

2010 Calendar of Events



DeSoto State Park along with Jacksonville State University Field School and Little River Canyon National Preserve bring you a series of fun interpretive programs, hikes, and workshops intended to educate the public about all things nature.



Campfire Talks are a series of educational & entertaining programs located in the great outdoors. Campfire programs are held almost every Friday & Saturday evening (May – October) in DeSoto State Park's James L. Wynn Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground.

All programs are open & free to the public. Great for all ages! Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

In case of bad weather, programs are moved inside.
See www.Alapark.com/Events for more details about programs.



Fairy Tales & Fun Movie Night

Join staff & volunteers for an enchanting night starting with “fairy stories” and watching a “true fairy tale film”. Bring your own folding chairs or quilts. (Ground may be wet)

S’mores provided.

Date: Friday, April 9, 2010

Where: DeSoto State Park Campfire Circle (Big Screen)

(www.Alapark.com/desotoresort)

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Fee: No Fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Spring Fairy Houses & Hobbit Hike (Children’s Nature Observation Skills)

Pausing in the forest or along the river to create a small structure for the good folk gives children the opportunity to bond with nature on a very personal level. Award-winning storyteller and naturalist Renee Morrison was taught to make fairy houses by her grandmother and has been making fairy houses with her sons and nature campers for decades.

Morrison will also lead a short “hobbity” hike through an enchanted forest to identify places where fairies might live or play to teach observation skills to budding young naturalists.

This is a very popular program and spaces fill quickly!

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010

Where: DeSoto State Park (www.Alapark.com/desotoresort)

Time: 10:00 am - Noon

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Early Spring Hike at DeSoto State Park

One of the most beautiful times of the year at DeSoto State Park! Join DSP staff on an easy meandering hike along the ADA-Accessible Azalea Cascade Boardwalk Trail to see early blooming-species of plants & Azalea Cascade.

Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010
Where: Meet at the Nature Center
(Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 10:00-12:00

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required. Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort
for more details!



Black Smith/Forging Demonstration

Join blacksmith Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of forging metal. Metal art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: April 24, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu
for more details.



National Junior Ranger Day at Little River Canyon National Preserve & DeSoto State Park

National Park Junior Ranger programs will be presented at various times on this date. Great for all ages!

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2010

Where: DeSoto State Park & JSU's Little River Canyon Center

Time: Events and information scheduled at various times and locations throughout the day. For more info call Little River Canyon/National Park Service at 256-845-9605.

Fee: No fee or registration required.



River Rhythms Family Fun Programs: National Junior Ranger Day

Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids

will be led through special National Park Service Junior Ranger activities and become official Little River Canyon NPS Junior Rangers. Booklets, posters, certificates and badges will be presented while supplies last.

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged



Fly Fishing Techniques and Fishing Trip on Little River

Join Dr. Chris Murdock, JSU Biologist and Little River native for an opportunity to fly fish on Little River.

Equipment supplied for 10 participants.

Date: April 24, 2010

Where: Meet at Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$35 per person; Pre-registration is required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Bilingual Spanish-English Hike

This easy hike and program is designed for individuals who are fluent and learning Spanish.

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)

Time: 10:00 am – Noon

Fee: Free/Gratis; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



18th Annual Wildflower Saturday at DeSoto State Park

There are few places lovelier than DeSoto State Park in May. Join DeSoto's Brittney Hughes, and several others for this

incredible day of flora. Includes multiple botany hikes throughout the day.

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 9:00, 1:00, & 3:00; with Multiple leaders.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Wildflower Photography Workshop

Join master photographer and print maker, John Alexander Dersham, for this two-part workshop where you will discuss the fine arts of photography and learn compositional techniques in field application.

Date: Friday evening, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: Friday's Seminar 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm & Saturday's Workshop 8:00 am – 3:00 pm (Bring a day pack with lunch/drinks)

Fee: \$25 per person; pre-registration required; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Cinco de Mayo Festival

Cinco de Mayo is a joyous holiday celebrated with food, fun, parades, and music. Typically held during the first week of May, Cinco de Mayo springtime events include carnivals, street fairs, and multi-day festivals across the U.S.

Similar to St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day, Cinco de Mayo is one of those special times when everyone feels a little bit Mexican in their soul. Join this festive event at the Little River Canyon Center for family fun, games, art, music, and great food.

