



BAYOU BYLINE



September 2025

Calendar of Events

September

- 13 Ouachita Parish Water Sweep - BCOS will do a community service clean up in Ouachita Parish at Cheniere Lake Area 8, just outside of West Monroe contact Melissa at melissa_axb@yahoo.com
- 16 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Speaker is Luke Pearson from the Red River Waterway. Luke will talk about the history of the Red River Navigation Project, the Red River Waterway Commission, the mitigation performed to offset wildlife habitat losses and their current recreation projects.
- 20 River Rat Paddle Challenge on the Ouachita River in West Monroe - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com
- 27 National Hunting and Fishing Day - Tom Merrill Recreation Area on Bodcau Bayou

October

- 18 Red River National Wildlife Refuge Celebration
- 21 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Speaker TBA

November

- 8-10 All-Society Meeting in Bentonville, AR. Hikes and other activities are planned.
- 18 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Speaker TBA

December

- 7 BCOS Annual Christmas Party - 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Fall is the time to start hiking again!



Our monthly meetings are held at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City, LA 71112.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. (except December) Program starts at 6:30 pm. Business meeting follows. Plan to join us after the meeting for food and socializing.



Speaker is Luke Pearson from the Red River Waterway, speaking about the history of the Red River Navigation Project

Visit Ozark Society, Bayou Chapter and check out our new Facebook Page!!

Richard Larned

October 24, 1938 — August 10, 2025

Longtime Bayou Chapter member Rick Larned passed away on August 10, 2025. He was a very active member of the Ozark Society until Parkinson's disease hampered his outdoor activities. He still made a point to show up on Tuesdays at Pierre Bossier Mall to spend a few hours around lunch with his Bayou Chapter buddies.



R.I.P.
Rick Larned
1938 - 2025

You will be sorely missed
by your BCOS friends!



BCOS Meeting Minutes - August 19, 2025

By: Secretary Jenny Hackman

Meeting was called to order by Sharon W. at 6:30 pm

Rick Owens from the LA Wildlife Federation spoke about the success of the recent legislation session. They were able to save 2 scenic waterways in LA that were at risk of having scenic waterway restrictions removed. These rivers were the West Pearl River and Comite River. The bill for banning the release of mylar balloons passed in the house and senate, but was vetoed by the governor. The LA Wildlife Federation is keeping an eye the Meta Center that is going to be built in northeast LA. This center will be 1.5 miles long, will use millions of gallons of water a day and use more electricity than New Orleans in a day. He mentioned that there are no disclosures of how much water will be used. At this point, well water is not monitored. The LA Wildlife Federation has 23 affiliates and more than 11,000 members. He encourages us to monitor their website www.lawildlifefed.org for news and announcements of bills that are going through the legislation. On their website, you can send emails to senators and house members regarding support or disagreement of bills that will be presented for a vote. BCOS is an affiliate and Gary H is our representative.



Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter by a motion made by Barbie H and 2nd by Mark R. No one opposed

Treasure Report: Prepared by Cindy B and presented by Jenny H

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF JULY 01, 2025: \$6,906.60

Add Receipts: Donation \$200.00

Donation – free membership: \$30.00

Total Receipts \$230.00

Deduct Disbursements: Printing – T. Jernigan: \$27.40

Total Disbursements: \$27.40

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2025: \$7,109.20

SAVINGS BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2025 \$5.00

NOTE: \$1,696 of the checking balance is earmarked for Athens Big Fork Historical Marker

Conservation Report: presented by Sandy R. Sandy reported on The Nature Conservancy's stance on water issues in Louisiana.

Upcoming Events:

August 23: Mark R is planning a Red River evening paddle. He is currently working on contacting the appropriate authorities to get parking approved at the 12 mile Bayou launch site.

