



# PACK & PADDLE



Summer  
June 2021

“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

## The Ozark Society Foundation Endowment By David Peterson, Ozark Society President

The recently established **Ozark Society Foundation Endowment** is a good opportunity for those of us who want to provide long term stable financial funding for conservation activities for the Ozark Society Foundation and the Ozark Society. The Endowment is managed by The Arkansas Community Foundation in Little Rock which manages over \$400 million in assets for more than 2,000 funds.

The **Ozark Society Foundation Endowment** establishes a pool of money which will pay yearly returns to the OSF for working capital while maintaining and increasing the initial investments for the long term. All contributions are fully tax deductible and there are additional

special services that the Arkansas Community Foundation provides.

The easiest way to contribute is ONLINE via credit or debit card. Go to [www.arcf.org/give-online/?fund=Ozark+Society+Foundation+Endowment](http://www.arcf.org/give-online/?fund=Ozark+Society+Foundation+Endowment). Or you can send cash or a check in behalf of OSF Endowment to:

*Arkansas Community Foundation  
5 Allied Drive, Suite 51110  
Little Rock, AR, 72202*



One special service Arkansas Community Foundation offers is assistance for Planned Giving, which can include stock, real estate, retirement and insurance

distributions, crops/timber, or farmland. Chief Development Officer at ACF, Ashley Coldiron, at 501-372-1116, can handle the details for you.

There may be tax benefits for giving through ACF. For example, required minimum withdrawals from IRA’s funneled through ACF to the **Ozark Society Foundation Endowment** may not incur federal income taxes.

Chris Spatz, the newest member of the OSF board, has volunteered to be our contact person if you have questions or want guidance through the procedure. Chris can be reached via e-mail: [ctspatz@gmail.com](mailto:ctspatz@gmail.com), or by phone: 501-428-6031. Chris is a congenial retired professor of psychology at Hendrix College.

## Buffalo National River 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022 By Stewart Noland, Archive Chair

**Stewart Noland** and **Paul Means** are in charge of the planning for our major event at the Buffalo National River 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022. It will be an extensive Buffalo River float for invited guests and dignitaries, and all chapters and all OS members. We propose floating different short sections in

relatively small groups (< 15 or so) to keep these floats manageable, intimate, and accessible to casual floater friends. Initially, floating sometime near the official anniversary date of March 1, 2022 seemed appealing, if somewhat early, but the Arkansas legislature will be meeting at this time, so the current target is the first and

second weeks in April, subject to water conditions and weather. If you would be willing to help with the leadership and ideas, please contact Stewart and Paul.

Stewart’s email is: [stewartnoland51@aol.com](mailto:stewartnoland51@aol.com)  
Paul’s email is: [paul.means@att.net](mailto:paul.means@att.net)

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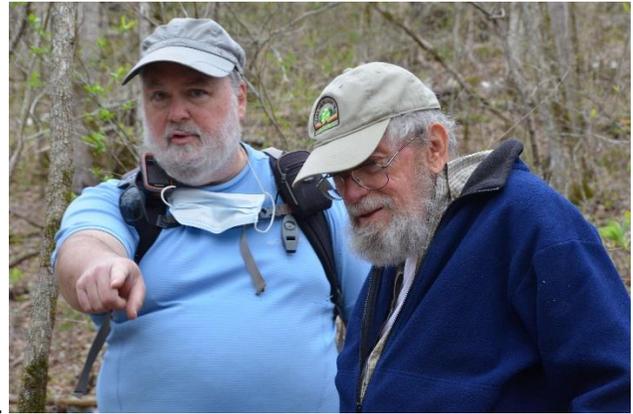
## Pictures from the Highlands Chapter

By Lucas Parsch, Ozark Society Vice President

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Five Highlands Chapter members take a break in the Wild Magnolia Sanctuary near Boxley Valley AR after completing a day of volunteer trail maintenance at the Arco Iris Earth Care Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Ozark wilderness with sustainable living. Pictured left to right are: Janet Parsch, Mike Reed, Miranda Kohout, Peggy Bulla, and Luke Parsch.



