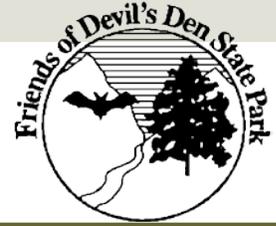


March 2013
Volume 20, No. 1

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.



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This newsletter is available in color at www.DevilsDen.org/newsletter

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President's Message

We start another year and the Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. will be 20 years old this fall. I hope we will be able to continue to supply many of the Park's needs in the years to come.

In December we had over 200 people participate in the first Devil's Den Rock & Run Trail Race. I would like to thank Shannon Williams and his family for all their hard work to make the race a success. We hope to improve the race this year and have even more participation from our members.

The Friends will participate in "Think Like a Mountain" on May 17th – 19th and will again be sponsoring the "Bat-O-Rama XXIV" speaker, June 7th – 9th.

Our main event each year is to sponsor the Northwest Arkansas Mountain Championship Bike Race on September 14th. We will need a lot of volunteers on that Friday PM, September 13th and on Saturday. We will have more details in the next Newsletter.

On Saturday, March 9th we will be having a work

day beginning at 9AM at the Visitors Center followed by our pot-luck Awards Luncheon and Semi Annual Business Meeting in cabin 6 at 12:30 PM. If you are coming and can bring a dish (with food) please call Carole Huff at (918) 875-3613 or Jack Miller at (479) 466-4517.

Thank you, our members of the Friends of Devil's Den, for your continued support of the Park. Hope to see you all on March 9th.

Jack Miller

About the Friends of Devil's Den

Founded in 1993.

We are an organization of volunteers who assist and help to raise money for the park. Membership dues and money from volunteer work like helping with the annual Mountain Bike Race are used to fund needed projects for the park. Iron Mike is an example of how funds raised by our organization are used by the park.

We also work to help

beautify the park. Our workdays are used to do projects that free park staff for more important activities. The following are examples of our many activities:

- erecting a swing in the Bat Garden
- painting fire hydrants to improve their visibility
- registering racers for the Mountain Bike Race
- keeping the office supplied with colored maps showing the various

trails

All of these activities and more are done by volunteer members of The Friends of Devil's Den State Park. Won't you join us?

- Become a member
- Help on scheduled workdays (indoors & outdoors)
- Volunteer for our fund raising events
- Attend our meetings
- Enjoy the park



Devil's Den lost one of its most dedicated "friends".

Jo Anne Miller

You may have noticed that the format for this newsletter has changed. That is because Devil's Den lost one of its most dedicated "friends" and the editor of this newsletter.

Jo Anne Miller and her husband Jack first joined the Friends back in 1993. They were among the group of founding members who loved Devil's Den and wanted to

find a way to give back to the park which provided them with so much enjoyment. Jo Anne has served many years as secretary of the organization and about ten years ago, she became newsletter chairman.

Jo Anne's favorite event at Devil's Den was the annual Mountain Bike Championships. She loved meeting the bikers

as she and other members of the Friends enrolled them in their races.

Jo Anne Miller passed away on October 12, 2012.



Weekly Trail Maintenance

Join a volunteer trail maintenance crew and help work on the hiking trails in Devil's Den State Park. Whether you are experienced or a novice at trail work, your help is always needed. Work will be done every Thursday until further notice. Meet at the Scenic Overlook on Hwy 170 at 10 a.m. In case of inclement weather please call the park to see if work has been cancelled.
Phone: (479) 761-3325



How to Become a Member of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park

There are 4 easy ways to become a member:

- 1) Go to our website at DevilsDen.org/join to apply online.
- 2) Print the paper application at DevilsDen.org/Member Application, Fill it out and mail it to the address on the form.
- 3) Fill out the slip on the last page of this newsletter at the bottom and mail it in.

- 4) Come to the meeting on Saturday, March 9th at 12:30 in Cabin # 6.

Membership dues are as follows:

\$10 Full Time Student
\$15 Individual
\$25 Family
\$100 Business/Organization

Join the Friends of Devil's Den and help us help the park!

