

# THE OZARK HOLLER

OZARK REGIONAL LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER • FALL 2015

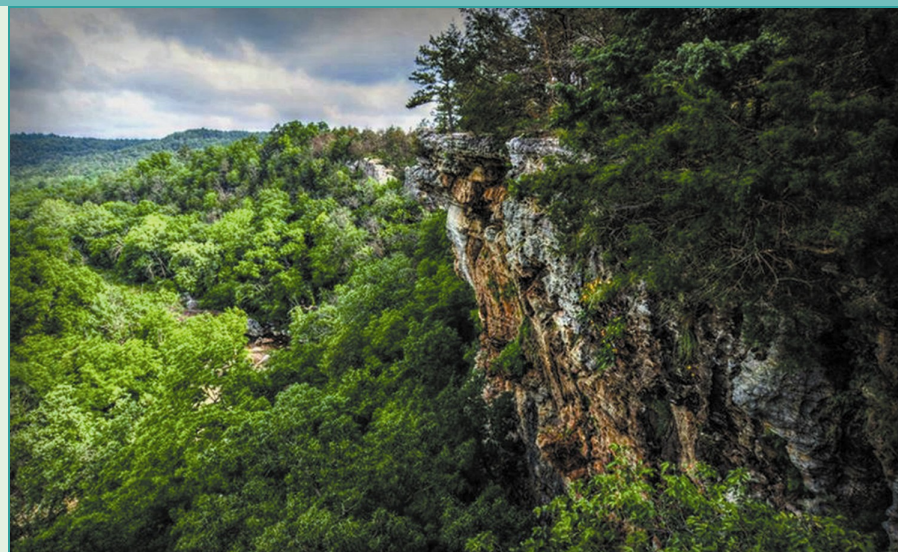
## "Bioblitz" at Ninestone documents hundreds of Ozark species

Bioblitz? What's that? It's a fun event for conservationists to find as many species as possible in a specific area in a short amount of time. It's not a contest, but certainly a challenge for experts.

The owners of Ninestone, an ORLT affiliated property near Berryville, Ark., hosted such an event this summer. Although conservation enthusiasts have visited and studied this land's magnificent and diverse Ozark habitat over the years, the Bioblitz was Ninestone's first.

Nearly 40 plant and animal experts from more than a dozen organizations scoured the property for two days. They found biodiversity, confirming more than 425 plant species, some of them for the first time, which brings the total plant species known at Ninestone to 660.

Birds were nesting quietly, but despite that, 61 bird species have been confirmed there, almost half of the bird species known to nest in Arkansas. Insects, fish, reptiles, and small mammals (including bats!) were also observed.



Above: Looking north from the bluff at Ninestone along Piney Creek, which flows into the Kings River. Photo: Dorothy Mangold

Banner photo: Waterfall at Ninestone, which cascades down terraced sandstone through a series of time-carved pools. Photo: Chip Ford

## Ninestone takes care of natural treasures

**"We're affiliated with ORLT because they support our innate connection with the Earth, the recognition that this is our home."**

**— Judy Griffith**



In 1994, Don Matt and Judy Griffith were searching for land they could protect and conserve rather than exploit. "When we found Ninestone, we knew this was the place," said Judy.

With ORLT's assistance, Don, Judy and others formed a non-profit land trust to hold title to the property.

"ORLT helped us to protect a part of the Earth and become its stewards, caretakers, and guardians," she said.

Piney Creek runs the length of the 412-acre property. Mostly wooded, the land also features pastures with native grasses, bluffs with rock shelters, and Ozark sandstone glades. A breathtaking waterfall cascades through sandstone on its way to Piney Creek.

Email us at [orlt@orlt.org](mailto:orlt@orlt.org) to learn about upcoming opportunities to visit Ninestone.



Photo: Mitchell Pruitt

Above: *Violet collinsea* on a glade at Ninestone.

