



PADDLE TRAILS



THE OZARK SOCIETY
PULASKI CHAPTER



March 2017

www.ozarksociety.net

Our regular meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Second Presbyterian.

Bring a Friend!

March 7 our speaker will be Scott Simon, Director of the Nature Conservancy in Arkansas. He joined The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas as a land steward in 1996 and has been the director since 2003. In addition to supporting the Conservancy staff and partners in Arkansas, Simon has helped develop conservation projects in Central America and Africa.

He previously worked as a wetland ecologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey and was also an instructor at the University of Illinois. He testifies on conservation issues for congressional and state legislative committees and has authored or co-authored 20 articles and book chapters.

Pulaski Chapter Officers 2017-2018

Chair- Janet Nye
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From the Desk of the President: Janet Nye

Greetings Pulaski Chapter!

We had a great meeting in February and a great turn out! Thanks for coming AND keep it up!

A huge thanks to Mary Schlatterer for contacting our speaker, Randy Easley with Central Arkansas Water (CAW). We learned about the amazing studies that CAW is conducting on Lake Maumelle and how their efforts are protecting our water supply and being used in other water supplies around the nation. I was totally amazed. It was also great to hear all of the insightful questions that continued the discussion.

After the program, we discussed the chapter's involvement with maintaining the Ouachita Trail east of highway 9. We have been maintaining the two mile stretch between highway 9 and Nancy Mountain Shelter for many years. We voted to "officially" be responsible for the care of Nancy Mountain Shelter which we already do, but we became official with Friends of the Ouachita Trail. In addition to this we agreed to maintain a 0.8 section beyond the shelter to Chinquapin Gap. The chart below lists our maintenance responsibilities.

I'm very excited about our chapter's involvement with the Ouachita Trail. It is close to us and a great way to encourage our friends to join with us!

From	To		Distance (Mile)	
188.7	189.5	Chinquapin Gap to Nancy Mtn. Shelter	0.8	Ozark Society
189.5	189.5	Nancy Mountain Shelter	0.0	Ozark Society
189.5	191.8	Nancy Mtn Shelter to Hwy 9 Trailhead	2.3	Ozark Society/Pulaski Chapter (Fred Greenwood, Mary Schlatterer, & Pat Pennington)

March is here and we will be itching to get out. Steve has some great outings planned, like a hike to Forked Mountain in Flatside Wilderness Area! The all Society event is March 25th at Ozark Campground on the Buffalo. This is hosted by the Highlands Chapter (Fayetteville) and will include a challenge hike, an easy paced hike and paddling. There is a great cook out that evening at the pavilion. Make plans to "play outside" and meet new friends on Saturday, March 25th!

Look forward to seeing you on Tuesday and hearing from Scott Simon with The Nature Conservancy. You want to be there to hear Scott!

Notes on Climate Change from Randy Easley

I want to thank the Ozark Society for the invitation to speak to your group at this past February's meeting. I truly enjoyed answering the questions that came up, which leads me to the purpose of this writing. One question was asked if there were anything that worried me. Besides the obvious answer regarding the current political climate in the U.S. towards the environment and public health, I ignored to answer another similarly linked concern, climate change. While many in power now deny that a problem exists, the evidence as seen by those with an open and scientific mind know that the concern expressed by many for years is irrefutable.

Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns consequent to climate change are expected to affect the spatial and temporal distribution of water resources. It has been identified that determination of the response of a watershed to climate change as the most serious problem facing water resource managers. Climate change will affect water resources through its impact on the quantity, quality, variability, timing, form, and intensity of precipitation. Let me focus on just a few of these concerns.

Water quality

Climate-related warming of lakes and rivers has been observed over recent decades. As a result, freshwater ecosystems have shown changes in species composition, organism abundance, productivity and phenological shifts (including earlier fish migration). Also due to warming, many lakes have exhibited prolonged stratification with decreases in surface layer nutrient concentration and prolonged depletion of oxygen in deeper layers. Phytoplankton dynamics and primary productivity have also been altered in conjunction with changes in lake physics.

