



PACK & PADDLE



Winter
December 2018

*“The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all.
I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best.” - Dr. Neil Compton*

Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee (BBRAC) Meeting (11/13/18)

David Peterson

At a recent BBRAC meeting in Little Rock, several agencies reported some action. The Health Department reported on a small survey of septic systems in Newton County, and the Geology Department has stunning new relief maps of the watershed. But the most important meeting announcements were by Mark Faust, the new Superintendent of the Buffalo National River, and Billy Justus of the Little Rock office of the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Faust announced a “Buffalo River Science Symposium” scheduled for April 23-24 at the Durand Center in Harrison. The idea is to present as much science pertaining to the Buffalo River watershed as possible. This could be an opportunity to exchange ideas with researchers and regulators like the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the Big Creek Research Extension Team and the many citizen advocacy groups like the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, Ozark Society, etc.



Justus made a presentation about microbial source testing on Mill Creek, which is notorious for years of pollution from non-functioning sewage treatment at Dog Patch, and also from cattle farms in the Crooked Creek drainage, which none-the-less contributes to Mill Creek because of karst. They are differentiating between poultry, humans and cattle, but not hogs yet. On the positive side, this might indicate where to spend resources if BBRAC were to get some money. On the negative side, this might be used to excuse farm interests if on this most polluted tributary, there is shown high human input. The bigger picture is this: If they get their techniques

down, they intend to do similar studies on the main stem and try to correlate E. coli with various sources, particularly springs, tributaries and human peeing on gravel bars. They hope to do similar modeling for nutrients.

On several long sampling trips of the main stem of the Buffalo, the USGS team found that the algae problem on the river this year was most severe in the middle river downstream from Woolum, suggesting that phosphorus and nitrate pollution on the river was more widespread than just C&H hog farm on Big Creek. A main culprit was elevated nitrate levels in ground water found in springs and other sources. But algae problems are difficult to predict, so several more years of study are merited.



The OS Young Naturalists By Chris Kline

What a beautiful sight! It's certainly uplifting to see children and parents' hike in our local parks while observing butterflies, identifying native trees, listening to birdcalls and discovering animal tracks. Ozark Society Young Naturalists began sessions this fall for children ages seven to nine.



This new initiative for the Highlands and Sugar Creek Chapters of the Ozark Society presents outdoor learning opportunities in the fall and spring. Each Sunday afternoon focuses on a different topic. Geology, botany, entomology, reptile

studies and bird appreciation are topics for our Sunday outings. Hiking while discovering birds and bugs, rocks and flowers seems like a great way for families with young children to spend Sunday afternoons!

We generally have between 11 or 12 students along with their parents or grandparents. They include students from at least 4 elementary schools. This fall we partnered with the Audubon Society, Master Naturalists, Prism Elementary, and the University of Arkansas Entomology Department. The program greatly benefited from critical input, program presentation and support provided by other organizations.

What's going on now? We're planning our spring sessions. Presently, a geology unit is in the works and the Master Naturalists will be

presenting an insect program. We are also considering a session on wild flowers.



During the interim period between the fall and spring sessions, we provide Sunday hikes. Honestly, these hikes have not been as well attended as the learning sessions. Undeterred, we're thinking of changing things up a bit, and working on map reading skills as we hike in our local parks.

Beers/Brews: Save the Buffalo By Chris Kline

As November turned cold in northwest Arkansas, a warm reception and great brews awaited friends of the Buffalo River at two coordinated events in our area. Organized by Buffalo River, Highlands and Sugar Creek Chapters "Beers for the Buffalo" on November 8 at Fossil Cove Brewery in

Fayetteville raised \$1200 for our legal fund while stirring interest and concern for our own Buffalo River. A week later (11/15) in Bentonville "Brews for the Buffalo" at Airship Coffee brought in another \$1000 for our legal fund. But we raised more than monetary support

for the Buffalo, as the business community joined the Ozark Society to raise awareness of the dangers of Hog Farming near the Buffalo River.

