

The Ozark Holler

Spring 2009

Inside this Issue:

Landscapes: ORLT Strategic Planning	2
2009 Shaping Up Big for Land Conservation	3
Woods Prairie: Restoration Nearly Complete, But a Missed Opportunity	3
New Project Will Protect Imperiled Ozark Cavefish	4
Where Does ORLT Work?	4
Thank You ORLT Members	5
Meet the Candidates	7
Support ORLT	7

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual ORLT membership meeting will take place June 20th at the Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, Missouri. We hope you can join us.

The meeting will consist of an hour and one-half of organizational business, including the election of new board members, a discussion of past and present conservation projects, and an update on strategic planning efforts. This will be followed by a light lunch and an opportunity to explore the Shaw Nature Reserve.

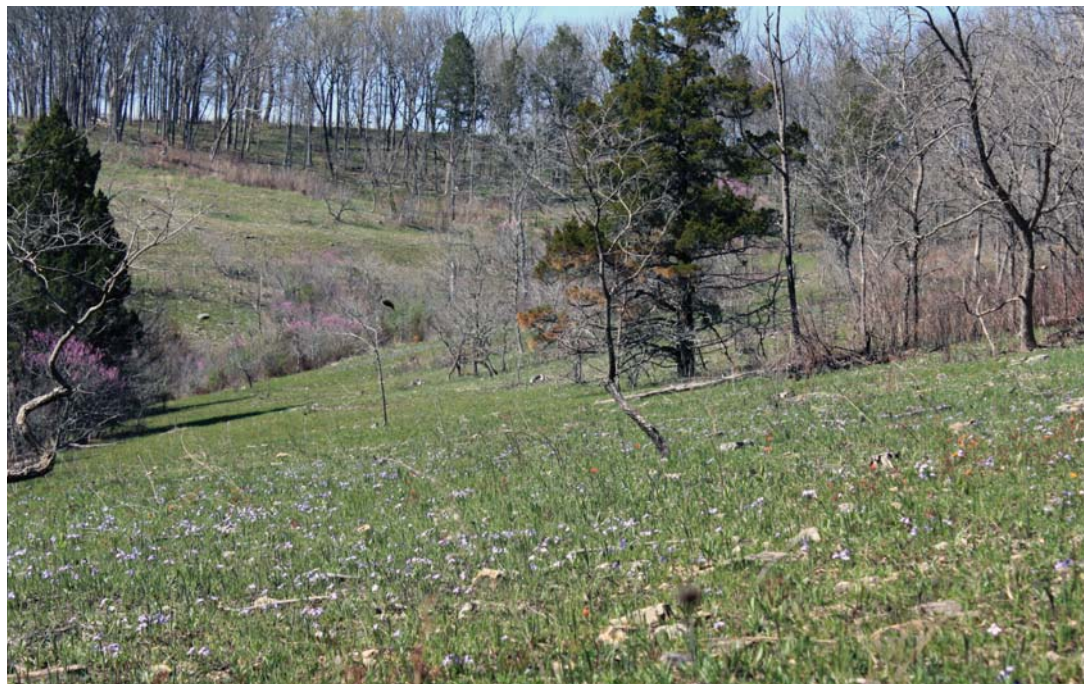
When and Where

Saturday, June 20, 2009

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Shaw Nature Reserve
Near the Bascom House
Gray Summit, Missouri
(see www.shawnature.org)
Everyone is welcome

Please RSVP by June 18th
(314) 401-6218
orlt@orlt.org



The staff of the Shaw Nature Reserve have for many years been restoring glades and open woodlands in the hills along the Meramec River.

