



Table of Contents

- 2) YTMN Board & Introduction
- 3) Introduction to the YT
- 4) YTMN Pictures of Progress
- 5) YTMN Pictures of Progress
- 6) YT Master Plan Roll Out
- 7) Master Plan Summary
- 8) Trail Days & Sociability Run
- 9) TD & SR Model Events
- 10) TD & SR Model Events
- 11) Marking the Trail Initiative
- 12) Become a Member

**Mike and Gail Aus of Granite Falls taking grandkids Harlow Fromm and Duke Anderson for a ride along the YT in their 1930 Model A*





YTMN BOARD

President:

Scott Tedrick, Granite Falls
ytofmmn@gmail.com
541-543-9975

Vice President:

Mark Glesener, Bird Island
markglesener@gmail.com

Secretary:

Becky Heerdt,
Hector & Chaska
childsinnmontana@gmail.com
612-655-4077

Treasurer:

Nicole Elzenga, Morton
childsinnmontana@gmail.com
507-227-6002

Webmaster

Mary Gillespie, Granite Falls
mgillespie2002@yahoo.com
320-309-0092

Sonja Thune, Sacred Heart
Sonjathune@gmail.com
320-765-2274

Rachel Peterson, Renville
petersonrae@gmail.com
320-765-2274

Al Schochenmaier, Danube
al2hutch@gmail.com
320-510-0957

Mark Larson, Glencoe
mlarson@ci.glencoe.mn.us
320-510-0350

Lavonne Kroells,
Norwood Young America
lkroells@outlook.com
(952) 467-3214

Wendy Biorn, Waconia
wmn612@yahoo.com
612-396-6294

Interested in being a board member?

Contact Scott at
ytofmmn@gmail.com
or 541-543-9975

INTRODUCING THE YTMN EDITOR

Greetings! My name is Scott Tedrick and I am the founder and president of The Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota (YTMN). I am also a member of the National Yellowstone Trail Association (YTA) and recently took over editor responsibilities for the YTA Newsletter: *The Arrow*. Before you is the first issue of the YTMN Newsletter: *The Star*. Its name pays homage to both Minnesota's nickname as the "North Star State," as well as the "Renville Star Farmer," which was a newspaper owned, operated and initiated by Yellowstone Trail champion, Michael J. Dowling. Dowling was the first President of the YTA following its founder Joseph Parmley of Ipswich, South Dakota.



To offer up a little background on myself, I am a 41-year-old, editor of the Renville County Register newspaper, based in Olivia. However, I reside in Granite Falls. My interest in history and the Yellowstone Trail emerged from my passion for community and theater. In 2014, I co-wrote a historical-based play with West Central Tribune journalist Tom Cherveney, "Granite Falls Walking Theater: A Cooperative Legacy." It was a scene Tom wrote that served to introduce me to the great Dowling. I did not fully appreciate the story and impact of this "world's greatest optimist," as he was described in periodicals, until I took the job in Olivia in late 2016.

As it so happened, I found myself making the commute to work along the Yellowstone Trail one morning when I realized I was driving on a road that "Dowling built" going to work for a newspaper he started and complaining about a rock from a beet truck that had just chipped my windshield. According to the book, "Adrian Looks Back" by Adrian Bottge of Renville, Dowling brought the first beet to Renville County following some of his travels, believing the crop would grow well there. Indicative of his foresight, Renville is now home to the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, which by some metrics is the largest cooperative in the world. In short, Dowling's influence was everywhere... and I have only become more fascinated and motivated by it as I continue to meet its acquaintance.

Coming to realize the trail as a way to connect communities and collectively market and bolster resources to create exponential value, in January of 2018 I worked with others to organize the first "Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Western Minnesota" meeting. At the time, I had no knowledge of the YTA, but was soon greeted by John and Alice Ridge, who have provided a foundation, support and guidance throughout our process. They are the truest "history keepers" of the YT. I could not think more of them and their meaningful efforts.

We originally formed the Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Western Minnesota, beginning with eight communities running from Buffalo Lake to Granite Falls. At the close of 2019 we incorporated the remainder of the western half of the state, all the way to Ortonville. We produced a number of materials during this period and also began instituting efforts to create trail events, which occurred to varying degrees of success. With the onset of the Covid era, we moved back into more of an organizational process and were blessed to receive a Legacy Amendment grant through the MN Historical Society. With these funds, we hired historical consultant, Jim Roe, to lead us in the development of a Yellowstone Trail Cultural Heritage Tourism Master Plan for the state (see page 6). We were informed we had been awarded the grant on April 26, 2021. Later, I would realize this was one day after the 100th Anniversary of Dowling's death, April 25, 1921.

