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MAGAZINE

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### **ON THE COVER**

**Welcome** to our 2022 Ozarks Magazine spring edition. Now that winter weather is behind us, we are ready to welcome spring, and all the beauty that this time of year brings to north central Arkansas and south central Missouri.

Our spring cover features one of our most popular attractions, our rivers. And this time of year, the most popular activity on those rivers is fishing. Inside you will find stories on this favorite past-time: a guide to fishing on the Crooked Creek Water Trail and a history of fly fishing. The Crooked Creek Water Trail is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike who want to experience the great bass fishing it offers, as well as a chance for solitude, exploration, or even a float trip. If you love waterfalls, we introduce you to a hike that features two beautiful waterfalls in one trip: Broadwater Falls and Paige Falls near Harrison, AR.

A little further east in Arkansas is the town of Cotter. There we introduce you to Jason and Kammi Nazarenko, who are revitalizing the town by renovating and restoring historic buildings and repurposing them to bring business and tourism to this quaint small town. From there, we take you to Mountain Home, AR, where we explore the rich history of FFA in this town, and introduce you to Lyn Cotter, an agriculture instructor and FFA instructor who shares his passion for his students and this organization.

As we move to Missouri, we visit a popular restaurant in Branson, MO, Billy Gail's Cafe. Their original location in Branson has been a favorite of locals and tourists alike since 1995, impressing customers with menu items like their signature 14" pancake. This success has allowed them to expand recently to another Branson location and a new location in Ozark, MO.

From there, we move to West Plains, MO with ideas for things to do throughout the spring and summer.While we're there, we meet Shirl Porter, whose hobby making home-made goats milk soap was born from an interest in helping family members and patients she met in her career as a medical caregiver. She shows us how she makes these special soaps, and, if your interest is piqued, we share with you where you can pick some up for yourselves.

Thanks for reading!

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# **BILLY GAIL'S CAFE SATISFIES HUNGRY GUESTS**

#### **By Donna Braymer** *donnab@harrisondailv.com*

**F** or a fun place to eat some authentic foods of the Ozarks one must visit Billy Gail's Cafe in Branson, Missouri. A large appetite is needed to take advantage of the generous portions provided.

Billy and Gail Blong, of Minnesota, visited Branson for the first time in 1994. "They fell in love with the beauty of the Ozarks and the friendliness of the people. This was the beginning of a longtime commitment to the people of Branson to preserve the heritage of the area," a spokesperson said.

When they opened on May 18, 1995, it became a great success almost overnight. "Gail worked



The original Billy Gail's Cafe is located on Missouri State Highway 265 and recently expanded the parking lot to handle the larger crowds. An additional Branson location is opening on Gretna Road in late spring.

tirelessly to make the restaurant a special place for families, friends and visitors to come and eat. She worked in the restaurant every day well into her 80s. She said, 'If you love what you do, do what you love. Then you will feel as if you haven't worked a day in your life.' "

One of the current staff members said, "Mrs. Gail was spunky, caring and a kind-hearted spirit that made you feel a part of her family immediately upon meeting you. As a customer, you were always greeted with a smile, a few or a lot of kind words and a hug before you left. There will never be another. She's missed and loved by everyone that had the pleasure of meeting her." "They moved down here to start the business. The reason the portions are so large is because when Billy went out to eat, he could never find anyone who had portions large enough for him."

They are famous for their madefrom-scratch 14-inch pancake. They've recently begun serving Billion Dollar Bacon which is hardwood smoked, baked with brown sugar, black pepper, cayenne, and maple syrup. Another favorite is the Monte Cristo Sandwich which includes billion dollar bacon, slow smoked ham, two thick slices of French toast, cheddar jack cheese, two over easy eggs, and toasted to perfection.

A twist on breakfast foods is the 🕨

Manager Brittany Wilson said,



A couple from Branson enjoy eating at Billy Gail's Cafe at the original location on State Hwy. 265 close to Silver Dollar City in Branson.



French Cakes Billy discovered when he couldn't decide between having a pancake or having French toast. A pancake is prepared and then dipped in the French toast batter and cooked again. It is served as a pecan, blueberry, bacon, or original "French Cake." Customers love it.

Breakfast is served all day. But with salads, burgers, catfish, fried chicken and tenderloin sandwiches on the menu it's difficult to decide between breakfast or brunch for lunch.

Current owners Alan, Sherrie Kram and Josh and Nekeesha Rasmussen have added some new items to Billy Gail's which customers love. Josh's smoked tri-tip sandwich, a one-pound mighty tenderloin sandwich, or BBQ that is smoked daily makes it very difficult to decide.

"Our goal is to make Billy and Gail proud and keep their dream still going. We appreciate the long support for Gail and her family and her restaurant. We are excited to keep the torch burning and have expanded to Ozark so more guests can fall in love with the traditional comfort food of Billy Gail's," the owners said.

Breakfast is served all day, and lunch is served after 11 a.m. Hours for the Branson location are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. Friday and Saturday hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The original location is at 5291 State Hwy 265, Branson, Missouri. The



Manager Brittany Wilson shows off a 14inch made-from-scratch pancake at Billy Gail's Cafe. A customer bragged that leftovers are great to take home.

phone number is 417-338-8883.

