

# ***Ozarks***

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■ **Hot Air Balloon State  
Championship**

■ **Local artist Ellen Martin  
captures the beauty of the Ozarks  
through ceramic creations**

■ **H&H trail good for anyone**

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Devils Well, Welch Hospital ruins**



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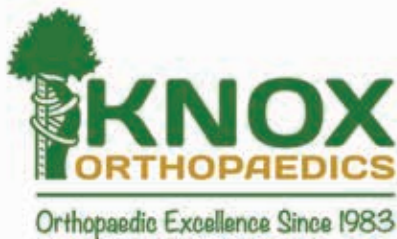
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# Ozarks

M A G A Z I N E

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## ON THE COVER

**Welcome** to our 2022 Ozarks Magazine summer edition.

Summer came roaring in like a lion hot on the heels of a very meed spring. Jackets and umbrellas seemed to dominate much of what is supposed to be our glory days of the year.

Our summer issue features a mixed bag of popular attractions and stories of interesting locals.

Inside you will find a story about the upcoming Arkansas Hot Air Balloon State Championship. The balloons are a sight to behold, and provide a fun weekend for the whole family.

In the mood for a wilderness hike? Writer Jeff Brasel takes readers on the Heritage and Habitat Trail, a hike suited for all skill and ability levels.

Also in this issue, local artists of Harrison get the opportunity to showcase the many hours of work that have been put into a series of murals that have been created on walls in the general downtown area of Harrison.

Crossing into Missouri, Lori Amos guides readers through a day trip of Ozarks attractions that won't be soon forgotten.

In West Plains, ceramic artist Ellen Martin specializes in making functional pottery which harnesses the colorful, organic beauty of the Ozarks landscape.

The 2022 summer edition of Ozarks Magazine promises to be a must-read.

Thanks for reading!

Jim Holland, publisher

Editor: Chris Herbolzheimer

Writers: Donna Braymer, Jeff Dezort, Helen Mansfield, Jeff Brasel, and Chris Herbolzheimer

Sales: Sherry Harper, Travis Rhoads, Vicky Rutter, Sheri Underdown

27TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS

# HOT AIR BALLOON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

TO BE HELD SEPT. 9-11





**By Donna Braymer**

*[donnab@harrisondaily.com](mailto:donnab@harrisondaily.com)*

**H**ARRISON, Ark. — The Anstaff Bank Soccer Complex will be the site of this year's 27th annual Arkansas Hot Air Balloon State Championship, Sept. 9-11, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in Harrison, Arkansas. ►






**A Balloon Glow will be held at the Boone County Airport in Harrison, Arkansas, on Saturday, April 17, at dusk during the 25th Annual Arkansas Hot Air Balloon Festival.**

PHOTOS BY BY LEE H. DUNLAP

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Because of the unpredictability of the winds at the Boone County Regional Airport, all of the week-end's activities will be held at 202 Old Stonewall Road at the Soccer Complex, not far from the downtown area.

"The best place to watch the balloons flying is at 7 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at First Baptist Church. That is where the most action is located and the key grab," Renee Swanson, Explore Harrison office manager, said.

"It could be a historic spot this year if someone can grab the key and win \$10,000," Matt Bell, Explore Harrison executive director said. "We've had some pilots get close, but no one has ever won the \$10,000. Hopefully this year."

There will be free parking and shuttles from the former Junior High parking lot. Bell is hoping to save the area south of the complex for handicap parking. Entrance into the event is also free.

Tethered rides will be offered Saturday night only (weather permitting) for \$10 a person around dark. (Usually 7 or 7:30 p.m.) A "Go Pass" is available for \$20 each which allows individuals to bypass the line. There are no presale tickets. Balloons flying and tethered rides are up to the discretion of the pilots for their safety. A balloon glow is planned for Friday and Saturday



**Visitors can enjoy a variety of events during the 25th Annual Hot Air Balloon Championship and Festival held Friday, April 16, through Sunday, April 18, at the Boone County Airport and surrounding Harrison, Arkansas, area. There will be 40 hot air balloons, an airplane "Fly-In" event, live music, food vendors, Balloon Glow events, and activities for children.**

nights around 7:30 p.m.

Bell said cash and credit will be accepted on site. Swanson said they are maxed out on food vendors, but still have plenty of room for retail vendors.