FDDSP Business Meeting Agenda – March 9, 2013

Approve minutes of September, 2012 Meeting (see p. 3) and E-mail Board Meetings (to include change of officers)

Approve Financial and Donations Reports

Rock and Run Trail Race (2012 & 2013)

Paxson plaque

Promotional Fencing

Think Like a Mountain (2013)

Bat-O-Rama (2012 & 2013)

NW Arkansas Mountain

Bike Race (2013)

FDDSP Record Storage

Park Staff Requests

Presentation of Awards for 2012



Minutes of the General Semi-Annual Meeting – September 15, 2012

The semi-annual general meeting of The Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. was held at Devil's Den State Park on September 15, 2012. Present were Jack Miller, Marilyn Harnish, Pat and Carole Huff, John Crochet, Dennis Shelton, and Terry Elder representing the Park. Voting proxies were presented for Harry Harnish, Aimee Crochet, and Jo Anne Miller.

Jack Miller called the meeting to order, and the minutes of the March 3 general meeting were distributed. Upon motion by John Crochet and second by Pat Huff, the minutes were approved. The financial statement was distributed and, upon motion by Marilyn Harnish and second by Carol Huff, was approved unanimously.

The Paxson plaque has still

not been found. Jack will ask Rebekah about this.

Shannon Williams has decided to organize and coordinate the Devil's Den Trail Race on his own without help from the Friends of Devil's Den.

Terry Elder gave the Friends a thank you card for their help with Think Like a Mountain for 2012. Jack will check with Terry about this and Terry will look into other donations for next year rather than having the Friends of Devil's Den the only sponsor.

The camera has been repaired by Bedford Camera & Video.

Jack requested the Friends of Devil's Den provide \$80.00 per year to have the outside cover of the newsletter printed. Upon motion by Carole and

second by John, this was approved.

Tim Scott requested we purchase a 150-ft. roll of mesh netting at \$600.00 to be used at the Bike Race and other events. The Board will be discussing this with Tim. On a related note, it was discussed how to spend the \$410.00 Ruth Nicholas memorial funds, along with the Spurlock memorial funds, and it was suggested we could possibly purchase the netting from these funds and have their names on the netting. John moved we do this, Marilyn seconded, and it was approved.

Election of officers for the next year: Carole moved the current officer be re-elected for another year, second by Dennis Shelton, and the motion was approved. Jack reappointed Harry as membership chairman and

Jo Anne as newsletter chairman.

It was announced the Northwest Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships will be September 13-14, 2013.

In other business, it was announced the Park will not have an end of the year party this year. Terry will get John an address for the Bat-O-Rama speaker so he can be paid.

The next general meeting will be in early March, 2013. Date and time to be announced at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jo Anne Miller, Secretary

Vulture Venue and the Great Backyard Bird Count – February 16, 2013

Vulture Venue 2013

Vulture Venue took place on Saturday, February 16th along with the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Lynn Sciumbato of the Morning Star Wildlife Rehabilitation Center near Gravette, Arkansas was here with Igor, her turkey vulture. We had 34 eager attendees at the venue this year.

Before the presentation we made vulture finger puppets and learned

many fascinating facts about these birds of prey. We were all ready for Ms. Sciumbato and Igor when they arrived.

Lynn shared with us stories about why vultures are so misunderstood, but how necessary they are to the ecosystem. To test everyone's knowledge about vultures after the presentation, we played a game of Vulture Jeopardy.

All together, we had around 50 people who

came down into Devil's Den to learn about vultures and to participate in the Backyard Bird Count.

We thank the Friends of Devil's Den for providing the funds to support Vulture Venue and bring Ms. Sciumbato and Igor to share with us the story of vultures. Thank you, Friends.

Terry Elder, Park Interpreter
Devil's Den State Park

Vultures are often misunderstood and unappreciated



25th Annual Ozark Mountain Bike Festival

April 6th and 7th



"A lot of the credit goes to the Friends of Devil's Den."



25 years of mountain biking may very well be a state record. It doesn't seem that long ago that Wally Scherrey and I went to Crested Butte to check-out their Fat Tire Festival. Every idea we "stole" was eventually used for an event at Devil's Den. Wally aptly named the event, "Ozark Mountain Bike Festival."

