Pea Ridge National Military Park completes 17-mile fence project

By John C. Scott
PRNMP Superintendent

Mark Twain once said "History doesn't repeat itself - at best it sometimes rhymes."

Therefore, it should be no mystery that we did make history on a very windy and cold day in November of 2008. On this day, and as a part of Unilever's National Parks America Tour program, volunteers placed the last split rail of a 17-mile long complex of worm rail fencing. For the first time in 146 years, the fencing that long ago stretched over the landscape of farms, fields and forests that served as the site of the March 7 and 8, 1862, Battle of Pea Ridge were put in place once again.

It all started seven years ago when on a cool Saturday morning in October of 2002 Pea Ridge National Military Park participated in its first National Parks America Tour. On that October morning there were enough split rails to build one mile of fencing and over 300

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Pea Ridge National Military Park

NWACWHT dedicates first exhibit panel in bid to interpret combat at Cane Hill

By Alan Thompson
NWACWHT Chair

It has been a busy couple of weeks in Northwest Arkansas, with activity at both the Prairie Grove and Cane Hill battlefields.

On December 6-7 Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park hosted a re-enactment commemorating the 146th anniversary of the battle. For the first time in several years the weather cooperated and the turnout was great with over 5,000 spectators on hand.

It was also the 75th anniversary of the Arkansas State Parks system and the 100th anniversary of the United Daughters of the Confederacy buying the first acreage of what would become Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park so that veterans would have a place to have reunions. Aside from the standard living history programs, a new painting by artist Andy Thomas was unveiled. "They Came Like Demons" depicts the last charge of the day by the Confederate brigade of Brig. Gen. Mosby M. Parsons on the west end of the battlefield. **Continued on Page 3.**

New group seeks to save Jenkins' Ferry

By Mark Kalkbrenner
SEACWHT Chair

Things have been going along well in the southeast part of the state. We are working on old projects and starting new ones, which is very exciting.

The Friends of Jenkins' Ferry Battlefield has been formed as a cooperative effort between the Southeast and Southwest Trails and the Jenkins' Ferry Chapter of the Military Orders of the Stars and Bars. The group seeks to preserve, interpret and develop the battlefield for future generations. We have had a couple of meetings and things look promising.

We are preparing for the fourth bi-annual re-enactment of the Battle of Marks' Mills on April 25-26, 2009. This will fall on the 145th anniversary of the battle. We hope to make this event bigger and better than the past three, which have been hard to beat. The event will be held at the Marks' Mills State Park near New Edinburg, on Highway 8 between Fordyce and Warren.

On the Camp White Sulphur Springs front, on October 18, 2008, it was announced that an initial \$10,000 endowment has

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For Information

General Information

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The Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail is a network of regional private, nonprofit, volunteer organizations seeking to identify, protect, interpret and promote Arkansas properties related to the state's Civil War experience. General guidance for the groups is provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Northwest Arkansas CWHT

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The Northwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Benton, Carroll, Boone, Marion, Washington, Madison, Newton, Searcy and Van Buren counties.

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The West Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Yell, Pope and Scott counties.

Southwest Arkansas CWHT

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The Southwest Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Polk, Montgomery, Garland, Howard, Pike, Clark, Hot Spring, Dallas, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Ouachita, Calhoun, Miller, Lafayette, Columbia and Union counties.

Southeast Arkansas CWHT

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The Southeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Jefferson, Grant, Arkansas, Phillips, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot counties.

Central Arkansas CWHT

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The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail serves Conway, Perry, Saline, Faulkner, Pulaski, White and Lonoke counties.

Northeast Arkansas CWHT

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The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Trail serves Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Cleburne, Independence, Sharp, Randolph, Clay, Lawrence, Greene, Jackson, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, Prairie, Monroe, Lee and St. Francis counties.

Volunteers, partnerships key to PRNMP success

Continued from Page 1.

volunteers that had turned out to help. To say that the park staff was a little worried that first year, would be an understatement. We had never tried anything like this before and we had more questions than answers. Were we trying to build too much fence? Would the volunteers stay with it? Is this too many people? Are there enough people? Could it be built right? But, when that first mile of fencing was built by lunch time and everyone involved was having fun we realized that building another 16 miles of fence in this fashion was something that could indeed happen.

And happen it did. The National Parks America Tour came to Pea Ridge for the next seven consecutive years. Each of the following years volunteers at the tour would build another one to two miles of fencing. Additional miles of fencing were built by regional Unilever employees and their families, by Wal-Mart associates and their families and by local youth groups. Before you knew it 89,760 split rails had been placed into 17 miles of fence and a window into the past was re-opened.

