

# OUR Chisholm Trail Heritage Center NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

Our Mission: "To celebrate and perpetuate the history, art and culture of the Chisholm Trail, the American Cowboy and the American West."



## AARON MALLARD

**Sunday, March 22, 2015**

**Artist Reception starts**

**at 1:15 pm**

**Exhibit Grand Opening  
& Ribbon Cutting - 2 pm**

**Show Dates: March 22 - May 22, 2015**

Graphic History and unveiling of the new  
Chisholm Trail Heritage Center graphic novel

Please join us for this special exhibit and welcome artist Aaron Mallard, creator of a new graphic novel designed for students and adults to explore the Chisholm Trail history and become inspired to add their artistic touch to the pages within this book.

*"I hope young children will be able to take something away from this that they will be able to use in the future as artists."*

## Cowboys and cattle stampede into graphic novel world

Every little boy has a dream and for Aaron Mallard, growing up in the Delta region of Arkansas, it was to be a comic book artist. Now a grown man, he's finally seeing his dream realized and not quite in the way he imagined. Mallard was commissioned by the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in late 2013 to create a new historically-accurate graphic novel based on the Chisholm Trail.

"This project came through Stacy Moore and I jumped at it," Mallard said. "I had to read a lot about the Chisholm Trail. I'm not a historian or anything, but I had to have some kind of reference point." For Mallard, it meant spending an excess amount of time at the Siloam Springs library, where he lives in Northwest Arkansas.

"I started drawing cowboy-era paraphernalia, hats, saddles, chuck wagons. There was quite a bit of research involved. For several reasons I really loved the project. I love the Civil War era and the cattle drive followed the Civil War. It was the next big thing in history."

When Mallard was younger, he would submit drawings and ideas to Marvel, but nothing resulted from his attempts. He didn't give up his dream. After marriage, his wife, Alice, encouraged him to return to school. In December



2013, he completed his schooling at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark., earning his visual design degree.

"A lot of people do comics in Photoshop and I was just out of college. The very first page is the chuck wagon and cook. That one was all digital."

The chuck wagon was also the most labor-intensive of the pages, as it has so many pieces that needed to have exact dimensions. He realized he was spending too much time with the multiple layers and technology of the project, and decided to complete the book the old-fashioned way. After he finished the pages, he scanned, then refined each one on the computer.

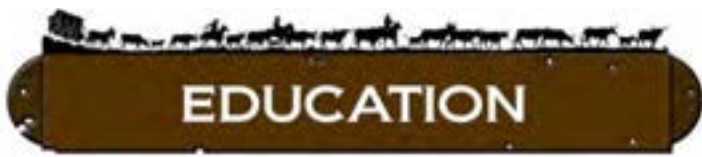
"What we think we know is not historically accurate. Hollywood has

tainted what we know – giving people what they want and ignoring what happened (in history). That is one of the things that struck me as I researched the Chisholm Trail cattle drive," Mallard said. Working on this project was more than just about having his first real "graphic novel" professional job.

"I'm thinking about young kids and what an impact it would have on them in the future. Doing this thing for the Heritage Center is awesome, but the one thing is, how are children going to perceive me and how a future artist will take away from this that they might be able to use. I wanted to do comic books from first grade. I learned from how-to's. and never had any encouragement. I came up in a farming community. I learned from watching other artists."

One valuable thing Mallard discovered in the course of the project was the numerous websites created by people well-versed in the Chisholm Trail.

"There are many knowledgeable people, plus valuable notes from Dr. Chris Jefferies." The late Dr. Jefferies was a noted expert on the Chisholm Trail and the Heritage Center's first executive director. He worked closely with Moore on the editing of the historical content of the graphic novel.



# EDUCATION



Andrew Ahardt creates a paper mache airplane during the new afterschool art program for Duncan Middle School youth, Creative Cafe.



Mirrissa Straily, a senior at FAME Academy, shows off some of her pottery in the Youth Art Month show in our lobby. This is a free show through March 31.

## March 29, please join us for the *Creative Writing Reception's Five Year Anniversary!*



## Saddle Up and Write

Dr. Nathan Brown inspires sixth graders in the Creative Writing program, "Saddle Up and Write" formerly known as "Writing in Response to Art."

The 2014-15 program marks the fifth year anniversary. A reception for the students will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

Dr. Brown will give a small talk and students can read their favorite selections aloud, if they so choose.

If you were a student in this program during the past five years, we hope you will attend this special reception! Students from Duncan, Empire and Marlow participate in this annual program.

The Heritage Center produces a special book featuring each student's favorite writings. Each student will receive a copy at the reception. Parents, grandparents, family, friends and teachers are welcome to this public reception. There will be refreshments.

For information, please call Education Coordinator Leah Mulkey at 580-252-6692, during the week.



### EARN YOUR OKLAHOMA SPIRIT BADGE!



This is the 2nd Girl Scouts of Western Oklahoma badge workshop.

If you are a Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette and want to earn your Oklahoma Spirit Badge, this is the workshop to attend!

This year's workshop will have special guests: Katie Western, KSWO Meteorologist; Lynette Blevins, Girl Scout Service Unit Specialist; Cheri Long with Ag in the Classroom for Oklahoma; and Gina Flesher, RN with Duncan Regional Hospital.

