



2023
Newton County

Spring

Visitor's Guide

Photos Courtesy of Ponca Nature Center

See Center Events Pages 10 & 11!



A quick Google search of “small town Arkansas” yields Jasper as the top result. Established in 1840, Jasper offers a variety of outdoor enthusiast and family friendly places to visit. The city of Jasper, Arkansas is a gateway for tourists looking to hike, camp, and canoe on the Buffalo National River.

Jasper sits in the heart of the Ozark Mountains and along the banks of the Little Buffalo River. The town has a picturesque downtown square filled with classical Americana design. Tourism from the Buffalo National River largely drives the local economy. Established as the first national river in 1972, the Buffalo National River is famous for its towering rock bluffs and emerald colored water.

In recent years, Jasper has grown as a hub for motorcycle and automotive enthusiasts. Drawn to the beautiful mountain views and the winding roads of Scenic Highway 7, Arkansas’ first state-designated scenic byway. Jasper is always a popular route destination during the yearly Blues, Bikes, and BBQ festival.

source jasperarkansas.com

This publication is a product of the Newton County Times

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P.O. Box 453, Jasper, AR 72641 • 870-446-2645

Publisher: Jim Holland

Editor: Lynn Blevins

Content: Jeff Dezort

Advertising Account Executive: Sheri Underdown

Layout & Design: Sherry Zollo, Graphic Artist

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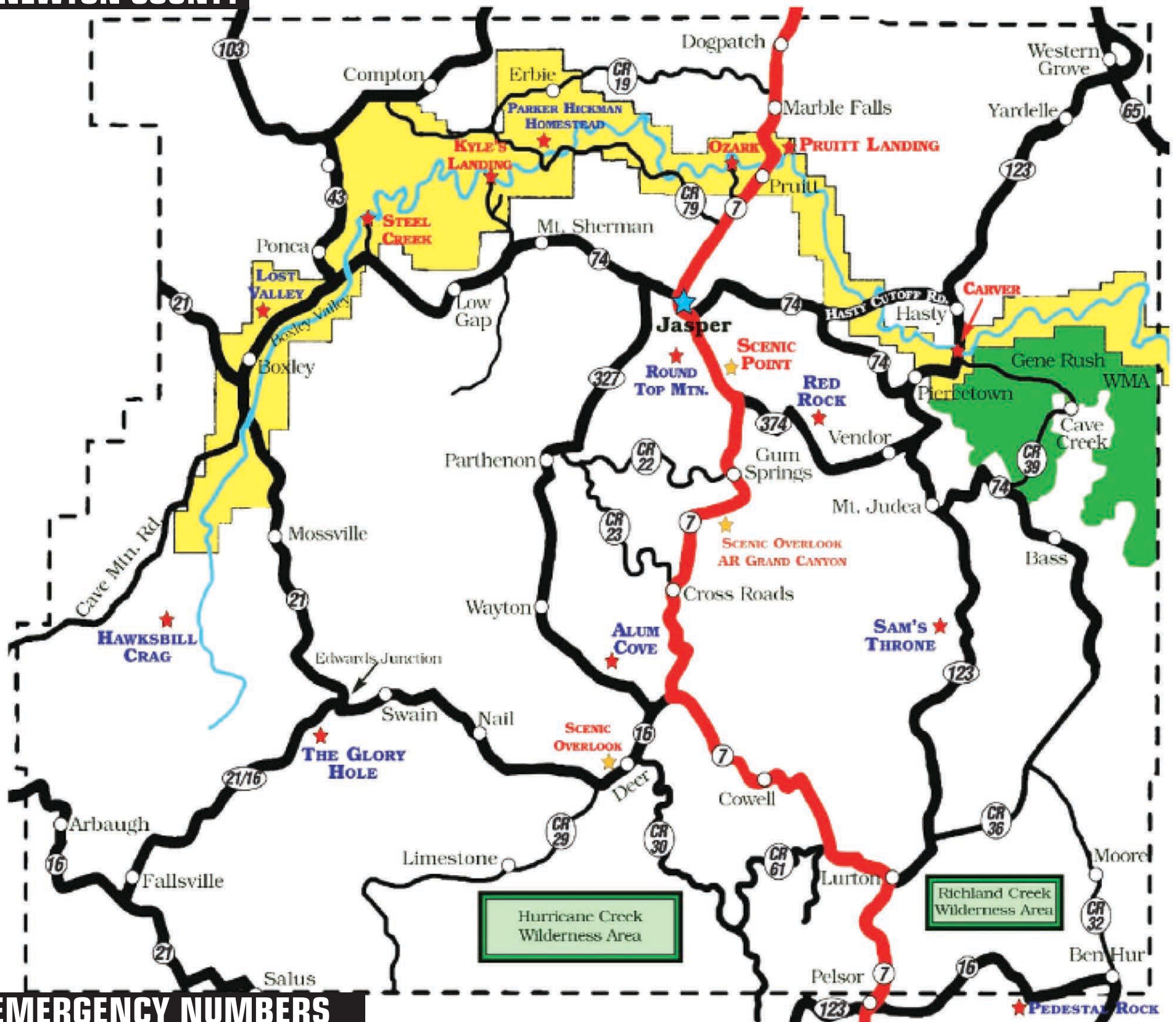
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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Newton County Sheriff — 870-446-5124
- National Park Service — 870-741-5443
- Buffalo National River — 870-446-5373
- U.S. Forest Service — 870-446-5122
- Poison control Center — 1-800-376-4766
- National Weather Service — 1-800-762-4363

FOR ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION, CALL THE NEWTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ALERTS & CONDITIONS

▶ SOUTH WOOLUM ROAD CLOSED, ALTERNATE ROUTE AVAILABLE



In the interest of safety, the South Woolum Road has been closed. The Woolum launch and campground remain open. The National Park Service, in coordination with Searcy County, will work to reopen the road as soon as possible.

▶ CAMPGROUND AMENITIES UNAVAILABLE NOV. 15, 2022 THROUGH MARCH 14, 2023

All amenities (water, electric, flush restrooms) are turned off during the winter. The flush restroom at Tyler Bend remains open. You may still camp in the park campgrounds, primitively, but be aware only vault restrooms are open at all other campgrounds.

▶ PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE KYLES LANDING ROAD (COUNTY ROAD 56)

Starting March 1, 2023, there will be 'No Parking' signs placed along the Kyles Landing Road, also known as County Road 56. Parking will no longer be permitted on the road to allow space for emergency vehicles to safely enter the park.

You can find updates on the park's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/buffnatriver/



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Buffalo River Elk Festival scheduled for June 24-25

The Buffalo River Elk Festival will return to Jasper's historic downtown square on June 23-24, 2023.

The Buffalo River Elk Festival will offer two days of entertainment, local art and handmade goods, food vendors, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's annual elk tag lottery and outdoor activities for the whole family in beautiful Newton County—the elk capital of Arkansas.

This annual festival celebrates the successful reintroduction of wild elk to the Buffalo River corridor and the associated benefits to local communities via tourism, outdoor recreation and education.

This year's festival will feature musical performances by award-winning regional artists. Festival activities will include a Dutch oven cookoff, food vendors, the Arkansas State Championship Elk Calling Contest, a youth fishing derby, presentations by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission educators, the Arkansas elk tag lottery, and many other family-friendly events.



For more information about the Buffalo River Elk Festival, please visit www.buffaloriverelkfestival.com or find us on Facebook.

For more information about the Buffalo River Elk Festival, please visit www.buffaloriverelkfestival.com or find us on Facebook.

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FUN things to do in buffalo river country

▶ GO BIKING:

Mountain biking is growing in popularity and Newton County has become a destination for mountain biking trail seekers. Many mountain biking trails are in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area. Here's a listing of several, but not all, local trails open to mountain bikes compiled by Ozark Off-Road Cyclists.