The Master Plan process allowed us to develop a long-term plan for the organization, which can be accessed on the YTMN website @ yellowstonetrailmn.com. Additionally, it served as the basis for connecting with the eastern half of the state, which included a presentation of the Master Plan in Glencoe earlier this summer. Moving forward, we now hope to formalize the state-wide organization as a "YTA Chapter," and have been working with the executive YTA board to define and codify the relationship.

Five years into our effort, we can attest that this initiative has been no easy task. And, yet, as we "build the road by walking," we are seeing our activities increasingly bear fruit. As a brand, the YT has the opportunity to take on a Route 66-like status. The difference being that the Yellowstone Trail has a far more meaningful story given its grass-roots legacy.

Looking ahead, we are again seeking to create tangible brochures and information that now represent the entirety of the trail. Furthermore, a framework has emerged for a border-to-border Trail Days and Sociability Run that we are beginning to organize for the year ahead.

Finally, important dates are on the horizon, with Dec. 26 of this year marking the 20th Anniversary of the national YTA's reformation. Furthermore, the YTA and YTMN were recently contacted by the Jefferson Highway Association in regards to holding a joint conference in Minneapolis in 2026, near where the two historic auto routes intersect at University Ave. The year 2026 will mark the 250th Anniversary of America, making it a great opportunity to focus our efforts while celebrating the YT's unique place in the country's storied history. There is much work to be done between now and then. Please join us in our efforts!

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL

What is the Yellowstone Trail? — by John & Alice Ridge

What was the Yellowstone Trail? Before there were numbered roads and road maps, there were named roads, usually short in length. The Yellowstone Trail, formed in South Dakota, became a transcontinental route, joining local roads into a connected chain from “Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound.” Roads, created for horses and wagons, were so bad in most of the nation that

private citizen groups formed to “get out of the mud.” Automobile sales were burgeoning and owners soon discovered that there were few good places to drive the “new beauty” outside of major cities. Autos were transported to most cities on railroad flatcars to avoid the muddy or dusty rutted wagon roads.

The Yellowstone Trail Association, founded in 1912, was one of many groups pushing for long-distance roads. As an outgrowth of the Good Roads Movement, the Yellowstone Trail Association established a coast-to-coast route through the northern tier of 13 states and motivated citizens, townships and counties to build or improve the road for the benefit of both local farmers and tourists. The Trail Association was supported by communities and individuals all along the 3,600 mile route, each paying a fee to be advertised to tourists. It was a win-win situation; the Trail Association got its road and communities got fame and tourist fortune.

Why was it called “Yellowstone?” A goal of the 1912 founders was to direct tourists along the upper tier of states to the Yellowstone National Park through towns along “their” route. Starting in South Dakota and working both directions, they began to mark the Trail from coast to coast. Since there were no numbered highways in 1912, it was the custom to use colorful symbols to mark a route. Naturally, yellow was the Trail’s chosen color. Rocks, telegraph poles, fence posts, and anything else along the way were painted with the famous yellow circle with a black arrow pointing to the Park. The Yellowstone Trail did much for America. When the Yellowstone Trail Association began, the concept of state aid to county roads had existed for 21 years. But the few states that participated in the concept distributed aid to counties, resulting in improvements only of local roads. There was little concern for connecting roads. Even the federal government’s RFD mail delivery program only supported short routes. The arrival of the Yellowstone Trail meant that the counties

through which the Trail went were persuaded by the Association to put their funds into a road that actually connected with the next county’s road. Roads joining roads forwarded the concept of a state highway system.

The idea of encouraging tourism had been associated with railroads. Their sometimes elaborate ads lured the Easterner to the wonders of the West. But, auto tourism and camping

were new to Americans. The Yellowstone Trail Association provided maps and services of all kinds in their 17 travel bureaus, much like the AAA today. The assurance given by the Yellowstone Trail Association of the availability of camping facilities, gasoline, tourist facilities and passable roads did much to broaden the view of the public beyond the immediate horizon. This transcontinental route served to connect us as Americans.

