Starting at the trailhead, Rocky Top Trail quickly climbs to one of the largest glades in the park. Historically influenced by periodic fires, soil saturation and large grazing herbivores, these dolomite glades are becoming rarer as cedars encroach and choke out the native vegetation. Rocky Top glade is managed by periodic fires to help maintain its natural integrity. Once you have hiked through the glade, native Ozark woodlands with its composition of white oaks, bluestems and asters become the norm. Crossing through the ravine, you will come to a rich north facing slope which gives way to a dolomite cliff overlooking the Lake of the Ozarks. This trail is actually two loops joined together for a total of about 2 miles. After hiking for approximately 0.5 miles, you will come to an intersection. At this point, you can finish the first loop by hiking back along the lakeshore to the parking lot and trailhead for a total hike of about 1 mile. If you would like a longer hike, cross the small ravine up to the overlook on the Lake and loop back. This will be an additional 1.5 miles of hiking.