The Ozark Holler

Published by
The Ozark Regional Land Trust

P.O. Box 440007
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144
(314) 401-6218
orlt@orlt.org
www.orlt.org

Member of



Earth Share
of Missouri

ORLT Mission Statement

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

ORLT Board of Directors

Andy Thomas, *President*
Jim Lukens, *Vice-President*
Gene Dunaway, *Treasurer*
Gregg Galbraith, *Secretary*
David Haenke
Kurt Homeyer
Larry Hummel
Jake Reby

ORLT Staff

Ted Heisel, *Executive Director*
Abigail Lambert, *River Stewardship
Program Coordinator*
John Cutler, *Mapping Consultant*
Gary Freeman, *Membership*



ORLT Board member Gene Dunaway and Executive Director Ted Heisel at the 2008 Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh

Landscapes: ORLT Strategic Planning

The Ozark Regional Land Trust embarked on a revision of its strategic plan last year. The plan is to be completed this spring.

The planning process has included a lot of research and reflection on ORLT's mission. The draft was sent to nearly 2,000 people who received ORLT's email updates (if you don't receive it, please email me and I'll get you on the list). Many good ideas were provided in return.

This has been a challenge. Over the past twenty-five years, ORLT has responded to the needs of conservation-minded landowners throughout the Ozarks. There was a lot accomplished, with nearly 19,000 acres protected by leveraging ORLT's small budget with the generosity of landowners who donated nature preserves or conservation easements. But this also proved to be a huge task that stretched to the limit the largely volunteer organization.

So how does a small land trust with such a large territory come up with a strategic plan? The draft plan identifies watersheds with high conservation value and calls for those places to be given priority. These are the areas where ORLT will seek to raise its profile and ensure that conservation needs are being addressed, including the creation of specific funds to make sure resources exist to complete the acquisition and stewardship of preserves and conservation easements.

In recognition of the fact that ORLT remains the only land trust covering much of the Ozarks, we will maintain the ability to respond to outstanding opportunities for conservation in other areas. ORLT will not forego an opportunity to protect critical wildlife habitats or river corridors anywhere in the Ozarks. The Ozark cavefish project described on page four of this newsletter is a prime example.

Another essential element of the five-year plan is to grow the organization so it can meet more of the need for land conservation. Conservation projects take time to identify, complete, and steward. It is an inescapable reality that this requires an investment in staff and volunteers who are well-trained to carry out these tasks.

The strategic plan is ambitious even though it hones the organization's focus. This is as it should be, for we will not have another opportunity to protect the beauty and wildlife of the Ozarks. If we want to pass on to our kids this legacy, ORLT must pick up the pace of its work. Your support is essential to making this shared goal a reality.

Ted Heisel

2009 Shaping Up Big for Land Conservation

ORLT is currently working with more than a dozen landowners throughout the Ozarks who are interested in donating a conservation easement or nature preserve in 2009.

These projects range from large forested lands to smaller tracts with important wildlife habitats or green space qualities. They total more than 3,500 acres and include high bluffs along the Meramec River, habitat for a threatened species, headwater streams, and buffers for adjacent public conservation lands. Both Arkansas and Missouri are well represented in the projects likely to close this year.

The level of interest in land conservation amongst Ozark landowners remains high despite the current uncertain times. Even in good times, enrolling one's farm or forest into a permanent conservation easement - or donating it outright - is a significant decision. That so many landowners are willing, even anxious, to take this step is a testament to the strong connection many Ozarkers develop with their land.

ORLT will share their stories with you as projects are finalized by the end of the year.



Woods Prairie: Restoration Nearly Complete But a Missed Opportunity

The restoration of Woods Prairie in southwestern Missouri continued last December with a prescribed burn conducted by ORLT board member Andy Thomas and numerous volunteers. Prescribed fire helps maintain the prairie by eliminating woody vegetation and stimulating the growth of native prairie plants.

After many years of tree removal and restoring native plants to a small corner of the property that was previously fescue pasture (the bulk of the prairie was unplowed, native plants), the intensive restoration phase is coming to a close. Periodic burning and keeping an eye on invasive species should keep this remnant tall-grass prairie looking good.

...

You may have seen an email alert from ORLT last fall attempting to find a conservation buyer for a property adjacent to Woods Prairie.

