

Little River Canyon Center Field Schools 2009 Programs

Contents:

Mission Statement

Registration Information

Field Trips for K-12 classes, home school students, scouts, church groups, etc.

January 2009 – December 2009 Field School Calendar of Events

DeSoto State Park Campfire Talks 2009 (List of topics, dates and times)

Field School Mission:

To provide in-depth programs designed to nurture appreciation of Alabama's natural and cultural significance, celebrate diversity, and foster stewardship of the natural world.

We promote natural and cultural history education from the
“deepest canyon to the highest mountain” in Alabama.

The Little River Canyon Field School is a project of the
JSU Environmental Policy and Information Center (EPIC).



These programs are for everyone!!

Public Programs: Hikes, Classes, Workshops, and Tours

On weekends throughout the year, a variety of programs are presented for anyone who is interested. These popular programs often fill quickly, so early registration is recommended. Each program is described in detail below. Call for more information or to pre-register for a program.

Registration is easy!

Phone: Call (256) 782-5697 and register with your VISA, MasterCard or Discover.

On-line: E-mail your request to fieldschool@jsu.edu and we will reply to you with details.

Walk-in: Our office is located on the campus of Jacksonville State University

Mail: Make checks payable to the JSU Little River Canyon Field School:

Mailing Address: JSU Little River Canyon Field Schools

Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road North; Suite 246, Martin Hall
Jacksonville, AL 36265

Physical Address: JSU Little River Canyon Center
472 AL Hwy 35
Ft. Payne, AL 35967
(Adjacent to the Little River Canyon National Preserve)

Gift certificates are available!!

Workshop sizes are limited so early application is encouraged. Payment in full is required to register. Cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the workshop in order to receive a refund. Programs cancelled due to inclement weather will not be refunded, but fees will be credited to another program. Although paid pre-registration secures slot in program, registrant is not considered officially a participant until JSU waiver and release form is signed prior to the beginning of a program.

Canyon Center Field Trips:



Bring your class, club, troop or group for a hands-on adventure they'll never forget at the new LEED registered Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, Alabama. Group leaders choose 2 – 4 learning station topics depending upon the size of the group and availability of Canyon Center instructors for an unforgettable hands-on environmental education and/or arts experience.

Learning Station Topics

Select from topics that may include *Interpretive Hikes, Archaeology, Native American Pottery Making, Ecology, Herpetology, Ornithology, Botany, Water Quality/Watersheds, What Makes a Building GREEN?, Climate Change/Weather, Geology, Nature Art & Journaling, Canyon Creatures, Endangered Species, Storytelling (Folk Tales, Fairy Tales or Ghost Stories), How to Tell Stories, Nature Observation Skills, Observing Nature through Fairy Houses, Seasonal Programs, or our national award-winning Naturalist Adventure.*

Canyon Center Outreach Programs:

Outreach Field Trips:

Select your location from "Alabama's deepest canyon to its highest mountain" including *DeSoto State Park, Talladega National Forest, Cheaha State Park or JSU Digistar Planetarium. Choose learning stations from the topics listed above.*

Classroom Outreach:

Can't come to the Canyon Center? The Canyon Center can come to you! JSU Field School instructors will visit your school, classroom or group to present unique programs on Natural History topics such as *Virtual Wilderness Presentation, Can Snakes Crawl Backwards?(with live specimens), Native American Pottery Making Workshop, Story Telling Presentations, Storytelling Workshops, and Nature Journaling Workshops.*

Fees are \$15 per student (grades K4-12) and \$10 per participating chaperone/parent/guardian. There is a minimum fee of \$300 per scheduled field trip. At least one adult chaperone per five children is required to register.

2009 Calendar of Events (General Public Programs)

January 2009

Second Saturday Space Safaris: Larry Cat in Space

Travel through space and explore planet Earth during these exciting programs for families and children led by Dr. Laura Weinkauff on an incredible dome 3D screen. Larry Cat in Space is a about a curious cartoon cat who stows away on a rocket for an exciting journey to the moon. Larry Cat's adventures are purrrfect for kids ages 10 and under.

