



PADDLE TRAILS



THE OZARK SOCIETY
PULASKI CHAPTER



November 2017

www.ozarksociety.net

Pulaski Chapter Meetings

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

November 7:

Dr. Dan Scheiman is Bird Conservation Director for Audubon Arkansas, a state office of the National Audubon Society, based at the Little Rock Audubon Center. Dan has a B.S. from Cornell University, M.S. from Eastern Illinois University, and Ph.D. from Purdue University. Since 2005 he has worked to monitor birds, restore wildlife habitat, and help Arkansans improve their local environments. He has been birding for over 25 years. In the 12 years he has lived in Arkansas he has seen 360 of the 418 bird species documented in the state.

Bring a Friend!

Pulaski Chapter Officers 2017-2018

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From the Desk of the President: Janet Nye

HIKING

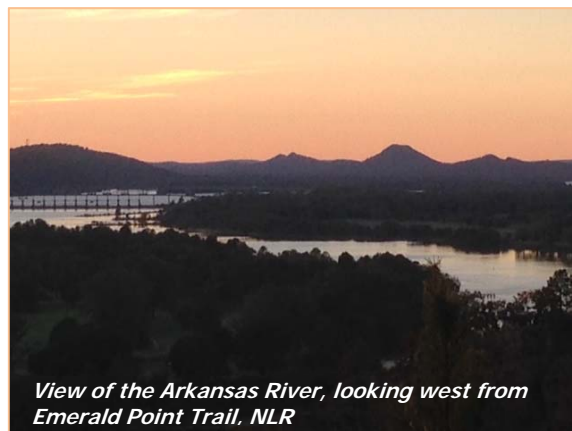
"I don't like either the word or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not hike! Do you know the origin of that word 'saunter?' It's a beautiful word. Away back in the Middle Ages people used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages through which they passed asked where they were going, they would reply, 'A la sainte terre,' 'To the Holy Land.' And so they became known as sainte-terre-ers or saunterers. Now these mountains are our Holy Land, and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them."

- John Muir

We have returned to the hiking season and I know many of us have been out on the trails already. The above quote by John Muir perfectly describes my interpretation of hiking or should I say, sauntering. If you've walked with me you know I want to use all my senses to explore what's around me. I want to make the destination for sure, but along the way there is much to see and hear. I think we all know that.

Much as happened in this past month: the Ozark Society sponsored trip to Canyonlands and Arches National Parks, the Pulaski Chapter's hikes, the Society's general meeting in Fayetteville. In addition there is an on-going opportunity to continue to speak up for conservation.

Thanks so much to Dr. Sally Entrekin from UCA who spoke at our October program. I find it exciting to meet and learn from professionals in our state. Our speaker this coming Tuesday is Dr. Dan Scheiman from Audubon Arkansas. Of course I'm excited to learn more about birds, but it is also wonderful to connect with others in the conservation community. Please come and welcome Dan and bring a friend!



*View of the Arkansas River, looking west from
Emerald Point Trail, NLR*

December Christmas Potluck – December 5

We will gather at 6pm at Stewart and Debbie Noland's House, 5210 Sherwood Rd., Little Rock. Bring a dish to share, and a friend!

Trip Report – Hike to Marinoni

By Steve Heye

The Pulaski Chapter took a hike on the Ozark Highlands Trail on October 21st. The group met at the Morgan McDonalds and carpooled up to the Lick Branch Trail Head just west of Oark.

Our goal was to day hike from Lick Branch, about MM 55, over to the Paul Marinoni special use area, MM 52. The biggest problem was that it's all up hill to MM 53! We took our time and the grade is very well laid out for uphill. It took about two hours to reach the old logging road at the top of the hill. Along the way we had views of the Lick Branch valley and walked through some great rock formations.

The day was warm and humid for October, but with cloud cover it was pleasant. When we reached the road on top of the ridge we were greeted with a light breeze and the group climbed a nearby knob to eat lunch. After lunch, we headed down the other side of the mountain into the Marinoni Area.

The trail goes into a narrow valley that as you descend begins to expose

more and more cliff faces, small waterfalls and caves. You reach a small stream that comes in from a side valley that feeds Marinoni falls. A little stair step set of falls was desperate for water to show its beauty off, but it would have to wait for a day for the rain to come. You walk a little farther and you reach a rock cliff face and the carved wood sign announcing the area.

There was also a very docile black snake lounging on the cliff face, waiting for us to leave so he could move on.

We started back up to the road on the top of the hill and we ran into a family group of Mom and three young daughters. They were picked up by Dad in an all-wheel vehicle. They had



been exploring the area as well. Then Mom and the two older girls jumped out and said they were walking down the road to see the natural bridge. Natural bridge? Where? Has anyone every seen a natural bridge in this area. Hmm... may have to do some exploring sometime.