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Beers/Brews... continued

Both events followed a similar agenda. Drew Lee, a history student at the University of Arkansas, presented a PowerPoint on the history of the battle for the Buffalo. He then highlighted current concerns for the pollution caused by the C & H Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Finally, he focused on the positive actions we need to take in order to keep the Buffalo River safe and clean. At the Fayetteville benefit, Teresa Turk presented a video of the hazards of algae growth, while in Bentonville Drew showed slides on the same topic. Adding continuity and humor, Laura Timby served as MC for the Fayetteville event, while Lowell Collins hosted the Bentonville occasion.



Ken Smith, a conservationist instrumental in the original battle to keep the

Buffalo River from being dammed, spoke passionately on the need for a no-retreat, full court press approach to save the Buffalo. Door prizes were awarded, and donations flowed in as conversations ebbed and flowed around a common interest in keeping our Buffalo River clean, safe and healthy. Supporters took turns signing letters to Governor Asa Hutchison expressing their concern for the health of our beautiful river. Music provided by Still on the Hill, Joel Emerson, Justin Leflar, Shannon Wurst and Kevin Bennoch added raucous joy, humor and enthusiasm to both events. The venues were packed, and naturally we were happy to see so many young faces in the crowds!

A special thanks goes out to Fossil Cove Brewery, and Airship Coffee for hosting our events, and to the many vendors who supplied door prizes. Fossil Cove Brewery donated \$1 per pint amounting to \$300.00 for our legal fund! Door prizes were provided by: Pack Rat, Still on the Hill, Bike Route, Lewis and Clark,

Overstreet Jewelry, Pedaler's Pub, Phat Tire, Airship Coffee, Beth Keck and Ken Leonard, Buffalo River Chapter, The Ozark Society, and The Ozark Society Foundation. Arvest Bank donated the popcorn and pretzels for both events. Lastly, we need to thank Laura, Lowell and Beth Keck for canvassing the business community for door prizes and securing Fossil Cove and Airship Coffee for these 2 successful events.

What are the take-a-ways from these two events? Networking is fun, effective and efficient; provide beer and they will come; and involving the community in our battle to save the Buffalo strengthens our ability to fight for the things that matter, helps us gain new insights, engages us with concerned people, and helps share the burden of the task. It was great to be part of a 3-chapter working partnership. What can I say? We had a blast, drank a few brews and somehow managed to organize 2 successful benefits for the Buffalo River.

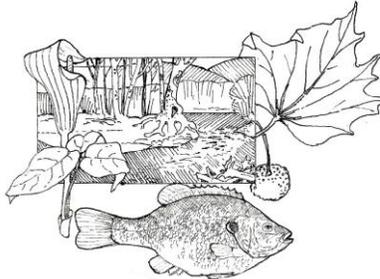
Free-flowing Rivers Versus Dams

By Fred Paillet

Many of us think of rivers and streams as fixed geographic features. In fact, stream channels and the ecosystems that go with them are dynamic parts of our landscape that depend on a delicate equilibrium of natural forces. Streams are characterized by a channel and surrounding alluvial flood plain that represent the geomorphic process of erosion and sediment transport. This channel structure results from an ongoing state of adjustment where local reaches of the stream are intimately interconnected with each other.

A local change to the stream as seemingly inconsequential as occasional access for off road vehicles can affect the stream over large distances both up and down stream. And it's not just the structure of the stream itself. The surrounding ecosystem depends upon the processes that create the stream environment. Trees such as sycamore, box elder, and sweetgum are adapted to use exposed gravel bars as seedbeds. Some of our favorite wildflowers require the rich soil of regularly refreshed alluvial soils that result from infrequent

overflows during flood events.

