



OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS, INC.

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September 2020 Bulletin

From the President

Ahhhh. Summer in the Ozarks – hot, humid, overgrown, buggy. Most of us have the good sense to stay out of the Ozark woods, or travel to more hospitable locales to hike or backpack. That doesn't mean that everything stops, however. Sawyers have been out cutting trees and running string trimmers in spots.



Maintenance is one of the biggest tasks OHTA manages. If you happen to see a maintainer, stop and give thanks. Better yet, volunteer. Without volunteer maintainers, we wouldn't have the OHT and other trails to enjoy. And yes, we do take the summer off...for the most part. **Steven Parker, OHTA President**

New Board Members

We have two new board members that have started serving a 3-year term beginning July 1st. Elizabeth Granderson lives in Siloam Springs. She and her husband Josh have 4 children and they are all avid backpackers. They are currently on the Appalachian Trail. They maintain the section of trail from Cherry Bend to East Fly Gap Road. Chris Adams lives in Eagle Rock, Missouri with his wife, Marci. He has been a maintainer for years, currently maintaining the Redding Loop. He is also one of our top sawyers. Chris teaches Biomedical Science at Missouri State University. We are looking forward to the skills and expertise they will bring to the Board.

Also, officers were recently elected. Steven Parker was re-elected as President and Maintenance Coordinator. Phil Brown will serve another term as Vice-President and Todd Wells another as Treasurer. Rosie Koskovich was elected Secretary.

New Happenings

We are going to be starting the process of launching a totally new website and development of an OHT app through OuterSpatial. If you know of any talented web designers or are interested in doing some beta-testing of the app, send an email to the President, slparkerlaw@gmail.com. Also, the Board is planning a strategic planning retreat for the end of September. Feel free to let us know the direction you want to see the OHTA going, things we've been doing right, or things you think we should be focusing on in the future. Again, you can email the President at that same email address.

Who is Using the OHT?

Our President, Steven Parker (me), is a data-driven nerd. As such, I'll spend hours inputting data from our trail registers into a database. Doing so allows us to glean information that helps us know what is going on

out on the trail. For example, over half of the people using the trail are not from Arkansas. While Arkansas certainly has more trail users than anyone else, surrounding states contribute quite a few trail users. See the breakdown below. Also, the largest users of the trail are day hikers, followed closely by those out for 1 or 2 nights. Of the people that spend 4 or more days on trail, most are thru-hiking the trail

AR	154
TX	39
OK	35
MO	30
IL	9
KS	9
LA	7
MN	6
IA	5
Canada	4
MD	4
FL	4
CA	4
MA	3
CO	3
TN	3
NE	3
WA	3
IN	3
WI	3
MS	3
OH	2
ID	2
VA	2
AL	2
AZ	2
NM	1
Switzerland	1
NY	1
OR	1
PA	1

