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The Real

Ozarks

2022 EDITION

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Bull Shoals Lake
photo by David Crane

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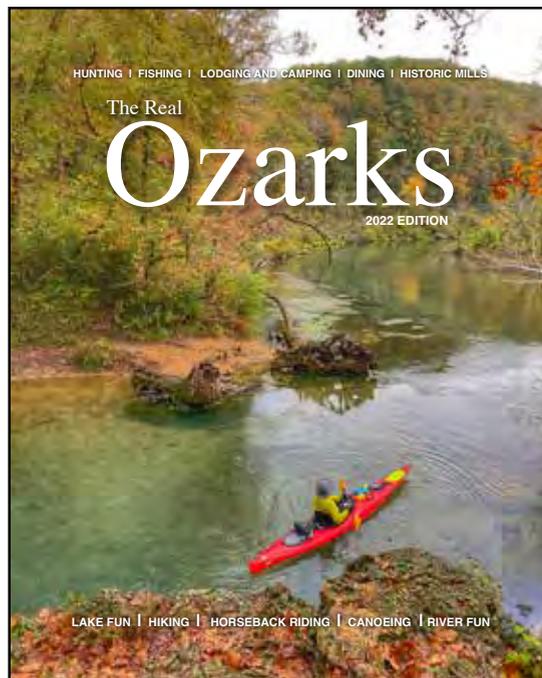
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ABOUT THIS YEAR'S COVER

Times editor Jessi Dreckman snapped this photo of a North Fork River kayaker while visiting Blue Spring at the North Fork Recreation Area/Hammond Access in the Mark Twain National Forest near Dora in October 2021, just as the fall foliage was beginning to reach its peak. The spring, a popular summer hang out for visitors and locals alike, is reached from an easy half-mile trail at the MTNF access area and campground. For more information on the access area, see page 49.

Welcome to the *real* Ozarks

Welcome to the real Ozarks, the one and only Ozark County, Missouri, a remote and rugged haven where nature outshines neon and “heavy traffic” is something you’re more likely to encounter on the rivers than on the roads.

Stay for a while, and you too may find there’s something magical about the mornings when the mist hugs the hollows as the sun creeps over the hills. And what can compare with a night sky so clear and dark the stars seem close enough to touch?

The rush of the rivers’ see-through water, the rhythm of the lakes lapping against their shores, the sounds of the woods, the beauty of spring blossoms floating through the forest . . . Don’t be surprised if these treasures call to you the next time you’re back in the city.

An Ozark County vacation combines the ease of modern conveniences and the appeal of bygone days. Modern resorts with all the amenities, whether they’re tucked “back in the sticks,” stretch along the river or overlooking our two Corps of Engineers lakes, offer the same down-home charm and personal friendliness that “mom-and-pop” lodging has provided for decades. Come for a stay, and soon you’ll probably feel more like family than guests.

Our hills offer thousands of acres of beautiful conservation areas and national forest webbed by hiking trails and scenic drives and dotted with campgrounds. The abundant wildlife, especially deer and turkey, make Ozark County a prime area for hunting.

And our waterways – lakes and rivers – are famous for trophy-winning fish. Canoeing, kayaking and tubing are popular pastimes on Bryant Creek and the North Fork of the White River, and Ozark County’s friendly outfitters are ready to make the adventure easy for you.

If you prefer motorized water sports, the county’s two full-service marinas offer rentals of everything you’ll need to enjoy a day, or a week, cruising our lakes. Of course, they also offer stalls for you BYOB (bring your own boat) visitors too.

Come to Ozark County, and leave all the stress and hubbub behind. This is not a bright lights, big city kind of place. It’s a retreat where visitors and residents slow down, settle in and soak up the peaceful pleasures of some of the oldest mountains on earth.

If you’re like a lot of folks, the biggest problem you’ll have is leaving. That’s what happens when you discover the Real Ozarks.

Getting here

Ozark County, Missouri, is nestled amid the hills, rivers and lakes near the center of the Missouri-Arkansas border. This scenic, secluded heart of the Ozarks is far away from rush-hour traffic and big-city hubbub – but easy to get to if you know the way. Come visit!



Driving directions

Directions are to Gainesville, the county seat of Ozark County.

From Branson

Head east on Highway 76 for 14 miles to Highway 160. Then turn east (right) and continue for 45 miles to Gainesville.

From Kansas City

Take US 71 south to MO 7 south to Clinton. From Clinton, take MO 13 south to Springfield (see note about GPS below). Then take I-44 east to US 65 south. Take US 60 east to Mansfield and turn south onto MO 5 south to Gainesville.

From Springfield

Disregard what your GPS may suggest! Here's the route most locals take: Head east from Springfield on Highway 60 to Mansfield (45 miles). Turn south onto Highway 5 toward Ava then continue south for another 30 miles from Ava to Gainesville.

From St. Louis

Take I-44 west to Rolla. Then take US Highway 63 south to West Plains. From there, take US Highway 160 west to Gainesville.

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OZARK COUNTY
Times

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Bull Shoals Lake sunset

photo by Gary Smith



Attribution

Much of the fishing, hiking, river, lake and hunting information in this volume is adapted from information available on the Missouri Department of Conservation, Mark Twain National Forest and US Army Corps of Engineers websites.

Closest airports

Springfield-Branson National Airport- (SGF)

92 miles from Gainesville

2300 N. Airport Blvd., Springfield, MO 65802

417-868-0500

flyspringfield.com

Branson Airport - (BKG)

68 miles from Gainesville

130 Wright Brothers Rd., Hollister, MO 65672

417-334-8234

flybranson.com

Location

Distances are to Gainesville, the seat of Ozark County.

Mountain Home, AR	26 miles, 33 minutes
Ava, MO	30 miles, 34 minutes
West Plains, MO	39 miles, 50 minutes
Branson, MO	60 miles, 1.2 hours
Springfield, MO	84 miles, 1.5 hours
Rolla, MO	118 miles, 2.2 hours
Fayetteville, AR	143 miles, 3 hours
Jefferson City, MO	174 miles, 3 hours
Little Rock, AR	173 miles, 3.5 hours
Memphis, TN	206 miles, 3.75 hours
St. Louis, MO	225 miles, 4 hours
Kansas City, MO	250 miles, 4 hours

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BEAUTIFUL RIVERS

In Ozark County, the North Fork of the White River and Bryant Creek offer visitors year-round scenic options for floating, fishing, swimming and otherwise enjoying the crystal clear waters of the Ozarks.



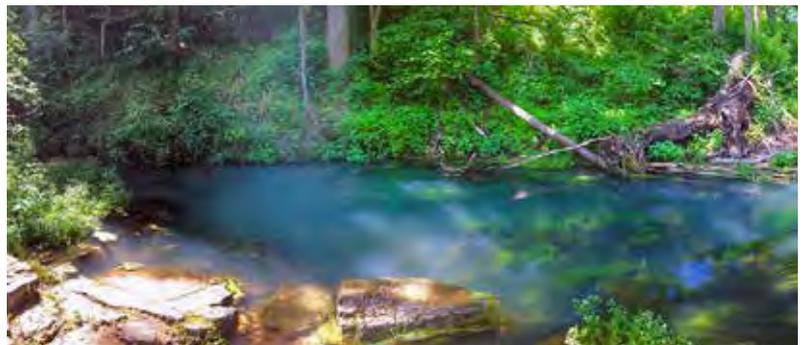
NORTH FORK of the White River

The cold, clear waters of the spring-fed North Fork of the White River provide the perfect place for a canoe, kayak or rafting trip during the peak of a hot Ozarks summer - or in the cooler fall months with prime fall foliage. Times' publisher and ad manager Jenny Yarger is pictured here in an October 2021 trip.

Fed by springs and protected by national forest for the top two-thirds of its 50-mile length, the North Fork of the White River in eastern Ozark County is a pristine jewel among Missouri's Ozarks float streams. A national forest recreation area, Missouri Department of Conservation access points, a legendary old grist mill and Blue Ribbon and Red Ribbon trout areas enhance the river's appeal to vacationers and locals alike.

Year-round beauty.

Since its upper reaches are in the Mark Twain National Forest, the North Fork retains its native natural character and has good watershed protection. The section from Highway 14 (Twin Bridges) south to H Highway (Patrick Bridge) is near-wilderness, and this stretch of river is fed by large springs that emerge amid stands of short-leaf pine and other lush forest. Seasonal water levels are consistent enough to keep some part of the North Fork always floatable, and although the gradient of the lower sections is not spectacular as the river flows into Lake Norfork, the volume is good and the scenery is beautiful.



The picturesque Althea Spring is easily reachable from a short trail from the North Fork River just downstream from Patrick Bridge. The spring can also be accessed from a trail that begins at the parking lot at Patrick Bridge off H Highway.

GET ON THE NORTH FORK RIVER

Public and private river accesses.

Hebron Bridge and access

Mo Dept.
Conservation
public river access
mile marker 18.7
Douglas County
Road 279 off
Highway 14

Twin Bridges Canoe and Campground

Private outfitter
and river access
mile marker 24.1
Highway 14, Dora

North Fork Recreation Area/ Hammond Bridge

Mark Twain Nat'l
Forest public
access
mile marker 29.2
CC Highway, Dora

River of Life Farm

Private outfitter
and river access
mile marker 35
River of Life Dr, Dora

Pettit's Canoe Rental

Private outfitter
and river access
mile marker 39
County Road 354,
Dora

Blair Bridge

Mo Dept.
Conservation
public river access
mile marker 39.2
County Road 354,
Dora

Sunburst Ranch

Private outfitter
and river access
mile marker 39.5
County Road 354,
Dora

Patrick bridge and access

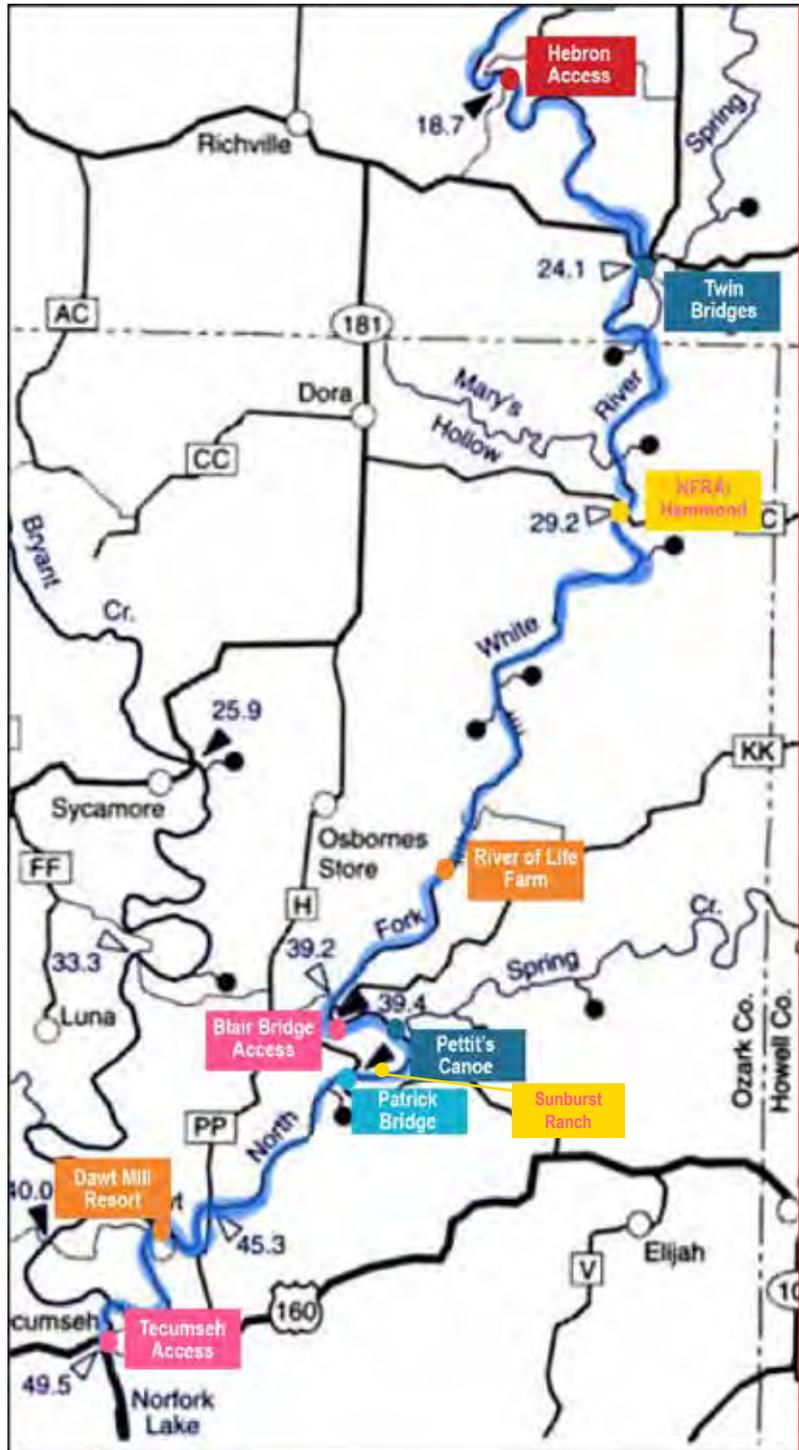
Mo Dept. of
Conservation
public river access
mile marker 42.2
H Highway, Dora

Dawt Mill Resort

Private outfitter
and river access
mile marker 47.1
Dawt Mill Drive,
Tecumseh

Tecumseh bridge and access

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineer public
river/lake access
mile marker 49.5
Highway 160,
Tecumseh



North Fork River accesses

Canoe, kayak and raft outfitters

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CABINS

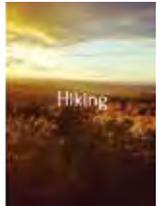


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Fishing the **NORTH FORK**

Tommy McKee holds a nice brown trout caught in the North Fork of the White River in February 2022 while fishing alongside local fishing guide Justin Spencer of Dead Drift Fly Shop. The river holds a good number of brown and rainbow trout, along with largemouth and smallmouth bass and other various species. Fish can be caught year-round in the cold, spring-fed waters.

Brown & Rainbow Trout.

Anglers can expect to catch quality trout in a variety of lengths. The Blue Ribbon Trout Area (BRTA), which stretches from Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge Access, is still the best-bet for rainbow trout. Anglers will continue to notice that the body condition of these fish is very good. Woolly buggers and prince nymphs bounced along the bottom are traditionally good wet fly patterns, while Adams and elk hair caddis dry flies work well when fish are surface feeding. Crayfish and minnow imitating crankbaits as well as various spinners are also effective. The opportunity to catch brown trout in the Red Ribbon Trout Area (RRTA), from Patrick Bridge to Norfolk Lake, is good and anglers should expect the majority of brown trout to range from 12 to 15 inches. Quality brown trout also migrate into the BRTA and can be pursued with streamers. To catch more brown trout, try fishing during the sunrise and sunset hours. Missouri Department of Conservation's stocking of brown trout will continue in the spring and fall to provide anglers with quality fishing opportunities. Catch-and-release trout practices are encouraged to help sustain trout numbers while the population recovers from a 1,000-year flood experienced in 2017. Anglers can also expect more abundant numbers of black bass, striped bass, and other warm-water species migrating into the RRTA and BRTA due to spring high water events and sustained high water levels of Norfolk Lake throughout the summer.

Smallmouth and Goggle-eye.

Smallmouth bass can be caught in good numbers throughout the North Fork of the White River. Most of the fish will be 12-15 inches. However, there are decent numbers of quality fish which exceed 15 inches. Jigs, crankbaits and soft plastic baits are good choices for catching smallmouth bass (soft plastics cannot be used in the Blue Ribbon Trout Area). Goggle-eye also occur throughout the river, but anglers can expect lower catch rates after recent floods. These fish can be caught on the same type of lures as smallmouth, but generally smaller versions are more productive. Be sure to concentrate fishing efforts in and around aquatic vegetation, boulders, and rootwads.



Paxton Smith plays with Tripp Hambelton (facing the camera) and Shayne Marie Collins on a river bank off Bryant Creek. Photo courtesy of Karla Smith.

