

September, 2014
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Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.



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www.devilsden.org

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

President's Message

I would like to thank our members for their help and financial support of the Park this past year. We were able to purchase several items for the Park and support several speakers and programs. I would especially like to thank Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation for the great program and for bringing his bats. Also, Harry Harnish, thanks for your program on Friday night and taking of our guest and his daughter.

I meet with three Master Naturalists each Thursday (weather permitting) from 9am till Noon to work on the

trails at the Park. Anyone who would like to join us on this project please call me at 479-466-4517 for trail info and where we will meet.

The Lee Creek Cleanup will be taking place on Saturday, September 6 at 9am. Volunteers are always needed for this event. Please call the park for more information.

The FDDSP will be sponsoring the 26th Annual N. W. Arkansas Mt. Bike Championship race on Sept 13. We will need volunteers on Friday 9/12 from 6 -9 pm for Registration at the AV

room. On Saturday 9/13 we will need help from 7am till Noon for Registration and from 9am till 4pm to monitor and record Race Info at Camp Ground "A".

Also please come to our FDDSP Semi-annual Business meeting at 4:30pm Saturday 9/13 at Cabin 12. We will be electing officers for 2015. After the meeting we will be going to the Park Café for Burgers and the Race awards. I hope to see several of you all on Friday and Saturday.

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 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/donate.htm

or through PayPal to treasurer@devilsden.org.

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

From the Past

[an early story on the location of the DDSP camp]

Saturday, March 24, 1934 Fayetteville (Ark.) Daily Democrat p. 6, col. 5

Devil's Den Camp to be Continued: Big Local Asset

Devil's Den State Park camp will be continued in its present location for at least another six months according to a letter received from Congressman Claude A. Fuller to W. S. Campbell, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Fuller said his information came from Robert Fechner, Federal head of CCC works.

The camp has brought into Arkansas a large sum of money and in Fayetteville alone has contributed in purchases something like \$10,000 since it was established in October, Bryan Stearns estimated today.

Mr. Stearns who is with the National Parks Service said that his department buys everything it uses locally and that many food purchases also are bought here.

Continuation of the camp in the section will complete the project as a national reserve and double money expended for or by the 215 enrolled men who man the camp.

[in the next story the camp opens]

Saturday, May 27, 1939 Northwest Arkansas Times Fayetteville, Ark p. 1, col. 2

Devil's Den Park to Open This Sunday

Commission Here June 13: Cottages, Meals, Lake Ready for Public

Devil's Den will open to the public for complete service for the first time Sunday, and a large number of people are planning to go out either for the day, dinner or supper.

Meals will be served on the grounds at the refectory. Cottages will be available for any length of time, from a single day to a month. Special rates will be given by the week or the month, both for rentals and for meals, with prices sent on request.

Mrs. Hootman Official Hostess

Mrs. Bertha Hootman has been installed as hostess and may be reached for reservation by addressing her at Devil's Den State Park, West Fork, Ark. Mr. Hootman is in charge of the cottages and concessions. Byran Stearns is superintendent. Sam Davies, formerly of Fayetteville, now of Little Rock, is State Park commissioner. Mr. Davies is the brother of Mrs. J. P. Brower of Fayetteville.

Park Commission Coming June 13

The State Park Commission will be in Fayetteville June 13 and will spend the day inspecting the project. Dinner will be served for them at noon. A number of Fayetteville visitors are expected to join the party.

12-Acre Lake, Beach, Boating

The 12-acre lake with bathing beach, boating beach, and other recreational features are available and with Lake Weddington are expected to draw many tourists to the area.

More than 4,500 persons already have registered at the Den and many more thousands are expected to enjoy its facilities each season from now on.

The projects is a \$300,000 National Park commission improvement and was started in 1934 as a CCC camp. All work on the premises has been done by the CCC enrollees under supervision. All the natural beauty of the setting has been preserved.

Caves, bluffs, views are a part of the reservation which first was surveyed by Herbert Hoover on his trip to Fayetteville with Dr. Geo. Branner to survey the Boston Mountain and environs.

FDDSP Business Meeting Agenda –Sept. 13, 2014



- * Approve minutes of March 2014 Meeting
- * Approve Financial and Donation Reports
- * Rock & Run Trail Race 2014 & 2015
- * Bat-O-Rama 2015
- * FDDSP Membership Form
- * FDDSP Records storage/ Fire proof safe
- * Lee Creek Cleanup 2015

- * Equipment and Materials request from Park Staff
- * Budget 2015
- * Election of officers for 2015
- * Set dates for 2015 meetings
- * Adjourn

Our meeting will be held in Cabin 12 at 4:30pm. Burgers and race awards at the Park Cafe afterwards. Please try to attend or send your proxy (on back page of this newsletter) if you can't.

