

PACK & PADDLE



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

C & H Hog Farm and CAFO Moratorium in the Buffalo River Watershed David Peterson, OS President

The last piglet at C&H was weened a couple of weeks ago and all hogs are due to be gone by January 2020. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will then proceed with the closure and remediation of the waste lagoons.

The next step, making temporary moratorium on medium and large swine CAFO's permanent, was put on hold at the October 25, 2019 meeting of the Arkansas Pollution, Control & Ecology Commission (APC&E) when they unexpectedly voted to extend the comment period 90 The reason for the days. extension was the publication of the Big Creek Research and Extension Team's (BCRET) final report.

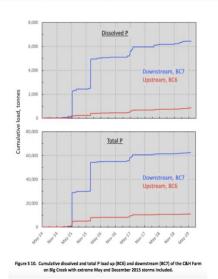
The new deadline is now January 22, 2020. Although the initial 400 positive comments (out of 402) will be counted this time, we ask that Ozark Society members add additional comments in support of the DEQ rule change. Electronic submission:

http://water.adeq.commentinput.
com/?id=6pAef.

The 300+ page BCRET report, available at the BCRET website.

is highly technical but with readable summaries.

BCRET illustrates the downstream increase in phosphorus very clearly with this graphic in Chapter 7



While opponents of the moratorium will latch onto the phrase that C&H has had a "limited impact" on the Buffalo River, there is strong evidence that the Big Creek watershed has been contaminated with excess nutrients. This includes ever rising nitrate levels in the well and ephemeral stream adjacent to the lagoons, elevated nitrate levels in ground water (downstream levels are more than twice as high as upstream levels), and elevated field phosphorus levels much beyond agronomic needs. For instance, the BCRET report supports limiting phosphorus (P) applications to less than now commonly used on CAFO's,

"Future additions of any nutrients ... should be carefully managed so as to not lead to increases in soil test P. ... where P applied is equivalent to expected forage uptake rates." That is to say, good farming is not waste dumping.

Comments do not need to be lengthy or technical. We need to stress that hog CAFO's are inconsistent with the health of the first national river, and that Arkansas should avoid any future lengthy battles and buyouts. Suggested talking points will soon be posted on the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) website.

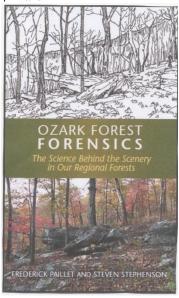
A complete listing of the proposed changes to Regulation 5 can be found on the Draft Regulations page of the website: https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/regs/drafts/reg05/19-002-R/ under APC&EC Docket #19-002-R.



The Ozark Society and OS Foundation have an 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



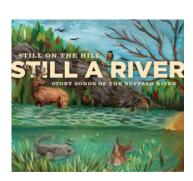
www.ozarksociety.net/product/oza rk-forest-forensics-frederick-palletand-steven-stephenson/

Ozark Society T-shirt: \$20.00



www.ozarksociety.net/product/theozark-society-t-shirt/

Still on The Hill CD \$15.00



www.ozarksociety.net/pro duct/still-a-river-storysongs-of-the-buffalo-rivercd-still-on-the-hill/

Your OS Board at Work - Meeting at Queen Wilhelmina in Pictures Lucas Parsch, OS Vice President

The Ozark Society Board met Sunday, November 10th after the Quarterly gathering at Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Discussion centered on the future plans for the OS Foundation, the Buffalo River Watershed Moratorium, and protecting wilderness areas from misuse by ATV/OTV's and over-development of recreational facilities.

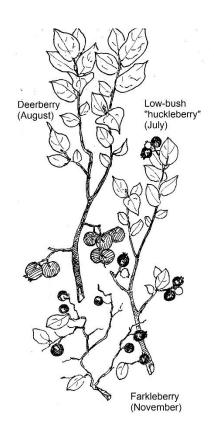




In Celebration of the Farkleberry: Our Wild Ozark Blueberry Fred Paillet, Ozark Society Education Chair

Before there was Saturday Night Live there were the Farkleberry Founded in 1967, this performance convened every other year was a time when a collection of Arkansas journalists conducted skits to spoof state politics in and Governor Orval general, Faubus in particular. In a recent editorial, Rex Nelson reported that the main objective of the show was to "skewer the inflated egos of the political class." The show got its name from an editorial by local cartoonist George Fisher who poked fun at the governor over a folksy meeting where Faubus had lectured a brush-clearing highway crew about the native species of shrubs in our region. One of the most obscure of these was the tree blueberry farkleberry or (Vaccinium arboretum) with its amusing name.

There is a direct Ozark Society connection here because the family of current Ozark Society President. David Peterson, received one of the prized farkleberry awards bestowed from the hands of Dale Bumpers some 30 years ago on behalf of a folk music group founded by Fisher in Pulaski County. The shrub itself is especially common in the Ozarks and Ouachitas where it is found growing on the edges of cliffs and around rock ledges. We frequently encounter farkleberry thickets on our outdoor adventures along the Buffalo River Trail and in other popular or scenic areas. The tall shrubs often grow in impossibly contorted forms that are fun to observe. But there's more to the farkleberry story than that.



The shrub is especially relevant for me because it was a big part of the chain of events that caused me to select Arkansas for my retirement As an environmental home. scientist I had the opportunity to work for weeks at a time with colleagues at USEPA's Kerr Lab in Ada, Oklahoma. With time on my hands during weekends, I was able to explore the far western end of the Ouachita Mountains. There I was charmed by what I took for extensive stands of high-bush blueberry. That shrub is a prolific fruit-bearing bush in my native New England, and the original source of many cultivated blueberry varieties.

These blueberry shrubs grew even bigger where I saw them in eastern

Oklahoma, and I had visions of bumper crops of wild fruit here in future summers. That observation was part of the ultimate decision to settle in Arkansas where I had access to an academic community and hiking opportunities in the oakdominated forests that reminded me of my native Connecticut.

After spending time in the Ozarks, I would be profoundly disappointed by farkleberry fruit. Even with its nominal resemblance to eastern blueberry, this shrub was clearly different in so many ways. Farkleberry grows to almost tree status, has leathery and semi-evergreen leaves, and tiny, shiny black fruits that mature in October and are dry, seedy and practically tasteless. Perhaps that's why the birds leave them on the bushes through much of the winter.

There are two other very different blueberry species on the bluffs above the Buffalo River, and they can have some tasty fruit on the rare occasions when conditions allow. This is one of those rare occasions. The most common of these is a low trailing plant known "huckleberry" (which is actually the name of another fruiting shrub entirely) forming a knee-high ground cover that spreads rampantly bv underground "runners" on well-drained, cherty soils (Vaccinium pallidum).

This year the wet spring and sunlight from openings in the forest canopy provided by wind and ice storms in previous years *Continued on page 4*...

The Farkleberry by Fred Pailletcontinued

have allowed these shrubs to produce a crop of small, bluish-black berries that have the expected sweet blueberry taste.

The other native blueberry species known as deerberry does not spread so readily underground and forms compact bushes up to three feet tall (*Vaccinium stamineum*). This little shrub is unlike other blueberries in having attractive flowers that grow as clusters of white dangling bells you can often see where it blooms with pink azalea on rock ledges (see my illustration in Ozark Forest

Forensics). This year is the first that I have seen where deerberry is producing fruit in some abundance. In the last week of July or early August, the shrubs had clusters of relatively large berries, maybe four times the size of the low-bush huckleberries, and a deep reddish purple in color where I found them along old logging roads in the Madison County Wildlife Management Area.

The abundance of these three *Vaccinium* species in the Ozarks shows why blueberry does so well as

a crop in our area. Even if the fruit produced crop by the wild blueberries cannot match the flavor and abundance of the crop variety, the farkleberry provides interest for outdoor enthusiasts from both the fun inherent in the name itself and the improbably contorted shape that our "tree blueberry" can take where found ensconced among scenic rock ledges such as at our iconic Hawksbill Crag or adjacent to the Glory Hole.

Middle Fork of the Salmon River Trip – July 29-August 3rd 2020 Stewart Noland, OS Archive Chair

Paddle the Salmon River Idaho July 29- August 3rd Aggipah River Trips (Bill Bernt, www.aggipah.com, 208-756-4167) has agreed to host Ozark Society members on a 5-night, 6-day trip of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. The trip will launch from Boundary Creek on July 29, 2018. There are two trip options: row or paddle your own boat, or ride with Aggipah. The cost of the trip is \$2250 to ride with Aggipah or \$1575 to take your own boat.



A 25% deposit is needed to secure your place on the trip which is \$563 for a ride or \$394 with your own boat (Aggipah, PO Box 425, Salmon, Idaho, 83467). If you have any questions please call Bill Bernt at Aggipah or Stewart Noland (bosshg@aol.com, 501-666-2989). If you sign up for the trip, please let Stewart know so we can coordinate logistics. If this date is not good for you, Aggipah has other launch dates listed on its website.

