



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

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JUNE NEWSLETTER (1st edition)

– The Trail Ahead –

OHTA Election 2022

Nearly 70 votes were cast in this year's election of candidates to replace the three board members whose terms will expire at midnight on June 30, 2022. As it was, there were three candidates running for the positions soon to be vacated, and, naturally, all three were elected. Thanks to everyone who voted this time around, for it is your commitment to this organization that keeps it alive and thriving!

Starting July 1, 2022, the following members (in alphabetical order by last name) will make up the OHTA Board of Directors:

Chris Adams
Philip Brown
Kerry Coe
Wade Colwell
Elizabeth Granderson
James Hodges
Rosalie Koskovich
Steven Parker
Todd Wells

A big round of thanks is due to all of the individuals serving on our board! Each of them volunteers their personal time to address the challenges facing the OHTA, so this organization can continue striving to be the best it can be!

OHTA Rendezvous

Mark it on your calendar: June 4, 2022; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Buffalo Point Campground – Pavilion 3

Itinerary:

- 10 a.m. to noon – arrive, visit/network, meal preparation
- Noon – brief talks from a guest speakers and a presentation by an OHTA member
- 1 p.m. – chow time

National Trails Day

National Trails Day is June 4th, 2022, and everyone is encouraged to celebrate trails by taking a kid hiking!! As always, OHTA celebrates April as TAKE A KID HIKING MONTH, but since the OHTA annual meeting is on June 4 this year at Buffalo Point, Pavilion 3, there are some great trails for you and the kids you bring along to enjoy. Introducing children to the joys of hiking at an early age is one of the best ways to ensure we spread the joy of the outdoor life to those who may otherwise miss out on this adventure!

OHTA Annual Meeting

The OHTA Annual Meeting was initially scheduled to occur during this year's Rendezvous. However, given the importance of making the meeting an event all OHTA members can attend and the unfortunate reality of there being no internet access at Buffalo Point in Buffalo River National Park, the meeting is rescheduled for:

Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 7 p.m.

This year's annual meeting will be held via Zoom, and all OHTA members will soon find the link to the meeting in their inbox. Hope to see you all there!

– The Trail Behind –

Restoration Notes

May 7 and May 14—two Saturdays to remember! On the first of those Saturdays, 23 volunteers joined together at Brush Creek Trailhead. The following Saturday, a total of 19 volunteers congregated at the same trailhead for the same purposes as their predecessors—to play a role in the restoration of segments of a four-mile stretch of the Ozark Highlands Trail/Sylamore Section. During each event, some of the volunteers, ranging in age from 14 years to well beyond what is the mean age in this fine country, took charge of preparing the meal that was served following the restoration work performed by the rest of those present. Needless to say—but we will anyway—each restoration event was a huge success! In fact, the results were so superb that preparations are already underway for more restoration events to start in October. Stay tuned for the announcements!

Here's what one participant, Kris McMillen, had to say about the events:

On May 7th we had an extremely successful trail restoration project day on the Ozark Highlands Trail/Sylamore Section led by Gordon King and Phil Brown. There were 3 crews that went out to make repairs on the trail. Sherry Manes and I were so busy helping with the food thing that I forgot to take photos. We had a great time and saw some good "old" people and met some good new people. Trail people are the best!

Saturday May 14th was the second successful day of the OHT Spring Trail Restoration project. I was on the Food Wagon detail again—different menu—this week with Keri Lawing helping. We, again, had 3 brave, hard-working crews go out including some repeat "offenders" from last week—YAY. Great weather again. A HUGE thank you to everyone (old faces and new faces) who participated in this two-Saturday event. We had a great time. If you weren't there, we missed you! One especially successful project was the "fixing" of a small section of trail that was of special interest to me (i.e. it was driving me crazy!! Ha Ha). This time Gordon and I had the presence of mind (definition: the ability to remain calm and take quick, sensible action) to take some pictures.

In fact, a couple of pictures taken on the 14th are attached to this email. Kris is behind the lens, so it is for that reason she does not appear in either photo.

The OHTA wants to extend its utmost appreciation to everyone who participated in the two-Saturday restoration project. The event could not have been the success it was without each and everyone of you, so here it is, THANK YOU!!!

– A Look at the Trail –

Hey, here's a link to an article you don't want to miss:

<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2022/05/the-aj-list-the-8-best-long-haul-backpacking-trails/>

What is this article? Well, it is:

“The 8 Best Long-Haul Backpacking Trails” by Brendan Leonard – May 17, 2022

Thank you Steven Parker for sharing this with the OHTA Newsletter!

– On the Trail –

From the Northeastern End

In the May 2022 OHTA Newsletter, this section was devoted to introducing everyone to the Ozark Keystone Trail (OKT). In this edition, the focus will shift away from recounting the history of the OKT and move toward conveying an accurate account of where development of the trail currently stands. However, all the information necessary for this to happen is in the process of being gathered, and it will be shared with everyone in just a few days. So be checking your inbox, for there will be a 2nd edition of the June Newsletter headed your way soon.

I want to send out a special THANK YOU to Becca Martin and Jackson Rhoades for taking time out of their days to gather and send the information needed for this section of the Newsletter. The role each of you plays in helping the hiking community become more aware of the OKT is invaluable. This task would be impossible without each of you! Again, thanks!!

Interesting Break Time Reads

- *The Cafe on the Edge of the World: A Story About the Meaning of Life* by John Strelecky
- *A Moss-Covered Trail: A Walk Across the Ozark Highlands* by Matt Dunn

NOTE: If you have a read you'd like to share with others who enjoy trail time, please send the title and author's name to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, and it will appear in the next edition of the OHTA Newsletter.

Again, here's wishing everyone a big ol' bunch of good health so we can all HIKE ONWARD!!