August 30: Castle Tree paddle at Chemin-A-Haut State Park

Sat, Sep 13: Ouachita Parish Water Sweep and Grape Stomp, Cheniere Lake

Sat, Sep 20: River Rat Challenge - Team Bayou Bandits! Bayou D'arbonne Boat Ramp Registration is online

Sat, Sep 27: LA Hunting and Fishing Day - BCOS Volunteers Needed, Bodcau Wildlife Management Area

August Meeting Minutes - continued

SWAG: T-shirt and hat samples were at the meeting demonstrating the material for them. T-shirts are \$10 and hats are \$15. There are 2 options for the T-shirts: a heather orange and heather medium green. There will be a pocket logo with an alligator on the front and a full back Go Outside and Play on the back. The hats are a solid khaki material with a Royal logo or a gray hat with mesh with a white logo. We are now taking orders. Sharon W. is taking orders please contact her with your request by email at swindham1513@gmail.com. The orange is more orange than the color below and the green is a little darker than below. The logos on the shirts will be royal blue. We would like to have the shirts ready by our next meeting so please get your requests asap.

New Business:

Sandy made a motion that BCOS participate in the Celebration of the Red River Wildlife Refuge on October 19. The motion was approved. Volunteers will be needed to assist with putting kids in boats.

Jenny announced the passing of one of our long-time members Rick Larned. The service will be held Monday August 23.

Meeting was adjourned.



Royal thread on front of khaki

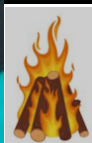
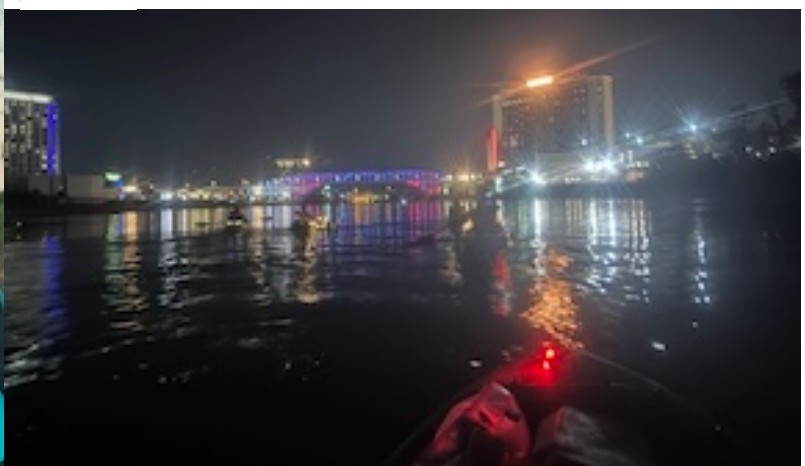


white thread on front of grey/white hats.

Red River Pop Up Paddle - August 23, 2025

By: Mark Robinson

Nine paddlers entered the Red River from 12 Mile Bayou Saturday evening for a short trip to a sandbar. Conditions were perfect for an evening by a campfire. The sandbar was firm, and high enough for a good view of the city lights. Melissa and Lindsay were kind enough to provide root beer floats for everyone to enjoy. We had other boats pull up that provided us with a little canine companionship for a while. When we ran out of wood to burn, we returned to the launch area. A few of our boats were lit up like Christmas trees which made quite a sight on the water. Thanks to all who came and made this such a fun and relaxing event.



Ozark Society Board Meeting Summer 2025

By: Sandy Roerig

The Ozark Society Summer Board meeting was held July 24, 2025 via on-line Zoom. Thirteen Ozark Society members and guests participated. Tammy Jernigan and Sandy Roerig from the Bayou Chapter participated.

President Brian Thompson opened the Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes of the Spring Board meeting were accepted unanimously.

Financial Chair, Neil Shipley, reviewed the financial report. The report was accepted unanimously.

Old Business

Brian reported that both the tree book and the Buffalo River Guide books have been reordered.

Board Reports

Membership: Chair Carolyn Shearman was not present. Brian reported that presently, only 36 paper copies of the Pack & Paddle are being mailed to members, a significant decrease from the more than 200 copies that have been mailed in the past.

