



THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

Volume 6, No. 1 x November 2010

NEW RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2011

Next year, a new program will launch at Arkansas Post National Memorial to promote recycling in local communities. The main tool in this program will be the new Recycling Trailer. The trailer will be placed near the park visitor center the first week of each month where park staff can assist with questions about sorting paper, plastic, and cardboard. The trailer may even appear at special events and schools to help promote the recycling message.

Arkansas Post strives to be a leader in environmental management within the community. Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance (2009) requires that Federal agencies reduce waste and find ways to work more efficiently. To comply with this, the National Park Service has Director's Order 13A: Environmental Management Systems (2009). This requires parks to evaluate their operations and find more efficient ways to operate. The creation of the park's Environmental Management Plan has given the park

the opportunity to pursue a recycling program that it has needed for some time. The new trailer will provide the park with a great educational tool for years to come.

One side of the trailer expresses the park's cultural heritage by showing reenactors from different historical eras in Arkansas Post history. The opposite side shows a deer and lake scene to represent the park's natural resources. The photographs were taken and organized by Superintendent Ed Wood. Park Biologist Sarah Allely was a strong advocate for the program and took the lead on working with the manufacturer. The trailer will take the following items:

- Paper
- Flattened Cardboard
- Rinsed tin and aluminum cans
- Rinsed plastics 1 and 3
- Glass

The Recycling Trailer will be on display at the December 11 Open House.



Special Fifty Year Anniversary Open House December 11

From 1 PM to 5 PM the park encourages visitors to see the museum, enjoy refreshments, and visit with staff and volunteers. A special slide show will be given every hour between 1 PM– 4 PM showcasing the park's last 50 years. The Open House is in partnership with the Arkansas Post Museum State Park.



NPS Photo by Donna Robertson, Administrative Officer

Inside this issue:

Page 2 Superintendent's Scribbles

Page 3 Mistletoe

Page 4 Confederate POWs

Page 5 Program Recap

Page 6 Calendar of Events

Ghosts of the Past

Page 7 New Bookstore Items

Superintendent's Scribblin's

By Edward E. Wood, Jr. Park Superintendent



As you can see from the front of this newsletter, we are trying to conserve our resources by recycling. The better job we do at recycling, the less energy is required to recreate the items we use for living. This perspective made me think about "conserving" other things and how we apply the term CONSERVATION.

We talk about managing resources and conserving them. We practice wildlife conservation by creating habitat and "harvesting" wildlife through hunting and fishing. But I think the term conservation is being used as a catch-all for anything we want to do. Now I'm not an anti-hunting advocate, but the need to kill is not a part of my character. So, when proposals for hunting are made, I often wonder if they are really given the appropriate scrutiny. Hunters will say they have a "right" to hunt, but I think that the consequences of these hunts need to be fully explored. Take for instance, the recently enacted alligator hunts in Southeast Arkansas. When the hunts were initially proposed, I voiced the opinion that hunters would concentrate on the trophy-sized animals and ignore the smaller animals. My thoughts were received by Game officials as without merit since "no hunters could handle an alligator

greater than eight feet long." After three years of hunts, almost all the animals "harvested" have been twelve foot or greater. What's wrong with removing all the big animals? Quite simply, they are fifty or more years old and unless they are imported, there will be no more animals of that size in my lifetime in this area.

Alligators range a fair distance during their mating activities and the three large animals that lived in Arkansas Post National Memorial (where hunting is not permitted) ranged well outside the park boundaries. Visitors to the park used to come to see the big 'gators. Unfortunately, that is no longer possible since the alligators have all been killed by hunters outside the park. I understand that alligators are not attractive to many people and similar to the attitude toward snakes, they would just as soon kill them as not. This is where we come back to the idea of conservation.

