

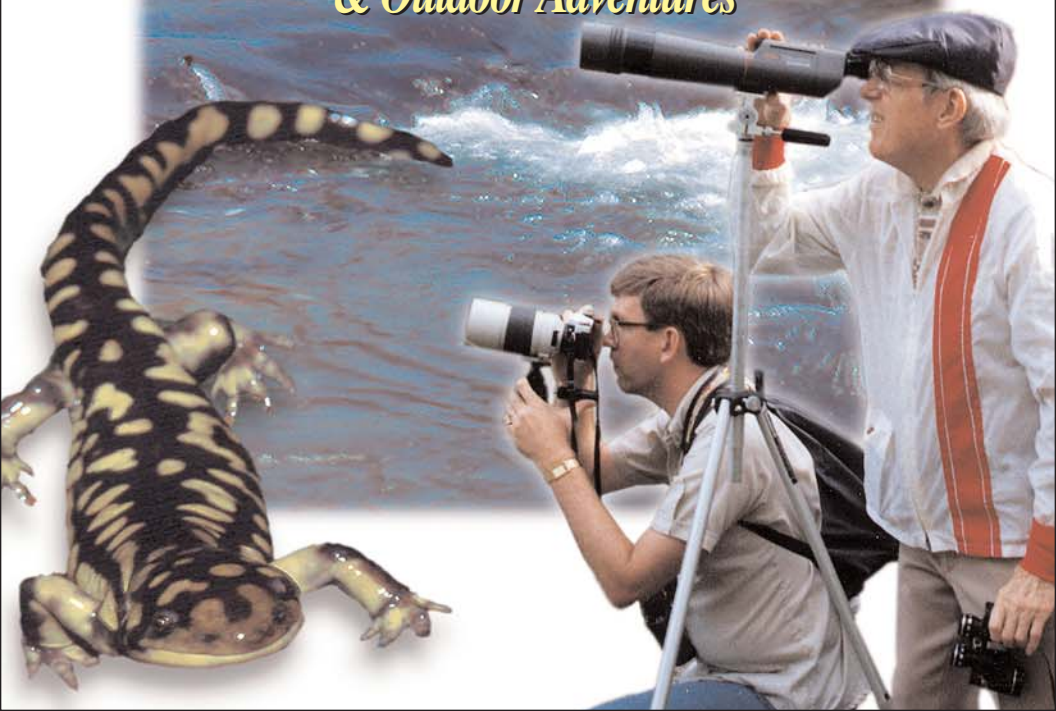


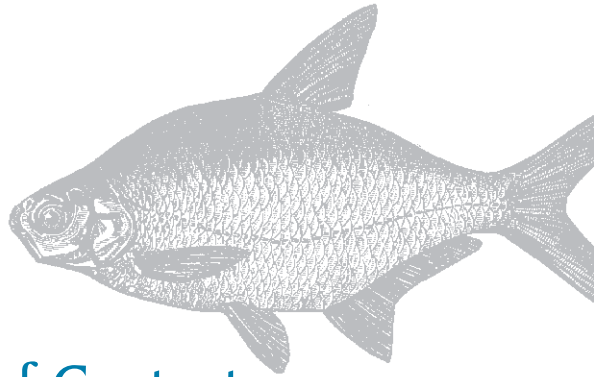
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S

Little River  
Canyon  
**FIELD  
SCHOOL**  
—2003—



*Celebrating 13 Years of Education  
& Outdoor Adventures*





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# Lectures and Chalkboards? No!

## Our classrooms include the deepest canyon and the highest mountain!

**A**fter a dozen great years of programs, 2003 promises to be the most exciting year for Jacksonville State University's Field Schools. New and growing partnerships have resulted in growth, lot's of growth, and it's all for you to enjoy!

Long-awaited equipment and a van for group transportation are now on hand or soon to be purchased. At the same time, funding is now available for the first phase of construction for our Little River facility. These achievements would not have been possible without extraordinary partnerships and support from the National Park Service, DeSoto State Park and the DeKalb County Tourist Association, as well as the business and community leaders of DeKalb and Cherokee Counties. With assistance from JSU Trustees Randy Owen and Red Etheredge, US Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions, Congressmen Robert Aderholt, Bud Cramer and (now Governor) Bob Riley, this substantial funding has been obtained for the Little River Canyon Field School.

There is a new project that may evolve into a second JSU Field School. Through a partnership with the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Choccolocco Field School and a corresponding Talladega Mountains Natural Resource Center may take root this year in Calhoun County. Please call us for more information and take note of the exceptional new programs being offered in Talladega National Forest.

Together, these field school projects will link Alabama's "deepest canyon to the highest mountains" and when connected by a scenic byway, there will exist a corridor for unprecedented economic growth through tourism. For years, JSU's Environmental Policy and Information Center (EPIC) has worked to achieve this goal. Now, with this brochure, we invite you to explore this region and sign up for our programs. With outdoor classrooms like the deepest canyon and the highest mountain, we're certain that you'll have lots of fun while you learn about the natural and cultural history of northeast Alabama. Watch our web site ([www.jsu.edu/depart/epic](http://www.jsu.edu/depart/epic)) or call us (256-782-8010) for the latest developments.

**Pete Conroy, Director**  
JSU Field Schools and EPIC

**William A. Meehan Ed.D, President**  
Jacksonville State University



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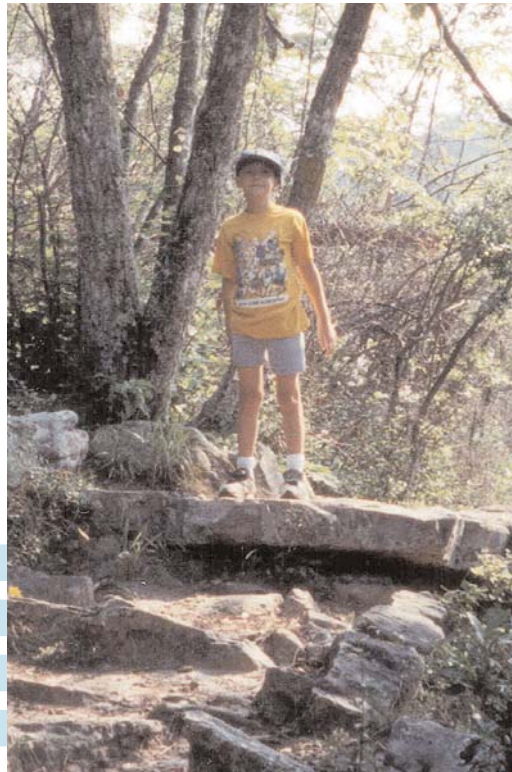
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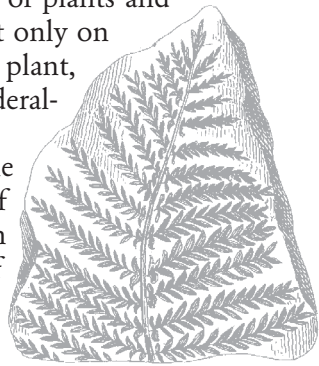
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# Natural History of Little River

The Little River Canyon area is extraordinary in both its geology and biology. As the river winds its course through the Canyon (nearly 600 feet deep at some locations), it creates a mosaic of microhabitats that support unique groups of plants and animals. A few of these are known to exist only on Lookout Mountain. In fact, a number of plant, fish, insect, and amphibian species are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

The Canyon has been described as the “Grand Canyon of the East.” It is one of the most picturesque canyon systems in the eastern United States, offering some of the deepest gorges this side of the Mississippi River. Little River Canyon has been classified as an “Outstanding National Resource Water,” which insures the strongest level of protection possible for state waterways.



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

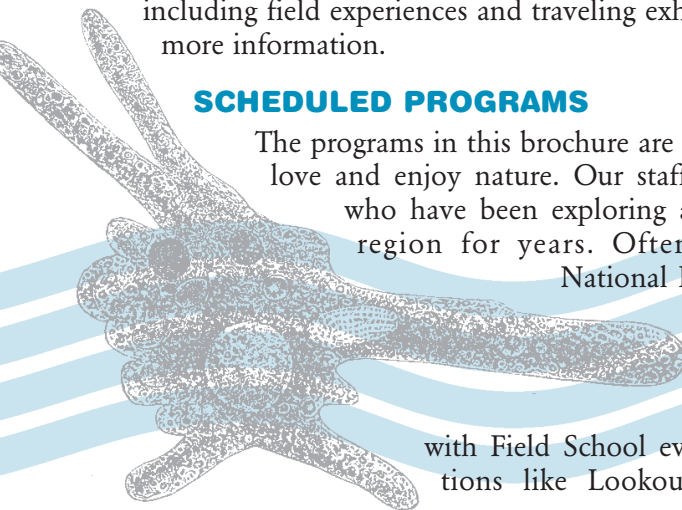
The field school staff is eager to work with your school, scout troop, club, or group in designing programs that are tailor-fitted to your needs and budget.

In the Fall of 2003, the Field School will expand its offerings to include a greater variety of programs for classrooms and schools including field experiences and traveling exhibits. Contact us for more information.

## SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

The programs in this brochure are designed for all who love and enjoy nature. Our staff consists of experts who have been exploring and interpreting the region for years. Often, both State and National Park personnel assist in presentations.

Experience the rich diversity of Northeast Alabama with Field School events at special locations like Lookout Mountain, Little



River Canyon, Choccolocco Valley, and Mount Cheaha. Taken as a whole, the field school programs stretch from the deepest canyon to the highest mountain in Alabama.

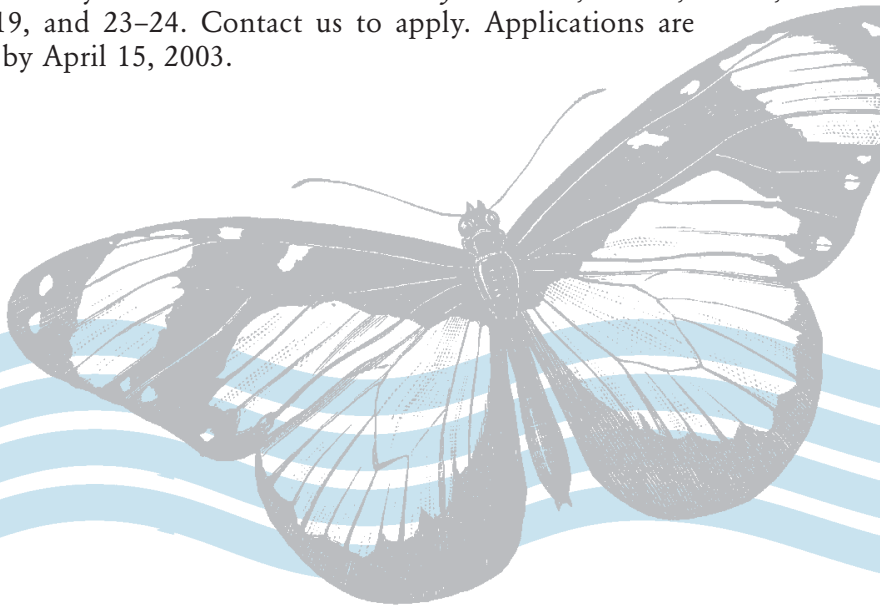
Housing, transportation, and meals are not furnished unless mentioned specifically in the program description. However, our office will gladly provide information regarding local accommodations. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are available for teacher workshops and some other events. Workshop size is limited so early registration is encouraged. Full payment is required to register for programs and cancellations must be made at least a week in advance in order to receive a refund.

**Campfire Talks:** *Evening Adventures for Everyone!*

Among the many programs we conduct in partnership with DeSoto State Park are the campfire talks and demonstrations held at the Park Campground (or at the Nature Center in case of rain). These campfire talks are offered every weekend from May to October and are free to the public. These forums provide JSU and area scientists the opportunity to share their interests, findings, and research. We hope to meet you around the campfire

**Teacher Workshops:** *From Mountains to the Sea!*

Bring nature into your classroom. These two-day all-expense-paid workshops are for K-12 educators from Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee. They will be held at DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon National Preserve on June 9-10, 11-12, 16-17, 18-19, and 23-24. Contact us to apply. Applications are due by April 15, 2003.



# Registration is easy!

Phone: 256/782-5697

Fax: 256/782-5817

E-mail: [fieldschool@jsucc.jsu.edu](mailto:fieldschool@jsucc.jsu.edu)

US mail: Little River Canyon Field School

700 Pelham Road North

Suite 246 Martin Hall

Jacksonville State University

Jacksonville, AL 36265

Visit: The second floor of Martin Hall,

Suite 246, on JSU campus

*Payment in full is required for registration. VISA and MasterCard are accepted by including the type of card, number, expiration date, and cardholder's name.*

*Please make checks payable to: Little River Canyon Field School*

*Consider becoming a*

## “Friend of the Field School”

and receive a 10% discount on programs, a quarterly newsletter, and invitations to special events! Help us continue to grow and improve.

Basic membership: \$10/person or \$20/family

Supporting member: \$25/person or \$50/family

Patron: \$100 (receive free registration to any one program)

Seasonal Member: \$200 (receive free registration to all one-day programs)

*Please make checks payable to: JSU Foundation/LRCFS (tax deductible)*

If you can't become a Friend of the Field School at this time, consider joining our free electronic network for regular monthly updates. Simply e-mail us at [fieldschool@jsucc.jsu.edu](mailto:fieldschool@jsucc.jsu.edu) with the word “subscribe” in the subject box. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential.



# 2003 Scheduled Programs

## ***Pinhoti Trail Hike: Dugger Mountain***

Join us for the first hike of the season on the Dugger Mountain portion of Alabama's longest hiking trail. The Pinhoti was designated by the White House as a National Millennium Trail in 2000. Botanist Francine Hutchinson and Naturalist Matt Beall will lead you on this beautiful hike through the Appalachian foothills. Bring a daypack with lunch, water, and snacks. Be sure to check weather forecasts and dress accordingly. This is a moderately strenuous hike that requires some experience. Pre-registration is required.



- Date:** January 25, 2003  
**Where:** Meet at Martin Hall,  
JSU (directions furnished upon registration)  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 & under

## ***Little River Winter Hike***



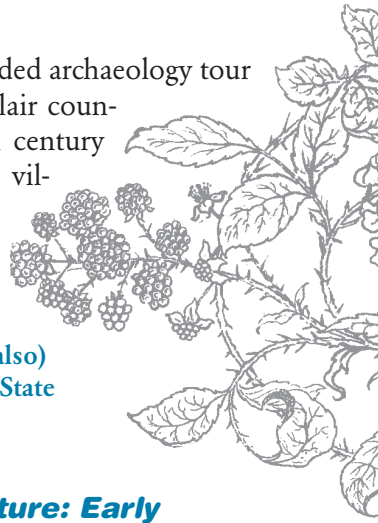
Experience the challenge and splendor of Little River as Geologist Kelly Gregg and Naturalist Matt Beall guide you on a 6-mile adventure from DeSoto State Park to Straight Creek. A daypack with food and water are necessary. Sturdy boots and layered clothing are highly recommended. This is a moderately strenuous hike requiring some experience and preparation. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** February 8, 2003  
**Where:** Meet at DeSoto State Park  
Nature Center  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 &  
under

## **Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun and St. Clair Counties**

Come along with JSU's 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. This will be an unforgettable and exclusive all-day event. Participants should bring their own food and drinks. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** March 8, 2003 (see October 11th also)  
**Where:** Meet at Martin Hall, Jacksonville State  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$25/person



## **Frog Pond Adventure: Early Spring**

One of our most popular events of the year! We now offer two opportunities to experience “love” from a frog’s point of view. Join the one-and-only, “Dr. Frog” George Cline, for an unforgettable evening of wild stories and songs of frogdom from the first amphibian voices of the season. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** March 8, 2003 (see May 24th program also)  
**Where:** Frog Pond (directions given upon registration)  
**Time:** 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$5/adult, \$1/children 12 & under

## **Deep Canyon Hike**

This is the most challenging hike of the year! Join Kelly Gregg and Matt Beall for an unforgettable view of one of our own natural wonders, Little River Canyon. It will begin at Powell Trail and end at Eberhart Point. This hike requires sturdy boots and tough clothing, a hearty lunch, a lot of drinking water, snacks, and excellent stamina and endurance.



Participants will be asked to sign a special rescue waiver in the event of an accident or exhaustion. Pre-registration is required. An experience of a lifetime!

**Date:** April 5, 2003  
**Where:** Little River Canyon  
(directions furnished upon registration)  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$10/person