John Muir Trail Outing, High Sierras Steve Heye, Pulaski Chapter Outings Chair

Steve Heye is organizing a multi-day backpack trip along the John Muir Trail in the California Sierras the Summer of 2020. The hike will be from the Onion Valley campground to the Whitney Portal, around 45 miles.

The trip is currently in the planning stages and will require input from all those wishing to go. Because this area is high demand wilderness, we must apply for a permit to hike this trail. This is done by lottery and so dates of the trip will be dependent on a permit being issued to us.

We will begin applying daily in January for permits issued for July dates and continue applying until we obtain a permit. We should know by April first if we have a permit and what the dates will be. The hike itself will probably be seven days/six nights with a day hike to the top of Mt. Whitney at 14,500 feet.

The hike has several wilderness restrictions. Most of the hike is at an altitude of 9000 to 10,000 feet. Other restrictions deal with food containers, human waste, the size of the group, campsites and campfires.

There has been early interest shown, so if you would like to get in on a trip to the High Sierras next summer, please contact Steve by email to get your name on the interested list. Heye@aristotle.net.

High Pointing Part 8 Steve Heye, Pulaski Chapter Outings Chair

This is the eighth in a series of my adventure to visit as many of the fifty US states' highest points. Last time we looked at the odds and ends of high points I picked up as I went by. This time it's a trip I took in September of 2018 to visit 7 New England states: Rhode Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New York and Maine.

This was a very aggressive schedule, trying to get all 7 of these states in one 12 -day trip. The number of hikes that would require all day walking, the driving, scheduled stopping spots and weather all pushed me on this journey. It all started on Saturday September 22, 2018 when I flew to Providence, Rhode Island.

Rhode Island

This was my first time in Rhode Island. I would explore it more when I came back to fly home. I left my hotel and drove about an hour to the west center of this small state. Just off Rhode Island Hwy. 101, near Foster is Jerimoth Hill, 810 feet above sea level. You park at a sign on the roadside and walk about a quarter mile to the marker in a patch of woods next to a private home. Not much of view, but it's a pleasant walk in a park-like



I took my photos and headed back to the car to continue my Sunday by going to New Jersey's high point. On September 23rd, Rhode Island was my 33rd state high point.

New Jersey

To try and conquer this many states at once, I made up a route that would use my time most efficiently. This meant leaving western Rhode Island and driving across Connecticut, a part of New York to the Northern point of New Jersey.



I mostly used I-84 to make my way to where New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania all come together. A few miles south of this point is High Point State Park, New Jersey's highest point. From the parking area, you walk up a paved road where the state has placed a tall monument on the summit. High point has an elevation of 1804 feet. One can climb the stone tower to get a view of three states, but the view from the base is just as good. It was now late in the afternoon and I had to drive back to Danbury. Connecticut to spend the night. On September 23rd, New Jersey was my 34th high point.

Connecticut

It was now day 3 of my circuit and it was to be just as busy as day one. I was going to drive this morning to the trail head for Connecticut's high point and continue on to western Massachusetts to visit their high point before stopping for the night in Rutland, Vermont. I headed north out

of Danbury to the town of Salisbury in Northwest Connecticut and started taking county roads towards the area where New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts come together. At the Massachusetts border is a trail head for the trail that will take you on a two mile walk to the top of Mt. Frissell Massachusetts. Wait? Massachusetts? Turns out the highest point in Connecticut is on the side of Mt. Frissell. A green state line marker on the trail stands in as the high point monument, 2,380 feet above sea level. As it was starting to drizzle and the wind was picking up, I returned to the car to continue my trip up to the state park that had Massachusetts' high point. On September 24th, Connecticut became my 35th high point.



Massachusetts

I made it back to the car about 11am and headed north toward the town of Barrington, Great Massachusetts where I grabbed some lunch and then headed up US 7 to Lanesborough and the Mt. Greylock State Park. By mid-afternoon I reached the park only to find it shrouded in a cold mist and thick fog. I took the road up to the monument that the state has built on the high point. I imagine the view is a good one, but I could barely make out the tower due to the fog at that elevation of 3,489 feet above sea Continued on page 6...

High Pointing Part 8 continued

level. The monument is also, one of those on or near the Appalachian Trail.



I made my way back down the mountain to US 7 and headed north to Rutland for the night. On September 24th, Massachusetts became my 36th high point.

Vermont

I was beginning to get confident in bagging high points in New England. Four in just two days. My cockiness would be tempered on day 4 of the journey. There was a front moving through the northeast today and I needed to get my hike in before it passed Mt. Mansfield. I got up early to make the drive from Rutland to Stowe and reach the entrance to the toll road that took you to a trail head on top of the ski resort. When I reached the top, a light rain was falling and the wind was around 10 mph. I still had a mile and a half walk out to the peak of Mt. Mansfield at 4,395 feet.

