



# Ozark Chapter GPA

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<http://www.gpachapteroftheozarks.org/>.

## October 2009 Newsletter

Greetings,

Here is a little information about our October outing.

We had about 10 people show up for the meeting and dinner.

Tony & Pat Barnhill provided fish for the potluck and Jim Bagwell cooked .

We had fish, hushpuppies fried okra French fries cole slaw, and baked beans those of you who didn't come sure missed a feast.



The weather had been bad all week and the water was high when we got there and it only got higher as the weekend proceeded.



The same location a few hours apart the river probably rose more than 10 feet for the weekend, needless to say there was no prospecting.

#### Business Meeting

There were not enough member present to have a formal meeting or raffle.

The only thing discussed was camp site for the next outing.

The campground at the diamond mine is closed until next year so it was determined we would camp at the narrows on Lake Greeson.

We still have tickets on the generator and gold nugget, if you would like to get some and cannot attend our next outing contact me.

Our next outing will be at the crater of diamonds state park.

Here is some information about the park and camping.

The Crater of Diamonds has recently completed its annual Fall work on the Diamond Search Area. The entire field has been deeply plowed/ripped. In addition, the area of the west drain on the west side of the field has undergone major renovation, with the path of the drain diverted away from the former creek bottom and up on the mine field to the east. Also, the east drain has been filled in to correct some drainage problems that kept the field from being plowed as often this past Spring and Summer. With the two and a half inches of rain that fell last Thursday, in addition to all of the previous rain in October, the mine search area has been more muddy than usual, so visitors should be advised to be prepared for those conditions.

Search area last [plowed](#): October 21, 2009, Total diamonds so far in 200

The park staff provides free identification and certification of diamonds. Park interpretive programs and exhibits explain the site's geology and history and offer tips on recognizing diamonds in the rough.

Other semi-precious gems and minerals found at the Crater of Diamonds include amethyst, garnet, peridot, jasper, agate, calcite, barite, and quartz. Over 40 different rocks and minerals are unearthed at the Crater making it a rock hound's delight.

Crater of Diamonds State Park is located two miles southeast of Murfreesboro.

#### Driving Directions to the Park

**From Little Rock** - Travel west on I-30 approximately 56 miles and take exit #73 at Arkadelphia, then go west on Ark. 51 for 6 miles and then follow Ark. 26 for approximately 34 miles to Murfreesboro. From downtown Murfreesboro, take Ark. 301 and go 2 1/2 miles southwest to the park.

City	Distance	City	Distance
Jonesboro, AR	242 miles	Dallas, TX	256 miles
Little Rock, AR	120 miles	Fort Worth, TX	284 miles
Conway, AR	119 miles	Houston, TX	362 miles
Fort Smith, AR	135 miles	Austin, TX	409 miles
Fayetteville, AR	198 miles	Wichita Falls, TX	342 miles
Russellville, AR	110 miles	Oklahoma City, OK	294 miles
Texarkana, AR	68 miles	Tulsa, OK	237 miles
Hot Springs, AR	60 miles	Shreveport, LA	147 miles
Hope, AR	40 miles	Alexandria, LA	262 miles
Arkadelphia, AR	38 miles	Baton Rouge, LA	373 miles
Nashville, AR	13 miles	New Orleans, LA	450 miles

### Fees to search for Diamonds

Adults: \$7.00  
 Children (ages 6-12): \$4.00  
 Children under 6 years old: FREE

### What Should I Bring?



Tools are not necessary for diamond searching. A good way to search for diamonds is to walk up and down the rows looking for diamonds lying on top of the ground. However, most visitors like to dig in the soil. Therefore, you have the options of bringing your own tools from home, or you may purchase or rent tools here.

You may use anything that does not have a battery, motor, or wheels on it for transporting equipment in and out of the search area. Park visitors bring anything from small flowerbed trowels to full size shovels. Some visitors choose to make their own sifting screens and bring them.

**VIRTUAL TOUR**



If you choose to get tools at the park, you can purchase small flowerbed trowels and cultivators in the gift shop. If you prefer renting tools, we have several different size shovels and screens for you to choose from. The most commonly rented items are listed below. Along with the rental fee, a deposit is charged on each item to make sure the visitor returns the equipment and that the equipment is returned in good condition. The deposit amount is refunded to the visitor when the tools are returned.

 [Diamond Field](#)

Rental equipment is available at the Diamond Discovery Center, and includes the items listed below.

### Rental Equipment Available Year Round

Equipment	Daily rent plus tax	Deposit
Small wooden box screen	\$2.50	\$20.00
3.5 gallon plastic bucket	\$2.50	\$10.00
Folding army shovel	\$2.50	\$10.00
Knee Pads	\$2.50	\$5.00
Screen Set	\$3.50	\$20.00
Saruca (finishing screen)	\$3.50	\$40.00
Basic Diamond Hunting Kit	\$8.00	\$35.00
(folding shovel, screen set, 3.5 gallon bucket)		
Advanced Diamond Hunting Kit	\$11.00	\$60.00
(folding shovel, screen set, 3.5 gallon bucket, saruca) (rental prices are per day and tax is not included)		

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### What Should I Wear?

**Digging for diamonds** can be messy. If it is wet, you will need some old shoes or boots because the field will be very muddy. In the summer, a hat and sunscreen will be necessary to protect you from the sun.

The Narrows dam campsite also known as the lake greeson dam park has 18 RV/Tent sites with Electricity an 6 RV/Tent with no hookups.

Flush toilets (year-round), hot and cold showers (year-round), dump station, marina and ramp, nature trails, boat rental, 34 picnic sites, pavilion, swimming area. (Open year-round) User's fee charged

Narrows Dam Camp Grounds Lake Greeson is Located 6 miles north of Murfreesboro on Hwy. 19.

From Texarkana, AR go East on I-30 to Prescott, AR. North on AR 19, 30 miles to Murfreesboro, north on Hwy 19, 6 miles to Dam Area. From Hot Springs, AR: West on US 70 for 41 miles to Kirby, AR. South on AR 27 for 15 miles to Murfreesboro, AR. North on Hwy 19, 6 miles to Dam Area.

The Narrows Dam Camp Grounds have:

- Potable water
- Concrete boat ramp
- Shower house
- Modern bathroom
- Trailer dump station
- 20 and 30 amp breakers
- Picnic tables
- Ground grills
- Pedestal grills
- Lantern poles
- Swimming beach

OUTING DATES NOVEMBER 13,14 & 15

THIS IS THE LAST PAPER NEWLETTER UNLESS YOU HAVE CONTACTED ME AND INDICATED YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE IT AND HAVE MADE ACONTRIBUTION TOWARD PUBLICATION.