



SEPTEMBER 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 -

HIBERNATION IS BEHIND US

Yes, all good things do come to an end, but were the truth to be told, certain members of this organization have been working feverishly to prepare for what will start showing up in a little over two weeks at four different campgrounds near the OHT. What's coming? You have probably guessed it, but, if not, read on below!

- LOOKING AHEAD ON THE TRAIL -

2025 FALL MAINTENANCE BASE CAMP DETAILS AND SIGN-UP LINKS



The OHTA is sponsoring four (4) work weekends/maintenance base camps for 2025. The first is scheduled for September, and the remaining three are coming in October. Each base camp will enable our organization to address some problem areas along the trail, so the OHT will be in top shape for the upcoming hiking season and trail runs/events the OHT will host in the months to come.

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.

← **BEEware of your surroundings while on the trail**

Also, OHTA will provide BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and DINNER for all participants. Water, soda, and tea will be available. Bring your own adult beverages.

NOTE: If you plan to attend any or all of the base camps but have not, as yet, signed up, please let us know via email at [OHTA Base Camp \(West\) at Mulberry Mtn](#), [OHTA Base Camp \(East\) at Richland Creek](#), [OHTA Base Camp \(North\) at Fifty Six, AR](#), and/or [OHTA Base Camp \(Keystone\) at Norfork](#). The folks preparing all the meals for the four events are about to head to the grocery store on a shopping spree, and having an accurate count of the number they'll be feeding is a valuable piece of information for them to have.

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.

Volunteers are needed to help in many ways both in camp and on the trail. On the trail, folks will have an opportunity 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!

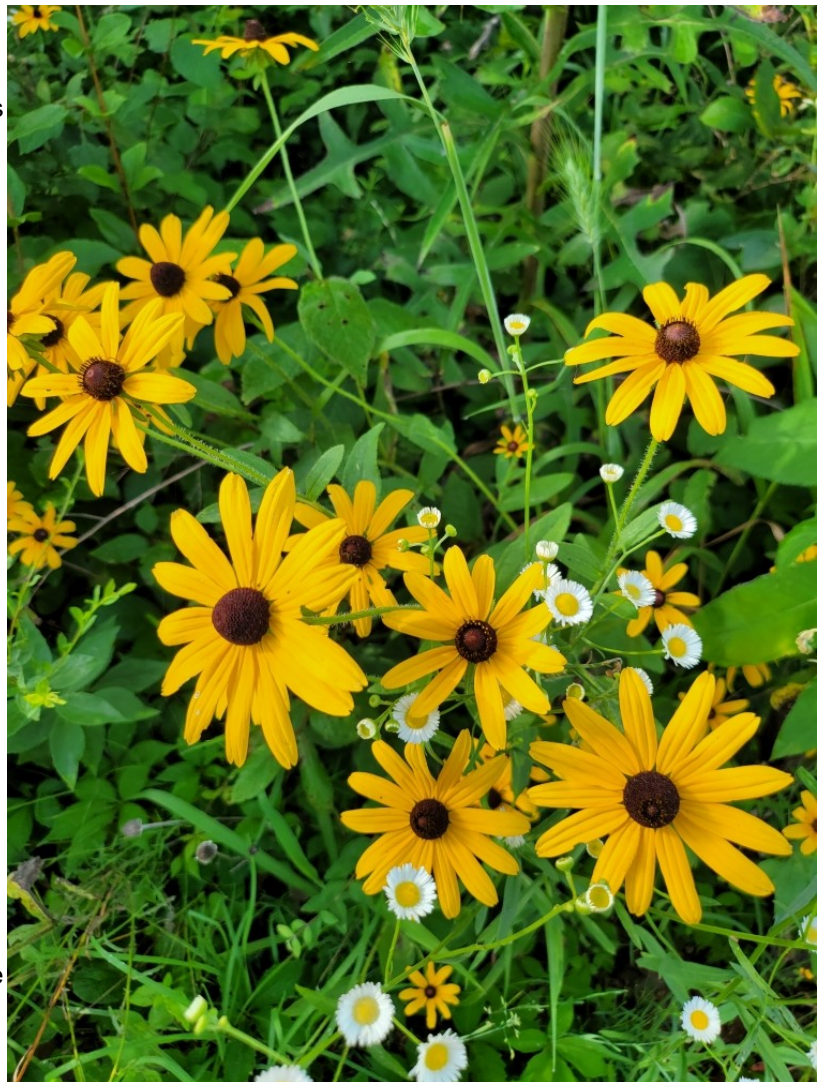
Each day of trail work will begin with a meeting at 8:30 a.m. so volunteers can be informed of their assigned locations on the trail and what their tasks will entail.

Free camping will be available on 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 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](#)

Norfolk 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 Norfolk](#)

Hope to see you all there!

HARE MOUNTAIN HIKE-IN

Soon after all the excitement of the base camps has passed, we'll all have an opportunity to gather for 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 supplies, 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!

