

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

September, 2023 Newsletter Summary

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A full-color full-graphics version of this edition may be found online at www.devilsden.org/newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is that time again. The 35th N.W. Arkansas Mountain Bike Race will be Saturday, Sept 16. We will need your help. We need Volunteers to help with Officiating of the Race from 7:45 am till the start of the last race at Campground A. Please report to Tim Scott for assignment. Any amount of time you can give us will be appreciated.

After the last race (Approximately 2 pm) we will be having our Semi Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers at Cabin #6. If you cannot come to the Meeting please send us your signed Proxy so we can have the meeting.

Hope to see many of you at the Bike Race, Our March Work Day, Bat-o-Rama and other Friends sponsored Events.

Jack Miller, President

LABOR DAY AND A COUPLE OF WEEKS AFTER

We often think of Labor Day as the last hurrah for the camping season. Well, that is the way it used to be. Today, camping has become a year-round activity for a lot of people. There are still a few lulls, usually just after Labor Day and late December and January. Otherwise, you should make your reservation six months to a year in advance, especially if you want a spot in October, March, or July 4th.

Labor Day is also a harbinger of another yearly park event, the Northwest Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships, which will be 34 this year. The event is usually two weeks after the holiday. This year, the race will be on the 16th of September, a far cry from when it was a two-day race. Those early days could not have happened without the likes of Steve Shepherd as our USAC Official and the cadre of Friends members John and Aimee Crochet, Jack and Joanne Miller, Pat Huff, Jean Crone, and Kathy Stafford, to name a few. They would work late on Friday evening and early Saturday morning, registering racers and handing out numbers. Most of those details are handled online today, and the riders are chipped-timed. But you will still see John and Jack helping with the event. You will also see new members Rebeka and Nick controlling the music and handing out awards.

Without the Friends donating money and volunteering for this event, it would not be possible. Also, the Bank of Fayetteville and Adventure Subaru are our other big donors and have been for a while. As importantly, we receive support from most local and regional bike shops and outdoor stores that give swag for our raffle.

Please let us know if you are considering volunteering for this event. There is always room.

Tim Scott, Assistant Superintendent

FROM THE TREASURER

As reported in the March 2023 newsletter, the Amazon Smile program ended this Spring. We received a total of \$131.20 from the program since its first distribution to us in 2017.

I've been going over the books for 2018 to 2022 to update you on what your money has been going to. Note that there is a huge atypicality for that range in that there were no programs to be funded for over a year due to the pandemic (partially due to this we increased our reserves by \$1,396.25 over the full period).

In that period we bought (total cost to us including sales tax \$1,305.35) and donated to the Park an iPad for use with the bat sensor, fence posts to be used as railings at the amphitheater, and a portable PA system mainly for use at the ball field but usable elsewhere.

Over those 5 years we contributed \$3,314.21 to cover Park program expenses including prizes for the NWA Mountain Bike Championships, feeding Dr. Risch and his students working here on Bat-o-Rama, speaker fees and expenses for the Signs of Spring/Wild Edible Workshop, and Birder Weekend, and landscaping supplies for the Master Gardeners/Naturalists volunteers.

Our unrestricted income for that period was \$6,372.81. our administrative expenses were \$870.44. Using the above figures (see lawyerly disclaimers below) I calculate a 13.66% expenses to income ratio. 52.01% went to the park and 21.91% to reserves (so we can give more to the Park in the leaner years).

We will be discussing this and voting on the 2024 budget (charts for those on the full featured newsletter on our website) at the September 16 meeting in cabin 6 after the bike races. Please come for a fuller discussion.

Note: The specific expense figures above are those paid from our unrestricted funds (and some in-kind donations) and do not include payments equal to donations restricted for use, e.g. donations for prize money for the bike race, which would result in more favorable ratios. There may also be some discrepancy resulting from how the value of in-kind donations of tangible items (including the PA system and food and prizes for events) is accounted for and reported in different years as expenses and/or income.

John Crochet, Treasurer

AGENDA

Friends of Devil's Den State Park Inc. Membership Meeting September 16, 2023

Call to order about 2:00 pm in Cabin 6
Approval of March 2023 minutes
Financial Report (2023 YTD; 5 year look back 2018-2022)
Membership Report
Requests from Park Staff
Old Business
 None
New Business
 Park Staff report on 2023 and 2024 Events
 Water outside Visitor Center
 2024 Budget
 Election of Officers (Present Officers: Jack Miller
 President; Myra Collins Vice President; Aimee Crochet
 Secretary; John Crochet Treasurer)
Next Bike Race: September 14, 2024
Adjournment (2024 Meetings: March 2 in Cabin 1, September 14 in
Cabin 18)

MINUTES
Friends of Devil's Den State Park Inc.
Membership Meeting
 March 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Miller in Cabin 1 at 12:29pm.

John Crochet presented proxies for Stephen and Ruth Shepherd to Jack Miller, Thurman and Martha Ragar to Jack Miller, Pat and Carole Huff with no designated representative; John and Myra Collins to John Crochet. The chair appoints Harry Harnish to represent those proxies that are blank or to himself.

Harry moves to waive reading of and approve the September 2022 Minutes as presented in the newsletter. John seconded, and without objection it was so ordered.

John presented year-end reports of finances and donations for 2022, and partial year financial report for 2023 to 3/2/2023. Aimee Crochet moved and Harry seconded adoption of the former, and Harry moved and Aimee seconded acceptance of the latter, both adopted without objection.

John reported as of 3/2/2023: Total Memberships 22: Voting members 38; Family Memberships 1; Individual Membership 6; Lifetime Membership 1 (Dianne Boyd having died); making our quorums 4 for items on the agenda and 12 for matters not on the agenda. The projected revenue if all renew would be \$475.

Old Business:

Discussion of starting time for September Business Meeting after the bike race, which is ending earlier due to consolidation of the Category 1 and Category 2 starts. It was agreed without objection that we would publish a 2:00 p.m. meeting time, subject to delay if members were still at the race.

New Business:

Terry Anderson requested adjusting Tamara Walkingstick's fee/expenses for the Wild Edible Workshop at Signs of Spring to the current mileage rate for 378 miles round trip at 65.5 cents (total \$247.59), and suggested we increase Lynn Sciumbatto's speaker fee for Birding Weekend in May to \$150. Without objection both were so ordered. She also requested candy for Fall Fest on October 14 and refreshments for Holiday Open House on December 16; both are already budgeted at \$30 combined and Jack said he will again take care of these with in-kind donations.

Terry also requested volunteers to man booths/tables for Earth Day at Botanical Garden of the Ozarks April 21, Spring Break at the Visitor Center March 18 and 25, the July 4 games, and Eclipse 2024. John and Jack tentatively volunteered for the Spring Break table. John questioned the need for assistance at the Eclipse since it

will be a partial one at the park and totality is only a short distance away. There will be two more business meetings before the Eclipse for further discussion.

The Bike Race 2023 will be on September 16th. A request for help will be in the newsletter that month. Lee Creek Cleanup is also requesting help on September 9th.

"Certificates suitable for framing" were awarded as follows:

Huff, Pat & Carole	Vista Point and Dillwyn Paxson
Miller, Jack	Yellow Rock
Hughes, Charles & Reba	Yellow Rock
Biondi, Nick & Rebekah Mann	Butterfield Trail
Crochet John & Aimee	Butterfield Trail
Turnbull, Rick & Karen Shapland	Butterfield Trail
Vogt, Stan & Julie	Quail Valley
Shelton, Dennis & Kathy	Quail Valley
Ragar, Thurman & Martha	Quail Valley

The September Business Meeting will be September 16 at 2:00 p.m. (subject to delay if needed from races) at Cabin 6. John moved and Harry seconded to Adjourn until then. Without objection, so ordered.

Aimee Crochet, Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	<u>2023</u>
Annual Lee Creek Cleanup	September 9
NWA Mountain Bike Championships*	Sept. 16
Centennial Day of Service	October 8
Fall Fest*	October 14
Holiday Open House*	December 16
	<u>2024</u>
Bike Fest	April 12- 14
Signs of Spring/Wild Edible Workshop*	April 19-21
Birder Weekend*	April 3-5
Bat-0-Rama*	June 7- 9
Devil's Den Games	July 4
NWA Mountain Bike Championships*	Sept. 14
Fall Fest*	September 12
Holiday Open House*	December 21

**Denotes a Friends of Devil's Den sponsored event or activity*

 Please fill out if you are unable to attend our meeting. Mail to Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., PO Box 623, West Fork, AR 72774-0623

PROXY

I hereby appoint _____, or, in his/her absence or inability or unwillingness to serve or if left blank, a member present appointed by the presiding officer, as my proxy at the March, 2023 membership meeting of Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., with the following instructions:

To abstain on all other matters.

This proxy is revocable upon written notice to the Secretary or upon my attendance at the meeting.

Date: _____

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

For family memberships, complete for second voting member:

Print name: _____ Signature: _____