

I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best." - Dr. Neil Compton



An anonymous donor has made a generous offer of \$10,000 for the OS Legal Fund if the rest of the membership can match it. The intent of the gift was to sustain the OS battle to preserve the Buffalo River from Hog Farm degradation.

Legal Fund Matching Challenge **By David Peterson**

If you can help us with the match, please go to: www.ozarksociety.net/donat ions/ and click the donate button or send a check to the Legal Fund, The Ozark Society, PO Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Thanks to the generous friends and members who have contributed to the Legal Fund, including memorials to Roy Senyard we already have a great start of \$1,350.



Alice Andrews to Receive a 2018 Neil Compton Award By Alan Nye

Join Us as We Celebrate Alice **Andrew's Neil Compton Award**

"Ozark Alice" Andrews of Little Rock is a more than 40-year member of the Ozark Society and is honored as the latest recipient of the Neil Compton Award for her tireless work in conservation. Alice has served extended terms as Ozark President Society and Conservation Chair, finding herself in the middle of many conservation battles to preserve water and air quality and wilderness areas in Arkansas. For all her work in conservation, many of us most fondly recall and deeply appreciate her leadership in helping to organize extended trips on the Buffalo River.



We will celebrate Alice's Neil Award on Saturday, Compton October 20, 2018 at 80 Belle River Point, Maumelle, AR, 72113 at Janet and Alan Nye's home on the Arkansas River. We will party from 4:30 pm until 7:00 pm. Be there as President David Peterson presents the award to Alice at 5 pm.

At Alice's request, the celebration will be a fund raiser to benefit the Ozark Society's efforts to preserve and protect the Buffalo National River. Effective now until October 20, 2018, Legal Fund donations honoring Alice Andrews and Dr. Doug James, our most recent recipients of the Neil Compton Award, and the recommended \$20 donation at the door will count toward the matching pledge of \$10,000 David Peterson has outlined in his article above. Please don't miss the opportunity to double your own gifts given to preserve and protect the Buffalo National River!

The 13th Annual Secchi Day By Chris Kline

On August 18th nearly 700 people entered the festival grounds at Prairie Creek on Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas to celebrate the 13th Annual Secchi Day. Taking its name from Secchi disks used to measure the depth of water visibility in lakes and rivers, this Science Education Dav by Beaver organized Water District offered а mobile aguarium demonstration, onshore scavenger hunts with prizes, free lunch and ice cream, kayak and stand-up paddle-board test rides, hands-on science activities, microscope activities, a photo contest and musical performances, including Water Fun Facts with Papa Rap and Marshallese dances and crafts. This was the first year the Ozark Society served as a partner for this event. Working with Hobbs State Park, our volunteers offered participants free kayak rides. Ozark Society members helped participants into life jackets, loaded them into kayaks,

and later helped pull them safely off Beaver Lake.



Under a large canopy, along with many other partners, the Ozark Society presented our children's activity. As a constant flow of children moved from exhibit to exhibit, we kept the children interested by having them test the pH of solutions such as Coca-Cola, water from the Buffalo River, vinegar and soda water. They loved using litmus paper to determine if a solution was an acid or a base. As we trudged up the hill to the parking lot after the event, Tom Perry and I reflected on the importance of engaging in this new venture. By participating in both the free kayak rides and the children's hands-on activity, we served the greater community in general and the Beaver Water District specifically. That contribution is important in itself, but it also gives us name recognition, and helps us feel a part of the community. We were able to meet and network with other organizations, including the Master Naturalists, Hobbs State Park, Shiloh Museum and the University of Arkansas Microbiology Department. Lastly, we successfully recruited families for our Ozark Society Young Naturalists program, which begins this fall.



Remarkably, mid-August this year in northwest Arkansas was wet and dreary, but on Conservation Compton Day, August 10, the Ozark Society, along with other conservation organizations, opened our tables to a warm, sunny day. Families and friends browsed through booths, took part in hands-on children's activities,

Compton Conservation Day By Chris Kline

ate free ice cream, and listened to the music of "School of Rock." This 2018 Compton Conservation Day, held at Gardens Compton and Conference Center (the former Compton family home and property) in Bentonville, Arkansas, like every other annual Compton celebration, is historically significant to the

Ozark Society, as here we celebrate the founder of the Ozark Society, Dr. Neil Compton. On this day we remember both the efforts he and many others made to save the Buffalo River from being dammed as well as his endeavors to build a society for families and friends to enjoy nature in the Ozarks while

Compton Conservation Day... continued

working to keep our natural resources available for generations to come. He accomplished both of these goals!

