



PACK & PADDLE



Spring
March 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

Remembrance of Lil Junas By David Peterson, Ozark Society President



Prize winning photo journalist **Lil Junas**, Ph.D. died December 11, 2020 in Pennsylvania at the age of 85. Her career was amazing: college sports information, university teaching, and photographic missions throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Central Asia and much more. She was also an avid canoeist and outdoors person, she tent-camped in all mainland US states, in Canada and the Yukon. She spent 4 years in Arkansas (1976-1980) as a photographer for the Log Cabin Democrat newspaper in Conway, AR.

In 1973, the Ozark Society decided to publish books on various endangered Arkansas streams in hopes of exposing the scenic, geological, historical, fish and wildlife, educational and cultural values to the general public, emphasizing the need for preservation. Ken Smith’s *Illinois River* (1977) was the first in the series, and then Lil was asked to undertake *Cadron Creek: A Photographic Narrative* (1978) even though she had never been on the Creek.

The threat for Cadron Creek at the time was the Soil Conservation

Service proposal to put 23 dams on the Creek for the purpose of flood control, even though the amount of land flooded by the impoundments exceeded the amount of land saved from flooding.

And as luck would have it, her first canoe trip on Cadron Creek was with Alice Andrews. Lil was hooked. There are 85 pictures in the 96-page book, mostly black and white. Many were taken on cold, overcast winter days, e. g. the brooding tupelo gums on the East Fork of the Cadron.

The cultural history discussed in the book is rich. For instance, the name Cadron itself, the once thriving resort and college town at Pinnacle Springs, old iron bridges now gone or moved to Beaver Fork Park in Conway, waterfalls up to 80’, swinging on a rope, swimming and bathing in the creek, frog gigging at night by hand, fishing for bream, hunters, and old folks reminiscing on their front porch. And grist mills, saw mills, felly mills, stave bolt mills and whiskey stills.



People gathered at the Creek for baptisms, social events, relaxation, and news. The Cadron was also the water source for farm animals and people, and habitat and food for beavers, river otters, deer, squirrels, bears, ducks and turkeys.



In 1978, Junas concluded that technology and mechanization had brought progress and change in the daily routine of the people and their community, but Cadron Creek had changed little since the days of the early settlers. The damming project was eventually rejected after a major battle, largely due to the efforts of conservationists and Representative Ed Bethune.

Then along comes widespread fracking in the watershed in 2008, which caused more than 2000 earthquakes locally and threatened water quality but which has momentarily dwindled as a threat because of economics.

The Cadron can have rises of 25 feet, but developers have found the bluffs along the Creek to be lucrative investments. Along with development comes the bulldozing of small streams and culverts that block fish movement.

Members of Ozark Society once floated the Cadron regularly. A float on the Creek is still fun, still class I and II and access has improved, but the view from the Creek suffers some, it is not as pristine as old timers once remembered.

The Junas book has never been reprinted, but I have several personal copies and libraries might also have copies.

Update from the Conservation Desk

By Alice Andrews, Conservation Chair

Remembrance of Steve

Wilson:

Steve Wilson passed away February 21 in New Mexico. He was a Norfolk, AR resident for several years after his retirement from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Steve served as Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for 21 years, shaping it into the organization it is today. He was a very active member of the Ozark Society and was President of the OS, 1976-1978. Steve and his wife Jo and their children hiked and paddled as often as possible, good or bad weather.



Steve was a born leader as evidenced by the following career successes: He was District Wildlife Biologist for Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 1968-1969, Senior Environmental Scientist for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department 1972-1974, Assistant Chief of Highway and Transportation Dept. 1974-1979, Chief of

AHTD's Environmental Division in 1979, Director of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in 1979. During his tenure at AG & F, he established the elk herd in the Buffalo River corridor, stocking 112 elk from Colorado from 1981 to 1985. Then there is fishing! During Steve's term Arkansas developed into our country's most popular destination to fish for trophy brown trout; Arkansas also became the inland striped bass stop-over for avid fishermen plus our state became known for both smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing. The white-tail deer population GREW and Arkansas became another top hunting location.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with the Dept. of Parks and Tourism persuaded Arkansans to enact a one-eighth percent sales tax to benefit Arkansas Game and Fish, the Dept. of Natural Heritage, Arkansas State Parks, and Keep Arkansas Beautiful. He also secured extra funding for adding wildlife management areas and special areas that preserved wildlife communities.

We were always proud of Steve and know he will long be remembered. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family.

I wish to acknowledge credit to Bryan Hendricks (Arkansas Democrat Gazette) for the dates and highlights of Steve's career.

