

March, 2015  
Volume 22, No. 1

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



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West Fork, AR 72774-0623

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www.devilsden.org

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

## President's Message

We are starting the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park. I would like to thank our members for their support of the Park.

The Friends have supported several events this past year, some of which were "Think like a Mountain", Rob Mies at Bat-O-Rama, 2 events with Lynn Sciumbato and her birds, and the 26<sup>th</sup> N. W. Arkansas Mountain Bike Championship Race. We also purchased some needed equipment for the Park Maintenance Department.

The Friends will be sponsoring Bat-O-Rama on

June 13 & 14. Plan to attend for a good program on Bats.

We will also be sponsoring the 27<sup>th</sup> Mountain Bike Race on Sept. 19. We will need a lot of Volunteers for Registration on Friday PM Sept. 18 and for Registration and Race Support on Saturday. There will be more details in the Sept. Newsletter.

Please come to our Work Day March 7 from 9AM till Noon. We will meet at the Visitors Center. At 12:30 we will have our Awards Lunch and Business Meeting at Cabin 12. If you

can't come for the Work Day, we would be happy to see you at the Lunch. If you would like to bring some food for the Lunch, please call me, Jack Miller, at (479) 466-4517.

If you are interested in trail maintenance, we have a small group that meets on Thursday from 9AM till Noon (weather permitting). Call me at (479) 466-4517 for the location of the work.

Looking forward to seeing several of you all in March, June and September.

Jack Miller  
President FDDSP

## 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](http://www.devilsden.org) or find us on Facebook at Friends of Devil's Den State Park in NW Arkansas or email us at [friends@devilsden.org](mailto:friends@devilsden.org).

### To Join:

Fill out the form on page 6 and mail to the address on the form

or join online at [www.devilsden.org/join.htm](http://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](http://www.devilsden.org/help.htm)

or through PayPal to [treasurer@devilsden.org](mailto:treasurer@devilsden.org).

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

**In Remembrance**



**Amiee Lynn Huff**

Amiee Lynn Huff, 41, passed away in Tulsa, OK. Amiee was the Friends' Membership Chair from 2008 to 2010. She was a family member of FDDSP, daughter of former President and current Vice-President Pat Huff.

Amiee was born November 18, 1973 in Muskogee. She grew up in Van Buren, graduating from Van Buren High School in 1992; continuing her education at Westark Community College, and Henderson State University, graduating in 1994, and 1996 respectively. She enjoyed and excelled in sports, especially softball. She was a Property Manager for the Fort Smith Housing Authority. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ann Tweedy Huff.

She is survived by her father and stepmother, Pat and Carole Huff of Muldrow; her grandmothers, Barbara Huff and Wanda Goff both of Sallisaw; three stepsisters, Barbara Fortune of La Puente, CA, Carolyn Scharpenberg of Seattle, WA; and Veronica Lane of Van Buren; an aunt, Kathy Ruark and husband Dave; uncles, Ken Huff and wife Sue, Mike Huff and wife Sharon, Walter Tweedy, Tommy Tweedy, Ray Tweedy, and Jerry Tweedy; and many cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sebastian County Humane Society, 3800 Kelley Hwy, Fort Smith, AR 72904; or Friends of Devil's Den State Park, P. O. Box 623, West Fork, AR 72774-0623.



**James "Luke" Lookingbill**

James "Luke" Lookingbill, 84, of Springdale, died Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Circle of Life Hospice. The Lookingbills have been members of FDDSP since 1995 and until recent years slowed them down, they were almost always to be found at our workdays, meetings, and at the bike registration table.

Luke was born June 3, 1930 in Springdale to James Clifton and Theresa Dana Lewis Lookingbill.