My walk would take me over a rocky, tundra terrain, exposed to the north face of the peak. As I made my way, the weather began to go downhill quickly. The front was early. The rain was now a cold heavy rain with sleet mixed in and the wind was up to 35 miles per hour and gusting to 45. My rain gear, though top notch, was being tested.

About an hour into my hike, staying vertical was becoming hard. I saw the trail going over the ridge where it split

off the main trail and become a spur to the top. I was blown over by the much stronger wind on the south face. Gusts over 60 to 70 mph had me hugging the ground as I continued to try for the summit. I finally decided that I'd had enough, even though my goal was but 500 feet away. I took some photos and shot a video of the hurricane I was in, then spent the next hour trying to reach the calmer north face. I made it back about lunch time, nearly hypothermic and soaked when I reached the car. It was another hour before I was warm enough to start driving for my next peak, Mt. Marcy, New York. On September 25, 2018, I got really close to high point Vermont to count it. It was my 37th high point. I will go back and get the last 500 feet sometime in the near future.



New York

Having survived Mt. Mansfield, I drove all afternoon across Vermont and Northern New York to the Olympic City of Lake Placid. Outside town, in the Adirondack Mountains is a lodge run by the Adirondack Mountain Club. The Loj at Lake Heart is a wonderful stay anytime you're here. It has a variety of rooms and meals available on the edge of the wilderness. I spent September 26 in town as it rained all day. This gave me time to clean clothes, rest and see the Olympic sights. The hike to Marcy would be 14 miles and this day off was needed.

The next day I got up early, picked up my lunch made by the kitchen staff, ate a little breakfast and hit the trail. The first five miles were steady uphill trails walking in rocky, forested areas. The next two miles were in tundra and large boulders. It took about 8 hours to make it to the top. From the peak you could see the ski jumps in Lake Placid and the ski runs on White Face. I also wished I had a parasail to glide back to town.



It was almost 4 before I got going back to the Loj. Since it was past the fall equinox, it was getting dark by 7pm. At least it was light enough for me to get down on the forest trails before I had to pull out my headlamp. I had told the kitchen staff to hold my dinner as I would be late coming back. I hit the door at 9:30pm and even that late, there was my dinner waiting, warm and delicious. Those folks know how to spoil a guest.

On September 27th, New York was my 38th high point. This left Maine, Mt. Katahdin and the last of the New England peaks for me to get.

Maine

I was still sore on day 8 of the trip, but this would be an easy day driving the 350 miles from Lake Placid over to Baxter State Park. I had a lean-to reserved for two nights at a campground on the Appalachian Trail, 5 miles from the top of Katahdin. I picked up supplies in Bangor and made the park gate just as they were closing. I was in my bag by 10pm ready for an early start to reach *Continued on page 7......*

High Pointing Part 8 continued

my last peak. Everything was going as planned.

The next day, I had a ten-mile hike with a 4000-foot elevation gain and loss in front of me. The trail was the last 5 miles of the AT, so I thought it would be a well-planned and maintained tread. I left camp at 6:30am and feeling good, though my vision was starting to go double on me from my Lyme's infection and fatigue.

The first two miles went slow, but steady. Lots of cobbles and roots on the trail, but not that bad. Over the next mile the steep climb began and you had to watch your hands and feet as you progressed over a constant boulder field. My double vision was affecting my depth perception and I had to slow down to less than a mile an hour.

The next couple of hours gave me some of the worst hiking I have ever done. There were hand and footholds to make

your way up the route and nothing but sharp rocks to stand or grabbed to help. It was now 2 o'clock, my predetermined turn-around time. I had been walking 7 ½ hours and still had more than a mile and 1800 feet to go. Today was not going to be my day. With my sore body and bad vision, I had to turn around to get back to camp safely, before dark. This mountain won this round.

I returned to camp and had a late dinner and pondered my next move. I still had tomorrow to try again. If I get an earlier start, if I can pick up my pace. But the big "if" was my vision. With double vision cropping up, I didn't feel safe climbing this way.

The next morning, I decided to pack it in and tour some other areas of Maine before I drove back to Providence for my flight. Katahdin could wait, besides I'm 38 and 1 on first attempts. I got 6 other high points. In all, the trip was productive. I will return some July,

rested, when I have 17 hours of daylight, not 12. I can also go finish that last 500 feet on Mansfield, on a nice warm and dry day. I shall return!