Date: Saturday, January 10, 2009 (Second Saturdays: January – April)

Where: JSU Planetarium (3rd Floor Martin Hall) in Jacksonville, AL

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Fee: \$5 per person; website: <http://epic.jsu.edu/stars/>

Wilderness Survival 101

Let your instincts come alive and learn to survive. Captain Jerry Mize (JSU Department of Military Science) and Larry Beane (National Park Service) will teach hands-on methods of basic survival skills dealing with water, shelter, food, fire and getting found. Skills are similar to those shown on popular TV. This program will be outside, hands-on, hiking, collecting materials with hands so wear appropriate clothing for a cold winter day in the wilderness. Participants will be sitting on the ground, crawling on the ground as necessary, and will get "dirty" so to speak. Dress in layers. Bring your own lunch, snacks and water/drink.

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2009

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

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Pre-registration required

Fee: \$20 adult; \$10 child/student (ages 15—22); children under the age of 16 must have a parent/guardian attend with them; children 16 - 19 must have signed parental consent form to attend alone.

February 2009

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; difficult trails and extreme situations in some areas; dress for getting your feet wet. Not recommended for children under the age of 16 years.

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2009

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

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration required

Second Saturday Space Safari: Love Stories In the Stars

Travel through space and explore planet Earth during these exciting programs for families and children led by Dr. Laura Weinkauff. Many different people have gazed at the sky and been inspired to tell stories. In honor of Valentine's Day, we'll look at love stories from many cultures.

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2009

(Second Saturdays February – April)

Where: JSU Planetarium (3rd Floor Martin Hall) in Jacksonville, AL

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm website <http://epic.jsu.edu/stars/planetarium.html>

Fee: \$5 per person

Grand Opening: Little River Canyon Center

Join us for the grand opening of the Little River Canyon Center, a LEED registered arts/science facility near Ft. Payne. Enjoy arts, crafts, music, interpretive hikes, nature demonstrations, live animals, great food and more!

Date: Sunday, February 22, 2009
Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (Ft. Payne, AL next to Little River Falls on Hwy 35)
Time: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Fee: No Fee (Donations welcome!)

March 2009

First Saturday Series: Early Spring Frog Pond Adventure

Experience "love" from a frog's point of view! Join the one-and-only, "Dr. Frog" George Cline, for an unforgettable evening of romance and songs from the first amphibian voices of the season. Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. Subject to water level/drought conditions. <http://epic.jsu.edu/frogpond.html>

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2009
Where: JSU Frog Pond in White Plains Alabama
Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fee: \$5 per person

Second Saturday Space Safari: St. Patty's Cosmic Serpents

Watch out for snakes! See snake constellations and other wonders of our universe in this St. Patrick's Day-themed show led by JSU's Dr. Laura Weinkauff. To learn about the JSU planetarium, visit our website <http://epic.jsu.edu/stars/planetarium.html>

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2009
Where: JSU Planetarium (3rd Floor Martin Hall) in Jacksonville, AL
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Fee: \$5/adult; \$2.50/students

EEAA Conference: Woods & Water...Connections in NATURE!

Teachers, educators, naturalists, scout leaders, home school parents...this Environmental Education Association of Alabama conference is for YOU!!

Date: Thursday March 19 through Saturday March 21, 2009
Where: 4H Center Columbiana (Near Birmingham AL)
Time: Thursday evening through Saturday noon
Fee: Scholarships available; Visit www.eeaa.us for more information

Waterfall Tour & Easy Hike

Join Joan Alexander and others from the Anniston Outdoor Association for this unique driving and hiking tour of several beautiful waterfalls located around the Cheaha State Park area. These are easy short hikes on dirt trails. *Dependent upon water level.*

Date: Friday, March 27, 2009
Where: Cheaha State Park (Meet at State Park and ride JSU Shuttle for tour) in Cleburne County, AL
Time: 9:00 am – Noon (Suggested lunch after hike at Cheaha Lodge Restaurant)
Fee: \$20 per person; pre-registration is required.

April 2009

Lost Arts Series: Southern Storytelling Workshop

Join Alabama's national storyteller Renee Morrison (author of *Calico Stories*) for this workshop on how to tell your own stories, story prompting, and building character sketches through creative drama.

Date: Thursday April 2, 2009
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Fee: \$20 per person - .15 CEUs; pre-registration required (REGISTER AT JSU Continuing Education)
Location: JSU McClellan Auditorium, Anniston, AL Call JSU Continuing Education at (800)634-7199 or (256)782-5983 or visit www.coned.jsu.edu

Deep Canyon Hike

This is our most challenging and rewarding hike of the year! Join JSU Field Schools for an unforgettable view of one of Alabama's natural wonders, Little River Canyon. Hike level: difficult/extreme.

