



# PACK & PADDLE



Summer  
June 2014

*"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*

## PROTECT THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER

### *Call Goes Out for Public Comments*

The Ozark Society and the Arkansas Public Policy Panel seek your support for their third-party rulemaking petition to ban new medium and large confined swine operations in the Buffalo National River watershed by amending Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulations 5 and 6. The link to the rulemaking documents: [http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regs/drafts/draft\\_regs.htm](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regs/drafts/draft_regs.htm)

**Note that these amendments, if adopted, will not affect existing swine operations in the watershed and will not prevent small family farms from being constructed.**

You can help by providing written comments to support the changes by **July 1, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.** to Doug Szenher, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Public Outreach and Assistance Division, 5301 Northshore Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72118 or by e-mail to [reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us)

While written comments are preferred, you can make oral comments at a public meeting to be held on June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Durand Conference Center, Room A, North Arkansas College, 303 N. Main St., Harrison

AR 72601. You may also deliver your written comments at this meeting.

There may be a number of reasons why you think that banning swine operations near the Buffalo River is important and making comments in your own words is encouraged. Some points that you may wish to consider are the following:

#### **GEOLOGY:**

- The Buffalo National River watershed has the feature of porous limestone "karst" topography that allows rapid transport of pollutants. The karst pathway connects surface water, groundwater, wells, springs, streams, and tributaries into the Buffalo River.
- The area is not suited for waste ponds with leakage rates of up to 5,000 gallons per day per acre of surface area allowed by current regulations or for the land application of millions of gallons of hog waste. The risk of transporting nutrients, bacteria, and other pollutants to the Buffalo River is too great.

#### **WATER QUALITY:**

- Leakage from waste holding ponds as well as run-off, infiltration into the karst sub-layer, or flooding of the spray fields all pose significant

threats to the high quality waters of the Buffalo.

- A catastrophic failure of a hog waste pond (as has happened a number of times in North Carolina) would create irreversible damage to the aquatic life of the Buffalo and downstream in the White River.

#### **ECONOMICS:**

- The Buffalo River is an extremely valuable piece of Arkansas's tourism engine. Protecting the Buffalo protects jobs in Arkansas.
- Tourism in the Natural State in 2012 accounted for a \$5.76 billion positive economic impact and employed 58,452 people.
- In 2012, the Buffalo National River attracted 1,093,083 visitors who spent \$43.78 million in communities surrounding the river.
- Direct spending from visitors to the Buffalo employed 610 people in 2012.
- In other states, landowners adjacent to large swine operations have often seen dramatic losses in property values.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH:**

- The major public complaint about large swine operations is odor but air emissions go well beyond the smell.

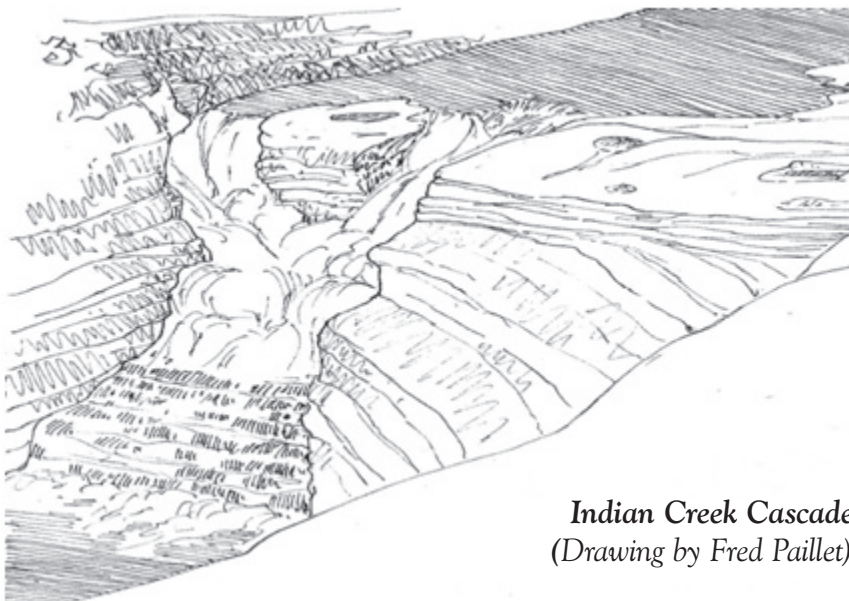
*(Continued on Page 6)*

# Colorado High Adventure Trip July 13 – July 19

The 2014 Colorado high adventure trip this year will be Sunday July 13 thru Saturday July 19. **This trip is filling up fast - just a few places left. Get your money in soon if you want to go!**

The campground reservations have been made at the Cascade Campground in the Collegiate Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest. The campground is located on County Road 162 west of Nathrop, Colorado. The trip is limited to 60 people so if you want to go you need to send in your reservation in by June 1, 2014. You should plan to arrive at the campground by mid-afternoon Sunday July 13. The first meal will be that evening. All meals will be provided through dinner on Friday July 18 as part of the trip. If you prefer motel accommodations to camping, you can make reservations at nearby Mount Princeton Hot Springs Lodge, 15870 County Road 162, Nathrop, Colorado, 719-395-2361. Meals at the campground will be provided for all trip participants, regardless of whether you are camping or staying at the lodge.

