

# THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE



NEWSLETTER OF ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL, GILLETT, ARKANSAS

April - June 2000 • Volume 1, Issue 3

## Rifle and Cannon to Fire Again on Battlefield of Arkansas Post

The sounds of marching soldiers, crackling campfires, and discharging rifles and cannon will be the atmosphere on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> as the Arkansas Post National Memorial hosts a combined-arms living history weekend. Consisting of living historians portraying Civil War units of the time, the event will interpret camp life, military maneuvers, and the arms and equipment that would have been common at the January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Battle of Arkansas Post.

The participating Union units, consisting of the reenacting groups based in St. Louis, Little Rock, and Pine Bluff, will be encamped beside the *Park Lake*, living in camps reminiscent to those at Arkansas Post one hundred and thirty-seven years ago. Military demonstrations, explaining the arms, equipment, maneuvers, and tactics, of the time will be presented on the grounds of the historic Post of Arkansas town site. An artillery unit from the Fort Smith National Historic Site will also take part, demonstrating the pivotal role that artillery played.

“This will certainly be a colorful event,” said Superintendent Ed Wood. “Traditionally, we tend to think of Union, or ‘Northern,’ troops as being clad simply in blue, but, many of the living historians at this event will be dressed in bright, colorful, Zouave uniforms, as did many of the participants at the actual battle.” Wood added, “These two days will be perfect for bringing a lawn chair, lunch and enjoying the activities.”

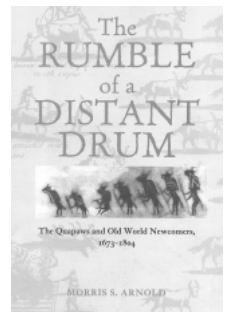


In addition to the military demonstrations, a Civil War period church service will take place in the camps at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, led by long-time Post volunteer and lay-minister Charles Silsbee.

Superintendent Wood invites the public to take part in any or all of the special park activities. For more information, contact the Arkansas Post National Memorial visitor center at (870) 548-2207. A schedule of events is located on *Page 2* of this issue.

## Post to Host Book Signing For New Book on European and Quapaw

Arkansas Post National Memorial is hosting a book signing of Judge Morris Arnold's new book *The Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*. Arnold will be here on Sunday, June 4, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. in the visitor center.



Arnold's newest book draws on extensive archival resources in France and Spain and his twenty years of research and writing about colonial Arkansas. The result is an engaging account of Quapaw and European relations in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Arkansas. In this work, Arnold gives a vivid account of Arkansas Post; the most enduring artifact of a hundred and twenty-five years of French and Indian congeniality.

This will be his first public tour of the new book. Judge Arnold will be giving a brief talk at 2:30 concerning the book. Everyone is invited to attend.

Copies of the book will be for sale in the visitor center. Refreshments will also be served.

**CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY  
DEMONSTRATION WEEKEND**

*Arkansas Post National Memorial*

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 3, 2000**

- 8:00 a.m. Union Encampment Open to the Public
- 9:00 a.m. Camp Life During the Civil War (In Union Camp)
- 10:00 a.m. Infantry Demonstration
- 11:00 a.m. Artillery Demonstration
  
- 1:30 p.m. Infantry Demonstration
- 2:30 p.m. Artillery Demonstration
- 3:00 p.m. Combined Arms Demonstration
- 4:00 p.m. Camp Life During the Civil War (In Union Camp)
- 7:00 p.m. Union Encampment Closed to the Public

**SUNDAY  
JUNE 4, 2000**

- 8:00 a.m. Union Encampment Open to the Public
- 9:30 a.m. Period Church Service Public Invited
- 11:00 a.m. Infantry Demonstration
- 11:30 a.m. Artillery Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. Combined Arms Demonstration
  
- 2:00 p.m. At the end of the demonstrations, all are invited to the Visitor Center for a reception and special book signing of Morris Arnold's brand new book entitled, "*Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804.*"

**SPECIAL NOTES**

***BAD WEATHER (RAIN) WILL CANCEL ALL PROGRAMS***  
Be cautious around open fire pits, tent ropes, and camp equipment.  
All live fire events will be presented in the historic town-site area.

