



# PACK & PADDLE



Summer  
June 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

## C&H Hog Farm Update

By David Peterson, Ozark Society President

C&H hog farm has been operating in the Buffalo River Watershed since 2012 under regulation 6, a special category created for hog CAFO's by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Last year ADEQ eliminated the reg. 6 permit and instead is allowing C&H to continue under an existing reg. 5 permit. The Ozark Society sees the reg. 5 review process as perhaps a last chance to remove C&H – reg. 5 permits are permanent.

### We are going all out in opposition.

ADEQ approved the change, but there was a comment period during which some 19,000 people or organizations submitted critiques of the change. We hired an environmental lawyer, Sam Ledbetter, who worked closely with Bob Cross and three expert witnesses to put together a two-pronged attack, showing that:

- i) During the initial permitting process and continuing now, C & H has not been required to follow ADEQ's own procedures, or the federal clean water act.
- ii) In contrast to public statements made by our governor, ADEQ, and the Farm Bureau there is strong

scientific evidence that this CAFO, as currently managed, pose a threat to the water and air quality to Big Creek and the Buffalo River Watershed. This evidence consists of well documented historical cases (e.g. the Illinois River in Northwest Arkansas), more than 140 scientific citations, and data collected by the Big Creek Research and Extension Team (BCRET) from U of A shows increased nutrient loads due to the farm.

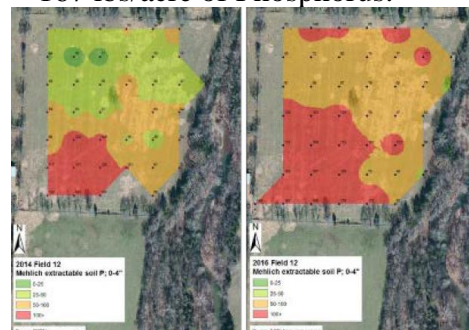
Going all out means putting down all possible arguments in excruciating detail since new evidence cannot be presented at an expected appeal of ADEQ's response to the comments. So, the 95+ pages of comments we submitted is heavy reading. But there are some graphical images that illustrate the arguments.

### Eutrophic causing nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus

Dr. Andrew Sharpely, Arkansas phosphate index guru and head of the Big Creek Research and Extension Team (BCRET), has stated, "Repeatedly applying manure at rates to provide sufficient nitrogen will increase soil Phosphorus levels and the risk of runoff."

### So, what is happening at C&H?

The graphs below show the build-up of Phosphorus over a two-year period of over application of manure on field 12. Most states recommend no more than 50 ppm (orange) in soil tests. The red areas have more than twice this at 100 ppm = 167 lbs/acre of Phosphorus.



The effect of over application (orange and red) of manure on field 12, from 2014 to 2016

Agronomic need is less than 10 lbs./acre for the reported grazing rate at C&H, but yearly application rates on field 12 have been more than 40 lbs./acre. No farmer would do this if they were actually paying for fertilizer rather than being paid to dispose of Phosphorus as waste.

### Where does the excess waste go?

Does any waste get into Big Creek and the Buffalo River?

(Continued on Page 3)



# 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. **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: \$20
- Individual Students: \$5.00 (High school or college, if not included with family)
- Contributing/Sustaining: \$25
- Individual Life: \$200 (Individual over age 65: \$100) *(This is for OS membership only and 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 (NW AR)
- Mississippi Valley Chapter- \$5 (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- Pulaski Chapter - \$10 (Central AR)
- Sugar Creek Chapter - \$5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  Please send newsletters to my U. S. mail address instead of by email