The Yellowstone Trail Association, along with many other groups, motivated the opening of the Yellowstone National Park to a flood of auto tourists in 1915. The Association also helped persuade Congress in 1916 and later that the time had finally come to invest in auto roads. Local and state governments could not do it alone.

Can we see the “original” Trail today? In the 110+ years since the Trail was founded much has changed in relation to America’s highways. The original Trail has been smoothed, moved slightly as local roads improved, and has received a better profile. It has also been overlaid by three interstate roads, nine state routes and it now bears hundreds of county letter signs. In some places it has reverted back to the farmer or rancher and rests peacefully under grass. On one farm in South Dakota you can see a slight depression of a long-ago road in the waving grass and a small rising bank as the depression turns and disappears over a low hill.

But there are a few marked places and streets named “Yellowstone” where the modern traveler can experience the Trail of old. And many, many places where one can approximate the Trail and imagine road life in the 1920’s. This newsletter is an attempt to present such adventures to the reader, supplying detailed maps of sections of the original Trail with each issue, and sharing news of current events along the Trail.



YTMN - PICTURES OF PROGRESS



The Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Western Minnesota in Buffalo Lake at the Close of 2018.

YTAWMN forms

From (l-r) Mark Glesener (Bird Island), Mary Gillespie (GF), Jennifer Disbrow (YMC Historical Society), Sonja Thune (Sacred Heart), Patrick Moore (Montevideo), Patricia Buschette (Renville), Dick Hagen (Olivia), Al Koenig (Buffalo Lake), Scott Tedrick (GF), Doug Olinger (Bird Island), Olga Nichols (Lake Lillian), Brad Koenig (Buffalo Lake) and Nancy Standfuss (Danube). Not pictured: Jeff Heerts (Hector), Lance Sorenson (Hector), Jess Gorman (Renville) and Nicole Elzenga (RC Historical Society).

Designing destination communities

After meeting in all eight communities (one per month) officers were officially elected in August '18. We then began planning for our launch event: Designing Destination Communities. The event featured Lanesboro Arts Executive Director and Bush Fellow, John Davis; Obama and Bush Fellow Ashley Hanson and Minnesota Main Street Director Sarina Otaibi. The event was held at Max's Grill in Olivia.



FOLLOW THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL

ART, ANTIQUES & HISTORY ESCAPE — FRIDAY - SUNDAY

AUG. 9
7 P.M. - GRANITE FALLS



OVER THE BARREL:
A PROHIBITION MUSICAL

Tickets:
www.overtthebarrel.lpt.me

GRANITE FALLS - BUFFALO LAKE

ART, HISTORY & VENDORS

AUG. 10 & AUG. 11
10 A.M. - 4 P.M. NOON - 4 P.M.

LOOK FOR THE YELLOW BALLOONS!



AUG. 10
5 - 9 P.M. IN OLIVIA
@ MAX'S GRILL.

YELLOWSTONE TRAIL SYMPOSIUM

Featuring: John & Alice Ridge of the national Yellowstone Trail Association and Barry Pritchard, eldest grandson of Michael J. Dowling

Questions? Contact Scott: 541-543-9975

GRANITE FALLS SACRED HEART

RENVILLE DANUBE OLIVIA

BIRD ISLAND HECTOR BUFFALO LAKE



A flyer for our first attempt at a Sociability Run type event

YTMN - PICTURES OF PROGRESS

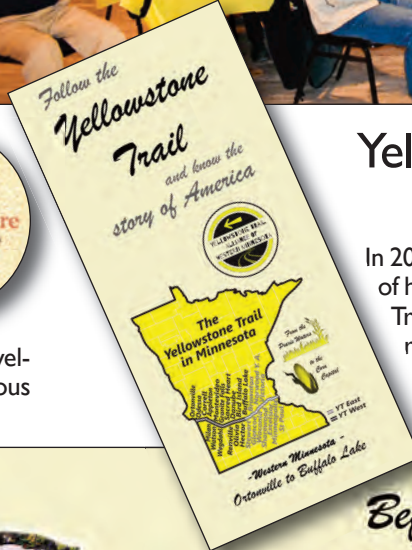
Western Alliance fully forms

In late 2019 the Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Western Minnesota held an "Owning Your Story" event at the Legion in Granite Falls with representatives from Buffalo Lake to Ortonville. Here the group makes all makes a big "Y" in celebration of the Yellowstone Trail.



