



BAYOU BYLINE



March 2024

Calendar of Events

March

- 19 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Marian will present a program on Big Bend National Park
- 23 Sicily Island Hike - contact Kim at kcox@bpcc.edu
- 30 Lake Bistineau State Park Paddle - contact Tammy at Tjerni88@hotmail.com

April

- 16 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Tammy and Kim will present a program on "Swimming With the Manatees."
- 19-21 Mount Magazine Hike - contact Kim at kcox@bpcc.edu
- 28 Corney Creek Paddle - contact Kim at kcox@bpcc.edu

May

- 4 Annual Crawfish Boil at the Eylers - see flyer on page 2 for more info
- 10-12 Hike and Camp at White Oak Lake State Park - contact Cindy at cbrix7591@gmail.com
- 21 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm
- 24-27 Hike and Camp at Texas Dinosaur Country - contact Wendy Caldwell at jimirokd@yahoo.com

June

- 5-7 Buffalo River Float Trip - contact Grace Eyler at sege98@comcast.net or Karen Pitts at tuffenufchuck@aol.com



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.



Marian will present a program on a recent 2 week trip to Big Bend National Park



Bayou Chapter Ozark Society
Annual Crawfish Boil
Saturday May 4, 2024
Noon - 4:00 pm



Steve and Grace Eyler's Home
126 Peterson Dr.
Benton, LA 71006



Directions: If coming from Shreveport/Bossier:
North on Benton Road (Hwy 3)
Turn Right at light on Hwy 162
Approximately 5 miles, turn Left on Sirman Road
Turn Left on Peterson Drive, 1st gravel road, and go to the end of
the road to the last house on the right.

Bring whatever you want to drink, lawn chairs, awning for shade,
dessert to share.....

Grace - 318-455-7148
Steve - 318-458-6234

Send **\$20 per person** (checks payable to Bayou Chapter
Ozark Society) to:



BCOS
P.O. Box 4693
Shreveport, LA. 71134

A Fine Time on the Athens-Big Fork

By: Perry Hill

Our shuttle to the ABF trailheads Saturday morning (March 9th) began with cool temps and cloudy skies. But it didn't take long for those clouds to clear and the sunshine to warm us. It brought to mind Irving Berlin's lyric "Blue skies smiling at me . . .", and that's just what the day felt like. Kathy Kramer, Marian Howard, Sandy Roerig, Vickie Rech, Roy O'neal, David Lohrey, and Mitch Leavins joined Yours Truly for our day excursion. While the number of workers was relatively small, it was a hard-working group that proved quality was more important than quantity. Kathy and Marian comprised the Lady Loppers crew that was attentive to undergrowth, overhangs, and smaller branches that needed to be cleared, while Mitch and Vickie displayed awesome skill in building water bars, especially on the north face of Brush Heap Mountain. David also offered a keen eye and expert advice as he and I traversed the lower leg of the trail from south trailhead to Blaylock Creek. The good weather held the rest of the day, temps were perfect, and the company hard to beat. Also, the trail was incredibly busy, as hikers and backpackers were abundant. Marian stated her crew encountered a total of SIXTY-ONE PEOPLE during the day. That is just unheard of to me, and really reflects how vastly popular the Eagle Rock Loop (which incorporates most of the ABF) has become.

Good times continued throughout the evening with a potluck meal. Everett Rambin and his canine companion, Brody, arrived Friday night to spend the weekend and share his gumbo. Uno Reilly and Teresa White joined us Saturday afternoon and spent the night. And we were in store for a special treat when long-time BCOS members Ann (Burton) Holbrook and Stephanie Parks joined in the potluck dinner and campfire commiserations. An unexpected and memorable event took place when Sandy Roerig serenaded the group with several unique, humorous, and occasionally quirky songs that were quite enjoyable. I had no idea she could sing and entertain so well.

