



# PACK & PADDLE



Fall  
September 2016

*"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*

## Cycle the Erie Canal 2016 By Janet Nye

This 400-mile ride from Buffalo to Albany is organized by Parks and Trails New York (PTNY), a non-profit organization working with local communities to build, maintain and plan trails of all types. The trip took place July 10-17 across New York State following the Erie Canal. This was the 18th year of this ride, which serves as the major annual fundraiser for PTNY.

The Canal, completed in 1825, opened a trade route between the east coast and the central part of this country. We had opportunity to visit historic sites along the Erie Canal including aqueducts, commercial districts, museums and the multiple

locks along the canal that allowed the passage of boats from Albany to Buffalo.

We began our journey in Buffalo on Sunday, July 10 bicycling alongside the Niagara River. We rode 15-year old mountain bikes with "smooth" tires. There were 750 riders with the average age of 56. The

route was on dirt and gravel surfaces, asphalt trails and county and state highways.

Each day began with packing up our personal gear and tent, putting the bags in a box truck that transported them to the next site. We camped



*Alan Nye ready to ride*

mainly in schoolyards, occupying all available grassy locations. Included in the nightly camp sites were tents set up for information, a dining tent, multiple porta-potties, a shower truck (18 wheeler with 12 shower stalls), and water stations. We also had the school building for restrooms, meals and electronic charging stations.

Our rides were between 28 and 64 miles. We set our own pace and enjoyed the journey of the day. This was a tour and the bike was our tool to get us to the historic sites and the beauty of New York. Riding along the canal was fantastic; sometimes riding through a forest, traveling through small towns with amazingly beautiful and historic buildings, watching boats along

*(Continued on Page 6)*



*Schoolyard Campground*



## Membership Renewal Form for 2017!

Dues are for one calendar year and include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*, and conservation bulletins. **Please note: the Family rate will go up to \$20 beginning January 1, 2017; however if you renew now, you can still get the 2016 family rate.** Remit to: The Ozark Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203 using the form below, or you can renew online at: [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net) - click on the "About Us/Membership" link.

1. Please check one: New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐
2. General Dues: (Required - Please Circle One)
  - Individual/Family: \$15 (*Family rate is \$20 if paid after January 1, 2017*)
  - Individual Students: \$5.00 (High school or college, if not included with family)
  - Contributing/Sustaining: \$25
  - Life: \$200 (over age 65: \$100) (*This is for OS membership only-it does not include chapter membership.*)
3. Chapter Dues: (you may choose not to join a chapter, or choose more than one)
  - Bayou Chapter - \$10 (Shreveport, LA)
  - Buffalo River Chapter - \$10 (\$5/email newsletter only; N. Central AR)
  - Highlands Chapter - \$10 (N. West AR)
  - Mississippi Valley Chapter- \$5 (Cape Girardeau, MO)
  - Pulaski Chapter - \$10 (Central AR)

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(Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

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**SOCIETY OFFICERS:** **President:** Alan Nye, (501) 258-7137, osacnye@gmail.com; **Past President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, bobcross610@gmail.com; **Vice President:** Duane Woltjen, (479) 521-7032, ozarktraveler1@att.net; **Financial Chair:** Bob Ritchie, (501) 225-1795, 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.

**STATE DIRECTORS:** **ARKANSAS:** Laura Timby, (870) 439-2968, ldtimby@ritternet.com; Ed Vollman, hknman1@sbcglobal.net; **MISSOURI:** Position open; **LOUISIANA:** Roy O'Neal, (318) 272-0259, roneal2@bellsouth.net; Catherine Tolson, (318) 343-7482, catherine.tolson@comcast.net.

**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** **Bayou Chapter:** Karen Pitts, tuffenufchuck@aol.com; **Pulaski Chapter:** David Peterson, drpdpr@windstream.net; **Highlands Chapter:** Terry Frederick, (479) 442-3812, terrfre@att.net; **Sugar Creek Chapter:** Joseph Meyer, meyer@ipa.net; **Buffalo River Chapter:** Farrel Couch, (479) 200-2621, f.t.couch@att.net; **Mississippi Valley Chapter:** Virginia Wiedefeld, (573) 270-1812, vwiedefeld@charter.net.