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**SOCIETY OFFICERS (2017-2018):** President: David Peterson, (501) 679-2935, [drpdrp@windstream.net](mailto:drpdrp@windstream.net); Past President: Alan Nye, (501) 258-7137, [osacny@gmail.com](mailto:osacny@gmail.com); Vice President: Lucas Parsch, [lparsch@uark.edu](mailto:lparsch@uark.edu); Financial Chair: Kay Ewart, [ozarksocietyewart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ozarksocietyewart@sbcglobal.net); Recording Secretary: Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, [sroeri@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:sroeri@lsuhsc.edu); Conservation Chair: Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, [alice209ok@yahoo.com](mailto:alice209ok@yahoo.com); Education Chair: Fred Paillet, (479) 935-4297, [fredp@cox.net](mailto:fredp@cox.net); Membership Chair: Chris Kline (479) 409-0394, [cl\\_kline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cl_kline@sbcglobal.net); Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle: Carolyn Shearman, [tucshea@gmail.com](mailto:tucshea@gmail.com).

**STATE DIRECTORS:** ARKANSAS: Bob Cross, (479) 466-3077, [bobcross610@gmail.com](mailto:bobcross610@gmail.com); Ed Vollman, [hknman1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hknman1@sbcglobal.net); MISSOURI: Position open; LOUISIANA: Roy O’Neal, (318) 272-0259, [roneal2@bellsouth.net](mailto:roneal2@bellsouth.net); Catherine Tolson, (318) 343-7482, [catherine.tolson@comcast.net](mailto:catherine.tolson@comcast.net).

**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** Bayou Chapter: Dee Jay Teutsch, (318) 393-2523, [tdeejaye@yahoo.com](mailto:tdeejaye@yahoo.com); Pulaski Chapter: Janet Nye, [jbnye14@swbell.net](mailto:jbnye14@swbell.net); Highlands Chapter: Tom Perry, (479) 442-6223, [tomperry106@yahoo.com](mailto:tomperry106@yahoo.com); Buffalo River Chapter: Laura Timby, [ldtimby@ritternet.com](mailto:ldtimby@ritternet.com); Mississippi Valley Chapter: Debbie McDonald (573) 275-0602, Sugar Creek Chapter: Lowell Collins, [ossugarcreek@gmail.com](mailto:ossugarcreek@gmail.com).

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

**Buffalo River Trail Coordinator:** Ken Smith, (479) 466-7994, [kennethsmith616@yahoo.com](mailto:kennethsmith616@yahoo.com).

**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: \$20; Family: \$20; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$25; Individual Life (one-time fee): \$200 for individuals under 65 years, or \$100 for individuals 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.

## C&H Hog Farm Update (Continued from Page 1)

The waste water lagoons leak and there is Karst which provides a water pathway, but solid estimates of the extent are difficult to establish. On the other hand, most of the waste is sprayed on the land and it does make it to Big Creek as demonstrated by the increase in average P and N levels as Big Creek passes by the farm.

### Statistics

#### Phosphorus (mg/L)

P upstream= 0.0342  
 P downstream= 0.0533  
 % increase= 81%

#### Nitrogen (mg/L)

N upstream= 0.209  
 N downstream= 0.388  
 % increase= 86%

### Hay Yields in the Buffalo

“Best Management Practices,” espoused by CAFO supporters, suggest that the excess nutrients generated on the farms can be removed safely via agriculture products – hay and or grazing animal units in this case.

There is a tendency to exaggerate hay yield in order to justify application rates of Phosphorus. Initially C&H estimated a hay yield of 6 tons/acre even though the national, state and Newton County averages are at or below 2 tons /acre. ADEQ does not ask for verification of hay yields or grazing rates.



Which picture above looks like Newton County? The lower one! Newton County's Karst does not yield as much hay as the top picture with its rich top-soil!

## Membership News: Brochures and T-Shirts Chris Kline, Membership Chair

Here are the graphics for the flip-over brochure Chris is proposing to promote the Ozark Society.

Here is Side One:

The Ozark Society  
 Our purpose is the preservation of wild and scenic rivers, wilderness, and unique natural areas

- Hike rivers and hike in the wilderness.
- Enjoy the mountains and rivers of Colorado and other destinations in the American West.
- Explore little known natural wonders close to home and far beyond.
- Protect the unique wild places that distinguish the Ozarks and surrounding regions.

