



PACK & PADDLE



Summer
August 2012

"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

THE OZARK SOCIETY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

 1962-2012



The Buffalo River near Calf Creek

TRIVIA QUIZ

This waterfall is located just 15 miles from which of the following:



- A. *The Space Needle in Seattle;*
- B. *The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia;*
- C. *The U.S. Mint in Denver;*
- D. *The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C.*

The answer is D. This is the great falls of the Potomac just upstream from downtown D.C. It's part of the National Park System; it is a great place to spend a couple of hours, exploring the trails instead of the touristy stuff downtown.

SOCIETY OFFICERS: **President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, racross@uark.edu; **Immediate Past President:** Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, Alice209ok@yahoo.com; **Vice President:** Laura Timby, (870) 439-2968, ldtimby@ritternet.com; **Financial Chair:** Bob Ritchie, (501) 225-1795, britchiear@aol.com; **Recording Secretary:** Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, sroeri@lsuhsc.edu; **Conservation Chair:** Acadia Roher, (501) 804-9618, acadia.roher@gmail.com; **Education Chair:** Charline Manning, (501) 221-1001, charlinem2@comcast.net; **Membership Chair:** TBA ; **Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle:** Carmen Quinn, (501) 993-1883, ccquinn23@yahoo.com.

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Buffalo River Trail Coordinator: Ken Smith, (501) 443-4098, trailsmith1@yahoo.com.

OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY: Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 71701, (501) 575-5577.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues for membership in the Ozark Society are: Individual and Family: \$15; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$25; Life (one-time fee): \$200 under 65 years, or \$100 for those over 65.

Chapter membership adds to the fun of Ozark Society membership, but is not required. However, chapters do require membership in the Society. Their dues structure is as follows: **Mississippi Valley Chapter** of Cape Girardeau, Missouri: \$5; **Bayou Chapter** of Shreveport, Louisiana: \$10; **Highlands Chapter** of Northwest Arkansas: \$10; **Sugar Creek Chapter** of Northwest Arkansas: \$5; **Buffalo River Chapter** of North-Central Arkansas: \$10, or \$5 for email newsletters only; and **Pulaski Chapter** of Central Arkansas: \$10; **Student Membership:** \$5. Mail one check for both Society and chapter dues to: Ozark Society, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.



50th Anniversary Celebration at Tyler Bend

Ozark Society members from Arkansas, Louisiana, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Missouri gathered on Memorial Day weekend to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary. Members reconnected with each other and with the river they protect as they enjoyed hiking, canoeing, swimming, food, and music over the three-day weekend.

The OS Board met on Friday evening, but the 'official' activities started on Saturday. These included hikes along the River View trail at Tyler Bend, a trip to Rollins Point and a climb to the top of "the Nars". Farrell Couch led the hikes, which were punctuated with entertaining commentary from Ken Smith. There were stops to enjoy a tour of the Collier homestead and stunning views of the Buffalo River.

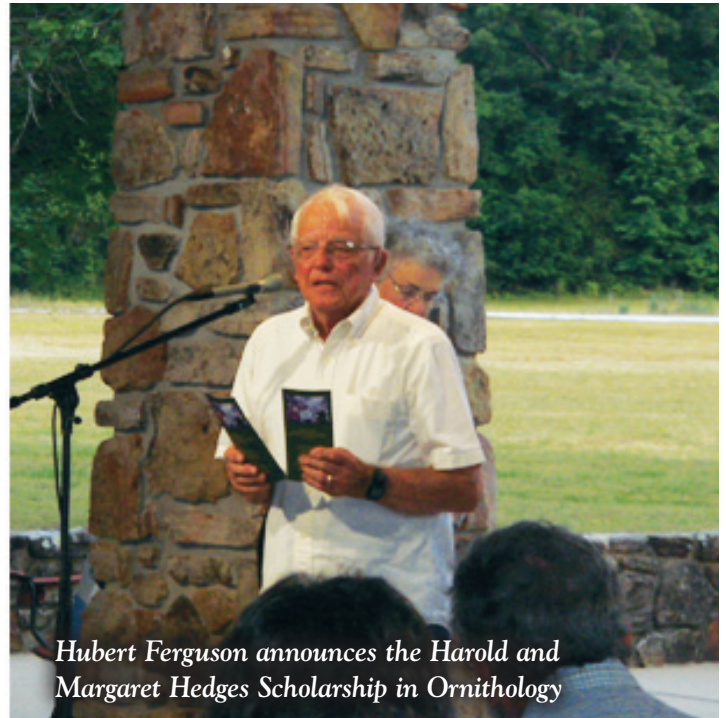
Some preferred to float; and though the Buffalo was low, it was floatable from Tyler Bend to Gilbert. Many in the Louisiana contingent arrived on Friday and were in the

river just as soon as they could arrange for boats at the nearby outfitter. Even those who did not float enjoyed swimming in the river during the hot afternoons.

It's true that not everything went according to plan; on Sunday evening the band cancelled, and the river level was too low for the annual Buffalo River float trip to proceed as planned. But this did not dampen the enthusiasm.