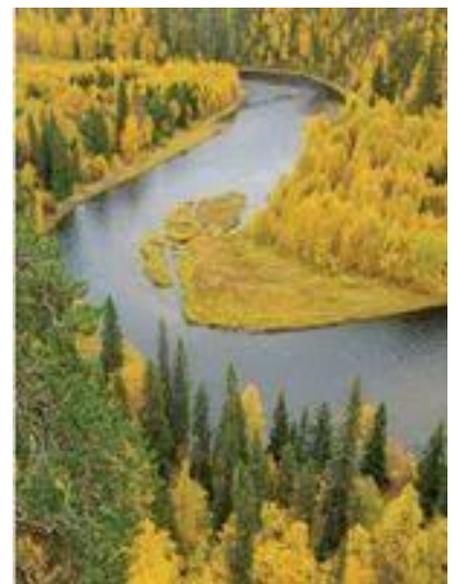


Why restore a free-flowing stream?

Dams, of course, represent an extreme alteration of the stream environment with especially severe consequences for the entire river corridor. The body of stagnant water held by the dam causes the deposition of silt in the reservoir, which significantly affects the erosive power of water in the reach below the dam – along with the sustenance of gravel bar environments that many species depend upon. If you have been following the natural history literature, you know how dramatically the dams on the Colorado River have affected the ecology of the Grand Canyon. Silt trapped behind the dam contains clay particles that absorb contaminants from farm and suburban runoff so that those potentially toxic substances are stored in that environment. The coarse sand and gravel deposits that line free-flowing streams do

not absorb and retain these chemicals.

Dams prevent the movement of fish that have life cycles that require seasonal migration through the stream for spawning or feeding purposes. Some of the endangered mussel species in Ozark streams have become serious concerns for the managers of our public lands just because the interruption of natural fish migration patterns has interfered with their life cycle. For all of these reasons, the emerging call for the removal of outmoded and poorly maintained dams has gained momentum in recent years, making a vital contribution to the restoration of threatened ecosystems.



OS Trips for 2019

Middle Fork Salmon River June 20-26th 2019

Stewart Noland



Stewart Noland is coordinating a Middle Fork of the Salmon River trip working through Aggipah River Trips of Salmon, Idaho. The trip is a 5-night, 6 day trip launching June

20, 2019 from Boundary Creek near Stanley, Idaho. The “on river” cost of the trip is \$2224 if you ride with Aggipah, and \$1564 if you row your own boat. These costs include the Forest Service recreation fee. To hold these costs, a 25% deposit is needed by December 31. There are 24 spots on this trip available on a first come basis. If you have any questions about the trip you can contact Stewart Noland (501-831-9908,

bossq@aol.com) or Bill Bernt with Aggipah (208-756-4167), bill.aggipah.com).

Reservations for the June 20th trip can be made by sending your deposit (\$556. or \$391) to Aggipah River Trips, P.O. Box 425, Salmon, ID 83467 Please contact Stewart Noland if you sign up for this trip so he can help coordinate trip logistics from this end bossq@aol.com.

Buffalo River Float June 5-8th, 2019

Steve Heye

2019 BUFFALO RIVER FLOAT
JUNE 5 TO JUNE 8
OZARK C.G. TO HWY. 65

OPTIONAL DAY FLOAT - KYLES TO OZARK - JUNE 4
- MORE FLOAT DETAILS TO COME!

Steve Heye is organizing a float on the Buffalo National river from June 5-9th, 2019. It will go from the Ozark Camp Ground to Highway 65. There is also the option of a day float on June 4th from Kyle's Landing to the Ozark Camp Ground. The trip details are still in development. We hope to have everything in place by March first.



The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal

Join us, or renew now! Dues are for one year, January-December, 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 (Missouri)
- 13 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- 16 Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- No chapter, all to central Ozark Soc

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 chapter)

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

Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- \$_____ General Conservation Fund
- \$_____ Legal Fund
- \$_____ Compton Scholarship Fund
- \$_____ Hedges Scholarship Fund
- \$_____ OS Foundation

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 oscomms@ozarksociety.net.