We started down the trail back to the cars and since it was all downhill, we made good time. About half way back we ran into a young man who was in a camp relaxing in his hammock. Mary asked several questions about his gear, looking for ideas for buying her some future equipment. Steve helped the young guy in checking his camp location with heavy rain in the offing overnight. No widow makers, tent on stone high ground and fly in place, everything looked ready. Steve had wanted to offer an overnight option but removed it because of the forecasted rain. Oh well, maybe sometime soon we will offer a backpack trip again.

We made the cars and put up our gear for the trip home. Before we left, we decided to make a quick stop to the Oark General Store. It's more of a restaurant than store. All the food looked delicious, especially the pies! We bought a few things and headed to the cars for the drive home.



Right to left: Mary, Marsha, Charles, Steve, Linda and Kooper the poodle

Big River Bridge Well Worth The Trip!

By Steve Heye

A group of day hikers from Pulaski Chapter spent a Saturday last October to check out the year old Big River Bridge in Memphis. The group was led by outings chair Steve Heye and he was joined by Mary Beth McDonald, Mary Schlatterer, Pat Pennington, Arlon Lyon, Alice Andrews and Dave Gruenewald. We were joined later in the hike by Pat's son, Stacy who lives in Memphis.



The Big River Bridge is a pedestrian/bike facility that has been put on the old roadway support of the Hanahan Rail Bridge. The project took ten years of planning, negotiations with Union Pacific and construction. It opened last year and has been a great success with locals and visitors.

To access the bridge from the Arkansas side you drive on I-40/I-55 in West Memphis and take I-55 at the split before the river bridges. Just before the bridge for I-55, you take Exit 1, Bridgeport and get off. At the stop, turn left on Bridgeport and go past the I-55 on ramp, to Dacus Road on the left. Take Dacus to the parking under the I-55 bridge approach. There are security cameras and call boxes in



the area, so things are quite safe.

The group walked up the ramp to a gate that controls access to the bridge and found a large covered patio

here. From the patio you cross under the other rail bridge, owned by BNSF, and approach the ramp leading to the bridge. It is here you get to see what existing structure on the Hanahan Bridge was used to support the walkway/bike way.

The south side of Hanahan still has the existing old roadway supports attached for the one lane eastbound wooden decked roadway. The Big River Bridge is using similar structure on the north side of Hanahan to support the treadway. The new pedestrian bridge took advantage of the single lane westbound roadway supports.

As we walked onto the ramp to cross the bridge, Steve was explaining these various features of the 101 year old rail bridge. Having gone to the University of Memphis to obtain his degree in Civil Engineering, he was familiar with the structure and its history. This was only the second bridge to cross the Mississippi, built in 1916 some 30 years after the other rail bridge next to it. After rail service was started, the railroad had steel roadway supports cantilevered off both sides of the Hanahan, one lane each side with a roadway made of wood plank decking. This now allowed cars and trucks to drive into Arkansas directly. This was the only way to reach West Memphis by car until the I-55 Bridge was finished in 1947. After the opening of what is now the I-55 bridge, the railroad decided to close the road ways and remove the planks as a liability issue. The steel supports remained in place.

Fast forward to 2005 and 2006. Bikers in the area were looking for a

safe way to ride across the Mississippi without using I-40 Bridge or I-55 Bridge. Someone remembered the old roadway supports were still on the Hanahan and started looking into possibly using them to support a new bike/pedestrian bridge. By the time all was said and done, a coalition of groups, businesses and governments got the project done and in October of 2016 the bridge was opened. To get the maximum view, the westbound roadway, the north side of Hanahan, was used to support the bridge. This gives you great views of the city and the I-40 Bridge.



Just the bridge itself is a little more than a mile long. There are a couple of pullouts to take photos, including one at the state line. This is where we met Pat's son. The deck is a steel plate with perforations for drainage. You also have a protective fence between you and the rails on the bridge. Just to cross the bridge it takes twenty minutes or so.

While out on the bridge, some moisture from hurricane Nate worked its way through. It was the usual tropical shower, just hard enough to get the gear out and then make it hot and steamy once it was over.

Having reached the Memphis shore we walked over to Martyr's Park, about 200 yards from the Big River Bridge to the northwest. This would allow us to access the Riverfront walk system. *(Continued on page 5)*

8th Annual Outdoor Rendezvous Horseshoe Canyon Ranch - Jasper, AR Nov. 3 - 5, 2017

The Outdoor Rendezvous is *Hiking the Ozarks* signature event and the only one of its kind in the Ozarks. We will be hosting and organizing the 8th Annual Hiking the Ozarks Outdoor Rendezvous, November 3-5, 2017 at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, located near the Buffalo National River, in Jasper, Arkansas. This event brings together outdoor enthusiasts from all over the Midwest for networking, camping, education and enjoying the outdoors. We will be offering various educational classes, which will include classes geared toward hikers, backpackers, and basic and intermediate rock climbing classes.

