



# PACK & PADDLE



Summer  
June 2015

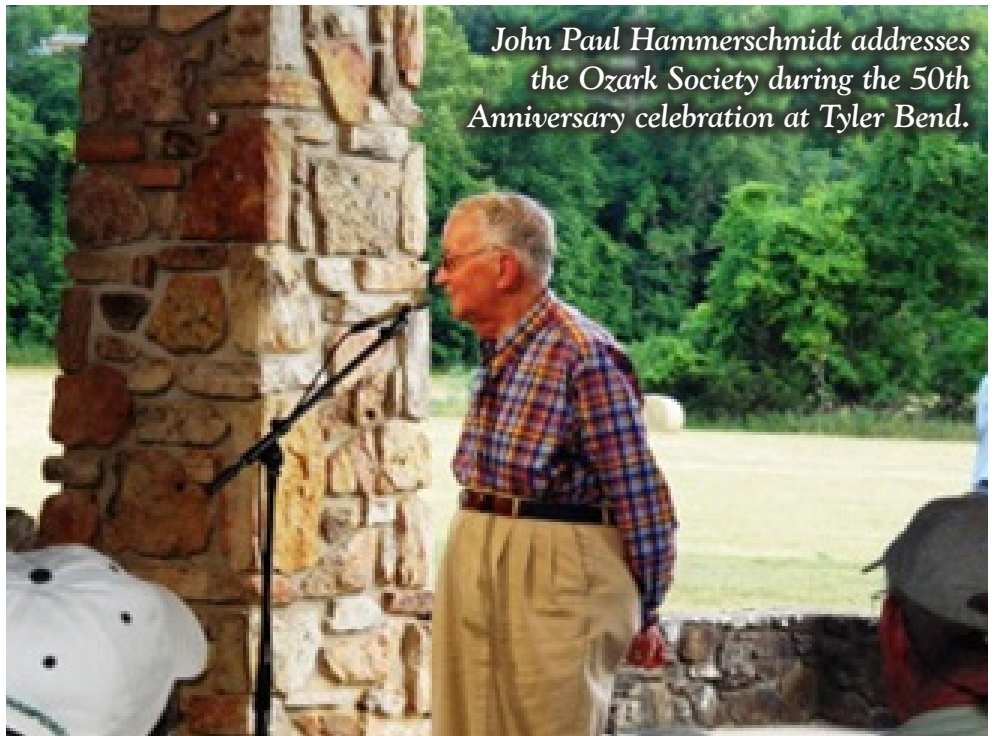
*"The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best." — Dr. Neil Compton*

## TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

By Janet Nye

On May 24, 50 folks from the Ozark Society, Buffalo National River, Ozark River Stewards, Buffalo River Watershed and Arkansas Canoe Club and others gathered at Ozark Campground pavilion on the Buffalo to pay tribute to the legacy of Arkansas' congressman from the 3rd district, Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt. John Paul was a co-signer on the Buffalo National River legislation.

The weather threatened this event, but we had a great day to pay tribute to this man who "reached across the aisle" to save this river. Ginny Masullo from Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) welcomed us and introduced our speakers. We heard from Mike Masterson, editorialist from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and nephew; Don Castleberry, retired National Park Service (NPS) superintendent (among



*John Paul Hammerschmidt addresses the Ozark Society during the 50th Anniversary celebration at Tyler Bend.*

other positions with NPS); and Dane Schumacher with Buffalo River Watershed Alliance. We heard stories about Representative Hammerschmidt, stories about the relationship with the national park service and the current status of the "hog factory" on Big Creek.

We then had the opportunity to hear more about the life of Mr. Hammerschmidt from his son, John Arthur. He related

how as a 12 year old boy, John Paul spent a week with a companion on the river near Pruitt building a boat and going up and down the river. It was wonderful to hear the spirit driven moments of John Paul on the river he later helped to protect. It was also wonderful to realize that our current location was also where he had spent those summer days.

We were treated to wonderful music by a local group and we even had a sing along.

After this tribute rafts, canoes and kayaks launched from Ozark and paddled to Pruitt.

It was a wonderful tribute and I think John Paul would have enjoyed the day as much as we did.



*Gathering to remember John Paul Hammerschmidt*

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# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By Janet Parsch

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The University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department in Fayetteville is the archival repository for papers of the Ozark Society and its chapters, the Ozark Society Foundation, the Neil Compton Papers, etc. If you have any papers, meeting minutes, photos, media (videos, audios, etc.), interviews, plaques, maps, newsletters, scrapbooks, etc., related to the Ozark Society or its chapters or foundation that you think you might like to donate to the archives, please contact Janet Parsch, member of Ozark Society Highlands Chapter and a board member of the Ozark Society Foundation, at [jparsch@uark.edu](mailto:jparsch@uark.edu) to discuss what you have that you might be willing to donate. Special Collections processes (organizes) the papers, creates indexes (finding aids) for the materials, and provides service for people doing research on its archival collections.

You can see how Special Collections has organized previous donations: the Ozark Society finding aids are at the following links:

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/mc219.pdf>;

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/ead/transform.asp?xml=mc477&xsl=findingaid>, and the Neil Compton Papers finding aid is at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/compton.asp>.

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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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# THOUGHTS ON THE OZARK SOCIETY'S FUTURE

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By Ken Smith

The Ozark Society is not alone in being concerned about its ageing membership. The national Sierra Club and its Arkansas chapter are both involved in trying to recruit and retain young people. They have formed committees and begun conference calls, mentoring, and planning sessions. In time we'll see what's accomplished.

Corralling young people is not easy. Maybe just not do-able. Young folks are just being pulled in too many directions. Maybe our best

hope is that kids get chances to hike or canoe, and have fun doing it. And then hold onto good memories of those experiences, even while going for higher education and getting established with careers and families. Those things accomplished, people with happy memories of the outdoors can start looking around...

Yes, the Ozark Society can, and does, attract people at mid-life or beyond. That's what is happening now. And a continuing flow of those empty-nesters, those active retirees

can just keep being the prime source for new members. Not the Ozark Geriatric Society. Not the Teen-, Twenty-, or Thirty-age people. No. Just alive, aware, active grown-ups.

If any of us, acting together or alone, can inspire young people to learn and care about the natural world, let's do it. But let's not expect young people to be inspired to join up with us. Instead, joining the Ozark Society can happen later in their lives.

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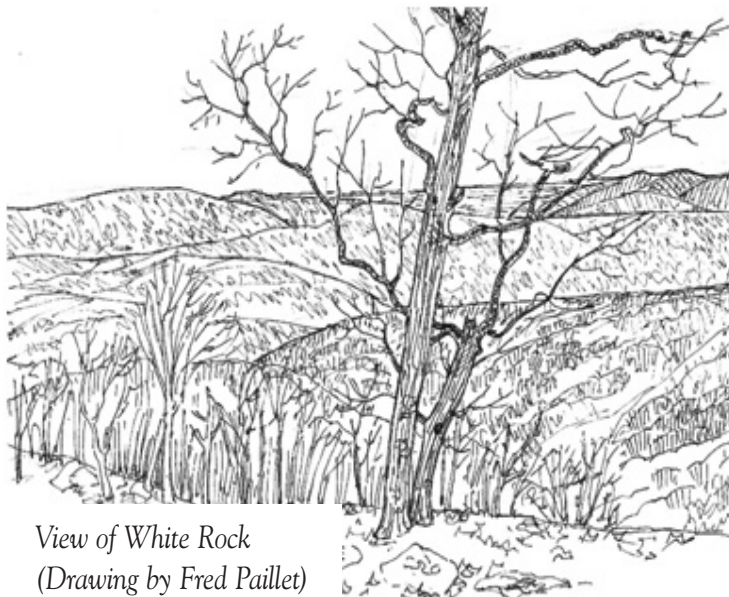
## Bayou Happenings

By Dick Maxwell, Bayou Chapter Chair

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Or, more truthfully, non-happenings. The Bayou Chapter has, along with everyone else, been affected by the unusually large amount of rainfall this spring. We have had two outings that had to be cancelled due to high water and two others which although pleasant, were wet.



