

Red River Gorge

Volume 6, Issue 1 – March, April, May 2014

Upcoming Events

[\(click here for full schedule\)](#)



Monday March 10
Glacie Center
 Expanded Hours

Sat. March 22
 Building for
 Bluebirds

Sat. April 12
 Wonders of
 Wildflowers*

Sat. April 19
 Earth Day with
 Woodsy Owl

Sat. April 26
 "The Lorax"
 Arbor Day

Sat. May 10
 Herpetology
 Olympics*

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 7 days / week

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Glacie Center

*Free events at Glacie complement [Wildflower](#) and [Herpetology](#) Weekends at Natural Bridge State Park

Recreational Opportunities

Viewing Spring Wildflowers

The wildflower season in the Red River Gorge begins with the opening of the first flowers on chilly early spring mornings. Soon a vast wave of wildflowers—hundreds of species, blooming in succession, capturing sunlight that flows through the bare branches of deciduous trees—will blanket the forest floor.

Most spring wildflowers will bloom in April or early May, however the season can be altered by weather and landscape. Wildflowers growing in a cool, shady hollow tend to bloom later than those of the same species growing in open woods. One of the earliest spring wildflowers is bloodroot. It has bright white petals that appear in late March or early April.

In spring, the forest has a wealth of violets in many colors—some white, creamy, or yellow, others blue or purple, and even green! Look for violets in rich moist forest.

Some native orchids bloom in spring. Scattered pink lady's slippers pop up on the dry sandy ridgetops, while larger, impressive clumps of yellow lady's slippers require rich soil. Yellow lady's slippers are one of the most popular wildflowers and tend to bloom in late April or early May. They can be seen along the Whittleton Trail.



Bloodroot
(Sanguinaria canadensis)



Yellow Lady's Slipper
(Cypripedium pubescens)

Many members of the lily family such as white and yellow trout lily, numerous red trilliums, and white trilliums (which turn pink with age) may be found blooming in moist woods such as the Rock Bridge area.

Virginia bluebells carpet the streamside forest along Indian Creek. The starry white flowers of stonecrop are often found growing on rock outcrops. Other Gorge wildflowers include jack-in-the-Pulpit, wild ginger, bluets, dwarf larkspur, spring beauties, wild geranium, wild columbine, mayapples, and dwarf wild irises.



Red Trillium
(Trillium erectum)

The end of spring wildflower season is signaled by the closing of the forest canopy, when the leaves of the tallest trees open fully and intercept the sunlight before it reaches the forest floor.

News and Updates

Winter Road Closures

A letter from District Ranger Dave Manner:

Hello,

Some of you have come out to the Red River Gorge over these winter months to find some of the roads closed. Like many places around our part of the world, the winters snow, ice and extreme temperatures impacted some of our facilities. Due to downed trees caused by the ice and snow and soft roads resulting from the amount of melting snow and ice soaking into the road bed, we had to close some roads temporarily. Hazard trees in Koomer ridge campground restricted use for a time until we could remove them.

We know many of you are getting cabin fever and want to get out in the Gorge as soon as you can. Fortunately, we've been able to open up a portion of Koomer Ridge campground and all forest roads within the Red River Gorge. There are still a number of areas along these roads that are soft and rutted. While traveling these roads, please use caution. I invite you to call our Gladie Center for up to date information on the status of all the facilities in the Gorge.

So, all of us with the Daniel Boone National Forest wish you many safe trips to the Gorge this year and please bear with us as we work through the effects of this winter season.

*Dave Manner
District Ranger
Cumberland Ranger District*



*Chimney Top Road
In late February*

Meet the Forest Service

SCA's in the Gorge

Spring is always a time of change in the Red River Gorge. As the weather changes, so do the faces of the Forest Service. The Daniel Boone National Forest has a strong partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Each year many individuals from the SCA spend the season working in the Red River Gorge. If you visit the Gladie Center year after year, you'll meet a new SCA intern each spring.

This spring, you'll meet Colleen Schlechte. A native of Ohio, Colleen currently resides in Alabama. She attended Missouri University of Science and Technology and graduated with a degree in Geology and Geophysics in 2012. Colleen has performed trail work in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, reforestation and invasive species removal in Vermont, and conducted stream surveys in Ohio.



Colleen enjoys bird watching, many other outdoor activities, and her favorite color is blue. When visiting the Gladie Center, ask Colleen about Blue Birds, she'd love to tell you all about them!

Contact Us

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