

THE **OZARK TRAIL**
CONNECTOR

Annual Magazine of the Ozark Trail Association **2015**



**Paradise
in Missouri:
Arcadia
Valley**

**Pacific MO:
Rails, Trails and River**

**TAUM SAUK
SECTION:**
*Ozark
Mountain
Views*

**TRAIL
TOWNS**

Special OTA Members

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2015 edition of *The Connector*.

In it we share the accomplishments of the Ozark Trail Association: our financial, membership and volunteer results in 2014, and stories and features that highlight our great volunteers and amazing trail.

This is my first opportunity write a President's Welcome in *The Connector*. Since taking of-
fice, I have had several opportunities to remind our volunteers, members and anyone else
who would listen that the Ozark Trail Association is an enterprise primarily funded by "sweat
equity." It has been this way since the beginning and will be for the foreseeable future. Just
like it says on the side of the tool trailers, we are "powered by volunteers."

If we could list sweat equity on one side of our balance sheet, on the other side as assets we
would list the wonderful trail system we have built and maintained, our dedicated volunteers,
well-trained crew leaders and event coordinators.

This year I am happy to announce that the Ozark Trail Association is adding to our list of
priorities the task of building relationships with communities along the trail: our Trail Towns.
That's the theme of this issue and we're happy to share a story
on the good things happening in Pacific MO by new OTA board
member Steve Myers. Learn about Arcadia Valley and three
trail towns that are located there. We also created a feature
that highlights seven of the towns nearest the trail with many
good reasons to visit them. Our Section Focus story in this is-
sue describes the Taum Sauk section, which is close to several
towns that might make you want to stop and stay a while.

When mankind first started using trails they typically led to
desirable destinations. Trail Towns can be both destinations
and waypoints as you use the trail. In either case we think
they are places you'll want to know better and they will make
your travels and your hard work on the Ozark Trail even more
rewarding.

I hope you enjoy this year's *Connector*.

Roger Allison
OTA President



Roger Allison and best trail friend, Tallulah

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Cover Photo: The
beautiful Banded
Pennant (*Celithemis
fasciata*) is found
near water along
the Ozark Trail
where it "hawks" for
mosquitos and other
small insects. (Photo:
S. Avetta)

Above Photo: The columnar rhyolite of
Hughes Mountain, called "Devil's Honey-
comb," was formed from cooling lava in
the Precambrian nearly one billion years
ago. Near the Trace Creek section of the
trail. (Photo: M. Atnip)

Back: Hiker on the Blair Creek section
of the OT (Photo: A. Rothermich)





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Arcadia Valley, nestled among the highest mountains of the Missouri Ozarks, is home to the towns of Arcadia, Ironton and Pilot Knob, all founded within the same decade. Arcadia was laid out and platted in 1849. Ironton was designated county seat in 1857, soon after the formation of Iron County. Pilot Knob was laid out in 1858. At the heart of Arcadia Valley are the red brick Iron County courthouse, graceful antebellum homes and turn-of-the-century mercantile buildings. And all around are some of the most important historical places, best natural resources and hometown hospitality Missouri has to offer.

Arcadia Valley is located approximately 100 miles south of St. Louis, about a 20-minute drive from US Highway 67. People traveling from St. Louis, or southern Missouri, can drive along scenic MO Highway 21. For cyclists, Arcadia Valley is located along US Bicycle Route 76. The Ozark Trail's Russell Mountain Trailhead, on the Taum Sauk section, is just a few miles from Arcadia Valley.



Johnson's Shut-Ins: There's nothing like cold rushing water on a hot summer day. (photo: Missouri Division of Tourism)

There is much Native American and Civil War history in Arcadia Valley. This area was the hunting grounds of the Piankashaw tribe, led by Chief Sauk-Ton-Qua, who held the land against invasions from the Osage. The chief's beautiful daughter, Mina Sauk, fell in love with an Osage who was then executed by her father. Legend has it that the broken-hearted maiden threw herself from the same outcrop where her lover died. Then the earth trembled and a crack appeared, gushing water. Taum Sauk Mountain, the highest point in Missouri and site of the tribe's tragedy,

was named for the chief and Mina Sauk Falls, on the Ozark Trail was named for his lost daughter. One leg of the Trail of Tears, the forced migration of the Cherokee nation to Oklahoma Territory in 1838, winds its way through the Arcadia Valley. Thousands of Cherokee died during this tragic trip due to exposure, starvation and disease.

Arcadia Valley's past includes significant events during the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant received his commission as Brigadier General in the Valley. A key engagement, the Battle of Pilot Knob, was fought here in 1864, the only Missouri battle that took place at a fort. Confederate troops from Arkansas attempted to reach St. Louis and were delayed by a small contingent of Union soldiers at Fort Davidson for two days, long enough for the Union to fortify St. Louis. Visitors can trace the route of skirmishes through the Valley and over the mountains, which culminates at the fort. Every three years, in September, Arcadia Valley hosts a reenactment of this important Civil War battle.