All in all, a fun and productive weekend. I was proud of how conscientious our trail workers were, and how cheerfully everyone pitched in to help with whatever task needed to be done, whether it was on the trail or at the campground. It was especially gratifying to see SO MANY PEOPLE on the ABF. That's the reason BCOS restored and continues to maintain the trail: So that other, like-minded people can explore the outdoors and enjoy the gifts Nature has to offer. Good job, folks!!



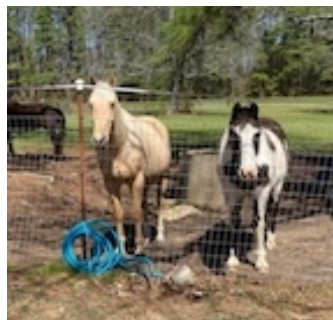


Athens-Big Fork Trail Maintenance



OWL Center Trail Maintenance

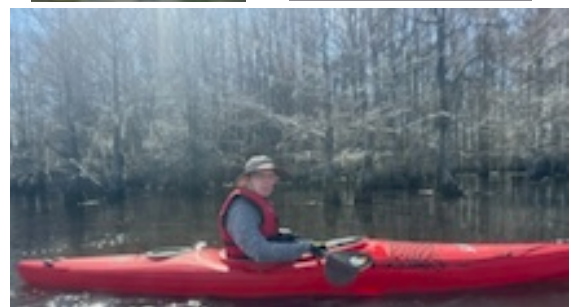
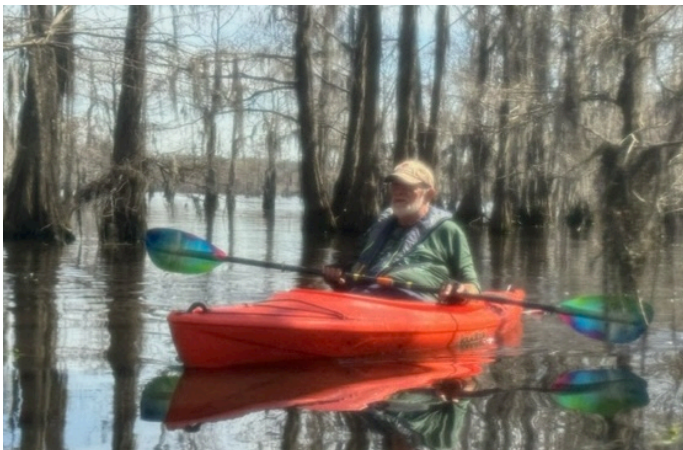
This past weekend, 24 BCOS members met at the OWL Center in Dubach, LA to do trail maintenance and clean up. This 800 acre facility is a non-profit program of the United Methodist Children and Family Services. They provide many community services including therapeutic riding programs for special needs individuals. We had so many BCOS volunteers for this event that we were able to clear 3 times as many trail areas as originally planned. Thanks so much to all who came to help and to Wayne and Susan Kiefer for organizing and leading this event!



Pop-Up Paddle on Lake Bistineau

By: Mark Robinson

Paddlers enjoyed beautiful weather on Lake Bistineau Sunday afternoon March 10th. We put in at the boat launch and followed the paddling trail in a clockwise direction. The temperature was at sixty four degrees and a one mile per hour breeze kept everyone cool in the sun. We completed the five mile distance in two hours. Thanks to everyone who participated.



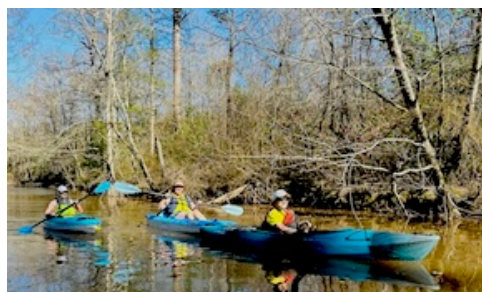
Pop-Up Paddle on Cypress Bayou

By: Kim Cox

Many lessons were learned on the pop-up paddle of Cypress Bayou on Sunday February 24th... the most important of which is that 15mph gales (with gusts up to 30) is not "ideal" for paddling ...but when a warm sunny February day presents itself you tend to throw caution (and better sense) to the literal wind!!

