

OMH Trail Data / History

Ouachita National Recreation Trail / Sect 9

Ouachita National Forest (AR)
Private land, Saline County, AR

Section 9 of the 223-mile Ouachita National Recreation Trail is 14.6 miles long, with about 500' of vertical variance. The section runs from FR 152 (mile 187.4), just south of Lake Sylvia Recreation area, across AR hwy 9 (mi 191.8) to AR hwy 10 (mi 202.0) in east. Just east of hwy 9, the trail leaves the Ouachita National Forest (mi 192.5) and stays on private property for the remainder of this section. There is one shelter in this section, Nancy Mountain Shelter (mi 189.5). Section 9 scenic highlights include one of the prettiest walks along the trail, through "Hillary Hollow", a three mile stretch of thick dogwoods that follows a creek from just east of Nancy Mountain Shelter to hwy 9. Between miles 195 and 196, the trail comes along side the Maumelle River and follows it most of the way to hwy 10. This area can be very wet or boggy at times, with several creek crossings. Large cypress trees dominate this area.

Planning notes:

1. Assume 30 minutes from HSV East Gate to hwy 9 TH; one hour to hwy 10 TH.
2. Hwy 10 trailhead has a nice picnic area beside Lake Maumelle.
3. When using hwy 9 trailhead and a car swap is used, recommend swap cars as you pass hwy 9 trailhead at start of hike. Both groups are then walking toward their own cars; do not have to wait on other group at end of hike.
4. The "Hillary Hollow" portion of this section (Lake Sylvia to Hwy 9) makes a good a Saturday hike; especially nice during fall color (mid-November) or spring dogwoods (early April).

Access Notes:

1. Lake Sylvia (mi 187.4): The parking area at the end of AR 324 is a good trailhead. At this spot, the pavement ends and AR 324 becomes FR 152; it crosses the trail about 1/2 mile further, but there is no parking.
2. Hwy 9 (mi 191.8): Clearly marked, with good parking
3. Hwy 10 (mi 202.0): picnic area and large, paved parking right on road

For additional info: Tim Ernst: Ouachita Trail Guide (Fourth Edition)
USFS Detailed Segment map of the Ouachita Trail (map TR-1/det). Available at USFS offices or at www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita/maps/
For current trail conditions, see: Friends of the Ouachita Trail (www.friendsOT.org)

Recent Hikes:

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- Mar 11, 2010** **Leader:** Tom Cornelius **13 Hikers** *OMH Thursday / local in lieu of overnight*
- Route:** Hillary Hollow. From hwy 9 west to Chinquapin Gap [mi 191.8 - 188.7]; Lake Sylvia loop and spur to Chinquapin Overlook; return same route
- 8.2 miles** **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**
- "Absolutely Perfect" conditions (Sunny & 60's); numerous water crossings.
Visited Nancy Mountain Shelter; lunch at overlook.
This was a replacement hike, substituted for Wildcat Mt. due to bad trail conditions on Wildcat during scouting hike.*
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- Apr 11, 2009** **Leader:** John Cramm **19 Hikers** *OMH Saturday*
- Route:** Hillary Hollow - Lake Sylvia to Hwy 9 [187.3 - 191.8] + Lake Sylvia spur
- 4.9 miles** **Difficulty Rating 2** **Scenic Rating 4**
- Beautiful spring day. Dogwoods in full glory. Beautiful hike
Stopped at Nancy Mt shelter, for a brief advertisement re FoOT. Met family of hikers who had spent the night there.
sss: Hillary Hollow; creek*
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- Feb 5, 2009** **Leader:** Marv Weitzenfeld **22 Hikers** *OMH Thursday*
- Route:** Hwy 9 to Hwy 10 [191.8 - 202.0]
- 10.2 miles** **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**
- Cold wind for start of hike, but otherwise pleasant. Ice in puddles and Maumelle River. Lunch on rock outcrop high above river. Split group. Marv led group from east to west; Jim led rest from west to east (hwy 9 to hwy 10). Ben, Glenn, Ken shuttled and did a partial from hwy 10.
Trail in good shape. Covered 10.2 miles in less than five hours. Two dogs today; one in each direction.
sss: Rock outcroppings above Maumelle River
Huge cypress trees in and along river*

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Apr 5, 2008 **Leader:** Tom Cornelius **12 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**

Route: Lake Sylvia loop counter-clockwise around lake and past dam; to OT 188.7 at Chinquapin Gap; OT 188.7 past Nancy Mountain shelter through Hillary Hollow to Hwy 9 (191.8)

5.3 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**

Dogwood trees in Hillary Hollow not quite in full bloom, but close.

Numerous stream crossings on OT portion due to recent exhorbitant rainfall, but all were easily crossed.

Tom's first experience as Hike Leader. All were pleased.

sss: Lake Sylvia dam gorge and bluffs above gorge;
Streams in Hillary Hollow at max flow.