BRYANT Creek

{ FISHING THE BRYANT }

Bryant Creek, often called simply “the Bryant” by locals, is a relatively wild stream. It has slightly less paddling mileage than the North Fork of the White River and is highly fishable. There are no public canoe outfitters that service the Bryant, meaning only

those who plan to bring and shuttle their own boats can float it. Because of the lack of outfitters, the Bryant doesn’t boast the big crowds the North Fork sometimes does. Less spring-fed, the Bryant has less volume and can be more difficult to float at

times because it is narrower and has more obstacles - but it also has some fairly fast rifts. Before floating sections above Hodgson Mill in the summer, find out if those sections have enough water to float without having to wade and portage the shallow riffles.

Bass anglers fishing below Highway 181 at Hodgson Mill will encounter more largemouth and spotted bass than those fishing upstream of the bridge. Ozark bass (goggle-eye) can be found in good numbers around rootwads and aquatic vegetation. Anglers can expect most of their catch to be over 6 inches with an occasional fish greater than 9 inches. Bass anglers can expect good catch rates of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass), although the vast majority of fish will be less than 12 inches. Walleye can be found in the lower river inhabiting the deeper pools and positioned around boulders and rootwads. Channel catfish can be found throughout most of Bryant Creek, although they are most prevalent in the section downstream of Highway 181 at Hodgson Mill. Anglers should expect good fishing for this species and should catch fish of all sizes.

{ GET ON BRYANT CREEK }

Public river accesses along Bryant Creek. There are no outfitters on this river.

Vera Cruz access
MDC access
river mile marker 0
Highway AB, Ava

Highway 14 bridge
Highway bridge/
public access
river mile marker 2.5
Highway 14, Douglas Cty.

Rippee Cons. Area
MDC access
river mile marker 4
County Road 328, Ava

Bertha Ford Bridge
County Road bridge
public access
river mile marker 11.6
County Road 345, Ava area,
Douglas County

Highway 95/Bell Bridge
Highway bridge
public access
mile marker 16.3
Highway 95 near Rockbridge

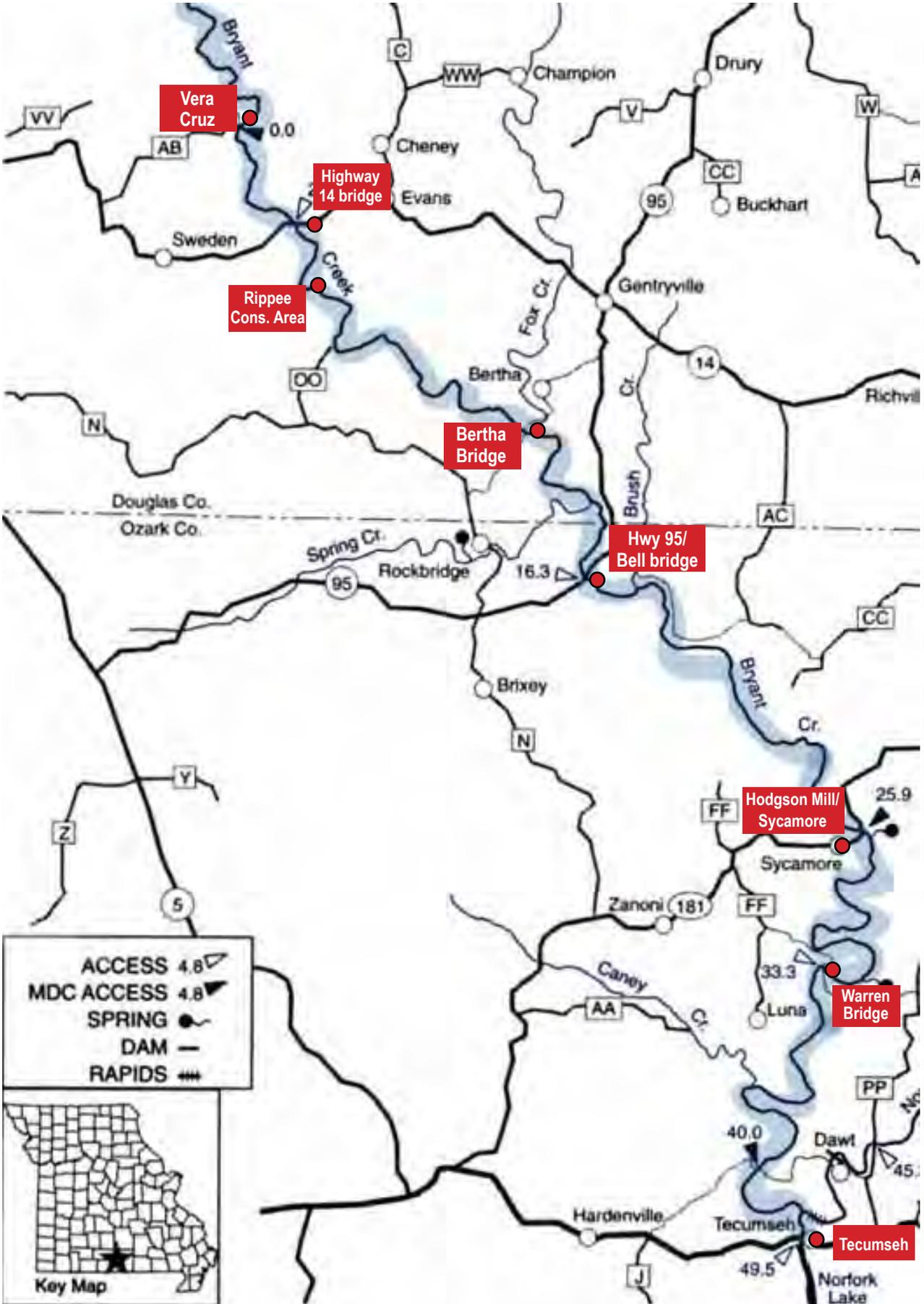
**Hodgson Mill/
Sycamore access**
MDC access

mile marker 25.9
Highway 181, Sycamore

Warren Bridge
MDC access
mile marker 33.3
County Road 329, Tecumseh

Tecumseh bridge and access
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineer public river/
lake access
mile marker 49.5
Highway 160, Tecumseh

Bryant Creek public river accesses



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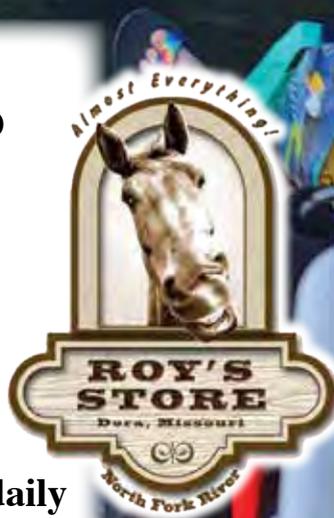
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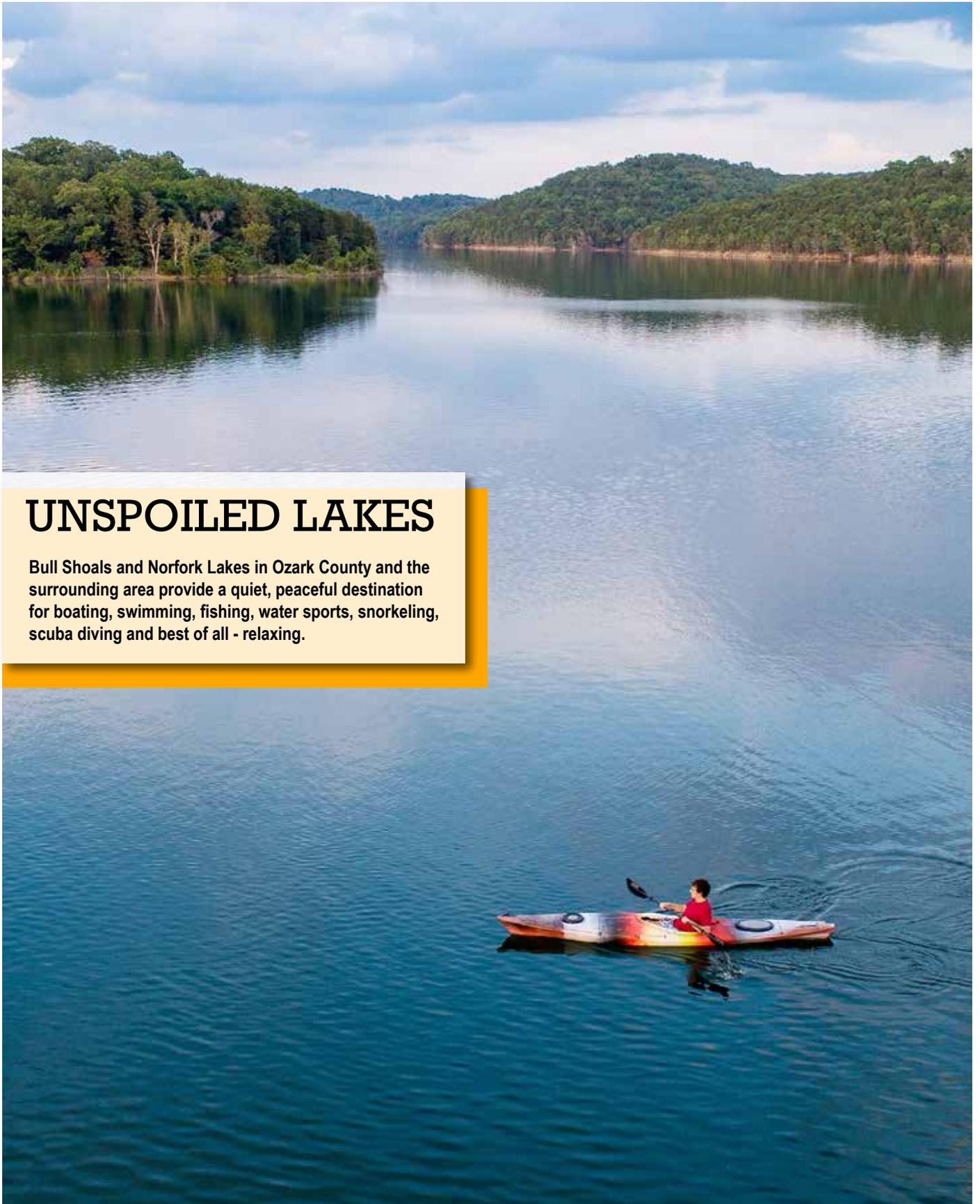
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6 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Kitchen closes at 7 p.m.





UNSPOILED LAKES

Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes in Ozark County and the surrounding area provide a quiet, peaceful destination for boating, swimming, fishing, water sports, snorkeling, scuba diving and best of all - relaxing.

Kayaking is a great way to enjoy Bull Shoals Lake. This photo was submitted by Isabella resident Lonnie Schmidt.



Sunrises and sunsets on Bull Shoals lake create a spectacular display throughout all seasons. Photo by Lonnie Schmidt.

BULL SHOALS

Lake

Bull Shoals Lake features open stretches perfect for boating; quiet, secluded coves great for swimming and water sports; clear, uncrowded water for scuba divers; and 48,195 surface acres of water that offer rewarding fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie and striped bass. Whatever your lake plans, Ozark County's two concessionaire-operated marinas (described below) can get you going.

Pontiac Cove Marina.

Pontiac Cove Marina is a full-service marina, campground and resort located in Pontiac off Highway W southwest of Gainesville. Amenities include nightly and long-term boat slips, boat rentals, fuel dock, scuba air station and a convenience store/gift shop with bait, tackle, Missouri fishing licenses, boating accessories, stand-up paddleboards, towables, souvenirs, snacks, soda and beer. Stay at one of Lake Harbour Resort's six fully furnished suites or at the Red Barn Lodge, which sleeps 10, and Loft, which sleeps five. Eat at Just Jackie's restaurant located within the park and accessible to boaters. The Pontiac bluffs on the northwest corner of the park are a favorite jumping-off point for lake-going daredevils. 417-679-3676. pontiaccove.com. See ad, page 20.

Theodosia Marina Resort.

Theodosia Marina Resort, off Highway 160 in Theodosia, offers rentals of a variety of boats and equipment for fishing and fun on the water. A boat-and-motor sales and repair facility is affiliated with the marina. Marina staff can help you connect with local fishing guides, and the marina's gift shop/convenience store sells fuel, picnic supplies, beverages, fishing tackle and bait, water skis, boat accessories, clothing and novelties. The marina also offers short- and long-term boat-stall rentals. Nearby Fort Cook offers several types of lodging choices plus pads for motorhomes and a swimming pool for guests. The resort's adjoining campground and nearby Corps of Engineers boat ramp stay busy throughout the summer season. Cookie's restaurant is a popular eatery for tourists and locals alike. 417-273-4444. tmbullshoals.net. See ad, page 3.

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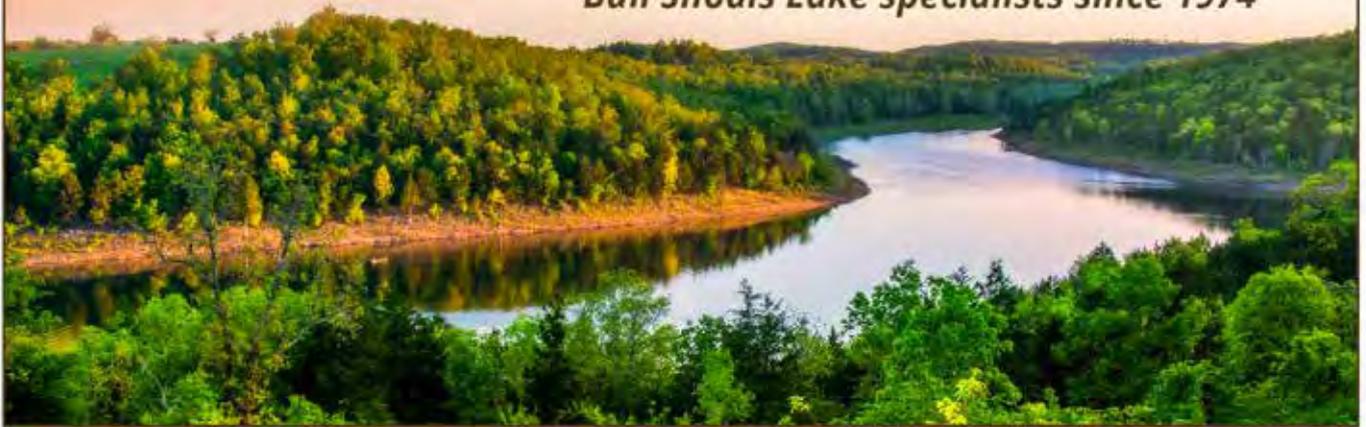
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LOST COVE RESORT

58 Stringray Lane, Pontiac, MO

417-679-2424

www.lostcoveresort.com

mistydawnkirvan@gmail.com



Water skiing is a popular sport on Norfolk and Bull Shoals lakes. Photo by Lonnie Schmidt.

NORFORK Lake

About 2,000 acres of the 22,000-acre Norfolk Lake extend into Missouri. Recreation is recognized as an important resource, attracting fisherfolk and water-sports-loving lake-goers who enjoy the Norfolk's clear, spring-fed water. For a beautiful overview of Lake Norfolk, drive across the Highway 101 bridge south of Bakersfield.

Access/boat ramps.

The popular Tecumseh access on Norfolk Lake off Highway 160 was recently rebuilt by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and offers lake-goers a boat ramp, separate kayak/canoe ramp and large parking lot. Other boat accesses on Norfolk Lake in and near Ozark County include Bridges Creek (known locally as "Stump Hole") located off County Road 551B (Smokey Road), Udall on O Highway, Liner Creek off T Highway, and Calamity Beach on Baxter County Road 24 off Arkansas Highway 201 in Clarkridge, Arkansas. Ozark County is a good base for exploring the rest of the lake, which extends south into Arkansas.

Fishing.

Fishing is a popular pastime on Lake Norfolk. Anglers can catch bass, wall-eye, crappie, striped bass, catfish and other species. The Tecumseh access of Lake Norfolk off Highway 160, an especially popular fishing spot for the annual spring white bass run, is usually preceded by good walleye fishing followed by excellent hybrid catches.

History.

Norfolk Lake, like Bull Shoals, is in the White River Basin. Both were originally built for flood control and power generation. President Harry Truman came to the Ozarks in July 1952 to dedicate both Norfolk and Bull Shoals dams, constructed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Arkansas a few miles south of the state line.

Visit the Norfolk dam.

The Norfolk reservoir is formed by a large concrete dam across the North Fork of the White River four miles upstream from where the North Fork runs into the White River at the City of Norfolk, Arkansas. It also serves as a bridge across the river gorge. The dam is less than an hour's drive south of Gainesville, and a great nearby visitor's center about the dam offers an interesting educational experience for guests of all ages.