Wooden tokens

The Wooden token program was developed as incentive to visit the YT's various historic & cultural sites.



Yellowstone Trail of Western Minnesota brochure:

In 2020 we released our first brochure depicting a variety of historic, arts and cultural assets along the Yellowstone Trail in Western Minnesota. Lately, we've been receiving requests for more brochures and need to create featuring assets of the border-to-border in Minnesota. Below is only the brochure's backside.

*Before there were highways,
there was the Yellowstone Trail
Come and see the stories of yesterday and today,
experience the spirit that connected a nation*



YELLOWSTONE TRAIL MASTER PLAN ROLL-OUT

Roe Presents Yellowstone Trail Master Plan in Glencoe



Jim Roe unveils the YT Master Plan for Minnesota at the Glencoe City Center.

By John Ridge:

Glencoe, Minnesota. May 24, Jim Roe, Museum Consultant and developer of the YTMN master plan for tourism and economic development. Well, we didn't really miss it. Zoom saved us from travel. The point of the program was to gather "influencers" along the Minnesota Yellowstone Trail together to see the possibilities of joining together to gain publicity for the Trail and to gain another avenue of publicity for towns - to give travelers new ways to see communities.

The audience received a good history and pictures of the Trail from Roe as background information for the museum directors, city administrators and interested historians in attendance.

A few general take-aways are:

1. The Yellowstone Trail is a good means of drawing communities together
2. As was true 100 years ago, the Trail towns today are interested in tourism and increased economy, revitalization and development of the arts
3. Awaken the affinity between travelers and historic places they see along the way
4. Promote the Trail as a destination corridor

Specific suggestions for moving forward:

1. Awareness needs to happen so put up YT route signs
2. A physical map embedded with historical sites to see is needed (A cell phone App is being worked out as we write)
3. Towns could work together for "theme travel." Examples are quilt crawl, or art crawl, or old kitchen equipment. Perhaps old farm equipment.
4. Individual Trail towns could advertise their pride such as their geology, industry or agriculture
5. A major problem today in branding is that modern highways do not follow the Trail closely in some towns, so they must mark the original Trail.

A Q & A session revealed a lively interest in ways of promoting the Trail, its history and current events.

As Jim Roe wrote, "Through widely distributed interpretive media, cities and towns along the Trail will pique the interests of travelers, resulting in more and longer stops."



Community leaders and Yellowstone Trail aficionados attended the East-YT Minnesota Master Plan Rollout.

SUMMARY PLANS OF YTMN

MASTER PLAN

SUMMARY

MISSION: To promote a destination corridor that includes communities from Ortonville to Lakeland through the celebration, revitalization and development of arts, cultural, historic and recreational assets along the Yellowstone Trail in Minnesota. Through promotional events and media, the YTMN aims to awaken the affinity between travelers and the historic places they see and hear about along today's Yellowstone Trail.

VISION: The historic Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota—revived as a collaborative partnership and driving route—gives travelers new ways to see the communities along their journey—as a string of connected destinations, each with its own stories and attractions. Through widely distributed interpretive media, cities and towns along the Trail will pique the interests of travelers, resulting in more stops and longer stopovers. Over time, more communities will see the value of the Yellowstone Trail, furthering its reach and deepening its influence between states from coast to coast.

Strategic Goals

1. Increase and sustain awareness of the Yellowstone Trail in Minnesota through continuing programs and events in collaboration with partners.
2. Clarify the purpose and strengthen the identity of Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota as the partnership convener and state clearinghouse for Trail-related activities, initiatives, and promotions.
3. Position Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota, in collaboration with its partner organizations, as a regional resource for the cooperative redevelopment of rural communities based on cultural heritage assets.
4. Support efforts to raise the profile of the Yellowstone Trail nationally.

YEAR 1 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

- A. Complete and disseminate the Tourism Master Plan through events, social media, and news formats.
- B. Support Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota in its adoption of a new organizational identity and structure, especially in regards to partnership roles and responsibilities.
- C. Develop and expand the existing website for Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota.

a. zoomable maps, self-guided themed tours, and profiles of specific destinations and areas of interest. The site will engage potential visitors with a heavy emphasis on images that show what visitors can see and do at various stops along the route.