Luke married Marie Miller on June 10, 1956 in Springdale. He was a longtime member of Elmdale Baptist Church. He served in the Army and retired from Harp's Food Stores. He was active with Campers on Mission and Friends of Devil's Den, and supported Caring Ministries in Tucson, Arizona. Luke enjoyed gardening, making bird houses, and cutting and splitting firewood. He loved to decorate the house and yard during Christmas and helping at the Siloam Springs Church Camp.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Tim Lookingbill. In addition to his wife, Marie, he is survived by two daughters, Theresa Blevins and husband Tony, and Sherry Graves and husband Dan all of Springdale; two sisters, Mary Lou Humphries and husband Jim of Lindale, Texas, Sarah Schmidt and husband Lee of McKinney, Texas; one grandson, Samuel Graves of Springdale; a sister-in-law, Bobbie Lookingbill of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Caring Ministries, 802 W. Calle Sur, Tucson, Ariz. 85705, or Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Road, Springdale, Ark. 72762.

**FDDSP Business Meeting Agenda –March 7, 2015**



- \* Awards Lunch
- \* Approve minutes of March & Sept. 2014 Meetings & E-mail Board Meetings
- \* Approve Financial and Donation Reports
- \* Bat-O-Rama 2015
- \* Mountain Bike Race
- \* Think Like a Mountain
- \* FDDSP Records Storage / Fireproof Safe

- \* Lee Creek Cleanup 2015
- \* Equipment and Materials request from Park Staff
- \* Budget 2015
- \* Election of officers
- \* Award Certificates
- \* Adjourn

**Our meeting will be held in Cabin 12 at 12:30pm. Please try to attend or send your proxy (on back page of this newsletter) if you can't.**

**Devil's Den State Park, Just as Birdy as Ever**



Many of you know that Devil's Den has long been a great stop for birders. In fact we have records as far back as 1967 of birders spending the first weekend in May searching the park for our feathered friends. This year will be no different with Vulture Venue, Birder Weekend, Fall Migration Watch and the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count. Over the years we have amassed a total of 189 birds observed in the park boundaries. Some of the rarer finds for the park are American White Pelican, White Ibis, Merlin, Cape May Warbler,

Sora, and a Lazuli Bunting that I observed during Birder Weekend 2014.

These birds are attracted to the park for the same reason you are, rest, family history, a stop along the way, love, and a safe place to teach the kids about nature. There is no telling what bird #190 will be, but without the support of the Friends of Devil's Den and our great local birders we may not find it. So I encourage you to get out your binoculars or camera and visit the park during one of our events or anytime you can and discover the joy of birding at Devil's Den State Park. Maybe you will be the one to find #190!

Great Backyard Bird Count is the second weekend of February

Vulture Venue is the second

Sunday of February

Birder Weekend is the first weekend in May

Fall Migration Watch is the fourth weekend of September

Some of my favorite birding spots in the park are the Lake Trail including the island, Campground A along the creek, the Mayfield, and the Horse Day-use parking area. These areas provide great habitat for a wide variety of birds. While I don't ever guarantee bird sightings these are the best spots to try!

I hope to see you out in the park,

Adam Leslie  
Park Interpreter

**Bird Photos from 2014**



Bald Eagle



Juvenile Black Vultures



White-eyed Vireo





## Bikes, bikes! Hike, hike!

by Tim V Scott

Northwest Arkansas is fast becoming a travel destination for cycling. Not just for the state, but for the Mid-South and Mid-West. A visitor can easily drive from Kansas City, Springfield or Joplin, but also from other population center as Tulsa, Little Rock and Memphis are just a few hours away. Cyclists do not mind travelling to the next hot spot to ride.

While Devil's Den is primarily known for its mountain biking, we are on a popular road bike route. On any given weekend, weather permitting, we can have 20 road cyclists from Fayetteville pedal through the park. In fact, Devil's Den is part of the prestigious Joe Martin Stage Race. The stage at the park is time trial. Basically that means riding from Campground C to the top of Hwy 170 as fast as you can. Not necessarily my idea of fun. The fastest time has been a little under nine minutes, pretty fast. Joe Martin Stage Race will have teams from all over the world competing in the event. If you have never seen the portion of the event in downtown Fayetteville, it is well worth attending.

