

TRAIL BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

From **October through December** there will be further opportunities to help Ken Smith in the building of the BRT extension from Tyler Bend to Hwy 14. You can call Ken at (479) 443-4098 or send an e-mail to trailsmith1@yahoo.com for information. Ask to be on his e-mail list to get up-to-date schedule information.

October 24-26, OHT Sylamore Section Maintenance. Scenic Blanchard Springs group camp site #2, hot showers, Saturday chili supper and tools provided. Cody's restaurant and cabins (870-757-2270) nearby. Bring food water, gloves, loppers if you have them, and your camping gear. Stay for one day or all. Meet at camp at 8:00 a.m. Please call Duane Woltjen 479-521-7032 to register.

OUTINGS

For all hikes bring water, lunch, rain gear and wear hiking boots. No pets are allowed. Call the hike coordinator a day or so in advance to check on any last minute changes or to arrange for a meeting place other than those mentioned. Outings Chair, Bob Cross, can be reached at 587-8757 (home) or 466-3077 (cell). For those who want to propose and lead hikes in the future call Bob or send an e-mail to racross@uark.edu. Everyone is welcome, whether an Ozark Society member or not.

Sunday, September 21—Buffalo River Trail at Steel Creek and Swimming

For the start of the fall season we will hike the section of the BRT from Steel Creek to the Ponca bridge and then return. The total distance of less than 4 miles and the elevation gain of 250 feet each way makes for an easy hike that we can use to start getting in shape for the season. This is also one of the most scenic sections of the BRT. We will be on top of Bee Bluff and get many views of the river and well as of Roark Bluff. There's a great swimming hole at Steel Creek so you may want to take a dip after the hike. Meet at Root School at 8:30 a.m. or at the Steel Creek trailhead at 10:00 a.m. For information call Bob Cross at (479)587-8757.

Saturday, September 27—Ozark Society Fall Meeting

The meeting will be at the pavilion at Mt. Magazine. Registration is from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., the general membership meeting is from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., and the board meeting is from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. John Heuston will be honored and officers and board members will be elected. There will be afternoon guest speakers and hikes followed by the potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Sunday there will be additional activities. Camping will be available at the overflow camping area on Friday and Saturday nights. Mt. Magazine is less than a 2-hour drive from Fayetteville so come and see the magnificent views and explore the new lodge.

Saturday, October 4—Buffalo River Cleanup

The Ozark Society will join the Arkansas Canoe Club and other organizations to clean up two sections of the Buffalo—from Maumee to the Hwy. 14 bridge and from the Hwy. 14 bridge to Rush. Uncle Bill will furnish canoes to those who don't have them and will provide shuttles. Uncle Bill will also provide a barbecue at 6:00 p.m. Meet at Root School at 6:00 a.m. or at Pavilion #2 at Buffalo Point at 9:00 a.m. Call J.B. Clark at (479) 422-0869 for information.

Saturday, October 11—Exotic Plant and Tree Identification

Mark Depoy of the National Park Service has asked the hikers of the Ozark Society to help find the locations of non-native plants and trees in the Buffalo National River area so that the park service can remove them. The plan would be that when we are hiking and find the plant or tree, a GPS reading would be taken and we would give that information to Mark. We will meet at the Elk Information Center in Ponca from 10:00 a.m. until noon for training and then go on some of the trails around Ponca for field work. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the Elk Information Center at 10:00. Call Bob Cross at (479) 587-8757 for information.

Sunday, October 12—North Twin Hiking Trail at Lake Wedington

This will be an easy hike of 4 or 5 miles and less than 500 feet elevation gain. You will have good views from the tops of two mountains, will see limestone bluffs and unique rock formations, and will walk beside the Illinois River. Meet at Root Schools at 8:30 a.m. Marty Kerns and Brenda Brown are the coordinators. Contact Marty by e-mail at martykerns@juno.com for information.

Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19—Hikes at Devils Den

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Devils Den State Park David Justice is leading hikes on both October 18 and 19.

Saturday October 18 at 9:00am-- we will meet at the Yellow Rock CCC Overlook parking lot. The hike will consist of Yellow Rock Trail, Devils Den Trail and time permitting a portion of Fossil Flats Trail. There will be a small amount of bushwhacking with one creek crossing and bring a flash light if you want to do the caves. This will be a 5-6 mile moderate hike. After the hike a pot luck dinner is planned so bring your favorite camp dish.