D. Continue to sponsor and promote public programs in collaboration with YTMN

- i. Sociability Run—
- ii. Annual Gatherings of Partners—

E. Produce and distribute an online newsletter (annual) for members and by request.

YEAR 2 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)

A) Continue to sponsor and promote public programs in collaboration with Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Minnesota: Community Theater, Passport Programs.

B) Continue to expand website: interactive map

C) Partner/organizational exhibits

D) Develop and print a limited test run of guides and maps, supported through advertising

E) Develop a concept and raise funds to for a mobile app

F) Produce and distribute an online newsletter

G) Gather support from legislators toward National Trail



YELLOWSTONE TRAIL DAYS & SOCIABILITY RUN

Yellowstone Trail Days & Sociability Run Working Plan for 2024:

1) Collectively promote Yellowstone Trail Days and Sociability Run activities over a roughly month long period from border-to-border, starting after Labor Day.

* Begin with the **Washington County Bluegrass Festival**, which occurs the second weekend of September, on the eastern border of the state and end with the **Minnesota River Valley Art Meander**, taking place the first weekend of October, reaching the farthest western portion of the state.

2) Incorporate other arts, cultural and historical related events occurring within this timeframe, for instance **Fall on the Farm**, which this year is being held Friday Sept., 22 at the Andrew Peterson Farm in Waconia and the **Carver County Arts Wander**, which takes place the same weekend from Friday, Sept. 22 - Sunday, Sept. 24.

3) Invite historical museums and community organizations to organize events and hold uniform hours of operation during this period, which would then be collectively promoted along with existing draws.

4) Develop an annual antique car run that would occur at some point during the duration of the month-long **Trail Days**, and as perhaps the defining element of the **Sociability Run**.

5) Encourage Marking the Trail - Invite communities and organizations to undertake traditional and non-traditional signage installations along the trail as a fun way to get together, be creative and collectively promote the Yellowstone Trail Brand. *See more on page 11*

6) Invite other ideas and continue to build on ongoing success.

Overview: The Yellowstone Trail Sociability Run is an effort to create a state-wide event focusing on the Yellowstone Trail and the vibrant history and offerings of its communities. By combining elements of arts, culture and history around the Yellowstone Trail, the event seeks to create a rising tide that lifts all boats.

How to coordinate efforts for a single successful and sustainable event over a suitable time period has been a learning process, particularly in areas where resources of money and power are sparse. As we establish a more solid framework it becomes easier to coordinate the varied elements that allow for organizations and communities to plug in.

One of the best models for a comparable event involving such a large area exists with the Art Crawls. The Minnesota River Valley Arts Meander—which runs roughly a quarter of the state along the Yellowstone Trail, from Granite Falls to Ortonville—is in its 20th year and has found immense success bringing individuals to rural western Minnesota from the Cities and surrounding states, growing each year with a high degree of return visitors.

The Yellowstone Trail, however, is focused more on the historical and cultural elements, which can be harder to sell and convey. Art, through all sorts of mediums, is a manner in which we are able to convey each community's unique, though interconnected, story in meaningful, tangible and enjoyable ways.

Given the more thoughtful patience that is required to take in and absorb historical narratives of communities, we are looking to hold our Sociability Run amidst Yellowstone "Trail Days" over a roughly month long event that begins after Labor Day. This concept has arisen as we have made border-to-border connections and learned of the various compatible activities already taking place. The YT is able to ride the coattails of such events while simultaneously promoting them, again to everyone's benefit.

In this scenario, the Sociability Run and/or Trail Days, would begin with likely the Washington County Bluegrass festival, which "fuses community, the great outdoors, and homegrown bluegrass music." It is now in its 21st year and held annually the second week of September. Shortly thereafter is the Carver County "Arts Wander" as well as "Fall on the Farm" event, held in Waconia at the historic Andrew Peterson Farm. The Upper Minnesota River Valley Meander, taking place the first weekend of October, brings us to the western border. Historical draws, such as Chippewa County's Horse Power event at the Swensson Farm Museum, also occur in this area.

As we seek to promote these events together over this period, we will also reach out to historical museums and community organizations to invite them to coordinate hours, events and exhibits to create continuity essential for creating a collective draw.