### ***Edible Plant Workshop***

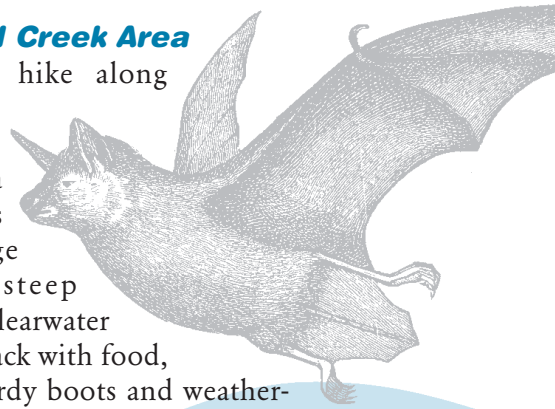
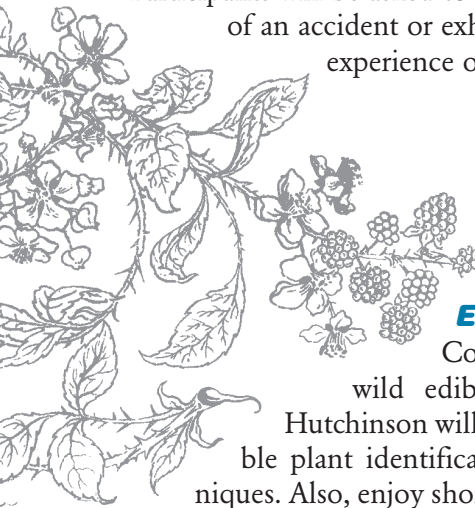
Come discover the abundance of Spring wild edibles in Northeast Alabama! Francine Hutchinson will lead this workshop that will feature edible plant identification, collection, and preparation techniques. Also, enjoy short hikes to find wild edibles and an afternoon session on preparation. Bring what you'll need for light hiking, and a lunch. Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** April 12, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Nature Center  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$20/person

### ***Pinhoti Trail Hike: Shoal Creek Area***

This moderately strenuous hike along Shoal Creek will cover the beautiful middle section of the Pinhoti Trail in Talladega National Forest. Join us as spring unfolds amidst huge bottomland hardwoods, steep mountainsides, and tranquil clearwater lakes. Hikers will need a daypack with food, water, drinks, and snacks. Sturdy boots and weather-appropriate clothing are recommended. Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** April 19, 2003  
**Where:** Talladega National Forest (directions furnished upon registration)  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 & under



## **Mountain Longleaf Pine Workshop: Family Camping Weekend!**

Bring the entire family or a group for a weekend of recreation and learning fun! In this festival of biodiversity, vital components of the mountain longleaf ecosystem will be observed. Learn about: roots, shoots, and fruits; birds, bivalves, butterflies, and bats! Be prepared to hike and get wet during the day. At night, you will learn about campfire cooking and capturing bats. A special children's workshop will also be provided. Itinerary will be mailed upon registration. Campsites are limited so register early. Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** April 26–27, 2003

**Where:** Talladega National Forest  
(directions furnished upon registration)

**Time:** Meet at 9:00 am Saturday, leave at 12:00 pm Sunday

**Fee:** \$12.00/campsite + \$5/person (paid to JSU)

## **DeSoto State Park Wildflower Saturday**

Treat yourself to a bloomin' spectacular spring sight! With its abundance of rosebay and mountain laurel, there are few places lovelier than Little River Canyon in May. Assistant State Park Superintendent Ken Thomas and State Lands Botanist Steve Threlkeld will lead a series of easy hikes for your viewing and walking pleasure. Bring a lunch or eat at the lodge.

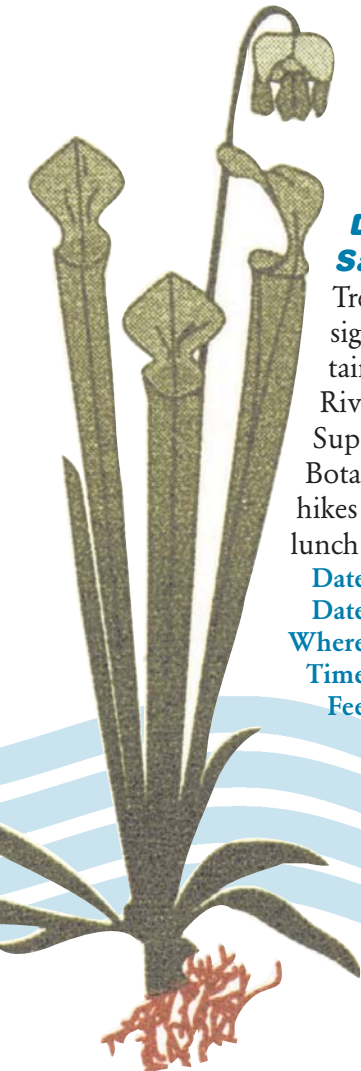
**Date:** May 3, 2003

**Date:** May 3, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Nature Center

**Time:** 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration



## **National Park Service Wildflower Saturday**

Experience the wildflowers of the Canyon with National Park Interpreter Larry Beane. Choose between a morning and an afternoon session. Dress for the weather and bring water, binoculars, and a camera! Good hiking boots recommended. Meet at the Beaver Pond Trail Head (under the power lines, on AL 176, one mile south of AL 35).



- Date:** May 3, 2003  
**Where:** Little River Canyon National Preserve  
**Time:** 9:00 – 11:30am or 12:30 – 3:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Endangered Species Monitoring**

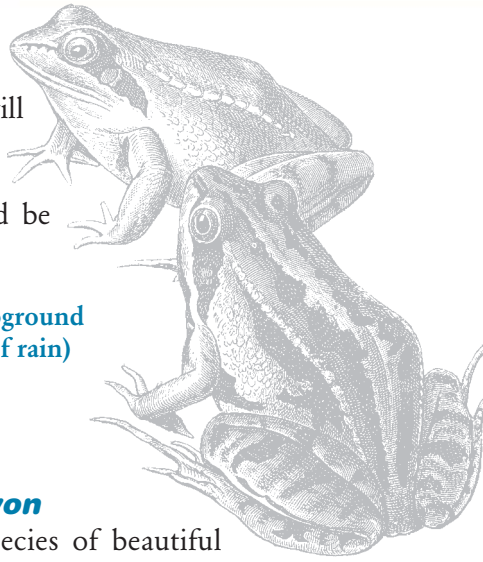
Join the US Forest Service in helping protect the federally endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. In this extraordinary hands-on program, you will participate in nest monitoring by learning tree climbing techniques, bird banding, how to use a peeper scope, and how to create an artificial cavity or “home” for the birds. Ecology of the species will be explored and you will be eligible to join the “Adopt-a-Woodpecker” program. Participants will become qualified to assist the USFS in RCW nest monitoring. Bring lunch and water. Enrollment is limited to 25 persons. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** May 10, 2003  
**Where:** Talladega National Forest (directions furnished upon registration)  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$5/person (paid to JSU)

## **Reptiles and Amphibians of Little River Canyon**

Field School Coordinator Matt Beall will teach you all about the “herps” of Little River Canyon. Live specimens will be presented. Bring a camera and be prepared to get up close and personal.