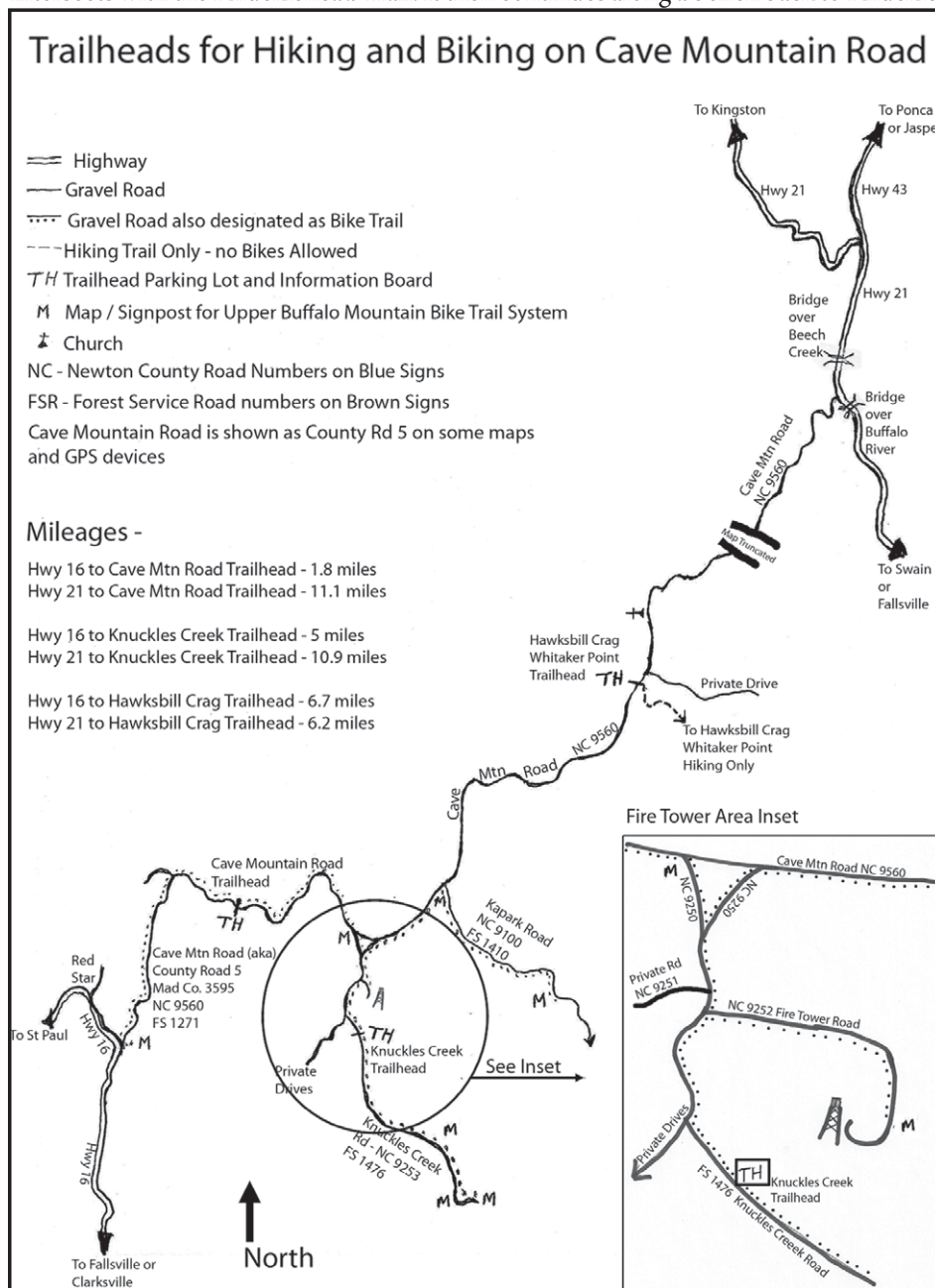
- **Fire Tower Trail:** This machine built flow trail is accessed by beginning at the Fire Tower Loop Trail and descending about half way down to Knuckles Creek where it intersects with the Knucklehead Trail. It then continues along a bench back to Knuckles Creek Road Trail (FR 1476) at Signpost 27. The Fire Tower Loop Trail can be completed by turning up FR 1476 at Signpost 27, climbing up to the Knuckles Creek Trailhead and further to the Fire Tower.

- **Fire Tower Loop Trail:** This machine built flow trail is accessed by beginning at the Fire Tower Loop Trail and descending about half way down to Knuckles Creek where it intersects with the Knucklehead Trail. It then continues along a bench back to Knuckles

Creek Road Trail (FR 1476) at Signpost 27. The Fire Tower Loop Trail can be completed by turning up FR 1476 at Signpost 27, climbing up to the Knuckles Creek Trailhead and further to the Fire Tower. Or, better yet, a larger loop can be ridden by turning down the Knucklehead Trail West at Signpost 28 and descending to Knuckles Creek (a 750 foot vertical drop from the Fire Tower), to Signpost 26, then riding down the creek back to ascend Knuckles Creek Road (FR 1476).

- **Knuckles Creek Road Trail:** A 3.1 mile long dirt road trail along Forest Service Roads FR 1413 and FR 1476. This is a well-maintained US Forest Service dirt road that can be used to connect the Knucklehead Trail West or Knucklehead Trail East with the Knuckles Creek Trailhead, the Fire Tower Loop Trail, the Azalea Falls Trail and the Cave Mountain Road Trail. The trail begins at UBMBTS Signpost 33 and terminates at Signpost 26. For shuttle purposes most cars and trucks can drive to the bottom and back up in dry weather.

- **Buffalo Creek Trail:** A 6-mile long, mostly hand-built, intermediate trail beginning at the Buffalo Creek trailhead on Cave Mountain Road Trail. Start by following a double-track down toward Big Buffalo Creek. The Buffalo Creek Trail continues down Big Buffalo Creek with numerous creek crossings to its current terminus at the bottom of the Southern Slide Trail. The creek crossings can be very technical, and high water could prevent access to parts of this trail. The Buffalo Creek Trail follows an old homestead road down the creek. There are numerous old homesteads along the way. The Buffalo Creek Trail connects to the Red Star, Twisted Hickory, Wildcat Hollow, Zeester, An-



cients and Southern Slide trails.

- **North Bench Trail:** This trail was not included in the UBMBTS because it ends on private property. However, if you wish to hike a bike to the top, or have permission to access from the top, it is an exhilarating experience! This trail features super-steep sections coupled with fast flow terminating into Wildcat Trail.

- **Kapark Road:** This is a Forest Service Road used to access trails on the Upper Buffalo Mountain Bike Trail System. Kapark Road is a 1.56 mile US Forest Service Road trail along FR 1410.

This dirt road is well-maintained and can be used to connect to the Knucklehead Trail East at UBMBTS Signpost 30 and to Cave Mountain Road Trail at Signpost 34. For shuttle purposes cars and trucks can access the road between those signposts and beyond. There are also several primitive roadside campsites in the Ozark National Forest along this road.

Matlocks help Mother Nature with wildflower plantings

COMPTON — Next to farmers, pollinators rank highest in importance. Yes, farmers grow the food that we eat, but smaller creatures like bees, butterflies and wasps are necessary in nature's plan by pollinating the plants that are an important part of the life cycle of all things. Garland and Robin Matlock of Compton realized this fact and decided to give Mother Nature a hand by planting five acres of wild flowering plants on their 31-acre certified tree farm.

Most farmers are focused on making the most of their farms' limited acreage. They give little attention to pollinators, Garland said. By establishing a large variety of plants on their property, the husband and wife team hopes neighboring farms will benefit.

Because of this unusual form of community service, a group of representatives from Newton County's farm service agencies may have decided to recognize the Matlocks and name them Newton County Retired Farmers of 2022.

This is the second season for the pollinators, Garland said. The process began with a prescribed burn on areas of the farm in December 2020. He said about 40% of the damaged timber that was removed was from the 2009 ice storm that hit the region. Four acres of pasture and another acre from a utility right-of-way were transformed into wildflower meadows. The Matlocks had to agree to maintain the right-of-way by removing any woody growth. In return the power company won't have the areas sprayed with herbicide.

A forester for 15 years with the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Matlock said he was familiar with programs that support the creation and conservation of pollinator habitat. The Natural Resources Conservation Service under the United States Department of Agriculture was the main assisting agency. Others included the Arkansas Forestry Commission, biologists from the Arkansas Game and

Fish Commission and Quail Forever.

Once the areas were burned free of litter and other fuels, they were prepped for the native plants by using herbicides to remove unwanted, noxious and non-native plants, most of which was fescue.

The soil had to be prepared for seeding before a good snowfall. The Matlocks found a roll of chainlink fence. They dragged it behind their SUV on the surface of the ground creating inch-deep grooves in the dirt. It worked pretty good, Garland said, as most of the seeds only had to be planted a half of an inch deep.

They soon found it was best to sow the seed by hand. The seeds weren't uniform and the resulting mixture would clog up all different kinds of spreading machines, even a no-till planter. So, while Garland drove, Robin sat on the SUV and cast the seed mixture out on the ground around it.

The list of seeds the Matlocks selected for planting included 50-60 different flowers and grains. The plants are successional in that as one plant finishes blooming another plant is just beginning to. That way there are meadows of blooms three of the four seasons of the year. Most of the plants are perennials meaning they come back on their own year after year. There are some annual plants so they depend on seed reproduction to ensure they will reappear in following years.

Many plants have value for their medicinal use on humans, Garland said, but he warned many can be detrimental to livestock. So it is wise to know what kind of seed is being selected and where it



will be planted.

Seed is expensive and the Matlocks got by with 24 pounds. Seed companies hand pick

MOTHER NATURE cont pg 9

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► **GO HIKING:**

• **HEMMED-IN-HOLLOW - THREE DIFFERENT TRAILS**

Center Point Trailhead - 5.4 miles One way to the Falls

This trailhead is located 3.5 miles north of Ponca on state Highway 43 and actually follows an old road all the way to the Buffalo River. The 1300 foot drop to the River begins as a leisurely stroll down hill and gets steeper after the first mile. Along the way, you will pass other trails that lead to great spots like Chimney Rock and Granny Henderson's Cabin. You will also pass the Goat Bluff Trail to Big Bluff but unless you are a very experienced hiker it is not recommended because it is extremely dangerous out on Bluff and warning signs are posted. Even though this is a spectacular sight, the trail is narrow and the edge drops straight down about three hundred feet to the river so folks are not encouraged to take this trail. After passing this intersection, you are approximately 2.5 miles from another intersection which will take you to the mouth of Hemmed-In Hollow and a view of the tallest waterfall between the Rockies and the Appalachians.

• **COMPTON TRAILHEAD - 5.0 MILES ROUND TRIP**

To reach the trail head, take County Road 19 of Highway 43 at Compton, travel .8 miles then turn right at the sign and the trailhead is just up the road. Two trails begin here but the one on the left is the quickest and also the steepest way to get to the falls. It's a quick trip down hill but the hike out will be a real test for the greatest of hikers. The other trail is longer and will take you past several special scenic spots along the way. **From the River:** While floating the Buffalo, you'll want to watch for the traditional spot that canoeists stop at to access the falls. It's just a short hike and to view the tallest waterfall in mid America is truly a memorable experience.

• **HIDEOUT HOLLOW TRAIL - 2.0 MILES ROUND TRIP**

To reach the Schermerhorn Trailhead take County Road 19 off Highway 43 at Compton. Do not turn off the dirt road to the Compton Trailhead but continue straight ahead for about two more miles. At approximately 3.5 miles from the highway at Compton turn left into the primitive parking lot and begin your hike.

This is a great little trail that takes you into a large bluff and waterfall area. Along the trail you will see some fantastic sights, thick stands of trees, and an apartment-sized rock that has broken off from the bluff with giant pines sprouting from it. You will pass through a cedar grove and start hearing water so that's a sign that you are nearing the head of Hideout Hollow. Down below the trail you can work your way around to get a better view of the big falls and the bluffline you've been walking on. There is private property approximately 60 feet upstream so please respect their rights. To get back to the trail head just hike back the same way you came in.

• **MILL CREEK TRAIL - 1.5 MILES**

Take Highway 7 north from Jasper. Then just past the Pruitt bridge, take a right to get to this 1.5 mile historical hike. Follow this trail through the forest land and you'll walk by remains of former homesteads, and a gristmill operated on Mill Creek prior to the Civil War. Follow this trail along the creek until you come to a road, turn right, cross a low water bridge, turn right again. You'll then come to Shaddox Cabin pioneer homesite. The present house was constructed from logs salvaged from a pre-Civil War cabin. Follow the trail on down to Mill Creek and ford the creek on stepping stones unless there's high water. If so, backtrack and cross the creek at the low water bridge.

► **SEE A DRIVE-IN MOVIE:** Searcy County is home to Arkansas' only year-round Drive-in movie theater....the Ken-



da Drive-In, providing family fun since 1966! Nothing ends a perfect day of exploring or relaxing quite like a movie under the beautiful night sky. A full concession stand with very reasonably-priced snacks and food options makes this a must-do in Buffalo River Country. Admission is \$6 for adults, ages 12 and up. Children under 12 are free with parents, unless otherwise specified. If there is an admission for children, ages 6-11 are \$2, under 6 are free. 107 Westwood Dr, Marshall, Arkansas. Call (870) 448-5400.

► **GO CAMPING:** Buffalo National River maintains numerous campgrounds throughout the park. Newton County is in the river's upper district. The upper or western end of the park includes 5 campgrounds. Fees for sites in these developed campgrounds are \$12.00 per site per night with 6 people permitted on each site.

• **STEEL CREEK CAMPGROUND** is about 3 miles east of Ponca Arkansas off of Highway 74. The tent campground has 26 campsites and the horse campground has 14 sites. Campgrounds open year round. The vault toilet in the tent campground will be open but with very limited servicing. No water and no trash pick up provided Nov. 15, 2013 - March 14, 2014. No RVs allowed. GPS Coordinates: 36.0407758, -93.3440483

• **KYLES LANDING CAMPGROUND** is about half way between Ponca and Jasper Arkansas off of Highway 74. The entrance road into Kyles is gravel, very rough and high clearance vehicle is recommended. Campground closed Nov. 15, 2013 - March 14, 2014. No RVs allowed GPS Coordinates: 36.0557563, -93.2812997

• **ERBIE CAMPGROUND** is reached off of Highway 7 north of Jasper Arkansas. The road is 5.5 miles of graded gravel. At this time, the Erbie Campground is closed, but river access is open. Erbie Horse Camp, located 1.5 miles away, remains open to those with horses. GPS Coordinates: 36.0734394, -93.2177326



• **ERBIE HORSE CAMP** is located 7 miles east of Compton and is reached via gravel and dirt roads and is north of the Buffalo River. Open year-round with camping and vault toilet. Use is limited to those with horses only. Campsites allow a maximum of 6 persons and four horses per site. No fees charged. GPS Coordinates: 36.0800929, -93.2342205

• **OZARK CAMPGROUND** is located 3 miles down a graded gravel road off of Highway 7 north of Jasper, Arkansas. Campground closed Nov. 15, 2013 - March 14, 2014. Campground has 30 campsites, each with a picnic table, fire ring and lantern hook. Restrooms have flush toilets. RV's allowed but the campground has no hookups and no dumpstation. GPS Coordinates: 36.0621317, -93.1597244

• **CARVER CAMPGROUND** is located near the bridge crossing the Buffalo River along Hwy 123. The campground has 8 campsites, a vault toilet, water, and access to the river. Open year round. This is a pack in/pack out facility with no trash service provided. GPS Coordinates: 35.98518232 -93.03818673

JAPC announces excursion dates

Staff Report

The Jasper Advertising and Promotions Commission is excited to announce an expansion of excursion dates and options due to increased interest in last year's tours and receiving a grant from the Strong Southern Communities Initiative to help cover costs. "Traditionally, Jasper hosts two ecotours, the Spring Dogwood Tour on the fourth Friday in April and the Autumn Color Tour on the fourth Friday in October," Michelle Martin, JAPC director, said.

This year, the **60th Annual Spring Dogwood Tour** has expanded to include six different tour dates. Dates include:

- ▶ Friday, March 17
- ▶ Saturday, March 18
- ▶ Friday, April 14
- ▶ Saturday, April 15
- ▶ Friday, April 28
- ▶ Saturday, April 29

The **61st Annual Autumn Color Tour** includes four tour dates in October including:

- ▶ Friday, October 13th
- ▶ Saturday, October 14th
- ▶ Friday, October 27th
- ▶ Saturday, October 28th

"We are also excited to add the following excursions throughout the Fall," Martin continued:

- ▶ **Arts & Crafts Excursion Tour on September 8 and 9**, finishing up at the Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival.
- ▶ The **Backroad Bootlegger Jeep Tour on Saturday, September 23.**
- ▶ The **Live Big, Shop Small Town Excursion on Saturday, November 25.**

Each date offers a small variation of tour route and featured businesses, local artisans and craftsman, and historical locations. Each tour can host up to 22 participants to be shuttled to each featured location. The rich history of Newton County as well as lighthearted conversation will be shared on the commute between featured locations.

