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**National Wilderness Workshop**

**October 3-5, 2017**

**Lake Point Conference Center, Russellville, Arkansas**

*“Come and be inspired by the beauty of central Arkansas Wilderness”*

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and the Society of Wilderness Stewardship, in partnership with AIM for Wilderness Stewardship, Arkansas Tech University, Buffalo National River (National Park Service), and the U. S. Forest Service, are pleased to announce the upcoming National Wilderness Workshop in the beautiful gateway to the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains: Russellville, Arkansas, October 3-5th, 2017. The Workshop is also being being sponsored by the Ozark Highlands Trail Association.

The National Wilderness Workshop is the premier gathering of wilderness stewardship organizations, federal agencies, and wilderness academics to learn and discuss current wilderness issues, network among likeminded professionals, and seek solutions to pressing wilderness problems.

**The Area**

Russellville, Arkansas, is defined by dramatic geography and subtle beauty in the Arkansas River Valley, between the tallest peaks in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains and the shores of Lake Dardanelle. An outdoor enthusiast’s destination, Russellville has close proximity to 6 designated wilderness areas, the Buffalo National River, and hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land on the Ozark-Saint Francis, and Ouachita National Forests. Easily accessible via Interstate Highway 40 in northwest Arkansas, Russellville is about an hour away from Little Rock, Arkansas. Click here for links to local area information.

**Program**

The workshop consists of general plenary and concurrent sessions assembling the best national and regional experts and speakers. General sessions will provide understanding about the uniqueness of Ozark country wilderness, management challenges and issues. Updates on national wilderness issues will also be presented. Concurrent sessions will provide more detailed presentations around wilderness science, stewardship and volunteer engagement. Workshop participants will learn tools and techniques to help them be more effective in their current stewardship roles, as well as challenge them in their wilderness stewardship efforts. This year the Workshop is introducing Wednesday Field Trips to enhance the learning experience and provide in-depth exposure to national issues illustrated in local settings. Click here for the current program.

**Lake Point Conference Facility**

Located on the shore of Lake Dardenelle, the Lake Point Conference Center is managed by Arkansas Tech University as a state of the art facility for workshops and conferences. The Center is approximately 10 miles from Russellville just off Interstate Highway 40. Located at the site are meeting rooms, a dining room, picnic pavilion, and social bar. The Center has onsite lodging as well at very reasonable prices. Click here for the Lake Point Conference Center website for additional information. (www. lakepoint.atu.edu)

**Registration Fees**

Every effort is made to keep the cost of workshop attendance reasonable and a strong value. This year is no exception. Several different levels of registration have been identified so you can tailor your participation to your budget and interest. Click here to register.

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| Registration Level | Cost | What’s Included |
| Full Workshop | $130  $150 after September 22 | Everything! Access to all workshop sessions, including lunch all three days, Tuesday night dinner, Thursday night final banquet, and Wednesday Field Trip. |
| Daily Workshop | $50 | A day pass to attend either Tuesday or Thursday of the Workshop, including lunch that day. |
| Field Trip Only | $50 | A day pass to attend the Field Trip of your choice, includes a sack lunch. |
| Tuesday Night Dinner & Social | $30 | A ticket to attend the Tuesday night dinner and social at Lake Point Conference Center. |
| Thursday Final Banquet | $30 | A ticket to attend the Thursday night Final Banquet at Lake Dardenelle State Park. |
| Student | $0 | Available for full or part-time students and Job Corps enrollees to attend Workshop sessions, except meals. |
| Student Lunch Option | $40 | Includes 3 tickets to cover lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. (Only available for Student Registrations) |

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and Society of Wilderness Stewardship members receive a discount of $26 from the Full Workshop, and $10 from a Daily Workshop or Field Trip price.

**Lodging**

Arrangements have been made with three Russellville area hotels and the Lake Point Conference Center for lodging. Please use these hotels as they have offered very competitive rates.

The Lake Point Conference Center, the workshop location, is 10 miles west of Russellville, just off Interstate 40. It is suggested for those who want the convenience of proximity to the workshop venue and have their own transportation. A shuttle service will be provided Monday night thru Friday morning for Workshop participants staying at the Center without vehicles, for access to Russellville restaurants and night life. Carpooling/car sharing will also be arranged.

The three Russellville hotels, are located just off Interstate Highway 40, at exit 81, on the north edge of town. All three hotels are within a couple minutes walking distance of each other. The La Quinta Hotel will be the site of Shuttle pick-up and drop off for the Conference Center, due to its quiet cul-de-sac location. Shuttles will run to the Conference Center every morning and evening.

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| Hotel | For reservations, call: | Rooms and Rates  (not including tax) |
| **Lake Point Conference Center**  (<http://www.atu.edu/lakepoint/lodging.php>)  Includes continental breakfast. | 479-356-6240  Code: National Wilderness Workshop | Hickory Lodge  Standard Rate - $79/night  21 Single rooms – Queen  8 Double rooms – 2 Queens  Oak Lodge  16 Double rooms – 2 Doubles  8 Single rooms – Queen  4 Single Rooms – Full Size bed |
| **LaQuinta Inn**  <http://www.laquintarussellville.com/>  Includes complimentary full breakfast | 479-967-2299  Code: National Wilderness Workshop | $79/night |
| **Holiday Inn Express**  [www.holidayinnexpress.com](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com)  Includes complimentary Express Start breakfast | 479-280-5362  Code: Wilderness Alliance Workshop | Standard 2 Queen - $95/night  Standard King - $89/night |
| **Hampton Inn**  [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)  Includes complimentary full breakfast | 479-858-7199  Or use: <http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/R/RUEARHX-NWW-20171002/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG>  Code: National Wilderness Workshop | $104 per night  King  Two Queens  King w/sofa bed |

**Camping**

Lake Dardenelle State Park is also located in Russellville and has reserved campsites for tents and trailers. Rates range from $12 -35 per night depending on state residency and type of site. Call Lake Dardenelle State Park at 479-967-5516, to make reservations or check availability.

**Meals**

The Workshop includes a variety of lunches and dinners included in the Full Workshop registration. Individual meals may be added for a fee. Guests are invited to attend meal functions with purchase of a meal ticket.

***Monday Night Icebreaker***

All Workshop participants are invited to a hosted icebreaker reception, Monday night, October 2nd, at the La Quinta Inn, from approximately 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. There will be a cash bar and light refreshments will be served. Workshop participants may register, sign-up for carpool services, and network with other participants.

***Lunches***

A Lunch buffet will be provided to Workshop participants at the Lake Point Conference Center on Tuesday and Thursday. A sack lunch will be provided for the Wednesday field trip.

***Tuesday Evening Poster Session Social and Dinner***

Tuesday night following the Workshop is an opportunity for groups to present exhibits and posters of their organizations, special projects, or general wilderness research or issues. A no-host cash bar will be provided. Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30. Following the Tuesday dinner a few select wilderness oriented film shorts will be presented. Participants desiring display space should send an email to randy @wildernessalliance.org to reserve a table.

***Thursday Evening Final Banquet***

Thursday following the Workshop participants will be shuttled to Lake Dardenelle State Park for an evening banquet of southern BBQ and mountain music. The Lake Dardenelle State Park Visitor Center exhibits will be available for viewing, including their unique freshwater aquariums. Come and join the fun.

**Airport Transportation Shuttle**

Russellville is about an hour northwest of Little Rock, Arkansas. The Workshop has contracted with Arrow Coach Lines for a motor coach shuttle service to and from the Little Rock Airport to Russellville hotels or the Lake Point Conference Center. The Shuttle will depart the Little Rock airport at 4:30 pm on Monday, October 2nd, and return on Friday October 6th, leaving Russellville at 8:00 am and arriving Little Rock Airport at 9:30 am. Cost of the shuttle is $40 round trip. Arrange airline flights with sufficient leeway to meet these fixed shuttle departure and arrival times. Provide at least 1 hour cushion in case of unforeseen delays. Sign-up for this service during registration.

Alternately, there are a number of rental car agencies at the Little Rock airport.

**Shuttle Service Around Russellville**

The Workshop will provide van shuttle service from The Lake Point Conference Center and the LaQuinta Inn, Russellville from Monday night, October 2nd, through Thursday night, October 5th. Shuttle van service will be programmed to meet the needs of Workshop participants during your stay. Shuttles will run about every 15 minutes as needed.

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| When | Timing | From Where to Where |
| Monday Evening | 5:00 – 9:00 | Lake Point Conference Center to LaQuinta Inn |
| Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Mornings | 7:30 – 8:30 am | LaQuinta Inn to Lake Point Conference Center |
| Tuesday Night | 5:00 – 9:00 | Lake Point Conference Center to LaQuinta Inn |
| Wednesday Night | 5:00 – 9:00 | Lake Point Conference Center to LaQuinta Inn |
| Thursday Night | 5:00 – 6:00 | Lake Point Conference Center to Lake Dardanelle State Park or LaQuinta Inn |
| Thursday Night | 7:00 – 9:00 | Lake Dardenelle State Park to LaQuinta Inn or Lake Point Conference Center |

The Hotels have courtesy shuttle service to and from downtown Russellville and other local points. Uber services are also available in Russellville.

**Field Trips**

An exciting feature of this National Wilderness Workshop is the opportunity to participate in either a wilderness oriented field trip or a Trail Skills Workshop.

Six field trip offerings have been identified. Workshop participants will be asked to select their first, second and third choice field trips at time of registration. Final field trip availability will be based on demand, the number of participants, and field conditions at the time of the workshop. Field trip numbers are limited to 20 people maximum per trip. Each field trip will have a Trip Leader, a Discussion Leader, and a local area expert. A sack lunch will be provided to all participants.

Field trips will vary in length and difficulty. Outdoor clothes, rugged footwear, sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Bottled water will be available on each trip, but participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles. A first aid kit will be available on each trip, but participants should ensure have any required medications with them.

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| Field Trip Name | Length and Difficulty | Objective and Discussion topics |
| Richland Creek Wilderness  Ozark NF | Vehicle tour  Multiple road stops with limited walking | Resource impacts of unmanaged equestrian use and commercial development, Richland Creek WSR, invasive species, and access issues. Opportunity to view classic Arkansas waterfalls depending on stream flows. |
| Hurricane Creek Wilderness  Ozark NF | Vehicle tour to various wilderness entry sites, limited walking | Access issues, including County road right of ways, private inholder access, Hurricane Creek WSR coordination, and recreation access for OHV users, |
| Upper Buffalo Wilderness  Buffalo National River | 2.5 miles  Easy hike with short steep sections and uneven terrain. | High volume user impacts, user capacity, zoning and restrictions considerations, trailhead design and parking conflicts, and nearby mountain biking management. |
| East Fork Wilderness  Ozark NF | 3.5 miles  Easy hike along old woods trail to the East Fork Illinois Bayou | Recreation management access issues including trail decommissiong, needs for trails and trailheads, managing based on dynamic user pressure. Will include Overcup Oak Trail and upland wetlands. |
| Flatside Wilderness  Ouachita NF | 3-4 miles  Moderately strenuous hike, including Flatside Pinnacle | Role and challenge of fire management, including prescribed fire, in southern area wilderness, adjacent area challenges to fire management and scientific study in wilderness. |
| Ponca Wilderness  Buffalo National River | 5.5 miles  Moderately strenuous hike to top of Big Bluff, tallest Bluff on Buffalo River | High visitor use on National Park sites along the Centerpoint Trail, shared use/access issues, search and rescue, public outreach efforts. 550-foot sheer drop at Big Bluff. THIS TRIP IS UNSUITABLE FOR THOSE WITH A FEAR OF HEIGHTS. |

**Trail Skills Workshop**

As an alternative to a Field Trip, the Trail Skills Workshop will offer hands-on experience honing your trail building and maintenance skills on a National Forest trail. Lead by Regional and National experts, this workshop session will include stations on different trail building skills and techniques, equipment management, cross-cut saw management, and trail structure construction. Participants will spend the day getting dirty learning by doing on a local National Forest trail. National Forest Saw Program Manager, Pete Duncan, will be on hand to assist you in cross cut saw program management, as well as showcase advanced cross cut saw techniques.