Other activities include a 5K and 2K fun run to benefit Grandma's House. Every child who participates receives a free wristband for the bounce houses on Saturday. ►

The 5K begins at 9 a.m. and the 2K at 11:30 a.m. Registration is at [exploreharrison.com](http://exploreharrison.com) or the Explore Harrison Facebook page. Any possible weather delays or updates will be given from the Facebook page. Bell also said there are still sponsorship packages available.

Helicopter rides will be offered from the former football stadium area at the site. Live music will be presented Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. Wally West will be featured Friday and Saturday will be 7 South.

A KITE R.A.C.E. (Relay Asian Cultural Event) will be held Friday

from 4-9 p.m. Registration is from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and kites should be in the air from 5-6:30 p.m.

The Boy Scout and Girl Scout Kids Zone will be open on Saturday from noon until 8 p.m. with lots of bounce houses, food and retail vendors close by.

Lots of volunteers are still needed and individuals can sign up on the Explore Harrison webpage.

For more information contact Explore Harrison by checking out the social media pages, email [tourism@exploreharrison.com](mailto:tourism@exploreharrison.com) or by calling (870) 741-1789. ■



**Visitors will get to listen to live music on Saturday, April 17, during the 25th Annual Arkansas Hot Air Balloon Festival being held at the Boone County Airport in Harrison, Arkansas. A “Fly-In” event will also be held Saturday along with a Balloon Glow.**



Visitors will enjoy events during the 25th Annual Hot Air Balloon Championship and Festival going on Friday, April 16th through Sunday, April 18th at the Boone County Airport and the Harrison surrounding area. Saturday at the Boone County Airport will have 40 Hot Air Balloons flying, a airplane "Fly-In" event, live music, food vendors, Balloon Glow events, and events for the kids.

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# LOCAL ARTISTS LEAVE MARK — *with murals*

By JAMES L. WHITE  
[jamesw@harrisdaily.com](mailto:jamesw@harrisdaily.com)

Over the past several years, Harrison, Arkansas city officials and local residents have been teaming up to make art a way of life in the downtown area.

Under a project called “Natural State Natural Art,” artists have been commissioned to create murals on walls in the general downtown area since about 2017.



**On the side of Three Wishes for Ruby's Residents on Main Street in Harrison, Arkansas.** PHOTOS BY JAMES L. WHITE/STAFF

Much akin to The Unexpected art project in Fort Smith, Arkansas, artists turn the sides of buildings and blank walls into murals that dazzle the senses.

Those pieces of art will either be humans or animals that are native to the state and community.

Former Harrison Middle School EAST Facilitator Mary Beth Hatch was instrumental in working on the first three such projects.

Hatch said EAST students worked with the Center for Advanced Spatial Technology (CAST) at the University of Arkansas and laser scanned those

buildings' exact dimensions.

That data was then imported into a computer as 3-D models artists could use to project their art onto the walls and structures to see exactly how it would look prior to doing the actual work.

Since that time, numerous murals have been painted on various walls in the downtown area.

Harrison Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director Matt Bell has also been a driving force in getting businesses interested in having a wall on their building turned into a work of art that will last for decades. ►



**On the side of Sam Alexander Pharmacy on East Rush Avenue in Harrison, Arkansas.**

The goal is to offer visitors and those passing through a chance to take an art tour or art walk to make their stay even more enjoyable.

A mural that Bell said would be a signature piece for the entire city is under planning on the wall of the building just across the street from the Convention and Visitors Bureau office on West Stephenson

Avenue in Harrison, Arkansas. It will incorporate various aspects from the community, such as the annual balloon festival, the Crawdad Days Festival and both Harrison and North Arkansas College team mascots.

Much of the work has been done by local artists, such as Hatch, Merry Burleson and Ruben Drewery. ■



**On the side of Sassy Wags pet groomer on North Walnut in Harrison, Arkansas.**





On the side of the former Walters Dry Goods Co. on East Stephenson in Harrison, Arkansas.



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# Ellen Martin *Local artists*

## captures the beauty of the Ozarks through ceramic creations

By Hayley Hershenson

**E**llen (Hones) Martin is an artist and long-time resident of West Plains, Mo. who specializes in making functional pottery which harnesses the colorful, organic beauty of the Ozarks landscape. Through a diverse array of accessible creations including mugs, dishes, planters, vases and much more, Martin seeks to bring artistic awareness and aesthetic joy to buyers' daily routines.

