

THE OZARK HOLLER

Ozark Land Trust Newsletter

Fall 2021

Protecting Resilient Ozark Lands, Now and Forever

At Ozark Land Trust, we talk often about being stewards of the lands we protect in perpetuity. Forever is a long time, and our ability to do so requires that we look both at the past, present and future to understand how our precious resources need to be both respected and protected.

In that vein, in this edition of the Holler we start with the past, the creation and characteristics of this amazing region known as the Ozarks. OLT Secretary Mike Carrier examines the “Why” of our work — the natural characteristics of the Ozarks, how they’re being affected by climate, development and other challenges; and what it means to protect lands that are resilient or vulnerable. His fellow OLT Board member Joe Engeln describes the “What” —the work OLT is presently doing to assess how to protect the lands we manage in responding to the risks and threats being posed by a number of factors. And finally, our Executive Director Larry Levin and founder Gregg Galbraith pick up on the “Where,” as in, Where is OLT going in a strategic way to have as much positive impact on the Ozark region as we can, both in our own work and in conjunction with our partners and supporters.



OZARK 
LAND TRUST
Conservation Close to Home

For the Love of Land: Preserving Nature's Ark

"Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity." Aldo Leopold (1949)

By Mike Currier

Welcome to the Ozark Ecoregion, an ancient landform characterized by deep blue springs, crystal clear streams, branched watersheds and stream edge communities; by lichen-stained cliffs, karst and caves; by vast woodlands of oak, hickory, and shortleaf pine; by deep-soiled, multi-tiered upland and bottomland forests; by a variety of wetlands including sinkhole ponds and seeps, and by prairies and prairie-like glades - on bedrock, both volcanic in origin, and deposited as sediments in the shallow seas surrounding our island dome - eons ago.

The Ozarks are incredibly diverse. As the oldest continuously exposed landmass in North America (225 million years), the region has served as a refuge for a host of organisms during periods of extreme climatic shifts associated with past glacial and geologic events. One-hundred and sixty species are endemic, originating and restricted to the streams and uplands of the Ozarks; a high number! Other species remain as relicts from previous climatic eras.

The Ozarks are a complex landform, featuring a variety of 'geophysical settings,' each characterized by geology, soils, and elevation. These 'settings' form repeatable patterns across the landscape, providing the physical environments that support a variety of natural communities - terrestrial and aquatic, and many native species. Natural disturbances, including fires, floods and animal browsing are essential for nutrient and carbon cycling and other critical ecosystem functions. In addition, they create micro-habitats, or niches, that support an assortment of organisms. Overlaid, these 'geologic settings,' 'natural communities' and 'disturbance processes' create a mosaic, not static (like a stained glass window) but dynamic (like a kaleidoscope), illustrating subtle change through time as patterns of disturbances change.

Over most of the past 10,000 years, the *range* of climate variation has been relatively constant,

incorporating periods of drought and rain, heat and cold. Within this range, our familiar species and natural communities evolved and are well adapted. However, over the past roughly 100 years the average annual global temperatures have increased. We are in a period of rapid climate change; with temperatures increasing at a rate roughly 10 times the rate after the last ice age. Scientists project that average global temperatures will increase 1.5 degrees Centigrade (or more), compared to pre-industrial levels. Precipitation may be more concentrated with fewer events, but more severe storms. It is anticipated that the character of existing ecosystems, species assemblages and the way organisms interact will change, even as the core functions and the biodiversity of the evolving ecosystems continue to provide the services we value (like clean air and clean water). However, maintaining these services will require climate adaptation planning at a landscape scale.

Site resilience is the capacity of land to maintain biological diversity, productivity and ecological function as the climate changes.

A landscape with a high level of resilience has many available microclimates and climate corridors to accommodate species movement.

The historic Ozarks had a high level of resilience and connectivity. The 'geophysical settings' that support species were well connected, a high level of biodiversity occupied a large area, and species freely migrated upslope, downslope along riparian corridors, or northward in response to climatic fluctuations. In other words, the landscape was highly 'permeable' to species flow. Such is not the case today, as land is fragmented and in many areas in an ecologically degraded state, affecting the ability of species to reproduce and move throughout the landscape.

Responding to climate change is a huge conservation challenge that requires the attention and commitment of state and federal agencies, private conservation organizations like the Ozark Land Trust and private landowners. To conserve our 'Ozarks Ark,' we need to undertake the following actions to

provide support to resilient lands and protect vulnerable lands:

1. preserve the **'geophysical settings'** and the **'landscape diversity'** that support species assemblages;
2. manage land to promote healthy ecosystems and species diversity;
3. look for ways to preserve and expand **'landscape permeability'** to allow species to migrate in response to climate change;
4. maintain/restore the integrity of streams and stream corridors; and
5. retain the ecological services that climate-vulnerable sites can provide including carbon sequestration.

The report "Resilient Sites and Connected Landscapes for Terrestrial Conservation in the Lower Mississippi-Ozark Region" (Mark G. Anderson, et al 2020), published by The Nature Conservancy, provides an in depth analysis to identify opportunities to conserve natural lands in an era of rapid climate change. That article and TNC's resilience mapping is available using the QR code on this page.

The mission of the Ozark Land Trust is to protect natural lands, working lands and communities that depend on the services that nature provides. These services include clean water, clean air, green space and opportunities

for outdoor education and recreation. We accomplish this through our owned preserves, through conservation easements and through conservation practices (like streambank restoration) we engage in alongside our nonprofit and agency partners.

Climate change will have an effect on all lands throughout the Ozarks. By helping interested landowners protect land from development, and learn about the potential impacts of climate change, the Ozark Land Trust can play a huge role in helping to preserve Nature's Ark.



Mike Currier is Secretary of the OLT Board and retired Resource Steward (community ecologist, botanist) with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



Use this QRCode to view "Resilient Sites and Connected Landscapes for Terrestrial Conservation in the Lower Mississippi-Ozark Region"

TERMINOLOGY

Landscape Permeability: the degree to which landscapes will sustain ecological processes and are conducive to the movement of many types of organisms.

Landscape Diversity: the number and variety of topographically derived microclimates and climatic gradients in an area.

Microclimates: a local set of conditions including temperature, light, wind speed, and moisture that differ from surrounding areas, and are meaningful indicators for habitat selection and other ecological activities.



**Native Plants
Bring Nature Home!**

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery

9814 Pleasant Hill Rd, Jefferson City MO 65109
573-496-3492, fax: 573-496-3003
mowldffrs@socket.net

www.mowildflowers.net

You need our excellent catalog - by mail or on line.



Resilience and OLT: Keeping the Ark Afloat

By Joe Engeln, Board Member

As part of the celebration of 200 years of statehood, Missouri is giving special recognition to those few farms that have been in the same family since statehood. Those farms have survived and reflect droughts, floods and many other events and longer-term changes. The current conditions of those farms reflect management decisions made over those decades and centuries by families that value their land and have changed their stewardship practices as science and technologies advanced.

Similarly, the Ozark Land Trust uses the latest information from a wide range of scientific and, yes, the social sciences to consider what it should be doing for properties entrusted to its care. OLT is committed to managing lands beyond the next few years or even the next decades. This requires us to consider short-term disturbance as well as longer-term changes and challenges. Floods, drought, tornadoes and damaging

winter storms all create natural disturbances.

While none is easy to predict, the eventuality of them occurring somewhere or even widely within the Ozarks region, across both Arkansas and Missouri, is quite real and can and should be considered. Each will be followed by ecological and physical responses that are very site specific and depend on local geology, hydrology, biology, slope and slope aspect and the complex interactions between these. OLT looks to lessons from succession ecology and past events to determine how to respond to any such events or to human-related activities that may influence the lands and waters of the Ozarks.

Mike Currier's piece provides us with the backdrop of the natural science of the Ozarks and what it means to respond to threats to resilient and more vulnerable lands. OLT is now using multiple tools to build resilience into the planning for those properties that we own with the intent of creating plans that allow natural

processes, with help from OLT and others when needed, to provide both protection from such disturbances and the ability to recover afterward.

