IMPORTANT NOTES:

- On all trips, please wear long pants, sturdy boots, and a hat (a wide-brimmed hat if you’ll be on a prairie trip), and bring water, snacks, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

- Saturday and Sunday morning field trips leave from the hotel at 8:30 a.m., except where noted.

- Saturday afternoon field trips meet at the trailheads at 2:00 p.m.

- All directions given for each trip use Holiday Inn Express Fort Smith Executive Park, 6813 Phoenix Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72903 as the starting point. But please note that Saturday afternoon field trips will not depart from the hotel. Instead, you will meet at the trailhead.

- Where addresses were not available, GPS coordinates are listed instead. You should be able to enter these coordinates into a map app (such as Google Maps) and generate directions from them. Also, a Google Maps Link is given for each field trip. You should be able to enter that address into a browser and generate directions from it as well.

- A map is included with each description and should be used for general reference only, not for step-by-step directions.

- The field trip leaders are volunteering their time to show us special and botanically interesting natural areas in and around the Fort Smith area. We appreciate that they have given their time and expertise to help ANPS members learn more about the native plants of our beautiful state!
**BOSTON MOUNTAIN & WARREN HOLLOW TRAILS WALK at LAKE FT. SMITH STATE PARK**

**When:** Saturday Morning. Caravan/carpool from hotel at 8:45 a.m. or meet at the Lake Fort Smith Visitor Center Parking Area at 9:30 a.m.

**Address:** Lake Fort Smith State Park, 15458 Shepherd Springs Rd, Mountainburg, AR 72946. Google Maps Link: [https://goo.gl/maps/VdwoZrjp7mH2](https://goo.gl/maps/VdwoZrjp7mH2)

**Directions:** From Holiday Inn Express, turn right onto Phoenix Ave and follow for 0.2 mile. Turn right onto 66th St. and continue north for 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Rogers Ave and follow west for 0.3 mile, then use the right lane to take the I-540 North ramp and continue on I-540 for 7.6 miles. Take Exit 1B for I-40 East toward Little Rock and continue for 4.5 miles. Take Exit 12 for I-49 toward Fayetteville and continue on I-49 for 13.8 miles. Take Exit 34 for State Route 282 toward Chester, and turn left onto 71 BYP and follow for 0.7 miles. Turn left onto US-71 North and continue for 4.2 miles. Turn right onto Shepherd Springs Road and follow for 2 miles, to the entrance of Lake Fort Smith State Park.

**Trip Details:** On this hike through the forested mountainsides, we will see woodland flowers and vegetation typical for the Boston Mountains of Northwest Arkansas. As we hike along the trail we will meander to the edge of the lakeside to see various fall-blooming Asteraceae.

**Length & Difficulty:** Altogether this a moderately difficult hike that covers about 1.25 miles and takes about 1.5 hours to complete. The terrain is uneven, rocky, and sloped.

**Trip Leaders:** Heather Hula (office: 479-369-1010) Susan Hooks (501-282-5365)
**CHEROKEE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA**

**When:**  Saturday Afternoon - Meet at the prairie at 2:00 p.m.
          Sunday Morning - Caravan from the hotel at 8:30 a.m. or meet at the prairie at 9:00 a.m.

**Address:** GPS: 35.335451, -94.047429. Google Maps Link: [https://goo.gl/maps/u9aLbd3Zsqq](https://goo.gl/maps/u9aLbd3Zsqq)

**Directions:** From Holiday Inn Express, turn left onto Phoenix Avenue and continue east for 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Rogers Ave. (Rogers Ave. turns into Fort St. after about a mile) and continue for 5.3 miles. Turn left onto AR-255 S and follow for 4.6 miles, then take a slight left onto AR-96 E/W Main St. in Lavaca. Follow for 3.0 miles then continue straight onto Military Road and follow for 2.7 miles. Continue straight onto Hwy 60 for 1.8 miles, then look for the small parking area on the right. Park here or along the highway. (If you find yourself at the intersection of Hwy 60 and Hwy 217, you’ve gone about ½ mile too far.)

![Map of directions](https://example.com/map.png)

**Trip Details:** At 584 acres, Cherokee Prairie Natural Area is one of the largest remaining tracts of tallgrass prairie in the Arkansas Valley. Located just north of Charleston, this tract is a high-quality prairie representative of the extensive Cherokee Prairies that once occurred across the western portion of the Arkansas Valley. The natural area contains a diverse array of forbs, including compass plant, purple prairie clover, and Indian paintbrush. It also supports a number of plant and animal species that are now considered rare or even endangered. (information from naturalheritage.com)

**Length & Difficulty:** Walk length not available (this trip will meander through the unmowed prairie). Rating is easy, as the prairie has flat to rolling topography.

**Trip Leaders:** Saturday Afternoon – Brent Baker (479-970-9143) Eric Hunt (415-225-6561)
                        Sunday Morning – Brent Baker (479-970-9143) Virginia McDaniel (828-545-2062)
CRACK IN THE ROCK TRAIL at LEE CREEK RESERVOIR

When:  Saturday Morning - caravan/carpool from hotel at 8:30 or meet at trailhead at 9:00 a.m.  
Saturday Afternoon - meet at the trailhead at 2:00 p.m.

Address:  Lee Creek Reservoir, 3808 Gelly Drive, Van Buren, AR (keep driving on Gelly Dr. past this address to the boat launch and parking area). Google Maps Link: https://goo.gl/maps/S21pK7CFk862

Directions: From Holiday Inn Express, turn left onto Phoenix Ave and follow for 0.2 mile. Turn right onto 66th St. and continue north for 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Rogers Ave and follow west for 0.3 mile, then use the right lane to take the I-540 North ramp and continue on I-540 for 7.6 miles. Use the left lane to take Exit 1A to merge onto I-40 West, and continue for 2.6 miles. Take Exit 5, then turn right on Fayetteville Rd/AR-59 and follow north for 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Old Uniontown Road and follow for 1.6 miles. Turn left on Pine Hollow Road and follow for 2.0 miles, then turn left onto Gelly Dr. Follow Gelly Dr. to the boat launch and parking area at Lee Creek Reservoir. Look for the trailhead on the right, just before the restrooms.

Trip Details: This walk is full of surprises - from a historic cemetery hidden deep in the woods to a gladey area in a powerline right-of-way; from a clear, bouldery Ozark stream that leads to a 20-foot tall waterfall to the massive, towering slabs of rock that appear to have been set on end by giants (spoiler
alert: they weren’t). And we haven’t even reached the crack in the rock yet, which alone is worth the 2-mile round trip walk. This trail is astounding at almost every turn and should not be missed.

**Length & Difficulty:** 2-mile round trip walk on a maintained, mostly forested trail. Most of the trip is rated as easy, but there are exposed roots and rocks on the trail, as well as somewhat steep but short inclines here and there. Near the end of the loop there a steady uphill walk to the crack in the rock that is rated as moderate to difficult. Those who don’t want to tackle that climb can take an easier side trail to the waterfall instead.

**Other Notes:** Children are welcome on all ANPS hikes, and we know you are good parents but we must state that if you bring small children on this walk watch them very carefully around the crack in the rock, as it is about 3 feet wide and 20+ feet deep. We will also be walking along the tops of bluffs (30-40 feet) and the rocks are slick if it has rained recently.

**Trip Leaders:** Saturday Morning - Virginia McDaniel (828-545-2062) Eric Hunt (415-225-6561) Saturday Afternoon - Susan Hooks (501-282-5365) Jennifer Ogle (479-957-6859)
MASSARD PRAIRIE RESTORATION at BEN GEREN PARK

When: Saturday Morning. Caravan/carpool from the hotel at 8:45 a.m. or meet at the park at 9:00 a.m.


Directions: From Holiday Inn Express, turn left onto Phoenix Avenue and continue east for 0.9 mile, then turn right onto Massard Rd. and continue south for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto AR-255/Zero St. and continue west for 1.6 miles. Turn left onto Old Greenwood Rd. then right onto S. 58th St. and follow for 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Golf Course Loop (through gates) and park at the gravel turnout on the left.

Trip Details: For nearly two years, golf course superintendent Jay Randolph has been transforming sections of Ben Geren Golf Course back to prairie, in an area of Fort Smith known as Massard Prairie. This grassland, historically about 10,500 acres in size, was first described by Thomas Nuttall in *A Journal of Travels into the Arkansas Territory During the Year 1819*. As is true of most of our prairies, Massard has largely been destroyed. In fact, the last remnants of high-quality prairie are currently owned by real estate developers. Join Jay to hear the fascinating story of Massard Prairie and see what he is doing to save as much of this rare habitat as possible. (After the tour, head over to Whole Hog BBQ and gaze out at several acres of developer-owned virgin prairie that lie within just a few feet of the restaurant.)

Length & Difficulty: 1-mile round trip walk on mowed paths. Most of the trip is rated as easy, but the walk includes a moderate to difficult trek uphill to a historic rock silo and overlook area.

Other Notes: WATCH YOUR STEP!!! The golf course and some of the prairie areas have been invaded by fire ants, so keep a close eye on where you are standing at all times! Look down at the ground and your pant legs every time you stop walking.

Trip Leaders: Jay Randolph (479-629-1769) Brent Baker (479-970-9143)
NATIVE PLANT GARDENS TOUR at the RIVER VALLEY NATURE CENTER

When:  Sunday Morning. Caravan from hotel at 8:45 a.m. or meet at the River Valley Nature Center at 9:00 a.m.