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Theodosia Marina Resort on scenic Bull Shoals Lake offers a variety of modern and well-maintained accommodations including a two story motel, an apartment and cottages, two lodges that each sleep sixteen people and the luxurious 2,000 square-foot Otter Creek Lodge, pictured above. All accommodations are just a stone's throw from the lake and next door to Cookie's restaurant and the swimming pool/recreational complex. The Fort Cook RV Park is also on the grounds and boasts more than 75 RV and camping sites, all situated on the wooded slopes above the recreation complex. Guests of the TMR and Fort Cook RV Park can use all of the recreational facilities on the grounds.

Bull Shoals Lake

Buck Creek Campground

Highway 125, Protem
417-785-4313

US Army Corp of Engineers

Make reservations at recreation.gov – search for Buck Creek (MO).

This campground features 36 campsites with 30- and 50-amp electrical hookups (plus two more with no electric service), flush toilets, showers, drinking water, a dump station, boat launch ramp, swim area, playground and picnic shelter. Many sites are fully or partially shaded. Buck Creek is located at Protem, where you can ride across Bull Shoals Lake to Peel, Arkansas, on the only operational public ferry boat left in the state of Arkansas. The ferry, which transports vehicles and passengers, operates from 7 a.m. to 8:20 p.m. in the summer season. The campground is open May 1 to Sept. 30.

Cactus Ridge Resort and Cantina

9052 County Road 151, Price Place, Arkansas
417-679-3775

Find them on Facebook

See ad on page 22.

Located just down the road from Pontiac Cove Marina and Lake Bums BrewCo, Cactus Ridge Resort and Cantina offers guests a great location on Bull Shoals Lake. The resort offers cabins with full kitchens and barbecues, a swimming pool and cantina/bar on the premises that offers up beer and wine, along with some food options.

Highway 125 park and campground

Highway 125, Peel, Arkansas
870-436-5711

Make reservations at recreation.gov.

This campground features 39 campsites with 50-amp electrical hookups, showers, flush toilets, drinking water, a dump station, designated swimming area and marina offering boat rentals. Many

sites are fully or partially shaded. This park is minutes away from the Peel-Protem ferry, which can take you across the lake to Protem, Missouri (see Buck Creek Campground, this page). This campground is open from April 1 to Oct. 31.

Lakewoods Resort

10425 S. State Highway 125, Protem;
417-785-4325

www.lakewoods-resort.com

Find them on Facebook

See ad on page 20.

Lakewoods Resort on Bull Shoals Lake offers 22 modern 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom cabins for guests of varying group sizes. Some cabins have a view of Bull Shoals Lake, while others are situated next to the resort's pool. The resort also offers pavilion for large groups, pontoon, fishing and peddle boat rentals and a 24-stall covered and lighted steel dock with electrical outlets.

Continued to page 28



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<https://www.vrbo.com/2472458?noDates=true&unitId=3041071>

**1 bedroom, 2 beds,
Sleeps 6, 1 bathroom**

This new cabin is located outside of downtown Gainesville on 5 acres of partially manicured/partially timbered property in the heart of the Ozarks! Close enough to town to enjoy all of the fun and amenities, but far enough away for a bit of privacy.

Inside the cabin you will find a new washer and dryer, new stove and refrigerator. Microwave, coffee maker and very comfortable sofa and recliner to lounge on.



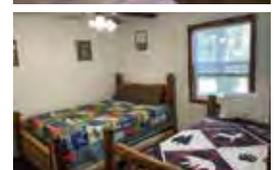
Rustic Cabin close to everything with the privacy to relax!

<https://www.vrbo.com/2472525?noDates=true&unitId=3041138>

**1 bedroom, 2 beds,
Sleeps 6, 1 bathroom**

Located in the heart of the Ozarks, this cabin is the second of two on the property and is perfect for your hunting or fishing getaway! Enjoy the partially manicured and partially timbered 5 acres with views of the Caney Mountains. Located exactly in between Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lake, this location is close to fishing, boating, swimming, hunting, and hiking! Plenty of outdoor electrical hookups to keep your toys charged, and plenty of room to store them in between uses! Inside you will find comfortable accommodations including full refrigerator, and stove, microwave and coffee maker. New washer and dryer, and super comfortable beds, perfect for resting between all of your adventures!

This area is heavy with many public access areas for kayaking, boating and swimming, and don't forget hiking!





Ozark County area lodging and camping options

continued from page 26

Bull Shoals Lake

Lost Cove Resort

58 Stingray Lane, Pontiac
417-679-2424
www.lostcoveresort.com
Find them on Facebook
See ad on page 22.

Lost Cove Resort, located on W Highway in Pontiac, offers five cedar-sided cabins. The cabins feature two bedrooms, a full kitchen with dishwasher, Weber BBQ pits, a small covered porch with patio furniture, individual fire pits, satellite television and central heat and air. There is a queen-sized bed in each bedroom, a queen-sized sleeper sofa and a futon/combination couch sleeper in the main living room of each cabin. The resort is pet friendly. Inquire about the pet policy and rates by calling the resort.

Pontiac Cove Marina lodging options Lake Harbour Resort, Red Barn Lodge & Loft and Pontiac campground

Off W Highway, Pontiac;
417-679-3676;
www.pontiaccove.com;
Find them on Facebook
See ad on page 20.

Pontiac Cove Marina, located in Pontiac cove on Bull Shoals Lake, features a popular campground, as well as lodging options at Lake Harbour Resort and the Red Barn Lodge & Loft. Pontiac Cove Marina also manages Ozark County's only craft brewery, Lake Bums BrewCo, located just across the highway from the marina and resort grounds within walking distance. Just Jackie's, a full-service restaurant, is also located on the resort grounds.

Lake Harbour Resort is a modern building near Bull Shoals Lake with units decorated in a modern coastal cottage style. The building features several suites with one king-sized bed or two queen-sized beds, a blow-up bed with bedding (for guests with children), fully-stocked kitchen with full-size appliances, indoor

and outdoor dining tables with chairs, flat screen-TV with satellite, free wireless internet, patio downstairs or balcony in upstairs units with a seasonal lake view. A covered pavilion with BBQ grill, hammocks, fire pit with provided wood and horseshoe pits are also available to all guests.

The Red Barn Lodge & Loft are located on the grounds of Lake Bums BrewCo. The lodge sleeps 10, and features four bedrooms (two king beds, one queen bed and two sets of bunk beds), two bathrooms, flat-screen TV, free wireless internet, heat/air conditioning, kitchen, a wrap-around covered porch with outdoor furniture, a BBQ grill and a fire pit with provided wood. The one-bedroom loft features a queen bed, a twin sleeper sofa and one set of bunk beds in a separate "bunk room." The loft also has flat-screen TV, free wireless internet, heat/air conditioning, microwave, coffee maker, mini refrigerator and a fire pit with provided wood.

The Pontiac campground, which sits lakeside, features nearly 40 campsites with 30- or 50-amp service, flush toilets, showers, picnic pavilions, a dump station, drinking water, a boat launch ramp and access to the Pontiac bluffs, a popular jumping-off point (literally!) for fun-loving lake-goers.

Roo-B-Doo Family Resort

41 Roo B Doo Circle, Pontiac
417-679-4174
roobdoofamilyresort.com
Find them on Facebook
See ad on page 21.

Roo-B-Doo Family Resort in Pontiac, a resort within walking distance of Pontiac Cove Marina, has a variety of cabins and RV sites available. The resort also features a heated salt water pool on the premises, along with picnic tables and fire rings.

Theodosia Marina Resort and Fort Cook RV Park

Off Highway 160, Theodosia
417-273-4444
tmbullshoals.net
Find them on Facebook

See ad on page 3.

Theodosia Marina Resort on the shore of Bull Shoals Lake offers accommodations for all sized groups including a motel that features two-bedroom units (each with a queen bed), nearby two-bedroom apartments, Cove View cabins that feature two bedrooms with double beds, a 5-bedroom lake house, the four-bedroom Red Cedar Lodge and the 2,000 square foot Otter Creek Lodge which features eight bedrooms.

The Fort Cook RV park offers annual and nightly RV sites and tent campsites with water, electricity, hot showers (not available in off season), picnic tables and bathroom facilities.

Guests of TMR's lodging or the RV park have access to the resort's recreational facilities that include a large in-ground swimming pool, a coin-operated laundry facility, basketball court, lighted tennis court, a banquet room and outside patio and a shower house with restrooms. A full-service restaurant, Cookie's, offers meals seven days a week during the spring, summer and fall.

Norfolk Lake

Gamaliel Campground

Gamaliel, Arkansas
870-467-5680.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers campground
Make reservations at recreation.gov

Gamaliel Campground is a Corps of Engineers park in the Bennett's Bayou area of Lake Norfolk south of Bakersfield. The campground features 64 sites with electric hookups and accessible drinking water. Most sites are shaded by tall trees; others come equipped with canopies to shade the picnic tables. Most campsites do not have a view of the lake. A boat-launch ramp, playground, swim beach, shower house, dump station and marina are also on site. A mile-long nature trail loops around the campground.

Continued to page 30.

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Ozark County area lodging and camping options

continued from page 28

Norfolk Lake

Rocky Top Cabins & Campground

Off Highway 160 on Easterday Loop, Tecumseh
417-679-0149 or 417-989-0668
www.rocky-top-campground.com
Find them on Facebook.
See ad on page 31.

Rocky Top Campground & Cabins is situated on 17 acres just west of Lake Norfolk in Tecumseh. Rocky Top offers several cabins, a rental camper and camp sites with water and electrical hookups that can be utilized for tent or RV camping. Each site has 30- and 20-amp electric plug-ins, a fire pit and a picnic table. Showers and toilets are located on site, and an on-site dump station services those with campers and RVs.

Udall park and campground

Off O Highway at Udall
870-425-2700
US Army Corps of Engineers
Make reservations at recreation.gov

The Udall Campground on the banks of Lake Norfolk at Udall is open from May 1 to Sept. 30. It features seven campsites, vault toilets, a sanitary dump station, drinking water and a boat launch ramp. In a change from the past, sites are now 100 percent reservable; however, at press time, to find Udall Park on the recreation.gov website, users had to type "Udall Bull Shoals" in the search box (even though the park is on Norfolk Lake, not Bull Shoals). A Corps spokesman told us it's hoped the error is fixed by summer camping season.

North Fork of the White River

Blair Bridge campground

KK Highway and County Road 354, Caulfield
Missouri Department of Conservation
417-256-7161

This small public campground, on the banks of the North Fork of the White River at the public access point near Blair Bridge, features three primitive tent sites available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pit toilets and picnic tables are provided.

North Fork Recreation Area/Hammond

Known locally as Hammond access
Highway CC east of Dora at the North Fork River in Mark Twain National Forest
417-683-4428
See page 49 for more information.

North Fork Recreation Area offers 20 campsites for tent camping and smaller travel trailers near the North Fork of the White River. Each has a table, fire ring, lamp-hanging post and tent pad. Drinking water, vault toilets and garbage collection are centrally located. No water and sewer hookups for vehicular camping are available at this location. The use of generators is not prohibited, but quiet hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Campground is open May 15-Nov. 15.

Patrick Bridge campground

H Highway, Caulfield
Missouri Department of Conservation
417-746-0291

This campground, located on the banks of the North Fork of the White River at the public access point near Patrick Bridge, features 12 primitive campsites with picnic tables available on a first-come, first-serve basis. A gravel bar near this access is frequented by visitors in the summer months, and a short walk brings visitors to Althea Spring and its adjoining dam, where the waterfall is another popular water-play area.

Pettit's Canoe Rental

County Road 354 near Blair Bridge, Caulfield
417-284-3290
pettitscanoerental.wixsite.com/home
See ad on page 12.

Pettit's Canoe Rental, on the banks of the North Fork of the White River, offers campsite rentals to customers who are

also renting canoes, rafts, tubes and/or kayaks from the outfitter. The campsites are not available to rent by those not renting float equipment. Campground amenities include flush toilets, hot showers, RV sites with electric/water, spacious camp areas, fire pits, picnic tables and complementary firewood for small camp fires.

Sunburst Ranch

776 County Road 352, Caulfield off H Highway
Caulfield; 417-284-3443
sunburstranchcanoe.com
See ad on page 12.

Sunburst Ranch, on the North Fork of the White River, features more than a mile of riverfront with several lodging options including primitive camping, RV sites, tent campsites with electricity, several full-service cabins - and even a renovated airplane hangar that sleeps up to 16 people. Flush toilets and hot showers are available at a showerhouse. A camp store has supplies and souvenirs; ice and firewood are also available. The resort rents canoes, rafts and kayaks, and provides shuttle services for its guests.

Twin Bridges Canoe & Campground

Highways 181 and 14 northeast of Dora
417-256-7507
www.twinbridgesmo.com
See ad on page 16.

Twin Bridges Canoe & Campground features two separate camping areas on the North Fork of the White River. In addition, a large wooded campsite overlooking the river provides individual or group camp options. Camp facilities include picnic tables, fire grills, firewood, hot showers and flush toilets. Full-hookup RV sites have both 30- and 50-amp service as well as sewer and water. A community fire ring awaits guests on a gravel bar. Cabins and other lodging are also available, and a popular restaurant operates on site. The resort rents canoes and kayaks.

continued to page 32



welcome

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Ozark County area lodging and camping options

continued from page 30

Secluded settings

Caney Mountain Conservation Area

Highway 181, 5 miles north of Gainesville
Missouri Department of Conservation
417-679-2363
See page 36 for more information.

This 7,899-acre conservation area includes more than 30 campsites in three separate areas. Maximum RV length is 24 feet. Caney Mountain Conservation Area offers visitors 20-plus miles of gravel roads, high vista overlooks, hiking trails and streams to explore.

Gardner Wildlife Getaway (AirBnB)

1046 County Road 122, Wasola
Find them on Facebook
Book at www.airbnb.com/rooms/20868097
See ad, page 29.

The fully-furnished log cabin, built in 2009 from local timber, sleeps up to five adults comfortably with one queen bed and three twin beds. It is located in a rural area of Ozark County in the Wasola area, situated on a hillside surrounded by forested land. The cabin features an open floor plan and a full-sized bathroom with shower and tub. The kitchen has a new stove and full-sized refrigerator, along with coffee maker and microwave. The furnishings, beds and bedding are all new. A washer and dryer allow guests to do laundry during their stay. The cabin has a private drive, parking space and an outdoor fire pit. The 800 acres around the cabin are part of a working cattle ranch and can be accessed with prior additional arrangements.

Trout/Game Ranch

Rockbridge Grist Mill/Rainbow Trout and Game Ranch

4297 County Road 142, Rockbridge
www.rockbridgemo.com
417-679-3619
See ad, page 8.

This 2,000-plus acre resort in the heart of the rural Ozark Mountains features one of Ozark County's iconic and historic

grist mills, making it the perfect setting for a family vacation or relaxing couple's getaway. The resort offers lodging options that range from affordable motel rooms and suites to luxurious multi-bedroom log cabins. Rockbridge's stunning spring-fed Spring Creek offers an exciting opportunity for all kinds of fishermen, from the novice to the expert. Rockbridge is privately owned so guests do not have to have a Missouri fishing license or a trout stamp to fish there. Guests can also take advantage of the on-site Gun Club, which offers shooting sports as well as guided whitetail deer and wild turkey hunts. Horseback riding and hiking round out the activities available at the resort. Two eateries are available on the grounds. The Grist Mill Club, a pub-style bar and restaurant housed in a historic 1800s grist mill, offers guests an open-air dining area for drinks and appetizers from April through October. While those seeking a casual, fine dining experience can find a full menu of creative dishes at the resort's main restaurant. Fisherman can bring their freshly-caught trout to the on-site fish cleaning staff to clean and either package or pass on to the restaurant's chef to cook for dinner.

Small town lodging

Cottage-style cabin (VRBO)

Highway 181, Gainesville
Book at www.vrbo.com - property ID # 2472458
On the same fenced property as "rustic-themed cabin," next entry. See ad, page 27.

This newly built 640-square foot one-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin features a queen-sized bed and a single/twin bed decorated in charming cottage-style decor. A fully stocked kitchen and washer and dryer duo allow guests to feel right at home during a relaxing stay in Ozark County. The cabin is located outside of downtown Gainesville on five acres of partially manicured/partially timbered property. It's close enough to town to enjoy all of the fun and amenities, but far enough away for a bit of privacy. The location is perfect for anyone wanting to enjoy the lakes, as it is situated between

Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes, with many public accesses nearby. There is ample parking for trailers and boats with many electric hookups outside to keep guests' toys charged. A fenced backyard provides a safe place for pets, and there are tree swings for kids. Kayaks can be rented from the host upon request to enjoy on waterways in the area.