Native species with significant diversity are one of those conditions that we can foster to help support the ability to recover from disturbance. Projects, such as those along Huzzah Creek, a critical tributary of the Meramec River, and implemented with expert partners, reduce the impacts of flooding while slightly reducing flood crests. On-the-ground and remote-sensing documentation of conditions provide both baseline data and early signs of stressors that may cause unwanted changes. Conservation practices to restore and stabilize conditions are governed both by the natural resource science and the need for those working on the land to continue to be productive and successful.

Most of these actions and plans also help look at longer-term trends. Specific climate changes that may occur over decades to centuries are harder to predict and



their impacts are even more difficult to foresee with a high degree of confidence. However, greater diversity featuring native plants, animals and processes is a key component of resilience in the face of whatever changes might be in store.

Specifically, OLT is currently revisiting management plans for all those properties we own in order to put this type of scientific basis for management into practice.

This is a learning process and will help OLT to work with our landowners who seek ideas about managing their properties. It will also form the basis for how we make decisions on projects in the future as we incorporate what we learn into that decision-making process. Our ability to perform this assessment and management work is aided by a planning grant through the generous support of the Land Trust Alliance.

While OLT and its partner landowners cannot know the future, we can, we must, and we will plan for it. We do not control what disturbances will come, when they will come or how serious they will be, but we can look to make the lands and waters better able to withstand nature's blows and to respond with as great a resilience and as robust a recovery as possible.