All tours will originate in Jasper. Tour registration and morning refreshments will begin at 8 a.m. with the tour welcome at 8:30. Buses will leave promptly at 9 a.m. and return around 4 p.m. with the exception of the September 8 and 9 tours that will begin at 10 a.m. and end at the Buffalo River Bluegrass Festival at 5 p.m. Participants will need to bring a jacket, comfortable walking shoes, a camera, and a picnic lunch (if not desiring to purchase the premier tour package).

The routes this year will include stops at the Bradley House Museum, Ponca Elk Center, Smith Creek Preserve, Scenic Point Gift Shop, the Arkansas House, Koen Interpretive Trail, Round Top Mountain Trail, Sam's Throne, Mount Judea Mercantile, the Cliff House and more. All routes are subject to change should presenters become unavailable, weather forecasts, or road conditions change.

If interested in being featured on the tour as a local business, artisan or craftsman, please contact JAPC Director Michelle Martin at japc@cityofjasper.org or by calling Jasper City Hall at 446-2633.

"We are happy to offer multiple tour packages once again," Martin added. These tour packages include the Basic Tour for \$15 and the Premier Tour for \$40. The Basic tour option includes complimentary refreshments during registration and welcome, the guided tour through scenic Newton County, bottled water, and a souvenir guide of the area. The Premier Tour option includes the basic tour amenities plus local fare and coupons from area shops, Buffalo National River tee, and a picnic lunch.

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED ONLINE USING A DEBIT/CREDIT CARD ON ... JAPC.TICKETLEAP.COM/2023EXCURSIONS OR WITH CASH OR CHECK AT JASPER CITY HALL.

"All patrons are cordially invited and encouraged to check out local shops in downtown Jasper as well as our delightful Farmer's Market on the courthouse lawn at the end of each tour," Martin concluded.

MOTHER NATURE from pg 7

the seeds and put them in cold storage for their protection, Garland said in trying to justify the cost.

Garland said after the prescribed burn he was surprised to find about 25% of the wildflowers were already there. It is possible the seeds were trapped in the soil for up to 100 years. Only until the burn were they released.

Examination of the trees showed drought damage and some insect infestation such as the red oak borers invasion couple of decades ago. Soil testing was also important before seeding could begin.

The tree farm was found to have too many red maple trees. In order to save as many as possible they were offered free to anyone who wanted to transplant them. Several have found a new home at Jasper's Bradley Park.

About 140 tons of low grade logs went to local mills, Over 100 ricks of firewood were given to five families and a commercial business. There is still lots of wood to cut. A neat pile of cut wood is available to anyone who needs it.

Garland said he was helped in the project by Edwin "Scamp" Krumweide. Garland explained that he developed medical problems, but the three year contract was completed.

As part of the project, an archeologist visited the property. Nothing of interest was found other than some old fences. An areal view of the property showed the location of an object that might have been an old cabin, but it turned out to be an old bus a previous owner of the property likely used for storing things.

The hardwood trees are harvested every 10-15 years on a selected basis. The isn't any clear cutting.

The trees that have hollow cavities are kept as part of the habitat needed by birds and small mammals.

Near the Matlock's house are some orchard trees such as cherry and apple. There is also a white mulberry tree. The berries are good to eat, but the tree mostly provides the Matlocks with entertainment. Sitting on a deck on the house they enjoy watching the birds and squirrels compete for the fruit.



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The Ponca Nature Center opened its doors in 2002 as part of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in an effort to provide public education about the sizable elk herd that lives here in the Buffalo River area. Admission to all AGFC nature centers is free thanks to the 1/8th-cent Conservation Sales Tax.

The center features a fun, interactive exhibit room, gift shop, visitor information, a wraparound deck overlooking Ponca creek, picnic tables and a pavilion, and meeting space. The facility is available for group programs scheduled in advance, as well.

The Ponca Nature Center is situated conveniently off of Highway 43 in Ponca, Arkansas. Elk are frequently seen year-round grazing in the grassy fields along Highways 43 and 21 South in Boxley Valley. Dawn and dusk are the best times for viewing. For information on upcoming classes visit the Ponca Nature Center Facebook page, or agfc.com.

THE NATURE CENTER IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Tuesday-Saturday
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on Sundays
October 1 - Thanksgiving



EVENTS BY PONCA

➔ **THURSDAY, MARCH 23**
 AT 10:00 AM
 DIY Toad Abode
 Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ **FRIDAY, APRIL 7**
 AT 5:30 PM
 Talkin Turkey
 Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**
 AT 10:00 AM
 Ponca Access Clean Up Event

➔ **WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**
 AT 1:00 PM
 Wild Wisdom - Delightful Dandelions
 Fred Berry
 Crooked Creek Nature Center, Yellville

➔ **FRIDAY, MAY 26**
 AT 5:30 PM
 Wild Wisdom - Delightful Dandelions
 Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ **SATURDAY, MAY 27**
 AT 10:30 AM
 Wild Wisdom - Delightful Dandelions
 Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ **SATURDAY, JUNE 3**
 AT 10 AM
 Native Edible & Medicinal Plants Hike
 Centerpoint Trail Head · Compton

➔ **SATURDAY, JUNE 10**
 AT 10 AM
 Arkansas Native Plant Swap
 Ponca Nature Center · Ponca



NATURE CENTER

➔ THURSDAY, JUNE 15

AT 5:30 PM

Wild Wisdom - Naturally 'Dead' Nettle
Fred Berry Crooked Creek Nature Center
Yellville

➔ FRIDAY, JUNE 16

AT 5:30 PM

Wild Wisdom - Naturally 'Dead' Nettle
Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ SATURDAY, JUNE 17

AT 10:30 AM

Wild Wisdom - Naturally 'Dead' Nettle
Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ THURSDAY, JULY 13 AT 5:30 PM

Wild Wisdom - Perfectly Pine

Fred Berry Crooked Creek Nature Ctr, Yellville

➔ FRIDAY, JULY 14

AT 5:30 PM

Wild Wisdom - Perfectly Pine
Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ SATURDAY, JULY 15

AT 10 AM

Wild Wisdom - Perfectly Pine
Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

AT 5:30 PM

Wild Wisdom - Delightful Dandelions

➔ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

AT 10 AM

Wild Wisdom - Naturally 'Dead' Nettle

➔ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 & 28

Color Fest

Ponca Nature Center · Ponca

➔ FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

AT 1 PM

Wild Wisdom - Perfectly Pine

Registration and
information for these
activities can be found at:
[www.register-ed.com/programs/
arkansas/240-arkansas-outdoor-skills-
network](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/arkansas/240-arkansas-outdoor-skills-network)

► **GO RIDING:** There is a long, rich culture of equestrian use along the Buffalo River. From the time of the early settlers until today, horses and mules have been used to support the commerce of the region. Farming and logging with stock was once a common practice in the rural counties along the river. Mail delivery and traveling "circuit rider" judges and preachers depended daily on their horses and mules. Today, equestrian use is one of the popular recreational activities along the Buffalo River, giving visitors access to many of the areas scenic features and the rich history of the Ozark Mountains.

Whether you are looking for a developed campground or a wilderness adventure, Buffalo National River offers visitors several options for equestrian camping and trail riding. The park encompasses over 95,000 acres that surround the free-flowing Buffalo River with over 75 miles of designated equestrian trails. Many miles of primitive trails and old road traces are also available to equestrian use. The most extensive horse trail network is in the upper section of the river. Due to the extensive network of trails, horseback riders are advised to purchase a Trails Illustrated® map published by National Geographic from any of the park visitor centers, park concessionaires, area Arkansas Game & Fish Commission offices, or local area businesses to properly identify park approved equestrian trails. If you wish to ride your horse in the park, please read the park's rules and regulations concerning equestrian use at Buffalo National River. Visit www.open-trail.us/arkansas-trails/newton-county for a list of trails.