To join the Ozark Society check out our site and browse through the Pack and Paddle Newsletter.

<http://www.ozarksociety.net>

Very Cool. Thank you, Chris, for all your design work!!!

And this is Side Two:

Conservation  
 Education Recreation

I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best! Dr. Neil Compton founded the Ozark Society in 1982 to save the Buffalo River from being dammed.

Active Ozark Society Chapters

- Baysou Chapter (Shreveport, LA)  
 Facebook  
 Website: [www.baysouozark.com](http://www.baysouozark.com)  
 Email: [rlbaysou@ozark.net](mailto:rlbaysou@ozark.net)
- Buffalo River Chapter (Oz, Central AR)  
 Email: [wbhicks16@gmail.com](mailto:wbhicks16@gmail.com)
- Highlands Chapter (Northwest AR)  
 Facebook  
 Email: [kampers@ozark.net](mailto:kampers@ozark.net)
- Mississippi Valley Chapter (Cape Girardeau, MO)  
 Email: [gsandford@ozark.net](mailto:gsandford@ozark.net)
- Pottsville Chapter (Central AR)  
 Facebook  
 Email: [fmyer@webell.net](mailto:fmyer@webell.net)

Here is her T-shirt graphic for the back. This is proprietary to the Ozark Society, not to be copied. An OS logo will be on the front or sleeve:

The Ozark Society

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## Bob Ritchie Celebration Float Recap May 16-20, 2017

By Steve Heye

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And then sometimes you get lucky and everything falls into place! That more or less describes the Bob Ritchie memorial float held on the Buffalo River from May 16 to May 19. Wait, wasn't it supposed to be through the 20<sup>th</sup>?

After a couple of months of prep by a small group of Pulaski Chapter members, the Ozark Society's tribute to long time member Bob Ritchie got underway on a sunny Tuesday Morning at Tyler Bend. Members from 5 states started showing up to get their boats unloaded and help load the commissary boats for the two groups, Orange and Yellow.

The Yellows were led by David Peterson and the Oranges were led by Janet Nye. The groups were formed to make things like meals, group equipment and member safety easier for the leaders to manage.



We all got with Wild Bill's folks to shuttle our cars and then returned to the beach to eat lunch. Our "Grooverfrau," Janet Nye, also explained the use of the "groover" for camp hygiene. With the lunch tables put up, everyone fed, it was time to start our 60-mile adventure. The water level was perfect, reading 6.8 on the gauge at St. Joe.

The river was moving briskly at this level. We covered the 7 miles down to Red Bluff from Tyler in short time. Most days we would average 3 to 4 miles an hour without paddling very hard. A lot of time it was just point the boat and go! We made camp on the right-hand bar across from Red Bluff, mile 102. The Yellow group made camp down from Orange and both camps set up for a wonderful Mexican dinner of burritos, beans, rice, chips and dip and apple or cherry pie!

The following morning was pleasant, partly cloudy and about 65 degrees. The breakfast volunteers got up and had things going in both camps by 6. We all had a wonderful variety of breakfast foods: cereal, eggs, Canadian bacon, pop tarts, orange juice and the ever present and the mandatory COFFEE.

The weather forecast for the trip was a tough one. It was constantly changing leading up to the trip and leaders were using all resources to stay on top of the changing conditions. Wednesday became windier as the day progressed. Besides the wind, threatening clouds would pass, but no real rain. The speed of the water had us moving along at a rate of 3 to 4 miles per hour.

We started arriving at Spring Creek about 3pm and began setting up camps. Most of the Yellow group got there first and was setting up camp when a few Orange members came ashore to register a complaint that Yellow was hogging the whole

beach. Knives were pulled and tempers flared, but cooler heads soon had the situation resolved. Those Louisiana folks don't mess around. Actually, it was all in fun while we figured out how to share the bar.

