

FEBRUARY 2026

Paddle Trails

The Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter



ozarksociety.net

Upcoming Chapter Meeting

FEBRUARY MEETING

 **Date:** Tuesday, Feb 3

 **Time:** Social: 6:30 pm,
Meeting: 7:00 pm

 **Location:**
2nd Presbyterian Church,
Room 62

Pulaski Chapter Officers

Chair - Ann Owen
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Vice Chair - Rick Owen
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Treasurer - Charles Mullins
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Speaker Update

Please join us on Tuesday, February 3 at Second Presbyterian Church for a special presentation on **Sandhill Cranes**. We will gather at 6:30 PM for social time, with the program beginning at 7:00 PM.

Our own Janet and Alan Nye will share highlights from their trip to Kearney, Nebraska, where they witnessed the spectacular spring gathering of Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River. Each year, tens of thousands of cranes stop there to rest and refuel before continuing their migration north. In addition to stories from this unforgettable experience, Janet and Alan will also share photos and video of prairie chickens they encountered west of Kearney.

Janet and Alan joined the Ozark Society in 1981 and quickly developed a deep appreciation for the forests and rivers of the Ouachitas and Ozarks through Society outings. Over the years, they have been active leaders, serving in various roles on both the Ozark Society Board and Pulaski Chapter leadership. They rarely missed a meeting, and their two young children even attended chapter meetings and many spring and fall gatherings.

Professionally, Alan holds a PhD in Toxicology from UAMS, and Janet earned her Master's in Social Work from the University of Tennessee. We're grateful to have them share both their travels and their long-standing love of the natural world with us.



Upcoming Outings

For full details and info on additional outings, visit Ozarksociety.net

Wednesday, February 4 - River Mountain Bike Trail - 3.5 miles - Easy to Moderate

Meet at 1:00 PM. Parking lot is to the left of River Mountain Road (off Cantrell Road near I-430 junction in Little Rock) just past the RR tracks and before you get to Maumelle River). Dirt/gravel multi-use single track, wooded trail. There are some flat rocks and a tight banking downhill section with some loose gravel at the end of hike. Poles are helpful here.

Saturday, February 7 - Blue Mountain - 3.2 miles or 3.5 miles - Moderate

Meet at 10:00 AM at Blue Mountain Parking Lot. Led by George Wise of Sierra Club, this will include hikes at Blue Mountain: Luna Moth 3.2 miles; Tarantula Hawk 3.5 miles. If we have enough hikers, we will divide up and lead hikes on your choice of trails.

Thursday, February 12 - Ouachita Trail from the Riverview Center - 4.2 miles - Moderate

Meet at 1:00 PM at Riverview Center (former Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center). The terrain is moderately strenuous and does include some steps slopes near the trailhead. Trail is rocky, wear appropriate footwear.

Monday, February 16 - Allsopp Park - 3.5 miles - Easy to Moderate

Meet at 9:00 AM at Allsopp Park – 3700 Cedar Hill Road. Near the intersection of Cantrell and Cedar Hill. Meet at the parking lot near the tennis courts. Please join us afterwards for brunch at Tommie's home which is within walking distance from the park.

Thursday, February 26 - Dynamite Trail - 4 - 4.6 miles - Moderate

Meet at 1:00 PM at Upper parking lot at the Riverview Center (former Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center). This is a moderately strenuous, multi-use trail with steep slope switchbacks; however it is less strenuous than Pinnacle Mountain summit trails. It includes great views overlooking the Maumelle and Arkansas Rivers

Wednesday, March 4 - Audubon Center - 3 miles - Easy

Meet at 9:00 AM at the Audubon Arkansas parking lot. Dr Eric Fraser will lead a hike on the natural wooded trails at the Audubon Center.

