

# Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



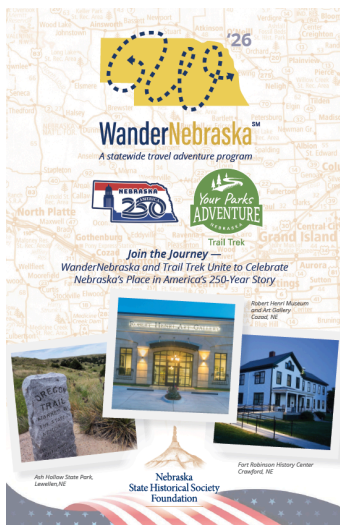
ABOUT

PROJECTS

DONATE



## Booklets Ship this Month — Preorders Still Available!



The wait for WanderNebraska 2026 Booklets is nearly over! This year's booklets start shipping mid-April. Soon you'll be able to flip through the pages and find more than 250 amazing stops including museums, landmarks and parks across the state.

There's still time to preorder. This year, we're asking for a \$5 donation per booklet (max of 3 per order) to offset postage and printing costs. Travelers can also pick up free booklets at any registered WanderNebraska site starting when the program launches on May 1.

We're also putting the finishing touches on the new, free WanderNebraska app, launching for the very first time in 2026! This exciting digital experience will make it easier than ever for travelers to discover sites, learn their stories, and track visits as they make progress toward prizes. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to launch.

One last thing - Don't forget to follow our NEW WanderNebraska social media channels to stay up-to-date with all things WanderNebraska throughout the season. Find us at [@wandernebraska](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

PREORDER BOOKLET NOW



## Partnership in Action: Enhancements to Walk to the Rock Trails



**Left to right:** Teresa Breazile (NSHSF), Brenda Leisy (Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau), and Sandra Reddish (NSHSF) at Nebraska West Fest in Scottsbluff, celebrating partnership and support for the Walk to the Rock improvements.



Sandra Reddish (NSHSF) and Teresa Breazile (NSHSF) map out the perfect spot for the WTTR Story App sign at Trailhead D.

---

On Saturday, March 21, Sandra Reddish, NSHSF West Division Coordinator, and Teresa Breazile, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, attended the inaugural West Fest in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The event brought together community members from across the region to celebrate western Nebraska's culture, while raising funds in support of the Gering Public Library's expansion project, an effort aimed at enhancing access to educational resources, community programming, and public gathering space.

Nebraska West Fest provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with local partners and supporters. During the event, Teresa and Sandra had the pleasure of meeting with Brenda Leisy of the Scottsbluff Visitors Bureau to personally express their appreciation for the Bureau's generous support of the Walk to the Rock (WTTR) Attraction Improvements Project.

That same weekend, work was underway at the Walk to the Rock site as the first WTTR Story Mobile App signs were installed at key trailheads. These installations mark an important step in enhancing the visitor experience and connect directly to the improvements highlighted through this partnership.

Through a \$15,500 grant from the Scottsbluff Visitors Bureau, the NSHSF has been able to significantly enhance the WTTR experience. Funding supported the development of a new WTTR Story Mobile App, as well as the installation of signage, benches, and additional security cameras along the trail. These improvements directly contribute to the comfort, safety, and educational value of the site.

With more than 15,000 visitors exploring the trails each year, these enhancements ensure that Walk to the Rock continues to serve as a welcoming, informative, and well-maintained destination for all. Partnerships like this one are vital to preserving and elevating Nebraska's historical sites, and we are grateful for the continued collaboration and shared commitment to community enrichment.

---



Sandra Reddish (NSHSF) and NSHSF volunteer, Jerry Breazile complete minor fence repairs at Walk to the Rock, helping prepare the site for the upcoming visitor season.



Sandra Reddish (NSHSF) and NSHSF volunteer, Jerry Breazile prepare to install the WTRR Story Mobile App sign at Trailhead A. The Story App offers visitors an interactive, self-guided experience, sharing the rich history of the site through engaging stories and digital content accessible right from their mobile devices.



## Creativity at Work for WTRR Trails



The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is finding new, creative ways to market and promote the Walk to the Rock Trails by utilizing community resources like the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library makerspace.

West Division Coordinator Sandra Reddish has been working in the library's makerspace, learning to use the laser cutter to design and prototype trail-inspired wooden pieces. While still in the early stages, these concepts could eventually become visitor souvenirs and provide a potential source of future support for the Trails.

During a recent visit, Sandra demonstrated the technology to Teresa Breazile, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator. They also met with Library Director Elaine Bleisch and staff to learn more about the makerspace and its capabilities.



