

MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 11, 1996
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

PARTICIPANTS:

Terry Laupp	American Youth Hostels
Jim McInroe	American Youth Hostels
Dean Hodapp	Sierra Club
Jenny Hodapp	Sierra Club
Ed Brown	Missouri Conservation Department
Tom Ray	
Darsan Wang	Mark Twain National Forest
Fred Stenger	Ozark Trails Club
Greg Iffrig	Pioneer Forest
Diane Oliver	USFS/Mark Twain National Forest
Paul Nazarenko	USFS/Mark Twain National Forest
Bruce Bailey	Americorps National Service Programs/American Youth Foundation

The May 11, 1996 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the picnic shelter at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources. Following the introductions, the minutes of the September 16, 1995 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS:

Debbie reported that as a result of discussion and direction at the last council meeting, she has sent letters to numerous outdoor stores, bike shops and tack shops informing them of the new Taum Sauk Section brochure. She has also developed an order form for all the section maps and has provided it to the stores (letter and form attached).

Ken Haberl, at the council meeting, requested that the council send a letter to the USFS expressing its support of equestrian guide service on the Ozark Trail. That letter was sent on September 12, 1995. The letter was read to the council (letter attached).

The council at the last meeting expressed a desire to recognize Jerry Viau for his dedication and service to the Ozark Trail. A letter and framed certificate was sent to his family on October 23, 1995. The letter was read to the council (letter attached).

Darsan reported that Alan McPhearson's book, "One Hundred Nature Walks in the Missouri Ozarks," will be published this October. Alan informed the council about his book at the May 13, 1996 council meeting.

STATUS REPORTS:

U.S. FOREST SERVICE (Diane Oliver, Paul Nazarenko and Darsan Wang):

Diane and Paul reported that they had been working with the Missouri Equine Council, and specifically Barb Payton, to maintain a portion of the Ozark Trail that coincides with the Berryman Trail. There have been two work days on the trail and a couple more are planned. Jim McInroe of AYH has also helped in this effort. The USFS and Barb have also been working together on a National Trail Day event. The event will be held at the Berryman Campground on June 1. The Missouri Equine Council, the Retreads (a mountain biking group) and some hiking groups will be participating in the event. The goal of the event is to form a coalition that will take on the responsibility of trail maintenance in the Potosi District and to celebrate National Trail Day. Diane informed the council that the Potosi District has received an outfitter permit request from Out There Adventures to lead a backpacking trip for two days on the Ozark Trail. They will be issued a one-time permit for a trip in September, but they have indicated an interest in future permits to guide on the Ozark Trail. Another person in the St. Louis area has also contacted the USFS about the possibility of outfitting and guiding backpacking trips. The YMCA of the Ozarks is also going to be requesting a permit to provide equestrian outfitting and guide service on the Ozark Trail and the Berryman Trail. The USFS will put limitations on the numbers of trips and numbers of users on each trip. There was some discussion about damage to the trail that might be caused by this additional equestrian use. There is a fee for the permit and a percentage of the profit is returned to the government. Diane thought possibly that some of the funds collected could be used for repair and maintenance of the trail.

Darsan gave the status reports from the Salem and Eleven Point Districts. The Salem District plans to continue construction work on the segment of trail between Sutton Bluff and Oats (the highway J crossing which goes into the Potosi District). In the Eleven Point District, the guide permit for horse use is expected to be approved by the end of May for the Between the Rivers Section. The permit is very restrictive to prevent overuse. It limits the number of riders that can use the trail at one time. Gordon Smith and Sue Lockwood, the long time volunteers, may be retiring from trail maintenance. This is being investigated and more detail will be provided later. Some type of award may be appropriate.

Darsan also reported that Charlie Farmer, a Springfield outdoor writer, is writing a book about Missouri's eight Wilderness Areas. The Ozark Trail passed through several of these areas. The book may be published by next year.

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS (Jim McInroe):

AYH is working on the Trace Creek Section from highway 31 to highway A. They were

out last weekend and have an outing planned for May 18 and June 1. This is approximately a six-mile section. There was some discussion about proper maintenance techniques and the need for consistency since numerous groups are helping with trail maintenance. It was suggested that once a trail volunteer organization is organized, one of the first things that should be done is to hold a trail maintenance training. All of the agencies could participate as well as the volunteers.

SIERRA CLUB (Dean & Jenny Hodapp):

Next weekend is the last outing for the spring. There have been several rain-outs, but progress is being made. There is approximately 1 1/2 miles remaining to be maintained on the Blair Creek Section in Pioneer Forest. Jenny and Dean plan to resign as the representatives to the council but still plan to be active in maintenance of the trail but more on an individual basis. A new person will be selected to represent the Sierra Club on the council.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (Ed Brown):

Ed reported that there was no change in status and there were no major complaints so everything is running smoothly at this point. NOTE: SEE ENCLOSED MATERIALS PROVIDED BY DON KURZ CONCERNING THE MO. FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM. DON HAS REQUESTED REVIEW AND COMMENT.

