



PACK & PADDLE



Spring
March 2016

"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

A TRIP TO TWIN FALLS

By Steve Heye

When you are presented with a 65-degree day in February, what else would you do? You go on a bushwhack, that's what! Thirteen members of the Pulaski Chapter got together and headed up to Richland Creek campground to bushwhack over to the twin falls of Devils Fork Creek.

Arriving in the campground around 10 a.m., I had everyone consolidate into two cars and drive up the north road to a parking spot. Here is a stone marker with the engraving of a message of thanks to the late Senator Bumpers for all the work he did to make this a wilderness area back in the '80s. From the lot we started west on an undeveloped trail. Heavy foot traffic has worn the path, and under wilderness rules, it can't be improved in any manner.

We continued to follow the path until it took us down to the north shore of Richland Creek. The last time I had hiked to the falls this way, you held elevation along the bluff line that was up the hill from us. But 15 years had passed since that trip and there were no footpaths in existence at all. There were some strips of ribbon along the way, so we continued to follow them. The north side of Richland Creek has higher



bluffs along the actual creek. So we did a lot of climbing back up the hill on our way across the hillside to reach the falls. Eventually we did find an old roadbed and followed it to the confluence of Devil's Fork Creek and Richland Creek. This was right at noon, but everyone wanted to go upstream to the falls for lunch. Following the trail on the west side of the Devil's Fork, we made it to our beautiful lunch spot about 10 minutes later.

The Twin Falls are formed by two streams, the Long Devil's Fork and the Big Devil's Fork, which come together as they go over the bluff line.

The result is a well-known pair of waterfalls of about 25 to 30 feet each, which drop into a deep pool and form the Devil's Fork creek. Some folks also call this pair Devil's Fork Falls.

We had a big slab of rock to eat our lunch on and the sun even broke out for a little bit. What a way to spend a winter day! About one or so, we started back down the Devil's Fork to Richland Creek. When we reached the confluence, we turned right (west) to hike along the north shore of Richland for about half a mile to the Richland Falls. Well, most of us did - more on this in a moment.

(Continued on Page 7)

SPRING GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 15-17, 2016

The Pulaski Chapter will be hosting the Spring General Membership Meeting the weekend of April 15 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center just outside Little Rock. The General Meeting will be Saturday and Sunday, with an OS Board Meeting held on Friday evening.

Accommodations include camping, cabins and rooms, as well as an on-site cafeteria. We will have a Saturday night potluck, Dutch oven cook-off, and swing dancing.

Ferncliff has hiking and biking trails, small lakes for canoeing and kayaking, and there are other recreational opportunities nearby.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: PLEASE PRE-REGISTER AND PAY FOR SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS AND CAFETERIA MEALS BY THE APRIL 1 DEADLINE so that Ferncliff can plan staffing and accommodations appropriately (see pages 5 for pricing and registration.) The Ozark Society has reserved the north 40 acres of Ferncliff for our exclusive use, but there are many things to do at Ferncliff (swimming, canoeing, fishing, biking, hiking, etc., on site.) They have found that a \$12 /person facilities fee is reasonable for all that is available-it is a good deal in order to encourage families and students, we have decided to reduce the facilities fee for students to \$5 .

- Location: Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center 1720 Ferncliff Road, Little Rock AR 72223, (501) 821-3063, www.ferncliff.org;
- Lodging: Various levels of comfort: Camping (\$12/night), cabins (15-\$22/night plus linen), hotel style rooms (\$70 single, \$94 for double);
- Dining: On site cafeteria (\$9.50 B, \$10.50 L, \$11.50 S), Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday evening potluck/Dutch oven cook-off;
- Proposed program: Solar energy (Chris McRae), Ecological innovation (David Gill), Arkansas native plants tour (Don Culwell), student paper sessions (karst, well water/spring contamination, Ozark oaks, etc.);
- Recreation on site: 7.4 miles of maintained hiking trails, 4.8 mile mountain bike trail, 2 small lakes for canoeing/kayaking, 120' shady shoot slide, hammock circle, labyrinth;
- Nearby recreation:
 - Hiking - Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Ouachita Trail
 - Flat Water - Grassy Lake (secluded cypress/tupelo gum swamp), Maumelle River, Lake Maumelle (flat water touring),
 - Whitewater - Cadron Creek (class 1,2), South Fork of Fourche River (class 1,2) Biking - 10-40 mile cycling tours starting and ending at Ferncliff

Go to www.Ferncliff.org for maps of the facility and pictures of sleeping accommodations.

Directions from Little Rock: From I-430 go west 8.41 miles on Hwy 10 (Cantrell Road), turn left onto Ferncliff Road. Ferncliff is on the right after 4.87 miles, 0.4 miles past the 4-way stop at Kanis Road.



SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM - SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Friday, April 15

- 6:00 PM Board – Supper at the Cafeteria (\$11.50) (*Map on Pg. 8*)
6:30 PM Board meeting in Ferncliff Retreat House

Saturday, April 16

- 8:00 Breakfast Cafeteria (\$9.50) or Continental breakfast at Eco Center

Program & Registration at Eco Center

- 9:00 – 9:50 Solar Energy, Chris McRae, world-wide solar energy expert
10:00 – 10:50 Ecological Innovation, David Gill, director of Ferncliff
11:00 - 11:50 Arkansas Native Plants Tour, Don Culwell, founder of the Arkansas native plant society
Noon – 1 PM Dinner at Cafeteria (\$10.50) or on your own
1:00-3:00 Student papers at the Eco Center
6:00: Pot Luck at Eco Center, note: there are covered fire rings at the Eco Center and the Tree House, or Supper at Cafeteria (\$11.50)
7:00 Entertainment at Eco House, TBA
8:00 Swing dancing, Eco House

Sunday, April 17

- 8:00 Breakfast at cafeteria (\$9.50)
9:00 Ozark Society discussion/cleanup at Eco House, no agenda

Organized recreational activities:

Saturday at 1 PM:

1. Grassy Lake canoe/kayak tour – Leader, Charline Manning, meet at Ferncliff tunnel 29.6 miles from Ferncliff (34 min). Grassy Lake is a cypress/tupelo gum swamp south of Lake Conway. Margaret Bartlett and Charline developed and marked the official canoe trail so you won't get lost. Bring your own water vehicle or there may be a borrowed canoe to share. Contact Charline Manning or David Peterson for more information.
2. Bike touring, 10-40 miles cycling tours – Leader, Janet Nye, meet under the tunnel. Janet will lead a circuit on hard surface roads that will appeal to various riding goals.

Sunday at 9 AM:

3. Whitewater canoe and kayak (depends on water levels) – meet at Ferncliff tunnel. Cadron Creek is 56 miles N on Hwy. 65 (64 min);
4. South Fork of the Fourche River – 65 miles west of Ferncliff in the Ouachita Mts.

There is also recreation on site, and more hiking trails nearby. If there is interest, there may be a shuttle to trailheads on the Ouachita Trail.



REGISTRATION/LODGING FOR SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Camping/Lodging – all prices, except linens, are per night

Key: \$8L = Linens available for \$8 (onetime fee), LI = linens included, GS = gender separated, NGS = can be gender separated but need not be upon request, BB = bunk beds, PBR = private bathrooms, SBR = shared bathrooms, BF = bathhouse facilities, #B = beds per room, F = female, M = Male

Cancellation date (1/2 of fee returned) – March 15, 2016

Registration deadline for guaranteed lodging and meal tickets – April 1, 2016

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

	Specify Friday and/or Saturday, Female or Male	Total Cost
Tent/camper: \$12 (no hook ups, BF)		
Tree house \$15 (GS, 9 BB, \$8L; BF)	F-M	
Stackwood Cabins \$15 (GS, 8 BB, \$8L; BF)	F-M	
Retreat House \$22 (NGS, 3 quads, 1 sextuple, 1 upstairs 7B, \$8L; PBR)	F-M	
Eco Center \$30 (NGS, 2 doubles, 4 quintuples, LI; PBR)	F-M	
Brown Center (Hotel Rooms) (\$70 single, \$94 double, LI; PBR)		
Meals (new cafeteria, Breakfast – 8 am, Lunch – Noon, and Supper – 6 pm)	Fri. S \$11.50	
	Sat. B \$9.50	
	Sat. N \$10.50	
	Sat. S \$11.50	
	Sun. B \$9.50	
Facilities Fee (registration, meeting rooms, etc.)	\$12/adult, \$5/Student	
Total Payable to the OS-Pulaski Chapter:		

Mail check and itemization to: % Kay Ewart, Treasurer, 4508 Valley Brook Dr. North Little Rock, AR 72116

Questions: David Peterson, Pulaski County chair, drpdrp@windstream.net, 501-679-2935h; or Kay Ewart, kayewart@sbcglobal.net



COLORADO HIGH ADVENTURE TRIP – JULY 10-18, 2016

The 2016 Colorado high adventure trip will be Sunday July 10 thru Saturday July 16. 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, 2016.

You should plan to arrive at the campground by mid-afternoon Sunday July 10. The first meal will be that evening. All meals will be provided through dinner on Friday July 15 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 or other nearby motels or bed & breakfasts. Meals at the campground will be provided for all trip participants, regardless of whether you are camping or staying elsewhere.

There will be a variety of outings to choose from: rafting or boating on the Arkansas River, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, or sightseeing. There are rafting outfitters nearby for those of you wish to raft. You will need to make your own arrangements with the outfitters. If you plan to canoe or kayak, you should bring your own equipment.

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 \$175 for campers and \$125 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.

If you have any questions concerning the Colorado outing, contact: Bob Ritchie at 501-225-1795, email address britchiear@aol.com; or Catherine Tolson at 318-680-9280, email catherine.tolson@comcast.net

POSSIBLE WHITEWATER RECREATION PARK IN NW ARKANSAS?