Not recommended for children under 14.

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2009

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

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$25/person; Pre-registration is required. This hike fills quickly so make reservations early.

Fly Fishing Techniques

Join Dr. Chris Murdock to learn the basics of fly fishing (and join him on Saturday morning to try out your skills)! Each participant will leave with a set of hand-tied flies.

Date: April 10, 2009

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

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Fee: \$10 per person; Pre-registration is required

Fly Fishing 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 a limited number of participants or call for a list of needed equipment.

Date: April 11, 2009

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

Time: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$35 per person; Pre-registration is required

Second Saturday Space Safari: Stars of the Pharaohs

How did Egyptians view the night sky? Find out in this fascinating show that merges astronomy, geography, and archaeology for an unforgettable experience. Travel through space and explore planet Earth during this exciting program viewed on a giant dome screen.

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2009

Where: JSU Planetarium (3rd Floor Martin Hall) in Jacksonville, AL

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm <http://epic.jsu.edu/stars/planetarium.html>

Fee: \$5 per person

Cultivating Shiitake Mushrooms in Natural Logs

Join Dr. Safaa Al-Hamdani to learn how to grow shiitake mushrooms and how to make money doing it! Course begins at JSU Martin Hall for a presentation on the specific "how to" of this process and then moves to the green house for a four hour "hands on" step by step program.

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009

Where: Jacksonville State University Martin Hall 700 Pelham Road North Jacksonville AL 36265

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$40 per participant; includes supplies to complete one log (additional logs may be purchased after the workshop); bring your own "brown bag" lunch. Pre-registration required.

Celebrate National Junior Ranger Day at Little River Canyon National Preserve

National Park Junior Ranger programs will be presented at various times on this date.

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009

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

Time: Events and information scheduled at various times and locations throughout the day. For more info call Little River Canyon Center at 256-845-9605 or look on line at www.nps.gov/liri

Fee: No fee or registration

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. Morrison will also lead a short "hobbit" 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. CEUs available for this workshop.

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009

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

Time: Noon – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required

May 2009

First Saturday Series: Early Summer Frog Pond Adventure

Learn to identify frog songs and get a hands-on experience with these slippery creatures. Participate in Frog Watch USA. For more information on JSU's Frog Pond, visit our website at <http://epic.jsu.edu/frogpond.html>

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Where: JSU Frog Pond in White Plains, AL

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: \$5 per person; pre-registration required

Chief Ladiga Trail Interpretive Bike Ride

Join USFS Biologist Jeff Gardner for a bike ride on the Chief Ladiga Trail portion that crosses through the Talladega National Forest. Participants will bring their own bikes and meet at the new parking lot at Borden Springs. Bikers will ride approximately 10 miles round trip. Bring drink/snacks/lunch. Not recommended for children under 12 years.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Where: Chief Ladiga Trail Parking Lot (Borden Springs, AL)

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required

Bilingual Spanish-English Hike (*¡para los personas hablas Espanol!*)

Acompañenos a una caminata en el Parque Estatal de Soto y Canon de Rio Pequeno.

Fecha: Sabado, Mayo 2, 2009

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

Hora: 10:00 am hasta las 1:00 mediodia

Tarifa: \$10 adulto (ninos gratis)

This easy hike is led by Dr. Kelly Gregg. It is designed for individuals who are fluent and learning Spanish.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

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

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Fee: \$10 per adult and children free with parent; pre-registration required

17th Annual Wildflower Saturday at DeSoto State Park

With its abundance of rhododendron and mountain laurel, there are few places lovelier than DeSoto State Park in May. Join DeSoto's Brittney Hughes, NPS's Larry Beane, and other botanists for this incredible day of flora.

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park; Visit www.desotostatepark.com or call 1-800-ALA-PARK (option 2)

Time: Multiple hikes from morning through afternoon (call for exact times)

Fee: No fee

Paddling Tour of Terrapin Creek

Imagine green pools with six foot alligator gar floating along side your boat, wildflowers dripping over verdant banks, and spring birds trilling in the tree tops. Join JSU Field School staff and seasoned paddlers for this 4-6 mile float down lovely Terrapin Creek. *If water levels are low, program may be cancelled. Space is LIMITED.*

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

Where: Terrapin Creek Outdoor Center (AL Hwy 9 near Centre, AL)

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$50 per person kayak; \$25 per person canoe (double only); \$25 per person to bring your own canoe or kayak; Pre-registration is required.