► **FIND WATERFALLS:** It's no secret that Arkansas has a plethora of gorgeous waterfalls. We've mentioned the ones you can enjoy in a drive-by, the more hidden falls, and the most unique. There's one particular area in the state that's an absolute waterfall paradise. Newton County is overflowing with more than 100 falls (which isn't even including all of the unnamed ones) but don't worry, you won't have to scroll through 100 pictures today. We're just focused on our top ten favorites in the county.

• **PARADISE FALLS:** A waterfall paradise wouldn't be complete without an actual Paradise Falls. You'll pass many smaller waterfalls in the area before you reach this lovely 32-ft. falls.

• **EDEN FALLS:** Just as fitting as Paradise Falls, Eden Falls is a perfect representation of the gorgeous waterfalls in the area. You'll come across it during your hike around Lost Valley Recreation Area.

• **GLORY HOLE FALLS:** This iconic waterfall is one of the most unique in the state. Glory Hole is one of the few that flows through the above rock instead of over it. The hike is fairly short but all uphill on the way back.

• **TRIPLE FALLS:** Triple Falls (or Twin depending on recent rains) is an easy waterfall to reach, which makes it perfect for a family day trip. It's part of the popular Boy Scout camp, Camp Orr and is a quick .3-mile jaunt from the parking lot.

• **HEMMED-IN HOLLOW FALLS:** It's only fitting that the county with the most waterfalls is also home to the tallest. The 6-mile trail has a rather steep 2.5-mile climb out but the exertion is absolutely worth it to see the 209-ft. falls, the tallest waterfall between the Rockies and the Appalachians.

• **CHUMFARGER FALLS:** Not too far from Paradise Falls is the Chumfarger Falls.

What's even better is that the neighboring waterfall is Hargfarger Falls. You'll have as much fun saying the names as you will exploring the area.

• **PAIGE FALLS:** Paige Falls is a gorgeous waterfall that's super easy to reach since it's just a .3-mile walk from the road. The falls is a modest 8-ft. but pours into a stunning blue pool.

• **BROADWAY HOLLOW FALLS:** If you made the effortless track to Paige Falls, then you should stop by Broadway Hollow as well. The roaring falls are 21-ft.

• **Middle Cow Falls:** Right on the edge of the county line is Cow Creek. Waterfalls are all along the creek including Middle Cow.

• **THUNDER CANYON FALLS:** Getting to Thunder Canyon isn't the easiest of hikes but the end destination makes the effort well worth it. The secluded 71-ft. waterfall is absolutely breathtaking.

Visit www.onlyinyourstate.com/arkansas/ar-waterfalls-everywhere/ for more information on the above waterfall destinations.

► **GO SHOPPING:** Jasper's variety of shops focus on the eccentric, on hand-made items and groovy antiques. Emma's Museum of Junk is packed with everything from roller skates to ride-on toys, plus every manner of record, doorknob and bicycle part known to man. The Scenic Point Gift Shop just south of town offers magnificent views of the Buffalo River Valley as well as jams, jellies and Arkansas crafts. And pick up great works of art, quilts and more from local artists at the Chamber of Commerce and Information Center.



► **SOUTHERN FOOD ENDS THE DAY:** End the day with southern charm and



comfort food – both are served up in heaping helpings at Big Springs Trading Co. Here you will find a smoked meat deli, a full BBQ menu, provisions, gifts, and Arkansas-style hospitality. This charming, tastefully styled building is home to some of the best food found anywhere on the Buffalo National River, so whether you are packing a picnic basket or meeting up to discuss the day's adventures, be right at home and filled to the brim at Big Springs.



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Since 1954

2nd Annual Lavender Festival in Newton County

AuxArc Botanicals at Compton has already announced that the 2nd Annual Lavender Festival in Newton County will take place on June 10, 2023.

Last year there were vendors, food, all things lavender, essential oil distillation demonstration and many other activities.

Karen Fancher is the proprietor of AuxArc Botanicals located a half mile from the Boone County line, just short of greater downtown Compton.

An admission charge and operation ties have not yet been announced.



The festival will be located at the farm on State Highway 43

PREVENT INJURY & ACCIDENTS



L. PATTON PHOTO

Park rangers, SAR volunteers, and EMS personnel tend to an injured patient beside the Buffalo River in the Ponca Wilderness.

Out of 400 plus National Park Service units, Buffalo National River rates 13th for the number of Search and Rescue (SAR) incidents annually. This is significant.

Please read up on what you can do to prevent accidents and injuries during your visit: <https://www.nps.gov/buff/planyourvisit/prevention.htm>. #RecreateResponsibly #LeaveNoTrace

SAFETY ON THE RIVER



Photo/L. Eddings Photo

A down tree with a large root ball lies across the Buffalo River. There is a narrow, clear path to pass the tree on the right. Photo taken between Pruitt and Hasty.

Safe paddlers will scout out obstacles before paddling into them.

On a wild stream like Buffalo National River, natural forces are constantly at work. Large trees can get swept into the river when streambanks erode away during high water events. These trees often get lodged in bends or narrow chutes where the river is fastest. They can cause a canoe or kayak to capsize and require extra care to avoid.

Experience is the best practice; avoidance is the best caution.

National Park rangers remove downed trees when they are judged to be a hazard, but it's crucial to know that not all trees are removed from the Buffalo. Some are considered nuisances, not hazards, and are part of the wild river experience.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: READING THE RIVER



MODERATE

There are inherent risks involved in recreating on a wild river. Conditions are safest when the water is clear and slow-moving because it's easier to see and respond to river hazards.

Are you prepared?



HIGH & SWIFT

Recent rainfall washes sediment into the river, turning the water a murky green color. Storms can create swift currents and hazardous obstacles.

Do you have the skills and knowledge to self-rescue?



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Flooding occurs when the river rises rapidly and flows outside of its banks because of extreme rain events. This causes churning, muddy water, floating debris, and life-threatening conditions.

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It is waterfall season

Don't go chasing waterfalls....

Actually, on second thought, it's waterfall season! With the recent rains the waterfalls in the park are flowing nicely!

Did you know that the 210' Hemmed In Hollow waterfall is the tallest waterfall between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians! It should be noted that the 5 mile out and back trail to Hemmed in Hollow is an extremely steep and strenuous trail with an elevation gain of over 1000' that will humble even the most experienced hiker, not for the faint of heart!

But take heart, many of the trails in the park feature stunning waterfalls that are more easily accessible! Plan a hike to catch some of the many waterfalls at peak flow between now and the end of May.

Paige Falls, Hideout Hollow Falls, Eden Falls, Magnolia Falls, Broadwater Hollow Falls, Hammerschmidt Falls, Maumee Falls, just to name a few! Which is your favorite?



For more information about the trails in the park
visit the link below.

www.nps.gov/buff/planyourvisit/hiking-trails.htm

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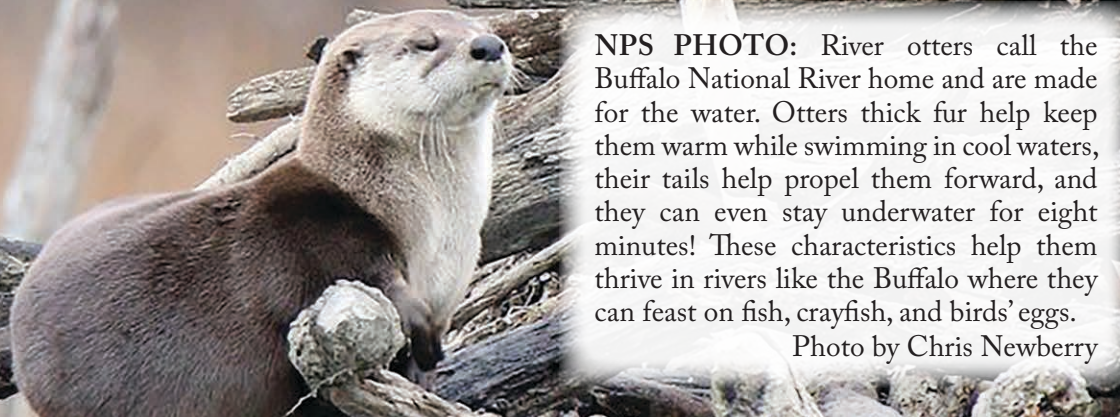
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You otter believe it!



