



PACK & PADDLE



Fall “The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all.
September 2019 I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best.” - Dr. Neil Compton

Ozark Society News and Happenings David Peterson, Ozark Society President

C&H Buy Out – On June 13, 2019 Governor Hutchinson announced the “agreement” to close the C&H Hog Farm. The buy-out money, 5.2 million from the Arkansas Department of Heritage and 1 million from Arkansas Nature Conservancy, is in escrow. But more than two months later the 180-day close down has not started yet because of an issue over potential liens. Still we are assured that the deal will stick.

Basically, the 9-page agreement establishes a conservation easement to the State of Arkansas which permanently prohibits CAFO operations on the property but does allow most other types of farming or even a housing development. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (now DEQ under the recent governmental reorganization) has the responsibility for directing facility remediation and continuing monitoring.

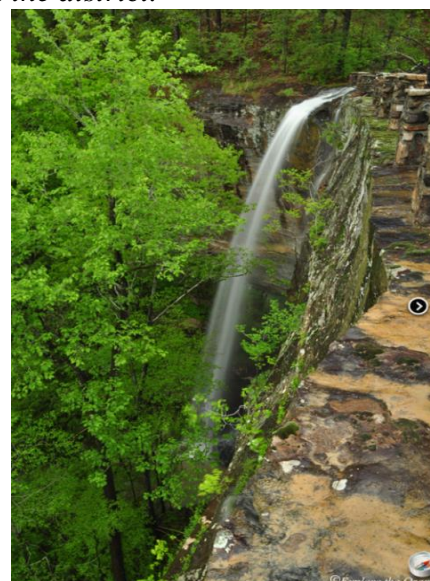
Permanent Moratorium on Swine CAFO’s – The current moratorium on medium and large swine CAFO’s in the Buffalo River watershed is due to expire in 2020. But it makes no sense to spend 6.2 million dollars to preserve “the historical, cultural, and recreational significance of the Buffalo National River” without making the moratorium permanent. DEQ

made that recommendation at the July 26 meeting of the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology and received a reluctant but unanimous approval. But this is just the start of a long process – there is a comment period starting August 23, then a DEQ response, followed by approval by the legislature and governor, and then back to the APC&EC for final approval. We will need OS support during the comment period for rule 5 (new name for the revamped regulation 5 which includes the permanent moratorium). Please send your favorable comments to this email: reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us and mention Docket Numbers #19-002-R and #19-003-R or “Buffalo National River CAFO Permanent Moratorium.”

Wilderness Preservation – Veteran preservation advocates Kirk Wasson, Tom McClure, and Bill Pell recently joined me in a meeting in Hector with Mike Mulford and Supervisor Tim Jones of the Big Piney District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest – an area containing many hiking and canoeing areas that the OS holds dear. The 4-hour meeting focused on how we could work together to improve the protection of roadless areas. Two examples. Given the 40,000+ yearly visitors to Hawksbill Crag, how can the forest service help alleviate road

congestion on Cave Mountain Road and how can the hiker impact in the upper Buffalo Wilderness be minimized? Also, recent on-line videos show off road vehicles posed between the waterfalls at Blue Hole. Is there a way to restrict this kind of access when there are numerous old roads in this “Special Interest Area”? Supervisor Jones was supportive of protecting roadless areas. He and his staff have several good ideas that are worth pursuing. We anticipate continuing emphasis by the OS on maintaining and expanding wilderness areas – currently only about 0.5% of the 30 million acres of Arkansas.

King’s Bluff waterfall, one of 65 in the district.

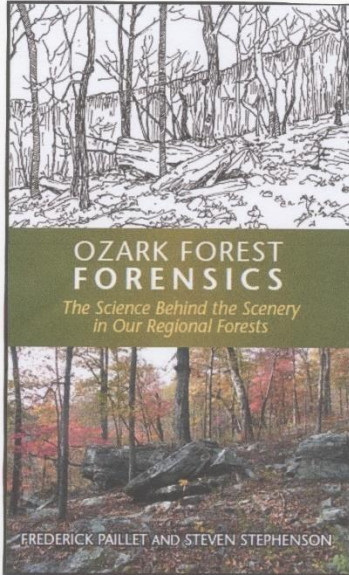


The Ozark Society and OS Foundation have a new on Online Store!