After receiving pledges of financial support, ORLT decided to pursue acquisition itself. Unfortunately, another buyer made a higher offer and purchased the land, but we are hopeful that their use will recognize the importance of the nearby prairie.



Photo © Doug Brown

New Project Will Protect Imperiled Ozark Cavefish

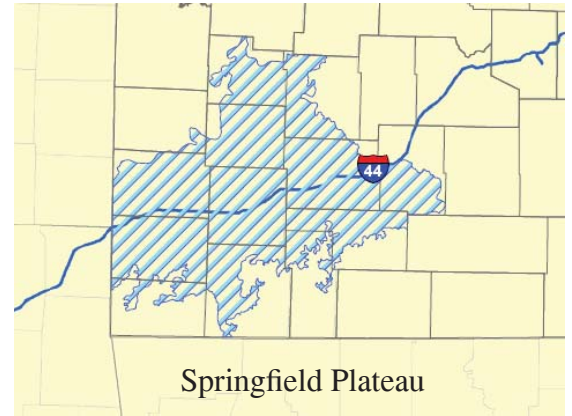
A new project is being initiated by ORLT in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation to protect the habitat of the federally threatened Ozark cavefish.

The cavefish is a small, colorless, and eyeless fish that inhabits shallow aquifers of the Springfield Plateau in southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas, and northeast Oklahoma. These small fish were called “well keepers” by early settlers of the region because they were indicative of high quality groundwater. Over the years, the cavefish has declined in number due to groundwater pollution and depletion.



The new project involves working with willing landowners to establish conservation easements over aquifers inhabited by the fish and other rare karst species. By protecting springs, sinkholes, and losing streams, it is hoped that the populations of the cavefish and other species will stabilize and rebound. In the process, high quality groundwater will also be maintained.

The Department of Conservation has secured a grant that will be used to support the acquisition of conservation easements in areas inhabited by the cavefish. Please contact ORLT if you are interested in learning more about this program.



Where Does ORLT Work?



Questions are often asked about the geographic scope of ORLT’s work. The map at right shows the Ozark region that is used to define the geographic boundaries of ORLT’s land conservation mission.

ORLT’s existing projects are all located in Arkansas or Missouri, except for one that extends into extreme southeastern Kansas. There are roughly an equal number of projects in Arkansas and Missouri, though the larger acreage of conserved lands is in Missouri.

If you have land that lies outside of the Ozarks, feel free to call ORLT and we will connect you with another land trust in your area.

Thank You Members!

ORLT could not protect a single acre of land in the Ozarks without the support of its membership. Thank you!
(Contributors between December 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009)

If we misspelled or omitted your name, please let us know.

Organizations

Bank of America Matching
Gift Program
Big Cedar Lodge
Community Foundation
of the Ozarks
Headwaters Conservancy
Mo Department of Conservation
Mel Harness Roofing
U. S. Bancorp Foundation
Matching Gift Program
Wachovia Foundation Matching
Gift Program

Land Guardians

(\$1,000 and above)

Nancy M. Hamilton
Jack H. and Patricia A. Harris
David Hartig
Larry D. Hartzog
Edward G. and Marilyn T. Heisel
Larry and Joan Hummel
Jarvis and Abigail Lambert
Charlie O'Reilly
Terry D. and Sherri A. Palmer
Gordon and Barbara Risk
Nancy G. Tucher

Land Protectors

(\$500 - \$999)

Gilbert and Caroline Early
Mr. and Mrs. Ward Klein
Barbara L. Oelke
Tamara Engelhorn Raven
John and Anne Roth
Ruby R. Stauber
Andrew and Diann Thomas
John Van Noate

Land Stewards

(\$100 - \$500)

Charles Abele
Christi Angelo
Richard Armstrong
Mary Arnold

Joan Atkisson-Lucietta
Jim Lukens and Janet Bachmann
Michael and Joan Banks
Janet Udouj and J. Neal Beaton
Dave and Nancy Bedan
Fred Berry
Dr. Mark J. Brodkey
Kevin Bufton
Penny and Boyce Bush
Peter A. Callaway
John M. Camp
Laura T. Cohen

