Announcer ([00:03](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Letterman ([00:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The 2023 Smithsonian Folklife festival will kick off later this month in the nation’s capitol — and the Ozarks will be front and center. Hundreds of thousands will converge on the national mall for the two-week event featuring master artisans and other tradition bearers. They will share stories of culture, creativity and community through their various performances, and demonstrations.

Produced annually by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the festival has featured participants from all 50 states and more than 100 countries. It honors contemporary living cultural traditions and celebrates those who practice and sustain them. This year’s festival carries the theme, “The Ozarks: Faces and Facets of the Region.”

I’m Emily Letterman.

Today, we are joined by Tom Peters, the dean of library services at Missouri State University. Tom is also the co-curator of this year’s festival.

Tom Peters ([01:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So, the festival itself runs 10 days, starts Thursday, June 29, goes through the Fourth of July, then we take the 5th of July as a rest day off, and then we come back for the sixth to the ninth. So 10 days on the National Mall.

Emily Letterman ([01:17](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

This year's festival will not only feature some familiar faces, but also familiar Ozark sounds.

Tom Peters ([01:22](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So, we'll be there. The whole festival will be there on the Fourth of July. And then the evening of the fourth, the Ozark Mountain Daredevils are gonna play on the National Mall.

Emily Letterman ([01:32](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Some of the key themes of the Smithsonian Folklife festival each year are Celebrations and Gatherings along with Connections to Land and Place. What aspect of these themes with Missouri State help showcase?

Tom Peters ([01:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

We also try to engender conversations about folk ways. So, it's not just a demonstration per se, but trying to engage with people. So things like quilting has always been a major part of Ozarks folk culture. Gig making - we're actually gonna have someone there with a forge making gigs for gig fishing. One of the things I'm really excited about is we're gonna have a whole plant knowledge area. You know, I'm not a native Ozarker, but when you talk about foraging in the Ozarks, it's popular today. It was popular 100 years ago. It was popular 200 years ago. It was popular 500 years ago before white people came into the region in big numbers. So we're really excited about it. It’s not just about music and dance and the usual suspects in terms of crafts, but there'll be a whole plant knowledge area.

Emily Letterman ([02:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Missouri State’s involvement in the project is years in the making, and something Peterssays the university is thrilled to be a part of.

Tom Peters ([02:51](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

We were approached by the Smithsonian maybe three years ago. They wanted to do the Ozarks and they wanted the university to be the lead organization in the region. So we've got a lot of organizations and individuals involved in this, but they needed sort of a lead organization. Well, we had a lot of meetings just talking about that. We finally decided, yes, we wanna do that. Then I was, uh, tagged, I guess to be the co-curator, I think is my official title. So there's a curator at the Smithsonian, and I'm the co-curator of the event. But it really involves an amazing team of experts and talented individuals to make this all happen.

Emily Letterman ([03:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The festival is free and open to the public. For those who cannot travel to Washington D.C. this summer, many events will be live streamed through the Smithsonian’s website. But Tom says, the libraires work does not stop when the festival ends.

Tom Peters ([03:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

You know, the 10 days on the mall are gonna be intense and wonderful, but we really on both sides before the 10 days. And after the 10 days, we'll be doing other things that kind of tie into the overall, festival. Some of the events will also be live streamed online. And we're also gonna have a group of people, part of the team is gonna be documenting what's going on. So there'll be a lot of still photographs, videos, interviews, what we call oral histories, where we sit down with someone in a more kind of structured way and talk about their memories of being in the Ozarks.

Emily Letterman ([04:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

If you’d like to learn more about The Ozarks: Faces and Facets of the Region during the Smithsonian Folklife festival and see a full schedule of events, visit festival.si.edu.

My guest today has been Tom Peters, the dean of library services at Missouri State and the co-curator of this year’s festival.

I’m Emily Letterman for Missouri State Journal.

Speaker 1 ([04:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/2N2_5mCX0FRQ0JTmIn9b2xAn8D3gp-ZqbEbvaSGe-glFJ7ETGhhg0fz-3kFy5HJWz04vfiBM_HJY8L9a3jgoDc5TIFM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Communication at 417-836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online@ksmu.org.