



# THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

Volume 5, No. 3 x June 2010

## More Details on the Fifty Year Celebration

Arkansas Post has finalized the schedule for the July 3 celebration. The celebration starts at 10 AM with a special ceremony. After the speaker, birthday cake and watermelon will be shared.

At 11 AM and 1 PM, The Old School Band from Jacksonville, Arkansas will perform. They perform a diverse range of hard-driving bluegrass, folk and mountain music which is typical of our Arkansas heritage. The band uses banjo, mandolin, guitar and upright bass to accompany their harmonic vocals. In addition to traditional music, audiences will take pleasure in fun and danceable folk instrumentals.

At noon several living history and informational stations will open near the park visitor center. Park Biologist Sarah Allely will present a water program. Another station with a representative from the Arkansas Post Museum State Park will share programs.

History Helpers will present Living History programs as Early Arkansas Settlers. Many of their demonstrations are hands on and geared for children.

The Spanish Artillery Crew will fire the cannon every half hour between Noon and 3 PM except during the 1 PM concert. Volunteer Dyan Bohnert will share a program focusing on Civil War life.

Families are encouraged to take part in the special 50th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt. Please bring your



Contributed Photo—The Old School Band will perform at the park on July 3 celebration: 11 AM and 1 PM

digital cameras. A few cameras will be available for loan on a first come/first serve basis. Family Nature Packs, Binoculars, and Wheelchairs are also available for loan (see article on page 7).

The event will be a festival for the whole family. Please join us in the celebration.

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**Save the Date:**  
**July 3, 2010**  
**10 AM—3 PM**



# Superintendent's Scribblin's



As we plan to celebrate fifty years of Arkansas Post National Memorial, I cannot help but think

about everything that has happened during this period.

Only three years before the park was established, the Russians launched the first orbital satellite and the US responded with Explorer I. So the last fifty years have virtually been the space program for mankind. Since then, we've walked on the moon numerous times; sent space craft to Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus; built an orbiting space station and landed exploration robots on Mars. We've retrieved close-up photos of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn and taken amazing photos of distant galaxies from the Hubble telescope. Closer to home, we orbited satellites for almost unlimited tasks including GPS, telephones, television, weather, data, and spying.

During the same period, transistors replaced vacuum tubes and the electronics age truly began. Television went from black and white to full color, the cathode-ray tube morphed into the LCD and Plasma array and probably most significantly the personal computer was born. Stop and think, what did we do before the computer? It is hard for me to imagine not checking email or Facebook or Twitter. All these "advancements" were started and implemented during the last fifty years.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the United States at the time of establishment and the park was only three years old when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. The Cold War was well entrenched and the whole nation was braced for a nuclear confrontation. Fidel Castro came to power and the Russians sent ICBMs to Cuba until the US threatened to destroy them during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Eight years of

this period found our nation embroiled in the Vietnam War and thousands of Americans took to the streets in protest of our "military policing action." Thousands of brave men and women lost their lives in what turned out to be a futile attempt to stop the spread of Communism. The early years were filled with protest, civil unrest and disenchantment of the younger generations.

The Berlin Wall stood then as a constant reminder of the break between the Communist world of Eastern Europe and Asia and the democracies of Western Europe and the United States. When it fell in 1989, it marked the end of the Cold War and the end of the dominance of the USSR. Germany was not only reunited, it became an economic entity that ushered in the concept of the Euro. This same period of years also represents the time that fossil fuels became the dominant world commodity.

As commercial jet travel became commonplace in 1960, the world became a smaller place. Countries that had been accessible only by land or water were now only a hop-skip-and-a-jump away. With advances like the Internet and improved communications in general, the distinction between foreign and domestic trade (manufacturing, sales, agriculture and consumption) began to blur. A world economy is emerging and oil seems to be the guiding force for now. The reality of wastefulness and abuse of resources is rapidly becoming apparent with global warming and climate change. A need to work together to conserve resources and to prevent human annihilation is not only in vogue but is a critical need.

