

Buffalo River Ramblings



July-Sept 2013

Newsletter of the Buffalo River Chapter of the Ozark Society

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The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best. – Dr. Neil Compton



Buffalo River Reflections

by Laura Timby

The past week has finally seen the end of a month long drought and heat wave here along the Buffalo. Just as the river's flow had nearly ceased and moss was beginning to bloom we have experienced over a week of showers and cooler weather. In fact today we are enjoying a steady gentle rain-almost unheard of in July! Not sure how long it will last but we'll take what we can get.

At our last BRC meeting members voted to make a donation to the Halburg Ecology camp in memory of Gene Cutrell for a camp scholarship. I am happy to report that the Ozark Society Foundation matched our donation, enabling a youth, who otherwise may not have had the opportunity, to attend camp this summer. I received a lovely note from BJ & family thanking the BRC for the donation.

The BRC also received a donation last week in memory of Glenda Pehrson, to be used to send a child to camp. It is exciting to think we already

have seed money for next year's campers. Our thanks go to Glenda's family for their donation.

The last two weeks we have seen a couple of young gray fox around town. They seem to be drawn to the wild cherries and ripening grapes. They are beautiful and very curious-and do not seem to be very afraid of humans. What a pleasure to see them. Other wild life sightings this week include beaver, muskrat and deer. It's really great to see these animals in their natural surroundings. It reminds me that the Buffalo is so much more than just a popular vacation destination.



Good Ole Summertime

by Farrel Couch

Well at least this summer hasn't been as hot so far as the last two years. It has however been quite dry as of late and a good rain would sure help out a few gardens, including mine.

On a recent trip to the Buffalo River in the Erbie area I was saddened to see that all the facilities were closed due to our governments inefficiencies. The only campground open was the horse camp because a group of volunteers have agreed to clean and police it. After a long talk with a ranger it appears that things will remain the way they are for the time being. Well at least the trails are still open and as soon as the weather cools off a bit I intend to be on one.

As far as the Hog farm is concerned the fervor has died down some as of late, but the controversy is still ongoing. Hopefully an agreement can be hashed out that will service both the NPS and the landowner without causing undue hardships on either entity. I feel that the focus should be on changing the laws in order to stop any further such operations from setting up shop within the Buffalo's watershed, and stop any more backdoor dealings that more than likely started this controversy in the first place.

If further erosion of the relationship between the NPS and the locals isn't stopped soon, the only thing that will suffer will be the river that we all love so much. My views are my own, but with the Park already suffering from budget cuts and unable to fund any park improvements or adequate staffing, further degradation could lead to vandalism of park facilities by misinformed and angry local citizens.

BUFFALO RIVER TRAILBUILDING TO RESUME IN OCTOBER

This fall's schedule for trail construction:

October 10th We'll set up camp at reserved Group Campsites #1 and #2 at Tyler Bend, having developed campsites, hot showers, and a Visitor Center. We plan to have two kitchen tents, both equipped with stoves and cooking utensils. From Oct. 11th-19th we'll begin trail work in areas a short distance downriver from U.S. Highway 65. Come any time you can! Just bring your own food to cook in one of our kitchen tents. Have personal eating utensils, a daypack with water bottle, and personal shelter for overnight. We'll provide trail tools. On days off we can go canoeing, or go route finding and exploring.

OCT 20 – 26 American Hiking Society trail builders, recruited nationally, will be with us. You're still welcome to be with us any time that week, just plan to do your own meals in the second cook tent. (The AHS volunteers pay for their own food as part of their trip fee and will be cooking in the other tent.) **OCT. 27 - NOV. 2--** "Alumni" volunteers will be with us that

week--our experienced "graduates" from previous trail building weeks. Again, bring your own food. You may already know some of our "alumni," so come and see old friends and make new ones.

The weekend of Oct. 12 - 13, we may have University students with us during their fall break. The weekend of **Oct. 19 - 20**, we expect Ozark Society friends from Springfield, MO-- and they'll have a big potluck dinner the evening of Oct. 19. If you can be with us that evening, bring food to share. Our campsites are at the end of Tyler Bend's mainline entrance road off U.S. Highway 65 at Silver Hill a mile south of the Buffalo River. So come whenever you can, build trail and have a good time!