In essence, trail-goers would be able to travel the YT at any time over the course of the month long event and be ensured they would be able to partake in the various, unique activities that would together entertain and inform, strengthening tourism and connections locally and abroad.

UPCOMING YELLOWSTONE TRAIL DAYS MODEL EVENTS

Fall Farm Fest:

Sat, September 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead 8060

Highway 5 Waconia, MN 55387

Join us this September 23rd for food, activities, games and more! Stay to see barnyard favorites like cows and spend time with loveable llamas!

Enjoy some outdoor cooking with Carver Parks and learn about agricultural and industrial history with the Scott Carver Threshers!

More info at:

www.carvercountyhistoricalsociety.org



The North Barn of the Andrew Peterson Farm

Andrew Peterson and his farm have received their fair share of publicity over the years. For some, the farm is a destination location. For others, it is just an old farm that has been in the news a lot. The significance of the farm has more to do with Andrew Peterson and his diaries, his work with apples and the formation of the Scandia Baptist Church, than the land itself.

Between 1820 and 1920, 1.3 million Swedes immigrated to the United State in search of a new life. In 1850, Peterson joined that mass exodus. In his home Kommen of Ydre, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people emigrated. What made Peterson stand out from the millions of other immigrants is that he kept a journal from the time he left Sweden until the day before he died in Minnesota.

Historical Walking Theater & Light Up Granite Falls:

This year's Meander Friday Night on Friday, Sept. 29 will feature Happy Hour on the footbridge with live music from 6-7 p.m. and the Granite Falls Walking Theater. All events are free!

Historical Walking Theater: "Her Story," returns to Granite Falls, Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 PM during the Meander Opening Light of River celebration in Granite Falls. Join us as we delve into the stories of the great women of the Granite Falls area and explore how their spirit and example provide us with the wisdom and inspiration today.

Let's Light up the River and
Celebrate the Meander!

6 PM. Todd's Social Hour downtown from
- drinks, live music, food -

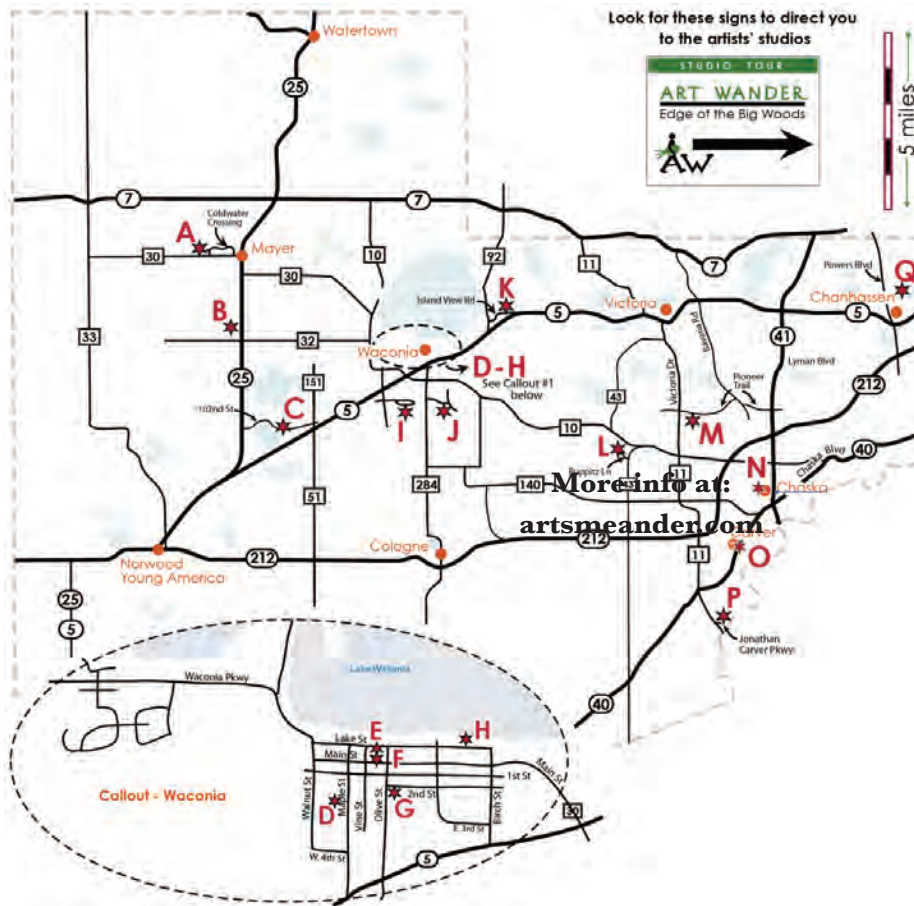
7 PM GF Walking Theater: "Her Story"

An original one time performance of Granite Falls Walking Theater: Her Story, celebrating the great women of Granite Falls. From Prohibition to Suffrage and the fight against Tuberculosis. The performance will inform and entertain.

