



PACK & PADDLE



Spring
March 2017

"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

Buffalo River Trail Completed

By Jim Liles

The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday on August 25th 2016. On a more local level, we celebrated the completion of the middle Buffalo River Trail (BRT), on November 30, 2016. The Searcy County half of the 80 miles of BRT (with downriver trailhead in Marion County) is a continuation of the Ozark Highland Trail (OHT), running for 165 miles across north Arkansas.

The first section of the BRT – 37 miles within Newton County – was completed 1986 -1996, between trailheads in south Boxley Valley and State Highway 7 bridge, at Pruitt. There are no plans at present to connect the two segments by building trail between Pruitt and Woolum, approximately 27 river miles.

The Buffalo River Trail is the culmination of 30 years of intermittent work, directed by the National Park Service, Buffalo National River. From time to time, as funds were available, a seasonal NPS-hired trail crew built portions of the trail; however, most of the 80 miles of trail was constructed by volunteers working under the supervision of Kenneth L. Smith, longtime advocate of the National River. Hundreds of individuals have contributed their time to construction of the trail.

This newest section, the middle Buffalo River Trail, now runs – without a break – for 43 miles, Woolum to Dillard's Ferry. Various sections of the 28.5 miles built over

the first 16 years of this century can be accessed from the roads described below.



* U.S. 65 (Grinders Ferry, upper parking lot, east side of highway): 14.5 miles upriver to Richland Creek at Woolum and BRT's connection with the OHT, or 28.5 miles downriver to state road 14 at Dillard's Ferry.

* Zack Ridge Road /S.C. 47: go 7 miles from its junction with U.S. 65 in Marshall (turn north at Harps), to a parking pull-out on right. Walk to left to go upriver to Grinders Ferry (6.5 mi); or walk straight ahead (past Horton Cemetery) on BRT, to downriver destinations, including Red Bluff Road crossing, 4.5 miles.

* Brush Creek & Red Bluff Roads/S.C. 49: go north on state road 27 four miles from its jct. with U.S. 65, south side of Marshall; turn left/west onto paved Trout Farm Road, south of Morningstar (turn off SR 27 at sign for Howard Hensley WMA), go 3 miles to a "T", right 2.3 miles to a fork, left at fork for 2 miles (high-clearance vehicles) to Brush Creek Rd crossing of BRT; right at Brush Creek Road fork for

1.5 miles on Red Bluff Road (S.C. 49) which parallels the BRT here – look for parking pull-off & BRT sign on left.

* South Maumee Road/S.C. 52: 5 miles north from SR 27 at Morningstar to the trail-crossing of the South Maumee Road (parking pull-out right, ½ mile beyond park entrance sign); hike right/east for about one mile to two pour-offs, or hike 5.3 miles to Spring Creek Road/S.C. 99, for another rim-top pour-off & a great river over-look (for ½ mile west of Spring Creek, the trail is on a historic wagon road that – in the latter half of the 19th century – was a wagon road/horse-trail between Marshall & Yellville.)

* Spring Creek Road/S.C. 99: BRT crossing is 2 miles down that road from its intersection with SR14, midway between the AR 14 bridge and Harriett. Hiking downriver for 6 trail miles on east & north from the trail's crossing of Spring Creek Road provides more great river views and other interesting sights along the way to the trailhead at Dillard's Ferry. About 1 mile east of Spring Creek Road, the trail joins with an old roadway for about a mile – part of an ore haul road over which zinc ore was trucked during World War I. Further east along the old road as it continues past the sites of fallen-down chimneys are scattered articles from the lives of those dependent on jobs laboring in the nearby mines and mills.

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Buffalo River Trail Completed (Continued from Page 1)

One of the best river overlooks on the entire trail is from the top of Kimball Bluff, 1¼ mile up from the Dillard's Ferry trailhead. The view from Kimball Bluff is framed by features that recall the river's mining history: where the river enters the panorama, *Jackpot Bluff* marks the frame, and the downriver limit of the vista is the middle of mile-long *Tie Chute Bluff*, a name recalling the logging history along the river: from the top of that 420 feet bluff, around the turn of the 19th – 20th centuries, Ozarks tie-hackers launched railroad ties hewn ("hacked") from the area's old-growth white oaks, down to the river below. Near the top of that bluff, the *Commercial Mine* consisted of a tunnel 170 feet long, now collapsed, from which zinc ore was excavated during

the same time-period.



There are many rewards to be gained from hiking any portion of the Buffalo River Trail, whether admiring the scenery and enjoying the natural outdoors, or reflecting on bygone eras, from early settlement to commercial resource extraction along Buffalo River, to protection as a national river, beginning 45 years ago come March 1, 2017. So get out and explore the Buffalo National River, by hiking some or all of the latest-to-be built section of the *Buffalo River Trail*!