Martin was about six years old when she moved to West Plains from Memphis, from whence hailed her maternal grandmother, collage artist Jean Amy. Having grown up during the Great Depression, Grandma Jean had a thrifty eye for turning household materials into unique creations and was one of Ellen's deepest artistic connections and

inspirations. She, along with Ruth Hones, Ellen's mother, taught and nourished Martin in her art; Martin recalls learning to sew, crafts from popsicle-stick wind chimes to doll-clothes and personalized Christmas stockings specially made by Grandma Jean. Martin admired her grandmother's unapologetically colorful, creative spirit from a young age, and gradually grew to find an outlet for personal confidence in her own aptitude for artistry.

Martin began at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) studying Dietetics, due to an interest in the creative process of cooking. When Martin shifted gears and began taking core classes in the Art department, she took a particular liking to ceramics. Martin graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in ►

---

**Ellen Martin at the Mtn. View Pioneer Days festival in September 2021.**

PHOTOS BY BY HAYLEY HERSHENSON





**Martin sculpts a turtle from Buff Stoneware clay in her studio at 222 W Main St. Later, the turtle may be patterned with black underglaze, then painted with glaze.**

Ceramics in December of 2018 and returned to West Plains as an independent artist, continuing the sales she had begun in 2017. She began working part-time at Three C's Studio & Flower Market in January of 2019, and later the same year began renting her studio at 222 W Main St. with her friend from the flower shop, painter Regina Willard. The two artists share not only the space but encouragement for one another in their mutual endeavors to heartily pursue fine arts and share them with the community.

Martin describes her general output as "nature-inspired/boho pottery" which utilizes bright, colorful glazes and naturalistic bare clay carvings to bring outdoor beauty into accessible pieces of art. She enjoys creating seasonal pieces, focusing on pastels with floral carvings, birds and mushrooms in spring and summer; hearkening to pumpkins, cornucopias, corn and bats in the fall; and filling out wintry, Christmastime themes with fireplace bricks, bare trees against cold skies and homages to her grandmother's handmade ►



**Martin's favorite piece, shown at an art show hosted at the West Plains Civic Center. The piece is handbuilt with coils, involved about 2 ½ months of labor and stands around 3 ½ feet tall. The piece holds inspiration from cross section images showing layers of rock and dirt at varying distances from earth's surface.**



**A cup inspired by road cut cliffs and the crystals they may house. The texture of the cup's bottom mimics the rocky cliff texture, while the colors near the top reference crystals.**



**An autumnal pumpkin and cup with carvings hearkening to the fall landscape.**

stockings. “I just think of stuff that I really like, and what I think of when I think of the holidays,” Martin shares. Creating silk wreaths at the flower shop helped Martin to learn to identify seasonal flowers. Martin also enjoys drawing inspiration from seasonal creatures like garden snails, birds and turtles as well as from her own home garden beds.

Through growing up in and around the Ozarks Martin has gleaned beauty from rivers, hills, cornfields, lush green trees and rock formations that make up the diverse terrain, and her

exploration with ceramics has reinforced her relationship with the surrounding beauty. Nowadays when visiting a local river, Martin can imagine glaze combinations and carving techniques to capture the colors and textures of water and rocks. “It’s like I just want to stare at everything,” Martin testifies.

Her experiences with local creatures, such as with caring for a young squirrel and witnessing abundant summer dragonflies, provide her with constant material for captured beauty.

As an artist, Martin sees creation





**Two winter-inspired mugs bear painted bare trees and abstract hills while speckled clay references snow.**



**This pot, shown at a West Plains Civic Center art show, references rolling land formations.**

as a personal necessity and natural outlet for her own creativity. She seeks to share her talent and artistic fulfillment with others through offering accessible handmade creations. Martin enjoys the process and satisfaction associated with cooking, gardening and ceramics alike, working with bare materials to bring forth incredible creations from inner ideas.

In the next few years Martin looks forward to further contributing to the landscape of artistic opportunities available in West Plains as well as further creating local art, perhaps through

harvesting red clay from local ground. Martin looks forward to a future of continuing to spread the word that art and life-giving beauty are everywhere.

