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## A Note from former Board President Gail DeBusse Potter



Each year, a project is selected as the “1942 Project” and the chosen project serves as a reflection of the Foundation’s mission and reflective of the state. During 2022, the inaugural year for this project, and we shared the launch of the "Walk to the Rock" walking trail at Chimney Rock.

This year, the NSHS Foundation accomplished many goals; it was a year of tremendous outreach and engagement with the ENTIRE STATE. Your support is needed now more than ever.

Did you know that when this Foundation applies for grants from other foundations and organizations, one of the main questions is, “What percentage of your board are donors to your organization?”

This question poses difficulty for us because not all of our board or trustees are donors to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. The best answer we can provide is that 100% of our board and trustees are donors, but we can’t say that.

For nearly 20 years, I served as the director of the Museum of the Fur Trade. It was an incredible achievement to be able to state that our entire board, all 87 volunteers, all of the paid staff, and two-thirds of the 2,756 members were donors to the Museum. This fact highlighted the shared commitment to the mission of the Fur Trade. The overwhelming support filled us with pride. It is something we should strive for with the NSHSF!

I'm not asking for large monetary contributions, anything ranging from \$5.00 to \$5,000 would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, if these contributions are made annually, or even monthly, it would be even more beneficial.

Hence, as my final initiative as the outgoing president of this Foundation, if you are not already donating, I encourage you to become a donor.

I eagerly anticipate continuing my work for the NSHS Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society (dba History Nebraska).

Gail DeBuse Potter  
NSHSF President 2021-2023

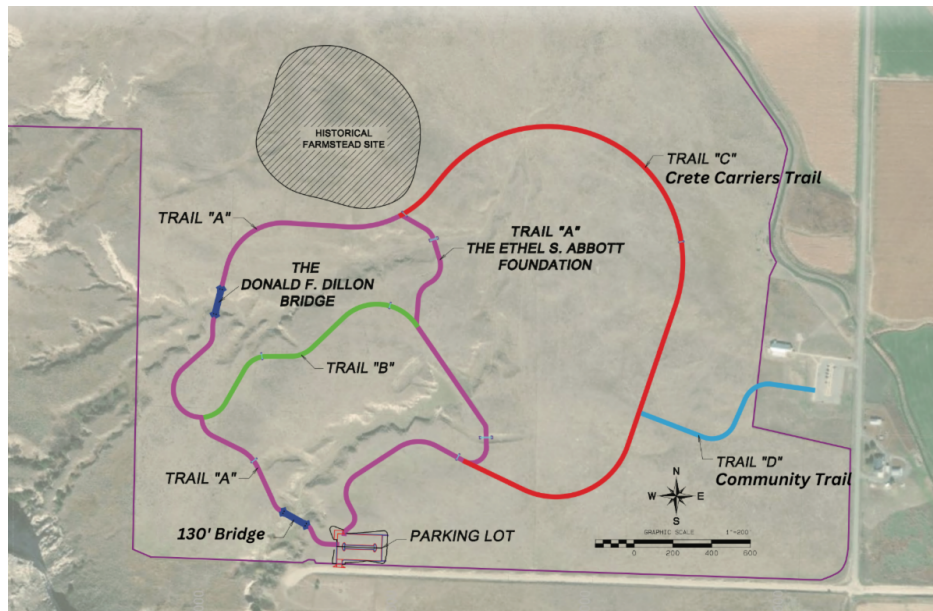
## You're Invited to the Walk to the Rock Public Dedication



Join us for the public dedication of Walk to the Rock, a 2.2 mile trail system circling Chimney Rock in Bayard, Nebraska. The dedication will be at the trailhead which is located across from the Chimney Rock Cemetery on County Road 98 in Bayard, and will begin at noon on Saturday, July 29.

Directions: Go past the Abbott Visitor Center and proceed to the "T" in the road. Turn right and go to the end of the road. The parking lot is on the right hand side, across from Chimney Rock cemetery.

The Gering Bakery's Chimney Rock cookies will be given to the first 200 visitors.