It was 1988 when we drove the housekeeper's van to Colorado. It was during the time that Arkansas' state parks were underfunded, and we were looking for any avenue to raise revenues. While mountain biking was well ingrained out west, it was really just starting in Arkansas. In fact, the festival we attended was the 13th annual. It was seen that mountain biking, though controversial at the time, would attract another user group to state parks. Arkansas State Parks was either foresighted enough

or broke enough to send us to Crested Butte. No matter what the reason, Devil's Den hosted one of, if not the first, mountain bike festival/race in the state. As they say, "The rest is history."

Because of the vision of a few, Northwest Arkansas has become a mountain bike destination. Bentonville, Eureka Springs, and Hobbs State Park all boast some of the best riding in Arkansas. In fact, in 1997 a mountain bike advocacy group named the Ozark Off-Road Cycling (OORC) was formed. The park has reaped the benefits of OORC by being the recipient of many hours of volunteer trail work and assistance with our festivals.

25 years later, the park is often referred to as the "Mother" of mountain biking in the state. A lot of the credit goes to the Friends of Devil's Den.

Without their help, the metaphorical "ride" would have been harder. The Friends have been an intricate element of the event since the beginning. The organization has donated money, but more importantly they have donated time. Registration would be impossible with this group, of which our top USA Cycling official is also a member. Course marshals and those who assist the official are usually from the ranks of the Friends.

So thank you to OORC and countless bike shops and businesses which help with the events. Also, a thanks and thanks again to the Friends of Devil's Den State Park. This special organization has donated numerous hours to the park in addition to the mountain bike event. We thank you.

Tim V. Scott
Park Interpreter

Did You Know that Your Volunteer Hours at Devil's Den State Park Benefit the Park's Funding?

"Joining the Friends of Devil's Den on their workdays is an easy and fun way to contribute financial aid to the park."

When you come to Devil's Den State Park and participate in one of the Friends workdays, you are helping to bring needed funding to the park. Your hours of volunteer service with us are calculated by the state for funding used to repair structures and equipment,

buy or repair items used in park presentations, and pay for all types of improvements and programs.

Joining the Friends of Devil's Den on their workdays is an easy and fun way to contribute financial aid to the park.

Just remember to log your hours of work in the book at the Visitors' Center.

The next workday is scheduled for March 9th at 9:00am until noon. Meet at the Visitor's Center and join us in contributing to the financial well being of Devil's Den State Park.

True Friends are Hard to Find, and Even Harder to Let Go

Walk in the footsteps of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Devil's Den State Park, where your legacy as a Friend of the Devil's Den State Park will live on for generations to come.

This year marks the twenty year anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park. Like the park, the Friends of Devil's Den State Park was founded to preserve and exalt the rich heritage and diverse, natural beauty of this special place. It is said that this valley was too rugged to live off of, so in turn a place to cherish the rugged individual spirit and peculiarities of nature was established. Without the hard work and craftsmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the true rustic beauty of this valley could have been lost instead of highlighted. Similarly, without the steadfastness and support of the founders and members of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park, the rich legacy and infinite future possibilities for education, recreation, and enjoyment would be mitigated and delegated by a few that may not share in your love for this cherished place.

When conceived the bylaws state that the purpose of the Friends were to:

- A. Assist Devil's Den State Park with environmental

education.

- B. Promote responsible enjoyment of the outdoors.
- C. Create public awareness of the needs and concerns affecting the management of the park.
- D. Inform decision makers of the concerns and desires of the visitors to Devil's Den State Park.
- E. Organize volunteers.
- F. Raise funds for park activities.
- G. Support and promote the mission of Devil's Den State Park which is ... "to provide diverse recreational and educational opportunities for all visitors while protecting the natural and cultural resource of this unique Ozark valley."

Over the past twenty years, the FoDDSP have done many wonderful things to meet and exceed this purpose: from erecting wayside panels and an Iron Mike statue to celebrate the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps to sponsoring guest speakers and purchasing much needed fire-fighting equipment as well as volunteering countless hours at special events and completing special projects for the park. Without the financial and

tangible help of the Friends of DDSP, many events from the Mountain Bike Championships to Bat-O-Rama would not be as successful or run as smoothly and traditions like softball might become a thing of the past.

