



2019

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VISITOR GUIDE

Mt. Ida, AR

THE LOVI TRAIL

Visitors travel here to enjoy her clear lakes and abundance of free-flowing streams and rivers that invite fishing, backpacking, day hiking and canoeing...

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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!

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BIRDING ON LAKE OUACHITA



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ANTIQUES & FLEA MARKETS!

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...

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THINKING ABOUT RELOCATION?

Montgomery County is a place as affordable as you need it to be, with all the contractors and service businesses necessary to actually build to your specifications and maintain your residence...

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OUACHITA ARTISTS' GALLERY • AREA CRAFTS & GIFTS • ANNUAL FESTIVALS • IMPORTANT INFORMATION • & MORE!



WELCOME

to Montgomery County

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS GUIDE?

Are you yearning for a great holiday, an escape from the daily grind, or perhaps a retirement that feels like a permanent vacation? In any case this visitor's guide will help you fulfill your wishes.

On these pages you will find information about our biggest attractions like Lake Ouachita fishing at its finest, hiking and biking trails, forest, canoeing the rivers and streams, crystal mining and musical events as examples. While you can use the accompanying index to target your area of special interest, we encourage you to read the entire guide cover to cover and keep it around all year for useful reference.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Near the center of the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas is Montgomery County, 806 square miles with fewer than 10 people for each one of those miles. About 85% of the county is National Forest. Mount Ida is the county seat and location of the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce visitor center.

Montgomery County has four seasons and our winter actually includes a sprinkle of snow, an average of 4 inches per year. But the average temperature is 68 degrees F and spring, summer, and fall last a long time.

Visitors to the county may approach by air, land, or water. The Mount Ida Bearce Airport opened July 3 1964. It is located east of Mount Ida on Highway 270 and provides a landing strip for small planes. Blessed with four resorts and a plethora of cabins and RV facilities, there is always a good place to stay.

The Ouachita River, Caddo River, and the Little Missouri River flow into Montgomery County from the west and can be floated by canoe,

kayak or small boat. Montgomery County includes multiple hiking and biking trails, including the Womble, Ouachita National Recreation Trail and LOViT, all IMBA Epic Trails.

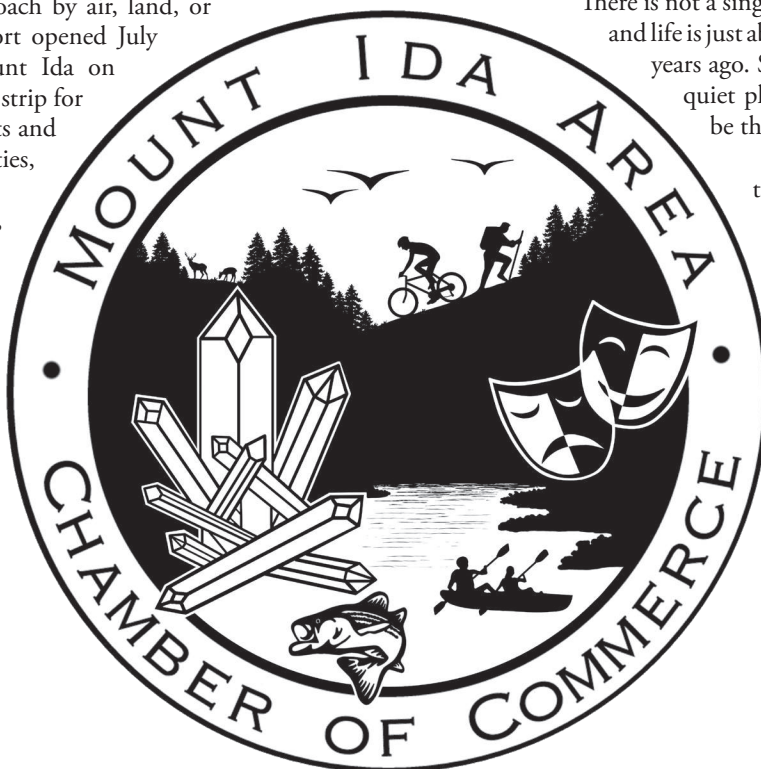
The LOViT hiking and biking trail spreads 45 miles along the shore of Lake Ouachita all the way to Brady Mountain Dam in Hot Springs. LOViT is particularly remarkable because it is easily accessible and comfortable for casual, short hikes at the west end of the lake but gets really tough as the trail meanders east toward the dam.

Folks travel from literally all over the world to Montgomery County for reasons beyond the wonders of Lake Ouachita and the national forest. Drop by the Chamber visitor center 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, fondly known as the QQC. A wonderful exhibit at the Heritage Museum depicts the geological structure behind those crystals.

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, monuments throughout the county, The Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio, and even the Front Porch stage music one Saturday a month, weather permitting.

There is not a single stoplight in Montgomery County and life is just about as casual now as it was a hundred years ago. So if you are looking for a beautiful, quiet place to relocate, Montgomery could be the answer to your dreams.

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






MOUNTAIN HARBOR

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THINKING ABOUT RELOCATION?

Almost everyone considers moving somewhere else sooner or later. Maybe you just get sick of the same old urban grind in your fair city and the house next door is way too close for comfort. . Your occupation (or desired occupation) is not location limited; you could do that (whatever it is) anywhere. So why stay there?

Or maybe you are rapidly approaching retirement and just want to go where you can do what you love to do -- like fish all day or have time to grow a great big garden, hunt, swim and float on the water and watch birds. Or get involved in the community while not disappearing in the community--where 85% of your surroundings are national forest and lake, so it is beautiful anywhere you look.

And maybe you love the idea of a place with no traffic lights, where assessing taxes is a five minute job and the line at the revenue office is usually non-existent. A place where a call to 911 (whether for a fire or a medical emergency) gets extraordinarily quick response; where the local appliance store sometimes comes to fix what's broken the same day and feels really bad if they can't.

If any of those thoughts appeal to you, consider Montgomery County, Arkansas.

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 of course, 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. There is a lot to say about both of these facilities, which are renowned for the

quality of their care, including in/outpatient physical therapy and a special needs unit. You can know about the quality the minute you walk in the door. It smells the same inside as outside--more than can be said about most other nursing homes.

Every church affiliation you could want is represented in the county. The list is very long and can be seen on the Chamber website, <https://www.mtidachamber.com>. These are not mega churches like those in some cities, some so large that they have more members than we have residents in the county. Talk about disappearing!

Montgomery County is a place as affordable as you need it to be, with all the contractors and service businesses necessary to actually build to your specifications and maintain your residence.

From Mount Ida, you are only 30 - 40 miles from 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, several excellent restaurants, two theaters, and even hot spring bathhouses. In other words, you have access to much you want to be near but not necessarily live in.

The 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, The Heritage House Museum, and the Old Norman High School Museum. For others' interest there is making music on the Front Porch Stage or perhaps maintaining county trails; including the 45 mile LOvIT trail, flanking the south side of Lake Ouachita from Mount Ida all the way to the Blakely Dam in Hot Springs.

So if you find Montgomery County appealing so far, then take the time to read this Visitor and Relocation Guide carefully from cover to cover, make contact with a realtor listed in the guide, and start thinking seriously about making Montgomery County your home.

On the cover: Bald Eagle by PHP Life in Motion



PHP Life in Motion

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 is now Montgomery County, Arkansas.

Granville, and eventually others, located in Sulphur Springs Township in a settlement called Montgomery. Arkansas became a state in 1836.

Montgomery County was formed in 1842 from territory taken from Hot Spring County and named after the settlement of Montgomery, which ultimately became the county seat. The first post office in the county was established June 28, 1842, by Mr. Whittington and named Mount

Ida after a girls' school outside of Boston. The school, in turn, had derived its name from a mountain near Troy in Asia Minor.

Whittington was the first postmaster of the 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 changed the name of the county seat from Montgomery to Salem, but "Salem" 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 date, descendants of Granville Whittington have played a major role in the development of Mount Ida and Montgomery County, contributing a great deal more than a post office and a name.