**Ozark Society Supplies & Publications:** Mary Gordon, (501) 425-4471, mb2rene@aol.com.

**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.



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# Trail Volunteers to Return in October

By Ken Smith

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Now that volunteers have worked each Spring and Fall the past eleven years, building the 28-mile trail along the Buffalo River from U.S. 65 to Highway 14, the trail is within two miles of completion.

But wait! One piece of land (“the Roberts tract”) extending across the trail route was sold to the Park Service with a clause prohibiting public entry. The seller’s heirs may donate the land, but there have been delays...

The Park Service forbids us from building trail to or across the tract until the ownership problem is resolved. So this Fall when

volunteers resume construction, they can work on filling the gaps that exist elsewhere along the trail. There are many short stretches of sub-par or not-yet-built trail that need attention. These are scattered along those 28 miles even as far upriver as Richland Creek, where the trail has not received attention in years. We can have moving crews, seeing much of the trail. And seeing the Buffalo River, too.

Our “Alumni” - experienced trail-builders - will return the week of October 23 - 29. In addition, we plan to have camp open at Tyler Bend, with the kitchen available for use,

from October 18 to 22 so that we can get work areas ready for the Alumni. If you can come and help between Oct. 18 and 22, you can camp free of charge and use the kitchen. If you can be with the Alumni all of their week, there would be a \$50 charge for your meals. For more information about Alumni week, contact Ken Smith (phone 479-466-7994, or e-mail him at [kennethsmith616@yahoo.com](mailto:kennethsmith616@yahoo.com) and provide your postal address so he can mail you any information you need.

Late October should give us cool temps and Fall color. We hope you can be with us.

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## Leave No Trace

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The Ozark Society is a “partner” with Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. If you are not familiar with Leave No Trace, it is a non-profit that works to educate all of us in how to care for those places we go to to recreate, retreat, and enjoy. They suggest seven principles to adopt that

make a difference in how we respect the trails, campsites, waterways, historic places and the people we encounter (will list below).

As a partner organization we are entitled to a discount on their merchandise, they can help us create materials and content for our website, and we have access to the Center’s social media outlets among other benefits.

Leave No Trace is an amazing organization. The Society has sponsored training in the seven principles. If you are not familiar with them, I encourage you to begin

with reading about them on their website: [LNT.org](http://LNT.org).

**Leave No Trace** principles are:

- plan ahead and prepare;
- travel and camp on durable surfaces;
- dispose of waste properly;
- leave what you find;
- minimize campfire impacts;
- respect wildlife;
- be considerate of other visitors.

Also, if you are interested in a workshop to learn more, please contact me at [jbnyle14@swbell.net](mailto:jbnyle14@swbell.net).





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# Give the National Park Service and Department of Interior Feedback

## NOW on Our Buffalo National River!

### Update by Alice Andrews, Conservation Chair

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#### What YOU Can Do!

Write a message to **Sally Jewell, Secretary, Department of Interior; and John Jarvis, Director National Park Service** (use feedback link: <https://www.doi.gov/feedback>) to let them know you are unhappy with the lack of legal support from the National Park Service (NPS) and US Department of Interior in protecting the Buffalo National River.

#### The Problem

As permitted by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), hog waste from C & H Farms will be spread across fields at yet another location in the Buffalo National River watershed known as "EC Farms". EC Farms abuts three tributaries of the Buffalo National River. These are the Little Buffalo, Left Fork of Big Creek, and Shop Creek.

The Buffalo National River National Park Service staff recently attempted to appeal ADEQ permit allowing hog waste to be spread at EC Farms. Unfortunately, the Buffalo National River staff was denied the legal resources needed to pursue the appeal by the National Park Service. As a result, the Buffalo National River staff was forced to drop its appeal of the permit. Let the National Park Service know that by denying legal support to the Buffalo National River

staff, they have missed an important opportunity to protect the Buffalo National River!

#### Background

As most of us know by now, the Buffalo National River, the nation's first designated national river, is in danger of being polluted by hog waste from a 6500 hog CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation), known as C & H Hog Farm, less than 6 miles from the Buffalo River via a major tributary, Big Creek, Mt. Judea, AR. There is growing evidence that levels of bacteria associated with hog waste are increasing in Big Creek and at the confluence of Big Creek and the Buffalo. Low dissolved oxygen levels also exist in Big Creek with heavy growth of algae. There are endangered species of mussels at the confluence of Big Creek and the Buffalo. These streams are being monitored by both the Buffalo River National Park Administration as well as USGS.

