PACK & PADDLE

Winter December 2022

"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

Annual Membership Meeting at Lake Claiborne

By David Peterson, Ozark Society President

There were at least 46 Ozark Society members in attendance at the annual membership meeting hosted by the Bayou Chapter at Lake Claiborne State Park, LA, October 21-23, and we all had a good time eating, hiking, boating, dancing and electing the new 2023-2025 board at the business meeting.

The nominating committee (Brian Thompson, Alice Andrews, Luke Parsch, and Sandy Roerig) presented their recommended slate and after introductions of current and future board members the membership voted in favor by acclamation.

There is **continuity** and **renewal** on the new board: 5 new board members, Karen Pitts and Perry Hill (Louisiana State Directors), Laura Timby (Arkansas State Director), Tom McClure joins Alice Andrews as co-chair of Conservation, and Tim Mason is our new Vice President.

Tim has had an interesting life. He grew up in the south Arkansas oil patch not far from El Dorado. He rodeoed in college while studying agriculture, and worked as a corporate Environmental Specialist. Tim is an avid long-distance hiker who has completed the Ouachita Trail and nearly all of the Ozark Highland's Trail. This past summer, he completed the 486-mile Colorado Trail and envisions many additional hiking adventures.

People in new positions are Brian Thompson as President and Lowell Collins replacing Brian in Communication Engagement (e. g. Facebook). Those staying the course are: Kay Ewart (Treasurer), Sandy Roerig (Secretary), Alice Andrews (Conservation), Carolyn Shearman (Membership/P&P), Fred Paillet (Education), Stewart Noland (Archives), Jennifer Ailor and Brenda Crites (Missouri State Directors) and Mary Schlatterer (Arkansas State Director). All chapter chairs are also board members.

After discussions of liability waivers and EV bikes on hiking trails, the general meeting concluded with a presentation by Brian from his book *Save the Buffalo River Again*, my slide show of *The Effects of Climate Change on the Buffalo*, and a well-deserved special recognition of Laura Timby for her many years of leadership of the Buffalo River Chapter. She was presented with a beautiful painting of the Buffalo River at Red Bluff.

As President over the last 6 years, I have enjoyed the continuing support of a dedicated board of directors, thank you very much. The same goes for the general membership. As Past President I will continue working on wilderness protection and environmental public policy.

In Memoriam: Dr. Sally Hubbard

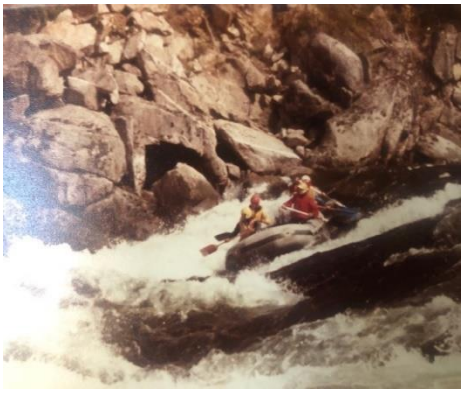
By Jennifer Ailor, Climate Change Committee Chair

The passing of Dr. Sally Hubbard—simply Sally as she preferred to be called—in July was an irreplaceable loss to the Schoolcraft Chapter and the greater Ozark Society. Throughout her career as a physician at the Missouri State University health clinic, she made her mark as a compassionate caregiver and an active supporter of Lady Bears basketball, other sports and causes.

But within Schoolcraft and the greater Ozark Society, anyone who "experienced" Sally knew she thrived on adventure and Nature's challenges. The worse the rain or cold or mishap, the better the trip. She experienced all that and more on her first momentous river float in the 1970s; instead of saying "never again," she asked, "when's the next trip." She went on to become a skilled river runner, and woe be you if you shared her canoe or raft and didn't match her skills.

Sally became the business lynchpin of Schoolcraft, serving over the decades as secretary, treasurer, membership chair, newsletter editor and general organizer. Likewise, in the greater Ozark Society, she served at least 15 years as board secretary, as well as organizing and participating in numerous Buffalo River, Colorado and western river trips. The latter included the Grand Canyon, Selway, Main Salmon, Middle Fork of the Salmon and Rio Grande of Big Bend National Park. One story characterized Sally's confidence in her rafting abilities. A raft powered by her and five other women overheard Oz Hawksley mutter that no women could navigate the Selway on their own. "Game's on!" they responded and proved him wrong.

