

Ozark Regional Land Trust
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Creek for 5 decades**

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protects Arkansas forests,
watershed & views**

**Protect nature in the Arkansas and Missouri Ozarks on
“Giving Tuesday,” a national day of online giving.**

**On Nov. 27, 2018, donate at www.orlt.org or
www.facebook.com/OzarkRegionalLandTrust/**

**ORLT members floated the Missouri River in June during
a tour guided by a Lewis and Clark historian.
*See more river photos inside.***

“More.” People like you, who are drawn to nature’s beauty, understand the meaning
of “more.” More peace, more wildlife, more quiet, more fresh air, more clean streams,
more for future generations. This season, for this reason, please do “more.” Look for
ORLT’s end-of-the-year gift campaign in your mailbox soon, or donate online anytime.

THE OZARK HOLLER

OZARK REGIONAL LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER • FALL 2018

Burkhart family embraces Bryant Creek for five decades

Donna Burkhart is an adventurer. Raised on a farm in Iowa, she and husband Jim fell in love with the Ozarks during the 1960s while Jim was attending the Kansas City Art Institute. They spent many weekends floating and camping in the Ozarks with friends along the Current River and Bryant Creek. After Jim graduated, they moved to Springfield and worked on their newly acquired land, 181 acres in Ozark County with Bryant Creek frontage.

Two small cabins were on the property when they bought it, but no house. The creek was the draw,

not a house. In the early days, on weekends, Donna and Jim would drive from Springfield to work there, sometimes fencing, sometimes working cattle - giving shots or castrating calves - and building their new home. In summer, they would spend the evenings and nights on the riverbank, often in the river. Their kids, avid swimmers, had rope swings and they’d run, climb, and jump into the river.

Donna and Jim had many memorable river adventures, including one when they took their young children on an overnight float on the Current River, setting up their tent on an island. About 3 a.m., a loud noise woke them. A storm had come up

and the river was quickly rising. The canoe was starting to take off down the river! They grabbed it just in time, but their food panner was already heading downstream.

**“After 40 years I am still very
happy here. I love living here
more than I would love being
anywhere else.”**

– Donna Burkhart

They put ponchos on the kids, grabbed the rest of their belongings and jumped into the canoe. Amazingly, they found their pannier, and even more amazing, the food wasn’t wet!

Donna and Jim had a system for a favorite river sport, frog gigging. Jim would guide the canoe from its rear, and Donna, in front, would hold a flashlight on the edge of the water to blind the frog. She would grab it, then Jim plopped it in a gunny sack. Some people use metal gigs to spear the frogs, but Donna just reached out and grabbed them. It was easy, she said, and they never capsized.

Protected forever

In 2005, the Burkharts placed a conservation easement on their property, permanently protecting it, including more than 100 acres of intact, natural hardwood forest and approximately 4,500 feet of Bryant Creek riparian corridor. Bryant Creek has very little development. Anyone canoeing or kayaking there on any given day may or may not see anybody else. Floaters on the

Continued inside

Above: Tawny, 7, and Cory, 3, huddle under a poncho as Jim prepares to launch the canoe after a rainstorm in about 1966. (Photo courtesy of Donna Burkhart.) **Banner photo:** Bryant Creek as it flows through the Burkhart property. (Photo: Nic Rogers)

Donations from members like you help protect our land and waterways.

Mighty MO River float capped ORLT meeting

Ozark Regional Land Trust is expected to become the first accredited land trust in Missouri in 2019. ORLT staff shared that report and other updates with attendees at the annual meeting held June 9 at Orr Street Art Studios in Columbia, MO.

Seven new board members were elected (see opposite page). Breakfast was sponsored by

Rachel Yokom Hopkins, owner of Huzzah Hills Beef, whose cattle are raised on land protected by an ORLT conservation easement.

After lunch, adventures began when members headed to the water for a six-mile Missouri River float trip from Rocheport to Huntsdale. It was a perfect day to be on the water.



Above: Missouri Conservation Commission Vice Chair Dave Murphy discussed the importance of private land conservation, reminding listeners of one of Aldo Leopold's most passionate statements:

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."



