

Cliff View Notes

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Vol 2 No. 5 News and Notes For Cliff View Owners, Friends and Visitors July 2012

Happy 236th Birthday America!

When the fledgling United States of America left its British nest and took its first unsteady steps towards liberty that hot July Day in 1776, few in the world believed we would learn to crawl, much less fly. Of course they were wrong and the Eagle not only flew, but *soared* to become the greatest country in history.

It didn't come easily and the toll extracted for the liberty we take for granted has been very high.

Even as the fifty-six men put their names on the Declaration of Independence, they were well aware that the struggle was only beginning. They also knew their fate and the fate of this new democracy was far from assured. One of the signers and staunchest patriot, Ben Franklin as he affixed his signature, put it best, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

A total of approximately 25,700 colonist died during the war. Not all colonists fought for the American armies. Many were loyal British subjects and fought for the king. 7,200 on both sides died in actual combat, 10,000 from disease and exposure and another 8,500 in British prisons. Those numbers don't sound that large until you view it as a percentage of the total population. Those figures, would be the equivalent in 2012 to more than three million!

So, this year while you're out there enjoying cold watermelon, burnt hot dogs and a glorious fireworks display, take a moment to think of the hardships and sacrifices so many brave people wearing the uniforms of our military have been willing to endure so that you can enjoy these July Fourth traditions.

Then look up and "Oooh!", and "Ahh!" with the rest of the folks around you and be glad you were lucky enough to be here and to proudly declare, "I am an American!"

Summertime and the Living is .. Exciting!

Since you are reading this, you must either live here or have visited here. So, I don't have to tell you what a wonderful, scenic and unique place we have. The beauty of the Red River Gorge area is, in my humble opinion, unmatched. Okay, at least difficult to match. Make that *extremely* difficult!

There are so many reasons to be here in the Gorge. Camping, fishing, hiking, rock climbing, great food and of course, now, ziplining and Hummer tours at Cliff View.

There are now three Hummers ready to take guests on one of the most exciting and *Gorge-ous* tours through the Resort imaginable. Well, that is if you rule out the view of the gorges from the vantage point of the 350 foot high zipline across the Cowan Branch Gorge.

If the ziplines are not your cup of tea, these Hummer Tours are the perfect way for anyone from small children to doting Grands to appreciate and revel in the beauty of the area. But, without that added adrenalin rush of ...

Zippping Away!



Just a Hummin' Along!

Now we have **THREE Hummers!** at Cliff View

That's right, even more reason to come see us...

The fun of an off road ramble in a big ole' Hummer!

Yep, it's alive and well at Cliff View!



Call 855-Zip-Tour. (855-947-8687) for more info.

www.RedRiverGorgeZipline.com www.CliffViewResort.com

Jenny Ison

Cliff View Notes

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HELPFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

State Facilities

Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information
(606) 663-2214 or 1-800-325-1710 (reservations) 2135 Natural Bridge Rd. Slade, KY 40376 Trail map & descriptions, park laws and regulations, lodging, camping, group meeting facilities, group programs
"Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hiking, arches, exploring, scenery, reflection, and making memories."
www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb
Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission
www.naturepreserves.ky.gov
The Skylift (606) 663-2922
www.naturalbridgekyskylift-and-giftshop.com
Red River Gorge National Geological Area (606) 663-8100
www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml
Glade Cultural-Environmental Learning Center (606) 663-8100
www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/glade.shtml
Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers) www.RRGTC.com
Leave No Trace – Outdoor Ethics www.lnt.org
Kentucky State Parks - Create your own Experience.
www.parks.ky.gov
Become a KYSP fan at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kentucky-State-Parks/152588316577>

Private Facilities

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Scenic Cabin Rentals 606.668.6487 www.sceniccabin.com
Paul Hamann 513.378.8716
Nancy Hamann 513.919.7150
Red River Gorge Cabin Rentals 606.668.3272
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Cliff Notes Jenny or Jerry Ison 865.674.6740
Email stories, ideas, suggestions, news to: jenny@jerryison.com

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Don F. Fig: An Interview with a Local Legend

by Jerry Ison

It was a typically beautiful Kentucky Spring afternoon when Ian and I pulled up to the neat, attractive house in Stanton where Don and Susie Fig live.

Susie was sitting out on the porch and greeted us with the warmth and welcoming smile typical of the folks living in this part of Kentucky.

We were asked to come inside and Susie introduced us to Don and after a "No, thank you" to the offer of refreshments, we got down to the business of exchanging pleasantries.

This isn't New York or LA or even a big city like Lexington. The social protocols of Eastern Kentucky call for some polite, not too personal delving into one's background, "You doin' alright?" "Where y'all from?" Then and only then, we could get down to the nub as they say; the reason for the visit.

I had prepared several questions but the interview quickly turned into a conversation as we apparently reached a more personal level. It was easy since both Don and Susie are so likable and one soon gets the feeling we have gone from being strangers to friends in just a few minutes. That is a phenomenon I have been experiencing more and more as I spend time in the Red River Gorge Area. It's great! But I digress.

Don is now retired after fifty years in the U.S. Forest Service. Back in the late fifties, Don served a stint in the Army, then made two of the most important choices in his life. He joined the U.S. Forest Service and married Susie. Both proved to be his life's calling. His love of the outdoors and innate wish to help people quickly coalesced when he became A U.S. Forest Service's Search and Rescue team leader.

