



Ozark Society Spring Outing (One-Day Event) and 6th Annual Buffalo River Classic

When: Saturday, 21 March 2015

Host: Ozark Society Highlands Chapter

Location: Ozark Campground Pavilion near Jasper AR, and other locations along the Buffalo National River

The Highlands Chapter will host the Ozark Society's Spring Outing by inviting all Ozark Society members, hikers, floaters, and lovers of the Buffalo River to the chapter's 6th Annual Buffalo River Classic on Saturday, March 21, 2015. There will be three simultaneous events at this one-day recreational outing: a long "marathon" hike, several shorter "regular" day-hikes, and a canoe-kayak float. Participants in all three events will converge at the Ozark Campground Pavilion on the Buffalo River near Jasper AR for a cookout/potluck at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to the cookout whether or not they participate in the hikes or the float. And, everyone is welcome to participate in this event whether an Ozark Society member or not.

Camping and Overnighting:

Although this is a one-day Saturday event, participants driving from distant chapters may want to overnight in the Jasper AR/Buffalo River area. FYI, distances to Ozark Campground from the six OS chapters are: 45 mi from Gilbert AR, 80 mi from Fayetteville AR, 97 mi from Bentonville AR, 146 mi from Little Rock AR, 277 mi from Cape Girardeau MO, and 350 mi from Shreveport LA. The Ozark Campground has a number of campsites. See the National Park Service website at: <http://www.recreation.gov/> for facilities at the Ozark Pavilion Campground and other sites in the Buffalo National River Park. There are also a number of commercial campsites, cabins, and motels in the nearby Jasper AR (6 mi south), Harrison AR (16 mi north), or Ponca AR (20 mi west) areas.

Spring Outing: Three simultaneous Buffalo River events followed by a cookout:

- 1) ***Long (marathon) Buffalo River Trail Hike:*** The marathon hike from the Ponca low-water bridge (LWB) to the Ozark Campground Pavilion on the Buffalo River Trail is rated "very difficult" with a distance of 23.6 mi and cumulative elevation gain of 3,450 ft. A re-hydration station vehicle (energy drinks, carbs, fruits, liquids), which will also serve as a "bail-out" vehicle, will be located at the Ponca LWB at the start of the marathon, and again at Kyles Landing 10.2 miles into the marathon. Marathon-hikers will stop at the Kyles Landing campground for re-hydration and snacks. Enough provisions will be supplied for hikers to carry away snacks for the Kyles Landing to Ozark Campground leg of the hike. These items will be provided to hikers who have registered by Wednesday March 18 at 9:00 p.m. A \$10 registration fee will be charged for rehydration supplies. A shuttle to take marathoners' cars from Ponca to the Ozark Campground will be available. Meeting time is 7:00 a.m. at the Ponca Low Water Bridge so the marathon can begin at 7:15 a.m., rain-or-shine. Contact information for Terry Fredrick, the marathon coordinator, is: 479-422-7776 or terrre@att.net
 - a) ***Pre-registration:*** To pre-register for this marathon hike and the cookout, send an email to Terry Fredrick terrre@att.net (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. Bring the \$10 marathon registration fee to the Ponca trailhead. A five dollar (\$5) donation will also be collected from all marathon-hike participants at the cookout. Cookout details are below.
 - b) ***Logistics:*** Marathon hikers should arrange their own transportation to the Ponca LWB. Arrive by 7:00 a.m. for orientation, sign-up, instructions, getting rehydration supplies, etc. so that the marathon can

begin at 7:15 a.m. The rehydration vehicle will relocate from the Ponca LWB to Kyles Landing by 9:30 a.m. to (i) distribute energy drinks, carbs, etc. to the marathon hikers as they pass through Kyles Landing, and, (ii) to provide “bail-out” transportation for those marathon hikers who choose not to continue on for the remainder of the marathon from Kyles to Ozark (13.4 mi).

- c) *Optional car shuttle:* Marathon hikers may leave their car keys with the “rehydration-vehicle” driver at the Ponca LWB. Marathon-hiker cars will be driven the 20 mi from the Ponca LWB to the Ozark Campground by Highlands Chapter carpoolers mid-morning, (i.e., around 9:15 a.m.) as they pass through Ponca on their way from Fayetteville to Ozark Campground. Alternatively, marathon hikers may be able to catch a ride with Fayetteville carpoolers from Ozark Campground back to Ponca to retrieve their car at the end of the day.
 - d) *BR Trail Information:* Marathon hikers should consult the following references to become thoroughly familiar with this segment of the Buffalo River Trail before undertaking the marathon: (i) National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map No. 232, *Buffalo National River West*; and, (ii) Kenneth L. Smith, *Buffalo River Handbook*, Ozark Society Foundation, 2004 (pp. 293-313).
 - e) *Notice:* For all of our normally scheduled hikes, hike leaders help slow hikers and those with other problems to finish the hike. No such help is guaranteed on this hike. We will try to notify the Park Headquarters (Emergency Dispatch = 888-692-1162; HQ = 870-365-2700) and/or the Newton County Sheriff’s office (870-446-5113) if a participant is still on the trail at 7:30 p.m. Do not attempt this hike if you have never done long distance hiking before. Carry at least 2 liters of water and a flashlight.
- 2) ***Two Shorter (regular) Buffalo River Trail Day-Hikes:*** Day-Hike West from Ozark Campground Pavilion to Cedar Glade Return (out-and-back) is rated “easy” with a distance of 3.4 mi and 150 ft elevation gain (about 2 hrs). Day-Hike East from Ozark Campground Pavilion to Pruitt Return (out-and-back) is rated moderate with a distance of 5.2 mi and 250 ft elevation gain (about 3 hrs). Choose one or both hikes. Start-time for persons doing both hikes (total 8.6 mi) is 10:00 a.m. Start-time for persons doing only Day-Hike West or Day-Hike East (but not both) is 12:30 p.m. Contact information for Luke Parsch, the day-hike coordinator, is: 479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu
- a) *Pre-registration:* To pre-register for the short hikes and the cookout, send an email to Luke Parsch at lparsch@uark.edu (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. A five dollar (\$5) donation will be collected from all short-hike participants at the cookout. Cookout details are below.
 - b) *Logistics:* “Short” day-hike participants who wish to do both hikes (Ozark-Cedar Glade and Ozark-Pruitt) should arrive at Ozark Campground by 10:00 a.m. Hikers wishing to do only one hike (but not both) need to arrive no later than 12:30 p.m. Day-Hike West to Cedar Glade will begin at 10:00 a.m. and return to Ozark Campground around 12:15 p.m. Day-Hike West to Cedar Glade will be repeated at 12:30 p.m. Day-Hike East to Pruitt will begin at 12:30 p.m. and return to Ozark Campground around 3:45 p.m. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, and wear hiking boots.
 - c) *Highlands Chapter carpool to Ozark Campground:* There will be a carpool from Fayetteville for NW Arkansas participants who wish to arrive at Ozark Campground by 10:00 a.m. Meet at Root School on 1529 E Mission Blvd in Fayetteville for carpooling for an 8:00 a.m. departure; or, meet at 8:40 a.m. for a quick-stop at the gas station/store in Marble AR. The carpool will stop at the Ponca LWB at approximately 9:15 a.m. to retrieve marathon-hiker car keys from the rehydration vehicle driver, and

will drive marathon-hiker cars to Ozark Campground as part of the carpool. All other short hike participants should arrange their own transportation to the Ozark Campground.

- 3) **Buffalo River Float (Canoe or Kayak):** Depending on the river level, there will be a float from either, Erbie Campground to Ozark Pavilion Campground (5.5 mi); or, from Pruitt Landing to Hasty (6.5 mi), rated “pleasurable” and all downstream. Provide your own kayak/canoe. Start-time is 10:00 a.m. at either launch site where floaters will arrange a car-shuttle to the take-out. Tell JB whether you will canoe or kayak, and whether your vehicle can help with the shuttle to the take-out. Contact information for JB Clark, the float coordinator, is: 479-442-5091 H or 479-422-0869 M or julianbclark@yahoo.com
 - a) *Pre-registration:* To pre-register for this float and the cookout, send an email to JB Clark at julianbclark@yahoo.com (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. A five dollar (\$5) donation will be collected from all float participants at the cookout. Cookout details are below.
 - b) *Logistics:* JB Clark will contact pre-registered floaters on Thu-Fri (Mar 19-20) to announce the put-in location for the float, and any other details relating to meeting time, car-shuttle, etc. Floaters should arrange their own transportation to the meeting point. Bring water, lunch, rain gear, and all float gear including kayak or canoe. Floaters will reassemble at Ozark Campground Pavilion for the cookout after the float.

- 4) **Buffalo River Pot-Luck Cookout:** The cookout will include grilled burgers, pot-luck dishes, and socializing, rated “just-plain fun” at the end of an active day spent with other nice people who [enjoy](#) the beautiful Buffalo River. Everyone is welcome to the pot-luck cookout whether or not they participate in the marathon, the two day-hikes or the float. A five-dollar (\$5) donation is requested of all persons at the cookout. Everyone is requested to bring a side-dish (snacks, dessert, salad, covered dish) and to provide their own beverages. Hamburgers and hot dogs, plates, silverware, and fixings will be supplied. Start time is approximately 4:00 p.m. at Ozark Campground Pavilion. Contact information for Chris Kline, the cook-out coordinator, is: 479-409-0394 or cl_kline@sbcglobal.net
 - a) *Pre-registration:* If you are not hiking or floating, you must register separately for the cookout so we have a headcount. To pre-register only for the cookout, send an email to Chris Kline at cl_kline@sbcglobal.net (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. A five dollar (\$5) donation will be collected from all participants at the Ozark Campground cookout.
 - b) *Logistics:* All participants will converge at the Ozark Campground Pavilion mid-afternoon for socializing and the pot-luck. There are toilets, picnic tables, electric lights and two electric plug-ins at the pavilion. Bring lawn chairs.

Disclaimer: All participants in the hikes and the float are required to sign a “liability release” http://www.ozarksociety.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/OS-Sign-Up_Sheet_rev4.pdf at the trailhead or float launch site in order to participate in this Ozark Society outing. No pets are allowed on any outings, and no children are allowed in the marathon hike or float. Children under 12 years must be accompanied by a guardian for the shorter day-hikes. Everyone is welcome to participate in this event whether an Ozark Society member or not.

Contact Details for Additional Information:

Luke Parsch, Highlands Chapter Outings Chair: 479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu

Terry Fredrick (marathon hike): 479-422-7776 or terrre@att.net

Luke Parsch (short day-hikes): 479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu

JB Clark (float): 479-442-5091 H; 479-422-0869 M or julianbclark@yahoo.com

Chris Kline (cookout): 479-409-0394 or cl_kline@sbcglobal.net



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