



# PACK & PADDLE



Summer  
June 2018

*"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

## Ozark Resources Watchdogs By Chris Kline

On April 7, 2018, 17 people seated around a large table at the Omni Center in Fayetteville Arkansas exchanged ideas, options and information about ways to successfully remove threats to our rivers and their watersheds. Two additional participants communicated with the group via the Internet. Goals included finding common ground as we strive toward success, and ways to promote effective communication among different organizations. This luncheon meeting was in conjunction with the Public Meeting, What's Next for our Buffalo River, held at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville on the evening of the same day. For additional information on this evening event please see: <http://buffaloriveralliance.org/event-2865333>

Individuals and Organizations included:

- Terry Spense\* of Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP)
- Ozark River Stewards
- Buffalo River Watershed Alliance
- Mulberry River Society
- Rita Griffin,\* Mayor of Harman Arkansas
- Kings River Watershed Partnership
- The Ozark Society

- The OMNI Center
- White River Waterkeeper
- NW Arkansas Worker Justice organization
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Peter Lehner,\* attorney for Earthjustice
- Kelly Hunter Foster\* of Waterkeeper Alliance's (Pure Farms, Pure Waters campaign)
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Friends of the North Fork and White River

\* Note: These folks served on the panel or spoke at the evening event: What's Next for Our Buffalo River.

Round table discussions repeatedly mentioned the need for our state government to establish a numeric nutrient requirement for our rivers and their tributaries. Nitrogen and phosphorus are often the culprit nutrients, which in excess endanger the ecologic health of our rivers. At present, the nutrient trading scheme of Regulation 37, which is being considered by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, has not been successful in other places, provides little accountability, and may give the impression that it is addressing the ecological concerns without

insuring decreased levels of nutrients.

Support for rural communities and sustainable farming practices and policies was addressed by pro-family farming advocates. Essential to attaining this support is the network building of grassroots groups. Together we are better able to advocate for responsible and sustainable farming and environmental protections. Rita Griffin was able to give us a first-hand account of her rural community of Hartman's successful denial of a hog CAFO permit in her area. She continues to focus on protecting her community from being impacted by industrial scale facilities. Here the efforts of raising public awareness and networking are proving to be a formidable force against agricultural pollution and runoff. Remarkably, 90% of agricultural pollution is coming from factory operations, and hog CAFOs produce 60% of pork in Arkansas.

During our luncheon meeting, we were reminded of the rights of animals to humane treatment and conditions, while the increasing use of CAFOs limits their movement,

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## Ozark Resources Watchdogs continued ....

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interactions and basic comfort. And although we don't like to think about the exploitation of our human resources, it's important to consider their needs. The NW Arkansas Worker Justice Organization supports Arkansas workers employed in food processing plants in our area. The circle was complete as the round table discussion took us from concerns for the Buffalo River to sustainable farming practices, workers' rights, animal rights and finally nutritious, sustainable food programs such as Healthy Food Alliance and Good Food Purchasing Program.

The ultimate goal of this luncheon meeting is to put together regional or statewide coalitions and join national networks of related groups. Together we will share our

skill-sets and speak louder as we tackle issues on the state and national level. A coalition in Iowa, made up of 27 groups, was able to find a senator willing to work with them on closing damaging loopholes being used by industrial agriculture and other extractive corporations. Presently the Iowa coalition is campaigning to establish a moratorium on CAFOs. We can do this too!

To establish and build such a coalition requires regular communication and ease of information exchange. It was suggested that we hire a facilitator to promote better communication and develop a solution plan. Terry Spense of Socially Responsible Agricultural Project (SRAP), and a veteran of coalition building suggested the three

elements essential to building a successful group:

An open line of communication (for example, listserv, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Skype, Facetime)

- Regular Communication
- Unity of Vision

In closing our meeting, we reaffirmed our commitment to working together to save our state rivers and promote healthier farming practices. Our coalition will be called the Ozark Resources Watchdogs. Teresa Turk has volunteered to set up a listserv and build a Google Group to facilitate the exchange of information and provide updates. If you receive an invitation to join, please accept it.

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## Trip Adventure for 2018 By Stewart Noland

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### **Paddle the Salmon River Idaho July 29- August 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Aggipah River Trips (Bill Bernt, [www.aggipah.com](http://www.aggipah.com), 208-756-4167) has agreed to host Ozark Society members on a 5-night, 6-day trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River in Idaho. The trip will launch from Boundary Creek on July 29, 2018. There are two trip options: row or paddle your own boat, or ride with Aggipah.