- Date:** May 16, 2003
- Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time:** 8:00 – 9:00 pm
- Fee:** No fee or registration



## **Songbirds of Little River Canyon**

It's that time of year when many species of beautiful songbirds migrate and return from the south! Guntersville State Park Naturalist Linda Reynolds will teach you about visiting and resident avian species.

- Date:** May 17, 2003
- Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Beginning Bird Identification**

On this driving tour through Talladega National Forest, you will stop at birding “hot spots” in the forest and learn to identify birds by their songs, calls, and by sight. Don't miss this chance to view the unique birds of the Shoal Creek Ranger District including the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and the Red Crossbill. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be provided. This program will train you to be an American Birding Association volunteer and assist the US Forest Service in bird research. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** May 24, 2003
- Where:** Talladega National Forest (directions given upon registration)
- Time:** 6:00 am – 10:00 am
- Fee:** \$5/person (paid to JSU)



### ***Frog Pond Adventure: Late Spring***

- Date:** May 24, 2003 (see March 8th program)  
**Where:** Frog Pond (directions given upon registration)  
**Time:** 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm  
**Fee:** \$5/adult, \$1/children 12 & under

### ***Old-time Natural Remedies***

Learn how our ancestors used the native plants of Little River Canyon to cure their ills. Join Alabama Botanist Francine Hutchinson for a presentation of local healing herbs, and how you can grow many of them yourself.

- Date:** May 30, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

### ***Medicinal Plants Workshop***

For centuries, local residents have used the hundreds of different species of medicinal plants found in our forests. Come learn about them with Alabama Botanist Francine Hutchinson. This workshop will include demonstrations, short hikes, and instructions on how to make herbal preparations. Sustainable, legal collection is emphasized, along with guidelines from herbalist organizations. Participants should bring a lunch and other light-hike needs. Pre-registration is required.



- Date:** May 31, 2003  
**Where:** Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$20/person

## ***Edible Plants of Little River Canyon***

There are many wild plants that have a wide range of uses—some taste great, some can cure your ills, but some can kill! Join Francine Hutchinson for a presentation on what's safe and tasty, and what's not.

**Date:** May 31, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

## ***Venomous Organisms of Alabama***

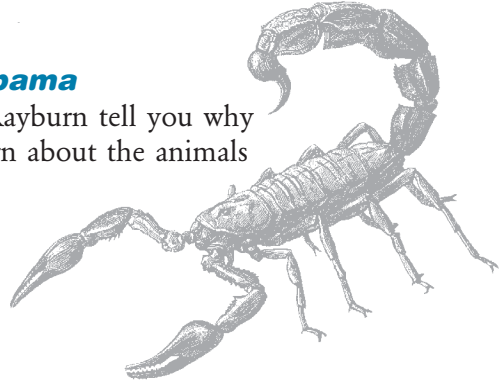
Come hear JSU Toxicologist James Rayburn tell you why you need to “beware out there.” Learn about the animals that can cause pain and agony.

**Date:** June 6, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

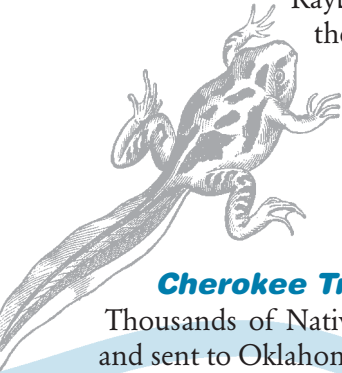
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration



## ***Amphibian Metamorphosis: From Egg to Frog, What a Leap!***

Learn how frogs transform from egg to tadpole to adult. JSU's James Rayburn explains how, why, and what happens along the way.



**Date:** June 7, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

## ***Cherokee Trail of Tears***

Thousands of Native Americans were taken from their homelands and sent to Oklahoma on this infamous historic trail. Kelly Gregg will share the story of this tragic chapter in our nation's history.

**Date:** June 20, 2003 (see October 24th also)

**Where:** Desoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration



## ***Geologic History of Little River Canyon***

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

- Date:** June 21, 2003 (see October 25th program)  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## ***Tiny Wonders of Little River Canyon***

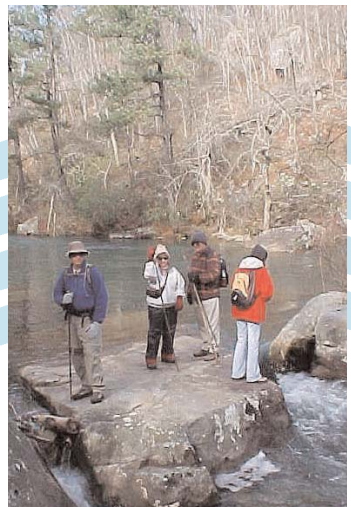
JSU Microbiologist Benji Blair will explain how the creatures you can't see affect you every day! Meet the tiny microbes of Little River Canyon, who really run things!

- Date:** June 27, 2003 (see October 10th program)  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## ***Parasites of Little River***

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

- Date:** June 28, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration



### **Archaeology of Our Local National Parks**

National Park Interpreter Larry Beane will tell about life around Little River Canyon and Russell Cave from the earliest people to more recent discoveries of the past. Don't miss this program!

- Date: July 4, 2003
- Where: DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Fee: No fee or registration

### **Cherokee Folklore**

Join JSU's Randy Davis to explore Cherokee myths and tales, including stories of creation, Trickster, and Spearfinger.

