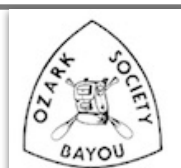




BAYOU BYLINE



January 2024

Calendar of Events

January

- 13 Hike in Kisatchie at Longleaf Vista/Turpentine Trails
Contact Kim or Tammy
- 15 Mt. Driskell Hike - 10:00 am - contact Kim
- 16 Monthly Meeting - 6:30 pm - Tammy and Kim will
present a program on "Paddling With the Manatees"
- 20 KBB Arbor Day Event - Contact Tammy
- 21 Daingerfield State Park Hike - Meet at Brookshires
on North Market at 8:30 am to caravan - Contact
Kim
- 27 Bodcau Hike - 10:00 am - contact Kim

February

- 10 Caney Lakes Hike - 10:00 am - contact Kim
- 17 Monkey Trail Hike - 10:00 am - contact Sandy
- 20 Monthly Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 24 Duck Pond Cleanup - 8:30 am - contact Roy

March

- 2 OWL Community Service - contact Wayne
- 9 Athens-Big Fork Trail Maintenance - contact Perry
- 19 Monthly Meeting - 6:30 pm

Have You Renewed Your Dues For 2024 Yet?

It's simple to renew your Ozark Society dues online. Just go to ozarksociety.net, click on Membership and fill out the form and submit. Make sure you check Friend and also Bayou Chapter. You'll pay \$30, no extra charge for using your credit card. Pretty simple and efficient!



Our monthly meetings are held at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA 71112.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. (except December) Program starts at 6:30 pm. Business meeting follows. Plan to join us after the meeting for food and socializing.



Tammy and Kim will present a program on "Paddling With the Manatees"

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

First Day Hike 2024

By: Kim Cox

Over 40 hikers (many with their furry friends) gathered at the Bayou Bodcau Dam on New Years Day to get in a "First Day Hike". The weather was brisk and perfect for hiking! We tackled 2.5 miles (the orange loop) of the Durden Hills trails. We had many travel a couple of hours or more to join us for this hike! This is always a great event for recruiting new members and many asked for (and were given) information on how to join BCOS. Thanks to all who participated!

**Red River Refuge Hike**

By: Kim Cox

7 BCOS members (plus Penny the spaniel) gathered on Saturday 1/6/24 to hike the trails at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. We hiked sections of the River Trail, Cottonwood Trail and Lake Trail for a total of around 4 miles. Despite the previous rainy day the trails (although a little muddy) were still very hike-able. We saw lots of bird-life along Lake Caroline and enjoyed good conversation and a little exercise!



Sunday Morning Hike at the Monkey Trail

By: Marian Howard

10 BCOS members and one canine member Luci got up early on Sunday morning December 17th to meet at Eddie Jones Park at 8:30 am and hike the Monkey Trail. Temps were chilly at the start (31 degrees), but warmed up nicely as we walked along the trail. It was a little muddy in spots but everyone managed to walk safely in their mud caked boots. After the 4.6 mile hike, some hung around and chatted and enjoyed the beautiful weather and each other's company before heading home. Thanks to all who came out and shared their Sunday morning with us!



Lost Woman/Clockwork Orange Hike - December 21, 2023

7 BCOS "scouting team" members met Thursday morning December 21st to check out the previously closed Clockwork Orange trail at Caney Lake in Minden. We last hiked it in January 2022 at which time the trail suddenly disappeared about halfway thru and we had to bushwhack our way back to the Lost Woman trail to get out. The trail turned out to be very hike-able today. It took teamwork in locating the white ribbon trail markers but with 7 sets of eyes, finding the trail markers was pretty easy. It took about 2 hours and 45 minutes to hike the 5 mile loop. We look forward to leading a group event there soon so everyone can check it out!