A group of 7 adventurous BCOS members took to the water this afternoon to explore the north end of Cypress Bayou... the trek "to" our destination was easy... the trek "back" was a WORKOUT. But we survived unscathed (unless you count our abused biceps) and dry (unless you count one paddler's mishap at the take-out). The paddling trail has been cleared of most obstacles (we only had to "limbo" under one downed tree) and we were able to make it to the amazing heron nesting trees!!! The herons were very active and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time watching them!

Was the reward worth the effort?? Ask us tomorrow when we find out if we can lift our arms without help but I say yes!!



Duck Pond Cleanup

By: Roy O'Neal

12 BCOS members spent Saturday morning February 23rd picking up litter at the Kings Hwy Duck Pond Park. The City of Shreveport did a really good post-Mardi Gras parade clean up but there's always additional litter that makes it's way down to and in the water. We removed 11 garbage bags full along with several larger items (big garbage can, plastic wakeboard, attic whirly-bird). We had amazing weather ... and the ICE CREAM TRUCK showed up just in time for us to reward ourselves

Thanks to all who came out to help and to Roy O'Neal for planning and leading this event every year!!



Caney Lake Hike

By Sandy Roerig

Saturday, February 17, 2024 was cool (around 42 degrees F) and overcast – perfect hiking weather. The Caney Lake hike scheduled for the previous Saturday had been cancelled due to rain and the original location of today's hike was the Monkey Trail, but a footrace had been scheduled for that trail. So, we made the best of the situation and hiked the Sugar Creek Trail at Caney Lake today.

Seven bundled-up BCOS members and guests showed up at 9:30 am the trailhead: Sharon Windham, John Shannon, Lori and Ricky Dunn, Melissa Leporati, Gary Hackman and Sandy Roerig. Canine escorts included Lucy and Girli. After introductions and brief instructions, we started out walking clockwise around Caney Lake.

The trail was in good condition, showing only a couple of muddy spots that were easily -by-passed. We noticed some burned areas along the trail that appeared to be fairly recent. We got warmer as we walked and were soon shedding mittens and top-layer jackets.



As usual, interesting conversations ensued among the hikers as we shared the joy of the day and the invigorating exercise.

Also as usual, Sandy was picking up any piece of trash she saw, but she didn't see much until the last half mile, or so, where the trail went over the dam. On that section, she and Gary easily filled a medium size plastic bag, mostly with empty beer cans. Some of these were probably exposed by the recent burns. Interesting finds also included a pair of blue men's underwear hanging in a tree (?) and a 12 oz glass Coca-Cola bottle.

Overall, we hiked 5.4 miles, according to Ricky and enjoyed the good company of those who enjoy just walking in the woods.

Hope to see you all on the trails soon!

BCOS Meeting Minutes - February 20, 2024

By: Acting Secretary Gary Hackman

Grace Eyler called the meeting to order at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge visitor's center with 33 in attendance.

Lynn Bryan, executive director of Keep Bossier Beautiful, reported on a Keep Louisiana Beautiful litter assessment published last fall. It revealed that of the \$91 million per year spent on litter each year in Louisiana, 2% is spent on education, 8% on prevention, 3% on enforcement, and 87% on remediation. Keep Bossier Beautiful would like to shift more of that money toward education. It was also noted that the survey showed Northwest Louisiana with the most litter on the day of the survey.

Ms. Bryan reported on several projects recently completed by Keep Bossier Beautiful and on upcoming events. She would like to partner with BCOS for a May or June cleanup of Cypress-Black Bayou Lakes. After a short break the business meeting was called to order.

The December, 2023 meeting minutes were approved. There was no meeting in January due to weather conditions.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Brix reported a check of \$133.30 was given executive approval in order to reimburse Marian Howard for the 2023 Christmas party expenses leaving a balance of \$6,586.36 on December 31, 2023. After payments for two memberships to the Ozark Society we have a balance of \$6,546.36 on January 31, 2024.