But that window would still remain closed and the Pea Ridge Battlefield still fenceless had it not been for Unilever and the National Parks America Tour. With limited funding and staffing the chance of the park building 17 miles of historic fencing was remote. Each split rail cost \$4.50 and we would need \$403,920 just to purchase rails alone. Even if the rails could have been obtained a small park staff would not allow us to build that much fencing and still be able to do anything else.

The National Parks America Tour is sponsored by Unilever and in cooperation with the National Park Foundation, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., and Take Pride in America. The Tour has donated more than 285,000 volunteer manpower hours to the National Park Service, resulting in an in-kind donation of \$4.75 million. The National Parks America

Tour volunteer projects range from building accessible boardwalks at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, and restoring historically accurate battlefields at Pea Ridge National Military Park, to erosion-preventing revegetation projects in Mount Rainier National Park. Unilever is also the longest-standing corporate partner of the National Park Foundation and a Proud Partner of America's National Parks, and has a 25-year commitment that will exceed more than \$100 million in cash and in-kind support for America's National Parks by 2016.

Pea Ridge National Military Park has been invited to participate in Unilever's National Parks America Tour program in 2009. We have scheduled the event for October 24, 2009. We may not be building fences this year but we will be doing something to further restore the battlefield to its 1862 condition. Additional information will be provided at a later date. Please plan to come out and help; you will not be sorry you did. Not only will you be able help make a difference in your National Parks but you will also be able to say that you are building "rhymes" about people of our past.

Got News?

The *Arkansas Battlefield Update* will publish information about upcoming meetings, reenactments, special events, preservation efforts and other Civil War-related activities.

But you have to tell us about them first.

Send information about your upcoming Civil War-related activity to: *Arkansas Battlefield Update*, AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street, Little Rock, AR 72201.

Cane Hill panel is first of many planned

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Limited edition prints are available at the park and through Andy Thomas' website.

The weather wasn't as cooperative on December 16th when the first marker of the Battle of Cane Hill Driving Tour project was dedicated. Five people braved the 18-degree temperature and howling winds to witness the official unveiling of the panel. Eventually the tour will consist of eight or nine panels spanning the 12-mile route of the battle. A lady with historic ties to the community has offered to pay for the next three panels. Dale Cox, author of *The Battle of Massard Prairie, Arkansas: The 1864 Confederate Attack on Fort Smith* is donating \$5 from every book sold to the project. The book is available from <http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/massardbook.html>, so buy yours today if you don't have it already. The book sells for \$19.95 plus shipping.

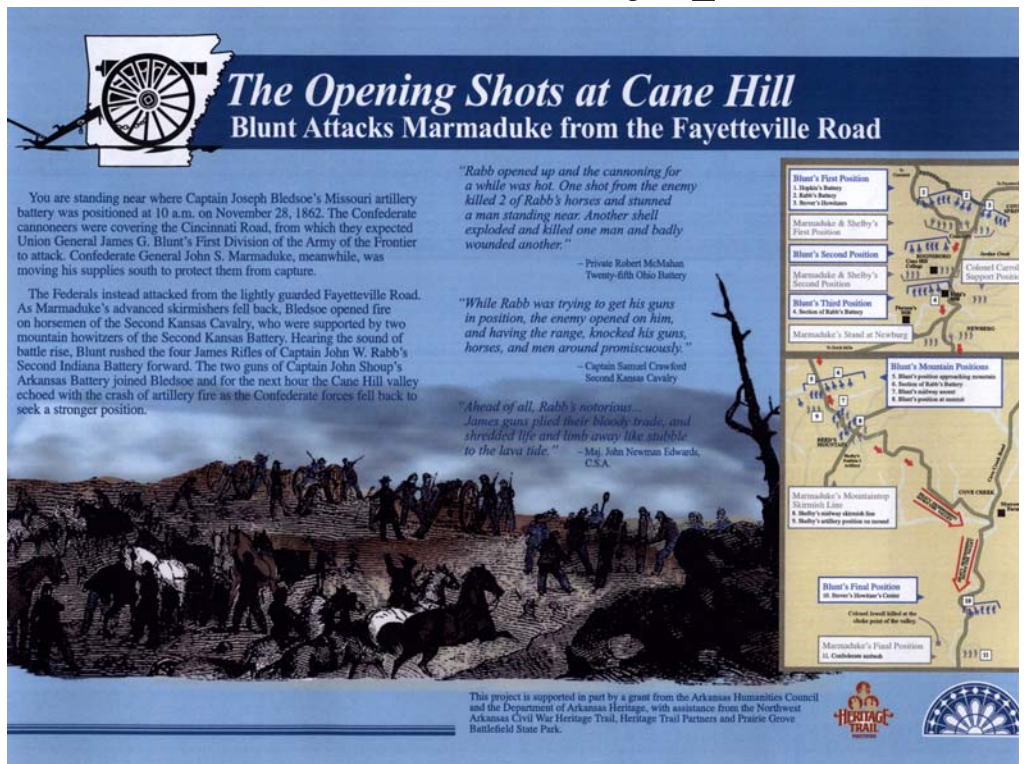
Prairie Grove is presently working with architects to restore the Borden House around which the heaviest and bloodiest fighting at Prairie