Rustic-themed cabin (VRBO)

Highway 181, Gainesville
Book at www.vrbo.com - property ID # 2472525
On the same fenced property as "cottage-style cabin," previous entry. See ad, page 27.

Another newly built 640-square foot one-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin, also features a queen-sized bed and a single/twin bed. This cabin is decorated in rustic style decor. A fully stocked kitchen and washer and dryer duo allow guests to feel right at home during a relaxing stay in Ozark County. The cabin is located outside of downtown Gainesville on five acres of partially manicured/partially timbered property. It's close enough to town to enjoy all of the fun and amenities, but far enough away for a bit of privacy. The location is perfect for anyone wanting to enjoy the lakes, as it is situated between Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes, with many public accesses nearby. There is ample parking for trailers and boats with many electric hookups outside to keep guests' toys charged. A fenced backyard provides a safe place for pets, and there are tree swings for kids. Kayaks can be rented from the host upon request to enjoy on waterways in the area.

Antler Motel

Third Street/Highway 5 North, Gainesville
417-679-4292
See ad, page 31.

The two-story Antler Motel has been a mainstay in Gainesville for decades. The motel features clean and reasonably priced rooms in a convenient location in Gainesville. The Antler Pizza and Package store stands next door, making mealtime an easy walk away. Groceries, gas and other businesses are all located within a few miles of the motel.

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RECREATION AREAS

There is ample public land and several designated recreation areas visit within Ozark County and the surrounding area. Whether you're interested in visiting the lush green wooded areas of the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri Department of Conservation areas or lakeside areas owned by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you'll find something to explore.



Caney Creek, located along the main roadway through Caney Mountain Conservation is a popular feature in the Missouri Department of Conservation-owned land. Explore the crystal, clear water by wandering down the creek bank or put on a pair of creek shoes and splash around!

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CANEY MOUNTAIN Conservation Area

Nearly 8,000 acres of public land includes high-quality forest, woodland and glades providing opportunities for recreation, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hunting, camping and more.

Wildlife viewing.

This conservation area helped nurture the rebirth of the eastern wild turkey after the state's population dropped to fewer than 2,500 birds. Today wild turkeys flourish here, as do whitetail deer, squirrels, birds and many other native species. Bald eagle sightings are common, especially during the winter. Two wheelchair-accessible wildlife viewing blinds, placed on the edges of managed food plots, provide a good opportunity for visitors to spot wildlife and take photos. Find the viewing blinds on the map, page 37.

Bring creek shoes.

Get your toes wet, look for crawdads or just enjoy the sound of natural water surrounding you in Caney Mountain Conservation Area's water features. The area includes 112 intermittent streams including the 3-mile-long Caney Creek, the Spout Spring and over 40 fish-less ponds

OWNER: Missouri Department of Conservation
ACREAGE: 7,899 acres including 1,300 of wildlife refuge
CONTACT: 417-679-2363
GPS COORDINATES: 36.58568° N, 91.14006° W
HOURS: Open 30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset
WEB: nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/caney-mountain-ca

Take a hike.

Two designated hiking trails weave through the center wildlife refuge section of Caney Mountain Conservation Area. The **Spout Spring Trail** is an easy 1.5-mile out-and-back trail that passes through a variety of surroundings and runs along a creek, giving a glimpse of Spout Spring near the end. The **Long Bald Nature Trail** is a half-mile loop through glade country. Dozens of other unnamed multi-use trails, gravel roads and forestry roads run throughout the acreage and can be used by the public for hiking, bicycling or horseback riding. Maps are generally not available at the conservation area, so it's wise for travelers to download or bring their own before visiting. A map is available on page 37 or at <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/conservation-areas/5202map.pdf>.



Caney Mountain black powder range (zone 1)

Sight it in.

Visitors and residents can sight in weaponry at one of three ranges at Caney Mountain Conservation Area. The archery range features a static range as well as field targets with a tree-stand platform available for use. The rifle and handgun range features target distances of 25-100 yards, and a range restricted to muzzleloaders includes two stations with 50- and 100-yard distances.

Camping.

Pitch a tent or bring an RV to camp at one of the many campsites within the park. They include privies, fire rings and picnic tables.

Public/managed hunts

Caney Mountain features three scenic overlooks with picnic tables atop Preston Flats (see map, page 37) that allow visitors to witness Ozark County's spectacular views. All three spots are marked by "scenic vista" signs. One vista features a view that stretches all the way to Arkansas.

Public hunting: Caney Mountain Conservation Area is separated into three zones, and two of them – Zone 3 on the north end and Zone 2 on the south end – are open to public hunting. Hunting is prohibited in the center (Zone 1) "natural area," except for managed deer and turkey hunts. **Managed hunts:** The center of the Caney Mountain Conservation Area, zone 1, is considered the natural area or wildlife refuge. This 1,100-acre section is closed to public deer and turkey hunting all year with the exception of a few managed hunts that include a muzzleloader deer hunt, an archery deer hunt, spring archery and shotgun turkey hunts and a youth-only spring shotgun turkey hunt. Participants are selected for the managed hunts in a lottery drawing, with application deadlines submitted several months ahead of the hunts. For more information or to submit an application to be considered for a management hunt, visit huntfish.mdc.mo.gov.

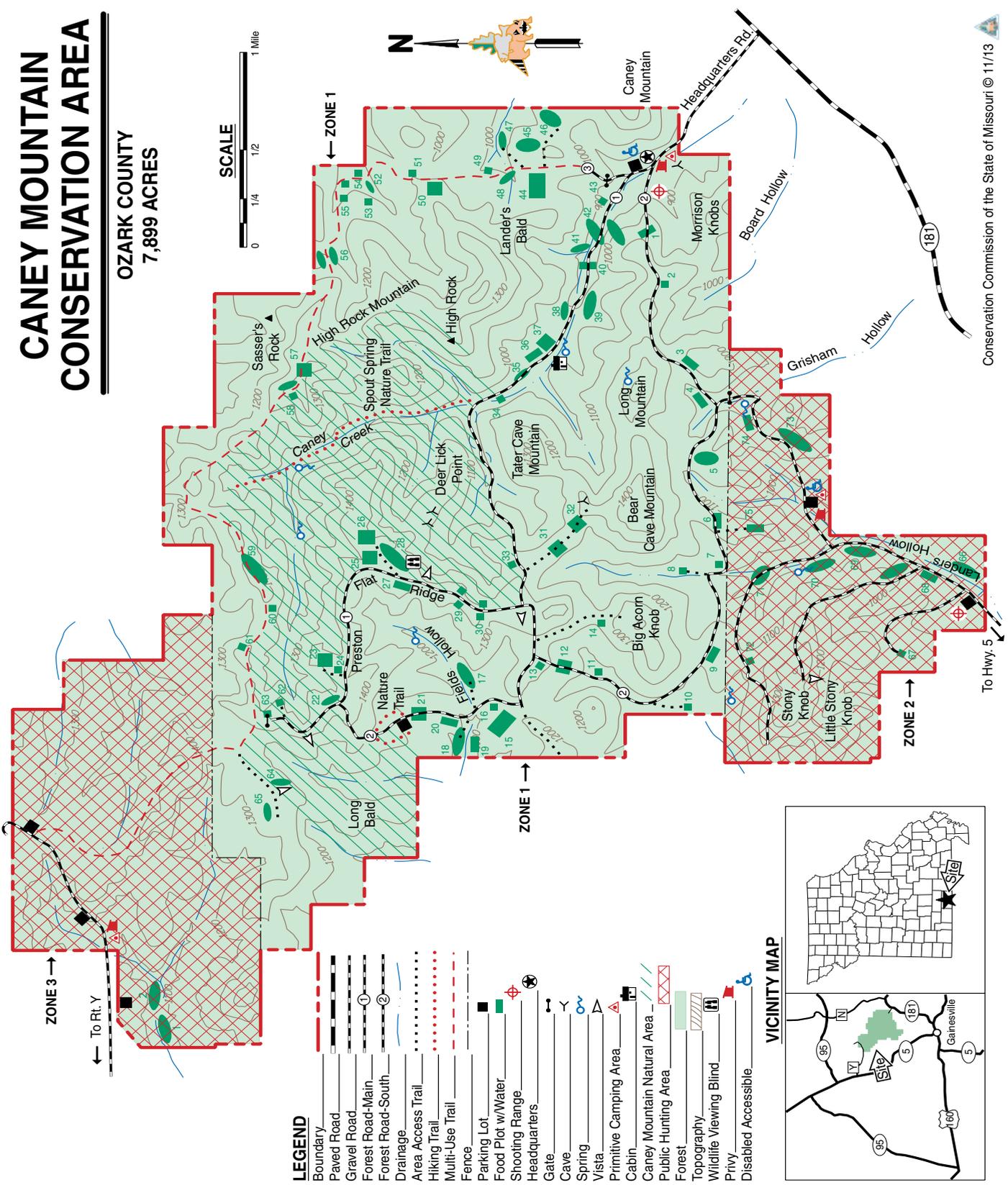
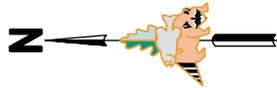
Directions

Caney Mountain Conservation Area has three access points. All directions are from Gainesville. **Zone 1:** Take Highway 181 north 5 miles. Turn left onto Headquarters Road, the graveled entrance to the conservation area. **Zone 2:** Take Highway 5 north 2 miles. Turn right onto County Road 107 and continue for a half-mile. **Zone 3:** Take Highway 5 north 10 miles. Turn right (east) onto Highway Y and drive 3 miles, then turn right onto County Road 116. Continue until you reach the entrance.

Views

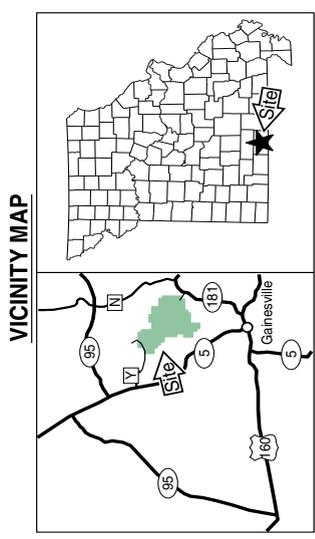
CANEY MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION AREA

OSARK COUNTY
7,899 ACRES



LEGEND

Boundary	—
Paved Road	—
Gravel Road	—
Forest Road-Main	①
Forest Road-South	②
Drainage	—
Area Access Trail	—
Hiking Trail	—
Multi-Use Trail	—
Fence	—
Parking Lot	—
Food Plot w/Water	—
Shooting Range	—
Headquarters	—
Gate	—
Cave	—
Spring	—
Vista	—
Primitive Camping Area	—
Cabin	—
Caney Mountain Natural Area	—
Public Hunting Area	—
Forest	—
Topography	—
Wildlife Viewing Blind	—
Privy	—
Disabled Accessible	—



Due to little-to-no cell phone reception, and no visitor display maps at the conservation area, visitors are encouraged to bring a map of the area with them when exploring Caney Mountain Conservation Area. This map is available on the Missouri Department of Conservation website at <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/conservation-areas/5202map.pdf>.



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Glade Top Trail is especially appealing in the fall when the foliage begins to put on a show, as shown in this file photo shared with the Times by Dora resident Amy Spencer a few years ago.

GLADE TOP TRAIL

Missouri
Scenic Byway

OWNER: Mark Twain National Forest, US Forest Service

LENGTH: 23 miles

CONTACT: Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs District Ranger
Cody Lunsford, 417-683-4428

GPS COORDINATES: Latitude: 36.75° N, Longitude: 92.76° W

OPEN: Year round; quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

MAP: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/eastern/GladeTopTrail

Points of interest. Notable areas include Hayden Bald, which has a picnic table and parking area, and Smoke Tree scenic overlook, a pull-off with a bench for sitting and taking in the view. The Corbitt Potter and Willie Lee areas are good for “dispersed camping” (meaning camping outside of a designated campground, which is allowed along the trail). The Arkansas View site has a picnic table and spectacular views south. Watershed Divide offers views of a vast area of countryside. Wolf Junction has a picnic table, and Big Creek Basin offers an impressive view. Close to the Glade Top Trail on the southwest side, trails are available for hikers, equestrians and dispersed campers. A vault toilet is located at the Hercules Tower trailhead.

Scenic byway. The Glade Top Trail is a Missouri National Forest Scenic Byway. Its wide, sweeping views of the Ozarks countryside are beautiful anytime of year, but they’re especially breathtaking in the fall, when the hardwoods transform from their usual green blanket into a tapestry of vibrant autumn color. The all-weather road is accessible to all vehicles and is maintained regularly.



Considered one of the most scenic locations in Missouri, the Glade Top Trail cuts through the Mark Twain National Forest and borders the Hercules Glade Wilderness Area, following narrow ridgetops rising 500 feet above the surrounding rolling countryside.

Wildflowers.

Native to these glades is a high diversity of both common and rare plants. Some of the wildflowers that can be seen along the Glade Top Trail include Arkansas calamint (*satureja arkansana*), aromatic aster (*symphotrichum oblongifolium*), Barbara’s buttons (*marshallia caespitosa* var. *signata*), Bush’s skullcap (*ccutellaria bushii*), Gattinger’s goldenrod (*solidago gattingeri*), Missouri black-eyed Susan (*rudbeckia missouriensis*), Missouri evening primrose (*oenothera missouriensis*), purple beardtongue (*penstemon cobaea* var. *purpureus*), purple coneflower (*echinacea purpurea*), rosinweed (*grindelia lanceolata*), stenosisiphon (*stenosisiphon linifolius*), silky aster (*symphotrichum sericeum*), Spanish needles (*palafoxia callosa*), Trelease’s larkspur (*delphinium treleasei*) and yellow coneflower (*echinacea paradoxa*).

Overlooks.

Seven overlook pull-off locations provide visitors with panoramic views of the Ozarks that reach 20 miles northwest to the Springfield Plateau and 40 miles south to the Boston Mountains in Arkansas.



Missouri
Black-Eyed Susan



Eastern Collared Lizard

Flaming Fall Revue.

Each year the Ava Chamber of Commerce sponsors an outdoor fall festival, the Flaming Fall Revue, at the Caney Picnic Area on the Glade Top Trail. The event, typically held the second or third Saturday in October, begins with an outdoor church service at 10:30 a.m. followed by live music, fall activities, pumpkin painting, exhibits and local artists, a dessert auction and various dinner options for purchase. For more information, contact the Ava Chamber of Commerce at 417-683-4594 or visit www.avachamber.org.

Unique landscape.

Missouri has some of the greatest abundance and diversity of glades in the United States, and Glade Top Trail lies within the heart of this unique natural landscape. Also known as barrens, balds or knobs, glades consist of areas of thin soil with relatively large amounts of exposed bedrock, and they’re dominated by herbaceous vegetation. The glades provide habitat for some species not generally found in the Ozarks, including the Bachman sparrow, a state endangered species. If you’re lucky, you might see the colorful eastern collared lizard, pictured left.

Directions

From Gainesville, travel north on Highway 5 about 25 miles. Turn left on Highway A in Douglas County. (Note: Ozark County has an A Highway just south of Wasola; don’t turn there.) Go 3.6 miles and turn left on County Road 409, where you’ll see a Glade Top Trail sign. The trail’s south end can also be accessed at Longrun, off Highway 95 in Ozark County. From the west, access the trail from Highway 125, 2 miles south of the Hercules Glade Wilderness.

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Dora resident Lindsay Collins Sellars shared this photo with the *Times* of the picnic area at Noblett Lake.

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NOBLETT LAKE Recreation Area

Originally constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, this scenic recreation area on the shore of a 26-acre lake offers picnicking, fishing, birdwatching, canoeing and electric motor boating.



OWNER: Mark Twain National Forest, US Forest Service
CONTACT: Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District, 1103 South Jefferson, Ava • 417-683-4428
HOURS OPEN: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
FEES: No day use fee. Group picnic pavilion \$25/day.
GPS COORDINATES: Latitude: 36.90 Longitude : -92.09

Camp. Dispersed primitive camping is allowed in loops below the dam and on the hill across from the Noblett trailhead, known locally as "Sugar Hill." Camping is not allowed in the day use area.