Trail Coordinator Mike Reed (left) shows former trail coordinator Ken Smith work-in-progress on a rerouted section of the Buffalo River Trail extension between Red Bluff Road and South Maumee Road in Searcy County in late March. (See Mike’s story on page 5.) Completion of the quarter-mile reroute signals the official completion of the 28-mile section of the Buffalo River Trail/Ozark Highlands Trail between US Hwy 65 (Grinders Ferry) and AR Hwy 14 (Dillard’s Ferry).

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## Meet the New Emily! – Brittany Plouch

By Carolyn Shearman, Communications Chair

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Emily Roberts, our Online Store Manager extraordinaire, is leaving that position but she is still an OS member and contributor in many ways. In the meantime, Brittany Plouch has stepped up and will be taking over those duties. Please welcome

Brittany and contact her for all your merch needs at [outreach@ozarksociety.net](mailto:outreach@ozarksociety.net). Here is a little more about Brittany:

“My name is Brittany Plouch. My husband, J.W., and I have been married for 24 years and have two sons. During the week, I work at Second Baptist Church as the Pastoral Assistant.

As a family, we are very involved in the Scouts, BSA serving on various committees in our district and council. Our oldest son is an Eagle Scout and is in college at UA Little Rock where he is a Donaghy Scholar. Our youngest son attends school at Bryant High School and is well on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

I have known about the Ozark Society for many years through family friends and their work with the society. I am looking forward to learning more about the society and meeting everyone. “

# Arkansas Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERW)

By Alice Andrews, Conservation Chair

Living in Arkansas, we are blessed with an abundance of water which falls into different categories of water quality. We have not reviewed **Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERWs)** for several years, so hang on! ERW is a special use designation made by the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission (APC&E) to protect Arkansas' most valuable water resources. About 16 % of Arkansas' total stream miles have been designated as ERWs. The ERW designation gives the Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality the responsibility of providing extra protection to those waters.

APC&E Regulation 2 defines ERWs as "This beneficial use is a combination of the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of a waterbody and its watershed which is characterized by scenic beauty, aesthetics, scientific values, broad scope recreation potential and intangible social values."

ERW designation provides extra stream protections:

1. No significant physical alterations of in-stream habitat are allowed, including channelization of a significant portion of the stream bed or construction of a major impoundment.

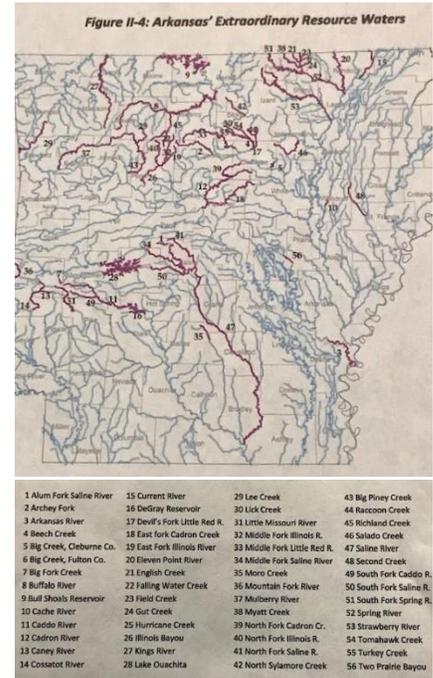
2. Bacteria concentrations must meet swimmable (primary contact) standards year-round.
3. No commercial gravel mining is allowed below the ordinary high-water mark.
4. All point-source (pipe) discharges must meet "advanced treatment" technology – a technically feasible, established treatment method already being met by other facilities.
5. The highest level of pollution prevention is required for new road and bridge construction, major pipeline construction and solid waste disposal sites.
6. Streams and watersheds receive higher priority to receive technical and financial assistance for voluntary watershed and water quality protection projects.

ERW designation does not infringe on many activities.

