

**MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 10, 1997  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Deb Schnack, Department of Natural Resources	Marsha Copeland, Missouri Equine Council
L. Gail Gartside, Missouri Equine Council	Terry Frick, Missouri Equine Council
Teresa Kight, Department of Conservation	Fred Stenger, Ozark Trails Club
John Kurtzeborn, Missouri Rambler	Bruce Linders, American Youth Hostels
Jim McInroe, American Youth Hostels	Terry Laupp, American Youth Hostels
Pam Kettler, Meramec River Rec. Assoc.	Denny Bopp, Department of Natural Resources
Dan Wedemeyer, Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park	Mark Weaver, National Park Service
Paul Nazarenko, U.S. Forest Service	Bruce Bailey, Americorps National Service
John Roth, Interested Citizen	

The May 10, 1997 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Babler State Park Visitor Center. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Division of State Parks. Following the introduction, the minutes of the October 5, 1996 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

**STATUS REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Mark Weaver):**

The National Park Service has reopened and is now promoting the Big Spring Spur Trail which will at some point tie into the Ozark Trail. A volunteer and his burro are keeping the trails around Powder Mill in good shape and has improved a segment that was almost undiscernible. Mark made a plea for additional volunteers.

**U.S. FOREST SERVICE (Paul Nazarenko):**

Paul reported that the lower part of the Courtois Creek Section that crosses Hwy. 8 has been laid out and is being reviewed through the NEPA process. All negotiations with the landowners are complete. Construction should start soon. There is a group of bicyclists that may help construct this trail. The upper part of the Karkaghne Section is also laid out and is in the NEPA process. This segment will link the Trace Creek Section and the Karkaghne Section. There was quite a bit of ice damage on the trail this winter and there are still some areas that need work. There still is not much money for trail construction, but there has been more assistance from volunteers especially the mountain bikers.

**MO DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (Teresa Kight):**

Teresa Kight has replaced Ed Brown as the department's representative to the council. Teresa reported that the department had made a request to the Missouri Youth Conservation Corp for their assistance in maintaining the segment of the Taum Sauk Section running from Highway CC down to Hwy. 21. The status of the request was not known. At Peck Ranch the department is interested in developing a loop trail that will tie into the Ozark Trail. The concept is to head to Rocky Falls, but this concept will require coordination with the National Park Service. Teresa had a question about where to direct volunteers that want to assist on the trail. Deb responded that volunteers can either be used by the individual agencies that are contacted or put them in contact with Deb and she can direct them

to organizations that have scheduled outings. Teresa asked if the Ozark Trail would be going through the Meramec C.A. At this time it is not known exactly where the trail will be going in this area, due to all of the private properties that will need to be crossed. There was also a question about the source of Ozark Trail signs and decals. Deb will send the address of the supplier to Teresa. There was some discussion of the status of the segment of trail through Huzzah CA. This area needs to be investigated to see if the trail is complete and if it ties into Onondaga Cave State Park. If so, it could be promoted from a trail head in the park. Teresa also explained the Teaming with Wildlife incentive and the impact this could have on the Ozark Trail. The MDC has identified the completion of the trail as one of several projects the new tax would fund.

#### MISSOURI RAMBLERS (John Kurtzeborn):

John has been in contact with many of the outfitters in the state during his distribution of the Ozark Trail posters. There are still many who are not familiar with the Ozark Trail. Many of the outfitters felt that an Ozark Trail Day or fair would be good to promote the trail, but they all wanted it to take place in their area of the state.

#### AMERICORPS (Bruce Bailey):

The Americorps has been working with the USFS in the Bell Mountain area and at Council Bluffs. In the future there will be a spur trail from the Council Bluffs loop trail to the Ozark Trail. The Corps has a team of 15-20 people that work on national service projects and right now they are out of state but when they return they would be available to work on some trail projects if there is a critical need. Bruce Bailey or Debbie Geddes can be reached at 314-772-9002. They have quite a bit of equipment including chain saws, etc.

#### THE OZARK TRAIL CUB (Fred Stenger):

Fred reported that through the winter the club had been working on strategies and how they could promote the trail. The club officially adopted the Victory Section of the trail. Half of that section was in poor condition due to downed trees from a storm. In conjunction with a scout troop they have cleared to the worst section. The plan is to work on the worst segment on June 7, National Trails Day. The club is requesting volunteers and to this point approximately 100 people have expressed interest. Fred indicated that the Forest Service had been very helpful. There are some funds in the district for trail maintenance and construction. These funds can now be used in other areas since the club is maintaining the Victory Section. The eastern half of the section is in good shape. The club is doing a lot of PR work and they continue to send out packets of information. Fred has gotten lots of response from posting Ozark Trail information on the Internet.

#### AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS (Bruce Linders):

American Youth Hostels has been doing maintenance of the Trace Creek Section from Highway 32 south to Highway A. The next outing is scheduled for June. Bruce updated the council on the plans for the annual American Youth Hostels sponsored Ozark Trail backpacking trip. The trip is October 11-13. It will cost \$145/person prior to the deadline and \$170 after the deadline. Costs will include transportation, a t-shirt, maps, one evening meal and shuttles. 50% of the profits will be donated to the Ozark Trail Council. Bruce expressed a need for some assistance related to shuttles and radios. If anyone can help they should let him know as soon as possible.

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Written Report):

Since the dedication last October, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with the U.S.F.S. has added a loop trail in the section which covers Highway F to parking area #60 of the Ozark Trail. This loop is approximately seven miles long. Park Ranger John Daves has walked the entire trail and has noticed an increase in equestrian and bicycle use since the loop was

implemented. Ranger Daves has been working with the Forest Service to perform a GPS survey of the Ozark Trail. The Forest Service has provided the GPS equipment and the Corps of Engineers has supplied the labor to perform the survey. When the survey is completed, the information will be downloaded to a computer which will then print out an exact map of the Ozark Trail. Upon completion, the results will be used to develop the Wappapello Lake section map. As of April 30, 1997, the Wappapello Lake section of the Ozark Trail is to standard.

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Deb Schnack, Dan Wedemeyer & Denny Bopp):

Denny briefed the council on the role of the Meramec River Recreation Association (MRRRA) and its tie to the Ozark Trail. The goal is to provide numerous trails along the Meramec Greenway and at some point in the future to officially adopt specific portions of the trail as the Ozark Trail. Dan reported that in November a severe ice storm hit the surrounding area. Many large trees including old growth oaks up to 36 inches in diameter were pulled down and uprooted. During the late winter and early spring the trail maintenance crew cleared these obstructions along the entire section of trail from Highway A at Bell Mountain thru Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park to Taum Sauk Mountain State Park. These sections of the trail have been remarked with Ozark Trail markers. A new enterprise, Wilderness Adventures, will be contracting with the Department to lead paid excursions along the trail. Mr. Robert Wheatley is very cooperative and they do frequent maintenance such as fire ring dispersal on their outings. Deb reported that the DNR was going to be compiling information for a Missouri Equine Trail Guide. The guide will provide a list of trails on public lands and private lands if they are open to the public. General information about access and available facilities will also be provided. A spur trail connecting the Wappapello Lake Section to Lake Wappapello Trail in the State Park will be laid out by the end of the month. Deb will be flagging the route and the USFS and MDC will be constructing the trail across their properties. The DNR is building a new equestrian parking lot for the trail. Deb shared with the council a memo from MoDOT's Division Engineer to all their district offices. The memo asked the districts to review all trail crossing and install signs and markers where appropriate for public safety. Deb suggested this might be a good time to contact local district staff and request signing at Ozark Trail crossings.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

##### T-SHIRTS

Terry provided samples of the new Ozark Trail T-Shirt and the hang tag that will be attached. Terry asked that everyone review the text on the hang tag and get back to Deb with any changes or corrections. Terry will make the correction and provide Deb with everything necessary to proceed with printing. DNR will print the shirts and other agencies and organizations can purchase from them. Deb will be checking with agencies to get an estimate of quantities needed. The council was very pleased with the look of the t-shirt and the hang tag. It was suggested that Wal-Mart should be approached about selling the shirts since they sell a product line called Ozark Trail.

##### EQUESTRIAN EVENT PROPOSAL

Gail Gartside, Marsha Copeland and Terry Frick, representing the Mo. Equine Council (MEC) proposed to the Ozark Trail Council that in June 1998 they co-sponsor with the MEC an equestrian trail ride over the entire completed Ozark Trail as part of the National Trails Day promotion. The MEC would evaluate areas for trailer access, camping limitations, etc. and limit numbers accordingly. Several options on how the event could be organized were given. Gail indicated the cost would be minimal to cover postage and phone calls. The major benefit of the ride would be to publicize the Ozark Trail. The concept was discussed and approved by the Council, but with the understanding that the ride would take place only on those sections of trail open to equestrian use and not on the entire trail.

## MAPPING PROPOSAL

John Roth introduced himself to the council and informed the council of his interest in the Ozark Trail. John has compiled on the computer information about sections of the trail he has hiked. Some of the information verbally describes the route and some of it depicts the route in visual form through numerous mapping techniques. John would like to share this information with others in a way that the council would deem appropriate. The council was very interested. John agreed to put a project plan together in the near future and send it to Deb who will distribute it to council members.

## NEXT MEETING:

The next Ozark Trail Council meeting will be on October 25, 1997 at Meramec State Park at 10:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. A suggested agenda item was trail ethics.

Prepared by: Deborah Schmach

Approved by: for Douglas K. Eiken, Director, Division of State Parks  
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council

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# MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

May 10, 1997

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## AGENDA

- Introductions
- Status Reports
- T-Shirts (Terry)
- Equestrian Event Proposal  
(Missouri Equine Council)
- Ozark Trail Signs (Darson) *(Tabled)*
- Mapping Proposal (John Roth)
- Next Meeting Date