



THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

Volume 5, No. 2 x February 2010

Arkansas Post National Memorial Turns 50



2009 Digital Photo Contest Winner, 1st place Historical Under 18. Photo by Conner McCollum - DeWitt, Arkansas

Arkansas Post became a State Park in 1929. Arkansas Post was ideal because of the role it played in Arkansas History. This was the site of the first Territorial Capital in 1819, the publication of the first semi-permanent newspaper west of the Mississippi River, and a major river port for much of the agriculture that took place in the region.

The role of Arkansas Post goes beyond the state of Arkansas. The establishment of the Post in 1686 predates both New Orleans and St. Louis. The Post played an important role in the struggle between European powers for control of the fur trade. The French relationship with the Quapaw Indians was vital to the defense of the Post. After the French, the Spanish held Arkansas Post. An ally to the United States during the American Revolution, the Spanish Post was attacked by British partisans in 1783 in one of the last land actions of the war and the only one that occurred in Arkansas.

The Civil War battle in 1863 is considered to be part of the larger Vicksburg campaign. The town of Arkansas Post would never recover.

On July 6, 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law legislation for the creation of Arkansas Post National Memorial. The National Park Service established the site to commemorate the first permanent European Settlement in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Arkansas Post State Park Museum opened nearby to continue the story of what happened after the Civil War.

National Park Service staff and volunteers will celebrate the anniversary throughout 2010. The biggest event will be the 50th Anniversary Party on Saturday, July 3. While more details will be put forth in the Spring Newsletter, expect Living History Demonstrations and guest speakers. July 3 will be a day of celebration for the whole family.

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Program Recap

AETN Offers 3D Views of Arkansas Post

In the last newsletter, we discussed Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN) and the Parks Initiative. One exciting part of the promotion is a series of 3D segments shot at each of the six National Park Sites in Arkansas. Footage at Arkansas Post was shot last summer. The over three minute footage includes the Arkansas Post Town-site, Visitor Center, Moore's Bayou, and wildlife.

If you are interested in viewing these shorts visit www.aetn.org/park/3d. AETN has a link to get 3D glasses. If you do not have internet, Arkansas Post Visitor Center has temporarily set up a computer and glasses for visitors to see the shorts anytime 8 AM to 5 PM.

Wonder which photo won the 2009 digital photo contest? Find out on pages 4-5.

Superintendent's Scribblin's



As I was looking around in my garage the other day, I thought to myself that I sure have a bunch of junk.

There was stuff that I haven't unpacked since our last move ten years ago and I even saw several boxes with markings that indicated that they were packed more than fifteen years ago. Now I am quite sure that when they were packed, they were "must keep" or at least "sort-when-we-get-there" types of things but now they are just taking up space. I intended to look at them, but something always seems to come up and they just pile up. I must be one of the world's biggest packrats!

When something breaks or reaches the end of its useful life I catch myself thinking that it should be recycled or salvaged for spare parts. I hate to be wasteful and don't want to contribute to the overflowing landfills so I do my part and often will salvage the screws and any other "useful" pieces before I toss out the remaining carcass. I have a vast collection of miscellaneous screws, nails and all sorts of strange fasteners and maybe once every several months I will actually find a use for one or two. It feels good when I do use one too; of course it might take me an hour to find the right screw but it doesn't cost me anything. If I lived in the city, I could probably go to the local hardware store and get the exact replacement in a couple of minutes, but hey, I'm concerned for the environment, right?

OK, I can justify my saving fasteners but how can I explain fan blades, or a lawnmower wheel, or a broken pole lamp? I guess I just have to face my obsession and say there is not a good excuse for my behavior. So, I'll just put it in the garage and throw it out the next time I clean the garage – which I never seem to do! If you subscribe to the old cliché: One man's junk is an-

other man's treasure, I would be wealthy if only I could find that "other man."

I also enjoy going to garage sales and estate auctions. I'm always on the lookout for bargains. The problem is that I am always bringing home more junk – but it was cheaper than I could have bought it at the store! When I think about it later, I probably wouldn't have bought it at the store anyway, so my bargain is really just stuff I really don't need and in the garage it goes.

If you think of my saved and salvaged items as the cultural resources that they are, how do you determine what to keep and what to discard? If I were the President of the United States, everything in my garage would be significant because it would be associated with an historic figure. Imagine what might show up on eBay (my old toothbrush, a worn out tennis shoe, etc.) and they would probably sell to boot! But this scenario brings to mind the question what cultural resources are really worth keeping? Do we, as museums, parks, historic places have to preserve every artifact?

