

Starved Rock State Park...

is located along the Illinois River, which forms at the junction of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers
is considered one of Illinois' 7 Wonders! <http://www.starvedrockstatepark.org>
is nestled amidst 2600 acres of some of the most spectacular natural beauty in the Midwest.
is the location of Minonk-Dana-Rutland's 45th class reunion for the class of 1965
is located only 35 miles north of Minonk

If time permits, try some of the following scheduled and unscheduled activities.
Make plans to meet a classmate to enjoy these features.

Optional Activities in the Starved Rock Area

(Compiled in Jan/Feb 2010-anticipate some changes)

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED!

Friday, September 3, 2010

Art in the Park: Free sunrise to sunset; Pick up a map at the Starved Rock Reception desk and start a hunt for awesome wood carvings throughout the park. You will find Indian carvings, animal carvings, totems and functional carved art.

I and M Canal Boat & Trolley Tour (newest history tour): Meet in the Great Hall at 11 p.m. and last until about 3 p.m.. Call 800-868-7625 ext. 386 for tickets and information. Adults \$35, Children \$5 less, No lunch-\$10 less; Begins with a hot lunch buffet in the Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room. Trolley takes you to the Starved Rock Visitor's Center for a short film and then to La Salle, Illinois to the new, full-size replica canal boat that will give mule/horse-pulled rides on the historic Illinois & Michigan canal. Participants will step back in time with period dressed interpreters on a 1-hour mule/horse-pulled canal boat ride on the same hand-dug waterway that Abe Lincoln and other 19th century pioneers traveled. The tour also stops at Lock 16 Visitor Center.

Saturday, September 4, 2010

Art in the Park: See description under Friday, September 3, 2010

Land and Water Cruise: Departs from the Great Hall, Starved Rock Lodge, at 9 a.m. or 11a.m. Call 800-868-7625 ext. 386 for tickets and information. \$35 per person; Children \$5 less, No lunch-\$10 less. Tour begins or ends with a hot lunch buffet in the Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room. A historical trolley ride takes passengers to the 'Belle or the Rock', an authentic paddle wheel boat, for a leisurely 1 hour narrated cruise on the Illinois River.

MDR Guided Walk of Starved Rock: 3 p.m. Meet in the Great Hall outside Starved Rock's Dining Room and bring an umbrella in case of light rain. Cost is \$1 per person paid to Connie Folkers Webber on September 4.

(MDR Reunion---this is NOT optional!)

Sunday, September 5, 2010

Art in the Park: See description under Friday, September 3, 2010

Trolley Area Tour: Departs from the Great Hall of Starved Rock Lodge at 12 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. Adults-\$12, Seniors-\$10, Children 10 & under-\$8. Tour lasts about 1 ½ hours with a stop at the Visitor's Center for a short video of the area. Passengers will travel to the Illinois Waterway Visitor Center where Starved Rock

can be seen across the river and river traffic can be seen passing through the locks. The tour will take participants through the village of Utica and will include information about the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The driver will narrate the history and legends of the area.

Monday, September 6, 2010

Art in the Park: See description under Friday, September 3, 2010

Land and Water Cruise: Departs from the Great Hall, Starved Rock Lodge 11a.m. Call 800-868-7625 ext. 386 for tickets and information. \$35 per person, Children \$5 less, No lunch-\$10 less. Tour begin with a hot lunch buffet in the Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room. A historical trolley ride takes passengers to the 'Belle or the Rock', an authentic paddle wheel boat, for a leisurely 1 hour narrate curise on the Illinois River.

Casual Cruise and Dinner Departs from the Great Hall, Starved Rock Lodge 5:30 p.m. Call 800-868-7625 ext. 386 for tickets and information. \$35 per person, Children \$5 less, No dinner-\$10 less. A historical trolley ride takes passengers to the 'Belle or the Rock', an authentic paddle wheel boat, for a leisurely 1 hour narrated curise on the Illinois River. Tour ends around 8 with a special dinner served with cheesecake in the Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room.

Indoor Places to Relax and Meet Friends

The Great Hall (Outside Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room)
Hotel Registration Lobby, Starved Rock Lodge

Starved Rock Visitors Center Open 9 to 4 every day; 815-667-4726

The Visitor Center offers displays and exhibits explaining the park's cultural and natural history. Free videos are available upon request.

9-minute Orientation Video

15-minute video "The History of Starved Rock"

15-minute video "The Civilian Conservation Corps & Starved Rock Lodge"

Find also: trail maps, restrooms, vending machines and drinking fountains, concessions and gifts
Free Guided Walking Tours (check for dates and times as they vary)

LaSalle County Historical Museum

The Museum includes a barn, blacksmith shop, Aitken School House and some Lincoln memorabilia

101 E. Canal

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

P.O. Box 278

Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m.

