



# PADDLE TRAILS



THE OZARK SOCIETY  
PULASKI CHAPTER



November/December 2015

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

**November 3, 2015**

Jeff Quinn from Mayflower AG&F, who monitors streams in the Fayetteville Shale and Arkansas River, will talk about the health of Arkansas Game Fisheries.

***Bring a Friend!***

## ***Meetings***

First Tuesday, each month, at 7 p.m. in Room 65 of the Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Dr., Little Rock. Enter the church grounds on Pleasant Valley Dr. and park on the west side nearest I-430. Go upstairs and down the first hall on the right to Room 65.

## ***Pulaski Chapter Officers***

Chair - David Peterson  
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Vice Chair-Marilyn Wheeler  
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Secretary/Treasurer – Kay Ewart  
[kayewart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kayewart@sbcglobal.net)

Day Hikes/Outings – Steve Heye  
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Conservation Chair - Position Open

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## **Hunt's Loop Hike Report**

**By Steve Heye**

October 10 was a busy Saturday in Central Arkansas, but some of us went for a hike in the Ouachitas. Trese Brown, Bob Hogg and leader Steve Heye spent a wonderful Saturday morning hiking the Hunt's Loop trail off the Ouachita Trail north of Jesseville.

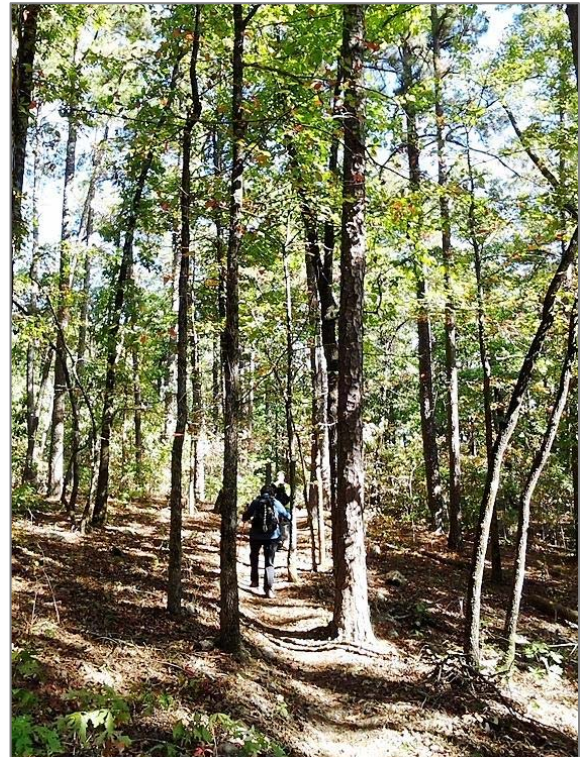
The weather couldn't have been more perfect, mid-50s at the start and bright sunshine. We carpoled over to the Iron Springs day use area on Hwy. 7 north of Jesseville, arriving about 9. Trese had never hiked this trail before and was wondering what to expect. I told her that the hardest part would be right here at the start, a half-mile hike up Short Mountain.

As you leave the Use Area, you pass by the actual Iron Spring that is a major source for a branch of the Saline River. You cross a small bridge and then start up a very rocky trail but it's well laid out and has rock steps placed in many spots. I told Trese that this hike would be like a roller coaster ride: a big hill at the start and mostly downhill after that to get back to the car about 5 miles later.

After about a half hour slow climb we made it to the top of Short Mountain, about 1350 feet in elevation. From here, the view is endless to the south towards Jesseville and the north side of Lake Ouachita. An old fire tower used to be on the mountain until removed when aircraft took over that duty. We paused for about 10 minutes to catch our breath and take photos. It was also starting to warm up a bit now that it was near 10 a.m. and about 65 degrees now, so we shed our jackets.

The hike from the top of Short Mountain heads west along the ridge for a while then descends to the North West towards the Ouachita Trail. Part of the way you are walking on the old access road for the fire tower. After a three quarter of an hour walk or so, you come to the western intersection of Hunt's Loop and the Ouachita Trail. A sign says Hwy. 7 is one mile to the east, a trail shelter is 2.5 miles to the west and Short Mountain was 1.8 miles to the south.

*(Continued on Pg. 2)*



## Hunt's Loop Hike

(Continued)

We took our time working our way east on the Ouachita Trail as you go up a small rise on your way to Hwy. 7 trailhead. You go over the rise about a half-mile west of the trail head and it's a gentle descent into the wonderful trail head on Hwy. 7 for the Ouachita Trail. There are some interpretive signs and a handicapped trail here explaining the history of the area. If one is continuing on the Ouachita Trail or the Hunt's Loop trail you follow a sidewalk south from the parking area to a small roadway bridge for Hwy.7.

The Eastbound Ouachita Trail goes under the Hwy. 7 Bridge over a creek, but before you get to the bridge, the Hunt's Loop trail starts south towards Iron Springs. The Hunt's Loop trail parallels the highway all the way back to Iron Springs. It is an easy walk above the creek.

We decided that we'd skip this stretch and walk along Hwy. 7 right of way so we could see the historic site that commemorates the Jesseville CCC camp. So we walked down the Ouachita Trail to go under the bridge and then climb the slope to walk facing traffic on the right of way. This is a very dangerous road and extreme care should be taken if walking back this way. Traffic is heavy, especially on weekends and vehicles are going full speed on winding roads. Be alert and step off the shoulder when you hear or see traffic coming.



