

THE OZARK HOLLER

OZARK REGIONAL LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER • FALL 2014



Scenic view from Williams Woods property

ALPHA GETS HER WISH

Alpha Williams wanted her family land and forest (known as Williams Woods) near St. Paul, Arkansas, conserved forever, so she made a special bequest in her will that left all 560 acres to the Ozark Highlands Trail Association. Alpha died in 1993. This fall, OHTA partnered with ORLT to complete Alpha's wishes by placing a conservation easement on Williams Woods, creating a perpetual forest preserve.

The conservation easement, held by ORLT, will prohibit future subdivision, create a 510-acre forest reserve with no development or commercial forestry, and allow some restricted development in the less environmentally sensitive areas. After the easement process is complete, OHTA will seek a conservation-minded buyer for the property. We will let members know when this protected property becomes available for purchase, so stay tuned!



ORLT board member Duane Woltjen shows off the cabin Alpha's two brothers built in 1937 with logs they harvested from the property.

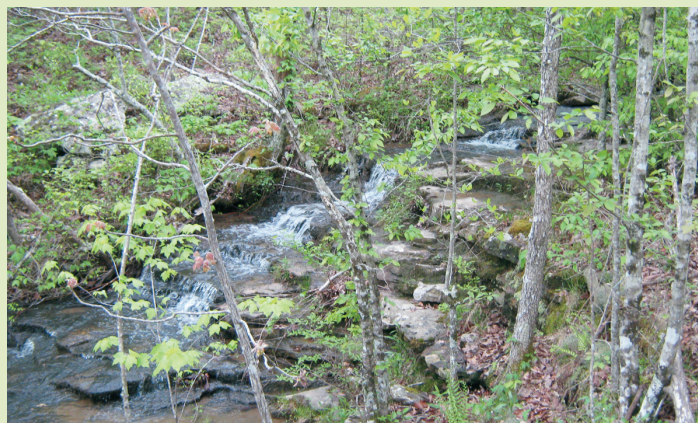
HARTSUGG CREEK IS PERMANENTLY CONSERVED

ORLT completed another conservation easement project this year that will permanently conserve 264 acres in Van Buren County, Arkansas.

An earlier owner of this property heavily harvested its timber and rock resources. Logging roads built along the hillsides caused erosion and sedimentation that degraded Hartsugg Creek and its tributaries, and rock harvesting impacted the natural stream flow. In 2008, a company purchased this property to restore its wetland, streams, and habitat.

The restored natural resource will serve as a "mitigation bank." Unlike a typical bank, the mitigation bank will conserve and protect the land's conservation value to offset the results of environmental harm caused elsewhere. Companies that cause the negative impacts will pay the mitigation bank for the services it provides—a large part of which is the promise of permanent protection of the land.

With a conservation easement, ORLT will ensure restored wetlands and waterways are protected—forever—on the mitigation bank's acreage. This removes any potential future development that could re-damage the restored areas. This work will continue for many years, and when restoration is complete, the company may sell the land. But it will always be protected by ORLT in partnership with any future landowners.



A beautiful Hartsugg Creek tributary untouched by past abuse

THE OZARK HOLLER

Published by
The Ozark Regional Land Trust

P.O. Box 440007
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144
(573) 817-2020
ortl@ortl.org
www.ortl.org

MISSION

Through carefully designed programs of conservation and appropriate land management, ORLT empowers people to protect the natural resources of the Ozarks forever.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Watson, *President*
Jeff Winzerling, *Vice-President*
Steve Schueppert, *Treasurer*
Craig Ingraham, *Secretary*
Ginger Allington
Rob Bagby
Mike Chiles
Al Eckert
Nicole Blumner
Gregg Galbraith
David Haenke
Ted Heisel
Laura Kinsell-Baer
Preston Lacy
Jake Reby
Jeffrey A. Rosenblum
Andy Thomas
Brian Weaver
Duane W. Woltjen
Lois J. Wyman

STAFF

Peggy Horner
Executive Director
Abigail Lambert
*River Stewardship Program
Coordinator*
Margo Heekin
*Stewardship Director/Katy Land
Trust Program Coordinator*



