



SEPTEMBER 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 2024-2025

Phil Brown, *President* (Board term ends: June 30, 2026)
Adam Higinbothom, *Vice-President* (Board term ends: June 30, 2025)
Todd Wells, *Treasurer* (Board term ends: June 30, 2025)
Brent Umphlett, *Secretary* (Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Chris Adams, *Maintenance Coordinator* (Board term ends: June 30, 2026)
Tiffany Mallard (Board term ends: June 30, 2026)
Wade Colwell (Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Peter Cooper (Interim—when approved as board member, Board term will end: on June 30, 2025)
Randy Soeung (Board term ends: June 30, 2027)

– Looking Ahead on the Trail –

2024 Fall Maintenance Basecamp Schedule

It's that time of year again for the start of OHTA's series of Maintenance Basecamps, and you might notice that there are four opportunities for getting involved as opposed to the three of previous years. Yes, they're growing in popularity by leaps and bounds, and we're astounded at the number of folks who have already signed up for each! Now, if you're considering putting any one or all of these events on your 'must-do' list, here's some info that may help facilitate your decision-making process. Hope to see you there!

- **Basecamp #1**
 - Location: Mulberry Mountain Campground/Mulberry Mountain Lodging & Events
 - Days and Dates: Friday, September 13 through Sunday, September 15
 - Camping is free, and campground is open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, September 12—the showers are hot, and the bathrooms are very clean
 - Food will be provided for free
 - For sign-up link, please contact our Maintenance Coordinator at ca9bball@gmail.com
- **Basecamp #2**
 - Location: Richland Creek Campground in Richland Creek Recreation Area
 - Days and Dates: Friday, October 4 through Sunday, October 6
 - Camping is free, and several campsites have been reserved and will be open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, October 3
 - Food will be provided for free
 - For sign-up link, please contact our Maintenance Coordinator at ca9bball@gmail.com
- **Basecamp #3**
 - Location: Fifty-Six, Arkansas (Great Oaks Cabins located at 6322 Highway 14 in Fifty-Six)
 - Days and Dates: Friday, October 11 through Sunday, October 13
 - Camping is free, three cabins have been reserved, so there will be toilet and shower accessibility for everyone
 - Cabins and camping area will be open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, October 10
 - Food will be provided for free
 - For sign-up link, please contact our Maintenance Coordinator at ca9bball@gmail.com

- **Basecamp #4**
 - Location: Three Oaks Resort located at 117 Three Oaks Ln. in Gamaliel, Arkansas – cabins 7, 8, and 9 and surrounding area for tents
 - Days and Dates: Saturday, October 19 through Sunday, October 20
 - Camping is free, three cabins have been reserved, so there will be toilet and shower accessibility for everyone
 - Cabins and camping area will be open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Friday, October 18
 - Food will be provided for free
 - For sign-up link, please contact our Maintenance Coordinator at ca9bball@gmail.com

Hare Mountain Hike-In

Two months and counting down to 2024's Hare Mountain Hike-In scheduled for November 2 and 3! This year's event will be a celebration of OHTA's 43rd birthday atop Hare Mountain, and everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite dish to share during Saturday's potluck meal! Again, RSVPing a spot at the top is totally unnecessary because there is room galore up there for each and every luxury tent suite. And if your sherpa takes off on vacation leaving you to haul your water up the trail, there is an old well near where we'll be camping. Word of caution: If you choose the well as the source for your drinking pleasure, be sure to bring some means of purification with you—you'll be glad you did! Hope to see you there!

Searching for Volunteers

As has been noted in the newsletters of the previous two months, OHTA's search for volunteers continues. At this point, the way things are shaping up with this year's four (4) Maintenance Basecamps, it's looking like there will be in-camp volunteer work for those who would prefer to stay close to camp during each of the four events. So if you're thinking a little volunteer work around camp is something that would fit you best, please contact our Maintenance Coordinator at ca9bball@gmail.com. Of course, if you'd prefer, you can find out about other volunteer opportunities at OHTA@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. We'll be glad to talk it over with you and find the way of contributing a little extra that works best for you!

- Looking Back on the Trail -

Check this out: <https://thetrek.co/ozark-highlands-trail-days-18-20-hiking-with-the-ohta-and-completing-every-inch-of-trail/>

Clear back in April of this year, OHTA had its Rendezvous at Norfork Lake. As we were all enjoying the Saturday evening feast prepared and catered by Whispering Woods Grill (4245 Highway 177, Jordan, Arkansas), up strolled a couple who appeared to be backpacking. They introduced themselves by their trail names, PocketSnacks and Washerrr, and as it turned out, they were, indeed, backpacking and little more—they had been on the OHT for many days and were nearing the end of their quest to hike every last inch of the trail, even those that were yet to be constructed. What was left for them were just a couple or three sections of the Ozarks Keystone Trail (OKT). Well they were introduced to all in attendance and quickly became guests at our table. As it turned out, one section that was left for them to hike was exactly the one which was scheduled as a group hike for the next morning. Luck being with us all, they gladly joined those signed up for the hike despite the forecast of rain, and the rest is history.

- Interesting Trailside Reads -

The Animal Mind: How They Think. How They Feel. How to Understand Them. – Jeffrey Kluger

The Way of the Hermit – Ken Smith with Will Millard

Quotes for the Month

"A life without cause is a life without effect." Barbarella

"It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that counts."

Adlai Stevenson

***It takes you places of which you've never dreamed, improves your appetite and the quality of your sleep, helps strengthen your immune system and reduces depression and anxiety, and its great for the soul.
The only expenses are time and a little energy . . .
Yes, it's the OHT.***



Washerrr (left) and PocketSnacks (right)

circa—OHTA Rendezvous 2024

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!!**