White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery will benefit from newly established endowment

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been established through the Pine Bluff Area Community Foundation, part of the Arkansas Community Foundation, for the White Sulphur Spring Historical Preservation Endowment for the perpetual upkeep of the Camp White Sulphur Springs Confederate Cemetery and associated properties.

And finally, a new group has been formed to help in the fight for historic preservation. The students at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Pine Bluff have formed a History Club, calling themselves the "Jefferson Guard" in honor of the pre-war unit from Pine Bluff. Their main goal is to do community service by means of historic preservation. Since September they have



Grove took place. Phase I will include stabilizing the building and putting a new roof on it. Restoration of the interior will follow later. The staff also held its first meeting with the firm that is going to redesign the exhibit area of the visitor

center. Among the clients of the firm are the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, Gettysburg, the National Civil War Museum and Fort Pulaski. Once the final plan is approved work will begin on implementing the design.

worked at White Sulphur Springs, Reed's Bridge, New Gascony, and St. Mary's Catholic Church. They have also attended drills for infantry and artillery so that they may in the future

attend reenactments.

Our next meeting will be at noon on Saturday, January 31, at Arkansas Post State Park.

Civil War Arkansas on the Internet!

Log onto these sites to learn more:

www.arkansascivilwar150.com

www.arkansaspreservation.org

www.civilwarbuff.org

<http://history-sites.com/cgi-bin/boards/arcwmb/>

NEACWHT reports 2008 activities; Chalk Bluff re-enactment moved to 2010

By *Danny Honnoll*
NEACWHT Chair

Happy New Year to everyone! We are looking forward to the New Year and new challenges for the remembrance of the time period that we call "The War Between the States." With the passing of 2008 we want to thank the Durnett family for sharing their beloved Charles over the past years. His leadership will be missed and his smile and laughter will be remembered forever by the ones that shared his life and passion for history. May God bless the Durnett family!

As president of the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation I want to personally thank John Malloy for all of his leadership with the 7th Arkansas Infantry re-enactors.

At our Chalk Bluff event this year we presented Malloy an honorary colonelship in the Jeff Davis Legion to show our appreciation of all of his good work. Captain Malloy will now be Private John Malloy as Louis Riggs of Rector is taking command of the 7th Arkansas Infantry. He is well rounded in the art of re-enacting. I am looking forward to working with Riggs over the next few years as we both carry the tradition of those who fought and lived during the 1860s. We are blessed in Arkansas with the command of the re-enacting groups that we have in Arkansas, to all of you that wear the wool during the winter and summer. Also to the ladies of the re-enacting groups that are the backbone of remembering civilian and wartime actions, we stay grateful for all that you do.

We are going to take next year off and not have a re-enactment at Chalk Bluff at the request of the 7th Arkansas so they can attend an event in Texas. We are going to try every other year to see if this helps our Chalk Bluff event. In the future we are going to announce a living history event at the town of Piggott so we can keep interest up for the

following year. I will keep you posted.

The Northeast Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Committee held its fall meeting on October 21 at 6 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. We had 21 in attendance for the meeting. President W. Danny Honnoll gave an updated report to the gathering.

Current balance in bank: \$400.34 for the NEACWHT.

Report: The Northeast Arkansas Southern Heritage Foundation is still having lighting issues at their Southern Confederate Heritage Park in Jonesboro and James Langley has been working very hard on the lighting at the park trying to get the best light for the best price. He is going to meet with Honnoll and Ray Jones after dark one night to see if they need to change the style of the lighting to a less costly fixture. Currently the Star-Spangled Banner, Arkansas state flag, Third National and the Hardee Battle Flag are on display at the site. M. Ray Jones has done a great job in keeping a good inventory of flags for placement at the park. Patsy Penney, a founding member of the NEASHF, left the group in November and Ernestine Layton replaced her.