The last fifty years have also seen the marked deterioration of the family in America. Respect for others and attention to customer services are no longer priorities for a large percentage of the population. These have been replaced by greed, selfishness and distrust of others. Too often people approach a situation with a "what's-in-it-for-me" attitude rather than a "how-can-I-help-you" approach. I believe that there is a genuine insecurity in most people these days

and they are actually afraid to make themselves appear weak. The state of the economy today speaks directly to the issue of greed. Bankers saw an opportunity to make fast money with sub-prime loans and the whole foundation of our economic system collapsed under the weight of their worthless enterprise.

You could write a book about the happenings of the last fifty years. It has been a time of spectacular progress, a time of shameful blunders and a time of shifting priorities. Interestingly enough, the park has changed only a little in fifty years. Oh, management has certainly changed and management policies have changed, but the basic purpose for the park's existence has remained stable. The more than three hundred years of European history the park represents has not changed substantially, although our interpretation of the events has to some extent. We are here to preserve the past and provide for the future. I am proud to say that we have maintained our course and stayed true to why we were created. As long as the National Park Service exists, the managers and employees will strive to maintain this course so our future generations will have a foundation in the history of this nation.

This is your park. It is something you can look to for stability and enlightenment. It also represents something that is rapidly disappearing in our world. Change your lifestyle to meet the conditions of the society; change your use of fossil fuels to reduce their effect on global warming; prepare for changes in climate; recycle to save the environment and reuse materials; but don't let anyone abolish parks and open places. They are your refuge from the ravages of the world and without them society will succumb to the stresses and hopelessness of a rat race to oblivion.

Happy Fiftieth Birthday, Arkansas Post National Memorial.

*Edward E. Wood, Jr.*  
*Park Superintendent*

# Volunteer Scientists Assist with Breeding Bird Survey

by Sarah Allely, Park Biologist

During the weeks of May 10 and May 17, volunteers and staff at Arkansas Post surveyed the breeding birds at the Memorial and Osotouy Units. The contribution of these volunteer scientists is integral to the success of the Natural Resource Program at the park. Volunteers Jason and Kirby McCallie accompanied staff Biologist Sarah Allely off the trail and into the woods and provided their bird identification expertise to assist in the completion of the surveys. Twenty-one sites were surveyed at the Memorial Unit and fifteen at the Osotouy Unit and over thirty different species were observed. Through these events, volunteers are given the chance to experience some of the rarely-visited areas of the park and observe many of the park's natural wonders.

This year's survey was held over a five-day period of time and was conducted between 5:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. The crew was in the field just prior to sunrise because that is the time when birds tend to sing the most, making them easier to find and identify. While the thick forest



NPS photo by Sarah Allely

canopy at many of the sites hindered the crew's ability to see the birds, overall the survey was a great success and the data gathered will be used to guide management practices in the future.

Through-out the year the Natural Resource Program conducts surveys of exotic plants, white-tailed deer, breeding and migratory birds and is always looking for volunteers to assist in these ef-

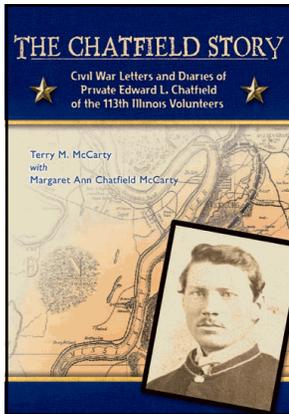
orts. In addition to surveys, the park works with local colleges and organizations to conduct research on a myriad of topics ranging from insect populations to invasive plant management. If you would like to assist in these programs, or desire more information about them, please contact Sarah Allely at 870-548-2210.

