

PROGRAMS, TOURS & ACTIVITIES



Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area
1980 Highway 278 W/Wickes, AR 71973 Phone: 870-385-2201
March 04-05, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, 2017



Enjoy your stay at Arkansas's Natural State Park this week, by attending a few of our scheduled activities. Discover the many wonderfully diverse qualities of the Cossatot River by bringing your family, and friends to any of our programs. All activities listed below are free "unless otherwise noted," and open to anyone who wants to attend. Visit with the Park Interpreters Flanary & Carson to experience the Cossatot River State Park Natural Area first hand.

Saturday, March 04

- 10:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** **Morning Stroll (1 hour)** Join Park Interpreter Carson for this easy to moderate, 3/4-mile guided hike along the Waterleaf Trail. Feel free to bring binoculars; who knows what we will see or stir up. **Meeting Place: Waterleaf Trailhead at the Visitor Center.**
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.** **Animal Tracks (45 mins)** Many wild animals roam this park when we aren't looking, leaving only tracks as evidence. Join Park Interpreter Carson to find out more about these wild footprints, search for some actual tracks, and create your own tracks to take home. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**
- 4:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **Do You Speak Frog (1 hour)** Many insects "sing" at night, but did you know that most of Cossatot's nighttime noise comes from frogs? Can you communicate with them? Hop on over to the Visitor Center tonight to find out more about our local frogs and learn fun ways to identify their musical sounds. You'll even have a chance to join the "Frog Chorus!" **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Amphitheatre.**

Sunday, March 05

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** **Leave No Trace (1 hour)** Humans need to know about wild places, to experience them and understand the rhythms they follow. We need to contemplate our place within these wildlands, to discern what it is that draws us there. Join Park Interpreter Carson as we expand the understanding of how we can enjoy the out-of-doors while protecting the natural areas and the experiences we cherish. **Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **Feed the Critters (1 hour)** Ever wonder how or what snakes eat? Well, its dinner time and the critters are hungry! Come and watch their eating habits and learn about the animals here at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**
- 4:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **Geocaching Adventure (1 hour)** An electronic treasure hunt! Meet Park Interpreter Carson to learn about one of Arkansas's fastest growing outdoor hobbies. We will go over an introduction to using a GPS unit, and then you will get to try your hand at finding a cache. This sport is fun for people of all ages. By the end of the program, you'll be hooked on geocaching. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**

Saturday, March 11

- 9:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** **Ouachita Walk (1 hour)** The oldest mountain range in the U.S. is right in our backyard! Come Join Interpreter Flanary on a hike on the River Corridor Trail to experience the grand views of the Ouachita Mountains. Wear appropriate clothing, it may be chilly outside! **Meeting Place: Low Water Bridge below Visitor Center.**
- 11:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **Lichen, Moss and More! (1 hour)** Is it like a lichen, more of a moss or a fungus among us? Come explore the lives of these unique life forms with Park Interpreter Flanary. Discover the beauty, lifestyles, and significance of lichens, moss and fungi. **Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **Hike-oooh (1 hour)** There is a poet in every person and a good hike through nature is a great way to bring it out. Some of the greatest poets and poems were inspired by nature. Poetry uses short, concise, and often powerful language to explain experience. In this program we will take a short hike through nature and employ all of our senses and in a step by step guided activity explain and therefore see the world around us in a different way than we ever have before. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**

Sunday, March 12

- 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** **Tracks, Scats, and Signs (1 hour)** There are many wild animals in fields, and forests and ponds. Some of them are easy to see; but a lot of them are hard to find. Wild animals leave clues everywhere they go. They dig underground tunnels, make footprints in snow or mud, chew plants along the way, leave scat in their paths, build nests and their feathers and fur and dried skins fall off. Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we look at some of the signs to help identify which animal(s) have been in the area. **Meeting Place: Sandbar Picnic Area.**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** **Feed the Critters (1 hour)** Ever wonder how or what snakes eat? Well, its dinner time and the critters are hungry! Come and watch their eating habits and learn about the animals here at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**
- 4:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **Winter Birds (1 hour)** Arkansas winters are relatively mild and many birds remain throughout the cold winter months, with some food available naturally and many being attracted to back yard feeders. Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area provides an excellent place for viewing winter birds. Join Park Interpreter Flanary to search the Visitor Center's grounds and nearby forest to identify some of these winter birds. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**

