

RINQUELIN TRAIL LAKE CONSERVATION AREA

by Susan E. Hohman

Fishing on the 29-acre lake, hunting in the 147 acres of forest and woodland or the combined 100 acres of fields and grassland, or simply bird-watching in the scenic natural beauty gives visitors to Rinquelin Trail Lake Conservation Area a variety of choices while spending time there. Missouri Department of Conservation oversees the preservation of this spot as part of their Central Missouri and Ozark region.

Acquired via five separate transactions between 1982 and 1990, the area consists of 286 acres of woodland, fields, and lake, and is named after an Indian trail that passed through Vienna and connected the Gasconade and Osage Rivers.

The lake area, "nestled in the Ozark highlands at the headwaters of the Little Maries River," (as described on the website), includes a concrete boat ramp, fishing jetty, and a doubt-pit privy, all disability-accessible, with two other fishing jetties, as well. Fishermen are provided ample prospects to catch bass, catfish, and sunfish (Bluegill and Redear) and the Missouri Department of Conservation restocks the lake with catfish each fall. There is also an intermittent stream on the site that is approximately one mile long.

Individual primitive campsites are available next to one of the parking lots; no camping amenities are provided,

however. Besides some scenic walking through non-prairie grassland and old fields, those who enjoy bird-watching can find a variety of fowl on the premises. Obtaining a copy of the Audubon Society of Missouri Conservation Area Bird List will aid in this quest. Opportunities for outdoor photography and wildlife viewing are also possible. Wildlife habitat management involves disturbing old fields, planting native grasses, harvesting timber, and includes establishing annual food plots. Rabbit, squirrel, turkey, and deer hunting are permitted in the designated areas. However, deer hunters should only use archery and muzzle-loader methods.

Located in the Central region of Missouri, in southwestern Maries County, the Rinquelin Trail Community Lake and accompanying acreage can be easily accessed from Dixon. Travel north on Highway 133, then west on Highway DD, then south on County Road 631, and east on County Road 630 to the area entrance. Three main parking lots, accommodating a total of 26 vehicles allow ample parking space for visitors, in addition to the parking lot near the primitive camping area. The conservation area is open for public use from 4:00 am to 10:00 pm daily. For more information, call (573) 815-7900. Also, more information about the lake and associated activities and links to the best fishing information can be found at the website: www.mdc4.mdc.mo.gov.



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Rock Eddy Bluff Farm Cabins

by Susan E. Hohman

*A Country Hideaway
in the Ozark Hills!*

With a scenic stretch of the Gasconade River that deepens into a pool set against limestone bluffs, the large boulders that rise above water here has been known locally for many years as "Rock Eddy." Therefore, when the Corey family decided to build their home and subsequent retreat, it was natural for the name to become "Rock Eddy Bluff."

This "country hideaway in the Ozark hills," as stated on their webpage, www.rockeddy.com, includes opportunity for the guest to roam and enjoy the scenic natural beauty amid a serene, unspoiled landscape. On the river, amid 150 acres of Ozark forest, hiking, exploring the river and hills, nature watching, swimming, fishing, canoeing, or just relaxing are just a few of the many natural pleasures to enjoy.



Accommodations include "two secluded and fully-modern cottages peering into the valley, and two off-the-grid cabins tucked into the trees." (from the website) More specific information about the accommodations may be found on the website or on their Facebook page: Rock Eddy Bluff Farm Cabins. Please note: the off-the-grid cabins—Aunt Phoebe's Perch and Line Camp Cabin—offer a taste of life 100 years ago, and do not offer electricity.

Services found at Rock Eddy Bluff are the secluded country cottages that carry many of the amenities of home while offering a "gaze out across the valley landscape from open decks." (from the Facebook page). Also offered is the opportunity for parents to take their children into the natural country world with "acres of hills and dales to roam." With crystal-clear Clifty Creek nearby, as well as the river below, kids can enjoy the best natural pleasures of fishing, splashing, and exploring!

Rock Eddy Bluff is primarily geared for those who wish to relax and recharge in the beauty and privacy of this scenic location in south central Missouri. However, there are other places to explore including caves, wineries, and Amish community, as well as shopping, golfing, and dining at country eateries.

Rock Eddy is a pet-friendly facility, and welcomes your furry friends! Phone number for questions or to make reservations is 573-759-6081.



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