

A new University of Missouri

Press book documents the

state park system that is

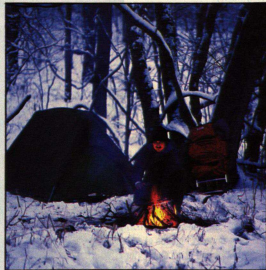
Forever yours

By ROB HILL

Touring Missouri's state parks and historic sites is a little like time traveling.

Visitors can touch Missouri's 1.5 billion-year-old geologic origins at Elephant Rocks State Park in southeast Missouri or experience 20th-century art at Kansas City's Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio Historic Site. Still, it's taken 75 years to spark a book documenting the scope and visual beauty of Missouri parks.

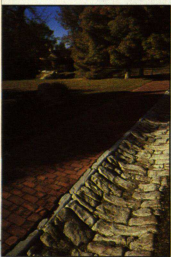
Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites, published by the University of Missouri Press, puts these areas into a historic and ecological perspective. The research-based work, with essays as well as 210 color photographs on



A winter camper, above, warms himself by a campfire in Lake of the Ozarks State Park near Osage Beach.

Water from the spring branch rushes through Ha Ha Tonka State Park near Camdenton.

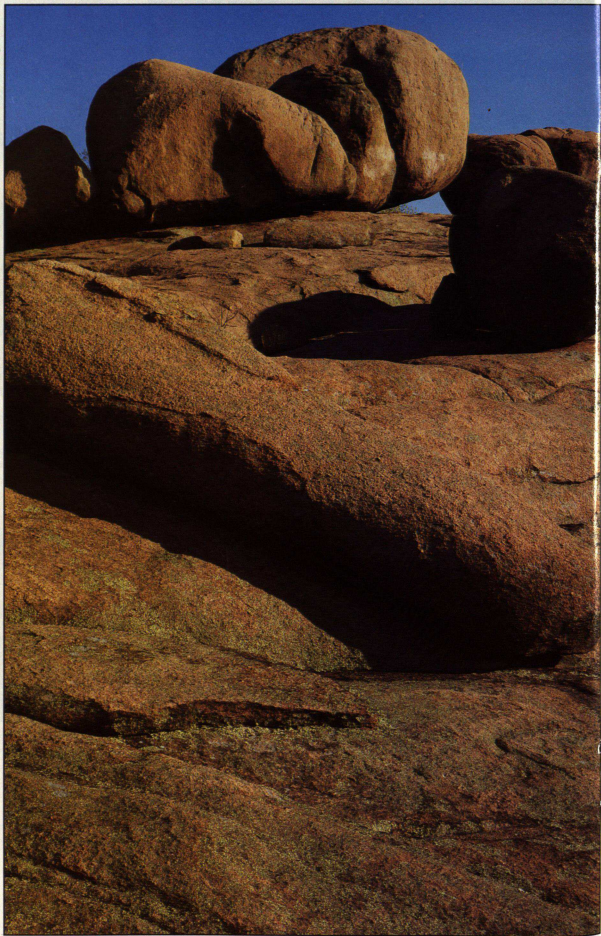
Nick Decker, B1 '76, photos



Stone gutters, above, dating from the 1850s, line Arrow Rock's main street. The Saline County village played a pivotal role in the state's early history.

Resting deep in the Ozarks, the pink granite of Elephant Rocks State Park is the foundation of Missouri's geologic history.

Oliver Scheuchard photos



every park and historic site, is more than a guidebook, says Dr. Susan Flader, professor of history and the book's editor.

Take, for instance, the essay on Hawn State Park. The preserve is remarkable not only for its natural beauty but the way it came into being, Flader says. The original acreage was donated by Helen Hawn, a Ste. Genevieve County schoolteacher, who amassed nearly 1,500 acres and willed them on her death in 1952 to the state as a park. Today, Hawn is a near-wilderness sanctuary with some of the most scenic native shortleaf pines and some of the best hiking trails in Missouri.

"Hawn is special, both for its resources and the role of Helen Hawn in pulling those resources together and giving them to the state," Flader says.

At the other end of the spectrum is Wakonda State Park, in the Mississippi River bottoms of northeast Missouri. No one could mistake the old highway department gravel quarry for wilderness, but the book puts the park into a geological and natural perspective.

Between 1924 and 1989, 26 million tons of gravel and sand were quarried there for Missouri roadways, leaving a patchwork of clear lakes, one of which is edged by the park system's largest natural sand beach. As the gravel was quarried, large piles of sand were deposited beside the lakes, and on one area grows rare native sand grasses and sedges, a remnant of the original river-bottom ecosystem.

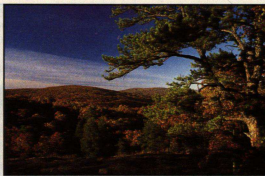
"The essay turned into a transportation history of Missouri and a fascinating illustration of nature's regenerative powers," Flader says.

Missouri developed its parks through good resource management in the early years, but even more important was citizen involvement. For instance, the Daughters of the American Revolution was instrumental in making the Missouri River hamlet of Arrow Rock

the first state historic site. Beginning in 1923, at the urging of the DAR, the state purchased the village tavern for a museum and expanded the site to include restored buildings, a picnic area, campground and a visitor center.

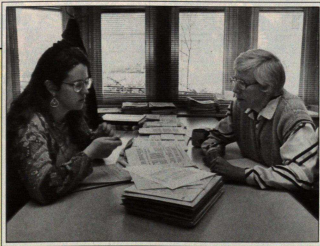
The resting place for some of Arrow Rock's first citizens and Missouri's early political leaders was preserved in 1970 as Sappington Cemetery Historic Site, five miles west of the village. The area was added when the legislature mandated preservation of governors' graves that were no longer maintained. Three governors are buried in the cemetery, as well as Dr. John Sappington, the Arrow Rock physician who developed quinine as a treatment for malaria.

"Even in the early years, citizen groups organized around certain historic sites they thought were important and succeeded in getting them into the system," Flader says. Arrow Rock and Mark Twain parks were the first, but certainly not the last to have boosters. Mark Twain in Florida, Mo., was



From Missouri's highest point in Taum Sauk Mountain State Park near Ironton, the fall colors spread over the rugged St. Francois Mountains.

Ken McCarty, M2 77, MA '82, photo



Dr. Susan Flader, right, discusses ecology with Jennifer Parker, a student who serves with her on the Environmental Affairs Council.

Rob Hill photo

Outdoors inside the classroom

When Dr. Susan Flader illustrates a point in her history classes, she draws upon her studies in the Show-Me state.

Flader, professor of history, teaches courses on Missouri, U.S. Western history and

environmental history. She also branches into the man-made environment by teaching a segment in historic preservation.

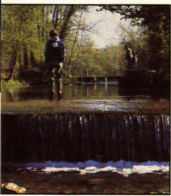
"I try to use research to lead students to a larger understanding," Flader says.

Her investigation on the Missouri parks system is a case study on land use attitudes during its 75-year history.

Another research project, the architectural heritage of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., transports students into the environment of a French colonial settlement. In Missouri history classes, students can analyze a 20-year series of family estate documents and period correspondence from Ste. Genevieve.

When it came to editing *Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites*, her background in national resource policy issues was invaluable, Flader says.

Bringing the traditions of ecology and resource management as well as Missouri history to students is pre-eminent, Flader says. "I have a wealth of examples to draw upon by working on this book."



Trout anglers cast a line in the headwaters of the Current River in Montauk State Park near Salem.

Oliver Schuchard photo

Wildflowers, right, cover the north Missouri prairies in Parshing State Park near Laclede.

Ken McCarty, M 77, MA '82, photo



the first park in the northern part of the state.

From their inception, Missouri parks were considered a recreation resource, since early funding came from fish and game fees. In 1928, after four years of acquisitions, Missouri boasted 40,000 acres of parks, most in southern Missouri.

It was during the 1920s when the popular Ozark areas — Bennett Spring, Montauk, Roaring River, Meramec and Sam A. Baker — were added to the park system.

These five large parks cater to a variety of outdoor activity as well as harboring rare species of flora and fauna. Bennett Spring, Montauk and Roaring River are popular with trout fishermen; Meramec and Baker feature some of the most scenic Ozark terrain and streams.

Baker, named after a governor who supported the system in its infancy, "offers visitors the freedom to wander at will in spacious, undeveloped lands, to savor old-time park hospitality in the rustic comfort of what is probably Missouri's most 'classic' state park," the authors wrote.

Besides its natural beauty, Baker is a good example of man's influences. Workers in the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration built from native stone a dining lodge, restrooms, trail shelters and bridges that still give Baker and many other state parks their rustic flavor. The architecture is so distinctive that the original Baker acreage is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Depression construction was of great value to many of Missouri's parks at the time and makes them special today, Flader says.

Oliver Schuchard, chairman and professor of art at MU, was the principal photographer for *Exploring Missouri's Legacy*. His vivid, detailed landscapes include examples from many of the parks and sites. More than 15 alumni, many of whom are park division naturalists and employees, contributed photographs.

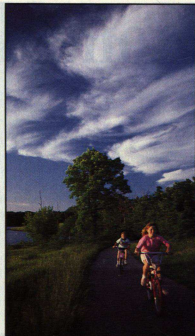
Writers Charles Callison, BJ '37, John Karel, AB '72, MS '76, and R. Roger Pryor each contributed about one-third of the essays. Karel, a former parks director, and Flader first proposed a book highlighting the system in 1982, a time when park funding was uncertain. Flader's chapter on the history of the Missouri parks documents frequent challenges for funds to operate and expand the system.

"Missouri has an incredibly fine park system with a small expenditure of state dollars," she says.

Two-thirds of the acreage and more than two-thirds of the units in the system were donated to the state, many by private individuals or corporations.

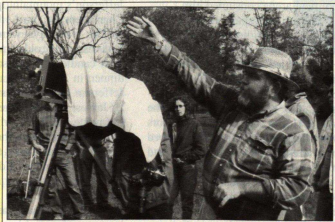
By acting through their legislators and the initiative process, Missourians have built a park system in which they take can take pride, Flader adds.

"The Missouri system of state parks and historic sites is a legacy of Missourians who care." ☺



A summer sky provides a backdrop for bicyclists in Watkins Mill State Park near Lawson. Including Katy Trail State Park, bicyclists can ride more than 225 miles of bicycle trails.

Tom Hoyle, BSF '76, photo



*Professor Oliver Schuchard instructs students on large-format view camera techniques at a photographic workshop in the Ozarks. He was the principal photographer for *Exploring Missouri's Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites*.*

Greg Matzen photo

Double exposure

Exposing students to teaching and research is what his work is all about, says Oliver Schuchard, professor and chairman of art and one of 10 recipients of the William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching Excellence for 1992.

When teaching photography, the research Schuchard does in the field and darkroom is of

vital importance. "I have to communicate my own ideas through my photographs to teach students who want to learn," Schuchard says.

Photography, both in terms of art and technique, is constantly developing. New ideas evolve; equipment and materials change. Making photographs keeps a teacher directly involved.

"My research keeps me on the edge of what is happening in photography."

Although the technical instruction is necessary for a student to become a successful photographer, the critical dialogue between the teacher and student is most important, Schuchard says. "Students must be shown how to think in terms of visual communication and how the camera can serve as one's eye.

"My research makes me a practitioner rather than a theorist," Schuchard says.