Throughout my career with the National Park Service I have worked in a wide range of parks and every one had a museum collection and a controlled storage area or at least access to one to preserve and protect the museum collection. Depending on the type of park, we had collections of either cultural or natural artifacts or both. We constantly struggled with defining our Scope of Collections and often when it was updated, part of the collection fell outside the updated scope. Now what? If you follow the Museum Standards, you make the items outside the scope available to other museums. When the items fall within their scope and they have the space to house them, the items are transferred and all is well. But that leaves the stuff that no other museum wants, so we box it up.

Sometimes it gets discarded, but often it is sold as surplus. But then there are the items that can't be discarded – the stuff that only museums can legally have (Indian arrowheads collected on Federal lands, raptor feathers, etc.)

My garage is overflowing with treasure but my capacity is limited. Museums constantly seek funding to expand their storage facilities to keep up with their growing collections. Duplicates of artifacts are found or collected and added to collections. Operating costs rise proportionally, and that stresses budgets. We all have to draw the line and decide what we're going to keep. We cannot save everything, nor should we.

Several years ago my siblings and I were faced with the distribution of my mother's estate after she passed away. It included all the items she had saved over her 80+ years and many of the items were associated with our collective upbringing. Some were of no value to any of us but there were still a large number of things that meant something to one or more of us. Deciding who would keep these treasures was difficult since it meant that those who did not keep them would probably never see that item again. For me, it was a constant feeling of loss of the memorabilia. So I saved a lot of things that I felt had significance to me, rented a truck and hauled several tons of things back home to my garage. Oh, I opened many of the boxes when I got home, but many are still carefully sealed. I take solace in the knowledge that they were saved for posterity but I am perplexed as to how I will be able to enjoy them until they can be passed on to my offspring.

This whole dilemma is such a mess and so is my garage. It's too complex for me to think about and it gives me a headache. So, I'll just turn out the garage light, close the door, and go watch some TV.

Edward E. Wood, Jr.
Park Superintendent

Upcoming Bird Survey at Arkansas Post

by Sarah Allely, Biologist

Every year during breeding season, the Heartland Network Inventory and Monitoring Program's scientists oversee a survey of the birds at Arkansas Post. The survey provides information about bird populations and breeding habitats in the park and ultimately allows us to monitor the health of our bird community. It also serves to improve our understanding of the birds at the park. The health level of the bird community helps us to assess the integrity of the prairie and bottomland hardwood habitats at Arkansas Post and guides us in making decisions regarding habitat management.

Past surveys have revealed that the bird community is beneficially influenced by our diverse mix of habitats that include woodland, field/prairie, lawn, riparian, wetland, and woodland edge areas. The surveys have also shown that the species richness, diversity, and distribution levels are at expected levels.

An initial survey conducted in 2007 identified 42 species of birds occurring at the park; 17 are permanent residents, 24 are summer residents, and 1 is a late migrant resident of the park. Eleven species at the park are considered to be of continental importance, which are species that have experienced population decline, have small ranges, or whose habitats are threatened.



NPS photo by Ed Wood. The Mockingbird, Arkansas's state bird, is frequently seen at the park in the spring season.

During the survey, volunteer birders monitor birds at several locations within the park. The survey sites are divided between all types of habitat in both units of the park. Twenty-one of the sites are located at the Memorial Unit, and fifteen are located at the Osotouy Unit. Each year, the park seeks out volunteers to assist with the surveys. The surveys take place from mid-May to mid-June and we start each day at daybreak and

survey until four hours after sunrise. The park provides the volunteers with bird identification training and materials, transportation to sites, and identification assistance. Volunteers need only have an interest in bird identification; you do not need to be an expert to join the surveys.

If you would like to assist with the bird survey or have any questions about the survey, please contact Park Biologist Sarah Allely at 870-548-2210.



2009 Digital Photo Contest Entry Walter Jagiello, North Little Rock, Arkansas

A Word from the Editor

We had a very exciting summer and fall in 2009. The summer seasonals and YCC students did some very good work in the park. Much of the view shed around Post Bend has been opened up. Colonial Kids Day and Meet Me at the Park were both well attended. Many people who attended Ghosts of the Past this year had some very nice things to say about the event. I personally want to thank the staff and volunteers who made it a success.

Please enjoy the newsletter. We are all looking forward to the anniversary celebration. We hope you can join us.