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis G. Coleman
Ted Curtis
Dr. Thomas P. and Martha S.
Davis III
Bruce and Cynthia Denney
Dee Dokken
Gene and Bev Dunaway
Seth A. and Marion G. Eisen
Joe Engeln
Francine M. Glass
Karen Goellner
Joan Goodson
Sally Goodwin M.D.
Walter and Kay Green
Judge John N. and Willa C.
Harkey

Jonathan W. and Sarah D. Igoe
Valarie and Frank Ikerd
Hilda P. Jones
Gary and Nancy Kahanak
Newell S. and Janet M. Knight Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Knowles
Ann Jeanette and Karl Korschgen
Ken Kranzberg
Mr. and Mrs. Mike LaMair
Scott Woodbury and Abigail
Lambert
Harry Feirman and Nancy
Langworthy
John C. and Katherine E. Link
Robert S. Maack
Joy Ellen Martin
Richard Matt
Franklin McCallie
Powell and Cynthia McHaney
John and Connie McPheeters
Walter and Cynthia Metcalfe
Edward O. Moody
Stephen Neu
John and Darla Newman

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Novack
Gordon and Susie Philpott
William R. and Susan L. Piper
Sally and Lewis Popper
Dr. R. A. Rich
James Sample
Dale Sare
Linda Headrick and David Setzer
Mr. and Mrs. Gregorio Sicard
Mike and Mary Skinner
Beth B. and Charles D. Smith
Don and Karen Stearns
Carrie Steinbach
Judith L. Tharp
Andrew and Diann Thomas
Jacob and Rowena Van Dyke
Henry J. Waters III
Robert H. and Patricia M.
Waterston
The Rev. Stephen Weissman
Jim and Elizabeth Welsh
Karla and David Wilson
Rosalie C. Wooten

Friends of the Land

(\$1 - \$99)

James W. Adams
Tom and Cathy Aley
David H. and Melanie Alpers
David and Sandra Alspaugh
James Alverson
Brian T. and Evgenyia Alworth
Dr. Eugene F. Anderson
David R. and Stephanie W. Arnold
David C. Austin
Carol E. Bachhuber
Maxwell and Barbara Baldwin
Kristine Ballhorn
Linda Barker
Ulon Fae Barnes
Jocelyn P. Barton
Dan and Zoann Beckner
Joseph H. and Marilyn Bell
Nancy Jane Birge
Dr. Alice and Flinn Bloch
Christopher F. Blumenhorst
Lolle and Glenn Boettcher
Irving Boime
Dennis Bopp
Candy K. Boyd

Gwen and Jim Boyer
Robert Brewer DDS
Dorothy A. Brockhoff
William A. and Ester M. Bultas
Barbara Burnett
Suzanne Byron Byrne
Mr. Bill Carnahan
Thomas and Marilyn Carroll
James L. and Linda S. Chambers
Dr. Carol A. Chaney
Terry Chenoweth
Linda and Jack Childers
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Childress
Mary Chipps
Chris and Stephanie Clark
Randal C. Clark
Christopher N. Clark
Beatrice Clemens
Jamie Coe
Richard and Mary Cohoon
Don H. and Susanne D. Corrigan
Sharon Cragg
Ann and Lamar Davis
George and Irene C. Davis
Preston and Cathy Dean
Peter E. and Dorothy H.
DesJardins
Donald L. Dick
Bob Dole
Dolphin
Henry and Lorna Domke
David and Sandra Drake
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Draper
Peter S. Dupre
Mr. and Mrs. Brian S. Edmond
Doris and Lynn Ehrle
Linda S. Ellis
Ashley Etling
Richard Falkenrath
Sandy Falloon
Carol and Michael Finn
Stanley A. Fish
Roger H. Ford
Anna C. Forder
Terry W. and Peggy A. Francis
Lisa and Brian Francis
Cindy Fulton
Gary and Jana Funk and Family
John and Mena Galbraith
Robert E. Gamer
Colene Gaston
Nannette R. Gaylor

Thank You Members!

