



Scribbles from the Ozark Trail

January 2015 ~ Episode 1

Everything We Say Is The Truth!

By R. Wolfram

Welcome to the first edition of **Scribbles**. It is our vision to make **Scribbles** a monthly meandering, packed full of interesting news about the Ozark Trail, the peeps that use the trail, and maybe even some helpful tips, tricks, recipes, pics or any other nonsense that tickles our funny bones! It's our hope that your soon you will be telling your friends about the latest episode, sharing **Scribbles** with your co-workers and possibly, even random strangers.

This time around you'll find:

- ◆ Happy Tails
- ◆ Everything We Say...
- ◆ Small Tracks
- ◆ Member Spotlight
- ◆ 2014 Recap
- ◆ Upcoming OTA Events
- ◆ Caption This
- ◆ Reader's Pics

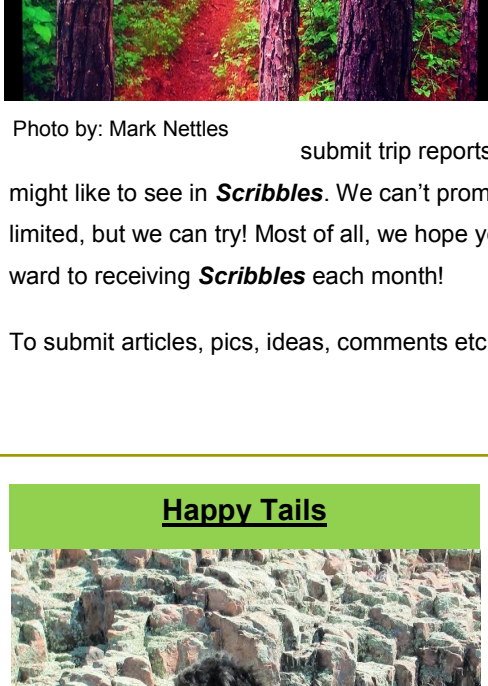


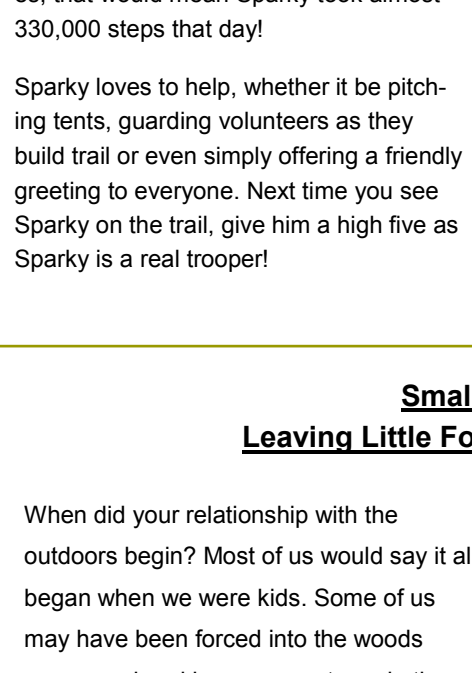
Photo by: Mark Nettles

We have some pretty neat ideas for each "episode", including spotlighting an Ozark Trail Association member each month. We hope to publish a brief bio about you and your experience with the trail, whether it be hiking, biking or horseback riding through the beautiful state of Missouri! The fame you will enjoy when your friends read about your activities will be unprecedented! The only stipulation we have is that you be a current member of the OTA...it's a plus if you're a section adopter!

We would also like to encourage everyone to submit trip reports, pics from the trail or any other ideas that you might like to see in **Scribbles**. We can't promise we will include them all, as time and space is limited, but we can try! Most of all, we hope you find each episode entertaining and look forward to receiving **Scribbles** each month!

To submit articles, pics, ideas, comments etc. please e-mail: otscribbles@ozarktrail.com

Happy Tails



Sparky is our *trail Companion of the Month* for January! Sparky's human is Dan Tihen. Sparky is a four and a half year old Poo-Chon (half Toy Poodle / half Bichon Frise). He rescued Dan when he was only one. Sparky recently day hiked the Berryman with Dan, which incidentally is twenty-six miles. Sparky's legs are approximately four inches long...with a stride of five inches, that would mean Sparky took almost 330,000 steps that day!

Sparky loves to help, whether it be pitching tents, guarding volunteers as they build trail or even simply offering a friendly greeting to everyone. Next time you see Sparky on the trail, give him a high five as Sparky is a real trooper!