**WHEN: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 11, 2015**

**WHERE: Chisholm Trail Heritage Center  
1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway -Duncan, OK**

Registration deadline: April 3, 2015  
Cost: \$10 per scout Parents & Siblings: \$3 each

There will be a Chisholm Trail participation badge for 1st time attendees. Oklahoma Spirit Badges may be purchased through the Girl Scout Shop.  
To register: Call 580-252-6692  
or email: [leah@onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:leah@onthechisholmtrail.com)

**Oklahoma Land Give Away field trip sessions are filling fast! If you are a teacher and want your class to participate in this annual event, please call or email Leah Mulkey immediately to book your session. (580)-252-6692 or [leah@onthechisholmtrail.com](mailto:leah@onthechisholmtrail.com)**

# CTHC seeking "Real Cowboys" submissions for exhibit celebrating 150 years

## Are you a real cowboy?

We have an exciting new exhibit in the making featuring the ranchers, cowboys and cowgirls who have worked along the Chisholm Trail.

This exhibit will be ongoing from now until Dec. 31, 2017, as part of the museum's effort to honor the Chisholm Trail's 150th year.

"It's about honoring the real cowboys of the Trail," Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore said.

"These are the men and women who have made ranching their lifestyle, or participated in rodeos, but never sought the glory."

Any man or woman involved in the ranching business along the Chisholm Trail can submit one photo and a short story, up to 100 words about their role in ranching and rodeo. These photos and stories will be framed and exhibited in the museum's interactive area near the Campfire Theater.

"We've already received a few "real cowboy" submissions. The first one was from Don



Brower. His father, Bobby Wayne Brower died in 2014, and Don had this old black and white picture of his dad calf roping at a small rodeo. The photo is undated but it is probably from the 1960s," CTHC PR & Marketing Coordinator Toni Hopper said. "Don's dad was born in Duncan in 1930 and except for service time in the Navy, Bobby lived here his entire life. He worked on a lot of the area ranches and while he was never a champion in the rodeo arena, he loved being a cowboy. He loved bullriding, bareback and calf roping."

LeAnn Sellers, daughter of Johnny Fisher, (seen in vintage photograph at left) brought in a treasure trove of images and stories of her father and grandfather - both with deep Oklahoma legacies.

"Those are the people and the images we want to feature in this exhibit."

### How to Submit your Cowboy story:

Since the exhibit will be up 2015-2018.

Images and stories can be submitted at any time. They can be sent by email:

toni@onthechisholmtrail.com, mailed or hand delivered. You will be able to keep your original image. If emailing images, please send a high resolution jpg attachment. The story should be about the person in the image and their connection to the Chisholm Trail, ranching and the rodeo lifestyle. For information, call the museum at 580-252-6692. Information will also be available on the Heritage Center's Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/events](http://www.facebook.com/onthechisholmtrail/events)



"Art Builds Bridges" Free exhibit in the main lobby featuring art from area high school students continues to March 31.

**Creative Cafe:** An After-School Art Program for Duncan Middle School students every Wednesday - March 3-April 15, 3-5:30 p.m. Limited space. Call Shari (580) 252-6692 to reserve your spot.

**Creative Writing Reception:**  
2 p.m. Sunday, March 29

Duncan High School Advanced Placement Senior Art Show  
May 8-15

Oklahoma Museums Week - May 17-23

**Event: National Day of the Cowboy celebration - Saturday, July 25**  
A free day for individuals and families to celebrate with us the heritage of the cowboy. Live music, games and entertainment. Indoors.



*Grand Ole Opry stars get ready for television, January 1955 - Gordon Gillingham, photographer. One of 30 images in our upcoming summer exhibit. Please watch our Facebook page, under the Events tab for details.*

**Exhibit: Grand Ol' Opry - Celebrating the Singing Cowboy** June 16-Aug. 11  
Features 30 black and white photos of behind the scenes images shot 1952-'69, documenting the WSM radio show and country music business.

**Exhibit: Woodland Hymn** by artist Christen Walden Aug. 31-Oct. 31  
Artist reception TBA. Christen brings out the finer details of nature's still life through her meticulous watercolor paintings.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, July 25, 2015**  
**National Day of the Cowboy**  
A free event for everyone!



<http://www.arts.ok.gov/>



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1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533  
Address Service Requested



## AdventureRoad.com Travel Partner

Adventure Road is your ticket to ride, your guide in discovering your next great road trip. With this brand new site, explore 130 miles of Oklahoma highway stretching from the Red River border to the revitalized heart of Oklahoma City.

Delve into the Adventures, where Destinations have been carefully collected to help you chase new experiences.

**Chisholm Trail Heritage Center** is an official Adventure Road Partner, a distinction that lets you know we're one of the area's best destinations to explore.

AdventureRoad.com also lets you plot the course yourself — you can save anything you encounter to the My Adventures page, where you can return at any moment as you're getting ready for your next road trip-worthy escape.

Get ready to lose yourself and find adventure on Adventure Road!

Pick up your Adventure Road guide today at the Heritage Center!

<https://www.adventureroad.com/destinations/chisholm-trail-heritage-center/>

### Be sure to visit us!

#### We are a ...

- \* 2014 Great Expectations Model School
- \* 2014 Oklahoma Museums Association Exhibit & Publication award winners
- \* 2013 Oklahoma Arts & Humanities Non-profit of the Year
  - \* Oklahoma Redbud for Outstanding Attraction
  - \* Top 10 Western Museum - True West Magazine
- \* 2012 Chickasaw Country's Best Museum Award



*The Chisholm Trail Heritage Association is a 501c3 non-profit.*

*Your contributions to our programs and exhibits are tax deductible.*

*Consider the Center in your estate and planned giving allocations. [stacy@on-thechisholmtrail.com](mailto:stacy@on-thechisholmtrail.com) or 580-252-6692.*

*For donations of \$500 or more, we will be happy to take your photo with our executive director and publicize your contribution, if you so choose.*

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and Amazon will make a donation to:  
**Chisholm Trail Heritage Center**

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