9 PM Get Lit Party at Bluenose Gopher Public House until 11 PM.



UPCOMING YELLOWSTONE TRAIL DAYS MODEL EVENTS



Arts Wander: Edge of the Big Woods

September 22nd, 23th and 24th, 2023

The Art Wander started out 12 years ago as an artist-run, self-guided studio tour of Carver County.

It was created around the unique spaces and studios where wonderful creative endeavors come to life. We now have multiple artists at each studio to make each stop more interesting.

More info at
artswander.com

The Meander Art Crawl

September 29 & 30,
October 1, 2023

Now in its 20th year, the award winning Meander Art Crawl is a free self-guided tour of artist studios featuring 41 local artists running from Granite Falls to Ortonville. Visitors are encouraged to visit artists in their own environment who celebrate a lifestyle that represents the small, handmade, personal and local culture of the area.

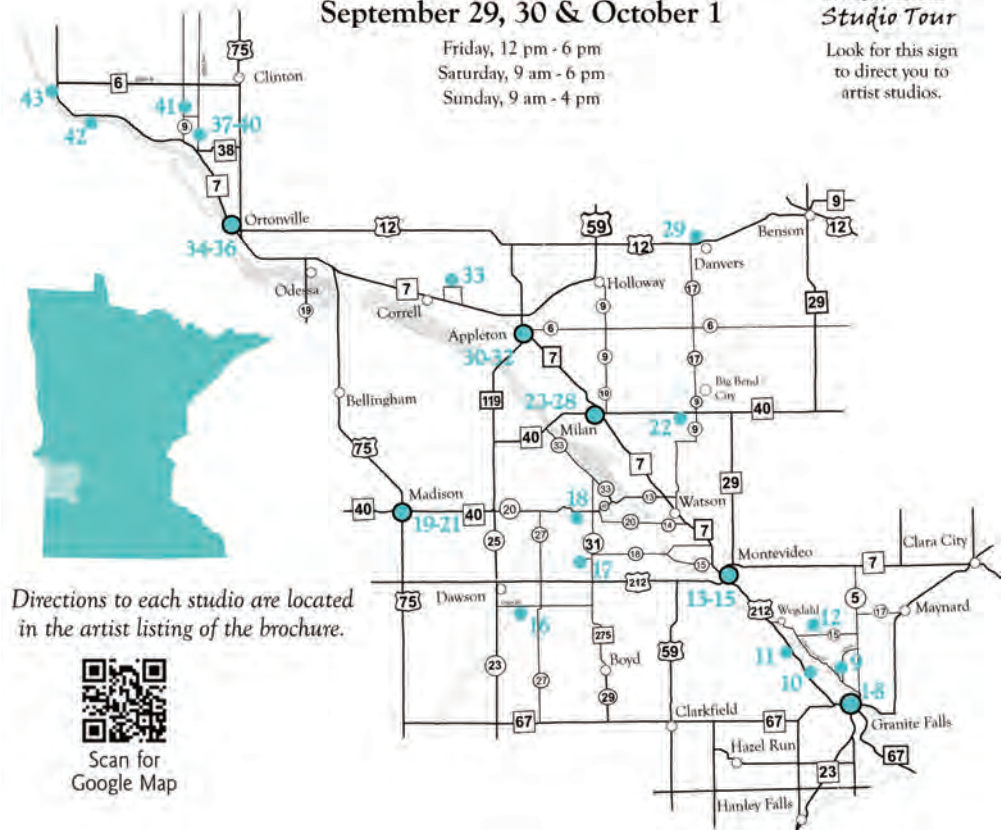
More info at
artsmeander.com

2023 *Meander*
September 29, 30 & October 1

Friday, 12 pm - 6 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday, 9 am - 4 pm

Meander
Studio Tour

Look for this sign to direct you to artist studios.



