



PACK & PADDLE



Winter
December 2011

“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

OZARK SOCIETY FILES SUIT AGAINST U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Ozark Society recently gained media attention around the state after filing a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Little Rock to halt natural gas drilling in the Ozark National Forest (ONF) until an adequate environmental impact statement has been completed.

In 2010, after hearing about a revised forecast of gas development in the ONF from an original 10 wells to the new expectation of 1700 wells, the Board attempted to negotiate directly with the U.S. Forest Service. We researched the impacts we were concerned the development would have and presented those in writing and during an in-person meeting with Forest Supervisor Judith Henry and her staff.

Our concerns included:

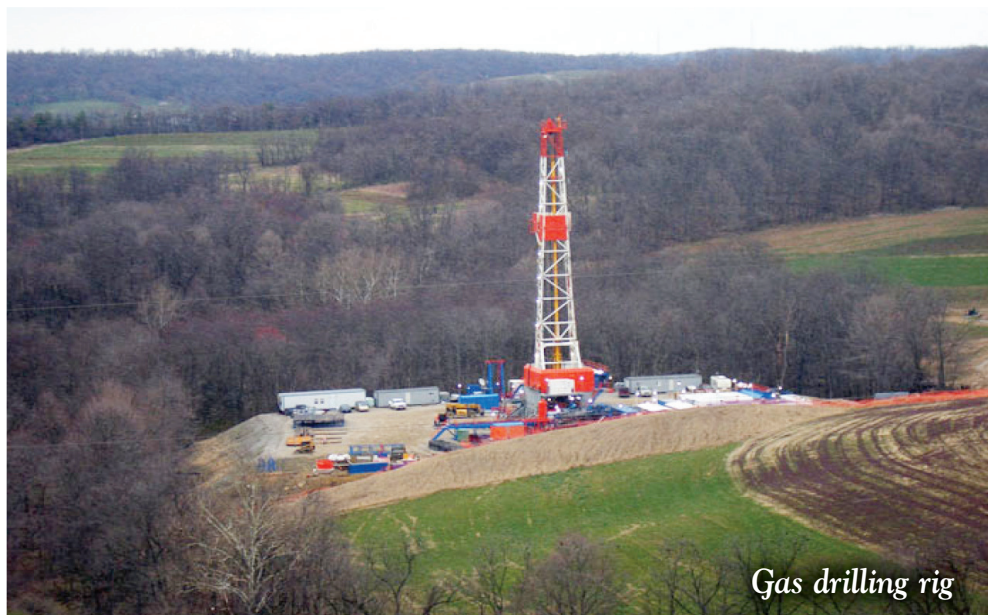
- the surface impacts of hundreds of acres of cleared land for well pads, roads, and pipeline right-of-ways;
- inadequate study or understanding of the effects of new hydraulic fracturing technology by the agencies;
- disposal of contaminated water;
- air pollution from thousands of trucks bringing materials and water into the ONF, as well as venting of methane from the wells during the completion phase; and
- loss of scenic value in an important recreation area.

These concerns were disregarded. We then contracted with McMath Woods attorneys to assist us in writing letters of protest for individual gas development projects that continued throughout the summer of 2011 in the Ozark National Forest. These letters built up what is called an administrative record, which establishes our organization’s standing in the issue.

The attorneys were continually stonewalled by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, which left us with little choice but to sue these agencies for failing to adequately consider the impact on endangered species, roadless areas and wild and scenic rivers, and the risks of hydraulic fracturing. The agencies also failed to complete a full environmental impact statement, as federal law

requires. The Board suspects that once the full gamut of risks is considered, natural gas drilling will be allowed more conservatively, if not halted altogether. Public comment will also be required through the environmental impact assessment process, which gives the Ozark Society and its allies an opportunity to bring awareness to a wider audience.

The Ozark Society filed a motion for preliminary injunction simultaneously with the complaint. The motion requests the court to immediately prohibit the defendants from permitting any further natural gas leasing, exploration or development in the Ozark National Forest pending the resolution of the case. There will be a ruling on this motion within a few weeks.



Gas drilling rig

COMPLICATED! BUT WE GOT THE JOB DONE

By Ken Smith

Buffalo River trailbuilders faced many complications in October, but managed to create more than a mile and a half of new trail along the south side of the river below Gilbert.

