

THE OZARK HOLLER

OZARK REGIONAL LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER • FALL 2016

Historic structures grace ORLT protected lands

Some of the land that Ozark Regional Land Trust protects with conservation easements are home to old and historic buildings. These include century-old barns, homes, log cabins, abandoned schoolhouses, and more. Here is a sampling. For more about these buildings, view our new videos on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/OzarkRegionalLandTrust/videos/>



Left: Dovetailed corners on this 1935 cabin at William Woods Nature Preserve, left, are a factor in its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The privately owned 560 acre preserve is in Madison County, AR.

Photo: Peggy Horner



Photo: ORLT staff

Above: Oak Hill Grange in Eureka Springs, AR, was built in 1956 to serve as a community building. ORLT now owns and protects it and the 27 surrounding acres.



Photo: JP Scott

Above: Built around 1892, this barn is part of a state-recognized century farm. The farm and surrounding 300 acres west of Springfield, MO, is permanently protected from urban development.



Photo: JP Scott

Left: Original equipment on this 1920 milk barn near Springfield, MO, had advanced features such as an automatic livestock feeder.

Right: Five Mile Schoolhouse was used from 1898 to 1932. Now it is slowly being reclaimed by nature. It sits in the woods on a 650-acre property in rural Gasconade County, MO.



Photo: ORLT staff

Banner photo (top): Barn in rural Gasconade County on the same property as Five Mile Schoolhouse.

Your membership helps ORLT to protect these historic buildings.

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Published by
**OZARK REGIONAL
LAND TRUST**

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

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Long-time ORLT member is award-winning author

Award winning author Radine Trees Nehring and husband John have been members of ORLT since the late 1980s.

In the spring of 1978, Radine and John, avid campers who loved wilderness areas, camped for the weekend in the Arkansas Ozarks. Two weeks later they bought their first parcel of land in the area and named it Spring Hollow. By 1988 they had moved from Tulsa, and over the years, they added more land to protect the wildness of the area.

Shortly after their move, an article about ORLT caught their interest. They went to a meeting and signed on as members.

Radine, already a nature writer, found her urge to write increasing as

their Ozark experiences grew. Her book, *DEAR EARTH: A Love Letter from Spring Hollow*, has won nearly a dozen writing awards; it expresses her love of the Ozarks.

Radine's most recent Ozark-based novel, *A Portrait to Die For*, released in April 2016, is set partly in the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Compton Gardens area, the location of the last ORLT annual meeting.

Over the years, the Nehrings have witnessed first-hand how expanding growth threatens the forests, wildness, and natural beauty of the Ozarks. Radine says this is why ORLT is important.

You can find Radine's books and more information on her website: <http://www.RadinesBooks.com>.



Landowner comes to the rescue, preserves bat habitat



When home improvement retailer Menards was planning to build a distribution warehouse on 75 acres in Sullivan, MO, the construction was expected to disrupt habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service required the company to mitigate their damage.

Fortunately, nearby landowner Marty Marler and ORLT came to the rescue. A partnership formed between the company, Mr. Marler, and ORLT to place a conservation easement on 200 acres that will permanently protect forested summer

maternity habitat for the Indiana bat. This will ensure that the bats always have a safe home in the Sullivan area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service placed the Indiana bat on the endangered species list in 1967, due in part to numerous bat deaths caused by people disturbing maternity and hibernation habitat.



Indiana bat

Photo:
USFWS

We appreciate our generous members and supporters

Thank you for renewing your ORLT membership. Your contribution enables us to conserve Ozark land. As of September 23, 2016, our members are ...

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Work to conserve and protect critical landscapes is not possible without your membership and support.

Many giving options help to secure and invigorate ORLT's land legacy

Spring Annual Membership Renewal - Each May, ORLT members renew their commitment to provide resources for running the land trust. This supports our necessary activities that help landowners save the natural beauty and history of the Ozarks. We thank members for giving generously each spring.