Steering the Ark: Where Are We Going

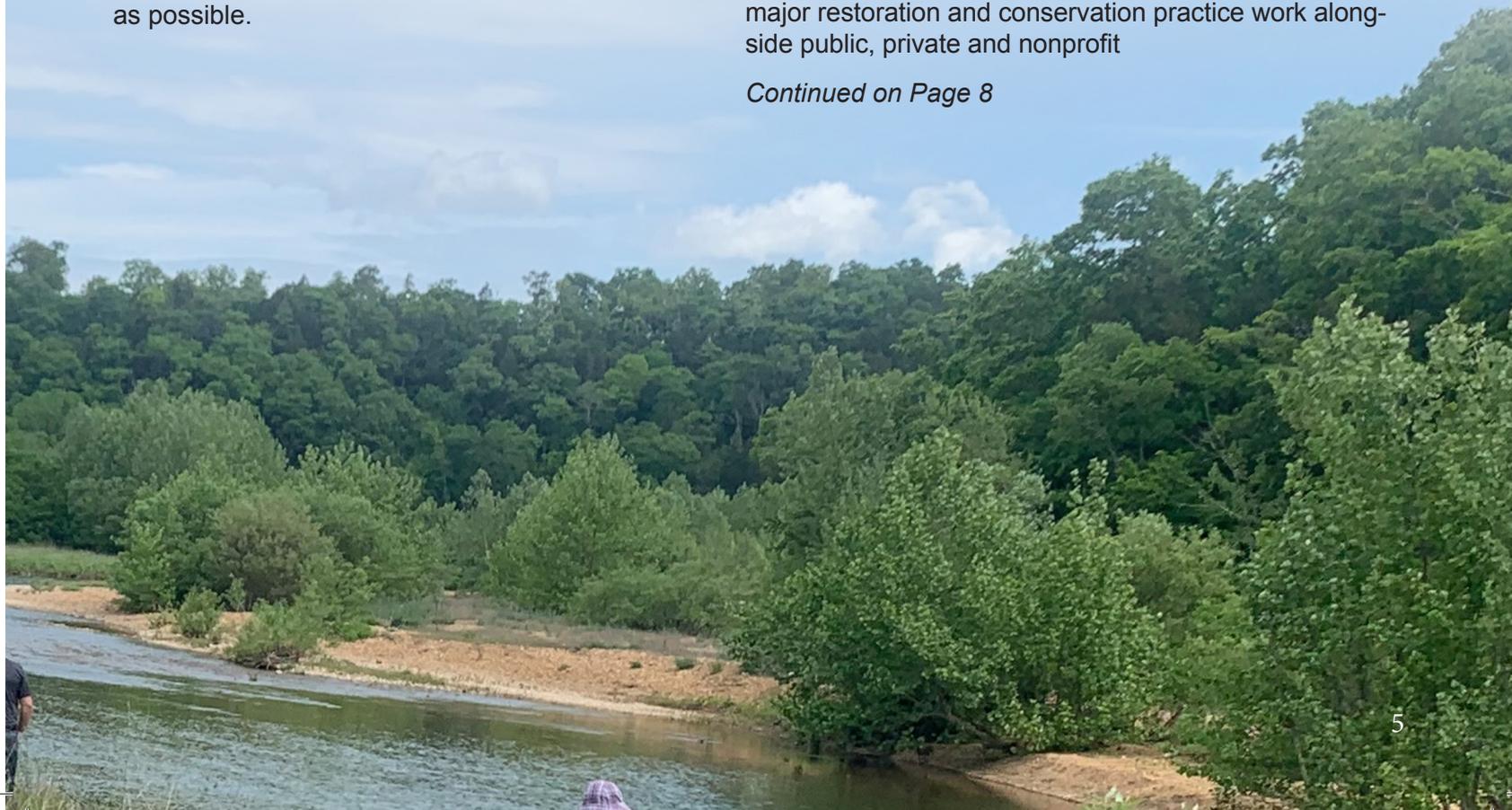
By Larry Levin and Gregg Galbraith

Our great Board colleagues Mike Currier and Joe Engeln offer an overview in their articles of the ecological history of our Ozarks, how the region has been damaged, and the work that Ozark Land Trust is engaged in to evaluate how we can help. Incorporating resilience and climate in the management plans for our own preserves; advising our partner landowners about resilience for those properties on which we hold conservation easements; and engaging in conservation practices such as restoration with our nonprofit and agency partners, are just three of the elements of that work.

Having just completed a planning process for OLT, however, our Board and staff is also focused on a more strategic question: With resilience and climate being not just concerns for individual properties but for the region as a whole, how does our leadership as an Ozarks-wide conservation organization expand to address these substantial concerns?

OLT started in 1984 with the purpose of helping landowners who had the desire to voluntarily and permanently protect the natural resources on their properties. As a result of those individual building blocks, OLT grew to where it now protects over 30,000 acres of Ozark lands, through ownership and easement, and participates in major restoration and conservation practice work alongside public, private and nonprofit

Continued on Page 8



Thanks to Our Generous Donors!

We are so grateful to all those who continue to support conservation in our beautiful Ozarks by making a gift to Ozark Land Trust. We recognize all of you who have given to us during 2020 and 2021. This has been a challenging time, and your contributions are truly and deeply appreciated. Happy holidays from all of us at OLT!

