

**MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 7, 1994  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**PARTICIPANTS:** James Broadfoot, Ozark Naturalist Outfitters; Mark Weaver, Ozark National Scenic Riverways; John Kurtzeborn, The Missouri Rambler; Ramon Gass, Volunteer; Phil Weston, USFS; Rick Magnus, USFS; Paul Nazarenko, USFS; Darsan Wang, USFS; Greg Iffrig, Pioneer Forest; Charlie Davidson, Conservation Federation; Dan Wedemeyer, DNR/Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park; Janet Price, DNR/Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park; Jim McInroe, American Youth Hostels; Jerry Gott, Mark Twain National Forest; Bruce Linders, American Youth Hostels; and Debbie Schnack, DNR/Division of State Parks

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The May 7, 1994 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Ozark Regional Library in Ironton. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack who was representing Doug Eiken, Director of the Division of State Parks.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Following the introductions, the minutes of the October 9, 1993 council meeting were approved as written.

**STATUS REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (MARK WEAVER):**

Mark reported that he had the opportunity to hike a portion of the trail in the Rocky Creek area. It is in reasonably good condition. A YCC crew will maintain the trail, so by mid-July it should be in prime condition.

**VOLUNTEER (RAMON GASS):**

Three weeks ago Ramon and Jerry Viau did maintenance on the Taum Sauk Section between Taum Sauk Tower and Highway 21. The trail was in good condition. Ramon informed the council that some of the Edgar property along this segment was for sale and that there was concern about the trail crossing the property. Ramon reminded MDC staff that there is a binding agreement for the trail on the Edgar property.

Ramon announced that he and Jerry are planning to hike the entire Ozark Trail. They started in February at the Arkansas line. They have completed the North Fork River Section, the Eleven Point River Section, the Current River Section, and part of the Blair Creek Section. They plan to cover the segment between Onondaga Cave State Park and Castlewood State Park by canoe on the Meramec River.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE:

(PHIL WESTON):

Approximately nine miles of trail remains to be constructed on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District. Part of this nine miles is still in the process of receiving a cultural resource survey. The remaining non-developed segments require right-of-way acquisition.

(RICK MAGNUS):

The Potosi District has three priorities. The first being the completion of a spur trail connecting Council Bluffs Lake with the Ozark Trail; the second the completion of the land trades that will allow the connection of the Trace Creek and Courtois Creek Section and connection of the Trace Creek Section to the Karkaghne Section in the Salem Ranger District.

(DARSAN WANG):

Darsan informed the council that Bill Alden had retired and that Rick Magnus was retiring next week. A great deal of Ozark Trail expertise will be lost with the departing of these two people. Council members expressed their gratitude for Bill and Rick's efforts with the development of the Ozark Trail. Jerry Gott will be filling Bill Alden's position.

Darsan distributed copies of the draft text for the North Fork River Section and asked that comments be directed to him within the next week.

Darsan reported no significant activity on the trail in the Doniphan District.

On the Willow Springs District the trail is complete from Pomona to Blue Hole, approximately 11 miles. The parking area is constructed at Pomona, registration boxes up and trail head signs up. Reassurance markers are up on the trail. The portion of the trail in the Devils Backbone Wilderness is flagged but not constructed. Volunteers are marking the trail and one horseback rider is logging trail conditions.

- Salem District had planned to construct 8 miles of Ozark Trail from Sutton's Bluff to J Hwy. This would tie into Potosi's trail system. This 8 miles of trail has been laid out and the NEPA has been completed. The District may have trouble completing the entire 8 miles due to shortages of personnel. One option is to do a contract to complete the construction. Currently, the district is working on a 1-mile segment north of Sutton's Bluff.
- Darsan also informed the council that the Mark Twain Forest has launched a trail inventory. He distributed copies of some of the descriptions and requested comments.

