

# THE OZARK HOLLER

Ozark Land Trust Newsletter

Spring 2022

## Conservation Collaboration

### Why partnership is essential to protecting Ozark lands

Partnership can mean so many things. A business arrangement. A personal relationship. Civic engagement.

No matter the kind of partnership, though, there are underlying values that must be in place for it to succeed. And one of the most important values is trust – the ability of each partner to rely on the promises and expectations of the others.

For a group like Ozark Land Trust and its partners, the need for trust becomes even more elevated, because of the forever nature of our relationship to the land; in fact, that's why "trust" appears in our name. Forever, needless to say, is a long time, and when

OLT takes on the perpetual commitment to steward a conservation easement on land, we are entering into a permanent bond with the land and its current and future owners.

That's a weighty commitment, both for the landowner – whether they work, live or simply enjoy nature on their land -- and OLT. But our partnerships don't stop there. We have supporters who look to us to fulfill our commitments into the far-flung future; foundations whose interest in protecting nature aligns with ours; agencies that invest in our work; and nonprofit partners with whom we can let the public know about the critical

importance of resource protection and restoration. In fact, our last three conservation transactions over the past year, protecting another thousand acres of land, each were supported by one or more of these groups of exceptional partners.

So in this issue of the Holler, we let our partners tell their own stories about why working with land trusts like OLT is essential to them. Different perspectives all, but the thread among them is the common commitment to our extraordinary Ozark lands. And, of course, the trust we share in each other to do our parts to conserve them.

### What's Inside:

Collaboration is key. Read a variety of perspectives by our partners in conservation.



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# A State of Cooperation

## How collaboration supports MDC's strategies



By Jennifer Battson Warren

The evolution of the Missouri Department of Conservation's land protection strategies and priorities has resulted in a number of partnerships to advance conservation across the state.

Our more recent activities show in particular the importance of land trust and other partners in our mission going forward.

MDC's land acquisition, land conservation and recreational access was historically driven by the goals set by the Design for Conservation (Design). Released in 1970, and informed by citizens and conservation partners, Design was a long-reaching strategic plan for conservation in Missouri. In it, the Department pledged to buy land for recreation, forestry, and the protection of critical habitats for rare or endangered species. Design also called for increased services to the public in the areas

of wildlife and forest conservation, research into forestry techniques and wildlife management, and locating a system of Conservation Interpretation Centers on Department lands. Subsequent strategic plans have modified the vision of Design to reflect the changing social values, demands, and other pressures on the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; placing more emphasis on developing citizens' conservation ethic, and helping communities and private landowners advance conservation on their own land. With more private land protection came the need for mechanisms to conserve that land through not only MDC ownership but conservation easements held by third parties such as land trusts.

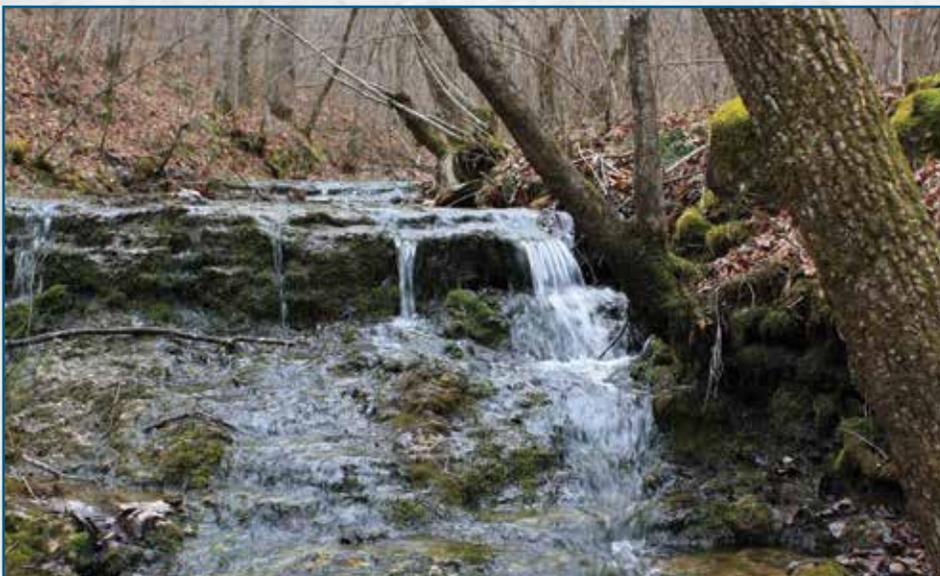
The result of the Design's evolution was widely dispersed and sometimes fragmented acquisitions, all providing unique benefits but lacking the broader context of priority geographies and citizen access that is more prevalent in our thinking today. In 2017, the Conservation Commission approved a new Land Conservation



*Jennifer Battson Warren currently serves as Deputy Director – Business and Realty Committee Chair for the Missouri Department of Conservation. Jennifer is a graduate of the University of Missouri's School of Forestry. Her passion to make nature accessible and enjoyable for all people has been a driving factor in the many field and administrative positions she's held during her 26-year career with the Department.*

Strategy (Strategy). The Strategy provides the framework the Department uses today to prioritize and fund opportunities for land acquisition, conservation easements, lease agreements, cooperative agreements, grants, public recreation access programs, and incentive programs. The goal of the Strategy is to enhance conservation efforts in priority geographies; enhance conservation of imperiled species and habitats; expand existing conservation areas and close inholdings to maximize resource management efforts; and increase citizen access to the outdoors near where they live.

The Strategy implementation is made available through the Department's Land Conservation and Partnership Program. The program supports both  
*See MDC, pg. 3*



# Personal Passion

## Why I support the Ozarks through OLT

### SUPPORTER PERSPECTIVE

By: Dane Glueck

It's my birthplace. It's part of me. It honors my children and shows them that land and nature matter. It is strategic. It saves a part of the world that is special.

I was born in Mountain Home, Arkansas – surrounded by ancient, rolling Ozark hills. I grew up surrounded by gorgeous, fish-filled lakes. In fact, my dad talked about and caught so many bass that my first word, was “fish.”

I waded in thriving streams that nourished the countryside and played background music to barbecues and late-night campfires. These are more than memories. These are the moments that have integrated into my being – they are what I am

made of and what I feel compelled to help preserve.

My children are the best of me and I hope to honor them with my actions and my energy. I hope to demonstrate love to them that emboldens them to make great change and to protect what matters. One of the ways that I show them what love is, is by honoring the land and my personal history with my time and resources. So, as I will forever honor and protect my children, so will I honor and protect this land.

Finally, beyond the deeply personal reasons of my birthplace and my children, protecting the Ozarks is strategic. If you've spent time in the Ozarks, you are likely aware that we are blessed with a remarkable diversity of plant and wildlife. A recent research article confirms this and the opportunity in front of us. With beautiful and detailed maps, the journal Ecological Applications

demonstrates that the Ozarks harbor a significant opportunity to protect imperiled biodiversity.

So, I'm in. I was born in the Ozarks. I am made of this place. I want my life and legacy to honor my children and truly care for this land as it deserves to be honored and preserved through the Ozark Land Trust.



*Dane Glueck is father of Jady, Gavin and Desmond. He is a Solar Believer, Founder and President of StraightUp Solar, an Orthopedic Surgeon and President of Advanced Bone and Joint.*

*MDC, continued from pg. 2*

the Department's land conservation and recreation priorities and those of our partners, including land trusts such as OLT and others. Partner projects are funded through Land Conservation and Partnership Grants (LCPG). Just over \$2 million dollars have been awarded to partners in the past year.

These awards have engaged partners

in a wide variety of ways. Not only have they served to acquire or protect lands, but have resulted in strategies to build collaboration and partnership among partners. For instance, MDC has in the past funded the Missouri Land Trust Coalition (MLTC) and the national Land Trust Alliance (Alliance) for work to advance the competence and quality of land trust work in Missouri. Thanks in part to this support, three Missouri land

trusts are now nationally accredited and a fourth is in the application process. And this year, MLTC and the Alliance came together with a joint grant proposal so that the work of the statewide land trusts could better integrate with the Alliance's national work and create a land trust community with more capacity, capabilities and expertise to aid conservation across Missouri.

# A Forever Legacy

## Preserving Arkansas land for generations to come



By: Brad Robbins

When my father bought his first 60-acre parcel in the early '70s, that part of north central Arkansas was extremely rural. The local town was not much more than a "wide spot in the road," with a post office, car wash/coffee shop and a well-ranked school system. A drive down country roads passed large and small ranches and family gardens, some yards lined with tidy fences and others littered with toys and appliances. Over the years he added bits of adjoining property which he continued to refer to by the names of the families he'd purchased them from, names that had inhabited huge tracts at one time but whose descendants' needs changed. He eventually collected nearly 1,000 acres of pasture, woods and overgrown cotton fields, and

he developed a vision over time – a piece of land that would be protected forever from development, for his family and for wildlife.

My father and stepmother took this vision seriously. They created a living trust to hold the property upon their deaths, which would ultimately pass it on to a nonprofit organization.

After my dad died in 2008, we began to learn about managing the property, and there was much to learn! My siblings and I slowly started to think about The Ranch (as we call it), and how it could best fulfill our parents' vision and our families' needs as our kids grew into adults. Representatives from different agencies came out to meet with us and explain the programs they had to offer. It was exciting to think about all the projects we could participate in and improvements we might be able to make for future generations. We also came to realize that donating the land to a nonprofit would not achieve our parents' goal of protecting it from



*Brad Robbins was raised in Little Rock and now resides in Houston with his wife, Mary. He is the retired CEO and co-founder of Baker Robbins & Company (now HBR Consulting), an international technology strategy and implementation consulting firm. He and Mary have four sons and two granddaughters. They spend significant time working on projects to improve the family ranch in Arkansas. In addition to OLT, he works locally with Arkansas Forestry, Arkansas Fish & Wildlife, Quails Forever and the Ozark Chinquapin Foundation.*



development. It could easily be resold, and all our efforts would be for nothing.

It was at that time that we reached out to Ozark Land Trust. They worked closely with us, going over every detail of the conservation easement we would finally agree upon and put in place. They helped us make decisions on all the possible aspects of future land use to ensure that the arrangement was solid but would not limit the property's usefulness for our family.

OLT also helped us to see the conservation value of our land and the

*See Arkansas, pg. 6*

# Trusting Together

## Missouri's coalition lifts us all



By: Ginny Moore

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

*Helen Keller*

From national organizations, federal and state agencies and local land trusts, the Missouri Land Trust Coalition brings together a diverse group of organizations with a common vision of preserving and restoring key natural resource and community landscapes across Missouri. The Coalition provides an opportunity for its members to share information, knowledge and strategies that build capacity, tools and expertise, all critical to assuring that open space, working lands and recreation remain a major part of Missouri living, tourism and economy.

Members of the Coalition benefit from educational forums, trainings provided by the national Land Trust Alliance, a Coalition member, and chances to gather together to share ideas and resources. Coalition members also work collaboratively to develop tools and leverage resources for outreach to landowners, policymakers and the public.

One important goal of the Coalition is to spread the word statewide about the importance of preserving Missouri's natural resources.



The Coalition recently launched a new website located at [www.missourilandtrusts.org](http://www.missourilandtrusts.org). It is a key tool in sharing information about conservation efforts in Missouri. The website provides the basics about land conservation tools, such as conservation easements, as well as practical information for landowners who might have an interest in protecting their land.

Another important role of the Coalition is to serve as an advocate for conservation in Missouri. "There is always strength in numbers when it comes to supporting a common cause," according to Carla Dods, President of Platte Land Trust, a Coalition member. Coordinating Coalition members' conservation efforts to promote a united front in support of the state's natural resources yields greater visibility and effectiveness when it comes to assuring that conservation remains in the forefront of local, state and national policymakers.

Being a member of the Coalition enables national organizations, like The Conservation Fund, to connect with local and state Coalition members like Ozark Land Trust and the Missouri Department of Conserva-



*Ginevera (Ginny) Moore is the Kansas State Director for The Conservation Fund. Ginny focuses her work in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, providing local, state and national partners with the Fund's full array of conservation programs and initiatives. The Conservation Fund forges partnerships to conserve America's legacy of land and water resources. Through land acquisition, community and economic development and training and education, the Fund and its partners provide balanced conservation solutions that emphasize the integration of environmental and economic goals. Ginny is also co-chair of the Missouri Land Trust Coalition.*

tion, who can share information and perspectives about conservation at the local and state level. Conversely, local and state organizations have the opportunity to learn about national trends, standards and practices that strengthen organizations and improve conservation outcomes. That's so important to assuring success in preserving the best of our natural resources and community landscapes, both in Missouri and across the country.

Through the Missouri Land Trust Coalition, we strengthen each other by building connections and advancing policies that help protect our natural world – our prairies, forests, waterways, parks and family farms – for all people, forever.



## Join the Ozark Legacy Society Today

Ozark Land Trust recognizes the wonderful supporters who include OLT in their trust and estate plans.

To learn more about the Ozark Legacy Society, contact Executive Director Larry Levin:  
larry.levin@ozarklandtrust.org  
(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!

*Arkansas, continued from pg. 4*

need for its habitat to be protected. As OLT evaluated the land, they taught us about its unique qualities – springs, savannahs, glades, boundary trees, old house, grave sites and more. We have since worked hard to improve the pastures, timber and wildlife to continue what our parents dreamed.

At the time we signed the CE in 2018, it still seemed a bit far-fetched that there would be pressure from development anytime soon. We were amazed when not long after, a FOR SALE sign popped up on a property just around the bend, which had been platted for multiple home sites. And now, just these few short years later, our “country road” drive looks very different than it did when my dad drove it. On both sides, former family ranches are cleared and subdivision streets are going in. Little brick houses line up in neat straight lines and larger ones perch on several-acre homesites. Times change, families change and the demands on our lands change.

Things change, and that is the message I want to share. We cannot foresee the future or determine with certainty what will happen when we’re gone. But with a conservation easement from an accredited land trust like OLT that provides long-term monitoring, we feel we have done everything we can to preserve it forever!

## Native Plants



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# A Natural Foundation

## One family's commitment to Ozark waterways



The Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation was created to continue the phil-

anthropic vision of Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. (1949–2008). Rob's love of the outdoors and his great commitment to preserving open space and biodiversity are reflected in the mission of the Foundation.

Since 2007, the Foundation has generously supported nonprofit organizations committed to natural resource conservation, primarily serving the state of Missouri. In 2014, the Foundation board decided to focus its environmental program on the protection of Missouri's freshwater ecosystems, particularly in St. Louis and surrounding Missouri counties. Notably, the Foundation has also consistently funded the restoration of imperiled tall grass prairie in the state of Missouri.

Through its support of Ozark Land Trust, the Foundation can achieve great impact on environmental issues threatening Missouri watersheds and water quality in the Ozarks. The Ozark Land Trust's collaborative approach maximizes the impact of its programmatic funding towards important initiatives.

The common beliefs and shared goals of OLT, other environmental organizations, individuals, for-profit entities

and government bodies provide a basis for the successful completion of critical objectives and sustainable change in Missouri's watersheds.

The Huzzah Creek watershed is a great example of the work OLT has performed and the support that our Foundation has granted to support it. Protection and restoration of the watershed is so important for not only its natural biodiversity, but for those who live there, farm and ranch there, and utilize its waters for recreation and enjoyment.

With the work we support in the Huzzah, OLT and its partners can have a significant impact on combatting streambank erosion that can degrade ecosystems, threaten habitat downstream, and adversely impact water resources and local communities.

The work can establish revegetation to reduce erosion, create buffers for wildlife and achieve goals that benefit the Missourians who benefit in many ways from a high-quality watershed.

OLT works to reverse ecological degradation and protect biologically rich communities with a combination of conservation easements, multi-year restoration projects, and the active commitment of landowners. Together conservation groups and landowners can productively address areas degraded by streambank erosion and the loss of land. It is the Foundation's goal to partner with OLT and other groups to achieve these goals.



*Jeanne Trulaske Dalba is president of the Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation.*





**MISSION**

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

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*Our gratitude to departing board members Connie Johnson, Jeff Rosenblum and Steve Schueppert for their substantial contributions.*

**(573) 817-2020**  
**info@ozarklandtrust.org**  
**www.ozarklandtrust.org**

# Team, time and talent

## A note from OLT President Jim Reeves



As my term as President of the Board of Directors of OLT ends, I'd like to share some thoughts and observations from my experience serving as president of this wonderful organization.

At OLT, I have had the incredible fortune to work with a group of smart, experienced and dedicated people who serve as volunteers, staff, and board members who are incredibly dedicated to the mission of conservation. My job as one of the organization's leaders, as I saw it, was to create an environment – a

culture – in which the talents and expertise of our entire OLT community can freely contribute by bringing ideas, questions, constructive debate and support to the organization. I'm very proud of the work they have done, and I thank you all.

Another thought that strikes me as I reflect on OLT is the importance of the phrase “in perpetuity” and how we, as an organization constantly and consistently keep the long-term focus in mind. The forever demands of land conservation offer a stark contrast to the short-term pressures of today's society like quarterly business returns, election cycles and 24/7 news. Our job of permanent protection requires long-term thinking and focus. Our new strategic plan created by our board and staff, with input from our volunteers and supporters, not only looks at a

three-year horizon, but tucked into that plan are the goals of where we want OLT to be far beyond that span.

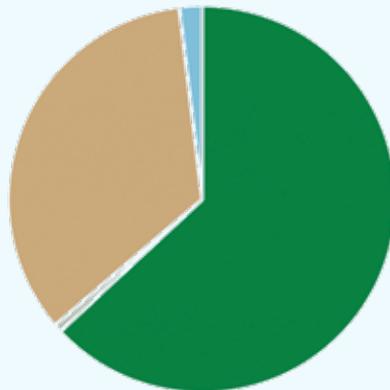
One of my daughters, Sarah, is a high school math teacher. She would tell us that in geometry, while a line is of infinite length, it can be divided into segments, with points along that infinite line marking smaller pieces of that line. I see OLT and its mission as a line, and our time and work with OLT as one small segment of that line. We do what we can to protect land today, never losing sight that that line goes on forever. In perpetuity.

While I look forward to serving one more year on the board before I rotate off, I'm extremely grateful to have the opportunity to work with all of you. It is a true honor.

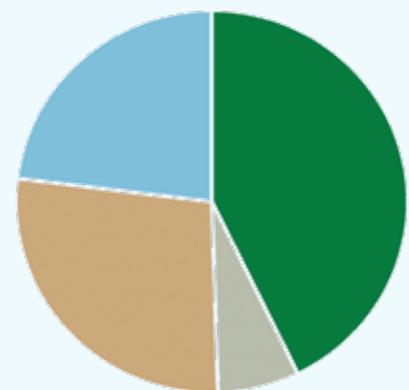
### 2021 Financial Information

**Total Income: \$376,886.49**

**Total Expenses: \$648,096**



- Foundation Grants
- Government Grants
- Individuals
- Earned



- Stewardship & Management
- New Projects
- Outreach and Education
- Administration

Note: The above information is unaudited. Revenue does not include approximately \$115,000 in federal Paycheck Protection Program forgiven loans, nor investment income from OLT's stewardship and operating endowments. Expenses include costs of transactions, including one purchased conservation easement transaction that was in part paid for by revenue realized in previous years. OLT's Federal Form 990 tax returns are publicly available, and also available upon request from OLT for tax years through 2020.