

OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

-- Overseeing the Trail --

Board of Director's Meeting Announcement

At this time, the next Board of Director's meeting has not been scheduled, but as soon as it is, you will receive a notice via email of the day, date, time, and the location where it will be held. Remember, if you want to attend, the Board welcomes you to do so, and there will be merchandise from the OHTA store available for you to purchase at a reduced price. What is asked of you, though, is that if you decide to attend after receiving the details of the next meeting, please let us know by sending an email to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. That way, we'll be sure to have the place sufficiently set up and to have plenty of merchandise on hand.

OHTA Board for 2022-2023

Phil Brown (President/Eastern Chapter Rep)	Wade Colwell (Interim Boston Mountain Chapter Rep)
Adam Higinbothom (Vice-president)	Elizabeth Granderson (OHTA brochure manager)
Brent Umphlett (Secretary)	Kerry Coe (OHTA membership building)
Todd Wells (Treasurer)	Miles Jandrusevic (Maintenance Director-West Section)
Chris Adams (Maintenance Coordinator)	

-- Maintaining the Trail --

The three Maintenance Basecamps of October 2022 are history, and we're very, very pleased to say each was a HUGE success! We recognize there is still plenty of work yet to be done on the OHT, but rest assured there will be many more events scheduled for the purpose of addressing the issues that remain.

For now, though, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge those who made the three basecamps turn out as they did. So here's what our Maintenance Coordinator, Chris Adams, had to say to all who participated:

Base Camp Attendees: All I can say is "WOW"!! We had 3 awesome weekends with great people. The amount of work done on the trail was tremendous. Below are some numbers to prove our impact on the Ozark Highlands Trail. I (and the Section Directors and Board) would like to thank each one of you for volunteering your time, effort, and sweat into making the trail so much better. We had some locations on the trail that needed work crews on all 3 days of the Base Camp. I want to thank everyone that was involved: The people who helped cook/clean/maintain the camp; the loppers; the individuals who ran trimmers and chain saws; the swamper; the ones that put up blazes. Your job was important to us and we are glad you took pride in what you were doing. We have already discussed next year—making a few changes in locations and such, but also keeping things that worked—like the fun and friendships that were developed. We would like to have 3 Base Camps again next year, one in each Map section of the OHT.

Again—Incredible job! We hope to see you at another one. The plans are to have 1 or 2 day maintenance trips in November and December at key locations. We will let you know. Hope you had a good time—and Thanks!

Here are the results by the numbers:

Richland Creek Base Camp:

- 15 volunteers participated throughout weekend
- 262.5 total hours of trail maintenance performed
- 10 maintenance sections of the OHT significantly improved

Blanchard Springs Base Camp:

- 12 volunteers participated throughout the weekend
- 171 total hours of trail maintenance performed
- 9 maintenance sections of the OHT significantly improved

Redding Campground Base Camp:

- 38 volunteers participated throughout the weekend
- 463 hours of trail maintenance performed
- 16 maintenance sections of the OHT significantly improved

Again, THANK YOU ALL!

Chris Adams-Maintenance Coordinator
Jake Anderson- North Maintenance Director
Sean Prewitt- East Maintenance Director
Miles Jandrasevic- West Maintenance Director

-- Volunteering to Promote the Trail --

The Ozark Outdoor Expo held from October 21 through October 23 was a big success for the OHTA! Consequently, the Board wants to give a great big shout-out to Adam Higinbothom and those who volunteered to assist him in assuring the OHTA had a clear and positive presence at the event! Because of this intrepid team's hard work, many attendees discovered the OHTA and the OHT. Numerous folks signed up right on the spot to be members of our organization, and one really cool prize was raffled off during each day of the event.

Again, we'd like to thank everyone who worked so diligently to shine the light on the OHTA at this year's Expo! You all are super!!

-- Establishing Connection for the Trail --

OHTA's Vice-president, Adam Higinbothom, has made arrangements to represent our organization at all Arkansas Trails Council meetings. This will assure that the OHTA will have a vote at the state level in regard to decisions being made about the development, expansion, use, and maintenance of trails in Arkansas. Adam, we thank you!!