(Contributors between December 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009)

If we misspelled or omitted your name, please let us know.

Nancy A. and Lawrence D. Gelb
Earl Sam Gibson
Susan Gille
Anna Ginsburg
Herb Goldstein
Mark Ferris and Diana Gray
Judith Ann Griffith
Gary and Mary Grigsby
Pat Patton Grossman
David Haenke
Maureen A. and Richard H. Hall
Natalie P. and Stephen Halpin
John B. Hambacker
Wil and Andrea Hardiman
Barbara H. Harmony
Sharon A. and Herbert A. Harms
Thomas J. and Janice K. Hart
Oz Hawksley
James Henderson
Linda Hendricks
Winifred Hepler
Roger W. and Nancy Hershey
Michael L. and Jeanne C. Hevesy
Jan Hinsey
Joel Vogt and Ethan Hirsh
Lezlee L. Holt
Pauline E. Holtzmann
Kurt and Stephanie Homeyer
Anne R. Horton
Dr. Lamar and Melissa Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hrabik
Sally L. Hubbard MD
William T. Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. William J. James
Charles and Mollie James
Delwin D. and Donna L. Johnson
Betty and Kay Johnson
David N. and Tracy J. Johnson
Philip L. Jones
Mary W. Jowett
Andrea Radwell and Paul Justus
Paul Kahmann
Lorraine Keller
Ed Kniep
David Johnson and Kim Knowles
Anita B. Malott and Julie A.
Koehler
Bill and Suzanne Krumbach
Jean Kuntz
Joseph L. and Linda C. Kurz
Donald R. Kurz
E. F. and Katherine Lampe
Theodore M. and Cynthia C. Lau

Jamison Lewis
John B. and Nancy Lewis
Mrs. Erie L. Lionberger
Dr. Ellen M. Lissant
Dr. Maurice J. and Ernesta O.
Lonsway Jr.
Paul W. and Judy Lore
Terry and Pamela Lueckenhoff
Michael S. and Donna H. Lykens
James Lyon
Caryl B. MacMorran
Lyn Magee
Nancy Cooper Maier
Anthony E. and Patricia J. Mann
Rose Marie Martin
Dr. Gwendolyn L. and John D.
Mattice

Mary F. O'Connell
David and Jitka Olander
Steve J. Olson
Joanne G. Olszewski
Dick and Maria Parker
Cindy Parry
Bill and Gaye Pate
Rosanne M. and David J. Penn
Charles R. Phillips
Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Pickett
Dr. Nolan B. and Cynthia A.
Pitsinger
Rick Porea
Shawn and Rachael Porter
Karen M. Flotte and John R. Posey
Nancy R. and Samuel P. Potter
Elliott and Jacqueline Potter

Carol Russell
James W. Schiller
Walter D. and Marie L. Schmitz
David and Susan Schoen
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schoomer
Mary E. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Sebaugh
Richard Seibel
Charles W. and Mary M. Sheppard
Dr. John B. Simpson
Teresa Woody and Rik Siro
Don and Anna Case- Slawsky
Denslow Brown and Linda Smith
Kim and Nancy Smith
Kenneth L. Smith
Ken and Olga Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Frank V. Smith III
Alan and Brenda Spell
Linda and Lloyd Stith
Clarence B. and Diana M. Stitz
Robert W. and Elizabeth K. Streett
Mary F. Stuppy
Judith M. Swehla
Jan L. Tapley
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Terrell
Michael Thomas
Larry and Carol Thomas
Dick and Donna Thompson
Steven and Natalie Tillman
Steven L. Tomey
Charlie and Rhoda Transue
Mr. and Mrs. Jan Tupper
John Turner
Lawrence Tuttle
Charlotte VanBibber
Don B. Vollman
Robert and Nancy Wagner
Stephen Walsh
Mayor Mike Watson
Richard J. Watson
Myrl R. Wear
Kenneth A. Webb
J. T. and Rose Ann Wellington
Doris Wheeler
Mary Jo and James L. Wickliff
Clarence E. and Bertha D.
Wilkerson
Joe and Jacqueline Woolbright
S. Jeanene Yackey
Joan H. Yeagley
Isaac Young
Leslie and Jeff Zacks



