



**Ozark Trail Association  
Monthly Staff Meeting  
Powder Valley Nature Center, Kirkwood, MO  
Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

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**Meeting opened at 6:00 P.M. by Roger Allison**

**Attendees:** Roger Alison, Jeff Goetter, Don Schulte, Rick Wolfram, Mark Goforth, Steve Liescheidt, Kathie Brennan, Ken Kurtz

## Welcome to Visitors

- None

## Office Related

- Granger-Thye Agreement with the USFS for the OTA Office Building
  - We need to complete the 9 tasks that were identified in 2015 under this agreement, the roof replacement is the major item. Targeting May 7<sup>th</sup> for the primary date on the roof with a May 14<sup>th</sup> backup date.
  - We need to develop a list of 2016 tasks

## Construction and Maintenance of New and Existing Trails

- Initial contact with members of the C&M committee. No formal meetings have been held. A conference call format is being developed for members to begin in May Action Items Discussed
- A meeting was held on Feb. 22 with Jonathan Brooks(USFS) at the OTA house. Discussions concerning the role of the OTA with the USFS and the role each of the entities would have with the OT. Cost share summer mowing program will be with USFS with AmeriCorp. Discussion still needs to happen on supervision of program.
- Jensen Point work was completed by OTA volunteers as to fulfill the obligation of the OTA. Re-dedication will be Monday, May 30th.
- MDC Peck Ranch – A 7 m road -"bushwhacking" trail was completed to allow hikers to be able to do a through hike of the Current River section of the OT. Thanks for Todd Horn and Matt Atnip for pursuing the vision and technical aspect of it. New maps are posted on the OTA web site.
- Work was completed on the garage and basement to ensure that equipment is properly stored and available for volunteers to check out for events and work within the OT system and the AAT Program. A white board has been hung in the basement with information concerning current, future and ongoing projects and concerns
- Mega Event
  - 215 plus 30 kids discussing if there is a need to close the registration
  - All tasks are pretty much on track
  - As of this date the trail has not been dozed yet
- Summer Mowing
  - Cost Share is in place, \$12K for labor, \$3K for supplies, etc.
  - Roger has been talking to Bruce Baily, AmeriCorps about a 4-person crew, issue may be if we can afford a manager to oversee the crew
  - The mowing binder needs to be reviewed
- Spring & Fall Outing Schedule
  - OT100
  - Mega – Oct 8

- Sawyer Certification/Recertification
  - No new information, still waiting for USFS response
- Crew Leader Training 2016
  - Set for August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – will also include Sierra Club
- 2017 Construction Program Planning
  - Need to identify a scope for the year
  - C&M has been doing some research

## Promotion of the Ozark Trail & Development of the Ozark Trail

- Education, Outreach, and Communication Committee Report
  - Past Event Updates
    - MO Botanical Garden – Meet Me Outdoors in St. Louis Weekend Festival 4-2 & 4-3
      - Went well both days
  - Upcoming Events
    - Junior Ranger Day 4-29-16 – get Toby’s data from Board meeting
      - Need volunteers
      - Demos – At least 2, but more if there are enough volunteers on hand
        - Trail Building fake demo
        - Leave No Trace
    - Trail Town Workshop
      - More coming
    - Trail Adventure Workshop
      - More coming
    - GRG - Live Life Outdoors
      - June 11 @ Creve Coeur lake
      - Promo table and simulated trail build will be done at this
    - Sullivan Fair – June 21 to 25
      - Still in work to get into this
    - Arcadia Valley Music Festival
      - May 21 & 22 with a table
      - Demos and light trail maintenance are being looked at
    - Trails Day
      - Work at Current River/Echo Bluff State Parks
      - Members will be going to other parks to present
    - Volunteer Workshop
      - This will be something that would be for current volunteers to reinforce trail building skills, first aid, AAT, etc. More to be discussed.
  - Need a wish list of anything people think will help out this and all our program
  - Fundraising idea has been floated to do some kind of hike with a pledge for miles complete
  - Another idea being discussed is some kind of hiking competition and another would be a triathlon idea
  - Suggestion was made for a closed Facebook group that would be used for discussions on how to keep the OTA going and stuff like that
  - Getting more people stepping up to work on Communication related stuff
    - Andy Tann will be working on Marketing
    - Jeff Howell is Twitter
    - Ryan Hanlon has been doing Facebook
  - Web Page updates will be happening including a new calendar feature
  - Amanda Walker, USSF would like the OTA to participate as the lead for the Recreational Summit in 2017

- Mountain Bike Race
  - We need a race leader for 2017 if it is held
  - Registration opens 4-25-16
  - Bike shops and teams can sponsor race with \$150 donation and get 10 @ \$9 each coupons to use on the registration site
- Map Sales
  - We need a more aggressive marketing plan for these, any volunteers?
  - OT Overview Map getting closer
- Communications Related
  - Ken has had some interest from people in taking over the magazine, newsletter, twitter, Facebook areas

## General Administrative Activities, OTA Overhead, and General Revenue

- Finance Committee Report
  - Ken Kurtz's sister is getting involved and has started sending out letters to companies, so far Champion sportswear has acknowledge receiving the letter
- Action Items
  - Trivia Night Results
    - Net profit of \$4900
    - Mega Raffle items are needed and also being collected
  - Membership
    - Some emails have gone out and it did generate some funds
  - Crowd Sourcing Sites Discussion is still on hold

## Open Discussion

- Don Schulte suggested looking into using prison inmates to do work on the trail and he would be open to working with this. More research will be needed.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM**

**Next Staff Meeting:** May 10, 2016 @ ALPINE SHIP

**Next Board Meeting:** August 13, 2016 @ Current River State Park

**Next Ozark Trail Council Meeting:** To Be Determined

For the OTA

*Jeffery J Goetter*

**Jeffery J Goetter**

Secretary, Ozark Trail Association