



JULY 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 2025-2026

Phil Brown, President (Board term ends: June 30, 2026)
Adam Higinbothom, Vice-President (Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Todd Wells, Treasurer (Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
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 (Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Randy Soeung (Board term ends: June 30, 2027)

- LOOKING AHEAD ON THE TRAIL -

FALL MAINTENANCE BASECAMPS 2025 DETAILS AND SIGN-UP LINKS

The OHTA will be sponsoring four (4) work weekends during the Fall of 2025. This will enable us to take care of some problem areas along the trail in preparation for hiking season and trail runs/events that the OHT will be hosting.

All four Base Camps will be camping events—if you want to camp. Commuting each day is also an option for some. So, if you plan to camp, please bring your camping gear. The OHTA will have several sites reserved at the campgrounds at NO cost to you. Also, OHTA will provide BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and DINNER for all participants. Water, soda, and tea will be available. Bring your own adult beverages.

Hard hats, safety gear, and maintenance implements will be provided. Members and nonmembers are welcome. Please remember to bring your lawn chairs because after the workday, base camp becomes a social event filled with conversation, giveaways, and plenty of laughter while sitting around the fire with people who enjoy similar things.

We need individuals to help in many ways both in camp and on the trail. On the trail, volunteers will be needed to serve as loppers, sawyers, trimmers, and swampers (aka, sawyer helpers). Or, if you'd prefer to stay at camp and help out there, you can help with cooking, cleaning, picking up around camp, and/or with shuttling volunteers to various locations on the OHT. Whatever you choose to do, it will be very greatly appreciated!

Each day of trail work will begin with a meeting at 8:30 a.m. so volunteers can be informed of their assigned locations on the trail and what their tasks will entail.

Free camping will be available on the Thursday evening for base camps #1, #2, and #3 and on Friday evening for base camp #4.

Here's all the necessary information:

Mulberry Mountain Basecamp/OHTA West Basecamp

- Days and Dates:
 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday – September 19, 20, 21, 2025
- Location: Mulberry Mountain Campground/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 for women and men available, and the bathrooms are nice and clean
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages
- Sign-up link: [OHTA Basecamp \(West\) at Mulberry Mtn](#)

Richland Creek Basecamp/OHTA East Basecamp

- Days and Dates:
 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday – October 3, 4, 5, 2025
- Location: Richland Campground in Richland Creek Recreation Area
Located in Richland Creek Wilderness on the 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**
- The campground has vault toilets and no water hookups
- One backcountry shower with hot water will be set up for all participants by East Maintenance Director, Sean Prewitt
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages
- Sign-up link: [OHTA Basecamp \(East\) at Richland Creek](#)

Fifty Six Basecamp/OHTA North 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**
 - Plenty of space on the grounds for tent camping
 - **NOTE:** If you would like to put dibs on one of the cabins or plan to use one of the sites for your RV or travel trailer, please let us know in advance at: brown.philip9@gmail.com
- Separate hot shower facilities for women and men available, and the bathrooms are nice and clean
- All food will be free
- Participants will be responsible for providing their own adult beverages
- Sign-up link: [OHTA Basecamp \(North\) at Fifty Six, AR](#)

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
- Plenty of space on the grounds for tent camping
- There will be toilet and shower accessibility for everyone
- Camping 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
- Sign-up link: [OHTA Basecamp \(Keystone\) at Norfolk](#)

HARE MOUNTAIN HIKE-IN

Imagine sitting atop a 2,382 foot peak on a cool November morning in the Arkansas Ozarks with delightful memories of the previous day's birthday celebration occupying your mind. If you find yourself wondering if this is for real, it could be if you mark your calendar for Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd. Why? What's happening then? Well, it is the Hare Mountain Hike-In open to all who wish to make the journey by heading east along the OHT from East Fly Gap trailhead or by heading north from Morgan Fields trailhead for the purpose of celebrating OHTA's 44th birthday! It's a hike and a celebration you do not want to miss!