The project's managers had a new crew of volunteers each week for three weeks. Arranged to transport equipment and food by van, pickup truck, 4-wheeler, SUV, canoe, horseback, and backpack to and from two back-country campsites located a mile apart, and three miles down the river from Gilbert.

The American Hiking Society supplied 3 volunteer trailbuilders, the national Sierra Club provided 13 volunteers, and Ken Smith's "alumni" group of workers with past trailbuilding experience had 10 trail workers. And Ozark Society members Layton and Joan Chambers, who opened a spur trail along the M&NA Railroad cut to the south pier

of the railroad's river bridge, brought the crew total to 27 workers. They came from Arkansas and 12 other states, all the way from Rhode Island to California.

And there were other key players, too, including several from the Ozark Society-- Richard McFadden who loaned his group-camping equipment (tents, tables, etc.) and organized transportation of people and their gear; Bill Bates who planned menus and bought food for the "alumni;" Jacque Alexander who helped organize freight transport with horses; Laura and David Timby who loaned their canoes during all three weeks. Moreover, members of the Arkansas Canoe Club came and helped, as did several other volunteers whom we weren't able to "categorize." Without these people there would have been no progress.

The new trail crosses a steep hillside overlooking the river (where workers had to move rocks weighing up to half a ton).

Then it turns away from the river, passes a pioneer's rock wall and an extensive bed of lush green moss, crosses a creek and goes up an old road in deep woods. Finally it climbs up and over a hill having a big view of the river. Here's another fine addition to the Buffalo River Hiking Trail!

This leaves three miles of trail line to be located, flagged, and cleared this winter. Volunteers will resume building the trail's walking tread in March. And now we expect completion of the entire 28-mile trail, U.S. 65 to Highway 14 by late next year or soon after! After submitting joint proposal with the Ozark Society, Buffalo National River has received a grant of \$82,000 to have a full-time crew build trail. The grant must be matched "in kind" by Ozark Society volunteers. More about all this as plans are developed.

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.

STATE DIRECTORS: **ARKANSAS:** Duane Woltjen, (479) 521-7032, ozarktraveler1@att.net; Sally Stone, (479) 521-4062, sstone29@gmail.com; **MISSOURI:** Bill Bates, (417) 887-0145, cindyandbillbates@mchsi.com. **LOUISIANA:** Karen Pitts, (318) 965-4580, tuffenufchuck@aol.com; Catherine Tolson, (318) 343-7482, catherine.tolson@comcast.net.

CHAPTER CHAIRS: **Bayou Chapter:** Brian Adams, (318) 469-5214, brian-adams@earthlink.net; **Pulaski Chapter:** Janet Nye, (501) 851-7524, jbnye14@swbell.net; **Highlands Chapter:** Gene Milus, 479-387-7186; **Sugar Creek Chapter:** Joseph Meyer, meyer@ipa.net; **Buffalo River Chapter:** Katie Auman-Murray, katimae@eritter.net; **UA RSO:** Libby Nye, lnye@uark.edu.

Ozark Society Supplies & Publications: Mary Gordon, (501) 860-6653, mb2rene@aol.com.

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: \$10; **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.



Fall General Meeting at Caddo Lake State Park

The Ozark Society's General Meeting took place the weekend of October 21 at Caddo Lake State Park in Karnack, TX. The Bayou Chapter was the host for this season. The park's large stone pavilion was the gathering site for all of the weekend's activities except the hike Saturday afternoon.

The weekend began with the Friday night Board meeting and potluck. A large part of the discussion was about the Ozark Society's lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. In addition, Dana Steward gave an update on the Ozark Society Foundation's activities and new book release. The chapter chairs also gave updates on their activities. Stewart Noland outlined plans for the upcoming celebration for the Ozark Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration. It will take place at Tyler Bend on May 25-28, culminating in the annual Buffalo River Float from May 28 – June 2, 2012.

Saturday's general membership meeting began with a delicious



Adam Willard demonstrates his river hydrology tank

breakfast. The items discussed at the Board meeting were then presented and discussed with the general membership. After lunch, a representative of Don Henley's Caddo Lake Institute gave a lively talk on the history of the lake area. Adam Willard from the Bayou Chapter set up his river hydrology tank, demonstrating different types of river

hazards that canoes and kayaks can encounter, and how to avoid them. A hike followed, and the customary potluck started at 6pm – unfortunately, without a Dutch oven cook-off, but the food was wonderful just the same. After dinner the band Lip Service played for the group, and many members showed off their dancing skills.