Pending approval of the feasibility study by the City of Fayetteville, the Ozark Society will grant the City up to \$2,000 to help defray a portion of the cost of a feasibility study of a future whitewater recreation park on the White River just south of Fayetteville.



Margaret Bartelt shared this picture, which she took in a Wal-Mart parking lot near her home in Wisconsin. The Amish owner kindly gave Margaret permission to photograph the horse-drawn buggy with the kayaks secured on top. Margaret said it just goes to show that paddling appeals to a wide variety of folks!



Twin Falls

(Continued on Page 7)

We had drifted a few at a time over to Richland Falls. We all reached the area in time to say hello to members of the Fayetteville-area OS chapter.

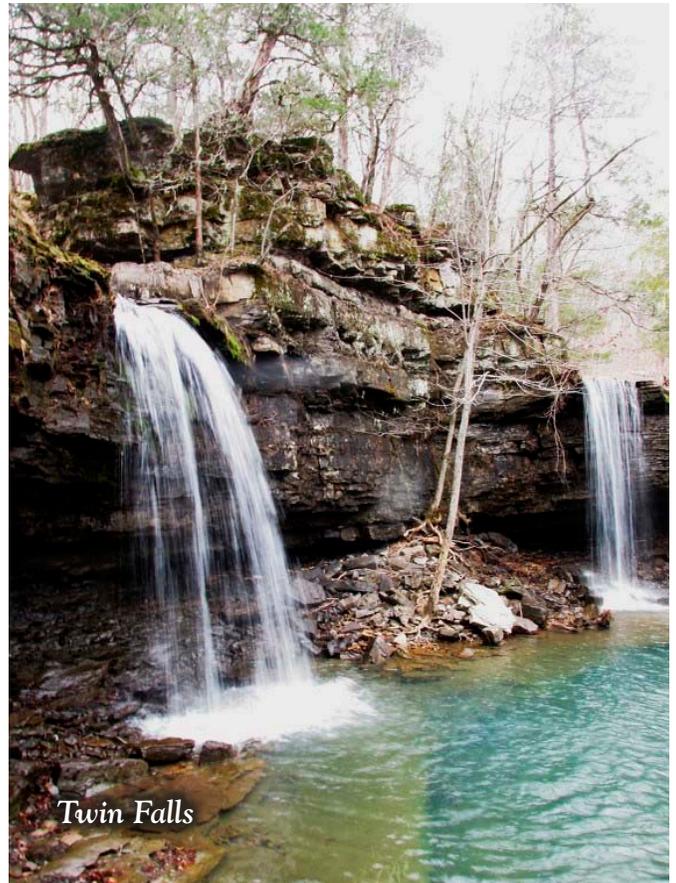
Looks like great minds do think alike. The Richland falls are a six- to eight-foot high ledge that stretches all the way across the creek. So should you ever be floating this piece of Richland Creek, you will have to go over these falls! There are also many fossils in the rocks around here. We all exchanged greeting with our fellow Ozark Society members and took pictures of the falls. During lunch, Stewart Noland and Marcel Jones said that there was now a very well worn trail on the southern shore of Richland Creek. They paddle this stretch quite often and are familiar with the trail after mishaps on the water. So we decided to cross the stream and take this path back.

However as I said earlier, as we finished lunch at Twins Falls we started drifting over to Richland Falls. Stewart led a group of 4 or 5 out first. About 5 minutes later, Frank and Joan Meeks made their way out. They were trying to catch Stewart's bunch, but had not caught them by the confluence. They also did not know we were going right to the Richland Creek Falls nor back on the south side to the campground. The result was they started back on the way we came in, to the left, on the

north side of Richland Creek, thinking that Stewart's bunch was just ahead of them. After we all came back to the confluence to cross Richland to take the south side back, a few of us noticed we were short two folks. I noticed that you could see everyone on the south side coming in on the northside; therefore, Frank and Joan should be visible using the north side trail. I had the group head back on the south side trail

and asked them to look occasionally for Frank and Joan on the hillside on the north side. I stayed back for a few minutes to be sure Frank and Joan had not doubled back to the confluence. I left after ten minutes or so and asked two anglers to tell them to come on back if they showed up.

About halfway back, the group spotted another couple on the north side and asked if they had passed Joan and Frank. They said they did and not too long before. A few minutes later, they spotted and contacted Joan and Frank, telling them to keep going and meet them at the car. A few minutes later, I caught up with



Twin Falls

the rest of the group and found out that Frank and Joan were fine.

About 3:30, we crossed Falling Water Creek and made our way up to the campground. A couple of vehicles from members of our hike were parked here and they drove up to the starting lot. The lot where Joan and Frank were waiting. You can see more photos at this link on Flickr: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskuUtwJL>

In all, we covered about 6 miles or so that day and had a wonderful visit to some of the best-preserved wilderness left in the state.





The Ozark Society
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