Right: Yellow-throated warbler at Ninestone with food for its young.



Photo: Joe Neal



# THE OZARK HOLLER

Published by  
**OZARK REGIONAL  
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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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## David Hartig's passion for land preservation includes a challenge grant

"I want to get on with the work of preserving as much land as possible" said longtime ORLT member David Hartig, telling why he is giving ORLT a \$10,000 challenge grant for three consecutive years. He is asking fellow ORLT members to match it.

David has put his 2,400 acres in Missouri's Dent and Texas counties in ORLT conservation easement. Annually, he plants about 25,000 short leaf pine seedlings there—about a half-million trees in the last 20 years.



**"Once a place is spoiled, it takes 4 or 5 times as much effort to fix it, so we need to protect places before they are messed up."**  
— David Hartig

David grew up in Dubuque, Iowa, and still makes his home there. As a child, he played and explored the bluffs above the Mississippi River. According to David, these experiences and his family's German traditions instilled a sense of environmental responsibility.

"By age 14 or 15, I knew that you should always leave a place cleaner than you found it."

"I've dedicated the better part of my life to preserving land. It's in my blood," he said.

## Meet the challenge ... so ORLT can "Grow for the Future"

Want to **double** the impact of your contribution to preserve land in the Ozarks? You can if you donate before the end of the year to match David Hartig's challenge grant.

Last fall, members generously responded to Mr. Hartig's challenge, contributing \$11,500 in matching funds for our "Grow for the Future" campaign. These gifts were used to expand staff, conserve another 500 acres, revamp ORLT's website, and reach out to new conservationists.

Now, in the second year of Mr. Hartig's \$10,000 challenge grant, we

have more requests for conservation easements than current staff can accomplish. Your donations this year will help us to conserve more land, to open up ORLT land for public use and to bring land conservation programs to new audiences.

Please consider contributing by filling out the form in this newsletter or donating online at: [www.ortl.org](http://www.ortl.org).

Together, members could raise \$20,000 or more, bringing new resources to important work to preserve critical Ozark landscapes.

## We extend special appreciation to members who donated to David Hartig's challenge grant in the fall of 2014

Christi Angelo, Richard Armstrong, Maxwell & Barbara Baldwin, Anastasia Becker, Lolle & Glenn Boettcher, Irving & Melody Boime, John Camp, Haryette Campbell, Bill Carnahan, Kathi Clement, Jamie Coe, Rev. Dr. Judith Conoyer, Bill Crawford, Thomas & Rose Flood, Joseph Godi, David & Anne Hartig, Danyela Harting, Headwaters Conservancy, Vera Herter, Ted May & Peggy Horner, Larry & Joan Hummel, Steven & Janice Humphrey, Craig Ingraham, Lorraine Keller, Jarvis & Abigail Lambert, John & Nancy Lewis, Tim Maddern, Paul & Mary Belle Minton, Roberta Morton, Bud Peck, Denis Peters, Jeffrey Rosenblum, Nicole Blumner & Warren Rosenblum, William & Margaret Rowe, James & Joan Sample, Jerry Shatto, Mary Smidt, Walter Smith, Ed & Annetta St. Clair, Karen Stearns, Christine & Rocky Swiger, Steven & Natalie Tillman, Dr. Philip & Rosilee Trotta, David & Jennifer Urich, John Van Noate, Robert & Patricia Waterston, Kenneth & Leann Webb, James & Linda Winn, Jack & Barbara Witte, Duane & Judith Woltjen, Jim & Lois Wyman, and Isaac Young.

# ORLT members make a difference

**Thank you for renewing your ORLT membership.** We now send all renewal letters in May rather than on your anniversary month. Thanks for your cooperation during this transition. Your membership contribution enables us to conserve land by providing general funds that support our ongoing programs.

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Farm conservation practices were featured during a tour of a picturesque century farm in Gasconade County, Mo., during ORLT's annual membership meeting in May.