Mining has played an important part in Arcadia Valley's history. Significant iron ore deposits were found in the Valley and silver was also discovered in the area. Beautiful red Missouri granite is still quarried nearby. Today, geologists travel from all over the United States to Arcadia, where they find some of the oldest mineral deposits in the world.

Arcadia Valley is a great headquarters or starting

The Arcadia Valley Mountain Music Festival in May and October is the place for bluegrass, crafts, and a miniature train ride for the kids. (photo: R. Pribble, The Mountain Echo)



point for an Ozark Trail vacation. The Valley began to attract visitors at the start of the 19th century, when settlers were drawn to the area by abundant buffalo and deer populations. It continues to charm travelers with its beauty. Outdoor recreational activities abound in Arcadia Valley, where you can enjoy hiking, backpacking, biking, fishing, swimming, camping and horseback riding. Johnson's Shut-Ins and Elephant Rocks State Parks are enjoyed by thousands of people every year.

Throughout the Valley, friendly colorful shops and a variety of restaurants greet visitors. Attractive motels and charming bed and breakfast inns offer a selection of overnight lodging and accommodations to meet any budget. Dine at one of the many local restaurants that serve country-style food or award winning barbeque. Take a romantic carriage ride or see a live show featuring bluegrass music and country oldies. Attend the Mountain Music Festival in the spring or fall, and the annual Bar-B-Que Battle in the summer. Please visit us in Arcadia Valley, the most beautiful area in Missouri.

Bob Lourwood is the mayor of Ironton and a member of the Arcadia Valley Chamber of Commerce. For more information on Arcadia Valley, see www.arcadiavalley.biz.

*To learn more about the towns of Arcadia, Ironton and Pilot Knob, see *Trail Towns: You Can Get There from Here*, pp. 6-7.*

Beautiful ARCADIA VALLEY

By Bob Lourwood



Main Street, Ironton with the flank of Pilot Knob in the background (photo: B. Baroszek)

Pacific:

Trail Town With History and Heart

Bend Bridge over the Meramec River at Pacific
(photo: S. Myers)

In Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best in the mid 1800's: "Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." That's what the Ozark Trail Association (OTA) continues to do with the effort to expand the reach of the Ozark Trail. The OTA has recently turned its focus to the quaint and quiet community of Pacific MO. Nestled at the eastern edge of the Missouri Ozark foothills, the town recently received designation as one of the "10 Most Beautiful Towns in Missouri" as published in culturetrip.com.

Pacific should embrace its great resources and work toward the recreational benefits that could come from increasing public access to our beautiful natural surroundings. If we work now to establish Pacific as a trail-friendly community with an abundance of features and benefits to trail users, we will position our city to capture the tourism and economic development that comes with the designation of trail town.



Blackburn Park offers a Civil War replica cannon and a great overlook.

On a recent tour of Pacific's highlights with OTA leadership, it was easy to demonstrate why this community should become part of the trail system. With the Great Rivers Greenway to the east and the Ozark Trail to the west, it makes sense that the trails would merge at Pacific. This route would repurpose the Withington Ford Bridge (the Bend Bridge) over the Meramec River as a trail crossing and give trail users the opportunity to take in the fantastic scenery, historic places and friendly service of Pacific.

The founders of the Pacific River Walk Trail project have been quickly build-

● ● ● ● by **STEVE MYERS**

ing momentum by launching a public awareness campaign and leading the charge to establish the city of Pacific as a trailhead for both trails. If the group is successful, it would be the first time the Ozark Trail enters St. Louis County. This would mark a key milestone toward connecting the trail all the way to St. Louis, one of the OTA's long term goals. Critical to the plan is the 100-year-old Bend Bridge, a historic two-span through truss bridge over the Meramec River on Bend Road (Route N), southwest of Pacific. After construction of a new bridge 700 feet downstream for vehicles, Bend Bridge would become a unique part of the OT, open to hikers, cyclists and equestrians.

The Magi Foundation has established a trust fund for the continued maintenance of the River Walk and development of the Bend Bridge for use as a trail. Jim McHugh, Foundation founder and president, said, "Developing the Pacific River Walk Trail is a once in a lifetime opportunity that has the power to positively impact the reputation, property values and economic welfare of the city and to make the City of Pacific a model municipality in the St. Louis metropolitan area." A study published by the Synergy Group in July 2012 demonstrates that the 240-mile Katy Trail sees an estimated 400,000 visitors every year and brings in \$8,204,000 from visitor spending annually to communities nearby.

Do trails attract tourists? Absolutely! But what would trail users find if the Ozark Trail were brought to the town of Pacific?