#### PIONEER FOREST (GREG IFFRIG):

- The 12 miles of Blair Creek Section through Pioneer Forest is being maintained by the Sierra Club. They had about 5 or 6 outings planned, but the weather has caused several to be cancelled.
- The trail in general is in good shape. Only a couple of sections need tread work which will be completed before summer.
- The Sierra Club is also helping to construct a connector trail between Himmont Tower and the Ozark Trail. The trail is approximately 1 1/2 miles and probably half of it is complete.

#### CONSERVATION FEDERATION (CHARLIE DAVIDSON):

- Charlie offered to include an announcement about Ozark Trail Day in Missouri Wildlife.

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

##### (DAN WEDEMEYER):

- In November, the Ozark Society did maintenance on the Taum Sauk section that runs between Johnson's Shut-Ins and Taum Sauk Mountain.
- Maintenance was done on the section from Johnson's Shut-Ins and Bell Mountain in the late fall and also on sections of the trail from Taum Sauk to Johnson's Shut-Ins.
- Prior to the last Ozark Trail Day there had been significant rerouting in the Taum Sauk Mountain area. A new concrete sidewalk leads to the high point monument and then continues as natural trail in a 3 mile loop past Mina Sauk Falls. Rerouting had also taken place from the Russell Mountain trail head on

CC Hwy., that moved the trail off CC down the south slopes of Russell and Taum Sauk Mountains making the trail safer and more scenic. The old section of the trail which began at the dead end road at the fire tower is now closed as well as the adjacent scout area. Hikers can now use the main trail head at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park and scouts can reserve a new area which has been developed in the park. There is now a short connector trail that leads from the new scout area to the new section of Ozark Trail as well.

There is no water available to the public, but it will be shortly. A new map for the area is needed.

The property west of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park on Goggins Mountain has been donated to the State Park System which means the Ozark Trail is now secure through this area and there is no longer a restriction on camping. Janet indicated that some of the trail in this area is difficult to follow and that additional signing may be required. A point was made by the Forest Service to stop at the Wilderness boundary with signing.

(DEB SCHNACK):

Debbie distributed copies of the last Resource Review which had an article about the Ozark Trail. The article generated about 800 requests for information. The ethics concepts presented in the article will also be presented in a permanent display at the Taum Sauk Mountain trail head.

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS (BRUCE LINDERS & JIM MCINROE):

Bruce and Jim are trying to get American Youth Hostels more involved in hiking and backpacking activities. For the last several years, American Youth Hostels has organized a week long backpack trip on the Ozark Trail. This year it will begin the same week as Ozark Trail Day so some joint promotion is possible.

Bruce requested that a list of all Ozark Trail Council participants be distributed to members so contacts would be possible.

Jim and Bruce also offered to put up Ozark Trail signs and gray diamonds if they were sent a supply. Debbie agreed to send them Ozark Trail signs with a caution not to place them in Wilderness areas.

There was also an offer to assist with construction and maintenance.

**OZARK NATURALIST OUTFITTERS:**

James Broadfoot described to the council the nature of his business, the Ozark Naturalist Outfitters. He intends to fill a niche in the area by offering eco-tours. In order to do so he plans to use the resources of the surrounding area including state and federal properties and facilities. Part of his plan is to provide guide and shuttle services on the Ozark Trail. He wanted the opportunity to share his plans with the council as well as receive their endorsement. He has and will continue to work with individual agencies to acquire the appropriate permits. Council members encouraged his endeavor, but chose not to give any official endorsement at this meeting without first having the opportunity to read his material.

**OZARK TRAIL DAY:**

The council concurred that Ozark Trail Day was a valuable event to promote the trail and that it should be held again this year. It was decided that it would be held on October 8, 1994 at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park.

Debbie asked for volunteers for a committee to help plan the event. Ramon, Darsan, Bruce, Jim, Dan, Janet, Mark, Ed and Debbie were selected to serve on the committee. June 22, 1994 was selected as the date for the committee meeting. It will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Division of State Parks office building in Jefferson City.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council will be held on September 20, 1994 at St. Charles Convention Bureau and Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m.

Prepared By: *Ann Schuch*

Approved By: *Dee Eber*  
Director, Division of State Parks  
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council