All are welcome to join the fun, but please remember to bring all of your own 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 –

HIBERNATION TIME IS UPON US

Yes, it's that time of year when the organization goes into hibernation . . . sort of, but not really. No, OHTA is not asleep in a hole somewhere in the deep, dark depths of the wilderness. What's going on is that there is, in a relative sense, very little organizational activity occurring during the summer months compared to all of the year's other seasons. For this reason, there's not much to report currently, and it is likely the same will hold true for the next couple months or so. Rest assured, though, when things start breaking loose again and the big bear starts rustling about, we'll keep you up to date on the latest activities of the organization. So, please stay tuned!

– TRAILSIDE READS –

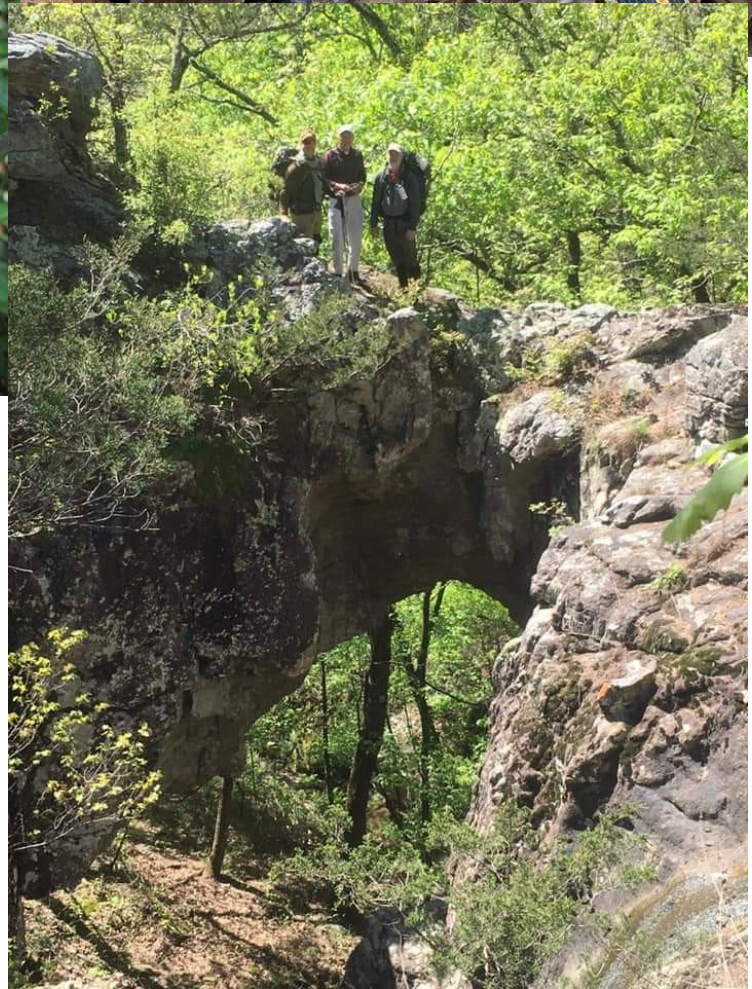
High Infatuation: A Climber's Guide to Love and Gravity – Steph Davis

Intertwined: From Insects to Icebergs – Michael Gross

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be." Douglas Adams

"I've done a lot of thinking about fear. For me, the crucial question is not how to climb without fear—that's impossible—but how to deal with it when it creeps into your nerve endings." Alex Honnold



So, you love nature, magnificent scenery, and navigating undulating terrain? Well, then, let's take a journey on the OHT. Pretty certain it will be a great fit with what you like. See you on the trail!



Till the trails we travel alone become the trail that brings us together . . .

YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE OHT MAKES THIS THE ASSOCIATION IT IS!
THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING A PART OF THE OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION!!

HIKE ONWARD!!