Canoeing and fishing. Noblett Lake is a popular place to canoe and fish for blue gill, sunfish, bass and catfish. Only electric motors are allowed on the water.



Picnic/pavillion Picnic tables and grills are available on a first come, first serve basis. Vault toilets are available, but there is no drinking water on site. The pavilion, pictured at left, can be reserved for \$25 per day at the website recreation.gov. If not reserved, it can be used on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. Reservations may be made at least four days and up to 12 months in advance. Groups of more than 75 people, whether or not they're using the pavilion, must obtain a special permit. Call 1-877-444-6777 or visit recreation.gov to book.

Ridge Runner trail. This National Recreation Trail offers backpackers, mountain bikers and equestrians a 36.5-mile route that begins with a 6-mile loop at Noblett Lake and continues south for 21 miles, where it meets a 6-mile loop at the North Fork Recreation Area (see page 49). Horses are not allowed in the day use areas at Noblett Lake or North Fork Recreation Area or near Blue Spring in the North Fork Recreation Area.

Riding horses. The Ridge Runner Trail is popular among equestrians who are seeking an all-day ride. A 6-mile loop serves those seeking a shorter ride. Limited trailer space at the trailheads makes it difficult for more than a few riders to use the trail at any given time. Parking is especially limited on spring and fall weekends. Horses are not allowed in the dispersed camping area below the dam, around the lake or in the picnic area.

Lake loop. The Loop Trail around Noblett Lake on the north end of the Ridge Runner Trail is a good option for day hikers. If vehicle shuttling is an option, the main trunk of the Ridge Runner Trail (see above) also provides point-to-point day hike options.

Directions

From Dora in northern Ozark County, travel north on Highway 181 for 20 miles. Turn right onto State Highway AP and continue about 3 miles. Turn right onto Forest Road 857 and continue for about 1 mile to the turnoff for the day use area. The road continues to the Noblett dam and trailhead.

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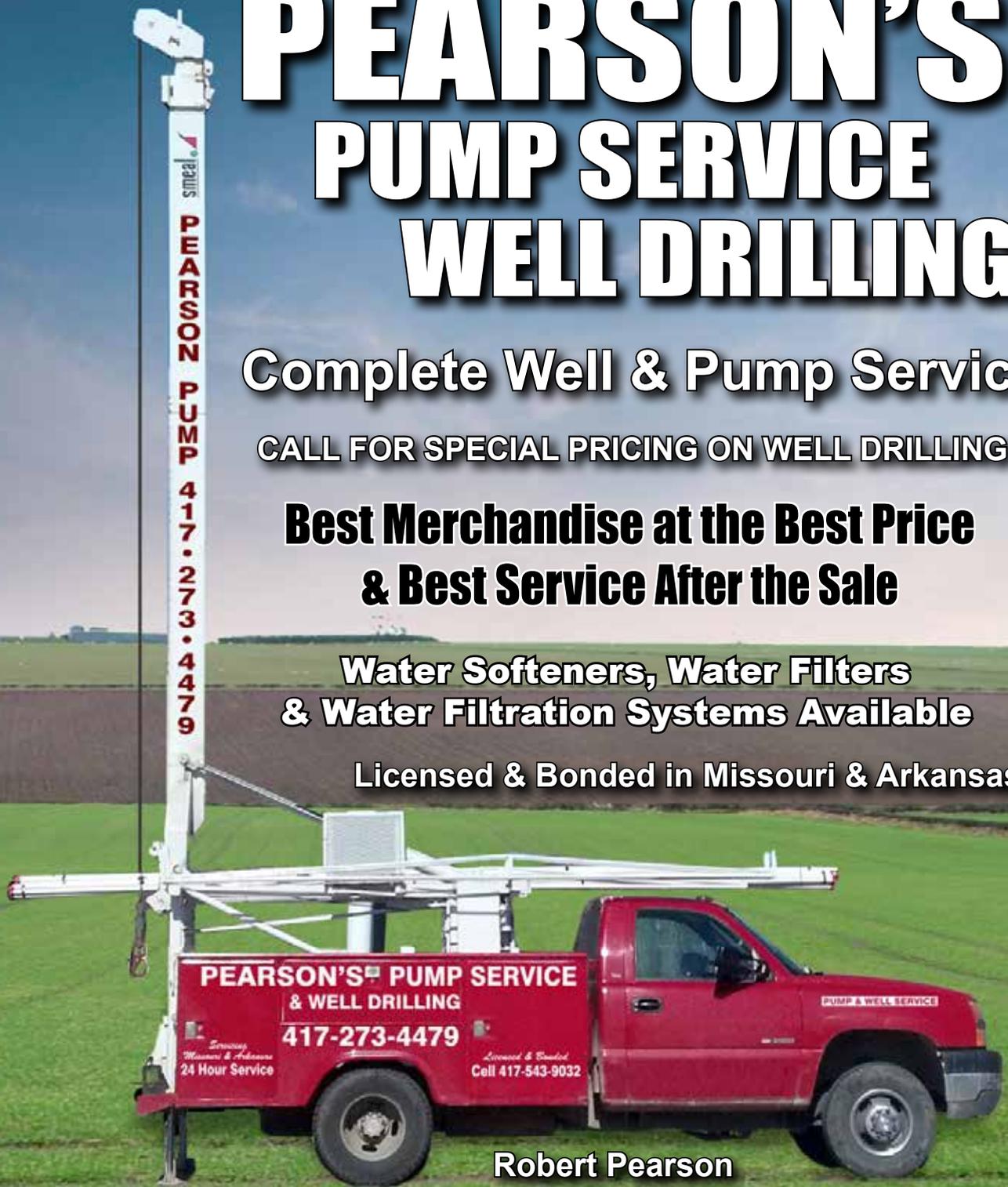
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The North Fork Recreation Area, known locally as Hammond access, features a canoe/kayak launch area and a day-use area, located slightly downstream, providing access to the North Fork of the White River for floating, swimming and water play. Day-use fees are \$2 per vehicle, and the walk-in day-use area is generally open from March 1 through November 30. A campground is also located at the North Fork Recreation Area, pictured above, offering camping sites with picnic tables, fire rings and trash hanging hooks.

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NORTH FORK Recreation Area

North Fork Recreation Area provides camping, picnicking, boating, canoeing, hiking and fishing access on the beautiful North Fork of the White River, which has a total of nine major springs flowing into it.

Blue Spring.

Day hikers can enjoy a .6 mile walk on the Blue Spring Trail from the North Fork Recreation Area campground to Blue Spring, a vibrant, oval-shaped spring about 30 feet in diameter. The spring averages 7 million gallons per day of cold, clear-blue water. The colorful pool is tucked into a dramatic setting: On three sides, a stone wall made of cherty gasconade dolomite rock surrounds the spring and represents the karst topography of the Ozarks.



Photo by Wren Haffner

OWNER: Mark Twain National Forest, US Forest Service

CONTACT: Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger Station, 417-683-4428

GPS COORDINATES: Latitude: 36.7547818, Longitude : -92.1548502

FEES: Day use fee is \$2 per vehicle, \$10 per bus

HOURS OPEN: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

OPERATIONAL DATES: Gates are open May 15 - Nov. 30, and closed Dec. 1 - March

1. Walk-in traffic and day use is permitted when gate is closed, but no camping.

Canoe/kayak.

The North Fork Recreation Area is more commonly known by locals as Hammond access, especially in reference to the public canoe and kayak access ramp. Small jon boats can be launched here; however, motorized boats are prohibited. This is one of three public access points on the North Fork of the White River. While this access is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the other two, at Blair Bridge and Patrick Bridge, are managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Private access points are offered by local outfitters Twin Bridges, River of Life Farm, Pettit's Canoe Rental, Sunburst Ranch and Dawt Mill Resort.



Camping.

The North Fork Recreation Area offers 20 campsites, each with a picnic table, fire ring, post for a hanging lamp and a tent pad. Drinking water (available May 15 - Oct. 15), vault toilets and garbage receptacles are centrally located. No water or sewer hook-ups for camping trailers are available at this location. Campground nightly fees of \$10 for non-electric sites and \$15 for electric sites. The use of generators is not prohibited, but quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Devil's Backbone Trail.

The North Fork Recreation Area at Blue Spring serves as a gateway into the Devil's Backbone Wilderness, a 6,687-acre area of wild, public land that takes its name from a long, narrow ridge known to the area's early settlers as the Devil's Backbone. At 1,020 feet, the highest "vertebrae" of the ridge trail glides through the center of the wilderness. The trail is rated as moderately difficult with sometimes steep terrain. Thirteen miles of maintained foot and horse trails follow the Devil's Backbone and four other ridges, dropping off into surrounding hollows in a forest dominated by oaks, hickories and shortleaf pines. Although equestrians are allowed on the trail, they are not allowed near Blue Spring or in the day use area of the North Fork Recreation Area. Alternatively, horseback riders can access the Raccoon Hollow Trailhead from the south side of CC Highway about 1.5 miles east of Dora.

Picnic and swim.

Ten sites with grills and picnic tables are available for day-use picnicking. The area also offers vault toilets, drinking water and centralized garbage collection. This area is used for swimming, tubing and wading during the summer months. There is no lifeguard, and using the water access is done at one's own risk. A \$2 per vehicle day use fee is charged for those visiting.

Ridge Runner Trail.

This National Recreation Trail provides backpackers, mountain bikers and equestrians with a 36.5-mile route that begins with a 6-mile loop at the North Fork Recreation Area and continues north for 21 miles, where it meets a 6-mile loop at Noblett Lake. The landscape varies from gently rolling to very steep terrain with rock outcrops and buffs. Vegetation along the trail is diverse and includes oak-hickory, shortleaf pine and bottomland forests. Remnant prairie plants can be seen, a reminder of a time when repeated wildfires burned the Ozarks, allowing fingers of prairie to extend into the woods. Horses are not allowed in the day use area at North Fork Recreation Area, near Blue Spring or in the day use area at Noblett Lake. The Ridge Runner Trail can also be accessed at the Hay Hollow Trailhead on Forest Road 759, off Highway 14 east of Twin Bridges. The trail passes through the creek bottom approximately .4 miles south of Braddock Lake. Primitive camping is available at this trailhead.

Directions

From Gainesville, take Highway 181 northeast to CC Highway just south of Dora. Turn right and travel east for 3 miles.



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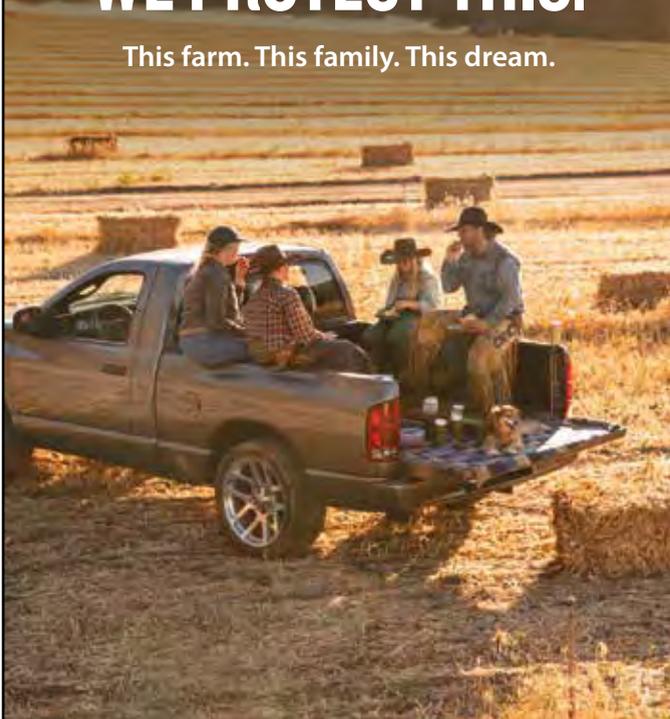
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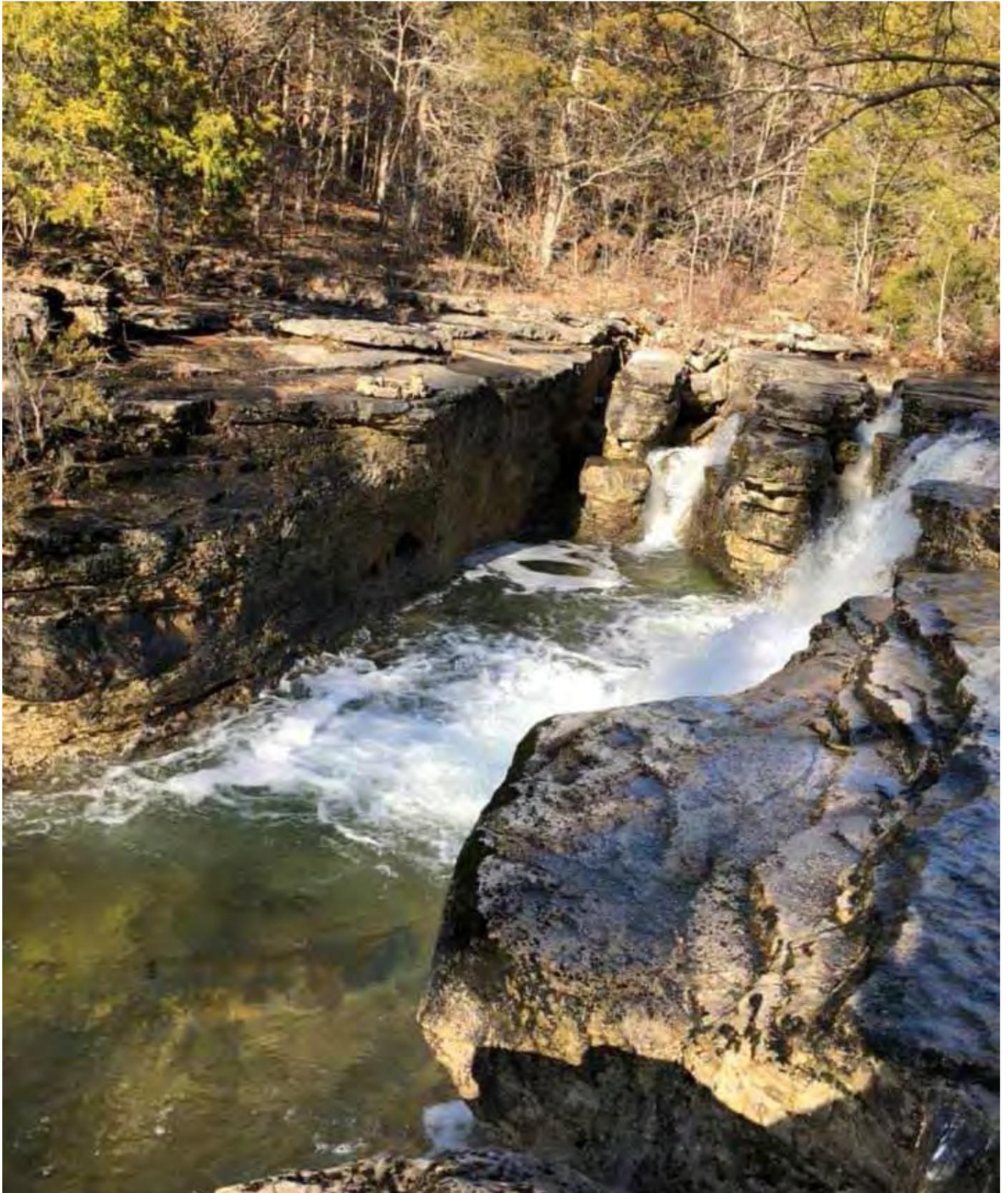
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Long Creek Falls, sometimes referred to as the “shut-ins” by locals, creates a beautiful stretch of cascading waterfalls when rains fuel the creek that flows through the Hercules Glade. During the drier months, visitors can appreciate the deep cuts that Long Creek has made in the limestone riverbed, pictured above. Photo by Mindy Pippin.

HERCULES GLADE Wilderness

This 12,413-acre wilderness encompasses some of the most scenic and unique country in the Midwest. Its varied landscapes offer unusual beauty and a measure of solitude within easy reach of large numbers of those who love the outdoors.

Hiking:

Hercules Glade features 32 miles of maintained trails to explore by foot or on horseback. The National Forest Service rates the terrain as "more difficult to most difficult." It features steep areas, stream crossings, sparse trail markings and elevations ranging from 600 to 1,200 feet. Due to these conditions, the wilderness area receives only light use. Cross-country hiking is allowed, but those hikers should bring a map and compass or a GPS unit.