We managed to get camps set up when the winds died back. Dinner that evening was Spaghetti and meat balls. We had salads, French bread and more pie for dessert.



Thursday was to be the longest day planned. Little did we know how long. The forecast heard that morning on local radio said Thursday would be a great day with much less wind and partly cloudy. It was the forecast for late Friday and Saturday that was worrying the trip leadership. It was agreed to gather at Hwy. 14 bridge, mile 120.5, to assess the situation.

The majority of both groups arrived at Hwy. 14 landing about 10:45am. Steve contacted the National Weather Service office and asked for a specific forecast for the next two days on the lower section of the Buffalo. The weatherman said Thursday and most of Friday would be fine

*(Continued on page 5)*

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## Bob Ritchie Celebration Float Recap

*Continued from page 4*

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During lunch at Buffalo Point, leadership agreed that we could finish the trip at the White River on Friday if we could get within 15 miles of the finish that night, Thursday. This would require paddling downstream to mile 138 to Smith Bluff, an extra 6 miles that day. It was either this or get out early at Rush. The group was told at Rush what the weather situation was and what our options were. The group said they were game to finish the entire trip by Friday.

At 3pm we were met by folks from Wild Bills. They have extra ice and gas for our supply boats. The biggest rapids on the trip was facing us just around the corner at Clabber Rapid. It is tough most of the time, but even more so when the water was up. Everyone made it through just fine except for the trip organizer Steve Heye and his partner Gary Alexander. Some gear was lost, among it a very expensive camera. Once we regrouped, we all started on to Smith Bluff.

The day was long and about 5:30pm or so, most of us had reached the bar across from Smith Bluff. Dinner was burgers and dogs. Everyone was super tired, but before going to bed we held a wonderful remembrance ceremony for Bob Ritchie. Luminaries and some of Bob's old gear were part of a small setting for those giving their "Bob" stories. We all raised a glass to Bob and then headed to get a good night's sleep.

Friday had all of us up early, but most had a good sleep after that tough day before. Breakfast was great and we got on the

river by 8:30am. The plan all along was to paddle just short of the White river and group up to shuttle using the john boats.



Before that however, we had picked the beach near Elephant Head to be our lunch spot. The spot we chose was at the end of an island that splits the river into two parts, each with a set of rapids. The majority of the floaters took the right branch passed the small island.

In the rapid for this branch however was a large, dark rock lurking just below the surface in the middle of the channel and was very hard to spot. Most saw it in time and went to either side. The Orange john boat did not see the rock and struck it hard. The boat spun and began to fill with water. It was powered off the rock and brought the hundred yards or so down to the lunch spot to be bailed out. The john boat was not the only victim of the rock as Jack Land and Roy O'Neal found the same rock but did not stay upright. "Man Overboard" was yelled and we soon had them on the shore and gathering up gear. Oh, we had lunch here too!

Around 3:00pm we reached the last bar before going into the White. The Buffalo was flowing at a 3.5 to 4 mph pace. The White was flowing over 7 mph and the temperature of the water

is 20 degrees cooler. To cross, the two john boats had to shuttle the boats and participants over to Riley's landing.

It took about 45 minutes to carry everyone across, but we were all happy to be there. We all then went about getting our cars and gear ready to head home.

I want to thank everyone involved with the planning and execution of this wonderful trip! To my Group Leaders, Janet Nye and David Peterson, I am grateful for all your input and leadership. This trip would have not gone as smooth without your help.

We also want to thank the john boat drivers, Charles Oldham and Charles Mullins. We also thank Alice Andrews, Donna Peterson, Deborah Carpenter and Alan Nye for the aid they gave to get this trip ready. And we can't forget Kay Ewart for her help with the monetary side of this trip.

But most of all, thanks to all who went! You adapted to get the trip in despite changing weather.

