

Monthly Meetings

Wednesday, May 13—Spring Picnic

The Highlands Chapter spring picnic will be held at Veteran's Park off of Zion Road starting at 5:00 p.m. You may wish to do a little trail hiking or take part in another activity until the potluck at 6:00 p.m. in the pavilion. Bring a dish to share and your own cup, plate, and utensils. Call Ellen Compton at 527-9660 for information.

OUTINGS

For all hikes bring water, lunch, rain gear and wear hiking boots. No pets are allowed. Call the hike coordinator a day or so in advance to check on any last minute changes. Outings Chair, Bob Cross, can be reached at 587-8757 (home) or 466-3077 (cell). For those who want to propose and lead hikes call Bob or send an e-mail to racross@uark.edu. Everyone is welcome, whether an Ozark Society member or not.

Saturday, April 4—Wolf Creek Bushwhack

This hike in the Wolf Creek drainage is about 5 miles long and is rated difficult due to scrambling and difficult footing as we go over and under bluffs. You will see waterfalls, caves, and the erosive effects of water in cave-making. Eddie promises to produce at least one sizable rock. Meet at the FirstCare Medical Parking lot at the intersection of Crossover and Rte. 16 at 7:30 am or at the side of the road on Rte. 16 just west of its intersection with Hwy. 7 at 9:30 am. This is about two miles east of Deer, AR. Call Eddie Vollman at (501) 607-1751 for information or send him an e-mail at hknman1@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, April 11—Indian Creek

This is Terry's specialty and is an extremely difficult hike. It will be more difficult this time because of fallen trees from the ice storm. There will be hiking on narrow ledges, much scrambling and the use of ropes in two areas. The elevation gain is 1000 feet and the length is 5 miles. If you can make it you will be rewarded with arguably the most spectacular scenery in the Ozarks. You will see the famed Eye of the Needle, Arkansas Cave, and several impressive waterfalls. Meet at Root School at 8:00 am or at the Kyles Landing trailhead at 9:45 am. Call Terry Fredrick at 442-3812 for information.

Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19—Ozark Society Spring Meeting

Join us for the Spring Meeting at the new Lake Fort Smith State Park. It's only a 30 minute drive from Fayetteville. You can find the complete schedule in the Pack & Paddle and on the Ozark Society website, www.ozarksociety.net Click on the "2009 Spring Pack & Paddle" link. The Highlands Chapter is the host so we need a good turnout.

Saturday, April 25—Leatherwood Creek Bushwhack

There will be two hikes in Leatherwood Creek. Hike #1 is less than 4 miles long but is rated difficult because of rough terrain and a 400-foot vertical, steep scramble up to the bluff top. There may be multiple wet stream crossings. There are spectacular rock formations, a bluff shelter, and one of the highest bluffs you will see in the Ozarks. On the return leg we will intersect and descend on a section of the BRT after passing a large sinkhole with a cave entrance. Hike #2 is less than 2 miles long and is rated easy to moderate. It will follow the stream to the bluff shelter and then return by the same route. Meet at Root School at 8:00 am or at the Ponca Low Water Bridge at 9:30 am. Co-Leaders: Ron Foldvary and Carma Unruh. Call Ron Foldvary at (479) 442-5248 for information.

April 24, 25 and 26—Buffalo River Canoe Trip

We'll do the section from Ponca to Hasty(30.5 miles) over the three days. On Friday meet at the Low Bridge put in at Ponca at 9:30 am. The leaders plan is to rent a canoe and shuttle from Gordons Motel and Canoe rental. From Ponca we'll float down to a riverside camp between Kyles Landing and Erbie. Along the way we expect to do some hikes probably up Hemmed in Hollow and Indian Creek. On Saturday resume paddling with short hikes along the way and a riverside camp near the confluence of the Little Buffalo. On Sunday after breakfast we'll take out at Hasty probably around 10 am. Paddlers are expected to bring their own camping gear and food. Call assistant leader Brenda Brown at 870 416-7292 or Pete Bond at 719 207-8544 for additional details and to sign up.

