



the
NATURAL
STATE PARKS



EDITED BY NICHOLAS HUNT
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...AND HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEM, ONE HIKE,
FLOAT, CAMP AND HISTORY LESSON AT A TIME

EARLY THIS PAST SEPTEMBER, I FOUND MYSELF SURROUNDED BY WATER LILIES IN FULL BLOOM, THE FRAGRANCE OF THEIR WHITE AND YELLOW FLOWERS THICK ON THE WATER. I'D MADE THE EARLY-MORNING DRIVE DOWN TO CANE CREEK STATE PARK FROM LITTLE ROCK TO FLY FISH FOR BREAM. USUALLY EAGER TO TAKE A BRIGHTLY COLORED FLY, THEY JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BITE THAT DAY. TO PASS THE TIME, I FOUND MYSELF INSTEAD TAKING IN THE QUIET BEAUTY OF

THE LAKE—ITS STANDS OF SUNKEN TIMBER SKELETAL AGAINST THE PALE BLUE SKY, THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS REACHES OF LILY PADS DOTTED WITH FLOWERS, THE HERON SKIMMING LOW OVER THE WATER.



THE CEDAR FALLS TRAIL (SHOWN ON PAGE B2) AND THE BEAR CAVE TRAIL (SHOWN HERE) ARE JUST TWO REASONS PETIT JEAN STATE PARK SAW MORE THAN 480,000 REGISTERED VISITORS LAST YEAR.

Just when I was about to give up and turn to taking photos—the park is picturesque enough that that would have been no sacrifice—I got a bite. I was so stunned, I completely forgot to set the hook and watched the fish flash in the sunlight as it darted for safety. I just smiled. Any day outside is a good day, fish or no fish.

And that's something I've known for years. The woods and the water do wonders for my mental state, which is why I have a special affinity for Arkansas' state parks. I can often be found riding the mountain bike trails near DeGray Lake or taking in the panoramic views at Petit Jean, but physical beauty is not why I love the park system. Without it, many of my favorite outdoor activities would be out of reach.

It's not just that parks have trails or campsites or, in the case of Cane Creek, great places to fish. There are plenty of fishing holes across the state—Cane Creek itself was open for fishing long before the park was dedicated in 1992. But me? I need the park, and all that being a park entails, because I live in a small, downtown Little Rock apartment and

drive a small, fuel-efficient car. Even if I'd been able to strap a canoe to the roof of my Mini Cooper that early September morning, there's no way I could have fit the boat in my second-floor walk up. Instead, I simply stopped by the park's visitor center, paid a small fee and had a canoe waiting for me at the boat ramp when I arrived.

And that is what's so wonderful about our state parks—they make it so gosh darn easy to get out and enjoy what makes Arkansas great that we'd all be fools not to. Don't have a tent? Rent a yurt at Lake Charles. Can't do without air conditioning? Book a Civilian Conservation Corps-era cabin at Devil's Den. Need to keep the kids entertained? Let them loose in the water park at Crater of Diamonds. Just plain hate the outdoors? Enjoy a spa day at DeGray Lake.

The variety of services offered by our state parks is matched only by the variety of the parks themselves. It's a long way from Northwest Arkansas and its famous mountain views to the cypress-filled bayous of the Delta, but it's not just the topography that changes. Each park has its own mission. Some are purely for the enjoyment of the outdoors. Some, like the Ozark Folk Center, Historic Washington and Toltec Mounds, preserve our heritage for future generations. Logoly in the southwest hopes to educate the next generation about ecology and environmental preservation. There are parks for thrill seekers and parks for quiet contemplation, much like what I found at Cane Creek.

Eventually, I figured out what the fish wanted and landed a few, but my heart wasn't in it. That September trip was my first visit to the park, and the lake itself wanted my undivided attention. With no conscious decision on my part, I stowed the rod. I set off with no other purpose in mind than to explore, one paddle stroke at a time.

And after editing this guide to each of Arkansas' 52 state parks, that sense of wonder is something I expect to experience again and again.

—Nicholas Hunt

NUMBER of
REGISTERED
VISITORS at
ARKANSAS STATE
PARKS in 2014:
7,967,325

STATE PARK GUIDE LEGEND



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ARKANSASSTATEPARKS.COM

CENTRAL

LAKE OUACHITA 

Mountain Pine, (501) 767-9366

YOU'RE RECLINING in an Adirondack chair on the deck of your three-bedroom lakeview cabin. And you've brought nine friends with you. Because why not? There's plenty of room.

YOU'RE HIKING in your Chacos and bathing suit along Caddo Bend Trail, which follows Point 50 Peninsula for 4 miles. If you get hot while taking in the wildflowers, rolling hills and panoramic lake views—and let's face it, you will, *this is Arkansas*—you can just cannonball into the water, right off the trail.

YOU'RE SETTING up camp on one of Lake Ouachita's 100-some islands after paddling for five hours with a crew of fellow adventurers during the park's next Kayak Campout on Oct. 10.

WITH **1,096,907** REGISTERED VISITORS IN 2014, LAKE OUACHITA IS THE STATE'S MOST VISITED PARK.

LAKE CATHERINE 

Hot Springs, (501) 844-4176

YOU'RE FISHING right off the cabin porch. The CCC-era fishermen's barracks turned studio-style duplex isn't just waterfront—it literally hangs out over the mouth of Slunger Creek. Cabins #1-5 also offer that iconic CCC charm as well as waterfront views, woodburning fireplaces and nearby docks for fishing and boating.

YOU'RE SURROUNDED by water. From the 1,940-acre lake—one of the state's famed Diamond Lakes—to the sandy beach and the 12-foot but oh-so-photogenic Falls Creek Falls, Lake Catherine has it all.

YOU'RE GAZING upon downtown Hot Springs from the natural overlook on the 3.5-mile Horseshoe Mountain Trail. The view is best in winter, when there's no foliage to get in the way.

JENKINS FERRY BATTLEGROUND 

Leola, (501) 844-4176

YOU'RE SITTING down for a picnic lunch and a swim at this 40-acre park, grateful that you remembered to read *Harvest of Death: The Battle of Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas* written by local history buff Joe Walker (his website, 1864arkansas.com, is a must-read as well). Without it, you'd never have known about, say, the Confederate general and Union lieutenant who, years after the battle, found themselves sitting together in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN 

Little Rock, (501) 868-5806

YOU'RE TAKING the road less traveled. Although most folks tend to high-step it up the west summit, the northern leg of the 2.5-mile base trail leading to the craggy (and more difficult) eastern slope offers something verdant and picturesque behind every forested hill and switchback.

YOU'RE LOOKING at all the pretty horses—and riding them, too. Just across the road from the east summit parking lot, Chief

Whitehorse's Trail Rides offers guided horseback tours of the park. Even those who've never saddled up ought to feel welcome.

YOU'RE HOOFING it down the road to camp. There might not be any campsites at Pinnacle—but there are 128 fully equipped ones at Maumelle Park.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN IS THE EASTERN TERMINUS OF THE **223-MILE** OUACHITA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL.

PLANTATION  AGRICULTURE MUSEUM

Scott, (501) 961-1409

YOU'RE REALIZING that 12,500 square feet of space is larger than you'd expect—something made amply clear in the sprawling Seed Warehouse #5, which has been restored to its 1948 appearance. What's more, thanks to the 10,000 items the museum has in its collection (of which roughly 1,250, or 1/8, are on display), you're also realizing there's a lot more to the legacy of cash crops in Arkansas than you ever thought possible.

