

# Ozark Trails

Newsletter of the Greater Ozark Chapter of YMCA Alumni  
Serving Missouri, Northern Arkansas & Eastern Kansas  
Fall 2023

Mary Ching, President  
Marty Rogers, Newsletter Editor



If you have photography as a hobby, it is easy to be aware of the bright lighting and magnificent color choices that we have in the fall- the red in red oak, the bright scarlet of the sumac, the bright blue of the sky, and the sparkling water of the lakes. The humidity is low and the colors are crisp. The pumpkin color of the paw paw trees, the fall spectrum of the live oak trees and the brilliant color of the sweet gum trees and deep green of the evergreen trees, getting ready for winter. Pumpkins and gourds give us lots of variety of color. In the twilight hours, the deepening shadows of the day display regal purple. It is truly a “wonderful world” as the song Louis Armstrong sings. Hopefully you have time to enjoy these beautiful fall days and are in preparation for the thanksgiving harvest yet to come. Enjoy the fall weather and take a picnic to the park!

*Mary*



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## SAVE THE DATE!

The Spring 2024 meeting will be April 23-24-25 in Bentonville, Arkansas. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, founded by Alice Walton, is a world class museum in a beautiful setting and will be the highlight of our trip.

# Greater Ozark & Mott YMCA Alumni May 2023 Chapter Meeting Independence, Missouri



At Harry S Truman Library & Museum



Dick & Naomi  
Hundley pack their  
wagon at the  
National Frontier  
Trails Museum



Jean Carmichael,  
National YMCA Alumni  
president, and Laura  
Slane at the National  
Frontier Trails Museum



The Mott Chapter at National Frontier  
Trails Museum

Ralph Goldsmith of Pioneer Trails Adventures shared stories of Frank & Jesse James, Civil War skirmishes between Jayhawkers and Bushwackers, and more as we traveled around the historic Independence square. Marty & Dave Rogers met the mules before the trip.



Meeting photo credits: Charlie Redmond, Dave & Marty Rogers



Visiting with longtime friends is the best part of our meetings.



Les Boone, Dick Hundley, &  
Dave Rogers



Truman Courthouse tour gave everyone a chance to sit in Harry Truman's seat in the courtroom where he served as presiding judge. Dick & Jani Flynn presiding.



Mary Ching, Lynn &  
Mary Bultman at  
Harry Truman's statue



Les Boone, David Moliga, Hank &  
Jo Bagelmann, Debbie Redmond,  
John & Kathy Shepard, and Ken  
Wold



Ken Wold reported  
on International  
Service Corps.



Charlie Redmond  
took many of our  
photos



Ozark president Mary  
Ching



Debbie Redmond  
reported on Y's  
Men International.



Bruce Wands worked  
with Nels Bagnardi to  
organize our chapter  
events.



Nels Bagnardi won the auction  
for Mark Twain's pipe. \$421  
was raised for World Service.



Bruce Wands presented checks to  
Habitat for Humanity and Jackson  
County Historical Society to thank them  
for meeting places and tours.

## Highlights from The Connection: National news from YMCA Alumni

- National Board members for 2024-2026 are announced: Phill Morgan will serve as President and Dave Rogers will continue as Central Region vice-president
- Membership renewal window is November-December. You will receive a packet in the mail, but may renew online at anytime. Click to [RENEW ONLINE](#)

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### Register now for YMCA Alumni Reunion at Sea, Jan. 26-Feb. 3, 2025



The next YMCA Alumni reunion will be a Reunion at Sea, Jan. 26-Feb. 3, 2025, aboard Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas. Embark from Galveston, Texas into the Western Caribbean. Reunite with friends and colleagues with workshops, speakers, parties and fun shipboard. Visit three exciting ports of call in the gorgeous waters of the Western Caribbean. Register now to get great prices and, rest assured, that if you must cancel, you can do so until October 14, 2024. And, wow – what a ship!

Your hosts: West Region YMCA Alumni Chapters and the YMCA Alumni Travel Club.