After our decision to finish on Friday afternoon, later that night the skies opened up and nearly 2 inches of rain fell. The Buffalo was just below 6' when we left the river on Friday. By Noon on Saturday, our original take out time, the river was 18' on the St. Joe gauge. We got lucky and guessed right all along the way!

Photos of the trip are available at : <https://flic.kr/s/aHskVjs13u>

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## BBRAC and the Buffalo River Watershed Management Planning Process

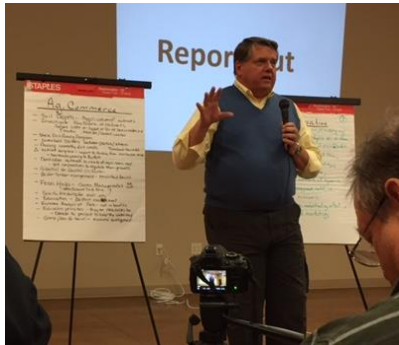
By Alice Andrews, Conservation Chair

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Maybe you have heard about the Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee, (BBRAC)?

Governor Asa Hutchinson directed that BBRAC was organized to establish an Arkansas led approach to identify and address potential issues of concern in the Buffalo River Watershed through the development of a non-regulatory Watershed Management Plan. The process should be completed by June, 2018.



The result of the Plan will provide a framework for landowners, communities and organizations to voluntarily undertake water quality projects in the watershed and improve the ability to solicit and secure funding and assistance from various government and private sources.

The June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in Marshall will be the third public information meeting in the development of the Watershed Management Plan for BBRAC. The meeting is at the Searcy Co. Civic Center from 1:00 – 3:30 PM. All are welcome to attend. The Attendees so far are roughly composed of about 50/50 % agricultural and environmental

concerns. Interestingly, many of the participants have similar concerns.

There are many rules to follow. Our first task in the Watershed Management Plan process typically occurs through 6 steps:

1. Building partnerships
2. Characterizing the watershed:  
this means listing the concerns and problems in the watershed, of which there are many
3. Finalizing goals and identifying solutions
4. Designing a program
5. Implementing the Watershed Management Plan
6. Measuring progress and making adjustments

Keep in mind that this whole program cannot touch regulated activities such as the hog factory. So far there is significant skepticism that this program will work. It is based on volunteer efforts

to propose specific project/s, creating goals and solutions to be approved, implementation and measuring progress and adjusting solutions as circumstances change. In general, the environmental group feels that the weaknesses are due to a lack of adequate data sets for proposing solid solutions (We are required to use existing data on the river for nutrients, minerals, pH, dissolved oxygen, etc.). The data collected by Buffalo National River through the years was not collected for this purpose and so is not sufficient for the task. Also, the data is lumped into 10 year groups that obscures

recent trends and ignores storm flow data while using base flow data resulting in misrepresenting phosphorus content. Mill Creek has been a problem for years with seepage of raw sewage into Mill Creek, another tributary to the Buffalo. Mill Creek data is also excluded.

We do have the option to add the requirements we feel should be added under “action items”. These will be added to this list at the next meeting. There is hope that this project will ultimately help protect the Buffalo River although it basically includes only 20% of the watershed. Approximately 80% of the Buffalo River watershed is forested and not included.

The Ozark Society and the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) met with Tony Ramick of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) and Program Director for the project on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to “iron out” some of these concerns. It was a very cordial meeting, ending with all of us gaining some clarity on the subject.

In conclusion, we hope this program is not depicted as fixing environmental threats to the Buffalo. That just wouldn't fly.

My thanks to David Peterson for providing many insightful comments used in attempting to explain this complicated project.

More information can be found here:

<http://buffaloriveralliance.org/event-2465450>

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## Ken Smith – Arkansas Parks and Tourism Hall of Fame

By Alice Andrews, Conservation Chair

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Our one and only Ken Smith, yes – acclaimed author, master trail-builder, recruiter for volunteer trail-builders and environmental advocate was honored in March. Ken was inducted into the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Hall of Fame for his designing and building approximately 100 miles of Buffalo River Trail, 2005 – 2016.

