



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

OHTA's Next Board of Director's Meeting

The date and time of the next Board of Director's meeting is set for Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 3 p.m. It will almost certainly be held in Harrison to facilitate attendance of members from all stretches of the OHT. There will be a potluck, and we're working to schedule a speaker . . . more to come.

- Looking Ahead on the Trail -

Ozark Highlands Trail Association is coming out of its period of hibernation and is starting to roar! To start, Tom Perry, Chair of the Highlands Chapter of the Ozark Society, and Phil Brown, Board President of Ozark Highlands Trail Association met on Sunday, August 20, 2023, to talk about the interests each of our organizations shares with the other. What was found is that our primary shared interest is in keeping those parts of the OHT running between the Matney and Lake Fort Smith Trailheads open to human foot traffic only. In the months to come, representatives from each of our organizations will jointly communicate this shared interest to USFS personnel. We'll see what transpires, and rest assured, you all will be kept informed of developments as they occur.

Now for the real roar – all three Maintenance Base Camps of 2023 are scheduled! Down the trail on the heels of the last base camp are the Hare Mountain 100 scheduled to start on Friday, October 27, and the Hare Mountain Hike-In starting on Saturday, November 4. Maintainers are gearing up to hit their sections and assure the trail is in tip-top shape for this season's array of hiking enthusiasts. Sawyers are brushing off their saws and sharpening the chains for what is likely to be a bumper crop of big stuff needing to be removed from the trail! And, yes, progress toward completion of the tread through the Keystone section continues at a remarkable pace! Indeed, the big bear has once again awakened, so look out OHT!

HERE WE COME!!

October 2023 Maintenance Base Camps

They're on the schedule! Yes, we now have dates, locations, and other details for the three OHTA Maintenance Base Camps of 2023! Here is information on each:

OHT West Base Camp

- Days and dates: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 15, 16, 17, 2023
- Camping: It's free and starts Thursday afternoon, September 14, 2023. Come and stay and help out each day or for any part of the event.
- Food: It's all on OHTA!!
- Gear needed: OHTA has it all—just bring you, some gloves, a way of carrying water and snacks for the day, and some sturdy footwear.
- Who can attend: Members and nonmembers, young and old, ONLY!
- Location: Mulberry Mountain Lodging & Events; 4117 Mulberry Mountain Loop; Ozark, Arkansas 72949
- Phone: (479) 667-1919
- Registration link: [OHT West at Mulberry Mtn Campground](#) (for those wanting to be a part of this event)
- Number registered to date: 30+ volunteers
- **RED ALERT**: With this many registrants, we are desperate to find volunteers to help with food preparation, cleaning, and watching over and maintaining camp. If you would like to attend but are concerned that you may not be prepared to get out on the trail at this time, assisting with the in-camp operations during the day would serve an extremely important, appreciated function.

OHT East Base Camp

- Days and dates: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 6, 7, 8, 2023
- Camping: It's free and starts Thursday afternoon, October 5, 2023. Come and stay and help out each day or for any part of the event.
- Food: It's all on OHTA!!
- Gear needed: OHTA has it all—just bring you, some gloves, a way of carrying water and snacks for the day, and some sturdy footwear.
- Who can attend: Members and nonmembers, young and old, ONLY!
- Location: Haw Creek Falls Recreation Area; Arkansas Highway 123, Pelsor, Arkansas
- Phone: None
- Directions:
 - From Hagarville, take Arkansas 123 north for 14 miles.
 - From Pelsor, take Arkansas 123 west for 12 miles
 - Latitude: 35.6770000 – Longitude: -93.2550500
- Registration link: [OHT East at Haw Creek Campground](#) (for those wanting to be a part of this event)
- Number registered to date: 7 volunteers
- **IMPORTANT**: Volunteers to help with food preparation, cleaning, and watching over and maintaining camp are needed for this base camp, as well. If you would like to attend but are concerned that you may not be prepared to get out on the trail at this time, helping out in camp during the day would serve a very important, appreciated function.