Conservation is allowing natural processes to thrive in the appropriate habitats. If man-caused conditions change the environment (climate change, deforestation, pollution, etc.) then we need to rectify the situation and try to restore the natural systems. We need

to set aside areas where undesirable species can be allowed to live without fear of being eliminated. The human population needs to be controlled to prevent over population, starvation and disease. The earth is an amazing planet. It supports a vast array of animals and plants and people need to realize that we are just a small part of the system. We must conserve our resources whatever they be and that requires that we be responsible in all our actions and activities. We also have to be cognizant of the consequences before we act instead of after. I am afraid that people too often focus on the economics and their personal desires without regard to the effects of their actions. In such cases, we are faced with wildlife disappearing or concrete jungles expanding into previously green areas.

Nature practices a scheme of responding to changing conditions (often called, "survival of the fittest.") We need to practice "conservation" or nature will do it for us and I am not sure that we will even survive if we leave it to nature.

**Thank you
to the
YCC and STEP
employees who helped
out this summer!
Good luck with the
School year!**



NPS Photo by David Evans, Facility Manger
(Front Row L-R) Teona Bell, Trinika Logan, Serteria Canady, Carly McSwain, Kirby McCallie, Derrick Reed, Danny Fitzpatrick, Kassie Ray
Back Row (L-R) Ricky Larkin, Dane Duffield, Justin Walker, Dustin Danner, Trevor Lowe, Kay Best

Mistletoe at Arkansas Post

by Sarah Allely, Park Biologist

As autumn arrives and the leaves begin to fall, a mysterious ball of green is revealed in many of Arkansas Post's trees. Growing on leafless branches, this ball of leaves looks out of place and many may wonder what it is. This ball of green is American Mistletoe, a parasitic plant that grows in trees in low-lying, humid areas such as Arkansas Post. The seeds of mistletoe are sticky and are transported from tree to tree on the feathers or fur of birds and animals. Once on the host tree, the mistletoe penetrates the tree with its roots and begins to "steal" nutrients and minerals from the host tree. The mistletoe is not completely dependent upon the host for nutrients and is able to create some of its own food through photosynthesis. Being a parasite, Mistletoe is often thought to be dangerous for trees, but in most situations does not harm the tree. It would take many decades of increasing mistletoe growth to hurt a healthy tree. It is considered to be a tree disease only in areas of timber harvesting. Mistletoe berries are poi-

sonous to humans but can provide important food to certain animals during winter and are considered an important part of the ecosystems in which they exist.

Many associate the idea of mistletoe with the winter holidays. There are many traditions associated with the plant, a favorite being a kiss under the mistletoe at Christmastime. What many may not know is that there are some rules associated with this tradition. First of all, the mistletoe should have berries still attached and be hung in a doorway. Anytime two people are under the mistletoe together, a kiss should ensue and the kisser should remove one of the berries. After all of the berries have been removed, it is considered bad luck to smooch under the mistletoe.

There are many theories as to the origins of kissing under the mistletoe, but regardless of your favorite version, it is a treasured tradition that will hopefully continue for years to come. Although Mistletoe is found



at Arkansas Post, please refrain from removing any from the park. We consider it an important element in our forest ecosystem and the deer, squirrels, and birds that feed on it will appreciate its presence once winter comes.



NPS Photo by Ed Wood, Northern Mockingbird

Volunteer Birders Needed for the Great Backyard Bird Count February 18

If you have experience with bird identification, the park would like to invite you to participate in a bird survey February 18 and another breeding bird survey later in the spring. Learn more about the Backyard Bird Count at <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/input>

Volunteers are asked to call Sarah Allely at 870-548-2210.



NPS Photo by Ed Wood, Park Superintendent

Confederate Prisoners of War

by Joe Herron, Park Ranger

After the Battle of Arkansas Post, a large number of confederate soldiers were taken prisoner. These soldiers were largely from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. They were put on boats and sent upriver to an island near St. Louis and held for nearly two weeks while the government decided where to detain them. Previously a prisoner exchange program had been enacted, but had fallen apart because Jefferson Davis refused to recognize black soldiers as free men. This breakdown would eventually prove detrimental to the south that needed more men.