Utica, IL 61373

815- 667-4861

Fax 815-310-7613

E-mail: LCHSMuseum@Gmail.com

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

Walks/Hikes

Starved Rock, Buffalo Rock State Park, Matthiessen State Park, and I & M Canal State Trail have miles of walking/hiking trails. Beside the wide diversity of trees and bushes, over 200 flowers grow in the wild from April through November. Wildlife is abundant.

The Starved Rock trails are open all year, but hikers are urged to exercise extreme caution and to stay on official trails. To keep you oriented, trail maps are located at all trail access points, intersections and points of interest. There are colored posts along the trails, corresponding to colors on the maps, and letter symbols on the

trail brochure to further assist you. Finally, yellow dots on trees or posts indicate that you are moving away from the Lodge or Visitor Center, and white dots mean you are returning.

<http://www.starvedrockstatepark.org/index.cfm?pageID=161&criteria=maps>

Birding

At least 80 different bird species can be found in Illinois, many of them in Starved Rock area. Bald Eagles are a big attraction and are rebounding in the Starved Rock Area. See Kids Corner at <http://www.starvedrockstatepark.org> for eagle and otter finger puppets for the young at heart.

Picnicking

Developed picnic areas in Starved Rock are available to the day visitor, with tables, drinking water and restroom facilities. Eight shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Illinois and Michigan Canal Locks and Towpath

The Canal Corridor is a collection of eight engineering structures and segments of the I and M canal between Lockport and LaSalle-Peru which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964. After years of economic decline, the newly revitalized Canal Corridor is now becoming a living history museum of American enterprise, technological invention, ethnic diversity, and cultural creativity. Portions of the canal have been filled in but much of the former canal has been preserved as part of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.

Finished in 1848, the Illinois and Michigan Canal ran 96 miles from the Bridgeport neighborhood in Chicago on the Chicago River to LaSalle-Peru, Illinois, on the Illinois River. It allowed boat transportation by means of mule towing from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. The canal enabled navigation across the Chicago Portage and helped establish Chicago as the transportation hub of the United States. The canal opened before railroads were laid in the area and ceased transportation operations in 1933.

The trail on the old canal towpath is easy walking and gives access to scenic and historic sites. Bicyclists can also take advantage of the groomed towpath to enjoy the natural and manmade wonders. The trail is marked and has various wayside exhibits that describe features of the canal era.

M.J. Hogan Grain Elevator is located in Seneca and has gone through an extensive refurbishing. This elevator, formerly known as the Seneca Grain Elevator, is the only remaining historic grain elevator along the canal that was in operation during the canal's early days. If you would like to tour the elevator, please call the Gebhard Woods office and schedule a tour. 815-942-0796.

LaSalle Canal Boat and Lock 16 Visitor Center, 754 First Street, LaSalle, Illinois, offers more information about the Illinois and Michigan Canal along with a ride on a replica of a canal boat. Call 815-220-1848 for information and reservations or see <http://lasallecanalboat.org/index.html>.

Don't miss the local part of the I & M Canal which runs through Utica, one mile north of Starved Rock.

Starved Rock Lock, Dam & Illinois Waterway Visitor Center (directly across the Illinois River from Starved Rock State Park, 950 N 27th Rd Ottawa, IL 61350)

<http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/58611/places/59199/>

The Starved Rock Lock, Dam and Visitor Center is approximately two miles east of Route 178 on Dee Bennett Road. The lock and dam is one of eight between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. The Illinois Waterway, as it is called, was finished in 1933 to make the shallow Illinois River usable for commercial traffic.

The Visitors Center is open daily, year-round, from dawn to dusk. Through exhibits and a theater, the visitor center interprets building and maintaining the Illinois Waterway system and the history of water transportation in Illinois.

Matthiessen State Park (formerly know as Deer Park because of its large deer population)

Matthiessen State Park, approximately four miles south of Utica (on Route 178) and three miles east of Oglesby, is

named for Frederick William Matthiessen, a prominent industrialist and philanthropist from LaSalle who originally purchased the land for this park near the end of the 19th Century . Beside unusual and beautiful rock formations, diverse flora and fauna and fascinating wildlife, Matthiessen State Park has a restored fort representative of the fortifications the French built in the Midwest during the 1600s and early 1700s.

Other activities include

A field archery range (northwestern part of the park)

A radio-controlled model airplane field (Vermilion River Area)

Horseback Riding (bring your own horse)

Bicycling

Camping

Trails: five miles of well-marked, well-surfaced hiking trails for a relaxing walk or a vigorous hike.

Box 509

Utica, IL 61373

815-667-4868

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R1/mttindex.htm>

Buffalo Rock State Park

Buffalo Rock State Park, home to several bison, is located on a bluff on the north bank of the Illinois River. The park is located approximately three miles west of Ottawa and five miles east of Utica (Take Dee Bennett Rd from Utica).

P.O. Box 2034

1300 North 27th Road

Ottawa, IL 61350

815-433-2224

<http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/PARKS/I&M/east/BUFFALO/Home.htm>

Effigy Tumuli by artist Michale Heizer is one of the largest earth sculptures ever built and is located near Buffalo Rock State Park in a reclaimed mine site. It contains five large earthen figures (effigies) of native aquatic animals. The artist created these sculptures to pay tribute to native American burial grounds. It is best to look at the sculptures from a distance first and then walk around them.

River/Water Activities/Sports

Boating: Canoes, speedboats, pontoon boats, fishing boats, wave runners, houseboats can be rented at Starved Rock Adventures Inc. located at Starved Rock State Park (Visitor's Center Parking Lot). 815-434-9200 (guaranteed reservations) www.starvedrockadventures.com

Belle of the Rock (paddleboat) Narrated Cruises: 7 days a week, weather permitting, 45-50 minutes. Cruises Leave on the hour beginning around 11 a.m. to 3 or 4 p.m. Schedule varies as season changes. Call 815-434-9200 (guaranteed reservations) www.starvedrockadventures.com

Fishing: Catfish, bullhead, white bass, sauger, walleye, carp and crappie may be caught in the Illinois River. Bait can be purchased at **Applebee's Bait Shop**, just off I-80 at the corner of Routes 6 & 178 and is open 7 days a week. Hour: M-F from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. / Saturday & Sunday, the shop opens early at 4:30 a.m.

Swimming:

Illinois River: no swimming allowed due to dangerous undertow

Starved Rock Lodge: indoor pool, a hot tub, sauna (registered Lodge guest)

Public Swimming Pools: available in Oglesby, LaSalle and Peru

Massage Call 815-667-4211 to schedule a massage at Starved Rock (Open to all)

Indoor Amusement Park and Indoor Water Park

Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort, 2643 N State Route 178, Utica, IL 61373 - (866) 399-3866

Water park is for registered guests only, but indoor amusement park is open to all.

Horseback Riding

There are equestrian trails and an equestrian campground along Illinois Route 178. Horse rentals are available April through October from the Starved Rock Stables on Route 71, a half-mile west of Illinois Route 178. For more information call 815-667-3026.

Horseback rentals are also available at Cedar Creek Ranch, 249 East Illinois Route 71, Cedar Point, IL 61316 (10 miles east of Starved Rock on Route 71) 815-446-4105, (cell) 815-481-3337, www.ccrstables.com email: info@accrstables.com.

Bicycling

I & M Canal See picture tour of *Illinois and Michigan Canal Ride Report from Ottawa West to LaSalle-Peru* at <http://www.mikebentley.com/bike/imride.htm>. The bike path runs from LaSalle to Joliet.

Matthiessen State Park map at <http://www.mikebentley.com/bike/matthiessen.gif> The bike path runs on part of the horse path and on a new mountain bike trail.

Starved Rock Bicycling not allowed

Shopping

The Starved Rock Cafe (close to Registration Desk in Starved Rock Lodge) Open morning till evening

Greeting cards, books, magazines, candles, lotions, toiletries, souvenirs,

Coffees, teas, sandwiches, chips, snacks, ice cream

Homemade Starved Rock Fudge

Free wine tasting every Saturday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm in the Hotel Lobby (just outside the Cafe)

Free internet access and WiFi.

Starved Rock Gift Shop (outside of the Starved Rock Lodge dining room) sweatshirts, jewelry, accessories and gifts, coats and jackets, toys and trinkets

Starved Rock Marketplace (corner of Routes 6 and 178, Utica-south of Route 80: three miles north of Starved Rock and five miles north of Matthiessen State Park)

Cottage Boutique (In Starved Rock Marketplace) 815- 667-4550 home decor items, hats, footwear, handbags, gourmet foods & wines; Starved Rock Signature Wines & Starved Rock Logowear can be ordered online.

Cattails Gift Shop and Wine Tasting Room/Outdoor Patio (In Starved Rock Marketplace) 815-

667-4550 Local history books: Capone's Cornfields and Starved Rock Stories are among best sellers

Starved Rock Signature Wines, including Illinois wines, by the glass or bottle

Utica (one mile north of Starved Rock; Stores on Route 178 and in downtown area) Stores offering cards, collectables and antiques. <http://www.travels.com/shopping-utica-il-us/>

Oglesby (approximately 5 miles west of Starved Rock, close to Route 39) variety of stores and shopping opportunities. <http://www.travels.com/shopping-oglesby-il-us/>

LaSalle/Peru (approximately 10 miles west of Starved Rock; At junction of Interstate 80 and 39) Most any store can be found in La Salle/Peru.

Antique Mall on Interstate 80 may be of special interest.

Crafter's Village has burned.

<http://www.merchantcircle.com/directory/IL-La-Salle/category/Retail.Shopping>

<http://www.merchantcircle.com/directory/IL-Peru/category/Retail.Shopping>

Ottawa, Illinois is approximately 10 miles east of Starved Rock and offers two distinct retail districts: charming Old Town near the riverfront or the bustling retail outlets near Interstate 80. See the web for 35 shopping listings in Ottawa. http://www.experienceottawa.com/visitors_shopping.cfm

Walmart

exit 90 in Ottawa- 7 miles to the East on Route 80, 4041 Veterans Dr, Ottawa (815) 431-9311

exit 75 in Peru-7 miles to the West on Route 80, 1651 38th St, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 224-2396

Wine Tasting

Cattails in Starved Rock Marketplace at corner of Routes 6 and 178, Utica; 815-667-4550

Cheatin Gourmet (specialty foods also) 143 Mill Street, Utica, IL 61373-9314, 815-667-4774

www.cheatingourmetutica.com

August Hill Winery Tasting Room, 106 Mill Street, Utica, IL 61373; 815-667-5211

Friday-Saturday: 10am - 8pm; Sunday: 11am - 5pm; Monday-Thursday: 10am - 5pm

Actual vineyard and winery are located in Peru. No tours at present. www.augusthillwinery.com

Illinois River Winery, 723 S. Clark, Utica, IL phone 815-667-4012 A twenty minute tour one of Illinois largest wineries to learn how wine is made from start to finish. Free tours are available on Saturday afternoons at 1,2,3 and 4 pm. Tasting Room Hours are 10am - 5pm every day.

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

Dining

Starved Rock Lodge Main Dining Room (open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner) Fabulous brunch every Sunday

Veranda (Outdoor dining at Starved Rock Lodge overlooking the Illinois River from Memorial Day to Labor Day weather permitting).

The Back Door Lounge (Behind Main Dining Room at Starved Rock Lodge) casual dining

Monday-Thursday: 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

Friday-Saturday: 11:00 am - 12:00 am

Sunday: 10:30 am - 11:00 pm

Restaurants (within 10 miles of Starved Rock)

Cajun Connection, 2954 North State Route 178, Utica, IL 61373 (815) 667-9855

Canal Port, 148 Mill, Utica, IL 61373 (815) 667-3010

Duffy's Tavern, 101 Mill Street, Utica, IL 61373-9314 (815) 667-4324

Jimmy Johns Utica, 2971 East 8th Road, Utica, IL 61373 (815) 667-4160

Joy & Ed's Supper Club, 113 Mill, Utica, IL 61373 (815) 667-4850

Delaney's Family Restaurant, 100 North Lewis Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348 (815) 883-3539

Garzanelli's, Supper Club, 750 North Columbia Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348 (815) 883-8633

Moore's Family Restaurant, 225 North Columbia Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348 (815) 883-9254

Mr Salsa's, 309 East Walnut Street, Oglesby, IL 61348 (815) 883-9299

Sam's Pizza, 115 South Columbia Avenue, Oglesby, IL 61348 (815) 883-9413

Bartley's Supper Club, 414 1st Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 224-4689

Bob Evans Restaurant, 4383 Venture Drive, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 223-4564

Clover Club, 105 Hennepin Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 339-6233

El Amigo Grill, 1043 8th Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 223-8120

Len and Lou's, 1607 36th Street, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 224-9242

Lunch Box Café, 135 Joliet Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 224-9928

Maples Supper Club, 1401 Shooting Park Road, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 223-1938

Mezzanotte, 701 1st Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 224-6080

Liberty Family Restaurant, 1131 Shooting Park Road, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 224-3240

Pizza Hut, 1121 Shooting Park Road, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 223-2555

Red Lobster Restaurant, 4381 Venture Drive, Peru, IL 61354 (815) 223-8571

Uptown Grill, 601 1st Street, La Salle, IL 61301 (815) 224-4545

Golf

Closest recommended public golf course:

Senica Oak Ridge Golf Course (10 minutes from Starved Rock)

658 E US Highway 6, LaSalle, IL 61301, 815-223-7273, www.senicasoakridge.net

For Kids

See web site <http://www.starvedrockstatepark.org/> for Kids corner activities and fun online resources