District manager Nick Baker said, "We are excited to open another Billy Gail's location in Branson to better serve our customers. An additional Branson location plans to open in late spring at the Branson Mill on Gretna Road next to Big Air."

Billy Gail's recently expanded to Ozark, Missouri and is located at 1882 W James River Road. The phone number is 417-582-2600. The Ozark hours are Sunday-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinner is available from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Baker added, "We are also affiliated with Flat Creek in Cape Fair, Missouri located on Table Rock Lake. All of our restaurants have great atmospheres and generous portions of delicious food."



# **CROOKED CREEK WATER TRAIL FOR FISHING FUN**

### By Jeff Dezort

Harrison Daily Times

rooked Creek in Arkansas is known for smallmouth bass fishing, but it offers much more for visitors seeking solitude, exploration and a float trip down a river. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission designated the 22-mile Crooked Creek Water Trail in 2012.

Here are some of my more recent experiences last year on this section of the Blue Ribbon Smallmouth stream.

It's Aug. 1 — I have been trying to catch up on my fishing, but for one reason or another I haven't been very successful catching fish. The oppressive heat finally broke today as it rained very early this morning. I decided to go to Crooked Creek at Pyatt and give it a go. The water was still low, but I targeted the riffles. I recalled a time several years ago, many years ago, when a fishing buddy told me that this is the best time to fish. He said fish will go to the source of their food which in these conditions are riffles - water quickly flowing over stones and rocks across the stream.

I stood downstream and threw my Rebel Wee Craw crawfish crankbait into the riffle and then reeled it in just fast enough to keep the line tight and the bait close to the bottom as the current pushed the bait back to me. I was surprised to catch several sunfish, rock bass and even this nice, creek-sized smallmouth bass in water less than knee-deep.

Sept. 20 - It was a great day on Crooked Creek. The fish are still biting and today, they were flying. It was like they didn't want to be in the water. As soon as they were hooked they jumped up into the air, multiple times.

If you don't have a kayak or canoe you can always step out and wade the creek. The water level is higher in the spring, but drops significantly in the summer months, so knowing where productive fishing holes are located is helpful.

PHOTOS BY JEFF DEZORT/STAFF

They were mostly on the large size today, too. The average length of the smallies were 14 inches.

Today's fish were caught on a rather unusual combination of rod and reel. The rod is a 6-foot, medium action Berkley Cherrywood<sup>®</sup> rod and a D.A.M. Quick AT 250 spinning reel with a rear drag. D.A.M. stands for Deutshe Angelgeräte Manufaktur, which translates in English as "German fishing equipment manufactures." They are a company out of West Berlin, Germany, that was founded in 1875.

D.A.M. Quick fishing reels are very well made, but a bit heavy, which might be one reason why they aren't used as often any more. Another reason is because of their collective value to those who enjoy them for their vintage aspects. And because of their durable construction, they last for an extremely long time. I bought my fairly more modern model a couple years ago at a flea market in Missouri. It has 5 ball bearings.

I spooled the reel soon after I bought it with Cajun<sup>®</sup> red monofilament 8-pound fishing line. Why did I do that?

Science at the time explained that red line is translucent, light passes through, if it's red it reflects all light in the red spectrum and all else will pass through. At the depths where red is filtered out there is no more red light coming through the water to reflect off the line so everything else is passed through leaving the line "invisible."

On the other hand, red hooks are solid bodies, all light is absorbed besides red which is reflected. Light will not pass through hooks and such, so at the depths where red is filtered out all other wavelengths of light will be absorbed. So technically at those depths when nothing is reflected back you get black.

Actually, I just thought it looked neat, and fish don't care about the color of the line, just what is at the end of it.

I tell you about the bait that I catch fish on, not because I am compensated by the lure companies to do so. Rather I just want you to know what baits work where I fish. I will be honest with you and tell you what lures I try out that do not work for me.

Today I fished the following baits with much success: Slider<sup>®</sup> minnow. I find white and blue are the colors that work best for me, and in clear water; Z Man TRD fitness worm fished wacky style, meaning I put the hook through the middle of the bait and secured it with a small rubber band. This way the worm slides up the line while the hook remains in the fish's jaw and Zoom Bait Company Meathead<sup>®</sup> plastic worm. ►





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Where I fish most baits are no more than 4-5 inches long. Anything larger I think scares the fish as they appear to be more of a predator than prey.

### About the Crooked Creek Water Trail:

The trail covers 22 miles of the stream – from Lower Pyatt Access to Yellville – although other stretches of the stream may be floated. The water level in the creek depends entirely on rainfall. This peaceful stream can turn into a raging torrent very quickly, especially during heavy spring rains. Paddlers should seek weather and water-level information before beginning a trip.

For those planning longer routes, primitive campsites are available at Snow Access and Brooksher Crooked Creek Preserve, which has no access by road. Paddlers also may camp at Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek with permission from the center's manager. Camping is limited to one night per campsite.

Almost all property along Crooked Creek is privately owned and marked by fences, signs or purple paint. Please respect private property and camp only at designated areas.

### **Float Time**

Under normal conditions, paddlers can expect to cover about 2 miles per hour on this stream with deep pools, fast chutes, riffles and small waves. The water level in the creek depends entirely on rainfall. This peaceful stream can turn into a raging torrent very quickly, especially during heavy spring rains. Paddlers should seek weather and water-level information before beginning their trip.

A U.S. Geological Survey gauge reads conditions near Kelley's Slab at the Fred Berry Conservation Education Center on Crooked Creek: https:// waterdata.usgs.gov/. A moderate level for floating the creek is 12-12.5 feet. Use caution at Kelley's Slab, which can be hazardous under some conditions.

### Don't Get a Ticket

According to Arkansas law, children 12 and under must wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and everyone aboard must have one ready to use. Vessels 16 feet and longer must have a throwable life preserver aboard. Glass containers are illegal in boats such as canoes and kayaks, which can be easily swamped. Paddlers must securely fasten cooler lids, and use attached mesh litter bags and floating holders for beverages.

### Wildlife and Habitat

The creek flows through rolling pastureland, cedar glades, bluffs and tree-lined banks. Oak-hickory forests, willow, hackberry, pawpaw, catalpa and black walnut provide habitat for mink, beaver, deer and river otters. Watch for belted king-fishers, ospreys, wood ducks and herons. Bald eagles migrate from fall to early spring; some are year-round residents.



## FAMILY TRADITION COTTER CONTINUES AGRICULTURE LEGACY



Lyndell "Lyn" Cotter, agriculture instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor at Norfork High School, has been with the Norfork School District for nine years. He came to teaching later in life and regrets that he didn't start sooner. PHOTO BY HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

### by Helen Mansfield

Former ag businessman turns teacher, leads eighth decade of Norfork FFA

yndell "Lyn" Cotter, agriculture instructor and Future Farmers of America advisor at Norfork High School, says his biggest regret about becoming a teacher is that he didn't do it sooner.

He originally got his degree in agriculture from Arkansas State University in 1992 with an emphasis in animal science. As a 1987 graduate of Viola High School, Cotter was a member of the Viola's FFA program, having been elected as sentinel his sophomore year, secretary his junior year and president his senior year.

Cotter worked from 1997 to 2008 at the Fulton County Farm Bureau when he got the itch to teach. This time he went the non-traditional student route and took courses through ASU, graduating in 2010 with a masters in plant science.

"My only regret is that I didn't start

earlier," he said.

He's been teaching ag at Norfork for nine years and has been one in a long-line of FFA advisors in the school's long, 82-year-history with FFA.

Cotter and his wife, Leah Smith Cotter — who serves as the chief financial officer for the Mountain Home Public School District have been married for 32 years and have two children. Their daughter Hannah Walker, 27, is married to Cody Walker; they live in Henderson and have two children, Claire age 4 and Charlie, age 2.

Their son Bodie Cotter is 24 and lives in Mountain Home. He is attending the University of Arkansas, pursuing his masters in plant science.

"And all three of them, Hannah, Cody and Bodie were all active members of FFA too," Leah Cotter said proudly.

Prior to coming to Norfork, Cotter taught at Mountain Home and had Hannah as a student.

"I'm proud of the fact our family roots run deep in ag and FFA; from the looks of things, our grandkids will be following suit," he said. "And I have to give credit to my high school ag teacher, Mr. Jim Walling, who taught at Viola for more than 30 years. He ran a model program and the example he modeled for others was priceless." The Norfork Chapter of FFA is what they call an "affiliated chapter," meaning that each ag student automatically becomes a paid member of FFA.

"Everyone has the same opportunities to experience what FFA has to offer without the financial burden of paying dues," Cotter said. "Thanks go out to the school for paying this fee for our students."

The majority of Cotter's ag students and FFA'ers are currently girls. He's seen the level of interest in certain courses change over the time he's been at Norfork and the district tries to tailor the classes to the level of interest.

"As the kids cycle through, there's more plant science, more leadership classes and of course classes in livestock," he said.

Cotter adds that he's glad that some of the students will be out this coming week for practice competitions. He said the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly altered the activities that students are able to participate in over the last two years and he's even heard that some schools have FFA students that haven't been out to compete at all during their time in the program.

One of Cotter's favorite things about FFA is that it consists of "student-led, student-driven activities."

"I'm here to advise from time to time as need arises," he said.

# **A TREASURE**

### By Helen Mansfield

The Baxter Bulletin

s is written on the National FFA website, "Future Farmers of America' was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. Their mission was to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding a growing population. They taught us that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it's a science, it's a business and it's an art."

While always growing and evolving to keep up with the ever-changing needs of the agricultural future, FFA also cherishes the time-honored traditions of the past.

Since his time as the agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Norfork High School, Lyndell "Lyn" Cotter and all the school's instructors and advisors before him — has been safekeeping a delightful piece of Norfork FFA history.

The item is a hand-made, hand-colored invitation for the first father-and-son banquet hosted by the Norfork Chapter of the FFA from 1940. He believes the 1939-40 school year was the first year FFA operated at the school.

The invitation consists of four pages that were drawn to resemble an ear of corn and each page was typed, probably on a manual typewriter, back before the days of printers, copiers or even mimeograph machines.

On page one, the invitation reads that the banquet would take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 1940, at the Home Economics Cottage. Page two lists the names of the FFA chapter's officers which included President Homer Hurst, Vice-president Leffel Hicks, Secretary Junior Murphy, Treasurer Gene Alexander, Reporter Paul Rosenbaum and Advisor Wilson E. Porter.

Page three contains the evening's program which consists of 15 points, beginning with item one, the "ritual opening," initiated by the FFA officers. A quartet consisting of Thomas Cameron, Ernest Smith, Kenneth Jackson and Truman Smith, along with a piano solo by Mrs. Maxine Raymond, performed for the attendees. A special talk was given by E.M. Ragsdale and the guest speaker for the evening was Earl Landers.

The last page consisted of the evening's menu which started with a "tomato juice cocktail," a traditional drink of the time that was made from sliced tomatoes, chopped onion and green pepper, water, sliced celery, sugar, salt and pepper. The entrée



Norfork High School agriculture instructor and FFA advisor Lyndell "Lyn" Cotter has been safekeeping a delightful piece of Norfork FFA history from 1940. The item is a hand-made, hand-colored invitation for the first father and son banquet hosted by the Norfork Chapter of the FFA. He believes the 1939-40 school year was the first year FFA operated at the school.

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY LANGSTON

was baked chicken and gravy, green beans, buttered corn, baked potatoes, egg and cucumber salad, hot rolls, butter and apple pie for dessert with either coffee or milk to drink. For an 82-year-old document, the invitation is in surprisingly good condition. Cotter said at some point he will have to have it framed to protect it.



## BRINGING LIFE TO OLD TOWN COTTER

### JASON AND KAMMI NAZARENKO RENOVATE HISTORICAL SITES DOWNTOWN

### By Helen Mansfield

hen Jason Nazarenko found himself walking around the streets of his former hometown of Cotter, he noticed he was tripping over the same cracks in the sidewalk that had been there when he was a kid. That became one of the motivating factors in his desire to make improvements to the town while restoring the old historic buildings of the city's downtown.

Nazarenko and his wife Kammi Nazarenko own the property that sits at the corner of 2nd and Combs Streets, the former Cumberland Presbyterian Church in downtown Cotter. Jason is a 1994 graduate of Cotter High School and the former Kammi Statler grew up in Mountain Home, After retiring from the Army, where Jason served as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, the couple returned to Cotter in 2018 and since then has been rehabilitating historic, old properties in town.

Nazarenko said he and his wife had no previous experience or training in construction and

The former Cumberland Presbyterian Church in downtown Cotter has been turned into a vacation rental property by owners Jason and Kammi Nazarenko. The building features all its original windows from 1914 which were purchased from a manufacturer in Germany around the beginning of World War I.

PHOTOS BY HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

design, but joked "We've seen HDTV just like everybody else." When they decided to return to Cotter, they looked for a place that would also accommodate Kammi's mom, so they decided to tackle the old Potter Block building that was constructed in 1921. They built three apartments, one for them, one for mom and one to rent.

He joked the old building looked rough and had some rough tenants before they bought it, so much so Nazarenko's dad Bill told them "don't do it; just walk away." The street-side of the building's second floor was overrun with

vines, the awning covered up some of the original windows which couldn't be seen from the inside either because of a drop ceiling that had been installed.

Nazarenko's has photos of Seth and Ruby Adeline Potter who constructed the building. The couple lived in a portion upstairs and rented out part of it; downstairs they ran a "saloon and salon." He said it took them about a year to complete the building that now offers three rental properties.

Another year-long project for the couple was the location of the old Cumberland Presbyterian Church in **>** 





Located at the corner of 2nd and Combs Streets in downtown Cotter, the former Cumberland Presbyterian Church is a vacation rental. The five-bedroom, threebath property rents for approximately \$325 a night and can accommodate up to 15 adults. Helen Mansfield/The Baxter Bulletin

downtown Cotterwhich was constructed in 1914. Now set up as a five-bedroom, thee-bath vacation rental, the building can accommodate 15 people and features air conditioning, laundry facilities, TV and internet, along with breakfast. It rents for around \$325 a night.

Nazarenko said the windows for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church were ordered from Germany, right around the beginning of World War I. He ► said all the church's windows are original and they were refurbished in the 1970s. He said at one point Cotter resident Peter Peitz turned the church into an office building and that Nazarenko had worked there on two different occasions, once performing data entry for Ranger Boats.

He said back in those days a drop-ceiling had been installed, blocking off the original tall, beautiful, tin ceiling. He joked that when the time came to clean up the old ceiling tiles that wife Kammi wouldn't go any higher than the three-stack scaffolding that they set up.

Construction of the second sec

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The next property on the couple's list is the old hotel across the street from city hall. The white, two-story building with blue and white striped awnings is the oldest building in Cotter, dating back to 1904, back when Cotter was experiencing a boom due to the railyard. Nazarenko said the building has almost always served as a hotel since that time. As the trains began being switched over from coal and steam to diesel and the railroad roundhouse shut down. Cotter went into a bit of a decline.

Nazarenko said that another project in the works is the old



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White River Industries building located at 302 2nd Street. Prior to that, the building housed the Gay Apparel Factory.

"The original use of the building was supposedly an early possibly the first - car dealership in the area," Nazarenko said. "We are trying to track down the original name from when it was built so that it can be shared with others when we open."

He said the plan is to put in a family restaurant at the location. A member of the audience asked if they intend to serve pizza and beer from the as yet unnamed restaurant. Nazarenko, playing it close to

the chest, joked that all should be revealed a few months from now.

The Nazarenkos have a motto that keeps them motivated when they take on a new restoration project, and that is "passion plus action equals results."

One of Nazarenko's bankers, Chad Merriman of FirstSecurity Bank, was on hand at the event and said that he often gets phone calls from him saying "guess what we just found," when the Nazarenkos are working on a property.

"I don't see your vision when I look at the properties, but I do see your passion," Merriman said.







# TWO WATERFALLS IN ONE TRIP

**By JEFF BRASEL** *jeffb@harrisondaily.com* 

OMPTON — It isn't a long way to get two waterfall sightings.

It is however, a little strenuous getting a close visit to both.

Paige Waterfall and Broadwater Hollow Falls are only 0.10 of a mile from each other and just .16 total from the road.

Getting to the waterfall is an interesting endeavor.

There are two areas for parking one on each side of the road. When getting out of the transportation, the waterfalls can be heard.

The paring area on the south side (right) has a path that wonders into the woods. There are pink ribbons tied to trees to denote a path.

Following the narrow path will lead visitors around the hill side and will give an obstructed view to Broadwater Hollow Falls.

After a tenth of a mile has been walked, the path comes back onto the dirt road just a few feet south of

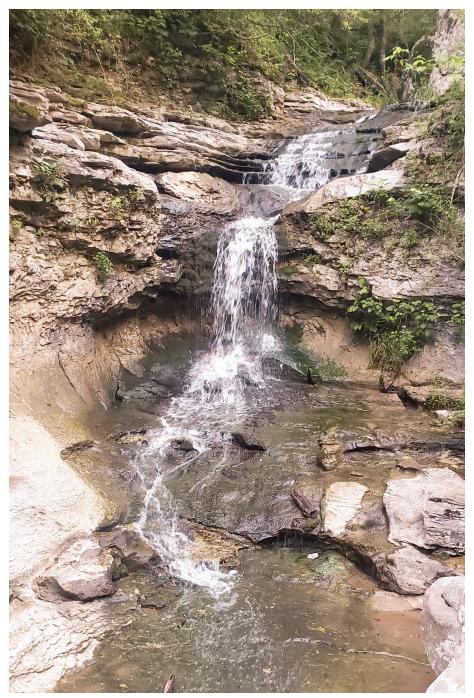


The Paige Waterfall empties into a large pool of water that is perfect for play and swimming.

the parking area.

The best use for this path is to pick up ticks and chiggers. In the winter, it can give a nice overhead view of the waterfall when the leaves have

PHOTOS BY JEFF BRASEL/STAFF



There are several levels to the Broadwater Waterfall in Newton County. The 25foot waterfall is two miles down Newton County Road 2660. The Paige and Broadwater Falls are less than a quarter of a mile from the road. said good-bye to the trees.

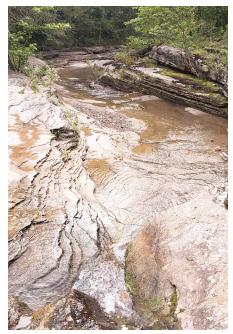
When arriving back on the road, go downhill to the creek. There is a shallow stream that can be crossed.

If desired, move the transportation down the hill and cross the creek to park on the road in a driveway like area. This road dead ends, so traffic is not a problem.

There is a path on the east side (left) of the creek.

Looking down at the stream, it is possible to see the years of erosion that the water has had on the rocks. The water has cut a four-foot deep path through the rock.

There are a pair of areas where cascades have been created. However less than 0.10 of a mile into the



The rocks act like steps to get into the stream by Broadwater and Paige Falls.

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The stream flowing to and from Broadwater Falls and Paige Falls creates a lazy river that would be perfect for taking an inner tube down the creek.

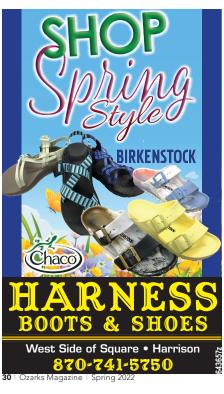
hike, the first waterfall can be found.

Paige Falls is not a large falls, but it is around 10 foot in height.

This waterfall dumps into a large pool that provides a nice pool for children to play or for sun worshippers to relax on a raft.

Getting back on the path, the trail will lead you to Broadwater Waterfalls. This path splits and can go two directions around a set of boulders on the hillside. The lower path moves by the creek bed while the upper path is between two large stones. These stones create a tunnel like appearance for hikers.

While moving along the trail, visitors are above the creek bed.



The last 0.04 miles of the hike is



the descent to see Broadwater Falls. It takes visitors to the creek again and provides a good view of the waterfall.

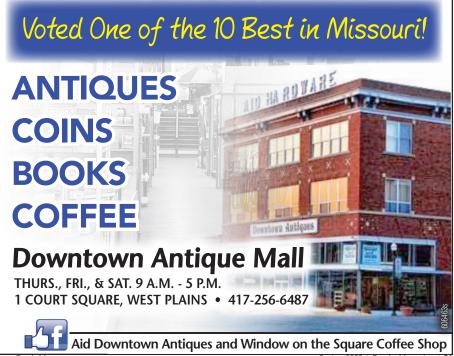
As the creek continues south, the stream has worn down the rocks to a smooth path. If an inner tube is used, the creek can become a personal lazy river.

Directions to the waterfall is really simple. Travel Highway 43 west toward Compton. After reaching the Newton County border past Hilltop, travel 1.8 miles from the border.

Turn left on Newton County road 2660. Travel exactly two miles before reaching the parking area. The creek is 0.05 miles from the parking area.



The trail to Broadwater Falls travels between these two large boulders.





# OF FLY FISHING



### If fishing is a religion, fly fishing is high church." – Tom Brokaw

ince man first discovered the bounty of lakes and oceans, he began to experiment with better ways of catching fish. First by hand, and likely net, then by Gorge (a sharpened piece of wood or bone, designed in a way that allows a fish to swallow it before it slides sideways, trapping itself in the gullet or innards of a fish). Then, around 3,000 years ago an entrepreneuring individual shaped a piece of bone into a simplified version of the hook we know and use today. It didn't take long after that before someone, (likely unable to find suitable a bait shop complete with grubby and despondent teenager manning the minnow tank), tied a couple of feathers **>** 

Anglers trying their skills at Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch in Rockbridge, Mo. to a hook and created the first fly. And so, began a long evolution culminating in rich old dudes wearing silly hats, flailing around while their guide rolls their eyes and asks him or herself why they chose this line of work instead of literally anything else. Or so it appears on the surface of things.

While there's some truth to that line of thinking – fly fishing has, since at least the 15th century, been practiced by English Royalty, the reality is that us filthy commoners have been fly fishing since before the 2nd century. Claudius Aelianus describes Macedonians fly fishing in his book – "De Natura Animalium" which dates to around 200 AD "They wrap the hook in scarlet wool, and to the wool they attach two feathers that grow beneath a cock's wattles and are the colour of wax. The fishing-rod is ►



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six feet long, and so is the line. So they let down this lure, and the fish attracted and excited by the colour, comes to meet it, and fancying from the beauty of the sight that he is going to have a wonderful banquet, opens wide his mouth, is entangled with the hook, and gains a bitter feast, for he is caught."

Aelianus observed that a certain species of "speckled fish" would lay in wait, just below the surface and when a bumblebee sized fly referred to as "Hippūrus" would settle on the stream the fish would snatch it from the surface of the water. Anglers of the time would attempt to use the flies as bait, however when hooked "it destroys the natural bloom; their wings wither and the fish refuse to eat them." So naturally the Macedonians created a fly pattern to mimic the Hippūrus to great effect and so fly fishing entered the annals of history.

The next major breakthrough in fly fishing came in the 4th century when short branches were replaced by longer jointed rods, next some forward thinking individual thought to add rings which would permit the line to run along the rod, allowing for longer line to be used. This longer line had a bad habit of tangling on reeds, rocks, children, small dogs, shrubs... fruit bats (probably), and anywhere



A collection	of vintage	style flies.
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a line is not supposed to go, so the first reel was invented.

During the 15th century, recreational fishing became popular in Europe, specifically with European royalty and elites. One of the first English essays dedicated to fly fishing titled "The Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle" was penned by the original trout bum Dame Juliana Berners, prioress of Sopwell Nunnery. In her essay she lays the foundation for fly fishing by creating a how to manual complete with instructions for tying 12 different fly patterns for trout and grayling. (There's no word on whether she included instructions for landing a lucrative endorsement deal with G Loomis although



#### An example of a modern fly rod.

this author's highly educated guess is that chapter will be found on a forgotten wood cut somewhere next to an ancient pair of Simms Freestone's).

At some point during the 18th and 19th century silk replaced braided horsehair for lines and the earliest iterations of the modern fly reel were born. Horsehair line was uniform in diameter and it was discovered that different materials such as silk could create tapered lines, which allowed for more accurate and longer casts. In 1841 George Pulman, a journalist and newspaper maverick wrote "Vade-Mecum of Fly-Fishing for Trout", the first book of detailed instruction on how to fish a dry, floating fly. A few years later, Samuel Philippe built the first split bamboo section for a fishing rod. This new design would allow rod builder Hiram Leonard to create rods light, stiff and fast enough to cast the modern silk lines great distances. Incidentally this was also the birth period of fly anglers bragging over cocktails about their casting distance and prowess.

Through the 19th century, fly fishing continued to gain popularity and spread through the world. This was due in part to increased leisure opportunities ►

for middle and lower classes. The great unwashed discovered that fly fishing was not only effective but a great way to spend time afield. Average working-class people were flocking to the sport much to the chagrin of the upper class who were not open to arguing with average Joe about the horrors of the new practice of using wet flies when dry flies were ineffective. Imagine a Rich Uncle Pennybags type oil tycoon popping his monocle after reading G.E.M Skues book , "The way of the Trout Fly" which hugely influenced the development of wet-fly fishing.

Thankfully most average people didn't care what the upper-class elite thought about their wet-flies and popper patterns and the sport enjoyed steady growth through the 1920's. Interest in fly fishing waned briefly through the 30's and 40's somewhat, due in part (at least in America) to the great depression, and in other parts of the world due in part to some jerk with a silly mustache dropping bombs on everyone.

In the 1950's the advent of inexpensive fiberglass rods, synthetic fly lines and monofilament leaders revived the popularity of fly fishing and the pursuit is growing still to this day.

Currently, interest in fly fishing feels like it is soaring to new



A 15th century depiction of a fly-fisherman.

heights. Fly fishing in any form, wet, dry, poppers, saltwater and freshwater is widely accepted as more and more anglers try their hand at "chuckin' fluff."

Fly fishing is challenging, rewarding and the feeling of a proper cast or a landed fish is amazing. The quiet contemplation that still water nymphing affords simply cannot be beat and the shear volume of how-to books, videos and blogs makes fly fishing more accessible than ever before. Finally, I hope you found this both entertaining and somewhat informative. Until next time, I'll see you on the river.

# THANK YOU!

Jamie's wants to Thank Harrison for voting for them and for making Jamie's, Buckets, & Jamie's Catering successful!



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## SIMPLY SHIRL'S HANDCRAFTED SOAP

### THE INGREDIENTS ARE SIMPLE, BUT THE SOAP IS MAGIC

### by Chris Herbolsheimer

chrish@wpdailyquill.net

here is an ancient proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention," and that is exactly what drove Shirley Porter to become a soaper. She wasn't looking to build a sudsy empire or sit atop a goat's milk throne, she simply wanted to help those closest to her.

Born and raised in Alabama, Porter visited family in Missouri in 2017, and after falling in love with the beauty of Howell County and the friendliness of the people, she decided to move to West Plains.

Porter started Simply Shirl's to help some family members and certain patients with skin conditions. Her soap-making hobby quickly flourished due to the **>** 

SHIRLEY PORTER carefully combines the goat's milk and lye into the liquified lard. PHOTOS BY CHRIS HERBOOLSHEIMER



all-natural ingredients used, positive reviews and word of mouth.

Porter uses her background as a caregiver in the medical field to influence the products she creates and devotes a large portion of the soap-making business to helping people maintain healthy skin. The company also recently expanded to produce candles, lip balm and other natural home, beauty and personal care items for children and adults.

Porter has developed individual recipes for the goods her company makes and oversees the design and production of all merchandise.

Today, Porter remains active in health care and after spending long shifts working with patients, she can be found focusing on Simply Shirl's. She is passionate about making soap and other health and beauty products.

Porter donates the "ends" -- those pieces that aren't large enough to sell as full bars -- to the residents of the Green House Homes at West Vue, where Porter works.

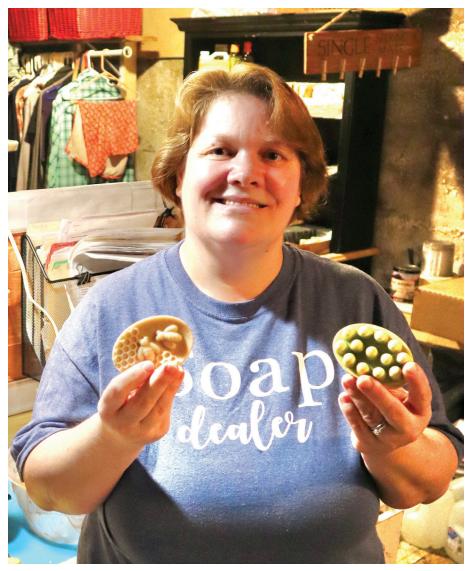
"I am simple, I enjoy a life simple and I believe we should use simple products on our skin as they do wonders without the harsh chemicals," she explained. "Simply Shirl's Handcrafted Soaps naturally seemed to be a great choice when it came to a name for my company." Porter said she has two main reasons for starting down the soaping path.

"Reason number one: My grandbabies suffer from eczema and I wanted to help formulate a soap that would be great for them without being so expensive, like those store brands, yet be gentle for baby skin," she said. After months of research and information-gathering, she realized she could actually do it -- a lot of the ingredients were already in her kitchen.

As she started gathering up those ingredients, molds and pans, she realized a second source of inspiration: her clients.

"Reason number two: I work in health care and, daily, see elderly patients who have poor skin due to cheap soaps used on them. I wanted to be able to help them," she elaborated. "I have been donating my soaps to my residents and they are so excited to try the soaps, and I have gotten wonderful feedback from them on how long the soaps are lasting -- a little really goes a long way."

She said, of the soaps she's taken her residents, the ladies enjoy the Rose-Apricot soap and the men like the Pipe Tobacco soap.



THE FINAL PRODUCT will look similar to these bars.

Recently, this writer visited Porter's home to experience the soap-making process up close. On the menu for the day's batch was a new recipe that Porter will call "Turmeric and Honey." The recipe also includes cinnamon and nutmeg, but all of that would be a lot for a label.

Porter had the ingredients pre-measured, noting the measuring process can take as much as 25 minutes. The lard used for the soap base had already been boiled down, a process that Porter says takes about six hours. It must be done slowly at a relatively low temperature to avoid scorching, she explained. Now, it just needed to be heated for use.

Lard or pig fat will produce creamy and stable lather. In addition, it has mild moisturizing qualities that will prevent the soap from drying the skin. Lard soap is highly compatible with the structure of the human cells.

In a separate bowl Porter combined goat's milk and lye. She said she prefers to use frozen goat's milk, as it reacts to the lye in a much more stable manner.

For anyone considering dabbling in soap-making at home, it is very important to wear gloves and safety goggles when working with lye, as it can cause chemical burns to the eyes and skin that are no fabrication.

Once the lard was ready for combining with the goat's milk and lye combination, Porter imparted a vital piece of wisdom: "You have to pour the lye mixture into the lard. If you pour the lard into the lye mixture it will blow up like a volcano!"

Using a wand mixer, Porter blended the liquid until it was near the consistency of pudding. Then the mixture was poured into molds where it would rest



ONCE ALL THE INGREDIENTS are combined Porter pours the mixture into molds where it will harden for 24 hours.

for 24 hours to set.

Simply Shirl's Handcrafted Soaps are available for purchase at West Plains Area Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays during the warm warm season, Wages Brewing Company's Artisans of the Ozarks showcase from noon to 5 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month and at Carol Ann's Boutique, 4 Court Square in West Plains.

Follow "Simply Shirl's Handcrafted Soaps" on Facebook to learn more. ■

# **UPCOMING AREA EVENTS** Ozark Heritage Festival Return in 2022



Demonstrators in traditional arts are encouraged to contact us regarding participation in the 2022 Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival scheduled for June 3 and 4, 2022, in West Plains, MO. Details and online registration forms are on the website. Forms may also be submitted via regular mail. Looking forward to a great year! Any questions should be directed to info@westplainsarts.org

R esidents will not want to miss these upcoming events in West Plains.

#### The Greater Ozarks "GO FARM" Farmers Market

When & Where: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Saturday, in the Endurance Church Parking Lot, located at 805 Worley Drive.

It is the largest farmer's market for 100 miles. The market consists of fresh local grown produce and products, such as homemade spiced applesauce, kombucha that will help clear up a lingering cough and delicious baked goods. For more information, call 417-293-0590 or visit www.ozarkfarmers.org.

#### TC's Junk Vintage Market

When & Where: Noon. to 6 p.m., March 25 and March 26, at the West Plains Civic Center, located at 110 Saint Louis St.

TC's Junk and Vintage Market is expanding its show south and will

fill the Civic Center with vintage, farmhouse, handmade, boutiques, shabby chic, home and garden decor, and more.

TC's Junk and Vintage Market will also have kettle Korn and food trailers on site and loading crews standing by for those heavy items. They will also have a holding area for people to load their belongings at no cost.

General admission is \$5. Children ages 12 and under are free. Parking is also free, according to event organizers.

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Anyone interested in being a vendor at the event should email tcsjunknthetrunk@hotmail.com.

#### Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival

The Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival returns to West Plains in 2022.

Festival organizers said they are anxious to see their artists and artisans return to West Plains in June 3 - 4.

The two-day festival celebrates old-time music and folk life traditions distinctive to the Ozark highlands. Festival organizers said, "Musicians, artisans, and storytellers from throughout the region will come to the West Plains festival in support of creating a place to listen, watch, interact and honor the old-time traditions of our southern Ozarks communities."

"Demonstrating the spectrum of art forms from dance fiddling,

local jig steps, and gospel singing, to the songs, narratives and ballads that tell the story of a place, to the occupational traditions of blacksmithing,

OLD TIME MUSIC

OZARK HERITAGE

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log skidding, spinning and basket making, artists show how these arts are embed-

ded in the experience of our daily lives and how they fit the functional and symbolic needs of our community," organizers said.

The festival was established by the West Plains Council on the Arts through partial funding by the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Folk Arts Program.

The festival is being produced through a partnership between the West Plains Council on the Arts, Missouri State University-West Plains, the city of West Plains, the West Plains Civic Center and the Ozark Heritage Welcome Center.

Vendor forms are now available online at oldtimemusic.org.

To stay up to date with the festival, visit www.facebook.com/Old. Time.Music.Festival.

#### 39th Annual Spring Bluegrass Festival

In June, the Heart of the Ozarks Bluegrass Festival will return to West Plains.

The festival will be held June 2 through June 4 at the Heart of the Ozarks Bluegrass Association Park, located in West Plains at 1138 Bluegrass Lane.

The Heart of the Ozarks

Bluegrass Association said the festival will feature live performances from the following bands: Highway 65, Aydan & Owen Hensley Band, First Impression, Two Girls Bluegrass, Rising Son and Bluegrass Express.

According to the association, there will be no camping reservations, and the park will open the weekend before the festival.

Concessions, restrooms and a shower house will be available.

Tickets are on sale online at hobabluegrass.wixsite.com/mysite.

The Heart of the Ozarks Bluegrass Association will hold its 38th annual Fall Bluegrass Festival from Sept. 22 through Sept. 24.





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### 2022 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE JEEP'S ICONIC 4X4!

People like the Jeep Grand Cherokee, and they're bound to like it even more as this midsize, premium-oriented SUV was completely redesigned for '22. Whether with two or three rows, the 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee is one of the few authentic sport utilities still offered for a less-than-premium price. Its standard rear-wheel drive, V6 powertrain can be upgraded with one of three four-wheel drive systems, a 5.7-liter V8 option and eventually, a plug-in 4xe hybrid. An available air suspension guarantees a smooth ride and extra ground clearance, especially on the more capable Grand Cherokee Trailhawk model. The 2022 Grand Cherokee also impresses with its new, more luxurious cabin packed with the latest technology.