Saturday, May 2—Canoe Trip

Plan A is to float from the Ponca Low Water Bridge to Kyles landing. If you have your own canoe, meet at the Low Water Bridge at 8:30 a.m. to arrange for shuttles. We may stop to hike to Hemmed-In Hollow. Plan B (if the water is too low on the upper Buffalo is to float from Pruitt to Hasty). Meet at the Pruitt put-in at 8:30 a.m. Everyone should be aware of the river rules—no glass containers; a life jacket for everyone, worn or within reach and not tied to the boat; no glass: no litter loose in the boat, and a trash bag in every boat. If you need a boat, contact one of the outfitters in the area and be at the put-in by 9:00 a.m. Contact J.B. at

julianbclark@yahoo.com for information. You will be informed by e-mail a day or two before the float as to whether Plan A or Plan B will be followed.

Saturday, May 9—Lost Bridge Loop Hike

See bluffs, an old homestead and beautiful Beaver Lake. The hike is 5-miles long and is rated easy to moderate. Meet at the eastern end of the parking lot of the former Sam's Club in Springdale at 9:00 am or at the trailhead at 10:00 am. The trailhead is in the north section of Lost Bridge Park off Hwy. 127 on the road to the marina. Call Sally Stone at (479) 521-4062 with questions.

Saturday, May 16—Boen Gulf Wildflower Hike and End-of-Season Picnic

We will first visit Boen Gulf for a moderate 3-mile hike at what should be the peak season for wildflowers and azaleas. After Boen Gulf we will move on to Alice Andrews's estate in the Boxley Valley for our third annual end-of-spring-hiking-season picnic lunch. Bring a dish to share along with your favorite beverage and your designated driver. If the weather is warm enough we can wade up Beech Creek. Meet at the FirstCare Medical at 8:00 am. Hike leader to be announced.

Saturday, May 23--Bowers Hollow Bushwhack

This is a dramatic hike in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness. We'll see waterfalls, bluffs, and unique rock formations. Terry guarantees that we'll see feral pigs and possibly the first bear of 2009. This hike is rated difficult and is 6 miles long. Meet at the FirstCare Medical parking area at the corner of Hwy. 16 and Crossover at 8:00 am. Contact Terry Fredrick at (479) 442-3812 for information.

Saturday & Sunday, May 30 & 31, Outing to Tall Grass Prairie

The Tallgrass Prairie Preserve north of Pawhuska, OK is managed by the Nature Conservancy and consists of 38,700 acres of grasslands. It's one of the few remaining areas of what was once a 142 million acre major ecosystem. There are approximately 400 bison that graze on the prairie and we will be visiting during the peak wildflower season. We will meet at the preserve headquarters at noon, have a picnic lunch, and will then have a guided tour of the hiking trail (an easy 3 miles) led by a Nature Conservancy docent. We will then have a car tour of the preserve and look for the bison. Saturday night we will camp at nearby Osage Hills State Park (or you can make your own arrangements for a motel). On Sunday at 10:00 a.m. we will visit Woolaroc Museum and Nature Preserve near Bartlesville. You will

then be on your own to visit other attractions in the area such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower in Bartlesville. The co-leaders for the trip are Bob Cross racross@uark.edu and Damona Doye damona.doye@okstate.edu. Please sign-up by sending Bob an e-mail. You will then receive directions, the procedure to get a campsite, and suggested motels. We will send out a list of those going so that you can arrange for carpooling. For planning purposes, the Tallgrass Prairie is about a 4-hour drive from Fayetteville.

A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE OZARK ROADIES

Come join the Ozark Roadies for a fun summer of cycling (a great way to stay in shape for the fall and winter hiking season with the Ozark Society). The Roadies will begin its fifth summer of cycling in May, and you will see many familiar faces from our hikes. We ride on low-traffic country roads with beautiful scenery almost every Saturday from mid-May to mid-September (when hiking season starts). To encourage new cyclists, we will have a ride each month (tentatively scheduled for the first Sat. of each month) with a relaxed pace and low mileage (a great warmup for those who want to extend their ride after the group ride). We would love to have more members of the Ozark Society join us on our rides. We are a welcoming group and want to support and encourage new cyclists. For more information, questions and to get on the Roadies email list, please contact Dorothy Mangold at hotdot41@cox.net.