Enough though, we are a mountain biking park!! Not to offend our road

biking friends. This year will mark the 27th anniversary for cycling events. We have had a major improvement of the Fossil Flats Multi-use trail. A portion of Race's Hill was rerouted. Last August, the Ozark Off-Road Cyclist moved about a ¼ mile of trail. The old trail was not built according to International Mountain Bike Association standards. In other words, it was not a sustainable trail. The new trail is not as aggressive which makes pedaling up the hill much more pleasant. Of course, Fossil Flat is also a hiking trail, so the ascent for hikers is equally as "easy."

Not to drift from cycling, but the Fossil Flats Trail is always a viable option for hiking instead of the Yellow Rock and Devil's Den Trail. On any given weekend, at the Yellow Rock Trail there can be cars parked from the Area A to the road, then across the road to the picnic area. The Devil's Den Trail is the same. All its parking lots and the Visitor Centers are packed.

In fact, one of the newest user groups is trail runners. The Fossil Flats Trail is great for that also. The Fossil Flats affords one of the nicest views of Lee Creek. On the



portion of the trail that follows the ledge, the view is spectacular. Riding a bike it is not as noticeable, because you better be paying attention since there is a 30 foot drop to the creek. Otherwise, it is a great place to stop and soak in the scenery.

Any of the trails at the park are a good choice. If you looking for solitude, I would suggest avoiding the Devil's Den Trail and the Yellow Rock Trail. Which turns our attention back to the Fossil Flats Trail, which would be my choice on any busy weekend?

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

#### Minutes of the General Semi-Annual Meeting – September 13, 2014

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

Aimee Crochet took down the minutes in the absence of the secretary.

The semi-annual meeting of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. was held at Devil's Den State

Park on September 13, 2014. Present were Jack Miller and John and Aimee Crochet . One proxy was received for Jack Miller to vote for Stephen Shepherd.

Jack called the meeting to order. Since not enough members were present for a quorum, the

next meeting was set for March 7th following our spring workday. Officers for next year will be elected at that time.

John Crochet made a motion to adjourn until March 7th. This was seconded by Aimee Crochet.

Aimee Crochet  
for Harry Harnish, Secretary

## Calendar of Events



**March 7 - Work Day and Semi-annual meeting of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.** Meet at 9:00 am at the Visitor's Center. We will work until noon and then retire to Cabin 12 for our Awards Lunch and the meeting. Please come and join us! If you would like to become a member of our organization, there is a membership application on the back of this newsletter! ☺

**March 21 - Dutch Oven Workshop** Dutch oven cooking is not only delicious but it's fun to do. Join the park staff and volunteers to learn all you need to know to get cooking! A small fee and pre-registration is required for this workshop. Please email [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register.

**March 27-29 - Devil's Den Rocks** It's time to celebrate what makes the park special! Join State Geologist Sandra Chandler and park staff for a fun weekend as you learn about the special features that make Devil's Den the rockin' place to be!

**April 3-5 - Ozark Mountain Bike Fest** Springtime in the Ozarks means it's time to hit the trails. Join the park staff for a fun weekend on the bike trails. There's fun to be discovered by all ages and levels of riders!

**April 17-19 - Signs of Spring** Learn about "wild edibles" with Dr. Tamara Walkingstick along with hikes, crafts, and a whole lot more!

**April 18 - Wild Edibles Workshop** Learn more about finding, identifying, and cooking items from nature's own wild garden! We will even cook a special dish or two to enjoy!! A small fee is required for this workshop. Please email [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register.

**May 1-3 - Birder Weekend** Join park staff and various bird enthusiasts as you discover the flying creatures that call the park their home. Lynn Sciumbato from Morning Star Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

will be here also for a special program with some of her favorite feathered friends! ☺  
**May 15-17 - Endangered Species Weekend** Join park staff as we learn what it means to be "endangered". Area speakers will be here as well to help us learn about some of nature's special creatures that won't survive without a little help from their human friends.