The Walk To The Rock Community Trail, connecting the Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitors Center to the three larger loops as shown on the map, is dedicated to the western Nebraska community and all of our generous donors. While gifts of any size are welcome and appreciated, donations of \$1000 and above will receive name recognition and will be posted on the trail.

Although the trail will be officially open to the public, we are still accepting donations to complete our fundraising goal for this project. If you would like to help us close the \$350,000 gap, you can visit the link below and make a donation. We appreciate your support!

[Donate to Walk to the Rock](#)

## Welcome our New Board President: Roger Lempke



On July 30<sup>th</sup>, Roger Lempke will take over as President of the NSHSF Board of Directors. Roger has served on the Board for the past few years as Executive Vice President and was a Trustee prior to accepting his Board position. He had been a long-



time supporter of the Johnson County Historical Society because his family is from that area and he knew the challenges they faced. He feels that it is important to support historical organizations, at the local level and state levels, in order to educate people about these early settlers and to keep their stories alive.

Roger's friend, Carol Zink, and a few others introduced him to the mission of NSHSF and he immediately got involved. As he transitions into this new role, Roger said he has 2 main goals:

- To continue to support and promote WanderNebraska and the Statewide Grants Program. These programs are all about getting out of Lincoln and appreciating everything that Nebraska has to offer, and he wants to make sure people are aware of these programs.
- To restore the relationship with History Nebraska. Roger feels that the Foundation should continue to help them accomplish their mission, so he plans to reach out in a positive way to build the relationship back up.

Roger said, "I strongly believe(s) in communication so if there are ideas on how to improve what the Foundation is doing, I am willing to listen and talk it through. I want people to feel free to contact me."

Please help us welcome Roger to this new role and thank Gail DeBuse Potter for all her wonderful work during her time as President.

## Gordon and Patty Howard Patio



In a recent visit to Bayard, the NSHS Foundation staff presented Patty Howard with a preview of the dedication plaque for the Howard and Patty Howard Patio near Walk to the Rock.

Believing deeply in the preservation of Nebraska history, Gordon and Patty donated land for the Chimney Rock Visitors Center. They loved to talk about, study, learn, preserve, interpret and teach Oregon Trail history. The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is grateful to Patty and her family, for their support of the "Walk to the Rock", and have designated a patio in their honor.

[Learn more about Walk to the Rock](#)

## Featured WanderNebraska Site



Valley's first school building from 1896 and home to the Valley Museum

Hidden gems of museums, research facilities, and cultural wonders are scattered all over Nebraska- some easier to find than others! With the help of our WanderNebraska website, you can find over 170 museums, libraries, and historical societies in Nebraska like the Valley Community Historical Society pictured above.

The Valley Community Historical Society, in Valley, NE, houses artifacts from the county, including Native American relics, mammoth fossils, and a Union Pacific Railroad caboose among other Valley history items. The museum is open on Sundays, May-September from 1-3pm or by appointment.

[Visit WanderNebraska](#)

## Events:

**July 21-22:** Chautauqua: "What Connects Us", Stuhr Museum

**July 21:** An Evening with Mark Twain and Edith Wharton, Stuhr Museum, 5:30pm

**July 22:** "African and American: Connecting through Story and Song", Grand Island Public Library, 10am

**July 22:** "What Connects Us: Indigenous Peoples & All Americans", Grand Island Public Library, 11am

**July 22:** KIND Nebraskans: Personal Stories of Nebraskans in World War II, Cambridge Museum, 2:30pm

**July 23:** Myths of Women's Madness on the Plains, Kearney Archway, 2pm

**July 24:** 41st Annual National Trails Conference, Scotts Bluff National Monument

**July 25-29:** Oregon-California Trails Association Convention, Gering Civic Center

**July 27:** Joslyn Castle Architecture on Tap speaker series, Joslyn Castle, 5:30pm

**Aug. 1-31:** Artist of the Month- Linda Marie Evan, Robert Henri Museum

**Aug. 4:** Lexington Public Library Street Dance, 6-9pm

Have any events you'd like us to share? Email Leslie Fattig at [lfattig@nshsf.org](mailto:lfattig@nshsf.org)

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