Someday we expect it will be extended 15 or 20 more miles, to connect at the Ozark National Forest- Sylamore District's "Spring Creek Trailhead"—yet another "Spring Creek," in the extreme northeast corner of Searcy County—where the ongoing *Ozarks Highland Trail* resumes. The OHT is well underway to merge with the *Ozark Trail* at the Missouri-Arkansas line. Most of the 500 mile-long OT has been constructed across the Missouri Ozarks. The OHT, BRT, and OT combined will eventually provide a long-distance hiking trail across the Nation's Interior Highlands, for more than 700 miles, from Lake Fort Smith, Arkansas to the suburbs of St. Louis, Missouri.

Conservation News: The Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee By Carolyn Shearman

A first Meeting of the BBRAC was held January 18, 2017 at ADEQ headquarters in North Little Rock. After introductory remarks each agency represented at the meeting gave a brief report:



- Arkansas Parks and Tourism mentioned that it was honoring Ken Smith from the Ozark Society into the

Tourism Hall of Fame. The Nature Conservancy had purchased 1,800 acres in the Big Creek watershed. And they were working with landowners on Best Management Practices (BMP's) for conservation.

- The Department of Health reported it was focused on water illnesses and *e coli* monitoring and would start with 2016 data as a baseline.
- Arkansas Natural Resources Commission said it was protecting resources, assuring water abundance, managing wildlife, and working on the Watershed Management Plan.
- Arkansas Agricultural Commission reported that the

agricultural community feels over-regulated so they were looking to use BMPs and voluntary recommendations for managing resources in the Buffalo River watershed.

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said their goal was stewardship of natural resources in the watershed and collaboration with other departments.
- The GIS Office stated that its role was supportive and it could provide high-resolution run-off data, national highway data, and aerial survey information.

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Membership News

By Chris Kline

At the Ozark Society Board Meeting on January 28 it was decided that a Membership Committee should be formed to increase membership, to widen the knowledge, awareness and concern for the welfare of the Buffalo River and our local environs, and to increase efficiency of the membership/dues/payment process.



What are the suggested activities for Membership Committee members?

- Help plan and execute membership activities that increase membership.
- Support chapters as they initiate programs to increase membership. Some committee members may elect to travel to other chapters to help with various activities, while others would prefer to work on planning activities in their own chapter.
- Report suggestions and concerns from other members in your chapter to the committee.
- Work on projects that increase the efficiency of

the membership, dues, or payment process.

- Get to know each other and have some fun!

What are we doing right now?

- Reviewing membership management software - Our goal is to simplify the membership application process and make our organization more responsive to new members.
- Working on ways to improve our visibility in response to a Google search - We want people to find the Ozark Society and communicate with us easily and quickly.
- Exploring ways to engage new members - We are considering having at least 2 events a year for children on the chapter level. We would announce events through KUAF or other local radio stations. Activities would be theme based and would last about 2 hours. Birds, Flowers, Geology, Amphibians, Bugs, or Things that Wiggle in the Streams would work well for young children.
- Reaching out to University of Arkansas students
- Designing a new T-shirt and brochure

Would you like to work on one of these projects, or perhaps you and/or your chapter would rather

focus on an entirely different membership project?

Let's talk about it; welcome aboard! Please see contact information below.

How will we communicate?

- Email suggestions, planning ideas, and concerns.
- Meet once or twice a year perhaps as a break-out session during the Ozark Society Board Meeting, or meet via Skype 2 times a year in the Spring and Fall.



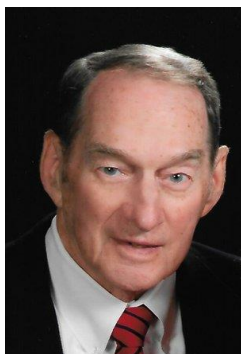
How can I join the Membership Committee?

Please contact Chris Kline, Membership Chair if you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, or if your chapter would like to invite Chris to one of your chapter meetings. Cell: 479-409-0394 Email: cl_kline@sbcglobal.net



Bob Ritchie Celebration Float May 16-20, 2017

By Steve Heye



The Ozark Society is holding a 5-day float on the Buffalo National River May 16th-20th as we celebrate

our dear friend and member Bob Ritchie. This float will start at Tyler Bend and will end at Riley's on the White River. This is 60 Miles on the river. Some areas are wilderness with no cell phone service. Cost is \$200.