It was a gala affair at the Statehouse Convention Center, downtown Little Rock. It included lunch, an entertaining video of downtown art galleries, theatres, music venues, fine restaurants, museums, parks, bicycling and walking trails, hotels, businesses, bridges, etc. The event recognized Ken's (and his volunteers') amazing number of miles of trail construction over an eleven-year time span through the Ozark Highlands, especially along the ridge tops and valleys of the Buffalo National River. Kane Webb, Director of Parks and Tourism, thanked Ken for his significant contribution to Arkansas Tourism's recreational opportunities.

The National Park Service (NPS) Trail Crew and volunteers worked on trail from Richland Valley to Hwy. 65. Most of Ken's trail building was from Hwy. 65 to Hwy. 14, near Buffalo Point. It should be noted that Ken has worked on and maintained many other parts of the Ozark Trails System. The NPS and volunteers helped build 166 stone steps up and downhill

at Hwy. 14, from river level to the ridge top. Currently, the BRT ends at Hwy. 14, however there are on-going negotiations between several parties to develop a way to continue the trail to connect with parts of the OHT and on toward the White River. Ultimately, it is hoped that Arkansas can connect with a trail coming south from St. Louis.



These hiking trails would not have happened except for the intrepid and devoted trail volunteers made up of local folks, Ozark Society members, OHTA, Sierra Club Service trips and the Wilderness Volunteers. Ken said, "it was his privilege to have worked with these volunteers who came back every year, from 35 states!"

Back to the Hall of Fame program – Ken had not planned to attend the Parks and Tourism event but was persuaded by Janet and Lucas Parsch to ride with them to Little Rock. Ken was asked if he would like to say a few words. He started by saying, "They said I should speak about something we all care about." Immediately, Ken exclaimed that he had a very special relationship to the

Buffalo River and that he had something to say about that! He was deeply concerned about the impact of the C&H Hog Factory on a major tributary of the Buffalo National River, Big Creek. "The Hog factory was quietly given a permit by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) with little notice to the public or to those living near the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)."

Ken made the point that the community of Mt. Judea and its school are at risk from the air and water pollution. He said, "Hog farms smell like hydrogen sulfide, ammonia; both dangerous to inhale, especially for young children and the elderly. The odor can be overpowering and certainly impacts tourism.

"ADEQ disrespected a poor community where all the citizens know each other as family or friends and therefore are reluctant to speak up. The state is responsible for correcting the problem before it is too late to save this magnificent, national resource – the Beautiful Buffalo". Ken reminded all of us that we failed to pay attention, to be ever watchful, and stay well-informed about the actions of our state agencies. Ken stated, "We must protect and preserve. We are at risk of killing the goose that laid the golden egg."

To watch his speech in person: <https://vimeo.com/208539794>

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## The American Beech Tree – Monarch of the Buffalo River Corridor

By Fred Paillet, Education Chair

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Beech is one of the most characteristic trees of the deciduous forest throughout the entire northern hemisphere and American beech is one of the most characteristic trees in the gorges in and around the Buffalo River. As such we may take this magnificent tree for granted without realizing that the upper Buffalo is a distant outlier in that tree's range. The tree is long lived and can reach immense size.



*Mature beech along Hawksbill Crag trail*

We are fortunate to have so many giant old beech trees around because the tree grows best in inaccessible places and was considered worthless as a timber tree by early loggers. Moreover, ancient beeches almost always develop hollow or rotten centers. The tree has light gray, smooth bark and the base of the tree often forms an interesting tangle of roots to enchant the hiker.

Beech nuts provide a nutritious source of food for many birds and animals. Hollow beech trees are important for wildlife such as racoons and bears. Our relatively mild winters cause large hollow trees to serve as winter quarters where protection

from exposure to moisture in underground burrows makes dry and elevated locations more comfortable for these creatures.