YOU'RE REMEMBERING to make reservations (and save plenty of room) for the Outdoor Dutch Oven Chili Dinner, where you'll learn about the cast-iron ovens—and then get a full-course lunch of white-bean chili, cornbread and apple turnovers. (Also, contrary to what you might think, this “dinner” happens from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

WOOLLY HOLLOW 

Greenbrier, (501) 679-2098

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY roughing it. Your campsite is shady and offers views of

INSIDER'S GUIDE

TO PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

The winding road up the mountain, the breathtaking view from the terrace behind Mather Lodge, the sun setting over the flat rock outcropping on the park's western end, Cedar Falls, the legend and the grave of the doomed Petit Jean herself—Petit Jean State Park is an assemblage of icons, and **Danny Hale** knows them well. The retiree, who spent 25 years as a land surveyor, founded Takahik, a Russellville-based group that regularly hikes along the park's trails.

BEST SEASON

It's no secret that Arkansas' mountains put on a show in the fall, and Petit Jean's forests play their part. But spring is for waterfall hunting, Hale says, and the park has its share of those as well. The 1-mile **Canyon Trail** goes past several smaller falls along Cedar Creek. Oh, and then there's **Cedar Falls**, which, by the way, isn't so bad itself.

HIDDEN GEMS

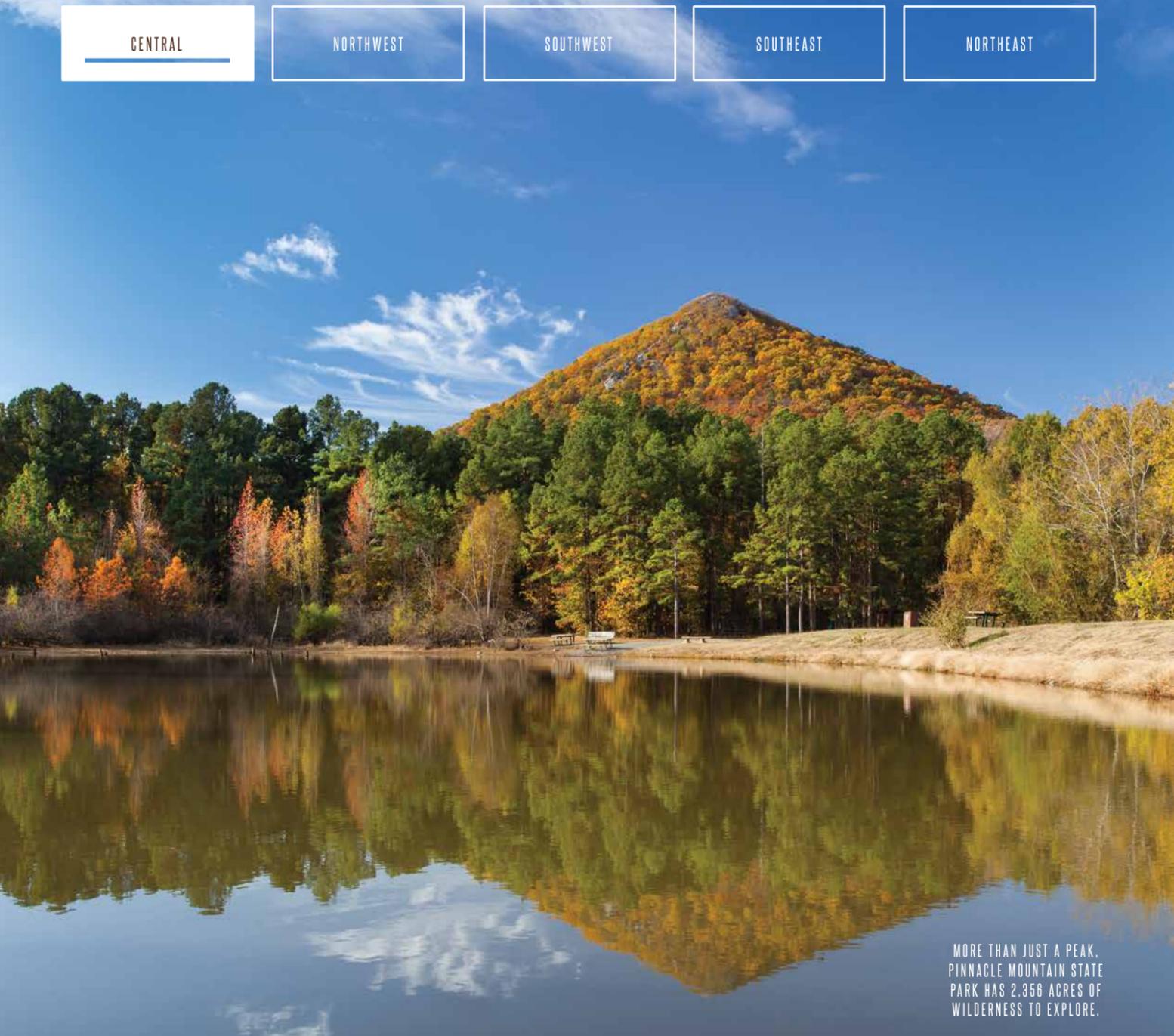
The **Seven Hollows Trail** is Hale's favorite, as much for what's to be found off the trail as what's on it. Venture a little off the marked path and you just might find evidence of the mountain's past as a haven for moonshiners, as well as hidden caves, interesting rock formations and even ancient Native American pictographs. Hale recommends taking a guided hike and asking the park ranger if you want hints about exactly where to look.

BEST PLACE TO GET AWAY

Head out on the **Boy Scout Trail** if you're looking for solitude, Hale says. It's one of the prettier hikes, cutting around the bluffs and around the Winthrop Rockefeller house. Don't be intimidated by the stated 13-mile length. You can start at Mather Lodge and do a shorter 5- or 6-mile loop that avoids the trail's most rugged terrain.

BEST EATING

Just about every Takahik outing to Petit Jean includes a stop at the restaurant at **Mather Lodge**. Hale is partial to the burger and fries—simple fare, but Mather does it well. Hike during the week, and you can hit the lunch buffet at the **River Rock Grill** at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, just a couple of miles from the park entrance. If you're up for the half-hour drive into Morrilton, Hale recommends local favorite **Yesterday's Restaurant**.



MORE THAN JUST A PEAK, PINNACLE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK HAS 2,356 ACRES OF WILDERNESS TO EXPLORE.

Lake Bennett, and a bathhouse—*running water! hot showers! snack bar!*—is just a stroll away.

YOU'RE CATCHING your breath on the lake's sandy beach after a spin around the new Enders Fault Mountain Bike Trail, which is named for the active seismic fault line north of the park.

YOU'RE PLAYING pioneer during the park's annual Mountain Man Rendezvous in April, when reenactors dressed in fur-trapping attire take you back in time to Arkansas circa 1840.