The Ozark Society was well represented with three display tables and a pH testing activity for children of all ages. Books, puzzles and T-shirts were sold, while posters supporting the Buffalo River and the Roberts Tract of the Buffalo River Trail were displayed. The "umbrella" Ozark Society, Sugar Creek and Highlands chapters, Ozark Society Young Naturalists, along the Ozark with Society Foundation, were represented. Volunteers were stationed at

every table and yet there was time for everyone to mill around and enjoy the day. Yes, we were present at this occasion!

The layout for this year's event encouraged people to wander and engage with interactive displays while stopping to listen to Phat Tire's Bike Safety talks and beekeepers' demonstrations. Participants Buffalo included River **Buffalo** Watershed Alliance. River Partners, Ozark Natural Science Center, Hobbs State Park, the Arkansas Environmental Education National Association, Park Service staff at the Buffalo National River, Buffalo River

Foundation, and the Arkansas Master Naturalists, just to name a few. At the evening tribute reception in the Conference Center, Ozark Society President David Peterson described some Ozark Society historical highlights as well as current To conclude the activities. program Flip Putthoff from the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette offered some personal anecdotes about Dr. Compton. The turnout was good; the company was great; and the presentations were noteworthy. Next year be sure to put this event on your calendar and join us!

Ozark Society Election of Officers October 13th By Lucas Parsch

The fall meeting of the Uzark Society will take place at Lake Claiborne State Park in northwest Louisiana over the weekend of October 12-14 (Fri-Sun). One important order of business at the membership meeting on October 13 will be the election of officers to the Ozark Society Board of Directors. Positions up for election to a two-year term are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Conservation Chair, Education Chair, Membership Chair, and Communications Chair/Pack & Paddle Editor. In addition, State Directors (i.e., board members at-large) for Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri will also be elected.

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominees and/or volunteers who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors by running for one of these important Ozark Society positions. Interested persons should contact one of the following nominating committee members for more information:

Janet Nye:

jbnye14@swbell.net or 501-258-7138

Luke Parsch: <u>lparsch@uark.edu</u> or 479-442-3817

Sandy Roerig: <u>sroeri@lsuhsc.edu</u> or 318-686-9481 A listing of current 2017-18 Ozark Society Board members can be found at <u>https://www.ozarksociety.net/</u> <u>about-us/ozark-society-</u> officers-2015-2016/

Duties of officers can be found in the Ozark Society Bylaws at https://www.ozarksociety.net/ wpcontent/uploads/2012/04/BYL

AWS 4-2010.pdf

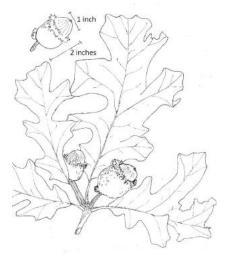


Buffalo River Bur Oak – A Blast from the Distant Past By Fred Paillet

The Ozark Plateau is considered to lie in what the Forest Service designates as the oak-hickory biome. Early land office survey data show that Ozark forests were about 70% oak at the time the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase. The oaks growing on the ridges and cliffs around the Buffalo River come in so many varieties that many of us find it hard to tell one from another. Some like white, black and post oaks are common and widespread, while others are associated with special habitats limestone such as outcrops (chinguapin oak) and poorly drained lowlands (pin oak). Bur oak (Quercus macrocarpa) is a relatively infrequently encountered oak that grows throughout the Ozark region, telling an interesting story about our region's deep past.

Investigations of the prehistory of Midwest America showed that giant mammals such as mastodons and ground sloths once roamed our region while a great sheet of ice covered almost all of Canada. Investigations at sites where such fossil remains were found showed that the vegetation associated with those fossils was very different from what is found in the Ozarks today. Before the cause of these geologically recent glacial events were known it was sometimes thought that the regions south of the great ice sheets were hardly affected by the coming and going

of the northern ice. More recent evidence, however, has shown that the coming and going of ice sheets in the "Ice Age" affected all parts of the globe in a major way. The ability of the atmosphere to absorb and transport water vapor depends on air temperature, so that any cooling of the earth is accompanied by a significantly reduced ability of the atmosphere to transport water. In times of the past, colder times at high latitude corresponded with drier times at lower latitudes. Fossil leaves, pine needles and pollen dated to Ice Age times in the Ozarks provide an idea of what the local scenery was like in those colder and drier times.



Foliage and acorns of bur oak showing the shape and size of the large, leathery leaves and the unusually large acorns with their distinctive fringe of "burs" on the edge of the acorn "cup".

