



JUNE 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 Jandrsevici (Maintenance Director-West Section)
Tiffany Mallard (Social Media and Promotions Coordinator)
Peter Cooper (Interim Member)

OHTA Board of Director for 2024-2025

Phil Brown	Tiffany Mallard
Adam Higinbothom	Wade Colwell
Todd Wells	Peter Cooper
Brent Umphlett	Randy Soeung
Chris Adams	

OHTA Board of Director's Meeting

Come one, come all to Fossil Cove Brewing Company, 1946 North Birch Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas, for the next meeting of the OHTA Board of Directors! The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 29, 2024, at 2 p.m. in the Old Tap Room at Fossil Cove. Our organization has the room reserved for two hours, if needed. Of course, you can come early and/or stay late if there is something in addition to the meeting you'd like check out. The primary focus of this meeting is the election by board members of new officers for the upcoming 2024-2025 fiscal year. Hope you can make it to the meeting!

Thank you Fossil Cove for making space for us and for being so accommodating! What a great group you have, and your brews are superb!

– **Looking Ahead on the Trail** –

Hare Mountain Hike-In

If you're really quiet and listen intently to the world around you, you might just hear the soft thump of boots heading up the trail toward the camping area atop Hare Mountain. Actually, if you're hearing these sounds at this point in time, and you're not out hiking as you hear them, you might want to consider some professional intervention because the 2024 Hare Mountain Hike-In is still about five months away.

Yes, the first weekend of every November is when the tradition of celebrating OHTA's birthday happens, and this year it falls on Saturday and Sunday, November 2nd and 3rd. As was noted in May's Newsletter, Tim Ernst, the founder of our fine organization, confirmed that in September 1981, a meeting was held by a small gathering of folks interested in developing a trail that would run from Lake Fort Smith to a point somewhere on the Arkansas/Missouri border along the eastern shoreline of Lake Norfolk. What came out of that meeting was the decision to form a club and to name it the Ozark Highlands Trail Association.

Flashing forward from 1981 to now means this year's Hare Mountain Hike-In will be a celebration of OHTA's 43rd birthday! For humans, 43 is about the time the infamous mid-life crisis kicks in, but nothing of the sort is occurring with the OHTA. To the contrary, it's getting nothing less than stronger and more robust and ready to celebrate, for the 43rd time, the great organization it has been and is determined to continue being!

So the hope is that you desire to participate in this year's celebration and that you're already planning your favorite dish and beverage to bring to this year's potluck. Last year's was, indeed, a feast, and it's a good bet that this year's meal will be nothing short of spectacular! If all goes well, we'll see you all there!!

- On the Trail -

The Storms' Wrath

This spring's storms have blown down an unusually large number of trees and created, in some spots, major damage along parts of the OHT. In fact, the damage created by a tornado that tore through the West Shores Lake Loop Trail was so extensive, the Forest Service is suggesting that rerouting the section would make more sense than attempting to cut through the mass of debris left by the storm. Many are finding it difficult to recall a time in the past when so many weather-related challenges were created on our trail in such a short expanse of time. Despite this, the storms, though powerful and destructive, have done nothing to dampen or damage the resolve of the Ozark Highlands Trail Association's maintainers, sawyers, swampers, and the scouts on the trail who have found and reported the exact locations of downed trees and debris. Time and again, groups of dedicated volunteers have risen to the challenges created by the forces of nature and worked selflessly to assure the OHT is for all the beautiful pathway we know it to be. With this in mind, the OHTA wants to express its appreciation to each and every one of you with a simple but heartfelt, THANK YOU!!

While we're at it, organizing groups of volunteers, putting together supplies necessary for the maintenance to be done, and formulating action plans would not have been possible without the guidance and tireless effort put forth by one laser-focused, remarkably dedicated and driven leader we know as our Maintenance Coordinator, Chris Adams.

**CHRIS, YOU ARE APPRECIATED BY US ALL MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!
THANK YOU!!!**

Searching for Volunteers

Summer is almost upon us, and it has long been that during the summer months the OHTA has pretty much gone into hibernation. That remains true to this day. Before we know it, though, fall will be here, and this beast of an organization will come alive once again with all sorts of events happening at both ends of the trail and everywhere in between.

Doing all that is necessary to continue the development of our trail and the OHTA as a whole requires folks who are willing to volunteer a little of their time here and there. The commitment is not extensive, and there are many ways to contribute. If you believe you are at the point of being ready to donate a little of your time to the OHT and/or the organization, please contact us at OHTA@ozarkhighlandstrail.com, and we'll talk it over. Together, we can find way of contributing a little extra that works best for you!

- Interesting Trailside Reads -

The Keeper of the Stars: A Novel – Buck Turner

Force of Nature: Three Women Tackle the John Muir Trail – Joan M. Griffin



'Tis the Season – Wooo Pyg Shooie

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

"The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun." Christopher McCandless

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!!**