*View of White Rock  
(Drawing by Fred Paillet)*

So for the spring, there has been no activity to speak of. Because of the weather, our Jeems Bayou float was only three folks, but we had a good time. Two other short but fun floats which were last minute floats were small but welcome. I am hoping that with the summer weather we will be able to get in some hikes and floats.

Two of our members working on the Fall All-Society Meeting deserve thanks. Both Jenny Hackman and Karen Pitts have been hard at work setting up the venue and are still working on a speaker. I'm sure it will be a fun and informative time for all who attend.

We have an outings meeting set up for June 3. With better weather, perhaps we can get some activities lined up. I will post them and would be thrilled to see some folks from other chapters attend.





# HIGHLANDS CHAPTER COMPLETES A BUSY OUTINGS SEASON

By Luke Parsch

The Ozark Society Highlands Chapter (OSHC) recently completed another busy outings season. Every year, the OSHC organizes weekly day-hikes into the Buffalo National River Park or the Ozark National Forest from late September to early May. The past year was no exception. In addition to the scheduled day-hikes, the Highlands Chapter also hosted the Ozark Society's Spring Outing along the Buffalo River on March 21.

*Scheduled OSHC day-hikes throughout the season.* Most of the OSHC day-hikes are all-day Saturday hikes, though some take place mid-week or on Sunday afternoon. Both, members and non-members, are welcome to hike. In 2014-15, a total of 34 hikes were scheduled, but five had to be cancelled due to weather. Data which summarize the season's remaining outings appear in Table 1.

Of the 29 outings, a mix ranging from easier trail hikes to more challenging "bushwhack"



*OSHC day-hikers near Hedges' home site on the Buffalo River, Oct 2014*

(non-trail) hikes was offered. In addition, one Saturday outing in fall was dedicated to trail-building with Ken Smith on the Buffalo River Trail extension, and another outing in spring took care of maintenance on a six-mile segment of the Ozark Highlands Trail for which the OSHC is responsible. Each outing averaged just over 20 participants led by a total

of 19 different OSHC hike leaders throughout the season.

*Ozark Society Spring Outing.* On March 21, OSHC hosted the second annual Ozark Society (OS) Spring Outing at Ozark Campground on the Buffalo River. This no-business-meeting event replaces the OS spring membership meeting, and it was organized by OSHC to coincide with its 6th Annual Buffalo River Classic—a combination of outdoor activities including a marathon hike, a kayak-canoe float, and several day-hikes followed by a cookout. By all measures, the Spring Outing was a success. Data which summarize attendance at the event appear in Table 2.

*(Continued on next page)*

Table 1. Highlands Chapter Outings (Dayhikes) Season, Sep 29-May 3	
Total number of day-hikes	29
Total number of predominantly trail day-hikes	17
Total number of predominantly bushwhack (non-trail) day-hikes	10
Total number of maintenance/trail-building outings	2
Total number of hikers, all day-hikes	583
Average number of hikers per day-hike	20.1
Total distance hiked, all day-hikes, miles	152.7
Average distance hiked, miles/day-hike	5.3
Total number of hike leaders, Sep-May	19



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# HIGHLAND CHAPTER OUTINGS

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The spring event was attended by over 100 members and guests from four local OS chapters. Each outing started at different locations along the Buffalo River in the morning, and converged at the Ozark Campground Pavilion in late afternoon for an all-Society potluck-cookout where OS President Alan Nye greeted the group of hungry eaters. These outings are important because they reach a large number of participants. In addition, they facilitate getting out into nature and seeing areas not visited previously, as well as providing an opportunity to meet and mingle with other OS members.

The OSHC wishes to say thanks to all of the 19 leaders who volunteered to lead last season's day-hikes, and to all the helpers, organizers, and participants who made the OS Spring Outing a success.