CCC 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. Meet in front of DeSoto's Lodge in the CCC Memorial Park. Moderate to Strenuous Hike on old CCC roadbed. Not for children under the age of 5.

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park; Visit www.desotostatepark.com or call 1-800-ALA-PARK (option 2)

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Fee: No fee

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 at 256-845-9605

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

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

International Migratory Bird Day

Programs and information on migratory birds.

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

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

Time: Events and information scheduled at various times during the day. Call the National Park Service for more information at 256-845-9605 or visit www.nps.gov/liri

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.

TEEN approved: visit www.geeksinthewoods.org for more information on TEEN approved outdoor recreation.

Date: May 9, 2009

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

Edible & Interesting Plants Workshop for Children

This workshop is designed for children that are naturally curious about nature. Join DeSoto's naturalist Brittney Hughes for this fun & interesting program on the nature of plants. Demonstrations & an easy hike. No fee. Please Pre-register ahead of time.

Date: May 16, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center www.desotostatepark.com

Time: 10:00 am – Noon

Fee: No fee; pre-registration required

Beginning Bird Identification

Join USFS birding experts for a tour of the Shoal Creek District's birding "hot spots" including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker management areas (and possibly nestlings). Convoy behind USFS biologist in your own vehicle.

Date: May 16, 2009

Where: Meet at the Shoal Creek District Office (256)-463-2272 in Cleburn County, AL

Time: 7:00 am – 10:00 am

Fee: \$10 per person; Pre-registration required

Herbal Medicine Making Workshop

Join Herbalists Darryl Patton and DeSoto State Park staff for an introductory class geared toward learning medicinal properties of plants including how to make salves and poltices. Class will include short hikes on nature trails and demonstrations. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for hike.

Date: May 23, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's Nature Center www.desotostatepark.com (1-800-ALA-PARK)

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Fee: Pre-registration required (call Brittney Hughes at 256-845-0051)

CCC Historic Hike: The Quarry Trail

Join DSP Staff on a moderate hike to the CCC Quarry. Learn how the builders of DeSoto State Park constructed the original structures that you can still see in the park today. Moderate to strenuous climbs.

Date: May 30, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's Nature Center www.desotostatepark.com (1-800-ALA-PARK)

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Fee: No fee; Pre-registration required

June 2009

Ethnobotany Weekend at DeSoto State Park (June 5-6)

JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join ethno-botanist Francine Hutchinson for Campfire Talks on Friday and Saturday nights, register for the plants workshop on Saturday. For lodging information, visit

www.desotostatepark.com

Campfire Talk: Medicinal Plants of Little River Canyon

Join botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation of local healing herbs, and learn how to grow many of them yourself.

Date: Friday, June 5, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center/Campground

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: Free

Medicinal & Edible Plants Workshop & Hike

For centuries, local residents have used hundreds of different species of medicinal plants found in our forests. Come learn about many of them with botanist Francine Hutchinson.

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$30/adult; \$15 child; Pre-registration is required.

Campfire Talk: Ethno-botany/Edible Plants of Little River Canyon

There are many wild plants that have a wide range of uses. Join botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation on what's safe and what's not.

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center/Campground

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: Free

Junior Catfish-Fishing Derby

Join United States Forest Service and JSU Field Schools for this event for kids which includes a cat fishing competition. Take advantage of the beautiful location and camp for the weekend! Family friendly.

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Where: Coleman Lake Recreational Area (near Heflin, AL)
Info: Contact Jeff Gardner at 256-463-2272
Fee: Free for kids 16 and under

Family Weekend DeSoto State Park (June 26-27)

JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join Dr. Chris Murdock for free Campfire Talks on Friday and Saturday nights with live critters. Register for the family hike program on Saturday. For lodging information, visit www.desotostatepark.com

Campfire Talk: Can Snakes Crawl Backwards?

JSU biologist Dr. Chris Murdock will talk about amphibians and reptiles...meet some live creatures!