## Remember:

**The 2010 Digital Photo Contest continues through Labor Day.**

**Get your contest rules and entry form at the park visitor center or by visiting <http://www.nps.gov/arpa/photosmultimedia/index.htm>**

# New Bookstore Items



*The Chatfield Story: Letter and Diaries of Private Edward L. Chatfield of the 113 Illinois Volunteers*

by Terry M. McCarty and Margaret Ann Chatfield McCarty \$32.99

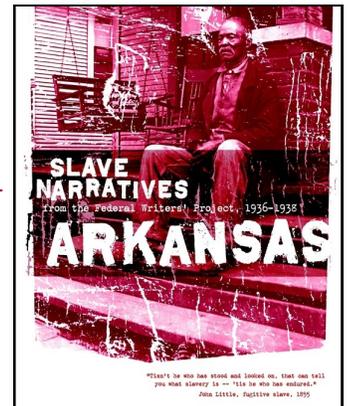
“Fully annotated and meticulously researched, *The Chatfield Story: The Civil War Letters and Diaries of Private Edward L. Chatfield of the 113th Illinois Volunteers* by Terry M. McCarty with Margaret Ann Chatfield McCarty is a stunning personal biography that illustrates a harrowing part of American history. Resonant, wise, and suspenseful, this elegantly wrought memoir is a story of courage, pluck, and survival against seemingly insurmountable odds.”

-Amazon.com

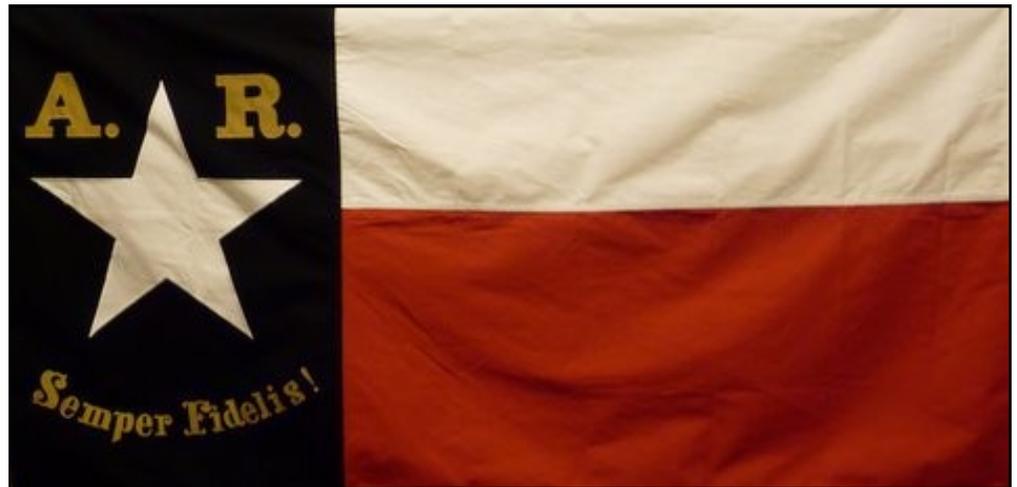
*Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936– 1938:*  
*Arkansas* \$14.95

“...a group of autobiographical accounts of former slaves that today stands as one of the most enduring and noteworthy achievements of the WPA....The interviews afforded aged ex-slaves an unparalleled opportunity to give their personal accounts of life under the "peculiar institution," to describe in their own words what it felt like to be a slave in the United States.”

-Norman R. Yetman, *American Memory*, Library of Congress



## Around the Visitor Center / Museum



**A** reproduction of the flag from the C Company of the 6th Texas Infantry (Travis Rifles). The original flag has hung in the museum for years, but look for this copy in the hands of the confederate soldier in the Civil War room at the Arkansas Post National Memorial Visitor Center. This custom flag was created by employees of Arkansas Flag and Banner in Little Rock using photos and Ranger’s descriptions of the original. The AR stands for the Austin Rifles, an earlier designation. The original flag was captured by the 127th Illinois Volunteer Infantry at the Battle of Arkansas Post. It was donated to the park in 1970 by Mrs. J.W. Ferris of Bartlesville, OK.