After the exchange program failed, the troops from Arkansas Post and about 1,500 men captured in Stone's River in Tennessee were the first Confederates to be confined in the reopened Camp Douglas near Chicago. Even without an exchange program, nearly 1,500 out of the reported 4,000 southerners were allowed to leave after swearing an oath of allegiance before the ship rolled into Chicago on January 27, 1863. The soldiers who refused to take the required oath would "pay dearly for their loyalty." (Levy, *To Die in Chicago*, page 122)

History of Camp Douglas

Camp Douglas was situated near the old University of Chicago on the swampy banks of Lake Michigan. Camp Douglas was named for Stephen Douglas who famously debated Abraham Lincoln years before. The camp was originally a recruiting and training station, but was converted to a prison camp early in the war. There was no model for keeping prisoners of war (POWs) in the United States since the last war fought on American soil was the War of 1812. Eventually, the number of men captured in the Civil War would far eclipse both the American Revolution and the War of 1812.

Because of the lack of proper sanitation in the swamp and massive overcrowding, the camp became a breeding ground for diseases like dysentery and smallpox. Doctors inspecting the camp in February 1862, called it an "extermination camp."

After the earlier prisoner exchange was enacted, some union soldiers were held as parolees at Camp Douglas in 1862. These parolees were largely made up of soldiers from Ohio, Illinois, and New York. Frustrated by the conditions of the camp and feeling like they were still prisoners, the parolees rioted on July 23, and many of the barracks and fences were burned during a massive escape attempt.

Camp Conditions in 1863

By January 1863, not all of the barracks had been replaced after the fires set in July. Many times two or more men shared a bunk without a mattress or bedding. Overcrowding, sanitation, and disease haunted the soldiers from Arkansas Post as it had for the soldiers in 1862.

To further exasperate the circumstances, Chicago experienced an extremely harsh winter. These men from the Deep South were not adapted to subzero temperatures. They did not have proper clothing and there was a lack of blankets. Reports from the soldiers' arrival describe them as "poorly clad and dirty". Some were able to write home for parcels, and southern sympathizers also donated clothing.

Prisoner trades briefly resumed and the Arkansas Post POWs were released for the exchange in April. When traveling through Baltimore to Virginia for exchange, at least ten POWs had smallpox which became a political problem for the Camp Douglas leadership.

During the time that they were at Camp Douglas (January to April)



over 700 prisoners died. As bad as their stay was, the conditions got worse when a cavalry unit from Kentucky known as Morgan's Raiders arrived. Escape attempts led to alleged cases of torture and prisoner abuse. This abuse was further impacted by a frequent change in camp leadership and as reprisal for stories of abuse from southern war prisons.

After the War

Historic accounts of the total number of deaths at the camp differ. Newspaper accounts put the number of deaths at Camp Douglas between 3,200 and 6,000. George Levy from Roosevelt University does not settle on a solid number in his book *To Die in Chicago*. He acknowledges the trouble with making an accurate count because of poor record keeping and the possible use of mass graves. Politics and the closing of cemeteries led to the remains being moved to Oak Woods Cemetery. Contractor corruption with the move led to many lost identities. Oak Woods is possibly the largest Confederate Cemetery outside of the south, but there is uncertainty concerning exactly how many soldiers rest there.

Thanks to Megan Prescott for Supplemental Research.

To learn more read:

To Die in Chicago: Confederate Prisoners at Camp Douglas 1862-65 by Eugene Levy

Andersonvilles of the North by James Gillespie

Images of America: Camp Douglas by Kelly Pucci

The History Channel program "Eighty Acres of Hell" (2009)

Program Recap: Summer 2010

Forty kids took part in the Annual Youth Fishing Derby this year. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission supplied 300 channel catfish and the grand prizes for the winners. Even with the extreme heat, Colonial Kids Day and Digital Photography Workshop were well attended. Teacher- Ranger-Teacher Lindsay Robinson Beaton's Trailblazers program had an average of six participants twice a week for six weeks. Five participants earned the Presidential Lifestyle Award. One large group attended Bike Tours in July. Joe Herron held two educator workshops, and helped teachers from four schools with required Arkansas History hours.