Date: Friday, June 26, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center/Campground

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: Free

Herpetology Hike: Searching for Reptiles & Amphibians

Join Dr. Chris Murdock, JSU biologist (and herpetologist) on a fun and extremely unique adventure hike looking for creepy crawly creatures! This hike gained national attention last year and drew a large crowd who said, "This is one of the BEST hikes we've ever experienced!"

Date: June 27, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required

Campfire Talk: Venomous Snakes of Alabama

JSU biologist Dr. Chris Murdock will talk about venomous reptiles: fact, myth and misunderstandings. Meet some live creatures!

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center/Campground

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Fee: Free

JSU Field Schools Nature Camps

Hands-on science, environmental arts, exploration of the natural world, outdoor adventure, live animal experiences, and nature games...children who participate in these camps beg for "just one more week" with JSU! Every participant builds his or her own memory journal and receives a complete photo CD of camp week to share with their families. These camps fill quickly with a long waiting list, so register early! Fee includes lunch and supplies.

Canyon Camp for Children (at JSU Canyon Center Ft. Payne, AL)

Hands-on environmental education, outdoor fun, arts and exploration of the natural world abound in this camp. Campers will experience hands-on nature study at the Little River Canyon Center and they will explore the Little River Canyon National Preserve, DeSoto State Park, and other areas in DeKalb County. These camps leave children begging for more JSU Field School fun! Every participant builds his or her own memory journal and receives a photo CD of camp week to share with their family and friends. These camps fill quickly so register early. Fee includes lunch and supplies.

Date: June 23 – 26, 2009 (Tuesday – Friday)

Age/Grade: Ages 6 – 8 years

Where: JSU's Little River Canyon Center (Near Ft. Payne, AL)

Time: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm at the Canyon Center

Fee: \$200 per participant (includes lunch); pre-registration required (Camp is limited; register early)

July 2009

Little River Canyon Adventure Camp

Hands-on environmental education, arts, exploration of the natural world AND outdoor adventures abound in this camp. This camp travels to Little River Canyon, DeSoto State Park, Talladega National Forest, and/or Cheaha State Park. Children who participate in Renee Morrison's camps beg for "just one more week" with JSU Field Schools. Every participant receives a photo CD of camp week to share with their family and friends. These camps fill quickly so register early. Fee includes lunch and supplies.

Date: July 7 – 10, 2009 (Tuesday – Friday)

Age/Grade: Ages 9 - 11

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

Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Fee: \$200 per participant; pre-registration required (Camp is limited so register early)

Learn to play the HARMONICA

Musician Tony Thomas teaches this fun class. There will be harmonicas for sale.

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center/Campground

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Fee: Free Visit www.desotostatepark.com for more information

Canyon Center Outreach Camp: Mountain Longleaf Adventure Camp **FULL**

Hands-on environmental education, arts, exploration of the natural world AND outdoor adventures abound in this camp. This camp travels to Little River Canyon, DeSoto State Park, Talladega National Forest, and/or Cheaha State Park. Children who participate in Renee Morrison's camps beg for "just one more week" with JSU Field Schools. Every participant receives a photo CD of camp week to share with their family and friends. These camps fill quickly so register early. Fee includes lunch and supplies.

Date: July 14 – 17, 2009 (Tuesday – Friday)

Age/Grade: Ages 9 - 11

Where: Meet JSU Campus

Time: 8:30 am—4:30 pm

Fee: \$200 per participant; pre-registration required (Camp is limited so register early)

Canyon Center Outreach Camp: "Greenager" Canyon Camp **FULL**

Hands-on environmental education, arts, exploration of the natural world AND outdoor adventures abound in this camp for teenagers who have completed at least 3 years of advanced camp. This camp, led by Renee Morrison, will provide adventurous trips through WILD Alabama habitats while studying field biology. Fee includes lunch and supplies.

Date: July 28 – 31, 2009 (Tuesday – Friday)

Age/Grade: Teens who have graduated from JSU's Advanced Camp Series

Where: Meet/Pick Up on JSU Campus

Time: 8:30 am—4:30 pm

Fee: \$250 per participant; pre-registration required

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 18, 2009

Where: JSU's 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

August 2009

DeSoto State Park: Little River Plant Hike

Join Brittney Hughes and Darryl Patton for a medicinal plant hike along the west fork of the Little River. Moderate to difficult hike. Wear appropriate foot wear.