Jensen Point is a stone monument built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It became a well-loved rest stop for Route 66 travelers. Open to the public again by March 2016, the look-

out will offer a panoramic view of the Pacific area and nearby rail lines where approximately 80 trains rumble through daily. From Jensen Point, you can also see old Route 66 and the beautiful sandstone bluffs of Pacific. To see the Mother Road up close, plans for Phase 1 of the River Walk call for adapting an existing twin box culvert to allow the trail to cross under Route 66 through a 66-foot lighted tunnel.

During the Civil War, Pacific was the location nearest to St. Louis reached by Confederate forces traveling northward. Pacific (then called Franklin) was considered a prize for its railroad tracks and the opportunity to control the outcome of the war. The town was looted and burned along with a train bridge over the Meramec River before the Union took control. You can learn more about the Civil War and other history of Pacific and the surrounding area at the Meramec Valley Historical Museum.

Visitors can experience over 55 species of birds at the Pacific Palisades Wildlife area. Bald eagles are abundant here along with other wildlife. If you'd like to combine a trail trip with boating, fishing and other fun on the water, the Meramec River is accessible via a permanent boat ramp in the Palisades. For more basic needs, Pacific's downtown district is home to a variety of restaurants such as Pacific Brewhaus and D'Angelos Pizza, plus ice cream served up the old fashioned way at Hoffman's Drive In or Christopher's Corner. El Agave Mexican and New China restaurants, along with various fast food choices are also nearby.

Pacific is a natural to be the next Ozark Trail Town!

Steve Myers is a new member of the OTA Board of directors and an Alderman for the city of Pacific. See www.pacificriverwalktrail.org for more information about the Pacific River Walk.



TODD HORN

By Kathy Atnip

Todd Horn is one of those people with both tech smarts and outdoors savvy. And he's one of the nicest people you could find anywhere. The Ozark Trail Association has been fortunate to have his great contributions since the organization was created in 2002.

Todd was one of the earliest trail volunteers. With John Roth, our late founder, he created the first OTA website, making trail maps available for the first time.

Todd is also the architect behind the OTA's online Trip Planner, a unique tool that helps people organize a trail visit for hiking, cycling, or horseback with length and difficulty, and then creates a custom itinerary complete with directions to trailheads and information about features along the way. Todd also developed the redesigned OTA website launched in 2010 and he maintains the programming to keep it running. He continues to keep our trail maps up to date, adding information and GPS coordinates as the OT grows and re-routes develop.

You can also find Todd at many OTA events as crew manager, crew leader or trail building volunteer. He's a Red Jacket Award winner and one of the most knowledgeable people around when it comes to building the Ozark Trail, the trail itself and the area around it. Todd Horn's contributions to the OTA have helped the OTA grow, inside AND out.



REI

By Kathy Atnip

Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) has been a big-time supporter of the Ozark Trail. The St. Louis store distributes OTA brochures and sponsors the OTA's fall Mega Event each year. REI employees are always some of our most enthusiastic trail building volunteers.

Through REI's Stewardship Grants program, the OTA has benefited from grants totaling \$79,400 since 2004. The most recent grant for \$15,000, awarded in June 2015 will provide for expansion of the trail in the Round Spring and Current River State Park area. This will create a new Round Spring section and incorporate the last trail designed by OTA founder John Roth before his death. REI's funding has been critical in supporting our mission to develop the trail and it's helping provide access to some of Missouri's most beautiful backcountry.

REI has also contributed to our work through its Outdoor School. OTA volunteers, including Danny McMurphy, regularly present on Missouri outdoor recreation and the Ozark Trail at the St. Louis location. REI also promotes OTA trail building events along with spreading awareness about other volunteer and conservation efforts nationwide.

REI's GeoStories is a partnership with National Geographic featuring a multimedia interface backed by geospatial information system (GIS) data. Visit www.geostories.org/playerhome/gesF32EBB32C3AD212F8/940/slate/arial/geoplay/ and search for Ozark Trail to experience *Caring for the Heart of the Ozarks*, a collection of 10 "Story Points" that include photos of OT trail sections along with details on their natural and cultural history.

Thank you for being a great OT partner, REI!



Proprietor of Old Mountains Gear Exchange. First to sell OTA printed maps, collects OT donations in the store. Great OTA supporter.

GREG ECHELMEIER



Previous longtime OTA Board member and wise advisor on OTA marketing. Supports retail OT map sales. Assists fundraising through AI-Pint Nights.

