



# The Ozark Holler

Fall, 2004

## A Word From The Executive Director

Hello friends.

I am pleased to present the new edition of Ozark Regional Land Trust's Newsletter. Your ORLT membership provides important support towards land protection in the Ozarks, and I thank you for your continuing participation in this important work. This newsletter was made possible by two long-time, enthusiastic members Caroline and Justin Early who want to keep everyone informed and well connected to the land protection activities of ORLT, the activities that you help make possible. We will be sending the newsletter by email and regular mail.

ORLT has come a long way since it was created in 1984. We have worked with landowners to protect more than 12,000 acres of land in the four-state area, comprising the Ozarks. Interest in land protection and land protection options continues to grow. ORLT protected 4,000 acres of

land in the last two years and we are currently working with landowners to protect another 10,000 acres of land across the region. Our staff has increased and we are in the process of creating an exciting new program called Ozark River Stewardship. As one of the founders of ORLT, I continue to be excited about every project and am ever committed to strengthening our organization to support the increased interest and need for land protection in the Ozarks. In this short, quick-reading newsletter you will find information about recent projects, the new River Stewardship Program, ORLT staff, and opportunities to work with us on ORLT-protected land. Once again, thanks for your continued support of land protection in the Ozarks.

Sincerely,  
*Gregg Galbraith*  
ORLT Executive Director

## 2003/2004 Protection Projects In The Spotlight

### Oak Hill Wildlife Area

Located in Carroll County, Arkansas this 116-acre property was donated to Ozark Regional Land Trust by Mary Jane Fritsch of Eureka Springs. This property (right) features a forested canyon, springs, intermittent stream and a unique pedestal rock.

### Holcim Property

In October 2004, Ozark Regional Land Trust was selected to hold a conservation easement on 2,000 acres of land owned by Holcim (US) Inc. Holcim, a European company with cement plants around the world, proposed to establish a large operation south of St. Louis on the Mississippi River. Holcim's proposal met opposition from environmental organizations in the St. Louis area during the extensive permitting process. The opposition centered on the major air quality impact to the St. Louis region, as well as water quality, wetlands, and endangered species habitat (including the Indiana bat) related to the 4,000-acre site. After four years of legal battles, Holcim and four environmental organizations reached a wide-ranging settlement that includes protecting 2,000 acres of forested buffer surrounding the cement plant and quarry. The easement restricts any development in the buffer area during the projected 100-year life of the project. The selection of ORLT as part of this settlement resulted from its ability to work with all parties in the dispute and help facilitate a resolution and land protection plan agreeable to all.



## Pigeon Creek

David Hartig loves Pigeon Creek. To date he has protected more than 1,200 acres of land on Pigeon Creek and ultimately hopes to protect a 15 square mile area in this watershed. In 2003, Mr. Hartig donated an easement on another 122 acres of land in this project area. Pigeon Creek is in Dent County, Missouri and is the headwaters of the Current River.

## LaMair Property

Owned by Mike LaMair, this property (right) consists of 839 acres located in Taney County, Missouri. The picturesque Ozark farm includes a broad valley with pastures and 1.4 miles of intermittent streams surrounded by wooded Ozark mountains. The LaMair conservation easement limits the property to three homesites.



## New Pear Farm

Ben Johnson and his family donated another 18 acres of their historic apple and pear farm just south of rapidly growing Fayetteville, Arkansas. The farm has been in the Johnson family since 1908 - for three generations. This is part of an ongoing project and to date the Johnson family has donated 201 acres.

## Tucher Property

Nancy Tucher donated an easement on her 13-acre property in St. Charles County, near New Melle. This property (right) is 100% wooded and will contribute to the protection of water quality of the Dardenne Creek watershed by restricting all timber harvesting, building and subdivision. Mrs. Tucher maintains walking and horse trails throughout the property. Over 36 bird species were documented on this property in May of 2004. New Melle is experiencing intense development pressure and Mrs. Tucher hopes that she has set a conservation trend in the area.



## Volunteer Stewardship Days For the 2004/2005 Fall/Winter Season

Grab a friend and come on out to experience some of the Ozarks' most beautiful and fascinating sites while helping ORLT take the best possible care of its properties. We will continue our long-term restoration work at Woods Prairie (Mt. Vernon, MO), Sarcoxie Cave and Spring (Sarcoxie, MO), and Amy's Woods (Eureka Springs, AR) this winter. But we will also initiate an exciting new glade restoration

