



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

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April 2021 Bulletin

From the President

Spring has sprung. The early wildflowers have bloomed or are blooming (Trout Lily, Bloodroot, Spring Beauties, etc.) Sarvis has bloomed, Redbud is blooming, and the Dogwoods are starting. It's a great time to get out on the trails. Be aware, the ticks are already out. If you are a maintainer, it is time to start thinking about your spring maintenance trip. Remember, if your section is particularly prone to grass/weed growth, waiting until late May/early June can keep your section in better shape through the summer months (yes, people hike the trail in the summer-more than you might think). **Steven Parker, OHTA President**

April is Take A Kid Hiking Month

Once again, the OHTA Board has declared April as Take A Kid Hiking Month. Outdoor exercise being one of the safer things we can do in these times is all the more reason to take a kid hiking. We are not planning any organized hikes. However, we encourage everyone to introduce a young acquaintance to the pleasures of hiking and backpacking. Be safe, practice social distancing and avoid crowded trails. But do your part to encourage a young person's passion for hiking.

To encourage folks to explore new areas, the Board has purchased copies of Tim and Pam Ernst's **Arkansas Hiking Trails** and **Day Hikes for Kids and Families**, as well as Jim Warnock's **Five Star Trails: the Ozarks** that we will offer for loan. If you'd like to borrow a book, send an email to Dave Richard at davejrichard@gmail.com. Dave will mail the book to you. When you are done, just mail it back.

Leadership Opportunities

We will be conducting our annual board election in May. Steven Parker was re-elected by the Boston Mountain Chapter to serve another term as Chapter Chair and the associated position on the Board. There will be two other positions on the Board up for election. If you are interested in possibly serving as a Board member, please send an email to President Steven Parker at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com to inquire or to throw your hat into the ring.

Upcoming Events

Sometime in May, we will host our virtual Annual Membership Meeting. This is a corporate formality where we will announce the winners of the board election and give brief reports of the past year's accomplishments. Look for the details in next month's Bulletin.

June 5, 2021 is National Trails Day. OHTA will be hosting a picnic at Lake Fort Smith State Park. There will also be opportunities to hike the various trails at the Park, likely to be some games and other activities and maybe some fun stuff to win. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details.

Maintenance Base Camp is scheduled for September 22-26, 2021 at White Rock Mountain. Base Camp is an opportunity for people that are interested in learning about trail maintenance to join experienced maintainers for a little education

and a lot of fun. If you are interested in attending for a day, two or the whole time, send an email to ohmaintenance@gmail.com.

Condolences

Deborah Kay Lamb of Jonesboro passed away on March 24th. She was an avid hiker, backpacker and kayaker and an active member of the Takahik group in Russellville. Her family requested donations to OHTA in lieu of flowers at her funeral. We extend our condolences to Debbi's family and to her friends at Takahik on their loss.