LISA HOLLENBECK

FFAME



SOLID LEADERSHIP

Built Respect for the Ozark Trail Association

Long overdue to appear on the Wall of Fame is Steve Coates. His contributions to the OTA have been many and made over more than a decade. Looking for a little solace in the woods after losing his father, Steve found John Roth and the OTA in 2003. After hearing Steve talk of his love of the outdoors and that he was a civil engineer, it was only a short time before Steve received the Roth call to arms: "We need to talk..." Over the next year, Steve's participation and commitment grew stronger which led to another talk with John, "I think you need to be President." Steve commented later that it was, "like batting after Albert Pujols just hit a grand slam." Having Steve there to be a steady compass allowed John to dash off into the field and focus on building the trail and the OTA's reputation. That is when Steve became Albright to John's Mather.

The milestones passed under Steve's ten years of leadership are impressive. The Adopt-a-Trail program was kicked off in 2005, the same year the Middle Fork-John Roth Memorial section was completed, creating a 220 mile thru-trail. The Trip Planner was launched in 2007 and the OT was designated a National Recreation Trail in 2008. When we lost John to an accident in 2009, Steve rallied key people to keep the vision of the OTA alive and moving. The "backbone" of the OT was lengthened to 230 miles in 2010 with the opening of the "Courtois Gap". Our annual magazine, *The Connector*, launched in 2010, adding to the growing professional face of the organization. A grant providing startup funding for a full time Executive Director was crafted by Steve in that year as well. In 2013, the OTA unveiled its first set of high-quality printed section trail maps, an idea that first took shape at a meeting Steve attended in 2008 and was funded by a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant written by Steve in 2009. Still moving forward, the U.S. Forest Service recognized the OTA as the National Volunteer Trail Group for 2013. The OTA also won in the same category for Region 9, repeating the award made previously in 2008. Thanks to a 2010 RTP education grant written by Steve, we published a crew leader training manual in 2014.

As 2015 began, Steve turned over the reins of the President's position to Roger Allison. Steve continues to hold a position on the OTA Board and remains a steady influence for the entire organization. Thanks for your years of dedication and guiding hand.



STEVE COATES

By Matt Atnip



Sawyer coordinator and active sawyer: helps clear the trail of downed trees, and debris. Minds OTA vehicles and power equipment. Adopter on the Taum Sauk section.

MARK GOFORTH



Traveling many miles to attend nearly every Mega Event. Red Jacket Awardees and big OTA supporters. Anthony: great trail photographer and both: USFS certified sawyers.

ANTHONY & TIFFANY STANLEY

OZARK TRAIL TOWNS

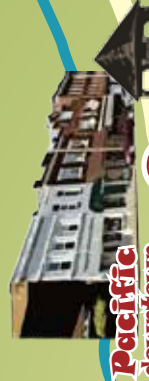
The Ozark Trail is not only a great way to visit Missouri's beautiful backwoods. You can also find your way to some excellent towns close to the trail where you can stock up on supplies, eat a good meal and rest. But these trail towns offer much more: their own special tales, opportunities to learn about the area's history and a chance to enjoy abundant natural resources nearby. The trail can lead you to experience small-town America at its best.



Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum

where the author wrote "Little House" books (57 miles from town)

Sandstone Bluffs



Pacific downtown

1

Jensen Point



Bend Bridge
100-year-old, 421-foot, through-truss bridge over the Meramec River

21

Elephant Rocks State Park



Historic Iron County Courthouse
on the National Register of Historic Places

General Grant statue

St. Joseph Chapel

3

4

Mina Salk Falls
Missouri's tallest waterfall

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
on the National Register of Historic Places

Fort Davidson

Whistle Junction Visitor Center and Museum

Peck Ranch Conservation Area
Elk Herd
reintroduced to Missouri in 2011

Blue Spring

Alley Spring and Mill

5

Wild Horse Herds



YOU CAN GET THERE FROM HERE

1 Pacific

Founded: 1852 as Franklin (renamed as Pacific in 1859, named for Atlantic-Pacific railroad)
Population: 7,000
History: Captured by Confederacy, 1864, then re-taken by Union troops. Silica from sandstone bluffs mined in 1870s for making fine glassware. Popular stop on Route 66 in 1930s, catering to motorists. Vibrant downtown, restaurants and shops. Jensen Point (built by the CCC), and 1916 Withington Ford-Bend Bridge, potential future route for OT into St. Louis County.
Nearest OT trailhead: Future in town (Bend Bridge)

2 Pilot Knob

Founded: 1858, named for Pilot Knob Mountain, used by Mississippi River boat captains to navigate
Population: 746
History: Early 19th-century settlers drawn by abundant buffalo and deer. Fort Davidson was site of bloody Civil War Battle of Pilot Knob. Immanuel Lutheran Church, founded 1861, used as a hospital during the war, then one-room school until 1936. July 4th Festival and car show, good ol' home cookin', and Ozarks scenery with Taum Sauk Mountain and Mina Sauk Falls nearby.
Nearest OT trailhead: Claybaugh Creek, Taum Sauk section (7 miles)