Above: ORLT Conservation Projects Manager Kelly O'Mara, at podium, told members that ORLT is actively working to complete conservation projects with eight landowners totaling 2805 acres. (Photos this page: Denise Henderson Vaughn.)



Above: ORLT floaters stopped for a dip, snack, and peek at the Lewis and Clark cave up on the bank, next to the Katy Trail.

Above: Led by "Mighty Mo" outfitter and river historian Brett Dufur (blue shirt), ORLT members floated Moniteau Creek and the Missouri River.

Brett told stories about early river explorers and river biology, including the recent influx of easily startled invasive Asian carp. Shortly after, the float's most exciting moment came when one of those jumping fish landed in a canoe paddled by ORLT Executive Director Peggy Horner and member Carol Miller!

Habitat and views protected by new Arkansas easement

Nearly 900 acres of forests, fields, glades, streams, and springs are permanently protected in Faulkner County, AR, thanks to a conservation easement completed in August 2018.

A vision that Louis Robbins had 18 years ago has now been fulfilled by his wife, Helen, and their children on this land a few miles east of Greenbrier and north of Conway. The area's population has doubled since 1990 and new development is creeping closer to this property.

The Robbins manage the land for healthy forests, high quality wildlife habitat, and soil and water protection. Since the 1980s they have worked with the Arkansas Forestry Commission to manage pine timber production, with



Above: The Robbins Property.

nearly 400 acres planted in a tree farm. Another one-third is a mixture of native oak and pine forest. The remainder is grassland or pastures, which still show the contours of past terrace farming practices. The Robbins have been converting old fields to native grasses, and are clearing cedar thickets to restore oak woodlands. Also protected are glade communities, which support rare plants.

Protecting this property's stream corridors will benefit

mussels and other aquatic species, and will help maintain water quality in two tributaries of East Fork Cadron Creek, one of Arkansas' Extraordinary Resource Waters. Protection will also help maintain water quality in one of the last free flowing streams in central Arkansas.

Highly visible from several roadways, the public can enjoy views of this property's hills, valleys, and nearly one-half mile of Clinton Mountain.



Left: Planting pine on the Robbins tree farm. (Photo provided by Robbins family)

Below: Vista of the Robbins land from Clinton Mountain Road.



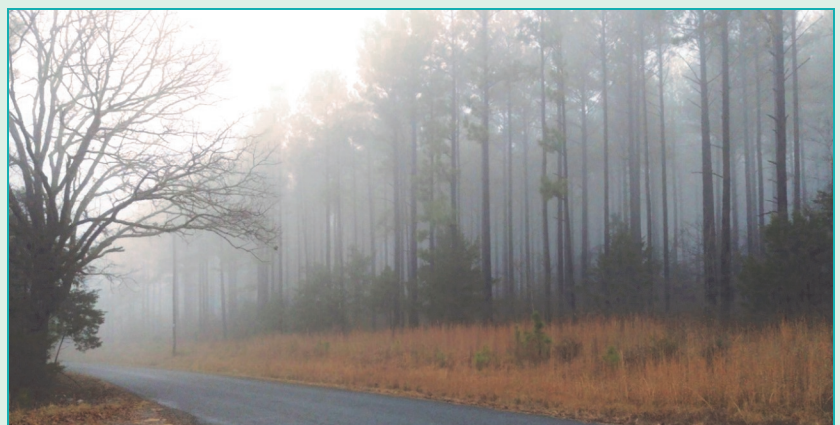
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THE OZARK HOLLER

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**OZARK REGIONAL
LAND TRUST**

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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ORLT welcomes seven new board members

Seven candidates were elected to the ORLT board during the June 9 annual meeting in Columbia. Between them, they will be able to help ORLT with financial planning, accounting, geology, biology, and legal issues.



Loring Bullard

Loring, of Springfield, served 23 years as director for the nonprofit Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. He has taught science and biology courses at Drury University, and published books about Springfield's public water supply, Missouri's mineral springs, and springs in Greene County.

Mike Currier

Mike, a biologist, was coordinator for the Missouri Natural Areas Program before he retired from the Mo. Dept. of Natural Resources after 21 years of service. He evaluated land acquisitions for state parks and developed a database to track the flora and fauna on state park lands. He lives in Columbia.