Thank you Patsy "Cus" Penney for your support and friendship over the past few years. To Ernestine Layton welcome to our group and we look forward to working with you in the future. We put Ernestine right to work as she was elected recording secretary of the NEASHF. A new sign is being developed for the SCHP. Vince Percey of Jonesboro is giving the group a discount on the price. It will have a likeness of the park with a proposed statue and the group's address for individuals to get information or to make donations to the park.

Bad weather caused the cancellation of the annual Christmas party and auction scheduled for December 16. Due many requests by many individuals who asked us to hold the annual auction in January 2009, the auction will be held on

January 20 at the next SCV meeting at the Fishboat Restaurant. If you had presents or things to donate for auction please bring them. Joyce Whitten of Black Oak, Arkansas, created a special Southern Santa for the auction and we had an online sale of this item with Jean Pasmore winning the Southern Santa for a \$100 donation. As of December donations for the park from the annual Christmas party auction activity equal donations from mailings and stand at \$10,695. We had one donation from an unnamed source of \$10,000. This will help the group really do something in the way of a capital drive for a base and statue for the park. To all of you that have donated I want to thank you for your support. The NEASHF, SCV, UDC and the NEACWHTC are planning a day at the park later this summer to help raise awareness of the new park in Jonesboro.

We will attend the January 28th meeting of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in Little Rock as the group continues to gather information and plan for the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

On February 14 the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails Foundation will gather at Little Rock for its annual meeting.

Bobbie and Dale Barnett have been taking care of the Martin Creek/Morgan Mills site this year. They make sure a new flag is flying over the marker that we placed in 2004. The Confederate Outpost donates the flags for use at this historical site.

You can email me at danny@honnoll.com, call me at 870-926-2985 or mail me at 216 Hillpoint Cove, Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401-5992 if you have any information on Civil War-related happening that you would like the NEACWHTC to help with.

The next meeting of the NEACWHTC will be on January 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fishboat Restaurant in Jonesboro. See you there!

SWACWHT meeting focuses on leaders who served in the region during the Civil War

By Peggy Lloyd
And Tom Beam
SWACWHT Chairs

SWACWHT held its fall meeting at the Tulip Community Center on Highway 9 in Dallas County on October 19, 2008, with about 20 people in attendance.

Co-chairs Tom Beam of Hot Springs and Peggy Lloyd of Hope spoke to the group on Civil War figures associated with Tulip. Tom spoke on Texas Generals William Read Scurry (1821-1864) and Horace Randal (1833-1864). Peggy spoke on Tulip itself and E. W. Gantt (1828-1874). Scurry, Randal and Gantt were all natives of Tennessee and served as field officers in the Confederate army.

William R. Scurry went to Texas in 1840, practiced law and served in the Mexican War from 1846-47. He entered the Confederate Army as a lieutenant colonel in the 4th Texas Cavalry and was promoted to brigadier general on September 12, 1862. He was mortally wounded at the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry on April 30, 1864. He was temporarily buried at Tulip. Later he was re-interred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Horace Randal moved to Texas with his parents in 1839. In 1849, he was one of the first Texas appointees to the United States Military Academy and the second to graduate, in 1855. Subsequently, he served in the West with the U. S. Army until his resignation on February 27, 1861, to enter the Confederate forces. In February 1862, he was commissioned a colonel and recruited the 28th Texas Cavalry Regiment (Dismounted) in and around Marshall, Texas.

As a colonel Randal served in Arkansas and Louisiana. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, the Trans-Mississippi commander at Shreveport, promoted him to brigadier general on April 8, 1864, though his promotion was never confirmed by the Confederate government. Randal died of wounds received at Jenkins' Ferry on April 30, 1864, and was buried at Tulip. Later he was moved to the Old Marshall Cemetery at Marshall, Texas. A state marker was placed on his grave in 1962.

Both Scurry and Randal have Texas counties named for them. In 1876 the Texas Legislature created Scurry and Randall Counties in west Texas. Through a clerical error, Randall County was spelled with two "ll"s instead of the correct one "l".

E. W. Gantt came to Arkansas in the early 1850s. A lawyer by training, he was initially in the Camden area and met and married Margaret Reid of Tulip, then a community known for its well-to-do families and high standards of education. He moved to Washington, Arkansas, in the mid-1850s to become the prosecuting attorney for that district. He became involved in politics and won a seat in Congress in

the 1860 election in a bitterly fought contest. He never took his seat, however, because of secession. An ardent secessionist, he campaigned for Arkansas to leave the Union.