Chemistry

Increased stratification reduces water movement across the thermocline, inhibiting the upwelling and mixing that provide essential nutrients to the food web. Many lakes and rivers have increased concentrations of sulphates, base cations and silica, and greater alkalinity and conductivity related to increased weathering of silicates, calcium and magnesium sulphates, or carbonates, in their watersheds.

Increased temperature also affects in-lake chemical processes. There have been decreases in dissolved inorganic nitrogen from greater phytoplankton productivity and greater in-lake alkalinity generation and increases in pH in soft-water lakes.

Climate-related drivers of freshwater systems

The most dominant climate drivers for water availability are precipitation, temperature and evaporative demand. Projected changes in these components of the water balance are crucial to a water resource. In short, the total annual river runoff over the whole land surface is projected to increase, even though there are regions with significant increase and significant decrease in runoff. However, increased runoff cannot be fully utilized unless there is adequate infrastructure to capture and store the extra water.

These all add up to the fact that most water utilities are ill prepared to deal with the changing availability of water, proper management of runoff, changes to lake/reservoir dynamics and water quality changes. In a water-rich state like Arkansas, the effect of these changes has already been felt by many, but reacted upon by few. It can't happen here!

Trip Report – Buzzard Roost

By Steve Heye, Outings Chair

On February 11, four members of the Pulaski Chapter enjoyed a record breaking warm day by taking a day hike to Buzzard Roost. Frank and Joan Meeks, Bob Hogg and leader Steve Heye drove up Highway 7 to Pelsor and went left on Hwy 123 for about 5 miles to Treat Road. It's about another 9 miles down the road to an old homestead where you park. From here it's about a mile or so down an old timber road to Buzzard Roost.

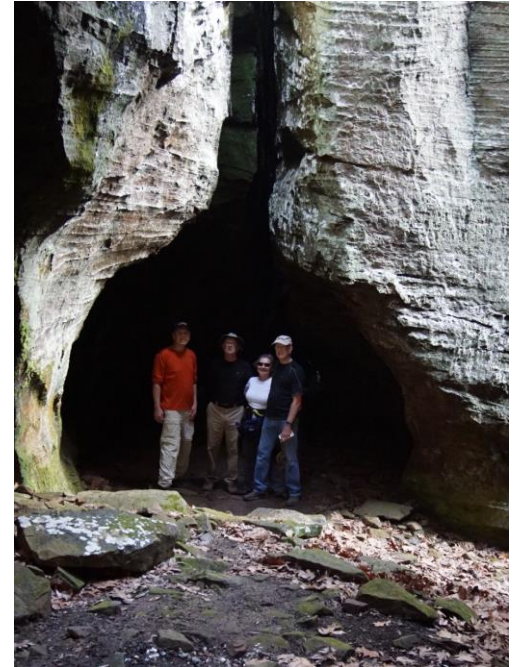
On the hike in, you notice a lot of ATV activity in the area. Some of the users have been kind to the area and then some haven't. There was a lot of trash along the way (thanks to Frank for picking things up) consisting a lot of junk food wrappers, beer cans and cigarette boxes. At one time, you could only drive the ATVs to a flat camping area about 200 feet away and 50 feet above Buzzard Roost. Well, some Mr. Macho ATV rider had to prove a hike trail was nothing for him. At least his cooler full of beer stayed on the back of the ATV as he drove right down to the formation. I do wish there was a bit more policing by the Forest Service in this whole area as ATV use is heavy.

Meanwhile, we took the wonderful weather and explored a very unique formation. Buzzard Roost can be called a mix between the Turtle Rocks and Bear Cave areas at Petit Jean and the formations of Pedestal Rocks. Lumpy tops on an area of cracked cliff face and slots. The rock itself is a mix of various formations and geology. This is one place that has to be seen to be believed!

And this is not the whole story. Across a small valley is a large rock arch! Just a five-minute walk away. We looked the arch over before we started back to the car. We were actually getting hot coming back. My thermometer had a reading of 81 degrees! Is this February or May?

When we got back to the car the owners of the Homestead were there, talking to those who were headed out to hike down to Buzzard Roost. Mrs. Merritt and her son were reminiscing about life at the house over decades. She is in her upper 80's and he was near 60. The most interesting story was told by the son when he said his mother would walk the 4.5 miles down the hill to Treat to go to school. This is not following the road either! And she started this at age 6! That would be two hours and 600 vertical feet on rocky ground, both ways.

