



THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

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AETN to Host “Meet Me in the Park” on July 25

The Arkansas Education Television Network (AETN) will hold a celebration in the park on July 25 to promote the release of Ken Burn's PBS film on National Parks this fall. The event, "Meet me in the Park", at Arkansas Post will feature some living history presentations by staff and volunteers. Ranger Joe Herron will present musket demonstrations periodically from 10 AM—2 PM. Some clips of the Ken Burns film will also be shown at the park visitor center throughout the event. The event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

AETN actually started promoting the program when Exploring Arkansas filmed at National Parks this spring. Chuck Dovish and crew visited twice last spring to talk with Jodi Morris and Joe Herron. Footage from a bayou float and cannon firings were shown in the episode which ran on June 1 and June 22. It can also be found on the AETN website: http://www.aetn.org/programs/exploringarkansas/archives/archives/arkansas_post_national_memorial

AETN plans on following up their outreach program with a passport program for each of the National Park Sites in Arkansas and a few featured state parks. A photo contest is also planned for visitors to these sites. More information will be available at the "Meet Me in the Park" event.

The documentary, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea", was filmed over six years in many of the most well known parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Everglades, and Acadia. The film premieres on



2008 Photo Contest Winner for Best Wildlife, James George, Pine Bluff Ark.

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A Word from the Editor

I have been in this career for a little more than a decade. The National Park Service has allowed me to experience our most sacred cultural and natural areas. While only being stationed at one park, Hot Springs National Park, I have had short fire details at three others. Like many other NPS Employees, I have visited the training centers at Grand Canyon National Park and Harper's Ferry National Historical Park. My wife and I have taken personal trips to Smokey Mountain National Park, Vicksburg National Military Park and through Natchez Trace National Parkway. I should also mention the day trips to the variety of park sites in Arkansas as well as the wonderful system of state parks. All of these places have special meaning to me for the history learned, the scenery taken in, and the memories made.

Leaving Hot Springs was a tough decision because it was home. The staff at Arkansas Post has welcomed us and made this transition much easier.

For me, the wonder of Arkansas Post is the over 300 years of history as the old-



Zoe Herron says hello at the park gate.

est European settlement in the Lower Mississippi Valley. For my daughter, it is an outdoor classroom filled with birds, deer, squirrels, armadillos, and even alligators.

I want to encourage you and your family to enjoy all of your National Parks for the special places that they are. Enjoy them as the stories of our heritage or enjoy them for the abundant wildlife.

*Joe Herron
Park Ranger*

(Continued "AETN" on page 2)

Superintendent's Scribbins



Ever considered communications from a historic standpoint? Just the other day, I was working with the details of the Colbert Raid (the

Revolutionary War skirmish fought here at Arkansas Post in 1783.) Scholars and historians often argue about whether the conflict was really a part of the Revolutionary War since it took place well after the cease-fire was declared. However, as far as the combatants were concerned, the war was still underway – it took months for the word to finally reach them. In the 18th century, communications was limited to word-of-mouth or written documents and had to be physically carried from place to place. Sometimes it took years for critical information to reach the outlying areas.

Communications became better through the 19th century with the improvements in transportation and finally with wired services (telephone and telegraph) and the invention of wireless (radio) systems. Think about what has happened in the 20th century and how television, the Internet, and satellite systems affect almost every aspect of our lives. It's all a matter of communications.

How would history have been different if communications were as we have them today? Battles would certainly have

been different if armies were as well informed as now. Few sneak attacks would have been successful and estimates of troop numbers would have been much more accurate with their inherent effects on the outcomes. But just the changes in everyday situations that result from knowing what is going on across the county, state, nation or even the world would have altered our history. I am not an anthropologist or historian by training but I find it interesting to try to envision what changes could have been made if people knew that the mistake they were about to make had already been made somewhere else and they could prevent it happening again.