NPS Photo by Joe Herron - Presidential Active Lifestyle Award Participants (l-r) Christy Murphy, Carly Watkins (front) Amy Watkins, Lindsay Robinson Beaton, and Don Hubsch

The Fifty Year Anniversary Celebration had support from volunteers John Cover, Dyan Bohnert, Angi Herron, Don Hubsch, Bill Turney, Jody Wood, and Tobe Wood. Representatives from Arkansas Post State Park Museum, the US Army Corp of Engineers, Hot Springs National Park, and Central High School National Historic

Park were also very helpful. Superintendent Wood introduced John Cover who spoke on the history of the park. The Old School Band (from Conway and Sherwood) performed two sets of folk and traditional standards. History Helpers shared games and demonstra-

tions with visitors of all ages. It was a memorable Fourth of July weekend for everyone that worked and attended the celebration.

In October, over 300 guests attended Ghosts of the Past. Read the article on page 6 for more information.



Left photo by Dyan Bohnert, 2010 Photo Contest Entry; All other Photos on this page by Drew Prescott, Park Biotech
L—R Marcia Hein, Natural Resources staff—Cornelius William, Sarah Allely, and Kirby McCallie, guest speaker John Cover, and The Old School Band

Calendar of Events 2011

March 5 - Colonial Encampment: Bring the whole family and learn about Arkansas's French and Spanish period. Reenactors will share stories of life at Arkansas Post before it became a part of the United States. Small arms demonstrations will be given periodically. This event lasts from 10 AM – 4 PM. No Reservations are necessary.

This Year's Camp has been moved to the lawn beside the Visitor Center

March 12 and November 12- Bayou Floats: The floats will travel from Moore's Bayou to Post Bayou. If you cannot bring your own canoe or kayak, some seats may be available. The program is free, but registration is required. Call Joe Herron for more information 870-548-2207.

The 228th Anniversary of Colbert's Raid, April 16: On April 17, 1783, British partisans and Chickasaw Indians attacked the Spanish at Fort Carlos III. This exchange with the American allies is the only Revolutionary War

battle on Arkansas soil. It is one of two battles west of the Mississippi and considered by many to be the last land battle of the war.

Join Park staff, volunteers, and representatives from the Sons of the American Revolution at 1 PM. for a special memorial in honor of those who fought in the battle. Cannon demonstrations and historic talks from 10 AM—2 PM.

April 16 - The 4th Annual Digital Photography Contest: To be eligible, photos must be taken within the park boundaries between April 16 and September 5, 2011. There are six categories in both youth and adult divisions. Contact the park for contest rules and entry forms.

April 23 – Bird Watch: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Kid's birding programs and a special hike to view the Eagle Nest will be held. Bring your binoculars. A limited number of children's binoculars will be available for loan on a first come, first served basis.

The park will offer Family Fun Days every Saturday between June 11 and July 30. Programs begin at 9:00 AM at the Park Visitor Center. Please call 870-548-2207 to make reservations (except for the Youth Fishing Derby).

June 11 – Reptiles and Amphibians

June 18 - Youth Fishing Derby

(Registration begins at 8:30 at the park visitor center; no need to call ahead)

June 25 – Birds and Mammals

July 2 – Colonial Kids Day

July 9 – Digital Photo Workshop

July 16 – Orienteering / Bike Tours

July 23 – Civil War in the Delta

July 30 – Digital Photo Workshop

Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 21 – July 28 -Trailblazers: Join Teacher Ranger Lindsay Robinson Beaton at 8 AM for a special "couch-potato to 5K" running program. Time completing the program can go towards earning the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award. Registration is necessary; call Joe Herron or Lindsay Robinson-Beaton at 870-548-2207.