NOTE: We plan to continue with trail building when weather allows in November and December. Hopefully volunteers will have access to a rented house near Tyler Bend for cooking and overnight shelter. Let me know whether, and when, you can work on trail and I'll provide details. Hope to see you this fall! Ken Smith, trailsmith1@yahoo.com or cell phone 479-466-7994.

Conservation News

There is a new District Ranger for the Big Piney Ranger District of the Ozark St Francis National Forest. His name is Tim Jones and he has expressed interest in meeting with concerned citizens and organizations. He can be reached by mail at 12000 SR 27, Hector, AR 72843 or by phone at 479-284-3150 ext 3166.

New Members

- Rob & Stephanie Baker
- Leesia Baldwin
- Melissa & Kevin Woosley
- Deborah, Scott, Aaron, Susan Kaela & Gehrett Thompson
- June Murdock
- Ginny Masullo
- Mike & Jo Paullus

In Memory...

The Buffalo River Chapter was sorry to learn of the death of longtime friend and chapter member Mike Beard of Little Rock. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Deborah. He will be missed.



Hikes...

Editor's note: Please contact the Farrel at f.t.couch@att.net or 479-200-2621 prior to the event to sign up or to check on any changes. Thank you.

Sunday September 22nd Erbie Historic Hike, Approximately 4 miles, rated easy, with a 15-person limit and one wet crossing perhaps. Meet at the Cecil Cove Trailhead at **10:00 am**. We will visit several of the historic farmsteads and the Cherry Grove Cemetery, with lunch at a scenic spot along the way. Please remember that the bathrooms in this area are closed as of this writing and bring bug spray, as the ticks will still be out.

Sunday October 20th Grand Tour Hike, Approximately 9.5 miles, rated strenuous, with a 15-person limit, with five wet crossings, **Meet at Kyles Landing at 9:00 am** by the bathroom. We will then shuttle to the Centerpoint Trailhead to start. We will visit many of the Ponca Wilderness's most scenic spots including the Goat Trail and Hemmed-in-Hollow.



Outings...

Big Dam Bridge Ride Sat. Sept 28th 7am to 4pm Contact Rick Hughes if interested in going at 870-496-2129 or 870-504-0605 or email hughesrw@gmail.com



Events...

National Park Radio, a talented new group on the music scene, will perform a free concert at Tyler Bend Amphitheater on Saturday, August 24 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. But, you must have a ticket to attend the concert.

Come by the Pavilion at Tyler Bend between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to get your FREE ticket. BNRP will also have a membership meeting from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. that day. Check out the Buffalo National River Partners website for more information.

Buffalo River Acoustic Music Summit

August 31st at noon till September 1st.

An acoustic music festival in Ponca, Arkansas benefiting the Ozark Society and Ozark Natural Science Center.

This is going to be a rockin' good time with a cause.

Bands include Brick Fields, National Park Radio, Dan Dean, Dave Baer, The Green Earth Band, The Little

Buffalo River Band, Traveling Tony B, Josh Jennings Band, and More...Fire spinning, Boat Ape Olympics and

lots of fun times all for a couple of great causes.

Check out the website for more info and ticket sales at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BufaloAcousticSummitBenefit/info>



Meetings...

The Fall All-Society Membership Meeting will be hosted by the Bayou Chapter. It will be held on October 12-13 at Lake Claiborne State Park in Homer, LA. For reservations, call 1-877-CAMP-N-LA (877-226-7652) toll free. The Reservation Center is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST. Online reservations can be made at www.reserveamerica.com. There are 12.3 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails in the park. There are cabins and a campground. For more information go to their website: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ilakeclai.aspx>.

July-Sept Calendar

- BNRP membership meeting Aug. 24th
- Aug. 31st-Sept 1st Buffalo River Acoustic Music Summit in Ponca
- September 22nd Erbie Historic Hike
- September 28th Big Dam Bridge Bike Ride

Preview of October Events

- Trail work with Ken Smith October weekends.
- Ozark Society Fall Meeting Oct 12-13
- Grand Tour Hike with Farrel Oct 20th

“Wilderness, above all its definitions and uses, is sacred space, with sacred powers, the heart of a moral world.”

-- Michael Frome

See you on the River. LT