

September, 2016
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Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.



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

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President's Message

I would like to thank the Members of the Friends for their continued support as we enter our 24th year. Your support has helped the organization to sponsor several Park events and supply needed materials and equipment.

One of these events is the 28th Annual N.W. Arkansas Mountain Bike Championship Race on September 17. We will need help with Registration at the AV room Friday (5:30pm till 9pm) and Saturday

morning (7am till 9am). We will also need help with Registration until 11am or Noon and/or help with Race coordination and timing from 9am till after 3pm.

After the end of the Cat 1 races (about 4pm) we will have our Semi Annual Business Meeting and elect 2017 officers in Cabin 17. Please come help with the races and/or come to the meeting.

I also work with 2 Master

Naturalists and other volunteers on trail maintenance every Thursday 9am till Noon (weather permitting). If you can help please call me (479-466-4517) or the Park office (1-800-264-2417) for the location of the work.

Looking forward to another year helping the Park to grow and prosper.

Jack Miller
President of
the 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 or find us on Facebook at Friends of Devil's Den State Park in NW Arkansas or email us at 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.

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..!!!!



Biking, Hiking, & Racing: What More Do You Need? by Tim V. Scott

Bikes are everywhere! Or so it seems. Especially in Northwest Arkansas. For Devil's Den State Park, we have been pedaling since 1987, at least mountain biking. But officially, we had our first event in 1989. While mountain biking has been a mainstay for the park, it is just a one of many activities that make Devil's Den, Devil's Den.

Hiking is still the number one activity at the park, and of course, it should be with the Devil's Den Trail and the Yellow Rock Trail. They are both on the National Hiking Trail System; they are original CCC trails, and they are a couple of premier trails for the state. Just ask any college student on a fall Sunday.

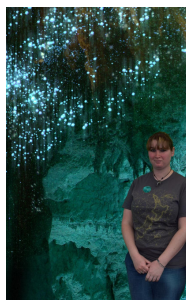
Social media can also drive what trail is popular, and it can change weekly. For years, the Devil's Den Trail was most popular trail in the park, but that may have changed. Now it appears that the Yellow Rock Trail is on the rise. Maybe because the caves are closed, but the Yellow Rock's view has become a Face Book favorite. On any given October weekend, the park can be the largest population in south Washington County. From dusk to dawn, visitation can be up to 5000 guests in one day. That is a lot of people. As Northwest Arkansas continues to grow, this trend is not going to stop. I am sure

residents of this area see this daily with the increased traffic.

Not only will there be more hikers, but also more bicycles. So back to the first paragraph, Devil's Den welcomes bikes, and it was the first Arkansas State Park to embrace mountain bikes. Without the help of early pioneers of cycling, such as Friends of Devil's Den member Steve Shepherd, this may not have been possible. Had he not been in Paul's Bike Shop 30 years ago, we may be talking a different story. The Friends of Devil's Den has accepted the biking mantle graciously, with many volunteering for the Northwest Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships. Especially the last few year's mainstays have been Jack Miller, John and Aimee Crochet, Kathy Stafford, Steve Shepherd, Pat and Carole Huff, and Harry Harnish.

Now, this year's race is coming soon. So we hope to see previous and new volunteers alike the weekend of September 17th.

Mystina's Adventures in New Zealand!



In Glowworm Cave

Our own Mystina Swaim, Park Interpreter, made a trip to New Zealand in April to attend the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) International Conference.

While there, she hiked through the rainforest, saw all the exotic flora and fauna that the tropics offer, visited the filming location for The Lord of the Rings, met with

some Maori (aboriginal New Zealanders), saw several glaciers, bungee jumped, and sky dived. As you can see, she went from extremes of surroundings top to bottom and a bit of time traveling to boot.

Mystina says, "New Zealand is like heaven on earth. Any naturalist could find a home there."

To read Mystina's full account and see more photos download the online "NZ extra" to this newsletter at <http://www.devilsden.org/newsletters>



Sky Diving at 16,500 feet



A Hobbit Hole

FDDSP General Membership Meeting Agenda - Sept. 17, 2016

Our meeting will be held in Cabin 17 after the Cat 1 Race (approx. 4pm):

- * Call to order
- * Approve March 2016 minutes
- * Approve Financial Report
- * Membership Report
- * Old Business
 - Fire Proof Safe/File Cabinet
- * New Business
 - Wash House Plaque Proposal
 - Park Staff on 2017 Events

- Park Staff requests
- Newsletter s and Brochures - printing & distribution
- 2017 Budget
- Election of officers for 2017
- * Dates for 2017 meetings
 - March 4 and September 16
- * Adjourn

Please try to attend or mail in your proxy (on back page of this newsletter) if you can't.



Friends of Devil's Den - March 5, 2016 Minutes

The semi-annual meeting was held in Cabin 12. Present at the meeting were Jack Miller, Harry Harnish, Pat & Carole Huff, and John & Aimee Crochet. Terry Elder and Mystina Swaim represented the park and were accompanied by interns Sarah Dutton and Sean Bricker.

Jack Miller called the meeting to order. Proxies were presented for Barbara A. Huff, Michael D. & Peggy L. Hux, and Martha & Thurman Ragar to make a quorum. Jack handed out minutes from the last regular meeting and an email board meeting. Approval of the minutes was moved by John and seconded by Carole. The minutes were approved.

John passed out financial reports. The 2015 financial report was moved to be approved by Harry and Pat seconded. Carole moved to accept the 2016 interim financial report and this was seconded by Pat. The financial reports were approved.

