



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Together, we accomplished significant milestones in 2023, from maintaining and improving trail segments to fostering a stronger connection with the Ozark wilderness. Your passion for the outdoors and commitment to our mission have made a substantial impact on the Ozark Trail, allowing us to provide a better experience for hikers, nature enthusiasts, and future generations.

Your involvement, whether through volunteer work, trail maintenance efforts, or financial support, has played a vital role. These accomplishments are a testament to the collective power of our community and the shared belief in the importance of preserving the beauty of the Ozarks and the Ozark Trail. Thank you for your unwavering commitment,



tireless efforts, and genuine love for the Ozark Trail.

Kathie Brennan
President

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful completion of first round of GAOA funding totaling \$149,930
- Celebrated 50th Mega and 20th Anniversary
- Recognized as outstanding volunteer organization by the Ozark National Scenic Riverways
- Participated in several outreach opportunities including Jr Ranger Day, Alpine Shop Expo, and Conservation Day at the Capitol with Conservation Federation of Missouri

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kathie Brennan, President | Garrett Doak, Board Member |
| Mark Goforth, Vice-President | Stephen Thompson, Board Member |
| Roger Allison, Treasurer | Tim Seener, Board Member |
| Jeff Goetter, Secretary | Jim Schneider, Board Member |

WALL OF FAME

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR TERRY HAWN



As we say when one door closes, another opens and for Terry, that open door led him to the world of volunteering with the OTA. With a willingness to learn, grow, and meet the challenges beyond being a grunt, Terry has become an integral part of the construction and maintenance aspect of the OTA and the complexity of the GAOA funding the OTA is receiving. For most project weeks with our St. Louis AmeriCorps teams, Terry is leading the charge out on the OT and sharing the most interesting places to be found where the OT traverses through the Ozarks.

ADOPTER OF THE YEAR DAN CHILDRESS

The OTA is so fortunate to have this amazing couple who have embraced life in the woods. Both Dan and Carol come from backgrounds that took them into nature sharing their love and knowledge of the world around us. Retirement is just another adventure that they have embraced and when the OT became part of their backyard, both have been paying it forward as adopters of a section of Blair Creek. This past year's work included tread restoration, trail maintenance and making the trail look great.



OTA's 20th anniversary at the Stephan Bass' Event Center



3-Legged Monster Race participants

597 MEMBERS

Fall Mega tread repair on the Courtois



OUR MISSION:
TO DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, PRESERVE, PROMOTE, & PROTECT THE RUGGED, NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE OZARK TRAIL.



12,712 HOURS VOLUNTEERED



1,173 VOLUNTEERS



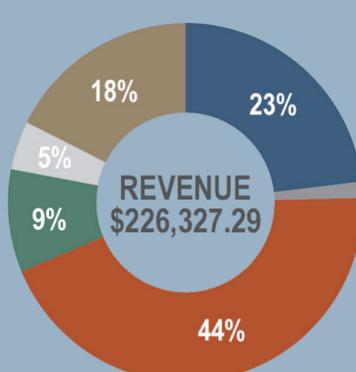
363 INDIVIDUAL WORK DAYS



430 MILES MAINTAINED ANNUALLY

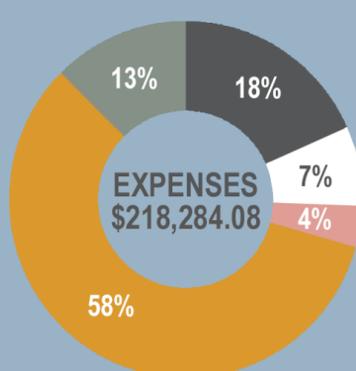


VALUE OF TIME CONTRIBUTED \$404,241.60



- Donations
- Business & Foundation Grants
- Government Grants
- Memberships
- Merchandise Sales
- Special Events

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS



- Administrative
- Fundraising
- Development
- Construction & Maintenance
- Promotion

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

In 2023, the OTA successfully organized over 39 events. The organization secured contracts with a record-breaking 15 AmeriCorps crews, alongside hiring a dedicated full-time trail crew leader. These endeavors laid a solid foundation for notable accomplishments, including the reopening of the Big Spring spur trail, in preparation for the Big Spring facility updates.

Additionally, the implementation of multiple sign-in boxes and kiosks along the trail stands as a testament to the OTA's commitment to enhancing safety. Collaborating closely with the US Forest Service, the OTA facilitated the certification of nearly 30 sawyers across four sessions.

Moreover, a thorough **assessment of 291.9 miles** of the OT within the Mark Twain National Forest was conducted, resulting in the **rehabilitation of 18.65 miles** of trail tread.