1. Does not provide any additional authority to acquire private lands for any purpose.
2. Does not add any additional restrictions on livestock use on private lands in the watershed.
3. Does not add any additional restrictions on the application of fertilizers within watershed.
4. Does not require any additional fencing to prohibit livestock access to streams.

5. Does not require that additional public access be provided across private lands.

## The 56 ERW's of Arkansas:



There are two more categories of protected streams:

**Ecologically Sensitive Waters**, requiring continued protection. These include:

Wetlands of Pristine or Conservation value: Seeps or springs of Arkansas, Groundwater, Aquifers, Private water supply sources for human or livestock consumption, commercial or industrial with qualities supporting aquaculture, cooling, food or mineral processing which can impact human health; also includes protected species. Beneficial use

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## Arkansas Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERW)...continued

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identifies stream segments known to provide habitat within existing range of threatened, endangered or endemic species of aquatic or semi-aquatic life forms.

**Natural and Scenic Waterways**, this beneficial use identifies stream segments which have been legislatively adopted into a state or federal system.

Protecting these precious waters in Arkansas requires constant monitoring to assure these streams remain Extraordinary in water quality. Whose responsibility is this mighty task? All of us - DEQ, APC &E and individual citizens of Arkansas. To quote Samuel Taylor Coleridge, recalling the "Rime" of the Ancient Mariner,

"Water, Water, Everywhere, nor any drop to drink" = our fate if we are not faithfully vigilant.

Resource information: Army Corps of Engineers, Arkansas DEQ, APC&E and Dept. of Water for Western Australia (similar practices for sustaining high water quality).

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## Ozark Society Foundation News

By Marvin Schwartz, Ozark Society Foundation Chair

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The OZARK  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDATION

The Sassafras Award for Excellence in Environmental Writing is the newest activity of the Ozark Society Foundation. The award extends the OSF history of publishing books that educate the public on conservation issues. Goals of the competition include recognizing high-quality literary work with environmental, conservation, and/or nature-related themes. The award seeks to encourage innovative writing and new voices.

The winner of the Sassafras Award will receive a \$3,000

prize for a published book or unpublished manuscript. The competition is open to literary work whose regional focus relates to areas in Arkansas, Missouri, and Louisiana where the Ozark Society operates. Submissions are encouraged from any author in any location whose writing reflects this regional link. Eligible genres for consideration include fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, dramatic writing, graphic novels, illustrated books, children's books, young adult fiction, edited compilations, published columns, or blogs. Only scientific writing is not eligible for consideration. The submission period closes July 31, 2021. The winner of the Sassafras Award will be announced in January 2022.

The Finalist judge is Davis McCombs, current director of the Program in Creative Writing and Translation at the University of Arkansas and a former park ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park.

Information about the Sassafras Award and submission details are available at [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net)



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## The Buffalo River Trail Update

By Mike Reed, Buffalo River Trail Coordinator

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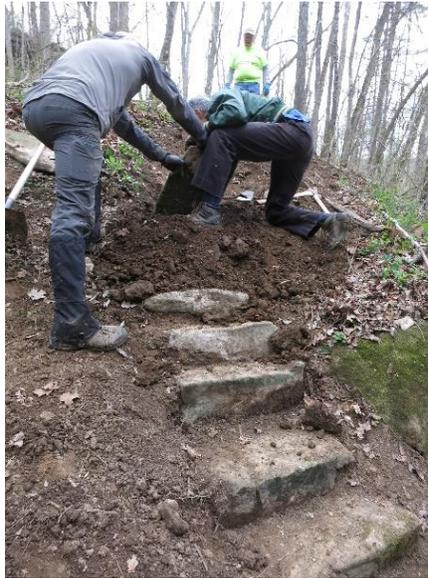
We had good weather and a good turnout for the Spring '21 Buffalo River Trail work session. Our goal for the week was construction of 1/4 mile of new trail to complete the 28-mile segment east of US-65 that was started in 2005. The work site was near Little Rocky Creek, north of Marshall and between Red Bluff and South Maumee roads.

