

## Mark Twain National Forest 2012 Highlights

### Volunteers in 2012 Donate the Equivalent of 13 Employees

Mark Twain National Forest continues to work with a variety of partners and volunteers. From AmeriCorps St. Louis to National Turkey Federation, partner and volunteer groups have made significant contributions to the forest's work accomplishments.

**During 2012**, volunteers donated the equivalent of **\$517,57** valued at **a little more than 13 person years**:

- **Mingo Job Corps:** 100 students contributed 2,030 hours valued at \$44,233 or 1.13 person years.
- **Youth Conservation Corps :** 7 participants contributed 1,554 hours appraised at \$33,872 valued at .86 person years.
- **Partnerships:** 16 people contributed 3,561 hours appraised at \$77,605.08 equal to 1.98 person years.

### Mark Twain National Forest Key Partners

**Ozark Trail Association (photo)** is a grass-roots organization formed in 2002 to build and maintain the 350-mile long Ozark Trail from St. Louis to Arkansas. One of the most active volunteer group on Forest, this association has won USDA Forest Service's National Volunteer Award and been recognized by the American Hiking Society for their ongoing volunteer work. <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/08USDAnrt.html>

- Manages the adopt-a-trail program.
- Hosts work parties for trail maintenance.
- Sponsors promotional events including the largest Public Lands Day event on forest.
- Members contribute an average of 5,000 hours annually.

Since 1998, **AmeriCorps-St. Louis** has partnered with Mark Twain National Forest to provide self-sufficient crews and crew leaders for prescribed and wildfire response, as well as trail maintenance and construction projects.

- AmeriCorps-St. Louis is unique among AmeriCorps programs. Focused on emergency response and natural resource stewardship. [http://www.rakun.com/aslp-07/g\\_partners.html](http://www.rakun.com/aslp-07/g_partners.html)

In 2010, Ozark Trail Association and AmeriCorps-St. Louis each received \$100,000 ARRA Challenge Cost Share grants to further create "Sustainable Trails" on the forest.

- Partnering with **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the Forest has a number of on-going projects. Several years ago, both agencies partnered with non-profit **Conservation Federation of Missouri** to offer a toll free arson hotline 800-392-1111 where callers can report arsonists. Callers are also eligible to receive non-traceable bank draft cash awards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of arsonists. <http://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/how-contact-us/operation-forest-arson>
- **Cave Research Foundation's Ozarks Operations Council** - contributed to the discovery, mapping, biological inventory, restoration, gating and monitoring of forest's cave resources, including identifying forest caves. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/ssrs/story?id=5822>
- **Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation** – assists with vegetation thinning and prescribed fires to restore habitat for US WatchList species. <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/index.html>

Volunteers interested in working on Mark Twain National Forest projects are welcome to contact our **Forest Volunteer Coordinator Jane Mobley (573) 996-2153**.