

Fall Mega volunteer working on the OT at Sutton Bluff

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



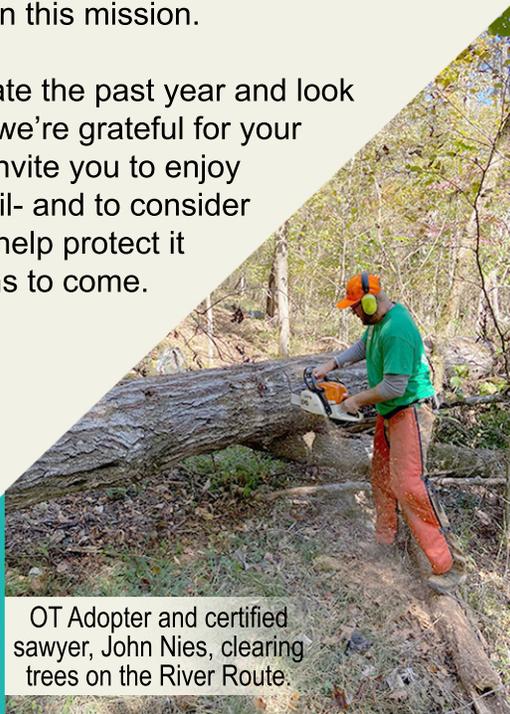
The OT draws its strength from the lands it crosses and its soul from the passionate volunteers. When the trail faced abandonment by land managers, a small group of visionaries formed the OTA. Thanks to their efforts- and the dedication of thousands of volunteers- the trail not only survived, but flourished. For 22 years, the OTA has been one of Missouri's largest volunteer-driven organizations.

A major milestone came when, through deep collaboration with federal, state, and private partners, the Ozark Trail was officially designated a National Recreation Trail. This recognition, supported unanimously by land managers, secures the trail's future and brings us closer to realizing its full vision.

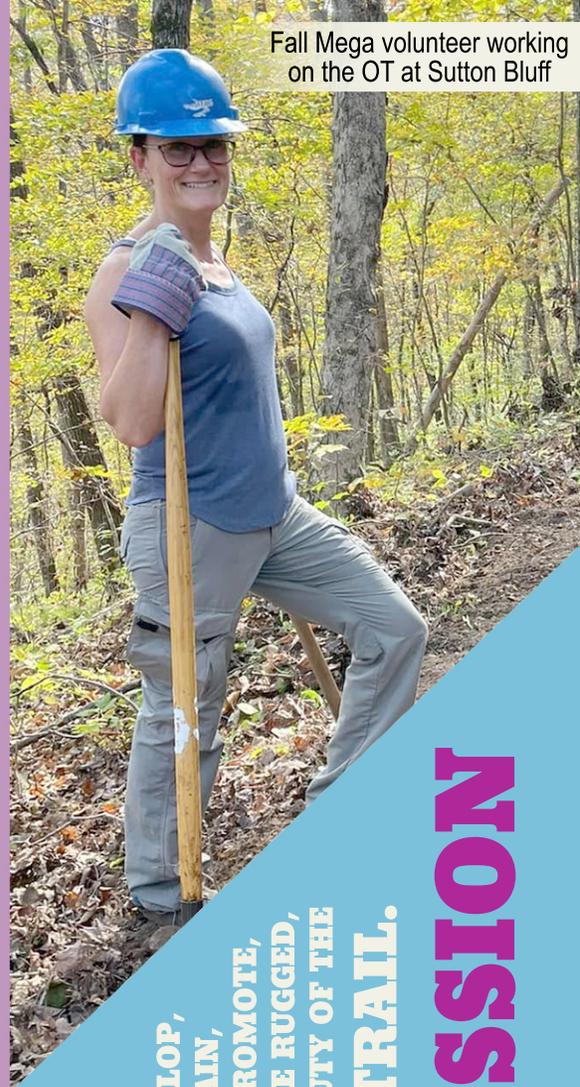
Maintaining over 430 miles of trail is no easy feat. The OTA offers volunteer roles for every interest and skill level- from trail adopters and sawyers to crew leaders and board members. There's a place for everyone in this mission.

As we celebrate the past year and look to the future, we're grateful for your support. We invite you to enjoy the Ozark Trail- and to consider how you can help protect it for generations to come.