Chet and Vicki McBride
Barbara McCarthy
Anne L. McCormack
Tracy and Donna McCracken
Bernard and Barbara McDonald
Thomas L. and Rebecca W.
McRoberts
Dale E. and Beverly D. Mermoud
Scott Merritt
Ronald E. and Renee D. Mertz
Bill and Gwen Millager
Robert Merz and Melissa Miller
Dr. Lee E. and Beth Mire
Barbara Moorman
Roberta C. Morton
Wayne L. and Judy Morton M.D.
Robert O. and Elizabeth A.
Nellums
Joy Neuschafer
William J. and Nancy K. O'Brien

Joey Potter
Dick and Joan Pouch
Deborah and Thomas Pratt
Stephen L. and Beverly B. Price
Anne W. Prichard
David T. and Sarah J. Read
Rebecca E. Resinski
Helen and William Riechmann
Mike Rieger
Mark Risk
John and Rhenda Roark
Jerry A. Robinson
Jim and Kitty Rogers
Harry and Cynthia Rogers II
Randall L. and Susan M.
Rosenbaum
Nicole Blumner and Warren A.
Rosenblum
Randy E. Rosiere
M. D. Ross

Meet the Candidates

ORLT's members will have the opportunity to vote on new board members at the June 20th annual meeting.

This year's slate includes two returning board members. Andy Thomas has served on the ORLT board for twelve years and is currently the organization's President. Larry Hummel is also a returning board member who was appointed last October to fill a vacant seat.

The new candidates include people with diverse backgrounds and talents. Rob Bagby and David Watson are financial advisors and both avid outdoorsmen. Nicole Brueggeman has experience as a non-profit consultant and real estate advisor. Jillian Hishaw and Alice Sterkel are both attorneys with personal and professional


interests in conservation and environmental issues. Jillian has worked for different government agencies in the environmental field. Alice is general counsel at a company located in St. Louis. Rounding out the slate is John Roth, who has been instrumental in developing the Ozark Trail through much of the Ozarks as a founder and director of the Ozark Trail Association.


You can meet and learn more about these candidates for the board at the annual meeting. In addition, the meeting will feature a summary of ORLT's past and present conservation work, as well as an overview of the current strategic planning effort.


We look forward to these individuals bringing their talents to bear in the protection of the Ozarks.


Help Protect the Beautiful Ozarks Contribute to ORLT Today!


How You Can Help:

 *Become a Member.* Support ORLT and stay informed about its conservation work.

 *Encourage a friend to join.* Each new membership is put to work on conservation projects.

 *Make an honorary gift.* Honor someone by protecting an Ozark farm or forest in their name.

 *Donate stock or property.* One of the best ways to support ORLT is with stock or unused property.

 *Leave a conservation legacy.* Include ORLT in your will or trust and leave a lasting conservation legacy.

Contact us today for more information about how to support ORLT's conservation work.

Mail Contributions To:

ORLT
P.O. Box 440007
St. Louis, MO 63144

Donate Online At:

www.orlt.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____


Email: _____

\$1,000 Guardian

\$500 Protector

\$100 Steward

\$35 Friend



(Details Inside)

ORLT Annual Meeting
June 20, 2009

Ozark Regional Land Trust

P.O. Box 440007
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144
Phone: (314) 401-6218
Email: orlt@orlt.org
Web: www.orlt.org

*Empowering People to
Protect Land in the Ozarks*

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBIA, MO
PERMIT #338