Date: Saturday, August 15, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Fee: No fee (Visit www.desotostatepark.com for more information)

Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun & St. Clair Counties

Come along with JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein for a guided archaeology tour of various sites throughout Calhoun and St. Clair counties. We will visit Janney Iron Furnace, a 19th century battlefield and river locks, a prehistoric Indian village, and much more. Participants should bring their own lunch and drinks. Transportation is provided. Space is limited.

This is one of our most of our most popular programs so register early!

Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009

Where: Jacksonville, AL (Meeting location to be disclosed upon registration)

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: \$30 per person (ages 14 and older) Pre-registration is required.

September 2009

Family Weekend DeSoto State Park (September 11-12)

JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join JSU's Dr. Jim Rayburn for fun "live animal" Campfire Talks on Friday and Saturday nights. Register for the family Woodsy Stroll on Saturday. For lodging information, visit

www.desotostatepark.com

Campfire Talk: Frog Metamorphosis

Explore how amphibians transform from a single cell to the wonderful hopping creatures we adore with JSU's Dr. Rayburn.

Date: Friday, September 11, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fee: FREE

Woodsy Stroll

Explore the trails of DeSoto State Park and hike along the Little River with Dr. Jim Rayburn. Be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Easy to moderate level hike. Pre-registration is required.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00 per person (Pre-registration required)

Campfire Talk: Venomous Organisms of Alabama

Some plants and animals really get your attention with their special lines of defense. Presented by toxicologist Dr. James Rayburn.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fee: FREE

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 (and extreme) level hike. Not recommended for children under 14 years of age.

Date: September 26, 2009

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

Family Weekend DeSoto State Park (September 25-26)

JSU Field Schools and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join JSU's Dr. Kelly Gregg for Campfire Talks on Friday night (Cherokee Trail of Tears) and Saturday night (Geologic History of the Canyon). Join us for the casual canyon "stroll" on Saturday afternoon. For lodging information, visit www.desotostatepark.com

Campfire Talk: Cherokee Trail of Tears

Thousands of Native Americans were taken from their homelands and sent to Oklahoma on this infamous trek. JSU's Dr. Kelly Gregg will share this tragic story.

Date: Friday, September 25, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm FREE

Casual Canyon Hike

Join Dr. Kelly Gregg for this easy to moderate hike along DeSoto State Park trails to learn more about the natural history of the area.

TEEN approved: visit www.geeksinthewoods.org for more information on TEEN approved outdoor recreation.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required (Walk-ins welcome if space is available)

Campfire Talk: Geologic History of Little River Canyon

Join geologist Dr. Kelly Gregg to learn about the ancient inhabitants of Little River: sharks, corals, ferns, ancient trees, and even giant salamanders.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Fee: FREE

October 2009

Family Weekend DeSoto State Park (October 2-3)

JSU Field Schools, JSU Little River Canyon Center and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature together. Join JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein for Campfire Talks on Friday night (Prehistoric Cultures) and Saturday night (Spanish Exploration) Register for the Native American Tools & Weapons workshop on Saturday or join us for the casual canyon "stroll" on Saturday afternoon. For lodging information, visit www.desotostatepark.com

Campfire Talk: Prehistoric Cultures of Little River Canyon

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will fascinate you with stories of from the Ice Age to DeSoto's 16th century Spanish expedition.

Date: Friday, October 2, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fee: FREE

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 3, 2009

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!

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 3, 2009

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

Campfire Talk: Spanish Exploration of Northeast Alabama

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through their amazing adventures of the first European explorers search for the ancient town of "Coosa".

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fee: FREE

Autumn Gathering: Medicinal Plants

Join herbalist Darryl Patton and Brittney Hughes for a hike on DeSoto State Park's trails.

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Where: Meet at DeSoto State Park's Nature Center

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Fee: Free

Storytelling Weekend at DeSoto State Park & Storytelling Workshop at Little River Canyon

Join Alabama storytellers Renee Morrison and Jenny Whitman for a weekend of storytelling fun, spooky story shivers, and a "how to" workshop to learn practical techniques for telling your own stories. JSU Field Schools, JSU Little River Canyon Center and DeSoto State Park will offer fun activities Friday night, Saturday and Saturday night for families who want to learn about nature and storytelling together. Join JSU Field Schools naturalist and storyteller Renee Morrison (author of *Calico Ghosts*) for fun Campfire Talks on Friday night (Ghosts in the Valley) and Saturday night (My Life as a Hound Dog). For lodging information, visit www.desotostatepark.com; for information about the Canyon Center visit <http://fieldschool.jsu.edu>

Storytelling' Campfire Talk: Ghosts on the Mountain

Spooky stories guaranteed to put shivers up your spine! Learn about Alabama's finest spooks, legends and folklore from JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison and Jenny Walker Whitman.