# 2010 Summer Employees

## YCC Students:

Teona Bell—DeWitt  
 Kay Best—Dewitt  
 Serteria Canady—DeWitt  
 Josh Connelly—DeWitt  
 Danny Fitzpatrick—DeWitt  
 Ricky Larkin—Almyra  
 Trevor Lowe—DeWitt  
 Kassie Ray-Gillett  
 Derrick Reed—DeWitt  
 Trinika Logan—DeWitt  
 Carly McSwain—DeWitt

The Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) formed in 1970 to provide educational and team building skills to young adults from different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/gettinginvolved/youthprograms/ycc.htm>



YCC Students clear brush at Park Lake before the 2010 Youth Fishing Derby. NPS Photo by Joe Herron

## Teacher-Ranger-Teacher



NPS Photo by Joe Herron

Lindsay Robinson—Beaton from DeWitt Elementary School returns for a third summer. Lindsay helps with Teacher workshops and writing lesson plans. She leads the Trailblazers program on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and bike tours on Tuesdays. She will also help with the upcoming Park Anniversary and Family Fun Days.

## STEP Employees:



Back Row (l-r) Drew Prescott, Cornelius Williams, Justin Walker, Dustin Danner  
 Front Row (l-r) Kirby McCallie, Teacher Ranger Lindsay Robinson Beaton, Megan Prescott  
 (not pictured Dane Duffield)  
 NPS Photo by Jason Allely

The **Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)** allows college students to gain field experience in National Parks while completing a degree.

### Interpretation:

Megan Prescott, University of Arkansas Monticello  
 Cornelius Williams, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

### Maintenance:

Dustin Danner, University of Arkansas Monticello  
 Dane Duffield, University of Central Arkansas  
 Justin Walker, University of Arkansas Monticello

### Natural Resource Management:

Drew Prescott, University of Arkansas Monticello  
 Kirby McCallie, University of Arkansas Monticello

# 2010 Calendar of Events

**T**uesdays and Thursdays, June 22 – July 27 -Trailblazers – Join Teacher Ranger Lindsay Robinson Beaton at 8 AM for a special “couch-potato to 5K” running program. Those completing the program will receive the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award. Registration is necessary; call Joe Herron or Lindsay Robinson-Beaton at 870-548-2207.

**Tuesdays, June 22 – July 27 – Bike Tours** - Join Park Rangers at 10 AM for a guided bicycle tour through the park. All ages are welcome! This is a great opportunity for the whole family to participate in an educational and recreational activity. Bring your bike and a helmet. The tour will stop along points of interest for discussion and wildlife viewing. Other times may be arranged if you call and make an appointment.

## **SPECIAL 2010 EVENT**

**July 3 – Arkansas Post National Memorial 50 Year Celebration** - The Park was created in 1960 to memorialize the first European Settlement in the Lower Mississippi Valley, and to commemorate the major role this community played in the development of this country from Colonial to Civil War Times. The event is FREE to the public and no reservations are

needed. See article on page 1 for more details.

## **Family Fun Days (Saturdays, 9 AM – 1 PM)**

*Call 870-548-2207 to register for these events.*

**July 10 - Nature Watch** – A guided Nature Hike will leave the Visitor Center at 9 AM. On return to the Visitor Center, Park Rangers will give programs on the plants and animals in the park.

**July 17 - Enjoying the Great Outdoors** – If you want to learn ways to enjoy your hike more, Park Rangers will share some tips including how to read a compass, keep a nature journal, and practice Leave No Trace.

**July 24 - Digital Photography Workshop** - Participants will learn basic techniques for taking outdoor digital photographs and will capture nature in action at Arkansas Post. Participants will create a frame for their picture and receive a copy of their best photograph to take home. You may bring your own digital camera or you can reserve one of the parks digital cameras when you call to register.

## **For Educators**

**July 15 Arkansas Post Teacher Workshop - Early Arkansas History** Educators are encouraged to refresh their Arkansas History at the place where it all began – Arkansas Post. Talks on different aspects of the fur trade, the beginning of Arkansas Territorial Government, and the Civil War will be given on locations where many of these events took place. Please pack lunch and prepare for a hike. Educators will earn six hours of in-service credit for attending. Please call 870-548-2207 to register.