Joe Engeln

Joe, a geologist, was a professor in the University of Missouri Geology Department from 1985-1999, and then was Assistant Director of Science and Technology at the Mo. Dept. of Natural Resources until he retired in 2016. He is a past director for Greenbelt Land Trust of Mid-Missouri, and currently volunteers with Missouri River Relief and Conservation Federation of Missouri.



Alexis Gabrielson

Alexis, a California native with a law degree from Georgetown University, specializes in employment and labor law, currently working for Stinson Leonard Street in St. Louis. She has represented employers in several industries in civil litigation, arbitrations, and settlement negotiations.



Debbie Gittinger

Debbie is a licensed CPA and self-employed consultant who implements specialized accounting software for large law firms throughout the US and Canada. She also prepares tax returns and provides financial analysis and tax planning for client businesses. A graduate of the University of Missouri, she lives in Kansas City.



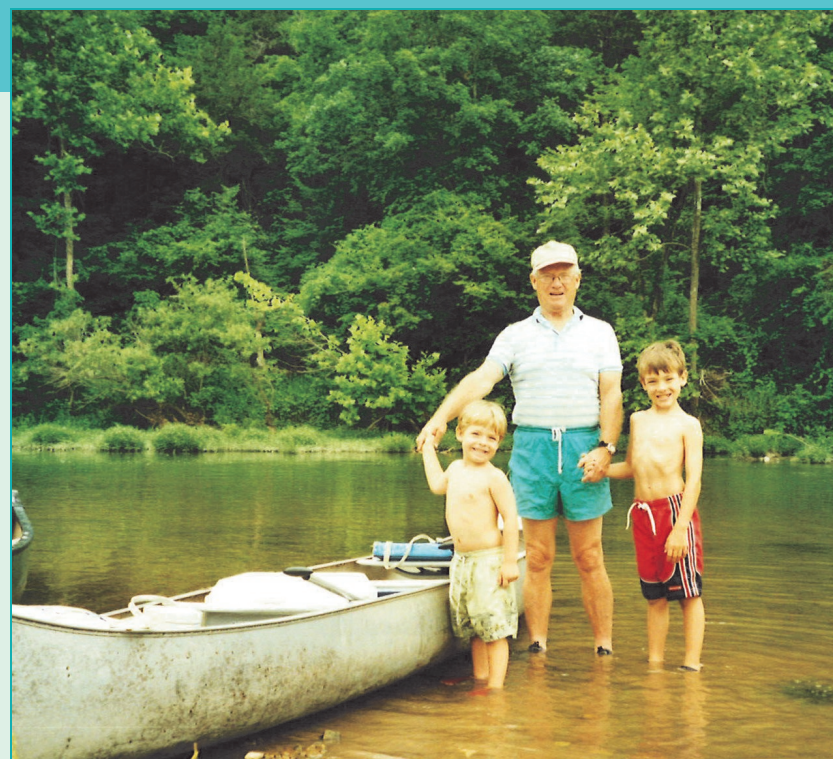
David Harrison

David, who holds a law degree from the University of Arkansas, is a partner in the Pender & Harrison Law Firm, is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association, and is executive vice president and associate legal counsel of First National Title Company in Fayetteville, AR.