Saturday, March 18

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Dutch Oven Workshop (7 hours) Join park interpreters for a fun day of cooking with Dutch ovens and learn about the history and techniques of Dutch oven cooking and receive a 5-Quart cast iron Double cookware with loops. We will make entrees, and desserts. This is a great way for families to make outdoor memories together! **Reservations are required by calling 870-385-2201. Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Amphitheatre. Admission: \$50 per person, with a piece of cast iron cookware, \$15 per person for just the meal.**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Skins and Skulls (1 hour) Have you ever felt the fur of an otter, or seen a foxes skull? Meet Park Interpreter Carson to discover out more about the furry animals here at Cossatot River State Park. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Wildflower Walk (2 hours) Come to the Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area and enjoy the beauty of spring wildflowers with Park Interpreter Carson. Many of these wildflowers are unique to the area, occurring only in the Ouachita Mountains. We will be hiking 2 miles of the scenic Harris Creek Trail. **Meeting Place: Harris Creek Trailhead**

3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Campfire Story (1 hour) Join Park Interpreter Carson around a glowing evening campfire and enjoy some hot chocolate and campfire stories. If you have a story to tell bring it along to share around the fire. Bring something to sit on and bring a jacket as it may be a cool evening. **Meeting Place: Sandbar Picnic Area.**

Sunday, March 19

10:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Nature Jeopardy (45 min) Here is your chance for you and your family to be in the "hot seat!" Bring your whole family to this fun game and challenge your brain on every aspect of the nature here at Cossatot River State Park. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies (1 hour) Do you know what family Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies are? How could they all be from the same family? They don't look alike at all. The little black ant looks as different from the huge cecropia moth as a mouse from an elephant. Join Park Interpreter Carson as we have fun exploring the amazing world of Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Feed the Critters (1 hour) Ever wonder how or what snakes eat? Well, its dinner time and the critters are hungry! Join Park Interpreter Carson and watch their eating habits and learn about the animals here at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center.**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Winter Twigs-Signs of Four Seasons (1 hour) The winter twigs of each kind of tree are unique, but some of the features common to all show evidence of seasons past and hold promise for the coming spring. Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we discover what features can be found on a tree's twigs in winter, and how are these features important to the tree. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

Monday, March 20

10:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Wintry Wildlife Exploration (1 hour) Meet Park Interpreter Flanary on this exploration to help discover what wildlife are out and about and how they find food and shelter in wintry months. Wear appropriate shoes (**No Flip Flops or Sandals**), bring binoculars and water as well, and don't forget your walking stick. **Meeting Place: Waterleaf Trailhead at the Visitor Center.**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Who Lives in a Tree? (1 hour) What animals live in our trees? How do we know? What is the largest animal living in our trees? What is the smallest animal living in our trees? Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we discover the solutions through an activity and small walk. **Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.**

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Niche (1 hour) Meet Park Interpreter Flanary as we take a look at how all organisms have their own role, or niche in their environment here at Cossatot River State Park. After a short time indoors we'll go on an exploratory hike to try and find some of these creative organisms living here. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

Tuesday, March 21

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Stroll (1 hour) Join Park Interpreter Flanary for this easy to moderate, 3/4-mile guided hike along the Waterleaf Trail. Feel Free to bring binoculars; who knows what we will see or stir up. **Meeting Place: Waterleaf Trailhead at the Visitor Center.**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Big Tracks, Little Tracks! Following Animals Prints (1 hour) "What happened?" A detective says. "Who was here?" Where did he go?" A detective has many ways to find out. Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we become detectives to find out whose tracks were made throughout Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. We will go on an exploratory hike and make animal track soap to take home. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

Wednesday, March 22

10:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Hiss, Rattle and Roll (1 hour) Join Park Interpreter Carson to meet a few of the snakes that live in Arkansas. We will discover the characteristics of the dangerous six and be able to tell them apart from harmless snakes. Games and activities will conclude the presentation. **Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.**

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Calling All Shutterbugs! (3 hours) We are in a gorgeous park with many unique plants, animals and scenic views. Join Park Interpreter Carson as we hike from the Cossatot Falls to Ed Banks and capture images of some of the Cossatot's wild beauty. **Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.**