Black powder weapons produce severe noise. Be mindful of your hearing and especially that of children. Concussions from cannon will activate car alarms.

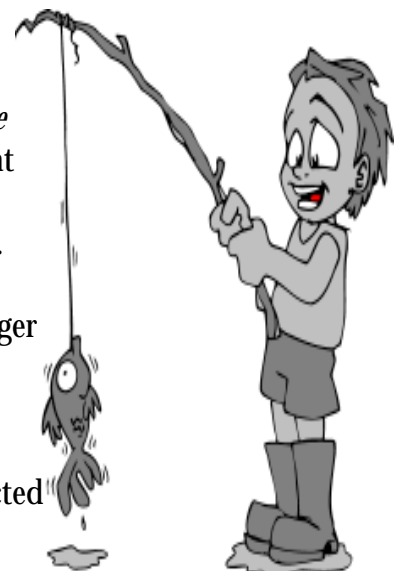


***"You get a line and I'll get a pole"***  
**Fishing Derby Set For June 10th**

Arkansas Post will be hosting its fourth annual fishing derby on Saturday, June 10th. In preparation, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will stock *Park Lake* with four hundred pounds of catfish. The derby will start at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon. Only children ages four to fourteen will be allowed to participate. Each child will need to bring their own rods and bait. There will be a limit of ten fish.

"This event has become very popular over the past years," according to Park Ranger Shane Lind. "I know of one family that is cutting their vacation short just to get back in time for the derby."

About eighty young anglers participated in last year's event. The number is expected to increase dramatically this year. The event is free and open to the public.



## Post Family to Say Good-Bye to Shane

As of mid-July a long-time member of the Arkansas Post family will be leaving this memorial for another. Ranger Shane Lind has accepted a transfer to the Lincoln Boyhood Memorial, located near Lincoln City, Indiana.

A native Arkansan, Shane received a bachelor of science degree in history from the University of Central Arkansas. He transferred to the Post in February of 1997 after spending two years as a Park Ranger at the Fort Smith National Historic Site.

During much of his more than three years at the Post, Shane was the “lone-ranger,” serving as the only Ranger of the division. It was during this time that he was responsible for planning and operations of the interpretive division. His professionalism, friendliness, and outgoing personality quickly made Shane a well-known addition to both the national memorial and the surrounding communities.

Outside of the office, Shane was active with the Dumas Lions Club and the city Arts Council. His willingness to participate and assist with community projects both park and non-park related was evident to most.

The entire Post staff conveys its heart-felt congratulations to Shane and the new experiences that await him “up North.” His bubbly personality and proactive assistance to park operations will be greatly missed.

Good Luck Shane, We'll Miss You!

## A Fond Farewell

Time for us to part, you and I. Saying goodbye to all of you is like saying goodbye to old friends. That is the way I feel. Thank you for making me feel that way. My three and a half years at Arkansas Post National Memorial have been rewarding.



Shane Lind with 1999 Fishing Derby Contestant Martin Lee Walt

It has been my honor and privilege to work with the excellent staff of Arkansas Post. They have been my constant friends and family and I shall miss them greatly. Likewise, it has been an honor and privilege to serve you, the public. Since my time here, your support of the park and me has been tremendous and I thank you for that. Arkansas Post is a jewel and I shall always carry, the fond memories and the many friends I have made with me.

“The crossroads of America” is where I am off to, which is the State motto for Indiana. Life’s next journey carries me to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in southern Indiana. Only time will tell, but I hope that my days there will be as special and rewarding as the ones I leave behind.

There is a rhyme by Clarence Day, which is what I would like to leave you with . . .

