



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

PO Box 4065

Fayetteville AR 72702-4065

www.ozarkhighlandstrail.com

October 2021 Bulletin

Officers Chosen

The Board of Directors met and selected their officers for the next year. Phil Brown of Harrison was elected as the new President. Todd Wells of Harrison moves from Treasurer to Vice President. Steven Parker of West Fork takes on the duties of Treasurer as well as remaining the Maintenance Coordinator. Rosalie Koskovich of Springfield, MO will remain as Secretary.

Note from the new President

As the newly elected President of our organization, I want to start by expressing my appreciation to the members of the board for showing their confidence in me as this organization's leader by voting me into this position. It is truly an honor and a responsibility I will not take lightly.

To start, I want to thank Steven Parker, past President, for the superb job of leadership he has demonstrated through the years. The icing on the cake is that he is not leaving the OHTA and is stepping into the Treasurer's position while continuing to perform his duties as the organization's Maintenance Coordinator. He is the epitome of a true leader and a very tough act to follow.

Next, Todd Wells agreed to assume the Vice President's position. Given the quality of work he performed during his tenure in two other Board positions--not to mention all the time and effort he puts into building and maintaining the OHT--there is no doubt his leadership will continue propelling this organization in a direction of growth consistent with our mission.

Then there is Rosie Koskovich who agreed to stay on as the board's Secretary. She is someone who lives and breathes the important issues pertaining to trails, as she has been a longtime member of the Ozark Trail Association (OTA) and, for the past few years, an avid, very involved member of the OHTA. She is not afraid to take on whatever is required for keeping our organization moving in step with its mission, and we are beyond fortunate to have her on the board to address the challenges that come with Secretary's position. We thank you, Rosie!

Finally, we are honored to have James Hodges, Chris Adams, Elizabeth Granderson, Dave Richard, and Wade Colwell rounding out the membership of our Board. Each of them is a very solid team player and an asset to OHTA that is beyond measure.

Thanks to the leadership of those who came before me, most of the tough work required to keep this organization robust, productive, and moving forward has been accomplished. That is not to say there are no challenges coming. Quite the contrary. Among those currently being addressed is the development of a new website, one that will be fully functional, informative, and up to date. Also in the works is the exploration and development of a user-friendly system designed to make finding the OHT easier and navigating it safer for all. A

larger issue, one that seems enduring for our organization, is the expansion and completion of the OHT. Spearheading this endeavor is James Hodges who has been instrumental in working with various government agencies to assure the gaps existing in the eastern reaches of our trail narrow substantially. There may be a few more years of work to do before the OHT is complete, but I assure everyone significant progress is being made.

As we continue developing new sections of trail and work to maintain that which already exists, we hope more folks will come to share the trail with us. As they do, we are confident many of them will choose to join our remarkable organization and will develop a strong desire to help us all in our efforts to build, maintain, enjoy, and promote the Ozark Highlands Trail. There is no doubt growth of this nature will eventually turn OHTA into one of the pre-eminent trail organizations in this country.

Finally, I want to thank all members of the OHTA and encourage each of you to become actively involved in working together as a team with a shared vision of assuring our organization becomes all it has the potential to be. Continuous trail from Lake Fort Smith to the Arkansas/Missouri border north of Mountain Home may be only a start.

Till we meet again, HIKE ONWARD!
Phil Brown

White Rock Base Camp

The White Rock Base Camp was held September 22-26 at White Rock Mountain Recreation Area. Due to reconfiguration in the Lodge at White Rock, attendance was limited due to fewer beds available. Those who attended enjoyed wonderful home-cooked meals provided by Billy & Donna Hignite and the team of Freeman Wish and Rex Anderson. We got quite a bit of work done, clearing the majority of the Shores Lake-White Rock Loop, the OHT between the gas pipeline and Wood's Gap, clearing trees downhill of Dockery's Gap and along the OHT express portion of the trail. We filled up the beds by June. If you are interested in attending Base Camp next September, which will be held toward the Eastern end of the trail, let Steven Parker, Maintenance Coordinator know at ohtmaintenance@gmail.com.

Hare Mountain Hike-In

The Hare Mountain Hike-In is scheduled for November 6-7. This is the annual celebration of the birthday of the OHT and consists of a pot-luck supper and campfire on the highest point along the trail. This is easily the longest running event for OHTA. Make plans to attend.

Lake Norfolk Master Trail Plan

The Corps of Engineers is revising the Lake Norfolk Master Trail Plan. It's important for them to hear from you that you would like to see the trail completed along the length of Lake Norfolk to the Missouri border and that you would like to see provisions made for dispersed, primitive camping that would accommodate those hiking the trail. Go to this address to post your official public comments:

<https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning/Norfolk-Lake-Master-Plan-Revision/>