OHT North Base Camp

- Days and dates: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 13, 14, 15 2023
- Camping: It's free and starts Thursday afternoon, October 12, 2023. Come and stay and help out each day or for any part of the event.
- Food: It's all on OHTA!!
- Gear needed: OHTA has it all—just bring you, some gloves, a way of carrying water and snacks for the day, and some sturdy footwear.
- Who can attend: Members and nonmembers, young and old, ONLY!
- Location: 6322 Highway 14 N, Fifty-Six, Arkansas 72533
- Phone: (870) 757-2471

- Directions:
 - From Yellville, head south on Arkansas 14 and stay on it for 47.5 miles (be sure to turn left at Harriet—23.8 miles south of Yellville—to stay on Hwy. 14).
 - From Calico Rock, continue to the south on Arkansas 5 south for 17 miles to the intersection with Hwy. 14, turn right and travel west for 7.7 miles).
 - From Mountain View, head north on Hwy. 87 for 10.2 miles to Hwy. 14, take a left on Hwy. 14 and head west for 1.3 miles to Fifty-Six)
- Registration link: [OHT North at Cedarwoods Cabins \(Hwy 14\)](#) (for those wanting to be a part of this event)
- Number registered to date: 15 volunteers
- **IMPORTANT:** For this base camp we have a full team of volunteers to help with food preparation, cleaning, and watching over and maintaining camp. However, if you would like to attend but are concerned that you may not be prepared to get out on the trail at this time, having you around camp during the daytime will be very much appreciated.

Hare Mountain Hike-In Is Getting Closer

Just two months and counting down till 2023's Hare Mountain Hike-In. It doesn't seem possible, but it is. Remember, this year's event is **scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5**. Don't forget, **THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK DINNER**, so you still have time to decide on a dish to bring or on one you can prepare in camp and share with everyone! This event will be your opportunity to celebrate OHTA's 39th birthday along with many other trail enthusiasts (the actual birthday was on July 18), so we hope you can make it to this year's birthday bash!

Hare Mountain 100

As was reported in the June 2023 Newsletter and in each publication since, the Hare Mountain 100 is scheduled to start at Haw Creek Falls Recreation Area at 8 a.m. on Friday, October 27, 2023. 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 race director is Stephanie Turner, and the event 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.

We continue being very pleased to note that OHTA will be represented at this year's 100 by Randy Seoung and a team of volunteers he has brought together. However, he remains receptive to growing the team, so if you find yourself interested in learning more about what Randy and his group will be doing and the role you could play, please feel free to contact him at randysoeung@yahoo.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 you can make that happen, simply check it all out at <https://www.haremountain100.com/>. Whatever you do, we trust you'll make it a great experience!

– Getting and Keeping Yourself on the Trail –

Once again we're wondering if you're finding yourself longing to become part of something larger than yourself, say an organization, perhaps a trail organization? Well if you are, the Ozark Highlands Trail Association may be just the one you're looking for? To learn whether this could be the case for you, simply click on: <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/membership/>, and explore—find what OHTA has to offer you! Doing so could put you just a step or two from becoming a member of this fine organization! Go ahead; you have nothing to lose! It could very well prove to be the best step you've ever taken!

Oh, you're already a member but cannot remember whether your membership is current and don't have records of when you last paid membership dues? Well, we can help you figure this out. All that's necessary for you to do is click on: ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, and ask us to figure it out for you. We'll get back to you promptly to let you know whether your dues are current or past due. If the latter is true and you want to renew your membership, simply click on: <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/membership/>. It's that easy! Go ahead; give it a shot. You won't regret renewing your membership!

– Relaxing Trailside –

Interesting Breaktime Reads With Your Young Children or Grandchildren (start 'em young)

Mrs. Peanuckle's Hiking Alphabet – Mrs. Peanuckle (author), Jessie Ford (illustrator)

My Mountain Baby – Rose Rossner (author), Louise Anglicas (illustrator)

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.

**With each step we take, we're that much closer to the crunch of leaves underfoot. Fall is on its way accompanied by countless enjoyable experiences on the trail!
Bring on the changing colors, and let the fun begin!**

Quote for the month

“Hiking is a bit like life: The journey only requires you to put one foot in front of the other . . . again and again and again. And if you allow yourself the opportunity to be present throughout the entirety of the trek, you will witness beauty every step of the way, not just at the summit.” -- Unknown

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!!