Conservation – Sandy Roerig reported on the history and resurrection of the Coates Bluff Nature Trail. In 2009, the Montessori School for Shreveport hosted a community cleanup of the neglected trail in which several BCOS members participated. 14,000 lbs. of trash were collected. The school started an outdoor education program in 2010 and the trail became an outdoor classroom. In 2016 the school received a Healthy Communities Grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful to form a Friends group that would oversee trail improvements and maintenance, organize events, advocate for the trail's preservation, and serve as a resource for teachers and community organizers. In October, 2023 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries chose the project "Expansion of Coates Bluff Nature Areas" as one of 13 projects approved for funding.

A motion was made and approved to donate our usual annual amount to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Grace mentioned that we need someone to represent BCOS for the Federation.

Perry Hill reported on efforts to secure a historical marker for the Athens-Big Fork Trail with the State of Arkansas. He moved "that the Bayou Chapter serve as a sponsor in applying for a historical marker recognizing the Athens-Big Fork Trail and that any required signatures or correspondence be provided by the Chapter Chairperson or their designated representative." The motion was seconded by Wayne Kiefer and approved by the members. Perry then moved "that we authorize a donation of \$400 to support acquisition and installation of a historical marker for the Athens-Big Fork Trail." After discussion, Barbie Halbert amended the amount of the donation to \$1,000. The amended amount was seconded by Kathy Kramer and the motion passed.

Upcoming Events – Duck Pond Cleanup on February 24, contact Roy O'Neal. OWL Center trail maintenance on March 2, contact Wayne Kiefer. Athens-Big Fork Trail maintenance March 9-10, contact Perry Hill.

Door prize winners were Steve Eyler and Everett Rambin. Meeting was adjourned.

Ozark Society Board Meeting Winter 2024

By: Sandy Roerig

Two members of the Bayou Chapter, Perry Hill and Sandy Roerig, attended the Ozark Society Board meeting that was held January 27, 2024 in the Peterson Castle near Conway, AR.

The meeting was opened at 10:45 am by President Brian Thompson. Minutes of the October 2023 Board meeting by Secretary Sandy were approved. Treasurer Kay Ewart reviewed the Treasurer's report that was also unanimously approved.

Old Business

Update on land application permits for Northwest Arkansas Surplus Area Industrial Waste: Brian reported that there were 3 applications for land application permits in the past year. The permits are for disposal of waste from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Brian and David Peterson had contacted the towns that would be affected by these permits and provided information about the issues surrounding these permits. There were public comment sessions. All 3 applications are currently stalled in this evolving issue. There was discussion on this topic. The company most involved in these applications has indicated it is willing to do whatever the regulations require, but current regulations are not adequate to control the situation. Local waste treatment plants are not adequate to keep up with the current load.

Update on Reg 5 (hog farms) transfer from Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to AR Natural Resource Commission (ANRC). Brian described legislation recently passed. His comments included (1) Reg 5 includes a moratorium on CAFOs, (2) Reg 5 waste management handbook was very useful and is included, (3) the Ozark Society needs to be notified if any new permits are received under Reg 5. Brian, David and Alice are meeting on February 5 with Chris Colcoasvie, the Secretary of ANRC.

Buffalo National River Reclassification and Runway Group: Brian reported that since the original proposal to reclassify the Buffalo National River has been withdrawn, it makes no sense to keep fighting it. If the issue is brought up again, the Ozark Society Board will meet to discuss any new proposal.

Update on University of Arkansas Press: Brian stated that the Ozark Society has ended its long-time relationship with the University of Arkansas Press, as of December 31, 2023. He suggested that the OS could sell its books through Amazon, or perhaps through other groups such as the National Heritage Commission. The OS should at least break even on the cost of developing and printing books. There are still OS books stored at the University of Chicago and if enough books are sold in a period of time, there are no storage fees. So far, this agreement is working well. There was considerable discussion on ways to promote and sell the books.

