

January 2024

Paddle Trails

The Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter



ozarksociety.net

Pulaski Chapter Meetings

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 2

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: 2nd Presbyterian Church, Room 62

Pulaski Chapter Officers

Co-Chairs – Mary Beth McDonald & Mary Schlatterer

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Outings – Steve Heye

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January Speaker - Edward Swaim

In our recent January meeting, we had the honor of hosting Mr. Edward Swaim as our featured speaker. Serving as the Executive Director of the Bayou Meto Water Management District since April 2019, Mr. Swaim oversees crucial initiatives related to irrigation water, flood control, and wildlife habitat across Lonoke, Jefferson, Prairie, and Arkansas counties.

About Edward Swaim:

- Executive Director, Bayou Meto Water Management District
- Achievements: Overseeing the Arkansas Water Plan update, watershed management plans, and more
- Former roles: Chief of Water Management Division, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; Judge Advocate officer in the US Army Reserve

Mr. Swaim's extensive background and experience were evident as he shared insights into the district's initiatives. From the Arkansas Water Plan update to watershed management plans and efforts to build better relationships between agencies and the public, his dedication to sustainable water management left a lasting impact.

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Swaim for enriching our meeting with his expertise.

Outings Update

We had to wait a week, but the hike to the Forked Mountain area was held on December 16 right after a rain that tried to stop us again. Five folks showed up at the Walmart on Hwy. 10 at 8 am and we all got into Stewart's Suburban and headed west to Lake Sylvia and out Browns Creek Road to the base of Forked Mountain.

We decided that we'd walk the area that is slated to become an addition to the Flatside Wilderness. We started up an old road that paralleled the South Cedar creek. There are two waterfalls on this stream. After about a mile we bushwhacked our way over to a closed road that was the major access for the area for logging. You could tell that some money was spent building this road.

We walked about a half mile east on this road to a spot where a side road off the good road takes you to the larger falls. A beautiful pool is below the falls and is probably a great swimming hole in summer. One could use the wide open trail of the closed good road year round to reach the falls from the parking area.

We continued to walk east on the mostly level road deep into the area. All the land to the north of the road is what's to be included in the addition. It's very hilly and rocky and has no timber value, so it would make a great add.

Arriving back at the parking area for lunch, our next goal was to climb Forked Mountain. We drove over to the west side of the mountain and took the cemetery road as far as we could. We tried bushwhacking up the south face like many of us had done before in reaching the top. The large boulders in our way were proving to tough to traverse, so after about an hour, we turned back and made our way back to the Suburban. Even though we did not summit, the mountain will be a great addition to the existing wilderness.

Photos of the trip are posted on the Pulaski page at OzarkSociety.com.

Steve Heye
Outings Chair



PULASKI CHAPTER HIKING SCHEDULE WINTER/SPRING 2024

Here is our next set of hikes for this winter and spring. We have two new locations, and we will visit some old favorites as well. Everyone, member or not, is welcome to join us on outings. Remember, we do not charge for our outings, and be aware that you are here voluntarily and responsible for your actions. Our leaders are trained and knowledgeable and will work to keep you and everyone safe. Call the leader if you have questions about participating.

February 10 – Dale Bumpers White River Refuge at Cooks Lake - 5 miles – easy.

A new place for a hike. We will visit the Cook's Lake educational area and hike along the White River and an oxbow lake, east of Stuttgart. Fairly flat, we will connect some of the short trails to get at least 5 miles in. Meet at the Commuter lot off Shackleford N.B., just before 630 E.B., at 8 am to carpool. Bring lunch and water.

March 9 – Ouachita Pinnacle - East (Ouachita Trail) - 6 or 10 miles – mod./hard.

We go west of Jessieville to descend eastward from the top of Ouachita Pinnacle. Be at the Chick-fil-A by Bass Pro at 8 am to carpool. We will drop off a shuttle car and then drive up the Pinnacle to start our hike. Bring lunch and good shoes. Distance of the hike is dependent on road conditions. Check back to see how far we hike. Steve will check out conditions before the hike.

April 13 – C.R.57 to C.R.58 (Cedar Creek) – Ozark Highlands Trail – 4 miles – moderate.

It's going to be tough to top the eclipse on the Monday before, but when it comes to raw natural beauty, this hike has a lot. We will carpool from Morgan McDonald's at 7:30 or you can meet us at Haw Creek Falls at 9:30. You'll see cliffs, waterfalls, and early wildflowers. Bring lunch, water, and water shoes in case the creek is up.

May 11 – Fern Hollow Trail & Little Grand Canyon (White Oak Lake) – 6.1 miles – Mod.

Another new hike! We head south to White Oak Lake State Park to hike the Fern Hollow Trail. We will only do half of the trail and then go over to the Little Grand Canyon area on a branch of White Oak creek. Meet at the Chick-fil-A by Bass Pro at 8 am or meet us at the Park Visitor's center at 10. Bring lunch and water.

More events may be added at any time. Check the Ozark Society's website calendar for updates and additional outings. You are more than welcome to join any of the trips listed on the calendar, even if they are not sponsored by the Pulaski Chapter. Reach out to the leader and let them know you are coming. Our leaders are well-trained and knowledgeable, dedicated to ensuring everyone's safety. If, at any point, you feel unsafe during an outing, please communicate with the leader. Feel free to call the leader if you have any questions about participating. While kids are generally welcome on most trips, it's advisable to check with the leader for specific details.

Got Questions? Contact Outings Chair, Steve Heye, at 501-350-5275 or Heye@aristotle.net.



The Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation wants your feedback on recreation opportunities and amenities within the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area, an exciting multi-agency partnership encompassing parks and natural areas from the Big Dam Bridge in Little Rock westward along Lake Maumelle and beyond.

Please complete the survey here: <https://bit.ly/MaumellePinnacles>
For project information and updates, please visit: <https://arcg.is/1S9GCi1>

AGFC is proud to collaborate with the Office of Outdoor Recreation and other local agencies to expand connectivity and recreational amenities in Central Arkansas.