3 Ironton

Founded: 1857 as county seat of Iron County, named for area's vast iron resources
Population: 1,460
History: St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad transported ore and miners settled here. Devastated by the Civil War and afterwards used as summer resort by wealthy St. Louisans. Offers leisure opportunities and outdoor recreation including 4.6-billion year-old granite formations in Elephant Rocks State Park and Stouts Creek for whitewater rafting.
Nearest OT trailhead: Claybaugh Creek, Taum Sauk section (6 miles)

4 Arcadia

Founded: 1849, named for mountainous region in Greece, a peaceful, earthly paradise
Population: 600
History: Built around Arcadia High School, founded around 1849, later the Academy of Ursuline Sisters for Girls and then a Civil War military hospital. Now the Arcadia College Historic District, on the National Register of Historic Places with St. Joseph Chapel (magnificent stained glass windows, grotto and spring house), antique shops and bed-and-breakfasts.
Nearest OT Trailhead: Claybaugh Creek, Taum Sauk section (5 miles)

5 Eminence

Founded: in current location after 1863, named for high location on hillside
Population: 600
History: Legend says Eminence courthouse location chosen when a wagon hauling lumber broke down on the spot. Heavy logging in 19th century caused West Eminence to boom to over 20,000. Now tourism is booming in "The Canoe Capital of the World" with canoeing, kayaking, exploring caves and springs, fishing and hunting.
Nearest OT trailhead: Owl's Bend, Current River section (13 miles)

6 Van Buren

Founded in: 1833 (Moved to present site in 1867), named for President Martin Van Buren
Population: 800
History: Started with general merchandise and water-powered grist mill. Late-1800s pine harvest shaped the landscape and left remains of timber transport tram lines. Current River key to Van Buren: float, canoe, fish and visit below ground in Current River Cavern, Cave Spring State Park. Natural areas nearby: Big Spring (North America's largest), Tupelo Gum Pond and Big Barren Creek.
Nearest OT trailhead: Hwy 60, Current River and Between the Rivers sections (5 miles)

7 West Plains

Founded in: 1832 (first as a settlement), named for location on prairie west of the nearest town
Population: 11,990
History: Contested during Civil War and burned through guerilla warfare. Home to Missouri State University-West Plains. Offers Heart of the Ozarks Fair each July and annual Old Time Music Ozark Heritage Festival in June. Historic mills offering tours near town include: Rockbridge, Hodgson and Dawt Mills.
Nearest OT trailhead: Pomona, North Fork section (11 miles)

Thanks to the following people for their help in providing information and images: Jim Anderson, Shelby Chan, Rebecca Landewe, Bob Lourwood, Steve Myers, Dave Tobey, Dave Turley, and Judy Stewart

Taum Sauk:

— By Bob Henningsen —

Long before either the Rocky or Appalachian Mountains were formed, 1.5 billion years ago, Missouri's St. Francois Mountains rose as volcanoes from the sea. They are among the oldest mountains in North America. One of the most spectacular sections of the Ozark Trail—the Taum Sauk—traverses these mountains for thirty-five miles, offering stunning vistas, swiftly flowing streams, the state's highest waterfall, and tallest mountain in Taum Sauk itself. While this mountain chain features no snow-capped peaks or dizzying heights, it does share one element with its younger cousins: rock.

Lichen-covered trees and stones: Bell Mountain (Photo: B. Henningsen)

Atop Bell, Goggins, Proffit, Taum Sauk, and Ketcherside Mountains, igneous domes provide sweeping views of the valleys below. Called "glades", these fields of stone ooze water as if pressing it from the earth. Travel here is sloppy in spring, slippery in winter, hot in summer and fall; yet, in all seasons it's from these bald expanses that dramatic vistas open all around. To enjoy them, however, one must work to get there, as this section of the Ozark Trail (OT) is arguably the most demanding of any.