<p>Thursday, March 23 :30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Wildflower Walk (2 hours) Come to the Cossatot River State Park and enjoy the beauty of spring wildflowers with Park Interpreter Carson. Many of these wildflowers are unique to the area, occurring only in the Ouachita Mountains. We will be hiking 2 miles of the scenic Harris Creek Trail. Meeting Place: Harris Creek Trailhead.</p>
<p>:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Hives & Honey (1 hour) Honeybees are fascinating insects whose uniquely designed physical and social structures contribute to their survival and success. Join Park Interpreter Carson as we discover why honeybees are so special. Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Wildlife Viewing Area.</p>
<p>:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Blueprints Of A Fish (45 mins) Why would you want to create a fish? Come join Park Interpreter Carson to see how creating a fish can affect its environment and the adaptations that emerge for these suspicious creatures. Plus, take a closer look at a few unique fish from the Cossatot River. Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.</p>
<p>Friday, March 24 :30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Going Batty (1 hour) Think all bats live in caves? Not so, some live in trees and some live in your house. Some bats do live in caves and might migrate hundreds of miles to get to the same caves year after year. These bats face almost insurmountable odds to store enough energy and find a suitable cave to survive the long cold winter. Migrate to an overwintering cave with Park Interpreter Flanary to experience for yourself what many of our states bats face every year. Meeting Place: Visitor Center's Legacy Room.</p>
<p>0:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Pebbles and Rocks! (1 hour) Every pebble and rock tells a story of how the earth was formed, shaped, and changed over time. Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we notice some of the different characteristics, shapes and forms of pebbles and rocks. We will also take a look at understanding the rock cycle and become familiar with some examples by doing a few activities, hunts and games. Meeting Place: Sandbar Picnic Area.</p>
<p>:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Afternoon Stroll (1 hour) Join Park Interpreter Carson for this easy to moderate, 3/4-mile guided hike along the Waterleaf Trail. Feel Free to bring binoculars; who knows what we will see or stir up. Meeting Place: Waterleaf Trailhead at the Visitor Center.</p>
<p>:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Sunset Hike (2 hours 30 mins) Meet Park Interpreter Carson for a hike to "Goats Bluff" to experience a beautiful Sunset along the Cossatot River. This is a moderate hike with some uphill climbs. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothing, bring a camera and pack a water bottle. Meeting Place: Visitor Center.</p>
<p>Saturday, March 25 – Sunday, March 26 :30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Winter Survival Workshop (2 Day, 1 Night) Join Park Interpreter Flanary for this two day, one night adventure as we track animals and find the special places they live, as we get a glimpse of their secret winter life. We will build shelters as you learn various methods to stay warm and dry. Test your fire-making skills as we help each other learn the best techniques with and without matches, then bask in the warmth of our accomplishments in our wilderness home. We will enjoy hanging out around the fire, staying warm in shelters that we make, sharing lunch, breakfast in the morning and cool stories and other natural mysteries. Bonus: We will learn about Ice Safety and Hypothermia and how to Stay Safe outdoors in the winter. We will pick up strategies of staying warm by playing games and other activities. Call 870-385-2201 to reserve your spot by March 20, 2017. Cost: \$75 per person, (includes: meals, materials and gift bag. Meeting Place: Visitor Center.</p>
<p>:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Constellation Exploration (1 hour) Constellations drew pictures for storytelling in both the past and the present at Cossatot River State Park. Join Park Interpreter Carson to learn about the constellations you may see in the park and create your own constellation and story. Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.</p>
<p>:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Lost and Found (1 hour) The program "Lost and Found," has been developed to help prepare children for a situation we all hope will never happen—becoming lost in the outdoors. Children will become "aware of five basic skills" that will help them to survive and be found should they ever become lost in an outdoor environment. In addition, the program stresses preventative actions children can take to avoid becoming lost in the first place. Meeting Place: Cossatot Fall's Parking Lot.</p>
<p>Sunday, March 26 :00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Scats and Tracks (1 hour) See those animal signs on the trail? Was that footprint left by a dog or a coyote? Was that pile of droppings deposited by a bobcat or an armadillo? Scats and Tracks will help you determine which mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians have passed your way and could still be nearby. Join Park Interpreter Carson for the indispensable nature lovers and the merely curious. Meeting Place: Low Water Bridge Below Visitor Center.</p>
<p>0:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Morning Stroll (1 hour) Join Park Interpreter Carson for this easy to moderate, 3/4-mile guided hike along the Waterleaf Trail. Feel free to bring binoculars; who knows what we will see or stir up. Meeting Place: Waterleaf Trailhead at the Visitor Center.</p>
<p>:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Feed the Critters (1 hour) Ever wonder how or what snakes eat? Well, its dinner time and the critters are hungry! Join Park Interpreter Flanary and watch their eating habits and learn about the animals here at Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area. Meeting Place: Visitor Center.</p>
<p>:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Woodland Scavenger Hunt (1 hour) Woodlands are natural wonderlands. Many things are hidden just out of sight—behind logs, under bushes and in the trees. Join Park Interpreter Flanary as we look closely and become detectives searching high and low looking for the clues in the natural wonder woodlands. Meeting Place: Visitor Center.</p>