Table 2. Ozark Society Spring Outing-Ozark Campground, Mar 21

Total number of persons pre-registered	103
Total number of marathon hikers, Ponca to Ozark (23.6 mi)	14
Total number of canoe-kayak floaters, Erbie to Ozark (5.5 mi)	27
Total number of day-hikers, Ozark to Cedar Glade and Pruitt (8.6 mi)	52
Total number of cookout-only participants	10



OSHC dayhikers cross under Mule Trail Falls on Whitaker Creek, Dec. 2014. (Ryker Hawksbill Crag picture).

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## UPDATE ON OZARK SOCIETY OUTINGS

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➤ **Colorado High Adventure Trip, July 12-18**

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. There will be a variety of outings to choose from: commercial rafting or boating on the Arkansas River (all rafting will be commercial), hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, or sightseeing. You must be an Ozark Society member to participate in this trip. If you are not already a member, you can join by sending \$15 annual dues along with trip fee of \$150 for campers and \$100 for non-campers. Confirm your place on the Colorado outing by sending a check made out to the Ozark Society for the appropriate amount to: Bob Ritchie, 707 Pleasant Valley Dr. #10, Little Rock, AR 72227.

➤ **Ozark Society General Meeting, October 2-4 at Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro, AR.**

The fall general membership meeting will be hosted by the Bayou Chapter. Keep an eye on the website and the fall *Pack & Paddle* for details.

➤ **2016 Outings:** Ozark Society Trips to Alaska and Isle Royale are in the planning stages for 2016. Keep an eye on the Ozark Society's website for updates.





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## PULASKI CHAPTER - EARTH DAY CLEAN UP OUTING

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The Pulaski Chapter held an Earth Day clean up on the William B. Clark Wetlands near the Clinton Presidential Library on April 18. The crew included Susan Leslie, Donna Peterson, Dave Peterson, Janet Nye, Alan Nye (who brought guests), Joan Meeks, Frank Meeks (Chairperson) Below are pictures from the workday.



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## Remembering Bob Stout

By Richard McFadden

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It was about 12 years ago while on the Cadron that a gentleman came up to me and showed some pictures of me on my last trip to the Cadron. The gentleman was Bob Stout. We became instant friends as I think anyone who met him did. He was one of a kind and I feel very fortunate that he and I had so many wonderful times together. He loved life and took full advantage. He would often tell me his life had been a great ride. It was because Bob was a great person. Life is a reflection of ourselves.

We both enjoyed canoe camping and we did it frequently. We would ride together and as we drove back, at the end of each trip we invariably expressed our gratitude for being able to do what we did and for the association of the others we shared time with.

We routinely went to Colorado together on the Ozark Society trips. I think that is where he caught the rafting bug and soon he had his own raft and the western trips became his passion. Unlike me, he was an adrenalin junkie, and white water

rafting fulfilled that need.

Some of my closest friends came by way of Bob. Just this morning as I awoke I was thinking or perhaps dreaming of something that prompted me to say I need to get with Bob and . . . Sadly, those days are over but I am so grateful we had those days together. He enriched my life and everyone else who had the good fortune to know him. We miss you Bob.

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## Buffalo River Chapter Report

By Farrel Couch

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Hello and greetings! I hope this writing finds everyone well and that you had a great spring. We have had some wonderful hikes this past winter season and if you weren't able to join us I hope you enjoyed reading about some of them in the newsletter. As far as our chapter goes, we continue to gain new memberships and renewals. I believe we are one of the most enjoyable groups with like minds to be found anywhere. The fight goes on for the Buffalo River with those who feel hog litter just isn't an issue. We hope to get a moratorium to stop any more factory hog farms from setting

up shop along the Buffalo. Currently there are several lawsuits in progress concerning the way that the first factory hog farm was snuck in under false pretenses. I believe we shall prevail in the long run as long as we keep at the ones responsible for this travesty. Well I have

stirred the pot long enough; time to hit the trail. I hope to see you on it.



*Umbrella Magnolia*  
(Drawing by Fred Paillet)



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**[www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net)**

Check out announcements,  
newsletters, and upcoming  
activities.

*For your convenience, donations and dues may  
now be submitted on [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net).*

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.*