Until the end of 2017, the cost of the trip is \$2150 to ride with Aggipah or \$1505 to take your own boat. After January 1, the cost of the trip is \$2200 and \$1540, respectively. A 25% deposit is needed to secure your place on the trip (Aggipah, PO Box 425, Salmon, Idaho, 83467)

If you have any questions please call Bill Bernt at Aggipah or Stewart Noland ([bosshq@aol.com](mailto:bosshq@aol.com), 501-666-2989). If you sign up for the trip,

please let Stewart know so we can coordinate logistics.

If this date is not good for you, Aggipah has other launch dates listed on its website.





# The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal



**Join us, or renew now!** Dues are for one year and they include a subscription to the Society’s newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*. To join or renew, go online to the Ozark Society website at [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net). Or you can fill out this form and send it with a check written to “The Ozark Society.” See below for our address.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, and ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Old Email (if changed)

Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Old Email (if changed)

I would like *Pack and Paddle* sent to my home address instead of by email. (Default is email.)

**Please check one:**

- New Member (Start at **Section A** for your OS and Chapter Membership)
- Renewal (Start at **Section A** to renew your OS and Chapter Membership)
- LIFE Member (Start at **Section B** to renew just your Chapter Membership)

**Section A: Please specify both the Level of Membership and the Chapter you are joining:**

**Level:** (choose one)

**Chapter:** (choose one)

- Friend: \$30 = \$20 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Associate: \$50 = \$40 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Supporter: \$100 = \$90 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Sponsor: \$250 = \$240 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Patron: \$500 = \$490 OS +\$10 Chapter
- Benefactor: \$1000+ = \$990+ OS +\$10 Chapter

- Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- No chapter, all to overall Ozark Society

**Section B: For Members who wish to join more than one Chapter or Life Members renewing their Chapter Membership only**

Choose as many as you wish and add \$10 for each selection:

- \$10 Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- \$10 Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- \$10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- \$10 Mississippi Valley (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- \$10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- \$10 Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)

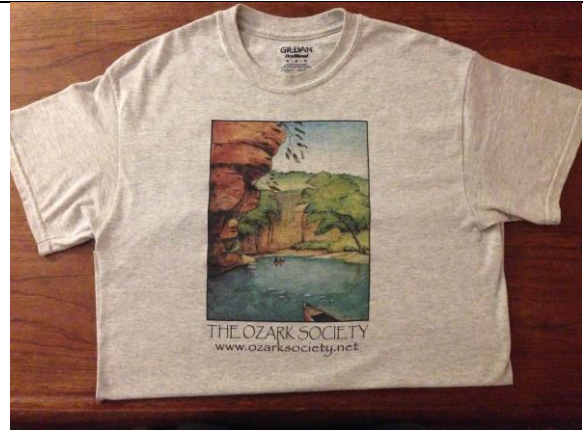
**My Total is: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please remit to: The Ozark Society, PO Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203**

Once your membership has processed, you will receive a welcome letter if you are new to the Ozark Society. If you have questions about your membership status, contact Mary Gordon at [mb2rene@aol.com](mailto:mb2rene@aol.com).

**Ozark Society T-Shirts**  
**By Chris Kline, Membership Chair**

T-shirts are here and they are great!!!!  
 These are light grey with this Buffalo River graphic on the front. This graphic is proprietary to the Ozark Society, not to be copied. There are a few of the forest green ones left so contact Chris if you want one of those instead:  
[cl\\_kline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cl_kline@sbcglobal.net)



**Ozark Society T-shirt Order Form**  
**Adult T-Shirts**

Please specify quantity per size						Specify cost per quantity: Adult T-shirts+ \$20 each, shipping=\$4 each		
S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	T-shirt \$	Shipping \$	Total Cost per size:

**Children's T-Shirts**

Please specify quantity per size			Specify cost per quantity: Child's T-shirts=\$15 each, \$4=shipping each		
Child's Small	Child's Medium	Child's Large	T-Shirt \$	Shipping \$	Total Cost per size

**Order Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: The Ozark Society

Address: Chris Kline  
 801 N. Rush Dr.  
 Fayetteville AR, 72701

*\*If you are ordering 3 or more, contact Chris at [cl\\_kline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cl_kline@sbcglobal.net) for revised shipping estimate.*