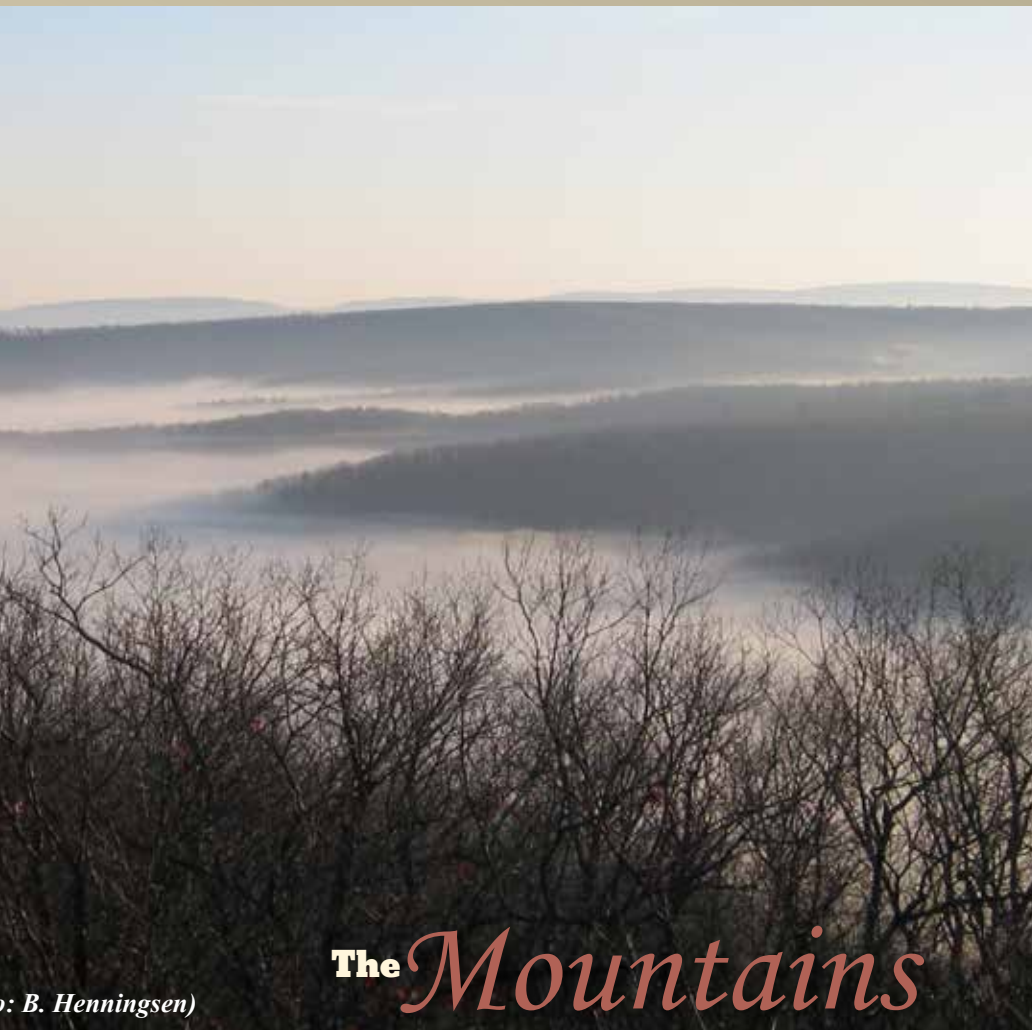
Camping at Padfield Branch (Photo: B. Henningsen)

The climbs themselves are a challenge, but each step keeps the hiker focused, crossing scree (rivers of rock) that spill down the mountainside creases. Because of this, the hiker should allow for more time on the Taum Sauk Section than on other portions of the OT. But the slower pace allows for a greater appreciation of the surrounding beauty.

Moving from west to east, that beauty begins with Bell Mountain. The OT climbs from the trailhead at Ottery Creek onto the rugged face of Bell at a challenging grade. Soon, from outcroppings and glades, views open to the valley below, just as, underfoot and around, the red of rhyolite and black of granite afford spectacles of their own. At the intersection of the Bell Mountain Trail with the OT, a hiker can choose to enjoy a loop to Bell's 1,702 foot summit. A designated wilderness area, Bell Mountain attracts hikers from near and far. When there in early March, I met a large group of college students on spring break, a young couple from Dallas, and another couple from Italy!

With Bell begins a succession of glades, some of which, in season, offer drinking water. Otherwise, no water will be found until Bell Mountain ends with a descent to Padfield

Early morning from atop Bell Mountain (Photo: B. Henningsen)



(Photo: B. Henningsen)

The Mountains

of Missouri

Branch. Here, from behind the collapsed ruins of a settler's home, runs a spring sporting a healthy flow. Tucked midst a stand of cedars is a lovely place to camp—one of my personal favorites on the Ozark Trail. A gradual ascent from Padfield Branch leads onto Goggins Mountain. As with Bell, the glades and heights of Goggins can be reached via an alternative route. The thru-hiker needs to be certain to remain on the trail and not be led astray by the OT "Spur".



Rocky outcropping above Claybaugh Creek
(Photo: B. Henningsen)

Before descending to Johnson's Shut-Ins, the hiker is delivered to one of the most spectacular glades of any on this section of the OT. On the far southern horizon looms another mountain famous for its rhyolite glades: Stegall. On a good day, one's eye can leap the long distance and land on the Current River Section of the OT, home to Stegall. Closer at hand, the Black River and Johnson's Shut-Ins await. In December 2005, the landscape of this area was forever changed when the Ameren Union Electric Reservoir atop Proffit Mountain breached and sent a wall of water, 1.3 billion gallons strong, crashing down the Taum Sauk Creek valley. The OT crosses the Black and gains elevation to route the hiker toward what has become known as the "Scour," the broad swath of exposed bedrock forged by the breach.