Board Reports

Communications /Membership: Chair Carolyn Shearman provided a 3-year review of OS memberships. She has been tracking these for 8 years and has diligently tried to contact people who receive the Pack & Paddle by mail, but do not have any Chapter affiliation. There are still 158 people she has not heard from. However, if she has an e-mail address, she is now sending the Pack & Paddle by e-mail. Recently, she has deleted 60 people from her list.

Carolyn also reported that since she stopped having paper copies printed by Allegra, she has been saving money by printing copies at Office Depot. She now mails fewer than 200 copies of the Pack & Paddle every quarter.

Carolyn is now updating the OS website about twice a week with updated information from the Chapters.

Conservation: Co-Chair Alice Andrews discussed the ANRC meetings that will be held across AR to provide discussion about a state water plan. She anticipates that Brian will be able to attend some of these meetings. Alice also mentioned issues surrounding industrial waste in northwest Arkansas. David stated that currently 52,000 acres

Ozark Society Board Meeting Winter 2024 - continued

of land are being used to spread waste, at a rate of 16,000 gallons per acre. That's a rate of 335 truck loads per day spread on a 1,500 acre plot. Very little waste is going to treatment plants.

David also discussed lithium mining in AR and LA. This process is meant to extract lithium from water that has been injected into fracking wells. A representative from the Ozark Society needs to attend a meeting on February 14-15, called by Governor Sanders that will provide information about this. It was decided unanimously that David would represent the Ozark Society at this meeting.

Co-Chair Tom McClure discussed his ongoing meetings with Forest Service rangers. He also mentioned that Ozark Society members had provided good comments about the Blue Hole issue. These helped gain recent preservation of 6,700 acres in this area.

Education: Chair Fred Paillet was not present, but has been providing excellent articles for the Pack & Paddle.

Archives: Chair Stewart Noland announced that so far, 6 people have qualified for the Sassafras Award for hiking. The First River documentary film has been a success. This year is the 60th anniversary of the National wilderness Act of 1964.

Stewart also mentioned that interviews by Tom McClure that will be stored in the Pryor Center of Oral and Visual History. Tom is interviewing people who were involved in efforts in the 1960's and 1980's to preserve wilderness areas.

Community Engagement: Chair Lowell Collins reported that since the program's inception in 2020 there has been \$42,000 disbursed to 22 grantees. In the 2022-23 grant cycle, 9 out of 14 applicants were awarded \$14,514. The 22-23 report from grantees was recently sent to the OS Board and is posted on the website.

The second, 2023 grant application cycle closes on February 3, there is a \$9,000 budget remaining. There have already been 7 proposals submitted, 2 from Northwest AR and 5 from other Arkansas areas.

The Youth Grant project is intended to provide support throughout the OS chapter region although 50% of grantees have been from Northwest AR. The description of the geographic area for potential applicants has been revised to more clearly define where the Ozark Society is active. This cycle, there has been a greater emphasis on reaching Missouri, Louisiana and Central Arkansas.

Lowell also discussed the need for generating funds to continue to support this program. She suggested, (1) Implement a marketing plan for OS, (2) Increase awareness of OS youth Grants in the OS membership and (3) seeking corporate giving, such as from REI. Brian suggested that these youth grants would be an easy product to sell to conservation-minded corporations.

Climate Change: Chair Jennifer Ailor was not present to provide a report and the Climate Change Committee was unable to meet this fall.

New Business

Spring General Membership meeting: The spring Ozark Society General Membership meeting will be hosted by the Schoolcraft Chapter in Springfield, MO on May 18, 2024. Speakers, workshops and outings are planned. The Board approved giving up to \$1,000 to help cover expenses for this meeting.

US Forest Service Coal Lease in Ouachitas: David discussed the potential water quality and climate issues associated with the planned mining of 70 million tons of coal in the Ouachita Mountains. An Australian mining company will perform the mining and the coal will be shipped to China, India and Brazil. An environmental study has not yet been performed and may take years to complete. Tom McClure mentioned that this might be a good opportunity to partner with other conservation organizations in opposition to this plan.