Click the Reunion At Sea logo above for details.

The entire itinerary is shown as well as the pricing. Prices are very reasonable starting from \$877 per person interior stateroom to \$1314 for an ocean view balcony and choices in between.

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The links below will take you to the websites shown.

[YMCA Alumni](#)

[Travel Club](#)

[Chapter Leaders & newsletters](#)

[YMCA Alumni Facebook](#)

[National Service Project](#)

[Chapter Events & Resources](#)





Wave 7 photo credit: Randi Sidman-Moore

Home 1 & 2 after two  
days of Wave 7

— ❖ —  
Dave Rogers & Gary  
Graham having fun

Photo credit: Marty Rogers



### **2023 work completed by volunteers & contractors**

- Foundations for remaining 3 homes completed
- Stored SIP (structural insulated panels) for remaining homes in containers.
- Home 1: Installed windows, doors, siding, battens, stained porch, sealed interior wood on windows and doors
- Home 2: Raised walls, beam & roof; installed Tyvek barrier; installed windows, cement board siding & trim; built porch with roof.
- Home 3: Poured porch footings, installed sill plates
- Native American contractors installed steel roofing on homes 1 and 2 and framed the porch and interior on Home 1.

### **The work continues in 2024**

Homes 1 and 2 are closed up for the South Dakota Winter, but there is plenty of work to be done next year. Please consider how you would like to be involved with the National Service Project in 2024. The 2024 work weeks, or Waves, will be announced soon.

The website for the National Service Project, <https://wawokiye.org/>, has videos, diagrams of the tiny houses, and the answer to most questions. Nels Bagnardi, our chapter representative, will also be glad to answer any questions.



## ISC News from Ken Wold

As I mentioned at our in-person get together in KC, the ISC is engaged and active in their mission to assist retired Y professionals to experience a cultural exchange using their knowledge and expertise at international YMCA's asking for specific assistance.

Teresa Hill has been approved for the YMCA Grand Bahamas, and Jonathan Vance for the YMCA Centre Albania. Teresa leaves on November 1st and returns on the 23rd. Jonathan Vance leaves on the 30th of October and returns on November 9th, 2023.

A position for the Cayman Islands is being requested for approval in September.

The ISC is in contact with Juan Simoes Iglesias and Emma Osmondsen from YMCA Europe. It appears there will be a need for volunteers in the future but at this point we are on standby.

ISC's Fall Campaign Letter and Case Statement has been approved and mailed out. The campaign is to ensure funds are available for all approved exchanges. The Ozark Chapter should be considering their annual gift at this point.



### **Secours Speciaux**

The YMCA Emergency Fund for Overseas Staff and Retirees is called Secours Speciaux.

Secours Speciaux provides financial support to YMCA staff (active or retired) and/or their dependents, facing emergencies such as medical bills, natural disasters, inadequate or no pension, problems created by political turmoil, and human rights violations.

The fund is available to those who are facing emergencies – YMCA staff at all levels with 5 or more years YMCA service and retirees who have retired directly from YMCA service. Direct dependents of staff and retirees may also be considered when they cannot get help from other resources, such as their employers, church, government agency etc.

Donate at [ymca.int/emergencyfund/secours-speciaux-make-a-donation/](https://ymca.int/emergencyfund/secours-speciaux-make-a-donation/)



## News from around the chapter



With sadness, we report the passing of Lou Krenz on July 1, 2023. Lou worked for the YMCA for 35 years, starting his career in Wichita, KS, and finishing at the Hamilton County YMCA outside of Chattanooga, TN. He also served at Sioux City, IA, Beatrice, NE, Quincy, IL and Kokomo, IN. In 2005, he retired from the Y and moved to Springfield, IL, and later relocated to Mesa, AZ. He and his wife Karen were very involved in the Evangelical Lutheran Church wherever they lived. In spite of health issues, Lou made a special effort to attend the 2022 Ozark Chapter meeting in Branson, and we had a great time with him. He will be missed.

### Bruce & Karron Wands:



We had a wonderful trip in July to the homestead in beautiful upstate New York where Bruce grew up on a dairy farm. Visited his sister and husband and other relatives and friends. Son Derrick drove us out and we had a great time with granddaughters (15 & 18) who truly loved to see and do everything!

Loved the Grissom Air Museum in Peru, Indiana and the Black Pine Animal Sanctuary in Albion, Indiana. Karron fell on concrete at the entry of Foelinger Botanical Conservator in Ft Wayne so ended up at

a walk-in orthopedic clinic where she was fitted with a cast on her hand and arm. She is still in therapy but it is healing. We drove through the African Safari Wildlife Park, Port Clinton, Ohio and next fed the stingrays at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium. Loved taking the girls to Bromley Mountain in Vermont where they boarded a ski lift to the top and “drove” down the mountain on an Alpine Slide...and back to the top again and again!

We celebrated our 60th anniversary in Branson, joined by Derrick & Shelly and four of our grandchildren. Saw several shows including the Christian based ESTHER at the Sight and Sound Theater. This is a “must see” if you get to Branson! A real dining treat was the Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks. Of course, we couldn’t go to Branson and not go to Mel’s Hard Luck Diner, where we were served by extremely talented singing wait staff while dining on fabulous ice cream concoctions!

Still active in church, small group bible study and Bruce volunteers weekly for Habitat. Both doing physical therapy and trying to graciously accept how slow it takes to heal in this time of old age! We enjoyed our visit over lunch with Dave Moliga in Half Way, Missouri (near Buffalo) on our way home from Branson.



YES! They really do throw rolls @Lamberts Cafe!



The “Homestead” built in 1825!



**Dick & Naomi Hundley:** Two weeks after returning from our Ozark chapter alumni meeting, Dick fell and broke his left wrist and right shoulder. This took a lot of fun out of our summer. Realizing Naomi would have her hands more than full caring for him, our kids answered the call. Taking off work, daughter Beth, came from Missouri for several weeks to help with his care, followed by daughter Lisa, who lives in Connecticut, and then son Bob who lives in Alabama.

Of course, while they were here, Naomi had them complete some of the jobs on her “to do” list. We are so blessed to have such loving and caring children. After months of therapy, Dick is doing well and cautiously back to normal activities.

We enjoyed having the Redmond’s stay with us when they came to Hot Springs to attend Fred Leonard’s funeral.

There has been a rash of falls among our church friends, so we have started a “Strength and Balance” class at the church. It is led by one of our church members who is a physical therapist. These are the kind of things we get excited about as we age!!!

We are looking forward to attending our next retiree meeting and visiting with friends.



**Dick & Jani Flynn:** Highlights from our Spring and Summer –

We continued enjoying college graduation ceremonies for our grandchildren – this time traveling to the U. of Arkansas, in Fayetteville, AR, and to Augustana College in Rock Island, IL. Our trip to Arkansas allowed us to visit one of our favorite museums – Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville.

In celebration of our 60th Anniversary, we spent a few days in Branson, MO., always a fun time. We attended half dozen shows, and especially enjoyed the Branson Belle Dinner Cruise/Show, and the Sight and Sound Theater production of “Queen Esther”.

In August we attended “Good-Bye” parties for our oldest granddaughter and her husband. Her company offered her a 3 year work appointment in Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. Her husband will be working as well. They are extremely excited about this work opportunity, and have already begun to enjoy their new location.

We also spent some quality time in Colorado, to visit with family and enjoy the mountains. We returned home in time for two of our grandchildren to return to College, and one to medical school.

So, our Spring and Summer have been busy, fun, and filled with great memories. Best Wishes to all for a wonderful Fall.

**Mary Reid & Butch Michael:** News from Omaha -

Survived summer hot days and several cool days in August to have windows open a couple of nights. Travels to Oklahoma for family celebrations...birthday for a brother and celebration of life for a sister. Looking forward to seeing Mott Chapter and several from Ozark Chapter along with sights in Iowa plus ICE CREAM in Le Mars.







