

Mt. Ida

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VISITOR'S GUIDE

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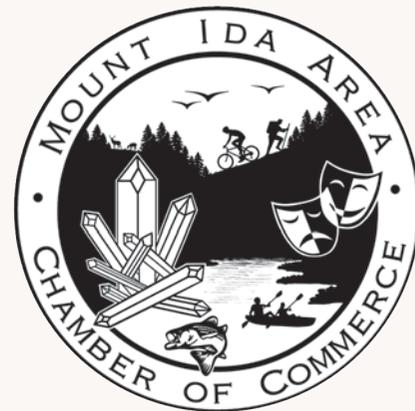
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Welcome TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY



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What's Inside this guide?

If you are looking for a beautiful, quiet place to relocate or for a temporary respite from the hustle and bustle of your daily life, Montgomery County could be the answer to your dreams. The only county in Arkansas without a single stoplight, life in Montgomery County is just about as casual now as it was a hundred years ago.

Whatever your interest or reason for visiting, let the table of contents guide you to things to know, see, and do in Montgomery County, Arkansas.

On these pages you will find information about all Montgomery County has to offer...from fishing and hunting, and hiking and biking; to pristine forests and lakes, and fast-flowing rivers and streams; to crystal mining and musical events. Whether looking for a specific activity or event or searching for a unique getaway, we encourage you to read the entire guide cover to cover and keep it around all year for useful reference.

ON THE COVER



Lake Ouachita
Photo by
Kelly Qualls

Our cover photographer Kelly is a resident of Hot Springs. In addition to being a talented photographer, Kelly is also a pilot. Kelly enjoys taking photos of our beautiful area from both the air and the ground!

You can view more great photos from Kelly on Instagram @ [kq_pictures](https://www.instagram.com/kq_pictures)

Montgomery County, ARKANSAS

Located near the center of the Ouachita National Forest, about 85% of Montgomery County is national forest land.

Montgomery County encompasses 806 square miles, making it one of the largest counties in the state with the smallest overall population with fewer than 10 people per square mile. Mount Ida is the county seat.

Montgomery County has four seasons with an average winter snowfall of 4" per year. the average temperature is 68 degrees, and Spring, Summer, and Fall far outlast the cold days of Winter.

Visitors to Montgomery County have easy access on US Hwy 270 which runs east/west through Montgomery County. The Mount Ida Bearce Airport is located east of Mount Ida on Hwy 270 and provides a landing strip for small planes. The Ouachita River, Caddo River, and the Little Missouri River flow into Montgomery County making it the only county in Arkansas with three rivers within its borders. All of these rivers flow from the west and can be floated by canoe, kayak or small boat.

Drop by the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center on Hwy 270 and see a map of the world pinned to reflect how far some of our visitors have come.

Some come to dig for the abundant high quality quartz crystals found in the area and perhaps participate in the annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig.

Others are fascinated with the history of the county as represented in the Heritage House Museum, Lum and Abner Jot-Em Down Store and Museum, and other monuments scattered throughout the county.

Still more come to hike and bike on the Womble, Ouachita National Recreation Trail and LOViT, all IMBA Epic Trails, or relax and float on our crystal-clear rivers and Lake Ouachita.

Blessed with four resorts, a plethora of cabins and RV facilities, a few restaurants, and plenty of friendly folks, you will always find a comfortable place to rest, put up your feet, and stay for awhile in Montgomery County, Arkansas.



Photo by Tom Byrd

Mount Ida?

What's in a... Name?

Arkansas was just a territory in 1835 when an adventurous Granville Whittington left Boston, Massachusetts, and became one of the first settlers in what was then Sulphur Springs Township in a settlement called Montgomery.

It was a year later, in 1836, that Arkansas became a state. Montgomery County was formed six years after that from territory taken from Hot Spring County. The settlement of Montgomery then became the county seat. In June of that same year, 1842, Whittington established the first post office in the county and named

it Mount Ida after a girls' school in the Boston area and also a mountain near Troy in Asia Minor.

Whittington was the first postmaster of the Mount Ida post office which was located on his farm one and a half miles east of Montgomery. In time, the post office was relocated to the clerk's office in the "County House" in Montgomery.

In July of 1850, the Montgomery County Court briefly changed the name of the county seat from Montgomery to Salem, but this name

lasted only a few short months. In October of 1850, Salem was changed to Mount Ida, the same name used by the town and local post office today.

From 1835 to now, descendants of Granville Whittington have continued to play a major role in the development of Mount Ida and Montgomery County, contributing a great deal more than a post office and a name. To find out more, check out the two volume publication "Our Heritage, the History of Montgomery County," at the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County in Mount Ida.

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THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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No matter what town you choose to visit in Montgomery County, you're sure to find colorful stories, welcoming smiles, and a little bit of history.

So, lean back in your chair, read these amusing anecdotes, and then...

follow the trail.

Mount Ida

Dick Whittington, a descendant of Mount Ida founder Granville Whittington, owned a drug store in town. The antique back bar and soda fountain that were once an integral part of Whittington's old drug store may still be found at Shack Attack Pizza on the courthouse square.

The marble syrup pumps were encased in the center of the back bar so that ice could be placed behind the pumps to keep the syrup cool.

Whittington gained fame during World War II for a deed performed while he served as a medic in Japan after the surrender.

General Tojo, the mastermind of the Pearl Harbor attack, attempted to commit suicide

after Japan's defeat. Had he succeeded, Tojo would have been a hero to the Japanese, but Dick Whittington administered the plasma that saved Tojo's life.

Tojo was later executed for war crimes, and the Japanese defeat in World War II was complete.

Several Mount Ida stories recount escapades of the Sheriff's department, or rather the Sheriff's wives...

While the sheriff and others were looking for an escaped convict, he was hiding out in the sheriff's house. The sheriff's wife proceeded to capture the convict. Many people wondered if the wrong member of the family had been elected sheriff.

Another sheriff's wife returned home from shopping to find a man they knew passed out on her dining room table, dead drunk. When aroused, the man stated that he knew he was drunk and thought that the sheriff would take him to the jail and lock him up, but while he was waiting for the sheriff, he got sleepy.

Luke Warneke, one of the best storytellers in the Ouachita Mountains and father of pro-

fessional baseball pitcher Lon Warneke, would tell of a bear hunt near what is now the Albert Pike Recreational Area in the southern part of the county.

After wounding the bear, the hunters saw the leg of a bear sticking out of a cave. They decided to get a team of oxen and pull the bear out of the cave. One man lassoed the bear's leg; the oxen gave a jerk on the rope and out came the bear. It was a female, guarding her cubs.

The oxen took off, pulling the bear. The yoke broke and the oxen parted ways with the bear. The bear got loose and went back to her cave. All the while, the hunters were so excited and it happened so fast, they couldn't get off a shot.

Norman

The town of Norman is South of Mount Ida on Hwy 27. Norman was called Womble until the 1920's when a gentleman named Norman provided money for the town at a time when it was badly needed.

A small building in the center of the Norman town square is a still operational, albeit tiny, library. This building, along with the square and the rock

fence surrounding it, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Another interesting place in Norman is the old school building, formerly the Caddo Valley Academy. It is currently being restored and will feature classrooms furnished in period furniture for the years the school served the community.

Next to the school are the remains of the dormitory where those students who were orphans or who lived too far to walk to the school stayed. A book telling the history of the school is available and makes an interesting read for those who like this type of history. Norman is also home to the Caddo Indian Memorial.

Caddo Gap

Caddo Gap is about five miles past Norman on Hwy 27 and got its name from the narrow passageway, or gap, the Caddo River had cut through the mountains. The current town is a few miles north of this gap. You will find an Indian statue commemorating Caddo Gap as the western-most point reached by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto in 1541.

Across the road from this stat-

History Trail

ue is a walkway created to honor the graduates of Caddo Gap School. There is a lovely waterfall fountain and path for a leisurely walk.

Black Springs

A traveler may go west of Norman on Hwy 8 to the town of Black Springs, and then on to Mena in Polk County. When visiting this area, stop at the Scott cemetery and check out the tombstone with the inscription "SAM'S LEG." Sam Swindle, one of the early settlers, lost a leg to osteomyelitis in 1922. As was the custom of the time, the leg was buried in the Scott Cemetery on Hwy 8 near the Swindle farm. A tombstone was placed over this site, and later, Mr. Swindle was buried next to his leg.

In gratitude to the doctor who saved his life, Sam bought him a recliner. When the doctor died in 1960, Mr. Swindle sat at the doctor's graveside, crying, "Just look at me; he saved my life and now I can't help him!"

Joplin/Lake Ouachita

East of Mount Ida on Hwy 270 in Joplin, visitors should take a drive up to Hickory Nut Mountain Vista for a scenic panorama of Lake Ouachita. The Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences in Hot Springs, AR takes an annual trip to Hickory Nut Mountain to view the stars as an astronomy project.

After viewing Lake Ouachita from the Vista, stop at one or several of the marinas located in this area. Don't forget to try a slice of one of the

best pies in the state at Shangri-la Resort!

Pencil Bluff

Pencil Bluff is west of Mount Ida at the fork of Hwy 270 and Hwy 88. Originally named Sock City, the town had areas where loggers from nearby camps would come to gamble. These loggers would carry their money in a sock because when the inevitable fight broke out, they could grab their sock of money and run.

When the town wanted a post office, they changed their name because they did not think the U. S. government would give a post office to a town named Sock City. Thus, Pencil Bluff was named for the slate bluffs near the town where school children would get slates to write on or some would carve pencils from the slate.

Oden

If you take Highway 88 at Pencil Bluff, you will shortly arrive at Oden, once the largest town in the county. It was the home of Ode Maddox, a member of the Arkansas legislature for many years. Mr. Ode, as he was known, was a staunch defender of the rights of small towns and schools. He also served Oden School as coach and teacher in early days.

An interesting story in Oden lore tells of a bank robbery. Jack Plemmons, or Little Jack, was a clerk at the bank. During the heist, the stocking-capped bank robbers stole a car and took about \$1000 and Little Jack. A forest ranger thought to stop them and shot into the car, hit-

ting Little Jack in the arm. The robbers pushed Plemmons out of the car, breaking his arm.

When asked if he wanted to stay in the hospital, Little Jack said he wanted to catch the robbers. Ranger Howell, another forest ranger, could imitate people's voices, so when Little Jack identified two of Howell's voice imitations, the officers went to a local farm and caught both robbers. They were cousins and were hiding out with relatives.

Pine Ridge

Continue on Hwy 88 and you will reach what is probably the best-known town in Montgomery County, Pine Ridge. Originally known as Waters, the name of the town was changed in honor of a radio program.

The "Lum and Abner" show was a popular radio show of the 1940's. Chet Lauck and Norris (Tuffy) Goff created these characters for an appearance on a Hot Springs radio show. The characters caught on. Lauck and Goff made several movies as well as broadcasting daily shows.

Today, there is a museum and store in Pine Ridge dedicated to "Lum Eddards" and "Abner Peabody." If you listen closely, you can almost hear the phone being answered, "Jot 'em down store, Lum and Abner here!"

FOLLOW THE TRAIL

- About 13 miles east of Mount Ida on Hwy 270, just a mile west of the Montgomery County line, turn north on Hickory Nut Mountain Rd to the top of Hickory Nut Mountain for a spectacular view of the lake.
- Return to Hwy 270 and go west to Mount Ida to see the courthouse, the courthouse fence, and the Front Porch. Just across the street you can get a slice of pizza and see the historic soda fountain.
- Spend some time at the Heritage

- House Museum just on the edge of town on Hwy 27S. Talk about history!
- Drive on out Hwy 27S to Norman and then turn left at the one Norman stop sign onto Hwy 27/Hwy 8. Here you can see the Caddo Indian Memorial and the old Norman High School renovation.
- Just a bit further down Hwy 27/Hwy 8 at Caddo Gap, see the Caddo Indian Monument.
- Backtrack to the stop sign in Nor-

- man and head left on Hwy 8 to Black Springs and the Scott Cemetery.
- Finally, head back to Hwy 27N to Mount Ida and then head west on Hwy 270 to Pencil Bluff. You'll go over both Mauldin Mountain and Blowout Mountain on your way to Pencil Bluff.
- Turn left on Hwy 88 in Pencil Bluff and head to Pine Ridge for your last stop at the Lum & Abner Jot 'Em Down Store.

Montgomery County



Photo by Ken Lund

NOT JUST a Summer Place

Some people think of Montgomery County as a summer vacation/recreation area, but with the development of hiking and biking trails, and more exposure being given to activities such as digging for quartz, that impression is changing. Each year, more and more visitors come to the area on a year round basis.

Mount Ida is the county seat of Montgomery County and is situated on the south fork of the Ouachita River. The county was established on December 9, 1842 and named after Gen. Richard Montgomery, a hero of the American Revolution. It is the 45th county in the state.

This area of the Ouachita Mountains was originally home to the Caddo Indians who established a

number of villages along various rivers including the Caddo. The county has a rich history highlighted in monuments and articles throughout this guide.

Camping and fishing on Lake Ouachita's 66,324 total acres and roughly 970-mile shoreline can be enjoyed in all seasons of the year although it will likely remain a predominantly summer activity, even as off season recreation activities gain popularity.

Montgomery County visitors are recipients of the work of visionaries who took advantage of opportunities that became available when Lake Ouachita was created in the 1950s. Those early developers anticipated a need for cabins and motel rooms for those who did not own or wish to buy campers. They also realized that not everyone would want to cook over a

campfire or camp stove, but would prefer sitting down to a well-prepared meal in a restaurant heated in cold weather and cooled in the warm summer season.

Soon after the lake's creation, Shangri-La Resort and Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa were created. They were followed in later years by other fishing resorts such as Hwy 27 Fishing Village and Lake Ouachita Shores, also on the south side of the lake. They have succeeded and flourished in good seasons and bad by offering good value and friendly service to both in-state and out-of-state visitors to the area.

Fishing is a pastime enjoyed by locals who know just the right place to catch bream, crappie, bass and other tasty fish. But not to worry, several local fishing guides are more than happy to show visitors the best fishing spots. Many visitors come to Lake Ouachita in the late winter months to catch those fighting Striped Bass which take more work to land but give a sense of satisfaction when the angler is finally able to hoist the catch over the side of a boat.

Montgomery County visitors

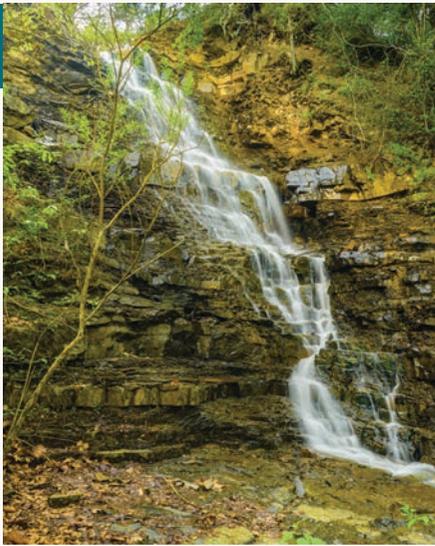
can take advantage of Joplin, Tompkins Bend and Denby Point full-service campsites operated by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. In addition, there are a number of more isolated campsites on the north shore of the lake. These sites are within close driving distance of Mount Ida and can be found at Big Fir and Little Fir off Hwy 27, as well as Twin Creek, which is located just off Hwy 270 between Joplin and Mount Ida.