OWNER: Mark Twain National Forest, US Forest Service
ACERAGE: 12,413 acres
CONTACT: Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs District Ranger
Cody Lunsford, 417-683-4428
GPS COORDINATES: Latitude: 36.68, Longitude : -92.88
OPEN: Year round, quiet hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
WEB: www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mtnf/recreation/?cid=stelprdb512313

Three trailheads.

Three trailheads provide entry to the Hercules Glades Wilderness. The Hercules Tower Trailhead is located along Highway 125, 7 miles north of Highway 160 in Taney County. It has a vault toilet, space for camping and parking. The Blair Ridge Trailhead is also off Highway 125. Turn onto Forest Road 155 and go approximately 2 miles. Only parking is available at this location. The Coy Bald Trailhead, farthest from Ozark County, is off Highway 160, 9 miles east of Forsyth. Turn north onto Forest Road 566 and go approximately 4 miles. Only parking is available at this location.



Julie Heyer is pictured here at the junction of Tower and Pete's Hollow Trails during a hike in the Hercules Glade Wilderness area.

Scenic.

Described as some of the "most scenic and unique country in the Midwest" by the U.S. Forest Service, the Hercules Glade Wilderness Area features more than 12,000 acres of open grassland, forested knobs, steep rocky hill-sides, narrow drainages, limestone rock outcroppings and open glades.

Dispersed camping:

"Dispersed camping" is allowed in the Hercules Glade Wilderness Area. According to the Mark Twain National Forest Hercules Glade website, "dispersed camping" indicates free camping anywhere in the national forest outside of a designated campground. It also means there are no toilets, no structures, no trash cans, no treated water and no fire grates. Thus, extra responsibilities are required for this type of camping. The MTNF website lists these guidelines:

- Pick a campsite and follow "Leave no trace" principles
- Camp 100 feet away from trails or water sources. Treat any water found in the area before consuming it.
- Human waste must be buried at least 6 inches deep and covered.
- Pack out all of your garbage.

The falls.

Known by locals as "the shut-ins," Long Creek Falls is an impressive display of the power of water on a dolomite creekbottom. The 10- to 12-foot drops, pictured on page 52 at left, create beautiful waterfalls. During the wetter months, many visitors can't resist hopping into Long Creek for a refreshing dip. Access the falls from the Blair Ridge Trailhead.

Directions

From Gainesville, head west on Highway 160. Continue about 29 miles to Rueter, then turn right (north) onto Highway 125. Travel about 7 miles and turn left onto the fire tower road to reach the Hercules Tower Trailhead.



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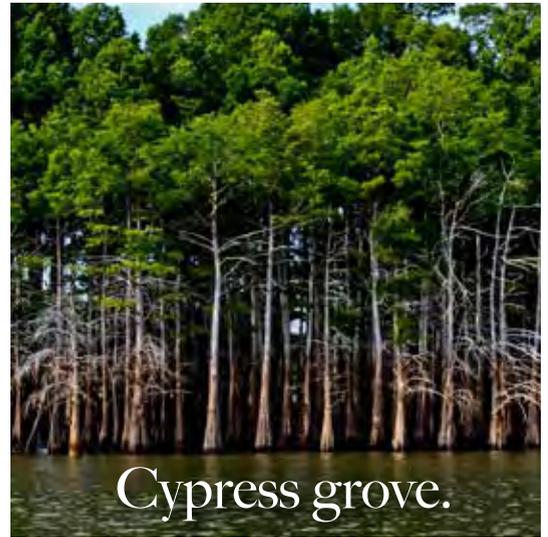
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PIGEON CREEK

Trails and Park

Popular fishing:

Anglers can often be found lining the banks of Norfolk Lake, and fisherman with boats use the boat ramp heavily throughout the year. Those fishing here must have an Arkansas fishing license or a Missouri fishing license with a Border Lakes tag.



Cypress grove.

A grove of cypress trees off the side of the roadway near the lake access makes an interesting place to visit and is an interesting backdrop for family photos.

Directions

From Gainesville, take Highway 160 east to J Highway. Turn right (south) and continue into Arkansas, where the road becomes Arkansas 201. Pigeon Creek Park is approximately 6 miles south of the state line on Lake Norfolk.

The Pigeon Creek public access on Norfolk Lake is a great area to visit for a wide variety of activities. Fun can be had by lake-goers launching boats, fishing, hiking, bicycling and enjoying the unique cypress grove.

Trails:

The Pigeon Creek "stacked loop" trail system consists of more than 20 miles of bicycling and hiking trails along the shores of Lake Norfolk. The trail system is a favorite with off-road bicyclists and draws a large crowd from all over the Midwest. No horses or motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails. The trailhead is on the west (right) side of Highway 201, opposite the boat ramp side, when coming from Missouri. There is a small parking lot allowing hikers or bikers access to leave their vehicles.

Corps run:

The Pigeon Creek National Recreation Trail is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is maintained through a volunteer program operated by the Twin Lakes Bicycle Club. The trail system can be accessed from Arkansas Highway 201 (a continuation of Missouri J Highway) just south of the Missouri/Arkansas line at Pigeon Creek Park on Lake Norfolk.

Boat/ Swim

The park includes a public boat-launch ramp and parking lot for visitors. The lake in this area is enjoyed by swimmers during the summer months. There is no lifeguard, and using the water access is done at one's own risk.

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PLACES TO EAT

Ozark Countians love to eat, and they know where to find good food, even in unlikely places. Here's a listing of some of the appetizing choices you'll find in area restaurants right in town or tucked away in beautiful countryside or waterfront settings – and also in convenience stores, gas stations and bars.



Antler restaurant interior

ANTLER PIZZA AND PACKAGE
Highway 5 north and Third Street,
Gainesville; 417-679-4598
antlerpackageandpizza.com

Famous for its pizza, the Antler also offers burgers, baskets and sandwiches, Mexican selections, salads and sides plus other dining specials. The restaurant also has a full bar, popular karaoke sessions and live bands some weekends. Check the website for evening closing times, which can vary by volume. See ad on page 61.

BULLSEYE – GAINESVILLE

Two locations:

Highways 5 north & 160, 417-679-2459
First Street, Gainesville, 417-679-4666

These two convenience-store gas stations, less than 1/4 mile apart, serve popular American fast-food choices including pizza, hamburgers, sandwiches, Champ's chicken, potato wedges and corn dogs. See ad on page 66.

BULLSEYE – THEODOSIA

Highway 160, Theodosia;
417-273-5502

This popular convenience store is much more than meets the eye. Featuring hand-breaded fish, chicken, jojos and more, the parking lot is generally full at lunch-and dinnertime. The staff may be proudest of their pizza that features a special homemade crust. The morning menu includes breakfast sandwiches and, of course, biscuits and gravy. Open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. See ad on page 63.

BULLSEYE – CAULFIELD

Highway 160, Caulfield;
417-284-3340

Bullseye station in Caulfield offers up burgers, chicken sandwiches and waffle fries at their location, located between Gainesville and West Plains. See ad, page 66.

CACTUS RIDGE RESORT CANTINA

Highway W, Price Place, Arkansas,
south of Pontiac; 417-679-3775

This seasonal pub at the Cactus Ridge Resort offers burgers, pizza and snacks, cold beer, wine and sodas in a friendly atmosphere. Call first to confirm hours. See ad page 22.

CASH SAVER PANTRY

Highway 160, Theodosia;
417-273-4784

This full-service supermarket includes a deli that sells a variety of sandwich fixings, famous fried chicken and picnic supplies. Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. (Operating hours change seasonally.) See the Theodosia Marina Resort ad on page 3.

COOKIE'S RESTAURANT

Off Highway 160, Theodosia;
417-273-4444

tmbullshoals.net

Home cooking at its best, including breakfast offerings, sandwiches, plate dinners, seafood, steaks and salads. The Friday and Saturday night prime rib is a weekly tradition for many locals. Dessert is a must; choose from a variety of homemade pies or Nadine Cook's famous carrot cake. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the restaurant, overlooking Bull Shoals Lake, is open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday-Saturday. Off-season hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The restaurant sometimes closes for a brief winter break. Call ahead to confirm. See the Theodosia Marina Resort ad on page 3.



Cookie's pork tenderloin sandwich



Country Apron Bakery cinnamon rolls

COUNTRY APRON BAKERY

5566, US Highway 160, Theodosia;
417-273-2295

www.facebook.com/lovebaking

If you're looking for a welcoming family atmosphere where you always feel at home and some of the best baked goodies around, this is the place for you! Specializing in homemade cinnamon rolls, sticky buns, pastry, cakes and cookies, you can eat in or take it to go. Summer hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Winter hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. See ad page 67.

Continued to page 62.

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Just Jackie's pizza

JUST JACKIE'S
Pontiac campground off W
Highway
Pontiac; 417-679-2593

This seasonal café in the Pontiac campground off Highway W in Pontiac is a mecca for lake-going tourists and locals alike. Folks come for the pizza, the famous wings, sandwiches (especially the Landing Burger) and basket combos plus beer, wine and soda. Indoor and outdoor dining areas. Call to confirm hours. See ad page 20.

LAKE BUMS BREW CO
112 Parrothead Lane, Pontiac
417-679-0070; lakebums-
brewco.com

Ozark County's only craft beer brewery and tasting room serves an innovative variety of its own tasty brews. Locals know to pick up a pizza or other take-out options from

nearby Just Jackie's restaurant – or bring your own snacks or sandwiches. Open year-round. Call for hours. See ad page 20.

LITTLE NORTH FORK
STORE
Highway 95, Thornfield
417-265-1112

This country store on the banks of the Little North Fork River at Thornfield boasts a lot for a small town store, with breakfast and lunch specials Monday-Thursday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have everything from real barbecue to cheeseburgers, deli and hot meals. Also homemade pizza and pies made fresh daily, along with bread, cookies and cinnamon rolls. See ad page 63.

Continued on page 60



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PLACES TO EAT

Continued from page 62.

MILLER'S ONE STOP

Highways 160 and J, Tecumseh
417-679-4243

This humble-looking gas station is well-known locally for its huge ice cream cones and milk shakes. It also serves up breakfast and made-to-order deli sandwiches along with hamburgers, jumbo hotdogs and pizza. See ad on page 42.

ROCKBRIDGE RAINBOW TROUT RANCH

Off N Highway northwest of Gainesville
in Rockbridge; 417-679-3619
rockbridgemo.com

A tucked-away gem, famous throughout the region, this resort's restaurant is open 8 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m. daily, depending on the season. Fisherfolk can catch their own rainbow trout in the resort's spring-fed stream to be prepared in the Rockbridge kitchen – or opt to order off the menu, which also includes steaks, sandwiches and plate dinners. Grilled cinnamon rolls are a popular breakfast item. For dessert, try the homemade cobbler or order an "Edith special" (a grilled chocolate bar sandwich). Reservations recommended. See ad on page 8.

ROY'S STORE

Highway 181, Dora; 417-261-2810

A magnet for hungry locals and river-floating tourists, Roy's serves breakfast, lunch and supper offering a wide variety of custom-made home-cooked meals, sandwiches, burgers and baskets. Catfish is a favorite – and oh, those home-made pies! See ad on page 17.

SUBWAY – CAULFIELD & GAINESVILLE

Highway 160, Caulfield; 417-284-1434
and Highways 160 & 5 north, Gainesville, 679-2527

The world's largest submarine sandwich chain has two local outlets. One adjoins the Bullseye store on Highway 160 in Caulfield. The other adjoins Bullseye at Highways 160 and 5 north in Gainesville. See ad page 66.



Tacos from Take 5

TAKE 5 BAR

714 Highway 5 South near the state line
417-679-0275

For some great bar food, snacks and drinks, cruise on down to Take 5, about a quarter mile north of the Arkansas state line on Highway 5, for some great bar food faves. Stop in for pool tournaments every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Take 5 is open Tuesdays-Sundays, beginning at noon. Closed on Mondays. See ad page 65.

TOWN & COUNTRY SUPERMARKET

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square, 417-679-4584

Made-to-order sub sandwiches are available in the deli, and the hot bar features a changing variety of fried foods plus on-site smoked ribs. Breakfast, lunch or supper choices are available for takeout. See ad on page 25.

TWIN BRIDGES BAR & GRILL

at Highways 181 & 14 north of Dora
417-255-9260; "Twin Bridges Bar and

Grill" on Facebook

This bar and grill at Twin Bridges Resort on the North Fork of the White River features a riverside patio deck where guests relax and enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner featuring BBQ, burgers, daily specials and other casual fare. Open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Sundays; and 8 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday. Closed Mondays except for Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Monday after July 4. See ad page 16.

SHANANAGAN'S

282 Main Street, Gainesville
417-712-3919

A fun place in downtown Gainesville, Shanagan's carries Hunt Brothers pizza and wings with drinks to dine in or carry out. With games, pool tables and karaoke, along with an arcade, this is a great place to hang out and enjoy some great pizza and wings to go with a big dose of family fun. See ad page 67.

THE GRILL AT WHISPERING WOODS

4245 Highway 177 South,
Jordan, Arkansas; 870-499-5531
whisperingwoodsar.com

With a spectacular view overlooking Lake Norfork, the Grill at Whispering Woods offers gourmet dinner entrees, pan-seared fish, steak, chicken, pasta, vegetarian options and even a "Burger of the Month." The restaurant is a scenic 50-minute drive from Gainesville, through Mountain Home, Arkansas, to the restaurant's location between Norfork Dam and the town of Jordan. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations recommended. See ad, page 68.



Roy's Store homemade pies

Continued to page 64.

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presents stories about stores.

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The Ozark County Historium's next book, to be published in September, will feature histories, reminiscences and photos honoring the dozens of small stores and post offices that served communities and towns sprinkled around the county. In fact, the Historium itself is located in one of those beloved old stores (pictured above, A. D. McDonald's store long before it became the Historium).

Join our Friday quilting group, stop by to view our colorful display of quilts and wonderful old pictures, find facts about your Ozark County families in our genealogy library or peruse our selection of gifts and books. Find more fascinating old photos on our website and our Facebook page.

Come to hear Dr. Brooks Blevins talk about the Ozarks origins of the Grand Old Opry at 10 a.m. April 21 and hurry back during Hootin an Hollarin Sept. 15-17 when we'll be celebrating the release of our latest book about our county's country stores.

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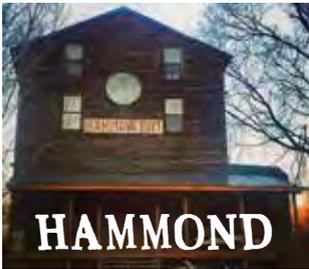
The five remaining grist mills of Ozark County are a popular attraction with visitors of Ozark County, giving a glimpse of life in the region more than a century ago.

Historic GRIST MILLS

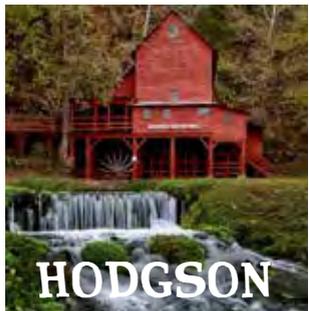


This rebuilt landmark, once the heart of a tiny Ozarks milling village founded in the mid-1800s, is the modern-day focus of a resort in a beautiful setting along the bank of the North Fork of the White River. Located northeast of Tecumseh on County Road 318, off Highway 160 via PP Highway, Dawt Mill was the last operating grist mill in Ozark County. Built in 1897, Dawt once was a town with a blacksmith shop, store, church and hotel. The first mill was built on the site in 1892, but later burned. The property has changed hands many times. The present mill was built in 1909 by Alva Hodgson. Following several owners through the years, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Henegar purchased the mill in 1995

and began a major restoration and renovation of the surrounding property. It is now a resort.



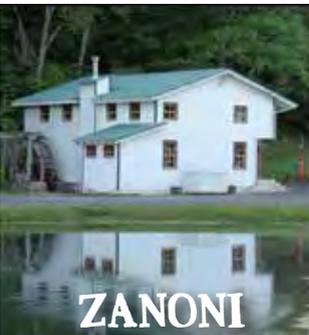
The original mill at Hammond was built in 1856 out of local logs. A replacement mill burned in 1876, and *that* mill's replacement washed away in a 1904 flood. The current structure was built as a four-story roller mill in 1907. At one time, tall black lettering on the side of the white mill identified the building as the "Home of Ozark Queen Flour." The mill, privately owned, is not open to the public, but it's viewable from County Road 855, off D Highway about 3 miles southeast of Thornfield. At one time the old mill was the heart of a quaint Ozarks village that also included a licensed distillery, a bank, a sawmill, general store and a post office that opened in 1894. Milling ceased at Hammond in the early 1940s, and the little town essentially disappeared after the Bank of Hammond closed. Photo by Jennifer Porter.