In spite of the area's unforgiving terrain and ever changing weather, Don has a remarkable record as a SAR team leader. In all the hundreds of SAR missions, every person lost or injured in the Gorge area was found. *Everyone!*

Don told me of that amazing record only after a bit of coaxing. He is quite an unassuming and humble man. In spite of his many legendary accomplishments Don believes some of the credit belongs to his wife, not just for his achievements in SAR, but in almost every area of their lives. Susie was a city clerk for thirty-one years. During those years she also volunteered as a dispatcher for the Search and Rescue operations. In that role she also was a coordinator between different personnel and teams in the field. She would relay information and coach the team members. Don also tells us Susie was an indispensable help researching the facts and history for his books.

Fortunately for us, Don decided that some of his experiences, thoughts and adventures might be appreciated by a wider audience than just his family, friends and acquaintances. While still in the U.S. Forest Service, Don began writing about those events and situations he had been a part of. He has so far published eight books and is currently working on number nine. The new book is titled Red River Gorge Industry and will offer a look at some of the area's commercial history and the people, places and circumstances which created that history.

I asked Don if he could do it all over would he still choose the U.S. Forest Service. He said without a second's pause, "I'd give anything to do it all, all over again!"

Copies of his books are available at the Red River Gorge office at the entrance to Cliff View Resort, by visiting the web site: www.redriversaga.com or by emailing: jerry@jerryison.com

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Bluegrass Bitz



Green Meadows Gospel Music Association's Gospel Music Jubilee

Roger Milligan and Glenn Duff have again put together a great line up of music for Thursday evenings in June, July, and August. Many thanks to Roger and Glenn for their great service to the community.

You can see who is performing each Thursday on our web page: www.AppalachianHeritageAlliance.org.

Free Admission Free will love offerings accepted *Donations help cover the expenses of the singing groups*

When: July 7, 2012 **Where:** Campton Park **Time:** 6:00 pm **Featured Groups** will be: Bound for Glory,

The Trinity Heirs 4 His Praise, Kenny, Becky & Viola, Edith Lykins and David Smith. Green Meadows

Gospel Music Association is a group designed to connect gospel singing ministries with churches and other

organizations that will promote the spreading of the Gospel through gospel music. Our focus is to declare

the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through song ministries. If you enjoy good gospel music come on out and

listen to several of our groups as they spread the gospel through song at Campton Park. Green Meadows

Gospel Music Association, Contact Lori Oates Phone: 606-668-6907 email: lori_oates@yahoo.com

Natural Bridge State Resort park Summer Events

Summer Naturalist Programs

The naturalist staff offers programs to park visitors in the summer through Labor Day Weekend. A copy of

the Recreational Opportunities Schedule can be obtained upon arrival at the front desk of the Hemlock

Lodge, either campground, or at the Nature Center. Schedules are also posted on bulletin boards throughout

the park and on the Naturalist's blog at www.kspappdev.com/blogs/natural-bridge. Programs offered range

from guided hikes, cave walks, and canoeing to nature crafts, creek walks, and animal programs.

Live Animals! The World of Reptiles: Friday, July 20

Join special guest Naturalist, Scott Shupe, and the Kentucky Reptile Zoo for an exciting

presentation that includes live reptiles from around the world!!! From bizarre turtles, legless lizards, to 10

foot snakes, this presentation is sure to engage the whole family! Also, be sure to watch volunteers endure

the "snake test for bravery" with the harmless and useful corn snake. Presentation will be held in the Wood-

land Center Friday, July 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Canoeing by Moonlight: July 28, August 4

Discover the mysterious sounds of the night as we paddle our way around Mill Creek Lake under a moonlit

sky. Park Naturalists will make several stops for activities that will help participants enjoy the intriguing

night sounds and atmosphere. One activity will include attempts to call in a barred owl. Space is limited and

pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$10 for ages 13 & up and \$7 for ages 6-12. Each child,

ages 6-17, must be accompanied by an adult. Canoe, paddle, and life jacket are included. Contact: Tyler

Morgan at tyler.morgan@ky.gov or 606 663-2214.

Square Dances: Fri. & Sat. thru Labor Day Weekend

Natural Bridge invites you to enjoy some easy to learn Appalachian square dancing, clogging, line dancing,

two-stepping, polkas, waltzes, and many other couple and individual dances. The warm-up begins at 6:30 p.

m. and the official start time is 7:30 p.m. The dances are held on Hoedown Island and typically last until 10

p.m. Admission is \$3 per adult and children under 12 are free. Dances are held every Friday from Memorial

Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend and on every Saturday from the last Saturday in April thru October.

Contact Brian Gasdorf at brian.gasdorf@ky.gov or (606) 663-2214 for more information.



We want this to be your newsletter and to that end we solicit, ideas, stories, suggestions, recipes, pictures, important dates such as birthdays, anniversaries, anything that might be of interest. Also if you have important news or announcements such as family is coming, family already came, the grandson caught his first fish, little Debbie started pre-school or you grew a five pound zucchini we want to hear about it. Recipes and helpful hints as well as money-saving ideas are greatly appreciated.

Cliff Notes will be published on the first Monday each month so we need your stuff in by the preceding Tuesday.

We try to make this newsletter entertaining and informative, but it would be especially so if you, the readers get involved. Send your input to: jenny@jerryison.com