



OCTOBER 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 Info

The first two of 2024's four OHTA Fall Maintenance Basecamps are history, and thanks to our fantastic team of volunteers, the first basecamp stationed at Mulberry Mountain Campground made history! As for the second one which was based out of Richland Wilderness Campground, it came to an end just yesterday, so the figures are yet to be compiled. In any case, here are the numbers for the Mulberry event:

2024 West/Mulberry Mountain Basecamp Numbers

Friday	34 volunteers	20.6 trail miles covered	221 volunteer hours
Saturday:	45 volunteers	32.0 trail miles covered	314 volunteer hours
Sunday:	<u>29</u> volunteers	<u>13.0</u> trail miles covered	<u>145</u> volunteer hours
Totals:	108 volunteers	65.6 trail miles covered	680 volunteer hours

2023 West/Mulberry Mountain Basecamp Numbers

Friday	30 volunteers	19.7 trail miles covered	220 volunteer hours
Saturday:	32 volunteers	29.0 trail miles covered	221 volunteer hours
Sunday:	<u>17</u> volunteers	<u>8.0</u> trail miles covered	<u>74</u> volunteer hours
Totals:	79 volunteers	56.7 trail miles covered	515 volunteer hours

Yes, as you can see, 2023's totals for the Mulberry Basecamp were significantly surpassed by those for this year's gathering, and a great time was had by all! Now, thanks to Donna and Billy Hignite and their assistants, the food was plentiful and delicious for the Mulberry and Richland basecamps. Yes, it's totally unnecessary to wait on data to figure out how truly superb the food and service for the two were! Let's face it, the experiences for each of the two basecamps were just that—DEFINITE EXPERIENCES!

So, you're finding yourself bummed because you've missed one or more wonderful experiences and are regretting you'll not have the stories to tell to future generations that would have come from being a part of the teams. Well, that's okay, for there are two more chances to redeem yourself if you are so inclined. Here they are:

- **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 tent camping area will be open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, October 10
 - Food will be provided for free
 - Sign up link: [Fifty Six Basecamp](#)
- **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 tent camping area will be open to OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Friday, October 18
 - Food will be provided for free
 - Sign up link: [Norfolk Lake Basecamp](#)

Of course, it goes without saying that your presence at either or both of the remaining 2024 OHTA Maintenance Basecamps is the one thing that would make each of them even greater than we're very confident they will be!

Hope to see you there!

- From the Trail to Our Volunteers -

Through the years, countless individuals have stepped forward as volunteers for this organization, and there is remarkable variation in how they've managed to do so. Simply put, defining volunteering as 'freely offering to take part in an enterprise or to undertake a task,' the realm of things folks do for our organization that fall under that definition is vast and includes everything from paying membership dues to getting out on the trail to perform maintenance work and/or gather and report information on trail conditions.

So if you're reading this newsletter, you have volunteered in your own way, and the Ozark Highlands Trail Association wants you to know how much you're appreciated! Without you and your participation in making this team as stellar as it is, we do not exist!

Thank you!!

And to those who work for local and national organizations such as Pack Rat Outdoor Center, Fossil Cove Brewing Company, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Buffalo National River—to name just a few—the remarkable things you do and have done for this organization are not to be overlooked or taken lightly. To you, we say, thanks!!

You all are super!!

- From the Trail to Our Volunteers -

It is now just a little less than one month to 2024's Hare Mountain Hike-In scheduled for November 2 and 3! Again, this year's event will be a celebration of OHTA's birthday—the 43rd to be exact—atop Hare Mountain, and everyone is encouraged to bring along their favorite dish to share during Saturday's potluck meal! To be clear, RSVPing a spot at the top is totally unnecessary because there is room galore up there for each and every luxury tent suite. As for water at the top, there is an old well near where we'll be camping. However, given the scarcity of moisture lately, it might be a good idea to bring along all the agua you'll need. Of course, if there is water in the well, and you choose to drink it, please have some means of purification with you—you'll be glad you did! Hope to see you there!

– Interesting Views on Your “Zero” Days –

Free Solo (2018) – National Geographic

FLY (2024) – National Geographic

Quotes for the Month

“Attitude is the difference between an ordeal and an adventure.”

Bob Bitchin

“Be careful going in search of adventure – It’s ridiculously easy to find.”

William Least Heat Moon

When you walk out your door, be sure to have your gear with you. The OHT is calling and waiting for you to **STEP ON IT**—relentlessly!



Woolly Aphids in Hurricane Wilderness

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!!**



2024 Tornado Damage—Devil's Backbone Trailhead—Norfolk Trail



2024 Tornado Damage—George's Cove Trailhead—Norfolk Trail