GREAT BASIN
National Heritage Area

The Newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partners

There is a reason they call it Great! —Its loneliness and wide open spaces appeal to the special few.

September board meeting to be held in Fillmore

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership will be holding its regular fall Board meeting on Saturday September 11, in Fillmore, Utah. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am MDT at the Fillmore Library 25 South 100 West in Fillmore. As part of its regular organizational business, the board will consider approval of a contract for enhancing the Partnership website so that it enjoys a greater level of visitation.

During the business meeting, the Board will entertain a discussion about partnering with various local organizations for the preservation and interpretation of archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational heritage resources of the Great Basin Natural Heritage Area. The Great Basin National Heritage Area includes White Pine County in Nevada, Millard County in Utah and adjacent tribal lands.

As always, the public is invited and will be offered an opportunity to comment.

BARBED WIRE BEAUTY INSIDE

See art that liberated souls.

JUL 14-OCT 15

Springville Museum of Art

The Springfield (UT) Museum of Art in collaboration with our heritage partner the Topaz Museum of Delta is presenting "The art of Topaz: Beauty Inside Barbed Wire. The exhibit is composed of artwork created during the operation of the Topaz Japanese American WWII Internment camp.

These pieces have not been seen on display in Utah since 1945. Artists include Chirua Obata, Mine' Okubo and Charles Suiko Makami.

.....there is a bit more about this exhibit on page 3.

Volume 2 Issue 3

September 2010

Meet Some of Our Stakeholders:

- *Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV*
- *Nevada Mining Association*
- *University of Nevada Oral History Program*
- *Northern Nevada Railway Museum*
- *Utah Office of Tourism*
- *Utah Arts Council*
- *Utah Humanities Council*
- *Utah Territorial Statehouse Museum*

Inside This Issue

President's Report	2
Heritage Fish Restored	3
GBNHA News Shorts	3
More on "Beauty Inside"	3
Heritage Crafts at White Pine Co. Fair	4,5
About Us	6

GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS

GBH News is the official newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership and is produced by its Executive Director, R. Dan Gooch.

GBH NEWS is published periodically. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Some copies are also mailed or e-mailed to GBNHA partners and associates.

GBH NEWS will accept articles from partners or interested parties on heritage issues or events occurring within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Articles may include photos (preferably in JPG format) accompanied by a cover letter with the author's name, address and telephone number. They may be mailed to:

GBH News
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311
or e-mailed to greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com

Great Basin National Heritage Partnership Board:

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Become involved...

GBNHP seeks partners to join us as supporters, funders, operators of heritage features, volunteers, or even as critics.
Contact us at:
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311
or e-mailed to greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com
Phone (775) 234-7171

A Report from the President

The highlight in June of the Annual Meeting of GBHAP in Baker was the musical performance of the Home Schooled children of EskDale Community. The talent and enthusiasm of the performers is so much fun to observe and really livened up the meeting.

Our guest speaker, Charles Flynn of Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, stressed the importance of hitting the ground running and establishing a track record where others can see our progress and what we can contribute to our partners. When he heard that we had not spent any of the 2010 money and had approved but not transferred the $25,000 that we approved at the meeting in Delta in March, 2009to partner with the Nevada Northern Railroad Museum his response was "Spend it". With that in mind, we are working with the Museum to come up with a specific project resolution that will speed the process.

Board members and staff have distributed many partnership packets and had positive responses from potential partners including, for example, the White Pine County School District, White Pine Chamber of Commerce, Nevada Arts Council and National Parks and Conservation. These packets are designed to be a simple way to formalize partnerships with the Heritage Area. If you represent an agency or organization that would like to partner with the Great Basin National Heritage Area, please contact our office at 775 234 7300. If you have received a packet and have not yet sent us a partnership agreement, please do so soon.

The Great Basin National Park Foundation held its quarterly meeting in Baker in August. During the course of the meeting, it was suggested that perhaps the Heritage Area could provide some bookkeeping services for their fund raising project. This could be a good joint use of staff. The Board will be considering their proposal soon.

Also, a board member at the GB Park Foundation has agreed to a request to have his law office transcribe our oral history collection. This is a significant offer from Mr. Morrell and will result in a professional service worth thousands of dollars in match for the Partnership.