The most detailed picture of Ice Age climate in the Ozarks is provided by the pollen recovered from Cupola Pond, а small sinkhole in southeastern Missouri. The pollen rain about 20,000 years ago consisted of pine and spruce pollen with a small but consistent amount of oak pollen. Fossil pine needles recovered with a mastodon skeleton in southeastern Kansas shows that the pine was jack pine (Pinus banksiana), a species known to extend as far as the arctic circle in the frigid and dry interior of Canada today. Hardly any oaks ever grow in the company of jack pine where that tree lives at present. So, we question what sort of oak would have been around in Arkansas and Missouri at the height of the Ice Age glacial advances.

Biologists look for modern analogs to fossil pollen assemblies. Sometimes these cannot be found, suggesting that there were once plant associations unlike any around today. But we can find a modern analog for the Ice Age Ozarks in south-central Manitoba along the shores of Lake Winnipeg. Bur oak grows there in the company of jack pine and spruce in a relatively arid climate on the prairie border in an environment too cold and dry for any other oaks, or for other northern hardwoods such as sugar maple and beech. The ability of bur oak to withstand cold and drought is indicated by its presence on the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains today in

Bur Oak By Fred Paillet continued....

Wyoming, and by genetic evidence that it interbred with shrub oaks of Colorado and New Mexico in the past. For these reasons the sporadic occurrence of bur oak in the Ozarks today is evidence of the presence of that tree as the predominant oak species at a time when the local climate was too cold and dry for any other oak species.

Where in our area can we see bur oak today? An easily accessible location (there's even a paved walking trail) is the city park in Farmington, Arkansas. Several huge, open grown bur oaks are found along the small drainage running beside the central open area in the park. These trees are relicts of the original forest where they grew around the edges of small wet prairies associated with poorly draining soils with clay hardpans impeding drainage. Such prairie edge habitats are where bur oak is often seen in locations farther north such as western Minnesota. But hikers can also find small numbers of bur oak mixed in with the other oaks in locations adjacent to the Buffalo River. They are not common but can be found if you look for them. Two examples are on the upper part of the Cecil Cove Trail a mile or so from the Erbie

Road trailhead, and on the west side of Round Mountain along the trail that circles the upper slopes of the mountain where it overlooks the Little Buffalo River near Jasper. Bur oak looks a lot like other oaks, so the best way to find the trees is to look for the distinctive large (hence the Latin name "macrocarpa") and leathery leaves or the fragments of unusually large acorns (see figure) on the ground along the trail. Searching for the locally rare bur oak is as good an excuse as any for getting out on the trail, as if any such excuse were even necessary.

Dr. Kimberly Smith



Dr. Kimberly Gray (Kim) Smith, member of the board of the Ozark Society Foundation since fall 2011 and chair since January 2013, passed away unexpectedly on April 9. As a Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, he served in many roles and oversaw and collaborated on research in many areas, resulting in over 300 professional publications. Four days before he died, Kim gave his

In Memoriam

retirement seminar, in which he said: "Be curious, be creative, challenge yourself to learn new things... and have fun doing what you do... I did."

Roy Senyard



Roy was a lifelong advocate and lover of the outdoors. He spent decades working to preserve the integrity and beauty of the Arkansas wilderness through his passion for caring for The Ozark Highlands Trail. He was the longtime Maintenance Coordinator for the OHT, organizing the volunteers who keep the trail open by cutting back the side growth of trees and shrubs.

If there was meaningful trail work to be done, Roy was the first person on the scene. Had trees from a storm fallen and blocked the trail? Roy gathered a team together and off they headed to clear the trail passage. Is trail hard maintenance work? lt certainly can be. But Roy was so much fun to be with, and so friendly -- the crew members just wanted to be with him. He joked, he laughed, he taught newbies the ropes. He made the work fun, plus it was all for the great benefit of Arkansas's beloved Ozark Highlands Trail. Wow, could he run a chainsaw! And his attention to safety and technique was impeccable.



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) (Start at Section A to renew your OS and Chapter Membership) □ Renewal (Start at Section B to renew just your Chapter Membership) □ LIFE Member **Section A:** Please specify both the Level of Membership and the Chapter you are joining: Level: (choose one) **Chapter:** *(choose one)* □ Friend: = \$20 OS + \$10 Chapter □ Pulaski (Little Rock, AR) \$30 = \$40 OS + \$10 Chapter □ Associate: \$50 □ Bayou (Shreveport, LA) □ Supporter: 100 = 90 OS + 10 Chapter☐ Highlands (Fayetteville, AR) □ Sponsor: 250 = 240 OS + 10 Chapter□ Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO) \square Patron: \$500 = \$490 OS + \$10 Chapter□ Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR) 1000 + = 990 + OS + 10 Chapter □ Benefactor: □ Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR) □ No chapter, all to overall 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 Pulaski (Little Rock, AR) Bayou (Shreveport, LA)) □ \$10 □ \$10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR) □ \$10 Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO) □ \$10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)

 \Box \$10 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 <u>mb2rene@aol.com</u>.