**Bill & Mary Ching:** Our past six months since we last were together have been traveling to visit friends and relatives in Sioux Falls, SD. The two weeks were packed full of laughs with everyone and catching up on their lives. Mary has struggled some from the pneumonia she had in May and other respiratory issues making it difficult to fully enjoy life. She is making progress and the doctor said just be patient. "Mary... patient?" Hmmm!

However, she continues to make quilts for kids. Justin, our special needs grandson, loved the large one she made for him featuring some friends of his. Most of the children's quilts she makes are donated to the Salvation Army.

I have been the taxi driver taking Mary to and from doctors' offices, but now that she can drive, I will concentrate on getting the motor home ready for sale. The garden produced a lot of tomatoes for me to can and make salsa until I got tired of it and started giving them away. After the United Way blackout I will begin to contact the donors I talk to every year to give to the local Y's Annual Support Campaign. I always enjoy talking with friends and acquaintances each year.



**Dave & Marty Rogers:** We went to Toledo, OH, and Dupree, SD, with YMCA Alumni; Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio to visit family; Florida to see Dave's mom and Minnesota to relax. Retirement is great!



**Beyond the Ozark Chapter:** The Mott Chapter recently met in Le Mars, Iowa. Bruce and Karron Wands, Dave and Connie Snow, Mary Reid, Butch Michaels, and Dave Rogers enjoyed their visit to the Wells Blue Bunny Ice Cream Experience. Photo credit: Mary Reid

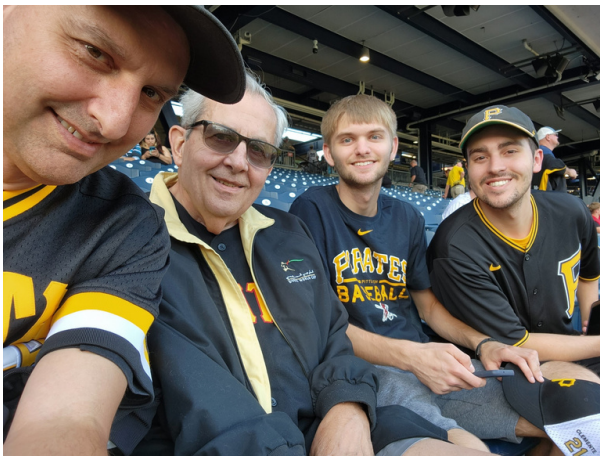


**Nels & Judy Bagnardi:** Greetings from the Bagnardi's. We had a very busy autumn travelling around New England. We spent time in Great Barrington, MA visiting our daughter Emma, as well as hosting a Bagnardi Family Reunion and celebrating Nelson's dad's 95th birthday. We also went on a Fall Foliage train ride on the Berkshire Scenic Railway. There's nothing like New England in the fall!

After Great Barrington, we headed to northern Vermont to visit old Y friends in the Champlain Islands. Judy really enjoyed the wine tasting at the Snow Farm Vineyards in South Hero! Just beautiful views everywhere.

We are now heading to Annapolis, MD to visit friends from our Washington Y days and to attend the Navy-Air Force football game. Then next month, we will be visiting Judy's family in Estes Park, CO to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Have a super fantastic fall from The Bagnardi's



**Les Boone:** My summer actually began in April with trip to Hot Springs for Arkansas Derby; May of course was the superfine Dual Chapter visit to Independence; July found me in Chicago for our Annual Society for American Baseball Research Convention at the Palmer House; August provided opportunities to visit Cleveland for GASS Convention (National Philatelic Show); In mid September my older son, his son & another grandson of mine spent weekend in Pittsburgh to witness Yankees/Pirates series!



Statute of Triple Crown winner American Pharoah



Cloud Gate, otherwise known as "The Bean", in Chicago



USS Cod in Cleveland