

OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

MAY 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 Jandrsevich (Maintenance Director-West Section)

OHTA 2023 Board of Director's Meeting

- **Day, Date, and Time:** Sunday, May 21, 2023, 2 p.m.
- **Location:** Fossil Cove Brewing Company (the old tap room)
1946 N. Birch Ave, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703

– Looking Ahead on the Trail –

OHTA's Board Is Changing

The membership has spoken! Yes, the 2023 election has come to a conclusion! Five candidates ran for a chance to fill the three board positions being vacated by board members whose three-year terms end on June 30, and here are the folks you elected:

- Chris Adams
- Tiffany Mallard
- Phil Brown

The board would like to send out a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in this year's election! May those you elected serve the organization well.

Fall Maintenance Base Camps

We have it from a very reliable source that crews will gather this fall and work to improve conditions on the OHT from one end of the trail to the other. How is this going to happen? Well, through the scheduling of three maintenance base camps. The exact details have not yet been revealed, but, yes, look for announcements to be made sometime in August or September. One thing is known for sure, and it is that last year's three base camps were each a major success and provided the impetus for there to be more! So stayed tuned because preparations are under way for this year's three to be even more productive and rewarding for our trail and for all who participate! We'll be looking for volunteers!

Hare Mountain Hike-In Is Getting Closer

Continue counting 'em down . . . six months. That's all the time left between now and this year's Hare Mountain Hike-In scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, **November 4 and 5**. Don't forget, **THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK DINNER**. In addition, the recipients of OHTA's annual awards will be announced, and each will be presented with their award if they are in attendance. We want this year's event to be the best it can be, and if you're in attendance, we're certain it will be one for the record books. Hope to see you there!

- Looking Back on the Trail -

2023 Brewha Bushwhack

Congratulations are in order for Pack Rat Outdoor Center as they pulled off yet another spectacular event, the 2023 Brewha Bushwhack! And once again OHTA was present with its booth staffed by four of our best. Word has it that a great time was had by all, and we'd like to thank Steven Parker for organizing OHTA's booth and for putting on superb crosscut saw demonstrations for all who stopped by. Also, thanks goes out to Miles Jandrusevic and to Elizabeth and Josh Granderson for their assistance in representing our fine organization. Job well done!

2023 Rendezvous

The 2023 OHTA Rendezvous held this year near the dam of Norfolk Lake turned out to be a great success! The hike on Saturday and Sunday mornings were very well attended, and the weather for journeying through the woods was just right! The meal catered by Whispering Woods was superb, and we want to thank their two employees for the expertise they demonstrated in setting up the meal so very well in not the best of conditions. They pulled it off like the pros they are!

In addition, we'd like to thank each and every individual who worked so hard to make everything come together in what proved to be an event to remember! What a great group of folks! Thank you all!!

Now, it won't be long, and we'll start planning next year's Rendezvous, so stayed tuned! And if you have any suggestions you'd like to make about where to have our next Rendezvous and other facets of the experience, please let us know at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. Your input will be welcomed!

- On the Trail -

Cherry Bend Area is Wide Open

Great news!! The OHT to the east and west of Cherry Bend is open for business! We've had numerous calls and emails asking whether the trail through the landslide area was open. Well, USFS personnel have closely monitored the ground through and around the landslide area, and thanks to their hard work and diligence, they were able to declare the area safe to navigate. The go-ahead was given to OHTA's Maintenance Coordinator, Chris Adams, to undertake the work necessary for re-establishing the trail that, for safety's sake, had to be closed.

Jumping into action as he is known to do, Chris quickly assembled a group of volunteers, and in one day the crew had the trail opened. The 'Trail Closed' signs came down, and we're all very pleased to announce to everyone that the Ozark Highlands Trail east of the Cherry Bend Trailhead is open for business. What is left now is for the Ozark Highlands Trail Association to express its deepest appreciation to the personnel of the United States Forest Service for everything they did to assure the safety of the trail through the landslide area. As well, a big round of applause is owed to Chris Adams and his crew of very determined and skilled maintainers. THANK YOU ALL!!

On to the west of Cherry Bend Trailhead, concerns about the condition of the OHT in certain sidehill areas were being raised. So, the trail was inspected by some of OHTA's most knowledgeable maintainers and trail builders, and a plan for correcting the problems was formulated. Within the past three to four weeks, Wade Colwell put out two calls for volunteers to help with some sidehilling, and on each occasion four or five able-bodied and skilled folks showed up to take on the challenge. Their hard work paid off, and the damaged/eroded sections of trail have been restored to like-new conditions! Let's hear another big round of applause for Wade Colwell and the folks who joined him in assuring the stretch of trail west of Cherry Bend is looking good! THANK YOU ALL!!

– Relaxing Trailside –

Interesting Breaktime Read

- *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* – Ben Montgomery
- *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* – Bill Bryson

PLEASE 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 ohta@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, and it will appear in the next edition of the OHTA Newsletter.

To each and all, as your destination for the day's trek comes into view, may you find your pack a bit lighter and your mind swimming with experiences you did not imagine could be!

Quote for the month

"Returning home is the most difficult part of long-distance hiking. You have grown outside the puzzle and your piece no longer fits." – Cindy Ross

Until we have the pleasure of meeting again,

HIKE ONWARD!!

**YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE OHT MAKES THIS THE ASSOCIATION IT IS!
THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A PART OF THE OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION!!**