## WildNebraska Success: NSHSF and Papa Moon Generate \$3,000 Impact



Ryan and Katlyn Massey of Papa Moon present a \$3,000 check to NSHSF's Teresa Breazile and Sandra Reddish, celebrating WildNebraska cider's sold-out success. Papa Moon welcomed them the day before at the Inaugural Nebraska West Fest on March 21 at their Scottsbluff headquarters, a showcase of Nebraska craft beverages supporting the Gering Public Library's expansion project.

On Sunday, March 22, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation marked a full-circle moment with the receipt of a \$3,000 donation check from **Papa Moon Vineyards & Winery in Scottsbluff, Nebraska**. The gift represents proceeds from the limited-edition WildNebraska cider.

What began nearly a year ago as a creative collaboration came to life last fall with the debut of a cider crafted from native flavors like prickly pear and goldenrod, capturing the spirit of the Great Plains in every sip. The response was immediate and enthusiastic, with WildNebraska selling out in December.

This milestone reflects more than a successful product; it's a testament to the power of partnership and community. Every purchase supported the Foundation's mission and celebrated Nebraska in a uniquely local way.

We are especially grateful to Ryan and Katlyn Massey, along with the entire Papa Moon team, for their creativity, dedication, and partnership throughout this journey. WildNebraska became more than a cider, it became a shared experience.

To everyone who raised a glass with us, thank you for helping turn this idea into impact.

And good news, WildNebraska will be back for another round later this summer. Stay thirsty, Nebraska!



# Cottonwood Legacy Council Gets Behind-the-Scenes Look at Nebraska History Museum



Jordan Miller shares selected artifacts from the Nebraska History Museum's collections during the exclusive tour.



Patric Vendetti with the Nebraska History Museum shares how custom exhibit components are designed and fabricated in-house using advanced tools and technology.

On Monday, March 23, we were honored to host members of the Cottonwood Legacy Council for a personalized VIP experience at the Nebraska History Museum. This special behind-the-scenes tour offered a closer look at the collections department, providing insight into the care and preservation of Nebraska's history. Our members were welcomed by Daryl Bohac, Director of the NSHS; Jordan Miller, 3-D Objects Curator; Christian Newth, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator; Patric Vendetti - Exhibits Technician; and Angela Fox, Exhibits Manager.

Guests also explored the museum's fabrication space, where they were introduced to new tools and equipment, including a 3D printer, CNC machine, and laser cutter. These innovative resources, made possible through the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and the generosity of our 150 Fund donors, are transforming how exhibits come to life. By allowing much of the fabrication process to happen in-house, from custom cabinetry to exhibit casework and signage, these tools ensure that every philanthropic dollar goes further in supporting our mission.

We are deeply grateful to our Cottonwood Legacy Council members for their continued commitment to preserving Nebraska's stories. And to all of our donors—thank you! Your support drives the impactful work happening every day across our organization.



Cottonwood Legacy Council members gather for a behind-the-scenes tour at the Nebraska History Museum. **Pictured left to right:** David Boyer, Teresa Breazile, Suzi Weersing, McKenna Jacquemet, Rolando Garcia, and Leslie Fattig.



## There's Still Time to Support the Engineer Cantonment Improvement Project



We're gaining exciting momentum in our campaign to raise \$18,000 for the turnout, interpretive panels, and Nebraska Historical Marker at Engineer Cantonment. This long-overdue project is well on its way—thanks to an incredible group of supporters.

Leading the charge are generous trustees and friends: Harl and Kay Dalstrom; Ron and Judy Parks; Don Dillon; Bill and Jan Hill; Marvin Stumpf; Marty and Leslie Fattig; Bob and Carmen Shively; Sara and John Crook; Brent Comstock; and Larry Small. Their leadership is making this vision a reality.

We're also grateful for additional gifts from Roger and Shirlee Lempke and Jeff and Sue Barnes—every contribution is helping move us closer to the finish line.

Special thanks to lead donors Nancy and Mike McCarthy, whose early and enthusiastic support helped launch this effort and set it on a strong path forward.

Just eight \$1,000 sponsorships remain. Donors at this level will be recognized on the interpretive panels, creating a lasting legacy at Engineer Cantonment.

Join us: <https://www.nshsf.org/projects/engineer-cantonment/>



## Get Your Tickets for WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip

We are excited to announce the date for our 2026 **WANDERNEBRASKA: THE GREAT ROADTRIP!** Mark your calendars for August 21st so you don't miss the fun.

**Thank you to our Sponsors!**

John K. and Lynne D. Boyer Family Foundation  
Tallgrass  
Amerimax  
Gail DeBuse Potter  
Union Bank & Trust

For more information on sponsorship, [click here](#).

**Get Your Tickets Now - Click Here for More Information**



Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation | 1201 Lincoln Mall Suite 100 | Lincoln, NE 68508 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!