

Why the Club Does Maintenance?

Those of us who use the trails on a regular basis feel an obligation to give back to the trails in service, to make sure that the trails remain healthy for ourselves and others to enjoy in the future. Most regular hikers soon appreciate that trails do not take care of themselves. Trails need constant maintenance to keep them in good shape. Trails require regular clearing of fallen trees/limbs, cutting new growth that infringes into the trail corridor, and tread work to prevent or correct erosion of trail tread. OMH has a regular program of trail maintenance, with monthly maintenance days scheduled and incentives offered for members to participate. Our members are actively engaged in a variety of programs related to the health of trails in our state.

Current Commitments

OMH has adopted 10.4 miles of the Ouachita Trail in Section 8, which is the Flatside Wilderness Area. This adoption is in conjunction with the "Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT)" www.friendsot.org, an organization founded by OMH members and dedicated to maintaining the entire 223 miles of the Ouachita trail. The goal of FoOT is to do the work needed to maintain the entire stretch at least twice a year.

OMH has a volunteer agreement with Hot Springs National Park to perform trail maintenance on the trails in the National Park four times a year. This is accomplished on four Saturday mornings, one in each season. OMH also supports Hot Springs National Park by providing hike leaders for various park events during the year, such as National Trails Day (June) and the Volksmarch (in October). In addition, OMH members, individually, assist the National Park by adopting most of the trails within the Park.

OMH also participates in Trail Management agencies. The club has for the past decade provided active representation on the Arkansas Trails Council. OMH members have twice chaired this state wide organization. OMH members also serve on the Hot Springs Village POA Trails Committee and Friends of the Village Trails, helping to maintain over 20 miles of trails in the Village.

Notes from OMH Trail Maintenance Chairman, Ralph Butler:

Trail Maintenance Schedule:

We have decided that trail maintenance will be scheduled for the first Tuesday of month. Tuesday trail maintenance will eliminate interference with Thursday and Saturday club hiking days. Tuesday trail work day can be easily re-scheduled in the event of cancelation caused by bad weather. We hope this work day gives everyone an ample opportunity to do trail work and to hike.

The work detail will meet at the Forest Service, Jessieville Work Center just north of the Jessieville High School. Contact Ralph Butler at rgbutler39@yahoo.com or 501-922-1916 to participate.

Tentative Trail Maintenance Days during the Second Half of the Hiking Season:

February 6 – MM 175 to 176. This visit will be used to do lopping, clear drains, rebuild water bars, and remove small brush, and branches and limbs.

March 1 – MM 176 to 177.2. This visit will be used to do lopping, clear drains, rebuild water bars, and remove small brush, and branches and limbs. We will do blazing if the number of volunteers is sufficient and the daytime temperature allow painting.

April 5 – MM 177.2 to 179.4. This visit will be used to do lopping, clear drains, rebuild water bars, and remove small brush, and branches and limbs. We will do blazing if the number of volunteers is sufficient and the daytime temperature allows painting.

May 3 – Little Blakely, Rocky Ridge. This trail maintenance day will be used to clear the pathway on this loop and to do blazing which is badly needed on this trail.

June 7 – Hunt's Loop. This will be a Special Work Day to clear another trail adopted by the Club.

Trail Maintenance Awards:

During the 2015 Trail Maintenance season, OMH'ers volunteered a total of 304 hours to perform maintenance on the club adopted section. It is obvious that the Ouachita Mountain Hikers have continued to work hard to maintain hiking trails in Arkansas. Thank you for your continued efforts.

Club members performing trail maintenance and in the last three years and achieving more than 20 hours as of 12/31/2015:

Theresa Keyser – 46
Pat Miller – 30
Mike Curran – 42
Bobby Witherington – 27
Jeannie Eichler – 29
Jack Makemson – 20

Trail Maintenance Photos:



Getting to the Work Area is not Always Easy



Getting to the Job is a Rewarding Accomplishment