Hiking was another passion of Sally's, and she volunteered for years with the National Park Service, building trail along the Buffalo, the river she loved best. She hiked and camped on many a trail there, in the process refining her famous camp cooking.



The stories and memories of Sally Hubbard are legend. She was a character you could not forget, one who knew who she was and marched confidently to her own drummer. Each person who knew her has a bucketful of stories and memories. That's true, of course, for other beloved members of the Ozark Society who have passed on. Sally is with them, skillfully navigating the great rivers in the sky and organizing hikes and camping trips. Her philanthropic largess continues her legacy by supporting the causes she loved and facilitating other good works. This is the Sally we loved, and we count ourselves lucky that part of her march brought her into our lives. We miss you, Sally.

News from the Ozark Society Foundation

By Marvin Schwartz, Ozark Society Foundation Chair

The OSF Grant Committee has finished reviewing the proposals submitted for the 2022/23 Youth Engagement in Conservation grant cycle. The committee received 15 grant requests totaling $32,752.95. After reading the proposals, reviewing the budgets, and meeting via Zoom to debate the projects, we have decided to approve full or partial funding to 9 organizations for a grand total of $14,531.05. The selected youth grants for 2023 are listed. Please recognize Grant Committee chair Roslyn Imrie, OSF board member Susan Young, and the community members who assisted in this next year's program.

Also, the Sassafras Award book is soon to be delivered to a printer. We are hopeful to announce the winner and have books for distribution early next year.

Ozark Society Foundation Youth Grants 2023, Summary of Grant Awards:

Arco Iris Earth Care

Location: Newton County Arkansas

Scope: 15 BIPOC students, 6th-12th grade

Proposal Summary: Arco Iris Earth Care will work to reach BIPOC in rural parts of Arkansas. They will connect these students with nature through hikes and invasive plant removal projects.

Amount Requested: The organization requested supplies such as flyers, snacks, and educational materials for their program as well as fuel and transportation funds.

Amount Approved by Committee: $491.82.

Clear Springs School

Location: Eureka Springs, AR

Scope: 74 students, Prk-12th

Proposal Summary: Clear Springs Students will design and help build a trail on their campus that will then be used by students as well as used by the local community particularly during community events.

Amount Requested: Their budget included surveying tools for the students to use in the trail design as well as tools to construct the trail. We chose to fund all these tools and an educator which will be $1075.23. The budget also included a large kiosk and signs.

Amount Approved by Committee: $1075.23

Illinois River Watershed Partnership

Location: Cave Springs, AR

Scope: 500 students, 9th-12th graders

Proposal Summary: IRWP will take high school students to local streams where the students will assess stream quality by collecting benthic macroinvertebrates from the stream bed and intensifying the specimens.

Amount Requested: The budget request is for supplies directly related to getting the students into the streams such as nets, waders, and educational materials. The committee liked this proposal because it was clearly aligned with the OSF mission, got students directly involved in stream conservation, and asked for directly related materials. Therefore, we unanimously decided to fund the entire project.

Amount Approved by Committee: $2,800.83

Jasper Elementary School

Location: Jasper, AR

Scope: 25 second graders

Proposal Summary: The second grade is studying birds, building bird houses, and observing birds. The proposal supports creating a space at the school as well as sending the students home with bird houses so they can bring birding home with them.

Amount Request: The budget was well planned and asked for supplies and materials directly related to the project such as bird house kits, a bird feeder, binoculars, and bird ID books. The committee would like to fund this entire project.

Amount Approved by Committee: $1332.71

Continued on page 4.

Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWARLT)
Location: Northwest Arkansas region
Scope: 450 students, grades K–12
Proposal Summary: Using binoculars and field guides purchased with OSF grant funds, NWARLT will expand their outdoor educational programming at the Kessler Mountain Classroom, Wilson Springs Preserve, and the Betty Hinshaw Bird Sanctuary to include birdwatching, offering students "new ways to connect with the outdoors around them, both in rural and urban areas."
Amount Requested: $1001.07 to purchase 25 binoculars and 25 *Birds of Arkansas* field guides.
Amount Approved by Committee: $1007.07

Ozark Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America
Location: Missouri Ozarks region
Scope: 135 youth, grades K–12
Proposal Summary: Conduct a four-week summertime "conservation training camp." Scouts will learn to develop, plan, execute, and monitor conservation projects by installing demonstration projects at Camp Arrowhead.
Amount Requested: $2980.65 for tools, lumber, hardware, conservation-related instruments, safety gear, and plant materials/seed
Amount Approved by Committee: $2980.65

T.G. Smith Elementary School
Location: Springdale, Arkansas (Washington County)
Scope: 350 students, grades 3–5
Proposal Summary: Students will expand an established milkweed garden at the school by planting a variety of pollinator-friendly plants, and will study the importance of pollinators overall and monarch butterflies in particular.
Amount Requested: $2990 to purchase soil and plants
Amount Approved by Committee: $1000. (The committee feels this project can be accomplished for much less than the amount requested by partnering with local organizations such as the Washington County Master Gardeners and Washington County Master Naturalists. We propose partial funding and will assist the teacher in contacting the potential partnering organizations.)

University of Missouri Newton County Extension
Location: Neosho, Missouri, with regional outreach
Scope: 80 students, grades 9–12
Proposal Summary: Led by a University of Missouri horticulture professor and local Master Gardeners, students will create a native grass educational display at the Newton County (Missouri) Extension Office. The display will be used by area educators to teach the importance of native grasses, with a special focus on agricultural best-practices.
Amount Requested: $2357.64 to purchase native grass plants, soil, mulch, and border rock; $264 for mileage and advertising.
Amount Approved by Committee: $1771, the amount requested to purchase native grass plants.

Wonderful Waterways
Location: Benton County (Bentonville-based)
Scope: 150 youth, grades pre-K–12
Proposal Summary: Organize student volunteers to participate in three county-wide cleanups of waterways.
Amount Requested: $1321.74 for tools and safety supplies, $750 for teacher honorarium, $801 for fuel and waste disposal fees.
Amount Approved by Committee: $2071.74, the amount requested for tools, safety supplies, and teacher honorarium (We declined to fund the fuel and waste disposal fees but will provide resources to get the disposal fees donated.)

How to Convince Climate Skeptics

By Fred Paillet, OS Education Chair

Climate change is a major environmental concern, and we can see its effect in a worldwide retreat of glaciers as in my illustration below. But those glacier retreats occur in remote places or affect sea level in coastal locations while Ozark residents are primarily concerned with what is happening in their midcontinent location. As a professional geophysicist deeply versed in climate science, I remain dismayed by the way the subject of Climate Change is most often presented. First, because we mostly hear about a degree or two of temperature change as if that in itself is a physical calamity. Then, the difficulty in believing that human activities discharging exhaust gases in scattered locations could possibly pollute the vast ocean of air above us.

The big problems inherent in climate change are related to extremes such as droughts and flood and not simple daily averages. A topic you can easily google is found under the heading of "polar amplification" – a phenomenon that has important consequences for weather extremes. This is the long substantiated (at least for climate experts) fact that an average global temperature change is not uniformly applied to the globe, being amplified three-fold (or more) at the poles. That is, an average change of a degree (no matter what kind) translates into a third of a degree at the equator and three degrees at the poles. Many of those struggling just to survive may quietly think that saving a few arctic creatures is nice idea but a luxury we can't afford if it impacts the cost of energy.

2018 view of Exit Glacier outlet from Alaska'a Harding Ice Field from its 19th century terminus location

Instead of fixating on average temperatures, let's think about how global warming might impact weather patterns. Since extremes are the real problem, consider how transfer of solar heat (the energy driving our weather systems) occurs in the manufacture of our daily weather. Could even modest climate change have an effect in that regard? Rather than equatorial heat simply flowing down a thermal gradient, our weather is created by bubbles of hot air wandering north and being replaced by cooler air from the polar regions. Weather prediction is based on monitoring "bulges" as they develop into the advancing bubbles behind cold and warm fronts. These are known as Rossby waves in honor of the Scandinavian meteorologist who first described them. These waves develop on the temperature contrast between air masses we see as the jet stream. Atmospheric dynamics require that there be a strong flow along the boundary separating air masses of differing temperature (thermal wind). Global circulation models clearly show that a change in the temperature differences driving Rossby waves changes the properties of those waves. By analogy with the tension on a guitar string, a reduced tension causes a lower (longer wavelength) sound. Longer Rossby waves have bigger excursions and travel slower. That's the mechanism by which a small change in global temperature distribution (and the larger change to global temperature gradient that goes with it) can create a big change in storm dynamics.