You must be an Ozark Society member to participate in this trip. You can join by sending \$15 annual dues along with your registration. Confirm your place on the Colorado outing by sending a check made out to the Ozark Society for the trip fee of \$150 for campers and \$100 for non-campers to: Bob Ritchie, 707 Pleasant Valley Dr. #10, Little Rock, AR 72227. If you have questions concerning the Colorado outing, the Colorado outing, contact Stewart Noland at bosshq@aol.com or 501-666-2989.



*Indian Creek Cascade  
(Drawing by Fred Paillet)*

**SOCIETY OFFICERS:** **President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, racross@uark.edu; **Vice President:** Position Open; **Financial Chair:** Bob Ritchie, (501) 225-1795, britchiear@aol.com; **Recording Secretary:** Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, sroeri@lsuhsc.edu; **Conservation Chair:** Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, Alice209ok@yahoo.com; **Education Chair:** Fred Paillet, (479) 935-4297 fredp@cox.net; **Membership Chair:** Jenny Hackman, (318) 288-9096, jandgman@bellsouth.net; **Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle:** Carmen Quinn, (501) 993-1883, ccquinn23@yahoo.com.

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**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, chapter membership requires 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.



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# EAGLE'S NEST SIGHTING

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One highlight of the Spring Outing at Tyler Bend was the sighting of an eagle's nest along the float from Woolum to Baker Ford. During a long lunch break, floaters were able to observe at least three adult eagles and several eaglets. Observers were fortunate to be able to watch the eaglets being fed. Thanks to Janet Nye for the photographs below.



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# TRAIL VOLUNTEERS HEAD TOWARD HOMESTRETCH

By Ken Smith, Volunteer Leader  
Buffalo River Trail Project

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From mid-February to May 1, more than 100 volunteers together created 19,300 feet (3.66 miles) of the Buffalo River Hiking Trail.

Officially, that is a piece of the Buffalo River/Ozark Highlands Trail Extension from US 65 to Highway 14. (Actually, the Extension's 28 miles could well be called the Volunteers' Trail, because Volunteers have been the predominant builders. That was especially evident this Spring.)

Extra effort, heartwarming generosity! The 3.66 miles built this Spring far surpassed the average 2.5 miles for each entire year during the first eight years of the 28-mile project.

And encouraging! Only 22,400 feet (4.24 miles) remain to complete the volunteers' project. With good fortune and hard work, we can open it by the end of next year.

More than 100 volunteers? They raked leaves, dug dirt, broke rock, prepared meals, loaned equipment, donated food and cash.

As they were able, they came and worked any time from one day to several weeks. They included 11 Russellville, high schoolers;

12 students from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; 4 from UCA at Conway; *and* 14 from the University of Illinois.

*And* 16 members of the Ozark Society's Highlands Chapter came one Saturday, *and* many individual O.S. members at other times. (Thanks to each of you who came!) Special thanks to Richard McFadden, who helped so many ways he has a new title: Facilitator.



Illinois volunteers with Ken Smith and Richard McFadden

*And* two O.S. members Laura and David Timby and Janet and Alan Nye, who provided festive dinners for the semi-starved Illinois students. *And* two trail-savvy helpers from the American Hiking Society. *And* several newcomers, first-timers who worked a day or more. *And* 22 Alumni, experienced "graduates" of previous work weeks, came and helped for times varying from two days to several weeks. Altogether the Alumni-retired folks, often 65 or older-likely built the most footage of trail.

One other volunteer, retired National Park Service career employee Jim Liles, working by himself, rivaled the Alumni for trail footage. While Jim began his 3,900 feet (0.74 mile, downriver from the Alumni) a month or two before Spring, we count it as footage for the Spring season. Also take note: Jim built his trail at age 76, then 77.



Student with the blow-log - a hollow log that created its own chimney fire.



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# “LIFE – CHANGING”: 14 STUDENTS ENCOUNTER THE BUFFALO RIVER

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Spring vacation in 2014, one week in March. Fourteen University of Illinois students had selected an Alternative Spring Break. “Go Somewhere - Do Something,” it said on their A.S.B. tee shirts. Instead of going beach-partying they had chosen to help build the Buffalo River Hiking Trail.