**June 6 - National Trails Day** Join park staff and volunteers as we work on your Devil's Den favorite trails. Learn what is involved in maintaining the trails that you love to hike here at the park. Come join us...get dirty...and have fun. Sign up is available for large groups wanting to participate.

**June 12 - Project Wild -- Underground Workshop** Join speakers and educators from Arkansas Game and Fish. The main focus will be on bats as we learn about these flying mammals and their importance in the ecosystem. The workshop is open to anyone wanting to learn more about these amazing animals as well as educators needing professional development hours. There is no charge for the workshop BUT PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Contact Terry at [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register.

**June 13-14 - 26th Annual Bat-O-Rama** Join park staff and guests for some great family fun as we celebrate one of the most beneficial but misunderstood creatures in the world...BATS! Special guests will be on hand to talk about bats and how they benefit us all! A nighttime capture and release will be conducted by college students studying these amazing creatures that you are welcome to enjoy and watch. ☺

**June 25 - Project Wet & Wild Workshop** Join Arkansas Game and Fish educators and park staff to learn about critters that live wild in our creeks and streams. The workshop is open to anyone wanting to learn more about wet habitats as well as educators needing professional development hours. There is no charge for the workshop BUT PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please contact Terry at [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register!

**July 4 - 40th Annual Devil's Den Games** Help us to celebrate the 40th year of Devil's Den Games! Enjoy a fun filled family day of horseshoes, softball, parades, and much more...all topped off with homemade ice cream! Make your plans early and plan to join us for a July 4th celebration your family won't soon forget!

**July 11 (Time TBA) - Nature's Ninjas - Predator Insects Workshop** If you love

dragonflies and damselflies, you won't want to miss this special one day workshop. Renowned photographer and dragonfly expert Robert Thomas will cover some of the special features that make these impressive insects some of nature's most successful predators! Helpful photographic hints will also be covered. A small fee and pre-registration is required for this workshop. Please contact Terry at [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register.

**August 15 - Dutch Oven Workshop** Dutch oven cooking is not only delicious but it's fun to do. Join the park staff and volunteers to learn all you need to know to get cooking! A small fee and pre-registration is required for this workshop. Please email [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov)

**September 1-7 - Think Like a Mountain - Legacy Week** School may be back in session-- but there is still time for fun family activities as you join park, staff, special speakers and performers as we get to know Devil's Den better along with learning how you can follow in the footprints of some well known conservationists to help conserve and preserve our valuable resources. ☺

**Sept. 5 - Rain Barrel Workshop** Join staff from the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service to make you very own rain barrel. Harvest rain to keep your flowers and gardens looking beautiful through dry spells with a rain barrel that will last for years to come. A small fee and pre-registration is required for this workshop. Please contact Terry at [terry.elder@arkansas.gov](mailto:terry.elder@arkansas.gov) to register.

**Sept. 12 - Annual Lee Creek Cleanup** Join area groups and individuals as we clean up Lee Creek, the creek that runs thru the park. Cleaner water means a cleaner park for everyone. Come and help!

**Sept. 18-20 - 26th Annual Mountain Bike Race** Ride and compete in one of the best Ozark Mountain races around or just set back and enjoy watching the riders compete. There will be something for the whole family to enjoy! ☺

**Sept. 19 - General Semi-Annual Meeting of the Friends of Devil's Den State Park** Join us as we make plans to support the park with fund raising projects and membership dues. Membership applications are on the last page of this newsletter. We will meet after the bike race in Cabin 17 at 4:30 pm. Please come and help us to help the park! ☺

☺ 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.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.devilsden.org

and on FaceBook at https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDevilsDenStatePark

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 March 7, 2015 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: \_\_\_\_\_