project at the Early Farm (Cherryville, MO), an ORLT protection project that is currently under study. Please let us know if you MIGHT be willing to volunteer for the activities listed below (no commitment necessary at this time) by completing a very [brief survey](#). For additional information about Stewardship Days, contact Andy Thomas at (417) 466-2148.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Woods Prairie</b>	<b>Burn</b>	<b>November (to be determined)</b>
<b>Amy's Woods</b>	<b>Landscaping, forest improvement</b>	<b>November 13, 2004</b>
<b>Wood's Prairie</b>	<b>Brush clearing, fence removal</b>	<b>December 4, 2004</b>
<b>Early Farm</b>	<b>Cut, pile, burn cedars</b>	<b>January 8-9, 2005</b>
<b>Wood's Prairie</b>	<b>Brush clearing, fence removal</b>	<b>January 22, 2005</b>
<b>Early Farm</b>	<b>Cut, pile, burn cedars</b>	<b>February 5-6, 2005</b>
<b>Wood's Prairie</b>	<b>Brush clearing, fence removal</b>	<b>March 5, 2005</b>
<b>Sarcoxie Cave and Spring</b>	<b>Weeding, wildflower planting</b>	<b>April 9, 2005</b>
<b>Amy's Woods</b>	<b>Landscaping, forest improvement</b>	<b>April 23, 2005</b>

### **Woods Prairie**

We have made tremendous progress at Woods Prairie over the last few years in restoring the prairie to its full glory and have recently submitted a grant proposal to fund the restoration of the fescue area on the north side. If we receive the grant, we will focus our efforts this winter on removing the interior fence in preparation for the complete restoration of the entire 40-acre prairie. We will also continue removing weedy trees and brush around the perimeter of the prairie. If we make good progress this winter, we may be able to get the entire prairie completely restored within another 2 years.

### **Sarcoxie Cave and Spring**

We will continue our slow but steady restoration of the cave/spring/bluff area to its natural Ozark appearance. We will continue removing weeds and weedy brush and will plant wildflowers in the area.

### **Amy's Woods**

Restoration of the historic and unique cabin at Amy's Woods is complete. Now we need to focus our energies on re-landscaping the area around the cabin to an appropriate historic landscape, removing invasive weeds, and restoring the natural vegetation among the magnificent pine trees.

### **Early Farm**

At the Early Farm, several acres of fragile, high-quality glades along the pristine Huzzah Creek have become overgrown with cedar trees. The cedars need to be removed in order to allow the natural glade plants and animals a chance to thrive. So that we can make good progress during our first year of working at the Early Farm, we are setting aside two entire weekends where we will work both Saturday and Sunday cutting, piling, and burning up cedars

(if anyone would rather haul off the cut cedar trees to use, please contact us). Overnight accommodations (indoor and out) may be available for those who wish to help on both days. **Please let us know if you MIGHT be able to help.**

### **River Stewardship**

Ozark Regional Land Trust is excited to announce that it has initiated a formal River Protection program called River Stewardship. River Stewardship is an outgrowth of the river protection work that ORLT has been doing for over 20 years. Rivers and streams are the most treasured feature of the Ozarks yet have become more degraded and threatened every day by development and inappropriate use. The goals of ORLT's River Stewardship program are to protect our Ozark waterways - water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitats, appropriate recreational and agricultural uses, and scenic beauty - by permanently protecting the lands that border them. Through River Stewardship, ORLT will assess and prioritize the conservation values of each river, tailor conservation approaches and tools for each river and landowner, work in targeted watersheds, and work as well as with other landowners interested in protecting their riverlands. ORLT's River Stewardship Program will lead to permanent protection of rivers and a greater awareness of the importance of rivers and their floodplains, while providing for appropriate recreation and other land uses along the river. Currently, ORLT is protecting river buffers along nearly 20 miles of Ozark streams. Projects have been established on the Upper Meramec, Gasconade and Roubidoux Rivers, as well as Bryant and Pigeon Creeks. If you would like more information about this program or know a landowner living on these or other Ozark rivers who you think would be interested in hearing about conservation options and their benefits please contact Abigail Lambert in ORLT's St. Louis Regional Field Office at (314) 371-4141.

## New Staff For ORLT

ORLT recently welcomed Catherine Hopkins (pictured right) to its staff. Catherine (“Cath”) is working part time for ORLT, and is primarily focused on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping for the new **River Stewardship Program**. Since moving to the Missouri Ozarks, Cath has been working on forest monitoring and other mapping projects.

Cath has a B.S. degree in Biology from Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Before moving to Missouri she worked in Florida for five years in environmental protection for state and local governments.

Cath has a personal interest in nature photoSeagraphy and is a juried artist in the Best of Missouri Hands Artisans Association. ORLT now has a staff of five.



## ORLT's Wish List

ORLT's webmaster is ready to retire and we are looking for someone to host and maintain our website. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please let us know...**Tell us about someone who could help with the web site...**

## Why Join ORLT ?

- **ORLT** conserves the natural resources that make the Ozarks a wonderful place to live.
- **ORLT** works cooperatively with landowners, communities and individuals to permanently protect historic and natural areas.
- **ORLT** has protected thousands of acres of forests, natural areas, farms, and urban open spaces.
- **ORLT's** work is funded by memberships and special gifts. Everyone can help protect our Terrestrial Home.
- **ORLT** is effective – with more than 1,000 current members, we protect 1 acre for every \$25 membership ever received.