AUGUST 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)

– On the Trail –

New Line of Caps In The OHTA Store

Alas, the new line of caps are now in the OHTA store, and they look great! At this point in time, there are three new caps, and as inventory dwindles on those, others will be displayed with colors and styles varying through time. We hope you'll be interested in purchasing one for yourself, but, if not, perhaps one of the new caps would look great on the head of a loved one? Now's the time to start shopping for the holidays! Got a baby shower coming up and don't know what to buy for the newborn? An OHTA cap would be a great way of assuring that infant enters this world with a very stylish wardrobe. We could go on and on, but instead of doing that, we'll just share the link to the store. Here it is: https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/shop/

SHOP ONWARD!!

Hibernation Remains With Us

Simply put, it's the time of year when many of our members are away on vacation and going boating and fishing, relaxing on the shore of a lake, or doing something other than spending time out on the trail. Why would they not want to be out there enduring the wrath of the horseflies, ticks, snakes, poison ivy, and the wonderfully intense heat? Hmm . . . 'tis a mystery. That said, what we'll do between now and when the organization comes back to life is to keep you posted on what all will be coming once the big awakening occurs. Start preparing now because those days are only a little over a month away. For now, enjoy the summer!

– Looking Ahead on the Trail –

Fall Maintenance Base Camps 2025 Details and Sign-up Links

Post-hibernation, 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 assist with the 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.

Following is all the necessary information:

Mulberry Mountain Base Camp/OHTA West Base Camp

- 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 Base Camp 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 Base Camp (West) at Mulberry Mtn**

Richland Creek Base Camp/OHTA East Base Camp

- 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 Base Camp 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 Base Camp (East) at Richland Creek**

Fifty Six Base Camp/OHTA North Base Camp

- 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 Base Camp 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 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 Base Camp (North) at Fifty Six, AR**

Norfork Lake Base Camp

- 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 Base Camp 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 Base Camp (Keystone) at Norfork**

Hope to see you all there!

Hare Mountain Hike-In

Believe it or not, cooler weather is on its way, and so, too, is the Hare Mountain Hike-In. So, mark your calendar for Saturday and Sunday, November 1st and 2nd if you're interested in joining in on the celebration of OHTA's 44th birthday. As you may know if you've participated in past years, access to the area where the campout will take place is possible by journeying east along the OHT from East Fly Gap trailhead or by heading north from Morgan Fields trailhead. It's a hike and a celebration you do not want to miss!

Naturally, 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!

– Trailside Reads –

The Wild Path Home: A Guide to Raising the Earth Stewards of Tomorrow – Dr. Jacob Rodenburg and Cathy Dueck

The Earth Beneath My Feet: A 7000-Mile Walk of Discovery into the Heart of Wild Nature – Andrew Terrill

Quotes for the Month

"If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe."

Carl Sagan

"Cherish sunsets, wild creatures and wild places. Have a love affair with the wonder and beauty of the earth." Stewart Udall

A thru-hike of the Ozark Highlands Trail will produce all the pain necessary for healing the deepest depths of your soul. Time for some healing . . .

Photo courtesy of Zina Brown

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!!