Martin currently sells pottery locally at Three C's Studio & Flower Market, the Frame Shop and soon at Vintage Soul in West Plains, as well as on Etsy at EllenHonesPottery. Martin can be found on Facebook (Ellen Hones Pottery) or Instagram (EllenMartinArt). Contact Martin on Facebook for information about pottery classes and lessons. ■

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**Round Spring**



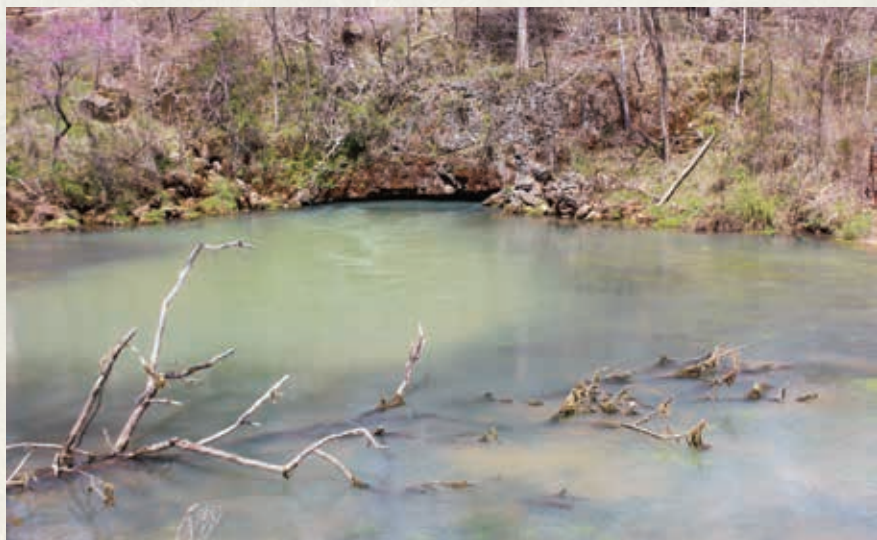
**Devils Well**



**Welch  
Hospital ruins**



**N**ow is a good time for locals to journey to Welch Spring and, along the way, visit Round Spring, Echo Bluff and Devils Well. Families will surely enjoy the small, delicate ecosystems, more sensitive to disturbance than the river and the ruins of a hospital, a doctor built over the mouth of a cave, believing the cool, pollen-free air from the cave and the spring water had healing properties.



**Round Spring is a nearly circular pool of water that flows under a natural bridge into the Current River. The spring is 55-feet deep, according to the National Park Service.** PHOTOS BY LORI AMOS

## ROUND SPRING

*Flow Gallons per day: 26 million*


Located 63 miles from West Plains, residents are sure to enjoy the nearly circular pool of water that flows under a natural bridge into the Current River. The spring is 55-feet deep and became

one of Missouri's first state parks in 1924. It was made part of Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1964 in recognition of its uniqueness.

More than 26 million gallons of water flow from Round Spring on an average day. For thousands of years, the cool, clear waters of the spring have attracted people and wildlife. ►








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Front Row, left to right: Megan Montague, D.O., Larry Kennon, APRN-BC, Robert Causey, M.D., Leanne Finke, M.D., Garry Finke, M.D., Shelly Gingerich, FNP, Kristen White, FNP, and Tara Jackson, D.O. Back Row, left to right: Chelsea Carroll, D.M.D., Travis Shearer, D.D.S., Ashleigh Kayser, D.D.S., Brett Zobel, D.D.S., Joe Hackworth, LCSW, Elizabeth Mahan, LCSW



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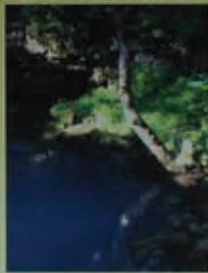
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# ROUND SPRING

Welcome to Round Spring. Just a short way up this wheelchair accessible sidewalk is the "round as a silver dollar" sinkhole that gives this spring its name.

Round Spring is a great place for wildlife watching. It is frequented by otters, kingfishers, great blue herons and many smaller songbirds. In the winter months, you may even see a bald eagle soar high above you.



## Round Spring: By the Numbers

Average flow: 26,000,000 gallons every day  
Maximum recorded flow: 136,000,000 gallons (May 14, 1903)  
Minimum recorded flow: 6,460,000 gallons (Dec 18, 1917)  
Depth: 53 feet (sinkhole)

## Some Rules

The National Park Service strives to preserve Round Spring "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" as required by law. Please help protect the spring's fragile ecology:



Pets on leashes are welcome.



Swimming and tubing are prohibited.



No Fishing! Fishing is very dangerous and it is a long way to the nearest hospital.



A small herd of free-roaming horses frequents this area. While they may appear tame, they are not! Do not approach or attempt to feed them. They are powerful and unpredictable animals. Enjoy them from a distance.