The speakers were an important part of the celebration. John Paul Hammerschmidt, who sponsored the legislation that established the Buffalo as the first national river, was an honored guest and speaker. So was Doug James, who reserved

the room for the very first Ozark Society meeting at the U of A. Mr. James described the headlines he'd seen in the newspaper in the nearby town of Marshall. The newspaper was celebrating the anniversary of the Buffalo National River, even though



it had been solidly against that designation at the time. Mary Virginia Ferguson described the ride to Washington on the "Jubilee Bus". And her husband Hubert announced that they were establishing a new scholarship: The Harold and Margaret Hedges Scholarship in Ornithology.

We also heard from Kevin Cherie, the Superintendent of the Buffalo National River; Ellen Compton introduced and honored Ken Smith for his many contributions to the Society, and Ken offered his thoughts on what will be needed to keep conservation efforts going in the future. Bob Ritchie, Stewart Noland, Brian Adams, and Mike Adelman made observations about the Society's history and future.

It was a wonderful weekend to celebrate the past and look forward to our future.



Announcements and Upcoming Events

➤ The latest issue of *The Arkansian* contains an article about the recent processing of the Ozark Society papers. (*The Arkansian* is the newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department.) You can find the link to the article on pages 6-7 (Vol. 6, No. 1 Spring 2012) at: <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/news/arkansian/>

➤ Be sure to visit the Ozark Society's updated website. Some sections are still being constructed but the new look should be easier to navigate.

➤ **August 18**

The Ozark Society Celebration at Compton Gardens. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (see information on next page for more information)

Presentations, displays, videos and music celebrating the history of the Ozark Society, the designation of Buffalo River as the first National River, and the birthday of Neil Compton.

➤ **September 19**

The University of Arkansas Libraries in Fayetteville is hosting an event Wednesday, September 19, 3:00 - 4:30, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Buffalo National River, the 50th anniversary of the founding

of the Ozark Society, and what would be Neil Compton's 100th birthday if he were still living. The Ozark Society Papers have been processed by the UA Libraries Special Collections Department and will be available for use and research. This will also be an occasion to acknowledge the Ozark Society Foundation's donation to have the materials processed. The event will take place in the Walton Reading Room in Mullins Library on the Fayetteville campus. Watch for more details.

➤ **October 20-21**

Ozark Society Fall General Meeting at Buffalo Point.

The fall meeting will be hosted by the Buffalo River Chapter. The Board meeting will take place on Friday October 19 at 7pm. The General Membership meeting will be October 20, 10 a.m. in pavilion #2. The election of officers for 2013-2014 will take place at this meeting. Lodge rooms and campsites are still available. For more information please call Buffalo Point Concessions at 870-449-6202, or go to www.buffalopoint.com. Don't miss it!



*The take out - finishing up the day's float trip at Gilbert
Photo courtesy of Joseph Meyer*





the public is invited!

Ozark Society is 50!
Buffalo National River is 40!
Neil Compton would be 100!

Ozark Society Celebration

Saturday, August 18

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Compton Gardens and Conference Center, 312 N. Main Street, Bentonville

Ozark Society exhibits on current activities: CONSERVATION – EDUCATION – RECREATION
Public Opening of the new NEIL COMPTON EXHIBIT ROOM
Artwork and photography by ALICE ANDREWS, TERRY FREDRICK, JOE MEYER, FRED PAILLET

PROGRAMS:

11:00 a.m. *“Positive Effects of the Outdoors on Children and Adults”*
Donald Wleklinski, UA Clinical Instructor of Nursing

Noon *“Neil Compton: Native-Born Naturalist”* How his childhood influenced his later life,
Ellen Compton

1:00 p.m. Historic 1960’s Neil Compton films *“Opportunity for Arkansas - Buffalo National River”*
used in the campaign to save the Buffalo River

2:00 p.m. *“The Buffalo Flows,”* as seen on public television, an award-winning film by Larry Foley

3:00 p.m. *“Remembering Neil”* Remarks from over 50 years of friendship - Kenneth L. Smith

4:00 p.m. Concert by *“Still on the Hill”* - folkgrass duo Donna Stjerna and Kelly Mulhollan
Premiere of their new song *“The Lovely Buffalo”*

● CONSERVATION ● EDUCATION ● RECREATION ●

This day of activities sponsored by 



BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL COMPLETION NOW SOMEWHERE IN SIGHT

Working in the spring and fall and on winter weekends since 2005, volunteers have been building the 28-mile Buffalo River/Ozark Highlands Trail from U.S. 65 to Highway 14. Today about 16 miles have been completed.

On Saturdays through this past winter, volunteers with lopping shears, pruning saws and chainsaws cleared bushes, small trees, and fallen limbs and tree trunks from the trail line previously marked with flagging tape. Project Coordinator Ken Smith describes the cleared line as “a procession of stumps,” ready to be removed when leveling the trail tread. Smith calls finished trail “a little highway along hillsides.” In rugged scenic country, this trail seldom crosses flat ground.

