



PADDLE TRAILS



THE OZARK SOCIETY
PULASKI CHAPTER



December 2017

www.ozarksociety.net

Pulaski Chapter Meetings

Our regular meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Second Presbyterian. The upcoming meeting will **NOT** be held at Second Presbyterian:

December 5 - Christmas Party!

**6pm at Stewart and Debbie
Noland's House
5210 Sherwood Rd.
Little Rock**

*Bring a dish to share,
and a Friend!*



Pulaski Chapter Officers 2017-2018

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From the Desk of the President: Janet Nye

I think we all know that when we come together to meet, to hike, to paddle to eat and to speak up for the places we love, we feel a bond with each other in our activity. Sometimes it feels very difficult to continue the efforts to preserve our rivers and lands, but it's in gathering together that we are reminded of our mission and our passion.

We had a great moment at our last meeting with Dan Scheiman of Audubon Arkansas. It is exciting to know that Friends of Fourche Creek (FOFC) is actively working to make this stream navigable and aesthetically pleasing. Of course they have worked for years with others to clean this stream and they need our help as well. Being a part of FOFC will continue our efforts to make a difference in this state. Dan also spoke of the "drain smart" program where signage is placed on city drains telling of the reality of water and trash going directly to Fourche Creek or the Arkansas River. We hope to have an outing where many of us put these signs on drains. We will set a date for this.

We will have a donation basket at our Christmas party should you want to give for this drain smart program.

And...yes, our Christmas party is this Tuesday, Dec. 5 at Stewart and Debbie Noland's house, 5210 Sherwood Rd in LR. Please bring a dish to share. We will gather at 6:00.

This coming Saturday, the 2nd, we will meet on our adopted section of the Ouachita Trail to do some light maintenance. This is a very popular section and we all know how wonderful it is to walk on a trail that is well maintained. Please come join us! See the information below.

The Ozark Society has many activities going on and I'm excited about this. We also have several conservation issues that need our help. Join in to be a part!

Finally, I love the words of Wendell Berry. I recently read this poem and I think it sums up one of the reasons we do what we do:

The Peace of Wild Things

"When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

— Wendell Berry, *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*

Hike Report – Big Tree Loop

by Steve Heye

The November hike for the Pulaski Chapter was new location for all of us. The Big Tree loop of the Little Blakely Trails system was the site of the hike. The loop is part of a 4 loop system on a peninsula on Lake Ouachita and is across the cove from the marina for Lake Ouachita State Park. Depending on how you combine the loops, there is over 60 miles of trail, all of it originally built for bikes. The majority are also on former logging roads, but most of Big Tree is off old road and would be a very rough biking trail.

Nine of us ventured out on a fantastic fall day. We met at the Chik-Fil-A lot in Southwest Little Rock about 8 and made the hour long trip over to the trail head lot. The easiest way to get there is to go to the State Park access road and then continue on Hwy. 192 until you see the sign that says Little Blakey Trails. Follow this road all the way to the lot at the end.

As we we're driving in we passed several hunters who were out for the first day of Deer Season. I usually find trails that are safer for hikes during hunting season; in this case the Blakely Trails are in the state park so there shouldn't be any hunting. But a good portion of the hikers wore orange just to be safe.

To access the loops you hike on a trail that takes you to a junction of three loops. You cross a neat whitewater creek on a small bridge and head up an old road to the junction at the top of the hill about 0.7 miles away. Once there, the Big Tree loop split off to the right and yet another trail would break off left about a tenth of a mile down Big Tree. We would return on that trail to complete the loop.

The trail headed up to the ridge that makes the spine of the peninsula. Nice outcrop of rock and even some quartz are along this ridge as you follow it for a while before descending to the lake. Once down near the lake, the trail snakes its way around drainage and the lake. This trail is not on an old road so it looks a lot more like a hiking trail than one for mountain bikes.



About two hours into the hike we picked a spot overlooking the lake for lunch. It had warmed up into the low 60's with a sun out it was quite comfortable. We got going again about 45 minutes later and continued working along the lake to another trail junction. We had been out about 2 1/2 hours and gone a little over 4 miles to reach this point. We would turn left here and work our way up an old roadbed trail about a mile to the junction I mentioned earlier we had passed. Walking on the old roadbed sections was great and the grades were easy hiking as well. It was not long we reached the junction. From here it was a quick trip to junction with the access trail.

Over all we did close to 6 miles in about 4 hours, including break. Everyone was impressed with the Big Tree loop and would like to come back and try another loop sometime. We just may do that on a future hike.

THE DECEMBER HIKE: Our December 9 hike will be the first section of the new Buffalo River Trail, Grinders Ferry to Zack Ridge Road. This is about 6 miles and will be up and down a few times. In the last mile is Bear Creek. This will be a wet crossing, so bring wet shoes and maybe zip off pants. If it's too deep, we will find another section to do. Be at Morgan McDonalds at 7:30 to pool up or meet us at Harps Grocery in Marshal by 10. You will be back in Little Rock late, after 6.

Also on March 10: Alan and Janet will lead a hike into the Nature Conservancy's Bluffton Preserve in the watershed of Archey Fork of the Little Red. Scott Simon had slides of this property when he spoke with our chapter earlier this year.



The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal



Join us, or renew now! Dues are for one year and they include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*. To join or renew, go online to the Ozark Society website at www.ozarksociety.net. Or you can fill out this form and send it with a check written to "The Ozark Society." See below for our address.

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email 1: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

Email 2: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

I would like *Pack and Paddle* sent to my home address instead of by email. (Default is email.)

Please check one:

- New Member (Start at **Section A** for your OS and Chapter Membership)
- Renewal (Start at **Section A** to renew your OS and Chapter Membership)
- LIFE Member (Start at **Section B** to renew just your Chapter Membership)

Section A: Please specify both the Level of Membership and the Chapter you are joining:

Level: *(choose one)*

- Friend: \$30 = \$20 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Associate: \$50 = \$40 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Supporter: \$100 = \$90 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Sponsor: \$250 = \$240 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Patron: \$500 = \$490 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Benefactor: \$1000+ = \$990+ OS +\$10 Chapter

Chapter: *(choose one)*

- 01 Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- 04 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- 06 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- 10 Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- 13 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- 16 Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- No chapter, all to central Ozark Society

Section B: For Members who wish to join more than one Chapter or Life Members renewing their Chapter Membership only

Choose as many as you wish and add \$10 for each selection:

- \$10 01 Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- \$10 04 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- \$10 06 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- \$10 10 Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- \$10 13 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- \$10 16 Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)

My Total is: \$ _____

Please remit to: The Ozark Society, PO Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203

Once your membership has processed, you will receive a welcome letter if you are new to the Ozark Society. If you have questions about your membership status, contact Mary Gordon at mb2rene@aol.com.