Five guys, nine girls. Diverse origins. Two Chinese-Americans, three Chinese from China. A student from India. Two Americans named Joseph, but having forebears from opposite ends of Euro-Asia--Joey Lund with grandparents from Norway, Joe Chang with his from China.

Digging and raking, on rocky hillsides downriver from Highway 65, the students gave us nearly three thousand feet of new trail.

They didn't have much money for food...PB&J sandwiches, spaghetti. But Arkansas hospitality made it OK. Monday and Tuesday, Kim Little from the University of Central Arkansas was in camp to feed four of her students and she let the Illinois kids devour her plentiful surplus. Wednesday, National Park Service people came with a big pot of stew. Thursday, Ozark Society members Laura and David Timby, and Friday, Janet and Alan Nye, gave the students festive dinners at their homes in Gilbert.



All week, OS. member Richard McFadden from Conway provided his tents, sleeping bags and pads and other gear. He negotiated price discounts for seeing Blanchard Springs Caverns, and for hearty breakfasts at Ferguson's restaurant up the hill from the River.

Nearing departure, the students wrote us notes:

**KATIE:** “I learned how to build a trail, and how generous everyone in Arkansas can be. How beautiful Arkansas is!”

**JOEY:** “I felt the magic of the Ozarks, and the warmth of the people who live there. Who could have guessed that I would feel so at home in Arkansas... one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences of my life.”

**SUN:** “...the Buffalo River Park... is the most natural place that I have visited in my life. I've learned, more or less, about the rural area in the books and movies, but I've never got a chance

to learn about it personally. The rainbow I saw today is the longest one that I've seen in my life!”

**MINLI:** “Thank you very much to give us and people all around the world a chance to see the beauty of Buffalo National River and get close to the nature! (PS: Sorry for my broken English!)”

**KAITLIN,** the Crew Leader: “...an incredible week, filled with goofiness and hard work and kindnesses...”

**HANNAH:** “This trip was life-changing. I have been so blessed to be able to call this place home for a week.”

**XINYI:** “City born. City grown. I had never had a experience like this, sitting down on the large piece of grass, watching so many stars. Such a wonderful experience that I can never forget!”

**CARLY:** “...you have changed my life...”

**ANGELA:** “I and the rest of our group will pay it forward one day.”

And later, from the organizer for Alternative Breaks at the University of Illinois: “...every single person on this Spring's trip gave it rave reviews.”

And to Richard McFadden: “...you are by-far the most popular site contact of the dozens we have every year!!”

**Thanks to all!**  
- Ken Smith



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# OZARK SOCIETY - ARKANSAS DELTA CYCLING TOUR

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November 1-4, 2014 are the dates for the Society's first cycling tour. This ride is all about learning the history of the Arkansas Delta and seeing the delta during harvest and the beginning of fall migration. We will begin in Poinsett County on Saturday, November 1 at the Tour duh Sunken Lands (sunkenlands.com). This 52-mile ride begins at the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in Tyronza, AR and makes a loop to the museums of the e Sunken Lands in Marked Tree and Lepanto. It also travels to the home of Johnny Cash in Dyess.

We will then drive to Arkansas County and make 3 day trips to historical or scenic locations. We will learn the history of this area by staying at a former schoolhouse on the national register, going to St. Charles and the White River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and on to Arkansas Post, the first capital

of the Arkansas Territory (nps.gov/arpo).

We will be staying in duck lodges that are beautiful and fun. The longest ride will be the 52 mile ride on the Tour duh Sunken Lands. The typical routes will be in the 40-mile range. This will not be a race, or a forced ride. The terrain is flat, but wind can be a challenge. In addition, relaxing at one of the lodges during the day is an option.

Costs include:

- Tour duh Sunken Lands: \$25.00 before October 18, (\$30. after that).
- Lodging: (3 nights) around \$60.00 a person per night plus tax (have not confirmed with all lodges)
- Food: we will eat out after the Tour duh Sunken Lands (there is a farm-to-table restaurant in Tyronza); and cost for the food you bring to prepare



in the lodges. They have grills and fully stocked kitchens. Group dining can be planned after the group is determined. Also, we will stop at available stores for snacks and drinks, as needed, while we ride.

Group size is limited to 14, and you must be an OS member to participate. Please contact Janet Nye at [jbnye14@swbell.net](mailto:jbnye14@swbell.net) or 501-258-7138 if you are interested.