Highlights from those winter work days include the Saturday when twenty volunteers came to help, including Ozark Society members from Fayetteville and high school students with parents and teachers from Russellville. And having Society member Layton Chambers come with his chainsaw every Saturday, earning Layton the well-deserved title of Most Valuable Player.

Volunteers have finished locating and clearing the alignment for the last three miles of the 28-mile Buffalo River Hiking Trail to extend from U.S. 65 to Highway 14. “Construction of the 24-inch walking tread along that segment was started in March,” said Smith. “This three-mile piece of

trail lies about halfway along the 28 miles, in an area most isolated from highways,” Smith said. “It crosses Rocky and Little Rocky Creeks and goes along the tops of bluffs. As you can expect, there are memorable views of the river.”

Later this year the National Park Service trail crew, employed through a Recreational Trails Program grant funded by motor fuel taxes, should be able to build trail full-time for several months. Combined with work done at the same time by volunteers, fulfilling the grant’s requirement for a 20% in-kind match of donated labor, the overall result should be completion or near-completion of the entire 28-mile trail.

The NPS trail crew is based at the Buffalo National River maintenance shops at Tyler Bend, which allows them a short commute to work sites extending just downstream from U.S. Highway 65. Volunteers will continue to work at more remote areas of the trail’s midsection (after all, they don’t get paid for travel time to and from the jobsite).

The best final outcome, of course, would be for the volunteers to finally join up with the NPS crew and drive the Golden Spike. But it isn’t yet known when, or where, or how, that can happen. It is known that even with the NPS crew at work,



the project will need all the volunteer help it can get.

This past spring volunteers were available for only a week. They did a great job, building trail through a rock field, and then across a steep hillside with a ledge of solid rock to be broken away. This fall more help will be needed. Volunteers are expected, most of them from out of state, to come for three weeks. From November through March there will still be weekend work, clearing trail line where needed and digging or raking to build trail tread. Every foot of trail built will put the project that much closer to completion.

Stay tuned. Be available. Your help is needed. Besides, it’s fun. For further information on work weekends as the fall approaches, contact construction coordinator Ken Smith, trailsmith1@yahoo.com.



OZARK SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE WILDERNESS FIRST AID TRAINING

By Mike Adelman

Often Ozark Society members experience and enjoy the wilderness without a worry or incident. It is actually big news when something does go wrong, even if it is only a scratch. Yet serious injury can occur in any outdoor activity. Too often need for first aid training is realized only when a need arises.

Consistent with the Leave No Trace partnership's first principle - Plan Ahead and Prepare – nine Ozark Society members participated in Wilderness First Aid training on February 18 -19. Training was sponsored by the Wilderness Medicine Institute, an affiliate of the National Outdoor Leadership School. NOLS is a premier provider of training for those active in the outdoors either as facilitators or as participants. Ozark Society members constituted half of those certifying as Wilderness First Aiders for the first time.

Held at the University of Arkansas, the Wilderness First Aid Class included 16 hours of training on the process of assessing any person needing medical assistance in the wilderness. A prominent element of this assessment is decision making skill needed to determine whether on-site treatment or evacuation was necessary and appropriate. Ozark Society members were trained on easy steps to understand what a person's immediate needs were, and what the next steps should.

NOLS trainers provided numerous interactive modules covering commonly occurring situations and how to address each. After each classroom module, the class demonstrated their learning in outdoor drills building on all earlier lessons. Teams of participants joined in practicing on other classmates, self-critiquing as they proceeded,

with reminders of any missed steps. All this was overseen by the NOLS trainers.

These drills were conducted outside the Physical Education Building, with participants acting as victims of an outdoors accident. Several passing students inquired whether 'real EMTs' should be summoned!

Medical topics covered included managing shock, and head, chest and spinal injuries, with a goal of stabilizing a patient without further injury. These topics were emphasized as the most common outcomes of wilderness injuries resulting from falls. This also implies treatment steps like splinting, reducing dislocation and dressing wounds, and if necessary evacuation of the patient.

Other medical situations which were addressed included hypothermia, frostbite, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, dehydration, allergic reactions, and diabetic shock. Focus was on simple treatment using available supplies and adapting them if necessary to meet any life threatening incidents.

When asked what is the most important thing a participant in any outdoor activity can do to be prepared, trainers responded, "Always let someone know where you will be and with whom, and always alert others of any medical conditions before going into the wilderness."



A break in the shade



The Ozark Society
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Little Rock, AR 72203

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Stay Informed on the Web!

www.ozarksociety.net

*Check out announcements, upcoming activities
and newsletters from other chapters.*

You can also submit your photos for display.

“Friend” us on Facebook!

Search for “The Ozark Society”

or click on website links.

If you wish to participate in Ozark Society outdoor events, please make note of the following statement and requirement:

I acknowledge that I understand the nature of this event and represent that I am qualified, in good health and proper physical condition to participate in the activity. I understand the risks to my person and property associated with the event. I agree to release from liability and not to sue the Ozark Society (including the individual Chapters of the Ozark Society) and their officers, directors, the event leaders, coordinators or instructors for any injury, damage, death or other loss in any way connected with the event.