ORLT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

ORLT held its 30th anniversary celebration and annual membership meeting in Carthage, Missouri, on Saturday, May 31. More than 60 members, supporters, government officials, and local citizens gathered to celebrate the conservation achieved by ORLT and landowners who cherish the Ozarks and its natural and



Four generations of the Menefee family at ORLT anniversary celebration

historic resources. Special recognition was given to James Menefee and his family, who are in the process of protecting their working cattle ranch with a conservation easement, which will also preserve a priority Civil War battlefield site near Carthage.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

We are so excited about our new website design! Please visit us at www.ortl.org, where you can join our email list, connect with us on Twitter and Facebook, support our work, and stay in touch with our ongoing efforts to conserve land in the Ozarks. In 2015, we will make additional changes, and your input can help, so be sure to use the "Contact" button to email us your ideas.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CHANGES

Starting in January 2015, we will be changing our membership renewal process. Instead of reminding our members to renew their support on their membership anniversary month, we will now be mailing all membership renewal notices in May. This change will reduce our mailing costs so we can save funds to conserve more land!

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS As staff prepare for 2015, we are seeking volunteers. If you have the time and skills to help with one or more of the activities below, please visit www.ortl.org and fill out a volunteer form. We'd love to have you join our team!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Monitor properties
- Design posters and banners for events
- Host a "friend-raising" event
- Prepare newsletters
- Create ORLT notecards
- Take high-quality photos of our lands
- Create short videos to include on our website
- Help out in one of our offices

MAKING ORLT STRONGER TO PROTECT MORE LAND

For the last 30 years, ORLT has achieved a lot of land conservation on a tight budget. Although the recession is now over, ORLT is still recovering from dipping into its reserves to get through those difficult times. Our loyal supporters have always been generous in their contributions, and we are appealing to you to help increase our funds to complete new land conservation projects. Our list of new projects for 2015 is expanding, so **please consider an additional donation to ORLT before the end of the year so we can continue to conserve the beauty of the Ozarks in 2015 and beyond.** You can donate online at www.ortl.org.



GET INVOLVED WHERE THE BIG DECISIONS ARE MADE

An interview with long-time ORLT member Dee Dokken

Dee Dokken lives in Columbia where she works as a nurse at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Dee is a strong supporter of conservation, and recently, we chatted with her about what motivates her to stay involved with our mission year after year.

ORLT: How and when did you hear about ORLT?

Dokken: I think I first heard about ORLT after leaving the Ozarks and settling in Columbia. I missed the places I loved and worried about their protection. I heard that ORLT was protecting land and was grateful for that and wanted to support them.

ORLT: Why have you continued to support ORLT for the last 20-plus years?

Dokken: I know that ORLT was and is a work of love by many people, including its visionary founder, Gregg Galbraith. I saw that it was growing and effective, so it was a good place to put my donation.

ORLT: What do you like most about ORLT?

Dokken: It protects places in the Ozarks—and other very valuable lands such as those along the Katy Trail.

ORLT: What advice would you give to the next generation about land conservation?

Dokken: Get involved with some organization and start learning. It seems complicated and bureaucratic sometimes, but that's where the big decisions are made.

ORLT: What do you think is your most important contribution to conservation in the Ozarks?

Dokken: Supporting ORLT and its work. Also staying involved and commenting on Ozark National Scenic Riverways management.

ORLT: What's your favorite activity to do in the Ozarks?

Dokken: Hiking and canoeing, sleeping in a tent—it's the best!

CONSERVING KATY TRAIL'S SCENIC RESOURCES



KLT founders Dan and Connie Burkhardt in front of the banner featuring Billy O'Donnell painting

One of ORLT's conservation focus areas is the natural, agricultural, and scenic resources along the Katy Trail. As more hikers and bikers use the trail, we believe they will want to see wide expanses of the natural and cultural resources that make this area so unique.

In 2010, under the leadership of Dan Burkhardt, ORLT established the Katy Land Trust (KLT) project to

bring a conservation focus to this area. This year, KLT became its own nonprofit organization in order provide even more focused outreach, education, and advocacy to this part of the Missouri River valley. ORLT will work in partnership with the KLT and continue to take the lead on assisting landowners who are interested in land conservation options, including conservation easements.