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## Buffalo River - *Continued from Page 1*

- Three of the gases emitted—ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrous oxide—are toxic and methane is a potent greenhouse gas. Entrained fecal bacteria and other pathogens can be carried by the winds from the barns, ponds, and spray fields to local residences, schools, and towns.
- In a letter dated March 21, 2013 from the Arkansas Department of Health to ADEQ the statement was made that for the large hog farm in the watershed nearing completion at that time “we have concerns that water-borne pathogens—including e. coli and cryptosporidium—from the proposed land application sites may pose a risk for body contact on the Buffalo National River, a popular recreational destination.”

## OTHER STATES

- A proliferation of large swine operations degrades watersheds. Iowa and North Carolina, have suffered major water pollution and public health crises as a result of swine operations. These problems in North Carolina have resulted in a moratorium for new swine farms and expansions of existing hog farms.
- As an example of what can happen, in North Carolina in 1995 due to heavy rains the dike around an 8-acre hog waste pond failed spilling 26 million gallons of manure into the New River. The spill killed 10 million fish and closed 364,000 acres of coastal wetlands to shell fishing. At the time it was the biggest environmental spill in US history, more than twice as big as the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Contacts for further information: Ozark Society: Bob Cross, [racross@uark.edu](mailto:racross@uark.edu) ; Arkansas Public Policy Panel: Anna Weeks, [annaw@arpanel.org](mailto:annaw@arpanel.org)



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# OZARK SOCIETY - TRIP TO ZION NATIONAL PARK

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By Bob Cross

You may have seen the previous Pack & Paddle announcement about the additional major adventures on the OS activity list. I now have further details of the proposed hiking trip to the Southwest Canyon Country in the fall. Zion National Park has been chosen as the destination. The dates are from September 21-28. You must be an OS member to participate. We'll stay in Group Site #1 in Watchman Campground, next to the Visitor Center. There will be flush toilets and running water available but no showers. Only tents are allowed in the group sites, i.e., no RV nor pop-up camp trailers. The cost will be \$4 per night per person plus park admission fees if there are 15 of us camping. It will drop to \$3 per night per person if there are 20 people. You will need to furnish all of your camping gear and food. Adjacent to Zion is the town of Springdale where there are complete facilities—groceries, restaurants, motels, and showers. For the trip to happen, at least 15 people need to sign up to camp. If you are taking an RV or tent trailer, you may find reservations in Watchman or find a site in the adjacent South Campground (which does not accept reservations) or at a campground outside the park. The limit for the trip is approximately 30 people including those staying in motels and camping on their own. The six led hikes at Zion will all be day hikes of moderate to strenuous difficulty. One will be a 5 to 6 mile round trip with much wading up the Virgin River through the Narrows, a spectacular narrow slot canyon with cliffs rising several hundred feet on each side. There are easy hikes that you can do on your own. Zion is my favorite National Park with its spectacular, colorful sandstone cliffs. For photo galleries of the landscape, go to <http://www.nps.gov/zion/photosmultimedia/photogallery.htm>.

There are hikes with stunning vistas, waterfalls, and unbelievable rock formations. If you wish to make a reservation for the trip, please send me your contact information and the names of the people in your party. My address is: Bob Cross, P.O. Box 145, Fayetteville, AR 72702. If you will be camping in the group site, please send me a check made out to the Ozark Society for \$28 times the number of people in your party. Unless we have reservations for 15 people camping by August 15 the trip will be cancelled and I will return the checks. You will receive refunds if there are more than 15 people camping. (\$7 per person refund if there are 20 people or more.) I will send out additional information if the trip is a "go". Bob Cross, email [racross@uark.edu](mailto:racross@uark.edu) or 479-466-3077.

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## Wilderness 50th Trail Project

### Help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Arkansas Wilderness Act

When: June 26

Where: Whitaker Point Trail Head

Time: 9am to 2pm

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#### What you need to bring:

- Water
- Bug Spray
- Closed Toe Shoes (no sandals, flip-flops, or slides) hiking boots preferred
- Proper field cloths (shorts/pants, short sleeve shirt, etc.)
- Sun Screen, Hat
- Work gloves, eye protection
- Lunch

#### What we will provide:

- Some extra water
- Portable Toilet at the trailhead
- Trash bags
- Trash pickers
- All other tools for the workday
- Volunteer Agreement and First Aid supplies
- A fun environment to work in
- A great group of people to work with
- On-site photographer to capture the moment
- An token appreciation keepsake for all of the hard work accomplished on the day



Sponsored by Ozark St. Francis National Forest - Contact Robert Duggan - [rduggan@fs.fed.us](mailto:rduggan@fs.fed.us)





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For your convenience, donations and dues  
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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.*