Whether you are an active member attending meetings and writing articles for the newsletter or a faithful financial contributor, we appreciate you! But we cannot take for granted those that do so much to keep the organization functioning. We must all revisit our purpose as a Friend and see what talents and skills we could contribute to the mission. Do you tell *your* friends about Devil's Den State Park and the fond memories you have of walking the trails, exploring the caves, and camping along the creek? Is Devil's Den State Park still a place you can go in your mind's eye to watch the water flow, the bats fly in the evening, or chuckle at your memories?

If it has been a while since you visited the park or attended a meeting, please consider joining us Saturday, March 9th for the annual work day, pot-luck luncheon and business meeting. There are many ways that you can show your support from spreading the word and recruiting new members to volunteering at a special event or making an additional tax deductible contribution.

In loving memory of our Friends –



Edna Ruth Center Nicholas
May 15, 1922 - August 14, 2012



Jo Anne Miller
April 2, 1939 - October 12, 2012

We would like to hear your stories and have an archive of your precious park memories. You are a part of this special place and through your efforts Devil's Den State Park will remain a special place where wonderful memories are made for years to come.

Rebekah Penney
Park Interpreter

"You can't stay in your corner of the Forrest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes." - A. A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

Friends of Devil's Den
State Park

Our mailing address:

Friends of Devil's Den
State Park
c/o Devil's Den State
Park
11333 W. AR Hwy 74
West Fork, Arkansas
72774

Phone: (479) 761-3325

Email:
<mailto:friends@devilsden.org>

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.devilsden.org

and on FaceBook
at:
www.facebook.com/friendsofdevilsdenstatepark

Calendar of Events - 2013

Volunteer Trail Maintenance – Thursday February 28th at 10:00am
Come prepared to work outside and meet at the Scenic Overlook on Hwy 170 at 10 a.m. In case of inclement weather please call the park to see if work has been cancelled.
479-761-3325

✧ **Friends Work Day/Meeting** – March 9 at 9:00am (meet at Visitor's Center) Potluck lunch at 12:30 in Cabin 6 followed by general spring meeting.

Devil's Den Rocks! – Friday, March 22 at 9:00am – Join in the fun on this wonderful celebration of the unique geology of Devil's Den State Park. This rockin' weekend will also feature a live performance by Still on the Hill.

Ozark Mountain Bike Festival – Friday, April 5 at 9:00am – Explore your park in a new way! This weekend on wheels will feature guided rides, a

mountain biking poker run, and good times!

Signs of Spring – Friday, April 12 at 9:00am – Get outside and celebrate the signs of spring! Local author, Dawn Denton, will be reading and signing books.

Birder Weekend – Friday May 3 at 9:00am – Be amazed by our feathered friends as we celebrate the many migrating song birds that visit the park.

✧ **Think Like a Mountain** – Friday, May 3 at 9:00am (Friends of Devil's Den sponsorship) – Experience a weekend of family fun and adventure celebrating 20th century conservationist Aldo Leopold.

✧ **Bat-O-Rama XXIV** – Friday, June 7 at 9:00am – Don't miss this opportunity to go batty for bats with special hikes, crafts, and a chance to see live bats up-close.

Devil's Den Games – July 4th – Grab your family and friends and let the games begin! We will host a day of horseshoes, egg tosses, softball, and a patriotic parade!

✧ **XXV Annual Northwest Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships** – September 13-14 time TBA. (Friends of Devil's Den sponsorship) – Get ready to pedal harder! This racing weekend is great for riders and spectators, so don't miss a second of the action!

✧ **General Membership Meeting of the Friends of Devil's Den** – September 14th after the final bike race.

America Recycles Day - November 15 – Do your part during this special day of awareness. If not you, who?

✧ Denotes a Friends of Devil's Den sponsored event/work day

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. - Membership Application

If you are interested in joining Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., please clip, fill-out, and return this slip with your check for dues to:

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.
c/o Devil's Den State Park
11333 West AR Hwy. 74
West Fork, AR 72774

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check appropriate membership:

- \$10 Full Time Student \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$100 Business / Organization