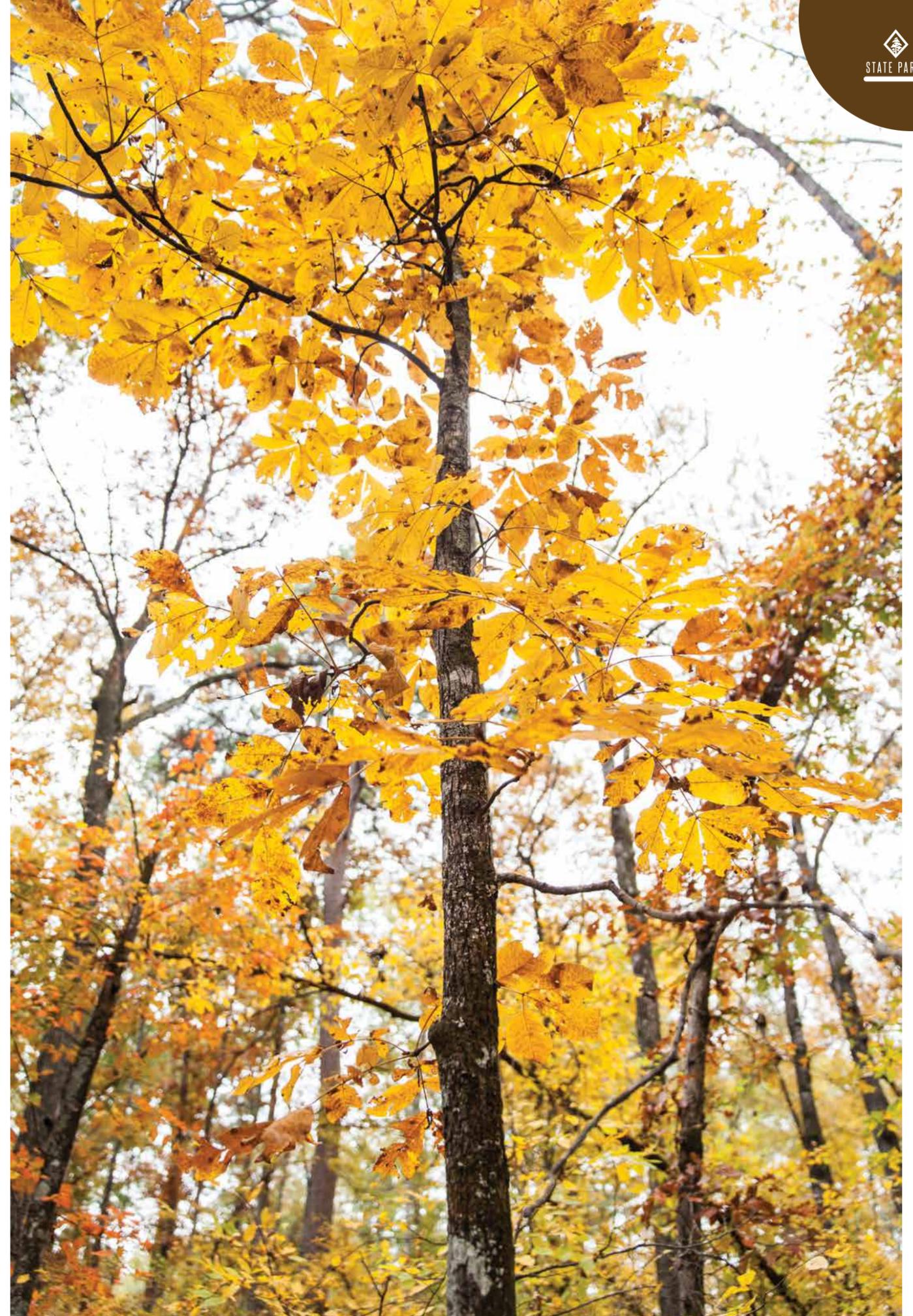
WOOLLY HOLLOW IS NAMED FOR THE WOOLLY FAMILY, WHO SETTLED THE AREA IN 1859.

TOLTEC MOUNDS

Scott, (501) 961-9442

YOU'RE CHARTING the changing of the seasons with the help of these archeological wonders. We'll likely never know how much the native people who built the 18 mounds (of which three remain) knew about the heavens, but we do know that the sun sets directly behind different mounds on certain seasonal equinoxes. (Be sure to mark your calendar for the winter solstice on Dec. 22.)

YOU'RE DOING a double take upon hearing the name because—fun fact—the people who built the mounds were totally *not* the Toltecs. Although archaeologists corrected this back in 1883 (the native people were actually part of what is called the Plum Bayou culture), the name stuck.





NORTHWEST

HOBBS

Rogers, (479) 789-5000

YOU'RE BEDDING down outside of the park—unless you're keen on a 4-mile trek to one of the primitive campsites along the Pigeon Roost Trail. Rogers is a 20-minute drive; scenic Eureka Springs, about 30 minutes.

YOU'RE PACKING your hiking boots. Thirty-five miles of trail wind their way through the 18.8-square-mile park—Arkansas' largest. More of a mountain biker? Tackle the park's 24-mile, multiuse Hidden Diversity Trail on two wheels.

YOU'RE CRUISING the coves of Beaver Lake on one of the guided, bald-eagle-watch tours that depart from Rocky Branch Marina November through February.

AT 12,056 ACRES, HOBBS IS SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN ST. JOHN IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

PRAIRIE GROVE BATTLEFIELD

Prairie Grove, (479) 846-2990

YOU'RE LEARNING about the site's Civil War battle—one of the bloodiest in Arkansas' history—before you arrive at the park, thanks to the engaging interactive timeline created by the University of Arkansas' Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies. (pg.cast.uark.edu)

YOU'RE WALKING through history along the mile-long Battlefield Trail, cutting a path through the ridge-lined river valley where the heaviest fighting took place on Dec. 7, 1862. Though it was technically a draw—each side suffered about 1,300 casualties—the battle enabled the Union army to stake a claim to Northwest Arkansas.

YOU'RE MARKING your calendar for the park's next battle reenactment on Dec. 2016. The biennial event usually draws some 5,000 Civil War buffs and tourists.

WITHROW SPRINGS

Huntsville, (479) 559-2593

YOU'RE PITCHING your tent under a canopy of Ozark hardwoods—the park's 30 campsites and modern bathhouse are tucked among the trees.

YOU'RE AVOIDING the springtime crowds on the Buffalo and paddling quieter War Eagle Creek instead, using Withrow Springs as base camp. In the off-season, you can still make the most of the creek along the 2-mile War Eagle Trail, where you can catch a glimpse of the stream from atop a 150-foot limestone bluff.

YOU'RE TAKING the long way home. Arkansas 23—aka the Pig Trail—offers heart-stopping views as you snake through the Boston Mountains from Huntsville to Ozark. (Both lanes of Arkansas 23 are closed near Arkansas 215 due to a landslide but are scheduled to reopen Oct. 30.)

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK

This park, originally built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, has become Northwest Arkansas' collective backyard. It's an easy drive from Fayetteville, and its picnic areas, 5-acre lake and network of trails lure a steady stream of day-trippers and campers alike. **Tim Scott** knows just about every nook and cranny of the place—not only is he a park ranger, he's also a legend in the world of Arkansas mountain biking.

BEST CROWD AVOIDANCE

Despite its location in the middle of 64,000 acres of national forest, solitude is in short supply at popular Devil's Den. Scott suggests visiting during the week, if you can, or picking a weekend when the Razorbacks aren't playing and the fall foliage is past its prime. For a less crowded hike, head out on the **Fossil Flats Trail** (which, as many mistakenly believe, is not the sole territory of mountain bikes) or the 15-mile **Butterfield Trail**.

BEST CAMPING

If you can live without an electrical hookup, go for **Campground A**, Scott says. It's close to Lee Creek and several trailheads, and is on the quieter side.

NOT-SO-HIDDEN GEM

The **Yellow Rock Trail** is the star of Devil's Den for good reason: It leads out onto an exposed sandstone bluff where hikers will find the best views in the park. "It's not barricaded, so you've got to use good sense, but you can walk right to the edge of it," Scott says. "You're 300 to 400 feet above the creek, and the way it's situated, you can look up and down the watershed."

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

The trails are the thing at Devil's Den, but hiking expertise is not required. From a quarter-mile to 15 miles, paved paths or rough terrain, "there's something that can fit about everybody's capabilities," Scott says. You'll see something different on every trail, too: scenic vistas on the **Yellow Rock**, natural bridges on the **Gorley King** and the park's original Civilian Conservation Corps buildings on the short **CCC Interpretive Trail**.



THERE ARE TWO LAUNCH SITES FOR HANG GLIDERS ATOP 1,350 FOOT MOUNT NEBO.

LAKE FORT SMITH

Mountainburg, (479) 369-2469

YOU'RE BOOKING one of the park's 10 posh cabins, built in 2013. (Don't fret over which one is best—the park superintendent assures they're all top notch.) What the cabins lack in lake views due to the reservoir's buffer zone, they make up in reclaimed-stone

fireplaces and elevated covered decks.

