



Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc.

March 2025 Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we step into a new year, I want to take a moment to encourage each of you with the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Our collective efforts to preserve and celebrate Devil's Den State Park how we can inspire you to share this mission.

Looking forward, I am filled with hope and enthusiasm for what we can achieve together with the new Superintendent of Devil's Den, Jay Schneider, and the will park staff. This year, we aim to find new ways to grow our community of Friends, deepen our impact, and continue supporting this special place for generations to come. Your support and involvement are vital in helping us reach these goals.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or a new member, I encourage you to stay engaged, spread the word, and invite others to join us in this important work. Together, we can accomplish amazing things.

Thank you for your dedication and interest. Here's to a new year of growth, connection, and success for the Friends of Devil's Den!

Warm regards,
Myra Collins

The Busy Year Continues, And It Has Just Got Started– 2025!!

While it might not be like the song by Zager and Evans, “In the Year 2525,” it is undoubtedly hard to believe that it is 2025. Each year seems to go by faster; last year was no exception. The park slowed down briefly from the end of November until March. But on any



given warm day, visitation will skyrocket. And, of course, March brings Spring Break. Devil’s Den will experience a month of the school vacation, usually starting with Oklahoma, Arkansas, and then Texas, with Louisiana in early April.

The park’s sponsored events, steeped in a rich history, will also start picking up. Whether you want to learn about birds, wildflowers, or mountain biking, spring is the time of year. As for the Ozark Mountain Bike Festival, this will be number 36, a testament to our enduring commitment to these activities. The other events have been around even longer, a living testament to the park’s rich heritage. Wally and Brent are attributed to starting many of these events and laying the foundation for the park’s interpretive program. They were both hired in the mid-1970s as Naturalists, which was later changed to Interpreters.

The Ozark Mountain Bike Festival will be the first on the list. So, dust off your mountain bike and come out for a guided ride April 4th-6th. Rides will vary from novice to experienced. So, I am sure there is one that will fit your skill level. There is also a ride on Sunday at Lake Fort Smith State Park. Their trails, known for their scenic beauty and challenging terrain, are well worth checking out if you haven’t tested them. Otherwise, mark your calendars for one of the park’s other events.

One face will be missing on your next visit. Terry Anderson retired in October. She moved back to Missouri and now watches the KC Chiefs football. We wish her well. That position hasn’t been filled yet, but it will soon. We are also getting a nine-month seasonal interpreter, which should dramatically enhance the park’s programming.

On a side note, we have been working with the University's Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST) and Landscape departments on a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project. This has included locating and mapping all the park's historic structures and features. The research was widespread. In fact, there was a trip to the National Parks Services' Archives in Denver. There was a vast amount of documentation on the park. So much so that a three-day trip with three researchers only gathered about half of the available information. The project continues with the documentation of the CCC furniture. You can view the incredible results at <https://ccc.cast.uark.edu/>.

Speaking of the CCC, we are remodeling 10 of our historic cabins. Some of the interiors will be painted with 1930s-era colors. Once the first group is completed, we will move to the last seven. The whole project will take about a year.

The park is here to welcome you. Our frontline, front desk clerks, maintenance, and store staff are here to help. They always have a smile on their faces, even after dealing with several hundred guests on any given day.

Tim V Scott
Assistant Superintendent



AGENDA

FDDSP Membership Meeting

March 8, 2025

Call to order 10:00 a.m. at Cafe Pavilion or in Cafe

Approval of September 2024 minutes

Financial Report

 2024 Final

 2025 Year to Date

Membership Report

Requests from Park Staff

Old Business

 Water outside Visitor Center

 Future of organization including input and offers of assistance from James Reeves and

Jay Schneider

New Business

 Park Staff report on 2025 Events

 Website and creating fillable forms

 Award presentations

Adjournment: Next meeting after the Bike Race September 13, 2025 3pm AV room.

MINUTES

Friends of Devil's Den State Park Inc.

Membership Meeting September 14, 2024

The September 2024 meeting of the membership of Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc. was called to order 3:00 pm in the Visitor Center A/V room by President Myra Collins. Also present were Vice-President John Collins, Secretary Aimee Crochet, Treasurer John Crochet, and Harry Harnish. Also present were Park Interpreters Terry Anderson and Kara Helton and Park Superintendent Jay Schneider.

John Crochet presents proxies from Steve and Ruth Shepherd to John Collins, from Pat and Carole and Barbara Huff in blank, and from Thurman and Martha Ragar in blank. The chair

appoints John Collins to represent the blank proxies and those whose designated proxy is not present or unable or unwilling to serve.

Approval of March 2024 minutes:

John Collins moves and John Crochet seconds to waive reading of the March 2024 minutes and adopt them as published in the newsletter. There being no objection it was so ordered.

The Secretary presents minutes and/or email transcripts of Board of Directors meetings/actions for attachment to the March minutes: 3/2/2024 (2024 Budget amendments and Bank signatures); 7/31/2024 (Bank account and signatures); 8/20/2024 (Jack Miller memorial donations allocated to Bike Race).

Financial Report:

The Treasurer presents a 2024 YTD written financial report along with a list of donations so far this year. He further explains that though the Board authorized \$212.50 from the Miller memorials for the Bike Race in memory of Jack and Jo Anne Miller this year, Tim preferred not to deal with change and they reduced this year's donation to \$200, the amount that Jack normally donated.

Membership Report

: The Treasurer as Membership Chair orally reports that there are 5 individual and 14 family memberships for a total 33 Voting members resulting in a Quorum for matters On the Agenda of 4 and those Off the Agenda of 11.

Old Business:

Future of organization: Park Superintendent Jay Schneider will work with us to increase membership and participation.

Jay also reports that the library maintained by Pat and Carole Huff has been removed on order of Little Rock due to concerns over appropriateness of the material. In good news the door that it blocked has been reopened.

Water outside Visitor Center: John Crochet reports that it is working this morning, but tastes terrible (as does all the water from Beaver Lake this time of the year).

New Business:

Park Staff report and requests on 2024 and 2025 Events:

Fall Fest will be October 12, 2024. John and Myra will donate (in kind) large bag(s) of candy.

Holiday Open House will be December 21, 2024. Jay reports that the Park will pay for the cookies and cocoa.

Signs of Spring will be April 26, 2025. A new wild edibles expert (who assisted Tamara in the past) will be the presenter this time, which should result in a lower mileage reimbursement. The amount from last year for Tamara will be left in the proposed budget and the speaker will be reimbursed based on actual mileage and the 2025 IRS allowance.

Bat-O-Rama is tentatively set for June 13-15, 2025, but Kara is having trouble finding a speaker. Harry will check with his BCI contacts. It was agreed we would hold off allocating any funds until someone can be found.

Birder Weekend will be May 3, 2025.

Myra and John will man a Friend's table at the Devil's Den Games July 4, 2025

John Crochet reports that Tim said the NWA Mountain Bike Championships will be September 13, 2025.

Fall Fest will be October 11, 2025 and Holiday Open House will be December 20, 2025.

2025 Budget: The Treasurer submits a proposed budget for 2025 and moves its adoption as written. John Collins seconds the motion. By voice vote the budget is so adopted.

Election of Officers:

Harry nominates Myra Collins for President for 2025. There being no further nominations the nominations are closed and without objection she is so elected.

Harry nominates John Collins for Vice-President for 2025. There being no further nominations the nominations are closed and without objection he is so elected.

Harry nominates John Crochet for Secretary for 2025. There being no further nominations the nominations are closed and without objection he is so elected.

Harry nominates Aimee Crochet for Treasurer for 2025. There being no further nominations the nominations are closed and without objection she is so elected.

Adjournment: John Collins moves and Harry seconds that the meeting adjourn with the next meeting March 1, 2025 at 10:00 p.m. in the AV room. The September 2025 meeting after the Bike Race will be September 13 at 3 p.m. in the AV room.

Aimee Crochet, Secretary

Calendar of Events 2025

Signs of Spring/Wild Edible Workshop*	w/e April 26
Birder Weekend*	w/e May 3
Bat-O-Rama*	w/e June 13
Devil's Den Games	July 4
NWA Mountain Bike Championships*	Sept. 13
Fall Fest*	October 11
Holiday Open House*	December 20

**Denotes a Friends of Devil's Den sponsored event or activity*

Please fill out and sign if you are unable to attend our meeting. Mail to Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., PO Box 623, West Fork, AR 72774-0623

PROXY

I hereby appoint _____, or, in his/her absence or inability or unwillingness to serve or if left blank, a person present appointed by the presiding officer, as my proxy at the March 2025 membership meeting of Friends of Devil's Den State Park, Inc., with the following instructions:

To abstain on all other matters.

Date: _____

This proxy is revocable upon written notice to the Secretary or upon my attendance at the meeting.

Print name: _____ Signature: _____

For family memberships, complete for second voting member:

Print name: _____ Signature: _____