

## OMH Trail Data / History

### Mount Magazine / Rim Trails

Mount Magazine State Park  
Ozark National Forest

Mt. Magazine is the highest point in Arkansas at 2753' above sea level. The top of the mountain is in a state park, operated on Ozark National Forest land. There are several trails on top of the mountain that comprise this hike; these trails, for the most part, follow the bluff line and offer some stunning vistas. These trails can be woven together to form short hikes (4 - 5 mi) or long hikes (up to 12 miles). The state's highest point is on Signal Hill. Trails around the rim include North Rim Trail, Will Apple's Road Trail, Bear Hollow Trail, Benefield Loops, and Mossback Ridge Trail. North Rim Trail connects with Cove Lake Trail (coming up the mountain, just below the campground.) The hikes are not particularly difficult (basically level), but there is some rough footing in places. Cove Lake Trail (separate listing) is the primary trail that climbs the mountain.

**Planning notes:**

1. The State Park Visitors Center is about 1.7 hours from HSV. For long hikes, plan to leave HSV about 8 am.
2. There is no parking at the top of Signal Hill. For short hikes, you can leave a car at the Campground or at the lodge, both about half a mile from high point. The park Visitor's Center has a lot of parking and facilities and is the best spot to start longer hikes.
3. This hike is best during leaf-off when views are more dramatic. Lot of wild flowers in early spring (April best).
4. Great lunch spots at east end. Sunrise point for large groups, or two shadier spots on East Benefield loops. Magnificent rock outcroppings with unimpeded views. Inspiration Point, Sunrise Rock, and several others.
5. Mt MagazineLodge has a fine restaurant for meal after the hike.

**Access Notes:**

1. Take Hwy 10 west from Ola to Hwy 309 in Havana (about 20 miles). Turn north on Hwy 309 from Havana to top of mountain and Visitors Center. Use 165 miles round trip for carpool estimate.
2. Campground, and lodge are about two miles into the park on park roads.

**For additional info:** Mount Magazine State park has some very good topographical trail maps, available at VC.  
Tim Ernst: "Arkansas Hiking trails" (p. 127)  
Time Ernst: "Arkansas Waterfalls" (p.192)  
OMH members Jim Gifford, Jeannie Eichler, Glen McClain

### Recent Hikes

**Nov 5, 2011**                      **Le:**      Glen McClain    **15 Hikers**                      **OMH Saturday**

**Route:** Started at Vistor Center and hiked North Rim Trail, cut over to Mossback Ridge Trail, proceded to Benefield Loop and back to VC

**6.0 miles**                      **Difficulty Rating 2**    **Scenic Rating 4**

*Trail was in good condition and well marked. The hike included beautiful overlooks including Dill Point, Inspiration Point, and Sunrise Rock.*

*The hike did not include the peak point of Mt Magazine. Several hikers expressed an interest in going there. Future hikes could be tailored to include the peak.*

**sss:** Dill Point, Inspiration Point, and Sunrise Rock.

**Apr 28, 2011**                      **Leader:**      Jeannie Eichler    **20 Hikers**                      **OMH Thursday**

**Route:** Visitor's Center clockwise via Will Apple's Road; Bear Hollow Trail; Benefield Loop East; Benefield Loop West; Mossback Ridge Trail; Gutter Rock Creek; North Rim Trail to VC

**10.0 miles**                      **Difficulty Rating 2**    **Scenic Rating 4**

*Beautiful day following week of violent weather - what a great change. Limited storm damage on mountain. Views were very good, even tho a bit hazy. Abundant wildflowers thoroughout.*

*Hike was actually quite wet after the prior week's deluge. All the creeks were running well, and we saw at least three waaterfalls. Jim went off trail in Bear Hollow to find a great waterfall (referred to here as 'Bear Hollow Falls'.) Jim, Billy, and Tim climbed down Gutter Rock Creek to Mount Magazine Falls, and a smaller cascade below it.*

*Lunch at Sunrise Rock, but overlooks on East Bennefield are just as scenic and offer better shade, particularly for saller crowds. Most of us stopped at lodge for light meal afterwards.*

**sss:** Bear Hollow; Inspriation Point; Sunrise Rock; bluffs on                      **Waterfall** Mt. Magazine Falls  
Benefield Loop; Bluff Line S. of 309 (east end); Dill Point; north  
rim overlooks; creeks



## OMH Trail Data / History

-----

**May 28, 2009**

**Leader:** Jeannie Eichler

**15 Hikers**

**OMH Thursday**

**Route:** Visitor's Center clockwise via Will Apple's Road; Bear Hollow Trail; Benefield Loop East; Benefield Loop West; Mossback Ridge Trail; Gutter Rock Creek; North Rim Trail to VC

**10.9 miles**

**Difficulty Rating 2**

**Scenic Rating 4**

*Good group with five different levels of hiking. Dan/Sadie did Will apple's Road only (1.6 m); Tom & Becky went to Sunrise Rock (4 m); John/Eva cut back on Greenfield Tr (8 mi); rest of us did full loop for 10.9; Jim added 0.1 to bushwhack down creek to the water fall*

*Great day. Clouds kept us cool; views were good, if hazy. Saw lots of wildflowers, but they were past their prime. Views were less dramatic FTER leaf-out.*

*Lunch at Sunrise Rock*

*Jeannie asked Jim to find the waterfall down Gutter Rock Creek. He led group off trail, fell on creek bank and ended up upside down. After righting himself, he continued alone down the creek to the waterfall (and later shared his photo with the rest of the group).*

*After the hike, eleven of us joined Dan / Sadie in their cabin at lodge for a burger cookout. Good juicy burgers. Lots of fun.*

**sss:** Inspiration Point; Sunrise Rock; bluffs on Benefield Loop; Bluff Line S. of 309 (east end); Dill Point; creeks

**Waterfall** Mt. Magazine Falls

-----

**Feb 22, 2007**

**Leader:** Glen McClain

**20 Hikers**

**OMH Thursday**

**Route:** From park VC east on Will Apple Road Trail; to Bear Hollow Trail; East Benefield Loop; Mossback Ridge Trail; Signal Hill; North Rim Trail; back to VC.

**12.5 miles**

**Difficulty Rating 2**

**Scenic Rating 4**

*This was a spontaneous re-plan that worked out great. We had intended to climb the mountain via Cove Lake Trail, but that trail was closed for a prescribed burn. From maps at VC, we pieced together this twelve mile alternative that was spectacular in its beauty. The day was also beautiful.*

*Mileage includes side trip to Buckman's Pool.*

**sss:** Bear Hollow; Inspiration Point; Sunrise Rock; Petit Jean Valley overlook; Gutter Rock Hollow; Dill Point.  
High point in State of Arkansas