Sunday morning several lucky door prize winners were treated to a paddlewheel boat tour of Big Cypress Bayou in the nearby town of Uncertain, TX. The weather was cool and mostly cloudy, giving the bayou an eerie quality. The boat guide was entertaining and knowledgeable, recounting how the Discovery Channel had come to the bayou to do a special on Bigfoot. Bigfoot did not make an appearance during this trip; but many types of birds were seen, including egrets, great blue herons, an owl, killdeer, and a red-shouldered hawk. The scenery was beautiful.

Many thanks to the Bayou Chapter for the fun and interesting weekend!



Big Cypress Bayou



Leave No Trace Training Course Available



At the 2011 winter board meeting of the Ozark Society a committee was formed to make

recommendations to the Society chapters regarding the use of Leave No Trace (LNT) principles on Ozark Society outings. We gathered suggestions and opinions of various members who are LNT trainers and found that we could not set guidelines because there were so many variables in the various chapters' outings.

However, we do recommend that all Ozark Society outing leaders become LNT trainer certified. The trainer designation gives participants detailed knowledge of the

principles so that they can train others as they walk the trail or float the river. Participating in this training gives the various leaders the background and knowledge to exercise and teach others the LNT principles.

The Ozark Society is to educate and conserve as we recreate. We must make a commitment to continue the conservation of our resources as we educate those who come with us on the trail or the river.

In order to achieve the goal of our outing leaders becoming LNT trainer certified, the Ozark Society will coordinate LNT training. The first of these trainings will be April 20-22, 2012 at the Boy Scout Training Center in Damascus, AR. The following information outlines the specifics of

the training. Since this training was written for Boy Scout training there is reference to the Scouts. They are including the Ozark Society members in this training and look forward to our participation.

The Ozark Society deadline for signing up for this course is April 10th. Please refer to the following for costs and specific information on this training. Also, if cost is a concern, please let us know. We want you to receive the training and not be hindered by expenses.

For information on Leave No Trace principles or training courses refer to their website at www.lnt.org. Please contact Janet Nye jbnye14@swbell.net or 501-258-7138 to register or if you have any questions.

Quapaw Area Council Leave No Trace Trainer Course

Gus Blass SR April 20-22 Reynolds Center

The Trainer Course is a vital component of the nationwide Leave No Trace program. Participants receive introductory training in Leave No Trace skills and ethics during the weekend course. The Trainer Course assists the student participants in learning more about the seven principles of Leave No Trace and techniques for disseminating these low impact skills. All participants will leave the weekend with the skills, tools and resources needed to conduct their own exciting LNT programs for scouts and non-scouts. Participants will satisfy the educational requirements for becoming a Leave No Trace trainer and receive a one year membership in Leave No Trace community

Participants will utilize Reynolds Training Center (Blass Scout Reservation, Damascus, AR) and several outdoor areas for the three days (16 hours of instructions). Participants have the option of camping Friday and Saturday nights by the Reynolds Center or for a nominal fee of \$11 per night room at the Reynolds Center. The course will end Sunday afternoon. All meals are provided.

Classes and demonstration will be held both indoors and outdoors weather permitting. Participants should be prepared to spend a several hours outdoors. Each participant will have an opportunity to demonstrate their disseminating skills in a 15 minute presentation of a Leave No Trace principle as assigned by the training staff.

Gear: You will need to bring personal gear for an overnight front country camping or for rooming in the Reynolds Center. A camp chair is recommended for the outdoor activities, as well as note taking materials for the classroom work. A laptop, iPad, or other similar device is useful for the exchange of information. The Leave No Trace Trading Post will be open for business, cash or checks only!

Cost: Included with the training fee are training materials, handouts, a one year membership in LNT, and meals.

- Early Bird Special: Cost of the Training Course for payment received prior to March 20, 2012 is \$75 per participant.
- Payment after March 20, 2012: \$85 per participant.

Agenda: Start Time 6:30 PM April 20; Closing ceremonies end by 12:00 noon April 22.

Important Dates

Registration Opens: February 1, 2012:

Early Bird Special and deadline for T-shirts orders: March 20, 2012

Course Fee \$85: March 21, 2012





The Ozark Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration



The Ozark Society to Save the Buffalo River was founded on May 23, 1962 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Ozark Society is planning several special activities and events for 2012. The 50th anniversary celebration will include the following activities and events.

