



# PADDLE TRAILS



THE OZARK SOCIETY  
PULASKI CHAPTER



April 2018

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

## ***Pulaski Chapter Meetings***

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

**April 3, 2018**

**Dr. Chris Middaugh of AGFC**  
"Interactive Effects of Flow Regime, Climate Change, and Angler Harvest on Smallmouth Bass at the Southern Range Extent".

***Bring a friend!***

**Membership**

***Thank you to all members who renewed this month!***

## ***Pulaski Chapter Officers 2017-2018***

Chair- Janet Nye  
[jbnye14@swbell.net](mailto:jbnye14@swbell.net)  
501-258-7138

Vice Chair- Mary Schlatterer  
[schlattererm@yahoo.com](mailto:schlattererm@yahoo.com)

Treasurer/Membership-Joseph LaFace  
[jdlaface@conwaycorp.net](mailto:jdlaface@conwaycorp.net)

Outings- Steve Heye  
[steve\\_hey@aristotle.net](mailto:steve_hey@aristotle.net)  
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## **From the Desk of the President: Janet Nye**

I believe that this is a great time to be a member of the Ozark Society. I'm feeling a lot of energy from members throughout the whole Society as we work together to focus on preserving the beauty of the Buffalo. I hope that you are maintaining an

awareness of what is happening with conservation. Events and opportunities to be active are happening quickly and with great support. We all need to contribute in whatever way we are able.

I'm loving our meetings. Last month we were treated to Claudia and Andrew Carberry as they creatively shared their journey on the Appalachian Trail in 2016. If you have wanted to know anything about long distance hiking they are a great resource. Thanks so much, Carberrys!

I want to encourage all of you to join us at Tyler Bend on April 21. We have the group campsite reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. On Saturday there is a hike and a float planned. Our amazing and fun pot luck will be that evening. This is a great time for fun, to connect with friends and to learn more about our organization. Our family has made these biannual events a part of our schedule since 1981, it's what we do.

Thanks to all the new and renewing members! Keep checking out our website, it is changing and becoming more user friendly. Thanks to Carolyn Shearman for her countless hours of work.

April is here and it's time to pick up the poles and paddles if you haven't already. I look forward to seeing you Tuesday night and on the river and/or the trail!



*Blood root in bloom at Bluffton Preserve*

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## BLUFFTON PRESERVE HIKE

By Janet Nye

The Sentinel, the Watergate, Wonder Trail, Razorback Ridge, Isom Mountain, Archey Community, Wobble Rock, Leaning Rock - these are just a few of the place names we explored at Bluffton Preserve, a Nature Conservancy property in Van Buren County on March 9. We had 13 hikers along for this very diverse adventure.

We met at the Bluffton Cemetery and then drove to the ford of the Archey Fork. We all learned that a Jeep Cherokee can hold 5-7 people and ford a fast-flowing stream 5 times. Thanks to the skilled driving of Kevin, Farrel Couch's step-son, we began and ended our hike with dry feet.

Farrel's family owned this property in the late 80's and early 90's. Oh, I'm getting ahead of myself. Farrel Couch is an Ozark Society member from the Buffalo River chapter. All I have to say about Farrel is that if you haven't hiked with him, you need to make it a priority. He is very knowledgeable about everything hiking related, he is respectful and will never get you lost. He's been hiking the Ozarks since he was a child and his mind is a trap for all that he's learned over the years.

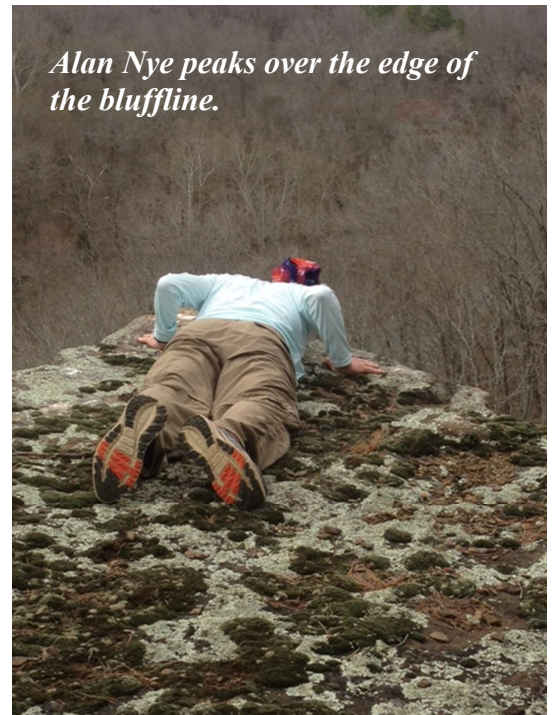
So after the ford of the Archey Fork we walked an old road up to Razorback Ridge (the Nature Conservancy has another name for it, but we were with Farrel so I will use his name for it), which is a series of house size blocks of stone that line up to form a bluff. I have never seen a bluff like this one. The view from the top was the Archey Fork and the fields and hills beyond. So beautiful.