However, with the marvels of technology and the rapid communications that result, I have to wonder if we are not being overloaded with too much information now. The social networking on the Internet these days is a good example. I'm not sure I want to know that you're about to go to the post office in an hour or so. I also do not feel the overwhelming need to tell the whole world that I have a dislike for meatloaf. Look on any of the social networks today and this type of information is commonplace.

I consider myself fairly tech-savvy, but there is no way to keep up with all the advances in technology and I'm kind of glad I am resigned to the fact that I can't. It would be nice to have broad-

band internet but we live at the end of the telephone line and there's no cable so we must settle for satellite (both TV and Internet.) I do feel privileged that I get to live in the park surrounded by trees and abundant wildlife. I get to witness first-hand the annual migrations of birds along the central flyway and the return of the hummingbirds each spring. Deer grazing on my front lawn and eating my hydrangeas makes me realize that they are oblivious to world happenings and really do not care what I think! It's good to know what is going on at times, but now that I think about it, there are times when it's best not to know. I can enjoy nature, history or family and friends so much better if I don't know that the financial markets took another dive today. We all need a break – time to relax; recharge – just to survive. That is why we have places like Arkansas Post National Memorial. Our visitation is still fairly low and there is plenty of opportunity for solitude. In fact, if you ask around, most of the folks you talk to know little about us. The whole thing makes me wonder, with all the advances in technology and communications are we really hearing about the better things in life? I urge you to consider what is important to you and what you **need** to know! Maybe you need to unwind. Maybe you should join me and just enjoy your park.

Edward E. Wood, Jr.

AETN

(continued from page 1)

AETN on September 27 as a six part series. It will be released on DVD and Blu-ray as a six part set. A hardcover book will also be available.

This film is the latest from Ken Burns who created very popular historical films on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Civil War, jazz, baseball, the Statue of Liberty, World War II, and the West. Other films highlight historic figures such as Thomas Jefferson, Mark Twain, Jack Johnson, Frank Lloyd Wright, Huey

Long, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony. His work with PBS has garnered awards, critical praise, and record numbers of viewers for his genre.

AETN is holding similar "Meet Me at the Park" events in all six of the National Park Sites in Arkansas: Arkansas Post National Memorial, Buffalo National River, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Hot Springs National Park, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and Pea Ridge National Military Park.



A crew from AETN's "Exploring Arkansas" filmed the cannon crew and bayou floats last April.

Park Prepares for an Exciting Summer

The staff of Arkansas Post National Memorial is getting ready for a blitz of summer events for the whole family.

The 2nd Annual Photography contest is open through Labor Day. To be eligible, photos must be taken within the park boundaries between April 18 and September 7, 2009. There are youth and adult divisions for all categories. All entries must be received by 5 PM September 12, 2009. Contact the park for contest rules and entry form.

Bike Tours are back! Every Tuesday between June 16 and July 14 the tours will run from 9 AM—11 AM. Bring your bike and helmet. FREE!

Family Nature Photography Workshops will be held on Thursdays June 25—July 16, 10AM—1 PM. This program is free but registration is required. Participants are encouraged to bring their own digital camera or the park has a limited number to loan. Participants are also encouraged to bring a sack lunch.

Two **Family Fun Days** at Arkansas Post are scheduled for June 27 and July 11. A scavenger hunt, the park movie, an early settler talk, and a fur talk are planned. Bring picnic lunch and digital camera (again a limited number can be loaned out). Register by calling the park.

Colonial Kids Day is Friday, July 10 from 9AM—2PM. Learn about a kids life in

eighteenth century Arkansas Post. A day of activities and games are planned for the whole family. Bring a sack lunch. This event is FREE, but registration is required.

Meet Me in the Park (page 1) will be from 10 AM - 2 PM on July 25 at the visitor center. Everyone is welcome to attend. Short living history programs including a musket demonstration will be held throughout the event. Clips of Ken Burn's "The National Parks: America's Best Idea" will be shown throughout the event. AETN is sponsoring.

