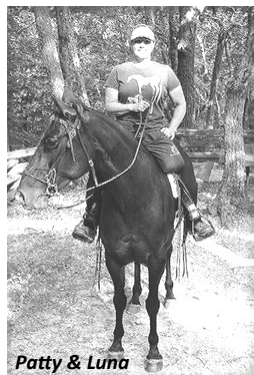


RIDE WISCONSIN -Wildcat Mountain State Park

Patty Wisneski

In the 1800s, farmers in the Wildcat Mountain State Park area were upset because a bobcat, also called wildcat, killed several of their sheep. So the farmers formed a hunting party to find the wildcat. They tracked and killed it to prevent the loss of anymore of their livestock. The farmers shot it nearby the area that is now the park's main overlook, and gave it the name Wildcat Hill. The name was later changed to Wildcat Mountain.



Wildcat Mountain State Park is located on a ridge rising steeply above the Kickapoo River in Wisconsin's driftless area. The park offers camping for families, groups and riders with horses.

Wildcat Mountain State Park can be found at E13660 State Highway 33, Ontario, 54651, and consists of 3,603 of mostly wooded acres. Since Wildcat lies in the Driftless Wisconsin Area, the area is characterized by its beautifully sculpted topography that was never touched by the glaciers. Forested hillsides reach down to valleys cut into limestone bedrock by cold-water trout streams. Forests, prairie remnants, wetlands, and grasslands provide habitat for wildflowers and wildlife. Land is farmed by the

descendants of those who first settled here, by the Amish who adopted the area, and by a new breed of organic farmer.

The Wildcat Mountain horse trails have three color-coded loop totaling 15 miles. The trails are a combination of single track and wider trails.

Red Loop: The Red Loop begins at the horse campground and winds its way through the park's hills and valleys.

Blue and Yellow Loops: The Blue and Yellow Loops connect to the Red Loop, taking riders farther from the park's main use areas.

Rock Johnson Loop: This short trail begins north of the horse camp and winds its way up onto a high ridge connecting with the Red Loop.

Horse trails are open May 1 to November 14 annually.

Wildcat offers 24 campsites that accommodate horse trailers with campers. Reservations are required. Additional trail passes are required for riders entering the state park trail system.

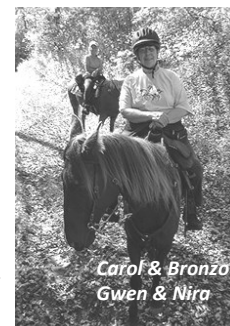
Numerous accommodations can be found in the neighboring villages of La Farge and Ontario, as well as the popular community of Rockton - a long time favorite destination among trail riders.

Horse Camp:

- **Campers must have horse to book these sites. There are 21 electric sites and 3 non-electric sites.**

Horse sites 001H-004H and 008H-024H are electrical and cost an extra \$5.00 per night.

- Family and Group Camp = No Horse Campers.
- Family and Horse Camp = Only 1 wheeled camper unit per campsite.
- Pets must be leashed (under 8') and attended at all times.



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Wildcat Mountain

Wisconsin State Park stickers are required for entrance into the park and trail riding passes are necessary for any person over the age of 16. The cost of the pass is \$4.00 per day or \$20.00 for an annual pass.

I think that Wildcat Mountain is one of the most beautiful state parks in Wisconsin. The trails can be a challenge so horses and riders should be in condition. The trails can be rocky so shoes or boots might be a good idea.

I make it a point of riding these trails at least once a year even though it is a considerable distance for me to haul. If you enjoy taking pictures on the trail this is a wonderful area for photos. In putting together this article I have found I had many pictures to choose from. I encourage you to ride these trails you will not be disappointed. This is yet another wonderful Wisconsin riding destination.

“A great horse should be seldom spurred.”

Thomas Fuller

Until next time – Happy Trails!