Beaches for swimming or just relaxing along the lakeshore are located in most of the U.S. Corps of Engineers recreation areas. There are many sites located along various rivers and streams in Montgomery County that offer both camping and canoeing on the Ouachita, Little Missouri, and Caddo rivers. Many of these are reservable. Camp ground contact information is available on page 46 of this guide.

Rental equipment is available for most lake activities. It is possible to rent fully-equipped fishing boats, ski boats, jet skis, party barges and houseboats by the day or for longer periods. For those who wish to enjoy the lake at a more leisurely pace, paddle boats are also avail-



Photo by James St. John



able.

The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail, (LOViT) is Montgomery County's newest hiking and mountain biking trail. The 45-mile-long trail is helping establish the county as an emerging destination for outdoor enthusiasts who wish to take advantage of the natural beauty of the mountains, valleys and streams along the trail's course.

LOViT has its first trailhead just off Shan-

gri-La Road, approximately 10 miles east of Mount Ida and 25 miles west of Hot Springs. It winds its way along the south shore of Lake Ouachita and offers both moderate and difficult terrain as it crosses Hickory Nut and Bear Mountains before ending at Blakely Dam in Garland County.

There are a number of parking lots along the trail that allow visitors to hike or bike various sections of the trail to tailor an outing to fit the visitor's available time and stamina. Visit the LOViT website <http://lakeouachitavistatrail.com> for details.

In addition to the LOViT, the Ouachita Trail runs across the county on its journey from Tallihina, OK to near Little Rock.

Quartz deposits found in Montgomery County were a mainstay for production of quartz suitable for use in radio oscillators during World War II. Quartz production is primarily geared for tourists now, but still allows the

county to bill itself as the "Quartz Crystal Capital of the World."

Visitors can spend as much or as little time as they wish mining for quartz crystal at public quartz sites on U.S. Forest Service land or a number of privately operated mines. If actually digging for quartz is not appealing, you can take advantage of quartz shops that offer a wide variety of locally-mined quartz crystals.

From camping to canoeing, hiking or mountain bike riding or digging for quartz crystals, visitors to Montgomery County can easily spend a day, a week or even longer enjoying lo-

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Montgomery County

FOREST, RIVERS, LAKES, & TRAILS

*in a
nutshell*

The Ouachita National Forest & Trails

The Ouachita Mountains are unique in that they are one of very few mountain ranges in the United States to trend east to west. Most ranges trend north to south. The Ouachita Mountains were formed over 200 million years ago. The Ouachita National Forest was created in 1907 as the Arkansas National Forest and renamed the Ouachita National Forest in 1926. The majority of the land in Montgomery County is part of the Ouachita National Forest.

The forest is home to many types of animal and plant life, meandering creeks and rivers, and many hiking trails. Visitors to the forest will find themselves in a populated area and then, within minutes, in a remote wilderness. Dispersed through the forest and streams of the county are deposits of minerals, the most notable of which is quartz crystals.

Two unique structures are found off Forest Service Road #177 northeast of Norman, Arkansas, in the southern part of the county. These are the Collier Springs Shelter and the Crystal Springs Camp Shelter and Dam. These structures are found on the National Register of Historic Places and were built between 1925 and 1949 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC.

These two springs provided travelers and settlers with clear, cool, pure drinking water. It was near Collier Springs that the first white settlers made their home in Montgomery County. Martin Collier and his family settled near here

in 1812. Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County has reference books on Montgomery County genealogy for those who are interested in family histories of residents.

Another building on the National Register of Historic Places can be found at the county seat, Mount Ida. The Womble District Administration Building for the Womble District of the National Forest Service was built near the same time as the Collier Springs and Crystal Springs structures. The Civilian Conservation Corps also constructed the administration building. The Heritage House Museum has photographs of CCC camp workers and many of the buildings and structures they built.

For those visitors who love to hike and commune with nature, there are several trails with varying degrees of difficulty located here. Before hiking the trails of Montgomery County, visitors might want to check with the National Forest Service or the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce for maps of the area. Also, there are several websites and books that offer information about these areas.

The most well known trail is the Ouachita Trail, which stretches from Wilhelmina Mountain on the border between Arkansas and Oklahoma to Pinnacle Mountain near Little Rock, the state capital. This trail can be accessed in several places for day hikes.

The Womble Trail, an IMBA Epic trail, stretches from Highway 27, in the northern part of the county, southward to the Ouachita River. It intersects the Ouachita Trail and the two merge before separating later. In the western part of

the county the Brushy Mountain Trail and the Serendipity Trail provide hiking opportunities.

The LOViT, also an IMBA Epic trail, stretches 45 miles along the Ouachita lake-shore from the Denby Point campground to the Blakely Dam in Garland County. The LOViT is remarkable for its accommodation of short, more casual hikes on the west end and long, tough trails to the east.

For visitors to the southern part of the county, the Albert Pike Campground provides the Little Missouri Falls Trail, a loop to the falls, and the Winding Stair Trail, which covers the 1700 acres of the campground bordering the Little Missouri River. This campground was named after Albert Pike: poet, traveler, military man and politician. Albert Pike lived near here for a short period of time.

The Ouachita Mountains were once covered with virgin timber, and the logging of this timber was a major economic factor in the county. While logging still exists on a smaller scale, visitors might want to visit the site of Mauldin, a logging town built by the Caddo River Lumber Company, and once the largest town in the county.

A visit to the Ouachita Mountains and Ouachita National Forest gives a view of the many natural resources of the county, including the many wild flowers and plants of the area. Wild blackberries, huckleberries, and raspberries are found in abundance. Raspberries are also known as the “Bramble of Mount Ida.”

They have this name not from Mount Ida, Arkansas, but from a place in Asia Minor where they were first discovered. Early settlers depended on these wild fruits plus fish and game to supplement their diets. Today hunters come from all over the state to hunt deer, turkey, and even bear.

Lake Ouachita and the Rivers of Montgomery County

Lake Ouachita is located in Montgomery and



Useful mountain, river & lake websites are:

<http://www.arkansas.com/>
<http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/>
<http://www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ouachita.htm>

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Garland County. Created in the 1950s, it is one of the largest and cleanest lakes in the United States and provides some of the best fishing and water recreation in the world. Several major fishing derbies are held on the lake during the year, and almost any time one can see fishermen trying their skill.

The Corps of Engineers created the lake as a flood-control measure. The land along the shore of the lake belongs either to the Corps of Engineers or is part of the Ouachita National Forest. Marinas and development are prohibited on the lake proper and are located on coves off the main body of the lake.

The lake has many islands that make excellent camping areas for boaters. The Corps of Engineers provides campgrounds along the lake. Highway 298 parallels the north side of the lake and U.S. 270 parallels the south side of the lake.

The main source of water for the lake is the Ouachita River. The Ouachita River is an excellent canoeing stream with forest service

campgrounds and access points, but the Little Missouri River and Caddo River are also excellent for paddling. One interesting area is "Drag Over" on the Ouachita. Accessed by road from Highway 88 between Washita and Sims, this area got its name from the fact that boaters can take out on one end of the campground and "drag" their boat over a short distance to save several hours of paddling.

Across the river from "Drag Over" is "River Bluff." While only the river separates the two areas, one must drive more than 20 miles by road to get from one to the other.

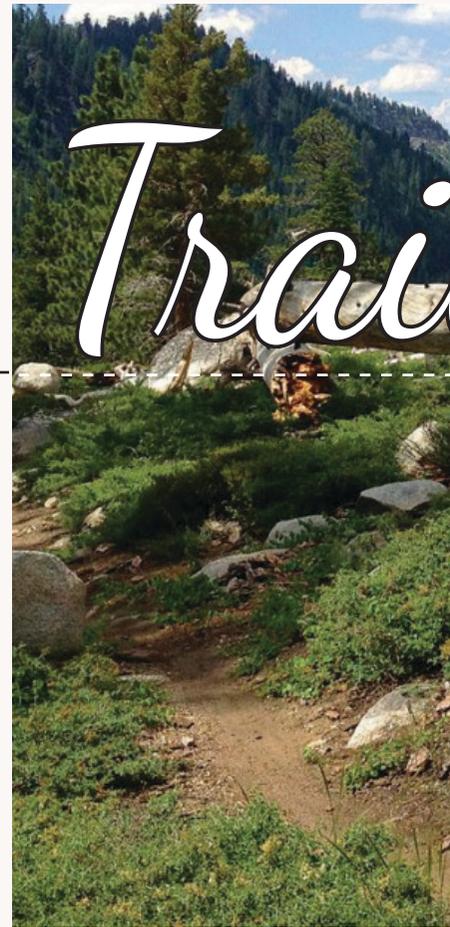
The bridge on Highway 27 marks the end of the Ouachita River and the beginning of Lake Ouachita. Along with the Ouachita River, Montgomery

County has two other rivers that give delight to canoeists and kayakers. The Little Missouri River, located in the Albert Pike Campground and the Caddo River, located near Norman and Caddo Gap, are both interesting streams. The Caddo is especially floatable in early spring, and late fall, or anytime there has been a good rain.

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RELAX. REPLENISH. REJUVENATE.

AND THEN There are the



Arkansas is the Natural State, and few areas within her borders can boast more year-around natural beauty than Montgomery County. Visitors travel here to enjoy her clear lakes and abundance of free-flowing streams and rivers that invite fishing, backpacking, day hiking and canoeing.

Hiking and biking tourism are rapidly growing in popularity, both for casual hikers and for those who travel from all over the U.S. and a number of foreign countries to make multi-day hikes or rides. In addition, the area continues to develop a reputation for trail races ranging from short runs to endurance events of up to 100 miles.

IMBA Epic Trails

Arkansas boasts five Epic Trails overall, three of which are in Montgomery County. The Ouachita National Recreation Trail, the Womble Trail, and the LOViT. The remaining two Epic Trails lie within driving distance of Montgomery County and include the Sylamore, near Mountain View, and Upper Buffalo trails further north in the Ozark Mountains.

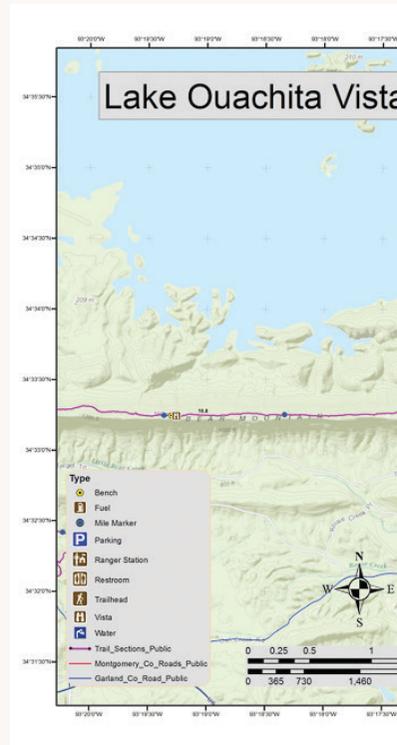
Montgomery County has been designated as one of the top 10 weekend bike destinations in North America, and ranks number two on that prestigious list based on the variety of terrain, but additionally due to its relatively close proximity to cities of 100,000 or greater population.

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT)

One of the most popular hiking and biking trails in Montgomery County is the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail, most commonly referred to as the LOViT, which stretches approximately 45 miles along Lake Ouachita, tying together trailheads at the recreation areas and resorts on the south side of lake.

Construction of the trail was a 10-year project spearheaded by the Trail Dogs, a group of local volunteers, who coordinated the project with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Arkansas

Highway and Transportation Department, Montgomery County Quorum Court, and other interested groups.



<http://lakeouachitavistatrail.org>

http://friendsot.org/about_the_trail/

<http://www.ouachita.org>

ails



designated by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) as one of three Epic Trails in the county. One of the advantages of the LOViT is that the legs at the west end are well adapted to shorter and easier hikes and the legs in the east become tougher and more steep as the trail approaches the dam.

The Ouachita National Recreation Trail

The trail systems are experiencing increasing attention as both casual and competition runners and bikers discover the beauty and varied terrain to be found locally. The Ouachita National Recreation Trail stretches 223 miles through scenic mountains and valleys of the Ouachita and Kiamichi mountains. The Kiamichi Mountains are located in Oklahoma and touch the Ouachitas in neighboring Polk County.

Serious hikers can traverse the Ouachita trail from its beginning at Pinnacle Mountain State Park near Little Rock and hike or bike through Montgomery County to the trail's end at Talihina, OK. Approximately 192 miles of this trail

are on U.S Forest Service land as it crosses the state.

The Womble Trail

The Womble Trail, a 35-mile point-to-point with an 8 mile loop at its northeastern terminus, is one of the best single-track biking trails in the area. Switchbacks are used to keep grades manageable, and the trail surface is uniform hardpack with a few rocky stretches.

Even beginners will seldom have to portage, unless they are not in peak physical condition to handle the climbs. Local mountain bike riders often encourage others to use the Womble since it is a perfect trail for novices to experience their first taste of single-track riding. It crosses roads at regular intervals, giving new riders an opportunity to bail out if the trail proves too much for them. Rarely will you

find a trail that traverses such rugged terrain and is still relatively easy to ride.

The Womble is considered by many to be the jewel of the Ouachita Mountains as far as biking trails go. This is by far the most famous trail in the state with folks driving in from all over the country to try this epic ride. It is also the key element of the Ouachita Challenge and Womble Classic Mountain Bike Race held each year.

The Womble Trail can be accessed at the Highway 27 Fishing Village trailhead which is 7 miles northwest of Mount Ida on Highway 27N, which makes it easy for locals and visitors to enjoy and still return home or back to town or the lake to further enjoy a full day of adventure.



The trail begins at Shangri-La Road on Highway 270 and ends at Avery Park near the Lake Ouachita Spillway and Dam and has been



chitaadventures.com/Trails/Womble/womble.html

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Fishing Paradise Found!

Montgomery County is the only county in Arkansas to be home to three rivers: The Ouachita, The Caddo, and The Little Missouri. These swift, clear, cool rivers with amazing scenery and wildlife are ideal for floating in a canoe or rafting, and of course, fishing.

The three rivers are home to a large variety of fish: large- and small-mouth bass; world-class striped bass, bream, crappie, walleye, and catfish. A special spear-fishing season is even available.

Lake Ouachita, a Corps of Engi-

neers lake, is the largest man-made lake in Arkansas and consistently ranks in the top 10 largemouth bass lakes in the U.S.

This lake is also consistently ranked as one of the cleanest lakes in the U.S. Lake Ouachita has almost 1000 miles of shoreline, covers 49,000 acres, and ranges from 50-100 feet in depth.

Local residents, including 2x Bass Pro Angler of the Year Mark Davis, recognize the bounty of fishing experiences available here in Montgomery County as do visitors who return year after year to enjoy world class fishing on our rivers and lake.

While fishing in the Montgomery County area use the Geo-Float Trail. This is a marked water trail used in conjunction with a brochure, which will allow you to locate geographic features of the waterways.

Of course, private fishing guides available at the area marinas and resorts will happily steer you to your dream fishing vacation, too.

Resorts, motels, primitive to full-service campgrounds, marinas, and boat ramps are all available throughout the county to make Montgomery County your angler's vacation paradise.

Hunting with the Big Dogs!

Photo by Kelly Qualls



Montgomery County is home to numerous types of game, everything from squirrels and rabbits to black bears and whitetail deer.