Once across the Scour (and Taum Sauk Creek), the OT reaches a portion of the trail that was constructed by Boy Scouts in 1950. These thirteen miles seem far more wild and remote than the map would have it. Along the flanks of Proffit Mountain, the hiker is afforded multiple views spanning the valley to the opposite side and the trail ahead. But it's here that the scree slopes are most frequent. After slowly picking the way through the scree, the hiker returns to Taum Sauk Creek. In normal conditions, crossing this creek poses little threat; yet, as is always the case on any section of the OT when a rain-swollen stream must be given due respect.

A real treat awaits once the creek is crossed. Along an old timber road, the trail parallels Taum Sauk Creek for two pleasurable miles. Just after the first mile, Devil's Tollgate presents its mass of stone in two different halves through which the trail courses. A mile further on, Missouri's highest waterfalls, Mina Sauk, spills the creek from over a hundred and thirty feet over a rugged face of rock. After a heavy rain, Mina Sauk would feel right at home in the Yosemite Valley.

The safer route up the falls is to climb the steep but vegetated slope along Mina Sauk. Once gained, the top of the falls returns the hiker to Taum Sauk Creek, which leads toward the top of the mountain itself. Though there's no view from Missouri's highest point (at 1,772 feet), there is a plaque to mark the site.

With another trailhead at the top of Taum Sauk, many choose to begin or end their hike here. To do so, however, would be to miss the charm of a final four miles that includes another set of glades along Ketcherside Mountain with accompanying views over the valley of Claybaugh Creek. Here, the walking is less demanding and provides a nice and gentle finish to this section at State Highway 21. For the vistas, outstanding features, and all of the beauty that accompanies a mountainous terrain, the Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail brings to us a rugged wilderness that's not to be missed.

MEMBERSHIP HAS BENEFITS

New Ozark Trail Association memberships, launched in 2014, let you choose the level that works best for you. And we hope that our new incentives show you how much the OTA appreciates its members. Thank you for helping the OTA continue to make the Ozark Trail one of the premier trails in the U.S!

All OTA Memberships Include:

- Attractive OTA Embroidered Patch
- Subscription to quarterly *Trail Talk* newsletter
- Subscription to annual *Ozark Trail Connector* magazine
- Invitations to local hikes, trail work days & social activities

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	\$35, \$50 & \$75	\$100, \$150 & \$250	\$500 & \$750	\$1,000, \$2,500 & \$5,000	\$10,000 & \$25,000
<p>TRAIL CONTRIBUTOR Every dollar helps support OTA. Memberships at this level will build 10 yards of new trail.</p>					
<p>TRAIL INVESTOR Your support enhances trail building & maintenance programs, vital infrastructure like utilities or powering our website for a month. ALL above benefits plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of your support in our publications • OTA Lapel Pin or OTA Ball Cap 					
<p>TRAIL ADVENTURE CAPITALIST Your generous contribution helps secure the resources to protect the Ozark Trail. Provide a dozen hand tools or support mowing on five miles of trail. ALL above benefits plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTA Logo Polo Shirt or Trail Tool of your Choice 					
<p>PULASKI CLUB The Pulaski Club honors all who have come before us to build the Ozark Trail as you see it today. Your contribution ensures that the trail will always be waiting for the next dreamer. ALL above benefits plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OTA Lapel Pin & OTA Ceramic Coffee Mug • Customized Black Jacket Embroidered with Your Name & OTA Logo 					
<p>SCHOOLCRAFT LEADERSHIP CIRCLE Schoolcraft Leadership gifts have a dramatic effect on the financial and programmatic health of the OTA & provide sustainability in our efforts on behalf of the trail. This gift is named for Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, an early 19th-century explorer who published <i>The Journal of a Tour into the Interior of Missouri and Arkansas</i>, in 1821, the first written account of an exploration of the Ozarks. ALL above benefits plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Recognition in Our Publications and on Our Website 					

Our mission is to develop, maintain, preserve, promote and protect the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail.

ozarktrail.com



Lane Adams
 Sarah Bettinger
 Matthew Brandes
 Keith Branson
 Charles Carrico
 Aaron Chapman
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 Raymond & Diane Rymph
 Mark & Elizabeth Seesing
 Thomas Simpson
 Richard Watson



Roger Allison
 Bob Lourwood
 Magi Foundation

These members have made significant contributions in support of the Ozark Trail Association. Thank you for helping the trail grow and prosper.



Calvin & Kathie Brennan
 Randy & Laura Curtis
 Bruce Hadley
 Chanlan Lin

MEMBER HONOR ROLL

PROGRESS!