Ozark Society Board Meeting Winter 2024 - continued

Meeting with BNR Superintendent Angela Boyers: Brian stated that he is meeting with Angela Boyers on February 5 to start conversations on such topics as (1) use of groovers on the river, (2) potential for required permits on the Buffalo River during the spring paddling season, (3) water quality testing in the Buffalo River, (4) parking on river gravel bars, such as those near Gilbert, (5) use of horse trails in wilderness areas, and other topics.

Proposed Dark Skies Resolution: Brian had sent via e-mail a proposed Dark Skies Resolution. Board members had reviewed the document and approved it unanimously.

Chapter Reports

Bayou Chapter: Perry Hill reported that members enjoyed several recent hikes, including a New Year's Day hike that attracted more than 40 participants. He also mentioned the Athens Big Fork Trail that the Chapter helped build and has been maintaining for more than 30 years. Perry has researched the trail history and presented his findings to the Chapter. Stewart asked Perry to write an article on the trail for the Pack & Paddle. Perry also mentioned that Chapter members enjoyed their annual Christmas party.

Buffalo River Chapter: Chair Chris McMillan provided a written report:

The Annual Membership meeting was held on Nov. 4, 2023 at Buffalo Point Pavilion with 23 chapter members and 7 guests in attendance. We visited the beautiful bluffs on the river and had lunch provided by the chapter. Our guest speaker was Landon Curtis of Buffalo River Partners. We had our meeting, discussion and music by Dave Smith.

In November Jim Liles led Buffalo River Chapter members on a hike on the Lower Buffalo Wilderness. In December Kris McMillen led several hikes. In January we enjoyed hikes led by Stewart Noland, by JB Clark and by Kris McMillen. The Buffalo River Chapter Board held a brief meeting on January 11, 2024.

Highlands Chapter: Chair Tom Perry reported that the Chapter held its 22nd annual New Year's Day hike. Chapter members also enjoyed a Christmas party with Sugar Creek Chapter members. Many hikes have been rescheduled this year due to weather.

Pulaski Chapter: Chair Mary Beth McDonald stated that Steve Hey led a hike to Petit Jean State Park – and conditions were cold, wet and slippery. The Chapter recently heard a talk by Don House about his book, "Letters to Dan".

Schoolcraft Chapter: Chair Curtis Millsap was not present.

Sugar Creek: Chair Lowell Collins stated Significant overlap with Highlands Chapter, joint events include hikes and winter dinner. Chapter members participated in Logan Springs conservation day. The First Day Hike included 52 people with only 10 members participating.

There was a really nice article in the NWA Democrat Gazette about the Chapter. There will be a Spring event with Compton Gardens with native plant sale, property tour and First River showing. The Wildflower Wednesday series will be held for 6 weeks in April/May.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.



Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2024

Chair

Grace Eyer

bayouchair@ozarksociety.net

Vice-Chair

Kim Cox

kcox@bpcc.edu

Secretary

Jenny Hackman

jandgman@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Cindy Brix

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Conservation Reports

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Ozark Society Officers - 2024

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Louisiana State Director

Perry Hill

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Ozark Society Secretary

Sandy Roerig

sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu

Athens-Big Fork Relaxation After Trail Maintenance





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:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | Start at Section A for your OS and Chapter Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | Start at Section A to renew your OS and Chapter Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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)*

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend: | \$30 | = \$20 OS + \$10 Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate: | \$50 | = \$40 OS + \$10 Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter: | \$100 | = \$90 OS + \$10 Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: | \$250 | = \$240 OS + \$10 Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: | \$500 | = \$490 OS + \$10 Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor: | \$1000+ | = \$990+ OS + \$10 Chapter |

Chapter: *(choose one)*

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bayou (Shreveport, LA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo River (North Central, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Highlands (Fayetteville, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pulaski (Central, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Bayou (Shreveport, LA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Buffalo River (North Central, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Highlands (Fayetteville, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Pulaski (Central, AR) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR) |

Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Conservation Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Endowment Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Legal Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Youth Grant Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | Compton Scholarship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | 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.