DUTCH OVEN COOKING CLASS

Date: Sunday, March 15

Time: 1:30pm - 5:00pm

Location: Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center

Our instructor will be Hollie Sanders Whiteseven

This will be a hands-on class so it will be limited to the first 25 people who register. The class will be geared towards adults and children 10 yo and up. Small registration fee due at registration to cover the cost of groceries: \$15

Registrants should send an email to Mary and to Hollie:

macheller60@icloud.com (Mary) and hlink007@aol.com (Hollie)





Outing Report

On Saturday, January 10, twenty folks from the Ozark Society and Second Baptist Church met at Lake Nixon to hike the "Dialed In" trail. After a discussion of the history and overlap of both groups we began our hike. It's interesting to note that the Ozark Society was founded in 1962 and Second Baptist's ownership of Lake Nixon occurred in 1969 and both have overlapping focus: Ozark Society- education, recreation and conservation; Second Baptist Church-education, recreation and sanctuary.

We had a beautiful crisp, blue sky day to walk the trail, enjoy conversation and explore the beauty of the forests. We learned about each other and just had fun. There were 6 kids in this group!

Grateful to have a place like Lake Nixon Outdoor Center to bring friends to walk with on a chilly January day.

Janet Nye

BUFFALO RIVER ANNOUNCES CAMPGROUND RESERVATION CHANGES FOR 2026

Buffalo National River will be introducing major updates to its camping system beginning in March. Reservations will be required at five popular campgrounds: Steel Creek, Ozark, Carver, Tyler Bend, and Rush. These reservations must be made in advance through Recreation.gov or by phone, as cash and check payments will no longer be accepted.

Several campgrounds, including Kyles Landing, Erbie, and some sites at Buffalo Point, will remain first-come, first-served. Backcountry and gravel bar camping will also remain unchanged and free, following Leave No Trace practices.

More details, including campground specifics and reservation information, can be found on the National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/buff/index.htm>

GRAND CANYON RAFTING OPPORTUNITY | MAY 2-8, 2027

The Ozark Society is pleased to offer the following opportunity to join **Canyoneers** for a **6-night, 7-day motorized raft trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon** from **Lee's Ferry to Diamond Creek on May 2-8, 2027** (next year).

This fully guided trip begins and ends in Flagstaff, Arizona and accommodates up to 24 participants. The cost is \$3,375 per person. Early May is considered one of the best times to experience the Grand Canyon, with comfortable temperatures and stunning scenery.

The Ozark Society organized this same trip several years ago, and it was extremely popular. Planning begins well in advance due to high demand, and Canyoneers may accept reservations from other groups, so early sign-up is encouraged.

For more information and to sign up for the trip please call Canyoneers at 800-525-0924.



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We love including member news, outings, and events in our newsletter! If you'd like something featured, please send the details about two weeks before the next chapter meeting.

Upcoming dates:

March 3 meeting: submit by February 15

April 7 meeting: submit by March 22

Thanks for helping keep our emails full of great, timely content!

Treasurer Report (January 4)

In December, I reimbursed Stewart Noland \$60 for Christmas Party expenses. At that meeting, members unanimously approved two \$1,000 donations: one to the Arkansas Community Foundation for the Ozark Society Endowment Program and one to the Buffalo River Foundation toward the purchase of land along Little Panther Creek.

The \$1,000 donation to the Arkansas Community Foundation has been sent and cashed. Our current balances are \$9,352.96 in a CD at the Bank of Little Rock and \$712.14 in the Regions checking account. The CD matured on January 3 and will be renewed within the required timeframe, with \$2,000 transferred to checking and the remainder reinvested.

Total funds currently stand at \$10,065.04. The approved \$1,000 donation to the Buffalo River Foundation will be paid from this amount.

Charles Mullins, Treasurer

10TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SUMMIT

Friday, February 20
Worsham Hall at Hendrix College
(1600 Washington Avenue, Conway, AR)
9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
\$20/person, lunch included



The Arkansas Environmental Policy Summit is a one-day event designed to bring together activists, regulators, elected officials, students, academics, experts, and others to discuss our state's most pressing environmental issues.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

This year's keynote speakers will present on the role of social scientists in conservation, environmental protection, and sustainability.