YOU'RE ENJOYING some hard-earned R&R if you've walked 165 miles to get here. The park is the western terminus of the Ozark Highlands Trail, which winds east through the Ozark National Forest to the Buffalo River.

YOU'RE BRINGING the kiddos. With kayak

tours, guided hikes, owl prowls, stargazing lessons, a pool and a splash pad—not to mention 1,400 acres of cool, clear lake—they won't have time to get bored.

MOUNT MAGAZINE

Paris, (479) 963-8502

YOU'RE FETCHING Fido, since cabin #4, with



its covered deck, outdoor hot tub, sweeping valley views and exposed wood beams, is dog-friendly. If you don't have a pup in tow, you've got the, *um*, pick of the litter: 13 cabins and 60 lodge guest rooms share the bluff-top views.

YOU'RE STANDING on the highest point in Arkansas—2,753-foot Signal Hill—which is accessible via a moderately easy 1.5-mile-loop trail. At the top, you can explore a 400-square-foot, to-scale topographic map of Arkansas, chiseled in stone.

YOU'RE HUNTING for the rare plant species—maple-leaf oaks, orchids, hay-scented ferns—that call Mount Magazine home, thanks to its unique microclimate.

IT WOULD TAKE 10 1/2 MOUNT MAGAZINES TO REACH THE HEIGHT OF MOUNT EVEREST.

LAKE DARDANELLE

Russellville, (479) 967-5516

YOU'RE ROASTING marshmallows with a view if you booked one of the campsites on the Russellville side of the park, which faces a westward expanse of open water. You'll find more peace and quiet on the Dardanelle side—there are fewer sites and

no visitor center—but you'll miss out on that sunset view.

YOU'RE ANGLING for catfish and bass from the rock breakwater or the shade of the covered wooden fishing pier—there's a reason, after all, that *Bassmaster* magazine named Dardanelle one of the nation's best bass lakes. If the fish aren't biting, take your tiny anglers to the visitor center, where 8,000 gallons of aquariums and a touch tank are filled with turtles and fish commonly found in the watershed, including some record bass that have been caught during the park's 30-some annual tournaments.

YOU'RE EXPLORING the quiet coves the big boats can't get to, in a kayak rented from the park marina.

MOUNT NEBO

Dardanelle, (479) 229-3655

YOU'RE GETTING comfortable in a rustic CCC cabin built in the 1930s—ideally, cabin #63, which is equipped with a two-person spa tub, a view and some privacy from the cars whooshing down Sunrise Circle. For a more authentic experience, cabin #62 boasts the original wood, as well as the door and most of the window latches.

YOU'RE SOAKING up the Arkansas River Valley scenery from Sunset Point's enchanting vista—a 360-degree view of Lake Darda-

nelle, Mount Magazine and Hot Springs. Think this view is breathtaking? Wait until you see the hang gliders launch.

YOU'RE DRIVING the steep, winding hair-pin turns carefully—ideally not in an RV. The road to the park climbs 1,400 feet in 2 miles.

BULL SHOALS-WHITE RIVER

Bull Shoals, (870) 445-3629

YOU'RE REVELING in nature's air conditioning at one of the 55 campsites on the banks of the White—the river's 52 degrees keep things cool even in the heart of summer. No gear? Book the park's Rent-A-Camp, which provides a platform tent, cots, stove, cooler and lights, aka almost everything you'll need.

YOU'RE HIGHTAILING it to the park's trout dock to rent a boat, find out where the rainbows are biting and swap fish stories. If you're new to the sport, park interpreters frequently offer talks on trout-fishing basics; pick up a schedule when you check in. If you're looking to break a record, you'll need to "hook a lunker" to the tune of 19.5 pounds.

YOU'RE SNACKING on smoked trout poppers and enjoying the river views at Gaston's White River Resort, just a four-minute drive from the park.

SOUTHWEST

CREATED BY THE DAMMING OF THE CADDO RIVER IN 1972, DEGRAY LAKE HAS 207 MILES OF SHORELINE.

MILLWOOD

Ashdown, (870) 898-2800

YOU'RE FISHING for prizewinning bass on the 29,260-acre Millwood Lake, scanning the tree line for eagles or renting kayaks at the marina (when the park reopens) to explore among the sunken timber stands.

YOU'RE WAITING until next year for an overnight visit. The only facility open after this summer's flooding is Millwood's visitor center, and many changes to the park may come as the site is repaired.

YOU'RE AVOIDING the alligators that cruise the lake and are sometimes spotted along the park's 4-mile Wildlife Lane wilderness trail.

CONWAY CEMETERY

Bradley, (888) 287-2757

YOU'RE PAYING your respects to James Sevier Conway, Arkansas' first governor. Born in 1796, Conway came to Arkansas from Tennessee by way of St. Louis and surveyed what is now the Oklahoma-Arkansas border from the Red River north to Fort Smith. He was elected to the state's highest office in 1836.

YOU'RE PLANNING your trip for March when nearby Bradley celebrates Gov. Conway with an annual arts-and-crafts festival that includes live music, children's activities and a classic car show.

HISTORIC WASHINGTON

Washington, (870) 983-2684

YOU'RE CHATTING with interpretive guides (who are dressed in period-appropriate clothing, of course) as you tour a rotating mix of Greek Revival, Italianate, Federal and vernacular architecture. The town-turned-park also features a historic-weapons museum, a print shop and the blacksmith shop where it's claimed one of the original Bowie knives was forged.

YOU'RE GETTING hip with technology because Grace Cottage—a B&B just outside the park and the town's lone accommodation—can only be rented through Airbnb.

YOU'RE TUCKING into Southern classics like cornbread, chicken-fried steak and black-eyed pea salad inside the park's Williams' Tavern, a public house originally built in 1832 in nearby Marlbrook and transported to the historic village in the 1980s.

HISTORIC WASHINGTON WAS THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL OF ARKANSAS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

WHITE OAK LAKE

Bluff City, (870) 685-2748

YOU'RE HIKING through bottomland hardwoods on the 10-

INSIDER'S GUIDE

TO DEGRAY LAKE RESORT STATE PARK

Hiking and camping aren't the only ways to enjoy Arkansas' state parks. You can do both at DeGray Lake Resort, of course, but the 18-hole championship golf course, built into the park's scenic hills, promises a fine outdoor experience that's both rewarding and potentially profanity-inducing. **Leon Schwebke**, the park's resident golf pro, is still a relative newcomer to DeGray, but he already talks about the resort's course as if it were an old, occasionally frustrating friend. And he's getting to know the rest of the park pretty well, too, including the full-service lodge that occupies its own island.

PRO TIPS

The course at DeGray is scenic, for sure, but don't let it fool you. "It requires a lot of thought to play this golf course well," Schwebke says. Because it's so hilly, sometimes you're swinging at a ball that's above or below your feet. And watch out for the semi-hidden, second water hazard on trickster **Hole 7**—hit too far and you could lose your ball without realizing it.

BEST CAMPING

If you're up for something a little different, Schwebke suggests booking a yurt. Like the sleepaway camps of your childhood, yurts walk a line between tent and cabin. And seeing as they come furnished with bunk beds, you won't have to worry about spending your evening battling rocks wedged beneath your sleeping bag.

BEST TRAIL

Skip the hiking boots, grab an oar and hit DeGray's brand-new **Islets Cove Paddle Trail**. You'll give your arms a workout as you canoe, kayak or paddleboard along the 3-mile trail and learn about the lake's ecology at the eight interpretive stops marked by yellow blazes.

BEST EATING

Schwebke is a fan of the lodge's **Shoreline Restaurant**. More than just a convenient location, this lakefront eatery's menu includes everything from steak and seared salmon to pizza and nachos. But if you're looking to go further afield, head about 12 miles southeast on Arkansas 7 and check out **Slim and Shorty's** in Arkadelphia.

