



PACK & PADDLE



Winter
December 2015

"The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best." — Dr. Neil Compton

CELEBRATE THE BUFFALO...THE CHALLENGE GOES ON

On October 23, the “Celebrate the Buffalo” event, sponsored by the Buffalo River Coalition, was held in Fayetteville. The festive evening also honored Ken Smith, who has given so much to preserve and promote the Buffalo National River. Below is a timeline of some important and interesting moments in the history of the river. It is a reminder from Ken of the hard work and dedication that went into protecting this beautiful river, which means so much to so many.

Highlights of the History of the Buffalo National River:

1946 - Glenn Avantus (Bud) Green writes in the Arkansas Gazette that parts of the Buffalo River warrant inclusion in the National Park Service (NPS) system.

1958 - Kenneth L. Smith, Crossett, Arkansas, prepares report for the Nature Conservancy: “Natural Area Project Analysis, Clark Creek Watershed, including the natural area known as ‘Lost Valley.’”

1960 - Dr. Neil Compton writes to his daughter Ellen: “Nature Conservancy . .has asked me to become Chairman of the Lost Valley Project. The purpose is to purchase and preserve that scenic feature . . . I have, In fact, a lot of bigger ideas than just the Lost Valley. I am going to try to sell somebody on the idea of The Buffalo Gorge National Park and Include Hemmed in Hollow, Villines Bluff, Rocky Bottom, Marble Falls and many other interesting spots over there.”

1961- Compton and others form the Arkansas Chapter of the Nature Conservancy with a goal to create “a national park on the upper and middle reaches of the Buffalo River.”

1961- U.S. Sen. J. W. Fulbright funds an NPS survey, guided by Compton.

1962 - U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas states, “You cannot let this river die. The Buffalo River is a national treasure worth fighting to the death to preserve,” at a campfire at Big Bluff in Newton County.

1962 - Dr. Doug James arranges a meeting on May 24 in Waterman Hall at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville to form The Ozark Society TO SAVE THE BUFFALO. Officers are Dr. Neil Compton, Craig Rosborough, George Kinter, and Mrs. Laird (Evangeline) Archer. At its peak, some 23 chapters exist in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma.

1963 -The NPS, in its field investigation report, “Suggested Buffalo National River, Arkansas,” recommends a National River administered by the NPS.

1964 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiates steps toward authorization of a high dam on the Buffalo River near Gilbert that will form a 45-mile-long reservoir backing water to the Hwy. 7 bridge at Pruitt.

1965 (Apr.) - Harry Pearson, in a series of six installments in the *Pine Bluff Commercial* newspaper, gives the BNR effort a voice and a rallying cry, “Battle for the Buffalo.”

(Continued on Page 4)

SUGAR CREEK NEWS

By Joseph Meyer

Thanks for supporting the Ozark Society with your membership. It is a connection that can transform your life from the ordinary to extraordinary. I personally regret not having monthly meetings and outings to share with our members and guests. For about 25 years I was privileged to tramp the woods, canoe the rivers and explore the hinterland with Dr. Neil Compton. Each outing enriched ones knowledge of the Ozarks. Priceless.

There are thousands of places to explore in the Ozarks and the better part of that concept is that there are others that will help you get there.

To help get you in touch with other kindred spirits, log into the Ozark Society web page and check out the many other chapters outings. If you click on the Sugar Creek Chapter you will find suggestions for rivers to canoe. All of them are 'wild' rivers... no canoe outfitters, so the river should be yours to enjoy by yourself. But...be a good canoeist and don't go alone and always have emergency equipment with you. If you have questions, give me a call. I love to share river and trail knowledge. You might even be able to talk me into floating with you.

There are two outings that I hope to join. One is the hike to Twin Falls of the Devils Fork on 20 February and the other a hike on 19 March near

Blanchard Springs. I hope to see you there.

BRT NEWS

By Ken Smith

In October, Buffalo River trail-builders became trail improvers, removing forest debris from more than thirty miles of trails along the mid-reach of the river. Construction has been delayed until a tract of privately owned land can be transferred to the National Park Service.

We expect the land question can be settled by Spring. Stay in touch.

(I was not able to be with the trail volunteers last month, but that didn't matter. They knew what to do, and performed admirably.)