Martha Morris, a member of the Pulaski Chapter is the new membership Chair.

Conservation: Co-Chair Alice Andrews reported that the Oklahoma proposal for poultry litter disposal is still unsettled. She also noted that the Arkansas moratorium on hog farms in the Buffalo River drainage area is still in effect.

Co-Chair Tom McClure provided an update on the Flatside Wilderness bill – it passed in the AR House and will likely be sent to a subcommittee in the AR Senate. He encouraged members to write letters of support for this bill. The bill adds 2,200 acres to the wilderness area that is currently over 10,000 acres. The new area would complete the Cedar Creek watershed in the wilderness.

Education: Chair Fred Paillet described an article for the Pack & Paddle about the availability of free memberships in the Ozark Society. The article will emphasize the OS goals of recreation, education and conservation. Tommy Kelly, Secretary, volunteered send links to short videos of Bayou Chapter activities.

Community Engagement: Chair Lowell Collins reported that 9 Youth Grants were funded of the 25 applications that were submitted. The application from Caddo Parish 4-H was significantly restructured and the committee approved the changes. Lowell stated that she is writing an impact report on the grants that were funded in 2024, based on the final reports from the recipients. Stewart Noland suggested that applicants for Youth Grants be given free on-year memberships in the Ozark Society.

Archives: Chair Stewart Noland stated that articles in the Democrat Gazette by Bob Robinson have been well received. Recently, Bob interviewed Welborne Jack III and Joe Nix for future articles.

Climate Change: There was no report from this committee. Chair Jennifer Ailor is resigning as the Missouri State Director.

New Business

Three-year Renewal Option: Brian reviewed a draft proposal that he had distributed to Board members about a 3-year OS membership renewal option. In this proposal, members would have the option for renewing for 3 years, instead of renewing annually, in the current system. There was considerable discussion about the pros and cons of the proposal. Laura Timby made a motion to accept the proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

Possible Future Employee: Brian discussed the fragility of the current Ozark Society as an all-volunteer. He explained the potential positive effect that hiring someone with non-profit experience might bring to the table. A way to fund

Ozark Society Board Meeting Summer 2025- continued

such a position would need to be established. There was general discussion and David Peterson suggested that more information would be needed before a decision could be made. Brian appointed a committee to investigate the proposal: David Peterson, Neil Shipley, Stewart Noland, Tom Perry and Mary Beth McDonald.

Bayou Chapter Issue: Brian had distributed to Board members the following info on the Bayou Chapter

We have a member at the Bayou Chapter who has become disgruntled. There have been hostile emails shared chapter wide. Recently, after deleting other administrators from the Chapter social media page, she published a post slandering other members. We had no ability to remove the content. We succeeded in getting her to delete the Bayou Chapter page in its entirety with the suggestion of legal repercussions.

In recovering, Chapter Chair Tammy Jernigan has put together a new Google Groups distribution list with approval controls. A committee is preparing a new Facebook page, which we will then grow in the Shreveport area with some advertising. Members have expressed relief.

Brian asked the Board to approve his spending up to \$1,000 for legal fees for sending a Cease and Desist letter to the BCOS member, if necessary. Sandy made a motion to approve this expenditure. Motion passed unanimously. It is hoped that such a letter will not be required.

Fall meeting date and location: Lowell Collins announced that the Fall Membership and Board meetings will be held November 7-9 in Bentonville, AR. Hikes and other activities are planned.

Chapter Reports

Bayou Chapter: Chair Tammy Jernigan described Bayou Chapter recent activities: a crawfish boil in May, a tour of Briarwood Nature Preserve, assisting with putting kids in kayaks at Cypress Black Bayou for several weeks, participating in Coast Guard Appreciation Day, paddling on the Mountain Fork River and Dorcheat Bayou, cleanup at Lake Bistineau and plans to help restore the kids play area at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge.

Buffalo River Chapter: Chair Kris McMillan submitted a report that Brian read to the Board.