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) Fort Payne, AL

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: Free Admission; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



International Migratory Bird Day

The National Park Service at Little River Canyon National Preserve will present educational programs and information on migratory birds.

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Where: Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: Events and information scheduled at various times during the day. Call the National Park Service for more Information.

Fee: No fee or registration



Wildflower Saturday at Little River Canyon National Preserve

National Park Ranger Larry Beane will guide you through a memorable wildflower experience. Come enjoy a bloomin' good day! Call the National Park Service for more information.

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Where: Meet at JSU's Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am or 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee or registration



Murdock's Hidden Trails & EXTREME Hike

Join Dr. Chris Murdock, JSU Biologist and Little River native for this EXTREME experience on hidden trails to the river; moderate to difficult trails in some areas; opportunities to swim in Little River (dress for getting wet). Not recommended for children under the age of 16 years.

Date: May 8, 2010

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required. Call 256.782.5607 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Little River Trail Hike at DeSoto State Park

Join DSP staff for a hike along DeSoto's section of the West Fork of Little River; one of the best times to see Rhododendron & Mountain Laurel, not to mention other beautiful blooming plants! Moderate hike; mildly strenuous.

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 2 times: 9:00 a.m. &/or 1:00 p.m. Each Hike lasts roughly an hour & a half.

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Landscaping with Native Plants

DeSoto State Park Naturalist, Brittney Hughes, will be teaching the effectiveness and benefits of using plants native to Alabama for landscaping your yard.

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details.



Civilian Conservation Corps Historic Hike

Join DeSoto State Park Staff on this historic hike to the Civilian Conservation Corp's 'unfinished' Bridge. Learn why the CCC left it 'unfinished' and see several original structures. Moderate to Strenuous Hike on old CCC roadbed. Not for children under the age of 5. 1.75 miles one way to bridge.

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Where: Meet in Lobby of DeSoto's Lodge.

Time: 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Intro to Twining Workshop

Monica Newman Moore twined her first bag in 1995 sitting in a Creek Indian Living History Camp of the 1770 era. She is now one of the leading practitioners of this nearly vanished art of Native American finger weaving. Learn to make a bookmark or a bracelet. With the skills you learn in this class, you will be able to twine a strap or belt. Bring a sack lunch/drink.

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls, Fort Payne, AL)

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fee: \$25 per person (supplies included) Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



River Rhythms Family Fun Programs: What's that Plant?

Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will make their own plant press and learn to identify 20 key plants of Little River Canyon.

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Legends on the Lookout Series:

The Civilian Conservation Corps

Join DSP staff for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Learn about the great men that built DeSoto State Park & see
picture & artifacts from the 1930-1940s.

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature
Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort
for more details.



DeSoto State Park's Campin' Jam

Join us for a fun casual festival of music designed to help us
celebrate our 71st anniversary of the park's dedication and to
enjoy our region's rich musical heritage. Features Musician
Tony Thomas, Arts & crafts, & demonstrations.

All musicians are invited to join in the fun!

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010~ Memorial Day Weekend

Where: DeSoto's Picnic Area (Across from Country Store)

Time: 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public and no registration required!

Vendors: \$10 fee; Please call the number below to reserve
your space.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort
for more details!



The Art of Sculpting a Metal Leaf

Join Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of
forging metal into delicate and diverse styles of leaves. Metal
art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: May 29, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



**"You Made Those Yourself?!?"
Intro to handcrafted Sterling Silver
Jewelry**

Charlie Munoz, jewelry maker and sculptor, will teach students to make a pair of sterling silver earrings.

Date: Saturday, June 5, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 10 am to 12 noon

Fee: \$35 per person; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



**Campfire Talk: 13 Ways Not to Die at
Little River Canyon**

As part of the NPS safety program, national park ranger Larry Beane will share stories of the rescues, misadventures and deaths that occur every year in and around Alabama's deepest gorge.

Date: Friday June 11, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature
Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



**Herpetology Hike:
Looking for Reptiles & Amphibians**

Join Dr. Chris Murdock for this fun hike to learn how to observe reptiles & amphibians in the wild. Participants will learn the difference between venomous/non-venomous creatures and why we need to respect and value them.

