



Ozark Trail Association  
483 S. Kirkwood Road, #40  
Kirkwood, MO 63122

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR RELEASE AT WILL**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Steve Coates  
Ozark Trail Association  
(314) 578-5334  
steve.coates@charter.net

### THE OZARK NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL: A SECRET WORTH SHARING

*Our  
Mission  
To develop  
maintain,  
preserve,  
promote and  
protect  
the rugged,  
natural beauty  
of the  
Ozark Trail*



*Tumbling water and fall color at the fork of the Black River: Karkaghne section of the Ozark Trail in Reynolds County, Missouri*



*May brings an explosion of bloom to the Ozarks including false garlic: Courtois section of the trail in Crawford and Washington counties*

Deep in the Missouri Ozarks, thousands of volunteers have teamed with public land management agencies and landowners to create one of the nation's newest and longest National Recreation Trails. **The Ozark Trail** comprises approximately 360 scenic miles with approximately 240 miles of through-trail, stretching from Crawford County, near Steelville to Howell County, near the Eleven Point River. When completed as anticipated, the trail will wind through 550 miles of Ozark mountains, valleys and foothills, from St. Louis to the Arkansas border, eventually connecting to the Ozark Highlands Trail (which is planned to extend from the Missouri border to Fort Smith, Arkansas.)

Most sections of the Ozark Trail are managed for multiple non-motorized uses including horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking and backpacking. The trail fulfills the dream of public land managers, trail users, and private landowners who met in 1977 to consider a long-distance trail in the Missouri Ozarks. The Ozark Trail traverses clear streams, dry granite

**MORE**



[www.ozarktrail.com](http://www.ozarktrail.com)  
A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

barrens and panoramic mountaintops, travels near wetlands and fens, and through deep Ozark forests, providing an up-close opportunity to experience this unique and beautiful natural area. It has been constructed and maintained largely through the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers, supported by the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation and other land management agencies and partners.

Travel the path to the heart of Missouri: experience the Ozark Trail.

### **About the Ozark Trail Association**

The non-profit volunteer Ozark Trail Association (OTA) was founded by the late John Roth in 2002 with the mission to **develop, maintain, preserve, promote and protect the rugged natural beauty of the Ozark Trail**. OTA volunteers have contributed over 60,000 combined hours of work including laying out and flagging proposed new trail; building trail with hand tools; and performing maintenance through the OTA's "Adopt-A-Trail" program; managing OTA "MegaEvents" (weekend-long camping and trail-building events); and other work outings for volunteers. For more information about the Ozark Trail and the OTA, and for trail maps, an interactive trip planner, a schedule of upcoming events and other information, see [www.ozarktrail.com](http://www.ozarktrail.com).

###

Editor's Note: High-resolution images of the OTA logo, trail maps and photographs are available online at [www.ozarktrail.com/mediakit.php](http://www.ozarktrail.com/mediakit.php). Requests for additional artwork and photographs can be made to the Ozark Trail Association, 573-436-0540 or emailed to Abi Jackson, [abi.jackson@ozarktrail.com](mailto:abi.jackson@ozarktrail.com).