Our plans include providing meals from Tuesday Noon to Saturday Noon, a car shuttle, a group supply boat, and motor rental. Individual canoe rentals are also available from Wild Bill's for an added fee. Each group will have a group supply Jon Boat which will carry the group kitchen, ice chests, food, and other equipment.

You will be responsible for all personal gear and maybe a small group item so please note that the supply boat does not have room for personal gear. If you use a kayak you will still be responsible for your gear and personal beverages!

The trip is limited to 45 floaters and 3 Jon Boat drivers. Your spot will be guaranteed when payment is made.

The trip closes on April 30th. Please send checks payable to **The Ozark Society** and email address and cell number to the following address:

Ozark Society Buffalo Float
4508 Valley Brook Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72116

We will refund all money if the trip is canceled or if you cannot go. Ozark Society membership of \$20 is required. Contact Steve Heye at hey@aristotle.net

Ozark Society Board Meeting January 28, 2017

By Sandy Roerig

The Ozark Society Board met on Saturday morning, January 28 at David and Donna Peterson's castle near Conway, AR.



Pictured in front of the castle are: President David Peterson; Vice-President, Luke Parsch; Past President, Alan Nye; Recording Secretary, Sandy Roerig; Financial Chair, Kay Ewart; Conservation Chair, Alice Andrews; Communications Chair Carolyn Shearman; Membership Chair, Chris Klein; Education Chair, Fred Paillet; Arkansas State Director, Bob Cross; Louisiana State Directors,

Roy O'Neal and Catherine Tolson; Highlands Chapter Chair, Tom Perry; Ozark Society Foundation representatives, Kim Smith, Janet Parsch and Karen Seller; Buffalo River Chapter representative, Laura Timby; Pulaski Chapter representatives, Janet Nye and Mary Gordon.

Old and New Business included discussions of the Ozark National Forest lawsuit, the imminent publication of the updated Buffalo River Canoeing Guide, an update of the hog farm issues, the possibility of nominations for the Neil Compton Award and the renewal of American Canoe Association Insurance to cover upcoming outings.

The new Communications and Membership Chairs (Carolyn and Chris) presented several good ideas for attracting new members and for keeping current members informed and engaged. Kim Smith provided

an update on the Ozark Society Foundation publications, the need to find a permanent place to store them and better ways to market them.

Upcoming outings include the Bob Ritchie Memorial Float in May, the Spring membership meeting in March that will be combined with the Buffalo River Challenge, the float trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River this summer, the Colorado Trip in July and a hiking trip in late September to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

Chapter reports indicated that the members are actively engaged in hikes and floats, various clean-up events and are enjoying interesting, informative talks at their regular meetings. A huge Thank You to Donna Peterson who catered the nibbles and soup buffet lunch!!

OSHC Buffalo River Classic and OS Meeting

March 25-26, 2017



- **Float on the Buffalo River** led by JB Clark starting at 8:30am at Kyles Landing
You must provide your own canoe or kayak and **register with JB for this event** at 479-422-0869 or julianbclark@yahoo.com.

This year if water levels permit we will paddle the 12.5 miles from Kyles landing to Ozark camp. We need 20 inches or less of air at the Ponca low water bridge to do this. Floaters will need to meet at Kyles Landing at 8:30am to unload boats and arrange shuttle. We will take all vehicles to Ozark and come back to the launch in as few vehicles as possible. The water will be cold - dress for a spill and bring dry clothing in a dry bag in case bad luck overcomes your expertise. Bring a light lunch and rain gear. JB will not know or venture to guess what the water level will be until the middle of the week of the float. If you plan on doing this float you must email JB the number of people in your party and their names and the number of people your car can carry. You will be asked to help with the shuttle.

- **Leatherwood Creek Bushwhack:** Please contact Terry Fredrick at 479-422-7776 or terrffre@att.net with questions and bring water and lunch. No registration is required. The hike starts at 10am from the Ponca Low Water Bridge up Leatherwood Creek to a box canyon and bluff shelter. From there hikers will scramble up the steep hillside to a place under the

Schedule of Events

- bluff where we will find the “chimney” to climb through and reach the top. From there we will follow the Buffalo River Trail back down to Ponca Low Water Bridge. The hike will be about 4 miles.
- **Day Hike on the Buffalo River Trail** from Ozark to Pruitt: There will be a led hike from Ozark Campground to Pruitt starting around 10:30. No registration is required. This hike is led by Brian Thompson, email Thompsonadd@gmail.com, phone 479-251-1835 H; 479-879-0688 M. It’s rated moderate with a distance of 5.2 miles and 250 feet elevation gain. Bring a light lunch and water for on the trail.
- **Cookout at the Ozark Pavilion** organized starting at 4pm organized by Chris Kline. **Please register with her** at 479-409-0394 or cl_kline@sbcglobal.net or and indicate if you are vegetarian.
The cookout will include grilled burgers (provided by OSHC), pot-luck dishes (provided by participants), and socializing, at the end of an active day spent with all of us who enjoy the beautiful Buffalo River. Everyone is welcome to the pot-luck cookout whether or not they participate in the float, or the day-hikes. 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, veggie burgers, and hot dogs, plates, silverware, and



fixings will be supplied by our Highlands Chapter. Start time is approximately 4:00 p.m. at Ozark Campground Pavilion. All participants can 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. There will be some brief remarks by OS President, David Peterson