NPS PHOTO: River otters call the Buffalo National River home and are made for the water. Otters' thick fur helps keep them warm while swimming in cool waters, their tails help propel them forward, and they can even stay underwater for eight minutes! These characteristics help them thrive in rivers like the Buffalo where they can feast on fish, crayfish, and birds' eggs.

Photo by Chris Newberry

River otters offer antics for winter wildlife watchers

By RANDY ZELLERS
Assistant Chief of Communications

LITTLE ROCK — Conservation comeback stories often focus on the amazing return of white-tailed deer, the black bear in Arkansas and other game species, but one of The Natural State's most charismatic critters also came back as a result of proper game management and habitat conservation. Once nearly wiped clean from Arkansas's streams, the river otter now enjoys a healthy population which benefits not only trappers, but the many men and women who enjoy watching wildlife from a canoe, kayak or other watercraft.

COMEBACK CRITTER: Highly prized for their luxurious furs, otters were regularly targeted by trappers and hunters looking to make a living during the early days of settlement. Conversion of many wetland areas to farms also dried up many of the intermittent streams that provided temporary wetland habitat for otters as well. Declines in beaver populations also reduced otter populations. Beavers, also prized for their pelts, were targeted not only for their fur, but also because of the flood damages they could cause to agriculture when they formed dams. Without this additional wetland habitat created by the beaver, river otter numbers continued to drop.

The decline of the river otter was so widespread throughout the nation that 22 states initiated some sort of relocation program to reintroduce these semi-aquatic mammals into their historic range. Arkansas otters fared better than most states, but by 1951, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Biologist Trusten Holder estimated Arkansas's remaining population of river otters teetered somewhere between 700 and 800 individuals, mostly within the Delta region of the state. Regulated trapping and sales of furs, declines in fur markets and best management practices protecting water quality and streams have combined to see a rebound in otter numbers throughout Arkansas. Now paddlers and boaters who enjoy small streams and rivers have decent chances of glimpsing these social members of the ferret, weasel and mink family.

Adult river otters range from 10 to 30 pounds, and stretch from 2.5 to 5 feet long with most hovering around the size of a yardstick from nose to tail. According to Kirsten Bartlow, watchable wildlife program coordinator for the AGFC, their streamlined bodies are made for life in the water.

"They're really neat animals," Bartlow said. "Their ears and nose automatically close when they go underwater. Their dense fur sheds water because of oils the otter produces, and heavy layers of body fat keep them insulated when the water is cold."

In the water, otters are true predators; they are able to chase down fish, frogs and crayfish fairly easily, thanks to webbed feet and powerful swimming muscles. They also enjoy mussels, turtles and aquatic insects they find on their dives. They can remain submerged for up to 4 minutes at a time, and they have prominent facial whiskers, which are extremely sensitive and are used to find food.

On land otters are much less graceful and have an almost comical gait.

"They always remind me of a slinky on the move," Bartlow said. "And if it's snowy or icy, they'll alternate that loping run with sliding on their bellies."

According to Bartlow, otters are primarily nocturnal and active all year. A female and her young tend to live in a family group for their first year and communicate with each other through growls, chirps, squeals and other vocalizations.

"They're relatives of skunks, and they also use scent and latrine sites to communicate with other otters," Bartlow said. "They'll regularly visit sites in their territory and deposit droppings and secretions from their musk glands."

Some of the best times to catch otters in action is when streams see little boating activity during the spring.

Visit www.arkansaswatertrails.com for more information on water trails the AGFC works with partners to provide.

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Thwart a snakebite before it happens

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

LITTLE ROCK — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate between 7,000 and 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the United States each year. Thanks to modern medicine, only about five of those victims die from their snakebite. By comparison, an average of 41 people in the U.S. die annually from lightning strikes.

Odds aside, preventing injury from Arkansas's venomous reptiles is as simple as learning to identify them and avoid them should you come across one in the wild. According to Lori Monday, regional educator for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, only six of Arkansas's native snake species are venomous, and each can be identified with a little practice.

"Many people will point out that a nonvenomous snake will have round pupils where a venomous snake has elliptical pupils like a cat's eyes, but that can be dangerous and misleading," Monday said. "Coral snakes are venomous and have round pupils, and if you're close enough to tell the snake's pupil shape, you're probably not at a safe distance."

Identifying a venomous snake by a triangular head also can be misleading, as the eastern hog-nosed snake and some nonvenomous water snakes can flatten their heads to look triangle-shaped as well.

"It's easier and safer to just learn a few key identifiers that will help you judge if it's a venomous snake or not," Monday said.

The eastern copperhead has one of the best camouflage patterns in the fall woods, with hourglass bars that alternate between dark and light coppery brown. The distinct hourglass may not be easily noticed unless you are looking at them from above. Instead, Monday says look for the "Hershey's kiss" shape on the side of the snake that's formed by half of that hourglass.

"Northern cottonmouths are probably the hardest of Arkansas's venomous snakes to identify because the juveniles are lighter colored and have distinct barring, while the adults will be very dark," Monday said. "But the cottonmouth has a very fat, wide body compared to most snakes, and they have a dark stripe across their eye that I like to refer to as sort of a mask of Zorro. Juvenile cottonmouths and copperheads also have a greenish yellow tip to their tails that they use as a lure to draw curious animals close enough for a bite."

Rattlesnakes have their namesake noisemakers at the end of their tails, and if you need further confirmation of which species you're looking at, timber rattlesnakes have an orange-brown stripe down their back and chevron-patterned bars, while the western diamond-backed rattlesnake has its diamond-patterned skin and a distinct white-and-black zebra stripe pattern at the tail just before the rattles begin.

"Western pygmy rattlesnakes have the red-brown stripe down the back, similar to timber rattlesnakes, but they are much smaller and have small, button rattles at the tips of their tails," Monday said.

The coral snake is the only venomous snake in Arkansas that falls outside of the pit viper family, and its contrasting bands of red, yellow and black are a dead giveaway that it may be dangerous. Some nonvenomous Arkansas snakes, such as the milk snake, have alternating red, yellow and black bands as well. Some people have come up with handy rhymes to tell the two apart, as the coral snake's red bands are bordered by yellow bars, opposite the milk snake's red-and-black pattern.

Clarisha Cummins, representative for BTG Industries, the company that produces the antivenom, CroFab, for North American pit viper envenomation, offers her own handy rhyme for people who aren't sure about the species "Red touches yellow, kills a fellow. Red touches black, friend of Jack." Follow that and you'll be much safer," Cummins said.



AGFC photo

A timber rattlesnake has an orange-brown stripe down its back and chevron-patterned bars.

Even with a healthy live-and-let-live attitude, some people may accidentally step on an unseen snake and receive a bite. Wearing boots or shoes that go past the ankles can be some protection, and some manufacturers make special snake boots for hunters who know they'll be venturing in snake country when these reptiles are still active. Even after a bite, a level head and some basic knowledge of how snake venom works can help.

Cummins has heard of many home remedies for snakebites, and none prove successful. "Cold packs, cutting and sucking venom at the bite site, and even electric shock are all talked about, but they don't work," Cummins said. "You're likely to cause yourself more damage than anything else by trying these tactics. In cases where someone says these may have worked, they were likely dealing with a dry bite that the snake didn't inject venom into."

The best remedy, according to Cummins, is to remain calm and go to a hospital for a treatment of antivenom. Remove any jewelry, watches and rings, as envenomation can lead to swelling and try to keep your heart rate at a normal level.

"Don't use a tourniquet," Cummins said. "Tourniquets can keep the toxin concentrated at the bite site, causing more damage. Also, the buildup of bad blood behind the tourniquet can cause the body to go into shock if it is released too quickly. A hospital will have to relax the tourniquet through a gradual loosening, which can delay the proper treatment of the envenomation."