Carolyn Shearman, Ozark Society, Communications Chair

The Ozark Society website at www.ozarksociety.net/store/ now has an online store with a shopping cart that accepts credit card payments. It provides Emily Roberts, our Outreach Chair, with all the shipping information to make shopping easy and delivery fast. No more mail-in forms to fill out! You can now order T-shirts, OS Foundation books, OS books, maps, and CDs all online. Here are some examples:

Ozark Forest Forensics: \$24.95



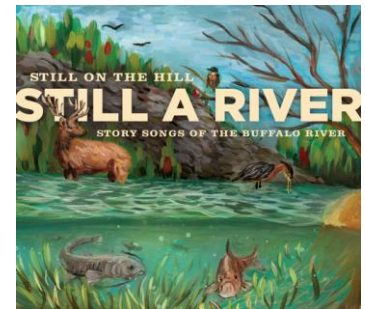
www.ozarksociety.net/product/ozark-forest-forensics-frederick-paillet-and-steven-stephenson/

Ozark Society T-shirt: \$15.00



www.ozarksociety.net/product/the-ozark-society-t-shirt/

Still on The Hill CD \$15.00



www.ozarksociety.net/product/still-a-river-story-songs-of-the-buffalo-river-cd-still-on-the-hill/

Fall Meeting for all OS Members – Lucas Parsch, OS Vice President

The annual Fall Membership Meeting of the Ozark Society will take place on the weekend of November 8-10th at Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Although the agenda has not been finalized, the preliminary itinerary (see below) will allow you to arrive on either Friday evening or Saturday morning depending your driving distance. Member activities will take place on Saturday Nov. 9th, whereas the OS Board will meet on Sunday Nov. 10th. Queen Wilhelmina State Park is located on top of 2,681 ft Rich Mountain in western Arkansas near Mena AR <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/parks/queen-wilhelmina-state-park> The Highlands Chapter is hosting the meeting.

Preliminary Agenda:

Fri Nov. 8th: Arrival, on your own, no scheduled activities

Sat Nov. 9th:

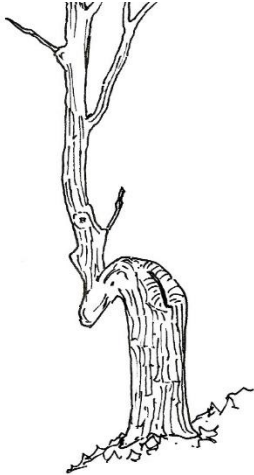
- 10:30 am – 2:30 pm Mid-morning to early afternoon outing (e.g., Ouachita Trail)
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm General Membership Business meeting (Wilhelmina Lodge meeting room)
- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Dinner on your own (Wilhelmina Lodge Restaurant or campsite)
- 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Guest speaker, Tom McClure (Wilhelmina Lodge meeting room)

Sun Nov. 10th: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Ozark Society Board Meeting (Wilhelmina Lodge meeting room)

The Myth of the Thong Tree

Fred Paillet, Ozark Society Education Chair

Informal outdoor lore in the Ozarks often includes references to something called a thong tree. These are trees that have been bent over and forced to grow upright from the far end of the pushed-over stem.



Lore has it that these are deliberate signs created by native American and early explorers intended to point the way towards some objective such as campsite or mountain trail. There are a number of reasons to suspect this kind of story. There are no documented references to thong trees in the journals produced by early visitors to our area like Schoolcraft and Nuttall. Moreover, there are so many examples of such bent over trees that it is hard to believe that the sparse distribution of early settlers would need to mark so many trails. The single known reference to trees trimmed by explorers to mark the way comes from French traders in northern Canada where waterways were disorganized into a complex maze by past glacier activity and the landscape is covered by a monotonous spruce forest. Branches would be pruned on

spruce trees located on prominent points of land adjacent to portages or river tributaries as a way of marking these locations. Because the marking was done by cutting branches to produce a distinctive “flagged” shape to the spruce, these became known as “lop trees”.

Yet another reason to doubt the lore behind the thong trees we see in the Ozarks is that it is easy to see how they could form by natural occurrences without any human help at all. Because the forest in northwest Arkansas is now recovering from the damage inflicted by the infamous late winter 2009 ice storm, this is an especially good time to see thong trees in the making. Young trees established in older forests usually lean to one side from the natural habit of growing towards small patches of sunlight that penetrate from above. These supple but leaning trees are occasionally bent over and pinned to the ground when a large branch falls from above. Those are rare events that require just the right conditions of branch fall and leaning sapling to produce a tree that is bent over and pinned to the ground. However, relatively infrequent ice storms are especially effective in producing future thong trees in abundance. This is a result of the unique conditions that trigger such storms.

When freezing rain falls on bare branches, the water mostly runs off before it has time to turn into ice. It is only under rare conditions where raindrops have been falling through really cold air that they have become super-

cooled. The drops are so cold that any jolt such as landing on a branch instantaneously turns the water to ice before it can drip away.



Ice storms damage trees in a way that is different from other storm damage where branches are ripped off or tree trunks get snapped above the ground (see Ozark Society book “Forest Forensics”). The gradual load of ice in an ice storm bends the tree over so that the wood starts to splinter over an extended part of the stem. As the bending occurs, the wood splinters on the top while the bark remains attached on the underside of the trunk. In years that follow, the bent over top of the tree is kept alive by the strip of bark on the underside of the trunk. A few branches start to grow upwards while the bent stem heals over. In many cases, the top of the bent trunk develops a cavity and in other cases the wound heals over entirely. Over time, the upper part of the tree becomes limited to one or two dominant

Continued on page 4...