Ozark Society T-Shirts By Chris Kline, Membership Chair

T-shirts are here and they are great!!!! These are light grey with this Buffalo River graphic on the front. This graphic is proprietary to the Ozark Society, not to be copied. There are a few of the forest green ones left so contact Chris if you want one of those instead: cl kline@sbcglobal.net



Ozark Society T-shirt Order Form

Adult T-Shirts

Please specify quantity per size						Specify cost per quantity: Adult T-shirts+ \$20 each, shipping=\$4 each		
S	М	L	XL	XXL	3XL	T-shirt \$	Shipping \$	Total Cost per size:

Children's T-Shirts

Please spec	ify quantit	y per	Specify cost per quantity: Child's T-shirts=\$15 each, \$4=shipping each			
size						
Child's	Child's	Child's	T-Shirt \$	Shipping \$	Total Cost per size	
Small	Medium	Large			-	

Order Total _____

Ship to Name: _____

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email:

Make Checks Payable to: The Ozark Society

Address: Chris Kline

801 N. Rush Dr.

Fayetteville AR, 72701

*If you are ordering 3 or more, contact Chris at cl_kline@sbcglobal.net for revised shipping estimate.

High-Pointing the States: Part Three – The Western Swing By Steve Heye

This is the third in a series of my adventure to visit as many of the fifty US states' highest points. We've visited the six states that surround Arkansas and Mt. Magazine in the previous two episodes. This time we'll look at a trip I took in August of 2013 to visit 5 western states: Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas.

Since I covered Oklahoma in part one, I'll just say that it was the first stop on this trip. I left Little Rock and drove over 700 miles that day to the panhandle and stayed in a state park that was near Black Mesa. The following day I got up and did the Mesa before lunch then made my way from Kenton, Oklahoma west into New Mexico, heading for Taos.

New Mexico

It was interesting to drive the back county and state roads in N.E. New Mexico. The high plains gullies and scrub made for an eye-opening trip. I finally was on U.S. 64 to Cimarron to make a quick visit to the Philmont Scout Ranch on my way to Taos.

I arrived in Taos about 6 pm, ate dinner and decided to get closer to my target, Wheeler Peak, by driving up to the Taos Ski Area. The most direct trail for the mountain top leaves a parking lot at the base of the ski area. I rigged my car to sleep in the back and went to bed, ready for my 7.5-mile round trip to summit Wheeler Peak.

I got up about 6, had a quick breakfast and started up the trail as it went through the Ski Run. Above the run you'll come to Williams Lake. Here you take a steep trail that goes across the western scree slope of Wheeler. A few long switchbacks and you make it to the trail that runs the ridge containing the peak. Another half mile or so and you are on top of the highest point in New Mexico, 13,161 feet.



The view is very nice. To the west is Williams Lake and the Ski runs, to the north the peaks in Southern Colorado and to the east and south more of the mountains of the Sangre de Cristo. I had lunch on top and headed back to the car to start my way to Mt. Elbert in Colorado. Wheeler Peak was my 15th high point.

Colorado

It was the evening of August 2nd and I pulled into a KOA in Alamosa, Colorado just before dinner. I decided to stay at place that had a shower and WIFI tonight since I had been on the road for 3 long days and over 1000 miles. August 3rd would be a play day for me with a visit to the Great Sand Dunes and a leisurely trip up to the campground for my hike up Elbert on August 4th. I had dinner in Leadville and got a sandwich for the next day's hike.

I spent the night in my car again at the North Mt. Elbert Trail head. From here I would have about a ten-mile round trip to the top of Elbert and back on the North Mt. Elbert Trail and the Colorado Trail. The elevation difference was roughly 4700 feet from the parking lot to the peak. At 14,440 feet, only Mt. Whitney in California is higher in the lower 48 than Mt. Elbert.

I left my car about 6 am on a starfilled morning, hoping to beat any afternoon storms while I was above the tree line. The trail is well used and maintained, but for some reason it was having the better of me. I reached the tree line about 9:30 having gone only about 3 miles, I could see my pace was way off. The next two miles were where the mountain threw everything it had at me. It would take me 4 hours to go those two miles, one to two hundred feet at a time. Mean ol' Mr. Altitude had struck me.



High-Pointing By Steve Heye continued

The 3000-foot gain on Wheeler two days earlier had been a piece of cake, but for some reason I could not get my breath without stopping for 30 seconds every 150 feet. I am not used to being passed so much. The locals would smile and say an encouraging word as they skipped by and I slugged up the trail to the top.