Archeologists have found evidence that 10,000 years ago, native peoples lived and worked around the spring. Europeans began to settle in the Current River Valley in the nineteenth century, and soon two mills, a farm, a public road and a lime kiln were located around the spring.

According to the National Park Service, the clear, cold running water has provided physical and spiritual renewal for Native ►



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Americans, early European settlers and modern visitors to the Current River Valley.

At quiet times, otters, wood ducks and great blue herons may be seen in the spring. However, the park service said people are prohibited from swimming or wading in it.

“As you walk along the spring’s banks, consider the sustaining role Round Spring continues to play for all living things,” the National Park Service said.

Round Spring is also home to a family campground, a picnic area, a tour cave, and the spring from which it takes its name.

Campsites at Round Spring are suitable for tents or RVs, and there are a small number of electric hook-up sites but no water hook-ups. A dump station is available. Reservations are recommended during the summer months. Tables with grills are located around the spring. There are two shelters. The one closest to the parking lot can be reserved by visiting [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or calling 877-444-6777.

Sixty-three miles from West Plains, West Plains Tourism Department says to get to Round Spring; residents should take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Before Willow



Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, continue straight on D Highway. Go 9 miles, then turn left on Highway 19. In 5 miles, the entrance for Round Spring will be on your right.

Nearby attractions include Echo Bluff State Park, Devils Well and Welch Spring.

For more information on Round Spring or to view a virtual video of Round Spring Cave, visit [nps.gov/ozar/plan-yourvisit/round-spring-and-round-spring-cave.htm](http://nps.gov/ozar/plan-yourvisit/round-spring-and-round-spring-cave.htm). ►



**The iconic lodge at Echo Bluff State Park has guest rooms and indoor and outdoor casual dining for residents to enjoy while they fill their days hiking, swimming or fishing.**

## ECHO BLUFF STATE PARK

From Round Spring, residents can continue on Highway 19 to the entrance of Echo Bluff State Park, a year-round outdoor destination for families and nature lovers that opened as Camp Zoe roughly 85 years ago.

The new Echo Bluff State Park is a remote location connected to the accessibility to the best of the Ozarks. Visitors of all ages to Echo Bluff State Park can look forward to a day full of floating, hiking, biking, swimming or fishing.

With the Current River a half-mile away, Echo Bluff State Park is set in a valley surrounded by towering bluffs and forest and cut by the Sinking Creek, the Current

River's second largest tributary.

An iconic lodge and nine full-service cabins are located at the 476-acre park site. The lodge features guest rooms, indoor and outdoor casual dining and meeting rooms. Nine cabins with 13 units are also an excellent option for families and groups as they visit the state park.

According to the state parks department, camping opportunities range from primitive to full-service campsites.

In May, Echo Bluff State Park will also begin holding a summer concert series featuring the best local bands right at the state park. The concert series will feature performances by celebrated artists until September.

Kirk Pierce, a local country artist with a unique voice that ▶



**The Sinking Creek, shown in April at Echo Bluff State Park, is the Current River's second largest tributary.**

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sings primarily his original songs will kick off the series at 8 p.m. May 28. Event organizers said that Pierce will bring a lot of energy that will not disappoint. Local entertainer Colin Nash, who currently lives in Nashville following his dream of being a singer-songwriter, will perform live at 8 p.m. May 29 at the park.

All concerts are free and outside at the Amphitheater, so residents are encouraged to bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy a night of entertainment under the stars.

Echo Bluff State Park is 66 miles from West Plains. To get to Echo Bluff State Park, West

Plains Tourism Department said residents should take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, continue straight on D Highway. Go 9 miles then turn left on Highway 19. In 8.5 miles, the entrance for Echo Bluff will be on the right.

Nearby attractions include Devils Well and Welch Spring.

For more information, visit [echobluffstatepark.com](http://echobluffstatepark.com). ►



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**The viewing platform at Devils Well near Akers, is 100 feet above an 80-foot deep lake located near Akers. Photo by Lori Amos**



**Suspended by a thin cable, early descents of the well were by a hand-cranked winch and “bosun’s chair.”**

## DEVILS WELL

A short distance from Echo Bluff State Park, residents will encounter Devils Well.

Located off Route KK near Akers, this unusual “Karst window” allows a look at the earth’s plumbing.