Thong Trees by Fred Pailletcontinued

upright stems that grow into mature trees in their own right situated at the end of a smoothly curved basal arch.

Ten years after the ice storm, s a good time to see thong tree formation for yourself. My illustration shows a white oak

right next to the Wedington trail about a quarter mile in from the parking lot at the trail's southern end on highway 16 west of Fayetteville where the road passes Lake Wedington. You can see how the healing process has begun to allow the tree to survive with an arch for a lower trunk,

while a combination of older branches with growth redirected upwards and newly sprouted branches are competing with each other for dominance. A few more decades and this will be a classic thong tree ready to sprout its very own legend. Daniel Boone must have been here!

Buffalo River Trail Days – October 28th to November 1st

Mike Reed, Buffalo River Trail Coordinator

Mark your calendar! The Fall 2019 Buffalo River Trail construction session is October 28th - November 1st. I and perhaps others will be doing some preparatory work the 25th, 26th, and morning of the 27th as well. We'll be camping at Tyler Bend again in the main campground (sites #22-26 at no charge) so join us for a day, the weekend, or the whole week.



If you can join us for the week, or most of it, there is an option where you can pay \$50 into a fund to cover food and camp expenses and then participate in our group meals (Sunday dinner through Saturday breakfast). There is also a 3-day option for \$35. Contact me for

more details. Otherwise you will need to supply your own food and cooking and cleaning utensils.

Regardless, everyone needs to supply their own sleeping accommodations, water containers, eating utensils, and work gloves. Safety glasses are very beneficial for some tasks. A day pack for carrying your stuff on the trail is very useful. The Park Service supplies the tools, though you can bring your own if you'd like. The campground has potable water, flush toilets, and hot showers.

Last October we constructed 2 reroutes downstream of Red Bluff Road, about where construction stopped 3 years ago. This March reroute #3 near Little Rocky Creek was flagged so compliance work could begin and I anticipate having construction approval soon.

Reroute #3 is about 1/4 mile long. Though it's unfortunate that it has to be done, the reroute does add some nice scenery and gets the trail out of a perennially-wet area. During the week (Oct

28 - Nov 1) I anticipate having access to the work area from the private property above with a walk of only about 3/4 mile to the work site, otherwise it's a 2.5-mile hike from Red Bluff Road.

I think once this reroute is complete NPS will consider the trail complete and open, so this may be the long-anticipated "golden spike" moment.



Some parts of the BRT/OHT between Richland Creek and AR-14 are looking for adopters. The Ozark Highlands Trail Association now has overall responsibility for coordinating this so see <https://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/maintenance/> for more information and contact Mike Reed at mered@runbox.com or OHTmaintenance@gmail.com.

High Pointing Part Seven – The Odds and Ends

Steve Heye

This is the seventh in a series of my adventures to visit as many of the fifty US states' highest points as I can. Last time we took look at two trips to visit the southern Appalachians in 2010 and 2013. You may have noticed that most of the stories have revolved around a specific trip to visit many sites in one big trip or take advantage of the fact that I'm in the vicinity of a high point. This time we will take a look at those high points I detoured to see because I was doing something else and it was nearby.

The states covered in this episode are Arizona, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana and Ohio.

Arizona



If you've ever traveled out I-40 west towards Flagstaff, about fifty miles out you begin to see a lone peak growing bigger as you make your way west. This is the highest point in Arizona, Humphreys Peak, 12,633 feet above sea-level. In September 2004 I was part of an Arkansas group that was headed to Havasupai. We had a second bunch on our permit from Tennessee and had to wait a day for them to fly to Las Vegas. To use our time wisely, we decided to take a look at the area around the mountain.

When we arrived, most of the

members decided they would explore the Arizona Snow Bowl ski area, while Eddie Vollman and I hiked the nearly 10-mile round trip to the top of Humphreys. The trail to the top is a steady climb from the Snow Bowl parking area until you reach the tree line. From there on the progress is slow as you walk across large fields of scree rock. You had to make sure your footing was firm on nearly every step until you got near the top.

About 5 hours after our start, we reached the summit and had a wonderful view of the entire northern Arizona area: Sedona to the south and Lake Powell to the north. The descent was uneventful and we got back to our group about 4 pm. September 4, 2004 Arizona became my third high point.

Delaware

On the first day of summer of 2009, Meribeth and I had just returned from dinner and were relaxing in our motel room in Concordville, Pennsylvania. We had just spent a wonderful day visiting Longwood Gardens, about 30 miles southwest of Philadelphia.

