

MARCH 2026

# Paddle Trails

*The Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter*



ozarksociety.net

## Upcoming Chapter Meeting

### MARCH MEETING

VENUE CHANGE FOR THIS MEETING

 **Date:** Tuesday, March 3

 **Time:** Meeting: 6:15 pm,  
Screening: 7:00 pm

 **Location:**

Ron Robinson Theater,  
100 River Market Ave, Little  
Rock, AR 72201

## Pulaski Chapter Officers

**Chair** - Ann Owen

**Vice Chair** - Rick Owen

**Treasurer** - Charles Mullins

**Outings Co-Chairs** - Tommie  
Kelly, Mary Heller

**Membership & Newsletter Chair**  
- Stacey Svendsen

**Conservation Co-Chairs** — Alice  
Andrews, John Fletcher

**Hospitality** - Vicki Jett

**Nominating** - Mary Schlatterer,  
Janet Nye, David Peterson

**At-large Board Members** - Janet  
Nye, Alan Nye

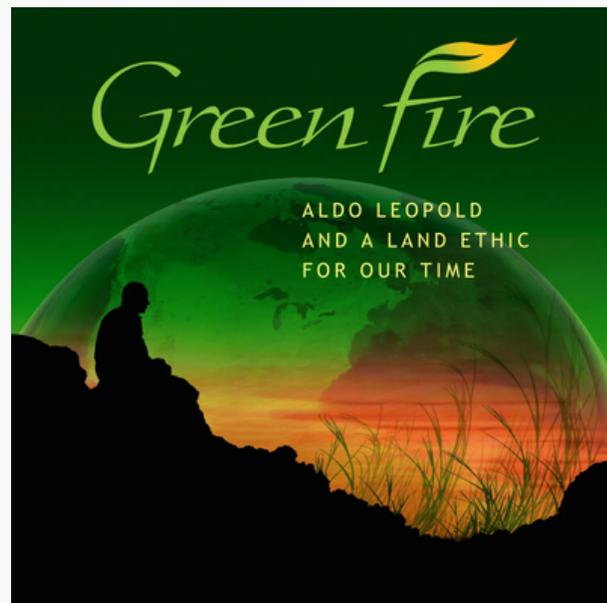
## Speaker Update

We are convening our **March 3** meeting at Ron Robinson Theater to see the free screening of *Green Fire*, about the legendary conservationist, Aldo Leopold. We will start with a chapter meeting at 6:15 pm at the top of the staircase in the lobby of the theater, followed by the 7:00 pm screening of *Green Fire*.

The film is a part of the Arkansas Reads Leopold events, for which our chapter is a co-sponsor. 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.

Please come, and bring a friend! The theater is located at 100 River Market Avenue downtown.

**Rick Owen, Vice Chair**



## Treasurer Report

I reimbursed Ann Owen \$151.13 for materials for outings: copying, clipboards and markers. I also paid \$300 to the Second Presbyterian Church for room rental for this year.

We received \$830 from memberships and a donation of \$50 from John and Claudia Courtway in memory of Steve Heye. Together with our Bank of Little Rock CD of \$9,325.16, as of February the assets for the Pulaski Chapter total \$11,466.17.

*Charles Mullins, Treasurer*

## Save the Date! Ozark Society Spring Retreat

Our chapter is hosting the Ozark Society Spring Retreat this year — it will be **April 17-19** at DeGray Lake Resort State Park! The board meeting will be Saturday morning and the rest of the weekend will be packed with lots of opportunities for nature, activities, fun and fellowship!

## 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](mailto:macheller60@icloud.com) (Mary) and [hisk007@aol.com](mailto:hisk007@aol.com) (Hollie)



be sure to check out our

## MINI MERCH MARKET

at every monthly meeting!



