



Park Matters



As always FOP welcomes the help of any citizens who would like to lend their talents, resources or sweat towards our mission. We will be holding **elections** for new Board Member positions in February and we welcome any nominations at our January meeting. If you or someone you know would like to **join the board or volunteer** in any capacity, please contact our member coordinator, Mike Tomlinson at mike1952@bellsouth.net or any of our existing board members. Thanks for making Abita a great place to live, work and play!

2014 Earth Fest
March 16th, 2014
Volunteers Needed!

Contact Rachel Lambert @ 373-7922
or bigmamalambert@bellsouth.net

Message from the President:

Dear Members,

Abita Springs Friends of the Park is gearing up for an eventful 2014. Our goals for next year are three-fold. We seek to improve our town thru built-works, education and community building experiences. To that end we have set the following task.



First we will finish installing the handicap accessible route in our playground which will include state of the art fall surface to link the existing park paths to all accessible play equipment and the Ladies' Progressive Picnic Shelter. It has taken us some time to raise the funds to make this happen as the surface is very expensive. However, we will use a combination of FOP funding, equipment and labor from the Town of Abita and contributions from Weyerhaeuser and Lowe's to complete the task in 2014. We anticipate the project to happen in late spring and hope to have it completed before the height of play season (summer).



Our second project concerns the wetland in the park just north of the playground. We aim to clean out the invasive species, plant more wetland species and build two viewing platforms which will allow for access and educational interaction with local ecosystem.

Finally, we will begin researching the best way to plan a future walking trail with a dog park in portion of the park north of wetland (closer to Hwy 36). In addition to park improvements FOP will continue educational outreach and community-building through our flagship event, Earth Fest in the spring and a concert series and movie nights in the park this summer.



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