

FoOT 3rd Annual Maintenance Event

Oct. 25th, 26th, 27th

Queen Wilhelmina State Park Campground

Final preparations are underway for Friends of the Ouachita Trail's big annual maintenance event. The past 2 events have been very successful, with lots of trail miles worked on plus great food and fellowship. Again this year, FoOT will provide breakfast each morning with evening meals on Friday and Saturday nights for our volunteers. Volunteers are asked to bring their own trail food for lunch each day.

FoOT will also provide trail tools and equipment for the event. If you have a favorite tool or piece of equipment, feel free to bring it. Safety is always a top priority. Please bring your gloves, eye protection, bug spray, and proper footwear. Only those certified to operate chainsaws will be doing our chainsaw work. Keep safety in mind, we want everyone to have a great and safe weekend.

The State Park has given FoOT 11 camping spots. The spots will be for those with campers and RVs. There will be lots of space near the bathroom for those that are tent camping. Let us know of your accommodation needs. Glad to report that we have already had numerous people sign up.

The event will kick off Friday morning with breakfast and a maintenance briefing. Breakfast will be served each morning at 7:00 am – 7:30 am. We plan to have everyone fed and the work teams ready to depart camp by 8:30. Teams will plan to be back to camp by 4:30 pm with the evening meal being served at 5:30 pm. FoOT will have its annual membership meeting following the Saturday evening meal. FoOT volunteers do any excellent job making sure everyone is well fed.

A Texas Conservation Crew will again join the FoOT volunteers to assist our maintenance efforts. The crew normally consists of 8 young people who work hard and add a lot to the fun factor. With their help we hope to address more than 20 miles of needs on the Ouachita Trail.

Appreciate all of those who have already signed up. Encourage others to look at attending this event as we give back to the trail. Based on current signees, it could well be a record year for the event's volunteer involvement. Hope to make this year's event the best yet. Consider being a part of this important and also fun event. Look forward to seeing and working with some new volunteers that have already signed up.

A big "Thank You" to all those who work so hard to keep the 223 miles of the OT in good shape, not an easy task.

Bo Lea, FoOT President

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