## Upcoming Outings

*Everyone is welcome to hike with us, whether an Ozark Society member or not. For full details and info on additional outings, [as well as updates](http://Ozarksociety.net), visit [Ozarksociety.net](http://Ozarksociety.net)*

### **Wednesday, March 4 - Wood Thrush and Prothonotary Warbler Trails - 3 miles - Easy**

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

### **Saturday, March 7 - Bufflehead Bay Hike - 2.3 miles - Easy to Moderate**

Meet at 10:00 AM at trailhead. If traveling from Little Rock on HWY 10, the trail head and parking area is located 0.3 mile west of WestRock Landing Marina on HWY 10. Enjoy a 2.3-mile loop with views of Lake Maumelle for half of the hike. The first half-mile is paved; the rest has a natural surface. The natural surface portion of the trail is marked with blue blazes and is for foot traffic only.

### **Thursday, March 12 - Rattlesnake Ridge Hike - 4 miles - Easy to Moderate**

Meet at 1:00 PM at Rattlesnake Ridge parking lot. Features include several well-designed and implemented bridges and boardwalks and the trail features rolling terrain, berms, and boulder gardens, making it a popular mixed use trail.

### **Saturday, March 14 - Keep Little Rock Beautiful: CITY-WIDE CLEANUP KICKOFF - Community Service**

Meet at 9:00 AM at Clinton School of Public Service. After opening remarks from local leaders, we will disburse in groups to pick up litter in the downtown Little Rock area. Keep Little Rock Beautiful will grill hot dogs for volunteers as they return from the litter pick up. KLRB will provide supplies (litter grabbers, trash bags, gloves, etc.). Please bring a reusable water bottle.

### **Thursday, March 19 - Intro to Trails at Wildwood Park - 2 miles - Easy to Moderate**

Meet at 1:00 PM at Wildwood Park for the Arts in West Little Rock at the parking lot inside main entrance to the park. We'll be doing parts of several trails at the park, including the Wild 40, nature trail (above the lake), arboretum (along the lake), & Asian Woodland Garden. Hopefully, there will be a variety of daffodils blooming along the lake, as well as other blooms in the Asian garden.

### **Saturday, April 4 - Pinnacle Mountain State Park Rocky Valley Trail with East Quarry Spur - 3 miles - Moderate**

Meet at 9:00 AM the Riverview Center Parking lot (the old Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center). This short but vigorous hike combines two trails at Pinnacle Mountain State Park: the Rocky Valley and East Quarry Trails. This is a heavily forested, scenic and hilly walk with a couple of great vistas on the east end. The terrain is mixed with some rocky sections.

## Upcoming Outings Continued...

### **Wednesday, April 22 - Central Arkansas Water's Immersive Forest to Faucet Tour**

Meet at 8:30 AM at Lake Maumelle Watershed (Exact location TBD closer to event). Central Arkansas Water is pleased to welcome members and guests of the Ozark Society for an inside look at how we protect the region's drinking water. During your visit, you'll explore CAW's lake and land management practices, from monitoring forests and waterways to addressing invasive species and using data to guide conservation decisions. You'll also get a preview of what's ahead – plans for future lake and trail improvements and the vision for our new Watershed Office and Laboratory, which will support research as well as community education. Please bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a picnic by the lake. Bring waders or waterproof boots with gaiters, if you have them, otherwise, waterproof boots.

### **Saturday, April 25 - Cove Creek Natural Trail and the Ozark Foothills African-American History Museum - 2+ miles - Easy**

Meet at 8:45 am at Immanuel Baptist Church in West Little Rock and at 9:00 AM - McDonald's in Maumelle at AR-365 and I-40 to carpool. Features include beautiful woodland walk with vistas and waterfalls and a historical tour of Mallettown, Twin Groves and the Ozark Foothills African-American History Museum.

