

OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OHTA's Mission is to Build, Maintain, Promote, and ENJOY the Ozark Highlands Trail

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

– Overseeing the Trail –

OHTA Board of Directors for 2022-2023

Phil Brown (President/Eastern Chapter Rep)
Adam Higinbothom (Vice-president)
Brent Umphlett (Secretary)
Todd Wells (Treasurer)
Chris Adams (Maintenance Coordinator)

Wade Colwell (Interim Boston Mountain Chapter Rep)
Elizabeth Granderson (OHTA brochure manager)
Kerry Coe (OHTA membership building)
Miles Jandrsev (Maintenance Director-West Section)

– Looking Ahead on the Trail –

A Celebration Is Brewin'

IT'S HERE!! 2023 is upon us, and OHTA is looking for it to be a banner year. To help assure this year will be very special, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 4. What's so special about that day, you ask? Well it's the Frost Fest being put on by Fossil Cove Brewing Company in Fayetteville. So what's the big deal, you say? Well, the big deal is that Ozark Highlands Trail Association has been designated as this year's recipient of a donation from the proceeds raised by the event. This is great news, and here are some of the particulars in case you want to attend the festivities:

- The 2023 Frost Fest will be held at the Washington County Fairgrounds on Saturday, February 4 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- OHTA will run a booth at the Frost Fest as a way of promoting our fine organization and the Ozark Highlands Trail.
- More than 40 breweries have announced plans to have their brews available at this event.
- There will be live music featuring Fayetteville singer, yodeler, and songwriter Nick Shoulders & OK Crawdad, along with local rockers The Phlegms and Vintage Pistol.
- Several local artists will be on hand selling their wares, and there will be food trucks, vendors, and more.
- Tickets to the festival are \$70 for general admission and \$100 for an early-entry "beer enthusiasts" option.
- To purchase tickets and to learn more, just go to <https://www.fossilcovebrewing.com/frost-fest>.
- And remember, the OHTA has been designated as this year's recipient of a donation from the proceeds raised by Frost Fest!

Hope to see you there!!

OHTA's Board Will Soon Be Changin'

What?! Yes, change is inevitable, and, indeed, that is true for OHTA's Board. Yes, the term for each of three OHTA Board members ends on June 30, 2023. At this point, no one knows if any of them will nominate themselves as a candidate to run in the election to be held in May 2023 (exact date is yet to be determined). Regardless, if you want to nominate yourself or some other OHTA member as a potential candidate to fill one of those positions, now's the time to send your nomination to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. This year's deadline for nominations is Sunday, April 23, so there is no need for a snap decision. Give yourself

some time to think about it, but please do give a run for a Board position some serious thought. If you decide you want to toss your hat into the ring, then please send a photo and a brief bio along with your announcement. Are you wondering if you're eligible to run for a seat on the Board? Well, wonder no more! If you are an OHTA member, that right there makes you a viable candidate. Hope to be hearing from you!

Hare Mountain Hike-In Is Comin'

It may seem too far off to be thinking about this, but 2023's Hare Mountain Hike-In will be here before you know it. As was noted in the December 2022 Newsletter, this year's Hike-In is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8. As was the case in 2022, so, too, it will be in 2023: THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK DINNER. In addition, the winners for the Maintainer of the Year Award, the Dawna Robinson Member of the Year Award, and the Trail Ranger Award (a lifetime achievement award) will be announced (presentations will be made if the recipients are in attendance). We're hoping this year's event will be one for the record books. Hope to see you there!

Rumblings of Spring Maintenance Base Camps

Yes, there are rumors that we may see some maintenance base camps planned for this coming spring. Given the huge success of last October's three base camps, there have been some rumblings that more are on the way. There's no firm information about these at the moment, but you can rest assured that as soon as anything gets set about these, ya'll will be hearing about it. So stay tuned!

- Reflecting Back on the Trail -

Important Awards of 2022 Overlooked

Each year, the Ozark Highlands Trail Association gives recognition to three individuals whose volunteer efforts to the organization and the trail went above and beyond. This is done by naming one OHTA member as recipient of each of the following three awards:

- Dawna Robinson Member of the Year
- Maintainer of the Year
- Trail Ranger Award (lifetime achievement award)

Several names have been tossed around for the Trail Ranger Award, but the recipient of the award for 2022 has yet to be determined. The list of nominees is being narrowed, and the plan is to have someone picked by mid-January. As for the other two awards, here are the recipients:

2022 Dawna Robinson Member of the Year

Gordon King

For those of you who have had the opportunity to traverse the 33+ miles of the Sylamore section of the Ozark Highlands Trail, you may have noticed that deadfalls blocking the trail seem to disappear fairly rapidly. Very often, the sawyer work leading to those disappearances was initiated by Gordon. His trail work does not stop there. He was a very active participant in two of the three maintenance base camps organized in October 2022. His maintenance commitments were not confined to the base camps, though, as he has regularly seen to it that all trail maintenance on his two OHT adopted sections is up to snuff at all times. Gordon has been a major player in the construction of the Ozark Keystone Trail—the northernmost 66+ mile section of trail that will connect the OHT with the Ozark Trail (OT) in Missouri. In addition to all of the construction and maintenance he performs, he has long been very actively engaged in promoting the trail by assuring trailheads are stocked with business cards, shuttling hikers to and from their destinations, and picking up trash at trailheads and along the roadsides near the trailheads. Our hats are off to Gordon King for all he has done and continues doing as a volunteer for the OHTA!

2022 Maintainer of the Year

Wendy Johnson

If you've never met Wendy, well, it's your loss. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and for years she has channeled a great deal of each into assuring the two-mile stretch of the OHT-Sylamore section she adopted many years ago is in tip-top condition for hikers and backpackers from far and near to enjoy. Whenever her busy schedule allows, she is ready to lend a hand to the maintenance efforts of others as evidenced in the very active role she played each day in the Blanchard Springs maintenance base camp held in mid-October 2022. Wendy, the Ozark Highlands Trail is honored to recognize you as our Maintainer of the Year for 2022!

- Relaxing on the Trail -

Interesting Breaktime Reads

- *PrairyErth (a deep map)* by William Least Heat-Moon
- *A Blistered Kind of Love: One Couple's Trial by Trail* by Angela & Duffy Ballard

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, fantastic journeys spent with those who are very special to you, abundant memories of those journeys, and a 2023 that will leave you knowing you are loved!

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

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