*“Farewell my friends, farewell and hail, I’m off to seek the Holy Grail. I cannot tell you why. Remember, please, when I am gone, ‘twas aspiration led me on. Tiddly widdly, tootle-lou, all I want is to stay with you. But here I go.”*

Goodbye,



## Special Study Provides A Better Understanding of Common Park Pest

What are creepy, crawly, icky, yucky, tiny, biting, and, sadly, a common annoyance at summer-time Arkansas Post? If you guessed ticks, you're right. However, to Park Resources Management Specialist, Kevin Eads, the little pests are a fascinating creature and the basis for his in-progress master's thesis.

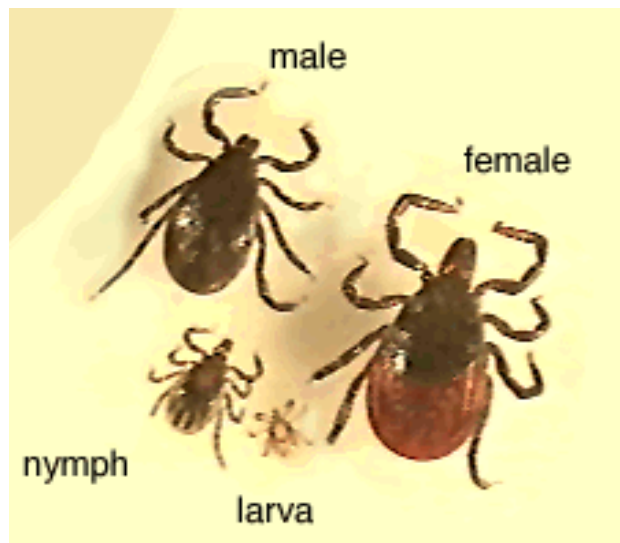
As part of Kevin's formal paper, a tick-borne disease study was started at the Post in May of 1999 in order to determine if Lyme disease, caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and Ehrlichiosis are present within the park and if so, what their frequencies are. This study will help to fulfil baseline data requirements mandated by the National Park Service (NPS) and identify potential threats to visitors and park personnel.

Kevin is serving as the primary researcher; however, Dr. Philip Tappe, Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, is a coinvestigator and has provided invaluable information and assistance to both the park and Kevin.

The objectives of this study are (1) determine relative abundance of small mammal and tick species by vegetation class, (2) relate tick species and density on hosts to small mammal species and vegetation class, and (3) determine the frequency of *Borrelia burgdorferi* and Ehrlichiosis by tick species,

host, and vegetation class at the Post.

Vegetation was first identified within the park and types were delineated through the use of geographical information systems (GIS), digitizing aerial photographs, and on the ground sampling. Fourteen different vegetation types were defined within the park. After vegetation types were identified, sampling plots measuring 2-meters by 3-meters were randomly placed in each vegetation type. Additional constraints that were utilized, which determined the amount of sampling plots placed within each vegetation type, was the average area of each respective vegetation type.



This image shows the four stages of tick development of Kevin Eads' study

Ticks were collected, in the sampling plots, through the use of a technique called "flagging" which involves dragging a one-meter square piece of white muslin through vegetation. Upon contact with the moving cloth, ticks will attach themselves with their forelegs. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, Kevin flagged for ticks in each of the different vegetation types contained within the

park. After collection, the ticks were identified by species, life stage, and sex and placed accordingly into vials for storage. Ticks were then randomly selected and "pooled" by vegetation type, sampling period, sex, and life stage for testing. The term "pooled" refers to placing up to 10 ticks in one vial as long as they were from the same area, collection time, and belonged to the same species and life stage. This was done to reduce costs of testing. For example, if one vial containing 10 ticks were tested, only one test would be required initially. If that test returned negative results for tick-borne diseases then no further testing would be required.

On the other hand, if only one tick were in a vial and you had 10 vials, therefore 10 ticks, then you would have to perform 10 separate tests. As a result more money would be spent. However, if the one vial of “pooled” ticks returned a positive result, then you would have to go back and retest each individual tick. Therefore, a possible dilemma exists with regard to expenditures, but due to the assumption that tick-borne frequencies are low, less money will be spent for testing.