When the war came, Gantt recruited the 12th Arkansas Infantry largely in Dallas County and served as its colonel. The 12th was defeated and taken prisoner at Fort Donelson and Island No. 10. Gantt was imprisoned in the North but later exchanged. Purportedly he was promoted to brigadier general, but his promotion cannot be confirmed.

Stung by criticism and disappointed in events and his own ambitions, Gantt went east from Arkansas ostensibly seeking a command. He turned himself over to Union forces near Vicksburg in June 1863. He was taken to Washington to meet President Lincoln and returned to Arkansas in the fall of 1863 as a proponent of Unionism. He made well-publicized speeches urging rejoining the Union. After the close of the war and Lincoln's assassination, Gantt served as the head of the Freedmen's Bureau in Washington, Arkansas, for a five-county region for a time before moving to Little Rock.

Widely despised for his dramatic reversal during the war and often smeared in the newspapers, Gantt's chances for a political career were over. He died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Little Rock in 1874. His body was taken to his wife's home in the community of Tulip for burial. Now he is a largely forgotten figure from the Civil War in Arkansas.

The SWACWHT group then caravanned to the Tulip Cemetery to visit Gantt's gravesite. After visiting the Tulip necropolis, members of the group drove on



Jenkins' Ferry State Park

for a brief visit to the Jenkins' Ferry State Park via Leola.

A Friends of Jenkins' Ferry was formed recently to promote the battlefield site. A joint venture of the SEACWHT and SWACWHT groups, Mark Kalkenbrenner and Tom Beam were present for the initial meeting in Grant County. Tom Beam was elected chair of the newly-formed group.

The Nevada County Industrial Development Corporation recently received an extension on its grant to study Civil War battlefields in Nevada County. The sites under study include the National Historic Landmarks at Elkins Ferry and Prairie D' Ane and a rearguard action at Moscow just outside the Prescott city limits.

Mary Godwin, the economic development officer at Prescott, has submitted a proposal to hire Joseph and Maria Brent of Versailles, KY, to study the area. The Brents are a husband and wife consulting firm specializing in public history. They have been involved in numerous projects nationwide. The proposal must be approved by the federal authorities administering the grant. Approval is expected after the first of the year.

SWACWHT will hold its next meeting at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas, in February 2009. Time and date will be released later.

Participants are urged to come early to eat at Williams Tavern. After the meeting, the group will caravan to nearby Fulton, Arkansas, to see the Civil War earthworks still standing in the area.

Dodd memorial moved to MacArthur Museum; CACWHT seeks to expand membership list

By Rick Meadows
CACWHT Chair

Thanks to David Gruenewald who has spearheaded the effort for the movement of the David O. Dodd marker and for securing funding for a new interpretative panel. The marker and new wayside sign can be viewed at the MacArthur Museum of Military History on the parade grounds just south of the museum.

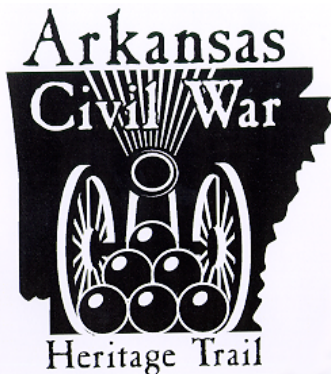
For a number of years the marker had been on the property of the University of Arkansas Law School and not visible to the public. We also want to thank the Parks Department of the City of Little Rock for their labor, which was donated for this project, and to Stephen McAteer at the MacArthur Museum for

his guidance. The public was invited to attend the dedication of the new wayside sign on Saturday, January 10. The dedication followed the annual remembrance service of David O. Dodd at Mount Holly Cemetery.

Each of us has been saddened by the death of Chuck Durnett on July 4, 2008. He was active with the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas, serving as secretary and newsletter editor. In addition, he was active with the SCV, had served faithfully as chair of the CACWHT, and was web master of the outstanding web site www.civilwarbuff.org. Since Chuck's death, Pris Weathers has maintained and has made many improvements to the web site. "What's New" is a feature that Pris updates almost weekly. Additional

links to other Civil War sites have been added. This web site should be added to your Favorites! Thank you, Pris, for all of your help!

I have been busy the last few months updating our mailing lists within the seven-county area we serve. On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, there was a meeting of all persons and groups who are interested in identifying, preserving, promoting, and educating the public about Civil War properties in Central Arkansas. Invitations were sent to historical and genealogical societies, museums, history commissions, Civil War Roundtables, and other interested parties. The meeting was held at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant in Jacksonville. Acting together we can make a difference!



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The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Other DAH agencies are the Arts Council, the Old State House Museum, the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and the Natural Heritage Commission.

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