



BOB DOWNING/Akron Beacon Journal

Mohican State Park's covered bridge is an access point for Lyons Falls Trail, a 2-mile loop in the gorge that takes you to two waterfalls.

Wild

Lots to do and see
in the Mohican area

Continued from Page E8

trails.

In Northeast Ohio, they are West Branch, Beaver Creek, Mosquito Lake and Quail Hollow in addition to Mohican.

But there's plenty for visitors to do and see at 1,110-acre Mohican State Park and the surrounding 4,525-acre Mohican Memorial State Forest.

The state park has five miles of stream. It was an area where the Delaware Indians once lived and where John Chapman, or Johnny Appleseed, once lived and worked in the early 1800s.

The state forest features 20 miles of bridle trails, 6 miles of multiple-use trails (hike, bike, snowmobile, horse), 2 miles of hiking trails and 3 miles of the new mountain bike trail (the rest of the mileage is in the state park) and several camping areas.

Clearfork Gorge, a federally designated National Natural

Landmark, is very special.

A 29-acre state nature preserve lies on the south slope of the gorge surrounded by the state park and state forest.

It is a 300-foot-deep sandstone gorge that is 1,000 feet wide. It was created by glacial melt about 15,000 years ago. You can see into it from an overlook on the southern side.

The secluded gorge is home to old-growth eastern hemlock and white pines.

It became a state nature preserve in 1990 and includes a loop trail that runs down to the Mohican River.

Not far from the park's campground is the historic Wolf Creek/Pine Run Grist Mill.

It was built in about 1831 by Isaac Meanor on Wolf Creek, about six miles from the park. The mill was dismantled and moved in 1970-1971. It became part of the park in the early 1990s, but it needed work.

The dark-colored mill off state Route 3 is being restored and is operated by the nonprofit Friends of Wolf Creek/Pine Run Grist Mill. It was opened to the public in late 2002.

The building is open from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from Memorial Day to

Labor Day and by appointment or chance.

For more information, call 419-668-2497. You can also check out the Internet site at www.wolfcreekmill.org.

Two waterfalls

For hikers, Lyons Falls Trail, a 2-mile loop in the gorge, features two waterfalls. Upper Lyon's Falls drops 40 feet over the open mouth of Lyon's Cave, while Lower Lyon's Falls drops 30 feet.

You can access the trail from the park's wooden covered bridge and from Pleasant Hill Dam.

The Hemlock Trail leads two miles from the campground to the covered bridge.

A 90-foot fire tower in the state forest is again open to the public. The orange structure, built in 1934, offers stunning up-high views of central Ohio. It is one of 14 still-standing Ohio fire towers and the only one open to the public.

The tower was restored by the Mohican chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association. Mohican Resort and Conference Center has 96 rooms, 25 cottages, a restaurant, a lounge, a sauna, a gift shop and indoor and

outdoor pools in the lodge, which is near Pleasant Hill Lake.

For lodge information, write to Mohican State Park Lodge, 1098 County Road 3006, P.O. Box 429, Perrysville, OH 44864. Call 419-938-5411 (front desk) or 800-282-7275 (reservations). The Internet site is www.mohicanresort.com.

The state park campground has 33 full-service sites, 120 with electricity, 33 with no electricity, and 12 walk-in sites.

For more information, contact Mohican State Park at 3116 State Route 3, Loudonville, OH 44842; 419-994-5125. For camping information, call 419-994-4290. For cottage reservations, call 866-644-6727. The Internet site is www.ohiodnr.com.

You can also get information from the Loudonville-Mohican Convention & Visitors Bureau, 249 W. Main St., Loudonville, OH 44842; 419-994-4789 or 877-2-MOHICAN. The Internet site is www.Loudonville-Mohican.com.

Bob Downing can be reached at 330-996-3745 or bdowning@thebeaconjournal.com