



APRIL 2024 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/Website Coordinator)
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 Coordinator)
Peter Cooper (Interim Member)

- Looking Ahead on the Trail -

Board of Directors Election for 2024

The 2024 OHTA Board of Directors Election has officially ended. The votes are tallied, and in staying true to our organization's Bylaws, the winners will be announced at the Annual Board Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, 7 p.m., at Pavilion Area 1 located on the lake side of the highway at the north end of Norfolk Dam. Hope to see you there!

OHTA Spring Fling 2024



photo courtesy of Tiffany Mallard

The 2024 OHTA Spring Fling scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the Lake Fort Smith Pavilion proved to be a great time for all in attendance! The day started with an invigorating group hike on the Ozark Highlands Trail skirting the western bank at the north end of scenic Lake Fort Smith. Following that were grilled burgers with all the fixin's, an abundance of potluck dishes, a nice variety of beverages, and, of course, social time where a few stories and stimulating conversations were shared among all who showed up to enjoy the day. A great time was had by all! Thank you, Tiffany Mallard, for creating this wonderful event!



photo courtesy of Tiffany Mallard

OHTA Rendezvous 2024

Can you believe it? OHTA's 2024 Rendezvous and Annual meeting are less than a month away, and, as it was in 2023, this year's extravaganza will be held at the dam on Norfolk Lake.

Here is the information on the event as it exists at this point:

- Group Area 1 has been reserved by OHTA for those who want to camp there on Friday night and/or Saturday night, April 26 and 27. Group Area 1 will support up to 120 people with tent and RV (limited) camping allowed. Also, there is a restroom in the group area. Warm showers can be found in the Dam Quarry Campground just down the hill to the south of Dam-Quarry Campground.
- Pavilion Area 1 has been reserved by OHTA for the catered meal (no charge for those in attendance) scheduled for the evening of Saturday, April 27, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meal this year will be catered by Whispering Woods, and it will be superb! The OHTA annual meeting will follow the meal, at about 7 p.m., and we're hoping to have a speaker or two for the meeting. RSVP your spot at: ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com
- Here's this year's menu:

Dinner rolls and butter & signature salad

Mixed Greens with apples, blue cheese & candied walnuts

Red wine vinaigrette sliced beef tenderloin with sauteed mushrooms & creamy horseradish sauce

Pan seared salmon with avocado salsa & wild rice

Sauteed zucchini and yellow squash

Sauteed green beans with shallots

Chef's choice assorted desserts

Water and iced tea station

- Informal get-together for all who want to attend at Norfolk Brewing Company in the town of Norfolk on Friday evening, April 26, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Overnight group backpacking experience:** Friday, April 26, 2024. All participants will meet at Moccasin Springs Trailhead (MSTH) on Highway 341 (Push Mountain Road). The group will launch off on its trek at 2:30 p.m. The later start will make it possible for those traveling from afar to drive to MSTH that day instead of having to drive up and rent a room the night before. We will hike east on the OHT from the trailhead and set up camp at an extraordinarily scenic area about one (1) mile east of MSTH. We'll all hike out on Saturday morning/early afternoon in plenty of time for all participants to make it back to camp for the catered meal and annual meeting. This group backpacking experience is for all ages and experience levels. Of course, it will be necessary for you to bring all of your own supplies and gear. Barring the occurrence of a major lightning event, this experience will go forward as planned—rain will not stop us. In fact, rain might just be a welcomed thing, as there are numerous waterfalls where we'll be headed. **Please let us know if you plan to take part in this journey by emailing us at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. The more the merrier!**

