

THE GORGE GAZETTE

**YOUR GUIDE TO FAMILY FUN
IN THE RED RIVER GORGE**



The Official (only!) Newspaper of The Red River Gorge

Vol. 2 No. 8 Adventure ~ Relaxation ~ Accommodations ~ Awe Inspiring Natural Beauty ~ Friendly People

October 2022



A Spooky Unguided Tour Through the Gorge Underground

Join us for this super spooky unguided paddle thru the Gorge Underground. You will have 90 minutes of on-water time to explore the underground like never before. Our guides won't be on tour with you; will be in costume "haunting" all over the mine and keeping you safe while you paddle. The tours will be 90 min of unguided exploration of the mine. The Classic Tours take place from our front Dock area. You will be in a regular kayak with a clear bottom. The deluxe tours take place from our rear dock area. On this tour you get to walk thru about 5 minutes of the dry side of the mine and will have a photographer along for the trip. You get a clear kayak and LED underwater lights on your kayak. Tour time slots are 2 hours starting at 6, 8, 10 pm on Friday and Saturday night the last two weekends in October. The Gorge Underground will be decorated for Halloween all of October.

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Vacations - Red River Gorge Style

You sure did pick the right place and the right time - October in the Red River Gorge Geographic Area! As the old commercial used to say, "It doesn't get any better than this!"

By their very concept, vacations should be a time of relaxation, away from the busy life of modern living. A time that restores and recharges us. A precious time away from the stresses of day to day living in these fast paced times.

A time that prepares us for the return to that busy life. No matter what your energy level may be, you can't go full speed all the time. Everybody needs to slow it down, to take a break.

Here in the beautiful Red River Gorge Area, we offer the perfect place to wind down, relax and enjoy the serenity of this timeless mountain respite.

Here, you can languish at a slower pace and treat yourself to calm, peaceful days. Appreciate a starry night and spectacular vistas stretching in every direction free of the noise, clutter, constant movement and confusion of busy urban areas.

Here, you can drive from interstates to two lane highways to hidden back roads, to ...

You can enjoy great food served by friendly people, zip across ancient gorges carved out of solid rock over many millennia.

You can scale sandstone cliffs, gaze on breath taking scenery or simply take time to enjoy the quiet comfort only these mountains and valleys can offer.

We are truly just tickled pink that you came to visit!

Electrifying News!

**We have three Tesla Charging Stations, one of which is universal. Now you can recharge your Tesla, Prius, Leaf, Volt, or any electric or hybrid car while enjoying unforgettable time in the Gorge zipping, hiking or just napping. And, we offer this service to anyone, you do not have to be a guest at Cliffview.
Oh yeah, I almost forgot - you can charge absolutely free! Uh huh. Free!**

THE GORGE GAZETTE

The unofficial newsletter of
The Red River Gorge
Rogers, Kentucky

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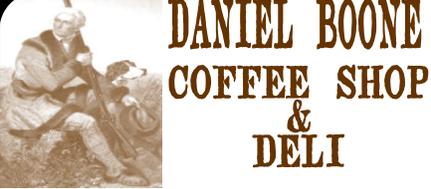
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Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information

(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

Red River Gorge National Geological Area (606) 663-8100

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml

Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center (606) 663-8100

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/gladie.shtml

Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers) www.RRGTC.com

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Email stories, ideas, suggestions, news to: jerry@jerryison.com

The Ghosts of Cherokee Springs Cemetery

by Jerry Ison

The early spring of 1861 held the promise of a new life for 17 year old Elizabeth Cornett. Her parents had finally given in and agreed she could marry the love of her life, 18 year old William "Billy" Allen. The wedding was planned for the third week of October, just after the harvest. Then, in April, all was shattered. The Nation was at war with itself; several Southern states had seceded from the union and fighting had begun.

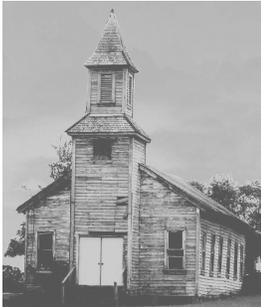


In Eastern Kentucky, sentiments were to be found for both sides. While most wanted to remain in the Union, there were many who saw the Southern Cause as a just cause. William was one of those who felt his duty lay with the Confederacy. He rode off to join Brazelton's 3rd Kentucky Calvary Battalion. Elizabeth's parents were staunch Unionist and reversed their stance, absolutely forbidding Elizabeth to even talk to that Rebel, William Allen, much less marry him.

As the war progressed, Union forces drove the Confederates out of the area and established a headquarters on the East Fork of the Kentucky River near Beattyville in the summer of 1863.

However, there was still a good deal of sentiment for the South in the area; several families provided shelter and aid to the many Confederate spies and scouts who still roamed the hills and gorges near Beattyville and harassed the Union garrisons. One of these infiltrators was William who, on several occasions, secretly met with Elizabeth at the little church known as Cherokee Springs Church. This church was located a few miles up the river from Beattyville near Athol and just over the hill from Craft's Hollow where Elizabeth's family lived.

It was October 31, 1863, Halloween Night, when on her way to meet with William, Elizabeth was stopped by a Union patrol traveling the road from Beattyville to Jackson.