Directions to each studio are located in the artist listing of the brochure.



Scan for
Google Map

MARKING THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL INITIATIVE

The Yellowstone Trail is unique in that it is not a single site "owned" by a single community and featured in just one museum. All of the museums in communities along the Trail have the opportunity to feature this historic road and the sights the traveler would have seen between 1912-1930.



Early signage marked turns as above, R-right and L-left.

Engendering interest in local historic events that were part of a national transportation movement can be done on several levels: through museums, through auto clubs, through citizen participation, and through local convention

and travelers bureaus. Digging up local history requires that we all ask questions, the answers to which reveal hidden history in communities.

About the Yellowstone Trail, one could ask: What buildings were standing then that are still here today in our community? Any garages still standing that would have seen a Model T or Maxwell or Packard or Kissel car? How was our community affected by an influx of autos during those years? What movies were showing? Were surplus Army vehicles used to build roads in our community after World War I? What was the accident rate? Where was the Trail then and what roads occupy that space now? Who was the "Trail-man," the chap who watched over the Trail, in our community?



Painting rocks was one of the ways individuals creatively marked the trails. Here Olivia EDA Director Susie Lang and Renville County Historical Society Director Nicole Elzenga enjoy a miniature version.

Here are some ideas for local action:

- **Paint rocks** yellow to mark the Trail. Add an arrow pointing toward Yellowstone National Park.
- **Plant trees.** Ninety years ago folks in Ipswich, South Dakota planted a line of trees to beautify the Trail.
- **Hold a Trail Day.** Trail Days were held in the early decades of the 20th century for the purpose of getting everybody out to fix up the Trail near the community. Today this has translated into history days, reunions or holding antique car parades or runs on the Trail. Contact your local old car club.
- **Place an "On the Yellowstone Trail" logo** on the city's welcome sign at the city limits. You know, the sign with the emblems of the civic clubs and churches.
- **Mount a display at your local museum.** Engender interest in the Trail and your community's history with materials from your local old newspapers, pictures, Chamber of Commerce records, and artifacts from the 1912-1930 era.
- **Search for family tales related to the Trail.** Interview Grandma and Grandpa or invade the attic. Share the stories with local historians and send them to The National Arrow.
- **Take the Trail to the schools to promote local history.** Folks in Owen, Wisconsin, presented the national and local history of the Trail in a school throughout one day.
- **Use the "On the Yellowstone Trail" theme to promote local or regional tourism.** If you operate a tourist accommodation or a restaurant join with others along the Trail to jointly promote your businesses. One group of Bed Opportunities for Finding,
- **Where can I purchase existing signs?** Go to <http://www.yellowstonetrail.org> and click on the "Shop" button.



THE YELLOWSTONE TRAIL ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA IS:

Who is YTMN?

YTMN is made up of volunteers from along the Yellowstone Trail in Minnesota from border-to-border seeking to advance the mission of the YTMN local chapter and the national Yellowstone Trail Association and its coast-to-coast vision.

Our mission:

To promote a destination corridor that includes communities from Ortonville to Lakeland through the celebration, revitalization and development of arts, cultural, historic and recreational assets along the Yellowstone Trail in Minnesota. Through promotional events and media, the YTMN aims to awaken the affinity between travelers and the historic places they see and hear about along today's Yellowstone Trail.

Current YTMN initiatives:

- Yellowstone Trail Days & Sociability Run
- Promotional brochures, maps and guides
 - Promotion of formal and informal YT signage installations
- Further development of website and shared calendar of events: www.yellowstonetrailmn.com
 - National Trail Initiative
 - Joint conference organization



If you have a problem when renewing or joining, email: YTofMN@gmail.com

2023-2024 YTMN Membership (includes membership to National YTA)

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Telephone
Email (to receive updates & notices)

☐ Yes, I want to be a YTMN member
Send this form with checks payable to YTMN:

Yellowstone Trail of Minnesota
441 North Park Drive
Morton, MN 56270
(507) 697-6147

Find us on Facebook
and the web: yellowstonetrailmn.com

<u>Membership types</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual:	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family:	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization:	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business:	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cities (under 1,000)	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cities (over 1,000)	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Cities (over 10,000)	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Counties	\$500