BEST RELAXING

There's usually nothing better than kicking back in a hammock after a long day of outdoor adventuring. Usually. At DeGray Lake Resort, though, you can treat your achy self to a massage at the on-site **Blue Heron Spa**.

CENTRAL

NORTHWEST

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHEAST

NORTHEAST

STATE PARKS



THE DEGRAY LAKE RESORT IS LOCATED ON ITS OWN ISLAND AND OFFERS EVERYTHING FROM GOLF TO HIKING.



mile Fern Hollow Trail, past rare Arkansas oaks, and among the resurrection ferns that seemingly spring from the dead when the weather turns from dry to moist.

YOU'RE STALKING the big one. The lake produced a 22-pound, 14-ounce catfish—a previous state record—and is known for its big bass.

YOU'RE KEEPING an eye out for great blue herons, egrets, ospreys and—during the winter months—migrating bald eagles.

POISON SPRINGS BATTLEGROUND

Camden, (888) 287-2757

YOU'RE WALKING on hallowed ground—the

first battle of the ill-fated Camden Expedition was fought here April 18, 1864, when a force of over 3,500 Confederates ambushed 1,169 Union troops. The outcome was inevitable, but the Confederate victory was marred by accounts of Southern soldiers killing black Union fighters who were attempting to surrender. Learn more from the interpretive exhibits that line the half-mile nature trail.

LOGOLY

McNeil, (870) 695-3561

YOU'RE LEARNING about global ecology, pollution, sustainability and other issues of environmental concern through the interactive exhibits, live animal demonstrations,

seminars and living classrooms at Arkansas' first environmental-education state park.

YOU'RE PACKING your camera. The park's three short nature trails offer boardwalks and nature blinds, perfect for snapping photos of deer, wild turkey, beavers, snakes and wading birds such as herons and egrets.

YOU'RE SITTING tight. The construction of the park's new 7,161-square-foot, LEED-certified visitor center is slated for completion in 2016.

SOUTH ARKANSAS ARBORETUM

El Dorado, (870) 862-8131

YOU'RE ONLY a handful of blocks from down-

town El Dorado. Despite being one of Arkansas' only state parks inside a city, with native flora like the Louisiana iris and exotic plants such as orange-flowered kwanso, the arboretum is an urban oasis.

YOU'RE ENCIRCLED by color. Autumn sees wildflowers like goldenrods, camellias and asters bloom, and tree leaves turn bright yellow, vibrant orange and deep red.

YOU'RE RETURNING in summer to see the butterflies flit across the 12-acre park. Be sure to pick up a butterfly checklist from the visitor center to help researchers gather data on the arboretum's butterfly population.

ARKANSAS MUSEUM OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Smackover, (870) 725-2877

YOU'RE TRANSCENDING space and time, thanks to a series of immersive exhibits that explore the years before the oil boom—about 200 million years ago, to be precise—and the gradual evolution of industry. In addition to the permanent exhibits, which include seven examples of oil production on the adjacent 5-acre Oil Field Park, the museum rotates others through (Dinosaur fossils, anyone?)

COSSATOT

Wikers, (870) 385-2201

YOU'RE PACKING a filter and plenty of water. The riverside park's 22 campsites are all primitive, meaning no power, no bathrooms

and—most importantly—no water.

YOU'RE FLOATING, swimming and fishing the 12 miles of park that stretch along the Cossatot River. But while the park offers one great swimming hole after another, when the water is high—around 3.4 feet and above—only experts should attempt this National Wild and Scenic River. (Cossatot roughly translates to “skull crusher” for a reason.)

YOU'RE PLANNING your trip for peak paddling season in spring. The park usually offers interpreter-led kayak tours May through June.

CRATER OF DIAMONDS

Murfreesboro, (870) 285-3113

YOU'RE SURFING the web from your tent. The park offers free Wi-Fi for its 47 drive-in and five walk-in campsites.

YOU'RE SCANNING the surface, not digging holes in the ground. While wet or dry sifting—using a series of mesh-wire grates to isolate the precious stones—offer the best chance for finding a diamond, many of the biggest diamonds were found by simply walking and searching the surface.

YOU'RE BEATING the summer heat at the facility's Diamond Springs Water Park, which features waterfalls, slides, a splash pad and a 4,166-square-foot wading pool.

ONCE CUT, THE LARGEST DIAMOND FOUND IN THE PARK, EQUALED 12.24 CARATS.

DAISY

Kirby, (870) 392-4487

YOU'RE ENJOYING the cool lake breezes at campsites #24 and #25, right on the very tip of a peninsula, or making the most of your RV thanks to spacious campsite #103, right on the cove.

YOU'RE WATER SKIING and fishing for northern pike on the crystal waters of Lake Greeson, casting flies for trout on the Little Missouri River or tearing up the 31-mile Bear Creek Motorcycle Trail on your ATV.

YOU'RE BOOKING your trip in advance. Reservations for holiday weekends fill up a year in advance.

QUEEN WILHELMINA

Mena, (479) 394-2863

YOU'RE TAKING in the view atop Arkansas' second-highest peak from your room in the recently renovated lodge. Five of its 40 rooms offer fireplaces and spa tubs, but be sure to book well in advance. While walk-ins are allowed, rooms are almost never available at the last minute, and holidays can fill up a year in advance.

YOU'RE SHIFTING gears. The state park is located on the 54-mile Talimena National Scenic Byway, a strip of ribbon-candy road that stretches across the Ouachitas in Arkansas to the Winding Stair Mountains in Oklahoma.

YOU'RE WATCHING the monarch butterflies that descend on Rich Mountain early each October (read more on page 101).

CACHE IT IN

Looking for an excuse to visit every single one of Arkansas' 52 state parks? Fancy a bit of mystery? Then look no further than ParkCache, the Arkansas State Parks' geocache challenge. Geocaching is a growing outdoor hobby that involves finding hidden “caches” based only on their GPS coordinates. While caches can be found quite literally anywhere in the state, the state parks have a special quest for cachers: Visit each state park's official cache, and use the clues squirreled away inside to find the coordinates for the secret 53rd cache and a special prize.

10 TO GET YOU STARTED:

CENTRAL	NORTHWEST	SOUTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	NORTHEAST
Lake Catherine N 34° 25.924 W 092° 54.844	Devil's Den N 35° 46.602 W 094° 15.475	White Oak Lake N 33° 41.280 W 093° 06.149	Mississippi River State Park N 34° 45.344 W 090° 43.336	Village Creek N 35° 09.696 W 090° 43.282
Pinnacle Mountain N 34° 50.640 W 092° 27.718	Mount Magazine N 35° 09.927 W 093° 36.357	Queen Wilhelmina N 34° 41.108 W 094° 23.023	Lake Chicot N 33° 22.160 W 091° 11.857	Ozark Folk Center N 35° 52.917 W 092° 07.173

(For more information visit arkansasstateparks.com/things-to-do/geocaching)

SOUTHEAST

LAKE CHICOT IS THE
LARGEST OXBOW LAKE
IN NORTH AMERICA.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Marianna, (870) 295-4040

YOU'RE SAVORING your pristine campsite along the banks of Bear Creek Lake—because with operations having just started in mid-2009, this is the newest state park in the system. (It's also one of the relatively few state parks in this neck of the woods to have campsites.) And then you're dropping a line to go after those largemouth bass, red-eyed bream and channel cats.

YOU'RE PUTTING this date on your calendar: Oct. 17, 2015. This year marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase Land Survey, and four different venues in and around the park are hosting events, including an 1815 living history village at the visitor center, and a reenactment of the 1926 monument dedication at Louisiana Purchase State Park.

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Holly Grove, (870) 572-2352

YOU'RE WATCHING the documentary *It Started Here: Early Arkansas and The Louisiana Purchase* (directed by Larry Foley, who appears on page 23).

YOU'RE THANKING your lucky stars for the 950-foot boardwalk that has been raised above the murky waters of the headwater swamp—an amenity that was most certainly not around when U.S. engineers were charged with surveying the recently acquired lands of the Louisiana Purchase. A granite monument at the end of the trail marks the site of the surveyors' first base camp.

AT 37.5 ACRES, THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE STATE PARK PROTECTS THE LARGEST HEADWATER SWAMP IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY.

DELTA HERITAGE TRAIL

Barton, (870) 572-2352

YOU'RE RIDING the rails ... Erm, sort of. Although the rails-to-trails conversion is still very much in the works (and has been for years), the 20 miles completed along the old route of the Union Pacific Railroad is still prime wildlife spotting territory—specifically, for the likes of red-tailed hawks, bobcats and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

YOU'RE (QUITE POSSIBLY) IN good company. In a recent radio address, Gov. Asa Hutchinson pledged to take a bike ride along a portion of the Heritage Trail this

INSIDER'S GUIDE

TO LAKE CHICOT STATE PARK

Let the hikers seek out their hills and hollers in mountainous Northwest Arkansas. Birders and anglers, come on down to the sheet cake-flat Delta. Here you'll find the state's largest natural lake, shaved off the meandering Mississippi River hundreds of years ago, and a cypress swamp where you can mingle with flocks of egrets or ibis at sunset—if you're willing to brave the mosquitoes, as avid birder **Don Simons** has been doing for years. Though it's been more than a decade since he left his job as park interpreter at Lake Chicot for the cooler and less humid environs of Mount Magazine, the memories of his 17 years at Lake Chicot haven't faded.

BEST CAMPING

Mosquitoes can be an issue at Lake Chicot. A big issue. So if you're planning to spend the night between April and October, Simons suggests booking a cabin and bringing a bug zapper—for inside. The smaller one-bedroom cabins are situated closer to the lake, some with their own docks, but the larger two-bedrooms have sizable screened front porches.

BEST WILDLIFE WATCHING

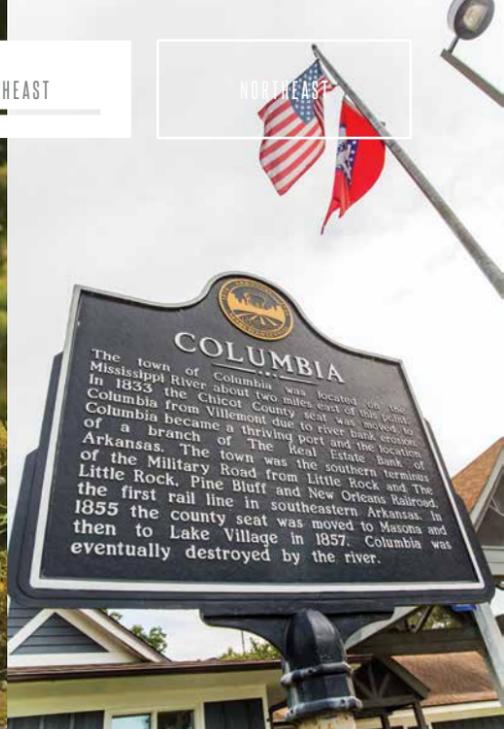
The Mississippi River is basically a gigantic freeway for migrating birds, and Lake Chicot is the perfect site for getting a close look at the groups of long-legged wading birds that gather as the sun goes down.

BEST REASON TO STAY IN THE BOAT

If you venture into Lake Chicot's cypress swamp, expect the occasional reptilian life form—though Simons stresses that a little common sense should be protection enough. "Just don't swim with them. I grew up in south Louisiana, and if snakes and gators were as bad as everybody thought they were, there wouldn't be any Cajuns left in this world."

BEST EATING

The Delta is tamale country. You can't go wrong at **Rhoda's Famous Hot Tamales** in nearby Lake Village—but if you're up for a longer trek, Simons recommends heading east to the original **Doe's Eat Place** in Greenville, Mississippi. "As the crow flies it's about 5 miles," Simons says. "But you've got to drive 30 to get to it."



fall, saying, “I encourage every Arkansan to do the same; to enjoy our great outdoors and to rediscover the Delta. I can’t wait to be a part of it.” Even if you’ve left your own set of wheels at home, bikes can be rented from the park visitor center in Barton.

ARKANSAS POST MUSEUM

Gillett, (870) 548-2634

YOU’RE GETTING a glimpse of early life on the Arkansas Grand Prairie and Delta, thanks to the park’s five exhibit buildings. And then you’re envying the craftsmanship of

the Carnes-Bonner Playhouse, a built-to-scale-version of the family home, created for a 4-year-old. And if you’ve ever wondered what it’s like to envy someone barely out of toddlerhood, just consider that virtually every piece of furniture—the tiny couch and armchair upholstered with damask fabric; the tiny dressing table and bed hewn from gorgeously whorled wood; the tiny pans, egg beater and sink—was made just for her.

ARKANSAS POST MUSEUM IS WORKING TO RESTORE **FOUR** SPECIES OF GRASS NATIVE TO ARKANSAS’ GRAND PRAIRIE.

CANE CREEK

Star City, (870) 628-4714

YOU’RE SLEEPING well above the ground in an RV rented through the park and stacked with a fully stocked kitchen, stereo system and enough beds to accommodate eight.

YOU’RE PADDLING a kayak through the stands of bald cypress and among the floating beds of water lilies—all illuminated by the light of a full moon (just be sure to check with the park about when the guides are going out). For a different perspective, head out on the 2.5-mile Delta View Trail



LAKE CHICOT IS NAMED AFTER THE FRENCH WORD FOR “STUMP” DUE TO ITS MANY SUNKEN CYPRESS TREES.

EARN YOUR STRIPES

...OR AT LEAST A PATCH

MISS YOUR BOY SCOUT DAYS? LOVE GRADE-SCHOOL-STYLE HISTORY PROJECTS? Then the Louisiana Purchase Commemoration Patch Award Program is everything you’re looking for. Created to honor the 2003 bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, the program allows you to earn a patch by answering questions and completing projects on the region’s history, its plants and animals, and the techniques used to survey its lands. If you were more into field trips than classwork, you can skip some of the homework and historic sites scattered across the state instead. All that’s left is deciding what to do with that sweet, sweet patch.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ARKAN-



SASSTATEPARKS.COM/LOUISIANAPURCHASE)

and look out over the lake from the vista at the one-mile marker.

YOU’RE RECOGNIZING that the catfish you just lugged over the side of your boat out of Bayou Bartholomew—the world’s largest bayou and one of the most diverse streams in North America—is actually just one of 117 species of fish swimming through these waters.

MARK’S MILLS

Fordyce, (501) 682-1191

YOU’RE READING through the reminiscences and markers erected by descendants of the

fallen soldiers (and other enthusiasts) about the battle fought on these grounds—a Confederate victory in which, as one marker notes, “General James F. Fagan’s Division of Confederate Cavalry surprised and captured a Union supply train of 2000 men and 240 wagonloads of supplies.”

MORO BAY

Jersey, (870) 463-8555

YOU’RE RENTING one of the five two-bedroom, waterfront cabins and enjoying a bug-free sunset from its screened-in porch.

YOU’RE LEARNING about the history of the

bay and its wildlife during one of the park’s interpretive kayak or boat tours through the stands of waterlogged cypress trees. Want a little more action while you float? The waters where the bay, Raymond Lake and the Ouachita River converge are famous for their largemouth bass.

YOU’RE FILLING your cooler ahead of time. The closest store is a 15-mile drive.

THE HISTORIC FERRY ON DISPLAY AT MORO BAY WAS ONCE **THE ONLY CONNECTION** BETWEEN UNION AND BRADLEY COUNTIES.

INSIDER'S GUIDE

TO OZARK FOLK CENTER STATE PARK

The Ozark Folk Center might be the only Arkansas state park that celebrates indoor pleasures rather than outdoor. It honors and preserves the traditions of hill-dwellers past—how they made candles, wove fabric, forged horseshoes and shaped plows. The tunes they fiddled and ballads they sang. As the center's craft director, lifelong fiber artist **Jeanette Larson** makes sure all of the 50-plus resident artisans have everything they need to demonstrate, create and sell their crafts in the center's 21 stores.

BEST EATING

The park's **Skillet Restaurant** is famous for its Thanksgiving dinner, according to both Larson and CNN, which featured it on-air last November. The craft village is open Thanksgiving Day, so come early and get your name on the restaurant's waiting list—the Skillet doesn't take reservations, even on holidays—and get a jump-start on your holiday shopping in the village stores.

BEST PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

The center stays pretty crowded during the summer months and during peak fall-foliage season, but visit in early October or after the park opens in early April and you'll have a better chance to spend some quality time with the park's artisans and musicians. "They'll be playing for two or three people at time," Larson says of the musicians who regularly play the park's stage. "They have great conversations."

BEST NEWFANGLERY

It's not all traditions all the time at this park. Most people don't know it, Larson says, but the Ozark Folk Center also has a geocache loop.

BEST AFTERPARTY

The craft village closes at 5 p.m. each day, but the **MountainView** town square stays open for business into the evening as a family-friendly outdoor gathering spot for musicians playing bluegrass, country, folk, Elvis tunes and just about anything else they fancy.



NORTHEAST

LAKE CHARLES

Powhatan, (870) 878-6595

YOU'RE BOOKING the park's only rental yurt—a round Mongolian tent home—a couple of weeks ahead of your trip and sleeping on a bunk bed instead of the ground. Just don't forget to bring bed sheets.

YOU'RE PACKING your swimwear, floats and shades. The gently sloping, sandy beach can be used free of charge and is an ideal spot for some scenic lounging.

YOU'RE TOUCHING the armored skin of an American alligator or the bumpy shells of aquatic turtles at the Nature Center, which houses 60 species of reptiles, amphibians and fish. But you'll have to wait until next summer. The center is only open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

DAVIDSONVILLE

Pocahontas, (870) 892-4708

YOU'RE COZYING up in a tent at campsite #16 which, thanks to its wooded location, offers seclusion for the privacy-starved city dweller. Arriving in an RV? Campsite #13 offers better satellite reception. If A/C is your idea of fresh air, Hotel Rhea—a historic hotel destroyed by fire in 1914 and extensively renovated in 2012—is just 23 minutes away in Walnut Ridge.

YOU'RE APPRECIATING the preserved history of this 200-year-old town unearthed by archaeologists in the late '70s. You'll catch glimpses of what life was like in Davidsonville during the early 19th century along the Historic Townsite Trail.

YOU'RE LOADING your costumed little ones into the car for the park's spooky (well, spooky-ish) annual Ghosts of Davidsonville Fall Festival. With games, face paint-

ing, costume contests and a hayride, they'll most definitely be entertained.

MAMMOTH SPRING

Mammoth Spring, (870) 625-7364

YOU'RE WORKING up the nerve to plunge into the 60-degree Spring Lake, which is formed by the largest spring in Arkansas, the aptly named Mammoth Spring. A National Natural Landmark, the spring flows at a rate of almost 10 million gallons of water per hour. (That's enough to fill 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools, BTW.)

YOU'RE GETTING a dose of aromatherapy in the park's herb garden, which is maintained by the Mammoth Spring Garden Club. Though it might be tempting to pick some lavender, sweet tarragon or Russian sage, you'll have to wait until the club's annual herb sale in May.

YOU'RE LEARNING about endangered native species—Ozark Hellbender salamanders, sturgeon—at the nearby Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery, one of the oldest hatcheries in the U.S.

EVERY HOUR, MAMMOTH SPRING RELEASES ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE IN LITTLE ROCK TO TAKE A SHOWER. TWICE.

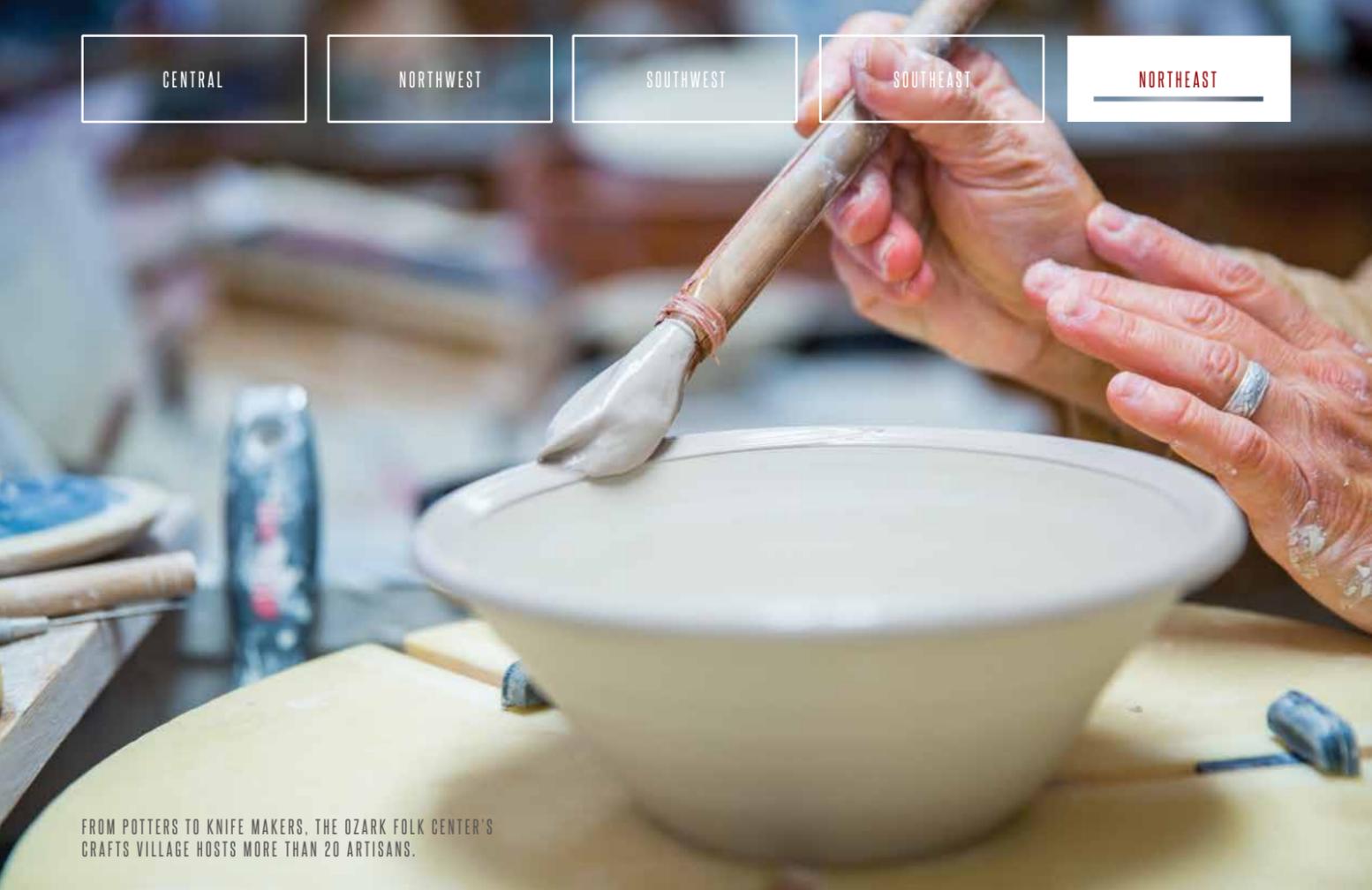
POWHATAN

Powhatan, (870) 878-0032

YOU'RE TOURING the 1888 Italianate-style courthouse, the historic Powhatan Jail and other preserved buildings in this 19th-century steamboat town.

YOU'RE DINING at the Parachute Inn, the Walnut Ridge restaurant housed in a reconfigured Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 about 25 minutes away.

YOU'RE NOT WORRYING about the sweltering heat or spending too much time under the sun. All of the historic structures in this day-use park are air-conditioned.



FROM POTTERS TO KNIFE MAKERS, THE OZARK FOLK CENTER'S CRAFTS VILLAGE HOSTS MORE THAN 20 ARTISANS.

CROWLEY'S RIDGE

Paragould, (870) 573-6751

YOU'RE MINGLING

with friends and family. Thanks to a group lodging area—five rustic bunk cabins with a recently renovated large kitchen, a dining hall, lake views and space for 60 people—this park is practically begging to play host for a family reunion.

YOU'RE PAUSING to look at the flume that carries water from the wishing well down to Lake Ponder. The well can be seen along the trail that encircles the swimming lake—preferably in the fall, when trees flaunt their spectacular colors. (The lake is drained during winter months.)

YOU'RE REMEMBERING to grab your fishing license before leaving home. Aluminum boats are available for anglers—but you can't fish without a license.

LAKE FRIERSON

Bono, (870) 932-2615

YOU'RE FISHING for saugeye and bass in a 14-foot fishing boat you rented for the

whole day from the marina for \$15.

YOU'RE PICNICKING near the lake, where there are tables, grills and restrooms nearby. If the scorching heat becomes too much to handle, just take it inside, thanks to a climate-controlled pavilion overlooking Lake Frierson.

LAKE POINSETT

Harrisburg, (870) 578-2064

YOU'RE CASTING your line in the shallow, 640-acre lake, which is perfect for snagging large stringers of bass, crappie, bream and catfish. It isn't dubbed the "fisherman's haven" for nothing.

YOU'RE MAKING the trip Oct. 23-24 or 30-31, when the Parker Pioneer Homestead in Harrisburg holds their Haunted Homestead event—a long walk in the deep, dark woods with scares and screams (and thus not recommended for small children). For a less frightening experience, come during the Homestead Festival (the second and third weekends of October) and enjoy a day of butter churning, kettle-corn popping and wagon riding.

JACKSONPORT

Newport, (870) 523-2143

YOU'RE ROASTING weenies, gorging on campfire s'mores and, let's face it, swatting mosquitoes at campsite #13, which is nestled right on the edge of the White River. The trees provide a bit of respite from the sun, and there's a shaded picnic table as well as an unobstructed view of the lake.

YOU'RE TAKING in the history of this town, once occupied by both Confederate and Union forces because of its strategic location. Its courthouse is now a museum boasting several exhibits which detail life in this steamboat town from its early heydays before the Civil War until its gradual decline.

YOU'RE BIRD-WATCHING on the Tunstall River Walk, a favorite feeding area along the White River for eagles, owls, blue herons, orioles and ducks. Falling in the Mississippi Flyway, the park is habitat for a vast array of Arkansas birds. (The flocks will only increase in number with the blooming of wildflowers next spring, by the way.)

JOIN THE CLUB

HOW TO BECOME AN ARKANSAS STATE PARK EXPLORER



DISCOVER, PREPARE, CONNECT, SHARE—THESE FOUR WATCHWORDS ARE THE HALLMARKS OF THE STATE'S NEW YOUTH CONSERVATION PROGRAM. Budding outdoorsmen and women ages 6 to 14 work through nine open-ended activities designed to help build strong connections to their state parks and the natural world around them. Getting started is easy. All it takes is requesting a free field guide from any park staff member and completing the exercises inside. Easy to tackle, yet hard enough to provide a sense of accomplishment, the activities—which range from writing park-themed poetry to attending interpretive programs—could be completed in a single weekend at any state park or extended to multiple trips and parks. Once their completed field guides are checked by park staff, the kids take the explorer pledge and receive a certificate and badge as keepsakes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ARKANSASSTATEPARKS.COM/SUPPORT-PARKS/EXPLORER.ASPX

HERMAN DAVIS

Manila, (888) 287-2757

YOU'RE STARING up at the life-sized marble statue of Herman Davis, a Manila native named by General Pershing as fourth among America's 100 greatest WWI heroes.

YOU'RE FOLLOWING in his footsteps through the nearby Big Lake National Wildlife Refuge, one of the oldest inland refuges in the U.S.—a sprawl of 11,038 acres. Davis is said to have honed his skills as an expert outdoorsman and sharpshooter in these wooded swamps.

HERMAN DAVIS RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AND THE FRENCH MÉDAILLE MILITAIRE FOR HIS ACTIONS IN WORLD WAR I.

HAMPSON

Wilson, (870) 655-8622

YOU'RE TOURING the Hampson Archeological Museum, which houses aboriginal artifacts found in this historic indigenous heartland. Don't have time to make the trip? The Virtual Hampson Museum brings the collections to your computer screen, thanks to the modern marvels of 3D laser scanning and visualization. (hampson.cast.uark.edu)

YOU'RE CRUISING past small towns, farmland and out-of-the way sights along Arkansas 61, instead of Interstate 55. This trip is about

both the journey and the destination.

YOU'RE HAVING dinner at Wilson Cafe, perhaps even sipping a glass of wine. Only five minutes from the park, the cafe boasts an indulgent menu—including such delicacies as blueberry-glazed salmon and bone-in pork chops—that makes the place a gem in downtown Wilson.

PARKIN

Parkin, (870) 755-2500

YOU'RE PLANNING the perfect day trip, spending your afternoon at this day-use park—the site of a 17-acre Mississippian period (1000 A.D. to 1600 A.D.) American-Indian village, where a large platform mound still remains—and having dinner at Memphis' Porcellino's Craft Butcher, only an hour away. (Trust us, it's worth the drive.)

YOU'RE SCHEDULING your guided tour ahead of time, especially if your family and friends are tagging along. With a limited number of staff, booking reservations for group tours can get slightly tricky.

YOU'RE LETTING the river be your guide as you stroll up and down the 3/4-mile Village Trail that borders the St. Francis River, which served as an important water source in this Late-Mississippian culture.

VILLAGE CREEK

Wynne, (870) 238-9406

YOU'RE STAYING in cabin #4, overlook-

ing the park's 27-hole golf course which stretches more than 7,400 yards through this hilly hardwood forest.

YOU'RE BRINGING your horse along—that is, if you have one. There's a horse barn and a trail for equestrians.

YOU'RE STOCKING up on candy if you're there on Oct. 24, during the park's annual Trick or Treat—a nature-themed Halloween event featuring owl prowls, live animals, campfire stories and campsite decorations provided by 42 local businesses.

LOWER WHITE RIVER MUSEUM

Des Arc, (870) 256-3711

YOU'RE LISTENING to the first-hand accounts of a river-boat captain, a schoolteacher, a settler and a slave—whose likenesses (in mannequin form) greet visitors in the main foyer of the museum—via recordings of the oral histories they left behind.

YOU'RE ADMIRING the museum's one-of-a-kind exhibits, including the painstakingly executed details of a button factory painted on the inside of a mussel shell—a shell that would have been used back in the day to make, *um*, buttons.

YOU'RE SWINGING by Dondie's, the steamboat-replica restaurant on the banks of the White River, for a catfish dinner, and watching the river flow just outside the window. **AL**

AT .4 ACRE, LOWER WHITE RIVER MUSEUM IS ARKANSAS' SMALLEST STATE PARK.