Water vapor provides the energy within storm systems, and the amount of vapor air can hold increases sharply with temperature – perhaps a hundred-fold over the temperature range from arctic to tropical. It's the combined effect of more water vapor content and slow-moving storm systems that will create the most flood hazards. This belies one common myth that global warming will only increase rainfall as a blessing to the world. In fact, it is more likely rain will simply fall where it is already abundant and less in places where it is already scarce. Some folks take comfort that the slightly greater summer temperatures of the altithermal

Continued on page 6.

How to Convince Climate Skeptics……continued

period about 8000 years ago (part of the excruciatingly slow glacial-interglacial cycle) created a green Sahara and brought summer monsoon rains into the Great Basin Desert. Increasing carbon dioxide in the air will change the retention of solar heat in air equally over land and sea, a far different effect with different expected results. I would not invest in Saharan farmland as a hedge on global warming.

Next, let's consider how human activity could possibly affect our vast ocean of air. Actually, it is more of a thin blanket than an ocean. The troposphere is maybe 7 miles thick. The earth is 8000 miles in diameter. If you scale down the earth to the size of basketball (8000 miles to a foot), the air blanket is hardly more than the thickness of a couple sheets of paper. That gets your attention. Even harder to refute is the steady observation of CO2 in the atmosphere famously undertaken by Keeling, documenting an increase from a base level below 290 to more than 400 ppm. That's more than a 35% increase that cannot be denied except by conspiracy theory nut cases who claim the measurements are faked. But have we been adding enough CO2 to account for what could just possibly be a naturally occurring effect? A rough estimate of the amount of CO2 put into the air by human action each year comes to about 1% of all the CO2 originally there – about 75% from fossil fuel burning, and the rest from forest fires, livestock concentration, and oxidizing of plowed soil. It is fortunate that the yearly addition does not all remain in the air because atmospheric CO2 would have doubled by now. In fact, a little less than half must be retained to account for the observed Keeling Curve increases. A good part of our emitted CO2 is absorbed by the oceans. Even that isn't good news since that increases ocean acidity and interferes with the ability of coral and other sea life from microscopic coccoliths to giant clams to synthesize the limestone they need to survive.

The carbon budget numbers demonstrate with no doubt at all that human activity is more than enough to account for the observed upward increase of CO2 in the atmosphere. The seemingly alarmist claims by climate scientists that weather extremes will be the result of climate change are not fanciful scenarios intended to enhance their funding. Sound atmospheric science has shown that global temperature change translates into three-fold enhanced changes in the thermal gradient that drives our weather systems. Some enhanced water vapor capacity will contribute, but larger and slower moving frontal excursions have been the base of disastrous flood and drought extremes of the past. We can expect more of them in the future (like the infamous polar vortex) as global temperature increases by what otherwise would appear to be a modest amount.

News from Northwest Arkansas

By Pattie Heitzman, Highlands and Sugar Creek Chapters

It started way back in the summer of 2021. Lowell Collins asked for volunteers to form committee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Buffalo National River, America's first National River. She asked, and they came. A dedicated and enthusiastic group of people from both the Highlands and Sugar Creek Chapters met and brainstormed. Out of those meetings came two subgroups.

The awesome leader of that first subgroup was Janet Parsch. Under Janet's leadership they formed a committee to plan a networking event. The fruits of their labor culminated in a fabulous dinner and evening this past March. It was a successful gathering represented by members of over 30 environmental organizations. It lit a flame to focus on environmental issues to benefit our natural state. The second subgroup also aimed to network but went in a different direction. The three members of that committee; Peggy Bulla, Jeff Montgomery, and myself, Pattie Heitzman, created over a series of meetings a *Traveling Information and Display Booth*. Our mission was to educate and spread awareness of the Ozark Society, and to the Buffalo River's 50th Anniversary.

Continued on page 7.

In order to do that a 10×10 canopy (see pictures) was purchased and a banner was created. Next, eight enlarged photo posters of the Buffalo River formed an inviting visual display, along with a framed old time newspaper article chronicling the formation of our first National Scenic River. To entice membership, a free book (Arkansas Butterflies and Moths, or Buffalo River in Black and White) was given if people scanned and joined the Ozark Society at the booth. Boy, did we meet that goal with new members joining of all ages and backgrounds, some familiar with the Ozark Society and some having recently moved to the area.

To further educate, other items were created to sit on the display table. We have Ozark Society logo stickers and business cards, along with beautiful pictured magnets, and rubber stamps that provide free advertising of the mission of our group that works so hard to save our wild and scenic natural places. It was to be a *Traveling Information and Display Booth* for the young and old, and indeed it traveled to many venues. In June Pack Rat agreed to a benefit with the proceeds going to our society. The info/display booth stood proudly there greeting an enthusiastic crowd. The booth traveled to four Farmers Markets. It went on to regional libraries that hosted showings of the "First River: How Arkansas Saved a National Treasure" followed by discussions led by dedicated members. The display table went as far as Harrison, AR, and back to Hobbs State Park, Crystal Bridges, Neil Compton's home, and even to a Retirement Home in Fayetteville. Receptive audiences were there to appreciate our wild and pristine Buffalo National River and the Ozark Society.

Why am I telling you all about the exciting events held in NW Arkansas this past year for the 50th? I am writing this because I want to encourage all of you. I learned that working towards a goal fosters an exciting collaboration with kindred spirits, and magic can happen. I saw it with the March Networking evening, and with the Traveling Information and Display Booth. I learned that great things can be accomplished when goals are identified. I also learned that it takes many volunteers to accomplish these goals. We need more people to step forward and lighten the load of the core Ozark Society members who work relentlessly on our behalf. I also came to a point where I wanted to highlight the display booth to encourage other chapters to follow suit. If you don't have something similar, I would encourage you to develop a booth accenting the many accomplishments of the Ozark Society, to educate your communities of current environmental issues, and to announce upcoming recreational and educational activities. I found the public eager to interact, and serving as a liaison at local events to be a highly rewarding role. The year of the Buffalo National River may be almost over, but new activities await those willing to invest of themselves and their time. Let's make 2023 an even better year as we give thanks to those individuals who came before us, and to current members who work so hard and give so much for the benefit of our wonderful Ozark Society.

Highpoints Part 13

By Steve Heye, Pulaski Chapter Outings Chair

California

In early 2020, I had organized a backpacking trip in the California Sierras that would include a day hike to the top of Mt. Whitney. Seven other folks had signed on and I had permits in hand for the trip to take place in early July. Then, in March, Covid came on the scene. Though we could have gone, everyone agreed that we would pass on the trip.

Twenty twenty-one looked much better. I still had the same plan: walk from Onion Valley to the John Muir Trail and I got the permits, we recruited four others to join us and everything was a go this time. We arrived in late July and started the hike after some acclimatizing. The guys did the hike and they had a great time. Meanwhile, I had to turn around the first day, suffering from what would be diagnosed as Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever. Bummer, turned back again.

As New Year's 2022 rolled by, I wondered if I could do Whitney's summit, then finish at Whitney Portal. I thought I was capable of doing this hike, so I proceeded for a third time to set up a trip to conquer Whitney and bag my forty-fifth high point. I knew there wouldn't be as many folks in my circles that would be interested in joining me this time, so I kept the number of permits low at three. I also decided to approach the trip as a solo trip and I would modify it should a person or two come with me.

There were two ways I could try to approach the mountain. The first was a direct hike, using the Mt. Whitney trail to go up to the top and back to Whitney Portal, over three or four days. Twenty-two miles in all. This route, however, is known as the "impossible" permit. Only 20% of those who try for this permit get one, even though they give you 15 tries to get one.