Closure of the C&H Hog Farm:

Our Buffalo River Coalition has been trying for months to get a closure statement, documenting the actual closure of C & H Hog Farm. The general comments from DEQ have been that the closure is substantially complete; the waste was pumped out of the ponds, there was some depth of scraping the bottom of the ponds, the pond filled in with dirt and whatever other material that was required. Then a mound of dirt was pushed up above the former ponds to account for the expected shrinking or compaction of the dirt. Last, a required particular grass was planted on the dirt mound.

Turns out the wrong grass was planted, had to be removed and the correct grass planted, hence the closure delays. At the PC&E meeting February 26, the Director of DEQ and Energy, Becky Keogh stated "We are awaiting the expiration in mid-May of a one-year warranty guaranteeing that vegetation was properly established per specifications." "We are just waiting for the grass to grow." But, there are more concerns beyond the grass growing, such as follow-up testing of water quality in Big Creek, nutrients, algae and if there is any impact to the Buffalo.

Ozark Society Foundation News

By Marvin Schwartz, Ozark Society Foundation Chair



The OZARK
SOCIETY
FOUNDATION

The second printing of *Ozark Forest Forensics* is completed. Published in 2019 and co-authored by Fred Paillet and Steve Stephenson, the book is once again available through our store. The authors are planning public programs for the book later this year.

A second printing of “Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas” is in process. The new field guide has had very strong sales and high public recognition, including citations from the Arkansas Senate and House of Representatives. The book also reached the top of an Amazon list,

noted as the #1-selling new book in the nation in Botany.



OSF will launch the *Sassafras Award for Excellence in Environmental Writing* next month. The award will be given to a literary work that addresses conservation issues in the areas

where OS/OSF operates. The winner will be announced in early 2022. Finalist judge for the award is Davis McCombs, director of the University of Arkansas Creative Writing Program and a former park ranger at Mammoth Cave National Park.

In addition, the Foundation Endowment Fund has been established with the Arkansas Community Foundation. And new activity is underway in the mammoth effort to digitize all OSF files from past and current projects and archive them in a data storage site.

Finally, two activities quietly underway include progress among regional recipients of youth engagement grants and work on the documentary film (title still to be created) on the public policy history of the Buffalo River.

A New Book by Brian Thompson!

By Carolyn Shearman, Communications Chair

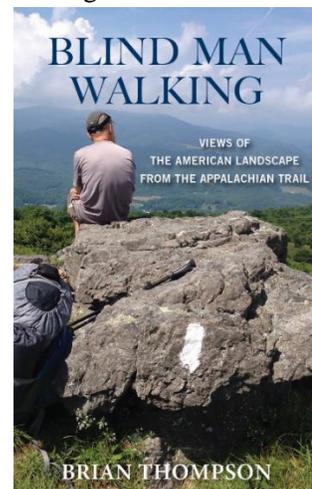
Brian Thompson, our Community Engagement Chair, has written a cool book on his adventures on the Appalachian Trail and we have it in the OS Store for pre-order. www.ozarksociety.net/store/

Two old college buddies contemplate hiking the Appalachian Trail. The problem is, one of them is severely vision impaired and his ability to follow a simple footpath is in serious question. They decide to first try an overnight hike in Arkansas; an unmitigated disaster.

Upon their return, one fellow's wife declares he is too old fat and blind to be crashing about in the woods. The other's wife notes how lucky they are to have learned their lesson before attempting anything as seriously challenging as the Appalachian Trail.

Humiliated, their dignity in tatters, (and perhaps not the fastest learners), they decide to go anyway. This is their story, traveling America's greatest footpath; the places, the people, and the history.

Brian says all proceeds from the sale will go to the Ozark Society!



Enhancing your Ozark Experience with a Nature Journal

Fred Paillet, OS Education Chair

For many of us the time we spend in the outdoors amounts to the best part of our busy lives. That has prompted me to invent ways to make those times remain with me as long as possible. One way to do that is by keeping a natural history journal. It could start with the very practical aspects of a small notebook with recorded dates such as the time when a favorite wildflower can be found in bloom in some secluded ravine, or the best date to see migrating raptors at your favorite mountain overlook. It is always useful to have such information available for future reference. My interest in nature journals started early during my days in New England where I enjoyed John Hay's poetic calendar of the arrival of spring on Cape Cod (*The Run*). Then on to Thoreau's famous journal while on sabbatical and exploring the woods around my rented home in areas adjacent to Walden Pond. I soon had my own personal copies of the Lewis and Clark journals while living in Montana, and then the Ozark and Ouachita journals of Schoolcraft and Nuttall after arriving in Arkansas. All of these serve as useful examples of how to effectively record the scenes and events of an outdoor excursion.