Located within Zone 11 of the Arkansas Game and Fish Regulations, the Ouachita National Forest is a 1.8 million acre hunter's paradise!

And... Montgomery County is located within the Ouachita National Forest and home to The Little Fir and Big Fir Landings, Brushy Creek Recreation Area, Fulton Branch Campground, and Muddy Creek Wildlife Management Area in addition to many other hunting areas.

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HUNTING

In 2019, Montgomery County recorded 2,112 whitetail deer harvested. In the same year, the Ouachita Region recorded 1,386 turkeys harvested, ranking the 3rd highest in Arkansas.

In 2018, 189 bears were harvested in Zone 2 (the black bear region) and ranked 2nd in the state. Of those 189 bears, 12 were harvested in Montgomery County

The Montgomery County area is also home to outstanding waterfowl opportunities. On the area waterways, hunters will find Canadian Geese, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Coots, and Pintails just to name a few. The area waterfowl hunting season varies and includes a youth hunt. For more information on hunting and fishing opportunities in Arkansas and Montgomery County, visit the Arkansas Game and Fish website at www.agfc.com.



Photo by Jaymie Lott

WHITETAIL DEER PICTURED



Photo by Kelly Qualls

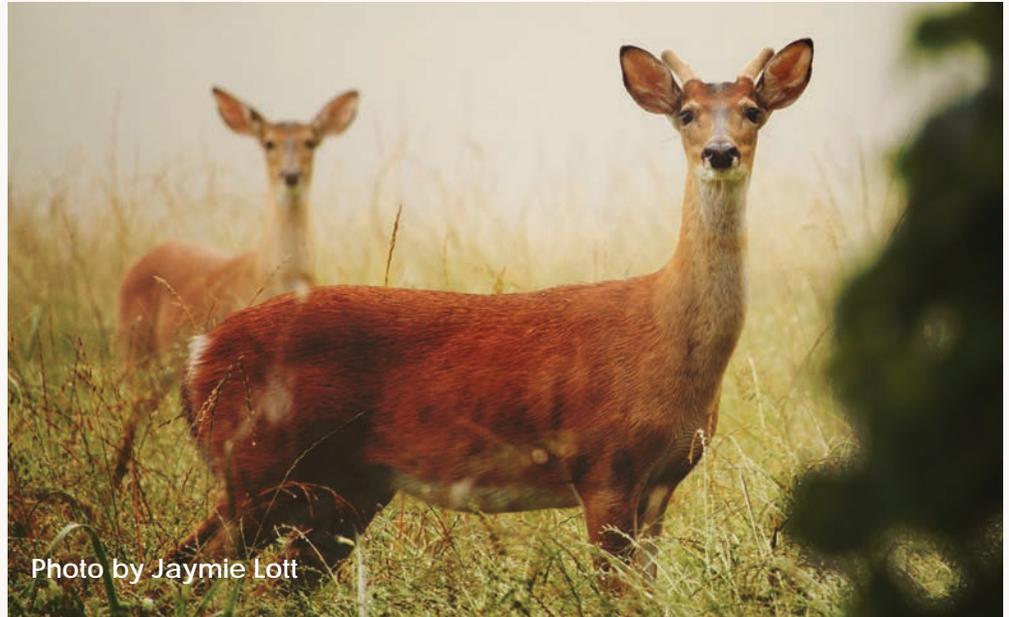


Photo by Jaymie Lott

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G0651

FLEA MARKETS

& Antiques

MOUNT IDA FLEA MARKET
224 Hwy 270 West
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7549

The Mount Ida Flea Market offers a wide variety of merchandise, striving for something for everyone in the family. Collections include a huge display of cast iron, antiques, old and usable tools, dishes, collectible glassware, quartz crystals, costume jewelry, thousands of books and postcards, paper memorabilia, bottles, furniture, DVDs, fishing lures, McCoy knives and other knives, Arkansas whetstones, and more. Changes daily.
OPEN THURSDAY - SUNDAY, 10:00-6:00.

MELBA'S ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES
2346 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0173

Antiques and collectibles. Buy and sell glassware, pottery, porcelain, books, rustics, primitives, furniture and more. Big yellow building located just 3 miles east of Mount Ida with plenty of parking and wheelchair accessibility. Will stay late or open early for you. Give them a call. Bargains, Bargains, Bargains!
OPEN DAILY 10:00-5:00.

MARILYN'S OLD COUNTRY HEALTH FOOD STORE & RV PARK
3551 Hwy 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0168

While Marilyn's Old Country Store is filled with health foods, herbs, nutritional supplements, various vegetables (both fresh and frozen), eggs, cheese, tea and coffee plus many Arkansas products, she also has a small section of antiques and collectibles. Plus full RV camping sites are available. Located on Hwy 270E near the airport, next door to the Crystal Inn.

GAP MERCANTILE
35 Vaught St.
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
870-356-3909

Gap Mercantile, located in Caddo Gap, AR is an old fashioned general store featuring products from local craftsmen, jellies and preserves, antiques and more. And if you need lodging, there is a lovely cottage rental available as well. Give Gary a call for more complete directions.
OPEN JUNE - OCTOBER, TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 -4:00.

Looking for Old Stuff?

We all have our special interest and Montgomery County offers plenty of diversity. Some folks are looking for a nice, long hike or bike ride on a trail. Others are hunters or fishermen. Still others want to be active on the water, boating or swimming, or just sitting around a campfire by the water enjoying the beauty and relaxation. But a few want to wander around and look at old stuff while others want to go antiquing.

Technically, an antique is a collectible object such as a piece of furniture or work of art that has a high value because of its considerable age. Many seem to be interested in an antique, particularly if the seller doesn't recognize the value and a great deal can be made.

However, you may just be looking for flea market treasures, old furniture you can use for a particular purpose, a piece of art you admire, or other decorative items you can imagine looking great in your home. And of course, old dishware, pottery, jewelry and even cast iron may be of interest to you.

If old stuff is your interest, allocate some time to visit the Chamber members highlighted above. They will be glad to see you. Take note of each business's hours of operation.

Melba's Antiques & Collectibles
Antiques & Collectibles
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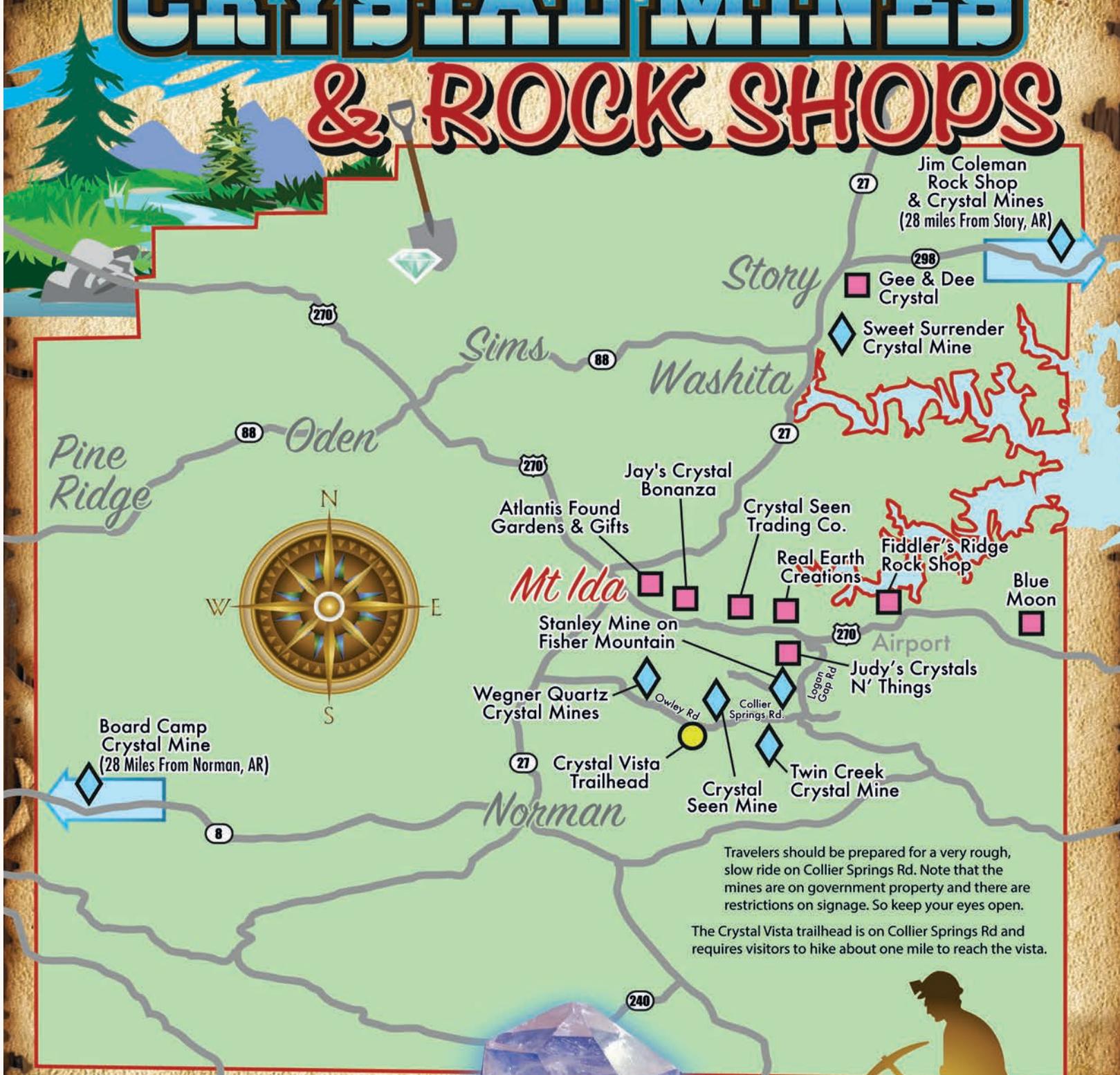
Mount Ida Flea Market
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Saturday
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Mount Ida, AR 71957
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Montgomery County

CRYSTAL MINES

& ROCK SHOPS



Jim Coleman
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Creations

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Rock Shop

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Moon

Mt Ida

Stanley Mine on
Fisher Mountain

Judy's Crystals
N' Things

Wegner Quartz
Crystal Mines

Crystal Vista
Trailhead

Crystal Seen
Mine

Twin Creek
Crystal Mine

Board Camp
Crystal Mine
(28 Miles From Norman, AR)

Travelers should be prepared for a very rough, slow ride on Collier Springs Rd. Note that the mines are on government property and there are restrictions on signage. So keep your eyes open.

The Crystal Vista trailhead is on Collier Springs Rd and requires visitors to hike about one mile to reach the vista.

- Crystal Shop
- Crystal Mine
- Not a mine but rather an area in the National Forest where visitors can pick up crystals on the ground free.



QUARTZ CRYSTALS

the history and the FUN



Montgomery County and Mount Ida are located in the Ouachita Mountain region of Arkansas. Known as fold mountains, the Ouachitas are uniquely rich in naturally occurring quartz crystal veins due to the geological process of their creation. Long ago the movement of continental plates caused layers of sedimentary rock to rise from the shores of an ancient ocean called the Ouachita Basin.

As continental plates converged, layers of sedimentary rock were squeezed together. They buckled, folded, and were pushed upward. In the process, cracks formed and were filled with mineral rich fluids



the earth. Under high pressure at high temperatures quartz crystals formed from these fluids creating what we refer to today as quartz crystal veins. While quartz can be found in a number of locations throughout the United States, the quartz crystals mined in the Ouachita Mountains are unparalleled in both quantity and quality.

Over the years many quartz crystal mines in the area have come and gone as the nature of quartz crystal mining has changed from the commercial mining of quartz as a wartime necessity to modern day uses in jewelry, interior design, rockhounding collections, and for metaphysical

purposes. During World War II, the piezoelectric properties of quartz were used as a means of controlling the frequencies of radio transmitters and receivers. Today, most of the quartz extracted from the Ouachita Mountains is used for decorative and metaphysical purposes.

A number of local mines are open to the public year round allowing visitors to dig quartz crystals for a small fee. All area mines are above ground surface or open-pit mines. The digging experience varies from hunting through tailing piles to working in hard rock.

Mining is dirty work. Digging for crystals often involves digging in red, iron rich, clay which will stain clothing. Visitors should be prepared to wear old clothes and gloves. Crystals are sharp! Characteristics of the quartz varies at each mine based on the mine's geographic location. Visitors are encouraged to dig at more than one mine during their stay to enjoy the variety of digging experiences and crystal characteristics available.

Along with the various opportunities for rockhounders to dig for crystals, Mount Ida also offers many local opportunities to shop for crystals, gems, minerals, and fossils.

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Annual World Championship QUARTZ CRYSTAL DIG



WHAT WILL YOU DIG UP?

In 2021 The World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig will be held in conjunction with the new Three Rivers Heritage Festival on September 24 - 25 this year in downtown Mount Ida.

Known as the Quartz Crystal Capital of the World, this will be the 33rd year this event has been hosted in Mount Ida and Montgomery County. Previously held on the second weekend in October, this competitive dig attracts over 100 amateur rockhounds from around the country and globe.

The Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig is a two-day amateur crystal digging competition for adults and young miners (ages 17 and under) sponsored by the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce. Rockhounds have come from as far away as Japan to compete and dig for the quality crystals the soil and mines of Montgomery County produce.

As in year's past, Twin Creek Crystal Mine will be the actual site of the crystal dig.

Over the two day competition, diggers get to keep all the crystals they find and then submit their best point and cluster each day for judging. There is an awards presentation held Saturday evening, September 25, where

participants receive award plaques and \$2,100 in prize money.

And even if you don't mine the best crystal, members of gem & mineral and rockhounding clubs can compete against rival clubs for bragging rights and a chance to win a free entry to next year's event!

For those that prefer not to participate in the dig and would rather shop for crystals, gem and mineral vendors from across the country bring a selection of precious crystals and minerals available for purchase at the festival site.



Over 40 Tons and 500 Varieties of Crystals, Rocks and Minerals from Mount Ida and around the world
Come see our exquisite handcrafted jewelry

Need help finding a great place to dig your own crystals around Mount Ida? Come see us, drop us an email or give us a call. We keep in close touch with the local mines and regularly get feedback from their visitors. We're happy to provide you with digging tips, the latest recommendations and information on cleaning your crystal finds.

We specialize in quartz crystal and other minerals from the Mount Ida area and across Arkansas. We also have a significant collection of rocks and minerals from across the Americas and around the globe.



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HOW TO DIG Crystals

By: John Hashin

If you are planning on visiting the Natural State to do some crystal mining, there are several things you should know if you have never done this before. Crystal digging is a fun family activity that can be very rewarding if you have the basic knowledge of what to do and how to do it.

First of all, Montgomery County Arkansas is the Quartz Crystal Capital of the World and some of the finest crystals have been dug here. If this is your first time to dig for crystals, here are some suggestions. For clothing, long sleeved shirts, jeans, closed-toed shoes and gloves are best. For tools, you'll want a screwdriver, gardening tools such as a hand trowel or a three pronged rake and something to put your findings in, like a bucket or a burlap sack.

There are several fee paid mines to choose from so pick the one you want to try or go visit them all because the crystals have different characteristics in each mine. Now that you have gathered up your supplies, loaded up the family, chosen the crystal mine and have arrived, what do you do?