- Facilitated by the Ozark Society Foundation, Buffalo National River archives will be transferred to the University of Arkansas Special Collections.
- Facilitated by the Ozark Society Foundation, Neil Compton's early Buffalo River films will be digitized and placed in the University of Arkansas Special Collections.
- Buddy Gough will compose an article concerning the Ozark Society's 50th anniversary. The article will be available for use in various publications.
- 50th anniversary tee shirts and bandanas will be available for purchase.
- A 50th anniversary Pack & Paddle newsletter will be published.
- In lieu of the annual Spring Meeting, a 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held Memorial Day weekend May 26 - 28 at the Tyler Bend recreation area on the Buffalo River. Group camp sites have been reserved, and there will be hikes and float trips on both May 26 and 27, starting at 9 am at the pavilion. There will be potluck suppers on both May 26 and 27 at the pavilion starting at 6 pm. After the potluck on May 26, there will be three short presentations from Doug James, a charter member, Mary Virginia Ferguson, who rode the Jubilee bus to Washington, DC, and a representative from the National Park Service, all concerning the history of the Ozark Society. The presentations will be followed by musical entertainment provided by Harmony. After the potluck on May 27, there will be four short presentations from current Ozark Society president Bob Cross and Ozark Society representatives from Missouri, Louisiana, and Arkansas concerning the future of the Ozark Society. These presentations will be followed by musical entertainment provided by the Buffalo City Ramblers.
- The annual Buffalo River trip will launch on the morning of May 28 from Tyler Bend. More information on this trip is provided in related articles.

The Ozark Society has enjoyed a proud, colorful, and eventful 50 years. All of our members and friends are encouraged to join our celebration.

Training for Outings Leaders (and Others)

By Bob Cross

Janet Nye rightly points out in the accompanying article mentioning Leave No Trace training (p. 4) that LNT principles are important for our outings leaders to understand and to pass on to participants in our hikes, canoe trips and other types of outings. We are probably approaching the time, because of liability insurance requirements, that our leaders will be required to have other skills. Two important ones are Wilderness First Aid and CPR.

On February 18 and 19, 2012 our

members will again have the opportunity to obtain certification in Wilderness First Aid at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The two-day course will be taught by instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School, arguably the best WFA course in the country. This certification would be invaluable for anyone to have who might face difficult medical situations in remote settings. If you want to enroll, call Jennifer Hazelrigs at (479) 575-6834 and mention that you are an Ozark Society

member to get the University rate of \$200.

The course does not cover CPR but you can take a local Red Cross course to obtain certification for about \$50. Jennifer is also setting up an LNT course for April 18 & 19, 2012 at either Steel Creek or Tyler Bend on the Buffalo River so if you have a conflict with the dates of the Boy Scout course call Jennifer to enroll. The course will be taught by the traveling trainers from LNT headquarters in Boulder, CO. The cost is \$85 and includes course materials, all meals, and a campsite.



NEW FROM THE OZARK SOCIETY FOUNDATION

At its fall meeting in October, and at the request of Ozark Society, Inc., the Ozark Society Foundation board of directors approved allocating money for the Ozark Society lawsuit opposing “fracking” in the Ozark National Forest. The Ozark Society has also allocated funds in preparation for a suit going forward.

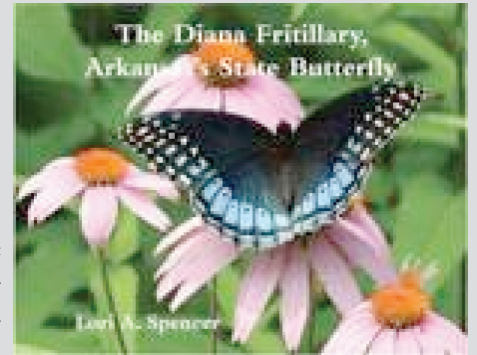
The board learned that the National Film Preservation Foundation awarded a grant of \$4,590 to the University Libraries to re-master, preserve, and digitize a nearly fifty-year-old 8mm film produced in 1963 by Dr. Neil Compton, a project that the Ozark Society Foundation has expressed interest in supporting. Also, a long time desire of the board to see the records of the Buffalo National River at the National Parks Service in Harrison preserved seems to be going forward. Representatives of the Parks Service, the Ozark Society Foundation, and the University of Arkansas Special Collections met, and a proposal is forthcoming.

Also, Ozark Society Foundation has just released Lori Spencer’s latest butterfly book. *THE DIANA*

The Diana Fritillary Arkansas’s State Butterfly

Lori A. Spencer and Don R. Simons

Lori Spencer continues the nature series published by the Ozark Society Foundation with a wonderful new children’s book, which can be a companion to *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*. It provides a clear, concise way for children (and adults) to identify Arkansas’s state butterfly, the Diana Fritillary, in its natural habitat. It features twenty eight color photographs, drawings, and other useful resources for children and parents and science and social studies teachers. Retail from University of Arkansas Press at \$8.95, or available at your local book store.



FRITILLARY is a great companion to *ARKANSAS BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS*. It provides a clear, concise way for children (and adults) to identify Arkansas’s state butterfly, the Diana Fritillary, in its natural habitat. Lori was instrumental in persuading the Arkansas General Assembly to declare the Diana Fritillary the state butterfly.

Former treasurer and chairman, Dana Steward, completed her second term, and rotated off the board. Persons

interested in serving on the Ozark Society Foundation board should contact Bob Cross before the Ozark Society winter board meeting in January. This is a seven member board which meets twice a year to conduct the business of the Ozark Society Foundation, including grants for environmental projects and issues and an on-going publishing business producing books on natural history in Arkansas. Members are limited to two five year terms.



Dick and Charlie’s Tea Room

This picture was taken in the Big Cypress Bayou. It seems the west side of the bayou, where the town of Uncertain is located, was in a dry county, which did not allow liquor sales. The east side, however, was in a wet county. So the residents would cross the bayou to get to establishments such as this one - dance halls where they could gamble and buy liquor. This is the only such structure still standing. It is privately owned and now used as a hunting camp.



Bayou Chapter 2nd Annual Red River Cleanup

By Lisa Iadarola

The Bayou Chapter has been extremely busy this year. One of the many focuses has been cleaning the Red River that divides Shreveport and Bossier City; two hot spot cities in Northwest Louisiana.

This year's cleanup turned out a total of 176 volunteers. There were 25 of Byrd High School's Key Club teenage members that arrived eager and ready to walk the banks of the Red River and pick up trash.

Shreveport Green not only supplied the trash bags, water and pickers; but sent their wonderful representative Craig with his youth group to assist in the cleanup efforts.

Our very own Karate kids from Kennedy's Karate USA came out and one family won first place for unusual find which was a car door.

The Bayou Chapter's members donated their boats and muscle to haul mass quantities of trash from the river

via jon boats and canoes.

There were over 20 local businesses make a monetary donation towards the cleanup as well as Buffalo Wild Wings and Gumbo To Gueax who donated Gumbo and chicken wings to the volunteers.

All in all, it was a great event that we hope continues for years to come, to promote recreation, conservation in our own backyard.

Ozark Society Buffalo River Float Trip 2012

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration continues with the annual Ozark Society Summer Float on the Buffalo River leaving from Tyler Bend, at noon, on May 28. We will have lunch, and then start down the river. The trip will end on Saturday afternoon, June 2, at Riley's on the White River.

There will be a john boat to carry community gear for each 22 - 26 person group; however you should leave room in your canoe for one community ice chest. This is a strenuous trip. If you are not in good enough physical condition to assist with all the chores such as lifting, carrying, cooking, clean-up, setting up and breaking camp, this may not be

the trip for you. Each person will be responsible for their own canoe and camping gear. If you need a canoe, they will be available from our outfitter.

Would you be interested in operating one of the john boats? The person who does that comes at no charge. If they furnish the motor, we will pay them \$150. Our preference is for the driver to furnish the motor. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, please let me know. If we don't find enough boat drivers from our group, we will hire drivers from our outfitter.

We plan to limit the trip to 60 people and no pets (please)! The trip fee

for members will be \$165 for adults and \$135 for children under 18. You must be a member of the Ozark Society and will be required to sign a release form in order to participate in the trip. If you are not currently a member, the family or individual membership is \$15 per year. The fee will include food, a shuttle from Tyler Bend to the White River takeout, John boat expense, ice, ACA Ins., etc.

Alice Andrews is over all trip leader and Charline Manning is in charge of food and will assist Alice. You can secure a spot by sending a check for \$50 after January 1, 2012, and the balance by May 1, 2011.

Send checks to:

Ozark Society
707 Pleasant Valley Dr., # 10
Little Rock, AR 72227

For more info contact:

Alice Andrews
Trip Leader
501-219-4295
alice209ok@yahoo.com





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*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.