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# MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

October 3, 1998

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## AGENDA

- Introductions
- Status Reports
- Ozark Trail Team Status (Nicki)
- Trademark Update (John)
- Ozark Trail Web Site (Louise & John)
- Next Meeting Date

**MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**October 3, 1998**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Deb Schnack, Department of Natural Resources	Wayne Miller, Sierra Club
John Kurtzborn, <i>Missouri Rambler</i>	Robert Gestel, Sierra Club
Louise & Dan McKeel, Village Image	Dean Hodapp, Volunteer
Niki Aberle, Conservation Federation of Missouri	Carol Springer, MO Equine Council
Paul Nazarenko, US Forest Service	Karen Mobley, US Forest Service
Nancy Feakes, US Forest Service	

The October 3, 1998 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Meramec State Park Visitor Center. The meeting was called to order by Deb Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Division of State Parks. Following the introductions the minutes of the May 16, 1998 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

**STATUS REPORT:**

**SIERRA CLUB (Bob Gestel, Wayne Miller and Dean Hodapp):**

The meadows on the Blair Creek Section have been mowed. They are currently working on the connector trail from Himont Tower to Laxton Spring. (Having problems with a beaver dam at Laxton Springs.) They are marking the connector trail with the gray diamond and the OT with the green OT signs. Maintenance was started in September going from north to south.

**MISSOURI RAMBLER (John Kurtzborn):**

There was a discussion about the publicity of the OT. Many potential users do not realize that OT sections can be hiked in shorter segments. John reported that he will help put an article or brochure together for day hikes on the OT.

**US FOREST SERVICE (Paul Nazarenko, Karen Mobley & Nancy Feakes)**

Karen reported that they are working on rerouting the Karkaghne Section. The north side of Sutton's Bluff is too steep for horses. This section is open to foot traffic and equestrian use (the current map says foot traffic only). The trail connector from the OT to Grasshopper Hollow Natural Area (Hwy 72 to Hwy TT) is complete. The newly constructed Karkaghne Section (north) is ready to be added to the map. Paul reported that the Trace Creek Section is in good shape and they are currently working on a 9-mile connector trail. Americorps is currently working on the Marble Creek Section. They hope to train them in GPS this fall. Nancy reported that she is putting together proposals for TEA-21 funds. They need the funds to tie in different trail sections, upgrade and perform serious maintenance tasks. If TEA-21 funds are acquired, they will match them with US Forest Service Funds.

**VOLUNTEER (Dean Hodapp)**

Dean reported that he noticed evidence of dirt bikes (motorized) in the Council Bluff area. He has not actually seen the individuals, but he has fixed the damage. He has resigned and opened up the area around Big River.

#### MISSOURI EQUINE COUNCIL (Carol Springer)

Carol reported that she is interested in connecting the OT in the Huzzah CA with the OT on US Forest Service land. She may have contacts with the landowners along this section, but she enforced the point that they will only negotiate easements if equestrian use is permitted. Currently, horses are not allowed on the Huzzah CA. MDC was not represented at the meeting so the discussion was halted. Paul Nazarenko will work with Carol on this issue from the U.S. Forest Service side. Carol also emphasized the need for longer equestrian sections. In order for users to go on an overnight trip, they need at least 100 continual miles. Debbie did report that DNR is releasing an Equestrian Trail Guide this fall.

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Deb Schnack)

From July 1997 through June 1998, 2,305 hikers registered use on the Taum Sauk Section. Most hikers used the section between Johnson's Shut-Ins and Taum Sauk Mountain state parks. This figure by no means represents the total number of trail users. To get an accurate account, it would be reasonable to multiply this figure by five because not all users register at the trailhead. Boy Scout troops use the trail. They reserve the youth area at Johnson's Shut-Ins or Taum Sauk Mountain in conjunction with a day hike, or camp overnight on the trail. Two seasonal laborers provided trail work during this time period. Together, they put in 909 hours. These hours were concentrated primarily in April, May, June and October. They marked the trail, removed fallen trees and trimmed limbs as needed. They reported breaking up a beaver dam near the Devil's Tollgate that had caused flooding over the trail. There are no reports of lost hikers on the trail this year. However, a few injuries — a twisted knee, a sprained ankle, heat exhaustion and a fall off of Mina Sauk Falls — have occurred. Plans are being made to post mile markers along the trail. These will help visitors gauge how far they have come. More importantly, it will facilitate rescuers finding lost or injured hikers. Plans are also being made to install water bars along the Mina Sauk Falls section of the OT. Furthermore, Deb reported that Brett Duffer (Pebble Publishing, Columbia, MO) has written a mountain biking trail guide for review by DNR, USFS, and MDC. All agencies reported that there is misleading information in the book and that it does need some perfection.