Sunday October 19 at 9:00am-- we will meet at the Hike In Camping parking area in camp area A. We will hike parts of the Butterfield Trail, some horse trails, some bushwhacking, and Phobes cave so bring a flash light. This will be a 6-7 mile difficult hike with views of Blackburn Creek Vally and Lee Creek Valley. Send an e-mail to David Justice at djustice@fayar.net for information.

Note: Information will be sent out later about a meeting place for those who want to carpool from Fayetteville.

Saturday, October 25—Old River Trail Loop from Steel Creek

This is a variation of a hike that Terry coordinated previously. This time to avoid a car shuttle we will leave from Steel Creek, proceed downriver on the ORT to Granny Henderson's cabin, climb to Big Bluff, hike the total length of the Goat Trail, drop down to the Buffalo and return to Steel Creek. You will see bluffs, great views of the Buffalo, and experience several wet crossings. The length will be about 7 miles with a 500 foot elevation gain. The rating is moderate to difficult. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the Steel Creek canoe launch area at 9:30 a.m. Call Terry Fredrick at (479) 442-3812 for information.

Saturday, November 1—Nature Conservancy Smith Creek Scenic Area Bushwhack

This scenic area at the south end of Boxley Valley is protected by the Nature Conservancy. Expect towering bluffs, waterfalls (if it has rained) and a LOT of boulder hopping. This hike is rated difficult due to no trail, scrambling over

rocks, and multiple creek crossings. Approximately 4 miles. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the parking area for the BRT at the upper end of Boxley Valley at 9:30 a.m. Call Brian Stephens at 918-371-6606 or 918-519-6668 for information.

Saturday, November 8—Bushwhack and Trails of the Hemmed-In Hollow Area

For those who enjoy a very difficult hike this one is for you. Our route will take us from Compton trailhead to Fishtrap Hollow Falls, along the rim above Hemmed-In-Hollow, to California Point and down to Rocky Bottom, then on the Sneeds Creek Trail with a detour to “Terry’s Cave” before returning to the Compton Trailhead. The total distance is about seven miles with an altitude loss and gain of 1200 feet. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the Compton Trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Call Rodger Keesee at (479) 524-3163 for information.

Saturday, November 15—Ragtown Road to Fane Creek, OHT Cleanup

This stretch of the Ozark Highland Trail is maintained by the Highland Chapter. It goes through one of the most attractive portions of the Ozarks, with much of the trail running downhill on the road bed of the abandoned Black Mountain & Eastern railroad, so it makes for easier hiking. Remains of old trestle footings and cuts through hillsides are evidence of the Ozark's railroad heritage, crossing hollows where rugged stream beds tumble down the hillsides. We will do some clean-up to assure the trail remains useable for winter and Spring trekking, with some heavier work necessary in an area the chapter worked in last December after the Fall '07 storms. Some tools will be available, but bring gloves and hand tools like heavy-duty clippers, if you have them. Meet at First-Care Medical, Rts. 265 & 16, for an 8:00 a.m. departure. Total: ~ 6.1 miles, rated Moderate on woodland paths. Call Mike Adelman for details, 571-1488.

Saturday, November 22—Dug Hollow Bushwhack

This 6-mile hike in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness is rated difficult due to scrambling over rough terrain and a 850-foot elevation loss down to the Buffalo (and the corresponding elevation gain coming out). However, the waterfalls and bluffs should be spectacular. Meet at Root School at 8:00 am or at the Cave Mountain Church at 9:30 am. Call Terry Fredrick at (479) 442-3812 for information.

Sunday, November 23—Pigeon Roost Trail at Hobbs State Park

This easy to moderate hike, 8.4 miles long, has nice views of Beaver Lake. We will also pass some interesting sinkholes and experience an Ozark hardwood forest. There is little elevation gain. Marty Kerns and Brenda Brown guarantee numerous deer sightings. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the Pigeon Roost trailhead at Hobbs at 9:00. Send an e-mail to Marty at martykerns@juno.com for information.

