

Foundation of the AIPG Fundraiser Caves, Springs and Streams in and about the Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Leader – Jeffery Crews, Karst Geologist, Missouri Geologic Survey

Date – Sunday, October 5, 2025

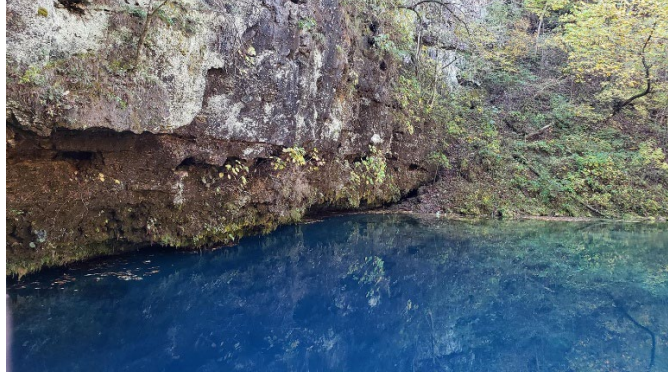
Time – 6:00 am – 6:00 pm

The visit into a slice of the Missouri Ozarks starts at Onondaga Cave for a 50-minute paved path walking tour where visitors can see the Ordovician strata from the inside out and the handiwork of the dissolving and depositing waters moving through the carbonate host rock. From there, we go to Maramec Spring, where millions of rainbow and brown trout are raised and released in its 58-degree, clear, fast-flowing waters for eager fly fishermen. At this location, visitors will see remnants of the 1820's iron smelter located there to capitalize on the hydropower, hematite deposit, and a bit of coal located nearby. Further south and downstream, we will visit Round Spring's azure, blue waters, which feed the Current River. We will then stop just a bit farther down the road for the pleasant scenery at Echo Bluff State Park, where crystal-clear Sinking Creek flows along the namesake bluff formed of the Gasconade Formation. Then it is onto Alley Spring and Mill. Alley Spring is the seventh-largest spring in Missouri. You will get up close to see the Alley Spring gristmill that was built in 1894. The cool waters issuing forth from Alley Spring flow through a spring branch for a half mile before entering the Jacks Fork River, another beautiful, designated National Scenic Riverway. Concluding the sightseeing, the group will head back to the hotel – a return trip of approximately three and a half hours where you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the scenic views.

No sample collecting will be allowed. Sturdy shoes are suggested for mostly horizontal, easy walking paths. We may encounter some slight inclines and some gravel paths. Please be prepared for changing weather, including rain. Temperatures in the fall can range from hot (upper 80s) to quite cool (in the 30s).



Alley Spring



Blue Spring – National Park Service

*Photo Alley Spring and Mill in November 2021, 16porkchops, CC BY-SA 4.0,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alley_Spring,_Missouri#/media/File:Alley_Spring_and_Mill_in_November_2021.jpg*