The other way was to hike from Horseshoe Meadows by way of Cottonwood Pass. This route was 38 miles in length using the Pacific Crest Trail, John Muir Trail and the Mt. Whitney Trail to get to Whitney Portal. This way would be 5 or 6 days, almost all over 10,000 feet and a couple up and downs of 3000 -foot gain or loss. The permit for this second way was not hard to obtain and I could plan on being able to go this way if the other way fell through. I went ahead and got this trip's permit in February and would drop it if the direct route permit came through in the lottery on April 1st.

April first came and no luck. All 15 permit requests were rejected, so I started planning my trip to leave from Cottonwood Pass.

The months passed and I continued to train for the trip, even with my neuralgia. I was having trouble getting an appointment to see a neurosurgeon. Finally in late June I was able to see Dr. John Day at UAMS. He said I had a classic case and surgery could take care of the problem. Five days later, I went under the knife and the result was excellent. No more pain, other than the wound behind my ear from the surgery. It was time to recover and restart training as I now had only seven weeks until the trip would have to start.

I continued to heal and train harder and soon the date to start the trip, August 21st, was here and it was time to go. I flew to Ontario, California early on the twenty first and got there just after noon pacific time. I got my rental car and drove to a near-by Walmart to pick up the items that I couldn't carry on the plane.

I was going to use the town of Lone Pine as my base, just like last year. Lone Pine is a town of a couple thousand and is the gateway to Whitney Portal. The town is mostly famous for being the site for hundreds of movies, tv shows and commercials that are filmed in the Alabama Hills just west of town. Believe me when I say that you have seen this iconic scenery several times over the years. I got to Lone Pine about 6pm, checked into my motel and got dinner. After dinner I inspected my gear to see if anything was damaged in the flight. Nothing was out of order and I went to bed.

Friday, August 22nd, was a transition day. I finished packing my backpack that morning and after lunch I drove west out of Lone Pine on Whitney Portal Road to the campground 5500 feet higher, at the trail head where I would finish. I had reserved a site at the Portal Campground to spend the night to help acclimatize for the hike. The next day, my hike would begin from Cottonwood Pass, about 30 miles south.

I arranged for a shuttle from the Portal over to Cottonwood Pass. I arrived at the trail head about 2pm that Saturday. I thanked the driver and loaded up to do a 4.5 mile hike up and

Continued on page 9.

Highpoints 13…..continued

over the pass to the Pacific Crest Trail. I walked just a bit farther to a place called Chicken Spring Lake for camp that night. The trails are well maintained for easy walking. Weather conditions were perfect: clear, calm winds and a star-filled sky. I decided to cowboy camp, no tent, for the night and went to bed. Turns out I would Cowboy Camp all but the last night on the trail.

Sunday was going to be my longest day on the trail. It was nearly 9.5 miles from Chicken Spring Lake down to Rocky Creek camp. There was a loss of altitude of over 2500 feet, to the lowest point on my hike at 9500 feet. It was a long day, almost 10 hours long. I was totally wasted by the time I lay down my camp next to the creek. I ate a quick dinner and hit the sack before it was dark. I slept nearly 9 hours.

I awoke refreshed, but then remembered that I would have to gain back 1700 feet of what I went down the day before. All of it right at the start. My goal for this Monday was Crabtree Meadow's ranger cabin. The campground next to the ranger station is huge and it has a pit toilet! I slogged my way up the hill from Rocky Creek to Guyot Pass for most of the morning. It was a 7.2 mile walk this day. When I reached the lower Crabtree Meadow, I left the PCT and walked along Whitney Creek up to the campground at the junction with the John Muir Trail. I was feeling a bit better, as my body was adjusting to the altitude, the distance and the weight of my pack. Speaking of the pack, it weighed 45 lbs. when I started. It was only 32 lbs. when I left home. I can't believe I added 13 pounds of stuff when I reached the trail head. Oh well, I was under 40 pounds by this point.

While at camp at the station, I visited with the ranger and got some information about the camping spots available above Guitar Lake. A lot of folks who do this route use the Guitar camps as the jumping off point for those going up to the Whitney spur and on to Trail Camp or back to Crabtree. I wanted to go farther up the trail from Guitar to cut down on the hike on Tuesday. When I got up for the hike on Tuesday, I decided to walk to a spot about a mile past Guitar where water was reported to be plentiful. After a hike of nearly 4 miles, I found a site that had lots of water and made camp. This would be my highest camp, at 12,000 feet. I knew tomorrow would be a long day and went to bed at sundown.

