

Ozark Trail Association

October 2, 2020

The OTA is Back in Action!

It's hard to believe that fall has arrived and with it brings the anticipation of being able to host events on the Ozark Trail. We are ready to get back into the swing of things with multiple events including our Fall MEGA, heading south to Winona, and returning to the new Upper Current section of the OT. Even with the uncertainty of COVID, events are looking a bit different as we strive to keep our volunteers safe.

This past month found OTA volunteers doing trail maintenance, raising funds through the OT Challenge Hike and the One-Eyed Dog MTB Race, and hosting a monumental day at Udall partnering with the Ozark Highlands Trail Association to begin the connection to the OHT at the Missouri/Arkansas border.

I truly believe that OTA volunteers, users, and all those who love the OT are truly a "force of nature" as we strive to protect and advocate for it. The OTA has a dynamic group of people who are deeply devoted to keeping the Ozark Trail in the best shape it can be so that those who venture out into the Forest can have a memorable experience and a story to tell others of why they love to return to the OT time and time again.

Let's continue to open the door to adventure for others that may not know what it is to walk among the trees or to see the stars at night while camping next to a babbling stream. No matter when or how a person discovers the OT, the power of its impression can have a positive ripple effect, spurring adventures, creativity, and shaping a path and devotion to the wild outdoors that could last a lifetime.

Kathie Brennan
President

Rising to the Challenge...



OT Challenge Hike

Another successful OT Challenge Hike was completed virtually and in person with hikers raising funds and hiking the 17.8 miles. Thank you to our sponsors and all those who planned, participated, and raised over \$19,000 for the Ozark Trail!

Special thanks goes to Garrett Doak for coordinating this amazing event along with the OTA volunteers behind the scenes who worked the aid station and made sure everyone arrived safely at the finish line. If you'd like to get involved with this event in the future, reach out to otchallengehike@ozarktrail.com.



One-Eyed Dog MTB Race

What a day!!! From amazing weather, to everyone who came out to take on the Ozark Trail, to each one finishing as a winner. Without the OTA volunteers, Team Noah members, and the MTB community

this event wouldn't have been possible as they spent TONS of time and effort clearing trees, lopping, and brushing to make the course as good as it gets during these COVID times. A huge thanks to organizer Matt Johnson for making sure the race was as memorable as the day. Proceeds from this event will be shared between the OTA and Team Noah Foundation.

Going Above and Beyond!



Have you ever wondered how the OTA maintains 400+ miles of trail? One of the reasons the trail continues to improve each year is because of our *Adopt-A-Trail Program* where OTA volunteers have adopted a trailhead or multiple miles. This program was developed to fill the niche beyond typical

maintenance events as well as give users the opportunity to "claim a section of the OT." The OTA is currently creating additional opportunities for you to become an adopter or co-adopter. If you have any questions or just want to learn more about the adopter program, email Stephen Thompson at otaadoptatrail@ozarktrail.com

Your Voice Matters...



The Great American Outdoors Act that recently was passed may provide much needed funding for *deferred maintenance across the MTNF*, specifically the Ozark Trail. Your support in the way of comments sent to the National Forest was

phenomenal! Nearly 25% of all comments received for the eastern region projects were in support of the Ozark Trail. Now we wait...

HIKING SEASON IS UPON US



One of the Top 10 Essential Backpacking Items is a map. The OTA carries a complete line of waterproof section maps that include a plethora of information including water sources, trail features, elevation profile, and safety information. These can be ordered from our online shop!

[Visit our Store](#)

Fall Events Calendar & More

October 10: Fall Mega at Bass' River Resort

October 17-25: Whoopin' It Up In Winona Week

October 31: Upper Current Section Maintenance (Round Spring)

October 31: Bass Pro Expo in Springfield

October 31: Echo Bluff SP Harvest Bazaar

November 4-6: OT 100 Mile Endurance Run Prep

November 7: OT 100 Mile Endurance Run Support

For details about these events and to see all scheduled outings, plus sign up, click [here](#).

A large portion of our work is funded directly from supporters like you.

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I'd like to become a member or renew my membership with the Ozark Trail Association!

[MEMBERSHIP](#)



The Mission of the Ozark Trail Association is to **develop, maintain, preserve, promote & protect** the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail



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