There will also be guided hikes on some of the area's greatest trails and locations. There will be great raffle prizes from some name brand outdoor companies, booths to check out all the latest gear and a chance to meet other outdoor enthusiasts from all over the United States. Cost for the event is \$50.00.. (*payment for registration will be via cash or check, with cash being the preferred choice; credit cards are not normally feasible due to the poor cellular service and Internet access at the ranch). This price gets all participants into all the classes, access to all the guided hikes, covers your day use fee from Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, access to the booths, yoga classes and hikes, mountain biking and (1) entry into the raffles and door prizes.

Horseshoe Canyon Ranch offers camping for \$5.00 per night and also has a limited number of cabins for rent. There is a gear shop onsite for any rental gear that is needed for rock climbing. A helmet and harness is required for rock climbing. Lowa Boots will be on site and have hiking and climbing shoes to take on your trips and demo for the day.

Feel free to call Horseshoe Canyon Ranch if reserving a cabin, but all other calls about the event should be to Hiking the Ozarks. Please contact Dan Nash at dan@hikingtheozarks.com or at 417-844-5834.

Some FAQ info to help you prepare:

- Food is not provided, you will be on your own for food at the event.
- Dogs are not allowed at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch, or on the trails of the Buffalo National River, per the National Park Service.
- Camping at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch is \$5.00 per night and is car camping, so you will have your vehicle near your campsite; site selection is first come first serve.
- Water, bathrooms and showers are available in the camping area. There is a small fee for shower usage.
- Hikes are classified as easy, moderate and difficult, see schedule below for information..
- Each participant will receive a raffle ticket for the gear raffle upon registration. You can purchase up to 20 more tickets for the gear raffle at \$1.00 per ticket.
- For more information, visit us on Facebook or the following websites: <http://hikingtheozarks.com/> or <http://satoriexpeditions.com/>

Schedule of Events*:

Friday November 3, 2017

0845: Registration begins
0900: Sweden Creek Hike
0900: Big Bluff Hike
0900: Hemmed in Hollow Hike
1200-1500: Rock Climbing Class
1600-1700: Class-"Outdoor Class"
1830: Meet and Greet in the Pavilion/Gear Raffle

Saturday November 4, 2017

0700: Registration begins
0800: Thunder Canyon Falls Hike
0800: Hemmed in Hollow Hike
0800: Eye of the Needle Hike
0800: Sweden Creek Hike
0800: Bowers Hollow Hike
1200-1500: Rock Climbing Class

1600-1700: " Outdoor Class"
1730-1815: "Adventure Film"
1830: Meet and Greet in the Pavilion/Gear Raffle

Sunday November 5, 2017

0800: Big Bluff Hike
0800: Eye of the Needle Hike
0800: Hawksbill Crag Hike
0800: Lost Valley Hike
1200-1500: Rock Climbing Class

**The schedule of events for the 8th Annual Outdoor Rendezvous is below, but the schedule is fluid and details on classes, yoga, hikes, and mountain biking are still in the works. Schedule is subject to change (i.e., weather constraints).*

Big River Bridge (*Continued from page 3*)

We continued north for about a mile to Beale Street Landing. The landing is where you can catch a riverboat tour. From here we turned up Beale and walked the 4 blocks to the entertainment district.

Steve had the group gather up and told them they had a couple hours to grab a lunch and explore the Beale St. area. We would regroup for the hike back at 2. So we all enjoyed the atmosphere and traditions of Beale Street and rested up for the two hour walk back to the cars. Or so leader Steve thought. Being very inventive Alice, Dave and Arlon decided to hire a golf cart taxi to tote them down to the pedestrian bridge! The remainder of us walked back on the trail that follows the top of the bluff. This route takes you into a neighborhood of newer homes that are modeled on Victorian homes like those found in Savannah. Past this area is a small bridge over Riverside Drive and the trail back to the bridge.

So the next time you are in Memphis and want an outdoor adventure with an urban flare, look at the Big River Bridge trail and you can go walking in Memphis with a beautiful view.



Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal

Dues are for one calendar year and include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, Pack & Paddle, and conservation bulletins. Remit to: The Ozark Society, Inc., PO Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203, including 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 | - Contributing/Sustaining: \$25 |
| - Individual Students: \$5.00 (High School or College, if not included with Family) | - Life: \$200 (over age 65: \$100) This is for OS membership only, does not apply to chapter membership) |

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

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Address: _____

Email*: _____

Amount _____

Enclosed: _____

****Newsletters will be emailed unless you notify us otherwise.***