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## The Trouble with Mussels

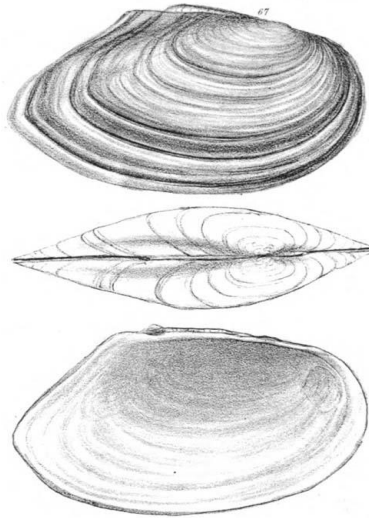
By Fred Paillet

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Everyone who has ever floated the Buffalo River is familiar with freshwater mussels. Their shells litter the gravel bars and living mussels can be seen embedded in the rocks in riffles. Although most of us enjoying the Ozark out of doors think of these "river clams" as peripheral to our activities, the lowly mussel has played an inordinate role in our local economic history. This little creature has had a strong influence on industry as well as ecological management in Arkansas, serving as both an economic resource and an ecological management problem.

The industry part is nicely summarized in an article in the March-April 2017 issue of Arkansas Wildlife. It all started with a late 1800's pearl rush after the discovery of valuable pearls in White River mussels. In the meantime, Arkansas mussel shells were found to be a valuable source of mother-of-pearl goods in the manufacture of buttons. New cutting techniques and President Harrison's protective tariff bill spawned a surge in button manufacturing based on blanks cut from White River mussels. The industry lagged during the depression, but then surged again when buttons had to replace zippers during WWII metal rationing. After that, the Japanese cultured pearl

industry found that "seeds" cut from Arkansas mussel shells were the ideal particles to use to start high-quality pearls growing in oysters. By then the mussel market demand had used up all the easy pickings, and harvest required diving or dredging in deeper water.



These days the demand for Arkansas mother-of-pearl has slackened but other factors threaten our native mussel species. Impaired water quality and enhanced silt deposition from eroding farmlands have taken their toll. But the unusual life cycle of mussels really contributes to their peril. Mussels disperse their eggs by tricking fish to do the work for them. Some mussels expose a kind of lure to attract predatory fish. This little flap of tissue is designed to look like a little bait fish, complete with eye spots and fluttering fins as shown in my figure. When a hungry bass or catfish

attempts to seize the lure, the mussel squirts a stream of larvae into the fish's mouth. The larvae attach themselves to the gills of their host where they are exposed to food particles taken in by the circulation of water through the gills. The young mussels eventually drop out of the fish onto a new home in the river gravels. The problem for the mussels is that individual mussel species are dependent on individual species of fish for their propagation. The construction of dams on the main stream of the White River has converted long stretches of the river from warm- to cold-water fisheries. That has disrupted the life cycles of certain warm-water fish that now no longer ascend tributaries such as the Buffalo to spawn. That disruption has placed a number of mussels on the endangered species list. As a result, the lowly mussel has joined the famous snail darter as a little creature than can stand in the way of major river "improvement" projects. In the meantime, Buffalo River fishermen are pleased that the National Park Service has undertaken a program to stock catfish in the Buffalo as a way of preserving a healthy mussel population.

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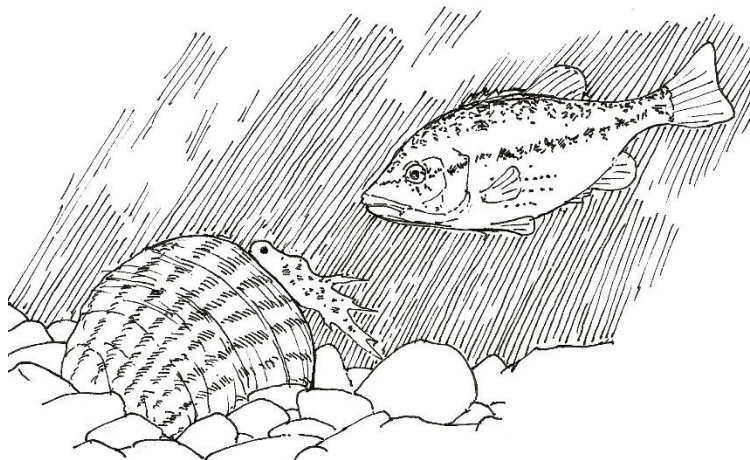
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## The Trouble with Mussels continued....

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*A curious bass fingerling about to be tricked into becoming a brood shelter for mussel larvae.*

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## High-Pointing the States: Part Two – Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi By Steve Heye

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Here is another installment of the adventures I've had trying to conquer the highest point in each state of the US. Last time I started showing you the highest points in the states that border Arkansas. This time we will finish the list with Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. A very diverse set of peaks. Ok, two of them are hills!