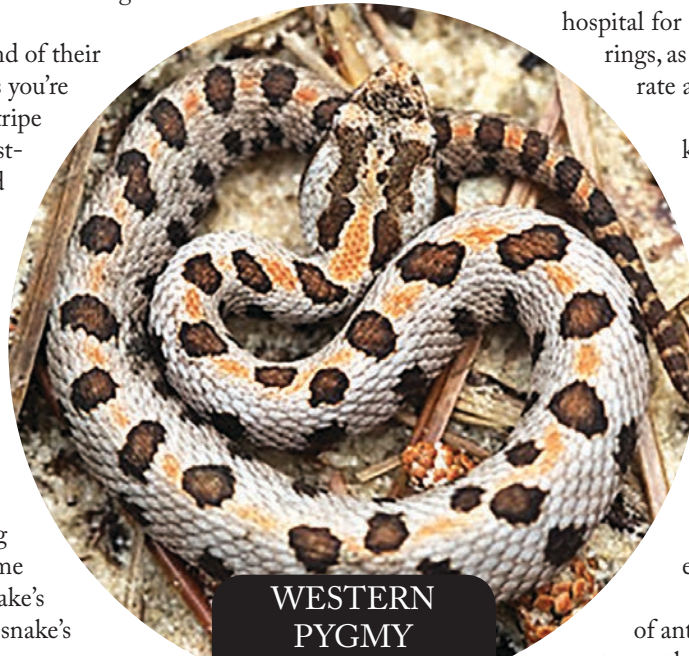
Cummins says to forgo the first aid for the bite and just go to a hospital and receive treatment there. Don't worry about collecting the culprit of the bite, either.

"You don't have to kill the snake or know exactly what species it was as long as it was a pit viper," Cummins said. "CroFab works against all venoms of North American pit vipers, so please don't bring a dead or live snake into the emergency room with you."

Unfortunately, not every hospital in Arkansas has a supply of antivenom onhand, which can lead a person to being transferred to another hospital, lengthening the time the venom is in the system untreated.

"Antibiotics don't work, nor do antihistamines like Benadryl," Cummins said.

"They only help if there's an allergic reaction or infection of the bite. Envenomation works much differently. CroFab has created the Snakebite 911 app to direct you to a hospital with a current supply of the medicine you need. It's available as a free download."



WESTERN
PYGMY
RATTLESNAKE

Life list adds angling excitement

By Chuck Long
AGFC Regional Educator, Northeast Arkansas

Lists are commonplace in our society; shopping lists, to-do lists and wish lists are found in most every household. Most lists are met with anxiety, but there is a list that each Arkansas angler should try to keep: an Arkansas fish list.

A fish list keeps up with species as an angler first catches them. It encourages the angler to broaden horizons and seek fish in a variety of waters, improving their knowledge. Lists also spark the use of different techniques from live bait to artificial lures.

With more than 200 species of fish in Arkansas, so another key ingredient to a fish list is the ability to identify species. Though many can be quickly identified by an internet search, a good book can be invaluable in the identification process. The AGFC offers a the Arkansas Fish Pocket Guide as a download or printed publication for free. For those willing to spend a few dollars, "Fishes of Arkansas" from the University of Arkansas press is the gold standard in fish identification.

Some of the first fish to fill an angler's list often are bream species. Bluegill, redear sunfish and green sunfish can be caught in a variety of waters. Though most sunfish are common, this group of fishes produces some obscure species like the flier, a small sunfish often confused with a bluegill. This group can also produce some fish that are only found in certain types of waters. The shadow bass and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Largemouth bass are easy to add to the fish list, but smallmouth, pictured here, and spotted bass will need to be sought in certain waters such as the Buffalo National River, Little Buffalo River and their tributaries.

Ozark bass, for example, will be found primarily in clear mountain streams. Largemouth bass are easy to add to the fish list, but smallmouth and spotted bass will need to be sought in certain waters. Some bodies of water, like Greers Ferry in central Arkansas and Beaver Lake Bull Shoals Lake and the Kings River in northwest Arkansas all have the potential to produce all three in single outing.

Both black and white crappie can be found throughout the state. A quick count of the dorsal spines will distinguish the species with the white crappie having six spines while the black crappie will have seven or eight.

Fishing for catfish can add several species to the list for anglers who adventure to various types of waters. The more common catfishes, the channel, flathead, and blue can be caught in most lakes and rivers. The channel will be the most accessible and is the fish most often stocked for fishing derbies by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The blue and flathead are more often found in flowing waters, though some lakes boast good populations of each. Three species of bullheads also live in Arkansas: the black, brown and yellow. Identification will be a key to determine exactly which species is at the end of the line.

Introduced to Arkansas after the construction of dams on major rivers, trout can be found in several rivers flowing with cold water. The rainbow trout is the most often

ANGLING cont pg 18

PONCA NATURE CENTER



Relax in rustic log rockers or benches on a shady wraparound deck overlooking Ponca Creek while observing some of the area's flora and fauna. A lazy trail along the creek offers a closer look, while nearby picnic tables, covered pavilion and large grassy area provide room for fun and games.

For an educational and fun souvenir, shop our gift corner for books, videos, shirts and more. Hunting and fishing licenses also are available. The center is within easy access to some exceptional camping, canoeing, swimming and fishing on the Buffalo National River, along with some of the finest hiking trails in the state. Cabin and canoe rentals are available in the area through private sources.



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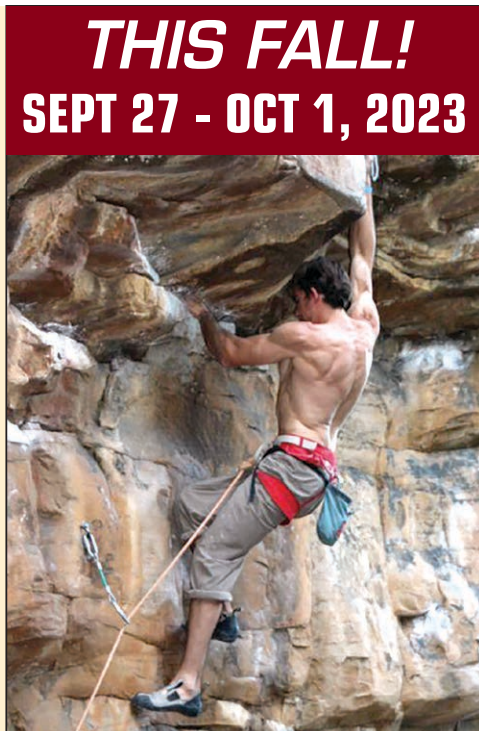
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24 Hours of Horseshoe Hell is an endurance rock climbing competition and festival, held annually on the last full weekend of September, within the steep sandstone cliff walls of Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, Jasper, AR. Teams of two have the opportunity to choose between a 12 hour and 24 hour event, and the festival lasts five days with food, camping, music, swag, games, competition, parties, and most of all fellowship. Join our beautiful community, and pack your costume!

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THIS FALL!
SEPT 27 - OCT 1, 2023

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stocked species, and can even be found in Family and Community Fishing Lakes in winter. Brown, cutthroat and brook trout also can be found in the tailwaters of dams forming some Arkansas lakes, but are not as prevalent as rainbows. Bull Shoals and Norfork tailwaters offer the opportunity to catch all four species on one fishing trip. Additional stockings of tiger trout (a brown/brook trout hybrid) and golden rainbows (a rare color variation of the common rainbow trout) add even more flavor to Arkansas's trout waters.

White bass can be found in many rivers as they make their spawning run in early spring. Striped bass are a little harder to target but can be found in some of Arkansas's larger lakes, such as Lake Ouachita, Beaver Lake and Lake Dardanelle. The hybrid striped bass, a cross between the white and striped bass, have been stocked in a couple of lakes as well.

Walleye and sauger are found in many bodies of water across the state, but often require specific tactics. These fish are often found near the bottom of flowing rivers and can be tempted by a jig tipped with a minnow.

There are a host of other fishes that can be added to the fish list. While not as popular as sport fish, many "rough fish" have much more potential than anglers give them credit. Grinnel (bowfin) are found in backwaters across the state, put up an amazing fight and are eager to take most bass lures, especially spinnerbaits. Freshwater drum are easily caught in most rivers on worms or crawdads as they make their spawning run.