DOING EVEN MORE FOR OHTA

It's time to start talking about OHTA's upcoming election for board positions! Yes, we know ballots are not cast till some point in April, but now is the time to start thinking about tossing your name into the hat for a spot on OHTA's Board of Directors. Three members' terms come to an end on June 30, 2026, and though one or more of them may choose to run again, one or more of them may not. Since we need nine board members, please give some thought to running for a position. It is not necessary to take action at this point in time . . . it's just something you might want to consider. If any of you has a question about serving on the board, please feel free to inquire by sending an email to: brown.philip9@gmail.com. The more candidates, the better!!



- TRAILSIDE READS -

The Lions of Winter, Survival and Sacrifice on Mount Washington – Ty Gagne

The Great Alone: Walking the Pacific Crest Trail
– Tim Voors

QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

“The long distance hiker, a breed set apart, from the likes of the usual pack. He'll shoulder his gear, be hittin' the trail; Long gone, long 'fore he'll be back.” M.J. Eberhart

“Go outside, life in storage fades...”
Nanette L. Avery

Start where you wish, but do so with a smile. Take a few steps and smile again. Repeat this process over and over till you reach your destination, grin like you've never grinned in your life, and call it one remarkably enjoyable hike! It is doable on the OHT!!

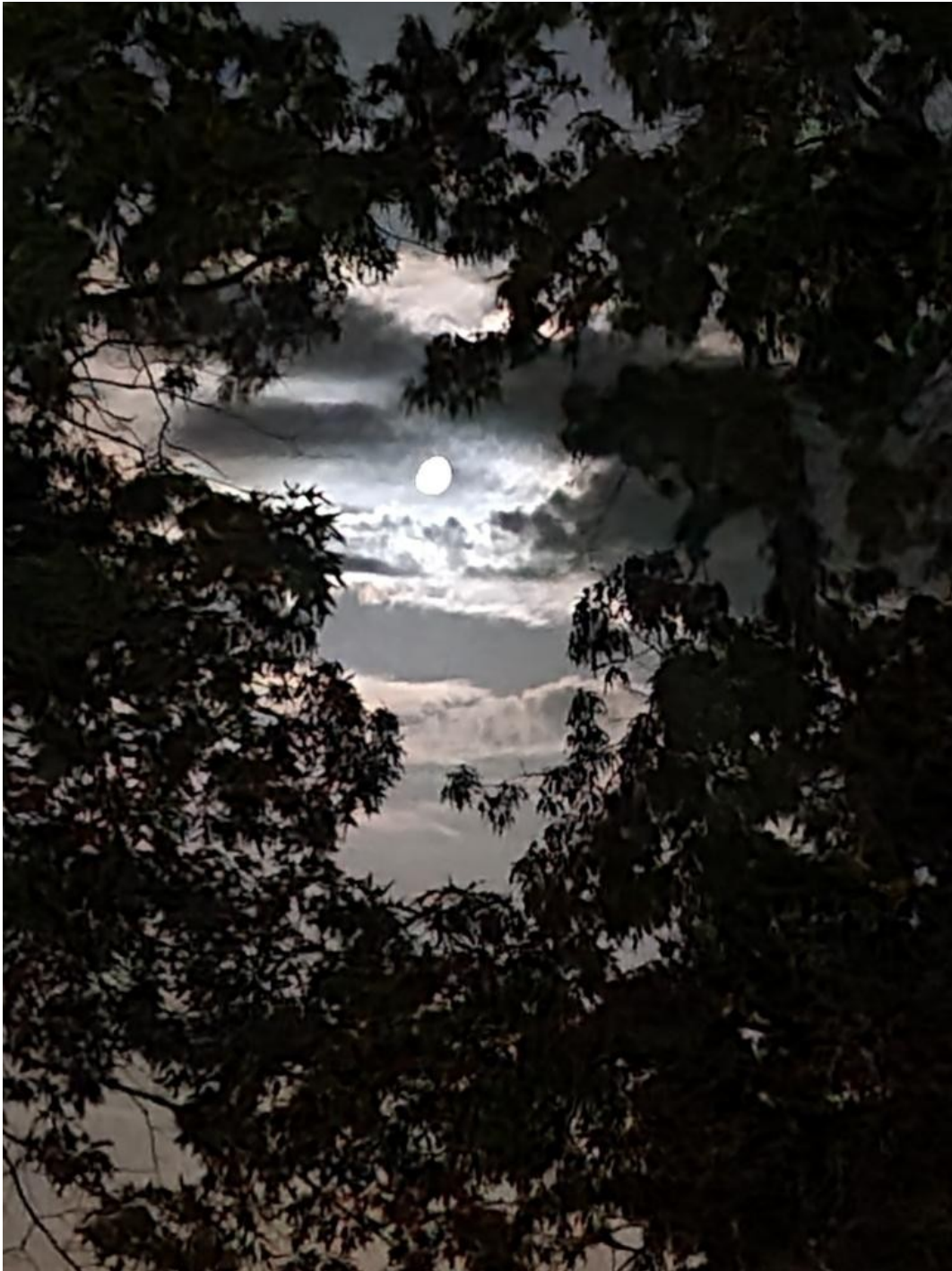


Photo courtesy of Zina Brown

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!!