

Ouachita Mountain Hikers (www.omhikers.net)

Hike Flash – August 11, 2017

What's New on the Web Site?

New photos may be found at **About Us>Photo Gallery**. *Recently added* were additional photos from the Geo Float on May 13th.

The minutes of the May 18, 2017 general membership meeting have been added under the **Admin** tab. As always, the most recent Hike Flash in both desktop and mobile formats may be found under the **Current Activities** tab.

Note: To view the web site, just click this link: www.omhikers.net.

Welcome New Members...

Barbara and Marty Cook.

Do You Facebook?

Many of you know that there is now a Ouachita Mountain Hikers "Group" on Facebook. Here is some information on the purpose and use of the Group:

The OMH Facebook is a "closed group", accessed solely by members in good standing. Members must request permission to join the page directly through Facebook. (Of course, this requires that a potential user already possess a Facebook account.)

The OMH Facebook page has been created to speak directly to the craft of hiking and focus on related aspects of the Ouachita and larger region of Arkansas. The page is available to members who wish to share club photographs or other materials related to the Club's interests and activities. Additional content in keeping with the purpose of the group may be added at the discretion of the Social Media Coordinator (SMC) and the Board.

Facebook will not be the primary communications path to club membership. Content will be closely monitored for appropriateness in both expression and relevance. Of course, inappropriate language and political and religious commentary will not be permitted.

The Board thanks Keith Hall who has created this Group and, as our Social Media Coordinator, will monitor and maintain the Group.

Saturday , September 9, 2017 – Welcome Back Hike and Picnic

Mark your calendar! Details to follow. Our "Welcome Back" hike will be followed by a picnic and is a good opportunity to get involved and meet other club members. It is also a "homecoming" for former members who

might like to attend for old time's sake.

October 27-29, 2017 FoOT Fall Maintenance Event – YOU are invited to help!

Friends of the Ouachita Trail's completion of the Ouachita Trail shelter system last year marked the end of an amazing three and a half years of effort to add this enhancement to the trail.

FoOT is planning the largest trail maintenance event ever on the Ouachita Trail, October 27th, 28th, and 29th. FoOT volunteers will carry out a major effort on the west end of the OT. The base of operations will be the Forest Service facility at the Cedar Lake Recreation Area. Cedar Lake is located 12 miles south of Heavener, Oklahoma and 40 miles west of Mena, Arkansas. Access is off Holson Valley Road, which goes west off Highway 270.

FoOT will be using the equestrian camping area and its pavilion. All provided meals will be at this pavilion. There are a lot of spaces for dry camping and tents. Showers and restrooms are available. Adjacent to this area is the Sandy Beach Camping loop, which will have spaces available for those needing electric and water hookups. These sites will be available at no cost to the volunteers. Accommodations will be available Thursday through Sunday.

Breakfast will be provided by FoOT on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Dinner on Friday and Saturday night will also be provided at 5:30 p.m. Drinks and eating utensils will be provided. Volunteers will need to bring their own trail food for lunch.

Make plans to be involved in this special event. Join us for just 1 or 2 days if your schedule does not work for the entire time. For planning of the food, accommodations, and work teams, please let us know by no later than October 15th of your plans to attend and what accommodations you will need.

There are motels in Heavener and cabins available at Big Cedar if you would rather go that route.

We hope to work on several miles of trail but we want the time to be full of fun and a chance to build the FoOT team. On Saturday night, FoOT will have its brief annual meeting after the evening meal.

It will be a great time to be out on the OT with the fall weather and the fall colors at their peak. Join with other volunteers for a special time in the Ouachita Mountains.

Bo Lea, FoOT President

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Important notice about your OMH annual dues – They're due!

Annual club dues correspond with our hiking year. Dues for the 2017-2018 season are now due. If you have not already paid them, you can either pay at the Welcome Back Hike/Picnic or mail them to Ouachita Mountain Hikers, P.O. Box 371, Hot Springs AR 71902. Dues are still only \$5 per person per year or \$50 per person for a lifetime membership (and you'll never have to worry about them again).

We need a few good...

...Hike Leaders! If you are a regular hiker or aspire to be, we need for you to volunteer to be a Hike Leader. It's some work, but you will really get to dig a bit deeper into hiking in general and the wonderful hiking opportunities in Arkansas. You may want to start with Saturday hikes to get your feet wet (which can happen when you're hiking). Saturday Hike Leaders may want to move to Thursdays. If you have an interest please contact Hike Chair, Dave Tedrahn. He can team you up with an experienced Hike leader, if you'd like, to help select and plan your first hike.

Photos needed!

Please Email your photos from hikes to both our Historian, Ernie Weidenberger ernjac@gmail.com and Web Master, Tom Calhoun tom.calhoun3@gmail.com for inclusion in the yearbook and the photo gallery on the web site, respectively.

***See You on the Trails,
Ouachita Mountain Hikers***