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010

Where: Meet at Little River Canyon Center

Time: 8:00 am – Noon

Fee: \$10 per adult; \$5 per child/student; Pre-registration is required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Edible & Interesting Plants

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Nature provides so many wonderful things...& some very strange things! Learn some plants that have some very interesting ways of surviving & even some that are edible to humans.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Edible & Interesting Plants Workshop for Children

That plant does what? I can eat that? This workshop is designed for children that are naturally curious about nature. Join DeSoto State Park naturalist Brittney Hughes for this fun & interesting program on the nature of plants. Includes Demonstrations & an easy hike.

Date: Saturday, June 12, 2010

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 10:00-12:00 Noon

Fee: Free to the public; Registration required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Spiders!

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!

Join State Park Ranger Mark Jackson to learn about common spiders of Northeast Alabama & how to identify the beneficial spiders from the ones that are dangerous to humans.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, June 18, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



CCC History Hike: The Quarry Trail

Join DSP Staff on a moderate to mildly-strenuous hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today.

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2010

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 9:00-12:00 Noon

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Snakes of Northeast Alabama

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Learn about the different snake species of NE Alabama, both venomous & non-venomous; & learn how to tell the difference between the two!

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details.



Legends on the Lookout Series:

A. A. Miller Dam

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Learn about the historic dam located above DeSoto falls & how it came to be there.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, June 25, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



A.A. Miller Dam Tour

Join DSP staff for an easy walk around the DeSoto Falls area to learn about the A.A. Miller Dam & other local histories.

Date: Saturday, June 26, 2010

Where: Meet at the Kiosk at DeSoto Falls

Time: 10:00-11:00 Noon

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



River Rhythms Family Fun Programs: Un-Natural Trail Hike

Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will be led along a trail to find the objects that do NOT

belong there. Families will learn how to tune their observation skills to observe natural objects and creatures.

Date: Saturday, June 26, 2010

Where: Jacksonville State University's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



The Art of Making a Metal Snake

Join Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of forging metal. This artist will demonstrate the art of forging a railroad spike into an intricate metal snake. Metal art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: June 26, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



4th of July Events at DeSoto State Park

DeSoto State Park invites you to our annual 4th of July events atop Lookout Mountain! Enjoy good ol' fashioned fun by participating in the homemade-flag making contest if you wish, sit back & enjoy DeSoto's parade, & eat home-made ice cream!

Date: Saturday, July 3, 2010

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details.



Native American Pottery Workshop

Join nationally renown potter, Tammy Beane, to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots. This workshop is very popular and fills with a

long waiting list. Pre-register early to assure your place.

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon OR 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$20 adult/\$15 child; Pre-registration is required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Leave No Trace for Children

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Join State Park Ranger Josh Hughes to learn more about this nationally-recognized program! Learn how to plan & prepare, leave what you find & more! Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, July 17, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Introduction to Musical Instruments of Appalachia

Join musician Tony Thomas as he introduces acoustic instruments (such as the fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin) by using stories and songs to give the audience an appreciation for the sound & history of each instrument.

Date: Friday, July 23, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages! Bring along the kids for S'mores!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details.



River Rhythms Family Fun Programs: Animal Tracks

Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will learn about identifying creatures by looking at the tracks they leave behind. Each child will make his or her own track as a keepsake. Limited supplies please pre-register.

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Learn How to Play the Harmonica Workshop

Musician Tony Thomas teaches this fun class intended for beginners. Harmonicas will be on sale or you can bring your own. The harmonica workshop is very popular since the harmonica is very compact and the whole family can join in the fun.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010

Where: Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Songs of the Civil War

Join musician Tony Thomas to hear his repertoire of songs that were written during the Civil War period.

Date: Saturday, July 24, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages! Bring along the kids for S'mores!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details.



Campfire Talk:

Ecology of the Canyon for Children

An evening program geared toward introducing children to local environmental issues. Topics will include rare plants and animals, clean water, and more. National Park Ranger Larry Beane will entertain children and adults with his knowledge of Little River Canyon's special qualities. Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground.

Date: Friday July 30, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Native American Tools & Weapons

Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food, to make weapons, to start fires, and more!

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Where: DeSoto State Park Country Store & Nature Center

Time: 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Climate Change:

Economy, Energy & the Environment!

Join Dr. Joyce Lanning, Alabama Manager for The Climate Project, for this fascinating and educational look at how we can leave a habitable and life supporting planet to our children (and the young of all species).