High-Pointing the States: Part Four – The Southeast Corner

By Steve Heye

This is the fourth in a series of my adventure to visit as many of the fifty US states' highest points as I can. This time it's the southeast corner of the US: Florida, Alabama and Georgia. I did this trip a few days before my 40th High School reunion in Franklin, Tennessee, in October of 2014.

Florida

At only 345 feet, Britton Hill, Florida is the lowest high point in the country. The hill is located just off US Hwy. 331 near Florala, Alabama. It also tops the highest point in the peninsula, Sugar Loaf, by 33 feet.



Britton Hill, Florida
October 22, 2014
Hi Point 19
312 Feet

I started my trip early on October 22nd, hoping to get from Little Rock to the high point before dark. I went down to Hattiesburg, Mississippi and then went east toward Montgomery and then south on Hwy. 331. I took this route to see this area for the first time. I reached Florala just before dusk.

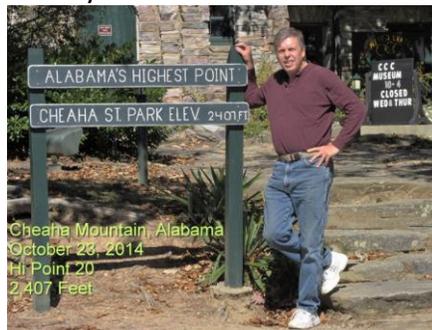
Florala is a resort and retirement area about 90 minutes north of Panama City, that has a small lake and an Alabama State Park. I took a city

street east out of town to a county road that would take me the 5 miles or so to the high point, just south of the state line.

The monument is located in a county park and is well kept. There is a monument stone and a registry. Other than that it looks like any other city park. I pulled into the parking lot and walked the few feet over to the marker to take photos. It was nearing 7 pm and I had been on the road for 12 hours, but I was feeling fine after dinner and drove on to Montgomery to spend the night. Florida was my 19th high point.

Alabama

I got up refreshed in Montgomery, October 23rd, just a couple hours from my next goal, Mt. Cheaha, Alabama. I drove northeast from Montgomery towards the state park near Talladega. What a difference a day makes! Mt. Cheaha has an official elevation of 2,116 feet. The State Park is similar to Mt. Magazine, it has camping, a hotel and cabins nearby.



Cheaha Mountain, Alabama
October 23, 2014
Hi Point 20
2,407 Feet

A tower structure occupies a spot next to the marker. It was closed the day I visited.

It may be much higher than Florida's, but it is just as accessible. You can drive and park right next to the marker, taking a short walk over to nab a photo. The park is near the end of Appalachian Chain and there is talk of extending the Appalachian Trail over to the park. It was just past lunch, so I headed to Atlanta to visit some friends that night, before heading on to Georgia's high point. Alabama was my 20th high point.

Georgia

I had a wonderful time in Atlanta and I waited for rush hour to get out of the way that morning before making my way north to Brasstown Bald, Georgia's high point at 4,784 feet. Brasstown Bald is in far northeastern Georgia, not far from the western point of South Carolina. It took about 3 hours from Atlanta to make it up to the park that has the peak.

Like Tennessee, Georgia has constructed an observation tower on the high point along with a lot of communication antennas. You park your car and a shuttle bus takes you to the top or you can walk up to the tower.

The actual marker is located in a locked room under a set of

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Ozark Society
P.O. Box 2914
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Please Note:

If you would like to
receive *Pack & Paddle*
ONLY by email, not
through US Mail, please
contact

Carolyn Shearman
oscomms@ozarksociety.org

Highpointing continued...

stairs. You can ask to see it and they will open the door for a photo. The mountain is in the southern portion of the Blue Ridge range of the Appalachians. Georgia was my 21st high point.

As beautiful as it was, I still had a stop in Chattanooga to make for dinner and then on to Franklin for the Homecoming game that night. Whew, three long days on the road, but I had put three more high points on my list.

My next episode will cover a group of states I visited in August of 2017, following the eclipse: Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Brasstown Bald, Georgia
October 24, 2014
Hi Point 21
4,784 Feet