This beautiful old grist mill, on Highway 181 about 12 miles northeast of Gainesville, stands a short distance from Bryant Creek, where generations of residents and visitors have cooled off on hot summer days in a swimming hole just above the low-water Highway 181 bridge. The Sycamore access to the Bryant, a creek-gravel boat launch, is just downstream. The first mill on this site was built in 1883, powered by what is said to be the 15th largest spring in Missouri. Rebuilt by Alva Hodgson in 1897, the mill continued producing flour and meal for decades before falling into disuse. In 1969, Ken and Teena Harrington took over the lease and began producing Hodgson Mill stone-ground products that soon were distributed in grocery stores nationwide. Today those products, in packages carrying a stylized picture of Hodgson Mill, are still sold in some stores, now produced by an Illinois-based company. The mill is closed to the public, but the roadside parking area in front of the overflowing mill pond is a perfect rest stop and picture backdrop. Photo by Karen Eubank.



The original Rockbridge settlement, a few miles away from the present-day site, served as Ozark County's first seat of government. After the town was destroyed by raiders during the Civil War, the post office reopened in 1867 at Rockbridge's present site on Spring Creek off N Highway near the Douglas-Ozark County line. Rockbridge Mill was built here in 1892 by B. V. Morris, whose son, Frank, took over milling operations after his dad's death in 1918. Lile and Edith Amyx and Dr. M. C. and India Amyx purchased the property in 1954 and launched Rainbow Trout Ranch, one of the Ozarks' most successful and enduring resorts. Today, this picturesque attraction sits on 2,000 scenic acres, including 2 miles of sparkling clear Spring Creek stocked with rainbow trout from the resort's own hatchery. A wide variety of lodging facilities is available plus a full-service restaurant that attracts diners from throughout the Ozarks. Resort guests enjoy the swimming pool, horseback trail rides, hiking trails, a gun club and, in season, guided turkey and deer hunts. For more information, call 417-679-3619 or visit rockbridgemo.com. Photo courtesy of Rockbridge Rainbow Trout Ranch.



Located 9 miles northeast of Gainesville on Highway 181, Zanoni Mill features a big, overshot water wheel powered by a hillside spring with a daily average flow estimated at 194,000 gallons. The current mill is the successor to earlier versions that have operated on the site since before the Civil War. A village grew up around the mill, including a general store and post office, a blacksmith shop and a cotton gin. Milling operations ended in 1951, but the general store and post office continued at Zanoni until owner A.P. Morrison's death in 1969. Morrison's daughter, Classy Shanks, then became postmaster and moved the post office a few miles west on Highway 181. Later Zanoni owners Dave and Mary Morrison built a large home they eventually adapted into a popular bed and breakfast; they also rebuilt the mill as a quaint site for special events, including weddings and family reunions. Today Zanoni Mill is owned by a private family who offers the scenic place as a special event and wedding venue. The mill and nearby general store and post office, long closed, are viewable from nearby Highway 181. Photo courtesy of Zanoni Mill.



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Michelle Funk, RN - Senior Care Consultant

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Michelle has been a strong leader in advocating for seniors and protecting Medicare benefits in Washington and in the St. Louis area, serving as a technical expert.



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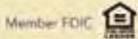
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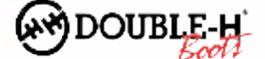
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MOVING HERE?

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For generations, Ozark County's rugged beauty, clean air, crystal-clear streams, inviting lakes and game-rich forests have attracted vacationers seeking quiet solitude, active water activities or rewarding hunting and fishing. That was especially true during the covid-19 pandemic, when virus precautions caused many travelers to cancel airline tickets and look instead for an inviting vacation spot within a day's drive of home. The friendly purveyors of Ozark County's tourism and outdoors businesses

else also happened during the pandemic that brought newcomers to Ozark County. Office workers, forced to work from home, realized "home" could be anywhere with an internet connection. City dwellers who had yearned for a quieter, slower-paced lifestyle began looking around for reasonably priced land in soul-nourishing settings. As a result, Ozark County real estate sales showed remarkable growth in the last two years as folks from coast to coast discovered the amazingly affordable

Those looking to relocate to somewhere with a little slower pace may consider Ozark County's rolling countryside. Farms, river- and lake-side homes and small-town houses are spread across the county's 755 square miles. Photo by Amy Ingalsbe.

welcomed this influx of visitors with hill-billy hospitality at its best.

joys of Ozarks living and the cherished sense of independence we enjoy in our rather isolated corner of the world, where the nearest three-color traffic light is 30 miles away.

If you're thinking along those lines, check out the area's talented realtors and real estate agents who can help you find just the right place. It might be a home in town with convenient services or that little farm you've always wanted to own or a house overlooking the water or set on a hillside with panoramic views.

To help those who are planning to make Ozark County their home, we've gathered some helpful moving-in information:

Real Estate

These are some of the best real estate companies and agents around.

1st Choice Realty

Pontiac, MO
417-967-2001
1stchoice-realty.com
See ad, page 21.

Century 21 Jewel Pendergrass

Mountain Home, Arkansas
870-425-6356; 870-492-7653
www.century21lemac.com
See ad, page 102.

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Continued to page 83.

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Continued from page 79.

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www.livingthedreamland.com
See ad, page 39.

West Plains United Country

West Plains, Gainesville
417-256-1000
www.westplainsunitedcountry.com
See ad, page 4.

Ozark County Realty

Theodosia
417-273-2290
www.ozarkcountyrealty.com
See ad, page 103.

Ozarks Realty 4U

Gainesville
417-679-4997; 417-257-4446
www.ozarksrealty4u.com
See ad, page 8.

Ozark Waterways Real Estate

Gainesville
417-257-3589; 417-989-9298
www.ozarkwaterways.com
See ad, page 59.

Sierra Ozark Corp. Real Estate

Theodosia
417-273-4212
www.sierraozark.com
See ad, page 22.

Vantage Real Estate

West Plains
417-255-1500
www.movingtotheozarks.com
See ad, page 54.

Willow Springs Realty

Willow Springs
417-469-2869
www.willowspringsrealty.net
See ad, page 78.

Construction

If you're looking for a construction company:

RAJ Construction

Gainesville
417-255-4279
See ad, page 33.

Ray Grisham Construction and Concrete

Gainesville
417-257-4930
See ad, page 43.

Taber Construction

Theodosia
417-546-0089
See ad, page 67.

Tecumseh Cabinet Company

Tecumseh
417-284-3439
www.tecumseh-cabinet.com
See ad, page 42.

Winrod Brothers Construction

Tecumseh
417-284-3533
www.winrodbrothersconstruction.com
See ad, page 54.

Electricity

Depending on where you live in the county, your electric service will be provided by one of two cooperatives.

In central and western Ozark County, it's **White River Valley Electric Co-op** (contact the co-op's Gainesville office at 417-679-4916; whiteriver.org).

On the far-east side, it's **Howell-Oregon Electric Co-op** (417-256-2131; hoecoop.org).

Important: Before you move, contact the cooperative serving your area and make sure the power will be turned on the day you arrive. Sellers usually close

their accounts and have the power turned off when they leave; without notifying the co-op of your expected arrival, you could spend your first days here in the dark!

Water/sewer

If your new home is in one of Ozark County's three incorporated villages, your water will be provided by the city of Bakersfield (417-284-7238) or Gainesville (417-679-4858) or Public Water District No. 1 in Theodosia (417-273-4825).

If you're outside these areas, you'll most likely have a private well with an electric pump. (See the note, above, about the importance of contacting the electric co-op providing service to your area before your move-in day).

Sewer service is located in some areas of the designated cities. For information on sewer service, contact Gainesville and Bakersfield cities (number above) or the Village of Theodosia at 417-273-4830. The majority of residents in Ozark County operate on private septic tanks, lagoons or other sewage devices.

Registering vehicles, drivers:

The License Bureau in Ozark County is located on First Street in Gainesville, just north of the Bullseye convenience store. Call the license office at 417-679-0280.

County offices

The following county offices are available in the Ozark County Courthouse in Gainesville.

Ozark County Commissioners
417-679-4096

County Clerk/Election Office
417-679-3516

County Assessor
417-679-4705

County Collector
417-679-4448

County Treasurer
417-679-3553

Public Administrator
417-679-3809

Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds
417-679-4232

Law enforcement
Ozark County Sheriff's Office
County Road 806, Gainesville
417-679-4633

Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop G Headquarters
Willow Springs
417-469-3121

Prosecuting Attorney
Third Street, Gainesville
417-679-4648

Internet service

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www.ozarkswifi.com
See ad, page 29.

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See ad, page 62.

Local News

Ozark County Times
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Ozark County's annual events

May 2022: Second annual TACC Poker Chip Run

7/2/22: 4th of July Fireworks - Theodosia Marina Resort

9/3/22: Pontiac Fireworks - Pontiac Cove

9/15-17/22: Hootin an Hollarin - Gainesville Square

10/31/22: Trunk or Treat - Gainesville square

December 2022: Wonders of Christmas - Gainesville square

February 2023: Taste of New Orleans - Lake Bums Brew Co., Pontiac

Check websites for updated event information.

TheodosiaChamber@gmail.com • Info@OzarkCounty.net



FESTIVALS AND FUN

Area events

What? You've never seen an outhouse race? Well, get yourself down to the Gainesville square when the Hootin an Hollarin outhouse racers come streakin' down the street. The competition begins right after the bed races, another crowd-pleasing event. Check out the schedule in the Hootin an Hollarin magazine (published the week before Hootin an Hollarin by the *Ozark County Times*).

Fireworks displays

Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends

Celebrate the Fourth of July, Ozark County-style! The county's free fireworks displays are open to everyone, although related festivities, including games, food vendors and fundraiser offerings may have charges or request donations. Enjoy the fun on Fourth of July weekend at the Theodosia Corps of Engineers park and Theodosia Marina Resort off Highway 160 on Bull Shoals Lake, and on Labor Day weekend at the Pontiac campground and Pontiac Cove Marina, also on Bull Shoals. Also, the town of Bakersfield generally hosts a fun-filled "picnic" featuring vendors, music and fireworks sometime in July. The celebration usually also includes the annual Bakersfield all-school reunion. Watch for updates on the "Festival Committee of Bakersfield" Facebook page.

Bakersfest

Held in September

Bakersfest, the annual festival that celebrates everything Bakersfield, packs the little town with happy folks who gather each year on the second Saturday in September. Festival events vary a little with each rendition but usually include a big car show and lots of family-style activities with food vendors and game booths that fill the town's Pride Park with colorful fun. The event usually includes the crowning of Bakersfest royalty as well. Watch for updates on the "Festival Committee of Bakersfield" Facebook page.

Hootin an Hollarin

Sept. 15-17, 2022

Ozark County's Hootin an Hollarin festival has been drawing families, friends and visitors together on the Gainesville square for nearly 60 years. The beloved event celebrates old-fash-

ioned traditions and highlights down-home country music all day and into the night. Square dancers swirl under the lights, accompanied by some of the Ozarks' best fiddlers and strummers. A wide variety of contests include gun and archery shoots, horseshoe pitching, a quilt show and such silliness as hog- and husband-calling contests that keep the laughter and adrenaline flowing. And through it all, a large outdoor craft fair offers the cleverest handmade items imaginable.

Craft festivals

Triple Treasure Marketplace, ad pg. 85.

Summer craft festival: June 10-11, 2022

Fall craft festival: Sept. 2-3, 2022

Holiday craft festival: Nov. 4-5, 2022

Triple Treasures Marketplace, located on Highway 160 near Hardenville, hosts three popular craft fairs a year.

Continued to page 89

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Continued from 'Craft Festivals,' page 84

The events feature food trucks, games, bounce houses, hundreds of booths with various crafts, art, handmade items and other wares for sale. There's something for everyone!

For more information visit tripletreasuresmarketplace.com or search for "Triple Treasure Marketplace" on Facebook.

Wonders of Christmas on the square

Gainesville, a Friday in December

The annual Wonders of Christmas event in Gainesville transforms the square into a magical holiday wonderland. The festival is generally held on a Friday night in the first two weeks of December.

Vendors selling a wide variety of homemade food, festive drinks and Christmas present options give guests lots to look at.

A Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas contest, open to area children ages 4-5, usually is held in the gazebo on the northwest side of the square. A emcee asks the children "gentle" questions appropriate for that age, and each child is allowed their own little spotlight at the end when they can sing, tell a joke or otherwise try to impress the crowd.

The annual Jingle Bell Parade is the largest parade in Ozark County next to the annual Hootin an Hollarin parade. Businesses, organizations, churches and other community members decorate floats, vehicles, side-by-sides, horses and otherwise find creative ways to participate in the big parade. Cash prizes are given in several categories.

The night generally wraps up with Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting with children in the gazebo and the annual lighting of the gazebo's Christmas tree.

Search for "Wonders of Christmas" on Facebook or contact Paula Rose at 417-989-1282 for information on the event.

Bakersfield Christmas parade

Bakersfield, a Saturday in December

The hardworking volunteers of the Bakersfield Festival Committee put on a jolly good time each December with a parade and festival. The event opens with a pancake breakfast with Santa Claus at the Bakersfield School cafeteria, followed by a Christmas parade. The parade awards cash prizes for best floats, school-affiliated entries and decorated horses.

After the parade is the crowning of Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas (open to 9th through 12th graders), Mr. and Miss Snowflake (open to 6th through 8th graders) and Little Mr. and Miss Merry Christmas (open to Kindergarten through 5th graders).

For more information, search for "Festival Committee of Bakersfield Mo."

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DEER, TURKEY AND MORE

If you're interested in hunting, Ozark County offers many options including deer, turkey, predator, small game, dove and other birds.



Deer, turkey and other **HUNTING**

Many hunters enjoy Ozark County's abundant turkey populations in spring and fall hunting seasons. Photo by Lonnie Schmidt.

Public hunting:

Caney Mountain Conservation Area includes 6,599 acres of public hunting (see pages 36-37), while Rippee Conservation Area provides another 419 acres and the Mark Twain National Forest has another 38,000 acres of public land. For more information about these areas and others, call the Missouri Department of Conservation's Ozark Regional Office at 417-256-7161 (or visit mdc.mo.gov) and the Ava-Cassville-Willow Springs district office of the Mark Twain National Forest at 417-683-4428 (or visit fs.usda.gov/mtnf).

Ranges:

Caney Mountain Conservation Area features three public shooting ranges, one archery range, one rifle/handgun range and one blackpowder range. The archery range and the blackpowder range are located near the main entrance off Highway 181. The rifle/handgun range is located near the Caney Mountain entrance off Highway 5 north of Gainesville. See page 36 for more information about Caney Mountain.

Offering healthy populations of whitetail deer and turkey with relatively low hunting pressure, Ozark County is an outdoorsman's paradise.

Other:

Ozark County boasts ample hunting opportunities for hunting other species, including rabbit, squirrel, dove, frogs and coyotes.

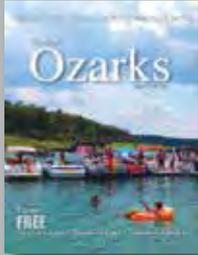
Permits:

You can buy hunting permits online at huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/permits, by phone (800-392-4115), through the smartphone app "MO Hunting," at any Missouri Department of Conservation office or from more than a thousand vendors around the state.

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HOOTIN AN HOLLARIN MAGAZINE

Publishes annually in September

- Festival guide to the famed Hootin' an Hollarin festival in Gainesville
- Magazine mailed to all subscribers and distributed throughout the festival
- Includes festival schedule, information on events, bands, square dancing and more!

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OZARK COUNTY COOKIN'

Publishes annually in November

- Features local cooks and local recipes
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This glossy-covered magazine-style cookbook is distributed just before Thanksgiving.

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SCENIC DRIVES

Ozark County's rural, rugged beauty is the perfect backdrop for a road trip or scenic drive.



Hodgson Mill is one of the five mills in Ozark County part of the Ozark County Mill tour, see directions on page 93 at right. *Ozark County Times* editor Jessi Dreckman took this photo of the mill in March 2021 just as the landscape was starting to show its brilliant spring color.