First thing, you will be greeted by one of the

mine employees who will help you get signed in, talk to you about some safety tips, and help you get started. Now that you have done all of this, what do you expect to find? This is a question I am asked all the time. If this is your first time, please remember there are thousands of small crystals just laying on the ground everywhere at the mine. Pick them up! There are larger ones to be found but they require some effort to find.

I have been digging for many years and I find a lot more of the small ones than the larger ones. So now you are ready to start digging. Find yourself a spot, sit down and start moving dirt. Pick up the dirt clods and break them up with your hands and see what is inside. Did you find a crystal? If you did, great. If not, keep going, you will find them.

Most of the crystals you find will not look like the ones you see in the rock shops, all clean and shiny. They will have iron oxide, which is a rusty color, and can be cleaned up when you get home. The shops or mines you go to will have the information and oxalic acid you need to get your crystals cleaned.

The most important thing to remember is to have fun! Happy digging and good luck.



(Note: the Chamber of Commerce office and website (www.mtidadchamber.com/dig.htm) can provide the names and contact information for the mines.)

Atlantis Found! Crystals

OPEN DAILY!
UNTIL 8:00 PM

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Hwy 27 South
Mt. Ida

870-867-2530

www.atlantisfound.com AtlantisFoundCrystals

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870-898-0869 Open April-Nov 10am - 7pm Closed Mon & Tues
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The Montgomery County

Courthouse & The Courthouse Fence



Located at the center of the square in Mount Ida since 1923, the Montgomery County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The first Montgomery County Courthouse, a log cabin located near the current Mount Ida Civic Center, was used until after the Civil War. In 1873, the court elected to build a two story wood frame structure which served until the 1920s. In 1923, the frame building was just pushed to one side and the two story, native stone structure that you see today was built on the footprint of the old building. The jail and county offices at the rear of the courthouse were built in 1975.

This building, with its rich history, is still quite an important place in present-day Mount Ida as every county office, including the sheriff's office, is located inside the courthouse.

But in the early 1930's, the men of the Mount Ida City Council were tired of their jobs and couldn't convince anybody else to run for those offices. So, as a joke, County Judge Blake Hughes and the nominating committee secretly selected a group of women, some of whom were their own wives, to fill the positions.

The appointed women willingly served two terms during 1931 and 1932. At the end of their terms, the women had the city out of debt and were well into the construction of a stone fence to surround the courthouse square. The stone fence, built with WPA help and of the same stone as the courthouse, had a concrete slab and steel pipe on top, the better for tying

livestock, and was a favorite spot for town loafers.

To raise money for the fence, the women sponsored fund-raising dinners. The county paid the remainder of the cost after the women had a persuasive conversation with the county judge, the very same Blake Hughes who had a part in their nominations.

Over the last 90 years, time has taken a toll on the courthouse fence, but with occasional maintenance, the fence looks much the same as it did in the 1930s

Photograph courtesy of the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County.



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OUACHITA Artists GALLERY & STUDIO

Whether you want to just browse, purchase a gift or something special for your home, or actually create art, the Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio is the place to go. Located on the Mount Ida Courthouse Square at 135 South West Street, the Gallery is open to the public Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 3pm.

The Gallery is pleased to feature works from all types of artists - from oils and pastels to other mediums including woodwork, pottery, candles, metal work, and photography. Each quarter, a volunteer committee resets the Gallery displays, and each month honors a Featured Artist with a special exhibit.

Just six short years ago, Ouachita Artists opened their Gallery. The group

Follow the Gallery on facebook, at www.facebook.com/pages/Ouachita-Artists/
FOR SCHEDULED CLASSES AND EVENTS
OR CALL (870) 867-3115



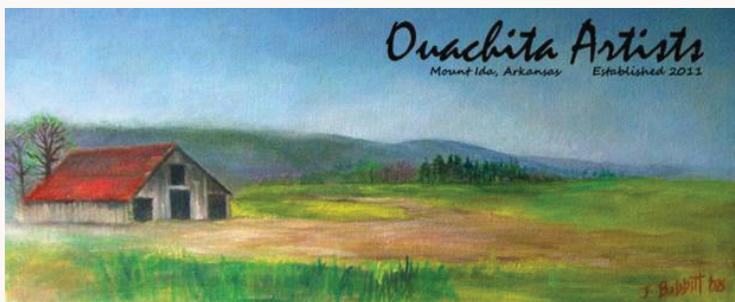
OUACHITA ARTISTS
Gallery & Studio

began with three people who wanted to find a place in town where they could meet and paint together. This trio held an organizational meeting and six or eight people attended. A couple of weeks later, almost 20 people attended another meeting. This growing group chose a name, wrote a mission statement, and found a place to meet. Soon, they had refurbished an old storefront on the Courthouse Square and named it Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio.

As part of the Gallery's mission to promote art in the community, gallery members share their talents through monthly instructional demonstrations, monthly ARTrageous at nights, and specialty workshops, as well as classes featuring different forms of art expression. All sessions and classes are open to members and the public.

To encourage children in the arts, the gallery often hosts various contests during the school year and offers various classes for children during the summer.

Since its inception, artist membership has grown to over 80 people, all residents of Montgomery County or the surrounding area.



ouachitaartists.org



 Ouachita Artists

OUACHITA ARTISTS
Gallery & Studio

Join a fellowship
of over 80 local artists!

Anyone is welcome to join, browse, or visit.

Take the short scenic drive to Mt. Ida and come see the amazing art created by our talented local artists. We offer various art classes (both adults & kids) and informative demonstrations throughout the year. We're the perfect place for finding unique gifts and having a good time.

Ongoing Events

ARTrageous Mondays - A "make & take" workshop every first Monday of the month. Fee is \$5, and supplies are furnished. Enter Shaw Studio at the rear of the gallery on the Square in Mt. Ida.

Monday Painters - A weekly meeting to paint and socialize. You don't have to be a member and there is no fee. Every Monday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

135 S. West Street, Mount Ida, AR 71957
(870) 867-3115 Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 3pm

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY the Performing Arts



“No role is too small” and we truly hold that quote to heart in our organization. Roles are not just board members, directors, stage managers, costume masters, sound, lighting, or actors. Even the audience has a role to play. We would like to encourage everyone to participate at least one time in their life. Who knows what new friendships might form, or a new passion for the performing arts could emerge. Not everyone has to be on stage. Behind the scene roles is really where the action is. Maybe you would just like to help create the set.

Our organization was started in 1984 and has been going strong ever since with the involvement of hundreds of people over the years who were willing to see the vision of the founding members.

We perform musicals, dramas, murder mysteries, dinner theater, comedies, and classics. Our goal is to cover a wide variety. Something for everyone.

The leadership and dedication of members and volunteers keep the organization running smoothly. Leadership roles include board members, directors, stage managers, and actors. We meet monthly, the first Thursday of every month at 5pm, the meetings are open to the public. Board members have the responsibility of behind the scene business and everyday operations of the building and organization. Directors are appointed based on their experience

and the type of play being performed. Stage managers have the responsibilities of keeping actors on stage, props in their designated places, and line prompting. We also have costume directors. One can only guess what they do, right? Finding clothes to fit the actors and the appropriate time period of the play is quite a chore.



*Roosevelt Auditorium
is located on the
Mount Ida High
School campus at 414
Whittington Avenue.*

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THE 2010
SCHEDULE,
FOLLOW ON
FACEBOOK:
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COUNTY COUNCIL FOIR

g Arts



Some community patrons have donated toward a new sound and lighting system. We have taken advantage of our down time to install these new systems. We are anxious for you, our audience, to enjoy and appreciate the upgrade.

We support our community by holding a SHOP LOCAL event in the fall, before Christmas. To set up a booth and sell your wares is a minimal fee. Or just come out and support the local vendors by shopping.

We are a non-profit performing arts organization that is funded entirely by the generosity of patrons and donors (all donations are tax deductible).



Montgomery County News

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MCNews.online

Heritage House Museum OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County (HHMMC) is located at 819 Luzerne St., Mt. Ida. Open 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday-Friday and 1:00 to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. It is closed during the winter months (December-February). For more information call 870-867-4422.



Come visit us!

Website----www.hhmmc.org email-museum@hhmmc.org ---Facebook: Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County.

HHMMC is dedicated to preserving the history of Montgomery County from 1800 to 1975. This rural county has a proud history of farming, ranching, logging, forestry, quartz crystal mining, hunting, and fishing. Artifacts, archives, and photographs and exhibits are displayed to represent these and other occupations. There are also exhibits on the recreation, home life, religious worship, and education of early county residents. There is no charge for admission.

and other materials to trace their connections to early county residents.

HHMMC is a non-profit corporation supported by memberships and donations. The entrance is paved with memorial bricks which honor individuals, groups, sites, or events. This is an ongoing project: bricks are purchased by the public, custom engraved, and laid.

The museum also has an Exhibit Barn, Sorghum Shed, 1880's Log House, "Eleanor Outhouse", and Pole Barn displaying farm equipment. There is a Genealogy Research Center in the main building, where the public may use the oral history tapes, census records,

Our fall Sorghum Festival recreates the once common practice of squeezing and cooking sorghum. Visitors sample sorghum on fresh-baked biscuits and observe various antique equipment being operated. For more information on the Sorghum Festival, see the related story in this magazine.

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Heritage House MUSEUM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Indoor Exhibits

Quartz Crystal Mining • Forestry/Logging • General Store/Church/School •
Post Office/Barber Shop • Home Life/Genealogy

Outdoor Exhibits

Vintage Boats • 1800's Log Cabin • Barn/Equipment • Sorghum Festival

Tues-Fri. 11am-4pm | Sat-Sun. 1pm-4pm
CLOSED MONDAYS

Closed mid-December - February
NO ADMISSION FEE

819 Luzerne Street, Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4422 | WWW.HHMMC.ORG

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Montgomery County!

Lum and Abner Jot'Em DOWN STORE and Museum



www.lumabner.homestead.com | Hwy 88, Pine Ridge, AR

From 1931 to 1955, one of the most popular programs on the radio was "Lum and Abner," based on a small town in Arkansas.

This small town was originally named Waters, a small settlement established in western Montgomery County in the 1880's. The Waters Post Office was established in 1886. A small store was built in 1904, and a second larger store in 1909. These stores were the center of activity for the community until modern roads and cars took customers to larger towns.

In 1931, Chet Lauck and Tuffy Goff, from nearby Mena, created "Lum and Abner" and their many friends for the radio. Those characters were based on the people who lived in Waters, which was renamed to Pine Ridge in 1936 to match the name used on the radio.

The Lum and Abner radio programs were all broadcast live, not recorded. After just a few yrs of being newcomers, their sponsors and broadcasters recorded programs for their own records. They were broadcast live 2 times a day to be

heard during popular hours coast to coast, and by 1969 they were being copied for nostalgic collectors even today.

The community, stores, and the post office can still be found in Pine Ridge and are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lum and Abner Jot'Em Down Store and Museum features displays of early general store merchandise, fixtures, farm, and household items from this Americana time period. The Museum items are not for sale; however, a gift shop offers souvenirs and collectibles for sale.

The U.S. Post Office recounted in the radio program is still in use today. Stamps and money orders, as well as package service and post office boxes are available.



Travel west from Mount Ida on Hwy 270 to Pencil Bluff and then south on Hwy 88 to Pine Ridge, nearly on the Montgomery/Polk County Line. During the pandemic guests are talked to on the porch, sharing the local history. Shopkeepers will bring to the porch items visitors may want to purchase, Mon-Sat 10am-2pm.

When the store reopens, the gift shop and museum hours will be 10am-4pm Tues thru Sat, closed on Sun, and 10am-2pm Mon (Post Office hrs). For more information, call owners Lon and Kathy Stucker at (870) 326-4442.



LUM & ABNER MUSEUM and Jot'em Down Store

Pine Ridge, Arkansas • 21 Miles West of Mount Ida
4562 Hwy 88W • (870) 326-4442



Open 10am-2pm Monday-Saturday
until the pandemic is gone. Visitors shop from the doors, but cannot walk inside until the pandemic is gone. Conversations on the porch are the highlights of our day!

Visit us on the web, too! www.lum-abner.com
Facebook: Lum-Abner-Jot-em-Down-Store-Museum



AN AMAZING VIEW, AN AMAZING LAKE, AN AMAZING STORY

Lake Ouachita from Hickory Nut Mountain Vista

On Highway 270, about 13 miles east of Mount Ida, about a mile west of the Montgomery/Garland county line is Hickory Nut Mountain Rd. Hickory Nut Mountain Rd heads north for about four miles to Hickory Nut Mountain Vista.

At the very top of the mountain, the panorama sweeping from west to east before you is Lake Ouachita, named for an ancient Indian tribe living along the Ouachita River.

FOLLOWING, IS THE STORY BEHIND THAT VAST EXPANSE OF WATER.

In the late 1800s, the Ouachita River wound through the mountains to Blakely Mountain. From Blakely Mountain to Arkadelphia, the river ran a distance of 75 miles with an elevation drop of 228 feet. From Arkadelphia to Camden, the river ran 65 miles with a slight elevation drop of only 82.5 feet before continuing on to the Black River and even more level terrain.

Not surprisingly, the variation in streamflow and elevation drop caused significant downstream flooding. Before the turn of the 20th century, the U.S. Congress authorized the first of many public and private surveys of the river to determine what could be done about the flooding. Recommendations for a series of dams brought a new question. Who should pay for them?

Finally, in 1910, the power generating potential of a dam was recognized, and in the early 1920s, Arkansas Power and Light (now known as Entergy) began buying land for a lake reservoir. In 1923 AP&L began work on Rempel Dam which created Lake Catherine, followed by Carpenter Dam, creating Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs. However, economics was still an issue and AP&L doubted the time was right for Blakely Dam.

Ultimately, in 1939, AP&L requested an economic delay on the construction of Blakely Mountain Dam which would have created Lake Ouachita. In 1941 AP&L's permit to build was terminated, and the Senate flood control bill of 1944 passed the construction authorization on to the Army Corps of Engineers.

A 200-foot-wide emergency spillway was built during 1947/1948. Next was the two-year construction of a flood control tunnel and power tunnel which were used to redirect the river while the dam was being built.

Construction of the Blakely

Mountain Dam itself, along with the concrete intake structures, began on March 29, 1950. A 251-foot-high, 1100-foot-wide dam of almost four million cubic yards of rolled earth was completed in 1952. The flood gates were closed, water began to back up, and Lake Ouachita was born.

Between 1947 and 1952 the Ouachita River Valley was cleared for the reservoir. As little as \$27 per acre was paid to landowners in the valley based on government appraised values of the land. Owners could keep their timber if they cut it immediately. As many as 18 to 29 sawmills were built in the reservoir site to harvest the timber. Haulers were paid approximately \$21 per cord to cut, load, and haul timber on their own trucks.

After the good timber was cut, clearing crews finished by cutting brush, which was either burned or left for fish cover and spawning grounds, and topping trees that extended more than 535 feet. A fish-finder can see the trees still standing on the lake bottom, the tops of which may rise above the surface during low water periods.

County and state roads, including short portions of State Highway 27 and US Highway 270, were rerouted. Cemeteries within the reservoir were moved to new locations during the summer of 1952. Due to the acidic soil, few actual human remains were found in the 1,200 graves exhumed, but personal items found in burial sites included a man's watch, a celluloid collar and cuffs, and a mustache cup of ancient vintage.