Today was the day. Finally, I'd have a crack at Mt. Whitney. I still had over 1200-foot climb with pack to the spur trail. It was also almost 3 miles away. I got up at 5:30am and was on my way by 6am. I knew what was ahead from the hikers ahead of me. Starting about 2:30am, there were folks headed past me and up the trail to see sunrise on top. You could lay in your bag and watch the lights weaving their way up the slope and on the spur. Three hours and eight switchbacks later, I reached the spur trail. I knew this is where I could drop my pack and day hike to the top of Whitney.

It was about 9:30am when I struck out for the almost two-mile hike along the ridge of peaks to the summit 1400 feet above me. It took nearly two hours to work my way to the top. As I came off the last switchback, there was the stone house built for research sitting ahead of me.

I had done it! Number 45 was in the books. I signed the register and took the obligatory photos, then sat down for a rest and lunch. Four days of hiking in the Sierras had paid off and the view was fantastic.

After an hour on the top and a few phone calls to family, I started back to my pack. I still had to go over the pass and then down the ninety-seven switchbacks to Trail camp. I got back to the main trail about 3 and loaded up for one last climb with pack on.

The climb was very steep and not much in the way of switchbacks, but I finally cleared the pass. And then it started to sleet. For the next hour while I was descending to Trail camp, the sleet pelted my hat and coat. Some of the rocks became slick from being wet, but 3 hours after picking up my pack, I reached my last campsite. It was a 12-hour day, but I was happy to have dinner knowing I had made it to the top.

Thursday, August 25th, was my last day on the trail. I still had 6 miles to go to reach Whitney Portal and lose nearly 3000 feet in altitude. It was a smooth decent over three benches and took about 6 hours. The weather had been perfect for nearly the whole trip other than the sleet the day before, then my luck ran out. Just 30 minutes from finishing, the skies opened up. Hail, hard rain, wind and lightning. Got that close, but I had to pull out my rain gear to finish.

Continued on page 10.

Highpoints 13…..continued

The rain stopped just before I finished about 3pm and walked through the portal at trail's end. I found my car, tossed in the gear, changed my clothes and headed down the hill to a dry warm motel.

There are 5 states left: Alaska, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. What one is next? I know it's not Alaska. Unless I'm flown to the top, Denali is not on my list. Rainier and Hood will require joining an outfitter's group.

Wyoming and Montana are doable on your own, but going with an outfitter makes since due to the tough approaches. I'll have all winter to figure out what's next. Until then, I'm happy that I have now seen 90% of the list of state high points.

More photos of the trip can be found at the following link: https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjA6Bcg. I am looking for interested hikers that would join me this May or June on a guided hike on Mt. Hood, Oregon. Have them email me, heye@aristotle.net, if interested and get more info.

Climate Change Hits Donkey Hard

By Jennifer Ailor, OS Climate Change Committee Chair and Roscoe's Mom

Hi, I'm Roscoe, a rascal of a donkey living in the Ozarks. Mom asked me to honk a few words about how hard it's become to find hay and pasture for me and my buddies, Josie, my sweet donkey friend; Fat Abby, the mule; and Sierra, the old mare who heads up the herd. In the winter, we're burdened by the presence of Rosie, a fast-talking, greedy fox trotter who's taking some R&R from riding trails.

This is the real Roscoe!

This summer was so dang hot and dry even for us hardy donkeys. Why, Mom had to settle for hay not as tasty as last year's and short of what she'll need for us equines to eat this winter. We went for 60 days without a drop of rain, and the pasture was so dry even the buckbrush wasn't fit to eat. It's been hot and dry in the Ozarks before—I well remember the summer of 2012—but this climate change is bringing on the heat and dry a good month early and lasting longer. My eating is suffering! I know the horse and cows across the blacktop were so short on pasture that their dad had to start feeding them what little hay he had put up. What are those poor critters gonna eat come January?