The event will feature breakout sessions on:

- Electric Transmission 101
- The State of Wind Energy in Arkansas
- SWEPCO's Latest Moves and What They Mean for Arkansas
- "Big Ideas" for Arkansas's Environment

For more details and to register, visit the event page or use this link:
<https://act.audubon.org/a/aeps-2026>

BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

The Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) is celebrating a major conservation milestone after more than a decade of dedicated work. Formed in 2013 in response to an industrial hog operation near the Buffalo National River, BRWA set out with two goals: closing the C&H hog CAFO and securing a permanent moratorium on future CAFOs in the watershed. Both goals have now been achieved, with the facility closing in 2019 and the Arkansas Legislature approving a permanent moratorium in 2025.

While celebrating this success, BRWA remains active and vigilant. Current priorities include monitoring proposed utility-scale wind farms in the Ozarks, advocating for stronger protections within the Buffalo River watershed, and addressing ongoing nutrient pollution concerns tied to poultry waste and weak state nutrient management regulations. BRWA is also watching developments related to a proposed poultry-waste-to-biogas facility that could impact the watershed.

The update reflects on the power of sustained community advocacy and looks ahead to continued stewardship of the Buffalo National River and its watershed.

You can read the full Buffalo River Watershed Alliance newsletter on their facebook page or at:
<https://bit.ly/4af15zy>

ARKANSAS READS LEOPOLD EVENTS

Tuesday, March 3

7:00 PM Showing of Green Fire, Central Arkansas Library System Ron Robinson Theater, 100 River Market Avenue, Little Rock.

This first full-length biographical documentary of Aldo Leopold's life and work also emphasizes the importance of the land ethic for our own time.

Leopold first began to formulate his land ethic after he killed a female wolf in the Apache National Forest in 1909. He wrote of this experience and more in his essay "Thinking Like a Mountain." The documentary explores how his philosophy has inspired current conservation work across the U.S. We will gather to watch this excellent film for our March meeting!



Saturday, March 7

10 AM - 4 PM Community Reading and Birding Walks, Little Rock Audubon Center, 4500 Springer Blvd, Little Rock.

Audubon Delta, the Arkansas Audubon Society, Central Arkansas Master Naturalists, Audubon Society of Central Arkansas, Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter, and Sierra Club are cosponsoring this event, featuring members of the Central Arkansas community reading excerpts from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and other nature-inspired works by authors such as Robin Wall Kimmerer and Drew Lanham. Feel free to come and go during the day. Guided birding walks on the trails will take place at 11, 1, and 3 — bring binoculars if you have them. The Center has pairs that can be used. A limited number of copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

10 AM - 1 PM Community Reading and Nature Journaling, Laman Library, 2801 Orange St, North Little Rock.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Community Reading and Nature Walk, Faulkner County Library, 1900 Tyler St, Conway.

Time TBA Maumelle Library, 10 Lake Pointe Dr, Maumelle. Watch this spot for more details!

Sunday, March 8

8:45 AM - 3 PM Arkansas Reads Leopold--A Family Event, Ozark Natural Science Center at Lake Fayetteville, 599 E Lakeview Dr, Springdale.

10:00 AM - 1 PM *A Sand County Almanac* and 75 Years of UUCLR, Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock, 1818 Reservoir Rd, Little Rock.

The Forum, at 10:00, will feature the Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter. The Sunday service at 11:00 will include readings and reflections on Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, led by the Rev. Paul Beedle and others from the UUCLR community. The Second Sunday Share the Plate collection will be for the benefit of the Ozark Society Youth Grand Program.

10 AM - 2 PM Community Reading and Birding Walks, Little Rock Audubon Center, 4500 Springer Blvd, Little Rock.