Nov 24, 2007 **Leader:** Jim Gifford **14 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**

Route: Lake Sylvia loop counter-clockwise to OT 188.7 at Chinquapin gap; OT 188.7 past Nancy Mountain shelter through Hillary Hollow to Hwy 9 (191.8)

5.3 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**

Dogwood trees in Hillary Hollow were distinctively red and almost only trees still with leaves. They stood out as clearly as when they flower in the spring.

Cold cloudy day; high about 40; light rain on drive home.

Stopped at Nancy Mt shelter for snack and break.

New route to combine this with Lake Sylvia dam.

sss: bluffs above Lake Sylvia dam

Apr 7, 2007 **Leader:** Phil Simpson **13 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**

Route: Hillary Hollow - Lake Sylvia to Hwy 9 [187.3 - 191.8] + Lake Sylvia spur

4.9 miles **Difficulty Rating 2** **Scenic Rating 4**

Cold, grey spring morning. Temp about 40 deg; never did warm up.

Dogwood blossoms were on their last leg, but as a result, the petals were scattered along the trail.

Stop at Nancy Mt shelter, for a brief advertisement re FoOT.

Ben and Glenn shuttled cars from Lake Sylvia to hwy 9 and walked in to meet us.

sss: Hillary Hollow; creek

Mar 8, 2007 **Leader:** John Cramm **7 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**

Route: Hwy 9 to Lake Sylvia spur [187.4 - 191.8] and return

8.8 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 4**

Local during overnight; lunch at Nancy Mt shelter.

wild flowers starting to emerge.

sss: Hillary Hollow

April 6, 2006 **Leader:** Jim Gifford **17 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**

Route: Hwy 9 to Hwy 10 [191.8 - 202.0]

10.2 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**

Lightning and thunder while hikers got together for carpools, but turned into nice spring day; a little warm. Dogwoods blooming along entire route. Lunch on rock outcrop high above river.

Split group. Jim led Ernie, Cecilia, Joe, Glenn, Glen, John, Cara, and Linda west to east. Billy led Kris, Bo/Brenda, Marv, Ken, Sandy, Benny from east to west.

Trail in good shape. Covered 10.2 miles in less than five hours.

sss: Rock outcroppings above river
HUGE cypress trees along and in the Maumelle River.

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- Mar 18, 2006** **Leader:** Phil Simpson **7 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Lake Syliva to Hwy 9 (187.3 - 191.8) (+0.4 to trail)
4.9 miles **Difficulty Rating 2** **Scenic Rating 4**
*Hike threatened by dire threats of rain and thunderstorm, none of which materialized.
Trees ready to burst open. About one week early for dogwoods.
Mike Zeller completed entire hike (first time in two years).*
sss: Hillary Hollow; views of creek; rock outcroppings.
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- Mar 6, 2004** **Leader:** Mike Zeller **25 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Hwy 9 to Lake Sylvania (187.4 - 191.8) + Lake Sylvania Spur [and vice versa]
4.8 (5.4) miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 4**
*It was a gorgeous day (50/60 deg) with lots of water flowing made this a particularly pretty hike through Hilary Hollow (which T Ernst refers to as a SSW, "Super scenic Walk"). The water flowing from each little brook down to the main streams was a highlight. A few flowers were starting to show through (bird's foot violet; spring beauty). Trail in good condition.
East bound group took a snack break at Nancy Mt shelter (m 189.5), and completed hike by turning on to Lake Sylvania loop at chinquapin Gap (188.7) and continuing past Lake Sylvania Dam. (half mile farther)
Great view of Chinquapin summit coming from the east.*
sss: Hilary Hollow
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- Dec 27, 2003** **Leader:** Jim Gifford **11 Hikers** **OMH Saturday**
Route: Lake Sylvania to Hwy 9 [187.3 - 191.8] + 0.5 on Lake Sylvania Loop
5.0 miles **Difficulty Rating 2** **Scenic Rating 4**
Saturday hikers chance for OT miles. cool clear day; rest break at Nancy Mt shelter
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- Oct 2, 2003** **Leader:** Jim Gifford **12 Hikers** **OMH Thursday**
Route: Hwy 9 to Hwy 10 [191.8 - 202.0]
10.2 miles **Difficulty Rating 3** **Scenic Rating 3**
*Beautiful fall day !! Ate a lot of spider webs. Jim lost the trail once and we had to search under the power lines; he bought ice cream at Williams Corner to make it up.
Ben & Mike hiked second half (and did some trail maint) after shuttling cars*
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- Feb 12, 2001** **Leader:** Ben Glazer **Hikers** **Trail Maintenance**
Route: Ice Storm cleanup; East of hwy 9 [191.8 - 195.0]
7.0 miles **Difficulty Rating 6 hours**
*Mostly cutting and hauling large tree limbs/trunks. Heavy manual labor with a seven mile hike (in / out) included
Accessed trail via FR off hwy 9; @1/2 mile S of TH*