

NATIONAL STAGECOACH AND FREIGHT WAGON ASSOCIATION



FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

“Sharing The Legacy of a Transportation Empire”



"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

NSFWA President's Message

Fall of 2025

Greetings to all NSFWA Members and Family. The Fall season has arrived and I wish to take this opportunity to briefly recap the Organization's activities, thus far during 2025, and acquaint you with events being scheduled for 2026. Our 2025 NSFWA Conference was held at Gering Nebraska on July 9 – 12, at The Legacy of The Plains Museum. David Wolf, the Museum's Executive Director and a Member of NSFWA, was a major part of the Professional Success of the Conference. I will write more about this year's Conference in a story in this Newsletter. Earlier this year, on April 26-27, The Lyndon Saddle Club of Lyndon Kansas hosted another Farm Team Competition. NSFWA Director Frank & Peg Burkdoll led the Event to another and even bigger success this year. Todd Johnson, an NSFWA Member, offered to hand out Informational Brochures about the NSFWA at a Festival held in Missouri. From Todd doing this, we gained a New Member. Thanks Todd

2026

The NSFWA Annual Conference will be held at Fort Davis Texas on May 14 – 16, 2026. Much more important information to come. This Conference is hosted by Glenn & Patty Moreland, (512) 627-5943 or Adam Hanger (540) 490-2565. The Lyndon Farm Team Competition is planning next year's event, with more info on its way. We hope that you each had an enjoyable Summer and that Fall & Winter treats you well.

Happy Trails !!

Your NSFWA President, Jeff McManus

New Members:

We would like to welcome the following new members to the NSFWA!

- Michael Rider – Wisconsin
- Alder Gulch Historical Association c/o Megan Spring—Montana
- Jim & Mary Jensen c/o Ox Bow Trade Co. – Oregon
- Don Erbert - Kansas

Front Cover: Photo courtesy of hansenwheel.com, Photo is of an Authentic Style Henderson Mudwagon Stagecoach



"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Newsletter Editor Letter

We hope you have been enjoying the newsletters! We wanted to take a brief section of the newsletter and let the membership know that we purchased a new printer for printing the newsletters. This new printer is an Epson ET-15000 printer and has a much broader range of printing than the previous printer, as well as, it provides a more cost-effective printing.





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Upcoming Events

Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium: **(Council Grove, Kansas)**

September 19-20, 2025

The Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association is hosting the 2025 Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Council Grove, Kansas. The theme this year will be, "Marking a Road to Santa Fe: Set Your Sights on Sibley", which will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the 1825 Sibley Survey of the Santa Fe Trail. There will be a wagon show that the NSFSA will be involved in and they are looking for wagons to come to participate. For the wagon registration form, see our Events page on our website, and for more information, contact Mark Brooks @ 620-307-2754.



**MARKING A ROAD TO SANTA FE:
200TH COMMEMORATION WAGON SHOW**

September 19 & 20, 2025,
on the Santa Fe Trail, in Council Oak Park,
210 East Main Street,
Council Grove, Kansas

ANTIQUE WAGON REGISTRATION FORM

The wagon show will have two divisions: Wagon and Carriage.
Trophies will be awarded to the top entry in both divisions.
A people choice trophy will also be awarded.

Note: NO rubber tires and No animals unless approved by the Wagon Committee
Please send a photo and a short description of your wagon. There is no registration fee.

PRESENTERS INCLUDE...

Nationally renowned Wagon expert David Sneed,
National Freight Wagon and Stagecoach Association,
President and Blacksmith, Jeff McManus,
and Wagon builder and Wheelwright Don Werner

Farm Team Competition:

(Lyndon, Kansas)

April 25-26, 2026

The Lyndon Saddle Club is holding their Fifth Annual Farm Team Competition in Lyndon, Kansas. Farm teams from different parts of the country will have fun and compete in a log skidding challenge, cultivating challenge, driving challenge, and more! Come out to Lyndon, Kansas to check out this event that is focused on participants being challenged to become better teamsters. If there are any questions, please contact Frank Burkdoll @ 785-256-3430. More information to come.



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2026 Annual Conference:

(Fort Davis, Texas)

May 14-16, 2026

The NSFVA 2026 Conference will be held in Fort Davis, Texas! For any questions, contact Glenn & Patty Moreland, 512-627-5943, the conference hosts, or contact Adam Hanger at 540-490-2565.

We hope that you all can come out to this exciting and event-filled conference to enjoy the history of the past, the old Butterfield-Overland Trail from the 1850s, and the Fort Davis, Texas area!

Stay tuned for more information, registration, and schedule.

2nd Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days:

(Middlebrook, Virginia)

August 28-29, 2026

Come out to the 2nd Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days on August 28th and 29th, 2026 in Middlebrook, Va. We will be having a horse drawn vehicle and farm implement display, farm team/single horse exhibition, chuckwagon meal and chuckwagon dessert, historical presentations, saddle and harness demonstrations, and more! Come check out this event that promotes the horse heritage of the past! More information to come to include a flyer and schedule of events!