Saturday, November 29--Exploring Fayetteville's newest trail, Scull Creek

Okay, you have emptied the stores and the pantry with your Thanksgiving shopping and feasting weekend. Now work off a few calories with the second annual appreciation of Fayetteville's newest trail along Scull Creek. This trail connects Wilson Park near downtown Fayetteville with the Mud Creek Trail near the NWA Mall area. The City has installed numerous bridges and even a tunnel under the Freeway. So come and enjoy an outing on an entirely paved surface close to home. After the hike, come to the Adelman's for holiday refreshments. Start time will be 8:30 a.m., at a

location to be announced in a future notice. Total 5.4 miles, rated Easy. Call Mike Adelman for details, 571-1488.

Saturday, December 6—New Trail at Lincoln Lake

Introduction to Lincoln Lake Trails: This will be approximately a 6 mile hike but will be rated difficult because of bushwhacking and scrambling over boulders and such. Around 4 miles of the trail are completed and an easy hike. This is a beautiful area and a must see. Let's meet a 9:00 am at the Lincoln Lake parking lot. To get there take Hwy. 62 from Fayetteville through Prairie Grove, continue on 62 another 6 or 7 miles to Lincoln. Watch for county road 669 [there is a Lincoln Lake sign] and turn north. Go about 4 miles and you will be there. To carpool from Fayetteville meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot on 6th Street at 8:15 a.m. Send an e-mail to djustice@fayar.net for information.

Saturday, December 13—Dismal Hollow Bushwhack

We tried this hike two years ago and ran into yellowjackets with very serious results. In winter the little devils should be deep underground. This is one of the most scenic areas in the Ozarks with too many spectacular views to count—waterfalls, bluffs, deep gorges and great vistas. We'll probably be able to find the famous "Bear Crack." The distance is less than 5 miles but the rating is "difficult" due to the scrambling that's required during steep ascents and descents with elevation loss and gain of about 700 feet. Meet at FirstCare Medical at 8:00 a.m. or at the country store in Deer (at the water tank) at 9:30 a.m. Call Bob Cross at 587-8757 for information

Sunday, December 14—Trails of Pea Ridge National Military Park

Walk through history at this largest Civil War site west of the Mississippi. Though 9 miles long, the hike is easy and generally follows old roads with little elevation gain. There are cut-offs that provide shorter options. At one very scenic overlook you will see almost the entire battleground and can follow the battle that kept the Confederates from invading Missouri. Meet at Root School at 9:00am or at the Visitor Center at 10 am. There will be a small admission charge unless you have a National Park pass. For information send an e-mail to Marty Kerns and Brenda Brown at martykerns@juno.com

Saturday, December 20—Lost Valley and Hawksbill Crag

These are two of the most famous trails in the upper Buffalo region and with a total length of 5.1 miles and an elevation gain of less than 500 feet they are rated easy. There will be great waterfalls and bluffs at Lost Valley. Bring a flashlight if you plan to enter the cave. You will need a camera for Hawksbill Crag. Meet at Root School at 8:00 a.m. or at the Lost Valley trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Call Sally Stone at (479) 521-4062 for information.

Thursday, December 25--3rd Annual Christmas Day Walk around Lake Wilson

Lake Wilson Trail was built by Ozark Society members and honors early leaders, Joe and Maxine Clark. We will see evidence of beavers and sometimes spy eagles. This is a great way to get out of the house on Christmas afternoon, so bring the kids and grand-kids to see a Fayetteville City Park with lovely woodlands and bluffs. Meet in the parking lot of the IGA store at Rt 71B and 15th Street, for a 1:30 p.m. departure for the

trailhead. Total: 2.5 miles, rated Easy on a woodland path. Call Mike Adelman for details, 571-1488.

Thursday, January 1, 2009--4th Annual New Year's Day Eye-Opener Walk around Lake Fayetteville. We continue our popular tradition of starting the New Year with an outdoor experience, walking around Lake Fayetteville. We will be paying some attention to the springs at the East side of the Lake, as well as looking for bald eagles and other waterfowls. Get the kids and grandkids going in 2009 with a great outdoor experience. Meet in the parking lot by the ball fields near Lewis & Clark, for an 8:30 a.m. start (note the change from earlier years). Tomato and orange juice will be available at 8:00 a.m. to assist slow starters recover from ringing in the New Year. Total: 5.1 miles, rated Easy to Moderate on paved surfaces and on woodland paths. Call Mike Adelman for details, 571-1488.