SOCIETY OFFICERS: President: Alan Nye, (501) 258-7137, osacnye@gmail.com; Vice President: Duane Woltjen, (479) 521-7032, ozarktraveler1@att.net; britchiear@aol.com; Recording Secretary: Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, sroeri@lsuhsc.edu; Conservation Chair: Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, Alice209ok@yahoo.com; Education Chair: Fred Paillet, (479) 935-4297 fredp@cox.net; Membership Chair: Jenny Hackman, (318) 288-9096, jandgman@bellsouth.net; Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle: Carmen Quinn, (501) 993-1883, ccquinn23@yahoo.com.

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Buffalo River Trail Coordinator: Ken Smith, (479) 466-7994, kennethsmith616@yahoo.com (new email address)

OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY: Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 71701, (501) 575-5577.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues for membership in the Ozark Society are: Individual and Family: \$15; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$25; Life (one-time fee): \$200 under 65 years, or \$100 for those over 65.

Chapter membership adds to the fun of Ozark Society membership, but is not required. **However, chapter membership requires membership in the Society.** Their dues structure is as follows: **Mississippi Valley Chapter of Cape Girardeau**, Missouri: \$5; **Bayou Chapter** of Shreveport, Louisiana: \$10; **Highlands Chapter** of Northwest Arkansas: \$10; **Sugar Creek Chapter** of Northwest Arkansas: \$5; **Buffalo River Chapter** of North-Central Arkansas: \$10, or \$5 for email newsletters only; and **Pulaski Chapter** of Central Arkansas: \$10; **Student Membership:** \$5. Mail one check for both Society and chapter dues to: Ozark Society, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.



HEDGES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Ozark Society strongly supports the Harold & Margaret Hedges Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology. Hubert Ferguson kindly sent us information about recent recipients:

Paul Pleiman and Jacob McClain, both seeking a master's degree in Biology at the University of Arkansas, have been named 2015 recipients of the Harold and Margaret Hedges Memorial Scholarship in Ornithology.

Mr. Pleiman is researching an ongoing Eastern Bluebird nesting box study while Mr. McClain is focusing on management land practices affecting Northern Bobwhite and those of their nest/brood predators.

The fund was established by Hubert and Mary Virginia Ferguson in 2012. Generous support from The Ozark Society Foundation, all Ozark Society chapters, and many individuals have produced funds totaling slightly more than \$50,000. Gifts to the fund are tax deductible.

To donate online, you can go to the OS website, <http://www.ozarksociety.net/donations/> or (http://annualfund.uark.edu/funds#Fulbright_College_of_Arts_and_Sciences)

FALL ALL-SOCIETY MEETING RECAP

We met at Crater of Diamonds State Park in Murfreesboro, AR. Although we were a small group, we had enough fun for a large group. We share lots of food, friendship, knowledge, and laughter. We had a silent auction of some camping items that were donated to the Bayou Chapter by the spouse of a long time member of our chapter, Oakley Davis.

We had a wonderful speaker Saturday afternoon. Charles Kirkland, III presented a lecture and

hands on experience on first aid. Charles has gone all over the world working as a first responder. We learned that the definition of wilderness as it relates to first aid is any place where you are 30 minutes or more from medical care. Charles taught us how to assess the situation, what to carry with us in our first aid kits and some basics to care for individuals who were injured on an outing. Jack

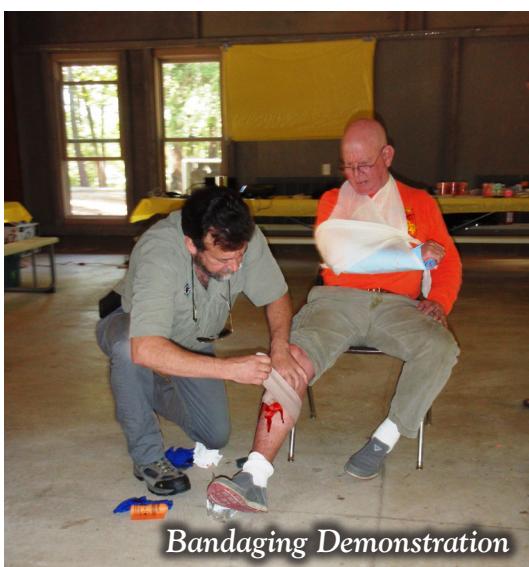
Land made an excellent volunteer for the demonstration. After the demonstration, Charles painted up some other poor souls who were injured with broken arms, legs, cuts and other various injuries for us to piece back together. We learned a great deal from Charles and had a great time to go along with the learning.

After the presentation, we took a break to fix our special dishes to share for supper. Some of us took a hike along the Little Missouri.



We had some wonderful eats to share with each other. After dinner, we announced the winners of the items in the silent auction. The funds that were raised were donated to the Ozark Society.

On Sunday, several of us went in search of diamonds. Unfortunately, we found yellow glass, crystals and other rocks of no worth. It was fun to sift through the dirt and try to anticipate what goodies would be in the next shovel full. The excitement and anticipation was fun. I always love to play in the dirt, so I was like a kid again.



Buffalo History Highlights

(Continued from Page 1)

1965 (Jul.) - Arkansas's four members of the U.S. House of Representatives sign a letter urging that a dam be built on the Buffalo River in North Arkansas.

1965 (Dec.) - Gov. Orval Faubus writes to Lt. Gen. William F. Cassidy, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, that the proposed Gilbert dam is not essential for flood control or hydroelectric power, would have minimal tourist appeal, and would ruin the river's scenic beauty and inundate the land. "I support the National River proposal."

1966 - The Corps of Engineers withdraws its recommendation to construct the Gilbert (and Lone Rock) dams.

1967 (Jan.) - U.S. Senators J.W. Fulbright and John L. McClellan introduce S.B. 704 to create the Buffalo National River (BNR). Newly-elected Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt introduces a similar bill (H.R. 7020) in the House.

1967 - Ken Smith publishes *The Buffalo River Country*, with 176 pages, 140 photographs, and 7 guide maps.

1968 - Illustrated with photographs by Ken Smith, the NPS issues a 24-page booklet presenting the case for establishing the Buffalo as a national river.

1968 - The Ark. Game and Fish Commission and Ark. Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission endorse the BNR. 1969 - A U.S. Senate Interior Committee hearing on the BNR is held. Conservationists attending outnumber dam proponents ten to one, with testimony from Margaret Hedges, Ozark Society representative, and Harold Alexander, representing Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller.

1971 (Mar.) - Gov. Dale Bumpers announces his support of the BNR.

1971 (May) - Senators Fulbright and McClellan steer the BNR bill (S.B. 7) through the U.S. Senate.

1971 (Oct.) - Rep. Hammerschmidt's BNR bill (H.R. 8382) is presented to the House Sub-Committee on National Parks and Recreation. The "Jubilee Bus" transports Ozark Society members to Washington, DC, to give testimony. The entire Arkansas congressional delegation supports the legislation.

1972 (Feb.) - The Buffalo National River bill (H.R. 8382), sponsored by Rep. Hammerschmidt, is approved by the House on Feb. 7. On Feb. 9, the Senate accepts the House amendments to the bill.

1972 (Mar.) - On March 1 President Richard M. Nixon signs S.B. 7, 92nd Congress, into Public Law 92-237.

1973 - *The Buffalo River Canoeing Guide*, by Harold and Margaret Hedges, is published as a 16-page booklet. 1975 - The Ozark Society Foundation (OSF) is formed and becomes the publishing arm of The Ozark Society.

1979 - Federal Judge Elsijane Trimble Roy dismisses a lawsuit challenging the state's right to give Buffalo River and Lost Valley state parks to the federal government for the establishment of the BNR.

1982 - *The High Ozarks: A Vision of Eden*, by Neil Compton, is published by The OSF.

1986 - Ken Smith accepts coordination of the construction of a trail along the Buffalo National River and asks The Ozark Society to become officially involved in the planning and construction of it. Led by Smith, 78 of the planned 80 miles of the Buffalo River Trail have been constructed to date.

1987 - The 25th anniversary of The Ozark Society is held at Buffalo Point on the Buffalo National River.

(Continued on next page)



The Highlands Chapter preparing for its first outing of the fall season – a hike to Sam's Throne on September 27.



Buffalo History Highlights

(Continued)

1992 - *The Battle for the Buffalo River: A Twentieth-Century Conservation Crisis in the Ozarks*, by Neil Compton, is published by the UA Press. It is re-printed in 2010 with a new subtitle (*The Story of America's First National River*) and a Foreword by Kenneth L. Smith as a joint project of the UA Press and The OSF.

1997 - *The Buffalo River in Black and White*, by Neil Compton, is published by The OSF.

2004 - *Buffalo River Handbook*, by Ken Smith, is published by The OSF. Now in its 3rd printing, more than 10,000 copies have been sold. It is the definitive guide to the BNR.

2008 - Written and produced by Larry Foley, the video "The Buffalo Flows" receives two Mid-America EMMY awards and two other nominations.

2012 - "40-50-100" celebrations take place: the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Buffalo National River (March 1, 1972}, the 50th anniversary of the formation of The Ozark Society (May 24, 1962}, and what would have been the 100th birthday of Neil Compton (August 1, 1912).

Additional materials on the history of the establishment of the BNR can be found in collections in the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections, Fayetteville: "40-50-100: Milestones in Arkansas's Environmental History"; Neil Compton Papers (MC 1091); Ozark Society Records IMS Ozl 219. 219A-I and MC 477; Gus Albright Scrapbooks: The Buffalo River (MC 1 295); and Kenneth L. Smith Papers (MC1423); and In collections of elected officials, e.g., U.S. Senators J. William Fulbright, Dale Bumpers, and David Pryor; U.S. Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt; and Gov. Orval E. Faubus. A general guide to Arkansas's environmental history can be found at Environmental History Resources.

Excerpts from the Ozark Society Bulletin, the Ozark Society Journal, the Pack and Paddle, and Ozark Society chapter newsletters, compiled originally by Brenda Crites in 1987 for the Ozark Society's 25th anniversary, were used in creating this updated Buffalo National River timeline. Janet Parschi October 2015.

"The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best." -Dr. Neil Compton



TRIP REPORT - BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL HIKE by Steve Heye

The November 14 day hike for the Pulaski Chapter of the Ozark Society was about as enjoyable as a day hike can get. Seven members met at 8 am to carpool up to the Hwy. 14 access point of the Buffalo River. Bob Hogg, Trece Brown, Denise Pearson, Darlene Baker, Eddie Volman and his son Brian joined trip leader Steve Heye for the two-hour drive to the trailhead.

After a quick 15-minute shuttle between Spring Creek and Hwy. 14, we began. It was a perfect 60 degrees, sunny and no wind. What a great fall day to take a hike.

I consider this the best 6 mile of hiking in the State at this time. The trail is but a few years old; it is well maintained and has some of the best views in the state. To add to the beauty, there were several trees still in fall colors, a variety of plants and fungi and of course, the Buffalo River.

We immediately descended to Spring Creek. The long dry late summer had this piece of the creek dry even after rains earlier in the week. After crossing Spring Creek, you start a slight ascent to the top

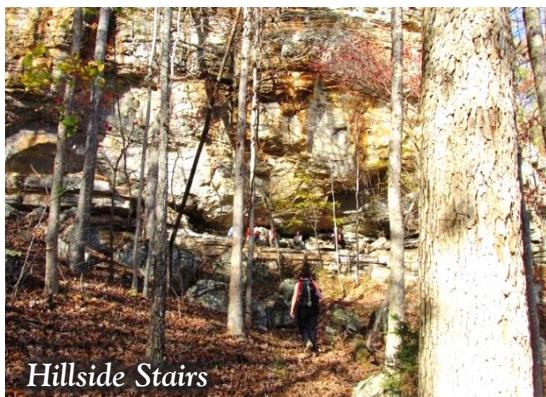


Ready to Go

of the pyramid shaped bluff that is across from the sand bar that we use on most Buffalo River Floats as an overnight stop. Once you reach the top, you are rewarded with a great view of the bar and the river below. The river was low, but it was floatable. However, we saw only one boat all day.

We made our way along the bluff and began a descent into a side drainage. The trail followed an old logging road down the hill and along the river. The trail and old road are about 100 yards back from the shore and up about 15 feet. Once we got down by the river, the lunch spot we found was fantastic! The sun was shining off the water and the beach had enough seats for us to enjoy our lunch.

After lunch, we went back on the trail and started up the draw of the drainage area. The trail was making its way up the back of the next bluff line. Like the one before, this bluff provided us with views of the river and the hills around it. At times the trail is right next to the drop off of the bluff, so you have to keep



Hillside Stairs

your wits about you as you walk along. After another mile or so, you make another drop into a valley and head up that drainage to the park boundary.

The walk up this drainage is pleasant, but because of the park boundary, you have to start ascending the back of the last bluff before Hwy. 14. The steep climb is easy as stairs are built into the trail. After the climb, including stops to catch your breath, you make your way to the bluff line and a wonderful spot to take a break. Several shelves and overhangs would make this a great overnight spot. We took a break and then set out to walk the last bluff line, about a mile and a half.

A quick climb, and we came to the best views of the hike. The low sun gave us some spectacular lighting. The trail is now mostly level as it follows the river on the bluff line until it turns the corner around the nose of the bluff. Then the trail cuts back down to the side drainage through a series of switchbacks. You lose about 400 feet to return to the river level and make your way to the Hwy. 14 parking lot. You follow an old road for about 15 minutes and before you know it, you are at the lot, where we found Eddie's truck about 3:30.

By 4 p.m., we were on our way back home having enjoyed a great day of hiking the best Arkansas has to offer!



KEN SMITH'S "NOW GET OUT THERE AND DO SOMETHING" LIST

BUFFALO RIVER HELPERS: Here is a quickly assembled, probably incomplete, list of non-profit organizations, usually 501(c)(3) and non-government, which have programs actively involved with and benefitting the Buffalo National River. (Other organizations not listed may also meet these criteria.)

The Buffalo River Coalition

- BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE. To preserve and protect the scenic beauty and pristine water and air quality of the Buffalo National River through public outreach and education, advocacy, and direct actions. <http://buffaloriveralliance.org/>
- ARKANSAS CANOE CLUB. Recreational canoeing/kayaking. Also teaching paddling skills to new canoers. <http://www.arkansascanooclub.com/>
- NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION. To protect, preserve, and enhance the U.S. National Parks System. <http://www.npca.org/>
- THE OZARK SOCIETY. "To enjoy and to protect the recreational resources of the Ozark-Ouachita Mountain region." Conservation - Education - Recreation. <http://www.ozarksociety.net/>

National Park Service Affiliates

- VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS. "VIPs" serve as campground hosts, research assistants, and tour guides. <https://www.volunteer.gov/> Also: 402 N. Walnut, Harrison, AR 72601.
- BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER PARTNERS. To provide better experiences for the Park's visitors. <http://bnrpartners.org/>

Protecting the River's Watershed

- BUFFALO RIVER FOUNDATION (BRF). Cooperates with watershed landowners to create conservation easements that permanently protect their land's natural and historic features. <http://www.buffaloriverfoundation.org/>
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY. <http://www.nature.org/> For example, the Conservancy's Smith Creek Preserve at Boxley protects a beautiful tributary creek and a major colony of endangered bats.
- EARTHJUSTICE. The premier non-profit environmental law organization. <http://earthjustice.org/>
- Other BRF partners:
THE LAND TRUST ALLIANCE. <http://www.landtrustalliance.org/>
THE OZARK REGIONAL LAND TRUST. <https://orlt.org/>

Creating Recreational Opportunities

- OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION. Supports a hiking trail across northern Arkansas, including the middle / lower Buffalo River. <http://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/>
- OZARK SOCIETY FOUNDATION. The Memorial Fund benefits construction/upkeep of Buffalo River trails. (The Foundation also awards scholarships for conservation studies and publishes materials on the outdoors). <http://www.ozarksociety.net/>
- YOUTH OUTDOORS UNLIMITED. Low-cost canoe rental for low-budget school, church, and Scout groups. Contact Laura Timby at laurab2053@gmail.com

Other organizations that have provided volunteers to build trails along the Buffalo River:

- AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY. <http://www.americanhiking.org/>
- THE SIERRA CLUB. <http://sierraclub.org/>
- WILDERNESS VOLUNTEERS. <http://www.wildernessvolunteers.org/>

Now...Help however you can!





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Please Note:

If you would like to receive Pack & Paddle ONLY by email, not through US Mail, please contact Mary Gordon at mb2rene@aol.com.

2016 Outings

Grand Canyon Trip – April 17

Colorado High Adventure Trip – July 10-16

Erie Canal Bike Tour – July 10-17

Middle Fork of the Salmon River - July 29

For more information on these trips, including contact and registration information, go to

<http://www.ozarksociety.net/outing-information/>

If you wish to participate in Ozark Society outdoor events, please make note of the following statement and requirement:

I acknowledge that I understand the nature of this event and represent that I am qualified, in good health and proper physical condition to participate in the activity. I understand the risks to my person and property associated with the event. I agree to release from liability and not to sue the Ozark Society (including the individual Chapters of the Ozark Society) and their officers, directors, the event leaders, coordinators or instructors for any injury, damage, death or other loss in any way connected with the event.