The park will host a series of early Arkansas Educator workshops. Each are approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for 6 hours of Professional Development. The July 13 workshop, **Exploring Early Arkansas with Audubon & Company** features performance artist Brian "Fox" Ellis of Foxtales International.

July 30 is the **K-12 Project WET and Wonders of the Wetland + Project Webfoot (K-4) Educator Workshop**. This workshop is sponsored by Project WET and Ducks Unlimited and presented by Barbara Miller, Ecologist II, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

August 5 **Early Arkansas History at Arkansas Post** will have Dr. Michael Dugan of Arkansas State University and

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Lindsay Robinson presenting techniques for meeting Arkansas History Frameworks using resources from National Park Sites.

The park Education Coordinator, Jodi Morris, will also talk about major historical events from the Arkansas Post perspective including new research into the Trail of Tears and Underground Railroad. Qualifies for 6 hours of professional development including 2 hours of Arkansas History.

These workshops are free but space is limited so pre-registration is required. Call the park at 870-548-2207.

The Arkansas Living History Association—District I will have a Workshop at the park on August 15. Anyone who is interested in Living History can attend, but non-members will have to join the ALHA for a \$12 fee. Register by August 8 with Kent Goff.

(arkdepot@hotmail.com)



2008 Photo Contest Grand Prize Winner, Michael Poe, Sheridan Ark.

GOING GREEN

We enjoy seeing the newsletter as a printed publication, and we will continue to send printed versions as long as our resources will allow us. However, we are thinking of ways to reduce the amount of paper used by the park. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in e-mail, please send a message to Joe Herron at joey_herron@nps.gov. Joe will add your name to a list that will only be used by the park for sending out news and other park related information. The newsletter will be attached as a PDF.

New Recruits and Old Faces This Summer

Some of the seasonal employees who helped last summer have returned for the 2009 summer season. At the visitor center, Brandon Allen from Arkansas State University returns to help with visitor services and summer programs. Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Lindsay Robinson will also be back (see page 6).

Justin Walker from University of Arkansas Monticello has helped out since last summer at the visitor center, but he will be back at the Maintenance division this summer. A new face, Dustin Danner from University of Arkansas Monticello, also joins the maintenance staff as an equipment operator. Dane Duffield from University of Central Arkansas and Laura Jones from Arkansas Tech University return to work with the Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) employees.

Twelve Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) students were selected from local applicants. The YCC was formed in 1970 to provide educational and team building skills to young adults from different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. This summer the YCC will clear vegetation at Park Lake, clean up the Osotouy area, and remove exotic plants. The crew will also restore the view sheds from Fort Hindman to the field near the maintenance shop and the Visitor Center to the Arkansas River Overlook. Applications are accepted in the spring from students between the ages of 15 and 18. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/ycc.htm>



2009 Summer seasonals: (l—r) Dane Duffield, Justin Walker, Laura Jones, Dustin Danner, Lindsay Robinson, and Brandon Allen. Photo by Joe Herron

2009 YCC Appointees

Bradley Cameron - Gillett
Brittney Fitzpatrick - DeWitt
Jessica Hargrove - Gillett
Zach Helton - Dumas
Jonathan Jefferey - Gillett
Savana Kirchoff - Gillett
Taneisha London - Gillett
Ebony Noble - Gillett
Alex Perritt - Gillett
Terence Rone - Gillett
Madelyn Turner - DeWitt
Jonathan Hathorn - Gillett

Arkansas Post NM Volunteering Opportunities

In the near future, the park will have a need for guides for Ghost of the Past, Historic Reenactors, and Spanish Language Interpreters. If you have one of these skills or another skill that you feel would help the park, please submit the interest form on the next page. For questions about volunteering contact Joe Herron at 870-548-2270 or joey_herron@nps.gov.

