

Hike Flash – February 1, 2015

Thursday, February 5, 2015 Ouachita Trail, Section 8 (miles 168.8 – 179.4), FR 124 to Flatside Pinnacle (10.6 Miles/Moderate)

Note: Volunteers needed to help drive/shuttle vehicles for this hike. Approximately 45 miles on good FS roads. Contact the Hike Leader below.

This is a chance to see the entire section of the OT adopted for maintenance by the OMH. The hike is rated **Moderate/Difficult** due to distance, and a couple stiff elevation gains, one of which falls at the end of the trek out of Crystal Prong. You will need water shoes to cross the Crystal Prong Springs and poles are highly recommended as rocks are slick. We will stage a bail-out vehicle at the Grindstone Gap access, about 4.7 miles into the hike. For those with some kick left after the final hill to Flatside Pinnacle, we will push up another 200 feet to the summit. All day hike.

Hike Leader: Joy Linker joyfullymovin@gmail.com home: 501-915-8066, cell phone on hike day: 501-204-2287. Signal may not be available at trail head.

Meet at:

Hot Springs: 7:30 a.m. at DeSoto Park, Highway 7. Cost share: \$7. Consolidate vehicles at HSV, West Gate.

Hot Springs Village: 8:00 a.m. West Gate (HW 7 entrance), Cordoba Center just before the guard house, consolidate vehicles. Cost share: \$5.

All times noted above are **departure times**.

Bring: Good boots, water shoes, medical packs, hiking sticks, **plenty of water**, trail lunch. Hiking sticks are **strongly** recommended.

Directions: Those traveling from locations other than Hot Springs or Hot Springs Village should call the hike leader to discuss a meeting place.

Saturday, February 7, 2015 Hawksbill Crag / Smith Creek Preserve (4.5 miles / Moderate)

Hike Leader: Glenn Wortham, 501-922-0924, theworthams@suddenlink.net

Carpools:

Hot Springs: 6:30 a.m. – Desoto Park (Ride Share \$1)

Hot Springs Village: 7:00 a.m. – East Gate, Cranford Parking Lot (Ride share \$9)

Meet at: 10:00 a.m. – Hawksbill Crag Trailhead

Bring: Water, good boots, hiking sticks, trail snacks.

Details:

Hawksbill Crag is a magnificent stone outcrop that juts out 100 feet above the forest below. The trail is 1½ miles to the crag and passes waterfalls and giant beech trees. The Smith Creek Preserve is protected by the Nature Conservancy. When there is water, beautiful cascades tumble over rocks. However at this time there is no water. **If there is time, we will explore Smith Creek Preserve which is on the way back home.** There is not actually a trail into the Smith Creek Preserve, but there is a good road that runs from the parking area, just off HWY 21 that goes down the hillside to the creek at the bottom. Glenn found the 21 foot waterfall, but as mentioned there is no water.

Directions to Trailhead: From Cranford Parking Lot at the East Gate on Hwy 5, travel to Crows and turn left onto Hwy 9. From Hwy 9 travel to I40 and go west on I40. Travel to Russellville and exit onto Hwy 7 and travel north. At Hwy 16, turn left and travel west to Hwy 21. Turn right onto Hwy 21 and travel approximately 10 miles to Cave Mountain Road (#9560). Turn left onto Cave Mountain Road and travel approximately 6 miles on the gravel road to the Hawksbill Crag Trailhead. This is approximately 300 miles round trip, but the sights are worth it. **Note:** The travel time makes this a longer day than our usual Saturday. Expect a dinner stop and a late return.

Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas.

Should be back by: No later than 7:00 p.m.

See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers