



West End Maintenance Event a Great Success

November 2, 2017

FoOT had a very successful maintenance event in late October. Almost 30 miles of the trail were worked in the most difficult portion of the Ouachita Trail. Total hours worked was 891. Volunteers travelled a total of **7,050 miles** to attend this event. I want to thank each volunteer for your hard work and support of FoOT and its mission to maintain and improve the OT. Special thanks to Brenda and the kitchen crew for their effort to keep us all fed, not a small task in a camping setting with very cold temperatures. We really appreciated having the Texas Conservation Corp crew with us. They worked a total of 8 days and proved to be hard workers and fun to be around. Their efforts went a long way in making our outstanding results.

The FoOT Board will be looking at 2018 for possibly the second annual event. Thanks again for your time, effort, gas, and overall support for the Oklahoma maintenance event. I know we cleared lots of trail but it was just as important to have FoOT volunteers come together, many for the first time, to work as a team. It was great for me to meet many of you and now have a face behind the name.

Look forward to working with you in the future. Here are the statistics:

Trail Work Hours

Texas Conservation Corp 448 hours 8 days 10/24-31

FoOT Volunteers 31 hours 2 days 10/25-26

FoOT Volunteers 412 hours 3 days 10/27-29

Total 891 work hours for event

Trail Sections Worked

OT from Panorama Vista (MM 5.0) to Winding Stairs shelter (MM 25.0) 20.0 miles

OT Kiamichi Trailhead (MM 39.2) to Kiamichi Mt. turn (MM 43.8) 4.6 miles

OT Kiamichi Trail head (MM 39.3) to most of Wilton Mt. (MM 36.3) 3.0 miles

OT Stateline (MM 46.3) to Forest Road 514 (MM 47.8) 1.5 miles

TOTAL 29.1 miles

All the trail sections listed above are now status **Green (Clear Trail)**!

Bo Lea

FoOT President

501-622-8809

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MM209-MM211 Trail Closure UPDATE

Posted October 10, 2017

MM209-M211 is back open with a Yellow caution. Raven Lawson from CAW says the thinning is completed but there may be some equipment on the road so please stay on the trail and off the access road.

FoOT Annual Meeting October 28, 2017

October 8, 2017

The Annual meeting of the membership of Friends of the Ouachita Trail will be held Saturday, October 28 at the Cedar Lake Recreation area in Oklahoma. It will be part of the major maintenance event being held that weekend. Time will be 6:30 p.m. following the evening meal, which will be furnished by FoOT. Activities will take place at the pavilion in the equestrian camping area on the west side of the recreation area.

Even if you are not are part of the maintenance event, come and celebrate FoOT's hard work and successes during the past year. Please notice the RSVP request at the end of this message.

Primary Business of Meeting: Election of three directors

FoOT is governed by nine directors, elected by the membership. Directors serve three-years, staggered terms, with three directors elected every year. Board nominations for 2018 are Ron Mayfield, Carolyn Shearman and Dennis Ward. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, ***please vote***. Membership participation is important.

Other Business:

There will be a report of highlights of FoOT accomplishments and progress during the past year and the plans/challenges for the coming year. Also, this is an opportunity for you, the members, to give your feedback to the directors. Other business may be introduced from the floor.

Maintenance Event:

Anyone who has not signed up for the maintenance event for Friday, Saturday, & Sunday (10/27-29) please let us know by October 15th for planning purposes. We have over 30 signed up but can always use more help - lots of trail and lots of work. Please refer back to previous email for details.

Please RSVP: It is extremely important that we have an accurate headcount for the annual meeting & the maintenance event so we can order the appropriate amount of food. If you haven't already done so, please let us know if you plan to attend and for what days.

Please respond no later than October 15th if you plan to attend the annual meeting and/or the maintenance event.

You may respond...

By mail: FoOT, PO Box 8630, Hot Springs, AR 71910



By email: [CLICK HERE](#)

I look forward to seeing many of you all there.

Bo Lea, President
Friends of the Ouachita Trail

FoOT Announces West End Maintenance Event - October 27th, 28th & 29th

Posted September 15, 2017

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
501-622-8809
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Seeking Candidates for Board and Officer Positions

September 4, 2017

FoOT is governed by nine directors, who the membership elects each fall. This fall we have three board positions to fill, and are seeking candidates for these positions. Board members serve a three year term. Those elected this fall will serve 2018 through 2020 (with two additional terms allowed). During that time, you would be expected to attend three to four meetings a year, to help provide overall guidance to the organization, to participate in the election of our operating officers, and to approve and monitor our financial position. Candidates for the Board positions must be identified by September 29th.

The Board elects the operating officers, which serve for the calendar year. Operating officers include the President, four Vice-Presidents (Maintenance, Resources Membership, and Community Relations), and a Secretary / Treasurer. Candidates for officer positions must be identified by the end of the year December 31.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Board or wish to serve yourself, please let me know at Bolea66@Gmail.com or our Secretary / Treasurer, Richard Lawrence at law28@aristotle.net. There are numerous positions of service within FoOT.

