



NOVEMBER 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 Higinbotham, *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 Hare Mountain Hike-In

It is no longer months or weeks but just a few short days till 2024's Hare Mountain Hike-In is here! Let there be no doubt that Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3 are the big days when we'll celebrate OHTA's 43rd birthday atop beautiful Hare Mountain. Remember, there will be a potluck feast Saturday afternoon, so if you want to add to the selection of delectable delights, bring along your best campout gourmet fixin's to share. Water on the OHT this year is scarce, and that means there's no telling whether agua will be in the well near the camping area—please pack plenty. Saturday evening there will be an awards ceremony during which a Roy Senyard Maintainer of the Year plaque will be presented to one of this year's two winners! What else may there be? 'Tis a mystery, but it's looking like the weather will be fantastic, and, for sure, there will be plenty of great stories shared around the campfire! Gotta get packed—hope to see you there!!

- **Looking Back on the Trail** -

Following are the numbers for 2024's extraordinarily successful Fall Maintenance Basecamp season. If you think the results are remarkable, scroll on to the next page and compare them to the numbers from the 2023 and 2022 seasons. You'll quickly realize OHTA has what our Maintenance Coordinator, Chris Adams, says is a bunch of:

OVERACHIEVERS!!

Fall Maintenance Basecamps

2024 Basecamp Totals

	Number of volunteers	Miles of Trail	Volunteer Hours
Mulberry Mountain Basecamp	108	65.6	680
Richland Creek Basecamp	84	57	547
Fifty-Six Basecamp	56	32.5	330
Norfolk Lake Basecamp	85	5.2	538
2024 TOTALS	333	160.3	2095

2023 Basecamp Totals

	Number of volunteers	Miles of Trail	Volunteer Hours
Mulberry Mountain Basecamp	79	56.7	515
Richland Creek Basecamp	62	45	429
Fifty-Six Basecamp	52	30.5	307
2023 TOTALS	193	132.2	1251

2022 Basecamp Totals

	Number of volunteers	Miles of Trail	Volunteer Hours
Redding Campground Basecamp	38	NA	463
Richland Creek Basecamp	15	NA	262.2
Blanchard Springs Basecamp	12	NA	171
2022 TOTALS	65	NA	896.2

For your viewing pleasure, here are just a few pics of some of the volunteers who helped make this basecamp season so spectacular . . .







In addition to the memories shown on the last two pages, it is important to note that we handed out two awards during the Norfolk Basecamp. One of those, Dawna Robinson Volunteer of the Year, went to Dave Weiss (upper left). The second of those awards, Roy Senyard Maintainer of the Year, went to Stephen Lagasse (bottom center). These two members are prime examples of excellence and dedication!

Thank you!!!



The Ozark Highlands Trail Association is nothing without our volunteers. As the pics on the preceding pages reveal, this is an organization of dedicated individuals such as YOU! So, to each and everyone of you, we want to shout out a heartfelt

THANK YOU!!

- Trailside Reads -

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell: A Novel – Robert Dugoni

Wild Wonder: What Nature Teaches Us About Slowing Down and Living Well – Stephen Proctor

Quotes for the Month

“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

"We have an unknown distance yet to run, an unknown river to explore. What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls ride over the river, we know not. Ah, well! We may conjecture many things."

John Wesley Powell



May your will never wane, your determination never diminish, and your friends be lifelong!

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!!**