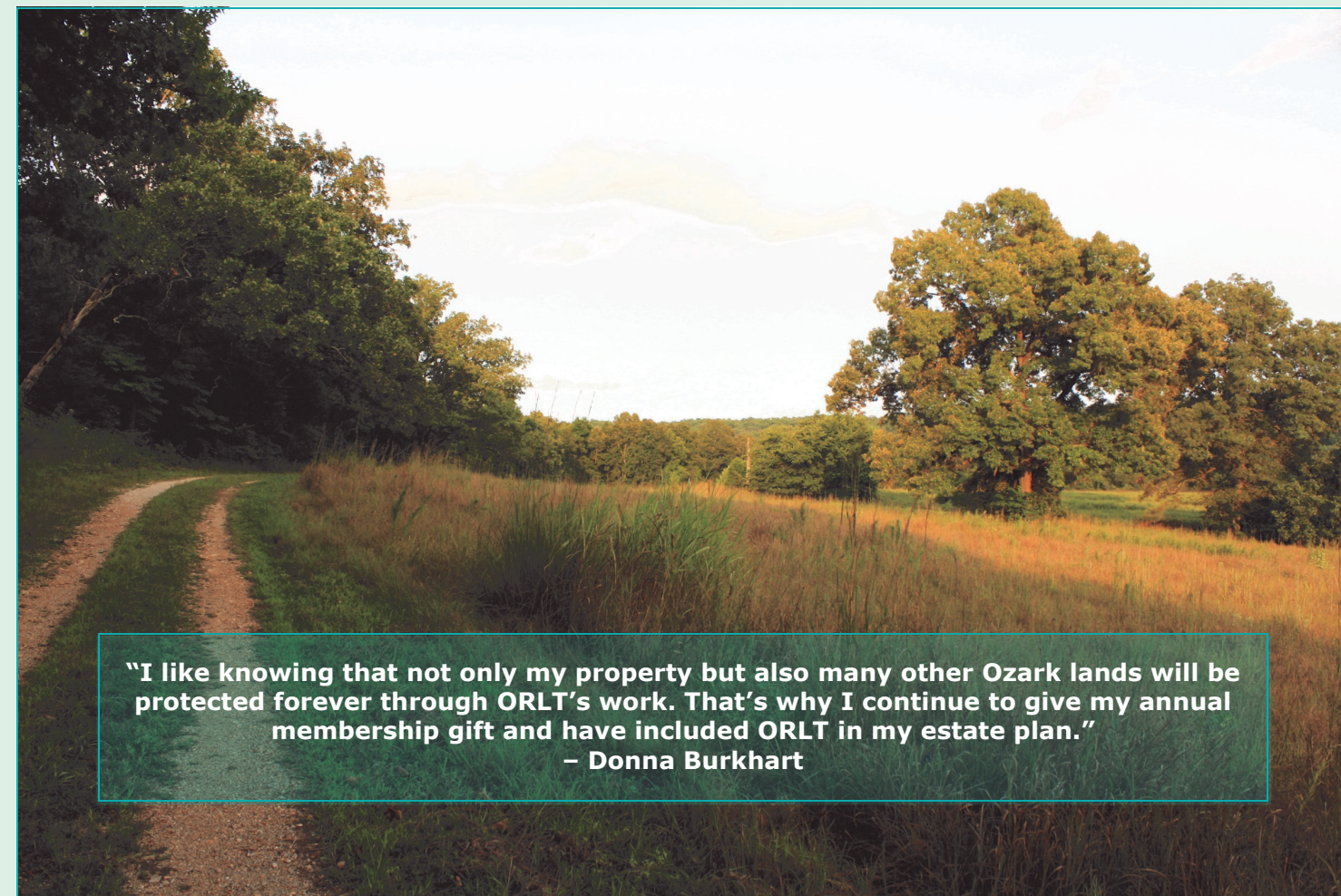
Frank Johnson

Frank, a writer of "novel tales for those of noble heart" has authored five books. He has been a firefighter, a policeman, and taught science in rural Ozark schools for nearly 30 years. Presently, he resides with his wife on a hundred-acre farm near Greenfield, MO, raising cattle and wine grapes.



Above: Jim and grandchildren Quinlan, left, and Tristan, right, enjoy the river. (Photo courtesy of Donna Burkhart)

Below: A field on the Burkhart farm. (Photo: Nic Rogers)



"I like knowing that not only my property but also many other Ozark lands will be protected forever through ORLT's work. That's why I continue to give my annual membership gift and have included ORLT in my estate plan."
– Donna Burkhart

Burkharts & Bryant Creek

Continued from front cover

Bryant will forever be able to enjoy the views of these tree-lined river banks and forested hills.

Time passes. Jim died in 2011, after 52 years of marriage. Jim and Donna were united in their love for each other, their children, the land, and the river. To share that love of nature, Jim, as an Ozark artist, focused on capturing the region's essence, featuring its land, people and wildlife in his work. The entire family is avid about the outdoors and conservation. Tawny's son Tristan recently received his degree in conservation management. He works at a camp, teaching boys about conservation.

Donna, now in her eighties, still takes care of many things on the property on her own. Her son Cory lives nearby and helps. Donna says they've always loved the quietness. They are grateful to be surrounded by such beauty and to know that it is protected forever.