



July 2026 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 2026-2027

Yvonne Liske	President	(Board term ends: June 30, 2029)
Randy Soeung	Vice-President	(Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Todd Wells	Treasurer	(Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Brent Umphlett	Secretary	(Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Gordon Brown	Maintenance Coordinator	(Board term ends: June 30, 2029)
Tiffany Mallard		(Board term ends: June 30, 2029)
Wade Colwell		(Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Peter Cooper		(Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Adam Higinbothom		(Board term ends: June 30, 2028)

Ancillary Services

Website Development and Maintenance	Brent Umphlett and Leslie Wright Productions
Social Media Coordinator	Tiffany Mallard
Online Store Coordinator	Mel Zabecki
Brochure Business Coordinator	Elizabeth Granderson
Adopt-A-Highway Program Coordinator	Mike Riker
Trailhead Register Data Processor	Yvonne Liske
Arkansas Trails Council Representative	Yvonne Liske
Trail Navigation Partner	FarOut – https://faroutguides.com/
Ozark Keystone Trail, Buzzard Roost Gap Lead Developer	Yvonne Liske
Trail Angels	Billy and Donna Hignite

– OVERSEEING THE TRAIL –

OHTA BOARD MEETING

The first board meeting of the 2026-2027 fiscal year has not been set. Stay tuned!

When:	Stay tuned!
Time:	Stay tuned!
Where:	Stay tuned!
Who's Invited:	All OHTA members
Primary Agenda:	Stay tuned!

HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT THERE!!

– ON THE TRAIL –

OZARKS KEYSTONE TRAIL – BUZZARD ROOST GAP

If you're asking yourself where the progress on the 19-miles of new single track trail through the Buzzard Roost Gap along the western shore of Norfolk Lake stands, the answer is simply that there is no progress. Of course, what is progress? If you view it from the standpoint of there being a measurable amount of trail being built each day, then no progress is exactly how things stand. There is progress, though, a review is currently being done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corp's is reviewing the reports and data that were completed during the initial assessment. From this information they will be able to determine how well the tracks laid out in the spring align with the "approved" track that Corps personnel say must be followed. Given peak season for park use along the lake is upon us, the personnel whose responsibility it is to oversee all matters pertaining to the lake and its surrounding properties have their hands full. So suffice it to say, progress is happening, so stay tuned!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It's time once again to give a special thanks to everyone who has renewed their Ozark Highlands Trail Association (OHTA) membership! A lot of our members have stepped up and inquired about the status of their membership, and your diligence and desire to be a part of this organization is greatly appreciated! If you're wondering about the status of your membership, please drop us an email at OHTA@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. We promise to respond quickly. For almost 45 years, the OHTA has brought people together to build, maintain, and enjoy the Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT). From its start, the board has relentlessly looked for alternative funding sources and contributions, and those efforts have yielded some remarkable results. Despite those efforts, though, one reality remains: The OHTA cannot exist without the support of its members. You are our lifeblood!! As a reminder, for everyone but those with "Life" memberships, renewals are required annually. While we aim to send annual reminders to each person whose membership is about to expire, but getting those notices out remains a daunting task. So, please check your status and renew if it is time to do so. We truly appreciate your continued support in preserving the beauty of the OHT and in assuring the viability of the OHTA.

