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Gillett, AR 72055

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

Arkansas Post
50 Year Celebration

Next Issue - Fall 2010

Ghosts of the Past - October 23

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Missile Crisis in 1962. Eight years of tension and the whole nation was on edge when John F. Kennedy was assassinated and the park was only three years old. There had started and implemented during the last fifty years.

This period of years also represents something that is rapidly becoming a foundation in the history of this nation. GPS, telephones, television, weather, satellite for almost unlimited tasks including surveillance, data, and spying.

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 reunified, 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 and the value of 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 These have been replaced by greed, selfishness and distrust of others.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 them selves appear vulnerable. These economic conditions today speak 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 remains the same. 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.

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Volunteer Scientists Assist with Breeding Bird Survey
by Sarah Alley, 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 Alley 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 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 efforts. 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 Alley 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/arpo/photosmultimedia/index.htm
New Bookstore Items

**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
Seteria Canady—DeWitt
Josh Connelly—DeWitt
Danny Fitzpatrick—DeWitt
Ricki Larkin—Almyra
Trevor Lowe—DeWitt
Kassie Ray-Gillett
Derrick Reed—DeWitt
Trinika Logan—DeWitt
Carly McSwain—DeWitt

The Youth Conservation Corps (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

**STEP Employees:**

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
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The Chatfield Story: Letter and Diaries of Private Edward L. Chatfield of the 113th 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.”
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YCC Students clear brush at Park Lake before the 2010 Youth Fishing Derby. NPS Photo by Joe Herron

Teacher-Ranger-Teacher

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.

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Remember:
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 the menacement of the younger generations.

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Park Superintendent
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