Address:  River Valley Nature Center, 8300 Wells Lake Road, Fort Smith. Google Maps Link: https://goo.gl/maps/yYYuGHhk4XS2

Directions:  From Holiday Inn Express, turn left onto Phoenix Avenue and head east for 0.9 mile. Turn right onto Massard Road and follow for 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Wells Lake Road and follow for 0.4 miles, then turn left into the River Valley Nature Center.

Trip Details:  Tour the River Valley native plant gardens, designed by Larry Lowman, and take home some ideas on what to plant in your own native garden!

Length & Difficulty:  This is an easy walk around the maintained gardens at the nature center.

Trip Leaders:  Ann Gordon (479-651-3249)
**NATIVE PLANT GARDENS TOUR at the VOGELPOHL PLACE**

**When:** Sunday Morning. Caravan from hotel at 8:30 a.m., or meet at the Vogelpohl’s place at 9:30 a.m.

**Address:** 2480 South Highway 309, Paris, AR. Google Maps Link: [https://goo.gl/maps/idcynMcqVR52](https://goo.gl/maps/idcynMcqVR52)

**Directions:** From Holiday Inn Express, turn left (east) onto Phoenix Avenue and follow for 1 mile, then turn right onto Rogers (Highway 22) and continue ±36 miles to Paris Square on Highway 22/Walnut Street. At second light (SE corner of Paris Square), turn right (south) onto Elm Street (Highway 309) and continue for ±1 mile. Turn left (east) to follow Highway 309 for ±2 miles to reach Vogelpohl’s at 2480 South Highway 309.

Parking (if for more than three cars), will be across the highway from the Vogelpohl’s at the Lee’s house. In Lee’s driveway, head off to the left to a large graveled area. For three or fewer cars, parking will be at the Vogelpohl’s house.

**Trip Details:** Vogelpohl’s house is on Pine Ridge. **First part of hike,** from the Vogelpohl’s house, will be along the Ridge and then along trails below the ridge-top with a return to the house. At the house, enjoy a nice view of Mt. Magazine and stroll the garden areas (source of “Know Your Natives” articles). **Second part of hike,** after driving 2 road-miles to the Valley (an ancient floodplain - 200 feet below house), will
be to Short Mountain Creek (a rocky perennial stream) with an easy stream crossing. **What to See:** This hike includes various natural habitats ranging from wooded uplands, partial to full-sun south-facing glades, wooded lowlands, an abandoned stream-bed (wetland) and a flowing stream (riparian). Sid’s inventory of plants (some planted) includes 50 trees, 30 shrubs, 370 forbs and 16 ferns, along with woodland and prairie grasses and sedges.

**Length & Difficulty:** First part of hike (Ridge) is ~0.6 mile and is mostly easy, but with rocky paths and short stretches of modest elevation change. Second part of hike (Valley) is ~0.7 mile and is easy with a few rocks in the trail. The two hikes may take two hours, but participants will have option to shorten or lengthen the field trip. Trails are narrow but cleared of tall plants.

**Other Notes:** Bottled water and snack bars will be provided. If someone would like to arrive early for a just a garden visit, or if someone would like to arrive at noon or later for a garden visit and/or hike, please let the Vogelpohls know at the meeting.

**Trip Leader & Contact Info:** Sid Vogelpohl (House: 479-963-1528   Cell: 832-444-7715)
RIPARIAN FOREST WALK along the ARKANSAS RIVER

When:  Saturday Afternoon. Meet at the trailhead parking area at 2:00 p.m.

Address:  Dam Site South Public Use Area, Barling, AR 72923 (GPS: 35.341714, -94.284635). Google Maps Link:  https://goo.gl/maps/akxL5osFGLL2

Directions:  From Holiday Inn Express, turn left onto Phoenix Ave and follow east for 1.1 miles. Turn right onto Rogers Ave and follow for 1 mile, then continue onto Fort St. for 0.9 mile. Turn left onto H St. and follow for 0.8 mile, then left onto AR-59 N for 0.6 mile. Turn right onto Lock and Dam Rd. go past the booth, then turn onto the first paved road to the right. Follow the paved road for 0.7 mile to the parking area.

Trip Details:  This walk will take visitors through a diverse riparian forest along the Arkansas River.

Length & Difficulty:  Trail is less than 1 mile and is rated as easy.

Other Notes:  If it has rained recently, the trail may be slick. This trail is open to mountain bikers, so you may encounter some riders during the walk. Please move to the side of the trail to let them pass.

Trip Leaders & Contact Info:  Eric Sundell (870-723-1089) Virginia McDaniel (828-545-2062)