Recently, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality approved the application of hog waste from C & H Farms on the site of a second, closed farm known as EC Farms. There are several appeals of this decision because it will increase the volume of hog waste to about 6.1 million gallons per year

between the two farms. Initially, the Buffalo National River appealed the EC Farm permit as did 3 private individuals. The involvement of the Buffalo National River staff in protecting our National River led to high expectations that those of us who have been protecting the Buffalo River since 1962 when the Ozark Society was founded. However, in the last few days, the NPS at Buffalo National River was forced to drop their appeal because they could not obtain a solicitor (attorney) from the NPS/US DOI staff in Denver. Surely the NPS and US DOI must have attorneys they can spare to help protect the Buffalo National River.

Our magnificent Buffalo National River deserves protection and preservation. It is visited by more than 1.6 million people this past year and provides hundreds of jobs in an economically deprived region of our state via canoe rentals, lodging, restaurants, gas stations, gift stores, etc. In the year of the 100th Anniversary of the NPS, it is even more important that the NPS and US DOI be held accountable to protect our nation's parks and rivers. Let them know how you feel about their lack of support in protecting the Buffalo National River.



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# Duck Pond Cleanup

## By Roy O'Neal, Louisiana State Director

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For those of you who were not able to make it to breakfast at Strawn's on Kings Highway, or to the Duck Pond on East Kings Highway on Saturday, July 23, 2016, allow me to confirm your thought that it was summertime in Shreveport, Louisiana. As such, the temperature and humidity, were something to be dealt with. In fact, it has been rumored that one participant suggested that they not be invited to another DPCU in July.

With all the above considered, you still missed what all BCOS events turn out to be – an opportunity to visit friends with like interests and have some fun!

The early bunch who met at Strawn's around 7 A.M. consisted of John and Cathy Joyce, Dick Maxwell and Roy O'Neal. We not only had a great visit, but we can attest to the fact that Strawn's continues to serve a very good breakfast. The biscuits on this morning were so big that they were serving only one instead of the normal two with an order. Cathy's omelet was enormous too, and provided the breakfast for her on Sunday. Sorry the rest of you missed it.

The other BCOSers who were waiting at the parking lot, or showed up a little later, were Marian

Howard, Sandy Roerig, Roger and Melinda West, Ann Gibson, and Gary, Jenny & Wheezy Hackman. No, it was not Wheezy's first DPCU experience.

Some of you will certainly remember the first. Strangely enough, Gary and Jenny did not bring their tandem canoe this time. Wonder why?

Sandy brought her canoe, which she and Marian used to collect plenty of very interesting debris from the pond. Roger West had his kayak, and Melanie brought her "brand new to her" Old Town Rush kayak, which she was paddling for the first time. (When she revealed how much she had paid her friend for the boat, yours truly suggested she must have been wearing a mask when she made the deal.) Melanie hit the water like a real trouper and got back to the launch site after collecting her share of prizes.

At this point I want to commend all those who manned their boats because the strange growth that is in the ponds now certainly create a daunting challenge for the paddlers.



*Jenny Hackman cleans up*

Good job folks. Everyone did a great job, and even though we collected only 14 bags of trash between the growth along the banks, and that previously mentioned in the water, those bags were tough to come by.

A little side note – the duck pond area was a "hot spot" for Pokemon Go and there were a large number of people walking about with their eyes focused on their phones, searching for that little dude. I offered to capture him with my grabbers if I saw one, but somehow felt they did not think I was capable. Know what? They were right.

Thanks to everyone who came out and got soaked with sweat that Saturday. I am committed to assuring that the next DPCU will not be as "H&H".



the canal and the bridges that would rise for the boat to pass under. We were treated to wonderful conversations with the local people along the way at the rest stops, restaurants, historic sites or in the towns that we went through.

The communities along the route were prepared for us. The museums and historic sites had staff available, the restaurants were prepped for such a large group and in many places there were folks along the way to greet us.

Learning about the canal was so enriching: to learn its history and impact on the culture and economy of the region and country; to think about how the canal was built without the modern machinery of today was beyond comprehension. The canal passes through beautiful scenery, and the apple and corn agricultural region of New York. We started on the Niagara River and passed the Genesee, Seneca, Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. We traveled through Buffalo, Rochester, Seneca Falls, Utica, Syracuse, Rome, Schenectady, Albany, and many other small towns and communities.

This is a trip well worth the effort to get to New York. PTNY runs a very organized trip with great support, resources, food and staff. I would highly recommend this trip. If you are interested in learning more go to: [cycletheeriecanal.com](http://cycletheeriecanal.com).



*Gearing Up for the Day*



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## **Fall General Meeting October 7 - 9 at Petit Jean State Park**

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The next General Membership meeting is scheduled for Petit Jean Mountain the weekend of October 7 – 9. **The meeting will include the election of officers for the 2017-2018 term.** A group campsite has been reserved for those dates. **If you would like to stay at the lodge or a cabin, you should make the reservation as soon as possible: [petitjeanstatepark.com](http://petitjeanstatepark.com), or call 501-727-5431 or 800-264-2462.**

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## **DOWNSTREAM PEOPLE A DOCUMENTARY**

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**By Andy Sarajani**

Please take a look at this link, and watch the trailer if you have a minute: <https://igg.me/at/downstreampeople>.

I have just launched an Indiegogo campaign to finish post-

production of my first documentary. **DOWNSTREAM PEOPLE** explores the social, economic, and environmental consequences when a corporately contracted industrial hog farm is built under a questionable permit process with little public notice in the backyard of our first national river – Buffalo National River - and the backyard of Newton County, a persistent poverty community just up the road from where I grew up in Arkansas. You can read the full story at the link, but here's a rundown...I hope to begin public screenings around Arkansas this Fall 2016 and intend to use the film to engage and educate the public and connect them with organizations working on the issue. The film addresses two issues I care deeply about: protecting public land and empowering rural communities.

I'm trying to raise \$10,000 by September 29 to finish post-production of the film so that it can be shown to the people of Arkansas and people with influence around the country. There are some great perks for giving and all

contributions are tax-deductible.

How You Can Help: 1. **SHARE** this information and link far and wide! The more exposure the campaign gets the better. Over 4,000 people recently signed a petition opposing the hog factory. If those 4,000 people each gave \$2.50, this project would be funded.

2. Submit your tax-deductible contribution today. Any amount helps, really. You can watch the film 3 different ways:

- Purchase a digital download of the film - available for download June 2017.
- I will be partnering with various businesses, organizations, and public institutions around Arkansas and other parts of the US to organize free public screenings beginning in Fall 2016.
- Film Festivals. I've submitted the film to festivals in Arkansas and will be submitting to other relevant festivals around the U.S.

Feel free to email me with any questions: [andy.sarjahani@gmail.com](mailto:andy.sarjahani@gmail.com); and thanks for your consideration.

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## **Upcoming Events for Fall 2016**

The fall outing season is getting underway. Below are some outings being planned by various chapters. These outings and more detailed information will be listed on our calendar at [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net). Check often for updates!

### **Buffalo River Chapter:**

- September 25: Erbie Historic Hike.
- October 23: The annual Grand Tour Hike
- November 13: Pedestal Rocks and Kings Bluff.

### **Bayou Chapter:**

- September 10: Dorcheat Bayou Float.
- September 24: Wildlife & Fisheries Day at Bodcau.
- October 9: Shrine Man Half Ironman Triathlon.

### **Pulaski Chapter:**

- September 24: Caddo Ridge Trail Hike.
- October 1: Grassy Lake Float Trip.
- November 5: OHT hike - Hurricane Creek.
- November 1: Sylamore Trail.

### **Highlands Chapter:**

The Highlands Chapter will be posting their hikes on their Facebook page, "Ozark Society, Highlands Chapter." Check in weekly starting in late September.





**The Ozark Society**  
P.O. Box 2914  
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**For your convenience, donations and dues  
may now be submitted via website!**

**And “Friend” us on Facebook!**  
**Search for “The Ozark Society”**  
**or click on website links.**

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.*