The usual arguments against journaling involve not knowing where to start or not crediting yourself with the discipline required to keep it up. These are indeed formidable obstacles. But the advantages of having such a journal can easily outweigh the inconvenience and investment of time. At a time when my arthritic bones and creaky joints make more strenuous adventures

impossible it is a comfort to have volumes of recollections recorded to refresh the memory of some of the more exhilarating times – like surprise bear encounters, challenging river crossings and occasional back country disorientation. That alone is more than adequate payback. Then there are the rewards of systematically investigating and identifying the plants, animals and geological formations that you took the time to look at and describe. Things that you might have otherwise forgotten and therefore neglected to follow up on investigating. I often find myself going back to correct identification of some obscure botanical detail or to follow up on additional information encountered along the way. Recall Franklin's comment about how firewood warms the body twice – once in the effort of cutting, and then sitting by the stove later on. Think how many times your journal can warm your soul in first recounting a day's adventure and then recalling the best excursions many more times to come.

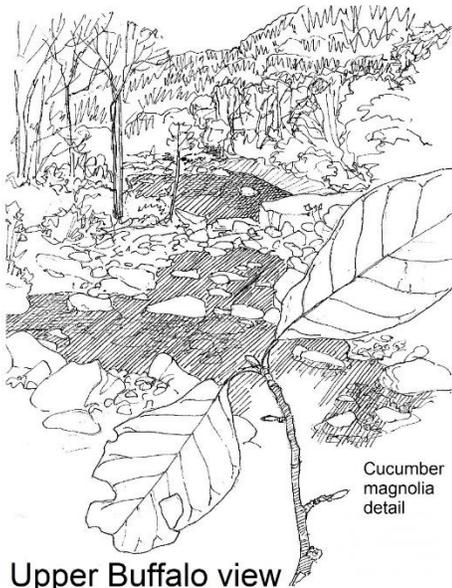
Getting started can be relatively easy. Like most other ventures, what you need is a plan. Decide where to keep your journal – in a bound notebook, collated in a loose-leaf folder, or maybe just on your word processor. More involved is coming up with a standardized format you can rely on. Thoreau used an almost random list of events, observations and general musings presented in rough chronological order during each day's outing. The hardest part in reading his journal is identifying the familiar place names he uses to

identify his travels – features tied to farm owners long gone from the scene and in a landscape radically changed by forest regeneration. My own standard template is an outing title denoting date, location and perhaps the planned focal point of the day. Then a single-sentence capsule description of the weather, mostly as it affected the day's progress. After that, just a series of paragraphs describing what I saw, what was noteworthy about it, and how that might connect to various background topics of interest. It's just that simple. Otherwise, I am probably as guilty as Thoreau in identifying locations that are familiar to me but might be hard for others to fathom – or for me to remember decades later. So it's important to be precise enough that you can revisit – in person or by memory – locations when returning years later while living far removed from the location and becoming unfamiliar with the details of activities a decade or more ago. It has been a special delight for me to return to the exact scenes of my first tentative adventures in the Montana Rockies or the Florida Everglades in the forgotten bloom of youthful enthusiasm, and having my journal entry from that day ready at hand.

One of my personal specialties is providing sketches of landscape scenes and botanical details. There has never been any effort at creating a real form of art – this is no more than experienced draftsmanship. That kind of developed skill can be daunting to beginners in view of my fifty years of experience in doing this.

Journaling by Fred Paillet continued.....

But think how useful it can be to capture the spatial relationships you see – spacing of trees, arrangement of leaves, or orientations of inclined blocks of sandstone adjacent to a cliff face. I have always found it surprising how difficult it can be to capture the technical details of things you see in the woods with a photograph. The effort of diagramming what's in front of you really helps when it comes time to reference what you have seen when you get back home and consult relevant sources.



This applies whether you are trying to capture the growth form of a wildflower or the texture of a rock formation. Making an attempt to sketch the geometry and spatial arrangement lets you focus on the factors that control your view at the time. Instructive practical examples come from Thoreau's journal. He includes a number of line drawings or diagrams that may seem crude, but

very effectively show exactly what he is talking about. The reader can immediately grasp what he is describing in a way that would be hard to capture with the today's cameras, let alone with the primitive daguerreotype equipment available in Thoreau's time.

The best way to illustrate my own take on journaling is by providing a specific example. Here is my entry for a memorable hike taken about a year after my arrival in the Ozarks – one that records my visit to one of the more remote places you can visit on the upper Buffalo, while capturing my sense of wonder at the raw natural beauty that my adopted state has to offer.

