

Hike Flash – April 26, 2015

Community Fair: Ouachita Mountains Hikers will be hosting a booth at the Hot Springs Village Community Fair on **Wednesday, April 29**. The event will be held at the Coronado Community Center from **10 am to 2 pm**. Admission to the fair is **free**. If you attend be sure to stop by and say hello while checking out other organizations in the area.

Thursday, April 30, 2015 Womble Trail CR 61 to Hwy 27 TH (9.2 miles – Difficulty Rating 3 of 5, Scenic Rating 4 of 5)

Hike Leaders: Tom and Jeanie Calhoun, 501-765-4827 (Tom cell) or 501-765-4816 (Jeanie cell) or Tom.Calhoun3@gmail.com

Shuttle drivers are needed. Please contact the hike leader if you can help.

Carpools:

Hot Springs: 8:00 a.m. at Sutherlands (1831 Albert Pike Rd.)

Hot Springs Village: 8:00 a.m. At West Gate (Highway 7):

Carpool share: \$7.00 (Total Round-trip Distance: approx. 100 miles from either starting point.)

Trailhead: On CR 61, 3 miles from the intersection with Job Corps Road (CR 37).

Meeting Times: 9 a.m. at meeting point. 9:30 a.m. at TH. We will leave each location when all are present.

Directions to Meeting Point from West Gate: Hwy 7 N to Hwy 298 W to Story for rest room stop. South on Hwy 27 to Lake Ouachita Bridge (currently under construction). Continue to intersection with Hwy 270 at Mt. Ida Service Center.

Directions to Meeting Point from Sutherlands: Follow Hwy 270 W to intersection with Hwy 27 N at Mt. Ida Service Center. This is the second intersection with Hwy 27.

Directions from Meeting Point to Trailhead: West on Hwy 270 for 2.8 miles. Right onto Job Corps Rd. (CR 37). Continue 2.7 miles to a left on CR 61 toward Fulton Branch Recreation Area. TH is 3.0 miles on right. Parking is at the top of the hill beyond the TH on the left. There is room for perhaps 6 cars.

Shuttle vs. No Shuttle: If we are able to have shuttlers, then we will all meet at the Mt. Ida Service Center and proceed to the trailhead. If not, then the HSV group will stop at the Hwy 27 TH. To get there, turn west (right) just south of the Lake Ouachita bridge. There is a Womble Trail street sign. We will drop one or more cars there, and proceed to the meeting place.

Directions from Hwy 27 TH to CR 461 TH: South on Hwy 27 for 2.4 miles. Right onto Rifle Range Road (CR 37). Proceed 2.7 miles and bear left to remain on CR 37 toward Fulton Branch Recreation Area. After 0.2 miles, right onto CR 461 to TH.

Hike Start Time: 9:30 a.m. from trailhead. We will return in late afternoon.

Bring: Water, boots, hiking stick or poles (optional), trail snacks, lunch, sun screen, hat. You may need water shoes. On the pre-hike in late March we had one crossing where some hikers used them.

Description of Hike: This is a mountain bike trail. The tread is quite smooth with few rocks. The first half is in low, sometime marshy terrain with little elevation change. After we cross CR 59 at mile 4, we begin to climb. We climb the mountain slowly but steadily upward until we reach some imposing cliffs overlooking the Ouachita River as it flows into the lake. We then drop back down more steeply to the Hwy 27 TH.

Note: All County roads (CR) are dirt roads. They are fairly good roads, but with potholes.

Saturday, May 2, 2015 Trail Service & Hike - Hot Springs National Park - 2nd section of Sunset Trail - Cedar Glades Rd. to Balanced Rock and back (3 miles / Easy to Moderate)

Hike Leader: John Burns home: 922-4106 cell: 202-258-2920 johnburnshsv@gmail.com

Carpool: Hot Springs Village: 8:30am - West Gate...Century 21 parking lot

Meet At: 9:00am - Cedar Glades Trail Head

Directions: At the fountain on Central Ave. in HS, turn onto Whittington Ave. Then make an immediate right onto Cedar St. and go 3/10 of a mile and veer right onto Cedar Glades Rd. From there it is 1/2 mile to Sunset (Cedar Glades) Trail Head on right at the top of the hill.

Details: Except for approx. 1/4 mile steep up at the beginning, this is a pleasant walk that leads to the scenic Balanced Rock. We will break here for the views and snacks before working our way back to the trail head.

Bring: Water, protective eyeware, one plastic grocery bag, gloves, snacks, first aid kit, insect repellent.

Preferred tools: Manual hedge clippers / lopper / weed sling

Finish: Noon. Plan to have lunch together at Colorado Grill.

See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers