Explore and enjoy a beautiful April weekend among the dogwoods and pines in the Ouachita Mountains. Stay at the historic mountaintop state park lodge or camp. Optional Saturday hikes include several choices ranging from a long day hike to Black Fork Mountain, a moderate hike along the Ouachita Trail or shorter, relaxed hikes.

WHERE? Queen Wilhelmina State Park sits atop Rich Mountain, the second-highest point in Arkansas. The park is along the Talimena National Scenic Byway, on Arkansas Highway 88, six miles east of the Oklahoma state line and 11 miles west of Mena, Arkansas.

WHEN? Arrive at your convenience the afternoon of Friday, April 29, and leave Sunday, May 1. Provide your own transportation or arrange a car pool. The drive from Dallas is approximately 240 miles and takes about 4¼ hours.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The Ouachita (wash-i-ta) Mountains extend from Little Rock into Oklahoma. They are among the few mountain ranges in North America with ridges and valleys running east and west. A consequence of this orientation is that the south-facing slopes, exposed to more sun, are drier and generally vegetated with pine and oak. The cooler, moister north slopes host a greater variety of hardwoods. The highest elevations are about 2,700 feet, low enough that altitude sickness is not an issue for hikers.

ACTIVITES:
- **Saturday hikes** - at least three dayhikes of varying lengths led by Sierra Club volunteer outings leaders will be offered:
  - **Black Fork Mountain.** This is an ambitious day hike of about 10 miles. The group will drive or ride three miles to a trailhead in the valley at 1,500’ elevation, then hike east one mile on the Ouachita Trail before turning onto the Black Fork Mountain Trail. The trail ascends a ridge to a summit of 2,600’, passing vistas, an old stone chimney and a cemetery. Much of the area has been reforested after a 1963 fire, started by a spark from a train in the valley below. The return hike via the steeper Mule Trail will be shorter than the outbound climb.
  - **Ouachita Trail.** This hike calls for planting a car shuttle on Highway 88 near the state line and then walking west from QWSP to a pioneer cemetery at 3.2 miles. After another 2.4 miles hikers arrive at the waiting vehicles. This trail is wide as far as the cemetery and becomes a single-track trail west of the cemetery.
  - **Robert S. Kerr Arboretum Trails.** This set of easy hikes is 17 miles west of QWSP. One trail of 0.6 miles identifies a variety of local plants. Signs on a 0.7-mile loop explain the competition between various species for survival on the Ouachita Mountain slopes. Another loop of 0.8 miles explains the process of soil formation and its importance.
  - **Within QWSP, near the lodge and campsites,** are the Lovers Leap Trail, a 1.1-mile loop to a scenic overlook, and the Reservoir Trail to a ruin that served the original lodge on the mountain. The Earthquake Trail is a 2.1-mile loop from the USFS Mena Visitor Center on Highway 88 east of QWSP. Participants can explore these trails and others in the vicinity on their own.
- **Saturday night pasta dinner included!** Outing participants are invited to join the group for dinner Saturday evening in the picnic pavilion. Our volunteer chefs will serve salad, spaghetti (sauce with and without meat), Italian bread and dessert. Participants are responsible for bringing their own plates, utensils, cup and beverage of choice.
COST: The basic fee for this outing is $15 (plus camping or lodge fee – see below) which includes the Saturday night dinner in the pavilion and any of the hikes. There is no charge for children under 12 years who do not require an additional tent. There is no fee for admission to the park. Tent camping and lodge options and cost supplements for those are as follows:

- **Camping options.** Dallas Sierra Club has reserved all five tent-only (“class C”) campsites in the park and two adjoining sites. Each site in this cluster permits a maximum of 8 people, and a maximum of just two tents. For as long as these sites remain available, an additional $10 per person (total fee of $25 per person) allows a registrant a space, possibly shared, in our campsites. The limited number of tents per site means these tent-only sites could be committed to early registrants. It’s advisable to call Trip Coordinator Lynn Marple (972-345-5528) to check whether these sites are available before you send your registration check. There are toilets, showers and potable water in the campground.

- **Lodge option.** Dallas Sierra Club has on hold until April 13 a block of ten rooms in the lodge at QWSP for Friday and Saturday nights. The lodge sits on the site of the 1896 “Castle in the Sky,” and a 1963 lodge that burned in 1973. The current lodge was built in 1975, operated until 2012 and re-opened in summer 2015 after major renovation. Read a history of the “Castle in the Sky” and its later incarnations on http://www.queenwilhelmina.com/history/history.aspx.

Guest rooms in our block have two queen beds and allow a maximum of four people. The room rate is $95 per night plus tax. If all ten rooms in our block are booked by April 13, guests will receive a 10% discount. To reserve a room at the lodge, FIRST MAKE YOUR RESERVATION with Dallas Sierra Club for the QWSP outing ($15 per person). Lynn Marple, Trip Coordinator, will confirm receipt, advise the Lodge of your request, thus authorizing them to release to you one of the rooms in the Sierra Club’s block. She will also email you the name and number of our contact at the Lodge to make your reservation. The rest is up to you.

**NOTE:** Requests for Lodge rooms on hold for Dallas Sierra Club must be received by April 13.

TO REGISTER (registration required – you may not “just show up”):

- Print and complete the two following forms. Both are required for EVERY participant (adult and youth) and must be originals (sorry, no copies, faxes or electronic versions accepted). Mail them along with your check payable to “Dallas Sierra Club” to Trip Coordinator Lynn Marple, 45 Crown Place, Richardson, TX 75080. “ Reservations are not held until all forms and payment are received. Required forms:
  - Release of Liability Form;
  - Participant Information and Reservation Form
  - Enclose your check: $15 per person for all options except tent camping in the Sierra Club’s reserved sites; $25 per person if requesting one of the Club’s reserved tent-only sites. You may call Lynn (972-345-5528) or email her before your register to inquire whether the Club’s tent-only sites are still available.

- For those requesting a room in our block at the Lodge, upon confirmation of receipt of your outing reservation from Lynn, she will email you our Lodge contact information so you may reserve your guest room. Thereafter you will be solely responsible for making, paying for or cancelling your Lodge reservation.

- The outing cost is non-refundable after April 13 but please notify us if you can’t make it. Barring life-threatening weather, the outing will be held rain or shine.
CAR POOLS: If you’d consider forming or joining car pool, you may advise Trip Coordinator Lynn so she can exchange your interest and contact information with other participants. It’s a good idea to agree before the trip about how transportation expenses will be shared. Sierra Club leaders may not and will not assign people to car pools. Transportation is ultimately your own responsibility.

Transportation, any camping and activities you do at the park without Sierra Club leaders or before/after the outing are on your own and not part of the Sierra Club outing.

GEAR, WATER, MEALS: Each person is responsible for bringing his or her own gear and food. Drinking water will be available in the campground. You may prepare your own meals or eat at the restaurant in the lodge, whether staying in the lodge or camping. The Saturday night dinner is included for all outing registrants. All hikers are required to wear closed, supportive footwear and carry a daypack with sufficient food, water, clothing, rain gear and safety essentials appropriate for their hike. Feel free to contact the trip coordinator if you have any questions.

MEDICAL: Our trip leaders are not medical professionals. Participants are encouraged to bring first aid supplies and a basic knowledge of how to deal with medical emergencies. List on your Participant form and remind your leaders if you have a medical condition that could require special treatment (controlled diabetes, heart problems, allergic reactions, etc.) in an emergency. Carry any necessary medications for those conditions on your person and tell others where you store them.

NO PETS, DOGS, FIREARMS or SMOKING (on trail or in buildings) are allowed - for reasons of safety and in consideration of others.

CST 2087766-40: Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. (California has a law called the California "Seller of Travel" Law. Since Sierra Club is a California non-profit corporation, we are required to post this notice.)

QUESTIONS? The only dumb questions are those not asked or those asked too late. If you’re wondering about anything, please contact the Trip Coordinator, Lynn Marple, 972.345.5528, mlmarple@gmail.com.
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION and RESERVATION FORM

Please mail your completed original forms (Participant Information/Reservation and Release of Liability) and your check payable to Dallas Sierra Club to Lynn Marple, 45 Crown Place, Richardson, TX 75080. Sorry, no faxes, copies or electronic versions. Please print clearly. Single sided only. Do not reduce or staple. *Attach additional page(s) as needed.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (Participant Info. form and Release form are required for each adult AND child.)

NAME: First: ___________________________ Mdl. In. ____ Last: ___________________________
Age: _____ Female _____ Male _____ Email: ____________________________________________
Home number: __________________________ Cell/best number: _____________________________
Address: __________________________________ City __________________ Zip ____________
*Allergies: ________________________________________________________________________
*Current medical conditions: ____________________________________________________________________________
*Current medicines (over/counter, prescr.) and reason for taking: _______________________________
*Any other medical issues or history we should know: __________________________________________

Emergency contact on trip dates (and alternate if first person listed is not available):
Name: ___________________________________ Relationship ___________ Cell/best phone: ___________
Name: ___________________________________ Relationship ___________ Cell/best phone: ___________

OUTING RESERVATION (includes outing and Sat dinner. See pg. 2 of trip write up for complete details):
Option 1: Total no. of reservations with tent campsite ($25 pp, kids under 12 in same tent w/ parent are free): _______
Option 2: Total no. of reservations without tent campsite ($15 pp, kids under 12 are free): _______
Total number of reservations (adults and youth): ___________ Amount of enclosed check: _______

ACCOMMODATION REQUEST:

Dallas Sierra Club campsites - for those who chose option 1 above for our group of tent campsites, please indicate:
Number of tents you will be bringing: One ___ Two ___
The name(s) of all participants with whom you will be sharing a tent/space:
Adults: ____________________________________________________________________________
Youth: _____________________________________________________________________________

Lodge request: Check here if you are requesting a room in our block at the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge: _______

Please check here if you’re making your own overnight arrangements: _______

ACTIVITY INTEREST, if known (not required, but helpful for our planning - you’ll sign up Friday when you arrive):
Saturday hikes w/ leaders: Easier (1-2 miles) _____ Moderate (5 – 6 miles) _____ Long (10 miles) _____
No thanks, I’ll be doing my own activities on Saturday: _______

GENERAL INFORMATION:
Sierra Club member: Yes ___ No ____ How did you learn about this trip? ________________________________
Have you gone on any past Dallas Sierra Club outings? Yes ______ No ______
If Yes, what type: Day hikes ___ Backpacking ___ Bus trip ___ Car Camping ___ Service Outings ___ Other ___
Future outings/destinations you’d like us to consider: _______________________________________________________________________________

By signing below, I certify that I have read the complete trip write up, restrictions and cautions, and understand the described difficulties and risks associated with the activities offered. I certify that I have no known health problems that would require me to need immediate medical attention, and that I am in sufficient physical condition to participate in the activities I choose. I understand that immediate medical assistance may not be available if I become ill or injured while on this trip, that evacuation could take several hours if I do become injured, and that I am responsible for any evacuation and medical costs that may be incurred should I need medical attention.

SIGNATURE of Participant (Adult) ___________________________________________ Date ____________

Signature of Parent/Guardian on behalf of minor: __________________________________________ Date ____________
SIERRA CLUB Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility,
Express Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death (“Injuries and Damages”) from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing officially begins and ends at the location(s) designated by the Sierra Club. The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Outing, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club during the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any and all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I further agree to HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from any claims, damages, injuries or losses caused by my own negligence while a participant on the outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.
- I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.

Participant Name (please print): __________________________________________
SIGNATURE: __________________________________________ Date: ____________

IF YOU ARE A MINOR (under age 18), your parent or legal guardian must sign this Agreement on your behalf.

I hereby agree and consent to the foregoing Agreement on behalf of the minor named below.

Print Name and Age of Minor: __________________________________________ Age: __________
Signature of Parent or Guardian: __________________________________________ Date: __________