

March, 2021
Volume 28, No. 1

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.



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This newsletter is available in color at <http://www.devilsden.org/newsletter>

President's Message

The Board of Directors has unanimously voted to cancel the March 6, 2020 workday and to postpone the general membership meeting for that date to coincide with the September meeting which will coincide with the NWA Mountain Bike Championships (we hope--or will be held somehow somewhere if the race is cancelled) on September 18, 2021, time and place to be announced. This is of course due to the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, and also due to the lack of any pressing business to attend to (unlike last September when it was necessary to elect this year's officers so the Board of Directors could lawfully transact business, and especially this coming September when it is doubly important since the current officers are term-limited).

Aside from the potluck lunch and the camaraderie of the workday, the usual highlight of the March meeting is the recognition of those members who

have made special contributions of time, money or goods to assist in helping the Park. Rather than having to wait until the combined March and September meeting we recognize them now (and if you're on the list keep an eye on the mail for your "certificate suitable for framing"). It's a bit sparser than most years due to lack of volunteer opportunities, so special thanks to those who were able to help:

Miller, Jack
Dillwyn Paxson/Yellow Rock

Crochet, John & Aimee
Butterfield Trail

Huff, Pat & Carole
Butterfield Trail

Turnbull, Rick &
Shapland, Karen
Butterfield Trail

Hughes, Charles & Reba
Quail Valley

Ragar, Thurman & Martha
Quail Valley

The 2020 financial report is inside this issue. Keep in mind that the positive cash flow is mostly due to the cancellation of all of the programs that we support through the calendar year. Our biggest expenditure by far was for fence posts to be whittled down to fit between the stone uprights leading to the amphitheater. We cleaned out Lowes in May and still needed a few which were finally in stock long enough for us to get them in January.

Let's hope our programs can start again by this summer, and hope to see you at them, and especially at the Bike Race registration and the annual meeting following. If you can't make it, it's not too early to get your proxies in (see last page of this issue).

John Crochet, President

About the Friends of Devil's Den

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. helps Devil's Den State Park provide diverse recreational and educational opportunities for all visitors while protecting the natural and cultural resources of this unique Ozark valley.

The Friends raise money to cover costs beyond the state budget for equipment, improvements, and programs to make your visit at the Park more convenient and enjoyable. Friends also provide volunteer labor at programs and for maintenance and improvement of the Park.

For more information see our website at www.devilsden.org or find us on Facebook at *Friends of Devil's Den State Park in NW Arkansas* <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfDevilsDenStatePark/>

or email us at friends@devilsden.org.

Tax Deductible:

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and all **dues and donations** are tax deductible.

To Join:

Fill out the form on page 4 and mail to the address on the form

or join online at www.devilsden.org/join.htm.

To Donate:

If you wish to make a donation to help the Park without joining the Friends, mail it to

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.
PO Box 623
West Fork, AR 72774-0623

or make it online at www.devilsden.org/help.htm

or through PayPal to treasurer@devilsden.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.....!!!!

FDDSP General Membership Meeting Agenda



Meeting in September Watch this space!

The Park and the Pandemic by Tim V. Scott

In unison, the world heaved a sigh of relief at midnight 12/31/2020. Devil's Den was right there with everyone. We all hope that 2021 will be a better year. But 2020 was a banner year for most park systems, and in a good way. Like many businesses, some of our facilities were closed, or they were under new restrictions. This lasted for approximately six weeks. After that, there were new rules for cleaning bathhouses and cabins. In fact, the Yellow Rock Trail was closed for April because of overuse. Even with the closures, it may have been one of the busiest years in the park's 87 years.

The outdoors was considered one activity you could enjoy during the pandemic. It seemed everyone took that advice to heart. Most weekends and many weekdays starting with

- March through the middle of November, the park was at

capacity or beyond. Park staff was directing traffic, or on Highway 74, turning visitors around since the park was full. Visitation of 5000 guests on a Saturday or Sunday was not uncommon. The country seemed to rediscover the outdoors.

The Fossil Flat Trail was closed, but not because of Covid-19. The trail was in desperate need of a facelift. Rogue Trail completed that work in August. If you haven't experienced the "new" Fossil Flats, it is well worth hiking or biking. Then

starting the new year, Rock Solid began cutting additional mountain bike trails. All in all, the scenery will be incredible, especially the areas that follow the tight bluffs near the Yellow Rock Trail. This new "stuff" should be on everyone's checklist once completed.

We hope that by the end of 2021, the hardships of 2020 are memories of our collective experience. No matter what the future may bring, Devil's Den State Park is the place to recharge your batteries.



Friends of Devil's Den Annual Meeting – September 19, 2020 Minutes

The meeting was called to order shortly after 2:00pm in the AV Room of the Visitor Center by President John Crochet. Present were John Crochet, Jack Miller, Harry Harnish, and Park staff members Terry Anderson and Mystina Swaim. In the absence of Secretary Myra Collins, the Chair appoints Jack to take minutes.

Proxies were submitted on behalf of: Marie Lookingbill and Aimee Crochet to Jack Miller; Myra and John Collins, Stephen and Ruth Shepherd, and Martha and Thurman Ragar to John Crochet; Pat and Carole Huff, and Barbara Huff left blank as to name. The chair appoints Jack Miller to vote all proxies left blank as to name and those with the Chair named.

Jack moves and Harry seconds that we waive reading of the minutes of the March 7, 2020 membership meeting and adopt the minutes as published in the newsletter. Without objection it was so ordered. John submits a transcript of the May 2020 Board email action (fencing for amphitheater) to be attached to the March minutes.

John submits a written report on the

finances from January 1 to September 16, 2020 on behalf of the absent Treasurer, Aimee Crochet. The donations page does not include data on volunteer hours to date as those were not sent by Park staff and does not reflect a \$50 donation from Martha and Thurman Ragar. Jack moves and Harry seconds that we accept the financial report. Without objection it was so ordered.

John as Membership Chairman reported 22 memberships of which 14 are family and 8 are individual for a total of 36 voting members. The Chair rules that the Quorum is 4 and that the quorum for non-agenda items is 12 and both are met.

Mystina requests 7 additional fence posts (to be used as rails in the amphitheater fencing, as authorized in the May 2020 Board email action referenced above; Lowes was short the total number needed in May). As this will still be within the authorization previously done by the Board no further motion nor vote is needed. No adjustment to the budget adopted for this year is requested for next year's budget.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

Park Staff on 2020 and 2021 Events. These were presented in a prior agenda item as discussed above. Those for 2021 will be considered in the Budget agenda item.

Election of Officers for 2021. Harry nominates John Crochet as President, Jack Miller as Vice-President, Myra Collins as Secretary, and Aimee Crochet as Treasurer. There being no further nominations Harry moved and Jack seconded election of those nominees by acclamation. Without objection it was so ordered.

2021 Budget. John submitted a written budget proposal for 2021. Harry moves and Jack seconds that we adopt the budget as submitted. Without objection it was so ordered.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with the next meeting on March 6, 2021 at 12:30 pm at Cabin 6.

Jack Miller, acting as secretary.

Calendar of Events

Be sure to check with the park at (479) 761-3325 for cancellations.

March

22-26 Arkansas Spring Break.

April

2-4 Ozark Mountain Bike Fest
 17-18 Signs of Spring ☺
 22-24 Backpacking Adventure
 Workshop – Part 1

May

1-2 Birder Weekend ☺
 8 Great American Cleanup
 15-16 Backpacking Adventure

Workshop – Part 2

June

5 Dogs-in-the-Park Day
 12-13 32nd Bat-O-Rama ☺
 12-13 Fishing Derby

July

4 46th Annual Devil's Den Games

August

28 Joe Martin Stage Race

September

1-6 Legacy Week – Think Like a Mountain Weekend
 11 Lee Creek Clean Up
 17-18 33rd Annual Mountain Bike Race ☺

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



Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

Our mailing address is Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. PO Box 623 West Fork, Arkansas 72774-0623

Email: friends@devilsden.or

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.devilsden.org

and on FaceBook at

https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDevilsDenStatePark

Tax Deductible:

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and all dues and donations are tax deductible.

I want to join Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

Name: _____

Additional Name: _____

(For Family or Business/Organization memberships to designate voter)

Address: _____

City, ST Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Check appropriate membership:

\$15 Individual \$10 Full Time Student

\$25 Family \$100 Business/Organization

Additional, tax deductible contribution level (if desired):

\$50 Quail Valley \$100 Butterfield Trail

\$250 Yellow Rock \$500 Vista Point

\$1000 Devil's Den \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

I would like to volunteer in the following area(s):

Clerical Carpentry Trail Maintenance

Landscape Friends' administration Computers

History Research Maintenance Plumbing

Bird House Management Wildlife Management

Other: _____

Date: ____/____/20____

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 September 2021 (with March 2021 consolidated) 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: _____