FDDSP Member and Former Officer Missing



Former member and officer in the Friends of Devil's Den State Park has been missing since July 9th. The following is from Tulsa's Channel 8 News:

Tulsa Police Search for Missing Woman

July 15, 2014 3:53 PM CDT

Tulsa Police are looking for 40-year-old Amiee Lynn Huff, according to their Missing Persons Facebook page. The Tulsa woman was last seen in Tulsa on July 9.

Huff left her last known location without her phone and without any other belongings. She had no vehicle of her own, and has made no contact with her

family or friends since that time.

Please be on the lookout for Huff. If you have any information about where she is, please contact the Tulsa Police Department or your local Law Enforcement.

**Tulsa Oklahoma Police Department
918-596-933 or call in the Tulsa area
if you see Amiee or know her
location.**

Our hearts go out to Pat and Carole Huff and we wish Amiee to be returned to them with all possible speed.

- DOB 11/18/1973 Age now: 40
- Missing: 7/9/2014 Sex: Female
- Height: 5'2" Weight: 150
- Eyes: Dark Blue Hair: Brown
- Home: Van Buren, AR
- Missing From: Tulsa, OK

26 Years of Mountain Biking at Devil's Den State Park by Tim V Scott

If you have read the newspaper the last couple of years, you have seen that bicycling is becoming extremely popular. For Northwest Arkansas in particular, with the new Razorback Greenway, there will be a cycling path that will connect Bentonville to Fayetteville. There are several new mountain bike trails in the process of being built. In Bentonville, Slaughter Pen now connects to Blowing Springs in Bella Vista. In fact, Bentonville was just listed a Silver-Level ride center by the International Mountain Bike Association. Rogers is currently building mountain bike trails and eventually a bike park and plans are in the works for mountain bike trails in Springdale. Fayetteville just completed work on trails at Mount Kessler, and more are planned.

Now that what does all this mean? In the family tree of mountain biking, the seed is Devil's Den. In the mid to late 80's, the sport of mountain biking was in its infancy. Mountain bike trails were very limited if they existed at all. Most riders

were limited to forest service roads, if they were even allowed to ride on them. Devil's Den had the first mountain bike events in the state and probably one of the first mountain bike trails also.

I remember, Wally Scherrey and I were in Little Rock on park businesses, and we had been discussing plans for the park's first mountain bike event. We were on Markham Ave and saw a sign for Paul's Bike Shop. We decided to pull in, and ask if they would like to help us. Neither one of us had ever been in that shop. They did look at us like we were crazy, they said, "Yes" and we know the "Guy" who can help with the race and everything else. It just happened that that "Guy" was Steve Shepherd, who has been our USA Cycling Official for most of the 26 years of the races and also a Friends of Devil's Den member. The Friends of Devil's Den have helped with the race for so long that I can't remember who helped with registration and timing before them. The Friends assistance has stepped up the quality of the



race not only for the staff but also for the participants. So, Jack, John, Aimee, Harry, Marilyn, Jessa, Kathy, Pat, Carole and Dennis – Thanks!!

I am sure with this newsletter there will be a call for volunteers to help with the race. If you haven't helped already, this is a great opportunity to see what a mountain bike race is like behind the scenes.

Minutes of the General Semi-Annual Meeting – March 1, 2014

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

The March 1st meeting was held at Cabin 12 at Devil's Den State Park. Present were Jack Miller, John and Aimee Crochet, Pat and Carole Huff and Harry Harnish who had voting proxy for wife, Marilyn. Representing the park were Terry Elder and Adam Leslie.

Jack called the meeting to order, and distributed the minutes from the September 14 meeting as well as the financial statement and donations form. All were approved.

The first item on the agenda was Bat-O-Rama XXV which will be held on June 13-15. Terry informed us that several volunteers are working on getting donations from local businesses to help defray the cost of having Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation appear as the guest speaker. She said that so far we've gotten a pledge of \$500 from the Good Sams RV Club. The Friends have already budgeted \$1,500 for Mr. Mies' appearance.

Next on the agenda was Think Like a Mountain Weekend (TLAM). Terry informed us that an edict was received from Central Office in Little Rock that all Arkansas state parks were now required to have special programs on what has been designated Legacy Week August 24-September 1. She has decided to move TLAM to that week, and hold a new event, Endangered Species Weekend the weekend TLAM was to be held, May 16-18. She then requested \$200 to be used for food and other incidentals as needed for

Endangered Species Weekend. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Friends provide \$200, if necessary, for weekend incidentals.

Next up was the N.W. Arkansas Mountain Bike Championships. Since we already had \$550 budgeted for the event, nothing had to be voted on.

Terry then informed us that there was a good chance that the Rock & Run trail race would not be held this year. Further discussion of the event was tabled until the September meeting.