Boen Gulf bushwhack to upper Buffalo – November 1, 2011

Typical fall day with bright sunshine and gusty winds in the late afternoon. The idea is to go all the way down to the Gulf outlet on the Buffalo River to check out that waterway under extreme low-water conditions. Although the slopes above Buffalo River at Boxley are colorful, the leaves seem to have mostly come down around the trailhead and down into the upper reaches of the drainage. Leaves completely cover the rocks in the small headwater rills. Even the understory beeches have leaves that are mostly bronze with just a few yellow patches. Thus a few green leaved little trees stick out conspicuously. They are clearly small cucumber trees and growing way above their supposed habitat at the base of cliffs. Going down to the first big descent the old road/trail is

so overgrown as to almost escape detection, a sign that the wilderness designation is having the desired effect. At the bottom, the creek crossing has hardly the smallest trickle of water, mostly running beneath the leaf litter. Witch hazel now in full bloom with its inconspicuous yellow flowers.

Past here the trail peters out entirely, the flow is reduced to a few shallow pools, with most of the deeper plunge pools completely dry. Marvel at the complicated tangles of exposed roots on the beeches, walnuts, sycamores, and sweetgums that are subjected to scour during high water. The big trees are mostly bare, with a few colorful leaves in the occasional oak, and bright patches where dogwood or small sugar maples hold forth among the rocks. The giant umbrella magnolia leaves litter the ground where they curl up into pale brown cylinders and give the forest floor a real snakey look. Alumroot still blooming from perches on mossy rock ledges. Beech and sycamore pretty much dominate, with some red oaks (black or northern red?) and sweetgums. Almost no acorns being shed, but some oak leaves do look like *Q rubra*, and find one or two acorns characteristic of that species. The scenery is dominated by giant sandstone slabs – oblong and full of bed corrugations, and handsomely dappled with various lichens and mosses. They are a little less scenic when you have to scramble over them, taking care to avoid slipping on wet leaves or falling into leaf filled crevices.

Journaling by Fred Paillet continued.....

Get down past the one major jumbled block area and hope for better conditions further down. At first that's what happens. Come down onto a veritable pavement with water running down a kind of linear chute developed on a joint. The pavement heads in a little stair-step waterfall (dry) with flat beds. There is even a sort of terrace on one side that is easy walking.

Unfortunately, that's not how it's going to be. Some kind of junction is apparent ahead, and it's just a major side valley from the west. The canyon turns abruptly to the east and soon enters the worst of it. Truly immense sandstone slabs canted at all kinds of crazy angles with deep water-filled pools between them. No recourse but to repeatedly claw my way up the steep and slippery valley sides to get around one impasse after another. Good thing there are lots of sturdy beech saplings for hand holds. Then the situation is further complicated by several large tangled blow-downs of beech and oak. All of this scrambling provides a good

opportunity to look at the ground cover up close and personal. Amazed by the abundance of one of my favorite plants – the round-lobed hepatica. It's just about everywhere, with many of those tiny little jewel-like seedlings. Maybe the steep slope provides enough pockets of fertile little seedbeds of exposed organic soil for the little seeds to get started. Wild ginger seems almost as common. The scenery just seems to get wilder and wilder. Then it abruptly calms down. The valley widens on both sides into an open forest of regal trees. White ash has been consistently present along the ravine, but now some truly giant ashes, three feet in diameter and deep corky ridges for bark, join the sweetgums, sycamores, and sturdy red/black oaks. No mockernut but a few shagbark hickories on the flats. This is more of a stroll in the park. A few minor overflow channels and the occasional thicket of multiflora rose. There's a good quarter mile of this before finally breaking out on the

Buffalo River through a screen of greenbrier and brush.

The river itself is a real disappointment. Not much actual flow and most of the water in the form of shallow pools filled with vibrantly green algae. Part of this must be related to the complete absence of shade. No sign of fish life in the water, even at a deep scour pool around a large sandstone slab boulder. One small frog and one large tadpole is all. Very brushy around the edges. Mostly witch hazel and alder with hawthorn and small beeches, laced together by greenbrier, grape, and multiflora rose. A short section of flowing ankle-deep water between more shallow pools. It certainly seems surprising that there aren't even minnows in the shallow riffles. But it's not surprising that there are no fish-eating birds here like kingfisher and heron. Return back up the Gulf with the maze of sandstone blocks now falling into deep and gloomy shadow as the sun lowers towards the horizon.

Summer Trips

By Steve Heye, Pulaski Chapter Outings Chair

Are you still making summer plans? I'm pleased to announce there are two openings for each of my two trips to Maine and California. The first trip is to Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine on June 11th.

For trip details, go to the www.ozarksociety.net and view the

Events calendar for June 11. There is an option to drive or fly on this trip.

The other trip is to hike 40 miles over 7 days on the John Muir Trail starting July 28. Details can be found at the website as well. You must have some experience

backpacking at altitude in mountainous terrain to do this hike.

We have seven others now in training for this trip. If both trips are full, you can get on a standby list. Contact Steve if you are interest in more info or options. Heye@aristotle.net.



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. 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 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

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OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY: Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (479) 575-5577.

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