A Tip of the Hat from the Forest Service (and . . . maybe . . . a historical marker for the ABF trail)

By: Perry Hill

The community of Big Fork (population: 179 or so) is nestled in a valley on Highway 8, southeast of Mena. It sits less than two miles from the northern most point of the Athens-Big Fork Trail (ABF). On November 1st of last year, a small group of interested folks gathered at the Big Fork Community Center to explore possibilities for an official marker that would recognize the significance of historical trends of the West-Central Arkansas area that are embodied in the history of the Trail itself. Roy O'Neal joined me in representing BCOS. David Samuel, Retired Forest ranger from Joplin, Arkansas, was also present. Representing the Ouachita National Forest were Bill Jackson (Acting Ranger for Caddo-Womble District) and Tom Ledbetter (Trails Coordinator). Others in attendance included Dr. Revis Edmonds (Research Historian for the Division of Arkansas Heritage), Joe Jacobs (Editor, Arkansas Outside), Stacey Shaver-Matson (Race Director for the ABF Marathon and President of the Arkansas Ultra Runners Association), a companion AURA member (who's name I regretfully do not recall), and Big Fork's Volunteer Fire Chief (who heated up the Center on a very chilly 25 degree morning!).

The meeting began with my PowerPoint presentation of the information David and I have amassed regarding the history of the ABF, and underscored how the history of the Trail is a direct reflection of several hundred years of history in the West-Central Arkansas area. Following this presentation, Dr. Edmonds shared information regarding three possible historical designations for the Trail, qualifying criteria for each of the three designations, and the role of his Office in making final determinations on applications for historical designation. His review indicated the Trail would not qualify for two of the three types of designation, but could be considered for designation by a historical marker. An application to the State for such a marker presents some challenges, and prospects for success are uncertain at present. However, there is strong interest in pursuing this, so David and I (supported by interested parties and local historical societies) will explore this further and see if the challenges can be met. I'll certainly keep our Chapter members posted on developments.

The meeting also included a presentation of a Certificate to the Bayou Chapter "In appreciation of our organization's trail maintenance support of the Athens-Big Fork Trail". Roy proudly accepted on behalf of all BCOS members. (He was not asked to make a speech, and I'm not sure how he feels about that.) But as Ranger Jackson noted in his brief remarks, the Ouachita National Forest does not have adequate staff to maintain existing trails, and relies heavily on volunteers to help out. I'm sure almost all of our BCOS members are aware of our Chapter's long-standing tradition of work on the ABF. It's a great privilege to care for this

special gift Mother Nature has given us, and an appropriate way to honor our Chapter's crucial role in restoring the Trail and opening it up for the use of so many who trek there every year to enjoy outdoor recreation. Our on-going work in maintaining the Trail is a legacy to be proud of, and I hope we'll continue doing just that for years to come.



Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2024

Chair

Grace Eyer

bayouchair@ozarksociety.net

Vice-Chair

Kim Cox

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Secretary

Jenny Hackman

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Treasurer

Cindy Brix

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Louisiana State Director

Perry Hill

kramerhill@suddenlink.net

Ozark Society Secretary

Sandy Roerig

sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu



BCOS members hard at work on January 4th at the Bossier Parish Library in Benton filling up the calendar with lots of fun events! Thanks to all who participated!



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 and click "MEMBERSHIP."

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) _____

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 (North Central, AR)
- ☐ Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- ☐ Pulaski (Central, AR)
- ☐ Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- ☐ Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- ☐ No chapter, all to central Ozark Society

Section B: For Members who wish to join more than one Chapter or Life Members renewing their Chapter Membership only

(Choose as many as you wish and add \$10 for each chapter)

- ☐ \$10 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- ☐ \$10 Buffalo River (North Central, AR)
- ☐ \$10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- ☐ \$10 Pulaski (Central, AR)
- ☐ \$10 Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- ☐ \$10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)

Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- ☐ \$ _____ Conservation Fund
- ☐ \$ _____ Endowment Fund
- ☐ \$ _____ Legal Fund
- ☐ \$ _____ Youth Grant Fund
- ☐ \$ _____ Compton Scholarship
- ☐ \$ _____ Hedges Scholarship

My Total is: \$ _____

Please remit to: The Ozark Society, PO Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.

You will receive a Thank You email from the Ozark Society. Please contact oscomms@ozarksociety.net for questions.