A variety of park requests were then presented by Terry and Adam. Motions were made and seconded that the Friends provide up to \$200 for a new miter saw and tire changer for maintenance, up to \$250 for toiletry baskets for the cabins (Jack said he'd donate soap dishes), up to \$200 for a new vacuum cleaner for the visitor center and \$50 for a new dry erase board for the interpreters. All of these motions were approved by a unanimous vote.

Adam then passed on a request of \$3,000 from Tim Scott to send him and another person to the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) World Summit in Colorado in August. After much discussion the motion was made, seconded and approved that the Friends would provide up to \$500 to help with the cost, if the decision was made to send them.

Next on the agenda was discussion as to whether or not the Friends would buy a fireproof safe for the park. The

decision was made to defer to Tim Scott for possible purchase.

Jack then passed on a written request by Jane Crouch for money for miscellaneous gardening supplies for the maintenance of Master Gardener maintained flower beds in the park. A motion was made, seconded and approved that the Friends would provide \$200. Jack then said he would get with Jane and Marilyn Harnish to discuss the purchase of split rails for the two visitor center gardens. Pat offered to haul in his truck when purchase was made.

Jack then suggested that the board approve a lifetime membership for Addie Lee Lister. Approval was unanimous.

Annual awards were then distributed as follows: Quail Valley – Lindsey & Associates Devil's Den & Dillwyn Paxson – Jack Miller Butterfield Trail – Barbara Huff, Jessa Dean Scott & Dennis and Kathy Shelton Vista Point – John and Aimee Crochet & Pat and Carole Huff Yellow Rock – Henry and Jane Crouch, Harry and Marilyn Harnish & Steve and Ruth Shepherd

Adam closed the meeting with an update on various park projects. Restroom renovation of visitor center restrooms is near completion. Approved future projects include renovation (including new restrooms) of Camp Areas B and D, finishing the rock trail and reclamation of old trail behind the visitor center, a new employee residence and replacing the interpreters' van.

Harry Harnish, Secretary

Calendar of Events



September 12-13 26th Annual Mountain Bike Race - Come and ride in the race or just enjoy watching all the levels of riders compete. ☺

****Please come and help Friday evening from 6-9pm and/or Saturday morning from 7am-noon to help with Registration in the AV room. ****

September 13 Friends of Devil's Den State Park Semi-annual Business Meeting at 4:30pm in Cabin 12. **Please try to attend or send your proxy on the back of this newsletter.**

October 11 Dutch Oven Workshop 10am-1pm - Cook bread, main dish, & desert, cookbook, handouts & food - \$20 adult/\$8 child (6-12yrs)

October 17-19 2nd Annual Fall Fest - Help us celebrate the coming of fall! Design a costume and join in the "walk around" trick or treating, crawl your way through the "box cave" and lots more during this weekend of family fun.

October 18-19 Mushroom Workshop with Jay Justice - Fungus is a beautiful thing! Everyone will enjoy learning how to identify wild mushrooms and then join Jay who will be cooking up some of the wild delights to be enjoyed! Contact Jay at justice@aristotle.net to sign up. There is a small fee for this workshop.

November 15th America Recycles Day - Come and get trashy! Join the park staff for some fun activities about trash and what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint!

November 28th Green Friday - Go green, NOT black! Forget the crowded malls and stores as you join the park staff and EASE into the holiday season by enjoying the great outdoors!

January 1, 2015 First Day Hikes - Start the year off right. Get out and join park interpreters as we begin the new year by hiking a few of the great trails at the park.

January 23-24 Frog Watch Workshop - Learn various frog calls and monitor frogs in the park.

February 14 Great Backyard Bird Count - Join bird enthusiasts and park staff as we count the birds around the park. Become a citizen scientist and help with the annual count of our wintertime feathered friends.

February 15 Vulture Venue - Learn more about one of nature's most misunderstood creatures, the vulture. Join park staff and special guests for programs the whole family will enjoy. ☺

March 28th - 29th Devil's Den Rocks! - It's time to celebrate what makes this park special! Join state geologists along with park staff for a fun weekend as you learn about the special features that make Devil's Den the rockin' place to be!

April 3rd - 5th Ozark Mountain Bike Fest - Spring time in the Ozarks means it's time to hit the bike 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!

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

Events Sponsored by the Friends of Devil's Den State Park

Many events at the park are paid for by the Friends of Devil's Den State Park through the collection of dues and donations. Two examples are shown in the photographs below. Vulture Venue below on the left shows Lynn Scombato of the Morning Star Wildlife Center who did a presentation at the park in February. She is showing the audience the wing span of Igor. On June 14th the Friends help pay for Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation who gave us a thrilling presentation of his bats. It took him a great deal of time to go through the large crowd but he did so that everyone could get a good look at and understanding of these amazing creatures. Your donations to the Friends and membership dues pay for these events and much more. Please join as we continue to be "friends" of Devil's Den State Park.



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>

Friends of Devil's Den Newsletter Page 6 of 6

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 13, 2014 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: _____