You will be receiving information in a couple of weeks regarding our FoOT annual meeting. It will be held on Saturday, October 28th, 2017 at the Cedar Lake Recreation Area in Oklahoma during our big fall maintenance event. Further information on the annual meeting will follow. Your support of Friends of the Ouachita Trail is greatly appreciated. A lot of good things are happening on the OT, we hope you can be involved.

Bo Lea
FoOT President
501-622-8809 cell

Bud Lloyd Memorial

Posted August 4, 2017

Friends of the Ouachita Trail would like to express our appreciation to Jeff Lloyd and his family for making the FoOT endowment the memorial for Jeff's Dad. Bud Lloyd was very fond of the trail and Jeff said his Dad would feel proud to know that he helped perpetuate the use of the trail. All memorial contributions will be placed in the FoOT endowment, which has been established for the purpose of providing a perpetual source of funding for the maintenance and improvement of the Ouachita Trail. Only earned funds from the endowment will be used, leaving the principal in place. Contributions can be made through pay pal on the FoOT web site or send to P.O. Box 8630, Hot Springs, Ar. 71910.



It is an honor for FoOT to be named as Bud's memorial.

Bo Lea
FoOT President
501-622-8809 cell

Trail Shelter Project Dedication April 21, 2017

Posted March 22, 2017

On Friday, April 21, 2017, FoOT and the U.S. Forest Service will dedicate the completed shelter system for the Ouachita Trail in the National Forest. Beginning at 10 a.m. there will be a reception and refreshments. This will be followed by the dedication program at 10:30 a.m. [CLICK HERE](#) for directions to Suck Mountain, the location for the dedication and the 12th and last shelter that was built.

Volunteers will direct traffic from the turn-off at FR 149 and a shuttle service will be provided as needed for the last 2/3 mile up the new road to the shelter.

I hope many of you will be able to attend. The shelter project was the largest undertaking in the history of FoOT and also is one the largest-ever improvements to the Ouachita Trail. We want to show our appreciation to our many volunteers and the assisting Forest Service personnel. Drop me a note if you think you will be attending to assist us in planning the logistics.

Thanks!
Bo Lea
FoOT President
501-622-8809 cell

Trail Shelter Grant Received - Dedication Scheduled

Posted March 9, 2017

Friends of the Ouachita Trail has received 3/8/17 a trail grant check from the Arkansas Highway Department in the amount of \$29,270. This grant made possible the last 3 shelters (Turner Gap, Story Creek, and Suck Mtn.) constructed by FoOT. With the completion of Suck Mtn. Shelter on November 11th, 2016 it marked the end of an effort to build 12 new shelters on the OT and was done in a little under four years. An amazing accomplishment by a great group of volunteers.

On April 21st at 10 a.m. on Suck Mountain a dedication will be held for the completed shelter system that includes the new ones on the west end as well as the 9 older shelters on the eastern part of the OT. Additional details will be



posted by the end of March but you can mark your calendar now.

Bo Lea
FoOT President
501-622-8809 cell

Trail Closure Notice - Temporary - UPDATE

Posted February 17, 2017

I wanted to let you know that we've actually reopened that section of the trail again, temporarily. I didn't have confirmation of this until this morning. Trail users are asked to "proceed with caution." My forester doesn't anticipate for it to close again before April, but we will keep you posted to the status.

Originally Posted on December 20, 2016

As of tomorrow morning (12/20/2016), we will be once again be temporarily closing the section of trail through the timber thinning area. This closure is expected to last about 2 weeks. I've been told that the current cleanup activities will not affect the trail, however, I have chosen to close it as a precautionary measure. The reason for this short closure is to clean up the logs that were left behind by the previous contractor. This will NOT complete the activity. We will reopen the trail once this area is cleaned and cleared and expect to re-close it again in late Spring for approximately 4 weeks.

(Editors Note: The impacted area is mile marker 209 to Highway 300 (MM209-211.5) or from near Lundsford corner and west of there for 2 miles.)

Raven L. Lawson

Watershed Protection Manager

Central Arkansas Water

O: (501) 223-1857

C: (501) 940-6129

Arkansas Gives

Posted on February 17, 2017



On April 6, 2017, Friends of the Ouachita Trail is participating in Arkansas Gives. It runs between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Arkansas Gives is challenging all Arkansans to give to the charities of their choice. During this one-day event, each donation you give will help your favorite nonprofit organizations qualify for additional bonus dollars from Arkansas Community Foundation. All participating nonprofits will receive a portion of a pool of bonus dollars provided by Arkansas Community Foundation; the more a nonprofit raises, the more of the bonus dollars it will receive. <https://www.arkansasgives.org/>

Carolyn Shearman
VP Community Relations
Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT)
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Shelter Dedication

Posted on February 17, 2017

FoOT has completed all 21 shelters and will have a shelter dedication this April 21st at the Suck Mt. Shelter starting at 10:00 a.m. Save the date and you will be hearing more from President Bo Lea on this soon!

Carolyn Shearman
VP Community Relations
Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT)
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West End Clean-up

Posted on February 17, 2017

FoOT will be having a West End Clean-up and general meeting October 27-29, 2017 to clear MM0-Big Cedar. Save the date and plan for some work, good food, and campfire stories!

Carolyn Shearman
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