End of the Year Appeal - At year's end, we ask supporters for an additional gift to help grow the Land Trust's capacity. For the past two years, the "Grow for the Future" campaign has helped meet rising demands from land owners trying to find options to conserve their lands. It was jump-started with a 3-year challenge

Contributions conserve and protect the Ozark landscape. As you select the giving option that speaks to you, take pride that your investment will sustain and invigorate ORLT's land legacy for generations.

gift from long-time ORLT member and easement donor David Hartig. We thank everyone who met that challenge, which helps ensure that ORLT's growth will keep pace with the demand for land conservation.

Bequests and planned gifts
We encourage members to remember ORLT through an estate gift. Last year, ORLT received a \$98,000 bequest from

Bruce Cornish. He was a longtime member and loved to explore nature and the Ozarks. His conservation legacy lives on through this estate gift.

Special project funding - On occasion, opportunities arise that need additional funds. Projects at the Woods Prairie and Sarcoxie Cave properties needed extra resources. On May 3, 2016, we participated in the Community Foundation of the Ozarks annual **#GiveOzarks** campaign, a regional 24-hour on-line day of giving. This brought new donors, funds, and a special \$2,500 prize gift. At the end of the day, ORLT supporters (see below) gave \$15,635.

Thanks to our generous members and supporters ... continued

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ORLT's Sarcoxie Cave and Spring Park gets a facelift



A spring emerges from Sarcoxie Cave and runs through the park. Photo: ORLT staff



Ruth Hoppin
1833-1903
Educator, botanist, and naturalist

Discovered and collected the first specimen of the Ozark Cavefish

View the new video about naturalist Ruth Hoppin and her 1880s discovery of the Ozark cavefish in Sarcoxie Cave.

<https://www.facebook.com/OzarkRegionalLandTrust/videos/1037831929573144/>

The land around Sarcoxie Spring and Cave will be more inviting to visitors because ORLT and the City of Sarcoxie, MO, recently signed an agreement to improve public access and enjoyment, yet ensure its long-term stewardship.

The 3-acre park, owned by ORLT, is just footsteps from the downtown Sarcoxie square. Beautiful and historical, the land is also ecologically important as the home of the Ozark cavefish. This rare, blind, almost transparent fish, which is federally listed as a threatened species, has been living in the cave for eons.

"The new agreement is a terrific step which lets ORLT focus on preserving the ecological integrity of the site while allowing the city and the public to have improved access to the scenic and historical city park," says ORLT board member Andy Thomas.

ORLT retains ownership of the land, purchased in 1997, and the city assumes day-to-day management as a low-impact public park for walking, picnicking, and nature study.

ORLT will continue to manage and improve park features, which include habitat for the cavefish, shade trees, bird and butterfly habitat, the spring branch, a foot-bridge, and a picturesque pond.

In 2016, ORLT received a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation to cover some costs of improving and restoring the site. Even more project funds were raised in May during the Community Foundation of the Ozarks #Give Ozarks campaign.

Improvement efforts will take place this winter as volunteers remove invasive species and plant native wildflowers and trees. Look for future announcements on social media about opportunities to help us transform this amazing little property.



Ozark cavefish

Photo: MDC

Support from members like you helps us to protect Indiana bats and Ozark cavefish

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Family saved botanical treasure in St. Louis metro area

A 100-acre park is in St. Charles' future, thanks to the generosity of ORLT members Bill and Nancy Knowles and their children.

The land that will become Spring Bend Park sits along the Missouri River and the Katy Trail. When open, it will be a botanical preserve, offering visitors low-impact activities such as hiking, nature walks, and bicycling.

Family members owned the land since 1939 and hosted many annual wildflower walks there.

If developed, 200 or more houses could have been constructed on this land. About 10 years ago, the Knowles family worked with ORLT to prevent development by placing a conservation easement on the property, and at the same time they donated the land to St. Charles County, subject to a life estate.

Bill Knowles, a chemist, shared a Nobel Prize in 1986 for

discovering a method to produce molecules useful in the manufacture of many drugs. He

died in 2012. Nancy lives in St. Louis and visits Spring Bend frequently.



Nancy Knowles leads a wildflower walk on Spring Bend land, just above the Missouri River. Photo: Scott Woodbury