Read and see more in 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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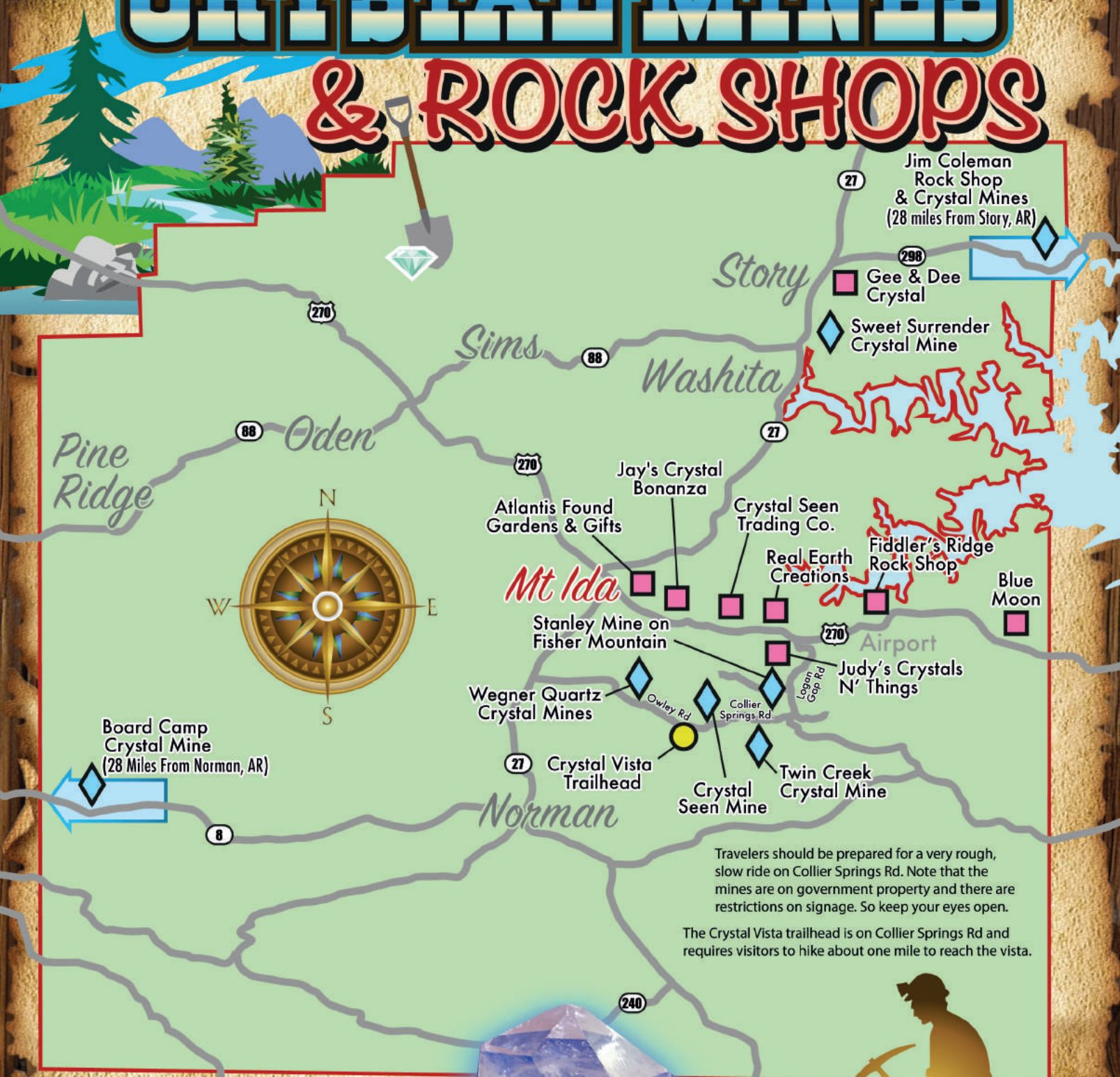
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Montgomery County

CRYSTAL MINES

& ROCK SHOPS



Jim Coleman
Rock Shop
& Crystal Mines
(28 miles From Story, AR)

Gee & Dee
Crystal

Sweet Surrender
Crystal Mine

Jay's Crystal
Bonanza

Atlantis Found
Gardens & Gifts

Crystal Seen
Trading Co.

Real Earth
Creations

Fiddler's Ridge
Rock Shop

Blue
Moon

Stanley Mine on
Fisher Mountain

Judy's Crystals
N' Things

Wegner Quartz
Crystal Mines

Crystal Vista
Trailhead

Crystal
Seen Mine

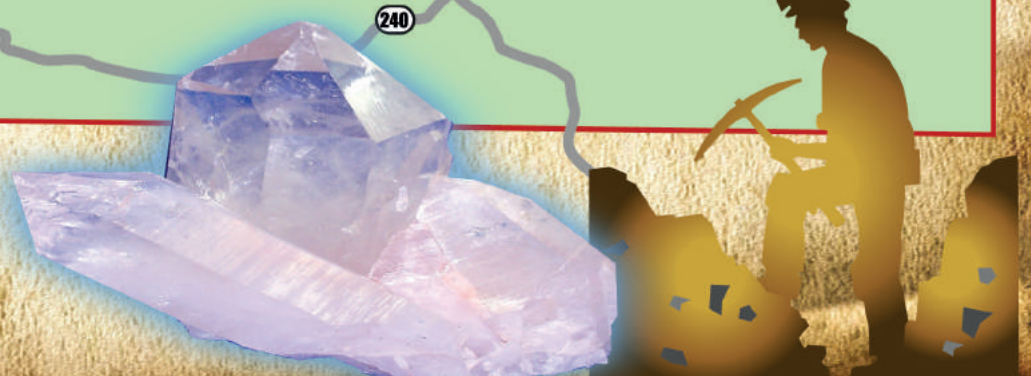
Twin Creek
Crystal Mine

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 CRYSTAL

THE HISTORY & THE FUN

Mount Ida, in the Arkansas county of Montgomery, is located in the Ouachita Mountain region. 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 from deep within 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 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. While the digging experience available varies, from hunting through tailings piles to working in hard rock, all area mines are above ground surface or open-

pit mines. Mining is dirty work. Digging for crystal 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 commonly found at each mine vary 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 rockhounds to dig for crystals, Mount Ida also offers many local opportunities to shop for crystals, gems, minerals, and fossils.



Area Crafts & Gifts

Whether you want a gift, a memento from the area or something special just for you or your home, the Mount Ida / Montgomery County area resonates with a plethora of talented crafters.

A good start for shopping is the Ouachita Artist Gallery and studio located on the Courthouse square. The Gallery features over 100 members and displays works of art representing a variety of media.

Next stop on the list is the Mount Ida Visitors Center located at 124 Hwy 270 W. The Visitors Center features pottery from Ouachita Mountains Pottery located in Story, hand-wrapped crystals from Mother Earth's Treasures located in Mount Ida, and bookmarks, books and DVD's from Gap Mercantile located in Caddo Gap. Blue Moon Crystals

& Jewelry offers a selection of Crystal items including jewelry, wands and pyramids.

Don't miss the Natural Herbal Lip Balm from Wind n Wood located in Story, and copies of All About the Food, by Mount Ida author, Pat Smith. Rounding out the local artisans, you'll find Crystal Creek and Evergreen Acres, both offering a variety of handcrafted bath products made in Mount Ida, and a wonderful sampling of jewelry from Beaton Creek Designs.

Be sure to visit The Blue Bell Cafe and Country Store in Story and browse their newly opened gift shop, where you'll see the creative skills of local artisans represented through a variety of beautiful gift items.



MCCPA: THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Anyone who might have said that life in rural America lacks culture surely hasn't been to Montgomery County. What's your favorite genre of the theater? Musicals? Drama?

No matter, the county-wide Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts (MCCPA) strives to offer productions and programs that provide

opportunities to enrich community life and cultivate growth to a diverse population. Follow Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts on Facebook for up-to-date information.

The history of MCCPA reflects a dream and the commitment and determination of a small group of citizens. The Montgomery County News of October 25, 1984 tells of the beginning of this performing arts group: "The Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts, a non-profit organization, was formed Tuesday night at a meeting of county residents interested in bringing music, drama, and musical comedy to the community.

The newspaper article continued by noting, "The Music Man, a musical comedy by Meredith Wilson, has been selected for their first endeavor." Proceeds from the original production were donated to the Montgomery County Fair Association, to be used for future air conditioning of the new fairground building.

As promised, 1985 brought *The Music Man*, which astounded audiences with its talented cast and involvement county-wide. The group wanted to show community residents that the success of the first show was not a "fluke", but talent was available and eager to perform in future productions. The young theater group scheduled an even bigger musical for the next year—*Fiddler on the Roof*. The success of the 1986 musical helped convince naysayers that this county had the talent and leadership for the performing arts organization to succeed.

MCCPA was a vagabond group for the first six years, performing in a variety of "theaters", including the fairgrounds, the Mount Ida High School auditorium, the shoe factory, the bank's Hospitality House, and churches around the county. And then a miracle happened. The Mount Ida School District agreed to lease the historic rock gymnasium, Roosevelt Auditorium, to the growing thespian group.



As Lois Troop, a charter MCCPA member said in an article celebrating the MCCPA's sixth anniversary, "We envisioned a multi-purpose facility that could be used for a variety of community activities. It seemed like a far-off dream; but, as happens sometimes, an opportunity presents itself when least expected. Suddenly our dream was more than just

a pipe dream." The group had its own theater!

Thus began almost ten years of renovations to the building, interrupted only by annual productions. Through the years, MCCPA members, county residents, and businesses have contributed countless hours of labor, materials, money, and skill – with a generous smattering of fundraisers- to make this dream come true.