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Forging Dinner Bells & Pigtailed Forks

Join Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of forging metal. Metal art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: July 31, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Insects of Little River Canyon

Join NPS's Interpretive Ranger Larry Beane for this fun program about the flying, crawling, & creeping insects that can be found on Lookout Mountain.

Date: Saturday July 31, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call ~~256.997.5025~~ or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



World's Longest Yard Sale

August 5th-8th

Running from Gadsden, Alabama to West Unity, Ohio, this yard sale travels more than 650-miles of scenic beauty with a lot of shopping opportunities!

<http://www.vacationalmountains.com/yardsale.shtml>



Campfire Talk: Constellations from Lookout Mountain

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! An out-of-this world experience! JSU astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff will explore the science and myths of the constellations that can be seen from Lookout Mountain during different seasons.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, August 13, 2010

Where: CCC Pavilion in DeSoto's Picnic Area

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Moon Views

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Join astronomer Dr. Laura Weinkauff as she reveals the science and mysteries of our closest celestial neighbor and other moons in our solar system. Take a CLOSE look at our moon through a telescope!

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2010

Where: CCC Pavilion in DeSoto's Picnic Area

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



History Tour of Howard's Chapel

Join DSP staff for a trip to the Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel to learn the history of the chapel & its builder, Milford. W. Howard.

Date: Saturday, August 21, 2010

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's County Store; Carpool to Howard's Chapel.

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the public; registration appreciated but not required.

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Legends on the Lookout Series: Milford Howard & Howard's Chapel

Join DSP staff for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Learn about the history of the Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel & its builder, Milford W. Howard.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday August 21, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Animal Camouflage

Many animals at Little River mimic backgrounds or other more threatening critters to survive the challenges of their environment. Some are pretty nifty; others become almost invisible for defense or attack. Join Little River Canyon National Park Ranger Larry Beane to learn more about animal camouflage.

Date: Friday August 27, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



River Rhythms Family Fun Programs: Dragonfly Eye

Join Canyon Center staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will learn how insects see the world...and take a stroll on the trail using a “dragonfly” eye to make the world look a little different!

Date: Saturday, August 28, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Black Smith & Forging Demonstration

Join blacksmith Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of forging metal into beautiful fire pokers. Metal art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: August 28, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Rare Plants and Animals of Little River Canyon

Little River is home to over 100 rare species. National Park interpreter Larry Beane will introduce you to a number of them. Children will get to feed a model of a local carnivorous plant, the endangered Green Pitcher Plant.

Date: Saturday, August 28, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground
(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature
Center)

Time: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Campfire Talk: Frog Metamorphosis

Explore how amphibians transform from a single cell to the wonderful hopping creatures we adore with JSU's Dr. James Rayburn. Meet live tadpoles...and perhaps adopt your own non-native tadpole pet!

Date: Friday, September 3, 2010

Where: Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort
for more details!



Woodsy Stroll in DeSoto State Park

Explore the trails of DeSoto State Park with Dr. James Rayburn while learning about Toxicology, Geology, & more!

Date: Saturday, September 4, 2010

Where: Meet at the Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's
Country Store)

Time: 10:00-12:00

Fee: \$10 per person (Pre-registration required) Great for all
ages!

Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more
details.



Campfire Talk: Venomous Organisms of Alabama

Learn about how some plants & animals really get your attention with their special lines of defense Presented by toxicologist Dr. James Rayburn.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, September 4, 2010

Where: Nature Center (Next to DeSoto's Country Store)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Birds of Prey

Join Becky Collier from the Coosa River Science School in Columbiana, AL. for a fun & interesting program about these federally protected birds.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, September 10, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Bird of Prey Show

Join Becky Collier from the Coosa River Science School in Columbiana, AL. for a fun & interesting program about these federally protected birds.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2010

Where: Deck behind DeSoto's Lodge & Mountain Inn Restaurant; Enjoy a lunch at DeSoto's Mountain Inn Restaurant before the show! Lunch from 11:30 to 2:00.

In case of inclement weather the show will be moved inside.