-- Celebrating the Trail --

OHTA Annual Hare Mountain Hike In

Just one more reminder that Saturday, November 5, 2022, is the start of this year's two-day Hare Mountain Hike In, a celebration to commemorate the 1981 birth of the Ozark Highlands Trail Association. Last year's event was attended by about 34 avid hikers, and we're hoping attendance this year will be even greater.

If you want to be a part of 2022's special occasion, there are multiple locations from which to start your hike to the summit. However, the spot closest to where everyone will camp on Hare Mountain is the Hare Mountain/Morgan Field Trailhead (can be located on the Ozark Highlands Trail—West map available in OHTA's online store: <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/store-2/>). From there it is a mere 1.7 mile hike to the top.

This year's Hike In will include a potluck dinner on Saturday at 6 p.m. followed by a short meeting around the campfire, so please remember to bring something tasty to contribute to the feast. There is plenty of room to camp, but be sure to pack in all the water you will need. Come one, come all as this is a perfect opportunity to introduce someone who is new to hiking to the spectacular beauty of the Ozark mountains and the unparalleled experience of primitive camping.

As a reminder, a small group of folks is going to hike to the camping area on Hare Mountain a day early and spend the night there on Friday, November 4. So if you would like to turn this event into three days of splendor as opposed to the two that are scheduled, here are a couple of numbers you can contact for info:

- Bob Cable -- (479) 595-5461
- Dana Cable -- (479) 263-7479

-- Saving Life on the Trail --

Registration time for the Wilderness First Aid; EpiPen; and Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED certification workshops is upon us.

Your decision to register yourself and, perhaps, one or more of your children for one or both of these workshops is one you will never regret! The knowledge you'll gain from the thorough, hands-on training these workshops offer is the kind that could put you in a position to make a HUGE difference in someone's life, perhaps your own! To top it all off, the instructor for these workshops is beyond superb!!

It is important to know that the workshop for Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and EpiPen certification is separate from the workshop for CPR/AED certification, but both workshops will be held on the same weekend, and one will not interfere with the other. So here is the information necessary for you register:

Workshops: Wilderness First Aid and EpiPen certification and Adult, Child, and Infant CPR certification

Instructor: Tom Burroughs -- ACA Safety and Rescue Committee Chair; ACA L-5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer Educator; ACA L-4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor Trainer Educator; ACA L-4 Whitewater Rafting Instructor Trainer; 2015 ACA "Excellence in Instruction" National Award Recipient; ITRA Level 3V Swiftwater Rescue Instructor; NREMT/EMT-W/MPIC - Wilderness Medicine Instructor; Team Leader- Washington CO AR Search and Rescue team; Director, Ozark Safety and Rescue Educators / Clear Creek Paddlesports; Member- Wilderness Medical Society

Dates and Times of Workshops:

Wilderness First Aid and EpiPen workshop

- Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11, 2022
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday (hours are subject to slight changes)
- 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday (hours are subject to slight changes)

Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED workshop

- Saturday, December 10, 2022
- 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (hours are subject to slight changes)

Location: Ozark Mountain Smokehouse, 1725 Smoke House Trail, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Eligible Participants: Must be 18 years of age or older to register and participate on your own. Adolescents aged 14 through 17 are eligible to register and attend, but they must be accompanied by a parent throughout the workshop(s).

Fee: Wilderness First Aid and EpiPen workshop: \$175 per participant (includes the two days)
Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED workshop: \$50 per participant

Registration:

Send a check or money order made out to OHTA, PO Box 4065, Fayetteville, AR 72702-4065 for the following amount(s):

- \$175 if you plan to attend just the two days of the workshop devoted to Wilderness First Aid and EpiPen training and certification
- \$50 if you plan to attend just the Saturday evening workshop devoted to Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED training and certification
- \$225 if you plan to attend all the trainings offered (e.g., Wilderness First Aid, EpiPen, and Adult, Child, and Infant CPR/AED)

Information Required with Your Check:

- first and last names (printed)
- mailing address
- telephone number
- email address (this is necessary because the instructor, Tom Borroughs, will be sending information to each registered participant during the two weeks preceding the workshops)

Deadline for Registration: Monday, November 21, 2022

Questions: Please send emails to: OHTA@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, or call at (870) 577-5069.