The fun began Friday March 26 with 4 of us setting flags to mark the exact route and then clearing a corridor - raking away all organic matter to expose the soil in a 3-foot-wide path and then digging out all vegetation and small rocks to create a walkable path. This continued Saturday and Sunday with about 10 people.



One of the notable features of this route is "The Ditch" where the trail would have to drop steeply 15-20' to cross a small creek below a waterfall and then climb steeply up the other side. It was apparent all along that a lot of stone steps would have to be constructed here and I wondered if we would even be able to finish within the week. A few of our more-experienced

trail builders looked at it from all angles and decided on a good crossing point and a plan for the approaches from either side. Some strong backs gathered large rocks and piled them near the crossing area for later use as steps.



On Monday we began constructing the trail tread. In most areas that requires a bit of digging and moving the soil to create a 24" tread that is smooth and almost level side-to-side, with just a bit of slope for drainage. We watch for opportunities to use large rocks as natural steps and to use undulations in the terrain to aid drainage. We were joined by BNR Trails Foreman Daniel Jackson and BNR Archaeologist Suika Rivett. Daniel's #1 priority was to begin construction of the steps in The Ditch, while Suika inspected some of the soil that was being excavated along the route.

Tuesday was the big day, with Luke and Janet Parsch getting Ken Smith out to the work area and 3 more Highlands Chapter members joining us for the day. Daniel Jackson had the park's utility vehicle on-hand to drive Ken down an old road to within 100 yards of the work site. I think it was the first time in 3.5 years Ken had been out on the trail and he seemed excited. He was able to walk through most of the work area and pointed-out more than once that the work was not up to standards. Also on-hand Tuesday was a documentary film crew shooting a short segment of a film to commemorate next year's 50th anniversary of the BNR. To cap it off, BNR Superintendent Mark Foust hiked-in to the work site to see how things were progressing and joined us for lunch in The Ditch.

Luke posted his pictures from the day at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/153966631@N05/albums/72157718839867362>.

The first and last few are from their trip to and from the BRT. The crew for Wednesday shrank to 9, with 2 leaving at noon. Tread construction was substantially finished that day but work continued on stairs in The Ditch and in 2 other locations.

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## The Buffalo River Trail Update....continued

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The only work left on Thursday was to finish the last 2 or 3 steps in The Ditch, do a bit of fine-tuning on other steps, and blaze the trail. Three of our crew worked to finish the new trail while 3 others cleared

brush from the trail upriver - from Red Bluff Road down to the work site. By noon, we had all met up and the work was completed.

It was a great week, with some very important work being finished

at long last. This 28-mile extension of the BRT is now officially open and Ken's Krew can start thinking about the next extension - the 30 miles between Pruitt and the Richland Valley.

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## Geological Wonders of the Ozarks in Southeastern Missouri

Fred Paillet, OS Education Chair

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Elephant Rocks scene where most boulders are more hippo sized than real pachyderms

When we think of geologic wonders in the Ozarks, they are most often associated with karst features like springs and caverns, lofty crags along bluff lines, and the historic legacy of lead-zinc mining. However, geoscientists also marvel over the one truly extensive midwestern exposure of the ancient (we are talking billions of years) exposure of the underlying crystalline “basement” rocks one normally associates with the glacially scoured Canadian Shield. Compare the ages of these rocks that predate the existence of anything more complex than simple bacteria with the “mere” 300-million-year age of the rocks that line the Springfield Plateau. The extensive area of these ancient rocks comprise the St Francois Mountains of southeastern Missouri celebrated by exhibits you can see in several

state parks. Two of these are of special interest for geologically minded visitors: Elephant Rocks and Johnson Shut-Ins. Nearby you can visit a Civil War battle site overlooked by the ancient rocks of Pilot Knob and the igneous rock glades surrounding the highest point in Missouri.

Elephant Rocks State Park contains a pink granite dome that exhibits the classic form of exfoliation where convex layers of rock separate from the central core as the weight of overlying rock is slowly eroded away. As this happens, a rectangular network of cracks (geologists call them joints) develops within the exfoliating layers. We see this exposed at the surface today. The elephant-sized boulders lying on top of the dome originated deep underground at a time the climate was much wetter and warmer. Tropical weathering then melted

the outer edges of the granite blocks where they lay beneath the ground. In later times uplift eroded away the soil and soft outer layers of the once rectangular blocks so that the rounded cores of those boulders were left behind on the surface.