OZARK SOCIETY:

Debbie shared with the council information she has received from the Ozark Society representative, Mr. Ray Knox. Ray is planning to retire and will be moving out of state. His replacement on the council will be Mr. David Lah. The Ozark Society will continue their maintenance activities on the Taum Sauk Section from Taum Sauk Mt. to Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. Ray encourages the council to "keep the vision."

THE OZARK TRAILS CLUB (Fred Stenger);

Fred, a new member to the council, reported on his efforts in establishing the Ozark Trails Club. The club was established primarily to promote, develop and maintain the Ozark Trail. The club is based in Poplar Bluff and has approximately 33 members at this time. The club distributes information about the trail to anyone who is interested. Information about the trail has been placed on the Micro Soft Network. Fred has also been working with scout groups on how to hike and leave no trace.

PIONEER FOREST (Greg Iffrig):

Greg reported that the trail was in real good shape, probably the best it's ever been, thanks to the efforts of the Sierra Club. Pioneer Forest staff has been working with the club on the weekend outings.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

Debbie read the status report provided by the Corps. The Wappapello Lake Section is 28 miles and begins just south of Sam A. Baker State Park. It is located entirely in Wayne County on private and public lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service. The report states that all clearing has been accomplished. As of this date there are two local groups that have adopted this section of the trail. They are the Greenville Eco-Activists, an environmental high school club and Broken Arrow, a group from the W. E. Sears Youth Center. They have committed themselves to a year of maintaining the segments they have adopted. A map of the trail will be forthcoming to Debbie Schnack. Debbie announced that a dedication of the section was being planned by the Corps and that more detail could be provided to the council in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Debbie Schnack):

Debbie updated the council on the status of the North Fork River Section brochure. There are still some questions about the trail mileage. The USGS maps of the section have been digitized so this will make map corrections and additions much easier. A sketch of some feature along the trail or activity along the trail is still needed. If the USFS has an appropriate sketch it would be appreciated. Darsan will investigate.

The Taum Sauk Section of the trail from Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park to Taum Sauk Mt. State Park has been maintained by the Ozark Society and should be in good shape.

In addition to the items mentioned under old business, Debbie has been working on promotions issues including announcements for National Trail Day and the Ozark Trail poster.

OZARK TRAIL PROMOTIONS:

POSTER:

Several assignments in regard to promotion of the trail were made at the last meeting, one of which was the design of an Ozark Trail poster. Debbie passed out four concepts that the council discussed. Recommendations were made relating to text, style and photos. In general, the poster will be 17" x 22" with a forest green background and depict all three major trail activities. The poster will be redesigned considering the discussion and sent to

council members for their information. If anyone sees a major problem with the poster, they should contact Debbie as soon as possible. The poster will be printed by DNR and purchased from DNR by the other council agencies or organizations.

BASS PRO DISPLAY & BROCHURE:

Darsan said that a partnership had been developed with Bass Pro and that a brochure has been printed. He did not know if there was information about the Ozark Trail in the brochure. He did not know if Kris has been successful in getting Ozark Trail information in the USFS display in the Bass Pro store. Darsan will follow up with Kris.

STATE MAP:

There has been no progress getting the Ozark Trail on the state highway map.

NATIONAL TRAIL DAY INFORMATION:

Barb and the USFS have organized the event for June 1 at the Berryman Trail campground. A press release and a home page have also been prepared promoting the event. Debbie has written notices to be included in the Conservationist magazine and the Conservation Federation newsletter encouraging people to get out on the trail.

LIST OF DAY HIKES:

No progress at this time.

DISTRIBUTE NEW SECTION MAPS:

As reported in the old business, this has been done and an order form provided to the shops.

DEVELOP OUTDOOR, BIKE & TACK SHOP LIST:

No information was provided. If you have suggestions, get the information to Debbie.

T-SHIRT DESIGN:

Terry Laupp agreed to have a T-shirt design ready for the council to review by the next meeting. There was some discussion about who would be able to sell the shirts. Details will need to be worked out at a later date.

TRAIL SIGNING:

Debbie will send a letter to the Mo. Highway and Transportation Department requesting that signs be placed at all Ozark Trail parking lots.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION:

Council members expressed a great deal of interest in the need for a volunteer organization devoted to the development, promotion and maintenance of the Ozark Trail. An organization would be extremely valuable in organizing an adopt-a-trail program and taking some of this responsibility from the agencies. Fred agreed to assume the

responsibility of trying to organize such a club. There were lots of suggestions about individuals and organizations who may want to participate. Everyone should make an effort to get names of potential members to Fred. As a starting point, Fred will try to attend the National Trail Day event at the Berryman and meet with users at that event. It was the feeling of the council that if the Ozark Trail is going to succeed there must be a grassroots effort.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council will be held at Meramec State Park on October 5, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. (Note: Change of location)

Prepared by:

Robert Ebersole

Approved by:

Doug Eiben
Director, Division of State Parks
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council

NOTICE

The next Ozark Trail Council Meeting
will be held on October 5, 1996
at the Corps of Engineer's Visitor Center
at Lake Wappapello in conjunction with the
dedication of new Wappapello lake section.

More details will be provided later.