Once again it is my pleasure to note the accomplishments of our tremendous volunteer force! We made much progress in the field along with some noteworthy contacts in local Trail Towns took place. We continue to sharpen our internal structure through increased volunteer involvement in new committees and in the revival of old ones. In 2014, we made good on some old obligations while completing a thirteen-month trail construction project in about a quarter of that time.

It was appropriate that the Volunteer Trail Group award was presented at the Alpine Shop Spring Mega Event, when we finished a wonderful re-route on the Trace Creek section. From there we moved on to the Berryman loop where four miles of re-routes had been approved. Funding through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), funded by Federal Highway Administration money and administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, was awarded to the OTA to construct two miles of these re-routes by the end of 2016. Through two Mega Events and several day outings, we finished almost 2.5 miles and opened two new stretches of trail on Memorial Day weekend 2015: 19 months ahead of schedule!

We also hosted the first OT100 Mountain Bike race in September 2014, thanks again to our great volunteers. The race took place on the Courtois, Trace Creek, Middle Fork-John Roth Memorial and Karkaghne sections. See more on the inaugural race below. And we put on the next race the weekend of October 3, 2015.

On the maintenance side, a big shout-out to our trail adopters and their new leader, Kathie Brennan, who has taken on the Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator duties. Under her care, over 45 miles of orphaned trail have been adopted and reported hours have increased 34%. There is more to adopt: see what is available on our website and contact Kathie. Seasonal brushing and mowing last summer was up from 125 miles in 2013 to about 170. We plan to cover over 200 miles this season.

Behind the scenes, new committees have formed and are making progress. The Education Committee participated in Junior Ranger Days at Alley Springs where they spoke to about 500 elementary school students on Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics and responsible use of the outdoors. They are also planning to add some LNT workshops to upcoming Mega events. The new Outreach Committee has produced a list of volunteer "jobs" that will be published soon on our website. There you will find lots of opportunities to help the OTA protect and expand the trail. The Committee will also seek out opportunities to offer information workshops and booths at various festivals along the trail and in urban areas as well. A revival of the Construction and Maintenance Committee is underway and they will need plenty of help to meet their goals!

Further strengthening our organization, five new crew leaders went through training. Two crew leaders took the next step and became event coordinators. Their efforts were key to completing the Berryman project in record time. Three overdue RTP grants from as far back as 2008 were wrapped up and produced the excellent section maps and the *Trail Building in the Ozarks* classroom and field guides.

Around the corner, a full printed trail map is being designed to complement the section maps. We have negotiated an extension of a 2011 RTP grant (originally set to expire in 2013) to the end of 2017. This grant will help us build about nine miles of trail in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways which will become the new Round Spring section. We will hear soon if we were awarded another RTP grant to continue work on the remaining two miles of re-routes on the Berryman Trail.

Lots of exciting progress going on and we need your help! Remember, once you put in the sweat, the equity earned is yours to keep. Thanks again to our fantastic volunteers and we look forward to seeing new faces on committees and events. Please contact volunteer@OzarkTrail.com to see how you can help.

Matt Atnip
OTA Executive Director

INAUGURAL OT100



Four checkpoints on the course provided food, drinks, homemade snacks, riders' drop bags and encouragement. Right: Kathie Brennan, race volunteer.



The International Christian Cycling Club's tent at mile 63 offered a chain lube along with spaghetti for racers. (photo: A. Rothermich)



Men's overall winner Dwayne Goscinski (left) battles his competitor Brian Roggeveen who finished second. (photo: M. Janzow).

THE OZARK TRAIL BY THE NUMBERS

Total trail miles:

392

Built by OTA:

52

Volunteer hours in 2014:

9,717*

Up 15% from 2013

Total hours to date:

92,434

Volunteers in 2014:

933

Up 22% from 2013

Total volunteers:

10,126

Events in 2014:

82

Down **4.7%**
from 2013

Trail maintained
by Adopt-A-Trail
volunteers:

330
miles

Adopt-A-Trail hours in 2014:

2,445

Up **34%**
from 2013

Members in 2014:

969

Up **5%**
from 2013

Grant and other funding
received in 2013:

\$145,605

Up **102%**
from 2013

* Not including Adopt-A-Trail hours, logged separately
Events are logged OTA-organized outings

MTB



The finish line at Bass' River Resort included music, entertainment, photos, prize raffle, award presentations and a barbeque.



Kate Wilson, women's winner (photo: M.Janzow)

The first-ever Ozark Trail 100 Mountain Bike Race on September 6-7, 2014 drew eighty racers from six states. The race netted over \$6,000 to support the Ozark Trail. A big thank-you to the 30 companies and 70 volunteers who worked together to pull off the event. It was an epic 29 hours.





Ozark Trail Association
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Potosi, MO 63664

ozarktrail.com

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TAKING IT NATIONWIDE VOLUNTEERS

Johnnie Kay & Yogi Felts
proudly represent the Ozark Trail
when they travel over the road.