On August 5, Nevada Humanities Executive Director, Christina Barr and some of her staff traveled to Baker where we talked about various ways to partner and how we can apply for Humanities grants.

The succession and administrative development committee agreed at an August meeting that the Partnership should consider acquiring another employee who would be a grants writer/administrator.

With the draft Management Plan nearing completion and with our outreach and conversations with partners, I feel that we are in a good position to really contribute to partners and projects within our area. This is as exciting a time as we have had since designation.

Denys Koyle, GBNHP President

Duckwater project has restored heritage fish

The project is now mature, but it started back in 2003 when the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, one of our heritage partners, began working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the reservation's Big Warm Spring and one of its native inhabitants.

The Railroad Valley Springfish (Crenichthys nevadae) is the only fish native to the thermal springs of Railroad Valley. As the ancient Lake Railroad dried up thousands of years ago, the Springfish became isolated in a few remaining springs. The Railroad Valley Springfish now is native to only seven thermal springs, one of which is the Big Warm Spring located on the Duckwater Shoshone Indian Reservation.

Illustration by Joseph R. Tomelleri

For thousands of generations the Nuwah (Shoshone People) have lived in the Duckwater Valley region. Thermal springs sustained their life ways. Even the small 2 inch long fish nourished them. Traditionally, Springfish were prepared by roasting with hot coals in winnowing trays, ground into a paste, or dried.

Back in the 1930s the Railroad Valley Springfish population at Big Warm Spring was reported as "teeming" and "abundant." By 1981 the fish were "exceedingly rare." Changes in the habitat such as non-native fish introductions, spring channelization, were largely responsible for the population crash.

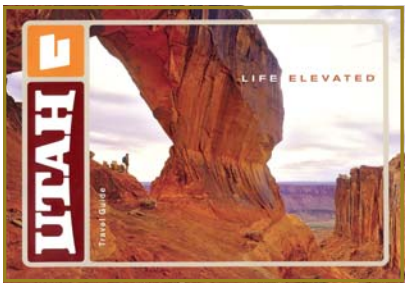
In 2003 the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered to recover the Railroad Valley Springfish. Non-native fish were removed the stream channels along with 68 acres of wetland habitat next to the spring, and 45 acres of upland habitat were restored.

Today the spring is sparkling, beautifully restored and interpreted to passersby with large plaques. The GBNHP will be working with the Duckwater Shoshone tribe to expand interpretation and understanding of the spring and its importance.

Great Basin Heritage Area News Shorts

Heritage features promoted

A new edition of LIFE ELEVATED, a travel guide, has just been published by the Utah Office on Tourism.



The Partnership was pleased to note inclusion of the Great Basin National Heritage Route and its heritage partners and features in the Central Utah listing for Utah's Historic Sites. Listed were: Topaz Relocation Center Historic Site, The Territorial Statehouse Museum and the Pony Express and Overland Stagecoach Routes.

Grant is received

In late July the GBNHP received a Tumblewords Grant from the Nevada Arts Council in support of brief residency for Linda Hussa, a rural California word artist who read poems about the importance of water and the value of its protection at the annual Snake Valley Festival in Baker, NV.

And, another grant received

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership was pleased to have been notified recently by the Nevada Commission on Tourism that it had been awarded a grant to enhance the Partnership website. A request for proposals was developed and proposals have been received. The Board will be considering a recommended contractor at its September meeting.

The approved contractor will reformat copy, create keywords and establish links with other sites that will together increase the likelihood that the Great Basin Heritage Area website will be found and appear towards the top of an internet search list. We ask our partners to link to our site. Mutual linking of this kind will improve search visibility for both sites.

.....From Page 1 Art of Topaz:Beauty Inside Barbed Wire

During World War II, over 11,000 Japanese-Americans were relocated to an internment camp in Topaz, Utah (Millard County). During the three years of war, the residents of Topaz developed schools, art programs, and an insightful and profound cultural life. This exhibit highlights art created by Japanese-American artists at Topaz Internment Camp, as well as a few works inspired by events at Topaz.

TOPAZ MUSEUM

topaz.zmuseum.org

White Pine County Fair reveals regional heritage crafts

Preparing a Heritage Area Management Plan takes researchers to some interesting and fun places and sometimes reveals some gratifying finds. So it was with a trip to the White Pine County Fair.