- Date: July 5, 2003
- Where: DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Fee: No fee or registration

### **Nature Camps for Kids**

Learn about nature while having fun! Day campers will use hands on science, math, and geography to explore and discover the world around them. Hikes, crafts, games, live animals and field trips are only some of the activities that will entertain and educate these young participants. Enroll early, as we can only accept a limited number of campers in each of the four separate day camps.

- Dates: July 7–11 (ages 7–9, 10–12) and July 14–18 (ages 7–9, 10–12)
- Where: Martin Hall, Jacksonville State
- Times: Drop off 8:00 am – 9:00 am
- Pick up 4:00pm – 5:00 pm
- Fee: \$120/child



### ***Native American Pottery Workshop***

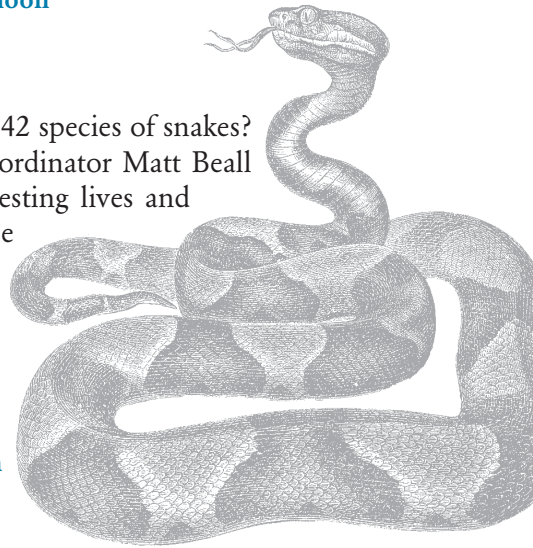
Prehistoric pottery expert Tammy Beane will teach you to make clay pinch pots like those made on Lookout Mountain thousands of years ago. We'll provide the clay as well as bone needles and paddles to make designs on your pots. A handout will be provided on the firing techniques discussed in the workshop. Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** July 12, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Main Pavilion  
**Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
**Fee:** \$10/person

### ***Snakes of Alabama***

Did you know that Alabama has 42 species of snakes? Come listen to Field School Coordinator Matt Beall as he tells you about their interesting lives and dispels many myths about these fascinating reptiles.

**Date:** July 12, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park  
Campground  
(Nature Center in  
case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or  
registration



### ***Rare Plants and Animals of Little River Canyon***

Little River Canyon is home to over to 100 rare species. National Park Ranger Larry Beane will introduce you to some of these. Some children will get to “feed” a model of our local carnivorous plant, the green pitcher plant.

**Date:** July 25, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center  
in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Plants and Humanity**

Learn how plants make Earth habitable for all species—including us! JSU botanist Safaa Al-Hamdani will explain the essential mysteries of the human/plant relationship.

- Date:** July 26, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Constellations from the Canyon**

An out-of-this-world experience! JSU Astronomer Laura Weinkauff will explore the science and myths of the constellations visible from Little River Canyon.

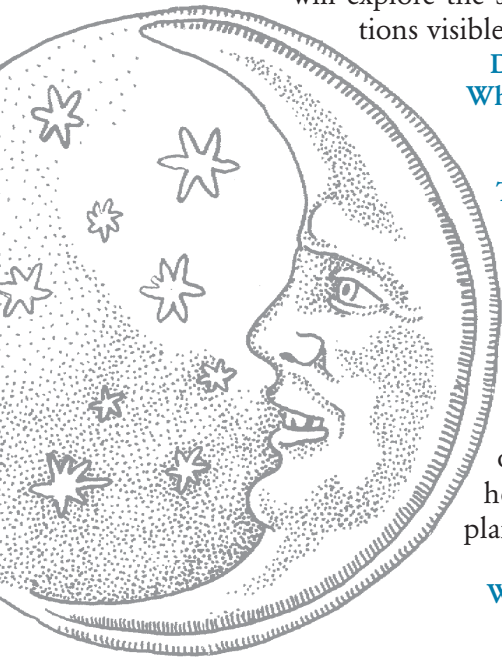
- Date:** August 1, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Moon Views**

The waxing crescent Green Corn moon provides the backdrop as Astronomer Laura Weinkauff reveals the science and mysteries of our closest celestial neighbor. Learn how the moon influences tides, plants, and animals.

- Date:** August 2, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

- Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration



### **Voices of the Night**

JSU Herpetologist George Cline will delight us with frog songs and stories. “Dr. Frog” is especially tuned in to the manners and melodies of these amorous amphibians and will have the place hop-pin’ with enthusiasm for helping herps!



**Date:** August 15,  
2003

**Where:** DeSoto State  
Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

### **How Species Become Endangered**

Ever wonder why some plants and animals are labeled as endangered? Curator Dan Spaulding of the Anniston Museum of Natural History will share stories of species that are threatened and how he works with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect them. Participants will encounter live examples of endangered species and their relatives.

**Date:** August 16, 2003

**Where:** Desoto State Park Campground (Nature Center  
in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

### **Alabama’s Endangered Mollusks**

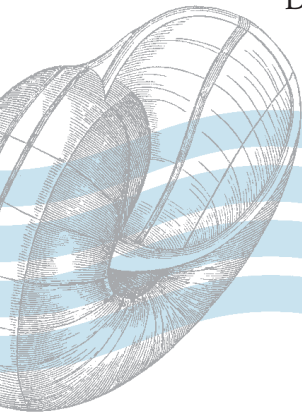
Did you know Alabama experienced one of the biggest extinction events of all time in the 1900’s? JSU Biologist Frank Romano will share his deep understanding of mollusks and other aquatic species.

**Date:** August 22, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground  
(Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

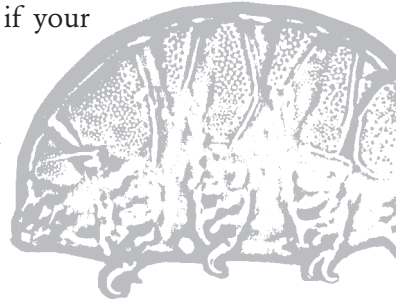
**Fee:** No fee or registration



## ***Bear Hunt: The Extreme Lifestyle of Tardigrades***

Biologist Frank Romano will share his expertise and passion for the little known and poorly understood microscopic animals called water bears or tardigrades. See life as if your whole world was a tiny lichen colony!

