



Seeking out nature's beauty

By Lisa Davis, Cumberland Falls Resort Park Manager

Before becoming resort park manager of Cumberland Falls State Resort Park I never thought of why people seek nature's beauty. Having managed hotels for years that were surrounded by concrete and asphalt, I never had any reason to consider the question.

I joined the state park system a little over four years ago and I have seen people come from far distances to be in the woods, on the lake, in a cave and by a waterfall. During my first visit to Carter Caves State Resort Park, and seeing the mountain stream, I felt a "connection."

I thought this feeling was from having been reared on a farm with a creek in the front and a creek in the back. As long as I can remember, I would play in one or the other of the creeks. I would name the particular areas of the creek such as, Adam and Eve's paradise area or Moss sliding rock area. Then I would think of how I could invite people to see my special creeks and charge them a dime.

My grade school friends would ride the bus home with me and we'd head for the creek. I can't remember what it was that entertained us for all those hours; I just remember I always forgot to get my dime. Since the 1980s, most of my working

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