-- On the Trail --

From the Northeastern End

Work is moving along on the Ozark Keystone Trail, the section of the OHT that extends from the dam at Norfolk Lake to the Missouri border and beyond. Recently, a group of North Central Arkansas Master Naturalists (many of them are members of the OHTA, as well) reached the halfway point of clearing trees so expansion of the trail can commence near Bean Bluff. Additionally, an access easement road was completed at Bean Bluff, and this road will provide access to the trail from a nearby county road for maintenance purposes.

For those who are unfamiliar with Bean Bluff, it is a very scenic location along the planned route of the OKT between Red Bank and the Missouri border. The bluff used to be privately owned, but the Ozark Keystone Trail Endowment purchased the area around the bluff so the trail could be located at a safe elevation 250 feet above Lake Norfolk. Once this section of trail is completed (slated for 2023), hikers

and backpackers alike will be afforded a grand vista second to none of the lake and surrounding countryside below. Hold on because it's coming!

In Search of a Hiking Partner

On October 16, 2022, a hiker named Ben sent the following email to the OHTA in his quest to see if there is anyone who might be interested in hiking with him for a few days along the OHT. If, after reading Ben's message, you want to explore this opportunity more with him, his email address is: thatmrfisher@gmail.com. Here's the message:

Good morning:

I'm not sure how unusual my request will be for you all, but here it goes...I am seeking help to plan or have a second hiker join me on a long distance overnight hike next year. The reason that I am reaching out for help is that I don't have anyone in my family/friend/colleague group willing to tackle this kind of hike. I'm the outdoorsy one in my circles, which isn't saying much.

I'm turning 40 next year, and I want to celebrate by reflecting on my life while hiking 40 miles somewhere on the OHT sometime in February to mid-March 2023 (work schedule will determine). I'm planning to make this an overnight hike, so there will be considerable mileage each day. I am open to traveling any part of the trail, but the Buffalo River section appeals to me most right now, but I truly have no idea of what exists along parts of the OHT.

My first option would be to enlist someone with experience to help me plan out an amazing journey. This would be the ideal situation for me and likely the other person, too. Option one--just asking for someone to help plan and prepare for this trip.

However, I do also have a slight fear about covering that kind of distance on my own and much more, staying overnight in the woods alone.

This brings me to option two--a trail partner to go on the journey with me, even halfway may be a huge boon to me accomplishing my goal.

Here's some details about me: I walked 28 miles of the Razorback Greenway four years back. I intended to get to 35 miles, but a lack of planning and preparation keep me from succeeding--too heavy bag, old shoes, lack of working water filling stations, hottest day of the year at that point, etc. I'm currently doing some basic rucksack style training to get in better shape and to prepare for a long hike soon. I have basic gear to make it through an overnight hike, but I really don't know what is most needed, and I want this experience to be about the journey--not gear collecting.

I am willing to pay reasonable compensation for the help that I receive, whether that is planning or hitting the trails together. I will be glad to discuss that with anyone interested.

I'm hoping that I am giving enough notice to connect with someone and meet in person to make this less awkward for both of us. I live in far northwest Benton County if that is a consideration for anyone.

To sum up, I'm looking for a knowledgeable, experienced OHT hiker, and safe person to help me either plan a great trip or to travel with me. If someone is willing and able to help me, I'm appreciative.

Thanks for considering,

Ben

Interesting Breaktime Reads

- *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* by Ed Yong
- *Riverman: An American Odyssey* by Ben McGrath

- *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas W. Tallamy
- *Sidcountry: Tales of Death and Life from the Back Roads of Sports* by John Branch

NOTE: If you have a read or two 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.

**To each and all, here's wishing you amazing health
and an extremely wonderful month of November!**

**Until we have the pleasure of meeting again,
HIKE ONWARD!!**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A PART OF
THE OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION!!!**