Small mammal trapping also took place throughout the spring, summer and fall of 1999. Trapping consisted of placing live traps in each of the designated sampling plots for 4 nights per sampling period. Three sampling periods were conducted, one for each season. Traps were checked on each successive morning after placement. If a small mammal was captured, it was identified to genus, as well as species when possible, sexed, combed for ticks and then released. Ticks collected off of small mammals were then identified like those obtained from “flagging” and prepared for testing.

All sampling, both trapping and flagging, took place in the same location so that correlations could be drawn from them. Testing is being conducted, through an agreement, by the United States Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine - North Unit (USACHPPM-N) at a reduced cost. An initial pooled sample containing approximately 180 ticks, from both flagging and trapping sessions, was sent in October. Results are forthcoming.

The second year’s sampling is scheduled to begin in May of 2000 and will be completed by October. The same procedures, sampling periods, and plots will be utilized. This is done so that any variation within a single year’s data is minimized which provides a more accurate picture of when different life stages and species of ticks are abundant and where they most likely occur. Addition-



Kevin demonstrates the specially adapted “flag” that is used to collect tick specimens in the Post’s fields and woods. The white fabric provides a bright backdrop, allowing for the collection and identification of the little creatures for study.

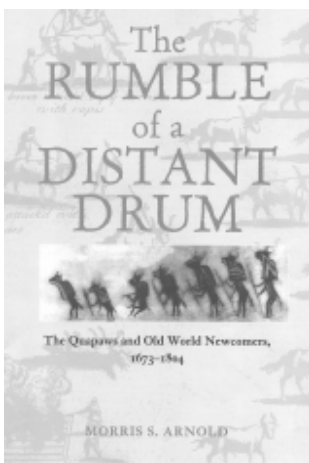
ally, if tick-borne disease is present within the park, two years worth of data will assist in determining “hot spots” and when they occur while mitigating any effects of abnormal environmental conditions (i.e., above normal temperatures or excessively dry years).

Information obtained from this study will be useful in determining management decisions at the park. Determinations that could be made include, but are not limited to, possible tick reduction methods, as well as changes to the park’s fire management policy and mowing practices. Additionally, information will be made available to other institutions and agencies such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), other National Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Universities, etc... as tick-borne disease frequency studies are rare.

For more information concerning this study, or other wildlife-related questions, Kevin can be reached at (870) 548-2210.

## **Morris Sheppard Arnold — Judge, Scholar, Historian**

Morris Arnold has dedicated nearly forty years of his life to history and the law. His years of research and writing about Arkansas' colonial history have made him the foremost authority of the subject. Likewise his experience and expertise in the law has elevated him to United States Circuit Court Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

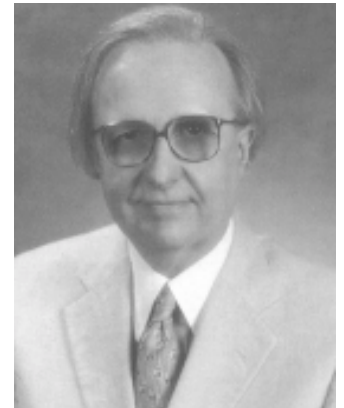


Arkansas Post is pleased that Judge Arnold will be at the Visitor Center on Sunday, June 4 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm for the first tour of his new book, *Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaws and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*.

Born in Texarkana, Texas, Arnold graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1959. He attended Yale University from 1959-1961 and earned a B. S. E. E. degree from the University of Arkansas in 1965. Elected to Tau Beta Pi in his junior year, he graduated first in his class from the University of Arkansas Law School in 1968. He also served as Note Editor and Editor in Chief of the *Arkansas Law Review*. In 1969, he received his L.L. M. degree from Harvard, and the following year he was appointed to a Teaching Fellow in Law at Harvard Law School. He was awarded a Knox Fellowship from Harvard to study at the University of London. Receiving his S. J. D. degree from Harvard, his dissertation was published by the Ames Foundation of Harvard Law School.

