

THE SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 AWARDS



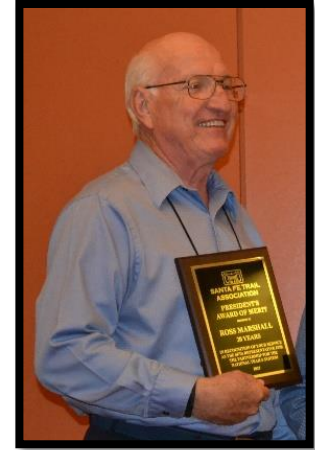
SFTA award winners for 2017, pictured left to right:

Steve Schmidt, Pat & Jack Fletcher (accepting on behalf of Jere Krakow), Ross Marshall, Steve Kidwell, Lou Austin, Sharon Haun (accepting on behalf of Bill Downes) and Pat Palmer (accepting on behalf of LaDonna Hutton).

The **Santa Fe Trail Association Award of Merit** recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the Association. The recipients for 2017 are:

- **Bill Downes**, Council Grove, KS, in recognition for his significant contributions for the maintenance and support of two Santa Fe Trail sites west of Council Grove, KS
- **Steve Kidwell**, Independence, MO, in recognition of his significant contributions and partnership in support of the preservation and maintenance of the Upper Independence (Wayne City) Landing Site
- **Lou Austin**, Kansas City, MO, in recognition of his significant contributions to educate community partners and connect the unique demographic of the South Kansas City community to the Trails history
- **Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm**, Olathe, KS in recognition of their continued support as a partner of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail GeoTour
- **2017 Symposium Co-Coordinator, Larry Short and Roger Boyd** In recognition of their work as Symposium 2017 Coordinators
- **2017 Symposium Host Chapters MRO and Douglas County** In recognition of their work as host chapters for the 2017 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium, held in Olathe, KS

In 2017, SFTA President Larry Justice was honored to present a special **Award of Merit to Ross Marshall**, Overland Park, KS in recognition of his 20 years of service as the SFTA representative to the Partnership of the National Trails System. As the SFTA Representative to the Partnership, Ross was instrumental in that organizations efforts, including the yearly “Hike the Hill” meetings held in Washington, D. C. Ross has worked tirelessly to promote the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.



The **PAUL F. BENTRUP AMBASSADOR AWARD** is given to a member of the Santa Fe Trail Association who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of the Association, development and dissemination of knowledge of Trail history, preservation of Trail sites or artifacts, or who has otherwise promoted an understanding of the Trail.

The 2017 recipients are:

- **Dr. Jere Krakow**, of Albuquerque, NM, a charter member of the Santa Fe Trail Association, in recognition of his significant contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail



- **LaDonna Hutton**, of Rocky Ford, CO, a lifetime member of the Santa Fe Trail Association, in recognition of her significant contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, including her service on the SFTA Board of Directors, with the Bent’s Fort Chapter, and especially for her service as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association.



The **JACK D. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL STAGECOACH AWARD** is presented to a Santa Fe Trail Association member for extraordinary lifetime achievement in research and writing about the Trail. The 2017 recipient is **Steve Schmidt**, McPherson, KS, for his in-depth research of the historic maps and surveys of the Sibley Expedition of the Santa Fe Trail, 1825, 1826 & 1827, and the published work he has done regarding these surveys.



The **PETE AND FAYE GAINES MEMORIAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD** is presented to those who have preserved and protected significant portions of the Trail or sites associated with the Trail, and provided public access. The recipient in 2017 is the **Central Plains Cement Company**, Independence, MO, in recognition of their significant partnership in preserving, securing and maintaining the Upper Independence (Wayne City) Landing site, and making it available for public enjoyment.

The **MARC SIMMONS WRITING AWARD** is given for the best article about the history of the Santa Fe Trail based on research in primary sources and published in *Wagon Tracks* during the previous year. The recipient for 2017 is **Joy Poole**, Santa Fe, NM for her article [Charles Trumbull Hayden \(1825-1900\) Santa Fe Trail Merchant and Freighter](#), published in *Wagon Tracks*, volume 31, number 3, May 2017.