One man told his story of paying a large sum of money to have his mother buried in a steel vault that would be impervious to decay. When the grave was exhumed, only a few sheets of tin remained. When asked later about this, the man said that as a result of the "generosity" of the funeral home in Texas that sold him the vault, he would never have to work again.

A few small towns with their own histories are concealed under the clear waters of Lake Ouachita - the places where some folks were born and the land that produced a 14-pound sweet potato, a ribbon winner at the state fair.



© 2015 Friends of Lake Ouachita

Construction of the Blakely Mountain Dam power plant began in 1952. Hydroelectric power was first produced and sold under contract to AP&L in 1955. On July 4, 1956, the Army Corps of Engineers formally turned over the use of Blakely Mountain Dam and Lake Ouachita to Arkansas. The final cost of the Blakely Mountain Dam was over \$30,000,000 and represented more than nine years of actual construction.

At the optimum lake level of 578 feet above sea level, the lake covers over 40,000 acres, contains over 419 billion gallons of water, has over 690 miles of shoreline, and harbors many islands. The lake level must reach 592 feet above sea level to enter the emergency spillway. While the water has never overflowed, there was a close call in January of 1983 when the level was only .8 of a foot short.

The Corps of Engineers oversees about 66,000 acres of lake and shoreline at Lake Ouachita. The shore and the surrounding Ouachita National Forest are limited to minimal development of resorts, marinas, and campgrounds provided by the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S Forest Service, and private individuals.

Since the gates closed and the final flood created Lake Ouachita, the Blakely Dam powerhouse has recouped multiple millions of dollars more than the cost of construction by supplanting the need for oil and generating enough power to supply 38,000 homes with electricity.

In 1954, not long after the gates closed, an estimated 220,000 people visited the Lake Ouachita area. Today, millions of annual visitors enjoy the variety of recreational oppor-

tunities that only a clean, clear lake and a scenic mountain setting can provide.

This article is provided by the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce. Statistics and information were compiled from publications of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Arkansas Democrat Gazette, and "Montgomery County - Our Heritage," published by the Montgomery County Historical Society.

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LITTLE FIR LANDING

Lake Ouachita

Mount Ida, Arkansas

Little Fir Landing is located in a peaceful setting on beautiful Lake Ouachita. Only 15 minutes from Mount Ida at the end of Hwy 188E. Recent additions are two lake view cabins. Little Fir Landing also has 25 RV sites with full hook ups, (water, sewer, electric) and trash service. Boat slips and dry storage units are also available. Coming Spring 2020! - We will have 1 new cabin and 1 new duplex.

Little Fir Landing also contains a mobile home park consisting of 65 homes. On site owners, managers and security. It is family owned and operated by Lloyd and Chris Tubbs. We have a great park in a peaceful setting. Come check us out and see one of the best kept secrets on Lake Ouachita.



Contact us at 870-867-7079, 870-867-3335 or chris@littlefirlanding.com.
 We are located at 3304 Hwy 188E Mount Ida, AR 71957.



Photo by Friends of Lake Ouachita
courtesy of www.lakeouachitavistatrail.org

Birding on LAKE OUACHITA

The Ouachita Mountains and Lake Ouachita are home to birds that are happiest in the mountains and near water. Montgomery County is blessed with an abundance of both. Certainly those who are fans of fishing, boating, and all things water on Lake Ouachita will have many opportunities to observe the wealth of water fowl.

Bird Island

According to the Lake Ouachita Organization (<http://www.lakeouachita.org/bird-island-lake-ouachita.htm>) Bird Island is Arkansas's largest known Purple Martin Roost.

“An estimated 8000 - 50,000 birds use the area between late July and early August. The island is a staging area for Martins as they feed on insects and develop fat stores before migrating to South America. Bird Island is located in the middle of Lake Ouachita. It is approximately 1,260 feet long, and about 100 feet at its widest point.

Much of the island beneath the trees is submerged when the water level is up. The island sits about 0.5 miles from the next closest island, and approximately a mile from the nearest mainland shoreline. The nearest boat launch sites are Brady Mountain Resort, Crystal Springs and Buckville Use Area.”

Purple Martins are not, however, the only birds using Bird Island as occasional habitat. Others would include the Little Blue Heron, Great Blue Heron, White Ibis, Cattle Egret, American Crow and Red-Winged Blackbird. In fact, the egrets, herons, and ibis have nests on Bird Island. From fall until early spring Double-crested Cormorant roost on the island.

Purple Martin boat tours are scheduled out of Lake Ouachita State Park from July through August. **Contact the Lake Ouachita Visitor Center at lakeouachita@arkansas.com or 501-767-9366 for more information.**

BALD EAGLES – our National Bird

While most birds nest in the spring, Bald Eagles are an exception. They build their nests in the winter in tall, mature trees along the shores of large bodies of water. Each year, the Bald Eagles return to Ouachita in late fall and will nest here over the winter in spectacular nests, typically 5 to 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet tall.

Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa, located 12 miles east of Mount Ida on the shores of Lake Ouachita, hosts a special weekend to highlight the natural beauty of Lake Ouachita and its cherished Bald Eagles. The resort offers a free seminar at its marina on a Febru-

ary Saturday each year. Rusty Scarborough, Senior Park Naturalist for Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation's Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park in Shreveport, Louisiana brings bald eagles and other birds of prey to the presentation. Following the seminar, Harbor's marina offers free barge tours to view the eagles on the lake.

“Sharing the eagles with our customers, friends and neighbors is our way of giving enjoyment and sharing fellowship with our community,” Bill Barnes said. “There's nothing quite as inspiring as seeing the Bald Eagles in the wild, diving for fish or soaring overhead”. **Anyone interested in participating in this annual barge tour event can call the marina at 870-867-1212 or 870-867-1211 or visit www.mountainharborresort.com.**

Birds on the Trails
Some of the most prized sightings for birdwatchers in Arkansas include Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Painted Buntings, Indigo Buntings, Wilson's Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers and Swallow-tailed Kites. The most popular species among waterfowl hunters is probably the Mallard Duck.

The short, 1.25 mile

loop of the LOViT Watchable Wildlife Trail (handicapped accessible) features an elevated walkway displaying pictures of some of the more common water and land birds. Look for Coots, Pin Tail Ducks, Loons, and Wood Ducks.

More common bird sightings include chickadees, wrens, nuthatches, junco, tanagers, hawks, flycatchers, redwing blackbirds, and sparrows. Woodpeckers from small (Downy) to the largest (Pileated) may be seen and heard pecking on tree trunks.

See <https://lakeouachitavistatrail.org/WP/the-trails/watchable-wildlife/> for more trail information.



Hike and Bike

on the **LOVIT TRAIL**



Since the completion of Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT), thousands of hikers, bikers and runners have taken advantage of the 45 mile trail that runs along the southern rim of Lake Ouachita. The trail traverses beautiful areas of the state, and offers scenic views of one of the most pristine and clean lakes in the south.

While most LOViT hikers hit the trails at a leisurely pace, some have a different goal in mind.

These are the racers, striving to set a new personal best record or to complete the route faster than the person behind. For these adrenaline seekers, LOViT offers bike and running races including a traditional 26-mile marathon to a brutal 100-mile challenge.

LOViT Marathon

This is the oldest continuous marathon and runs each year on the first Saturday in December. Organized and managed by Phil and Bonnie Carr, the marathon route is a circular loop that begins at Denby Trailhead, just off Shangri-La Road, and ends at the same place.

Runners make their way through varied topography and scenery to the top of Hickory Nut Mountain before returning. Volunteers staff check-points and aid stations in several locations along the route. Transportation is available to any runner who decides to drop out of the race or who plans to stop at the halfway point atop Hickory Nut Mountain.

LOViT 100 Mile Endurance Run

The 100 mile runners will run the entire length of the single-track Lake Ouachita Vista Trail that climbs mixed hardwood and pine slopes on the south side of the lake. Several points along the trail open up to breath-taking views over one of the nation's most pristine freshwater lakes. The endurance run begins at Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa at 6:00 p.m. on the last Friday night in February and ends Saturday when the last runner is back.

LOViT 100K (62 mile) Run

This race begins on the last Saturday in February at 6:00 a.m. at the same starting point as the previous night's 100 mile endurance run. It is sponsored by the same organizers as the 100 mile endurance run. More information is available at www.runlovit.com. Race organizers are Rachel and Dustin Speer.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT: WWW.RUNLOVIT.COM.



the LOViT Trail

Photos by Friends of Lake Ouachita
courtesy of www.lakeouachitavistatrail.org



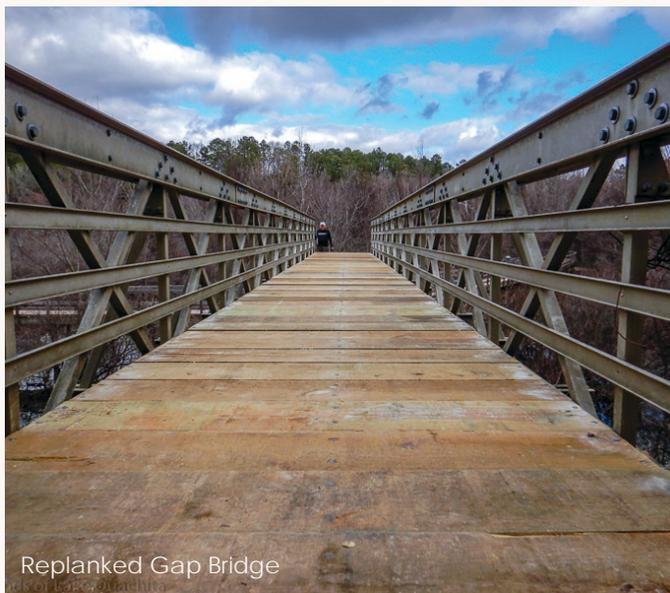
Hickory Nut
Mountain Vista

Lake Ouachita Vista Trail (LOViT) is a 44 mile hiking/biking trail that runs through incredibly beautiful terrain along the southern shore of Lake Ouachita. The LOViT was constructed by the Trail Dogs, a group of volunteers that worked tirelessly to make this trail a reality.

Creating LOViT took over 10 years of work and hundreds of volunteer hours by the small group of Trail Dogs. Much of the project was completed using basic tools such as fire hoes, McLeods, picks and shovels. Only in later years did the group have access to motorized mini-excava-

tors and other similar machinery.

The trail is broken into a number of segments, offering a variety of complexity and difficulty. Some sections are easy hiking/biking trails, while some are more difficult sections traversing more mountainous terrain. Outdoor enthusiasts won't have any trouble finding a trail that fits their level of interest, from a leisurely hike to a more difficult mountain climb. Every section of the trail boasts beautiful vistas, and hikers will find benches spaced along the trail for rest or quiet reflection. Numerous trailheads and parking areas are available to help break the trail into easier sections.



Replanked Gap Bridge

Watchable Wildlife/ADA

Off Shangri-La Road, this portion of the LOViT is designed to bring all users, including those who may be physically challenged, closer to nature. The entire trail segment is a 1.25 mile loop, including a level paved area with benches and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) elevated walkway allowing users access to a wild wetland area at the south end of Denby Bay.

The trail circles a large open field, follows along the bank of Gap Creek as it flows into the bay, and then ducks beneath the towering canopy of a densely wooded area, changing from woods to marsh and then open water.

The quarter-mile long elevated walkway also connects to a bridge over Gap

Creek. Hikers can cross the bridge to the half mile Gap Creek spur, which terminates at the old Highway 270 Bridge and a small parking area.

This section of the trail includes three short wheelchair accessible spurs from the main trail to the edge of Gap Creek. During the summer, hikers may observe various species of fish swimming in the clear water flowing through the creek.

Winter visitors may see Coots, Pin Tail Ducks, Loons and Wood Ducks. Often, Bald Eagles can be seen fishing or soaring above the lake.

The trailhead area includes a restroom, parking, outdoor workout area, and an information kiosk highlighting historical details of the trail and the lake.

Denby Bay and Homestead

The Denby Bay trailhead begins where the road past the Watchable Wildlife/ADA trailhead ends. This five-mile leg to Tompkins Bend can be walked in two hours or biked in about an hour. For a shorter walk, hikers can enter the Denby Bay Trail and leave the trail at the Homestead trailhead parking area, along Shangri-La Road.

The Denby Trail is light to medium grade and meanders through several

miles of high-canopy, old-growth forest. Along the way is a half-mile spur out to Sunset Vista where many benches along the trail invite you to watch the sun as it descends to meet the lake.

Don't forget your camera, as photographers will have many opportunities to capture photos of the lake and streams surrounded by lush ferns. Length: About 5 total miles, 2.9 miles to the Homestead trailhead and 2 more miles to the Tompkins Bend trailhead.



Homestead Trailhead

Tompkins Bend

This section of LOViT is approximately five miles of winding trail from the Tompkins Bend trailhead parking area to the Joplin trailhead parking area off Mountain Harbor Road. While designed for all age groups, it is hillier than the Denby Bay to Tompkins Bend section.

Just across Shangri-La Road from the Homestead parking lot, heading east toward the Joplin trailhead, hikers can view the remains of the old homestead for which the Homestead trailhead is named. A 10 x 20 foot cedar split fence surrounds the old root cellar. To the right of the root cellar and adjacent to Shangri-La Road are the remains of the homestead's hand dug well. The homestead dates back to the late 1800s.

The Tompkins Bend trail section crosses many spring-fed streams and winds past a number of old quartz crystal mines. Included in the scenic beauty of this area is a large stand of old (300-400 years) short-leaf pine trees towering over 125 feet above the trail.

There is a 1.5 mile loop out to Eagle Vista that provides a spectacular view of the lake. During winter months, hikers often see Bald Eagles either perched atop trees or soaring above the lake.

This section of the LOViT is an easy walk, but it is rocky in areas.



Tompkins Bend

Pipe Spring

The LOViT overlaps with the Charlton Trail at Pipe Spring for a 1.9 mile trek to the Crystal Springs trailhead.

Pipe Spring is appropriately named after a spring with an uninterrupted flow of clear, cold water. This trail segment is over 40 years old and travels north along the western flank of the mountain, over the mountain and then down to the Crystal Springs Campground.



Pipe Spring

There are lovely views of Walnut Creek and the surrounding valley at the eastern edge of Hickory Nut Mountain. Cross the road (FS47) from Pipe Spring to enter the trail, which is a continuation of the Charlton Trail, to the Charlton Recreation Area on Highway 270.

This section is a tough uphill climb with difficult switchbacks.



View from Denby Bay

Joplin

The Joplin portion of LOViT begins on Mountain Harbor Road with a three-quarter mile downward grade that terminates at a section of creek crossing covered by towering old growth hardwoods. After traveling about one mile on an old forest service fire road, there is a second wet crossing over Irons Creek.

From there, the trail runs parallel to a beautiful creek lined with ferns and massive old rock outcroppings covered in moss. There are several small waterfalls, but the highpoint of this stretch is the five step Irons Creek Cascade, located on the left about a quarter mile from the crossing.

There is also a short 100-foot spur trail that offers a great photo opportunity as hikers pause to catch their breath. From there, it is only a mile to a rock cairn and sign identifying arrival at Hot Dog Falls at the foot of Hickory Nut Mountain.

From this point, the hiking gets hard. The next mile and a half is all uphill, rocky and increasingly steep until you reach the summit of the mountain.

This section of the trail is often labeled strenuous. It includes five bridgeless crossings and a mile of steep climbing with two sets of switchbacks just before the summit at Hickory Nut Mountain.