About a half mile down the road from the Hwy. 7 trail head parking lot, on the east side of Hwy. 7, is the parking lot for the Jesseville CCC camp. This is one site of many that were in Arkansas in the 1930s to get people working again and improve the area. You can see where buildings were and signs tell you what you are looking at.

From the CCC camp, it's about another half mile down Hwy. 7 right of way to the Iron Springs Day Use Area. We made our way down the hill into the area and ended our hike by having lunch at the table next to the car. It turned out to be a lovely way to spend the morning: an easy walk in the cool early October weather as the woods begin their change for fall.

My next hike will be on November 14 and it will be the best hike in the state right now: Spring Creek to Hwy. 14 on the Buffalo River Trail. Some ups and downs as you visit the river and get the views from some riverside bluffs. Around 6 miles total and leaves should be just past peak color, but should still be a great show.

Be at Morgan McDonald's at 8 am to carpool or meet us at the Hwy. 14 parking lot around 10 am. Bring a lunch and good shoes or boots. If it ever does rain again there may be a wet crossing or two using step stones. Please contact me if you are going: [Heye@aristotle.net](mailto:Heye@aristotle.net) or 501-455-2210.



*Donna Peterson grimly finishes an 11.7-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail. This mid-October 80-mile hiking trip ended at Tellico Gap about 30 miles south of the Smoky Mountains - 2050 miles left to go.*





## November 3, 2015 Meeting Agenda

**Speaker: Jeff Quinn, Mayflower AG&F headquarters.**

Jeff Quinn has been a stream management biologist with the AGAFC since 1998. He is deeply involved with serious, hands-on fisheries research, including: the effects of fishing pressure on smallmouth bass in the Buffalo River, the status of the American Eel in the Ouachita River Basin, trout microhabitat in Ozark tail water river habitat, the negative effects of Asian and Silver Carp in the White River, and growth rates of smallmouth bass in Crooked Creek, and paddlefish and sturgeon in big river systems.



He has been active in monitoring streams in the Fayetteville Shale gas play and has a major focus on the Arkansas River. Jeff will talk about the health of Arkansas fisheries and as well as wildlife awareness campaigns by the AG&FC.

Jeff has a B.S. in Biology from Winona State University and a M.S. in Zoology from the University of Arkansas. He received the Mike Freeze Award for Excellence in 2008 and is currently the President of the Arkansas Chapter of American fisheries Society.

### **Business Meeting:**

- **Introduce new attendees.**
- **Secretary/treasurer/membership:** Kay Ewart
- **Celebrate the Buffalo Fundraiser - October 23rd, Town Center Ballroom in Fayetteville:** Report by Alice Andrews, Alan Nye



*Ken Smith receives three well-deserved standing ovations at the Fundraiser for his lifelong work in preserving the Buffalo River, and for the clarity, humor, and brevity of his remarks.*

- **Conservation Report:** Alice Andrews, others
- **Pulaski County Chapter Christmas Party:** 6 PM, Dec. 1 at Stewart Noland's house, potluck, entertainment, details later
- **Ozark Society Spring Meeting:** Pulaski County Chapter
- **Local Outings Report:** Steve Heye, 501-455-2210
- **Major Outings Report:** Stewart Noland, Bob Ritchie, Steve Heye  
Buffalo River Spring Float?, Colorado Trip - See Bob Ritchie after Jan. 1; Grand Canyon rafting (April 17); Isle Royal/boundary waters.
- **Old business/new business**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **November 14:** Buffalo River Trail Hike – Spring Creek to Hwy. 14; 6 miles, rated moderate. We'll meet at the Morgan McDonald's at 8 a.m. and carpool up to the Hwy. 14 put in on the Buffalo. You can join us here at 10. We'll carpool up to the start at the Spring Creek access. The trail follows the river with spectacular views. Should still be some color. Bring a lunch, snacks and water. Wear good boots. This is the best 6-mile hike in the state, bar none! Let Steve know you're coming - 501-455-2210.
- **December 1:** Christmas Party at Stewart Noland's house. More details will be emailed when available.
- **December 19:** Ouachita Trail – Flatside to Browns Creek – 5 miles – easy. We check out another piece of the Ouachita Trail heading east from Flatside Pinnacle and make our way down Browns Creek to the campground and access lot. Meet at 8 a.m. at the garden area of the Walmart at Hwy. 10 and Chenal. We'll carpool to Flatside; or be at the Flatside lot by 9:30. Bring a lunch and water. Let Steve know you're coming - 501-455-2210.
- **January 15-17:** Queen Wilhelmina State Park – moderate. We need to see the improvements out at the lodge at Queen Wilhelmina! You can get a room in the renovated lodge or a site in the campground. We'll hike twice, a long hike on Saturday and a short one on Sunday morning. Or just do your thing as we enjoy a great stay! Get rooms early as weekends are sometimes tight to get one. Our hikes will be on the Ouachita trail. Let Steve know you're coming – 501-455-2210.
- **February 20:** Bushwhack To Twin Falls at Richland Creek – 5 miles moderate. We visit the famous Twin Falls in the Richland Creek Wilderness. It's a couple miles of bushwhacking over to the side creek. We'll also look at Richland Falls while we're there. We'll meet at the Morgan McDonald's at 7:30 on Saturday. Or you can meet us at Richland Creek campground at 10. Bring lunch, water and good boots. Let Steve know you're coming – 501-455-2210.

Check [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net) for news, outings, and event updates.