In 1971 Arnold began an impressive teaching career. From 1971 until 1977, he taught at the Indiana University Law School. In 1977, he became a professor of law and history at the University of Pennsylvania. He also served as an associate dean of the law school and a vice president of the university. Arnold returned to Arkansas in 1981, when he was appointed Ben J. Altheimer Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. On December 17, 1985, President Ronald Reagan appointed him United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas and seven years later, President George Bush appointed him to the United States Circuit Court Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

He is the author of eight books and numerous articles, mostly on the subject of English legal history and colonial Arkansas. The French government recently named him a



Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques for his contributions to the historiography of colonial Louisiana. His books include *Select Cases of Trespass from the Kings Courts, 1307-1399* (Two vols. 1985, 1988); *Unequal Laws Unto a Savage Race: European Legal Traditions in Arkansas, 1686-1836* (1985); and *Colonial Arkansas, 1686-1804: A Social and Cultural History* (1991).

Judge Arnold married Gail Fellingner on October 16, 1992. His Chambers are in Little Rock, Arkansas.



## No Shortage of Projects For Post Maintenance Division

The words “I’m bored” are never heard from any member of the Post’s Maintenance Division. In addition to the regular routine facility management projects, Division Chief Charles Layton Mattmiller and his staff are keeping busy with a combination of unexpected work and special projects.

Spring rains have resulted in unprecedented grass growth and, consequently, an increase in the need for mowing. In addition, severe storms that devastated property both to the north and the south of the Post left acres of felled limbs and debris.

With the upcoming June Civil War Living History Weekend, the diligent staff has been busy preparing the grounds for the anticipated crowds and nineteenth century soldiers. Chopping wood, constructing a speaker’s platform, and measuring off the demonstration area have added to the division’s already full plate of activities.

Perhaps the largest and most complicated of projects is Charles Layton’s construction of the new Visitor Center information desk/Eastern National sales area. Consisting of a four-sided desk measuring ten feet square, the massive addition to the lobby will greatly increase the sales space of educational items as well as provide for a spacious area for visitor convenience and information.

The entire park staff expresses it’s gratitude for all that Charles Layton’s division does to keep the park operating and beautiful.



## Two Hundred Graduate From Rangers Against Drugs Program

The Rangers Against Drugs (RAD) program was active this spring in two area schools. One hundred fifth graders from Drew Central Elementary in Monticello and one hundred fifth graders from Westside Elementary in DeWitt participated in the program. Ranger Shane Lind at Arkansas Post National Memorial gave the eight-week program at both schools. “Teaching RAD this spring was a very rewarding experience for me. The students were very receptive and in addition to learning, I think they had fun. If this program just keeps one young person from drugs then it will be worth it.” Lind said. “We have had great support from the schools and community, and more schools are requesting the program for next fall.” Lind added.

Graduation was held at Drew Central on Tuesday, May 16 and at Westside on Thursday, May 18. For participating in the program, each student received a certificate, badge, and a RAD T-shirt.

The RAD program was designed to promote interest and provide information about the National Park System, encourage children to develop positive attitudes and behaviors, and help prevent them from succumbing to alcohol and other drug use in their personal lives.



“Ranger Shane” talks to fifth-grade students during RAD graduation at Westside Elementary School in DeWitt.

## **Calendar of Events At a Glance**

- June 3 – 4**      **Civil War Living History Weekend. (See Event Schedule, *Page 2*)**
- June 4**            **Book Signing of Morris Arnold’s new book, *Rumble of a Distant Drum: The Quapaw and Old World Newcomers, 1673-1804*. Visitor Center, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**
- June 10**          **Annual Children’s Fishing Derby. Visitor Center, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.**
- June 17**          **Creature Feature. Visitor Center, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

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