V.I.P. Spotlight on Don Hubsch

Retired Army Corp of Engineers employee Don Hubsch has worked with the Arkansas Post staff since early last year. An avid canoeist, Don has brought his personal canoes to both of the park's bayou floats and the filming of AETN's Exploring Arkansas. He is currently working to have the Arkansas Post Bayou Trail designated as an Arkansas Water Trail with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This program helps build support for conservation of waterways and wildlife.

Don is a member of the park's cannon crew helping out with Ghosts of the Past 2008 and the last two anniversaries of Colbert's Raid. Park Ranger and Historic Weapons Coordinator Joe Herron states, "Don is the best about showing up on time and being willing to help with almost any event. His position on the gun is one that if not done properly, could easily lead to misfires, and we have never had one with Don."

At the next park event, if you see Don Hubsch, be sure to thank him for all of his volunteer work.



Don Hubsch at the 225th Anniversary of Colbert's Raid. Photo by Ed Wood



Arkansas Post National Memorial VIP Interest Form

1741 Old post Road, Gillett, AR. 72055

870-548-2270

VIP Coordinator: Joey_herron@nps.gov

Name

(Last, First, MI)

Phone number including area code

Address

Dates you will be available

Do you like to work with the public?

Please describe briefly your education and/or experience which may apply to your work at Arkansas Post

What are your interest and hobbies?

Why do you want to volunteer at Arkansas Post?

Teacher to Ranger to Teacher

by Karla Sigala, Education Coordinator at Lewis and Clark NHT



TRT Lindsay Robinson giving a bike tour. Photo by Karla Sigala

Lindsay Robinson, a physical education teacher for the DeWitt Public Schools, returns as the 2009 Teacher-Ranger-Teacher at Arkansas Post National Memorial.

Last year Ms. Robinson served as Arkansas Post's first Teacher—Ranger—Teacher. Her enthusiasm proved to be a great fit for the park. Using her expertise in physical education, she was able to merge recreation and education to present innovative programming to the public.

During her very short six weeks on

duty, Ms. Robinson gave weekly bike tours, hosted two Junior Ranger Days, offered two kids' nature photography workshops, spearheaded the President's Active Lifestyle Award program and helped tremendously with the education program at the park by hosting the Wise Choices Summer Program, presenting at a teacher workshop and developing lesson plans.

Ms. Robinson's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education and a Master of Education in Secondary Edu-

cation /Physical Education from Arkansas Tech University.

But her duties as a Park Ranger were not over . In the Spring, she wore her uniform and flat hat once again—this time inside the classroom. In celebration of National Park Week she shared information about Arkansas Post, the National Park Service, and her summer experience with her classes.

The Teacher to Ranger to Teacher Program provides opportunities for educators to spend the summer working as Park Rangers in our country's national parks, learning about the natural, historical and cultural resources. Educators are selected from under-served urban and rural school districts and perform interdisciplinary duties depending on their interests and the needs of the park— from presenting interpretive programs, writing curriculum-based materials and organizing special events to working with the scientists and researchers.

To find out more about the program, visit www.nps.gov/wupa/forteachers/professionaldevelopment/trt.htm.

Note: This article was largely prepared by Karla Sigala who took a promotion as Interpretive Specialist at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in Omaha, Nebraska. We want to thank Karla and Leo Acosta for their hard work and wish them luck.

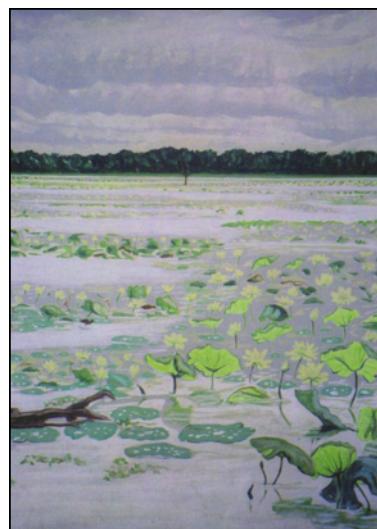
Plein-air Artist

by Jodi Morris, Education Coordinator

Artist Deirdre Boyd of Old Greenwich, Connecticut began a painting of Post Bend Lake on her visit to Arkansas Post National Memorial on August 21, 2008. Boyd's genealogical research into her family history inspired her visit to

Arkansas Post. She is a descendant on her mother's side of Joseph Stillwell, whose family settled at Arkansas Post in 1796. A picture of Boyd's finished painting, *Arkansas Post Bend of the Arkansas River*, is shown on the right.