- **Overnight camping** for those who choose. Contact info to arrange campsites is **Ozark Campground** 877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov. Fees: \$10 a night, Pavilion rental \$28 a night. For reservations call the Ozark Campground features 35 tent camping sites available on a first come, first served basis. It is readily accessible by cars from Highway 7 south of Jasper, Arkansas.
- **OS Board members: Sunday March 26th Quarterly Board Meeting** at 9am led by President David Peterson. It will be held at David & Janie Mott's place in remote Newton County. David Mott's phone numbers is 870-280-8367 and please note the GPS address is N 36 05 11, W 93 05 29. Allow plenty of time. Directions for OS Board members will be available at the campsite.



Colorado High Adventure Trip – July 16-22, 2017

The 2017 Colorado High Adventure Trip will be held at Cascade Campground from Sunday thru Saturday, July 16 – 22. The campground is located in the Collegiate Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest on County Road 162 west of Nathrop, Colorado. Please be sure your reservation arrives by May 31 at the latest. The trip is limited to 60 people.

You should plan to arrive at the campground no earlier than 1:00 PM on Sunday July 16. If you prefer motel accommodations to camping, you can make reservations at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Lodge (719-395-2361) or other nearby motels or bed & breakfasts. Meals will be provided for all trip participants, regardless of whether you are

camping or staying elsewhere. The meals will begin with dinner on Sunday July 16 and end with dinner on Friday July 21. If you have special dietary needs or preferences, you may need to bring your own food as the menus are planned well in advance of the trip.

There will be a variety of outings from which to choose: hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and rafting or boating on the Arkansas River. If you plan to canoe or kayak, you should bring your own equipment. There are rafting outfitters nearby for those of you wish to raft. You will need to make your own arrangements with the outfitters.

You must be an Ozark Society member to participate in this trip. If you are not

already a member, you may join by sending \$20 annual dues along with trip fee of \$175 for campers and \$125 for non-campers. You will be required to complete the information form below for the trip.

RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN JANUARY 1-MAY 31, 2017. Confirm your place on the Colorado outing by sending your information form and a check made out to the Ozark Society for the appropriate amount to: **Catherine Tolson, 216 Vinwood Rd, Monroe, LA 71203.**

If you have any questions concerning the Colorado trip, contact Catherine Tolson at 318-680-9280 or catherine.tolson@comcast.net

Include check to Ozark Society for trip fees with form.

Personal information:	
Last name	First name
Mailing address	
Email	
Camping: (Circle)	Yes No
Camping equipment (if applicable): (Circle)	
Tent Small Large	OR Trailer Length _____ feet
Other information (camping with, traveling with, etc.):	

Conservation News: Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee
(Continued from page 3)

- Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) reported that it is doing and has done the following:
 - Monitoring *e coli* concentrations by taking 91 samples at 9 sites in the Buffalo River Watershed.
 - Using USGS monitors to collect data on dissolved oxygen.
 - Providing a rapid response team for public outreach on things like the 2016 algae issue.
 - Did a one-time drilling at the C&H Hog Farm.
 - Provide 23 sites in the Buffalo watershed, its tributaries, and spring to monitor for nutrient

loading, turbidity, and biota levels.

Then, Buffalo National River Park Superintendent Kevin Cheri gave a presentation on the Park's efforts to maintain water quality and public safety. Working closely with ADEQ they are providing nutrient and biota testing, dye tracing, dissolved oxygen monitoring, analysis on endangered mussels, and streambank erosion. They are also conducting educational workshops, studying dragonflies with ASU, and maintaining 2 Research Learning Centers.

Finally Tony Ramick who oversees the non-point pollution source management plan for the

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission reported on the first stakeholder meeting for the Buffalo Watershed Management Plan which David Peterson and Alice Andrews from the Ozark Society attended and said he hoped to have a plan completed in the next 16-18 months. The next meeting for stakeholders will be March 30 in Jasper. The BBRAC meanwhile hopes to have the plan within 12 months.

The significant problem of feral hogs in the watershed will be discussed at the next meeting.

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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.