Kathie Brennan



OT Adopter and certified sawyer, John Nies, clearing trees on the River Route.



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

OUR MISSION



8,678 HOURS VOLUNTEERED



1,104 VOLUNTEERS



455 INDIVIDUAL WORK DAYS



430 MILES MAINTAINED ANNUALLY



VALUE OF TIME CONTRIBUTED \$290,626

HIGHLIGHTS

Trail Work & Improvements

Many miles of trail were restored and maintained with the help of GAOA funding, AmeriCorps crews, and dedicated volunteers.

Volunteer Impact

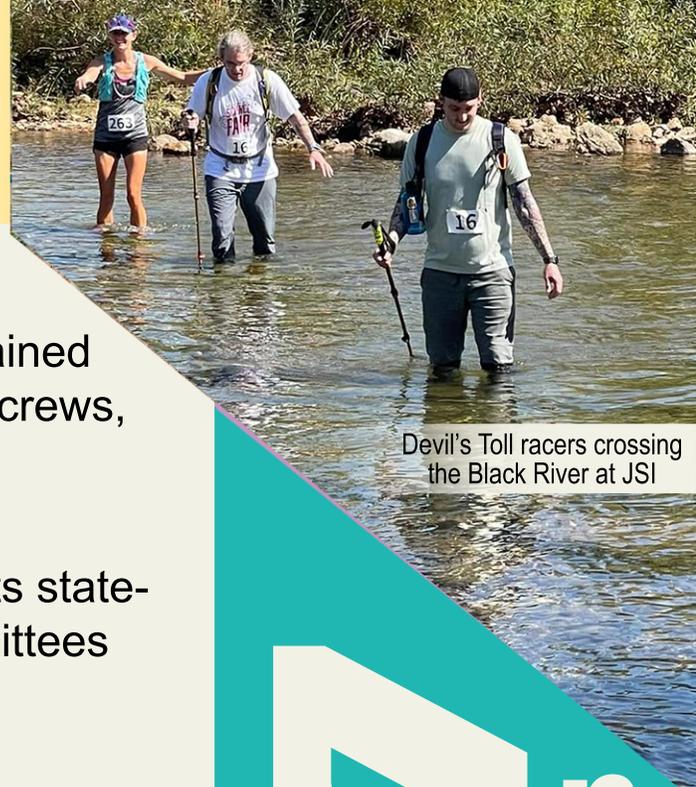
Hundreds of volunteers participated in events state-wide, with new leaders stepping up in committees and trail adoption roles.

Community Events

The 3-Legged Monster Race, Devil's Toll Race, Fall Mega, and outreach events like Al-Pint Night and the Gateway Outdoor Expo connected more people to the trail.

Donor & Member Support

Grassroots fundraising campaigns and new grants strengthened our financial foundation.