Highlands Chapter: Chair Tom Perry discussed partnering with the Buffalo River Chapter for the Spring Board meeting – everyone had a great time, except for the paddler who almost drowned, but was rescued by OS members. The Chapter hosted a spring picnic and there were several pop-up floats.

Pulaski Chapter: no report

Schoolcraft Chapter: Chair Dan Chiles discussed the importance of preventing future hog farms on the Buffalo River.

Sugar Creek Chapter: Chair Lowell Collins described wildflower walks in the spring that attracted new members. The Chapter hosts information tables at various community events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Harrell Lake Paddle - August 16, 2025

By: Melissa Leporati

On what was not the hottest day of the year but sure felt like it, 23 paddlers set out in 22 kayaks to explore beautiful Harrell Lake in Louisiana's Union Parish on Saturday, August 16th. The paddlers consisted of folks from BCOS as well as folks from the North Louisiana Kayaking club. Harrell Lake, which is part of the Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge, is absolutely gorgeous. A few paddlers took advantage of the kayak launch available at the put-in. We paddled northwest up a branch of the lake called Dry Creek, winding our way through a myriad of Bald Cypress trees, and we were grateful for the shade they provided. We went as far as we could go up Dry Creek before the water became too shallow and the cypress knees too many, prompting us to turn around and head back to the main lake.

As it turns out, "Dry Creek" is anything but dry, according to Keith's grandson who tumbled out of his boat! Little Griffin reports that the cool lake water felt refreshing, and his grandad got to break out the bilge pump he brought along for such an occasion. We continued our paddle north up Harrell Lake for another mile or so before turning around and heading back to the launch area. On the way back, Mark Robinson caught an impressive largemouth bass with his Snoopy fishing rod! Who knew that little kiddie rod & reel could reel in such a great catch?! Saturday's nearly 4-mile scenic paddle provided us all a generous dose of sunshine and camaraderie on the water. Afterwards, several paddlers went to the Creamery in West Monroe for lunch and ice cream to cool down. A big thank you to Steve Birmingham for planning and leading the paddle.



Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2025

Chair

Tammy Jernigan

bcoschair@ozarksociety.net

Vice-Chair

Sharon Windham

bcos@ozarksociety.net

Secretary

Jenny Hackman

jandgman@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Cindy Brix

membershipchair@ozarksociety.net

Newsletter Editor

Marian Howard

marianehoward@comcast.net

Ozark Society Officers - 2025

Louisiana State Director

Karen Pitts

tuffenufchuck@aol.com

Louisiana State Director

Sandy Roerig

sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu

Classy Ads and Other Stuff

We have a new google groups email at bayouchapter@googlegroups.com. Make sure you're signed up so you can receive the monthly newsletters and the latest info on our events.

River Rat Paddle Challenge: Saturday September 20, 2025 – there is a 3 mile and an 8 mile paddle on the Ouachita River in West Monroe. Join the **Bayou Bandits** for a fun paddle!

The **Ozark Society Fall Meeting** will be held in Bentonville, Arkansas on the weekend of November 7-9. We have a group rate at the Courtyard Marriott. More information in the coming issue of the Pack and Paddle. The special rate for a room with 2 queen beds is 109 USD per night. With taxes and fees, that comes out to about 123 USD per night.

Happy Birthday wishes to the following BCOS members! (If you'd like to be remembered by your BCOS friends in the newsletter, please make sure Roy knows your birthday - roneal2@gmail.com)

Sharon Windham - August 30

Chuck Flores - September 3

Becky Jutze - September 8

Henry Ann Burton - September 10

Ann Holbrook - September 12

Mark Lane and Dick Maxwell - September 16

Kim Cox and Cindy Brix - September 19

Jennifer Konnovitch - September 25

Teresa Coates - October 7

Stephanie Herrmann - October 8

Dennis Watters - October 9

Barbie Halbert - October 10

David Pitts and Nickie Dennis - October 11