OTA Event Calendar

January:

10 Continued work on the Berryman re-route (Dan Tihen)

13 Staff Meeting ~ All are welcome to attend

18-19 (Sunday-Monday) Courtois sawing blast (Kathie Brennan)

31 Continued work on the Berryman re-route (Rick Wolfram)

February:

8 Super bowl Sunday—Taum Sauk maintenance (Kathie Brennan)

10 Staff meeting ~ All are welcome to attend

14-16 Powder Mill trail maintenance blast (Kathie Brennan)

21 OTA TRIVIA NIGHT at Affton Elks Lodge (Don Schulte)

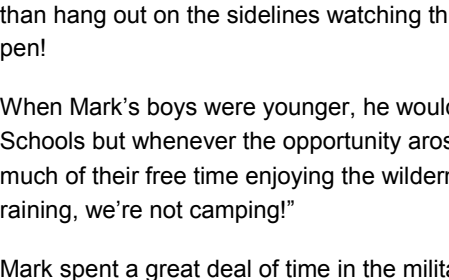
28 Berryman Build Birthday Blast (Rick Wolfram)

Small Tracks:

Leaving Little Footprints on the Trail

By C. Kelly

When did your relationship with the outdoors begin? Most of us would say it all began when we were kids. Some of us may have been forced into the woods every weekend by our parents and others may have only been able to explore the small patch of trees in our backyards. There may even be some of us who didn't get into the woods until we were adults.



No matter how our relationships developed, we all have a responsibility to pass our love and respect for the outdoors to our children and our friends' children and our neighbors' children and even strangers' children. Because if we don't, we run the risk of growing a generation of children who don't love nature and therefore, will not work to preserve and protect all the beautiful places in this world, including our beloved Ozark Trail.

So, in the coming months, Small Tracks will help you help kids get outside and enjoy all the wonderful gifts nature has to offer by discussing topics such as gear for kids, trail safety, and games to help the miles fly by.

Of course, suggestions and questions are welcome at otscribbles@ozarktrail.com

OTA Member Spotlight

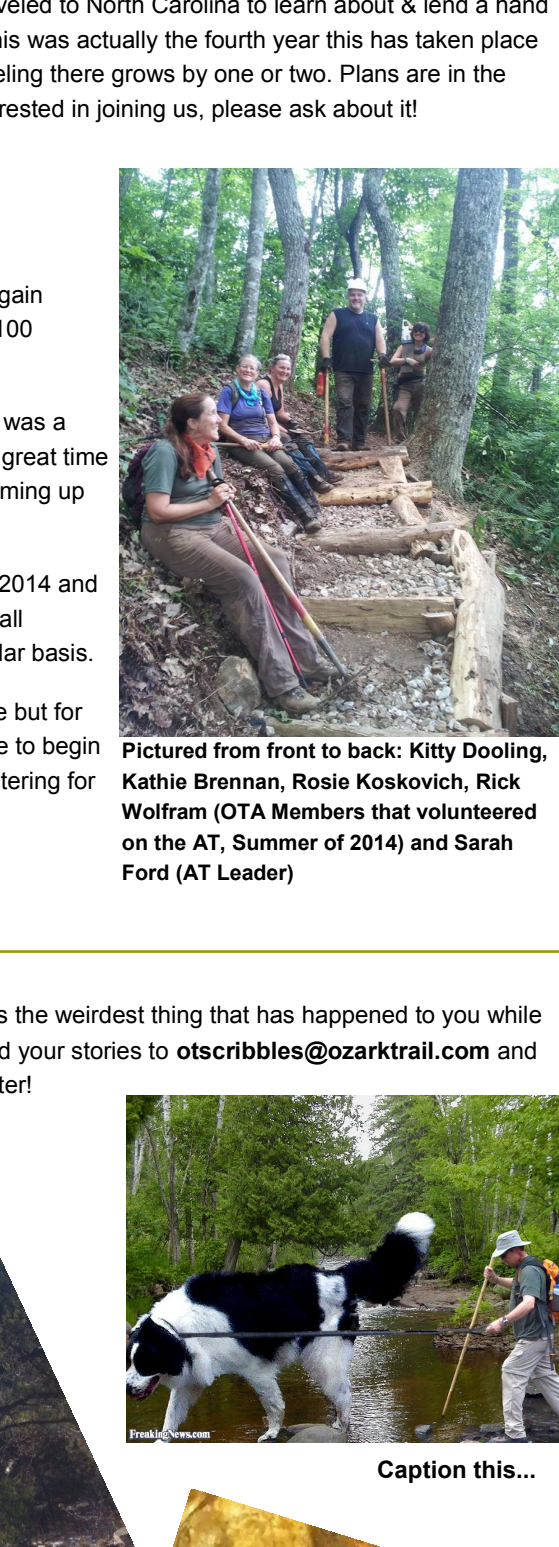
Our first spotlight shines on a member of the Ozark Trail Association that does much more than hang out on the sidelines watching things happen...**Mark Goforth** makes things happen!