Devil's Toll racers crossing the Black River at JSI

507 MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathie Brennan, *President*

Mark Goforth, *Vice-President*

Roger Allison, *Treasurer*

Jeff Goetter, *Secretary*

Stephen Thompson, *Member*

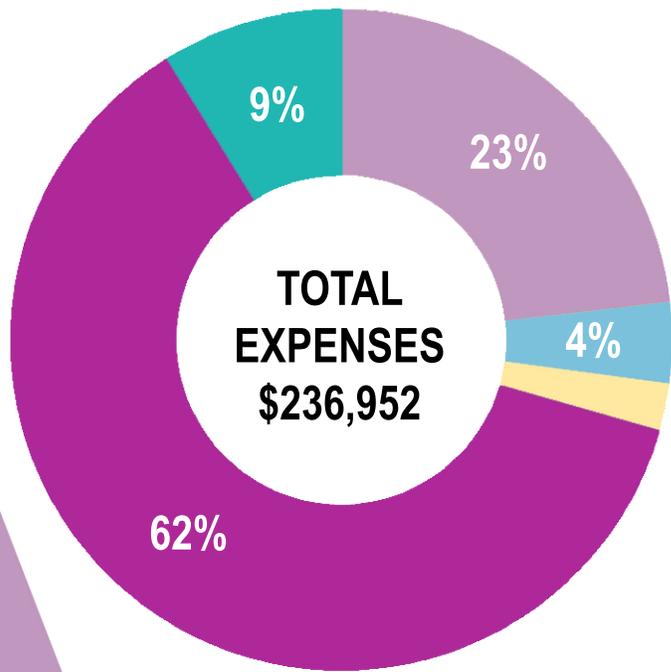
Jim Schneider, *Member*

Garrett Doak, *Member*

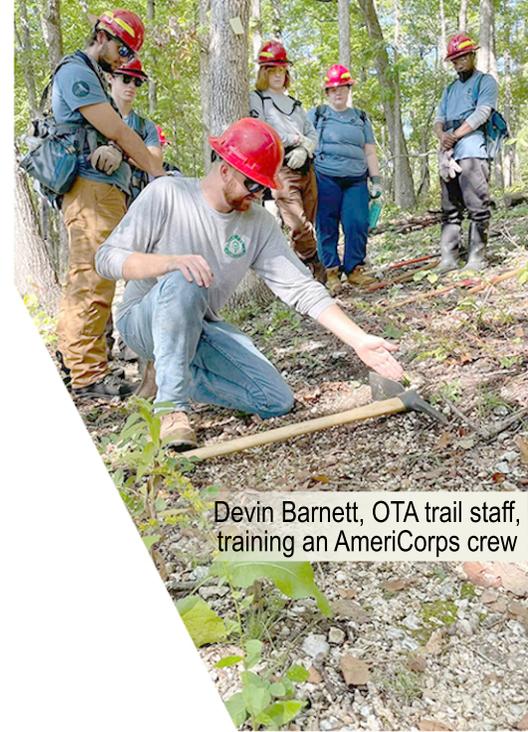
Tim Seener, *Member*



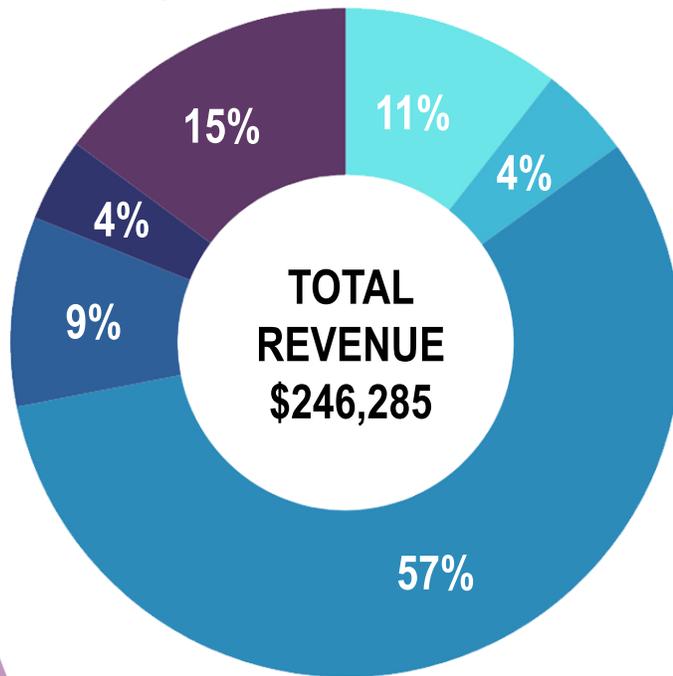
Planning & Development meeting in Van Buren



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



Devin Barnett, OTA trail staff, training an AmeriCorps crew



- Donations
- Business & Foundation Grants
- Great American Outdoor Act Funding
- Memberships
- Merchandise Sales
- Special Events

Looking Ahead: A Message from Our New President

As we close out a landmark year for the Ozark Trail Association, we turn our eyes toward the future. In early 2025, Tim Seener stepped into the role of OTA President, bringing with him a deep commitment to trail stewardship, community engagement, and volunteer-powered growth. Below is an excerpt from Tim's first message to OTA members, setting the tone for the year ahead:

"I've attended a whole bunch of maintenance events and outings and loved every one of them. My wife, Ami, and I are trail adopters of a little slice of trail around Berryman. And lastly, I am the Race Director for one of the OTA's fundraisers called the 3 Legged Monster Race. I've seen firsthand the dedication it takes to keep the Ozark Trail thriving."

"I'm grateful to work alongside a passionate board, outstanding volunteers, and our incredible staff. Let's keep this trail strong—for everyone who loves the Ozarks."

– **Tim Seener**, OTA President



Fall Mega volunteers