- **Group hike #1:** Saturday, morning, April 27, 2024. Meet at Moccasin Springs Trailhead (MSTH) at 9:30 a.m. Group hike leader will be Dave Weiss. Those participating in this hike will head east from MSTH and meet up with the folks who went on the backpacking trip the night before. Then, we'll all hike out together! If you plan on joining in on this hike, please let us know by going to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com so we can have an idea of how many folks to be looking for. Hope to see you there!
- **Group hike #2:** Sunday morning, April 28, 2024. For those camping at or near Norfolk Dam, we will meet at Group Area 1 at 9 a.m. From there, we will caravan to the Walmart parking lot (Mountain Home) and hook up with anyone who would prefer to meet there (if you're facing the store, at the left corner of the lot farthest from the store) at about 9:45 a.m. Those who want to pile into a vehicle with anyone willing to haul passengers, can do so at the Walmart lot, or you are welcome to drive your car in the caravan out to Niles Landing Trailhead (NLTH). From NLTH (limited parking), we will hike in a northerly direction to the AR/MO border—the terminus of the OKT/OHT. This will be an in-and-out hike with a total distance of 6.8 miles. The difficulty is moderate due primarily to the number of miles. If you have seen the west end of the OHT and desire to see the north end, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! DON'T MISS IT! If you plan on joining in on this hike, please contact us at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com so we can have an idea of how many folks to be looking for. Hope to see you there!

IMPORTANT NOTICES

1. If you are planning to attend the Rendezvous 2024 meal and annual meeting, please contact us as soon as possible and no later than Monday, April 15 at ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com so we can know how many will be in your party and can then let the caterers know how many meals to prepare for the Saturday evening meal.
2. If you're planning on camping in a travel trailer or motorhome at Dam-Quarry Campground (the campground that is adjacent to Norfolk River), you may want to reserve a spot as soon as possible. The sites go quickly once spring comes around.
3. If you'd prefer not to attend the Rendezvous but would like to join either or both of the hikes and/or the overnight backpacking trip, you are very welcome to do so!

We hope to have a record-breaking turnout this year for the Rendezvous, but even if we don't, it will be complete as long as you are there!

Pack Rat's Brewha Bushwhack 2024

It's just around the corner, and we're very pleased to announce that Ozark Highlands Trail Association will be superbly represented at this year's Brewha Bushwhack scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024. Steven Parker is leading the charge and has put together a superb team of volunteers comprised of Peter Cooper and Tiffany and Evan Mallard to assist in staffing a booth for this remarkable team-based adventure challenge. To you all, the organization gives a big shout out, so THANK YOU!!

To learn more about his unbelievable event, just go to: <https://packratoc.com/pages/brewha-bushwhack>.

- Looking Back on the Trail -

OHTA Banner Flying High

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, a group of OHTA enthusiasts met at Fossil Cove Brewing Company for the hanging of the newest OHTA banner. It was a bit of a festive event, and we cannot say enough about

how well all of the folks at Fossil Cove accommodated us! So you say you would like to know how this new banner looks, well here's a pic. It's there for all to see!



And yes, the QR code in the lower corner of the banner actually works. Give it a shot, and you'll see exactly where it takes you!

**THANK YOU FOSSIL COVE BREWING COMPANY
FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OHTA!!!**

- On the Trail -

If you've paid any attention to OHTA's official Facebook page, you've probably noticed that the "Name That Spot" contest launched by Tiffany Mallard is very much alive and generating an abundance of interest. Several photos of have been submitted, and it is amazing how many folks have identified the locations of the 'spots' shown in the photos. It's a fun thing to do, and we say thanks to you, Tiffany, for coming up with this idea and overseeing its progress!

Now if you are unaware of what this "Name That Spot" thing is about, here's some information. It is a contest whereby OHT hikers are asked to submit photos of an iconic spot along the OHT that can be posted on OHTA's social media platforms. Those visiting our social media platform(s) are then encouraged to comment on the

photo and give their best guess about the location of the spot shown in the photo. It's that simple! So if you want to participate in this endeavor, please submit a photo of your special spot on the OHT to tmallard52@gmail.com. Here's the information that's important to include with each photo you send:

- name of the spot
- approximate mileage of its location along the OHT
- cool history/information about the location
- anything fun/relevant about the location

It's that simple, so let's keep the pics coming! And if you're on OHTA's Facebook page, check it out! You may be the one who successfully names that spot!

- Interesting Trailside Read -

The Trail: a novel – Ethan Gallogly (Author), Jeremy Ashcroft (Illustrator)

The Power of Moments – Dan Heath and Chip Heath

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.

Rain or shine, cold or hot, uphill or downhill, the trail is out there calling you to join it and EXPLORE!!



Elephant Head Rock – Lower Buffalo Wilderness

Quotes for the month

“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.”

Christian D. Larson

“Life is a journey, and if you fall in love with the journey, you will be in love forever.”

Peter Hagerty

Till 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!!