

Minutes of the Ouachita Mountain Hikers Members Meeting
September 8, 2016

Executive Board Members present: Debbie Van Veghel, Ralph Butler, Ernie Weidenberger, Tom Calhoun, Donna Hill, Susan Holick

Call to Order: 12:20 p. m., Lake Ouachita State Park, picnic area. There were 45 members in attendance.

President's Remarks

Debbie Van Veghel called the meeting to order following the Welcome Back Hike and Picnic. She mentioned that Linda Branim (incoming treasurer) was taking membership dues at her table set-up—for Jeannie Eichler. Marilyn Hall, Merchandise Coordinator, was selling t-shirts at her display set-up. The nominating committee announced the nominated officers for 2017-18. They will be voted on at the Thursday, November 17 meeting at the Garland County Library. Nominations are: Jim Davis, President; Theresa Keyser, Vice-President/Program Chair; Secretary, Susan Holick Treasurer/Membership Chair, Linda Branim.

Ernie Weidenberger, who received a round of applause from the group, has volunteered to take the Historian position from Rick Ericson as of September 8.

October 1 is the deadline for renewing your club membership. Currently, there are 366 paid members of the club.

Check the OMH website for information about the overnight hikes this fall. Schedule is: October-Ozark Highlands; November- Petit Jean; December- Lake Norfolk.

Ralph Butler is leading Trail Maintenance, Tuesday, September 13, 2016 on the Ouachita Trail.

Susan Holick is leading a hike, Saturday, September 10, 2016 on DeSoto Club trail.

FoOT- Debbie said that members interested in helping with shelter builds should contact her or Bo Lea.

Jim Gifford was hike leader for the Welcome Back Hike today with more than 35 participants. He reminded the club to always call the Hike Leader to let him/her

know if you were planning to hike. Hike leaders need to keep an accurate account.

Donna Hill introduced guest speaker, Austin Davidson, Parks Interpreter.

Austin spoke about the Ouachita State Parks events. To get more information about upcoming events, go to website: Arkansas State Parks page and look at the events calendar.

Austin leads guided hikes, kayaking and boat tours, workshops. Being a plant scientist, he has a lot of knowledge about edible plants, the history of the lake and river, and is eager to provide any information you ask him about.

There was some mention of a “Hikers Overstock Sale.” Harlan and Janice Jensen have a lot of hiking supplies at a great deal. More on this to come. (or see Debbie.)

Conclusion: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Holick, secretary