Date: Friday, October 23, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Large CCC Pavilion (across the road from Nature Center)

Time: 6:00 pm -7:00 pm

Fee: Free

Storytelling' & Creative Writing Workshop (How to tell and record your own family stories!)

Join Renee Morrison, Jenny Whitman, and other tellers to learn more about oral traditions, preserving family stories, telling your own stories, creative writing and more!

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2009

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

Time: 10:00 am –2:30 pm

Fee: \$35 per adults; \$25 per youth (not recommended for children under age 15): pre-registration required
CEUs available for teachers/educators

Storytelling' Campfire Talk: Calico Stories (My Life as a Black & Tan Coonhound)

Fun farm-raised folklore from JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison and her aunt Jenny Whitman.

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2009

Where: DeSoto State Park Large CCC Pavilion (across the road from Nature Center)

Time: 6:00 pm -7:00 pm

Fee: Free

November 2009

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 7, 2009

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fee: No Fee; Donations welcome

Guided Archaeology Tour of Cherokee and 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 7, 2009

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

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.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2009

Where: Little River Canyon Center

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Fee: \$5.00 per person

Visit www.tellabration.org for more info.

December 2008

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. CEUs available for this workshop.

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2009

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

Time: Noon – 3:00 pm
Fee: \$10 per person; pre-registration required

Second Saturday Space Safari: Star of Bethlehem

Travel through space and explore planet Earth during these exciting programs for families and children.

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2009

Where: JSU Planetarium (3rd Floor Martin Hall)

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm website <http://epic.jsu.edu/stars/planetarium.html>

Fee: \$5 per person; groups please call to pre-register.

DeSoto State Park Campfire Talks

What: JSU Field Schools partner with Alabama State Parks to offer an interesting, educational and entertaining series of **FREE** programs known as “Campfire Talks.”

When and Where: These programs are offered every Friday and Saturday evening (May – October) at DeSoto State Park’s Campfire Circle.

Thousands of families enjoy these programs annually. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair.

In case of rain, programs will be held in the nature center. Plan a family camp out or a weekend at DeSoto

State Park’s lovely lodge, cabins or chalets...or just drop by one evening and enjoy the program!

For more information, directions or reservations for lodging call 1-800-568-8840 or visit

www.desotostatepark.com

Topic, Date and Time:

Fishes of Little River Canyon

Join JSU Biologist Mark Meade to learn more about what is lurking underneath Alabama’s streams and rivers!

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

DeSoto State Park’s Founders: The CCC

In honor of DeSoto’s 70th Anniversary, Join DeSoto State Park staff to learn about DeSoto’s founders and builders; the Civilian Conservation Corps. See historic photos and artifacts from the 1930s.

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Leave No Trace for Children

Join State Park ranger Josh Hughes to learn how to be gentle when you are hiking through natural areas...how to be kind to nature.

Date: Friday, May 15, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Useful and Edible Plants for Children

Nature provides so many wonderful things...children need to know where “things” come from...what do we get from plants? You will be surprised by what a DeSoto State Park Naturalist Brittney Hughes can tell you about how you depend on plants to survive!

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Introduction to Musical Instruments in Story & Song (Part 1)

Join musician Tony Thomas for this program introducing acoustic instruments such as fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and banjo by using stories and songs to give appreciation for each. Bring the kids for s’mores!

Date: Friday, May 22, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Introduction to Musical Instruments in Story & Song (Part 2)

Join musician Tony Thomas for this program introducing acoustic instruments such as fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and banjo by using stories and songs to give appreciation for each. Bring the kids for s'mores!

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm –8:00 pm

Constellations from Lookout Mountain

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 DeSoto State Park.

Date: Friday, May 29, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm -9:00 pm

Moon Views

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!

Date: Saturday, May 30, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Medicinal Plants of Little River

Join botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation of local healing herbs, and learn how to grow many of them yourself.