OZARK COUNTY MILL TOUR

63 miles, approximate drivetime 2.5 hours

Ozark County is home to five historic grist mills (see page 70) and many visitors enjoy a driving tour to visit them. Here's a route that lets you see the four mills on the west side of the county. A fifth mill, Hammond, on County Road 855 off D Highway south of Thornfield, has been converted to a private residence.

Directions: Starting from the Gainesville square, head east on Highway 160 to Highway 181. Travel several miles on Highway 181, going past the Caney Mountain Conservation Area and continuing to N Highway. Head north on N for 10-12 miles, crossing Highway 95 and continuing on N Highway to County Road 142 (watch for the Rockbridge sign). After visiting Rockbridge, return to N Highway and retrace your route back to Highway 181. Turn left (east) and drive along the ridge and down the steep Zanoni Hill. Zanoni Mill is on the left (north) side of the road at the bottom of the hill and is viewable from the highway. Continue on Highway 181 another 5 miles or so, and shortly after crossing Bryant Creek, you'll see Hodgson Mill on the right (east) side of the road. Enjoy a photo stop and then head on to Dawt Mill by continuing northeast on Highway 181 to its junction with H Highway. Turn right (south) on H and continue to PP Highway. Turn right onto PP, and a mile or so after crossing the North Fork of the White River, turn right (west) onto County Road 318 at Clear Springs Church. Dawt is about a mile down the road. To return to Gainesville, get back on PP and continue southeast to Highway 160. Turn right (west) on 160 and drive about 11 miles.

GLADE TOP TRAIL LOOP

70 miles, approximate drivetime 3.5 hours

A trip to the Ozarks isn't complete without a ride over the Glade Top Trail (see page 14), Missouri's first National Forest Scenic Byway. The 23-mile gravel roadway offers travelers glimpses of some of the most spectacular panoramic views in Missouri. This drive is particularly scenic during the fall months when the leaves have changed color and the Ava Chamber of Commerce sponsors the "Flaming Fall Revue" event along the trail. The Caney Picnic Area, about halfway, is a nice

place to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch, a beautiful view and a breath of Ozark Mountain air. Continue to the trail's end near the Longrun community then drive on to Theodosia to view Bull Shoals Lake before returning to Gainesville.

Directions: Starting from the Gainesville square, head north on Highway 5 for 27 miles into Douglas County. Turn left (west) onto Douglas County A Highway a few miles south of Ava. (Be careful not to turn onto Ozark County A Highway south of Wasola.) Continue on Douglas County Highway A for 3.6 miles. Turn left onto County Road 409 at the sign for Glade Top Trail. Follow the signs along the 23-mile trail. At the trail's end, you can return the way you came or, at Wolf Junction, where the trail splits, bear left on Forest Service Road 147 for about 2 miles. The gravel road will turn onto hard-surfaced Highway 95 near Longrun. Turn right (south) onto 95 and drive to Highway 160. Turn left (east) onto 160 and continue about 20 miles back to Gainesville. You will cross Theodosia Bridge over Bull Shoals Lake about 3 miles after turning onto Highway 160.

BRANSON VIA HIGHWAY 160

60 miles, approximate drivetime 1.5 hours

Visitors either love or hate the drive from Gainesville to Branson over crooked, hilly Highways 160 and 76. A favorite of sportscar and motorcycle enthusiasts, this drive features lots of hairpin curves and long stretches of national forest beauty. It isn't the best option for those who suffer from car sickness or those driving large RVs. Once in Branson, visit the Silver Dollar City theme park, watch one of the many music and variety shows or visit The Landing in downtown Branson for shopping and dining. College of the Ozarks, nicknamed "Hard Work U," is in nearby Point Lookout. C of O's Keeter Center is a favorite restaurant (keetercenter.edu for hours and directions).

Directions: Starting from the Gainesville square, head west on Highway 160 and continue 45 miles to the junction of Highway 76 west near Forsyth. Turn left onto 76 and continue 12 miles to Branson, carefully following road signs.



VISIT THE BUFFALO RIVER

194 miles, approximate drivetime 4 hours

A little south of the Missouri border in Arkansas is the beautiful Buffalo National River near the towns of Ponca and Jasper. A favorite day trip for locals, this area features massive towering bluffs, countless waterfalls, a beautiful river and one of the largest elk herds in the area. Visitors can check out nearby trails including Whittaker's Point trail to the widely photographed Hawksbill Crag formation. Visit the Ponca Elk Education Center, canoe the scenic river or watch for elk. Autumn early mornings and sunsets are particularly good times to view them.

Directions: Starting from Gainesville, head south on Highway 5 into Arkansas. Continue 20 miles, and in Midway, Arkansas, take a slight right onto Highway 126 and drive about 7 miles to Highway 62/412 west. Turn right (west) and drive 67 miles. Then take Highway 43 south to Ponca, a good place for a rest stop. Turn onto Arkansas Highway 74 east and continue 14 miles to Jasper. To head back to Missouri, take Arkansas Highway 7 north from Jasper for 13 miles back to Highway 412. Turn right and continue 40 miles back to Gassville, where you'll turn left (north) onto Arkansas Highway 126. Continue to Highway 5 north in Midway which will return you to Gainesville.

EXPLORE THE BACKROADS
Some of the best Ozarks scenery is off the beaten track. So fill up the gas tank, check the tires, pack a lunch and explore the winding, rollercoaster roadways of Ozark County and beyond. Endless beauty is waiting just around the bend!

Hike the trails or get off the beaten path! Most public areas also allow hikers to explore areas off designated trails and paths. It's wise to bring a map if hiking off-trail.

HIKING

Trails



1. SPOUT SPRING NATURE TRAIL

Caney Mountain Conservation Area, page 36

Distance and configuration: 3-mile out-and-back trail

Facilities: Restrooms, parking, camping and picnic areas

Description: This easy trail traverses 1.5 miles of the shady depths of Caney Creek Valley in the Caney Mountain Conservation Area's interior. The trail follows Caney Creek most of the way, providing beautiful scenery along the gently rolling hills. There are a few shallow-water crossings along the way, and a picnic table just a short way from the trailhead provides a nice spot for a packed lunch.

Directions: From Gainesville, travel north on Highway 181 to Caney Mountain Conservation Area Headquarters Road, on the left. When you get to the headquarters area, bear right to stay on the Main Trail. The trailhead is 1.5 miles ahead on the right.

2. PIGEON CREEK TRAIL SYSTEM

Pigeon Creek Park, page 57

Distance and configuration: Multiple trails ranging from .5 to 1.5 miles can be joined together for a 20-mile stacked loop

Facilities: Restrooms, parking and picnic areas

Map: www.norfork.com/cycling/trails

Description: The Pigeon Creek Trail System, one of the premier cycling and hiking systems in the Ozarks, is located on the banks of Lake Norfork at Pigeon Creek Park in Arkansas. A stacked loop system provides a wide variety of different trail-length options, which can be linked together for up to 20 miles. The trails vary in difficulty with an elevation difference of 250 feet maximum.

Directions: From Gainesville, head east on Highway 160 for 5 miles. Turn right (south) onto J Highway and continue into Arkansas, where J Highway becomes Arkansas Highway 201. Continue for 8 miles to Pigeon Creek Park just before crossing the Lake Norfork bridge. The trailhead access is on the right (west) side of the highway, and the recreation area is on the left (east) side.

3. BLUE SPRING TRAIL

North Fork Recreation Area, page 48

Distance and configuration: 1-mile out-and-back hike

Facilities: Restrooms, camping, parking, picnic areas and water during warmer months

Description: This very short walk takes you from the campground at the North Fork Recreation Area to the turquoise, ice-cold waters of Blue Spring. The trail parallels the North Fork of the White River and, after the spring, continues on into the Devil's Backbone Wilderness area. Among the trees, cardinals, woodpeckers and other birds glide from tree to tree. Flowering dogwood and redbud trees catch springtime sunshine in the awaking forest and display brilliant colors. Averaging 7 million gallons of cold, clear water each day, Blue Spring creates a deep, oval-shaped pool about 30 feet in diameter that's surrounded on three sides by a stone wall of cherty Gasconade dolomite. Horses and motorized vehicles are prohibited from this area of the National Forest.

Directions: From Gainesville, take Highway 181 to CC Highway just south of Dora; turn right on CC and travel 3 miles.

Continued to page 96.



Caney Mountain Conservation Area is a great place to see native wildflowers. This photo was taken alongside a Caney Mountain path that leads away from the conservation area's archery range.

4. DEVIL'S BACKBONE LOOP

North Fork Recreation Area, page 48

Distance and configuration: 10-mile or 13-mile balloon loop options; a 4-mile out-and-back option makes for a good day trip

Facilities: Restrooms, camping, parking, picnic areas and water during warmer months

Map: www.ozarktrail.com/northfork.php

Description: The Devil's Backbone Wilderness includes 13 miles of moderately difficult trails within the area accessible from Blue Spring Trailhead, including a 10-mile loop or a 13-mile loop option. Accessed from the North Fork Recreation Area, known locally as Hammond access, visitors can follow the half-mile trail to Blue Spring (horses are prohibited in this trailhead and near Blue Spring), then travel along a bluffline and down to the North Fork River around mile 2. This stop provides a nice spot for a picnic and a 4-mile hiking option to return back to the trailhead for those desiring a shorter trek. After the river, hikers can take a left onto a trail to make a 10-mile loop or continue straight for a 13-mile loop. The other three trailheads – Raccoon Hollow on the south side of CC Highway about 1.5 miles east of Dora; McGarr Ridge Trailhead on the south side of CC Highway about 4 miles east of Dora; and Collins Ridge Trailhead on County Road KK/362 about 16 miles west of West Plains – provide options for point-to-point hikes as well. The terrain is sometimes steep, ranging in elevation from 1,020 to 680 feet, and there are few blazes. Visitors should bring a map and compass and be comfortable route-finding if continuing on past the 4-mile out-and-back hike.

Directions: From Gainesville, take Highway 181 to CC Highway just south of Dora; turn right onto CC east and continue 3 miles.

5. RIDGE RUNNER TRAIL

North Fork Recreation Area, page 48

Distance and configuration: 22-mile point-to-point

Facilities: Restrooms, camping, parking, picnic areas and water at trailhead during warmer months

Map: www.ozarktrail.com/northfork.php

Description: The Ridge Runner Trail incorporates parts of two shorter loop routes at Noblett Lake (8 miles) and North Fork Recreation Area (12 miles). The diverse vegetation along the trail includes native wild flowers and remnant prairie species, oak-hickory, shortleaf pine and bottom land forests. The Ridge-runner Trail is rated as moderate and ranges in elevation from 800 to 1,100 feet. The trail is not well defined in some areas and crosses several old logging roads, so visitors should feel comfortable route-finding and should bring a map and compass. Backpackers and hikers should carry plenty of water, as stream accesses are limited to the northern and southern ends of the trail, and water sources can be extremely scarce. The trail is designed and maintained for foot traffic, horse use and mountain bike use. Motorized travel, including on dirt bikes and ATVs, is not permitted.

Directions: From Gainesville, take Highway 181 to CC Highway just south of Dora; turn right on CC east and continue 3 miles.

6. NOBLETT LAKE LOOP

Noblett Lake Recreation Area, page 45

Distance and configuration: 8-mile loop

Facilities: Restrooms, camping, parking, picnic areas and water at trailhead during warmer months.

Map: www.ozarktrail.com/northfork.php

Description: An 8-mile loop trail surrounding the 26-acre Noblett Lake provides an appealing opportunity for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers. This challenging, single-track loop is crisscrossed by a double-track horse trail and crosses Noblett and Spring creeks and Cord Hollow. Trail users sometimes describe deadfall, difficult route-finding and steep, loose hills on the trek. The east half of the loop, by the lake, forms the northern end of the Ridge Runner section of the Ozark Trail, which ends at the North Fork Recreation Area. The frustrations of this trail are usually more than offset by the beauty of the surroundings, the adventure of a n unfamiliar and remote experience, and the great view of Noblett Lake from the amazing downhill section near the end of the hike.

Directions: From Gainesville, take Highway 181 north, continuing past Dora to AP Highway in Douglas County. Turn right and follow AP for about 3 miles then turn right onto Forest Road 857 and continue for about 1 mile to the turnoff for the day-use area. The road continues to the Noblett dam and trailhead.

7. COY BALD LOOP

Hercules Glade Wilderness, page 52

Distance and configuration: 6.8-mile loop linking in with the Hercules Glade system of 32 miles of trails

Facilities: Primitive camping, picnic tables and a pit toilet

Map: www.fs.usda.gov and search for "Hercules Glade"

Description: Coy Bald Trail is a 6.8-mile lightly trafficked loop trail located within the Hercules Glade Wilderness near Bradleyville. The loop features a waterfall and is rated as moderate. The trail offers a number of activity options and is accessible year-round. Dogs are also permitted on this trail but must be kept on a leash. From this and other trailheads in the Hercules Galde Wilderness Area, 32 miles of maintained trails traverse open glades, forested ridgetops and Long Creek, the primary drainage of the area. Cross-country hiking in other parts of the area is allowed. Key attractions along the trail include Long Creek Falls, panoramic views of the Ozarks countryside and a variety of native landscapes, including open limestone glades and mixed forests.

Directions: From Gainesville, head west on Highway 160 for 39 miles. Turn right (north) onto Cross Timber Road (Forest Road 566), and drive approximately 4 miles to the trailhead.

8. BATEMAN TRAIL

Distance and configuration: 16 miles of trail made from several smaller segmented trails ranging from 6.25 miles to .75-mile.

Facilities: Primitive camping, picnic tables and a pit toilet

Description: The Bateman Trail, a non-motorized trail system, consists of approximately 16 miles of hiking and equestrian trail that carries visitors through limestone glades and other landscapes that vary from gently rolling hills to moderately steep terrain with rock outcrops and tall grass prairies. Natural water for horses along the trail is very limited and may be seasonal. Vegetation along the trail is diverse and includes oak-hickory and eastern red cedar trees. Prescribed fire is often used to maintain the unique glade habitats. A good map and compass, along with knowledge of how to use them, are strongly suggested.

Directions: From Gainesville, travel west on Highway 160. Past Theodosia, turn right onto Highway 95 and drive 6.8 miles to the Longrun community. Turn left (north) onto County Road 917 and continue 8.4 miles to Bateman Road.

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Times Past
The cover of the 2021 edition of *Times Past* magazine features a photo of a young Jerry Lyons sitting on the old Highway 6 bridge over Barren Fork.
Times Past magazine is now available



In June, a few Sundays before Doyle Turner stepped down as pastor of Tru Hope Church in Theodosia after more than 30 years, the congregation celebrated his time there with a potluck dinner and retirement party (although Doyle isn't calling it retirement). Above: Kay Stockton, left, and Donna Jarutunge present the Turners with a plaque thanking them for their years at the church. The plaque said, in part, "We thank God for giving us a Pastor just like you." Right: Doyle Turner and his wife, Peggy, were treated to a decorated cake in their honor.

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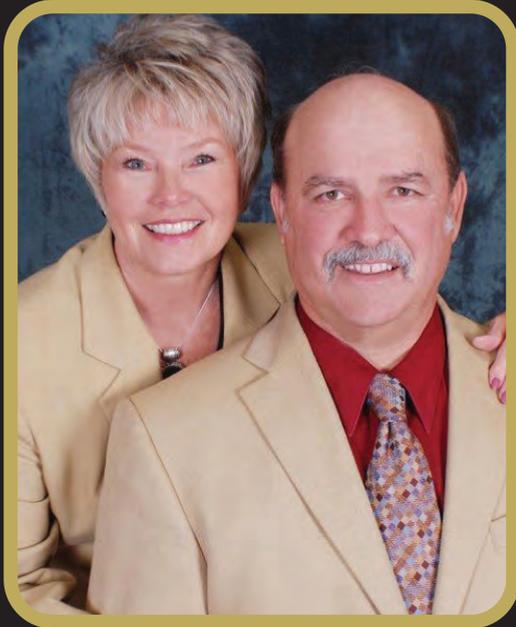


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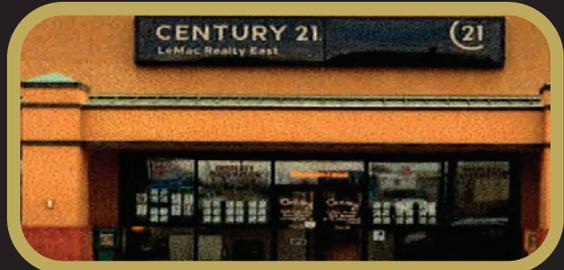
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