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Arkansas History

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Lake Ouachita State Park

Lake Ouachita State Park was created on paper in 1955, but no work was done on the park until 1965. Most of the park structures were built during the early 1970s. The park is located on the eastern end of Lake Ouachita, and it is surrounded by Ouachita National Forest. The lake is 40,000 acres and has many islands and 975 miles of beautiful shorelines. It is known for its scenic natural beauty and clear waters. It is the largest manmade lake in Arkansas and has been named one of the cleanest lakes in America. It stretches westward from the park and extends about 35 miles into the headwaters of the Ouachita River, crossing nearly half of Garland and Montgomery counties. Some popular lake activities are boating, fishing, scuba diving, skiing, and swimming. It is somewhat of a watersports mecca and it is recognized as one of Arkansas' best fishing lakes. It is stocked with bass, crappie, bream, catfish, smallmouth bass, walleye, and striped bass.

Lake Ouachita State Park is the gateway to the popular Lake Ouachita. It is just a short drive from Hot Springs. The park has many features including cabin rentals; campsites; a restaurant; a gift shop and store in the park visitor center; a full-service marina with boat rentals, bait, and supplies; hiking trails; picnic areas; a swimming area; interpretive programs; and the historic Three Sisters' Spring. Three Sisters' Spring is natural spring water which is accessible through a spring house with exhibits. The cabins available for rent are fully-equipped with kitchens. Seven overlook the lake and one has a view of the

woods. The campground has 101 campsites, 40 of which are class AAA (water and 50 amp hookups), 26 are Class B (water and 30-amp hookup), 23 are Class D (no hookups), and 12 are hike-in tent site. All of the sites have paved camping spurs and a table and grill. Modern bathhouses with hot showers and two sanitary dump stations are available.

There are two hiking trails, the Caddo Bend Trail and the Dogwood Trail. The Caddo Bend Trail is 4 miles long and runs through the forests and along the Point 50 Peninsula Shoreline. The Dogwood Trail is a half a mile loop beginning near Camp Area C. There is also a unique boating trail called the Ouachita Geo-Float Trail, which is offered by the Corps of Engineers, which booklets can be obtained at the park for. The park also provides eagle tours when the birds are wintering. Purple Martin Tours are available July through August. The park is open year round.

Photographs



Works Cited

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