Even though boomers did wander where we wanted as kids, very few of us did this to get to school! Shows how brave and tough the generation ahead of us were. To get a feel of what that the walk was like, we returned via Treat Road to Treat, Helton's farm and the road to Long Pool. Again, there were several dozen ATV riders along the way. Most of these riders were overweight and not following accepted protocol for backwoods ethics. We found a lot of trash, trail damage and alcohol consumption by riders. Do be careful when visiting areas with these folks as they do not respect the natural areas as much as they should.



PULASKI CHAPTER HIKING SCHEDULE

By Steve Heye, Outings Chair
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March 11 – Forked Mountain, Flatside Wilderness – Hard – 4 Miles or More. No Trail, Some Rock Scrambling.

If you've been to Flatside Pinnacle or the parking lot below, if you looked west and saw a peak in the distance, that's Forked Mt. This will be a bushwhack hike as we explore the side of the mountain looking for the falls as we make our way to a very difficult hike to the top. The view is rated one of the best in the Ouachitas. Bring boots, lunch and water. We will meet at the garden area of the Walmart at Hwy. 10 and Chenal Pkwy. at 8:00. We will carpool from here.

March 18 – Hurricane Creek Wilderness Bushwhacking – Strenuous – 8 Miles - Eddie Volman Is Leader.

Hurricane Creek Wilderness to the Natural Bridge on March 18. The hike loses elevation from Parker Ridge Rd. & is 8.5 miles round trip. You regain at least 1000 feet to return to the vehicle. Meet at the Morgan McDonald's at 7:00am. Bring boots, lunch and water. Contact Eddie at hknman1@sbcglobal.net or 501-607-1751

April 8 – Ozark Highlands Trail – Between Cr 57 & Cr 58 (West of Haw Creek Falls) 4 Miles – Moderate.

This is a beautiful spot for spring foliage viewing. There will be wild azaleas and wildflowers along Cedar Creek. OHT trail mile markers 96.0 to 99.5. Neat waterfalls and slick runs too! Bring a lunch, boots and water. Meet at the Morgan Mc Donald's at 7:30 to car pool up or meet us at Haw Creek Falls on Hwy 123 around 9:30. Call or email me if you are coming

April 29 – Big River Bridge and Beale Street - Easy - 5 Miles.

It's time for a little exploring and walking in Memphis! There is a new pedestrian/bike bridge across the Mississippi River hanging on the Hanrahan Bridge. It's a reproduction of an old auto bridge. It will be a first time for all of us. We will start on the Arkansas side and walk across the bridge and take river trails on the Memphis side and walk up to Beale Street for Lunch. We'll walk back to our cars after lunch. Wear good shoes and be ready for the weather. Meet at the Home Depot in North Little Rock at 7:30 (on McCain, EAST of 67) to car pool up. Look near Garden area for us. Call or email me if you are coming.



OZARK SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues are for one calendar year and include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, **Pack & Paddle**, and conservation bulletins. **Please note: The Family rate has gone up to \$20 as of January 1, 2017. Remit to: The Ozark Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203** using the form below, or you can renew online at: www.ozarksociety.net – click on the "About Us/Membership" link.

1. Please check one: New Member: Renewal:

2. General Dues: (Required - Please Circle One)

- Individual/Family: \$20
- Individual Students: \$5.00 (High school or college, if not included with family)
- Contributing/Sustaining: \$25
- Life: \$200 (over age 65: \$100) (This is for OS membership only-it does not include chapter membership.)

3. Chapter Dues: (you may choose not to join a chapter, or choose more than one)

- Bayou Chapter - \$10 (Shreveport, LA)
- Buffalo River Chapter - \$10 (\$5/email newsletter only; N. Central AR)
- Highlands Chapter - \$10 (NW AR)
- Mississippi Valley Chapter- \$5 (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- Pulaski Chapter - \$10 (Central AR)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

The Society newsletter, Pack & Paddle, will be sent via email unless you ask for them to be sent via US Mail. PADDLE TRAILS, the Pulaski Chapter newsletter, is available by email and on the OS website, www.ozarksociety.net.

Total Amount Enclosed: _____