### **Wednesday, April 29 - Hiking Lost Valley and Balanced Rock - 4 miles - Mostly easy. Intermediate for cave exploration at Lost Valley, which is optional.**

Meet at Morgan McDonald's at 7:45 AM. Features include creekside hike in both places. Waterfall at large bluff shelter in Lost Valley. Steps uphill leading to Eden Cave with 100 foot crawl to view 30 foot waterfall inside the cave. Second portion of hike a few miles away at Leatherwood Creek (tributary to Buffalo River at Ponca Low Water Bridge). One shallow water crossing, often able to "rock hop." Then 200 foot ascent to unique rock at top of a waterfall. Both hikes are "out-and-back." If at any point, return to vehicle is desired, that is perfectly acceptable. Expect to be gone about 10 hours.

## Ozark Society Sassafras Award

It's a great time to be hiking and backpacking the fabulous trails in The Natural State. Let us know when you are ready for your Sassafras Award, the way we honor folks that have hiked the Ouachita Trail, the Ozark Highlands Trail, the Buffalo River Trail, and the Ozark Trail!

For more information, visit <https://www.ozarksociety.net/ozark-society-awards-grants-scholarships/os-sassafras-hiking-award/>



### 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:

**April 7 meeting:** submit by March 22

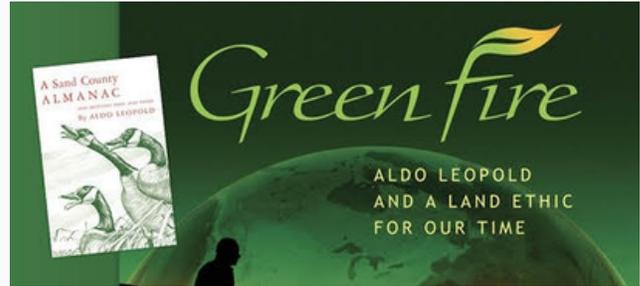
# Arkansas Reads Leopold Events

## 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

**8 AM to 10 AM--Birding Field Trip; 10 AM to Noon--Community Reading; Noon to 1 PM--Nature 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, Sierra Club, and Wild Birds Unlimited 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. A guided birding trip will also be offered before the reading, and nature walks will follow it. Bring binoculars if you have them. If not, the Center has pairs that can be used. There will be door prizes and children's activities. A limited number of free copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

**10 AM - 12 PM Community Reading and Nature Journaling, Laman Library, 2801 Orange St, North Little Rock.** The Laman Library is sponsoring this event, featuring members of the Central Arkansas community reading excerpts from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and other nature-inspired works. A limited number of free copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available. The Laman Library and Paper Hearts Bookstore are coming together for a community reading of nature writings and a nature journal craft session!

**12 PM - 2 PM Community Reading and Nature Walk, Faulkner County Library, 1900 Tyler St, Conway.** The Foothills Chapter of the Arkansas Master Naturalists are sponsoring 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. A limited number of free copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

**10 AM to 12 PM, Maumelle Library, 10 Lake Pointe Dr, Maumelle.** Join us as we celebrate the environmental movement with community members reading from Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and other environmental writings. After listening to the pieces, we will create nature journals with Anne.

# Arkansas Reads Leopold Events Continued...

## Sunday, March 8

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

As a core value, Unitarian Universalists honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it. On Sunday, March 8th, we will affirm and reflect on this value through Aldo Leopold's writings. The Forum, at 10:00, will feature the Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter, whose principal purpose is the preservation of wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and unique natural areas. Their goals of conservation, education, and recreation align closely with the UU value of Interdependence. The Sunday service at 11:00 will include readings and reflections on Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, led by 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 Grant Program. Weather permitting, we will explore the church grounds, including the Memorial Woodland. A limited number of free copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

### **10 AM to Noon--Birding Field Trip; Noon to 2 PM--Community Reading; 2 PM to 3 PM--Nature 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, Sierra Club, and Wild Birds Unlimited 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. A guided birding trip will also be offered before the reading, and nature walks will follow it. Bring binoculars if you have them. If not, the Center has pairs that can be used. There will be children's activities. A limited number of free copies of *A Sand County Almanac* will be available.

## Little Rock Audubon Spring Native Plant Sale

The Little Rock Audubon Center Spring Native Plant Sale will be held through online ordering and curbside pickup. Plants will be available from multiple vendors: Pine Ridge Gardens, Grand Designs, Native Sun Nursery, Grand Prairie Nursery, Buckthorn's Native Nursery, The Upturned Pot, and Audubon.

What you need to know:

- Online ordering will be open **Tuesday, April 7** at 8:00am through Tuesday, April 14 at 8:00pm.
- Curbside pickup will be available on April 24 and April 25 at the Little Rock Audubon Center (4500 Springer Blvd., Little Rock, AR 72206).
- The online ordering link will be released in [the Facebook event](#), on the Little Rock Audubon website, and via email to their email list on the morning of April 7.
- A species list will be posted and emailed ahead of online ordering to ensure accurate inventory.

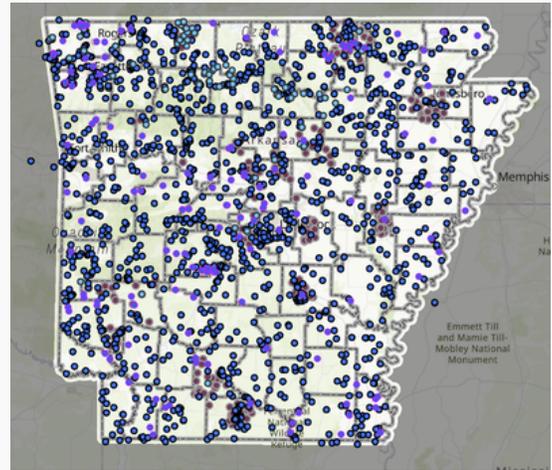
Questions? Reach out to [uta.meyer@audubon.org](mailto:uta.meyer@audubon.org).

# Conservation Report

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to develop a list of impaired streams every three years (i.e. not meeting designated water quality standards). The list is extensive (see graph at left) and it is a disappointment that the Buffalo River has several impaired stretches- 29.7 miles for excessive temperatures and 47.89 miles for E. coli.

Excessive temperatures are a threat to smallmouth bass which need high dissolved oxygen content, and E coli can be an infective threat to humans.

The perceived risk by the Department of Environmental Quality is listed as LOW. This means that DEQ will not initiate a corrective action (TMDL) to improve water quality, something that the Ozark Society lobbied for in vain, for years. For more information type 303(d) Arkansas into your browser.



## Poultry Companies Settle Poultry lawsuit with Oklahoma

Tyson, Cargill and 6 other poultry producers in northwest Arkansas have agreed to reduce phosphorus (P) discharges into the Illinois River, ending a long-term legal battle of more than 20 years. This is good news by any measure, especially the company's acknowledging responsibility for waste products. Under the supervision of a special court master, the companies agree to pay 25.6 million dollars to assist river cleanup, reduce the litter applications to fields, and export excess litter out of the Nutrient Surplus Area (NSA). It won't be easy. Arkansas poultry farms produce several times the agronomic need per acre for P, see below, necessitating expensive litter removal from the watershed. Restoring the Illinois, if attempted, will likely exceed 25 million dollars.

But it isn't just agricultural production of P that is excessive, the population in the NSA is growing rapidly and the human waste after treatment to 1 mg P/L also can enter Illinois River headwater streams. For more information check the website for STIR, Save the Illinois River.

[According to the 2023 Arkansas Department of Agriculture, any given day in Washington County contains more than 19 million poultry (75 per resident), ii) which generate 174 thousand tons of litter per year (1350 lbs per resident), iii) on 18,609 acres. Assuming 50 lbs of P per ton of litter, this amounts to 468 lbs of P/acre, way more than the agricultural need for pasture land, 10-15 lbs/acre]

## Prescribed Burns vs Wildfires in Arkansas

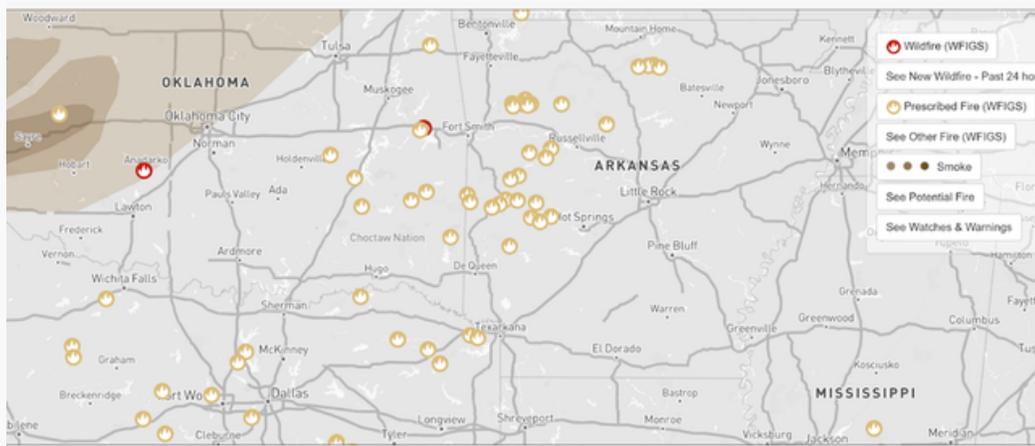
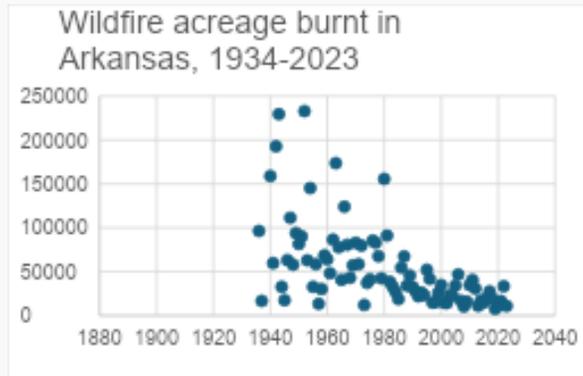
Spring and fall are prime wildfire and prescribed burn times in Arkansas. Today, February 17, 2026, there are a bunch of prescribed burns in Arkansas but no wildfires see below. But further west in Oklahoma there is one wildfire visible and one prescribed burn generating a huge smoke cloud. This is typical. At one time, up until the 1930's, Arkansas had large wildfires but not anymore – the average yearly acreage of wildfires over the last ten years is 14,000, while prescribed burns, (probably accounting for all the burns in today's fires below) in just our national forests is more than 400,000 acres.

*Continued on next page...*

# Conservation Report Continued

Almost all wildfires are human caused, but the humid forests in Arkansas generally keep them from growing dangerously. But the smoke from these fires is a potential health problem. Does Arkansas have an appropriate prescribed burn vs wildfire balance, strangely, interestingly, does the lack of significant wildfire occurrences indicate marginal climate change effects in the state? There are lots of web pages for more information.

*David Peterson, John Fletcher*



## Ozark Society Youth Grants Awarded

Forest Park Elementary School PTA has been awarded a \$2000 Youth Grant from the Ozark Society for an expansion of the school garden for a project which will provide students opportunities for pollinator observation and preservation.

Forest Park is one of 10 projects awarded an Ozark Society youth grant this year as part of the Ozark Society's effort to stimulate and support environmental and conservation education for youth K-12 in the Society's multi-state region of Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The Ozark Society created the youth grant program six years ago to continue our goals with a new generation, and has since awarded 52 grants totaling \$74,957. This is a second Ozark Society youth grant awarded to a Little Rock school in two years. Last year Pulaski Heights PTA Congress received a grant to study bird habitat in relationship with its established garden. Both Forest Park and Pulaski Heights PTAs support school gardens under the leadership of school garden instructor, Cindy Quiroz, and volunteer students from local high schools.



## 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.