Date: Friday, June 5, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Ethno-botany/Edible Plants of Little River Canyon

There are many wild plants that have a wide range of uses. Join botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation on what's safe to touch and eat...and what's not!

Date: Saturday, June 6, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Introduction to Musical Instruments in Stories and Song

Join Tony Thomas for this interesting program where fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo are the instruments used to teach stories and songs.

Date: Friday, July 10, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Introduction to Musical Instruments in Stories and Song

Join Tony Thomas for this interesting program where fiddle, guitar, mandolin and banjo are the instruments used to teach stories and songs.

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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: Friday, June 12, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Plants and People: How are we connected?

JSU plant physiologist Dr. Safaa Al-Hamdani will explain the essential mysteries of the human/plant relationship.

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Can Snakes Crawl Backwards?

JSU biologist Dr. Chris Murdock will talk about amphibians and reptiles...meet some live creatures!

Date: Friday, June 26, 2008

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Venomous Snakes of Alabama

JSU biologist Dr. Chris Murdock will talk about venomous reptiles: fact, myth and misunderstandings. Meet some live creatures!

Date: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Ecology of the Canyon for Children

A program geared toward introducing children to local environmental issues presented by National Park Ranger Larry Beane.

Date: Friday, July 17, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

13 Ways Not to Die at Little River Canyon

As part of the NPS safety program, National Park Ranger, Larry Beane, will share some stories of the rescues, and misadventures that occur every year in and around Alabama's deepest gorge.

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Legend of Granny Dollar

Granny Dollar is 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.

Date: Friday, July 31, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Legend of Sequoyah

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, is 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.

Date: Saturday, August 1, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Legend of the Wolf

JSU's Teje Sult will discuss the natural history of the wolf...how it once thrived in Alabama and where you can find these amazing predators today.

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Birds of Prey

Anniston Museum of Natural History curator, Dan Spaulding, will present this program with LIVE birds of prey.

Date: Friday, August 14, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Rare Plants and Animals of Little River Canyon

Little River Canyon is home to over 100 rare species. National Park Ranger Larry Beane will introduce you to a number of them.

Date: Friday, August 21, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Animal Camouflage

Join Larry Beane, Little River Canyon National Park Ranger, to learn about animal camouflage.

Date: Saturday August 22, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Invisible Wonders of Little River Canyon

JSU microbiologist Dr. Benjie Blair will explain how the creatures you can't see affect you every day.

Date: Friday, August 28, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Parasites of Little River

Dr. Benjie Blair of JSU returns to talk about more creepy crawlies that would like to make a home...inside of you!

Date: Saturday, August 29, 2009

Time: 8:00 – 9:00 pm

Frog Metamorphosis

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

Date: Friday, September 11, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Venomous Organisms of Alabama

Some plants and animals really get your attention with their special lines of defense. Presented by toxicologist Dr. James Rayburn.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cherokee Trail of Tears

Thousands of Native Americans were taken from their homelands and sent to Oklahoma on this infamous trek. JSU's Dr. Kelly Gregg will share this tragic story.

Date: Friday, September 25, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Geologic History of Little River Canyon

Join geologist Dr. Kelly Gregg to learn about the ancient inhabitants of Little River: sharks, corals, ferns, ancient trees, and even giant salamanders.

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Prehistoric Cultures of Little River Canyon

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will fascinate you with stories of from the Ice Age to DeSoto's 16th century Spanish expedition.

Date: Friday, October 2, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Spanish Exploration of Northeast Alabama

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will take you through their amazing adventures of the first European explorers search for the ancient town of "Coosa".

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Creepy Critters

Dan Spaulding of the Anniston Museum of Natural History will be showing some creepy crawlies at this fun educational program.

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Global Warming: Climate Change

Hurricanes in June...droughts...cold spells in May. What is going on? Join Dr. Jonathon Herbert as he explains the science behind global warming.

Date: Friday, October 16, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Seasons

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.

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Ghosts on the Mountain

Spooky stories guaranteed to put shivers up your spine! Learn about Alabama's finest spooks, legends and folklore from JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison and her storytellin' aunt Jenny Walker Whitman.

Date: Friday, October 23, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Storytellin' Campfire Talk: Calico Stories (My Life as a Black & Tan Coonhound)

Fun farm-raised folklore from JSU Field Schools' Renee Morrison and her aunt Jenny Whitman.

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2009

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm