

Arkansas Trails Council
Spring Quarterly Meeting
10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 5, 2018
Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center
Minutes
by Mike Sprague

Meeting Commenced

Brief introductions were made

The previous quarterly meeting's minutes were approved. Bill Jackson made the motion. Robert Duggan seconded it.

Old Business:

An update was given regarding the Arkansas Trails Council's new website that is still waiting to go live. The website is ready to go; however, it is now in the administrative process to get it launched.

Next, the elements of the Arkansas Trails System were discussed. First, we went over the application process. Jim Gifford, who had created an updated application form, said he would like to the Arkansas Trails System Sub Committee to look over submitted applications and make recommendations.

Bill Jackson said that applications should be submitted via the website and include a cover letter. He also said applicants should give examples of things mentioned in the application.

Robert Duggan added that photos of the trail would be helpful to be included with the application.

Paul Norris added that the application should ask about what kind of maintenance agreement is in place regarding the trail.

Toby Von Rembow said that letters of support would be helpful.

The difficulty rating was brought up by Bert Turner. He said it would be good to outline what is difficult about the trail in the cover letter, giving an explanation for the rating given. Tom Ledbetter wanted the difficulty rating to be based on the intended use, or uses, of the trail. Different uses for the same trail may have different difficulty ratings.

Gifford said the tread type and development level of the trail will also be good to ask for in the application.

The next thing discussed was the Arkansas Trails System logo. The plan is to create and distribute a logo that will be placed at trailheads of designated trails. Before the physical logos get made, the Arkansas Trails Council will decide on if we want to update the symbol or keep the current one.

Submissions of new logo ideas were requested in the last meeting and in a subsequent email. Zach Foster created several designs to be considered, and images of those were distributed in the meeting. People were asked to initial the ones they liked. Voting for the logos will take place via email and the winner will be announced at the Summer Quarterly Meeting. The current logo, the initialed logos and any other submitted logos will be submitted for selection.

The Arkansas Trails Council will be holding off on the Arkansas Trails Symposium this year. We will however promote the National Trails Day as a day of volunteering for trails.

New Business:

Bill Jackson suggested the Arkansas Trails Council set up a committee to recruit people to participate with the council.

He also suggested that we host a booth at the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association annual conference.

Organizational Updates:

Robert Duggan from the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest talked about the National Trails Strategy and that it would have a soft implementation.

Paul and Melanie Norris from Central Arkansas Trail Alliance both talked about: The Earth Day cleanup and trail work day at Allsopp Park in Little Rock on April 22 from 10:00 to 2:00; Preparation for the Ouachita 50 and Mount Magazine trail races; and the trail meeting this evening CATA is hosting at Superior Brewing in Hot Springs.

Daniel Siskowski from Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDoT) spoke about the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Transportation Alternatives Program (RTP) grants due on May 1. He also said that Jean Wallace, the Director of Hot Springs Parks and Trails, is retiring soon.

Bert Turner of Arkansas Master Naturalists spoke of his organization's collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to build a two-plus mile trail on Electric Island in Lake Hamilton and a possible water trail to Garvan Woodland Gardens.

Jim Gifford from Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT) and Ouachita Mountain Hikers (OMH) said that volunteer night for the construction of the North Woods Trail at Hot Springs every Wednesday night starting at 5:00.

Tom Ledbetter of the Ouachita National Forest said four Texas Conservation Corps Crews will help work on Ouachita National Forest trails this summer. FoOT is to improve original shelters on the Ouachita Trail. The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT) boardwalk at Denby Bay is to be extended.

Bill Jackson, also from the Ouachita National Forest, spoke about the success of the Ouachita Challenge. The race, he said, attracts people as far away as Canada and France, and now, there is a new course record.

Toby Von Rembow spoke about the work the company he works for—Rogue Trails—has done or is looking to start. The work at Camp Orr is complete. New trail construction has started at Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area, and a trail is to be built at Devil’s Knob-Devil’s Backbone. Toby also mentioned the 30th Annual Ozark Mountain Bike Festival to be held at Devil’s Den State Park this weekend (April 6-8).

Charlie Kincade spoke well of the Lorange Creek Natural area.

Meeting was adjourned.

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Sign-in List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation or Activity of Interest</u>	<u>Email</u>
Lynn Bell	Metroplan	lynnbell@metroplan.org
Robert Duggan	USFS – Ozark-St. Francis National Forest	rduggan@fs.fed.us
Jim Gifford	Ouachita Mountain Hikers/Friends of the Ouachita Trail	hikearkansas@gmail.com
Bill Jackson	USFS – Ouachita National Forest	williamjackson@fs.fed.us
Robert Kacir	Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourism	robert.kacir@arkansas.gov
Charles Kincade	Arkansas Trail Riders Association	fishnpox@aol.com gcktrudy@aol.com
Tom Ledbetter	USFS-Ouachita National Forest	tledbetter@fs.fed.us
Melanie Norris	Central Arkansas Trail Alliance	bikeschic@yahoo.com
Paul Norris	Central Arkansas Trail Alliance	bikekayakhike@gmail.com
Daniel Siskowski	Arkansas Department of Transportation	daniel.siskowski@ardot.gov
Mike Sprague	Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourism	michael.sprague@arkansas.gov
Bert Turner	Arkansas Master Naturalists	bert_turner@att.net
Toby Von Rembow	Rogue Trails – Mtn Biking/Hiking	tobyvonrembow@gmail.com