*Joe Herron
Park Ranger*

2009 Digital Photo Contest Winners



1st Place Historical
Mark E. Cater - Monticello Arkansas



First Place Wildlife
Elmer Sparks—Hamburg, Arkansas



First Place Macro Tie
Jenifer McCollum - DeWitt, Arkansas



First Place Recreation (Under 18)
Holden McCollum - DeWitt, Arkansas



2009 Digital Photo Contest Winners
L-R back— Marilyn Sutton, Tammy DeBerry, Linda Lambert, Jenifer McCollum
Front—Stacey Cox, Conner McCollum, Holden McCollum
Not pictured—Mark E. Cater and Elmer Sparks
Photo by Angi Herron, Park Volunteer



First Place Plantlife (Under 18)
Stacey Cox - DeWitt, Arkansas



First Place Landscape and Grand Champion
Tammy DeBerry - DeWitt, Arkansas



First Place Plantlife
Mark E. Cater - Monticello Arkansas



First Place Macro Tie
Marilyn Sutton - Bauxite, Arkansas



First Place Landscape (Under 18)
Stacey Cox - DeWitt, Arkansas



First Place Macro (Under 18)
Holden McCollum - DeWitt, Arkansas

[See the contest winners below on other pages of the newsletter:](#)

Page 1
First Place Macro (Under 18)
Conner McCollum - DeWitt, Arkansas

Page 8
First Place Recreation
Linda Lambert—Dumas, Arkansas

**Thanks to Everyone who entered.
The 2010 Digital Photo Contest will be
from April 17 - Labor Day.**

Comings and Goings

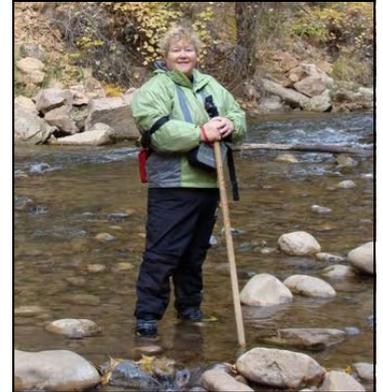


Sarah Allely, Biologist, comes to the park from the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. Sarah will be doing much of the same work that Leo Acosta did as Resource Manager. Sarah has been with the National Park Service for 2 years and is earning a masters degree in Park and Resource Management.



Jason Allely, Park Guide, is a first time National Park employee who comes from Iowa State University. He has a bachelors degree in Liberal Arts and is currently pursuing a bachelors degree in History.

Jason is a participant in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP). Other STEPs in the park include maintenance workers **Justin Walker** and **Dustin Danner** from the University of Arkansas, Monticello. Justin Walker also splits his time helping in the Visitor Center on weekends.



Jodi Morris, Education Coordinator, has transferred to a Park Ranger position at Central High School National Historic Site. In her short time at Arkansas Post, Jodi coordinated the 2008 Ghosts of the Past, began bayou floats of the park, gave teacher workshops, and a series of Junior Ranger Day Camps. We appreciate all of Jodi's hard work and wish her good luck with her new position.

Arkansas Post NM

Volunteering

Opportunities

In 2010 the park will rely heavily on volunteers such as Historic Reenactors. Some volunteers may also be needed to complete the upcoming bird survey (see article on page 3). If you have skills that you feel would help the park, please contact Joe Herron at 870-548-2270 or joey_herron@nps.gov. The volunteer application is found at <http://www.nps.gov/getinvolved/volunteer.htm> under resources.



Dyan Bohnert at the Meet Me at the Park event in July.

V.I.P. Spotlight on Dyan Bohnert

Dyan Bohnert is versatile with the characters she brings to events at Arkansas Post. During the Colbert's Raid Anniversary and Meet Me at the Park, she gave her program, "A Ladies Life". This program focuses on the daily routine of women in the early nineteenth century. Another popular character is the Civil War Medicine Woman which visitors recently saw during Ghosts of the Past. Outside of the park, she presents an American Indian program which is inspired by her Apache great-grandmother.

Dyan is active with the First Arkansas Artillery. She is member of both the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association (EARA) and Arkansas Living History Association (ALHA). She is a member of the Order of the Confederate Rose in Greenville Mississippi and The Order of the Black Rose. She is Historian and Secretary for the Camp White Sulphur Springs Aid Society. Dyan recently won the General James F. Fagan Award for Best Scrapbook with the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV).

With an enthusiasm for History, Dyan brings these characters to life to help educate and inspire young people to learn about their roots. A native to Arkansas County, Dyan volunteers for both the park and also for the Arkansas Post State Park Museum. Dyan Bohnert has been integral in telling the Arkansas Post story.

2010 Calendar of Events

2010 marks the 50 year anniversary of Arkansas Post National Memorial. Please join us for any of the number of special events

February 20 -21 -Civil War Encampment Visit with Union soldiers who share stories from the Battle of Arkansas Post and the days that followed. Programs will be held on Saturday afternoon, Noon - 5 PM and Sunday morning 9 AM—Noon. Reservations are not necessary for this program.

March 6 -7 -The Colonial Encampment at Arkansas Post will be held at the picnic area. Reenactors will share details about life in Arkansas during the French and Spanish Colonial period. Reservations are not necessary, but school groups are encouraged to inquire about special programs on March 5. Please call Joe Herron at 870-548-2207 for details.

March 27 - Spring Bayou Float will travel from Moore's Bayou to Post Bayou. Registration is required.

April 17 -Colbert's Raid: 227th Anniversary This was the only Revolutionary War battle in Arkansas and perhaps the last land action of the war

in 1783. Join park staff and volunteers from 10 AM to 2 PM for a memorial to those who fought in the battle. A blackpowder demonstration will also be given.

The 3rd Annual Photography Contest will be open April 17 through Labor Day. To be eligible, photos must be taken within the park boundaries between April 17 and September 6, 2010. There are youth and adult divisions for all categories. All entries must be received by 5 PM September 13, 2010. Contact the park for contest rules and entry form.

June 19 - Youth Fishing Derby Try your hand at catching the big one in the Arkansas Post Youth Fishing Derby. Park Lake will be stocked by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission with 300 channel catfish for this event. Prizes will be awarded for the largest catfish and for the most catfish landed. Competition is open to youth 12 and under. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. Competition fishing from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Fishing will be open to all ages after the contest.

July 3 - Arkansas Post 50 Year Celebration. The park was established in 1960 to memorialize the first

European Settlement in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Join us for a day of celebration with special presentations and historical reenactments. More details will be announced.

Arkansas Post Teacher Workshops -Summer Dates TBA Educators are encouraged to refresh their Arkansas History at the place where it all began - Arkansas Post. Talks on different aspects of the fur trade, the beginning of Arkansas Territorial Government, and the Civil War will be given at the where many of these events took place. Educators will earn six hours of in-service credit for attending. Please call 870-548-2207 to register.

October 23 - Ghosts of the Past Join park staff and volunteers for a guided, candlelight walk through Arkansas History. Reservations are strongly recommended.

November 13 - Fall Bayou Float will travel from Moore's Bayou to Post Bayou. Registration is required.

Program Recap: Summer-Fall 2009

2009 was a very active summer. In June, the park held digital photography workshops, Family Fun Days, Junior Ranger Day-camps, and Colonial Kids Day. AETN's Meet Me at the park was a huge success with attendance of over 200 people. Central High NHS, Hot Springs NP, Cane Creek State Park, and Arkansas Post State Park Museum all contributed to the event. We appreciate AETN for hosting the event. Jodi Morris, Lindsay Robinson-Beaton, Brandon Allen, and park volunteers were very busy this summer and we appreciate their hard work.

The 15th Annual Ghosts of the Past had over 230 visitors. The stops this year included the Spanish Cannon Crew, John James Audubon, The Civil War Medicine Woman, Union Soldiers away from home, and a Gospel Music scene. Lindsay Robinson-Beaton talked about Arkansas Post today. David Ware also gave a talk on Arkansas Territorial Government in 1819. Volunteers from Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas Post State Park Museum, and Lake Chicot State Park served with as guides for the hour long walking tour.

The Fall Float was a big success due to the participation of the Arkansas Canoe Club. It was a record 20 people in canoes and kayaks. Volunteer Don Hubsch led the float. As mentioned in the last issue, Don Hubsch has been working with the Corp of Engineers and Arkansas Game and Fish to Establish a water trail around Arkansas Post National Memorial. The park hopes to have a ribbon cutting at one of the floats in 2010.





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 - Spring 2010

- **More Details of Arkansas Post 50 Year Anniversary Celebration**
- **Junior Ranger Programs for Summer**
- **Superintendent's Scribblins and More**



2009 Digital Photo Contest Winner, 1st Place Recreational.
Linda Lambert - Dumas, Arkansas