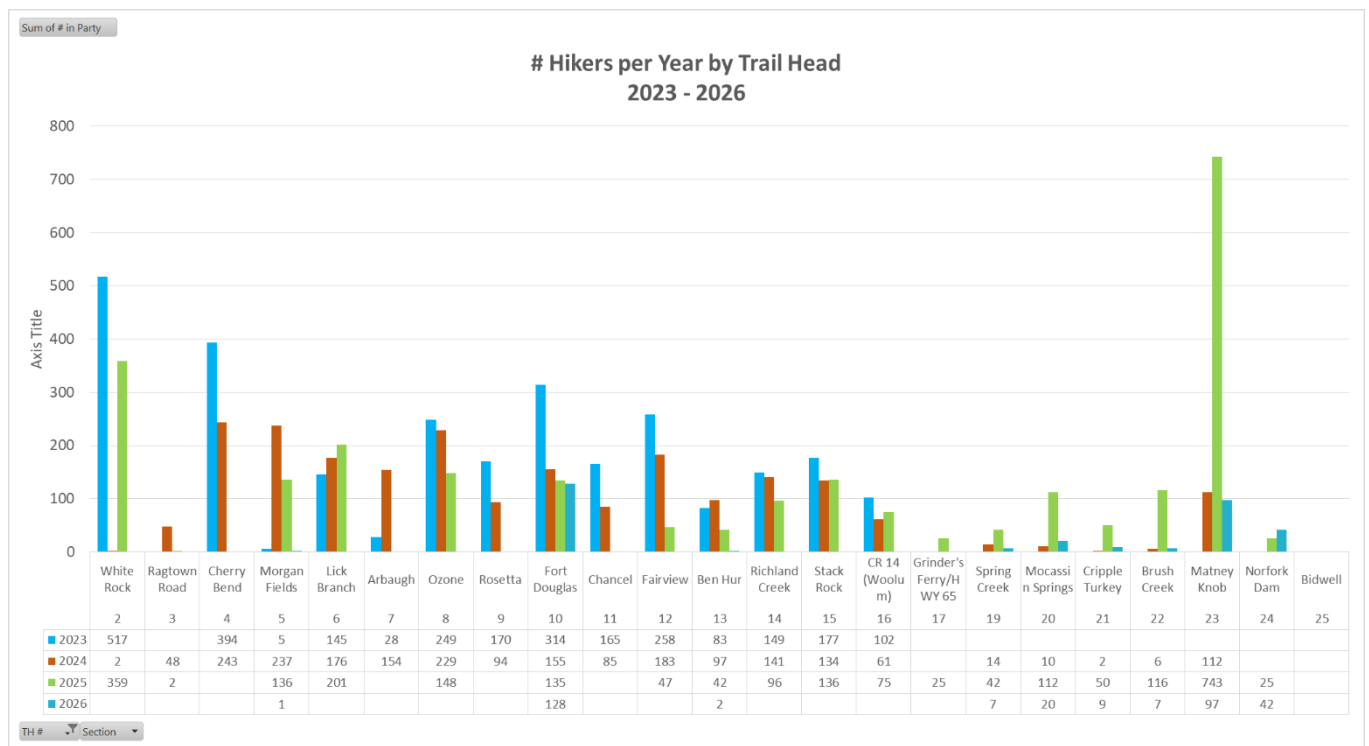
HARE MOUNTAIN HIKE-IN

It is now just four months away! So get your gear ready, gather together your family members, call all of your friends, and start deciding on a great dish you can bring for a top-o'-the-mountain potluck. You might even give some thought to some of the tall tales you could share with all the folks who will join you around the campfire near the summit of Hare Mountain for this year's Hike-In. Don't forget . . . the big day is Saturday, November 7, 2026!!

Come one, Come all !

TRAIL LOG DATA UPDATE

In a previous newsletter we shared some of the trail log data and it is time for another update. Since 2018, we have had 16,700 people enjoy our beautiful trail in some way, whether it was a few miles at a time or the entirety. In April, we had two of our members (Josh & Elizabeth Granderson) and a guest from Atlanta, GA (Ferrel Moultrie) complete the trail from mile zero to mile 325!!! Way to go!!!! If anyone knows anyone else who has done this, let us know. We would love to hear from them. We are now up to 38 visitors from 14 different countries. While we don't have all the data for spring of 2026, you can see (on the next page) that we are definitely showing activity on all sections. Keep up the good work on gathering the log sheets and getting them turned in!



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!!