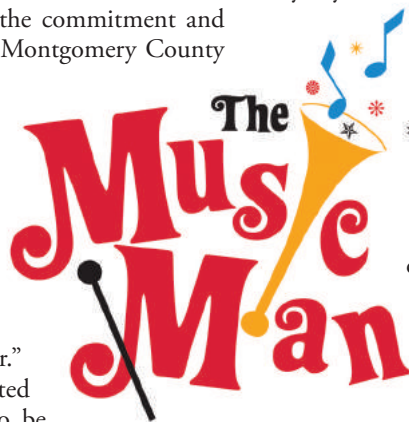
On February 9, 1991, MCCPA presented *Steel Magnolias*, its first major production in Roosevelt Auditorium. Members who had wielded hammers, saws, and paint brushes, wired and plumbed during renovation, and stitched stage curtains, now held auditions, built stage sets, found props, painted scenery, manned the concession stand, publicized, made costumes, choreographed, prompted, stage managed, directed, and performed.

Now, 34 years from its inception, many families have stayed involved. In 2016, three generations were in MCCPA's *Fiddler on the Roof*. Other big name productions performed at Roosevelt Auditorium include *Camelot*, *Oklahoma*, *Oliver*, *Sound of Music* (twice), *High School Musical*, *Wizard of Oz* (twice), *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Diary of Anne Franke* (twice) and *My Fair Lady* (twice) --- the last one in 2017.

This non-profit performing arts organization is funded entirely with the generosity of patrons and donors and the leadership and dedication of members and volunteers. New talent of all ages is welcomed! Donations are needed and tax deductible.

The 2019 season kicks off with a musical rendition of the family favorite, "Freaky Friday".

Roosevelt Auditorium is located on the Mount Ida High School campus at 414 Whittington Avenue. Follow on Facebook: Montgomery County Council for the Performing Arts.



My Fair Lady



Quartz, Quiltz, & Craftz Festival



QQC



The Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig is held in conjunction with the Quartz, Quiltz, & Craftz Festival (QQC) which is three shows in one, a Gem & Mineral Show, a Quilt Show, and an Arts & Crafts Show held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds.

This year, the 39th Annual QQC Festival takes place Saturday October 11th through Sunday, October 12th. Three buildings at the fairgrounds each feature one of the three shows

with additional gem & mineral booths and food vendors outside. Admission is free. Attendees can enter a free drawing for door prizes which will be announced periodically throughout the day and may purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win this year's featured quilt.

The QQC Festival also features a K-6 Kids' Dig which takes place Saturday at 10:00 am at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Grade school aged children can dig for crystals from

Twin Creek Crystal Mine in a specially prepared tailings pile sponsored by Dixie Crystal Mining Co. \$1 Entry. Each child must have his or her parent or legal guardian present to participate.

Participants get to keep all the crystals they find and submit their best point and cluster to compete for awards and prizes. The event also features an educational presentation. No pre registration is required for the K-6 Kids' Dig.

And we can tell you the kids love it.

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& THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

THE COURTHOUSE FENCE



Beyond the beauty, water and trail sports, and community events, there are nice, friendly people in Montgomery County. Some of those people are working in the county offices, making life so much simpler for everyone.

For one thing, pretty much every county office including the sheriff's office is located in the same place, inside the courthouse. And where is that courthouse? Right in downtown Mount Ida on a fenced square. You can't miss it. There is rich history behind that courthouse and fence.

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. The courthouse itself was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

There is another story behind the fence. In the early 1930s the men of the Mount Ida nCity Council were tired of the job and couldn't get anybody else to run for those offices. So, as a joke, the nominating committee secretly nominated a group of women, some of whom

were their own wives, to fill the positions. Imagine the women's surprise.

Among the nominating committee members was County Judge Blake Hughes. Remember that name, it becomes important. The women served during the 1931 and 1932 terms. 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 theremainder after the women had a persuasive conversation with the county judge, the very same Blake Hughes who had a part in their nominations. Sometimes a joke backfires.

Time and weather have wreaked havoc with the fence over the next 80-plus years and occasional rejuvenation has been required. But today the fence looks just about the way it did when it was built in the 1930's.

Photographs courtesy of the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County.





ANNUAL SORGHUM FESTIVAL

AT THE HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM

Nostalgic thoughts of fall typically bring to mind the bite of crisp, cool air and the lovely array of leaves changing color. At Heritage House Museum, however, it's all about sorghum! In keeping with the museum's ongoing effort to preserve the history of Montgomery County, the ole timey custom of making sorghum was reintroduced in 2010 and has become an annual event generally held on the last Saturday of October. This year's Sorghum Festival will be held on Saturday, October 26th. You might want to mark your calendar now for this delightful event!

Sorghum is the syrup byproduct of processing sorghum cane and traditionally provided rural families with a nutritious and filling winter staple at their table. Saturated on a homemade biscuit, it satisfied many a hunger. Making sorghum was event with families hauling closest neighbor who had stand. Squeezing and harvest of sorghum a full day's event.

Sorghum cane corn in its initial dependable crop that heat. The maturation of the when it is ready for harvest. of its leaves, the stalks cut low seed heads cut off. Wagon loads to the museum in preparation Sorghum Festival the canes are The internal metal gears a light green juice. The large highlight for many is watching 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 critical to remove the sweet amber syrup after cooking sufficiently but before thickening too much and turning bitter.

There are demonstrations of various types of old equipment thanks to the commendable work force of volunteers and visitors clamor for samples of sorghum cookies and freshly baked biscuits, buttered and topped with sorghum. This annual Sorghum Festival is a local event that is keenly anticipated and attended by folks from near and far. Check www.facebook.com/hhmmc for museum activities and information throughout the year!

Pictures courtesy of the Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County.



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.

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.

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORY TRAIL

Montgomery County has a true history trail chock full of entertainment. As you read through this article, you will find amusing, enjoyable stories as well as references to other articles providing much more detail. Lean back in your chair and follow the trail.

MOUNT IDA

Mount Ida, the county seat of Montgomery County, was named for a mountain near Boston. See the article about how Mount Ida got its name on page 5.

The county courthouse here is on the National Register of Historic Places (See page 10 for the story) Folks visiting Mount Ida may want to tour the Heritage House Museum, a local history museum, (page 22) or drop in at the Shack Attack Pizza to see the back bar and soda fountain that were once an integral part of Dick Whittington's old drug store.

The syrup pumps were marble and encased in the center of the back bar so that ice could be placed behind the pumps to keep the syrup cool. Mr. 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 been successful, this would have made him a hero to the Japanese and justified their attack on the United States. 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.

Mount Ida and Montgomery County are full of colorful and interesting characters. One of the most interesting stories told is of an escaped convict. While the sheriff and others were looking for him, the convict happened to pick the sheriff's house to try to hide out in. 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 had an adventure, also. When she returned home from shopping, she found 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.

One of the best storytellers in the Ouachita Mountains was Luke Warneke, father of professional baseball pitcher, Lon Warneke. Luke 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

South of Mt. Ida on Hwy 27 is the town of Norman. Norman was called Womble until the 1920's. A gentleman with the last name

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lisalbeav@yahoo.com



of Norman provided money for the town at a time when it was badly needed, and many feel that is why the town changed its name.

The 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.

Norman is home to the Caddo Indian Memorial highlighted in the article on page 21.

Another interesting place in Norman is the old school building, formerly the Caddo Valley Academy. It is currently being restored and

will house classrooms furnished in period furniture, books, etc., for the years the school served the community. See the article about the renovation on page 26.

Next to the school, one can see the remains of the dormitory that housed those students who were orphans or who lived too far to walk to the school. A book telling the history of the school is available and makes an interesting read for those who like this type of history.

CADDO GAP

About five miles further on Hwy 27 past Norman is Caddo Gap

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which 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. Located here is an Indian statue commemorating that Caddo Gap was the western-most point reached by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto in 1541. See the article about the Caddo Indian Monument on page 21.

Across the road from this statue 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 Highway 27 to the town of Black Springs, and on to Mena. When visiting this area, one could go to 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 Highway 8 near the Swindle farm. Later a tombstone was placed over this site and Mr. Swindle was buried next to his leg.

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

HICKORY NUT MOUNTAIN

East of Mount Ida on Hwy 270, visitors should take a drive up on Hickory Nut Mountain Vista for a scenic panorama of Lake Ouachita. (See the article on page 18) The Arkansas School for Mathematics and Sciences takes an annual trip to Hickory Nut Mountain to view the stars as an astronomy project. Also, there are several marinas and resorts on this side of the lake.

PENCIL BLUFF

West of Mount Ida at the fork of Hwy 270 and 88 is the town of Pencil Bluff which was originally named Sock City. In its early history the town had areas where loggers from nearby camps would come to gamble. They would carry their money in a sock because when the inevitable fight would break 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." Pencil Bluff was chosen 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 88S 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.

One of the interesting stories of Oden is when the bank was robbed. Jack Plemmons, called "Little Jack," was a clerk. The robbers stole a car and, wearing black stockings over their heads, took about \$1000 and Little Jack. A forest ranger thought to stop them and shot into the car, hitting 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. When Little Jack Plemmons 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.

FOLLOW THE TRAIL

- About 13 miles east of Mount Ida on Highway 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. We mean seriously spectacular.
- Return to highway 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 highway 27S. Talk about history!
- Drive on out 27S to Norman and then turn left at the one Norman stop sign onto highway 8. Here you can see the Caddo Indian Memorial and the old Norman High School renovation.
- Just a bit further down highway 8 at Caddo Gap, see the Caddo Indian Monument.
- Finally backtrack to Mount Ida and head west on highway 270 to Pencil bluff, taking highway 88 to Pine Ridge to finish your tour at the Lum & Abner Jot'Em Down Store.