Finally, at 1:30 pm, seven hours after I had left camp, I reached the summit of Elbert. Victory lunch and was mine! "KaaaaRACK!" I no more than sat down to eat when a storm over nearby Independence pass was headed our way. I got the pictures, grabbed my pack and sandwich and started back down the trail. this time with some incentive: Hail and lightning. I got back to the car about 4 pm and drove to my cousin's house in Denver for the night. Mt. Elbert tried to stop me, but I bagged number 16!

Nebraska and Kansas

I spent the next day visiting my Colorado Cousins. Leaving Denver early on August 6th, to try and conquer both states in the same day. I headed north about 130 miles to the spot where Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska come together. Nebraska's high point is within a mile of this junction. I arrived just south of there in the town of Grover, Colorado for lunch at

the only store/cafe in town. It was the best lunch I have ever eaten at a Post Office!

After lunch I drove north from town to visit the 3-state point first and then drive the couple of miles over to Panorama Point, Nebraska. The 3-state marker was my second on this trip. having visited the Colorado Oklahoma, & N. Mexico marker a few days earlier.

Nebraska's high point is on a buffalo ranch and has one road in and out. You are asked for a donation to maintain the road and site. You drive up a small rise to the marker and sign-in board. From here you see the high plains in all directions. To the southwest at the bottom of the rise is the 3-state marker. Panorama Point is 5,429 feet above sea level and was high point number 17.



It was about 2 pm when I left for the Kansas' high point, Mt. Sunflower, which lies about 250 miles to the south east. On my way through Colorado, I took a lot of back roads and saw a lot of the high plains that I had never seen. I also found my Aunt's old home in Ft. Morgan as I passed through. It would take me about 4 hours to finally reach the second high point of the day.

Mt. Sunflower is located about 20 miles south of I-70 at the Colorado/Kansas line.



The route is well marked from the exit and it's a series of roads on section lines to get there. Being flat Kansas, the state's highest point is not a mountain at all, but a flat area just a mile from the State Line. At 4039 feet, Mt. Sunflower is an easy one to visit. You have only to drive up and get out of the car. I took the photos, signed the register and headed for Goodland, Kansas for a hot dinner and a motel having bagged my 18th high point.

So that's the loop I call the Western Swing. All of these points are not that out of the way the next time you are driving to Colorado for the Society gathering or any other reason.



Ozark Society P.O. Box 2914 Little Rock, AR 72203

Please Note: If you would like to receive *Pack & Paddle* ONLY by email, not through US Mail, please contact Mary Gordon at <u>mb2rene@aol.com</u>.

Ozark Society General Meeting – October 13-14 By Sandra Roerig

Join us at the Lake Claiborne Nature Center Building. Your host is the Bayou Chapter and here is our agenda:

Saturday, October 13 8:00am Registration and

Breakfast – Provided by Bayou Chapter

9:30am Welcome to Meeting – Roy O'Neal, Bayou Chapter

Chair

9:35am Welcome to Park – Wesley Harris, Park Ranger 9:45am General Meeting –

David Peterson, Ozark Society Chair

11:00am Talk by Jeff Girard – Louisiana state archaeologist

12:00 pm Lunch on your own 1:00 pm Afternoon activities – contact trip leaders at the event for details

- Hike up Mt. Driskill Dick Maxwell, leader
- Hike in Park Vickie Rech, leader
- Orienteering in Park Jenny and Gary Hackman, leaders

6:00pm Pot Luck Dinner – all members 7:30pm Cajun Music – Monty and Marsha Brown

Sunday, October 14

8:00am Leftover Breakfast 9:00am Ozark Society Board meeting – David Peterson, Chair

Some Other Oct-Nov Activities:

October 6	Pulaski Chapter Hike to Petit
	Jean State Park Cedar Falls
October 13-14	All OS meeting at Lake
	Claiborne LA
October 12-19	Buffalo River Trail Building
October 17	Buffalo River Chapter Trail
	Work Day
October 20	Alice Andrews Neil Compton
	Award Celebration
October 21	Wilderness Grand Tour Hike
October 27-28	Pulaski Chapter Goat Trail &
	Hemmed in Hollow Hike
October 27	Bayou Chapter Poverty Point
	Tour
November 3	Bayou Chapter Red River
	Clean-up
November 4	Buffalo River Chapter Meet,
	Hike and Potluck
November 10	Pulaski Chapter Sylamore Trail
	Hike
November 11	Buffalo River Chapter Buzzard
	Roost Hike