The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership is in the midst of preparing its Management Plan. The plan will identify and analyze the heritage features and stakeholders in the Heritage Area and suggest how the Partnership will work with these resources over the next 10 to 15 years to match the mission of the Heritage Area. It has been a major task to identify all the area heritage features. We started with a list of categories (see example in sidebar). The challenge was to find concrete examples in each heritage category on the list. Until recently the category of regional heritage arts and crafts and domestic arts has been thinly populated. But a visit in late August to the White Pine County Fair changed all that!

The most widely practiced domestic art, by estimation of number and quality of entries seems to be that of quilting. In addition to traditional patterns and design, as shown on these pages, some quilters were employing more contemporary designs and themes. As part of the proposed management plan, the Heritage Partnership may be working with state heritage and arts councils and local quilting groups to document prevalent traditional design patterns in this area and catalog changes in design preference over time.

The second most prevalent heritage activity, by virtue of entries was gardening. Entries included, along with the beans shown with the blue ribbon on these pages, onions, cab-

The initial outline for the management plan included this snippet exemplifying categories for which we sought local heritage features:

Arts and Craft Heritage Resources
- Textile, pottery, painting and drawing, sculpting,
- Important People to Handcrafting Heritage
- Handcrafting Sites & Institutions
- Handcrafting Festivals and Events

Agricultural / Ranching Heritage Resources
- Agricultural Commodities and Farmers Markets
- Historic and Century Farms
- Agricultural-- Ranching Festivals
- Fairs/Rodeos

Dance
Domestic Crafts
Educational Heritage Events
Musical Heritage Resources (Other performing Arts)
- Important People to Music Heritage
- Musical Institutions, Media, and Other Places
- Music Festivals, Jam Sessions, and Other

bage, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, potatoes and many other vegetables. Surprisingly, few fruits were exhibited. It is likely that the Heritage Partnership during the next 10-15 years will work with extension agents and others to help list what fruits and vegetables have been shown to be most uniquely suited to this area and which have had the longest and richest local history.

The fair exhibited entries of leather working and leather braiding. Both would have come from a regional tradition of ornamenting leather working gear used in ranching. A beautifully crafted pair of chaps won top prize. A braided and knotted quirt also won honors.

The most surprising heritage entry was the gorgeous cribbage board (shown on these pages) that was crafted from an elk antler and further ornamented with restrained scrimshaw (etching on bone, antler or ivory).

The Draft Management Plan is nearing completion and will be made available to our partners and stakeholders and to the public for review and comment. If any of the readers of this newsletter know of significant heritage arts or crafts in our region we invite you to bring them to our attention at any time during this process.

Heritage News
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311

The Newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership.
We are on the Web. Visit us at:
http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/

For best reading, download and print this edition in **color.**

Become a GBNHA Partner
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http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/

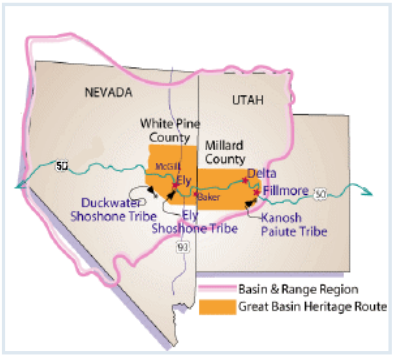
The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership

Our mission is to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.

You may want to know a little about our history and our objectives…

And join us as a partner

The Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA) was designated by Congress in 2006 to recognize its "classic western landscape that contains long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archaeological sites and tribal communities." The recognized Area is made up of two neighboring counties, White Pine in Nevada, Millard in Utah, as representative of the larger geographic Great Basin.



The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership (GBNHP) was designated as the local coordinating entity for the Area.

The Partnership has been in operation formally since 2002 when it was incorporated. It had been active informally prior to that.

In addition to developing a management plan, the Partnership is currently reformulating its relationship with organizations and agencies that were, are or could be partners. Partners are nothing more than individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, or even foundations that have an interest in the Great Basin National Heritage Area and want to participate in what the partnership is doing. Relationships can be formal; the partnership has a written agreement with the National Park Service and we are working on developing memorandums of understanding with local BLM Offices. Or, they can be informal; we have simple letters of support from a number of groups. No written documentation is necessary if individuals want to volunteer.