PINE RIDGE

Continue on Highway 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. (See the story on page 24)

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

No matter what town one chooses to visit in Montgomery County, a visitor is sure to find colorful stories, welcoming smiles, and plenty to see.



Where to Worship

For an up-to-date list of Montgomery County churches, please visit/contact the Chamber of Commerce office or go to the Chamber website.

Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce
124 Highway 27 W
director@mtidachamber.com
www.mtidachamber.com

GRETTA LANE HOSTEL

COMES to MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Low-cost group lodging came to Montgomery County in March 2019 at the Gretta Lane HERC, an acronym for the 1400 square feet Hostel/Emergency Resource Center located on the grounds of Barr Memorial Presbyterian Church in Norman, nine miles south of Mount Ida.

The central heat and air facility houses up to 25 guests and offers beds, linens, and towels, or guests may bring their own. The fully-equipped kitchen with a freezer allows guests to plan and cook meals. The great room with fireplace invites community building, while the spacious grounds encourage large group activities, with a fire pit for roasting hot dogs and making S'mores, and a creek for wading.

Located on the Caddo River, Norman is a hub for enjoying the Ouachita Mountains –



hiking, biking, canoeing, fishing, and hunting – while immersing in the history of the area: the Caddo Indian Memorial and the Caddo River Trail for Life adjacent to the Caddo River, the Old Norman High School/

Museum, the Library in the Square - all within walking distance - and nearby Crystal and Collier Springs Recreation Areas, created by the CCC in the early 1930's

As a mission outreach and community service, the Gretta Lane HERC will be used as an emergency resource when needed for victims of flooding, tornadoes, freezing temperatures, etc.

The Gretta Lane HERC is ADA accessible and family friendly. With ample parking, the HERC is a beautiful place for retreats for churches, clubs, and family gatherings. Check out the website: www.grettalanearkansas.com or call 870-223-2724. Address: 132 Gretta Lane, Norman, AR 71960. WIFI with high speed Internet available. Secure booking.








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THE FRONT PORCH STAGE

- "COME HANG AROUND WITH US"

We rarely know or appreciate the "backstory" that gets us something as wonderful as the Front Porch Stage. The following story is 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 went about 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

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months to repair all our lines and remove the storm debris. Out-of-state crews were working all over 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 companies applauding the warm welcome and care from the folks of Montgomery County. The company wanted give something back to the community. We provided our specifications and they shipped us a \$5000 sound system, and 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 by 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 wood worker 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. They had been depending upon a collection by passing the hat during the program. This practice continued along with the concession creating 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 the music programs for our schools. Our auxiliary, "Possums Unlimited" volunteers ran the kitchen and sold "Possum" merchandise at our "Possum Store." More improvements have been made over time.

Over the years there have been many fine concerts. The U.S. Marine Band, the U.S. Army Band, the Hot Springs Concert Band all 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. Performances are held one Saturday per month May 4th, through October 26th, weather permitting. 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."

Visit us on our website, www.frontporchstage.org, and on Facebook.

Jerry Babbitt for the Front Porch Stage



The Front Porch Stage invites everyone to join them for music on the courthouse square one Saturday per month beginning May 4th through October 26th.

Visit Facebook and their website,
WWW.FRONTPORCHSTAGE.ORG
for a performance schedule.



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Lake Ouachita from Hickory Nut Mountain Vista

On Highway 270, about 13 miles east of Mount Ida and a mile or so west of the border separating Montgomery and Garland counties, is Hickory Nut Mountain Rd. heading north up Hickory Nut Mountain to the Lake Ouachita Vista.

At the very top of the mountain, about four miles, the panorama sweeping from west to east before you is Lake Ouachita, so 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 around and down through the mountains to Blakely Mountain, from where it ran a distance of 75 miles, falling 228 feet to Arkadelphia. From Arkadelphia to Camden, 65 miles, it fell only 82.5 feet before continuing on to the Black River on even more level terrain.

Not surprisingly, the variation in streamflow caused significant flooding downstream. Before the turn of the 20th century, the U.S. Congress authorized the first of what became 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 generation 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 Remmel Dam which created Lake Catherine, followed by Carpenter Dam creating Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs. But economics were still an issue, and they 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 was to create Lake Ouachita. In 1941, AP&L's permit to construct was terminated, an authorization that was passed on to the Army Corps of Engineers via a Senate flood control bill in 1944.

A 200-foot-wide emergency spillway was built between 1947 and 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 dam itself, along with the concrete intake structures, began on March 29, 1950. In 1952 a 251-foot-high, 1100-foot-wide dam of almost four million cubic yards of rolled earth was completed. 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. Owners of farms and residences did not always agree with the government appraised value of their property. As little as \$27 per acre was paid. Owners could keep their timber if they got it cut immediately.

As many as 18 to 29 sawmills were set up 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 by topping trees that extended more than 535 feet. A fish-finder can see the trees still standing on the lake bottom; the tops of some may rise above the surface during low water periods.

County and state roads, including short portions of State Highway 27 and U.S. 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 remains were found in the 1200 or so 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.

An entertaining story of these graves is told by a man who paid 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 to move it, only a few sheets of tin remained. When asked later about this, the man just 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.

Concealed under the water are a few small towns and roads, the places where some folks were born, and the land that produced a 14-pound sweet potato, a ribbon winner at the state fair.

Construction of the power plant began in 1952, and 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

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of the dam and lake to Arkansas. 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 40,000 plus 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. The shore and the surrounding Ouachita National Forest are limited to a minimal development of resorts, marinas, and campgrounds provided by the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S Forest Service, and private individuals.

The economics are now different. Since the gates closed and the final flood created Lake Ouachita, the Blakely Dam powerhouse has

recovered 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 lake came to be, an estimated 220,000 people visited the Lake Ouachita area. Today the number of annual visitors is in the many millions, benefiting local businesses along with fishermen and vacationers

enjoying the variety of recreational

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

This article was created for the Montgomery County History Trail by the Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce.

Statistics and information included were gleaned 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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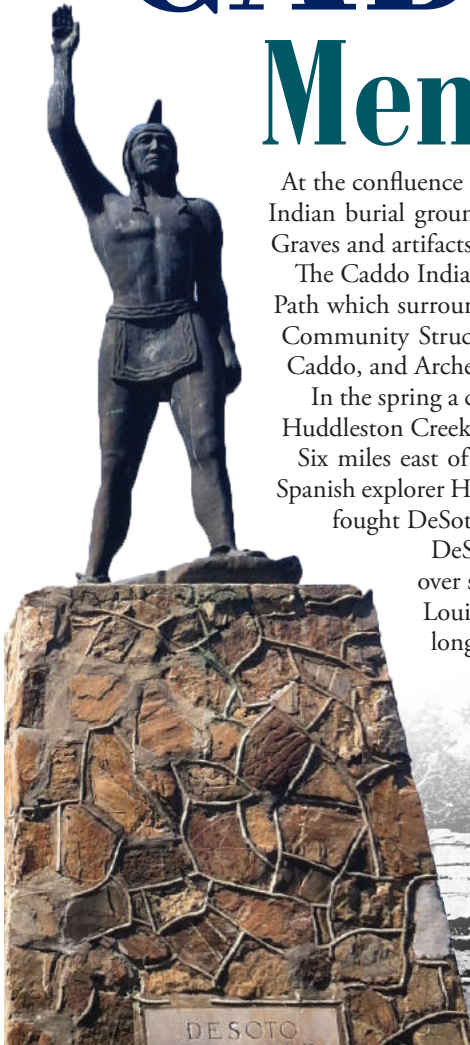
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CADDO INDIAN Memorial & Monument



At the confluence of the Caddo River and Huddleston Creek, just east of the city of Norman on Highway 8, is a Caddo Indian burial ground discovered in 1988 when the city was excavating for a landfill, which of course did not happen. Graves and artifacts, some dating back to the Archaic Period (8000 to 1000 BC), were discovered.

The Caddo Indian story can now be learned from a grouping of historical signs displayed along the Elmo Clark Honor Path which surrounds the memorial site. Signage elements 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 grows in the center of the grounds. Benches are located along the Caddo River and Huddleston Creek for resting and enjoying the beautiful view.

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

DeSoto described them as the best fighting men he had ever encountered. The Tulas were said to have been over seven feet tall. Archeologists are still at odds over this being the point that DeSoto turned back toward Louisiana where he met his death. However, no concrete evidence has yet been presented to disprove the long accepted legend.



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HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County is open 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday - Friday and; 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. The Heritage House Museum is closed during the winter months (from December 20, 2019 - March 1, 2020). For more information call 870-867-4422 or contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1362, Mount Ida, AR, 71957.

Heritage House Museum of Montgomery County (HHMMC) is dedicated to preserving the 1800's to 1975 history of Montgomery County. This rural county has a proud history of farming, ranching, logging, forestry, quartz crystal mining, hunting, and fishing. Artifacts, archives, and photographs are displayed to represent these and other occupations, recreations, home life, religious worship and education of earlier county residents.

In addition to the main building with exhibit rooms on both sides of the lobby, also on the property are an Exhibit Barn, Sorghum Shed,



1880's log House, "Eleanor" outhouse, and recently constructed Pole Barn for farm equipment.

Many visit the museum to use the Genealogy Research Center. County descendants also appreciate the extensive treasury of oral history tapes that are available to the public.

HHMMC is supported by memberships, donations, and various fund raisers. The museum entrance is paved with memorial bricks which honor individuals, groups, sites, or events. In this ongoing project bricks are purchased by the public and then custom engraved.

The museum conducts an annual fall festival, the Sorghum Festival. At the Sorghum Festival, we recreate the nostalgic, once common procedure of squeezing and cooking sorghum. Visitors sample sorghum on freshly baked biscuits and observe assorted antique equipment being operated.

Heritage House Museum is an active and interesting facility of history preservation.

Visit us at our web site WWW.HHMMC.ORG | E-mail: museum@hhmmc.org

OUACHITA ARTISTS GALLERY AND 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, the Gallery is open to the public Tuesdays - Saturday, 10am - 3pm. Follow the Gallery on facebook, at www.facebook.com/pages/Ouachita-Artists/.

They are pleased to show all types of works from artists - from oils and pastels to other mediums including woodwork, pottery, candles, metal work, and photography. The Gallery alternates the works four times a year and reserves the Back Wall for special exhibits.

Part of the Gallery's mission is to promote art in the community. That is done through monthly instructive demonstrations, monthly community art night through ARTrageous, and workshops; all open to members and the public. Several of the artists have classes of different forms of expression. Through the years there are contests for children as well as classes for them in the summer.

Five years ago Ouachita Artists opened their Gallery. The group began with three people who wanted to find a place in town where they could meet and paint together. An organizational meeting was held with their friends and six or eight people came. A couple of weeks later almost 20 people showed their interest by attending. The group chose a name, wrote their mission statement, and found a place to meet. Soon they had refurbished an old storefront with an old beauty salon in back and called it Ouachita Artists Gallery and Studio.

Membership has grown to 100 people, residents of this small county and adjoining counties. Perhaps you would like to become a part of this thriving, creative group.



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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 two young men, Chet Lauck and Tuffy Goff, from nearby Mena, created "Lum and Abner" and their many friends for the radio. The radio broadcasts, of course, required electricity and equipment not available in the tiny community of Waters, Arkansas. Chet and Tuffy were actually sitting in a radio studio in major cities (Chicago in 1931-39, Hollywood in 1049-55) but their skill made everyone believe

they and the characters they portrayed were in the Jot-Em Down Store in Pine Ridge where all of the program action took place.

Those characters were based on the people who lived in Waters. The name of the town was changed to Pine Ridge in 1936 to match the name used on the radio.

The community, the post office, and the stores are still here. The store buildings, now on the National Register of Historic Places, house the "Lum and Abner Jot'Em Down Store and Museum." The gift shop offers souvenirs and collectibles for sale.

In addition to an extensive Lum and Abner history, the museum has examples of early general store merchandise and fixtures, and farm and household items from our early days. (Museum items are not for sale.) The US Post Office sells stamps and money orders, handles packages, and has post office boxes for the mail of local residents.

Travel west from Mount Ida on Hwy 270 to Pencil Bluff and then Hwy 88 to Pine Ridge, nearly on the Montgomery/Polk County Line. During the months of March through October, the store and museum are open 9am-5pm Tues-Sat, 12-4pm on Sunday, and by appointment. Winter hours mid-November to mid March are 10am -2pm, Monday - Saturday. For more information, call owners Lon and Kathy Stucker at (870) 326-4442.

Whether you are just visiting, planning to move to Montgomery County, or have already settled into your new home, you will want to visit our most famous historic site. From 1931 to 1955, one of the most popular programs on the radio was "Lum and Abner," based on Pine Ridge, Arkansas.

In the early 1880s a small settlement was established in western Montgomery County. The Waters Post Office was established in 1886. A small store was



LUM & ABNER MUSEUM AND JOT'EM DOWN STORE

On the National Register of Historic Places

Open Mid-March - Mid-November
 Tuesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Sunday 12 noon - 4 p.m.
 Winter Hours: Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



*"I doggies, folks,
 the gift shop and museum
 are in the original stores!"*



Visit us on the web, too!
www.lum-abner.com

Facebook: Lum-Abner-Jot-em-Down-Store-Museum

PINE RIDGE, AR • 21 MILES WEST OF MOUNT IDA
 4562 HWY 88W • (870) 326-4442

Antiques & Flea Markets

Lookin' 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. Would that be antiques?

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 also 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 below. They will be glad to see you. Take note of each business's hours of operation.



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 post cards, paper memorabilia, bottles, furniture, DVDs, fishing lures, McCoy knives and other knives, Arkansas whetstones, and more. Changes daily.

The market is located at 224 Hwy 270 West right in Mount Ida, next door to Subway, making for easy on and off the highway. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10:00-6:00. Sunday 12:00-5:00. Other days you may catch them there or call for an appointment.

MELBA'S ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

2346 Hwy 270 E | Mount Ida, AR 71957 | 870-867-0173

Antiques and collectables. 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 wheel chair accessibility. Open Mon -Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-5. Will stay late or open early for you. Give them a call. Bargains, Bargains, Bargains!**

GAP MERCANTILE

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

Head south from Mount Ida on Hwy 29S and then east on Hwy 8 from Norman to Caddo Gap, AR. 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 them a call for more complete directions.**

Mercantile open Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm.

ROAD TRIP'N ON 270

2393 Hwy 270E | Mount Ida, AR 71957 870-490-1826

Road Trip'n on 270 is the newest flea market in the Mount Ida area. They offer anything from farm house décor, used furniture, home décor, clothing, primitive items like old wash tubs with stands, old wooden ladders, old doors & windows, home crafted items, and more. They also offer weekend cabin rentals with an RV park in future plans. Jeff and Tonya Mullenix, owners and operators, look forward to seeing you soon.

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 4:30pm.

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 Hay 270 E near the airport, next door to the Crystal Inn.**

The Old Norman High School

Engage your imagination and take a step back in time to the Roaring 20's and realize the importance of education to the small lumber town of Womble (1907 – 1925) later renamed to Norman. Visit the stately two-story rock school building that was completed in 1924 as a private Presbyterian school – the only certified high school in Montgomery County.

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. 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 a 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 tools of the lumber industry, the lifeline of citizens the first three decades of the 1900’s.

Look at the furnishings of a “shotgun home” used by lumbermen and their families at the temporary lumber mills. And finally, take a peek at the rooms that have yet to be renovated, noting how quickly a building can die of neglect in about 20 years, yet be raised from the ashes like the phoenix due to the determination and dedication of alumni.

Caddo Valley Academy became Norman High School in 1930, the year that Arkansas began educating 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 was finally bought in 2001 by a newly formed Norman Historic Preservation Program, Inc. This alumni group quickly found funds to replace the entire roof which had caved into the auditorium. They continued renovating rooms each year and are now focused in making the building ADA accessible.

The Norman High School building is open from 10 – 4 on Tues. and Fridays from late March to early November. There is no fee to tour the building. If groups or individuals want to come by throughout the year, they can call 870-223-2724 and make an appointment. 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.



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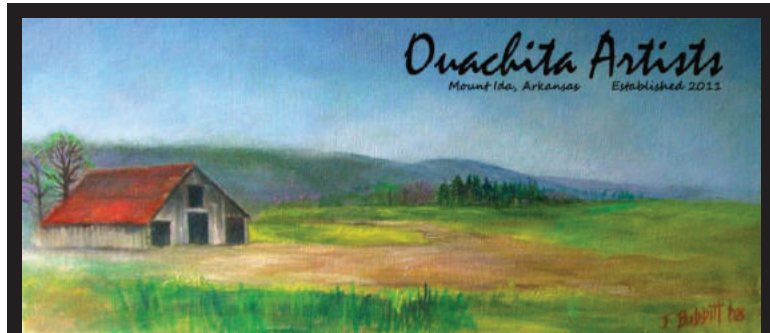
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MOUNT IDA'S GOOD OL' DAYS FESTIVAL



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - OPENS FRIDAY, MAY 24TH @ NOON & SATURDAY, MAY 25TH @ 9 AM

The Good Ol' Days Festival is held on and around the courthouse grounds in downtown Mt. Ida. You can always plan where to pencil in the festival on your calendar because it is always on Memorial Day weekend. The festivities include:

GOSPEL SING

The festivities begin with a Good Ol' Gospel Sing Friday night on the Front Porch Stage. A Mount Ida tradition, we have had the Gospel Sing for many years and we look forward to a music-filled time of fun. Bring your lawn chair to the courthouse on the Square in Mt. Ida.

FOOD

There will be plenty to eat, so come hungry. Several food vendors as well as local groups will be serving their own specialties including brisket sandwiches. Get there early because they go fast! There will also be funnel cakes, hot dogs, and an assortment of selections to choose from.

STUFF YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU NEEDED.

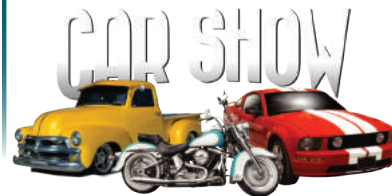
Vendors and crafters of every genre will have their wares available. There are always a variety of activities for children and special exhibits. Also expect both educational and fun experiences for adults and children alike.

CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Saturday activities start at 9:00 A.M. There will be craft booths, music, and a super car and motorcycle show. Last year there were more than 100 entries in the car show – cars, trucks, street rods, motorcycles, you name it. Vehicles of every description vying for top prizes. Come by and meet the owners.

THE MT. IDA FRONT PORCH

The festivities end with more music on the Front Porch. So keep that lawn chair handy and come expecting a great time. You'll not be disappointed.



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Mount Ida Flea Market

OPEN

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Friday
Saturday

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(or call for an appointment)

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Mount Ida, AR 71957

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CADDO GAP HERITAGE FESTIVAL

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



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 first 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 of the first settlers to southwest Arkansas. This event is free to the public and will be held October 5th, 2019, 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 crafted deadly arrowheads out of novaculite rock, abundantly found in the Caddo Gap area. Kids can join in the fun too, with some hands-on activities like simple woodworking and a game of old-fashioned marbles or jacks. Featured demonstrations will also include soap making, broom making, wool spinning, among 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. Gary and his wife, Lynna—Gap Mercantile owners who are organizing 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. 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. "We're hoping to have a unique variety of old-time skills and arts demonstrated throughout the day," says McWilliams.



NORMAN ARKANSAS EVENTS

SPRING FEST



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2019
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
NORMAN CITY PARK | PARK ROAD
NORMAN, ARKANSAS 71960

Come join us on April 20, 2019, at the City Park in Norman, Arkansas for SPRINGFEST!

Fun for the whole family with live music and Karaoke, a kids carnival, lawn mower races, car show, food vendors, arts and crafts vendors. Contests include local photo, baking and grilling talents.

FALL FESTIVAL ON THE SQUARE

OCTOBER 19, 2019

Annually in October, the good people of Norman, Arkansas get together, to host the Norman Fall Festival on the Square, located on the City Square in Norman, Arkansas.

This festival is a community wide event with plenty of candy and fun for the kids, with hot chocolate, warm apple cider, hay rides, mini train rides, carnival games, bounce houses and more! Don't miss out!



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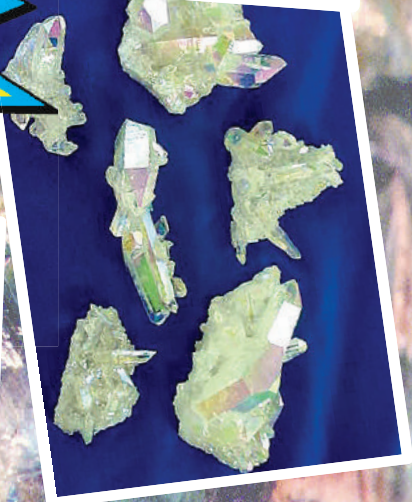
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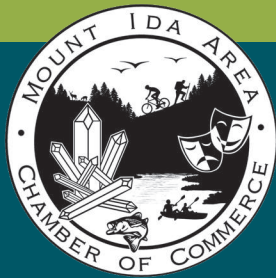
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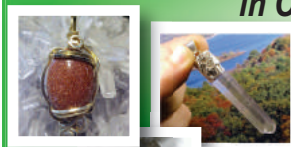
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ANNUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CRYSTAL DIG 2019



Each year, on the second weekend in October, one hundred or more amateur rockhounds come to Mount Ida to compete in the World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig. This year the event takes place October 11-12, 2019. The area bills itself as the "Quartz Crystal Capital of the World".

The Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Dig is a two-day amateur crystal digging competition for Adults and Young Miners (ages 17 and under). The event takes place Friday & Saturday, October 11th & 12th.

Over the course of two days, diggers get to keep all they find and submit their best point and cluster each day to compete for crystal adorned award plaques and \$2100 in prize money. There is an awards presentation held Saturday evening at 6:00 pm. New last year, 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!

Registration is open until 7:00 am on Friday morning, October 11th. \$115 Entry Fee covers both days of digging, a commemorative T-shirt, and food at the awards' celebration. No refunds after October 1st.

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HOW TO DIG CRYSTALS

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 rakes and something to put your findings in like a bucket or a burlap sack.

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

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 is 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 thousands of small crystals just laying on the ground everywhere at the mines 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 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. That you can clean up when you get home. The shops or mines you go to will have the information and oxalic acid you to get your crystals cleaned.

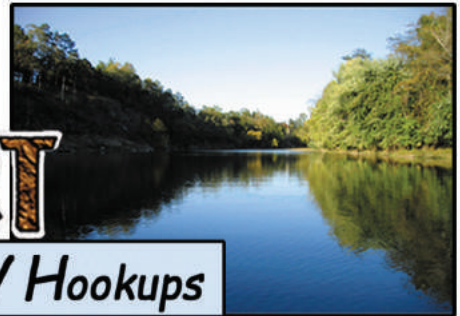
The most important thing to remember is to have fun! Happy digging and good luck.



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Birding ON LAKE OUACHITA



The Ouachita Mountains and Lake Ouachita area are popular for 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 main land 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 - THE NATIONAL BIRD OF THE USA

While most birds nest in the spring, Bald Eagles are an exception. They build their nests in the winter in tall, mature trees lining the shores of large bodies of water providing an abundant source of their favorite food, fish. They can usually be counted on to return to the same nesting area every year. Consequently, we look forward to their arrival on Lake Ouachita just like clockwork.

The Bald Eagles return in late fall to Ouachita and nest here over the winter building spectacular nests, typically 5 to 6 feet in diameter and 2 to 4 feet tall. Every year 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 in particular its cherished Bald Eagles.

"Sharing the eagles with our customers, friends and neighbors is our way of giving enjoyment and sharing fellowship with our community", stated Bill Barnes. "There's nothing quite as inspiring as seeing the Bald Eagles in the wild, diving for fish or soaring overhead".

As usual, Mountain Harbor Resort offered a free seminar on Saturday, 23 February, 2019 at the Marina featuring Rusty Scarborough, Senior Park Naturalist for Caddo Parish Parks & Recreation's Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park in Shreveport, Louisiana. Following the presentation, Harbor's marina offered free barge tours to view the eagles on the lake.

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Anyone interested in participating in this annual barge tour event can call the marina at 870-867-1212 or 870-867-1211 for scheduling information.

ANOTHER BALD EAGLE EVENT

Not everything on the lake is regularly planned. On December 22, 2018, Tommy Young, director of the Arkansas Native Plant & Wildlife Center, released a Bald Eagle he helped recover from injuries suffered in October. The bird had been hit by a car. Tommy has spent 33 years rescuing wildlife and this was the 100th bald eagle he has rescued and released.

The bird was released from atop Hickory Nut Mountain Vista. The vista itself is remarkable; see article on page xxx about the vista. A huge crowd watched in awe as the eagle soared high for the first time in three months. This amazing photograph provided by Dewayne Holloway of the Montgomery County News, reflects the wonder of the release.

BIRDS ON THE TRAILS

Hiker and bikers will also find themselves

winners seeing and hearing a profusion of birds. 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 Wild Life Trail (handicapped accessible) features an elevated walkway upon which is displayed pictures of the more common water and land birds. Look for Coots, Pin Tail Ducks, Loons, and Wood Ducks. (picture) See <https://lakeouachitavistatrail.org/WP/the-trails/watchable-wildlife/> for more trail information.

And of course the more common birds include chickadees, wrens, nuthatches, junco, tanagers, hawks, flycatchers, redwing blackbirds, and sparrows. Woodpeckers from small (Downy) to the largest (Pileated) can be seen and heard pecking on tree trunks.

Keep your eyes open on the trail. You never know what you will see.



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY

- NOT JUST A SUMMER PLACE



James St. John

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 around 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 and will likely remain the primary summer drawing card, 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

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Ouachita was created in the 1950s. Those early developers saw there would be 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 were created. They were followed in the following 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. Many visitors come to Lake Ouachita in the late winter months to catch those fighting Striped Bass which take a lot 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 Hot Springs and Mount Ida.

Beaches for swimming or just relaxing along the lakeshore are located in most of the



Ken Lund

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 45 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 available.

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 Shangri-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.

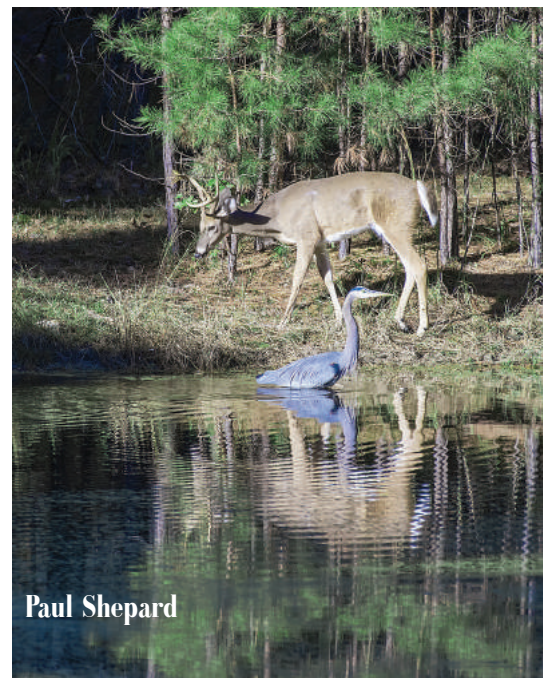
In addition to the LOViT, the Ouachita Trail runs across the county on its journey from Talihina, OK to near Little Rock.

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 digging for quartz is not what a particular visitor enjoys, he 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 local activities in this area.



Paul Shepard

AND THEN THERE ARE THE TRAILS!

Hiking and Biking at Its Best

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)

<http://lakeouachitavistatrail.org>

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.

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 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 the legs

at the west end which are well adapted to short and easier hikes and the long, truly tough legs in the east as the trail approaches the dam.

THE OUACHITA NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

http://friendsot.org/about_the_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. Approximate 192 miles of the trail are on U.S Forest Service land as it crosses the state.

THE WOMBLE TRAIL

<http://www.ouachitaadventures.com/Trails/Womble/womble.html>

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 good enough physical condition to handle the climbs. Local mountain bike riders often encourage others to use the Womble since it 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.



FISHING AND HUNTING

FISHING PARADISE FOUND!

Can you say largemouth bass, striped bass, white bass, hybrid bass? It is hard to believe that bass come in so many flavors. How about walleye, bluegill, redear, sunfish, crappie, catfish, trout, et cetera? You have come to the right place for a great fishing holiday.

Whether you want a professional fishing guide, a beautiful, clean lake for your boat or a quiet spot on the bank where you can drop your hook, you are sure to find it in Montgomery County. We've had our share of Bass Pro Championships. And Mt. Ida is home to Mark Davis, twice Bass Pro Angler of the Year.

The swift, cool waters of the Caddo River and the South Fork of the Ouachita River await you. These rivers are ideal for floating with canoe and rafts. Floaters experience beautiful scenery, wildlife, clean water and good fishing. Campgrounds offer good stopping points and vehicular access to the river.

Lake Ouachita, a Corp of Engineers lake, is the largest man-made lake in the state of Arkansas and one of the cleanest in the United States. With almost 1000 miles of shoreline, Lake Ouachita covers 49,000 acres and consistently ranks as one of the country's top ten largemouth bass lakes.

Resorts, motels, campgrounds, marinas, boat ramps, lots of good, clean water and plenty of fish -- everything you need for that perfect angler's vacation. Come and become one of the fishermen who return year after year for good fishing and great camaraderie with others who share their love for lakes and streams. Join the folks who live here year around for the very same reason.

HUNTING WITH THE BIG DOGS!

Don't plan on getting your house painted, or even getting a flat fixed during the first day of deer season here in Montgomery County. Some say that the first day of deer season is a national holiday -- at least in this part of the nation. We will all be in the woods. Sometimes three or four generations of a family are hunting together, and there are no gender restrictions; Grandma, Mom, or even Little Sister may tag the first deer.

If your preference is smaller game, there are gray squirrels and fox squirrels aplenty, and wild turkeys have increased amazingly in the past few years. It's not unusual to flush half a dozen or more turkeys on a country road -- or my back yard.

As for wild ducks, sometimes the lake is literally covered with resting fowl during migration. Whether you hunt for sport, for good eaten', or just to look, Montgomery County is the place to be.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Forest, Rivers, Lakes, and Trails in a Nutshell

USEFUL MOUNTAIN, RIVER & LAKE WEBSITES:

<http://www.arkansas.com/>

<http://www.arkansasstateparks.com/>

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

THE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST AND 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 as it was known.

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 TRAIL, also an IMBA Epic trail, stretches 45 miles along the lakeshore 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 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 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 floatable in early spring, late fall, and when there has been a good rain.

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Love Others Because of Christ



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 of the LOViT users walk or hike the trail for pleasure, and do so at a pace that fits an individual style, the goal for some is to set new personal records on time or to complete a route faster than the person behind. They are racers.

LOViT has bike and running races to fit the needs of more aggressive sportsters. From a traditional 26-mile marathon to a brutal 100-mile challenge, there is something to meet the adrenalin pump necessary.

LOViT MARATHON

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

The race makes it way along the trail through varied topography and scenery to the top of Hickory Nut Mountain before returning. There are checkpoints and aid stations in several locations along the route. Volunteers staff all stations. 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 breathtaking views over one of the nation's most pristine freshwater lakes.

The endurance run begins at Mountain Harbor Resort at 6:00 p.m. on the last Friday night in February and ends Saturday when the last runner is back. **More information is available at: www.runlovit.com.**

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.

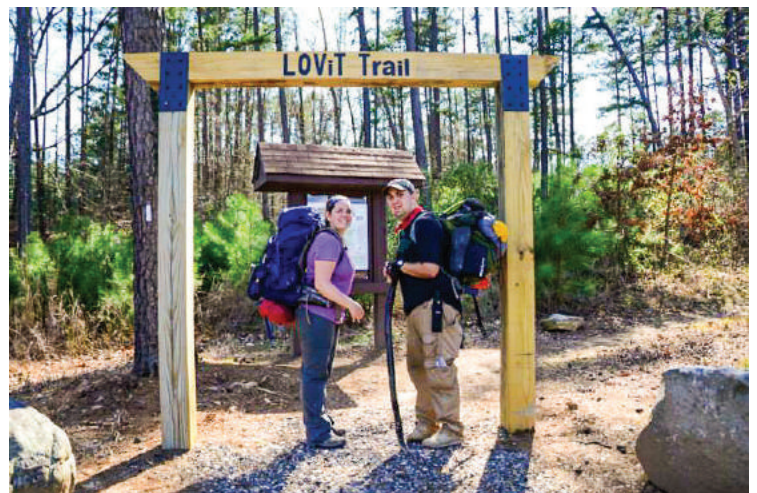
HIKE & BIKE ON THE LOViT TRAIL

Visit the LOViT website
<http://lakeouachitavistatrail.com>,
and see all the details including trailhead
locations, distances, and difficulty.

LOViT MOUNTAIN BIKE MARATHON (50 MILES)

This Mountain Bike Race is the newest race on the LOViT, with this year's February event the second of what promises to be a long series of mountain bike events.

It has already shown much growth from the small first year's participation to over 100 riders this year. This race promises to attract even more riders in upcoming years as race mountain bike enthusiasts discover the Ouachitas in general and Montgomery County in particular.



lakeouachitavistatrail.org

The LOViT Trail

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 trail was constructed by a group of volunteers who dubbed themselves “Trail Dogs”.

Creating LOViT took over 10 years of work and involved hundreds of hours of volunteer time by the small group of workers. 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-excavators 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 difficult terrain that equals trails in more mountainous parts of the country.

To truly enjoy LOViT, hikers/bikers can schedule a day for an easy walk or a more difficult mountain climb. In every section, specific beauty sites are available to enjoy. Numerous parking areas are available to help break the trail into easier sections. Benches are regularly spaced along the trail for use as resting spots or simply to sit and enjoy the scenic beauty of the trails.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE/ADA

Accessed 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 to access 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 elevated walkway, about a quarter-mile long, 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, and an information kiosk highlighting historical details of the trail and the lake.

DENBY BAY AND HOMESTEAD

The road past the Watchable Wildlife/ADA trailhead ends at the lake and marks the Denby Bay trailhead. The five mile leg to Tompkins Bend can be walked in two hours or biked in about an hour. For a shorter walk, walkers can enter the Denby 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. There are many benches along the trail where one can watch the sun as it descends to meet the lake.

Photographers have many opportunities for photos of the lake and

other scenic areas, where streams are 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.

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 on the Denby to Tompkins Bend section.

Just across Shangri-La Road from the Homestead parking lot, heading east for 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.

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.

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 relief 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.

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.

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 a mountain, over the mountain and then down to the Crystal Springs Campground.

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.

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 the trail, you can only leave by backtracking to Crystal Springs trailhead or going to the end.

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.

AVERY TRAILHEAD & 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.

BE AWARE

As hikers enjoy the 44 miles of scenic trail, they are encouraged to beware of hunting on the LOViT. The trail traverses U.S. Forest Service lands that have long been popular hunting grounds in all seasons. Trail users should be aware of those activities and not wear clothing that could be mistaken for wildlife. Bright colors and hunter orange help eliminate most cases of mistaken identity.

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. Anyone interested in a guided tour can communicate their interest by clicking on the Send an Email at the website.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAMPING/DAY USE FACILITIES

PRIVATE CAMPING FACILITIES

CAMPGROUND	NEAREST TOWN	CONTACT #	WEBSITE
Arrowhead Cabin and Canoe	Caddo Gap/Glenwood	870-356-2944	http://www.caddocanoe.com/
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/
Two Spirits LTD, Canoe Adventures	Mount Ida	870-867-5028	http://www.twospiritsltd.com/
Highway 27 Fishing Villiage	Story	870-867-2211	http://www.highway27fishingvillage.homestead.com/

OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST (US FOREST SERVICE)(1)

CAMPGROUND	NEAREST TOWN	CONTACT #
Charlton	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Camp Clearfork	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Big Brushy	Oden	870-326-4322
Crystal	Norman	870-867-2101

Visit website:
<http://www.lakeouachita.org/ouachita-national-forest-camping-areas.htm>

DAY USE AND FLOAT CAMPS

CAMPGROUND	NEAREST TOWN	CONTACT #
Dragover	Oden	870-326-4322
River Bluff	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Rocky Shoals	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Fulton Branch	Mount Ida	870-867-2101
Shirley Creek	Oden	870-326-4322

Visit website:
<http://www.lakeouachita.org/ouachita-national-forest-camping-areas.htm>

U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS(1, 2)

CAMPGROUND	FACILITIES	NEAREST TOWN	WEBSITE
Big Fir (No Reservations)	RV/Tent, No Hookups, No Fees	Mount Ida	
Denby Point (Ouachita Shores Resort)	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Mount Ida	
Tompkins Bend (Shangri-La)	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Mount Ida	
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	
Little Fir	RV/Tent, Electric and Water, Fees	Mount Ida	http://www.lake-ouachita.com/little-fir-campground/
Brady Mountain	RV/Tent, Electric and Water	Royal	http://www.lakeouachita.combrady-mountain-campground/



KEY:

(1) For reservations, call: 877-444-6777

(2) See also www.lakeouachita.org/lake-ouachita-camping-area.htm for campgrounds on both sides of Lake Ouachita.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION

Montgomery County fire protection is provided by ten volunteer fire departments across the county. They respond with amazing speed to dispatches from the sheriff's office. Call 911 anytime there is 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 new or moving into an existing



building, contact the 911 coordinator to determine exactly which of the volunteer departments is responsible for your location.

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

In most cases the fire groups have an annual fee. Contact them, register yourself, determine the annual fee (if any), and mail in the fee.

Following are the fire departments:

Joplin VFD

Colleen Helms, 870-867-1207
1207 Mountain Harbor Rd, Mt. Ida, AR,
71957

South Fork Center Fire Protection Assn

Debbie Baldwin, 870-867-3254
PO Box 714, Mt. Ida, AR 71957

Mount Ida VFD

Barry Crow, 870-867-7745

Norman VFD

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

Sims VFD

Melissa Gray, 870-867-2503

Oden-Pencil Bluff VFD

Chris Fryar, 870-356-8621

Caddo Gap VFD

Greg or Sandy Harmon 870-223-2966
P.O. Box 102, Caddo Gap, Arkansas,71935

Sulphur-Laverna VFD

Dale Morris, 867-3487

Pine Ridge VFD

Rusty Lewis, 479-216-4908
200 Clark Lane, Oden, Arkansas,71961

Bonnerdale VFD

Jerry Mooney, 570-356-9875
P.O.Box 9, Bonnerdale, Arkansas,71933

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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

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 and 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 and wireless)	800-854-7549
Windstream (internet and landline).....(residential)	800-347-1991
Windstream (internet and 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 Schools

Oden School Supt.....	870-326-4311
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HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Emergency	911
CHI St. Vincent Medical Clinic (Mount Ida)	870-867-2175
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 and Therapy Center	870-867-2156
Montgomery County Assisted Living	870-867-2159
Home Health & Hospice	870-867-4186
In-Home Services	870-867-3138
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 paper).....	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

Montgomery County Master Gardeners	870-867-2311
Montgomery County Nursing Home Auxiliary Thrift Shop	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
4-H Clubs of Montgomery County	870-867-2311

2019 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

689 Fairground Rd.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0122

Greene Ridge Enterprises

870-490-0335

Bates Sales & Service

430 Hwy 270 East
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2811

BRICO Plumbing

240 N George St,
Mount Ida, AR 71957
(870) 867-4962

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

Pride Homes & Mountain Lake Real Estate

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

BANKS, CHURCHES, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Bear State Bank

221 S. George St.
Mt. Ida, Arkansas 71957
870-867-7622

Diamond Bank

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

Southern Bancorp

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
870-867-2724

Caddo Gap Baptist Church

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

Joplin United

Methodist Church

Highway 170 W
& 59 Mountain Harbor Rd.
Joplin, AR 71957
870-867-3213

Sulphur Springs Baptist Church

925 Sulphur Springs Rd.

Norman, AR 71960
870-997-7610

John W Yeargan, Jr. Diamond Bank Building

601 Highway 270 E
Mt. Ida, 71957
870-867-2910

Bill Hall Printers

& Supplies, Inc.

500 Albert Pike Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
501-622-2527

Mount Ida Printing Company

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

P.T. Tax & Bookkeeping

504 Hwy 270 E.
Mount Ida, AR 71957
870-326-5550

Relie's Tax Service

212 Hwy 88 W.
Pencil Bluff, AR 71965
870-326-4633

Michael Gober, CPA

121 S. West St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4137

Ruth Accounting

9019 Barber St.
Sherwood, AR 72120
501-835-1220

RESORTS, LODGING, AND FOOD

Brady Mountain Resort & Marina

4120 Brady Mountain Rd.
Royal, AR 71968
501-767-3422

Lake Ouachita Shores Resort

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

Mountain Harbor Resort

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

At Living Water Cabins

136 Living Water Dr,
Norman, AR 71960
(479) 216-4911

Bear Den Cabin

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

Camp Conrad

26 & 43 Owl Lane,
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-490-0211

Deer Creek Lodge

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

Dragover Cabins

2789 Highway 88E
Sims, AR 71969
501-292-6520

The Fisherman's Wife

ekseiter@yahoo.com

Gap Mercantile & Cottage

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

Gretta Lane Hostel

132 Gretta Lane
Norman, AR 71960
870-223-2995

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 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

River View Cabins, Inc

92 W. Riverview Dr.
Oden, AR 71961
870-326-4630

Royal Oak Inn

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

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

Blue Bell 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 Highway 270
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-2312

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

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

5937 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 B 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

Real Earth Creations

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

Rockhound Boutique

60 Twin Circle
Story, AR 71970
870-490-0022

Sweet Surrender Crystal Mine

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**D. Michael DeRuyter DDS**

3447 Hwy 270 E
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-4110

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

It's About You, LLC (home healthcare)

923 Central Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71901
501-623-6800

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

136 S. George St.
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-0106

OTHER RETAIL, RECREATION, & SERVICES**Camp Ozark**

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

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 Service Center & Wrecker

320 Hwy 270 W
Mt. Ida, AR 71957
870-867-3332

Mount Ida Tire & Service Center, LLC

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

Beaton Creek Designs

870-356-9495

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

**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

Ouachita Mountains Pottery

163 McGinnis Lane
 Story, AR 71970
 870-834-5284

Road Tripin' on 270

2383 Hwy 270 East
 Mount Ida, AR 71957
 870-490-1620

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

C.P. Integration, LLC

Smallwood Lane
 Story, AR 71970

502-392-2451

Next Level Studio

2291 Hwy 270
 Mt. Ida, AR 71957
 501-617-9286

**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**

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

Only in Arkansas, Inc.

48 Smallwood Ln.

Story, AR 71970

501-291-2451

**Heritage House Museum of
Montgomery County**

819 Luzerne St.
 Mt. Ida, AR 71957
 870-867-4422

Ouachita Artists Gallery

135 West. St.
 Mt. Ida, AR 71967
 870-867-0404

**Lum & Abner
Store and Museum**

4562 Hwy 88, general delivery
 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

**OTHER NON-PROFITS AND
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS****Central Arkansas
Development Council
Senior Center**

158 Senior Dr.
 Mt. Ida, AR 71957
 870-867-2313

**Imagination Library
of the Ouachitas**

118 San Carlos Cove
 Hot Springs, AR 71913
 501-624-5788

**Montgomery County
Council for the
Performing Arts**

414 Whittington St.

Mount Ida, AR 71957

870-326-4543

**Montgomery County
Extension Homemakers**

2301 S. University Ave.
 Little Rock, AR 72204
 870-867-2166

**Montgomery County Nursing Home
Auxiliary Thrift Store**

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**

Derwood Brett

Jo West Taylor

Morris McLelland

Pat Smith

Robin Smith

**GOVERNMENTAL AND
EDUCATION****Caddo-Womble Ranger District**

1523 Hwy. 270
 Mt. Ida, AR 71957
 870-867-2102

City of Norman

133 Gold Course Rd.
 Norman, AR 71960
 870-334-2400

Prosecuting Attorney's Office

870-867-4145

**University of Arkansas Rich
Mountain Community College**

1100 College Dr.
 Mena, AR 71953
 479-394-7622

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