As part of their new outreach efforts, KLT recently worked with renowned Missouri landscape artist Billy O'Donnell to create another masterpiece banner on the old concrete grain silo at the McKittrick Trail Head across from Hermann on the Katy Trail. This artwork appears in addition to the two paintings by Missouri artist Bryan Haynes that were placed on another grain elevator at Treloar Trail Head west of Marthasville a few years ago.

This artwork demonstrates the agricultural and rural heritage of the Missouri River valley. So next time you're biking or walking along the Katy Trail, look for these artworks, and know that Ozark Regional Land Trust and the Katy Land Trust are still conserving the area's beauty and natural resources.



Native Plants Bring Nature Home!

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery

9814 Pleasant Hill Rd, Jefferson City MO 65109
573-496-3492, fax: 573-496-3003

mowldflrs@socket.net

www.mowildflowers.net

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS IN 2014

Ralph Alexander, Rolla MO
Russell and Mary Caslin, Kirkwood MO
Carol Chlanda, Ballwin MO
Kathi Clement, St. James MO
Karen Dunaway, Carl Junction MO
Tucker Dunaway, Carthage MO
Sharon Faulkner, Springfield MO
Suzanne Fischer, St. Louis MO
Robert Gibson, St. Louis MO
Elizabeth Grana, St. Louis MO
Andrew Gulick, St. Louis MO (*in honor of David Gulick*)
Dr. Thomas and Margaret Hall, Shawnee Mission KS
Ron Harrington, Palm Harbor FL
Dan Heaviland, Columbia MO
Ed Herder, St. Louis MO
Heather Hunt and Nick Thurwanger, Columbia MO
Kurt Kennett, Columbia MO
Daniel and Koral Martin, Carthage MO
Kathy and John Maupin, Creve Coeur MO
Brenda Burke and Michael Moellering, Florissant MO
Bud Peck, Jefferson City MO
William Robinett, Jefferson City MO
Frederick Sawyer, Santa Fe NM
Rick Thom, Jefferson City MO
David Urich, Centertown MO

THANKS TO BUSINESSES, FOUNDATIONS, AND AGENCIES

Many thanks for your support in 2014!

Alpine Shop
Bass Pro
Beimdeik Insurance Company
Cherry's Art Gallery
Community Foundation of the Ozarks
Crescent Hotel and Spa
Daria Claiborne Pottery
Fletcher Auto Super Store
Forest Path Gallery
Headwaters Foundation
Judy Griffith Studio
Koral Martin Nature Photography
Missouri Wildflower Nursery
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources
National Resources Conservation Service
Norcross Foundation
Pop's Grass Fed Beef
Sanders Foundation
Susan Morrison's Studio Gallery
Tumblin T Studio
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
US Bank

2014 PASSINGS

ORLT recognizes the passing of members and good friends who have left their mark on land conservation in the Ozarks.

Mary Scott, Springfield MO
Bruce Cornish, Lee's Summit MO
Bob Dole, Berryville AR
Willard D. McCarter, St. Louis MO

ORLT MEMBERS: CALL TO ACTION!

The enhanced conservation easement tax incentive has been important to protecting land in the Ozarks and across the U.S. since 2006. Through this tax deduction, landowners are able to permanently conserve their most prized assets—forests, family farms and ranches, and other natural lands—with a conservation easement that ensures a legacy of natural abundance, enjoyment, and agricultural production for future generations.

This tax incentive expired in 2013, but new legislation would make this incentive permanent. ORLT staff traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with representatives on this issue and hosted a tour of protected land for staff from Senator McCaskill's office.

On July 17, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on H.R. 4719, The America Gives More Act, which contains the Conservation Easement Incentive Act. The bill passed by a bipartisan vote of 277-130, and is now in the Senate, where there is bipartisan support but not much time left before the end of the year.

Please contact your senator TODAY and request that they support this important legislation!



Board members and staff host Senator Claire McCaskill's field representative, Brendan Fehey (second from right), on a tour of the Boettcher property, which is protected and benefitted by the conservation tax incentive.