

Hike Flash – May 3, 2015

Welcome to new OMH members Amelia Wilson, Casey Dobbs, Becky Allen, Jeff & Laura Davis and Mary Boudreau.

Note From the Hike Chairman: Four changes have been made to the Winter/Spring hike schedule. The hikes for May 2nd and May 9th have been switched. Jerry Harris's float trip has been moved to Saturday, May 30th. Joe Breshear's Crystal Campground/Crystal Vista trip has been changed to Thursday, June 4th. All of these changes will show up on the [OMH Online Calendar](#). Anita.

Thursday, May 7, 2015 Ouachita Trail - Ouachita Pinnacle to FR #122 (mm 147.0-157.0) (10 miles / Difficult)

Hike Leader: Debbie Van Veghel, 501-655-6625, dvanveghel@hotmail.com

Meet at: Any hiker **not** carpooling from HS or HSV who needs to meet up with the group, please notify hike leader in advance and arrangements will be made to meet at the Hwy 7 Trailhead (Ouachita Trail) at **7:45 am**.

The Hwy 7 Trailhead is located 10 miles north from the Hot Springs Village West Gate. There is a paved parking area on the left side of Hwy 7 next to trailhead. (ride share \$2)

Carpools:

Hot Springs – 7:15 am DeSoto Park/Hwy 7 (ride share = \$6)

Hot Springs Village – 7:30 am West Gate/Visitor Center Parking Lot (ride share = \$ 5)

Details:

Due to the rain saturation in the low marsh areas, the scheduled OT hike has been changed. There may be a few water crossings along this hike. The trees are all leafed out now.

This is a difficult but beautiful hike. We will start at the Ouachita Pinnacle mountain top (1961 ft.) and hike to FR#122. There will still be a few steep climbs. There are several SSS views, with the first one at the beginning at Ouachita Pinnacle. The trail heads down the hill and switches back and comes alongside Blocker Creek. Around mm149.5 there is an SSS view. We will cross trace roads, follow creeks, hike through some wet areas, pass Big Bear Shelter (which is also a SSS area) pass rock fields and a natural gas pipeline area. There will be a lot of "up-and-downing" according to Tim Ernst.

Bring: We are in Spring heading towards Summer, so: **Bug Spray highly recommended. Lots of water**, sun screen, hiking stick or poles, trail snacks, lunch, hat, boots, (water shoes optional).

Should be back: Late afternoon

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VEHICLE SHUTTLING – Contact hike leader if interested. (27 miles of good to moderate forest roads)

Saturday, May 9, 2015 Ouachita Trail (Sugar Creek Area) (3.8 m / moderate)

Hike Leader: Bobby Witherington 501-416-8969 bjwither1@att.net

Carpools:

Hot Springs: 8:00 a.m. at Desoto Park (Park Ave/Hwy 7 N). Ride share \$3

Hot Springs Village: 8:30 a.m. at West Gate/Cordoba Center. Ride share \$1

Meet at: Trailhead at 9:00 a.m.

The trailhead is located on Scenic Highway 7, six miles north of Jessieville and 1.5 miles north of Iron Springs Recreation Area.

Bring: Water; insect repellent; sticks; boots or walking shoes; snacks.

Details: This is a part of the Ouachita Trail that starts on Scenic Highway 7 at the Middle Fork of the Saline River and runs to FR 132, mm 160.4—mm 162.3, where we will return to the starting trail head. This section winds through a beautiful wilderness area with a couple of moderate climbs.

Should be back by: Noon

See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers