MARCH 2025 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 Directors 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 –

2025 Board of Directors Election

The election for the three OHTA Board positions coming open at the end of June is rapidly approaching, and preparation to fill those spots is well underway. As you may already know, any OHTA member can toss their hat into the ring as a candidate as long as their membership is up to date. So, if you find yourself wanting to try your hand at a governance position on the board of a dynamic non-profit organization such as ours, then here's some important information for you:

- **How to Become a Candidate**: Send a picture and brief bio of yourself to brown.philip9@gmail.com. Please be sure to include an outline of the personal attributes and experiences you believe make you the right candidate for a board position.
- **Deadline for Candidate Submission**: Sunday, March 16, 2025
- **Days and Dates of Election**: Monday, March 31, 2025, through Friday, April 4, 2025
- **How to Cast Your Vote**: If the OHTA has your email, you will receive a link to click on and cast your vote
- **Voter Eligibility**: 1 membership = 1 vote (remember: Family memberships are good for just one vote. If more than one member of a family with a Family membership wants to vote, it will be necessary for each such person to get their own membership. Here's a link that can be used to join the OHTA: https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/get-involved/

LET THE CAMPAIGNING BEGIN!!

RENDEZVOUS 2025

It's coming together! Yes, Rendezvous 2025 is starting to gel. As of the first of March, somewhere between 25 and 30 folks have let us know of their intent to attend this event, and we're hoping to hear from more folks including you! Some of our newest members have been wanting to know what Rendezvous is all about. Well, simply put, it's an opportunity for the trail enthusiasts of this organization to come together to hike; relax and enjoy a great meal; camp, converse, and enjoy some good music around the campfire (we're still working on making this happen—suggestions and assistance will be greatly appreciated); and connect with the beauty of nature. Of course, the organization's annual meeting will be held after Saturday evening's meal.

OHTA members and their families and friends of all ages are welcome to join the fun and festivities! Our furry friends are welcome, as well, but remember, Buffalo National River (BNR) regulations are that they must be on a leash that is no longer than 6 feet (bummer)!

There is no charge to attend the Rendezvous, and pitching your tent in either of the two group camping areas reserved by OHTA is free!

Here are some more of the particulars:

- **Location**: TYLER BEND CAMPGROUND alongside the beautiful Buffalo River in Buffalo National River Park
  - **Latitude** 35° 59' 12.0001" N – **Longitude** 92° 45' 50.0000" W

- **Days and Dates**: Friday through Sunday, April 25 thru 27, 2025

- **No fee for tent only camping** in the following group sites:
  - G3, G4, G5 (no electricity)
  - Check in time on Friday, April 25: 1 p.m.
  - Check out time on Sunday, April 27: 12 p.m.

- **Pavilion reserved for Saturday, April 26 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.** (group shelter has electricity)
  - Saturday evening meal and the OHTA annual meeting will be held in the Pavilion
  - Evening meal served at or around 5:30 p.m.
  - Annual meeting starts at or around 7 p.m.

- **Chili cook-off** is planned for the Saturday evening meal. If you want to try your hand at putting together a pot of goodness that will warm hearts and souls, please contact us at: brown.philip9@gmail.com.
  - **Notification deadline for being a chili cook-off participant is extended to March 31, 2025**
  - Pavilion where food will be served has electrical outlets, so slow cooker chili preparation is doable
  - If you want to bring a dish of any food item along to share, please do, and if you'd like to be reimbursed for the cost of the ingredients, please give a copy of your receipt to Phil Brown

- **Tyler Bend Campground amenities**
  - Hiking trails galore
    - Buffalo River Trail/Ozark Highlands Trail (BRT/OHT)
    - Tyler Bend Trail System
    - Old River Trail (ORT)
  - RV sites (non-electric) – some sites are currently available for reservation – others available on a first-come basis
  - Shower and toilet facilities onsite

- **Lodging options nearby**
  - Sky Hawk Ridge, St. Joe, AR
  - Anna's Guest House, Gilbert, AR
  - Buffalo River Outfitters, St. Joe, AR
  - Triple D Cabin Rental, St. Joe, AR (it's right on Hwy 65 at the intersection of Hwy 65 and Hwy 333--the road that takes you down to Sky Hawk Ridge and Anna's Guest House)
  - Gilbertstore.com

- **Dining options nearby**
  - Ferguson's Store and Restaurant
  - Big Springs Trading Co.