When Mark's boys were younger, he would occupy his days teaching for St. Louis Public Schools but whenever the opportunity arose, Mark and his sons (both Eagle Scouts) spent much of their free time enjoying the wilderness. All three held the insane belief, "If it's not raining, we're not camping!"

Mark spent a great deal of time in the military, has flown helicopters and has been an instructor at Fort Leonard Wood. While enlisted and as an NCO, Mark learned to appreciate carrying his own gear, which is something he often does on the Ozark Trail. He can fix almost anything, anywhere, anytime...one might even say he is the "MacGyver" of the Ozarks!

His involvement with "Cleanstream" on the Meramec River every year is one small indication that Mark does not just talk the talk, he walks the walk!!! If you ever see him wearing a Cleanstream t-shirt, be sure to ask about it!

Mark can always be counted on when a trail adopter needs a sawyer, a skill he picked up after becoming involved with the Ozark Trail around the turn of the century. Mark first adopted a segment of the Taum Sauk section but found it challenging to find a sawyer that was able to coordinate schedules with his. Thus, he became a sawyer himself. Today, he is the sawyer coordinator for the OTA. Mark has also participated in many trail building and trail maintenance events, but his favorite part about being out on the trail is meeting new trail users and connecting with old trail friends. Part of Mark's satisfaction when he is out there working is knowing that he is building / maintaining trail that will be used by individuals he may never meet.



Mark swears by his hiking staffs

When asked about his favorite section on the Ozark Trail, he replied, "I have been on many of the OT sections, but have only through hiked a few...I do not have a favorite section, however I enjoy finding uniquely growing trees."

Mark's short term goals include re-roofing the Ozark Trail Association house in Potosi and providing some TLC to the chainsaw inventory. His long range goal includes an extended hike for which his employer is allowing him to bank time...it should be epic!

Next time you bump into Mark on the trail or at an OTA event, ask him about the "tree" he carried out of the forest, thank him for his efforts, share a story, and even...possibly, lend him a hand! Kudo's to you Mark!

2014 Recap

As the calendar year comes to an end, it is always nice to look back and reflect on where we have been, where we now are and look to the future making plans for more trail time and fun in the wilderness. It seems like we have known each other for a lifetime when in reality, it has been only a short time for some. We have all been fortunate enough to make some amazing trail friends and have learned/taught a great deal about the Ozark Trail, trail construction, snakes, spiders, feral hogs...the list goes on and on.

This past year played out to two awesome mega trail building events. The Spring Mega completed the re-route of the Trace Creek section near Council Bluff Campground. The Fall Mega was again hosted by Bass' River Resort and kicked off a re-route build on the Berryman.

At the end of June, four OTA peeps traveled to North Carolina to learn about & lend a hand with Appalachian Trail maintenance. This was actually the fourth year this has taken place and it seems each year, the group traveling there grows by one or two. Plans are in the works for a 2015 trip and if you are interested in joining us, please ask about it!

The year brought with it many hiking opportunities for day hikes as well as backpacking trips.

The OT100 Mile Endurance Run was again successful as well as the inaugural OT100 Mountain Bike Race!

The 2014 OTA Trivia Night in February was a great deal of fun. We are anticipating a great time at the OTA 2015 trivia night which is coming up soon!

Trail adopters did a phenomenal job in 2014 and thanks to some new volunteers, nearly all sections are getting attention on a regular basis.

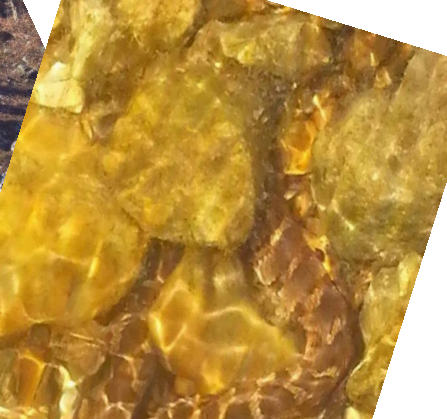
Many are familiar with the OTA web site but for those who aren't, it can be a great place to begin when planning a hike/ride or even registering for upcoming events.

Explore it at www.ozarktrail.com



Pictured from front to back: Kitty Dooling, Kathie Brennan, Rosie Koskovich, Rick Wolfram (OTA Members that volunteered on the AT, Summer of 2014) and Sarah Ford (AT Leader)

Question Of The Month: What is the weirdest thing that has happened to you while hiking, biking or horseback riding? Send your stories to otscribbles@ozarktrail.com and you may see it in an upcoming newsletter!



Caption this...



Send your photos to otscribbles@ozarktrail.com to see them in future newsletters. Please include the month you took the pic and the location. Your name will be printed with the pic unless you request otherwise!