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Dick Chenoweth):

Dick Chenoweth was unable to attend, Debbie read aloud his written report. The trail's total mileage has been amended to equal 33 miles versus 38 as previously noted. The trail is now complete with the crossing at Clark's Creek relocated. The relocation crossing is much more "horse friendly" with the approach on both banks having less slope. Presently camping is permitted along the entire trail with some restrictions or permits required. The revised narrative outlines the regulations and restrictions which will be published along with the Wappapello Lake section map sometime in the near future. Deb will begin work on the new Section map. During the summer of 1998 much of the trail was successfully mowed with their new D.R. Brush Mower. They hope to enlist volunteers from various groups to maintain the trail. All volunteers will be coordinated through the Ozark TRAIL TEAM Coordinator, Niki Aberle.

## OZARK TRAIL TEAMS:

### CONSERVATION FEDERATION OF MO – (Niki Aberle)

Niki reported that she met with the OT land managers (state and federal agencies) on August 14. There she distributed (for review) the first draft of the *Ozark TRAIL TEAM Maintainers' Handbook*, which was adapted with permission from the *Appalachian Mountain Club Handbook*. She then distributed the Handbook to the OTC representatives for their remarks. The deadline for changes is November 6, 1998. Niki explained her National Recreation Trail Grant and how documentation of volunteer hours is critical in order for the Program to succeed. When a TEAM performs maintenance work, they must document all hours spent including travel time. The official start date for documenting hours is September 10, 1998. The program involves initial workshops for new Ozark TRAIL TEAM Leaders. The Leaders will then have the ability to train their TEAMS on basic trail maintenance and safety. The first workshop, which is to be taught by OTC representatives, will be held sometime this spring. A workshop-planning meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible. During the winter months, Niki will recruit potential TEAM Leaders at various conferences with the use of DNR's existing OT Display. She requested that agency representatives break down their sections into workable segments (@ 3 miles where possible). She is promoting the Program in publications such as *Missouri Wildlife*, *Rural Missouri*, *Cycle St. Louis*, *The St. Louis Post and International Wildlife*. She is working on an informative flier to be used until a two-color brochure can be made. Until the first workshop, she is encouraging those interested to hike the segments they would like to adopt. Dean Hodapp offered to take potential leaders on the section of trail that he currently maintains.

### HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL:

Debbie reported on a letter from Terry Laupp, Backpack the Ozark Trail Leader. They are sponsoring the tenth annual "Backpack the Ozark Trail", a weeklong, 50-mile hike covering the Trace Creek and Taum Sauk Sections. The trip at this point can still accommodate a few more hikers. Profits will be split 50/50 between Hostelling International and the OTC.

## OLD BUSINESS:

### OZARK TRAIL TRADEMARK:

John reported that he did indeed contact Andrew Mayfield, a trademark lawyer out of St. Louis. In a letter to John, Mr. Mayfield confirmed that Wal-Mart has registered the Ozark Trail mark, but he does not believe that Wal-Mart can prevent use of OZARK TRAIL to promote the trail. "Wal-Mart owns one registration and two pending applications for the OZARK TRAIL mark in connection with a variety of camping-related goods. However, Wal-Mart has superior trademark rights only against those who use OZARK TRAIL as a trademark on similar goods and whose use began after Wal-Mart's. Wal-Mart's registration claims a first use date of July 31, 1985, and the earliest application was filed October 31, 1994." Mr. Mayfield goes on to report that "A state agency may own a federally-registered trademark. For instance, the State of Missouri, Division of Tourism, owns a registration for WAKE UP TO MISSOURI and Design. Therefore, if you desire to seek registration for a logo for the Ozark Trail, then the Missouri Department of Natural Resources may file the application and own the registration."

**WEB SITE UPDATE:** (Louise and Dan McKeel)

To keep the web site up-to-date, Louise and Dan asked that they received updated brochures and trail maps from the agencies. They also requested permission from DNR to scan and post DNR brochure maps of the OT. They would also like to get a copy of a map for the new trail section that crosses Hwy. 8. Teresa Kight sent them a copy of the updated MDC brochure on the Huzzah State Forest with its map of the 5-mile OT segment. Louise reported that their web site does not have a counter yet, but they are receiving emails from a growing number of people. Dan reported that they have been getting requests for maps that are easier to read.

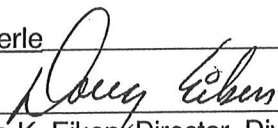
The web site address is the following:  
[http://home.stlnet.com/~slluez/OTS.MOARK\\_main.html](http://home.stlnet.com/~slluez/OTS.MOARK_main.html)

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Ozark Trail Council meeting will be held on May 15, 1999 at Meramec State Park at 10:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center.

Prepared by: Niki Aberle

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Douglas K. Eiker, Director, Division of State Parks  
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council