- **Hike On Saturday Morning and Possibly Sunday Morning and Canoe on Friday Morning**
  - Saturday morning a group of common adventurers plans to shuttle over to Gilbert and hike back to Tyler Bend—everyone's welcome to join the hike
  - Sunday morning hike is yet to be determined, but it is quite certain there will be another group of common adventurers getting together for a hike
- **Group canoe/kayak trip**—Baker Ford to Grinder's Ferry—Friday. For details call/text Dave Richard: 591-339-6182

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you plan to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so plans for how much food to prepare can be made. You can email us at: brown.philip9@gmail.com

Hope you and yours can make it!!

WILDERNESS FIRST AID COURSE

Yes, there's another Wilderness First Aid course coming soon! If you are a trail maintainer, a sawyer, hiker, backpacker, birdwatcher, cyclist, or any sort of avid outdoors person, taking this course will enhance your life and could prove essential to you and others being able to survive a potentially life-threatening incident while enjoying any outdoor experience!

Here are the details:

When: Saturday and Sunday, March 29-30, 2025
Where: Ozark Natural Science Center-Lake Fayetteville Campus

16hr. Wilderness First Aid
WFA Course description and details

This two-day course immerses participants in essential wilderness medicine procedures, preparing individuals to take immediate action when an outdoor activity doesn't go as planned and 911 responders are hours away. Time is split between interactive classroom sessions and hands-on field scenarios to prepare participants and help them quickly develop basic backcountry medical care skills. The course focus is on patient assessment, stabilization and emergency treatment of issues such as hypothermia and snakebites, as well as understanding when and how to attempt evacuation. Participants will emerge capable of calmly responding to a wide variety of emergency situations.

This course will be taught by Tom Burroughs, who is the head of the Washington County AR Search and Rescue team. Tom has been an emergency responder since 1990 and is an NREMT/WEMT and WildMed Instructor Trainer. Tom brings a background of many years of backcountry rescue experience and has been teaching these courses since 2006.

All participants will need to be dressed in clothing that can be stained and/or damaged, as the program is heavily hands on, and moulage will be used to promote training authenticity.

Participants will need to be prepared to be outside for many of the training hours, regardless of weather conditions, unless hazardous (storms or extreme heat or cold). Participants should bring whatever items they commonly carry on their persons in the performance of their duties, as improvisational concepts are an important aspect of this course.

All program supplies and a waterproof field guide which becomes property of the participant, provided by Ozark Safety and Rescue Educators (OSRE) as part of the program cost.

Successful completion of the entire program will result in a three year nationally recognized Wilderness First Aid Certification through Sierra Rescue International and meets the requirements of BSA, NICA, and the American Camp Association for Wilderness First Aid Training.

Here is the registration link!
https://www.cognitoforms.com/OSREIntrepid/RegistrationForSierraRescueInternationalWildernessFirstAidCourseMarch29302025AndorMarch29thCPRCourse?fbclid=IwY2xjawIkeqFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHSmkXtMywgqYQ_QhbSc-Bm0tXq9sT9VSya_MnUqZUKjAs9868sQ6kvsCyA_aem_4UhrXknNBrG-P82I1EiERA

Tom Burroughs
ACA Safety and Rescue Committee Chair
ACA L-5 Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer Educator
ACA L-4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor Trainer Educator
ACA L-5 Advanced Whitewater Rafting Instructor Trainer
2015 ACA "Excellence in Instruction" National Award Recipient
ITRA Level 3V Swiftwater Rescue Instructor
NREMT/EMT-W/MPIC - SRI Wilderness Medicine Instructor Trainer
Team Leader- Washington CO AR Search and Rescue team
Director, Ozark Safety and Rescue Educators / Clear Creek Paddlesports
Member- Wilderness Medical Society
SwiftwaterRescue@gmail.com
479-595-1655

Completion of this course would be an experience that will benefit you and others immensely, and you'll never regret the time you committed to participating and learning!

