

Recreational Areas In the Pisgah National Forest

Each year an increasingly large number of persons seek the inviting coolness of the North Carolina mountains in which to spend the sultry days of summer. The Pisgah national forest offers to the visitor one of the state's most attractive recreation and vacation centers.

Here the U. S. forest service has built surfaced roads into isolated sections of the forest that take the traveler through sections of unsurpassed scenic beauty of waterfalls, gorges, and mountain peaks, which rear their heads into the clouds. Amid these settings of rugged natural beauty, the forest service has developed, for the free use and enjoyment of North Carolinians and the visitors of the state, a number of areas for camping, picnicking, swimming and fishing.

One especially alluring spot under development is the 10-acre center on Highway No. 10, three miles west of Old Fort, about 23 miles of Asheville, and 16 miles west of Marion.

The entrance to this area is just across Swannanoa creek from the main highway. Here the visitor enters a spot that appears as secluded as any cove in the heart of the mountain wilds hundreds of miles from civilization. The banks of the swift mountain streams are carpeted with ferns and wildflowers—rhododendron, and laurel grow in profusion among as great a variety of hardwoods as ever delighted the heart of a tree lover. Hikers will delight in the nature trails, which wind pass huge rock boulders through the dense woodland, or follow the banks of the small, clear streams, spanned by rustic log foot bridges. One of the longer trails follows the crest of the mountains for five miles, coming out at Kitsuma peak, near Ridgecrest. The forest service has carefully preserved the natural beauty of this spot and all improvements have been kept natural and rustic in type.

The picnic facilities here include tables and benches made from chestnut logs hewed from trees killed by the chestnut blight. These tables and benches are located adjacent to the open-air fireplaces with iron grill work for cooking. These fireplaces have been built under the great trees and grouped in a manner to provide adequate convenience and privacy for different groups of campers.

Three rock fountains have been

built in this area and are supplied with water which is piped down from a spring high up in the mountains.

For the convenience of motorists adequate space for parking has been provided. This space is enclosed by an attractive rock wall.

The U. S. forest service maintains this area for the public to use and enjoy and is eager to make available to the greatest possible number of visitors the healthful recreational opportunities which it affords.

The U. S. forest service has prepared for free distribution an illustrated map folder showing the location of the various recreational areas on the Pisgah national forest. This leaflet is the forest service's response to the demands of the public for information concerning the places in the forest where entertainment and relaxation may be found. This map folder may be secured upon application to H. E. Oshner, supervisor, Pisgah national forest, Asheville, North Carolina, or to district ranger of the Mount Mitchell district of the forest, at Marion, North Carolina.

Certain Plants Help Man Destroy Insects

Some 20 species of plants growing in North Carolina help man in his endless war on insects, according to L. A. Whiteford, of the State college botany department.

These carnivorous plants catch insects on their leaves and digest them, he explained.

On an acre in eastern North Carolina where trumpet plant, or Venus fly-trap, grows abundantly, he continued, a million or more insects must be destroyed every summer.

"Wouldn't it be fine if we could plant Venus fly-trap between rows of beans to catch the beetles, or pitcher plants in corn fields to catch the ear-worms?" he asked. Unfortunately, these plants are hard to grow except in bogs.

Venus fly-trap is found within 75 miles of Wilmington. The spine-bordered leaves snap shut instantly on any insect that touches them. After the insect is digested, the leaf opens again.

A small plant growing in the botany laboratory at the college caught more than a dozen house flies in a few weeks.

In southern Europe, Whiteford added, farmers grow a plant with sticky leaves. When hung in their houses, the plants catch flies and other insects like fly-paper.

In North Carolina the yellow trumpet plant reaches a height of three feet and has a trumpet-like leaf that can catch a half-cupful of insects, including large crickets and grasshoppers.

The bladderworts which grow in bog pools have many tiny bladders with trap doors that operate whenever an insect touches the trigger.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. Will Johnson grass poison livestock?

A. Johnson grass produces a poisonous acid, known as hydrocyanic or prussic acid, when the normal growth of the grass has been stopped or retarded by such adverse conditions as drouth, bruising, trampling or cutting. Usually no trouble is experienced from livestock grazing the grass except in extremely dry weather or on the second growth immediately after a cutting. Dr. C. D. Grinnells, veterinarian of the North Carolina experiment station, says chokeberry and black cherry also produce this poisonous acid under adverse growing conditions.

Q. When is the best time to cut soybeans and cowpeas for hay?

A. Cut the soybeans when the seed are about half-developed in the pods and the cowpeas when the first pods begin to yellow. A poor quality of hay is often produced from these crops in North Carolina because most of us wait too long to cut them for hay. Livestock do not relish stems and tough fiber, but do eat green, leafy hay with excellent results.

Q. I have a field of corn on which I want to turn my hogs. When is the best stage of growth to do this?

A. If the best stage of growth of the corn is meant, then any-

time after the corn grains have passed the dough stage. If the best stage of growth for the pigs is meant, then anytime after the young fellows are weaned. When hogs are turned into standing corn, the self-feeder containing tankage or fish meal should be put into the field. It would be well to have a mineral mixture available also.

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Having qualified as administrators of J. W. Hasting, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of July, 1938, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 22nd day of July, 1937.

LAKE LEDFORD AND F. E. HASTING,

Administrators.

129-6tp-S2

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