No Rain for Ghosts of the Past

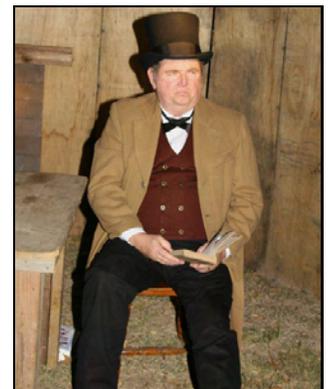
The 16th Annual Ghosts of the Past event missed heavy rains by just a few hours on October 23. Over 300 people took tours through the Old Townsite and around Park Lake. Steve Dunlap with the Arkansas Game and Fish portrayed John Batpiste De La Harpe when he passed through Arkansas Post on his way up the Arkansas River. De La Harpe was the first European to write about the rocky outcrop near the river that would later become Little Rock.

The Spanish Colonial Cannon crew shot the park's garrison gun after a short talk about Colbert's Raid. Administrative Assistant, Jason Allely portrayed William Woodruff who discussed the affairs of 1820 Arkansas Post with volunteers Dyan Bohnert and Marsha Hein. During 1820, Arkansas

Post was Territorial Capital of Arkansas, the Allen –Oden dual took place, and *The Comet* became the first steamboat recorded on the Arkansas River.

Superintendent Ed Wood portrayed Washington Irving on his 1832 visit to Arkansas Post. Andy Taylor and Doyle Taylor debated the southern surrender in 1863 while Mike Bryant shared his letter home as a Northern Soldier after the battle. Perry Bledsoe, Billy Dorsey, Delphine Dorsey, and Ellie Asa Smith sang traditional music. Bio-tech Kirby McCallie closed the tour with a few words on the park's 50 year anniversary.

Volunteer guides and assistants include Jan Hubsch, Donna Herron, Jean Marie



Ed Wood as Washington Irving at Ghosts of the Past; Photo by Jody Wood

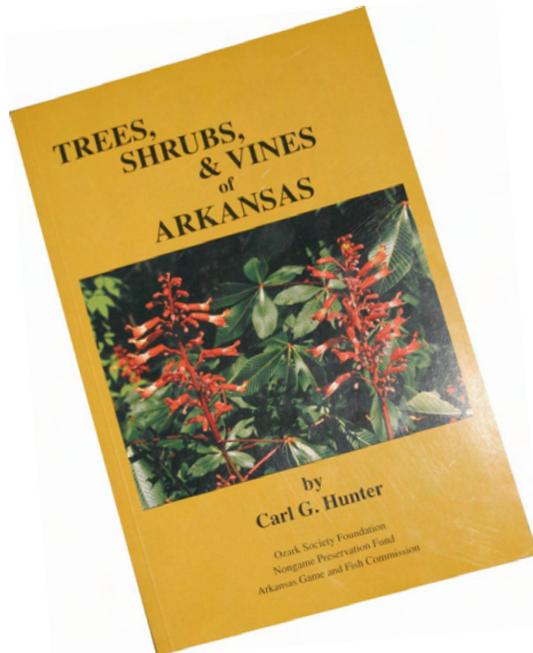
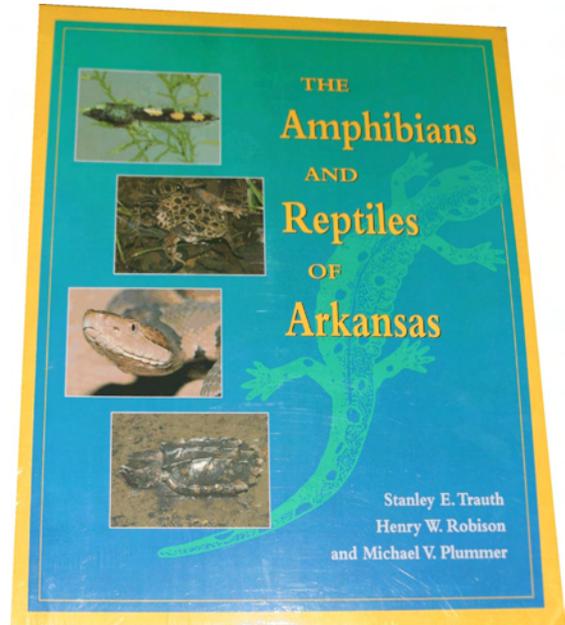
Crater, Elizabeth Easley, Amanda Robertson, Jody Wood, Angi Herron, Ethan Danner, and Holden McCollum.