Bat-O-Rama XXVII was discussed. Terry said it will be held on June 10th-12th. Shay Hamilton from Oklahoma will be the speaker and Dr. Rich will be there with his students to put up the mist nets at night. Providing them a cabin and food was discussed but Terry said there is a place for professional speaker fees in the park's budget now. It might be possible to pay for them from this budget.

The Mountain Bike Race XXVIII was discussed. The Calendar of Events show it taking place on September 16th-17th. Our next meeting will be after the race on Saturday, September 17th in Cabin 17.

Think Like a Mountain was discussed next. It is usually budgeted for \$350 but Terry indicated that it will not be that much this year. It will be on Labor Day weekend as part of Legacy Week at the park.

Next on the agenda was the Volunteer Expo in Rogers. It is an effort to promote conservation and volunteer organizing. Master naturalist Tom Wagner will be there with The Master Naturalists of NW Arkansas. Still on the Hill will be performing at the event. It will be held on Saturday, April 2nd at Frisco Station. 3 tables with chairs will be provided. Up to 2,000 people

are expected to attend. Terry said the park has someone who will come and set up the tables and give us material to talk about the park and encourage volunteerism. The park will also bring some "touchy" items for the kids and have a couple of people to do that. We need to bring our banner to advertise the Friends and photos to show us in action. We will also have materials about The Friends of Devil's Den State Park to pass out including membership information and forms. Terry would like for us to arrive at 8:00 am. The event will start at 9:00 am and last until about 2:00 pm. The Bike Fest at the park will be going on at the same time so they need help to put this on and break things down afterwards. She will come in the morning to help us get set up. John and Aimee volunteered to man the tables for this Volunteer Expo.

Park interpreter Mystina Swaim announced that she will be leaving for New Zealand on March 30th for the NAI (National Association for Interpretation) International Conference. She has promised to bring us back lots of pictures and information to share.

Lee Creek Cleanup will be on September 10th this year. A lot of sponsors have been lined up. Volunteers are encouraged to attend. Jack said he will be there with his pickup. Check in will be around 8:30 or 9:00 am. Meet at the Horse Day Use Area.

There were no budget requests.

Requests from the park staff were as follows:

- Frog Watch Workshop will be next weekend. \$50 has already been approved for this event.
- Lynn Sciumbato's fees for Birder Weekend have already been covered. She will be back in February of 2017 for Vulture Venue but we will discuss these fees at our September meeting.
- Senior Citizens Fun Week will be a new event this year. It will be on May 31st to June 2nd (after the Memorial Day weekend). This has been a successful event held in October at Petit Jean State Park. It is to encourage senior citizens to come and enjoy the park when it is less crowded. Most of the events like guided hikes, crafts, and food demonstrations will be free but some will have a fee like the Dutch

Oven Cooking and the Canoe Tour. Nothing is being asked of the Friends but they wanted us to be aware of the program and to participate or help with any of the programs.

- Open House will be in December and will be covered at our September meeting. There is nothing in the budget for the event thus far.

The FDDSP records storage and a fireproof safe were discussed. There might be a drawer opening up to put these in until there is more of a need.

Annual Award Certificates were passed out by John:

- Devil's Den - Jack Miller
- Vista Point - John & Aimee Crochet
- Yellow Rock - Harry & Marilyn Harnish
- Butterfield Trail - Barbara Huff, Steve & Ruth Shepherd, Pat & Carole Huff, Jessa Dean Scott, Charles & Reba Hughes, and Rick & Karen Shapland.

- Quail Valley - Thurman & Martha Ragar, Lindsey & Associates, and Marie Lookingbill

Terry discussed the trail surveys. These will be done randomly about 2 per month on weekends and weekdays to get a rough estimate of how many people are using the trails. Some of the Friends helped with the last survey done on the Upper & Lower Devil's Den Trail and the Yellow Rock Trail. That survey, done on a Saturday and Sunday, showed there were 2,776 hikers and 244 dogs on just those two trails. The next survey is planned for the weekend of Spring Break on March 19th and 20th. They will need volunteers for the 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm shifts.

The park also will need help with school groups in the next few months. Staff will teach programs to volunteers interested in helping.

Frog Watch will be next weekend. The program will train listeners to identify different frogs and to be able to monitor for frogs for 3 minutes in 4 or 5 places in the park.

This meeting of The Friends of Devil's Den State Park was adjourned until the next meeting on September 17 in Cabin 17 after the 28th Annual Mountain Bike Race.

Aimee Crochet, Secretary

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

LEE CREEK CLEAN-UP.....10th

☺ The 28th ANNUAL MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE.....16th-17th

OCTOBER

DUTCH OVEN WORKSHOP..... 8th

4TH ANNUAL FALL FEST.... 14th-16th

MUSHROOM WORKSHOP WITH JAY

JUSTICE..... 22nd-23rd

NOVEMBER

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY.....15th

GREEN FRIDAY..... 25th

DECEMBER

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE.....TBA

2017

January

First Day Hikes 9am to 5pm.... 1st

February

Great Backyard Bird Count.....11th

☺ Vulture Venue..... 11th-12th

March

Frog Watch Workshop.....3rd-4th

Dutch Oven Workshop..... 18th

Devil's Den Rocks.....24th-26th

Ozark Mountain Bike Fest.... 31st
(continues April 1st & 2nd)

April

Ozark Mountain Bike Fest.1st-2nd

Signs of Spring.....14th-16th

Wild Edibles Workshop.....15th

☺ 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
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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 September 17, 2016 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: _____