Forest Service Road 47A

This section of LOViT is a great walk going down the mountain. Often hikers leave a vehicle at the bottom of this section to avoid the strenuous hike back to the top of Hickory Nut Mountain.

The 47A trail segment is primarily used as a connector segment of 2.2 miles of additional natural beauty. It leads hikers east over an easy section to Pipe Spring.

There are two particularly scenic locations along this section, one overlooking a deep valley to the south and another overlooking a hidden bay of Lake Ouachita to the north.

This section is rated as an easy to light/moderate hike.



Alpha Dog Jerry Shields enjoys the view from the "Traildog Vista" bench on Bear Mountain

BE AWARE

The 44 miles of the LOViT traverses some U.S. Forest Service lands that have long been popular hunting grounds in all seasons. Trail users should wear bright colors/hunter orange and be cognizant of various hunting seasons.

There is much more to know about the LOViT. Additional information, pictures, and directions to the trailheads can be found on the LOViT website at: www.lakeouachitavistatrail.org.

Brady Mountain

The Brady Mountain section of LOViT is a 6.2 mile hike that connects the Brady Mountain Road trailhead to the Avery Recreation Area Trailhead. This mostly mountainous tract climbs immediately from Brady Mountain Road to the peak of Blakely Mountain.

At its peak, the trail runs along the northern slope of Blakely Mountain as it passes near two Brady backbone rock outcroppings. At the top of the first outcropping is Balance Rock, a large cone-shaped stone balanced at the top of the backbone ridge.

Moving east, the trail winds down through several switchbacks on the southeastern slope of the mountain until it crosses Spillway Road.

Hickory Nut Mountain

The Hickory Nut Mountain segment of LOViT begins at the picnic area atop Hickory Nut Mountain and ends at a take-out on Forest Service Road FS47A. The trail follows the south side of the mountain along the top of a rock bluff before dropping to an old logging road that parallels Hickory Nut Creek. Old and new growth trees provide welcome shade during summer months.

The view from the top of the mountain offers a panoramic look at the western half of Lake Ouachita and the deep valley south of the vista. The creek is spring-fed and flows over several waterfalls as it makes its way down the mountainside. Several things to note and enjoy on the walk include a grotto and a four-foot waterfall, large boulders, huge rock outcroppings and steep drop-offs.

Another interesting site on this section of the trail is the Old Fire Tower Spur. Hikers will see remnants of the foundation for the fire tower watcher's cabin, concrete anchors for the old tower, a cistern and two National Geological Survey medallions installed in 1953.

Most of this section is downhill, and is sometimes steep. It ends at FS47A. There are several bridgeless crossings as hikers make their way to the next section of the trail.

Crystal Springs to Brady Mountain

The Crystal Springs to Brady Mountain trail segment begins at the Crystal Springs Campground Pavilion on Crystal Springs Road and travels across Little Bear Mountain to Little Bear Creek at the base of Bear Mountain.

This stretch of the Crystal Springs trail is also called Leg Six or Segment

Six of the LOViT. From Little Bear Creek, hikers begin Segment Seven, which carries them up the southern side of Bear Mountain as they move across the northern side of the summit toward Brady Mountain Road.

This approximately 10-mile section of the LOViT is the longest part of the trail not crossed by a road. That means once you get on this trail, you can only leave by backtracking to Crystal Springs trailhead or going to the end.

Avery Trailhead and Recreation Area

The Avery trailhead is the eastern-most terminus of the LOViT. This trailhead is a part of the Corps of Engineers Avery Recreation Area located below Blakeley Mountain Dam.

The Avery trailhead is a popular location for group activities. It features ample parking, flush toilets, a covered pavilion with tables, barbecue pits and potable water.



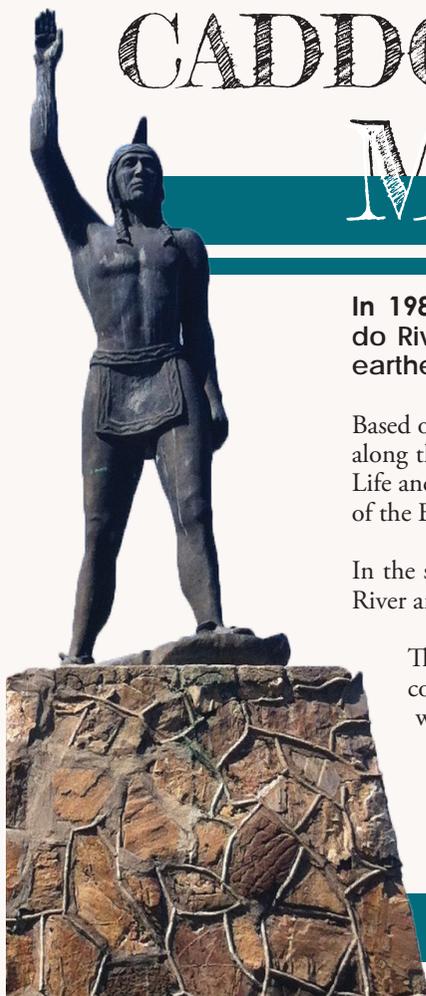
Crystal Springs Trailhead



Current and past US Forest Service employees join the Traildogs at the Avery Recreation Area Trailhead for the Oct. 28, 2014, Dedication for the completed Trail.

CADDO INDIAN

MEMORIAL *and* Monument



In 1988, a Caddo Indian burial ground was discovered at the confluence of the Caddo River and Huddleston Creek, just east of the city of Norman on Highway 8. The unearthed graves and artifacts dated back to the Archaic Period (8000 to 1000 BC).

Based on these archeological finds, historians created an informative area at the memorial site along the Elmo Clark Honor Path. Elements of the display include Metamorphosis of Caddo Indians, Cultural Life and Community Structure in Historical Period, Description of Local Environment and Resources, Life-Ways of the Early Caddo, and Archeology of Norman Burial Ground.

In the spring, a circle of wildflowers blooms in the center of the grounds. Benches are located along the Caddo River and Huddleston Creek for resting and enjoying the beautiful view.

The Caddo Indian Monument, which is east of Norman on Highway 8 in Caddo Gap, commemorates the Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto's most western movement in 1541. Here, he met the warlike Tula Indians, who fiercely fought DeSoto and his men.

DeSoto described the Tulas as the best fighting men he had ever encountered and were said to have stood over seven feet tall. According to legend, DeSoto turned back toward Louisiana and his eventual death after encountering these fierce Indians. Archeologists are still at odds over this, however, no concrete evidence has yet been presented to disprove the long accepted legend.

The Old NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Step back in time and visit the state-ly two-story rock school building that was completed in 1924 as a private Presbyterian school – the only accredited high school in Montgomery Co. until 1931. Realize the importance of education to the small lumber town of Womble (1907-1925) then renamed Norman.



Old Norman High School

Learn more of the history of this “sawmill” town by viewing blown-up pictures of the Caddo Valley Academy Boarding House where students from throughout Montgomery County stayed while attending the Presbyterian Caddo Valley Academy from 1921-1930. It became Norman High School in 1930, the year that Arkansas was forced to educate students through 12th grade.

The building closed in 1973, three years after Norman and Caddo Gap schools became the

consolidated Caddo Hills School District. Sold to several different private citizens over the next 25 years, the building deteriorated but was finally purchased in 2001 by the newly formed Norman Historic Preservation Program, Inc. (NHHP).

This alumni group quickly raised funds to replace the entire roof, part of which had caved into the auditorium. The auditorium, library and one classroom upstairs have been rebuilt from top to bottom and other rooms renovated. An elevator was installed in 2020. By March 2021 the library will be completed, making the whole building accessible, even as renovations continue.

In your visit become a student in Ms. Zena's one-room school house. Walk the halls and step into the cavernous earthen basement that was the town's “fallout shelter” in the late '50s/early '60s. Take a peek into the girls' “throne room,” the name aptly chosen for their bathroom. Then, climb the stairs – a boys' stairwell or a girls' stairwell – to the vast auditorium with a sloped floor and a stage.

Wonder at the authentic lumber wagon that fills an upstairs classroom; enjoy the drawings

of important buildings, and pictures and display of tools of the lumber industry, the lifeline of citizens the first three decades of the 1900s. Look at the furnishings of a “shotgun home” used by lumbermen and their families at the temporary lumber mills. See displays of antique communication equipment, cameras, and photos of the lumber era and early school leaders.

Historic Norman High School Home Economics Building Available for Rent

Stay at the three-bedroom former Home Economics Cottage located next door to the Old Norman High School as you enjoy the nearby Caddo River and all the area has to offer – hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, canoeing, and touring the high school. Built in 1937, the building has been renovated into a three-bedroom, one full-bath rental.

The Norman High School building is open from 10-4pm on Tuesdays and Fridays from late March to early November. Tours may be given throughout the year by calling 870-223-2724 for an appointment. There is no fee. The campus of the Old Norman High School is located at the corner of Highway 8 and Hattie Street: 234 Hattie Street in Norman, AR

ANNUAL SORGHUM FESTIVAL at the Heritage House Museum



FOR THE EXACT DATE OF THE 2021 SORGHUM FESTIVAL AND FOR OTHER MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION, CHECK THE HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM FACEBOOK PAGE AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HHMMC.

Nostalgic thoughts of fall typically bring to mind the bite of crisp, cool air, a welcoming fire in the hearth, and the brilliance of changing foliage. At the Heritage House Museum, it's all about sorghum!

In 2010 and in keeping with the museum's ongoing effort to preserve the history of Montgomery County, the Heritage House Museum re-introduced the traditional method of sorghum-making, and it has since become an annual event. The Sorghum Festival is typically held the last weekend in October, so mark your calendar now for this sweet event!

a harnessed mule, attached to the mill pole of the small mill, walk steadily in a circle powering the grinding gears. Impurities and the frothy residue are skimmed off the surface of the juice as it cooks in the long, baffled cook pan. It is a fine balance between cooking the sorghum sufficiently and removing the sweet amber syrup before thickening too much and turning bitter.

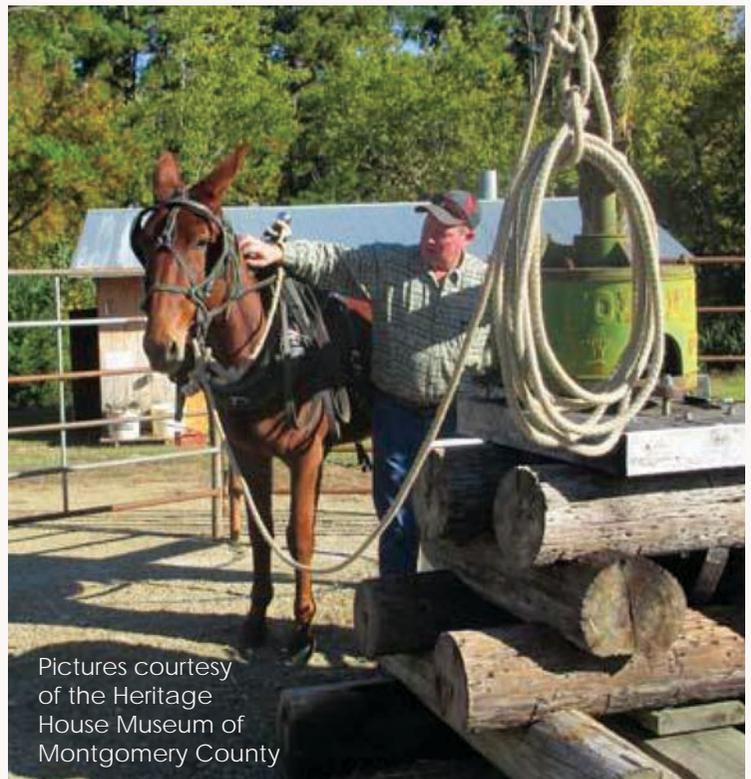


Sorghum syrup is the byproduct of processing sorghum cane and traditionally provided rural families with a nutritious and filling winter staple at the table. Slathered on a homemade biscuit, it satisfied many a morning and noon time hunger. Making sorghum was once a shared community event with families hauling their load of cane to the closest neighbor who had the mill, mule and cook stand. Squeezing and cooking each family's harvest of sorghum cane made for a full day's event.

Museum volunteers demonstrate the use of various types of old equipment, and visitors clamor for samples of sorghum cookies and freshly baked biscuits, buttered and topped with sorghum.

Sorghum cane looks similar to field corn in its initial growth stage and is a dependable crop that tolerates drought and heat. The maturation of the seed heads determines when it is ready for harvest. The cane is then stripped of its leaves, the stalks cut low to the ground, and the seed heads cut off. Wagon loads of the cut cane are hauled to the museum in preparation for the big event. At the Sorghum Festival the cane is fed continually into mills.

The internal metal gears squeeze the cane, releasing a light green juice. The large mill is engine powered, but a highlight for many is watching



Pictures courtesy of the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County

Caddo Gap HERITAGE Festival



Come and take part in Montgomery County's newest festival dedicated to preserving the old ways of life in and around the Ouachita Mountains and foothills region!



It's the second annual Caddo Gap Heritage Festival, a day of family-friendly fun for all ages. The event will feature vendors, demonstrators, and artisans showcasing skills, chores, and lifestyles since the days of the first settlers in southwest Arkansas.



This event is free to the public and will be held October 2nd, 2021, at the historic Gap Mercantile, 35 Vaught Street in Caddo Gap, Arkansas.

A variety of festival demonstrations will recreate life as it was from the 1800s through the era of the Great Depression. Walk into a Civil War camp while listening to re-enactors describe life during the War Between the States; watch a blacksmith forge simple metals into beautiful and practical tools and utensils, and see how Native Americans once crafted deadly arrowheads out of novaculite rock, abundantly found in the Caddo Gap area. Featured demonstrations will also include corn grinding, broom making, wool spinning, pottery making, lye soap making, and several others.

The festival will take place in and around the old Gap Mercantile store in downtown Caddo Gap. And there's no more fitting place for a festival celebrating the cultural roots of southern country living in southwest Arkansas. Gap Mercantile was established in 1932, and has been a historic fixture in the area ever since, originally providing merchandise and support to the folk of the Caddo Gap area during the Great Depression. One can today see a section of the store that exhibits a nostalgic grocery and dry goods display of vintage merchandise.

"As well as the Caddo Gap Heritage Festival being a fun day for the whole family, I'm hoping the old time demonstrations will be as educational as they are entertaining," says Gary "Pa Mac" McWilliams. McWilliams, who hosts "The Farm Hand's Companion Show" on



YouTube (which features and demonstrates old time farm methods and history) will be demonstrating his Old Time Farm Ways during the festival, including making old-fashioned wood shingles, hewing logs, and making tool handles.

Gary and his wife, Lynna—Gap Mercantile owners who organized the Caddo Gap Heritage Festival—reopened the mercantile in August of 2017 and are preserving "the 1930's and 1940's feel" of the general store, along with providing retro candies, souvenirs, gifts, antiques, jellies & jams, and a large selection of glass bottle soda pop varieties.



Be sure and follow www.facebook.com/gapmercantile for up to date information on the festival, or call 870-356-3909 for vendor information.

NORMAN Festival EVENTS



Annually in the fall, the good people of Norman, Arkansas host a community wide festival on the Norman city square. Look for the tiniest library you have ever seen and you have found the place.