While resting, I was looking at an atlas to plot our next day's travels and noticed that just a few miles away was the highest point in the state of Delaware. We still had 90 minutes of daylight left, so we jumped in the car and made the 6-mile trip to 2715 Ebright Road in Wilmington, home to the Ebright Azimuth, 448 feet above sea-level. When we arrived, all we saw was a bus stop bench and a monument marker. This can't be right, can it? It was! The actual high spot is a

surveying point located in a nearby trailer park.

The monument sign is located next to a Septa bus stop, a few yards away from the survey point and asks that you not enter the neighborhood to go looking for it. This whole area is a very level plain and several spots could be a foot or two higher according to Lidar surveys, but surveyors have named Ebright Azimuth as the state high point. On June 21, 2009, Delaware became my ninth high point.



Hawaii

Hawaii is one of those high points that you either make a dedicated trip to do or make time from a vacation to visit. The high point is on the less visited Big Island of Hawaii. Meribeth and I wanted our first trip to Hawaii to be "the real Hawaii" not some beach resort that are found everywhere, so in December of 2015 we made Hilo our base to see the big island.

I found out that to travel the road leading to the top of Mauna Kea you had to have four-wheel drive, so I arranged for a Jeep to be our rental car. Everything on the big island is reachable within 3 hours and the Jeep came in handy for

Continued on page 6...

High Pointing Part Seven by Steve Heye...continued

visiting other areas that only four-wheelers could visit.

Mauna Kea is 13,796 feet above sea-level, but from its base on the seafloor, it's the tallest peak in the world at 33,465 feet of change. A dormant volcano, it is also home to several observatories on its summit. Because of this, you can drive all the way up on the access road and then make a short hike over to the high point.

From the summit you can see the entire island, from Hilo to Kona and to Volcanoes National Park. Since the weather was cooperating, we went to the top our first full day on the island. It rains a lot on the peak and in December it can even snow. I dropped Meribeth off at the Visitor's center as she was having breathing problems and made the drive up to the summit to get the photos. On December 6, 2015, Hawaii became my 22nd high point.



Mauna Kea, Hawaii
December 6, 2015
Hi Point 22
13,796

Indiana

I attend a gathering of friends every spring in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. There are three main routes you can take to drive there from Little Rock and one goes near the high points of

Indiana and Ohio. In March of 2016, I took the route that uses I-70 to get to Harrisburg and made my overnight stop at Richmond, Indiana. This would put me about 13 miles south of Hoosier Hill, Indiana's highest point, 1257 feet about sea-level.



Hoosier Hill, Indiana
March 7, 2016
Hi Point 23
1,257 Feet

The next day I would take the short drive north through the eastern Indiana farmland near the Ohio line. The site is located just north of a dairy farm, which is the biggest thing you can see from the wood thicket that the marker is in. This is an easy one to visit as you get out of the car and take the photos. Having gotten Hoosier Hill before 10am, it was time to get back in the car and make the 80-mile drive east to get Ohio's high point. On March 8, 2016, Indiana was my 23rd high point.

Ohio

Having just bagged Indiana, my goal for the rest of the day was to drive east to get Ohio's high point, near the city of Bellefontaine. The route took me through farmland for the most part, but as you near Bellefontaine you notice the terrain becoming more hilly. In fact, just a couple of miles from the high point is a popular ski area. Campbell Hill is located on the campus of Ohio Hi-point Career Center and you can

drive up to a park where the monument is located. The view is mostly to the north of Bellefontaine and the farmland beyond.

At 1550 feet above sea-level, Ohio's high point and Indiana's are two lonely summits that are more than 350 miles from the next nearest high points. I took my photos and then headed for Columbus for a late lunch with a friend and then on to Harrisburg, Pa. On March 8th, 2016, Campbell Hill, became my 24th high point.



Campbell Hill, Ohio
March 8, 2016
Hi Point 24
1,550 Feet

All of these states had high points that you had to make an effort to visit because they are out of the way for someone from Arkansas. Arizona was the only one that has a high point you may actually go by on a regular basis.

My next edition will cover the trip I made in 2018 to New England and the eight high points that I attempted to visit in one trip.





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)

- Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- Mississippi Valley (Missouri)
- Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- Sugar Creek (Bentonville, 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 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- \$10 Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- \$10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- \$10 Mississippi Valley (Missouri)
- \$10 Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- \$10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, 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 Thank You email to the Ozark Society. If you have questions about your membership status, contact oscomms@ozarksociety.net.



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

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If you would like to receive
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email, not through US Mail,
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Carolyn Shearman at
oscomms@ozarksociety.net.

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OZARK SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS: Emily Roberts outreach@ozarksociety.net.

OZARK SOCIETY ARCHIVES: Stewart Noland bosshq@aol.com.

OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY: Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-5577.

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