- Date:** August 23, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground  
(Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration



## ***Native American Bow Making***

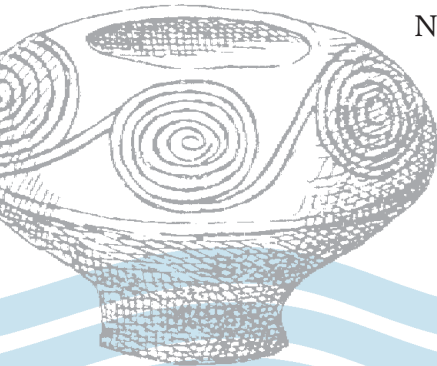
Gene Houston, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement for the Alabama Department of Conservation, will demonstrate different skills and ways to construct modern bows. Learn about the best materials and methods for making your own.

- Date:** August 29, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center  
in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## ***Native American Tools and Weapons***

National Park Service Ranger Larry Beane will demonstrate the art of flint knapping and fire making. Enlighten yourself with skills as old as the hills.

- Date:** August 30, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park  
Campground (Nature  
Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration



## **Prehistoric Cultures of Little River Canyon**

From the Ice Age to the 16th century Spanish expedition of DeSoto, Little River Canyon and Lookout Mountain are rich in the heritage of native peoples. JSU's Harry Holstein will fascinate you with stories of the earliest inhabitants of the region. Archaeological data from nearby sites will be included.

- Date:** September 5, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground  
(Nature Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00pm – 9:00pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Spanish Exploration of Northeast Alabama**

The first Europeans to explore the mountains of Alabama were Hernando de Soto and Tristan de Luna. JSU's Harry Holstein will take you through their amazing adventures, and the modern day search for the Aboriginal town of "Coosa". Archaeological data of nearby Spanish contact sites will be included.

- Date:** September 6, 2003  
**Where:** Desoto State Park  
Campground (Nature  
Center in case of rain)  
**Time:** 8:00 – 9:00pm  
**Fee:** No fee or registration

## **Casual Canyon Hikes**

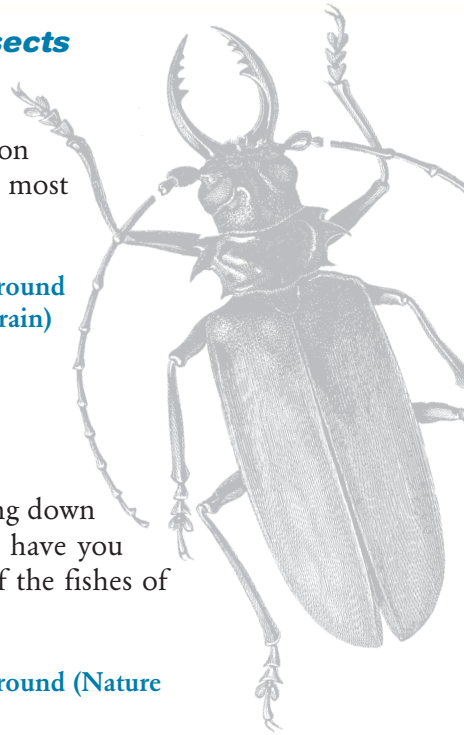
Enjoy the natural beauty of Little River Canyon as Fall colors begin to glow on a series of easy hikes with the Field School Staff. Highlights will include the Canyon's sandstone rocks, fossils, river views, and signs of resident animals. Fall wildflowers and fruits will be on full display. Pre-registration required.

- Date:** September 20, 2003  
**Where:** DeSoto State Park Nature Center  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 12 pm and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
**Fee:** \$5/person for one hike and \$8/person for both hikes

### ***They're Everywhere: Native Insects***

Ever wondered what use there is for all those stinging, biting, crawling, irritating critters? JSU Entomologist Cole Benton will discuss the fascinating role of the most dominant class of animals in the world.

- Date: September 20, 2003
- Where: DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Fee: No fee or registration



### ***Fishes of Little River***

You might be amazed at what's swimming down in the Canyon! JSU's Mark Meade will have you hooked on the diversity and lifestyles of the fishes of the Little River.

- Date: September 27, 2003
- Where: DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time: 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Fee: No fee or registration



### ***Invisible Wonders of Little River Canyon***

Same as June 27th program.

- Date: October 10, 2003
- Where: DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Fee: No fee or registration

### ***Guided Archaeology Tour of Calhoun and St. Clair Counties***

Same as March 8th program. Pre-registration is required.

- Date: October 11, 2003
- Where: Meet at Martin Hall, Jacksonville State
- Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Fee: \$25/person



### ***Birds of Prey***

Join Field School Director Pete Conroy for an evening of fun and live raptors. Meet some of Alabama's most impressive birds of prey, up-close and personal. Learn to hoot and hear wild stories about owls, hawks, falcons, and others.

**Date:** October 11, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

### ***Legends of the Canyon***

Enjoy an evening of stories with Francine Hutchinson. Hear legends of Native Americans and early pioneers, and learn about the old times and old ways on Lookout Mountain.

**Date:** October 17, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

### ***Creepy Critters***

Just in time for Halloween, Stephen Faughn brings all of his scary friends from the Anniston Museum of Natural History! Are you brave enough to join him?

**Date:** October 18, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration



### ***The Cherokee Trail of Tears***

Same as June 20th program.