List represents gifts received through end of October 2021. *Indicates \$500+

Anonymous*	William Cannon	Seth A. and Marion G. Eisen*	Philip Heagney and Barbara Prosser
Lisa Adams	Donald Charles Cannon	Andy and Hugh Emerson	Ralph and Diane Heck
Dianna Adorjan	Bill Carnahan	Joe Engeln*	John F. Heil
Jennifer Ailor*	David T. Catlin	David E. and Susan Toft Everson	James Heinzer
Ralph and Janet Alexander	Charlisa L. Cato	Carrie Falkenrath	Edward G. and Marilyn T. Heisel*
Tom and Cathy Aley	Daniel Lee and Mona L. Caylor	Sandy Falloon	Edward J. Heisel
David H. and Melanie A. Alpers	James L. and Linda S. Chambers	Francesca Fanucci	Gerald and Fonda Hereford
David H. and Sandra L. Alspaugh	Traycee Chapman	Carol A. and Michael P. Finn	Michael L. and Jeanne C. Hevesy
Wayne Althen	Margaret P. Gilleo and Charles J. Guenther	John Fleming	Elaine C. Himes
Kathleen A. Anderson	Bonnie Chasteen	Anna Forder	Marcia Hoak
Mary Christine Angelo	Dr. William H. and Maret E. Cheek	Robert L. Foshee	Dennis C. Hogan
Clara Applegate*	Mary Chipps	Gary and Patti Freeman	Kevin D. Hogan and Carla M. Bascom
Lenore M. and Rodney L. Arent	Christine Gempp Love Foundation*	Roger and Kit Freudenberg	Clare Holdinghaus-Ireland
Richard Armstrong Richard and Nancy Arnoldy*	Thane Cody	Kenneth and Kricket Gaillot	Michael A. and Julie Holley*
Karen Aroesty	Jamie Coe	Murielle Gaither	Lezlee L. Holt
Carol E. Bachhuber	Laura T. Cohen	Gregg and Sheila Galbraith*	Rick and Lotsie Holton*
Margaret E. Bahe	Thomas and Sally Cohn	John S. and Mena Galbraith	Peggy Horner*
Maxwell and Barbara Baldwin	Richard and Mary Cohoon	James Eugene Gardner and Elizabeth A. Cook	Anne Rankin and Robert B. Horton
Kristine M. Ballhorn	Common Ground USA Inc.	Katherine Garland	Kevin J. and Kathryn M. Hough
Joan and Michael Banks	Community Foundation of the Ozarks*	Robert W. Gibson and Angela M. Warner	Andrew T. and Janet W. Hoyne
Deborah Barker and Louis Clairmont	Elizabeth A. and Douglas E. Copeland	Debbie Gittinger*	Christ E. and Christine M. Hrstich
Pam and Jerry Barnabee	Council of Georgist Organizations, Inc.	Francine Glass*	Don Huber
Jocelyn P. Barton	Elisabeth F. and Norman Creighton	Dr. Dane Glueck*	James N. and Catherine Huckins
Janet Udouj and J. Neal Beaton*	Dan Curran	Joseph E. Godi	Jim and Phyllis Huettner
Karen F. and Michael G. Beck*	Heidi Currier	Karen A. Goellner*	Catherine Hughes
Dave and Nancy Bedan	Michael P. Currier	P. Wayne and Jane B. Goode Foundation*	Larry and Joan Hummel*
Benevity Community Impact Fund*	Thomas F. Currier	Sally Goodwin M.D.	Katharine C. Hunvald
Nancy C. and Duane C. Benton	Barbara Bauer and Ted Curtis	Brian A. Gordon	Stephen Ibendahl
Fred Berry*	Mark Curtis*	Harry W. and Susan E. Gore	Valarie Lynn and Frank W. Ikerd
Better Cities Committee	Cynthia H. Schwab Trust	Diana L. Gray	Craig S. Ingraham
Catherine Betz	D. A. Watson & Company	Daniel and Jane Griesenauer	Lee and Claire Isselhardt
Brooks E. Bingman	William A. Dalton and Sue A. Dalton	David M. and Holly Gulick	Dwight and Barbara Ittner*
Kathleen N. Bischoff	Tom and Martha Davis	Lloyd W. and Judith Guth	Charles F. and Mollie K. James (Jr.)
Christopher F. Blumenhorst	Bruce A. and Cynthia A. Denney	David Paul Haas	C. Kay and Betty D. Johnson
Lloyalea W. and Glenn Boettcher*	Donald L. Dick	David L. Haenke	John and Connie Johnson*
Paul Boettcher Irving and Melody Boime	John L. and Lucinda Dill	R. Diane Hall*	David Johnson
Dr. Jeffrey Bonner	David W. and Martha A. Dinger	Dr. Thomas B. and Margaret Hall*	Father W. Paul Jones
Stephen Boonshaft	Aaron Dohogne	Natalie Prussing Halpin and Stephen Halpin*	JustGive-Great Nonprofits
Dennis R. and Kathleen M. Bopp	Dee Dokken	Kenneth C. and Cleo A. Hamilton	Bill Kacerovskis and Lorrie Crossett
Suzanne G. Bouchard*	Robert W. Dollard	Janet R. Hammen	Lorraine Keller
Michael Brady	Sandra U. Drake	Tori Hanke	Kurt and Pouwa Kennett
Anna Brickman	Harold and Jill Draper	Christina Hansen	Janet Kinamore
Dr. Mark J. Brodkey*	Peter Dupre	M. Elizabeth Hardy	Laura Kinsell-Baer
Brown Smith Wallace LLP	Kay P. and Larry R. Dusenbery	Thomas Hardy	Dr. Bob and Barb Kipfer
Denslow Brown	Carolyn Wyman and Andrew Dwyer	Willa C. Harkey	Mary Beth Kleekamp
Loring Bullard	Marshall and Faye M. Dyer	Sharon A. and Herbert A. Harms	Mr. R. John Klevorn III*
William A. and Ester T. Bultas	Caroline Early*	Dr. Thomas J. and Janice K. Hart	Janet M. Knight*
Dan and Connie Burkhardt*	Edward Jones	David and Anne Hartig*	Steven Knight*
Donna Burkhart	Marypat Ehlmann	Kirk W. Hawkins II and Deborah L. Rumpf*	Mrs. Lesley C. Knowles*
Robin and Kevin Butler		Diana Haynes	John and Cathy Koenen
Alan and Cheryl J. Bybee		Alex and Balbina Hayter	Brian Kolde and Melisa McLean
Peter A. Callaway		Linda Headrick and David Setzer	Ann and Carl Korschgen*
John M. Camp*		The Headwaters Conservancy*	

Kermit and Teresa Kragnes*
 Lynne Kramer
 Kenneth S. and Nancy S.
 Kranzberg
 Kress Farm Garden Preserve*
 Jim and Mary Kriegshauser
 Sharon Krimmel
 Dr. Kathryn M. Krudwig*
 Suzanne Krumbach
 Donald R. Kurz
 George A. (Mike) LaMair
 Abigail Lambert*
 Scott Woodbury and Abigail
 Lambert
 Edward F. Lampe
 William A. and Virginia L.
 Landers
 Cindy Lefton
 William and Susan Lekey
 J. E. Leonard
 Larry and Peggy Levin
 Mary Anne Lewallen*
 Lewis Rice LLC*
 Dale Lewis
 Leslie E. Lihou
 Douglas Lincoln
 Carl Loewer
 Paul W. and Judie S. Lore
 Mary Lottes and Richard
 Guyette*
 Ben and Linda Lubecki
 Mr. and Mrs. Dory C. Malott
 Randolph and Siegrid Maness
 Shelley and Bradley J. Marshall*
 Joy Ellen Martin*
 Michael D. and Christine Mason
 Don Massey
 Karen and Dwight Massey
 Richard L. Matt
 Dr. Gwendolyn L. Mattice
 W. Dudley and Elizabeth D.
 McCarter
 Tom McClure
 John and Cynthia McGee
 Travis McGee*
 Lesley McIntire*
 Todd A. McMenemy
 Connie McPheeters
 Frederick George McQueary,
 M.D.*
 Thomas L. and Rebecca W.
 McRoberts
 Dale E. and Beverly Deane
 Mermoud
 Merrill Lynch
 Scott and Chris Merritt
 Jim Hendren
 Carol J. Miller
 Dwayne W. and Charlotte A.
 Miller
 Missouri Caves and Karst
 Conservancy
 Sara Parker Pauley*
 Karen Monroe
 Barbara D. Moorman
 Bob and Sharon Morgan*

Susan J. Morgenthaler*
 Wayne L. Morton M.D.
 Janene Moser
 Harvard Muhm*
 H. Yale and Alicia A. Muhm*
 Dolphin Nann
 Thomas R. Nichols DDS
 Larry and Jill Nolan
 Terri G. Norris
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Novack
 John and Anita O'Connell*
 Philip A. and E. Gayle O'Hare
 Joanne G. Olszewski
 Kelly O'Mara
 Kathryn O'Neill
 Charlie and Mary Beth O'Reilly*
 Ozark Underground Laboratory
 Inc.
 Ozark Wilderness Waterways
 Club
 Richard and Maria Parker
 Cindy Parry
 Carlos A. Perez, M.D. and Susan
 Bradshaw Perez*
 Hilary Perkins
 Denis A. Peters
 Nathaniel A. and Juanita I.
 Peters
 Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Pickett
 Joel and Sue S. Picus
 William R. Piper
 Julie L. Plax
 Michael Powell
 Anne W. B. Prichard
 Emily Rauh Pulitzer*
 Susan Pyle
 Gus and Shanna Raeker
 Katie Rose Randall
 David T. and Sarah J. Read
 Jacob and Leslie Reby
 James Reeves*
 Rebecca E. Resinski
 Cindy Anne and Elie Riachi
 Dr. Ruth Anne Rich
 Helen A. Riechmann
 Mike and Rita Darpino Rieger
 Gordon and Barbara Risk*
 John and Rhenda Roark
 Brad W. Robbins*
 Nancy Robertson
 William Eugene and Judith
 Elaine L. Robinett
 Jason H. and Amy M. Rogers
 Nic Rogers
 Jeffrey and Sharon Rosenblum*
 Kenton A. Ross, D.M.D., P.A.
 Mary D. Ross
 Chris K. Roth
 Robert Roth
 Robin Rotman
 Bill and Margaret Rowe
 Betty Lou and Dennis A. Ruest
 David L. Rus
 Frances Russell
 Melissa E. and Tom E. Ruwitch
 Michel L. and Karen L. Sage

Charles R. Salveter
 Theodore C. Salveter III
 James Sample
 Todd Sampsell
 Caroline M. Sant
 Janet Sarff
 Frederick Sawyer
 Thomas A. and Elaine Scatizzi
 Adam Schaffer
 Happy and Harvey Scherer
 Debra Schilling Smith
 Edgar Schmidt Charitable Fund*
 Jane L. Anton and Pamela J.
 Schnebelen
 David C. and Susan W. Schoen
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schoomer
 Steven Schueppert
 Janni M. and Daniel J. Schuette
 Aaron J. Scott
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sebaugh
 Lyle and Bill Seddon*
 Thomas K. Seddon
 Richard L. Seibel
 Cheryl Seleen
 Seamus Shannon
 Gregorio A. and Kathy M. Sicard
 Teresa Woody and Rik Siro
 David G. Skelton
 Robert M. and Joyce A. Slater
 Beth B. and Charles D. Smith
 Darcy Smith
 Jessica R. Smith
 Kim M. Smith
 Dr. Rollin and Bettina Sparrowe
 James W. Spencer and Susan L.
 Parks-Spencer
 Claudia Spener
 David Sprecker
 Karen and Donald Stearns*
 Cheryl Ann and Michael R.
 Steffan
 Janet Sternburg
 Peter F. Stevens and Elizabeth
 A. Kellogg
 Paul Stupperich
 Patricia E. and John Talley*
 Target Circle*
 Paul and Laura Teverow
 Judith L. Tharp
 Steve J. and Debbie Tharpe*
 Richard Thom
 Andrew L. and Diann Thomas
 Bret P. and Kelly R. Thomas
 Carol R. Thomas
 Richard D. and Donna Jeanne
 Thompson
 Nick Thurwanger
 Steven M. and Natalae C.
 Tillman*
 William Tilton*
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Todd
 Wendy Torri
 Charlie and Rhoda Transue
 Robert and Ardith Trost
 Dr. Philip C. and Rosilee A.
 Trotta

Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family
 Foundation
 Nancy Tucher
 Lawrence and Delores Tuttle
 David and Jennifer Ulrich
 Dr. Albert L. Van Amburg III and
 Jan Matoesian
 Jan Vanschuyver
 Venku Inc.
 Tessa Wasserman
 Richard J. and Nancy K. Watson
 Myrl R. and Carolyn Wear
 Mark E. and Debra K. Weaver
 Kenneth A. and Leann Webb
 The Rev. Stephen Weissman
 and Gary Ross-Reynolds
 Lisa Wells
 James M. Welsh
 H. Dean Whipple and Karen
 Hopkins
 David Whitney
 Rad Widmer
 John Wieland
 Louise Wilkinson
 Mike and Laura Williams
 Rhonda K. Williams
 Wayne A. and Vera M. Williams
 James M. and Barbara G.
 Willock
 Karla C. and David Wilson
 James W. and Linda S. Winn
 Jeffrey J. Winzerling
 Susan Wiseheart
 Jack H. and Barbara A. Witte*
 Duane and Judith Woltjen*
 Jim and Lois Wyman*
 John and Jerri Wyman
 Susan M. Fitzpatrick and
 Thomas P. Wyman*
 Fred Young
 Jeff and Leslie Zacks
 Joseph and Ann Marie Ziegler
 David C. and Christee A.
 Zimmerman

Join the Ozark Legacy Society

Ozark Land Trust recognizes the wonderful supporters who include OLT in their trust and estate plans. If you would like to be included in our Ozark Legacy Society or would like to learn more about how to support OLT, let us know. Contact Executive Director Larry Levin, larry.levin@ozarklandtrust.org, or call (314) 420-0460. We look forward to talking with you about how you can create a lasting legacy for conserving lands in our beautiful Ozarks!