NEW in the BOOKSTORE

The Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas

by Trauth, Robinson, and Plummer \$32.50

A comprehensive examination of the amphibians and reptiles of Arkansas, featuring over 136 species and subspecies. With over five hundred four-color photos, line drawings, and maps.



Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Arkansas

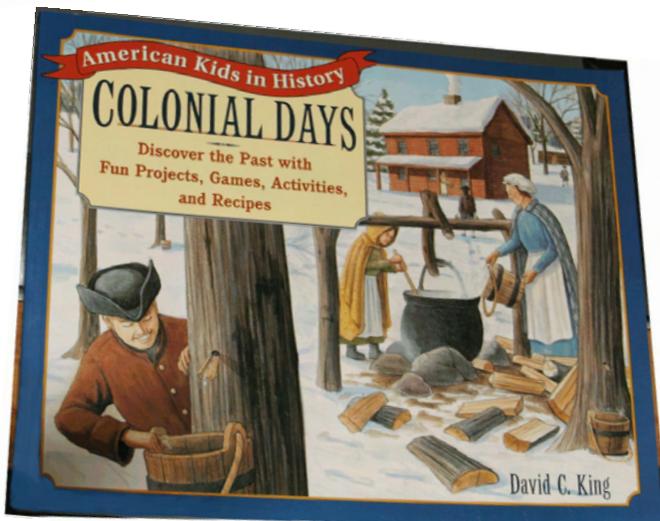
by Carl Hunter \$24.95

325 species are described, with photographs and text. This illustrated guide to woody plants of Arkansas includes drawings of plant parts and descriptions of 68 plant families.

Trekking on a Trail

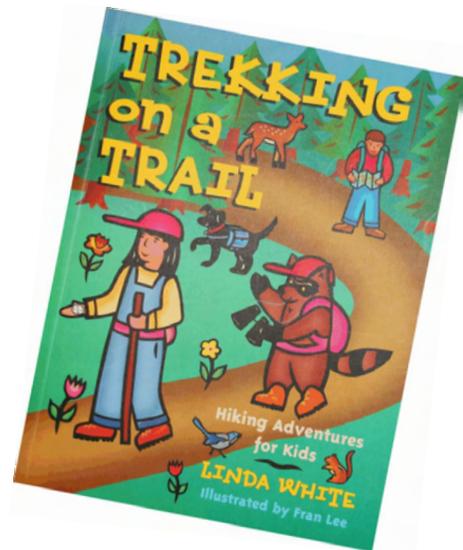
by Linda White \$9.95

Hiking Adventures for Kids; Complete with recipes, exercises, equipment lists, and activities to do along the way.



American Kids in History: Colonial Days by David C. King \$12.95

Discover the past with fun projects, games, activities, and recipes.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arkansas Post National Memorial
1741 Old Post Road
Gillett, AR 72055

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Arkansas Post National Memorial commemorates the earliest European settlement in the Lower Mississippi valley. First established in 1686, the Post was an important staging point for Mississippi River trade between New France and the Gulf of Mexico. Situated along the Arkansas River, the small settlement here blossomed into the first capital of the Arkansas Territory. It was the site of a small Revolutionary War skirmish as well as two-day Civil War Battle.

Arkansas Post National Memorial
1741 Old Post Road
Gillett, AR 72055

Phone
870 548-2207

E-mail
arpo_historian@nps.gov

Internet
www.nps.gov/arpo

Visitor Center Hours
Daily 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grounds and Picnic Area Hours
Daily 8:00 a.m. to dusk

Next Issue - February 2011

Featuring articles on:

-National Park Week

-2010 Digital Photography
Contest Winners

-Invasive Species Reduction

-Fredrick Notrebe

-Superintendent's Scribblins

And More

Photo by Elmer Sparks, Hamburg Ark.
2010 Digital Photography Contest Entry