After lunch by the Archey we followed Kevin and Farrel through fields of saw briars, grasses and all manner of prickly things searching for memories of the beauty of the area. Following these two is like following two puppies as they were searching for special places from their memory. We eventually scrambled up another bluff which gave us a view up the Archey and across the valley where we had previously been. Our first test was to trust the wobble rock. I'm not good with sizing, but I will say this slab of sandstone was BIG and hung out over the bluff line. The name of this slab of rock describes what happens if someone stands on it and, yes, it makes a person a little uneasy to feel a wobble beneath your feet while looking across a valley, 170 feet up. To the other end of the bluff line we went and belly crawled our way to the overlook.

Of course, since it was early spring, I had my wildflower antennae up. I was fortunate to see spring beauty, toothwort, blood root, and Ozark trout lilly pushing through the brown crunching leaf litter. The perennial spring indicator of a former home was also in bloom-jonquils.

Farrel is passionate about this special place. It is beautiful. Not only is it great for hiking - bring a canoe or kayak and launch here. The float is about 7 miles to Clinton. For those who like to fish, I'm told there's some great holes to throw a line in.

This is a great place and I'm thankful for its preservation.



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## **Upcoming Events**

### **APRIL 7 HIKE: OUACHITA TRAIL – 133.6 TO 138.8 BIG BRANCH SECTION. MODERATE.**

This is a wonderful stretch of the Ouachita Trail as it parallels the Big Branch creek down to Lake Ouachita. The hike is a little over 5 miles. We will visit Big Branch shelter along the trail. If we're lucky the wildflowers will be coming out.

Bring boots and a lunch. Meet at the Chick-Fil-A parking lot near Bass Pro at 8 am to carpool or meet us at the Hwy. 298 trail head at 9:30. Steve's contacts: 501-455-2210 or [Heye@aristotle.net](mailto:Heye@aristotle.net).

### **APRIL 20-22: All-Society Meeting at Tyler Bend.**

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Ozark Society Spring membership meeting. The focus of the weekend will be on outings; floating, wildflower hikes or just plain relaxing along the beautiful Buffalo. The group campground is reserved for us and a light breakfast will be provided at the Tyler Bend Pavilion on Saturday morning.

Everyone is on their own for lunch as they spend their day enjoying what the Buffalo has to offer. That evening at 6:00 PM we will gather back at the pavilion for a potluck feast, followed by musical entertainment. Bring a lawn chair and your favorite dish and plan on a great time. Nothing beats the Buffalo in the spring! Contact: Laura Timby at [laurab2053@gmail.com](mailto:laurab2053@gmail.com)

### **MAY 5 HIKE: MOUNT NEBO STATE PARK BENCH TRAIL – EASY.**

The bench trail around the top of Mt. Nebo will be a bout 5 miles on a flat bench. We will meet at the Morgan Mc Donalds at 9 am to carpool up or meet us at the Park Visitor's Center at 10. Bring a lunch and good shoes. Call or email if you are coming along. Steve: 501-455-2210 or [heye@aristotle.net](mailto:heye@aristotle.net)

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## **Bio from Dr. Chris Middaugh Speaker for April 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

I grew up in Little Rock and then attended Lyon College for my undergraduate degree where I majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. I then attended Purdue University where I studied juvenile largemouth bass and bluegill dynamics in lakes in Indiana. From there, I worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as a Fisheries Biologist for about two years. I then went to the University of Arkansas for my Ph.D. where I studied the effects of flow regime and climate change on smallmouth bass in Ozark streams. From there, I was hired by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission as a Research Biologist in our Research, Evaluation, and Compliance Division. they planned for this adventure, obstacles they faced, and what made this trip unforgettable. Trail photos of scenery, wildlife, and trail culture will be inspiring!



# 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](http://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](mailto:mb2rene@aol.com).