**The July 17 Arkansas Post Water Trail Dedication has been postponed until further notice**

**October 23 - Ghosts of the Past** Join park staff and volunteers for the annual guided walk through Arkansas History. Living History presentations will portray events from the exploration and settlement of Arkansas Post, Colbert’s Raid, and the Civil War. The tour lasts one hour. Reservations are strongly recommended.

**November 6- Bird Watch** will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Kid’s birding programs and a special hike to view the Eagle Nest will be held. Bring your binoculars. A limited number of children’s binoculars will be available for loan on a first come basis.

**November 13- Arkansas Post Fall Bayou Float** See Arkansas Post the way explorers did, from the bow of a canoe. The guided float will travel from Moore’s Bayou to Post Bayou. If you cannot bring your own canoe or kayak, some seats may be available. **Registration is required.**



The Fall Bayou Float is planned for November 13. NPS Photo by Joe Herron

# Program Recap: Late Spring 2010

National Park Week kicked off the third annual Digital Photography Contest. The contest continues through the summer (until Labor Day), and the winners will be recognized before the Ghosts of the Past event on October 23. Rules and an entry form are available at the visitor center and by visiting [www.nps.gov/arp0/photosmultimedia/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/arp0/photosmultimedia/index.htm).

Other events celebrated for National Park Week include the 227th Anniversary of Colbert's Raid. The Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution sent representatives to the park for a special commemoration. Arkansas Society President David Hoss read a letter from Senator Blanche Lincoln. Superintendent Ed Wood gave the keynote address describing the details of the battle.

The National Parks of Arkansas Film Series closed National Park Week. Films from four of the six park sites in Arkansas were shared: Arkansas Post National Memorial, Hot Springs National Park, Fort Smith National Historic Site, and Pea Ridge National Military Park. Some news footage

from the 1957 Central High School Crisis was shown to represent the National Historic Site in Little Rock. Another National Park Service film on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail which is tied to many of Arkansas's National and State Parks was shown. Park Ranger Joe Herron encouraged visitors to visit these sites if they had not been able to before.

Arkansas Post had a number of field trips this spring with students from DeWitt, Dumas, McGehee, Park Avenue Elementary (Stuttgart), Star City, Watson Chapel, and West Helena.

If you are an educator and wish to have a field trip at Arkansas Post National Memorial, Call Joe Herron at 870-548-2207 for details.



Members of the Lee Family (Pine Bluff, AR) pose with a 17 lb. catfish caught in Park Lake on March 27, 2010

## New Family Nature Packs

The park has a new tool for nature lovers, parents and educators who want to enhance their hikes. Three backpacks are available for loan at the National Park Visitor Center from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Inside the packs are field guides for Birds, Reptiles, Pond Life, and Wildflowers. One of the more popular items will be copies of Dwight Moore's *Trees of Arkansas* which is sold by the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The book is frequently used by students completing leafing projects.

For Kids, Fandex cards make Tree and Wildflower identification fun and easy. The track pack is a handy tool for mammal identification. The park plans to add a wildlife scavenger hunt soon.

There are a few rules when borrowing Family Nature Packs. They cannot leave the park, Park Rangers will hold a valid drivers license while they are in use, and visitors are asked to help with a check-in inventory when returning the packs (the reason for returning them well before the Visitor Center closes at 5 PM.) The park also has wheelchairs, children's binoculars, and cameras available for loan out. If you are interested in plantlife and wildlife, please inquire about using the packs on your next visit.





**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](mailto:arpo_historian@nps.gov)

**Internet**  
[www.nps.gov/arpo](http://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

**Next Issue - Fall 2010**

**Ghosts of the Past - October 23**

**Save the Date**

**July 3, 2010**

**10 AM—3 PM**

**Arkansas Post**

**50 Year**

**Celebration**