The gars of Arkansas offer an interesting challenge. Spotted gar are the smaller species and are found in more quiet waters. Likely to take a crappie jig or minnow, these fish are easy to find and catch. The same can be said for the longnose gar and it can be found in a wider range of areas than the spotted gar. The shortnose gar is typically found in the larger river systems of the state. Often confused with a spotted gar, the shortnose lacks spots on top of the head. The alligator gar has the title of the largest fish in Arkansas and is found mainly in large rivers. Big baits and big tackle are keys to taking alligator gar.

There are several types of suckers that inhabit the waters of Arkansas. These fish, as well as many other species, are best sought with a worm fished on the bottom. The red-horse species are most often caught, but the buffalo species will also occasionally be taken. Once again, fish identification is critical in adding species to the list.

Chain and grass pickerel can be taken from a few bodies of water in Arkansas and look very similar. The chain pickerel is larger and more abundant. The shovelnose sturgeon and paddlefish are found in many Arkansas rivers and can be incidental catches while targeting other species.

For specific ideas on the wheres and hows of fishing in Arkansas, please check agfc.com. Rules and regulations vary depending on the waterbody, so check those. Also check out the Virtual Nature Center and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission YouTube channel for videos on fishing in Arkansas.

CAR SHOW SET FOR MAY



The Newton County Senior Activity & Wellness Center will hold a Classic Car Show at the center on 100 East Clark Street, Jasper • Saturday, May 6
 Pre-registration is \$15.00
 TO PRE-REGISTER PHONE 870-446-5531

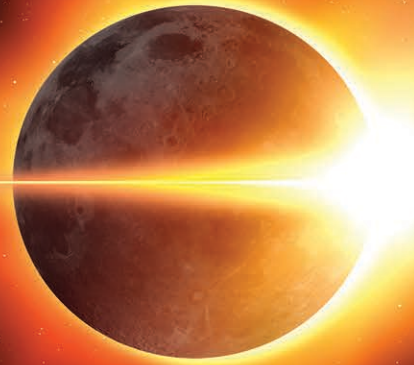
Deadline is April 21. Registration on show day begins at 9 a.m. and the fee will be \$20. Vehicles produced up to 1976 can be entered.

There will be seven classes with a trophy presented for each class winner. Classes are original car, muscle car, street rod, rat rod, motorcycle, original truck and modified truck. Judging will begin at 11 a.m. This event will be held rain or shine.

For more information email: nhenderson@aanwar.org

A lighter look at a solar eclipse

Total Solar Eclipse April 2024



By LORA W. DAIL

With the Total Solar Eclipse happening in April 2024, placing us in the Path of Totality, I thought I'd explain why it's such a big deal.

An eclipse happens when the Sun, the Moon, and the Earth line up and one blocks another. There can be two to five eclipses of some sort, somewhere on Earth, each year.

A Solar Eclipse is when the Moon winds up between the Sun and Earth at just the right distance to block the Sun in some way.

A Total Solar Eclipse is when the Moon, passing between the Sun and the Earth, is just the right distance from the Earth to completely block the Sun and casts the Moon's shadow on Earth.

An Annual Solar Eclipse happens when the Moon is furthest away from Earth and passes between the Sun and the Earth. When an annual solar eclipse happens, the Moon looks like a black disk against the Sun.

A Partial Solar Eclipse happens when the Moon (again) gets between the Earth and the Sun but they are not perfectly lined up. The Sun will look like it has a shadow on part of its surface.

There are also a bunch of lunar eclipses that happen when the Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon. Earth blocks the sunlight that the Moon usually reflects (the moonlight) and casts a shadow on the Moon.

In April 2024, Newton county, and many parts of Arkansas, will experience a Total Solar Eclipse and will be in the Path of Totality.

Whenever I hear "Path of Totality," I hear an announcer's voice, deeply and slowly, saying "Path. Of. Totality!" Followed by some deliberate chords like cliffhanger music on a crime drama or old scary movie!

The Path of Totality is when the Moon's shadow, or Umbra, moves across the Earth's surface. The shadow is about 100 miles wide and can travel at between 1,100 and 5,000 mph. These 100 miles of shadow are the coveted Path of Totality. Where the sun's light is blocked completely and those on the ground experience night-time darkness for a few minutes in the middle of the day.

There are actually eclipse travelers who move around the globe to experience an eclipse. To these people, a Total Solar Eclipse is the biggest of big deals! Their goal is to wind up in the Path of Totality! There are even eclipse travel agencies to help these travelers get there! So we can expect them to show up in April 2024! Along with a huge number of Americans packed into the family truckster road-tripping our way to experience the Path of Totality.

The last Total Solar Eclipse happened August of 2017 and according to a study by the University of Michigan, 88% of American adults (about 216 million people!) watched the eclipse.

Any Scrabble players out there? The straight-line configuration of three celestial bod-

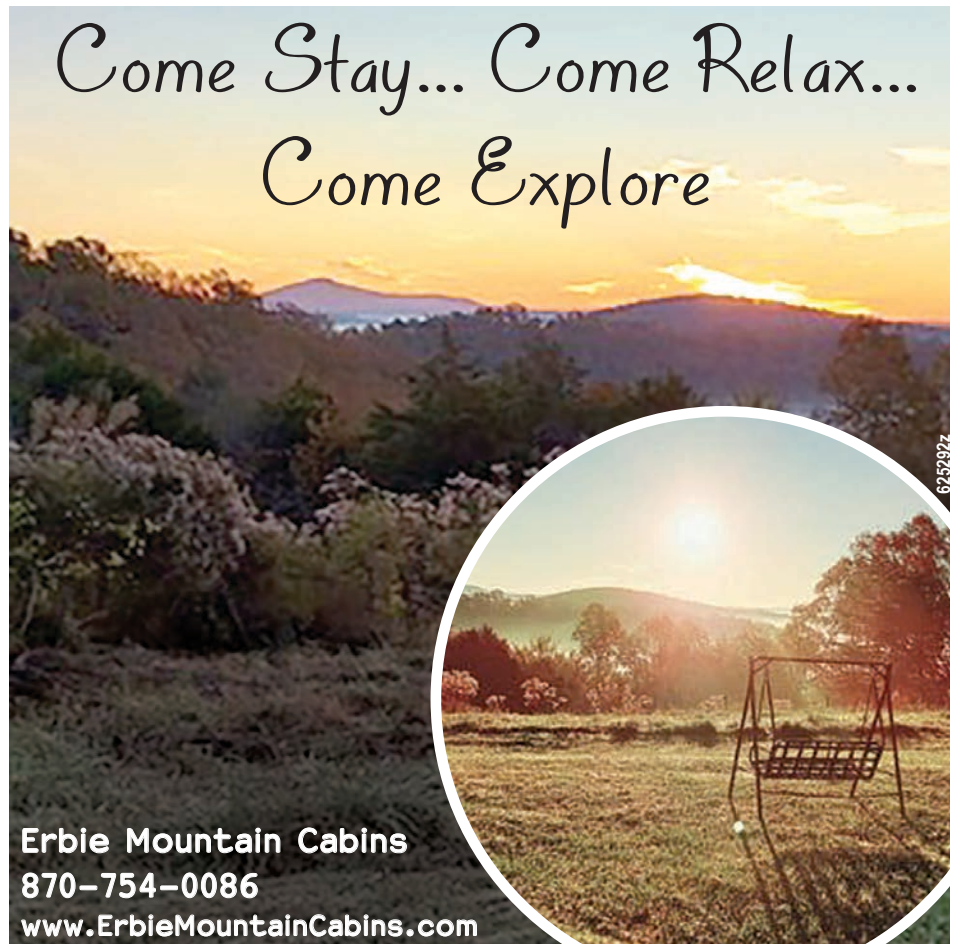
ies is called a syzygy (SIZ-uh-jee). Our Total Solar Eclipse will be a syzygy and will win you 21 points!

The Total Solar Eclipse is very generous; it gives a diamond ring and a bunch of beads to its viewers.

The beads, called Baily's Beads are seen as the Sun, behind the Moon, shines through the mountains and valleys of the Moon, seen as a dotted arc of lights to viewers on Earth. These lights are named for English astronomer, Francis Baily, who explained the phenomenon in 1836.

The diamond ring happens when only one 'bead' remains, so the bead look like a shining diamond sitting on top of a ring. Strangely enough, most eclipse marriage proposals happen when the diamond ring is shining in the sky.

Come Stay... Come Relax...
Come Explore



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