



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

- 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)
Miles Jandrsevich (Maintenance Director-West Section)
Peter Cooper (interim member)

OHTA Board of Director for 2023-2024

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)
Miles Jandrsevich (Maintenance Director-West Section)
Tiffany Mallard (social media and promotions)
Peter Cooper (interim member)

OHTA Board of Director's Meeting

At this time, the next board of director's meeting has not been scheduled, but when the date, time, and location have been set, all members will be notified via email and the newsletter. Stay tuned!

- Looking Ahead on the Trail -

October 2023 Maintenance Base Camps

OHTA's Maintenance Coordinator, Chris Adams, announced during the board of directors meeting held on May 21, 2023, that he plans on scheduling three maintenance base camps in October. The base camps will be organized for the purpose improving conditions on the OHT wherever conditions are in need of improvement. The exact date and location of each of the three base camps is yet to be determined, and all of that information will be headed your way in August or September. Regardless, if you're interested in participating in any or all of the three events, now's the time to start planning your schedule! So be looking for notices on our social media sites and in upcoming editions of the OHTA Newsletter. We're going to do our best to make this year's three base camps more productive and rewarding than ever before for our trail and for all who participate . . . and there will be food and drinks! Oh, yes, the tools will be furnished by OHTA. All that will be necessary for you to bring is you!

Hare Mountain Hike-In Is Getting Closer

Yes, in five short months, it will be here! 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. And as has been noted before, THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK DINNER! Additionally, the recipients of OHTA's annual awards will be announced,

and each will be presented with their award if they are in attendance. We're determined to make this year's event the best it can be, and if you're there, we're certain it will be one for the record books. Hope to see you there!

Representing the OHTA at Spring Festivals

Each spring there are festivals occurring in communities throughout the Ozarks, and this spring is no exception. For instance, Cotter's Trout Festival in Big Spring Park recently passed, and on June 3, the city of Gassville holds its Gassville in the Park celebration.

Through time, the Ozark Highlands Trail Association has thrown up its canopy and run a booth at a number of these festivals, though our presence has been far from consistent. Many of these community festivals occur in small towns such as Cotter, Gassville, Marshall, and Yellville, to name a few. Having a presence at these festivals could be a great way of building awareness of our wonderful resource and of growing our organization's membership beyond the Fayetteville area. Doing this, though, would require a handful of individuals with an urge to commit some time for spreading the word about our trail. It's also a great way to meet other folks who are also interested in the outdoors. But where would we find a band of volunteers with a penchant for promoting our organization and the OHT? We believe we just might find it within the group of great folks we have as members. That said, if you are one of those folks who would be interested in representing the OHTA at local festivals, please let us know at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. A small group with a determination to make a difference could work wonders for our organization! Hope to hear from you!

- Looking Back on the Trail -

Adopt A Highway 2023



Yes, the pictures tell the story . . . the OHTA's Adopt A Highway project scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2023, was clearly a success!! As can be seen, there was enough litter removed from our one mile of adopted roadway to fill up several large trash bags. This wouldn't have happened were it not for the work Brent Umphlett put into organizing the event, so let's give him a big round of applause! In addition, let's hear it for the assistance Brent received from Wade Colwell, Angie Houser, and Jim Warnock. THANK YOU ALL!! Oh, yes, and thank you Jim for sharing the pics! Great job everyone!

Hare Mountain 100

What's this?! The Hare Mountain 100 is a point-to-point 100-mile run that incorporates two scenic spur loops along the Ozark Highlands Trail between Haw Creek Falls and White Rock to the west. The event starts at Haw Creek Falls Recreation Area at 8 a.m. on Friday, October 27, 2023. The race director is Stephanie Turner, and it is being sponsored this year by Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Adventure Subaru, Tailwind, and others.

It is important to note that to qualify for participation in this event, runners must sign a waiver and either perform eight (8) hours of trail work on the OHT or opt out of the work by donating \$100 to the Ozark Highlands Trail Association.

The OHTA would like to put together a team to represent our organization at this event if doing so would be permitted by the event coordinator(s). At this point, communication has only recently been initiated for the purpose of learning if OHTA would be allowed to do so and how that could happen. Nonetheless, if you would like to represent the OHTA at this event by volunteering to set up our organization's canopy and staffing an aid station, please contact us at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. Or if you think you would like to get involved with the event in some other way and want to know more about the ways in which you could assist, you can check it all out at <https://www.haremountain100.com/>.

– Getting and Keeping Yourself on the Trail –

Do you find yourself longing to become part of something larger than yourself? Could those urges be motivating you to join an organization, perhaps the Ozark Highlands Trail Association? If so, could it be that you find the process too cumbersome, maybe even overwhelming? Well, if that is the case, relief is finally here! You can join the OHTA by simply clicking here: <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/membership/>, and voila, you're just a few quick and easy steps away from becoming a member of this fine organization! Go ahead; give it a shot. We're pretty sure you won't regret it!

But, wait! What's this, you say?! You're already a member . . . or you believe you are but are not sure about whether your membership is current? Do you find yourself wondering when you last paid membership dues and can't remember if you have records of when that occurred? Well, again, there's a very simple way of figuring this out, and that is to simply send an email to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, and ask us to figure it out for you. We'll get back to you promptly, and if your dues are due, you can click on this link and follow the prompts: <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/membership/>. It's that simple! Go ahead; give it a shot. You won't regret renewing your membership!

– Relaxing Trailside –

Interesting Breaktime Reads

- *Becoming Odyssea: Adventures on the Appalachian Trail* – Jennifer Pharr Davis
- *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* – Ben Montgomery

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

Beware, for the next step you take on the trail will all too likely be the one that precedes countless more . . . and there could be no stopping. So, could hiking be habit forming? If so, what a great habit to have!

Quote for the month

“A significant fraction of thru-hikers reach Katahdin, then turn around and start back to Georgia. They just can't stop walking, which kind of makes you wonder.” Bill Bryson, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*

Until the trails we travel alone become the trail that brings us together,

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!!