Mom's also paying a lot more for our oats, which must have dried up wherever they grow, and her garden didn't produce a single carrot this year. She tells me that the smart folks now predict the Ozarks will have lots of high triple-digit days. And dry, dry, dry. There's no way even a donkey can survive such heat. And guaranteed there won't be no pasture or hay. All those folks with lots of critters are gonna be in a world of hurt. The Ozarks will be a desert!

I sure hope Mom and her friends can do something about this climate change. I remember back in 2012, folks around here had hay to spare and trucked it to Texas to feed the starving cows and horses—donkeys, too—down there. I'm afraid we may need someone truckin' hay to the Ozarks before long. Where's it going to come from?

Farmers and donkey-lovers like Mom are beginning to take notice of this climate change, but it's gonna take a lot more attention and action than that. Everybody's got to pitch in or there ain't gonna be anything to eat for donkeys or the folks who love them. Just brayin'.

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 mailing address.

Name(s) _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email 1: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

Email 2: _____ Old Email (if changed) _____

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 (North Central, AR)
- ☐ Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- ☐ Mississippi Valley (Missouri)
- ☐ Pulaski (Central, 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 (North Central, AR)
- ☐ $10 Highlands (Fayetteville, AR)
- ☐ $10 Mississippi Valley (Missouri)
- ☐ $10 Pulaski (Central, AR)
- ☐ $10 Schoolcraft (Springfield, MO)
- ☐ $10 Sugar Creek (Bentonville, AR)

Section C: Donations to our Funds

(Choose any amount)

- ☐ $_____ The Conservation Fund
- ☐ $_____ The Endowment Fund
- ☐ $_____ The Legal Fund
- ☐ $_____ The OS Foundation
- ☐ $_____ The Compton Scholarship Fund
- ☐ $ _____ The Hedges Scholarship Fund

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.

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

Please Note: If you would like to receive *Pack & Paddle* by email, not through US Mail, please contact Carolyn Shearman at oscomms@ozarksociety.net.

The Officer, Director, and Chair List

SOCIETY OFFICERS: President: David Peterson, ospres@ozarksociety.net; **Vice President:** Lucas Parsch, osvp@ozarksociety.net; **Financial Chair**: Kay Ewart, ozarksocietyewart@gmail.com; **Recording Secretary:** Sandy Roerig, sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu; **Past President**: Alan Nye, ajnye@swbell.net; **Conservation Chair:** Alice Andrews, alice209ok@yahoo.com; **Education Chair:** Fred Paillet, education@ozarksociety.net; **Community Engagement Chair:** Brian Thompson ossocialmedia@ozarksociety.net, **Communications Chair:** Carolyn Shearman, oscomms@ozarksociety.net.

STATE DIRECTORS:

ARKANSAS: Mary Schlatterer, schlatterer@yahoo.com; Jerry Dorman, simsdor@att.net;

MISSOURI: Jennifer Ailor, jailor65721@yahoo.com; Brenda Crites, bcsetirc@outlook.com;

LOUISIANA: Wayne Kiefer, wkiefer59@gmail.com; Catherine Tolson, catherine.tolson@comcast.net

CHAPTER CHAIRS: Bayou Chapter: Grant Perkins bayouchair@ozarksociety.net: **Pulaski Chapter:** Alisa Dixon pulaskichair@ozarksociety.net; **Highlands Chapter**: Tom Perry, highlandspres@ozarksociety.net; **Buffalo River Chapter**: Kris McMillen, buffaloriver@ozarksociety.net ; **Mississippi Valley Chapter**: Brenda Crites, bcsetirc@outlook.com; **Schoolcraft Chapter:** Todd Parnell, schoolcraftchair@ozarksociety.net ; **Sugar Creek Chapter**: Lowell Collins, ossugarcreek@gmail.com.

OZARK SOCIETY FOUNDATION CHAIR: Marvin Schwartz, osfchair@ozarksociety.net

BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL COORDINATOR: Michael Reed, mereed@runbox.com

OZARK SOCIETY STORE: Brittany Plouch, outreach@ozarksociety.net.

OZARK SOCIETY ARCHIVES: Stewart Noland, stewartnoland51@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; S 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 re www.ozarksociety.net/membership or mail your check including our Membership Form to: Ozark Society, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.