THE OZARK HOLLER
Published by
OZARK LAND TRUST

MISSION

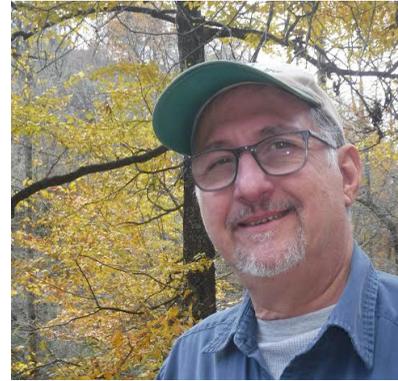
To help people protect and conserve the natural resources and beauty of the Ozarks and to advocate for land conservation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jim Reeves
President
- Karen Massey
Vice President
- Nick Thurwanger
Treasurer
- Mike Currier
Secretary
- Loring Bullard
- Mark Curtis
- Joe Engeln
- Debbie Gittinger
- Connie Johnson
- John R. Klevorn III
- Bob Morgan
- Harvard Muhm
- Deanna Ray
- Jeffrey Rosenblum
- Steve Schueppert
- Andrew Thomas
- Lois Wyman

STAFF

- Larry Levin
Executive Director
- Abigail Lambert
River Stewardship Manager
- Nic Rogers
Conservation Program Manager
- Jessica Smith
Operations and Development Specialist
- Abby Cyr
Conservation Specialist



Larry Levin,
executive
director, and
Gregg
Galbraith,
founder of OLT

Continued from Page 5

partners. We have no interest in surrendering the one-on-one landowner work that has shaped most of our history to date. We value those lands and relationships immensely, and we've even started up a Members Advisory Committee in which both landowners, and other supporters and partners, can share ideas for how to educate, connect and inform those critical partners in our success.

But with our national accreditation in 2019, our substantial growth and our relationships with others committed to conservation, it's clear that we can serve as a partner in helping the overall Ozark region face a variety of challenges. The focus on proactively protecting and restoring resilient lands is something we feel is clearly within the scope of our mission and our abilities.

Private lands comprise the vast majority of our nation, and to achieve the goal of protecting enough lands to maximize resilience and address damage from climate and other degradation, OLT's model of voluntary protection and restoration is essential to meeting the Ozarks-wide challenge of ensuring the long-term health of our region. This work may take a variety of forms. With the great technology tools like Geographic Information Systems (GIS), we can mesh the maps of our own work with the TNC resilience mapping for the Ozarks region. That way we can see where we might seek out landowners in critical habitat areas

who are interested in voluntary protection. We can do the same with foundations, nonprofits and agencies who are committed to funding and partnering on resilience and climate work in those areas.

As we incorporate resilience and climate concerns into the management plans for our owned preserves, we can also share these ideas with our conservation easement landowners, and new landowners we meet. For those who choose to incorporate these considerations into their own land management, they can help not only the health of their own properties, but of the region and the broader ecosystem.

There is no question that working on a larger palette, taking a panoramic view of the Ozarks region – and being proactive in reaching out to landowners in critical and sensitive areas -- requires more resources, more partners and more on-the-ground staff. But if our growth has shown us one thing, it's that OLT has been seen as a responsible and successful partner in Ozarks conservation at every step of our development, and now will, we're sure, prove no exception.

As always, your thoughts are important to us, and we'd love to hear your thoughts about ways to address the issues associated with resilience and vulnerable lands to protect the natural and beautiful lands of the Ozarks. Write to larry.levin@ozarklandtrust.org and we'd be happy to have a conversation!



P: (573) 817-2020 | E: info@ozarklandtrust.org
W: www.ozarklandtrust.org M: P.O. Box 1512, Columbia, MO 65205