### Texas

Like Oklahoma's highest point, Texas' high point is way out west in the Guadeloupe National Park, south of Carlsbad New Mexico. Guadeloupe Peak (8751 feet) is on the end of a long ridge running out of New Mexico south into west Texas. Around the ridge is the high plains desert. This is real "Old West"

country, mesquite, cacti, hot and dry. The park is on US 62 about 25 miles south of Carlsbad Cavern. The hike up the peak is a moderate day hike on well-worn trail. In fact, you can ride a horse to a corral to near the top if its sure footed.

I did this day hike as part of a trip to explore the park on September 29, 2008. My good friend, Gary Alexander did the hike with me and it became the 8<sup>th</sup> high point visited. The hike, like Black Mesa, is about 8.5 miles round trip, but the climb is much greater. It also is more scenic as you climb alongside a canyon valley on the mountain. When you reach the top, you see the great expanse of the Chihuahua Desert 3000 feet below. There

is an aluminum pyramid on the peak marking the highest place in Texas. We spent the rest of the trip exploring the rest of the Park and made it up Mt. Bush as well, Texas' second highest point. If you make a trip to Carlsbad Cavern, take the drive down to Guadeloupe National Park and see some cool sights.



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## High-Pointing continued ....

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### Louisiana

Louisiana is definitely not a place that comes to mind as place with any high points. But don't sell them short, Louisiana is not the lowest high point. Driskell Hill (535 feet) is in north central Louisiana, about 10 miles south of Arcadia or 30 miles southwest of Ruston.

Driskell was the fourth high point reaching it on August 27, 2006. Meribeth and I had attended her uncle's funeral the day before and the peak was nearby. This is a walk in the park for most of us as you only gain a couple hundred feet over a 1.8 mile round trip from a church parking lot. The point has been improved by the Scouts and is well marked as you take a walk in the Louisiana piney woods. A sign-in board and some benches surround the marker. The view is like all the others in a heavily wooded location, not much but trees.

Check out all the Bonnie and Clyde stuff in the area. They were ambushed nearby.



### Mississippi

The last high point for this episode is Woodall Mountain (807 feet) which is in northeast Mississippi near the town of luka. The hill (it's a hill not a mountain) is accessed off Mississippi Hwy. 25 just south of US 72. The road going up to the top runs right next to a house, so don't drive into their drive by mistake. The road goes to the top and you can park about 30 feet from the USGS marker under an old forest tower. Meribeth and I did this peak on a backroad return trip

from Nashville on October 30, 2006, number 6 on my list.

Lots of civil war history in the area if you go. Easy trip for anyone. Once again, the view was not that great.

That completes the six trips needed to see all the high points of our neighboring states.

Meribeth and I returned to Mt. Magazine last April for our anniversary for a night at the lodge. Next time we'll cover my journey in August 2013 to visit five western state peaks.

We've already seen Oklahoma's Black Mesa, but next time we will see the grand Rocky Mountains and the western high plains: New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. In the meantime, I'm planning my next trip to bag number 33 and maybe beyond. Keep looking up!





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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## Highlands Chapter Goes Green

By Chris Kline

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In an attempt to uphold the tenants of the Ozark Society, the Highlands Chapter has initiated an effort to reduce disposable waste. It started at the Chapter meetings as we switched to restaurant style cups, silverware and utensils. Support was nearly universal as members stepped up to wash dishes and remarked about the long overdue process of using recyclable products. An unforeseen benefit was the reduction in our storage of disposable products. We stored hundreds of disposable plastic cups, and stacks of paper plates; now we have about 30 tumblers, 30 plates and about 40 coffee cups, and we don't run to the store as often.

Cloth napkins maybe next on our list!

The OSHC Buffalo River Classic was our next challenge. We famously produced about 5 bulging bags of trash. Here we asked participants to bring their own non-disposable eating utensils, and we brought a set of our dishes for the event in case a few people forgot to bring their own stuff. We're all new to this and admittedly there was some confusion as some members brought their own disposable plates and forks or they brought disposable items for the Highlands Chapter. It's a learning process; we'll get there. But what about the outcome, was there less trash? Absolutely, we had

one bag of trash. People noticed and commented that they felt better about our reduced trash output. At the Spring Meeting in Tyler Bend the Buffalo Chapter provided reusable plates and other utensils and just collected them in large net bags to take home to the dishwasher. It's like a lot of things, once you develop a system it's not really that much more work. As long as we work together and help each other put conservation into action, we'll make our planet a healthier place for all.