Left Photo by Jodi Morris



Program Recap: Fall 2008—Spring 2009



Visitors enjoy the autumn colors during the fall bayou float. Photo by Jodi Morris

The 2008 photo contest concluded. The main prize went to Michael Poe of Sheridan, Arkansas. The winners in each category will be on display through Labor Day at the park visitor center. The park would like to thank everyone who entered in 2008 and encourage them to put in again this year.

The annual Ghost of the Past event raised its record number again in 2008. The 2009 Event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 24. More information will be available in the fall newsletter.

Jodi Morris led fall and spring Bayou Floats. A big thanks goes out to Park Volunteer Don Hubsch for bringing out his canoes.

The Colonial Encampment was a big success with about 50 history students from Gillett Middle School and High School visiting. Fifth-graders from Cross County also made the trip. Reenactors shared stories and skills from life in 1700's Arkansas. A flintlock firing demonstration was presented under NPS supervision. The Early Arkansaw Reenactors Association brought a replica keelboat. Although winds were too high to take it out, the audience was invited to learn the techniques of rowing the boat.

The park staff appreciated all of the reenactors who volunteered to help this year.

The Grand Prairie Historical Society recently held a meeting at the park visitor center. Presentations were given on the Arkansas Made Research Project with the Historic Arkansas Museum and Department of Arkansas Heritage's Historic Preservation Programs.

Ranger Joe Herron visited DeWitt Elementary School the week Lindsey Robinson did her Ranger Programs (see page 6). Ranger Joe talked to over 500 students and teachers during the day about National Parks in Arkansas and the many hats that Park Rangers wear.

Rain limited the number of visitors for Junior Ranger Day events and the 226th Anniversary of Colbert's Raid. The day was not a total washout though. A representative from the Sons of the American Revolution visited for a wreath laying ceremony. Dyan Bohnert gave an excellent program, *A Ladies Life*. AETN's Exploring Arkansas with Chuck Dovish showed up to film the cannon crew and more of Jodi's bayou floats.

In May, classes from Dumas, DeWitt, Drew Central, Marvell, and Evangelical Methodist of Stuttgart visited the park for end of the year field trips.

The Fishing Derby was huge success. Over 40 children between ages two–twelve participated. The largest fish, 3 pounds, 4 ounces, was caught by five year old Tyler Childers. Four year old Makayla Gilbreth caught the most fish, 15. We want to thank the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission who co-sponsored the event, stocked Park Lake, and provided the prizes.



Reenactor Ed Williams explains the keelboat to students. Photo by Jodi Morris



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Arkansas Post National Memorial
1741 Old Post Road
Gillett, AR 72055

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Arkansas Post National Memorial commemorates the earliest European settlement in the Lower Mississippi valley. First established in 1686, the Post was an important staging point for Mississippi River trade between New France and the Gulf of Mexico. Situated along the Arkansas River, the small settlement here blossomed into the first capital of the Arkansas Territory. It was the site of a small Revolutionary War skirmish as well as two-day Civil War Battle.

Arkansas Post National Memorial
1741 Old Post Road
Gillett, AR 72055

Phone
870 548-2207

E-mail
arpo_historian@nps.gov

Internet
www.nps.gov/arpo

Visitor Center Hours
Daily 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Grounds and Picnic Area Hours
Daily 8:00 a.m. to dusk

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The 15th Annual Ghosts of the Past - October 24



Cannon firing from Ghost of Past 2006. Photo by Tobe Wood, Park Volunteer