Many of these are simply great elliptic-shaped eggs, but a few more elongated boulders show the curved shape of the once continuous exfoliation layers. This is an unusual park where visitors are actually encouraged to climb on the most valued exhibits.

In addition to the scenic granite boulders that are the primary features of Elephant Rocks (see illustration above), visitors can see another interesting geological process.

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## Geological Wonders of the Ozarks in Southeastern Missouri....continued

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This is the production of a coarse kind of sandy gravel with the technical name of granite grus (pronounced with a Germanic-sounding “goose”). The granite here had congealed eons ago from a viscous mass of molten rock that became lodged at great depth. Because of the pressure and temperature at depth, the rock solidified very slowly, allowing the silica and feldspar crystals to grow to relatively large sizes - a quarter of an inch or more in diameter. The crystals interlock, giving the rock its strength. But exposure at the surface allows water to infiltrate along grain boundaries so that weathering rock sheds these large angular bits as the exposed surface crumbles.

Johnson Shut-Ins State Park celebrates the deep rocky canyon where a fork of the Black River funnels through a ridge of hard crystalline rock and is named after the original settlers on the property combined with the local name, “shut-ins,” for such tight and forbidding river constrictions. The tortuous nature of the rock fabric imposes a distinctly different structure on the eroded channel when compared to the “simple” layered bluffs of other Ozark rivers such as the Buffalo or the Meramec. Between deep

pools the water divides to sluice its way through tortuous troughs carved within the swirling rock fabric. This is the kind of geology you might see at such places as the Great Falls on the Potomac where that river descends over similar ancient rocks at the piedmont fall line in Virginia. An elaborate series of walkways provide dramatic views of the canyon walls and rock-ribbed channels below.

The park waterway and its interesting rock formations would, by themselves, be of real interest to the visiting naturalist. But the park contains a world-famous geologic feature in addition that resulted from a dramatic reservoir failure releasing 1.3 billion gallons on December 14, 2005. A hydroelectric dam and reservoir downstream from the “shut-ins” park were augmented by a second reservoir built in 1963 on top of an adjacent mountain. This was a standard way to enhance hydroelectric output by allowing for generated electricity to pump water up into the upper storage area and have it released to provide extra capacity during peak usage hours. In this case a water level detector in the upper reservoir failed, causing the inflowing water to overtop one side of the containment embankment and

flood down the mountain almost 2 miles to the main reservoir. There was waiting reservoir capacity below to contain the flood so that the only danger was to a park cabin where the four residents survived with minor injuries. The rushing water filled the “shut-ins” with great masses of tree and soil debris that were eventually cleared out so that the park could be restored. This was a disaster for the state park system but a boon for geologists who could examine a great swath of exposed bedrock free of overburden. At least one large national geological symposium featured a field trip to the Taum Sauk reservoir scour site. The Missouri State Geological Survey still posts a nice slide show explaining what you can see at the site, including a miniature example of elephant rocks in the making. The park today has a developed trail that leads you through the lower part of the bedrock exposure. In years to come this will be a useful research site where interested naturalists can monitor the slow process of succession on a newly exposed bedrock glade habitat.

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## Conservation Crisis – Free Little Sugar Creek

By Lowell Collins, Sugar Creek Chapter Chair

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The Friends of Little Sugar Creek and the Sugar Creek Chapter in Bentonville, AR are advocating for the removal of the Lake Bella Vista dam and the restoration of a free-flowing stream through this area of north Bentonville.

The lake is formed by a 100-year-old, man-made dam on Little Sugar Creek. Cooper Realty Investments conveyed the property containing the dam in 2000 to the Bentonville/Bella Vista Trailblazers Association by limited warranty deed. The Trailblazers conveyed the property to Bentonville in 2006 by special warranty deed. The city then included Lake Bella Vista in its park system.