Photo by M.K. Taylor

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Mount Ida's new
**THREE
RIVERS
Heritage
Festival**



Mount Ida and Montgomery County have welcomed visitors and locals to our county and charming town square for food, fun, fellowship and a little bit of history for over 34 years through events such as the Good Ol' Days Festival and the QOC Festival. With a goal of revitalizing the events and spurring more visitors to the downtown area, a decision was made to combine both events into one spectacular in the fall - the Three Rivers Heritage Festival!

As the only county in Arkansas that is home to three rivers, this festival is aptly named and will pay tribute to each of its rivers, the Caddo, the Ouachita, and the Little Missouri, and the heritage that is unique to Montgomery County.

This exciting blended festival will feature all of the most-loved elements of each of the previous events including the Car and Motorcycle Show, crafts and food vendors on the square, gem and mineral vendors, and historical reenactments and demonstrations.

For more information on the Three Rivers Heritage Festival, please contact the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce at 870-867-2723 and follow us on our social media pages for updates on this year's festival.

#mountidaarkansas
#threeriversheritagefestival
#quartzcrystalcapitaloftheworld

Planning is underway and the event will begin on Friday night with activities continuing into Saturday morning on the square with music, craft and vendor booths, and the car and motorcycle show, and delicious food. Previously, owners entered more than 100 cars, trucks, street rods, and motorcycles in the show to vie for top prizes.

Recent visitors and festival regulars will be excited to hear that the amazingly-popular World Championship Crystal Dig will also take place during the Three Rivers Heritage Festival.

As the square fills up with locals and tourists alike, shop and business owners will have an amazing opportunity to promote their wares, flaunt their tastes, and remind all in attendance how small towns treat everyone like family.

Please see page 20 for more information on the World Championship Crystal Dig happening simultaneously at Roosevelt Auditorium and the Twin Creeks Crystal Mine.

"The Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to host its first annual Three Rivers Heritage Festival this fall", said Chamber Past President and event chair, Pat Smith. Scheduled for September 24 - 25th, the last weekend in September, the Three Rivers Heritage Festival will be held on the square in downtown Mount Ida.

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The FRONT PORCH

Come hang around with us

STAGE

Contributed by Mike Adams and Jerry Babbitt

In 1999, some 18 years ago, Mike Adams approached the newly reorganized Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce board of directors, asking if the Chamber would support establishing a courthouse music program to bring people back to the square. The Chamber agreed and Mike began organizing the musicians to meet on the square every Saturday afternoon for some freelance picking.

Shortly thereafter, the Chamber began looking for a sound system and a stage that was affordable. In the meantime, the music program began to gather a little steam as the musicians began to come and pick, and folks began to come and sit around the pickers and enjoy the music.

Some may recall that in December of 2000 the world ended in Montgomery County (at least for a while), when the ice storm of the century hit our area. It took several hundred repair crews almost six months to repair all our lines and remove the storm debris. Out-of-state crews were working all over



The Front Porch Stage invites everyone to join them for music on the courthouse square one Saturday per month May through October 26. Visit Facebook or www.frontporchstage.org for a performance schedule.

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the area. Remember, there was no power in the county, so a team of county volunteers took a generator to the fairgrounds and set up a kitchen to feed the Oden and Mt. Ida crews...3 meals a day for a week until power was restored.

About six months after the crews left our area, we received a call from one of the out of state com-



panies, applauding the warm welcome and care from the folks of Montgomery County. The company wanted to give something back to the community. We provided our specifications and they shipped us a \$5000 sound system. A music program was born.

Then, we focused on a stage so that we could have regular programs during the summer. Flatbed trailers turned out to be pricey. But after a year, an old stage built for a Kitty Wells concert was discovered abandoned, and the owner agreed to contribute it if we could move it. Moving a 16 x 24 stage was no mean feat, but again, we got it done with the able assistance of the county judge and sheriff.

For a couple of months, we had programs on the open stage, but it was mighty hot for the performers so we put together a plan to turn the stage into a "Front Porch." Lumber, roofing, and windows were contributed: whatever we needed some individual or organization stepped forward to meet the need.

A group built the stage in about a week. A local woodworker designed and constructed the signs, and almost before we knew it, we had a full blown program that was drawing several hundred people back to the square each weekend.

The Chamber then purchased a concession trailer to be used during the programs to help fund the musicians and defray their travel cost. The performers had been dependent upon a pass-the-hat collection during the program, and this practice, along with the concession, created a steady source of funds for the program.

In 2002, the Front Porch transitioned to a stand-alone entity separate from the Chamber. Volunteers returned to build the "Back Porch Kitchen" that became the main revenue source for contributions to our school music programs. Our auxiliary, "Possums Unlimited" volunteers ran the kitchen and sold "Possum" merchandise at our "Possum Store."

Over the years, there have been many fine concerts. The U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Army Band, the Hot Springs Concert Band have performed on the square. And with some help, we even had Country Music Hall of Famer Jean Shephard twice. Bands from down the road and as far away as Dallas and Kansas City have graced our stage. All the bands that come to the porch play for the donations in a "pass the hat" collection.

In 2012, the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Commission awarded the Front Porch program a Governor's "Boot Strap" Award, an award given to a community or organization that develops a program on a shoestring that significantly enhances the state's tourism offerings. Having now heard the "backstory" I'm sure you will agree the award was well-deserved: a shoestring is an understatement. What would we do without our volunteers!

Our Front Porch concerts have become a real family destination for locals and visitors from all over the country and the world. We invite you to join us. Check out our website for a schedule of shows.. As we prepare for our next season, we really do mean it when we say, "Come Hang Around with Us."

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High Shoals Cabins	Mount Ida	870-867-3937	Facebook: High-Shoals-Cabins-320235698046982/
Ouachita River Haven Resort	Pencil Bluff	870-326-4941	http://www.ouachitahaven.com/
Marilyn's Old Country Store and RV Park	Mount Ida	870-867-0168	http://www.mtidarvpark.com/
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Highway 27 Fishing Village	Story	870-867-2211	http://www.highway27fishingvillage.homestead.com/

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Crystal	Norman	870-867-2101

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Fulton Branch	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Shirley Creek	Oden	870-326-4322
Albert Pike	Langley	870-867-2101
Little Missouri Falls	Langley	870-867-2101

Visit website:
<http://www.lakeouachita.org/ouachita-national-forest-camping-areas.htm>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ouachita/recarea/?recid=10714>
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ouachita/recreation/fishing/recarea/?recid=10722&actid=43>

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CAMPGROUND	FACILITIES	NEAREST TOWN	WEBSITE
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Tompkins Bend (Shangri-La)	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Mount Ida	www.lakeouachita.org/lake-ouachita-camping-area.htm
Joplin (Mountain Harbor)	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Mount Ida	
Twin Creek (No Reservations)	RV/Tent, No Hookups, No Fees	Mount Ida	
Crystal Springs	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Hot Springs	
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Brady Mountain	RV/Tent, Electric and Water	Royal	http://www.lakeouachita.combrady-mountain-campground/



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION

Montgomery County fire protection is provided by ten volunteer fire departments across the county. They are dispatched from the sheriff's office anytime a 911 call is placed for an emergency.

The information in the dispatcher's database is provided by the county 911 coordinator. Anyone building a new home should contact the coordinator to get an address assigned and assure that the address is entered in the 911 database. Whether building or moving into an existing building, contact the 911 coordinator to determine which volunteer department responds to your location.

The 911 coordinator's telephone number is 870-867-4533.

Contact your local fire department and register your home. Some fire groups may have an annual fee. Following are the fire departments:

JOPLIN VFD

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AR, 71957

SOUTHFORK CENTER FIRE PROTECTION ASSN

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PO Box 714, Mt. Ida, AR 71957

MOUNT IDA VFD

Barry Craw, 870-867-7745

NORMAN VFD

Loren Mitchner, 479-243-7536
P.O. Box 427, Norman
Arkansas, 71960

SIMS VFD

Melissa Gray,
870-867-5203 or 870-828-0105

ODEN-PENCIL BLUFF VFD

Chris Fryar, 870-356-8621

CADDO GAP VFD

Monty Coffman 870-828-9719
P.O. Box 102, Caddo Gap,
Arkansas, 71935

SULPHUR-LAVERNA VFD

Dale Morris, 867-3487

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- Maybe you love the idea of a place with no traffic lights,
- A place where assessing taxes takes less than 5 minutes, and the line at the revenue office is non-existent,
- A place where a call to 911 for a fire or medical emergency gets extraordinarily quick response;
- A place where the local appliance store comes to fix what's broken the same day and feels really bad if they can't.

Then, Montgomery County is DEFINITELY the place for YOU.

And, are you wondering about healthcare?

Mount Ida in Montgomery County is home to Healthy Connections, a medical and dental facility, which will soon embark on building an even larger facility. This review by one of their patients says it all. "The staff is friendly and on the ball with figuring out what's going on with you. They are awesome with my kids and always have smiling faces. I used to avoid doctor's offices at all costs but I actually feel comfortable with this staff and don't mind going."

There are other doctors, including a chiropractor, three dentists, an optometrist, and a clinic associated with CHI St Vincent Hospital in Hot Springs. Hot Springs has two hospitals--CHI St. Vincent and National Park, within 30 - 40 miles of Mount Ida.

We are particularly proud of the Montgomery County Nursing Home and Assisted Living, both owned by the county. Both of these facilities are renowned for the quality of their care, including in/out-patient physical therapy and a special needs unit.

What about churches?

Every church affiliation you could want is represented in this small county. A complete list is included on the Chamber of Commerce website, <https://www.mtidachamber.com>. Suffice it to say, these are not mega churches like you would find in larger cities. These are small community churches where everyone knows your name and that offer rich spiritual and community enrichment opportunities.

Can I afford to live here?

Montgomery County is a place as affordable as you need it to be, you will find million dollar homes or small mobile homes and cabins for sale. Or if you choose to build, the county is home to many talented contractors and tradesmen.

Volunteer opportunities in Montgomery County abound, associated with many of the things that make us special. Get involved in the Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts, the Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio, The Montgomery County Food Pantry, Warm Hearts Humane Society, The Heritage House Museum, or the Old Norman High School Museum. Become a Trail Dog and help maintain county trails, including the 45 mile LOvIT flanking the

south side of Lake Ouachita from Mount Ida all the way to the Blakeley Dam in Hot Springs.

From Mount Ida, you are only 25 short miles from Hot Springs, an urban area with all the traffic and stop lights you could possibly want. Hot Springs offers horse racing and a casino, liquor stores and bars, many excellent restaurants, two theaters, shopping centers and malls, and historic Bathhouse Row. In other words, you have everything you need in Mount Ida, and you can get anything you want in Hot Springs.

So, if you find Montgomery County appealing so far, then take the time to read this Visitor Guide. We would love to welcome you as a full-time resident of Montgomery County.

High Shoals Cabins

**2642 High Shoals Road
Mount Ida, AR**

f 870-867-3937 t

www.highshoalscabins.com

We offer comfortable cabins and camping on the Ouachita River, Lake area, and in Mount Ida.

Come experience the best of Arkansas, "The Natural State."

**• Hiking and Biking • Canoes and Kayaks
• Fishing • Hunting**



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

COUNTY AND STATE OFFICES

County Assessor	870-867-3271
County Clerk	870-867-3521
County Judge	870-867-3114
County Sheriff's Office	870-867-3151
County Treasurer	870-867-3411
County Library.....	870-867-3812
Tax Collector.....	870-867-3155
Veterans Service Office	870-867-3033
Arkansas Revenue Office	870-867-3813
911 County Coordinator	870-867-4533

CITY OFFICES

Mayor of Mount Ida.....	870-867-3541
Mayor of Norman	870-334-2400
Mayor of Oden	870-326-4675
Senior Adult Center (Mount Ida)	870-867-2313
Mount Ida Water & Sanitation	870-867-3541

UTILITIES

Centerpoint Energy(natural gas)	800-992-7552
Entergy (electric).....	800-368-3749
Mount Ida Waterworks.....	870-867-3541
Norman Waterworks.....	870-334-2400
Oden Waterworks.....	870-326-4889
Amerigas (propane)	870-867-3124
Graves (propane).....	870-326-4957
Verizon (landline & wireless)	800-854-7549
Windstream (internet & landline) (residential)	800-347-1991
Windstream (internet & landline) (business)	800-843-9214
Suddenlink	888-822-5151
DirecTV (new customers).....	877-333-7096
Dish	800-333-3474

SCHOOL DISTRICTS CADDO HILLS SCHOOLS

Elementary	870-356-3331
High School	870-334-2412

MOUNT IDA SCHOOLS

Superintendent	870-867-2323
Elementary School	870-867-4596
High School	870-867-2771
Oden School Supt.....	870-326-4311

MEDICAL/HEALTH CARE FACILITIES EMERGENCY 911

CHI St. Vincent Medical Clinic(Mount Ida)	870-867-2175
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Healthy Connections Medical and Dental Clinic	870-867-4244
Montgomery County Health Unit	870-867-2331
Neck and Back Clinic.....	870-867-0172
Ronnie Faulkner, DDS	870-867-3432
D. Michael DeRuyter DDS	870-867-4110
Mike Tannehill, OD	870-867-2814
Mount Ida Pharmacy	870-867-3174
Montgomery County Nursing Home & Therapy Center	870-867-2156
Montgomery County Assisted Living	870-867-2159
Home Health & Hospice.....	870-867-4186
In-Home Services	870-867-3138
Wellness Physical Therapy	870-867-2121
Ouachita Behavioral Health and Wellness	870-867-2147

AMBULANCE SERVICE CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY

Air Evac	800-247-3822
Southwest EMS	870-867-3200
LifeNet (air)	870-582-5433

NEWSPAPERS

Montgomery County News (weekly)	870-867-2821
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FOREST SERVICE

Oden/Mena District	870-326-4322
Mt. Ida, Womble District.....	870-867-2101

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Park Manager	501-767-2101
National Recreation Reservation System	877-444-6777

GENERAL

Montgomery County Master Gardeners.....	870-867-2311
Montgomery Extension Office.....	870-867-2311
4-H Clubs of Montgomery County	870-867-2311
Montgomery Nursing Home Auxiliary Thrift Store.....	870-867-2664
Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts	870-867-3894
Montgomery County Cattlemen's Association	870-326-4828
Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County	870-867-4422

2021 CHAMBER DIRECTORY

Preface

The purpose of the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce is to help member businesses prosper by providing tools and training to encourage community connections crucial to small business.

One of those connections is this Visitors Guide, designed to promote tourism, relocation, and expansion of service opportunities within our county to many annual visitors.

In addition to the guide, the Chamber also sponsors the Three Rivers Heritage Festival and the World Championship Crystal Dig, held simultaneously in September.

The Chamber Community Awards Banquet in April every year unites our businesses and volunteers in a celebration of our community achievements as well as updates our community on the plans and accomplishments of the Chamber of Commerce. The COVID pandemic prevented the holding of this banquet for two years.

The Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce is located at 127 Hwy 270W in Mount Ida. We can be contacted by phone at (870) 867-2723, by email at director@mtidachamber.com, or by mail at PO Box 6, Mount Ida, AR 71957.

2021 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Smith, author

Kenn Greene, City of Norman

Justin Neel, Caddo Hills High School

Tara Hunt, Mount Ida High School

Bobbie Himel, Action Realty/Select Realty

Greg Black, Southern Bancorp

Mary Schinbeckler, Turtle Cove Spa

Stephanie Barnes-Berman, Mountain Harbor Resort & Spa

Chrissy Simpier Phillips, Mike Tannehill, OD

Gail Holloway, Chamber Director

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

Sammy Jones County Judge
870-867-3114

David White Sheriff and Collector
870-867-3151

Penny Black County and Circuit Clerk
870-867-3521

Betty Boling Treasurer
870-867-3411

Tammy McCarter
Assessor
870-867-3271



105 HIGHWAY 270 EAST • MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS 71957

2021 CHAMBER MEMBER Directory

BUILDING AND HOME SERVICES

ABC Ready Mix
225 Featherston St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0122

**Carmack's Custom
Corner/K Carmack Custom
Homes & Cabinets**
28 Highway 27 N
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-490-0175

Gerald Abernathy Backhoe

225 Featherston St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0122

Harbor East POA (HEPOA)

21 Vista Dr.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3838

Trinity Roofing Contractors, Inc.

655 Marion Anderson Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-304-6007

Bates Sales & Service

430 Hwy 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957

870-867-2811

Bath Planet of Arkansas

1801 Higdon Ferry Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-760-5901

Mike's Heating & Air

1104 S. Crystal Springs Rd.
Royal, AR 71968
501-991-3290

Summitt's Circuits

2337 Hwy 270,
Mt Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3834

Floyd Scantling & Son (wells)

Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3865

Two Ladies & a Bucket Cleaning Service

P.O. Box 387
Norman, AR 71960
870-490-2241

Mount Ida Abstract & Title Co., Inc

130 Highway 270 E.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2874

REAL ESTATE

Action Realty

125 Highway 270 E.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2000

Ouachita Real Estate

506 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2215

Pride Homes & Mountain Lake Real Estate

939 Hwy 270
Mt Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7177

BANKS, CHURCHES, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Arvest Bank

221 S. George St.
Mt. Ida, Arkansas 71957
870-867-3148

Diamond Bank

605 US 270
Mt. Ida, Arkansas 71957
870-867-2131

Southern Bancorp

1017 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0138

Caddo River Baptist Association

345 Bridge St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3749

Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church

126 Water Tower Rd.
Norman, Arkansas 71960
870-223-2724

Caddo Gap Baptist Church

48 Sixth St.
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
501-539-2689

Christian Mission Ministries

4107 W. Hwy 270
Pencil Bluff, AR 71965

eDiscipleship Ministries

870-385-7090

Jesus Name Peace Tabernacle

123 E. Elm St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Joplin United Methodist Church

59 Mountain Harbor Rd.
Joplin, AR 71957
870-867-4989

Kokamo's Parts & Supplies

**BUMPER
TO
BUMPER**

Jody "Kokamo" Hamilton
Owner/Operator
870-867-3118
546 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, AR 71957



Hardware & Plumbing

LAKE OUACHITA BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Burger Night 5:15 PM
(Children 18 & under eat free, Adults \$4)

AWANA 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Youth 6:00PM - 7:30 PM

www.lakeouachitabaptist.org



3586 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, Arkansas
(870) 867-2554

LOVE OTHERS BECAUSE OF CHRIST

Sulphur Springs Baptist Church
925 Sulphur Springs Rd.
Norman, AR 71960
870-997-7610

WaySeekers Ministry
P.O. Box 518
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Barbara Klutts - Independent Insurance Agent
479-234-9384

John W Yeargan, Jr. - Attorney
Diamond Bank Building
601 Highway 270 E
Mt. Ida, 71957
870-867-4910

Mount Ida Printing Company
734 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2411

Edward Jones Financial
Eric Porter - Financial Advisor
432 Ouachita Ave. Ste. C
Hot Springs, AR 71901
501-623-9172
501-620-3146

P.T. Tax & Bookkeeping
504 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-326-5550

Relic's Tax Service
212 Hwy 88 W.
Pencil Bluff, AR 71965
870-326-4633

Ruth Accounting
4307 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 17957
501-835-1220

RESORTS, LODGING, FOOD AND BEVERAGE

Lake Ouachita Shores Resort
359 Ouachita Shores Parkway,
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3651

Mountain Harbor Resort and Spa
994 Mountain Harbor Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR
870-867-2191

Ouachita River Haven Resort
122 Ouachita River Haven Rd.
Pencil Bluff, AR 71965
870-326-4941

Shangri-La Resort
987 Shangri-La Dr.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2011

Bear Den Cabin
35 Wildlife Lane
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7622

Camp Conrad
136 Catfish Cove
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-490-0440

Catfish Cove Cabin and Pontoon Boat Rental
136 Catfish Cove
Oden, AR 71961
870-490-0791

Deer Creek Lodge
8075 Highway 27 N
Story, AR 71970
870-867-3669

The Fisherman's Wife
ekseiter@yahoo.com

Gap Mercantile & Cottage
(Caddo Gap)
35 Vaught St.,
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
870-356-3909

Gretta Lane Hostel - The Manse
136 Water Tower Rd.
Norman, AR 71960
870-223-2724

Highway 27 Fishing Village
214 Fishing Village Rd,
Story, AR 71970
870-867-2211

High Shoals Cabins
2642 High Shoals Road
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3937

Irish Rose Cabin
67 Sod Farm Road
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3321 or 870-867-7744

Lake Ouachita Shores Resort
359 Ouachita Shores Parkway
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3651

Lake Ouachita Vacation Rentals
Fox Lane
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4661

Little Fir Landing
3304 Hwy 188 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3335

Marilyn's Old Country Health Food Store & RV Park
3551 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0168

Pea Patch Ranch/Buena Vista Cottage
2591 Manfred Rd.,
Caddo Gap 71935
870-356-4213

Peace Valley Sanctuary & Retreat
344 Peace Valley Road,
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
870-356-2667

Pearl's Palace
870-867-7106
Vrbo listing # 1625274

River View Cabins and Canoes, Inc.
92 W. Riverview Dr.
Oden, AR 71961
870-326-4630

Royal Oak Inn
936 Highway 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2169

"Tyler" Vacation Rental on the Ouachita River
713-412-3780
Vrbo listing # 1706345

Bob's Food City (grocery)
742 Highway 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3551

Bamboo Palace
112 Hwy 270 West

Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0111

Bluebell Café & Country Store
8 Hwy 298 E
Story, AR 71970
870-867-3999

Crystal Springs Mercantile & Café
1104 S. Crystal Springs Rd.
Royal, AR 71968
501-991-3044

Dairyette
717 Hwy 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2312

Dee's Deli
122 South George St
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4178

Mount Ida Café
132 Highway 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-9867-2283

Subway
220 Hwy 270 W.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2063

Caddo Mountain Spring Water
214-532-2944
www.caddomountainspringwater.com

CGRoxane, LLC / Crystal Geysers
3346 Hwy 8 W
Norman, AR 71960
870-334-2300

Slate Rock Brewing
113 S. Main St.
Amity, AR 71921
870-342-5545

CRYSTAL MINES & SHOPS

Blue Moon Crystals & Jewelry
6328 Hwy 270 E
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-898-0869

Board Camp Crystal Mine
110 Polk Rd 62
Mena, AR 71953
479-243-0771

Jim Coleman Rock Shop & Crystal Mine
5837 N. AR-7
Jessieville, AR 71949
501-984-5328

Crystal Seen Trading Company
2568 Highway 270 East
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4072

Collier Creek Crystals
64 Hurricane Grove Rd.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-490-0033

Dixie Crystal Mining Co.
60 Twin Circle
Story, AR 71970
870-867-4945

Fiddler's Ridge Rock Shop
3752 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2127

John Be Crystals
95 Poor Man Ln.
Story, AR 71970
870-490-1029

Judy's Crystals "n" Things
11 Logan Gap Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2523

Mother Earth's Treasures
870-867-0341

Real Earth Creations
3024 Hwy 270 E
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4892

Sweet Surrender Crystal Mine
288 Horseshoe Bend Rd.
Story AR 71970
870-867-0104

Wegner Quartz Crystal Mine
82 Wegner Ranch Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2309

HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES

Ouachita Behavioral Health & Wellness
128 S. George St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2147

Ronnie L Faulkner, DDS, PA
138 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3432

Dr. Mike Tannehill, O.D.
134 S. George St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2814

Healthy Connections
534 Luzerne St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4244

Montgomery County Assisted Living
147 Senior Dr.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2159

Montgomery County Nursing Home
741 South Dr
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2156

Mount Ida Pharmacy
744 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3174

Thornton Funeral Home
211 Luzerne St.
Mount Ida AR 71957
870-867-2001

Village Apothecary/Mount Ida Health Mart
134 S. George St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0106

Wellness Physical Therapy
732 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2121

OTHER RETAIL, RECREATION, & SERVICES

Chris Elder Auto Sales, Inc.
114 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3000

Harbour In RV & Boat Storage
3054 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7890

Kokamo's Parts & Service

546 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3117

Mount Ida Tire & Service Center, LLC
107 US - 270
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3721

Ruth's Twin Creek Bait, Tackle, & Storage
4307 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3904

Crystal Creek
www.crystalcreekonline.com
<https://www.facebook.com/crystalcreekonline/>

Evergreen Acres
272 Evergreen Rd.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
501-617-2928

Gap Mercantile & Cottage
(Caddo Gap)
35 Vaught St.,
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
870-356-3909

Hempyville CBD
642 Bridge St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4367

Marilyn's Old Country Health Food Store & RV Park
3551 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0168

Melba's Antiques & Collectibles
2346 Hwy 270E,
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0173

Mount Ida Flea Market
224 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7549

Reed's Pawn
527 Hwy 270 E
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2579

Rockhound Boutique
60 Twin Circle
Story, AR 71960
870-867-4945

Wind n Wood
35 Wind n Wood Trail
Story, AR 71970
870-279-2724

Joplin Store
5402 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2400

Tiger Mart (Blackmon Oil)
439 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3513

Angie's Therapeutic Massage
240 N. George St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
479-216-1165

Turtle Cove Spa at Mountain Harbor Resort
181 Clubhouse Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-1220

Peace Valley Sanctuary & Retreat
344 Peace Valley Road,
Caddo Gap, AR 71935
870-356-2667

Standridge Place (event facility)
2988 Hwy 270,
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7360

Carrie's Dog House (pet services)
821 Logan Gap Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-7871

WATER SPORTS, ETC.

Ouachita Kayak Tours
<http://ouachitakayaktours.com>
501-725-2925

Ruth's Twin Creek Bait, Tackle & Storage
4307 Hwy 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3904

Two Spirits Ltd. Canoe Adventures
1167 Puckett Bend Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-5028

MEDIA

KPGC Radio
P.O. Box 32
Norman, AR 71960
www.kpgc951.com
870-334-2082

Mena Newspapers, Inc
501 Mena Street,
Mena AR 71953
479-394-1900

Montgomery County News
133 S. West St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2821

ATTRACTIONS

Camp Ozark
155 Camp Ozark Dr.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4131

Creative Communion
870-490-2246

**Heritage House Museum of
Montgomery County**
819 Luzerne St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4422

**Lum & Abner Store
and Museum**
4562 Hwy 88
Pine Ridge, AR 71966
870-326-4442

**Montgomery County
Front Porch Stage**
info@frontporchstage.org
870-867-5163

**Montgomery
County Library**
145 A Whittington St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3812

**Norman Historic
Preservation Program, Inc.**
234 Hattie St.,
Norman, AR 71960
870-223-2724

Norman Area Public Library
255 E. Main,
Norman, AR 71960

870-223-1218

**Ouachita Artists Gallery
& Studio**
135 West. St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3115

OTHER NON-PROFITS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

**Central Arkansas
Development Council**
Senior Center
158 Senior Dr.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2313

**Goodner-Summit
American Legion**
Montgomery County Annex,
Room 314
P.O. Box 427
Mount Ida, AR 71957
479-234-1259

**Imagination Library of the
Ouachitas**
P.O. Box 482
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
501-701-0990

**Montgomery County
Council for the
Performing Arts**
414 Whittington St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-326-4543

**Montgomery County
Extension Homemakers**
117 Ray Dr.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2166

**Montgomery County
Master Gardeners**
www.uaex.edu/montgomery
870-867-2311

**Montgomery County
Nursing Home Auxiliary
Thrift Store**
150 S. West St.
Mt. Ida, Ar 71957
870-867-2664

**Ouachita Volunteers
Association, Inc.**

870-490-2246

**Warm Hearts Humane
Society**
PO Box 535
Mt Ida, Ar 71957
870-490-0883

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Barbara Grazzie Warbritton
Debra Bushman
Derwood Brett
Kenn Greene
Jon M. Ahrens
John Cameron
Mary Beth & David Lysobey
Morris McLelland,
Pat Smith
Robin Smith

GOVERNMENTAL AND EDUCATION

Caddo Hills School District
2268 Hwy 8 E
Norman, AR 71960
870-356-5700

**Caddo-Womble Ranger
District**
1523 Hwy. 270

Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2101

City of Norman
133 Golf Course Rd.
Norman, AR 71960
870-334-2400

**Mount Ida Lions Athletic
Booster Club**
338 Whittington St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957

Mount Ida School District
338 Whittington St.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2323

**Prosecuting Attorney's
Office**
870-867-4145

**University of Arkansas
Rich Mountain
Community College**
1100 College Dr.
Mena, AR 71953
479-394-7622

The BLUEBELL Cafe & Country Store

CAFE • GROCERY • CONVENIENCE STORE
We do shuttles for the entire Ouachita Trail & Womble Trail!
Plus, a Gift Shop with items by local artists & more!



**SUNDAY DINNER
FULL BREAKFAST
& LUNCH MENU**

Jam Sessions!
Every Saturday
Starting at
5:00 p.m.!
*You're welcome to
play or just listen!*

**Best Burger
in this area!**

**SUMMERTIME
MILKSHAKES
& FLOATS**

Intersection of 298 East & 27 North | Story, AR 71970
870-867-3999 | WWW.BLUEBELLCAFEANDCOUNTRYSTORE.COM

HOURS:
Mon. - Thurs. 4:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday 4:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 4:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mena Ford, Inc.

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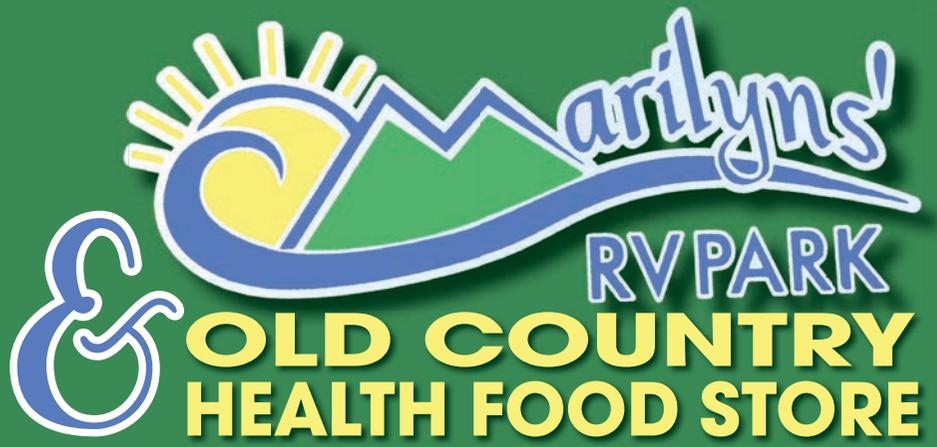


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