**Date:** October 24, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)

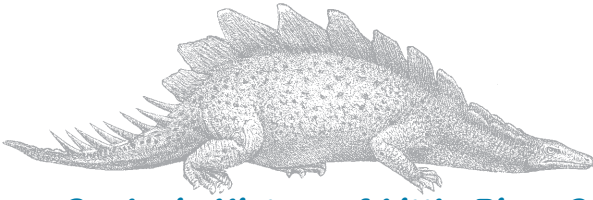
**Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Fee:** No fee or registration

### **Forest on Fire**

Join the Alabama Forestry Commission and a team of USFS wild land firefighters and biologists as they illustrate the methods and techniques of prescribed fire in Southern forests. The emphasis will be on the history and ecology of fire as a natural agent. This hands-on program will also cover prescribed fire plans and tools. Participants will receive training to assist the Forest Service in the Forest Burn Monitoring Program. Bring lunch and water. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** October 25, 2003
- Where:** Talladega National Forest (directions given upon registration)
- Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Fee:** \$5/person (paid to JSU)



### **Geologic History of Little River Canyon**

Same as June 21st program.

- Date:** October 25, 2003
- Where:** DeSoto State Park Campground (Nature Center in case of rain)
- Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Fee:** No fee or registration

### **Fall Color Tour: Shoal Creek**

Take a driving/hiking tour of the Shoal Creek Ranger District and discover unique areas that are rarely seen by the public. Learn about the ecology and geology of the national forest as the flora and fauna changes from the bottomlands to the ridge tops. The district archaeologist will also highlight the colorful cultural heritage of the area. Bring a lunch, water, field guides and a camera as we explore the breathtaking scenery of autumn in the forest. Pre-registration is required.

- Date:** November 1, 2003
- Where:** Talladega National Forest (directions given upon registration)
- Time:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Fee:** \$5/person (paid to JSU)



### **Landscaping with Native Plants**

Learn to plan, design, and develop a wildflower/native plant garden. Join Bill Martin and other native plant gardeners to hear a variety of approaches to plantings, species, and designs. After lunch, we will plant an assortment of native flowers, shrubs, and trees at DeSoto State Park. Bring appropriate clothing and a lunch (or eat at the park restaurant). Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** November 1, 2003

**Where:** DeSoto State Park Nature Center

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Fee:** \$10/person

### **Fall Color Hike: Lookout Mountain**

What a wonderful time for a hike! The weather is great and the hills around DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon are covered with fading reds, oranges, and yellows. Bring a daypack with lunch, snacks, water, and other personal needs. A camera and binoculars are suggested. Dress for the weather. Comfortable shoes are recommended. The hike will be moderately strenuous. Pre-registration required.

**Date:** November 8, 2003

**Where:** Meet at DeSoto State Park Nature Center

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Fee:** \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 & under

## ***Pinhoti Trail: Heading South***

Our last hike of the season takes us to the southern end of the trail. Join us as we reach toward the highest point in the state. This is a moderately strenuous hike. Bring a daypack, water, lunch, and snacks. The leaves will be falling and the views will be spectacular so you may want to bring a camera.

Pre-registration is required.

**Date:** November 15, 2003

**Where:** Meeting place to be announced (directions furnished upon registration)

**Time:** 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Fee:** \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 & under



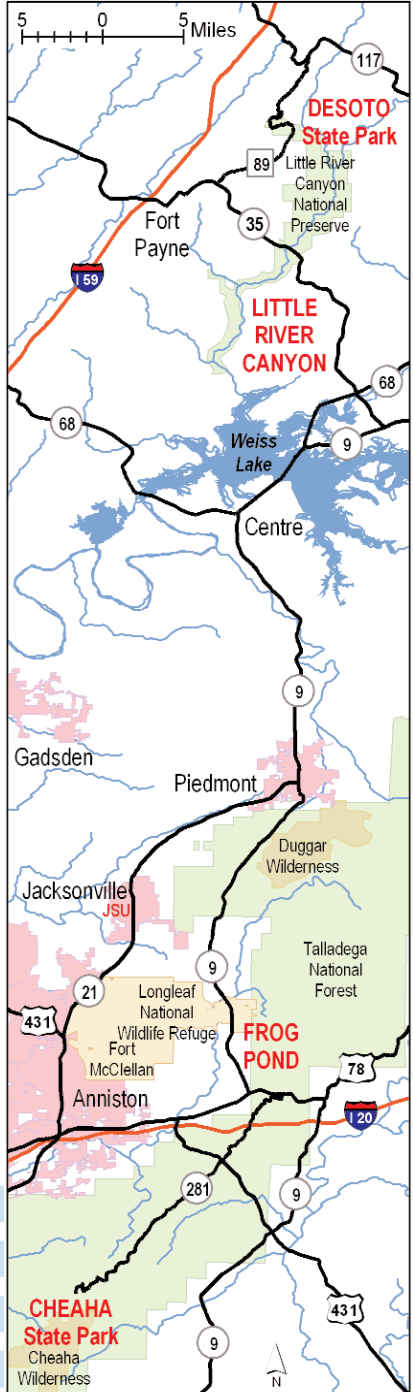


JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Alabama STATE PARKS



## ANNISTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Dr. M. H. Hill, PES, JSU, 1/13/03

# Acknowledgements

The Field Schools are indebted to the JSU Board of Trustees, Congressmen Robert Aderholt, Bud Cramer and Mike Rogers, US Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby, State Senator Lowell Barron, and State Representatives Lea Fite and Richard Lindsay for their exemplary support. The Field Schools could not exist without governmental partners like the Alabama State Parks, the National Park Service, and business partners such as Alabama Power and the Alabama Farmer’s Federation. Special thanks are also due to the many individuals and organizations that remain committed to the goals and growth of LRCFS.

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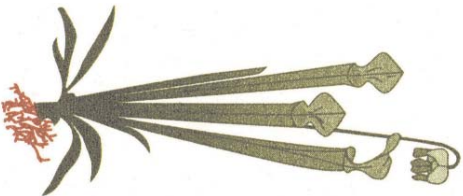
## **Field School Staff**

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Ms. Denise Davis, Secretary	



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY'S

Little River  
Canyon  
FIELD  
SCHOOL



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