Hare Mountain Hike-In

What's this?! Did someone say the OHTA has an event coming up on Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2 this year? Well, the answer is, YES WE DO! And why are we talking about something happening clear into the fall of the year when we're not even done with winter? The answer is simple: 'Tis the celebration of Ozark Highlands Trail Association's 44th birthday!!! There's no doubt that this organization is middle-aged and becoming more of a powerhouse every day!

So, mark you calendars because it will be a great time filled with camping, fine conversation, a beautiful hike up the trail from the south or the west to the camping area atop Hare Mountain, and yet, again, a potluck you won't want to miss! Stay tuned, for there will be more info coming as the time draws nigh.

– Looking Back on the Trail –

Frost Fest 2025

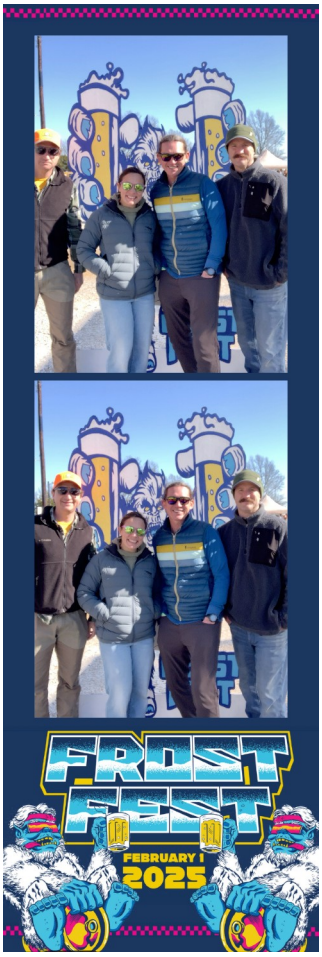
Another year's Frost Fest is history, but be there no doubt, the glow continues on. If you weren't there, you don't know what you missed. If you were there—and we commend those of you who were—you absolutely know what you would have missed and are pleased as can be that you do! What a great event it

was . . . the food, music, people, the atmosphere, and, yes, the brew!! And believe it or not, the weather blessed us all! For the first time in three years, unimaginable is a word that can be used to describe it.

An as you can see, OHTA was very well represented by the superb team of folks you're viewing just to the right. And they are, from left to right:

Randy Seoung, Evan and Tiffany Mallard, and Peter Cooper.

OHTA Frost Fest 2025 team and booth



Thank you all, and a special thanks to you, Randy, for all of the preparation you put into securing OHTA's spot and getting the gear to its location. Ya'll done good!!

And once again, we have the fantastic folks at Fossil Cove Brewing Co. in Fayetteville to thank immensely!! You folks sure know how to throw a party and make it bigger and better with each passing year! Don't know how you manage to do it, but keep it up! It was one fantastic event!!!

Fossil, You and What You Do Are Greatly Appreciated!!

And the Beat at the Fest Rolls On

– Trailside Reads –

If I Live Until Morning: A True Story of Adventure, Tragedy and Transformation – Jean Muenchrath

Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know: Updated and revised to celebrate the author's 75th year – Ranulph Fiennes

Quotes for the Month

"Returning home is the most difficult part of long-distance hiking; You have grown outside the puzzle and your piece no longer fits" – Cindy Ross

"Fill your life with adventures, not things. Have stories to tell not stuff to show."
Anonymous

Why pull a yoyo? The answer lies behind you as you wind along the trail to your destination. Just glance over your shoulder now and then—the answer will be clear.

photo courtesy of: James Hodges

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!!