According to the National Park Service, Devils Well was formed when the roof of a huge cavern, containing an underground lake collapsed, which resulted in a large sinkhole, with an opening in the bottom through which you can view the lake. Devils Well has a viewing





**Devils Well has allowed geologists to explore the underground pool and chambers, which has led to a better understanding of the fascinating underground workings of Missouri springs.**

platform 100 feet above the lake, which is 80 feet deep and holds about 22 million gallons of water.

According to the National Park Service, Native Americans must have been mystified by the unexplored deep dark hole. Early white settlers were aware of the deep hole, but the first known exploration of the well was in 1954.

The owner, Bill Wallace, lowered his brother Bob into the hole using a hand powered winch attached to a steel cable and a “bosun’s chair.”

As Bob entered the hole, by an extremely hazardous method, he saw a cave chamber containing an underground lake. The chamber measured 400 feet long and 100 feet wide, larger than a football field. The surface of the lake seemed motionless, although several waterfalls fell into the lake from heights of up to 75 feet, according to the National Park Service. The brothers had discovered the largest known natural underground lake in Missouri.

It has allowed geologists to ►

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explore the underground pool and chambers, which has led to a better understanding of the fascinating underground workings of Missouri springs.

Because of the cold waters and no flotation devices on the lake, a person who fell in would soon die of hypothermia, according to National Park Service.

There is no admission fee for

Devils Well and the area is open everyday, during daylight hours,

Devils Well is located 79 miles from West Plains. West Plains Tourism Department said residents can take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Right before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for ►

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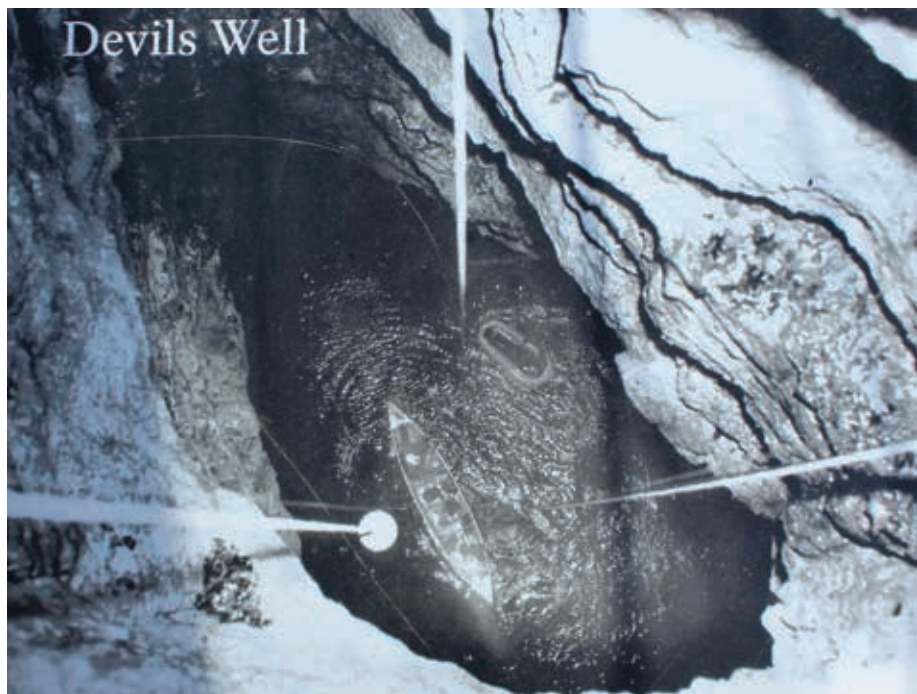
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13 miles to Summersville. At Summersville, turn right on Highway 106. In 7 miles, stay straight to continue on D Highway. In 9 miles, turn left on Highway 19. In 17.5 miles, turn left on KK Highway. In 2 miles, turn left on Devils Well Road.

Devils Well is located 2 miles ahead.

Nearby attractions include Welch Spring and Summersville Mill.

For more information about Devils Well, visit [nps.gov/ozar/planyourvisit/devils-well.htm](https://www.nps.gov/ozar/planyourvisit/devils-well.htm). ▶









**The ruins of a tuberculosis hospital sit next to Welch Spring which discharges 75 million gallons of water on an average day.**

## WELCH SPRING

*Flow Gallons per day: 75 million*

A short distance from Echo Bluff State Park, Welch Spring offers residents a chance to view the fifth largest spring in the state that flows from the base of a wooded dolomite hill near the historic Welch Hospital ruins and then flows to the river over a rock impoundment.

