



JUNE 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)

OHTA Board of Directors Meeting Announcement

Day, Date, Time: Sunday; June 22, 2025; 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Fossil Cove Brewing Company; 1946 North Birch Avenue; Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703
Old Tap Room

The meeting is open to all members, so if you'd like, please come by and join in.

- LOOKING AHEAD ON THE TRAIL -

FALL MAINTENANCE BASECAMPS 2025

They're coming, and the sites and dates are confirmed! Here is what we know at this point:

Mulberry Mountain Basecamp

- Days and Dates: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – September 19, 20, 21, 2025
- Location: Mulberry Mountain Lodging and Events;
4117 Mulberry Mountain Loop #9306, Ozark, Arkansas 72949
(approximately 3 miles south of the OHT's Cherry Bend Trailhead on Highway 23)
- OHTA's area is reserved, and camping is open and free to all OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, September 18
- Separate hot shower facilities available, and the bathrooms are nice and clean
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages

Richland Creek Basecamp

- Days and Dates: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – October 3, 4, 5, 2025
- Location: Richland Campgroundss in Richland Creek Recreation Area
Located in Richland Creek Wilderness east side—accessed by Richland Creek Road

- OHTA's area is reserved, and camping is open and free to all OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, October 2
- One backcountry shower will be set up for all participants, and it does provide hot water
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages

Fifty Six Basecamp

- Days and Dates: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – October 10, 11, 12, 2025
- Location: White Oak Cabins & RV
1655 Highway 14; Fifty Six, Arkansas 72533
- 5 cabins and 4 RV sites (w/electricity and water) are free and open to all OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Thursday, October 9
- Separate hot shower facilities available, and the bathrooms are clean
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages

Norfolk Lake Basecamp

- Days and Dates: Saturday, Sunday – October 18,19, 2025
- Location: Three Oaks Resort
117 Three Oaks Lane, Gamaliel, Arkansas 72537
- Cabins 7, 8, and 9 have been reserved, tent camping is allowed on the grounds, there will be toilet and shower accessibility for everyone with, and all is free and open to all OHTA Maintenance Basecamp participants by the afternoon of Friday, October 17
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages

Registration information and other pertinent information will be made available in the July or August OHTA Newsletter, so stay tuned!

HARE MOUNTAIN HIKE-IN

Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd are slowly but surely creeping nearer and will be upon us quicker than we may realize. Again, we're reminding everyone of these dates well in advance for a very important reason which is that it is then atop Hare Mountain that all who wish to make the journey will have the opportunity to celebrate OHTA's 44th birthday! Family and friends alike are welcome to make the trek, and the site of the big occasion can be accessed by hiking east along the OHT from East Fly Gap trailhead or north from Morgan Fields trailhead. It will be worth the hike!

So, come one, come all with your camping accommodations, stories and tall tales to share, and a dish for the top-of-the-mountain potluck that will be memorable and delicious! Be sure to check future editions of the OHTA Newsletter and OHTA's social media sites because there will be more info coming as we get closer to the big event!

– On the Trail –

ANOTHER REMINDER

Maintenance of the OHT is a never-ending endeavor, and keeping the trail open and fully operational requires many hours of dedication by volunteers who come from far and wide. Needless to say, the tasks performed by maintainers and sawyers alike are not easy and bring with them some risk of injury. With this in mind, OHTA's Board of Directors is committed to partially reimbursing maintainers and sawyers for the fee they pay to participate in the Wilderness First Aid/CPR course(s) offered by Tom Burroughs. Here's how it works:

- Submit proof to OHTA@ozarkhighlandstrail.com that you completed the course(s), and you will be sent a \$100 reimbursement check
- To be reimbursed, you must be a sawyer and/or section adopter who has either:
 - attended and participated in one of OHTA's Maintenance Basecamps
 - reported sawyer hours anywhere on the trail and/or maintenance hours on your adopted section during the preceding 12 months.

Yes, it's as simple as that! So, if you're a maintainer, sawyer, or both, please take advantage of this offer! Notifications of the dates and locations of Mr. Burroughs' WFA and CPR courses scheduled to be held in north central and northwest Arkansas will be posted in upcoming editions of OHTA's monthly newsletter and on our social media sites. Participation in Mr. Burrough's course(s) will be time well spent, and what you'll learn may help you save lives, including your own, if you or anyone sustains an injury while enjoying the great outdoors.

- Looking Back on the Trail -

MAINTENANCE CREWS RISE AGAIN

Roughly a month ago, OHTA's Maintenance Director for the North section of the OHT, Jake Anderson, sent out an email notifying a team of OHTA members and others of the heavy damage done by a tornado to a section of the North Sylamore Creek Trail (NSCT). Jake then teamed up with Chaia Gibson, Forestry Technician for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Sylamore Ranger District, and the two set out to do some recon of the area. What they found was that about two miles of the NSCT sustained a great deal of devastation, and with that information, Chris Adams put together a team of OHTA sawyers and swampers with the goal of clearing the corridor and restoring the integrity of the tread where necessary.

On May 21, 22, and 23, the team assembled and faced the elements and the task at hand head on. As the picture to the right shows, there was work to be done, and done it was. Yes, thanks to the diligence of all who joined the team, the job was successfully completed, but it will be years before nature fully restores the beauty of the trail.

Of course, the team that tackled the NSCT is not the only group of volunteers getting out and sprucing up the OHT. Yes, spring is one of the two seasons when maintainers head out to clear their sections, and reports are, that's exactly what's happened and is ongoing all along the OHT. In fact, word has it that an entire family comprised of mom, dad, and two 16 year olds recently gave an assist to one of our maintainers, and what a job they did!

So why is this all that important? Well, if for no other reason, it brings to light what a world-class group of volunteers we have. No doubt, the OHTA is very fortunate to have each and every one of you, so for what you do and who you are, the OHTA wants to say THANK YOU!!!



The wake of the of the NSCT tornado – photo courtesy of Chris Adams

'WALKING MAN'* OHT SYLAMORE SECTION VIDEOS

There are those among us who hike and backpack and maintain the trail, and then there is Harry Workmon. At his ripe old age of who knows what, he is out hiking and hiking and hiking one section of the Ozark Highlands Trail after another in addition to trails far beyond. There's something sort of unique about his hiking that is worth noting, though, and it is that when he hikes, he records. He then takes those recordings, edits them as

necessary, and puts them together as a video showcasing his hikes. His videos are now part of the public domain on YouTube, so if you're interested in checking them out, here are links to the seven that cover the Sylamore sections:

Spring Creek to Moccasin Springs - hiked January 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZMxQD448Ew>

Spring Creek to Moccasin Spring wrap-up - hiked May 14, 2025

<https://youtu.be/SfCQkIC5XGo?t=1>

Moccasin Spring to Cripple Turkey - hiked April 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeYQGbnhB50&pp=0gcJCYUJAYcqIYzv>

Cripple Turkey to Brush Creek - hiked April 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gb03rUc4Ggg&pp=0gcJCYUJAYcqIYzv>

Brush Creek to Twin Creek - hiked April 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dD7bBDG7Op4>

Twin Creek to Matney Ridge - hiked May 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiMOPfj5aA>

Matney Ridge to Matney Knob Trailhead - hiked November 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhntxVkbi5g>

If you're wondering what the Sylamore Section has to offer, here's your chance to experience it before you take your own stroll. ENJOY!

* reference James Taylor's "Walking Man"



- TRAILSIDE READS -

What We Owe To Ourselves: A 500-mile hike on the Colorado Trail – Nicole Antoinette

The Unintended Positive Consequences of Hiking – Lori Brookes

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery—air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, 'This is what it is to be happy.'"
Sylvia Plath

"One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference—all the difference in the world!"
Dr. Jane Goodall

Chillin' at Richland creek-side

Photos courtesy of Zina Brown

***One trail, four seasons,
two directions,
eight spectacular, awe-
inspiring views!
How much better can it get?!
Find all of this on the
Ozark Highlands Trail!***

↓ Photos courtesy of Elena Merriman →



←North Sylamore Creek Trail tornado cleanup -- Photos courtesy of Chris Adams↑

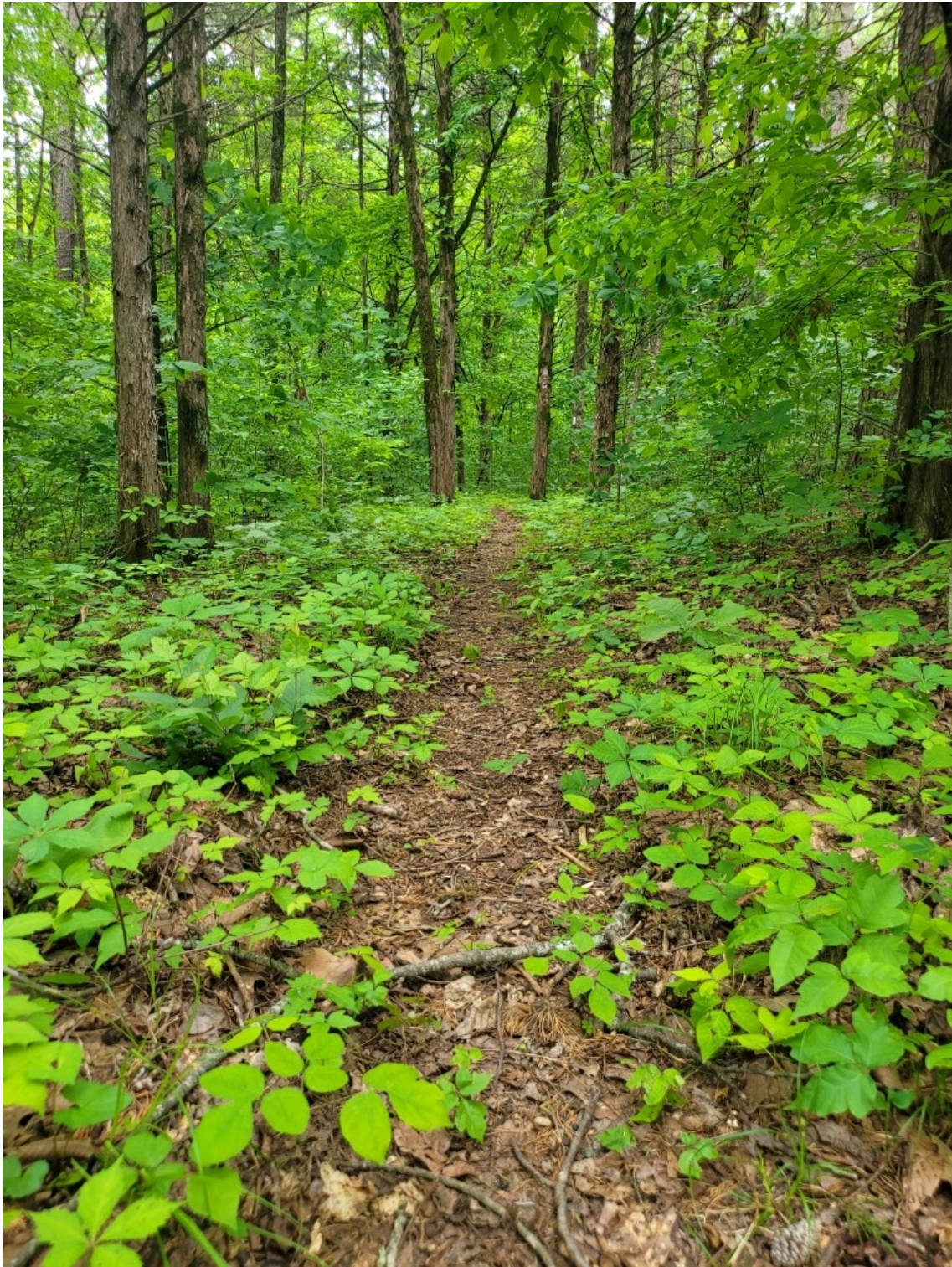


Photo courtesy of Zina Brown

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!!***