SAVE THE DATE!

**2nd Annual
Middlebrook
Horse Drawn Heritage Days**

Friday, August 28th, 2026

**(Chuckwagon Dinner, Horse Drawn Vehicle/Farm
Implement Display, and more!)**

and

Saturday August 29th, 2026

**(Horse Drawn Vehicles/Farm Implement Display,
Chuckwagon, Historical Presentations, and more!!)**

**For info, contact Adam Hanger @ 540-490-2565
or visit
Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days -
Middlebrook, Va. on Facebook.**



"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Events

2025 Annual Conference:

(Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska)

July 9-12, 2025



Our 2025 NSFVA Conference was held at Gering, Nebraska on July 9 – 12, at the Legacy of the Plains Museum. David Wolf, who is the Legacy of the Plains Museum Executive Director and a NSFVA Member, was a major part of the professional success of the Conference. This Museum is located at the foot of The Scotts Bluff National Monument. We were also blessed with an exceptional job done by several NSFVA Members and their families, along with all Members of the NSFVA Board of Directors, working together to make this Annual Conference successful. We appreciate our first time ever being awarded a grant from the Scotts Bluff County Tourism Board. This helped defray costs and by advertising, to interest our members and others to the Scotts Bluff County's event called "Oregon Trail Days " and the NSFVA Conference. With our scheduled events we brought awareness of the Oregon Trail trials and tribulations of Wagon travel.



***Doug Hansen speaking on the Oregon Trail
and the Prairie Schooner Wagon***



"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFWA Conference (continued)



We wish to give a Special Thank You to: Brenda Leisy & The Scotts Bluff County Tourism Board. I wish to give a Special Thank You to John Ewing, Rick Henderson & Family, Troy Peterson, David Wolf & his Museum Staff, Tina at The Gering Civic Center, Gene Marshall, Lee Jannsen, Bill Vaughn, Doug Hansen, Rawhide Johnson, Eric Grunwald, Jerry Lucas, Kevin Sandberg, Julie & Jason Williams, Jerry & Linda Palmer, Frank & Peg Burkdoll, Adam & Jasmine Hanger, Patrick Goodknight & Gigi White, Ricky & Judy Day, Todd Johnson & family, and to all that attended and to the other good people, who helped make the total event run smooth and to my dear wife Barb McManus.

Jeff McManus





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFWA Conference (continued)





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFWA Conference (continued)





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFWA Conference (continued)





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFWA Conference (continued)





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 2025 NSFVA Conference (continued)



Past Event: 1st Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Day

The 1st Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Day was held on Saturday, August 30th, 2025, in Middlebrook, Virginia. This event was sponsored by the NSFVA as well as other historical and private businesses. Our first event was definitely a success.

We had 9 horses representing the Belgian Draft Breed, Morgan Breed, Canadian Breed, and Quarter Horse Breed; 13 horse drawn vehicles and farm implements that consisted of farm wagons, spring wagons, a road grader, various farm implements, and a couple buggies, as well as over 400 people in attendance! We had a horse drawn vehicle and farm implement display, saddle and harness demonstration, historical talks, free chuckwagon cobbler with ice cream, and some of the teamsters/riders went for a ride around the town and surrounding area! We look forward to doing it again next year and adding events such as a chuckwagon dinner, farm team exhibition, and more! More info on this can be found in the upcoming events section of this newsletter.





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 1st Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Day: (continued)





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Past Event: 1st Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Day: (continued)





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Photo Gallery: Cheyenne Frontier Days Grand Parade





"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

Photo Gallery: Cheyenne Frontier Days Grand Parade (continued)





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Thank you to our partners!!

The American Chuck Wagon Association mission is to preserve the heritage of the chuckwagon.

For more information or if interested in joining, visit their website or contact them!



Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail Center Museum & Research Library!

It is our mission to provide visitors with fun and engaging educational opportunities to learn about the historic commerce route known as the Santa Fe Trail and the effect of Westward Expansion on what is now known as central Kansas.



Helpful Resources: Here are resources that you may find helpful in your historic preservation, restoration, and conservation. If you have a resource that is helpful, please send it in to us so we can include it in our next newsletter! Email adamdhanger@gmail.com

Or call Adam Hanger @ 540-490-2565.



The Wisconsin Historical Society is an invaluable resource for the horse drawn enthusiast. Specifically, they have an entire online data base of McCormick-Deering Archives to include International Harvester Company Catalogs. See the link below:

<https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/>



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“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

- Psalm 46:10 KJV -

NSFWA Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to the interpretation, education and preservation of the legacy of commercial stagecoaches and freight wagons which were integral to the development of the western United States in the 19th century, this includes the stories of the people who designed, built and drove these remarkable vehicles.