

September 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)
Wade Colwell	Maintenance Coordinator	(Board term ends: June 30, 2027)
Tiffany Mallard		(Board term ends: June 30, 2029)
Peter Cooper		(Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Adam Higinbothom		(Board term ends: June 30, 2028)
Open Board Position		

Ancillary Services

Website Development and Maintenance	Brent Umphlett
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

A board meeting was held August 23, 2026 at Fossil Cove Brewing in Fayetteville. The next board meeting will be held in either November or December. It will be posted on the Events page of our website [Ozark Highlands Trail Association | OHTA](https://www.ozarkhighlandstrailassociation.org/). Stay tuned!

When:	TBD
Time:	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Where:	Fossil Cove Brewing 1946 North Birch Avenue, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72703
Who's Invited:	All OHTA members
Primary Agenda:	TBD

HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT THERE!!

SAFETY

I hope everyone is staying safe during this latest heat wave. Hopefully not that fall is officially here, we will begin to experience those wonderful cool mornings and evenings. Until then, please remember to stay hydrated, not with just water, but also with electrolyte drinks and avoid caffeine and alcohol. Even if we think we are acclimated to the heat, we need to remember to take frequent breaks and spend time in the AC. Please stay safe and keep an eye on your family and friends. Don't forget about the fur babies, my cat especially loves ice cubes in her water.

	What to do in case of Heat Exhaustion: • Get to a cooler, air conditioned place, and rest • Drink water if fully conscious • Take a cool shower or use cold compress Heat Stroke • CALL 911 • Take immediate action to cool the person until help arrives
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BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

There has been a change to the board members since August. Wade Colwell has assumed the role of Maintenance Coordinator. A new position title Maintenance Manager has been created to help relieve the workload of the Maintenance Coordinator. The Maintenance Manager will monitor trail issues and coordinate trail maintenance activities and report to the Maintenance Coordinator. The Maintenance Coordinator will continue to oversee all activities that were previously achieved.

With this said, we now have an **open board position** that needs to be filled as soon as possible. If you are interested in being more active in the organization by becoming a board member, please send your request to ohata@ozarkhighlandstrail.com or yvonne@ozarkhighlandstrail.com.

HARE MOUNTAIN HIKE-IN

It is now just six weeks 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!! [2026 Hare Mountain Hike-In - Ozark Highlands Trail Association](#)

Come one, Come all !

TRAIL LOG DATA UPDATE

As we are going through the wonderful dog days of summer, there are no new updates on hiker data. For the maintainers who have register boxes on their section, please bring them with you if you are attending any of the basecamps. If you cannot attend, please take a photo of the logs and send them to me at yvonne@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. Please remove reported trail register logs.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE CORNER

West Base Camp Was A Hit/Hot!

45 incredible volunteers made West Base Camp a success. We managed to clear 40.6 miles of trail over the weekend and recorded 405 hours of work – which was a great accomplishment given the weather. No major injuries & no trips to the hospital. The oppressive weather did cause us to hit some sections of trail over two or more days in order to finish. By the time you read this in early October, the trail from Lake Fort Smith to Morgan Fields should be in pretty good shape. A shout out to the Duanes for their help around camp and the drop in from the Hignites was a pleasant surprise. Many thanks also to the members of the Board, who stepped up to make things run smoothly.

East Base Camp is October 2 – 4. Please sign up to help out there if you haven't already. Head over to the website at ozarkhighlandstrail.com and click on the Events tab to register or go to [Fall 2026 OHTA East Basecamp - Ozark Highlands Trail Association](#).

Adopters, it is time for fall maintenance to get your section of trail ready for the hiking season. In particular, those of you with sections between Haw Creek Falls and White Rock, please work your section before October 23rd...the Hare Mountain 100 trail race takes place that day and we want our trail to be ready to accommodate the trail runners participating.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you with your commitment to help others by maintaining trail.

Reporting issues: If you are unfamiliar or new there are several ways. You can text me, but the best way is email at maintenance@ozarkhighlandstrail.com. Pictures go a long way if you are reporting trees down. Sawyers like to know how to prepare, if additional help is needed, or if it can wait for an additional reason to carry a saw out to the forest. Location, location, location, if any issue is reported keep in mind that carrying of tools, saws, supplies, etc. is hard enough without taking extra steps. GPS coordinates, a pin dropped on your trail app of choice then a screen shot, all helps us decide how to go after that reported issue.

CHANGES TO EMAIL ADDRESSES

The saga continues...If you haven't already noticed, there have been, yet again, more changes to email addresses. Unfortunately, we encountered a few issues with the 'titled' email accounts, and we are making another change. We are still pursuing addresses that allow everyone to directly communicate with the various positions without having to remember personal email addresses. The other benefit is for ease of transferring information as members of the board change. This, of course, has come with a few learning opportunities when communicating with a large number of members, hence the possible multiple notifications of the board meeting you may have received. Please continue to be patient while we work through this. Below is a list of the new, current and obsolete email accounts.

Organization Title	New Email Address	Name
President	yvonne1@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Yvonne Liske
	ohta@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Monitored by Yvonne
Vice-President	randys@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Randy Soeung
Treasurer	treasurer@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Todd Wells
	payments@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Monitored by Todd
Secretary	brentu@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Brent Umphlett
Maintenance Coordinator	wadec@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Wade Colwell
Maintenance Manager	stevenp@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Steven Parker
	maintenance@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Monitored by Steven – to be used to report trail issues
Board Member	peterc@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Peter Cooper
Board Member	adamh@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Adam Higinbothom
Board Member	tiffanym@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Tiffany Mallard
Orders	melz@ozarkhighlandstrail.com	Mel Zabecki

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

HIKE ONWARD!!