Time: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Fee: Free to the public; donations taken but not required. Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Natural Resource Management

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Join Alabama State Park Natural Resource Chief Forrest
Bailey for a program concerning prescribed burns, Whitetail
Deer Management, & more.
Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Legends on the Lookout Series: Granny Dollar

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Granny Dollar was one of the most colorful characters and
rugged individualists who ever lived in the Fort Payne area.
She has long captured the imagination of those who have
heard of this Cherokee Indian's century of varied
experiences. Learn the history of her life.
Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Friday, September 17, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Intro to Twining Workshop

Monica Newman Moore twined her first bag in 1995 sitting
in a Creek Indian Living History Camp of the 1770 era. She is
now one of the leading practioners of this nearly vanished art

of Native American finger weaving. Learn to make a bookmark or a bracelet. With the skills you learn in this class, you can twine a strap or belt. Bring a sack lunch/drink.

Date: September 18, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls, Fort Payne, AL)

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Fee: \$25 per person (supplies included) Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Legends on the Lookout Series: Sequoyah

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Sequoyah is celebrated as a Native American genius who, solely from the resources of his mind, endowed a whole tribe with learning; the only man in history to conceive and perfect in its entirety a syllabary. Sequoyah was known to have taught in the DeKalb County area for years after his mother took up residence in Willstown, Alabama during the movement of the Cherokee Nation to Oklahoma. Learn his history.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Corn~A truly a-maize-ing Plant!

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Join geographer Kelly Gregg in a discussion of the origins of Native American corn, how it shaped American culture and cuisine, and how it went on to help feed the world!"

Date: Friday, September 24, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Murdock's Hidden Trails & EXTREME Hike Series

Join Dr. Chris Murdock, JSU Biologist and Little River Canyon native for this EXTREME experience on hidden trails to Little River; prepare to get your feet wet. Moderate to difficult (& extreme) level hike. Not recommended for children under 14 years of age.

Date: September 25, 2010

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35) in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Colors!!

Join staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will learn about seasonal changes and why leaves change their colors.

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Forging Dinner Bells & Pigtailed Forks

Join blacksmith Walter Howell for this incredible demonstration of forging metal. Metal art and useful objects will be on display and for sale.

Date: September 25, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Fort Payne, AL.

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Lookout Mountain Moonshining

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Moonshining began very early in American history & for early moonshiners, making and selling alcohol wasn't just for fun or a few extra bucks — it was a means of survival. Learn about the history of moonshining in the Appalachian Mountains.

Date: Saturday, September 25, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public, Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Climate Change

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Hurricanes in June.... droughts in Summer...cold spells in May. What is going on? Join Dr. Jonathon Herbert as he explains the science behind global warming and how it might affect Alabama.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, October 1, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Native American Pottery Workshop

Join expert potter, Tammy Beane, to learn how pottery was made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll

provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots.

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)

Time: 10:00 am – Noon AND 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20 adult/\$15 child; Pre-registration is required. Fills quickly so register early! Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Native American Tools & Weapons

Join National Park Service archaeologist Larry Beane for a demonstration of how Native Americans utilized natural resources to hunt and gather food, to make weapons, to start fires, and more!

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm AND 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fee: Free; Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Seasons

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors! Why do the leaves change color? Why don't we get much snow in Alabama? Join Dr. Jonathon Herbert as he explains the science behind the seasonal changes in our beautiful state.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Campfire Talk: Invisible Wonders of Little River Canyon

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
JSU microbiologist Dr. Benjie Blair will explain how the
creatures you can't see affect you every day.
Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Friday, October 8, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature
Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Campfire Talk: Parasites of Little River

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Dr. Benjie Blair of JSU returns to talk about more creepy
crawlies that would like to make a home...inside of you!
Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Saturday, October 9, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature
Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Campfire Talk: Aquatic Ecology of Little River

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Join JSU's Dr. Mark Meade for an interesting program about
different organisms that can be found in the watershed of
Little River.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Friday, October 15, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Creepy Critters

Scaly! Slimy! Ugly! Scary! Join Dan Spaulding of the Anniston Museum of Natural History for a showing of some creepy crawly critters at this fun, educational program.

Date: Saturday, October 16, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Nature Center (Next to the Country Store)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Spookapalooza!

Join us here at DeSoto State Park for a weekend of spooky Halloween storytelling & fun events guaranteed to run shivers up and down your spine!

Dates: Friday, October 22, 2010 & Saturday, October 23, 2010

Where: DeSoto State Park

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/events for more details!



Ghosts on the Mountain, Spooks in the Valley

Spooky stories guaranteed to put shivers up your spine! Learn about Alabama's finest spooks, legends and folklore from JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison (author of Calico Ghosts). Part of DeSoto's Spookapalooza!

Date: Friday, October 22, 2010

Where: DeSoto's CCC Pavilion in the Picnic Area

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/events for more details!



Calico Stories

Join us for storytelling and knee-slapping humor as JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison tells true stories about growing up on her Granddad's dairy farm in Choccolocco, Alabama (aka Calico, AL). Part of DeSoto's Spookapalooza!

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2010

Where: DeSoto's CCC Pavilion in the Picnic Area

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/events for more details!



River Rhythms: Mask Making Workshop

Join staff and volunteers every fourth Saturday of the month for fun nature programs including hikes, crafts, games, nature talks, activities and more. Kids will use recycled materials and left over art treasures to make their own unique masks.

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fee: No fee; some programs may have limited space so pre-registration is encouraged. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Stone Structures of NE Alabama & the Southeast US.

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!
Join Dr. Harry Holstein for a presentation about the stone structures found on several sites in Alabama & the SE United

States that were thought to be built by the Welsh during the
12th Century.

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair
if you wish.

Date: Friday, November 5, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved
Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for
more details!



Canyon Fest:

A Celebration of Arts and Nature

Enjoy live music, nature & arts activities, arts
demonstrations & sales, great food, vendors, children's
activities & fun at this festival designed to celebrate our
natural world and to benefit the children of our community.

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No Fee; Donations welcome. Call 256.782.5697 or email
fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Guided Archaeology Tour of Cherokee & Dekalb Counties

Come along with JSU archaeologist Dr. Harry Holstein for a
guided tour of sites throughout Cherokee and Dekalb
counties. Participants will visit the 19th century Cornwall
Iron Furnace, a Spanish contact site at Coosa village, a rock
shelter in use as early as 3000 B.C., and much more. This
will be an unforgettable all-day event. Bring your own food
and drinks. Transportation is provided. ~Space is limited so
register early!

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2010

Where: Near Fort Payne, AL (Meeting location disclosed at
registration)

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Fee: \$30 per person (Ages 14 and over); pre-registration required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



Campfire Talk: Spanish Exploration of NE Alabama

Join us for a fun campfire talk in the great outdoors!

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through the amazing adventures of Hernando DeSoto, the first European explorer, as he searches for the ancient town of "Coosa".

Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable camp chair if you wish.

Date: Saturday November 6, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground

(In case of inclement weather will be located in Nature Center)

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!



Winter Fairy Houses & Hobbit Hike (Children's Nature Observation Skills)

Pausing in the woods or along the river to create a small structure for the good folk gives children the opportunity to bond with nature on a very personal level. She'll also lead a short "hobbity" hike through an enchanted forest to identify places where fairies might live or play to teach observation skills to budding young naturalists. Award-winning storyteller and naturalist Renee Morrison was taught to make fairy houses by her grandmother and has been making fairy houses with her sons and nature campers for decades.

Date: Saturday, November 20, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center (near Little River Falls on Hwy 35)

Time: 10:00 am – Noon

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required. Call 256.782.5697 or email fieldschool@jsu.edu for more details.



International TELLABRATION!!

Storytelling in the Canyon

The International Tellebration is a worldwide event devoted to storytelling. This grass-roots movement is endorsed by the National Storytelling Network. Join Renee Morrison and other Alabama storytellers for this fun event which includes an open stage for youth and novice tellers!

Date: Saturday, November 20, 2010

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Fee: \$5.00 per person at the door

Visit www.tellabration.org for more info.



Campfire Talk: Feeding Winter Wildlife

Don't take down those bird feeders just yet! Learn how to prepare your yard to be a sanctuary for winter wildlife.

Date: Friday, November 20, 2010

Where: DeSoto's Nature Center

Time: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free to the Public; Great for all ages!

Call 256.997.5025 or see www.alapark.com/desotoresort for more details!

For complete & up-to-date details about events, see
www.Alapark.com/events
Photo Gallery

Contact Details:

DeSoto State Park 13883 County Rd 89 Fort Payne, AL. 35967 256.997.5025 www.Alapark.com	Little River Canyon National Preserve 2141 Gault Ave N Fort Payne, AL 35967 256.845.9605 www.nps.gov/liri	Jacksonville State University Field School 472 Alabama Highway 35 Fort Payne, AL. 35967 256.782.5697 http://fieldschool.jsu.edu
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