The dam was first damaged during flooding in 2008. It was topped again by flooding in 2011, 2013 and December of 2015. After the flooding in 2008, the city planned to rebuild and improve the dam. At that time the Friends of Little Sugar Creek organized to advocate for the dam removal and restoration of the creek. FOLSC, the Ozark Society, other naturalist

groups and residents at large asked the city to remove the dam and restore Little Sugar Creek to a free-flowing stream. Supporters of the stream called the dam an eyesore, a hazard and a liability to the city.

In 2018, the Walton Family Foundation funded a feasibility study with recommendations for the fate of Little Sugar Creek. The Parks Advisory Board reviewed the proposals and recommended the dam be removed and a park be created with a free-flowing Little Sugar Creek. The city council was scheduled to vote on the Parks Board recommendation; however, the vote was cancelled on Cooper's objection.

In an August 7, 2018 letter to then-Bentonville Mayor Bob McCaslin and the city council, Cooper Communities' president insisted that the city must maintain the dam and lake. Bentonville filed a lawsuit against Cooper Realty and the Trailblazers in May 2019. The lawsuit asked a judge to decide what rights the city had in regard to the property and whether any agreements limit the city in rebuilding or removing the dam. Benton County Circuit Judge John Scott ruled in August 2020 that the decision rests with the city whether to repair, replace or remove the dam. Cooper has since appealed the case to the state Appeals Court.

Floodwater washed out a new area of the dam on April 28. The city has currently contracted with the Watershed Conservation Resource Center to help stabilize a 50- to 60-foot hole in the dam. The work only deals with stabilizing the dam, not whether it should be rebuilt.

Council members Tim Robinson and Aubrey Patterson said they are in favor of a free-flowing stream. Robinson asked a few months back at a City Council meeting why the city couldn't remove the dam while it waits for legal issues to be resolved.

"At the time, I was told there would need to be big, costly upstream remediation if we were to do that so it wasn't worth it," he said. "Now that Mother Nature removed the section, I see no choice but to remove the rest of the dam while we wait as anything upstream will happen regardless of what we do, and it's dangerous in its current state."

Patterson said a majority of residents she has spoken with want to restore Little Sugar Creek. The Friends of Little Sugar Creek and Sugar Creek OS chapter agree with the council members and continue to advocate for a free-flowing Little Sugar Creek.

Lake Bella Vista Park is closed as of June 1, 2021.



## The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal

**Join us, or renew now!** Dues are for one year, January-December, 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)

- 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

**Chapter:** (choose one)

- Bayou (Shreveport, LA)
- Buffalo River (Gilbert, AR)
- Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- Mississippi Valley (Missouri)
- Pulaski (Little Rock, AR)
- Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)
- No chapter, all to central 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 chapter)

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

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

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

You will receive an email Thank You from the Ozark Society. Please contact [oscomms@ozarksociety.net](mailto:oscomms@ozarksociety.net) for questions.

### Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Conservation Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Compton Scholarship Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Hedges Scholarship Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OS Foundation



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 Carolyn Shearman at [oscomms@ozarksociety.net](mailto:oscomms@ozarksociety.net).

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## The Officer, Director, and Chair List

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**OZARK SOCIETY STORE:** Brittany Plouch, [outreach@ozarksociety.net](mailto:outreach@ozarksociety.net).  
**OZARK SOCIETY ARCHIVES:** Stewart Noland, [bosshq@aol.com](mailto:bosshq@aol.com).  
**OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY:** Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-5577.  
**MEMBERSHIP:** Dues for membership in the Ozark Society include the overall Society and one Chapter of your choice. The levels are Friend \$30; Associate \$50; Supporter \$100; Sponsor: \$250; Patron \$500; and Benefactor \$1000+. You can join more than one Chapter however, by just adding an additional \$10 for each extra one. Please renew online at [www.ozarksociety.net/membership](http://www.ozarksociety.net/membership) or mail your check including our Membership Form to: Ozark Society, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.