

Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

September, 2021 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

This will be my last President's Message (for some time anyway) as I am term limited after serving for three years. It has been an unusual three years (especially the last two) to say the least. Thank you all for all the support you have given to the Friends and the Park.

Come out for NWA Mountain Bike Championships September 18 (Saturday only). Things will of course be different this year to keep us outside and minimize contact. Registration will be online but we will be assisting with chores that need to be done in person Saturday morning (giving out T-shirts, getting signatures on forms where electronic signatures aren't possible).

It is especially important that you participate in this year's annual meeting (Saturday September 18 about 4:00 p.m.--when those of us volunteering at the race can arrive--in Cabin 6), as all of the current officers are term limited and a new slate must be elected to carry on our work. If you can't make it please send a proxy form (see back page) so we can have a quorum.

And mark your calendar for March 5, 2022 for our annual half a workday followed noonish by lunch at Cabin 6 and our annual awards meeting.

John Crochet, President

"Devil's Den in the Details!"

By Tim V Scott

The State's fiscal years end in June. For Devil's Den, it was a banner year. With the Covid pandemic, more people visited parks and green spaces more than ever. As a result, day use has been overwhelming, but so has camping. So, if you want to camp, you better plan way ahead--way ahead. Weekends are booked until the middle of December.

The park has several new employees, Sean Weaver, who is actually a homeboy, and Kara Helton. Sean is from West Fork. Sean has worked in several parks, including Cassatot River and Bull Shoal-White River State Park. He is a law enforcement officer. Kara is from Vilonia, which is in central Arkansas. She has also spent time at Woolly Hollow and Village Creek. Kara joins Devil's Den as a Park Interpreter. In addition, Rebecca Hill and Amariah Berry are new front desk clerks. They stay swamped answering the phone and greeting guests. In fact, you might have spoken to them if you made a reservation. Be sure to welcome all of them next time you are in the park.

Shifting gears, the 32nd Annual Northwest Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships will happen on September 18th. It was postponed last year because of the pandemic. However, because of the rise of the Delta variant, we are cautious. All registration will be online, and all activities will be outside. The race course will include some of the just-completed Monument Trails. If you have never seen a mountain bike race, here is your opportunity.

How about a trivia question? What did the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) call their newsletter while at the park? As you know, CCC is responsible for the Arkansas State Parks system. The five original parks, Devil's Den, Lake Catherine, Mount Nebo, Petit Jean, and Crowley's Ridge, were CCC camps. In addition, you can include the Buffalo River, which later became a National Scenic Waterway.

[Trivia answer on next page]

TIM, continued:

The answer to the trivia question: The Voice of Satan.

NEW PARK INTERPRETER

Hello There,

I suppose that I am few months overdue for an introduction, but better late than never. My name is Kara Helton, and I the new interpreter at the park. I am an Arkansan from the little town of Vilonia where I graduated with honors. After high school, I went to the University of Central Arkansas where I earned a bachelor's in biology.

After college, I started working as a seasonal front desk worker at Woolly Hollow State Park in March of 2018, getting a little taste of park life. I found myself interested more in interpretation, and so I interviewed for the 2019 seasonal interpreter positions. Not long after, I was offered the spot at Village Creek State Park where I have worked until interviewing and accepting the position here at Devil's Den.

My wheelhouse is nature-based programming, with focuses on mammal and insect adaptations. However, I am sharpening my history programming skills because the story of Devil's Den is simply too amazing not to share.

If you find yourselves in the park, feel free to give me a holler. Or if you need to contact me, email is the best way to go! My email is Kara.Helton@arkansas.gov .

KARA HELTON
Park Interpreter

AGENDA

**Friends of Devil's Den State Park Inc.
Membership Meeting 9/18/2021 (including postponed March meeting):**

- Call to order about 4:00pm in Cabin 6.
- Approval of September 2021 minutes
- Financial Reports
 - 2020 final report
 - 2021 YTD
- Membership Report
- Requests from Park Staff
- Old Business
 - Awards for 2020
- New Business
 - Park Staff on 2021 and 2022 Events
 - Election of Officers for 2022
 - Email account, domain registration, webhosting
 - 2022 Budget
- Adjournment

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Lee Creek Clean Up September 11
- *33rd Annual Mountain Bike Race September 17-18
- Bikes, Blues, and BBQ September 22-25
- Fall in Love with Fall October 9
- Green Friday November 26
- *Holiday Open House December 18

**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 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: _____