Siblings Lois Wyman and Glenn Boettcher grew up on this 1500-acre tract south of Hermann and



*During the ORLT annual membership meeting in May, members were treated to a barbeque picnic and a wagon ride tour of the conservation practices on the 100-year-old Boettcher Family Farm.*

## Boettcher Farm showcases conservation practices

they are carrying on the vision started by their father, Bill Boettcher, an early leader in soil and water conservation.

Lois and Glenn's grandfather bought the farm's first parcel in the early 1900s, then his son Bill and wife Esther continued to acquire acreage during the 1930s and 1940s. The land is mostly wooded, with seasonal streams, and fields that are hayed and pastured.

Bill wanted to protect the family land from development and from being divided, so he started the

**"Dad introduced terracing and erosion reduction into the county in the 1930s.**

**He believed we are caretakers of the land, and that we should pass it on in better condition than we found it."**

**— Glenn Boettcher**



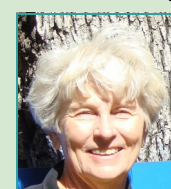
process of implementing ORLT conservation easements before his death in 1986. Esther completed the easements in 2008.

While touring the property during the ORLT meeting, members learned about conservation practices like livestock exclusion fencing, reestablishment of glades, reintroduction of native grasses, and forest edge feathering, all of which benefit wildlife. Prescribed burns also take place on glades and native grasslands every three years, Glenn said.

"This farm has been in our family for 100 years. With the ORLT conservation easements, hopefully it will stay together for another 100 years," Lois said.

**"We have dairy cows, we cut hay and timber, and we have deer hunters in season.**

**It's a big surprise to a lot of people that we can do all these things. ... Some people**



**think conservation easements are much more restrictive."**

**— Lois Wyman**



**Yes! I want to help ORLT "Grow for the Future" and to join David Hartig to conserve land now before it's too late!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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O \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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**Thank you for supporting the Ozark Regional Land Trust!**

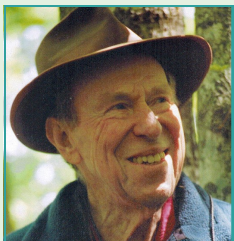
## Meet Ozark Regional Land Trust's newest team member

Stewardship Specialist Paul Tidwell is the newest member of our conservation team. Paul has a diverse background, with on-the-ground experience working with private landowners on agriculture, forestry, wildlife land management and restoration. Rooted in the Ozark's own Calico Rock, Ark., Paul's love for the Ozark landscape is matched only by his high regard of its culture and natural history.

Paul has the fun task at ORLT of visiting all ORLT affiliated properties every year to assure that all is well, and to assist landowners with any questions they may have about land stewardship or conserving their property. Please feel free to contact Paul directly at [prt看idwell@orlt.org](mailto:prt看idwell@orlt.org) or 903-244-6271.



### Tribute to Leo Drey



We are saddened by the loss of long-time ORLT member Leo Drey of St. Louis. We are grateful to Leo and Kay Drey and the L-A-D Foundation for all they have done to conserve natural resources in the Ozarks and for grants that have helped ORLT to protect more than 800 acres in the Ozarks.

Leo Drey is known as an exceptional conservationist and protector of special places, such as Pioneer Forest, Grand Gulf State Park, and Greer Spring. Fond memories live on of him and his outstanding life's work.

### In this issue

**"Bioblitz" identifies 100s of species at Ninestone**

**Boettcher Farm showcases conservation practices**

**David Hartig's mission is to conserve more land**

Ozark Regional Land Trust  
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### We have a new address!

ORLT has a new mailing address: **P.O. Box 1512, Columbia, MO 65205**  
and a new office, **2100 E. Broadway, Suite 217-A, Columbia, MO 65201**  
Please visit if you are in the area, but call first to make sure we're here: **573-817-2020**  
We could be out conserving the Ozarks!