According to the National Park Service, Welch Spring was named after Current River Welch, who was born in 1859 and died in 1912. The Welch family ran a grist mill at the property until roughly 50 years after the Civil War.

“In 1913, an Illinois doctor named

C.H. Diehl bought Welch Spring for \$800. Diehl believed that the spring water had healing properties and that cool, pollen-free air coming from the adjacent cave would be beneficial for people with asthma, emphysema, and tuberculosis, which together were called “consumption” at the time,” the National Park Service said. “To tap this clean air resource, Dr. Diehl built a hospital over the mouth of the cave”

Welch Spring, which flowed from the cave, was dammed up so that water would close off the entrance. According to the National Park Service, this was to force more air out through the cave opening the hospital.



“In today’s terms, it might be better called a ‘health spa’ since there wasn’t much in the way of formal medical treatment, just an invitation to breathe the fresh air of the cave,” the National Park Service said.

However, the hospital ended up not being a success.

According to the National Park Service, Diehl had hoped to run a thriving campground resort to help cover his medical fees with tourist dollars. In time, his healing resort expanded to a few small cabins, a campground, a show cave, and he had an electric generator running off the spring.

“Visitors came from the local area and from as far off as Oklahoma and Illinois, but times were hard, and travel to such remote places still difficult. Roads in the Ozarks were rough and unpaved, making it difficult to get into the Current River Country. Few tourists were willing to make the trip,” according to the National Park Service.

Diehl died in 1940, and his family wasn’t that interested in keeping up the resort afterwards, which soon fell into ruin.

They sold the property and it was run as a trout fishing resort until the National Park Service purchased it in 1967.

The hospital is still in ruin today, but still stands next to the enchanting Welch Spring. It is best reached



**Welch Spring flows from a wooded dolomite hill base near the historic Welch Hospital.**

by canoe, but families can walk a trail north along the river for about a half-mile to see the hospital, although you will be across the spring from it.

Sixty miles from West Plains, West Plains’ Tourism Department says to travel to Welch Spring, residents should take Highway 63 north toward Willow Springs. Just before Willow Springs, take Highway 60 east toward Mountain View. After Mountain View, turn left on Highway 17. Stay on Highway 17 for 13 miles to Summersville. Just past Summersville, turn right on K Highway, and stay on K Highway for 19 miles. You will cross the Current River on Akers Ferry. Turn left on the first gravel road past the Akers Group Camp. At the end of the road, park next to the river and walk a trail north along the river for about a half-mile. At the end of the trail, you will be able to see the hospital. ■





# H&H TRAIL

*good for anyone*



**A large pavilion greets visitors at the beginning of the Heritage and Habitat Trail.**

By JEFF BRASEL

**B**ULL SHOALS, Ark. — While there are many wilderness trails that are very difficult to hike. They are rocky and have difficult trails to navigate.

In Bull Shoals there is a trail that offers handicap and those that have difficulty hiking a chance to become one with nature.

The Heritage and Habitat Trail is a .54 hike that is completely paved. It is located adjacent to the Bull Shoal Dam.

Heritage and Habitat's name is based on the fact that the area was a construction zone when the Bull Shoals Dam was being built.

There are many informational ►

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**The paved path leads visitors around the Heritage and Habitat Trail in Bull Shoals.**

PHOTOS BY JEFF BRASEL/STAFF





**There are fields with wild flowers growing with a view of the Bull Shoals Lake and Dam.**

plaques along the trail that give information about the building of the dam. Photographs of the construction areas show the building of the major construction.

One of the highlights of the plaques is the photo of a conveyor belt that carried rocks to the construction area. The conveyor was 30-inches in width, but it was seven miles long. It carried rocks from the Lee Mountain Quarry outside of Flippin to the dam site. It took rocks only 70 minutes to

make the seven mile journey.

