

2009 Calendar of Events



7/31/2009

Campfire Talk: The Legend of Granny Dollar

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. Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Friday, July 31, 2009

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/1/2009

101st Dekalb County Fiddler's Convention

Fort Payne, Alabama

Saturday, August 1, 2009

12:00 Noon

Fort Payne Middle School

Admission: \$5.00 Per Person

Founded in 1908, this day long event features over 10 categories in which contestants can register to participate. It will include old-time fiddling, sacred harp music, banjos, blue grass, and much more. For more information about admission or entry fees, contact the Big Wills Arts Council at 256-845-2224.

Near DeSoto State Park
Event Address:
4910 Martin Ave NE
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Email bwac@russellgulley.com



8/6/2009 to 8/9/2009

23rd Annual World's Longest Yardsale

Travel the scenic byways of America for more than 630-miles of yard sales and unique treasure finds. Follow the Lookout Mountain Parkway from Gadsden, Alabama to Chattanooga, TN for the southern portion of the sale. Connect with the U.S. Highway 127 in Chattanooga for the remainder of the route to Defiance, OH.
August 6th-9th 2009

See <http://www.tourdekalb.com/yardsale.shtml> for more info.



8/8/2009

Campfire Talk: 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 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. Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, August 8, 2009

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/15/2009

Little River Plant Hike

Join DSP naturalist Brittney Hughes and herbalist Darryl Patton for a medicinal plant hike along the west fork of the Little River.

Moderate to difficult hike. Wear appropriate foot wear.

Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

Free to the Public/Pre-registration Appreciated.

Saturday, August 15, 2009

9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/21/2009

Campfire Talk: Rare Plants and Animals of LRC

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.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Friday, August 21, 2009

8:00 pm -9:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/22/2009

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.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!
Saturday, August 22, 2009
8:00-9:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/28/2009 to 9/19/2009

Smithsonian Institute's New Harmonies Exhibit

Whether called blues, country western, folk, or gospel, the sounds are as sweet as mountain air and as sultry as a summer night in the mountains of Alabama. American music, both sacred and secular, reveals distinct cultural identities and records the histories of peoples reshaping themselves in a new and changing world. The Smithsonian Institute's New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music, explores the growth of American music, as rich and eclectic as the country itself. The instruments vary from fiddles to banjos, from accordions to drums, and the origins of the sounds are just as diverse, from Africa to Europe to Native America. Still, all of these rhythms merge, as do the melodies and harmonies, creating completely new sounds—new music.

On August 28, 2009, the Big Wills Arts Council will open the New Harmonies exhibit for public viewing at Hunt Hall. The exhibit will remain at Hunt Hall until September 19, 2009. There will also be a number of events surrounding the exhibit exploring the music of DeKalb County.

Near DeSoto State Park
Event Address:
500 Gault Ave. North
Ft. Payne, AL 35967



8/28/2009

Campfire Talk: Invisible Wonders of LRC

JSU microbiologist Dr. Benjie Blair will explain how the creatures you can't see affect you every day. Meet the tiny microbes of Little River Canyon, and learn about the most common creatures on Earth! Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish.

In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Friday, August 28, 2009

8:00-9:00p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/29/2009

Campfire Talk: Parasites of Little River

For all those who love to splash around in local creeks and rivers, this could be important information. Dr. Benjie Blair of JSU returns to talk about more creepy crawlies that would like to make a home...inside of you!

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, August 29, 2009

8:00-9:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



8/29/2009

River Rhythms Family Fun Program: Hiss, Ssslither & Ssslide

Join Renee Morrison and others for fun nature programs that utilize music, storytelling and live critters. This program supports the Smithsonian Institute Exhibit, New Harmonies: Celebrating the Roots of American Music which is scheduled to appear at Hunt Hall in Fort Payne from August 29 to September 19, 2009.

JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

1:00 – 2:00 pm Saturday, August 29, 2009

No fee; call 256-845-3548 or 256-782-5697 for more information

Near DeSoto State Park

Event Address:

472 Alabama Highway 35
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



9/4/2009

A Tad of Jazz Concert

This program supports the Smithsonian Institute Exhibit, New Harmonies: Celebrating the Roots of American Music which is scheduled to appear at Hunt Hall in Fort Payne from August 29 to September 19, 2009.

Friday, September 4, 2009
JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL
7:00 pm
\$10 adult/students FREE; call 256-845-3548 or 256-782-5697 for more information

Near DeSoto State Park
Event Address:
472 Alabama Highway 35
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 845-3548



9/11/2009

Campfire Talk: 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!

Program will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Friday, September 11, 2009
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



9/12/2009

Woodsy Stroll-DSP

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.

Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

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

Saturday, September 12, 2009

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



9/12/2009

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.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground.

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

In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, September 12, 2009

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



9/15/2009

Joyce Cauthen Old Time Music

This program supports the Smithsonian Institute Exhibit, New Harmonies: Celebrating the Roots of American Music which is scheduled to appear at Hunt Hall in Fort Payne from August 29 to September 19, 2009.

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Call 256-845-3548 or 256-782-5697 for more information

Near DeSoto State Park
Event Address:
472 Alabama Highway 227
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 845-3548



9/19/2009

River Rhythms Family Fun Program: Shake, Rattle & Stroll!

Join Renee Morrison and others for fun nature programs that utilize music, storytelling and live critters. This program supports the Smithsonian Institute Exhibit, New Harmonies: Celebrating the Roots of American Music which is scheduled to appear at Hunt Hall in Fort Payne from August 29 to September 19, 2009.

Saturday, September 19, 2009

JSU's Little River Canyon Center in Ft. Payne, AL

1:00 – 2:00 pm

No fee; call 256-845-3548 or 256-782-5697 for more information

Near DeSoto State Park
Event Address:
472 Alabama Highway 227
Fort Payne, AL 35967
Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 845-3548



9/25/2009

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.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Friday, September 25, 2009

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



9/26/2009

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.

Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

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

Saturday, September 26, 2009

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



9/26/2009

Campfire Talk: Geologic History of LRC

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

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, September 26, 2009

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



9/28/2009 to 10/3/2009

54th Annual DeKalb Co. VFW Ag. Fair

Rides on the midway, great food, live entertainment, livestock exhibits, agricultural displays, awards, and so much more make attending this event a must for the whole family.

Held at the VFW Fairgrounds in Fort Payne.
Click here for more information about the Fair.
September 28th-October 3rd
Gates open at 5 p.m. each evening.

Near DeSoto State Park



10/2/2009

Campfire Talk: Prehistoric Cultures of LRC

JSU's Dr. Harry Holstein will fascinate you with stories of from the Ice Age to DeSoto's 16th century Spanish expedition. Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!
Friday, October 2, 2009
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/3/2009

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.

JSU's Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)
\$20 adult/\$15 child; Pre-registration is required. Fills quickly so register early!

Saturday, October 3, 2009
10:00 am – Noon AND 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



10/3/2009

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!

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

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, October 3, 2009

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

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



10/3/2009

Campfire Talk: Spanish Exploration of NE 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".

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, October 3, 2009

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

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/10/2009

Campfire Talk: Creepy Critters

Scaly! Slimy! Ugly! Scary! Join Anniston Museum of Natural History curator Dan Spaulding for an evening of live animals...the creepy kind! Kids will squeal and adults will squirm!

Program will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!
Saturday, October 10, 2009
6:00-7:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 782-5697



10/16/2009 to 10/18/2009

The 26th Annual Mentone Colorfest

This event kicks off with its traditional bonfire and storytelling in the heart of downtown Mentone on Friday night. Arts, crafts, great food, live entertainment and much more fills Mentone Brow Park Saturday and Sunday with fun and excitement.

Located 10 minutes from DeSoto State Park.

Free to the Public October 16th-18th, 2009

DeSoto State Park

Call (256) 634-9031



10/16/2009

Campfire Talk: 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 and how it might affect Alabama.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!
Friday, October 16, 2009
6:00-7:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/17/2009

Medicinal Plants of Fall Hike

Join herbalist Darryl Patton and DSP staff for a hike on the trails of Desoto State Park to see the fruits of the Fall season. Learn how to preserve herbs for the winter.

Meet at DeSoto's Nature Center.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring snacks and water for the hike.

Saturday, October 17, 2009

9:00 am. to 11 a.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/17/2009

Campfire Talk: 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.

Located at DeSoto's Campfire Ring in the Improved Campground. Seating is limited, so bring your own comfortable chair if you wish. In case of rain, programs will be held in the Nature Center (Next to the Country Store).

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, October 17, 2009

6:00-7:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/23/2009

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 her storytelling' aunt Jenny Walker Whitman.

Located at DeSoto's CCC Picnic Shelter in the Picnic Area

Free to the Public and no registration required!
Friday, October 23, 2009
6:00 pm -7:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



10/24/2009

Storytelling' Workshop

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!

\$35 per adults; \$35 per adult and \$25 per youth (not recommended for children under age 15)

Pre-registration required. Located at Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)

Saturday, October 24, 2009

10:00 am –2:30 pm

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



10/24/2009

Campfire Talk: Calico Stories

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

Located at DeSoto's CCC Picnic Shelter in the Picnic Area

Free to the Public and no registration required!

Saturday, October 24, 2009

6:00 pm -7:00 pm

DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



11/7/2009

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 the community.

No Fee; Donations welcome..

Located at the Little River Canyon center near Fort Payne.

Saturday, November 7, 2009

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



11/7/2009

Guided Archaeology Tour

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!

\$30 per person (Ages 14 and over); pre-registration required.

Saturday, November 7, 2009

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



11/14/2009 to 11/15/2009

Native American Artifact Show

Join Walt Farr in DeSoto's Nature Center to view his special collection of Native American Artifacts from all over Alabama.

Located in DeSoto's Nature Center. Free to the Public.

Friday & Saturday

November 14th & 15th , 2009

Saturday Hours: 9:00a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday Hours: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

DeSoto State Park

Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



11/21/2009

International TELLABRATION!!

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.

No-registration required. Located at Little River Canyon Center (Hwy 35 near Little River Falls)

\$5.00 per person

Saturday, November 21, 2009

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Visit www.tellabration.org for more info.

Near DeSoto State Park

Email fieldschool@jsu.edu or Call (256) 782-5697



11/26/2009

Thanksgiving Day Buffet at DeSoto State Park

Enjoy fine dining in DeSoto State Park's historic Mountain Inn Restaurant. Relax as you enjoy the wonderful view from DeSoto's main dining room & deck and let us do the holiday cooking for you!

Buffet is from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Meeting Rooms available for large groups.

Please call DeSoto's Lodge for more information.

DeSoto State Park

[Click here for more information.](#)

Email desotostld@mindspring.com or Call (256) 845-5380



5/1/2010

18th Annual Wildflower Saturday-DSP

With its abundance of rhododendron and mountain laurel, there are few places lovelier than DeSoto State Park in May. Come and spend

the day with DeSoto's naturalist Brittney Hughes, herbalists Darryl Patton & L.C. Moon and other botanists for this incredible day of flora. Day ends with a herbal plant presentation at DoSoto State Park Lodge.

Multiple hikes throughout the day.
Terrain on guided hikes vary from Easy to mildly Strenuous. Rain or Shine.

No fees or registration.

DeSoto State Park
Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025



7/3/2010

DSP's 4th of July Parade & Ice Cream Social

Enjoy good ol' fashioned fun at DeSoto State Park! Participate in the homemade-flag making contest, sit back & enjoy DeSoto's parade, & eat home-made ice cream!

More info to come at a later date!

DeSoto State Park
Click [here](#) for more information.
Email Brittney.Hughes@dcnr.alabama.gov or Call (256) 997-5025

2010 Events Coming Soon!