

# Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

## September, 2023 Newsletter

P.O. Box 623, West Fork, AR 72774-0623  
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### FROM THE TREASURER

It is with great sadness that I must report the news that our President, Jack Miller, passed away on December 30, 2023.

The remaining officers have selected Myra Collins to succeed as President for 2024, and John Collins to succeed her as Vice-President, as called for in the Bylaws for the filling of vacancies to elected office.

Our semi-annual membership meeting and awards ceremony will be Saturday March 2, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in the A/V room at the Visitor Center. There will be a Board of Directors meeting before then at 10:00. We will not have an organized work day that

morning but members are encouraged to bring a litter bag and pick up on the trails and other areas.

“Future of organization” has been on the meeting agenda several times in the past few years as the number of people willing and able to conduct the day to day and long term business of our organization has dwindled. With Jack’s death the hypothetical has become reality and the shortage has become critical. 2024 is a transitional year where we need to decide how (or whether) to continue or wind down our mission over the next few years.

Please come join us in this discussion if at all possible at the March and September meetings (after the Bike Race). If you can’t be there please return a signed proxy. And please consider being available to stand for elected office at the September meeting, or an appointed chairmanship (Volunteer, Newsletter, or Membership) that carries a seat on the Board of Directors (and takes some of the workload off the undersigned).

John Crochet, Treasurer

**Jack Miller at the March 2015 half-a-workday on the CCC trail**



**AGENDA**  
**FDDSP Membership Meeting**  
**March 2, 2024**

Call to order about 10:30 a.m. in A/V Room  
Approval of September 2023 minutes and Ratification of  
actions taken at September 2023 meeting  
Financial Report  
    2023 Final  
    2024 Year to Date  
Membership Report  
Requests from Park Staff  
Old Business  
    Water outside Visitor Center  
    2024 Budget  
New Business  
    Park Staff report on 2024 Events  
    Succession of Officers: Myra Collins President;  
        John Collins Vice President; Aimee  
        Crochet Secretary; John Crochet  
        Treasurer  
    Donation of CCC photos and artifacts  
    Award presentations  
    Future of organization  
Adjournment: Next meeting after the Bike Race  
September 14, 2024 time and place TBA.

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**MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:19 pm in the AV room by Treasurer John Crochet in the absence of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Also present was Cathy Evans. John reports the location was changed due to illness of President Jack Miller who would have rented Cabin 6, and that John sent notice of the change 9/15/23 to all members with email address on record, and also he taped a notice on the door of Cabin 6 prior to the meeting time.

John presented proxy instruments from Stephen and Ruth Shepherd to Jack Miller, from Martha and Thurman Ragar to John Crochet, from Harry Harnish to John Crochet, and from Aimee Crochet to Terry

Anderson or Kara Helton, all with authorization of substitution by the chair in the event of unavailability of the named proxy, Aimee's specifically for "a person present." John questions the validity of Harry's proxy instrument as there is no "signature" and the chair rules Harry's proxy invalid as not being signed. The chair appoints Cathy Evans to represent those members whose proxies named the chair or absent members or persons.

Approval of March 2023 minutes:

Cathy Evans as proxy for Aimee Crochet under her specific instructions moves and John seconds a motion to waive reading of the minutes of March 4, 2023 and adopt them as written. Without objection it was so ordered.

Financial Reports:

John presented a written 2023 YTD financial report and answered questions about it.

John presented a 2018 through 2022 summary with totals from the prior reports and explained and answered questions about it.

Membership Report:

John reported: 5 Individual Members, 16 Family Memberships, and 1 Lifetime Member for a total of 21 Total Memberships and 37 voting members, resulting in quorums of: On Agenda: 4; Off Agenda: 13. There were no drops so far this year except upon the death of member Mary Rasori, but two memberships are in arrears at least 1 month, both 2022 joins.

For 2018-2022 there were a total of 8 new memberships, with all of those except Myra & John Collins and Michael & Joan Finnegan already dropped or in arrears at least 1 month.

Requests from Park Staff:

No park staff was present at this time. (Terry and Kara showed up later just before adjournment and John had a conference with them to get their requests and reports to send to the Board for action).

Old Business: None

New Business:

Park Staff report on 2023 and 2024 Events: None present at this time.

Water outside Visitor Center: Martha Ragar inquired about the lack of water available outside the Visitor Center. John reports he discussed it with Tim and there were already plans to re-enable the water to the fountain/hydrant pedestal in front of the office in the next few weeks.

2024 Budget: John presents a written proposed 2024 budget. In the absence of a motion to adopt it, the chair rules that it be referred to the Board of Directors for action.

Election of Officers: Cathy Evans as proxy for Aimee Crochet under her specific instructions nominates the following to serve as officers for 2024: Jack Miller President; Myra Collins Vice President; Aimee Crochet Secretary; John Crochet Treasurer. No further nominations being heard, the chair called for a vote on each office and each was elected to the respective office.

Next Bike Race: September 14, 2024, with a meeting to follow in Cabin 18.

Cathy Evans as proxy for Aimee Crochet makes and John seconds a motion to adjourn until March 2, 2024 in Cabin 1 at 12:30 pm after a half-workday. Without objection it was so ordered.

John Crochet, Treasurer

**Calendar of Events 2024**

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*

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*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, 2024 membership meeting of Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., with the following instructions:

To abstain on all other matters.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*For family memberships, complete for second voting member:*

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_