

ANPS SPRING 2014 MEETING FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Morning

LOST VALLEY, Buffalo National River

Description of the site:

This trail is approximately 2.0 miles round trip (out and back), and is a gently sloping walk for most of the way. The forest includes a grove of American beech trees and a nice assemblage of spring ephemerals and other native wildflowers. The trail passes a bluff shelter and a natural bridge on its way to Eden Falls, a 53 ft. waterfall. We will turn around before the trail heads up a steep hill, so the rating of this walk is easy.

Directions to the site:

From the Quality Inn in Harrison, drive southeast on Hwy 412/62/65 for 1.0 mile, turn right on Industrial Park Rd. and follow for 0.9 mile, then left onto Goblin Dr. and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right on Capps Rd. and follow for 0.8 mile, then left on Hwy 397 and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right onto Hwy 43 and follow for 24.2 miles, then turn right on C.R. 105 (Lost Valley Rd. – there will be a brown park service sign to direct you), and follow it to the parking/picnic area.

HIDEOUT HOLLOW, Buffalo National River

Description of the site:

This is an easy walk with only 400 feet in elevation gain. The trail is approximately 2.0 miles round trip (out and back), and ends at a beautiful, large bluff shelter and waterfall. The views of Cecil Cove valley along the way are quite nice, too. Flowering dogwoods and mountain azaleas are abundant in this area. The trail was named Hideout Hollow by the park service in reference to the 9 World War I draft dodgers who hid here for several months in a failed effort to avoid serving in the war.

Directions to the site:

From the Quality Inn in Harrison, drive southeast on Hwy 412/62/65 for 1.0 mile, turn right on Industrial Park Rd. and follow for 0.9 mile, then left onto Goblin Dr. and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right on Capps Rd. and follow for 0.8 mile, then left on Hwy 397 and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right onto Hwy 43 and follow for 14.4 miles to Compton, then turn left on C.R. 19 (across from the post office). Follow C.R. 19 for 3.5 miles to the parking area on the left, which is labeled “Schermerhorn Trailhead”.

SWEDEN CREEK FALLS NATURAL AREA, Madison County

Description of the site (from www.naturalheritage.com):

“Sweden Creek Falls Natural Area, located in the Boston Mountains of the Ozarks, is a mix of glades, dry woodlands, dry-mesic woodlands, bluffs, and mesic hardwood forests. The terrain is dissected with pine-oak woodlands on the dry upper west-facing slopes, and an oak-dominated forest on the lower west and east-facing slopes. Seasonally wet sandstone glades found along the blufftop are home to the rare small-headed pipewort. An 80-foot waterfall maintains moist conditions on a talus slope that supports a diverse fern community.”

Directions to the site:

From the Quality Inn in Harrison, drive southeast on Hwy 412/62/65 for 1.0 mile, turn right on Industrial Park Rd. and follow for 0.9 mile, then left onto Goblin Dr. and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right on Capps Rd. and follow for 0.8 mile, then left on Hwy 397 and follow for 1.0 mile. Turn right onto Hwy 43 and follow for 27.5 miles, then turn right on Hwy 21. Drive for 3.9 miles on Hwy 21, then turn left (south) onto C.R. 9 and drive 2.7 miles to a gate on the right. Visitors should park in the gravel lot near the gate. (LAT/LONG 35.96919, -93.45301)

MILL CREEK TRAIL, Buffalo National River

Description of the site:

Mill Creek Trail is an approximately 1.4 mile loop. The trail is flat for most of the way, winding along the banks of Mill Creek through a box elder forest, then following the gravel road back to Pruitt Landing. Although many invasive plant species flourish here, we will also see many native spring ephemerals and other wildflowers along the way on low bluffs that line the trail and road.

Directions to the site:

From the Quality Inn in Harrison, drive southeast on Hwy. 412/62/65 for 2.9 miles, then turn right on Hwy. 7 south. Follow Hwy. 7 for approximately 13.8 miles to the Pruitt Access parking area located on the left side of Hwy. 7 (the turnoff is just before the bridge – look for the brown park service sign directing you to Pruitt Access).

Saturday Afternoon

We will repeat the four walks that were offered in the morning.

Sunday Morning

GILBERT, Buffalo National River

Description of the site:

To be announced

Directions to the site:

From Harrison, drive south on Hwy 412/62/65 for 8.1 miles, then continue south on Hwy. 65 for 23.6 miles to Hwy. 333. Turn left at Hwy. 333 and follow it for 3.4 miles into the town of Gilbert. Turn right at the stop sign (Frost St.) and park in the gravel parking area by the river.

BAKER PRAIRIE, Harrison

Description of the site (from arkansasheritage.com):

“Baker Prairie Natural Area is a remnant of what was once a 5,000-acre tallgrass prairie located west and south of present day downtown Harrison. It is the largest known remnant of Ozark Mountain prairie occurring on a chert substrate. The prairie harbors a number of species of animals and plants of special concern in Arkansas. Due to its location within the city limits of Harrison, local development could impact the integrity of the natural area. The area is managed cooperatively with an adjacent tract owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).”

Directions to the site:

From the Quality Inn in Harrison, drive south on Hwy. 412/62/65 for 1.0 mile, then turn right onto Industrial Park Rd. and follow it for 0.9 mile, the left on Goblin Rd. and follow it for 0.4 mile. Park in the high school parking lot on the left, just past the prairie.