If you are wondering where's New Hampshire on this list, Meribeth and I visited the North East's highest point, Mt. Washington 6,288 feet, in September of 2007. It was my 7th high point and so I bypassed it on this trip.

In Episode Nine we will look at the three points in the Western US: Utah, North Dakota and South Dakota that I visited in August of 2019.

Compton Day Celebration – August 10th Janet Parsch, OS Foundation Past President

Compton Gardens in Bentonville was the setting once again, on August 10 this year, for what has become an annual public event, since 2012, to commemorate the August 1 birthday of Dr. Neil Compton, founder of the Ozark Society. This year an invitationonly breakfast for 90 people from the Compton family and close friends, Compton Gardens board members and supporters, and Ozark Society officers was followed by the opening of exhibits on the grounds of Compton Gardens. Some 25 local environmental groups, museums, and vendors had displays and goods for sale in conjunction with Arkansas and the Ozarks outdoors. Nearly 15 volunteers staffed the Ozark Society's three tables throughout the morning, and Fred Paillet, Steve Stephenson, and Ken Smith were on hand to sign their books. Compton Gardens provided birthday cake and ice cream for the several hundred pedestrians who moseyed on through after stopping at the Saturday Bentonville Farmers' Market nearby. One highlight of the morning was the dedication of a new neon entrance sign to Compton Gardens, with remarks offered by the artist, Todd Sanders. Many members of Dr. Compton's family and close friends were able to attend the dedication, including Dr. Compton's two daughters, Ellen and Edra, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren.

Compton Gardens is adjacent to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and houses a small exhibit room describing Dr. Compton's life, the history of the Ozark Society, and the fight for the Buffalo River. The display includes Dr. Compton's canoe, which was the inspiration for the new neon sign design. Watch and listen to the artist on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs SmoMSTfNg



Tom McClure Promotes Wilderness Ethics at the Fall Meeting David Peterson, OS President

Tom McClure gave a rousing keynote address on the value of wilderness at the fall meeting of the Ozark Society at Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Tom, a native of Gurdon who now lives in Rogers, has been involved in preservation issues around the country for most of his life. He traced the wilderness ethic through Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, and others with pithy statements and observations and then brought the issue back to Arkansas.



Most of the current wilderness areas in Arkansas (about 1% of the area) were established in the early 1980's with one recent 640-acre addition last year at Flatside. But there may be as many possible wilderness areas that might have qualified for inclusion but were deleted for various reasons in the ultimate legislative actions.

A good example is the Blue Hole, a special interest area on Hurricane Creek. Hurricane Creek is in the watershed just south of East Fork Wilderness, some 15 miles north of I-40 near Hector. It is protected by the steep sides of White Oak Mountain and a narrow canyon where it joins the East Fork of Illinois Bayou. Blue Hole is a swimmable pool just below two

wonderful 10-foot waterfalls. It has a blueish tint because of very fine clay particles in the water that is characteristic of this area. attention became focused on Blue Hole when Bill Pell and others noticed an infomercial for ATV vehicles that was shot next to a jeep on one of the waterfalls. The Ozark Society has started a dialogue with forest service personnel, with the goal of protecting Blue Hole and other special interest areas for possible future inclusion into wilderness.

The Pulaski Chapter has scheduled a hike to Blue Hole for Saturday, February 9. Contact Steve Heye for details. The hike will be a vigorous 7 to 8-mile round trip, down and up about 700 feet of elevation.

Archive Pictures of Outings to the Blue Hole and Upper Buffalo Wilderness Janet Nye, Pulaski Chapter President

And from Janet Nye we have an archive picture of a previous hike to the Blue Hole. Recognize everyone?



That's the Nye family, Alice Andrews, Linda Holbert, Carmen Quinn and Martha Velvin. (March 2003)

Here's another one of the Upper Buffalo Wilderness:



That's Benjamin Nye, Watkins, Bill Steward, Bob Richardson, Dana Steward and two friends from CA. (Nov. 2004)



The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal



Join us, or renew now! Dues are for one year, January-December, and includes one Chapter and 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:			
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☐ Renewal		Start at Section A to renew your OS and Chapter Membership				
☐ LIFE Member		Start at Section B to renew just your Chapter Membership				
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☐ Supporter:	\$100	= \$90 OS +\$10 Chapter		_	hlands (Fayetteville, AR)	
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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

Please Note:
If you would like to receive Pack & Paddle ONLY by email, not through US Mail, please contact
Carolyn Shearman at oscomms@ozarksociety.net.

The Officer, Director, and Chair List

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