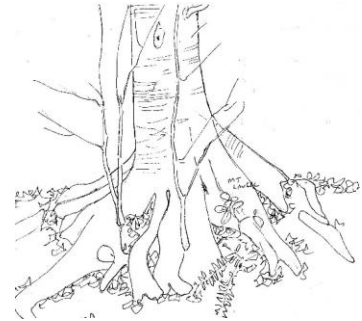
Beech is also one of a limited group of forest trees that can reproduce itself by sprouting from shallow roots at some distance from an established tree. This is probably one reason why beech can come to dominate the lower slopes of headwater ravines where the tree finds the environment so well suited for its growth. The habit of spreading in this way has a real downside.



*Hollowed out but living beech*

Now you can see many places on top of the bluffs overlooking the Buffalo where the understory is completely filled with beech saplings. This invasion of the upland forest by trees that normally grow only in protected or mesic locations is known by forest ecologists as mesification. Beech can be especially aggressive in invading oak and pine forest because a single chance establishment of one tree can expand outward by roots as well as seed. One of the prime motivations behind controlled burns is to keep mesic tree species such as beech and sugar maple from displacing valuable

timber hardwoods in their characteristic upland habitat.



*Flaring roots at the base of a beech tree*

As much as we enjoy our scenic beech trees, an insect driven catastrophe is inexorably oozing its way towards the Buffalo. Just before 1900 a foreign scale insect was introduced in New Brunswick. This tiny sap-sucking insect travels slowly from tree to tree, but has teamed up with a native fungus to disfigure bark and eventually kill mature beech trees. The attractive silver bark of trees becomes a mass of ugly swollen blisters as the tree slowly dies down from the top.

The weakened tree is often invaded by carpenter ants and eagerly sought out by pileated woodpeckers. The beech scale disease ultimately decimates a beech-dominated forest, turning it into a jungle of smaller beech sapling root-sprouts that can never achieve their full potential as trees. The disease has now made it as far west as Illinois. The location of the Buffalo River at some distance from the main part of the geographic range of beech might just provide enough of a barrier to become the one location where we can marvel at the last surviving old beech trees in their natural habitat.



## 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 who 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](mailto:catherine.tolson@comcast.net)

**Include check to Ozark Society for trip fees with form.**

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



Ozark Society  
P.O. Box 2914  
Little Rock, AR 72203

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](mailto:mb2rene@aol.com).

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## Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Utah September 23-October 1, 2017

By Bob Cross, Arkansas State Director

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Bob Cross and Terry Fredrick will lead hikes for four days in the Arches National Park area and for four days in Canyonlands National Park, Needles District. Led hikes in Arches will be of a moderate to difficult rating but in Canyonlands, all hikes will be difficult due to length (8 to 14 miles). However, you can choose your own level of difficulty by taking separate hikes on your own.

In the Arches area, we have a group site at the Goose Island BLM campground. It's on the Colorado River near the entrance to Arches NP and it's 3 miles north of Moab, UT. At Canyonlands, we have

reservations at the Squaw Flats group site within the park. Both group sites are for tents only. At Goose Island, individual RV sites are available first-come, first served and at Canyonlands RV sites can be reserved but as of now, there are no sites available.

The cost for the trip will be \$75.00 per person for campers and \$20.00 per person for those joining us for hiking but making other arrangements for accommodations. Meals will be on your own and you will be responsible for all other fees including National Park entrance fees.

Sign-ups to-date are within six participants of the 40-person limit so please sign-up immediately if you wish to hike with us. There will be a waiting list if more than 40 people request spots. You must be an Ozark Society member to participate.

To signup, send an e-mail to [bobcross610@gmail.com](mailto:bobcross610@gmail.com) and tell me the number and names of the people in your party and whether you will be camping or seeking other accommodations. Please call me at 479-466-3077 or send an e-mail if you have questions. Information is also available at the Ozarks Society website. [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net).