



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

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November/December 2020 Bulletin

From the President

At Thanksgiving, there is plenty to be thankful for...even with all the craziness going on around us. I'm thankful for all our public lands, which provide us with the opportunity to have the world-class trail that is the OHT. Arkansas State Parks, municipal properties, national forests, national parks, Game & Fish, and Corps of Engineers properties all provide a space for us to enjoy outdoor recreation. I'm thankful for all of you who are members of OHTA. Your support provides us with the needed funds to maintain and expand the OHT. And I'm thankful for those that donate their time and effort to carry out the maintenance. There would be no trail without you. [Steven Parker, OHTA President](#)

Trail Expansion

Earlier this week, I received the news that the National Park Service has given final approval for the construction of about 1/4 –mile of trail reroute near Little Rocky Creek. Most of us thought the Roberts Tract was the last hold-up to completed trail to Dillard's Ferry. But, this short section, which is being constructed to avoid cultural/historical sites, puts the nail in the coffin. This has been a long time coming. Stay tuned for possible trail construction dates to build this section in the near future.

Also, James Hodges continues to lead efforts on behalf of OHTA to work with David's Trail to complete the trail along Lake Norfolk to the Missouri border. We are doing our part to connect with the Ozark Trail to create the Trans-Ozark Trail, stretching from Lake Fort Smith to Saint Louis.

Awards

Our annual awards were given out at the Hare Mountain Hike-In. It was a subdued event this year with 18-20 participants. The Hare Mountain Hike-In is the most important event on the OHTA calendar, representing the celebration of the birthday of the trail at its high point. It has been taking place for more than 30 years.

The Dawna Robinson Member of the Year Award went to Kerry Coe of Shreveport, Louisiana. Kerry has been a maintainer for many years and leads hikes annually; usually between Arbaugh and Lick Branch. Kerry is proof that you don't have to live close to the trail to help maintain or to share hiking with others. The Roy Senyard Maintainer of the Year Award went to Danny Hale and the Takahik group out of Russellville. They volunteered just shy of 150 hours from July 2019 to June 2020 maintaining trail.

Finally, the OHTA Board decided to recognize six maintainers who have been volunteering their time for more than 30 years. There is no possible way to compensate these people for the hours they have contributed over the years; but we are gifting them with a custom RTIC soft-sided cooler with the OHTA logo and a \$200 Pack Rat gift card to show our appreciation. Please join us in honoring: Dan Griesse (37 years); Dave Zucconi (35 years); Bob Robinson (31 years); Jeff DiCello (31 years); Sean Prewitt (31 years); and Bob Raney (30 years).