Elizabeth was quite nervous and even though the Union soldiers had orders not to harass locals, the young lieutenant was suspicious of a pretty young girl alone on the road this late.

The patrol allowed her to continue, but the lieutenant decided to double back and see where she was really going so late at night. Elizabeth, believing the entire patrol had ridden away, rode directly to the church where William was waiting.

Before she could dismount from her horse, the Union officer appeared right behind her in the road. At the same time, William rode out of the trees bordering the little cemetery behind the church. He did not see the soldier, but could see Elizabeth. The lieutenant, spotting William, brought his rifle up to his shoulder and aimed. Elizabeth dug her heels into the horse's side and rode toward William screaming for him to turn and run.

The sound of the rifle echoed off the church and down the valley. Elizabeth now riding in the direct line of fire, was struck through the back. She slumped over the horse's neck as it galloped into the cemetery.

William charged toward Elizabeth and turned to fire at the lieutenant, but the hammer failed to fall. Just as Billy reached Elizabeth, the Union soldier put a ball from his sidearm through William's heart.

He fell against his loved one's lifeless body and they both fell to the earth in deathly embrace.

The lieutenant noticed William had pulled his watch from his pocket and must have been checking the time when the encounter suddenly happened. The fob was tangled in the pistol's trigger guard and had prevented William from firing.

The light from the full moon shone on the watch face and he could see that it was exactly midnight.

The old church is gone now and not much of the little cemetery remains. The road to the church is now little more than a weedy track. If one were daring enough to venture down that road on Halloween, just at midnight, you will hear the pounding of hoof beats racing from the road into the cemetery.

Then, barely audible, comes the anguished cry of a young girl's faint voice,

"Run Billy, run!"

The sound fades as it is carried away on the icy cold breeze blowing across the crumbling tombstones.



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October Symphony

We are fortunate to be here where we can experience four different seasons. The crisp, glittering cold of winter. The airy pastels of a fresh green spring. The fullness and deep green of summer. The glorious display of fall.

For many of us, however, autumn is the season we most appreciate. Cool, comfortable evenings and a more gentle, softer glow from the sun. Autumn is the canvas for nature's most brilliant brush strokes. The yellows and golds of the buckeye and cottonwoods. The silver, purple and red of the sweet gum.

Countless shades of red, running from barely orange sassafras leaves, through the brownish rust of oaks and sycamores, to the brilliant scarlet of sugar maples and dogwoods.

This colorful display is not only for trees, many other plants get in on the act. Some grasses turn beautiful shades of yellow and gold.

Poison ivy leaves develop reds so vibrant, they sometimes appear metallic.

What causes this marvelous transformation? How are the colors of the different plants and trees determined?

Scientists, botanist and biologists have many answers and logical reasons as to why all the colorization takes places.

They talk of loss of chlorophyll - the green stuff in plants. There's mention of the yellow agents, carotene and xanthophyll. They bring up the cooler nights and bright sunshine of autumn days as causes for chemical changes which result in color changes.

There's usually mention of the red pigments, anthocyanins, formed when natural sugar, glucose, is trapped in a dying leaf.

Oh yes, no scientific discussion of the leaves of autumn would be complete without mention of abscission. This is what gives the term "fall" meaning. Abscission is the process which causes trees to lose their leaves. Or at least, so say those scientists.

I have a completely different version. In my version, the coloring and eventual dropping of the leaves is a carefully orchestrated performance. Much like the fireworks finale at one of the many Fall Festivals. It's the Creator's way, and so obviously so, of topping off His magnificent performance the preceding season - summer.

That was a tough act to follow but to me, autumn is the cymbal crash at the end of summer's crescendo.

Reading a Woolly Worm



The Woolly Worm, also known in some areas as the Woolly Bear, is not actually a worm. It's a caterpillar, the larva of the Isabella Tiger Moth. It has thirteen hair-covered body segments of rusty orange and black. The end segments are usually black with the orange mid section.

Okay, about the "reading" part. The legend goes like this: the more rusty segments the milder the coming winter will be so the wider the black, the more severe the winter.

There are some other caterpillars that have all white or all orange or even all black hairs. These are not woolly worms so if you spot an all black one, don't panic and start hoarding milk and bread!



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It Happened In October

October events in Kentucky's history

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author of It Happened Today! In Kentucky History

October 8 1829—Talk about the Luck O' the Irish, **Martin Beatty**, while drilling for water near **Burkesville, KY**, struck oil and thus established the world's first oil well.

October 12, 1920- **Man O' War** running his last race, defeated **Sir Barton**, the first ever Triple Crown winner, by seven lengths.

October 29, 1960 - Kentucky born Cassius Clay who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali, won his first professional fight in a six-round decision over Tunney Hunsaker. Hunsaker was the chief of police of Fayetteville, West Virginia. This was Clay's first fight after returning from the summer 1960 Olympics in Rome with the Gold Medal.

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THE WOOLLY WORM FESTIVAL

October 21-23, 2022



When & Where
This unique annual festival is always the weekend after the third Monday in October, in downtown **Beattyville, KY**. Our small town is located 20 minutes south on HWY 11 from the Beattyville/Slade Exit 33 off the Mountain Parkway.



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Visited the Gorge Underground • Listened to Live Bluegrass

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Check Page 3 or Ask One of our Staff




Okay, Let's get to the bottom of this.

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