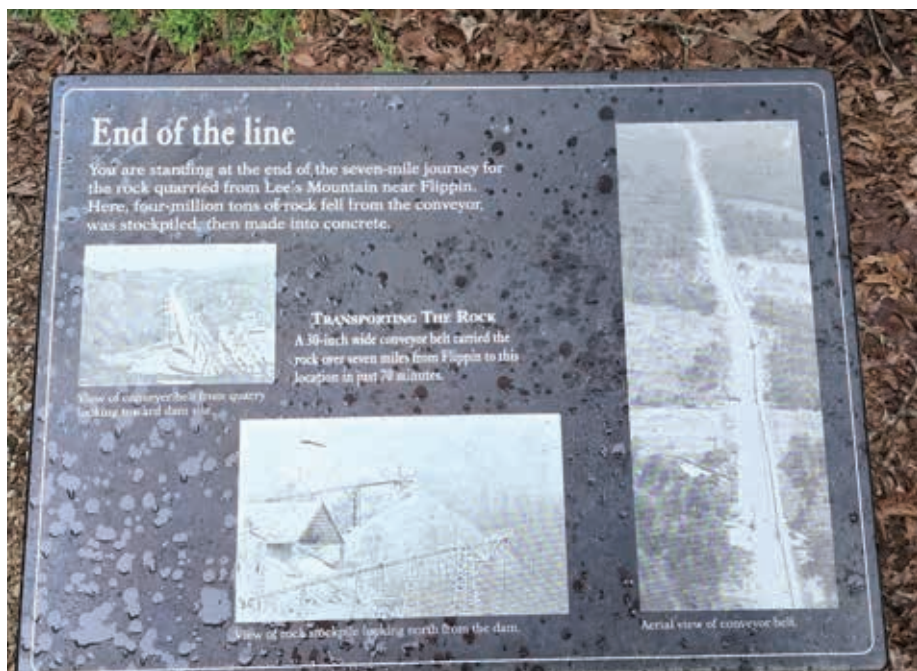
Other photographs show the pile of boulders that were used to make concrete for the dam.

Starting through a pavilion, the Heritage and Habitat trail is designed in a figure eight. The trail has many areas to sit along the walkway. However, the one incline on the back side of the trail is missing a seating area.

There are many hardwoods along the path as well as some views of a prairie. The prairie ►



**Bull Shoals Dam was completed in 1951. The project took more than four years to complete.**



**Informational plaques line the path of the Heritage and Habitat Trail. One of the photos is of the seven mile long conveyor belt that move rock from Flippin to the dam site in 70 minutes.**

field has many wildflowers and those open areas also give visitors opportunities to see the Bull Shoals Lake and the dam itself.

During the spring, the woods are full of blooms. There are two blooming trees that highlight the area. The dogwood and red bud trees create a visible palate for those on the trail.

Along the back half of the trail there is a primitive trail that heads south.

This path leads to the Bull Shoals Park. After .15 of a mile, the path will intersect with Rivercliff.

The last part of the figure eight offers more informational plaques that any other part of the trail. The last quad of the trail will take the longest as patrons will be gathering information on the building of the dam.

Parking for the hike is very spacious as it is part of the Bull Shoals Visitors Center. One thing to remember is that the parking facility is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gates are locked at 5 p.m. and if a car is parked inside the lot at time, then it will rest there overnight. If arriving before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m., there is a parking area just ►





**An old wheelbarrow that was used during the construction of the Bull Shoals Dam is on display during the Heritage and Habitat path.**

## BULL SHOALS IS 70 YEARS OLD

**B**ULL SHOALS, Ark. — Bull Shoals Dam opened in July 1951. It was a four-year process of work to open the concrete gravity dam.

There were two purposes for this dam. First, it was flood control of the White River. Second it was to generate hydroelectricity for the area.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was responsible for building the dam and it was generated after severe flooding between 1915 and 1927.

The dam is 2,256 foot long and is 256 foot high. The bottom of the dam can be viewed on Rivercliff Drive.

Bull Shoals Lake covers 71,240 acres and is 695 foot deep.

When the dam was completed, it was one of the largest concrete structures in the world.

Since the dam has been completed, it is believed that it has prevented a quarter of a billion dollars in damage to the lower White River area.

The Bull Shoals Dam has 17 gate-controlled bays for water release. The spillway capacity is 112,200 cubic foot per second.

east of the park gates. A car can be parked here. It also offers a great view of the dam and the lake.

Reaching the trail is very easy. Take Arkansas Highway 178 out of Flippin. After reaching the Bull Shoals city limit sign, go .8 of a mile and take a right on Rivercliff Drive. Stay on this road until it ends back on Highway 178. Turn right onto 178 which is also known as the Bull Shoals Dam Blvd. Go a quarter of mile and turn right into the parking lot of the Bull Shoals White River State Park James A. Gaston Visitor Center. The trail is on right side of the park and the large pavilion invites visitors to the trail. ■



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There is a small primitive trail on the south side of the Heritage and Habitat Trail. It is an out-and-back path that totals .3 of a mile.

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