

Hike Flash – February 22, 2015

Golf & Recreation Expo: Ouachita Mountains Hikers will be hosting a booth at the Hot Springs Village Golf & Recreation Expo on Monday, Feb 23. The event will be held at the Coronado Community Center from noon to 4 pm. Admission to the Expo is free and open to the public. Be sure to stop by and say hello while checking out other activities available in the area.

Thursday, February 26, 2015 Cossatot River Trail (12.5 miles / Difficult)

Hike Leader: Bo & Brenda Lea, 501-622-8809 cell Bolea66@Gmail.com
Contact hiker leader if you plan to hike and where you will meet group

Description:

When this hike was done in October of 2005 for the first time, it was 14.5 miles and extremely difficult due to the distance and lack of any real trail beyond having blazes. The Cossatot River Trail has been now been completed with 39 bridges and tread work. The trail has been modified by removing several loops and bringing the trail closer to the river. The trail's length has been reduced by almost 2 miles. Approximately 60% of the trail is now along the river. For example, the hard climb and loop south of Cossatot Falls has been made easier and the trail moved along the river. Tread work was done by hand and is narrow and slanted in several areas, but still a great improvement. This side hill walking will require good supportive foot ware and hiking poles would be helpful. The bridges are outstanding and the views are very good. Leaf off will open up the views.

With the bridges, tread work, and reduced mileage, this long hike is much more doable, although still rated difficult. This is probably one of the best scenic hikes the club does.

Carpool:

Hot Springs Village - Meet at 7:00 am just outside the West Gate in the Century 21/Cordoba lot.

Hot Springs - Meet at 7:30 am Harvest Food's parking lot on 270 West just past the McDonalds.

Glenwood - Meet at 8:00 am at the Glenwood Rest Area just east of town on Hwy. 70 across from the County Club.

Carpool Cost:

Hot Springs Village to the Cossatot River Trailhead - \$14.00

Hot Springs to the Trailhead - \$11.00

Glenwood to the Trailhead - \$7.00

Note: The early start time and carpool cost is due to travel from the Village one way is just over 100 miles. Travel time to the trailhead from the Village will be right at 2 hours.

Bring: Water, hiking sticks, bug spray, hiking boots, snacks, lunch, sun screen, cap / hat

Hike Details: We will be hiking north to south, starting at the Big Brushy Trailhead on Hwy. 246. The hike will end at the Cossatot River visitors' center on Hwy. 278. Counting the bathroom at the visitors' center, there are 4 bathroom facilities on the trail, which is unusual for our hikes. Due to the length of this hike and the travel time, you will not be back until early evening. Please do not plan any activities you need to get back to.

For those interested there are several restaurants in Glenwood for dinner.

Saturday, February 28, 2015 Petit Jean State Park - Cedar Creek and Bear Cave Trails (3 plus 2 miles / Moderate/Easy)

Hike Leader: Marie Michalets, 501-915-8457, go.marie@yahoo.com

Carpools:

Hot Springs – 8:00 am - DeSoto Park/Hwy 7 (ride share \$2+9)

Hot Springs Village – 8:30 am - East Gate Cranford's Parking Lot, park at east end (ride share \$9)

Meet at: 10:00 am – Mather Lodge, facing canyon in the back.

Bring: Water, good hiking shoes or boots, hiking poles, trail snack.

Details: The Cedar Creek Trail offers a beautiful view of Cedar Falls down below. We walk up and down many big rock steps, between big boulders, and bluffs create a few challenging places to traverse. If the stream is full of water as it was on January 31st, it will be very scenic. After looping around the varied terrain of the Cedar Creek Trail, we return to Mather Lodge where you may end your hike or continue to hike a mile to the Bear Cave Trail for some exploring of the gigantic rocks with narrow passageways around them.

Directions to Trailhead: Take Highway 5, turn Left on Highway 9 in Crows, go north to Oppelo. Turn Left onto Highway 154 for about 14 miles.

We will arrange carpools according to those who want to eat lunch at Mather Lodge after the hike.

Should be back by: Late afternoon.

See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers