head. Finally the “Shades of Death” name, considered unsavory, was dropped to simply “The Shades.” These examples of the legends and folklore of the area are often topics at campfires.

The results of a government survey of 1815 noted as landmarks a series of natural springs in a ravine area that played an important part in the history of Shades. In 1866, the Garlard Dells Mineral Springs Association was organized and land was purchased and rented to develop a health resort and recreation area named “The Shadess.” In 1887 a 40-room inn was built on the location of the shelter house near Devil’s Punchbowl (this inn has since been razed because of fire damage and maintenance costs).

The person who had been named the “Father of Shades” Joseph W. Frisz, purchased stock in the Dells Mineral Springs Association in 1909 and gained complete control in 1916 of this Association. Frisz safeguarded the natural areas and dense forests, while purchasing additional tracts of land, until the late 1930s. Shades scenic park comprised 2,200 acres. The park boasted the scenic inn set in a grove of mature oak trees, hiking trails, swimming, fishing and natural spring water.

In the early 1940s, the park was purchased from Frisz’s heirs by a holding company until a public subscription campaign (“Save the Shadess”) raised the purchase money. Shades became the 15th state park and was used the majority of the oak timber for whiskey barrels.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**CAMPING**—Non-electric campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water and showers; no modern hookups; occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights.

Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

• Backpack and canoe camping is seasonal. No reservations are required—first-come-first-served. Inquire at gatehouse or park office.

**FISHING**—Bass, bluegill, etc. State license required.

**HIKING**—Approximately 12 miles of easy to rugged trails. Some hiking trails have ladders and are difficult to achieve without children assistance.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE**—Seasonal. Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available at Interpretive Services.

**PICNIC AREAS**—Tables, grill, facilities, playground equipment, playfields and shelters. Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

**DEER’S MILL COVERED BRIDGE AREA**—Located on S.R. 234, is maintained as an access to Sugar Creek for canoeists. Due to limited parking and congestion, vehicles parked in unauthorized spaces or left 11:00 a.m. are subject to tow at owner’s expense.

**SWIMMING IS PROHIBITED**

Sugar Creek is extremely hazardous.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Do not injure or damage any structure, fossil, rock, tree, flower, bird or wildlife. Do not gather sticks, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.

Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-rocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.

Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.

Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.

Fires shall be built only in designated places.

Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.

Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.

Swimming is limited to places and times designated by the Department of Natural Resources.

Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or for fountain that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.

Report lost or found articles to the front gate.

All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadways. Snowmobiles and off-road vehicles are prohibited.

Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

Park closes from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed in the park between these hours except for campers using their sites.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

**DESCRIPTON OF HIKING TRAILS**

**TRAIP 1**

.75 miles Easy

Begins at pond, through wooded, open areas to youth tent and campground roads.

**TRAIP 10**

.5 miles Moderate

Begins at Dell Shelter, leads through successional vegetation and second-growth timber to S.R. 234 and Pine Hills Nature Preserve.

**BACKPACK TRAIL**

2.5 miles Moderate

Begins at west end of Hickory Parking Lot and extends 2.5 miles through relatively level terrain and leads directly to the backpack camp. Note that the backpack camp is closed from late October through early April.

**PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.**

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

**CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM**

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling 1-866-667-9672.

Online: camp.in.gov

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone: 1-877-lodges1

Online: Indianainns.com

**SPECIAL NOTE**

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the main office.

**DNF PROJECTS NEARBY**

**Raccoon Lake**

Cecil M. Harden Lake—archery range, boating, fishing, hiking, fishing pier, youth tent areas, hiking trails, hunting, seasonal interpretive service, picnic area, play/sports area, boat rental

**Turkey Run State Park**

Cabins, camping, fishing, hiking trails, historic features, Inn & restaurant, interpretive services & center, picnic area, play/sports area, saddle barn, shelter house, swimming pool, youth tent

**Big Walnut-Tall Timbers Trail Nature Preserve**

hiking trails, picnicking, Sugar Creek State Nature Preserve.

**For a list of park events, visit interpretativesservices.IN.gov**

**Please let wild animals remain wild.**

Feeding deer and feeding wildlife can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals depend on handouts because of the close distance to visitors and are danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

**SHADES STATE PARK**

Long before the first settlers came to the area of Shades State Park, Native Americans lived among the virgin forest, steep ravines and cliff areas along Sugar Creek.

The first European settlers came to this area around the late 1820s after the Miami tribe was forced to cede the land to the federal government in 1818. The shallow soils and broken topography of the lands that border Sugar Creek provided little enticement to farmers, thus the majority of the forest escaped destruction.

One story of the area attests the illusion of deep shadows beneath the nearly unbroken canopy of these forests and the eerie feeling projected by the “black forest” as the reason for the early name, “The Shades of Death.” Other people, however, say the name resulted due to the Native Americans who resulted due to the Native Americans who occupied this natural stronghold along Sugar Creek and the legend of an early settler being killed. Another story that contributed to the gloomy name change is that a pioneer settler’s wife buried an axe in her wicked husband’s