



BAYOU BYLINE



April 2026

Calendar of Events

April

- 18 Hike and Ride Bikes in Little Rock - contact is Kim bpccptagirl@gmail.com
- 18 Ozark Society All Society Meeting at Lake DeGray State Park - see Pack and Paddle for details
- 18 Spring Paddle on Lake Bistineau - registration is 9:00 to 9:30, paddles in the water at 10:00. Free food and live music afterwards - contact is Cheryl Pepper Webb at cheryl.pepper.webb@gmail.com
- 18 Bossier Clean Sweep - contact is Phillip at waters_philip@icloud.com - register at keepbossierbeautiful.com
- 21 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - this will be held outdoors at the pavilion at the Refuge boat launch.
- 22 Earth Day Hike at Walter B Jacobs - contact Kim Cox at bpccptagirl@gmail.com

May

- 1 Red River Downtown Paddle - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com
- 2 Annual Crawfish Boil at the Eyer's - Noon to 4 - see enclosed flyer for more info
- 15-16 OWL Trail Maintenance - OWL center in Dubach - contact is Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com
- 19 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm
- 25 Red River Paddle - 10:00 am - Highway 2 at Plain Dealing - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com



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.



Hector Sanchez will be our guest speaker. Hector is a photographer and will share some helpful tips and tricks for outdoor photography!

NOTE: MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE PAVILION BY THE BOAT LAUNCH!

BCOS Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2026

By: Acting Secretary Gary Hackman

Tammy Jernigan called the meeting to order at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge visitor's center with 16 in attendance. Guests were welcomed.

The February, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.



Treasurer's Report – Mark Robinson reported a balance of \$7,368.06 plus \$5.00 in savings. Some of that money is earmarked for the Athens-Big Fork Historical Marker.

Tammy reported that BCOS will have a presentation about bugs and clean waterways at the upcoming Bug Bazaar event at Sci-Port. We will have Leave No Trace cards, a poster with what is beneficial and bad for clean waterways, and a color activity drawing sheet for the kids.

A motion by Sandy Roerig and seconded by Cheryl Webb to spend up to \$150.00 for a table cover with our logo to be used at events was passed.

The executive committee has approval to spend the amount needed for printing and laminating for the Sci-Port event.

Anne Lutz with Walter B. Jacobs nature park gave a presentation about the history and the new building at the park. The new exhibit area is now open to the public and the trails are mostly the same as before the closure.

Past events included the Duck Pond cleanup after Mardi Gras, an orienteering event at Bodcau, and the White Oak Lake State Park weekend with lots of hiking and food. Side trips included the Little Grand Canyon of Arkansas and Poison Springs State Park.

Sandy Roerig reported on the recent meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Four resolutions were discussed and passed by the Federation. They included resolutions concerning the protection of Atlantic tarpon in Louisiana coastal waters, the potential impact of offshore aquaculture, hunting of migratory waterfowl over standing flooded areas, and purple martins in the city of Harahan. Other items discussed were the responsible management of bow fishing and a new bill in the legislature regarding celebratory balloon releases.

Tammy reminded the group about the upcoming workday at the RRNWR kids area.

Door prizes were given out. We have one small and 4 medium BCOS t-shirts left for \$10.00 each. The annual crawfish boil will be May 2 at the Eyler's house for \$20.00 per person.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE BCOS APRIL MEETING FROM VICE CHAIR SHARON WINDHAM

Hector Sanchez will be our guest speaker for our next BCOS meeting. Hector is a photographer by trade and will share some helpful tips and tricks for outdoor photography! This should be interesting to all of us. Who among us does not enjoy snapping pictures of our outdoor excursions with others?! Since this is his "living", in the event he has a last minute conflict in schedule we will all share our own tips of interest with each other. We have several members who have been known to take some exceptional shots!

This will be an outdoor meeting taking place at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge boat launch pavillion - the next right entrance past the Refuge itself. Our business meeting will be brief and all are encouraged to bring a "sharable" snack. For those who are interested, bring your bikes for a fun trail ride and/or kayak to drop into Lake Caroline and play! If you haven't seen the great work recently accomplished on the children's playground, hike or ride over to it and take a look!

Arrive a bit early to unload and set up if you like. Look forward to seeing you all on the 21st!
Sharon

Refuge Nature Play Area - Phase One

By: Tammy Jernigan

Eight BCOS members (David, Tammy, Wayne, Philip, Sandy, Sharon, Misheal and Marian) met at 9:00am at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge on Friday March 20th to start on our Water Safety/Fishing project as a part of the rehabilitation of the Nature Play Area. It wasn't all work and no play as evidenced by the photos. Thanks to Jill Frost for the boat donation, to David, Philip, and Wayne for the heavy lifting and the rest of the team for their various contributions. We had a great team and this project will look even better when it's completed. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Refuge Nature Play Area - Phase Two

By: Tammy Jernigan

BCOS volunteers gathered again on March 25 to work on the Children's Play Area at the Red River National Wildlife Refuge. We added paint, signage, and a roof to the life jacket loaner station. We also placed fishing poles, fish and PFD's for visitors to use.

The final touches will be refreshing the blue rubber mulch that serves as "water" and modifying the boat for drainage. We will be replenishing and repairing the site as needed.

Thanks to everyone who has participated. If you haven't yet checked out this area, please do so. We expect other groups to spruce up their assigned areas soon.



White Oak Lake Weekend Camping Trip

By: Marian Howard

Ten BCOS members spent the weekend at White Oak Lake State Park in Arkansas. The weather was beautiful and we were on the go the entire weekend! We hiked the Coastal Plain Trail 2X (once clockwise and once counterclockwise) and the Beech Ridge Trail 2X (once in the daylight and once in darkness). We had veggie soup, hamburgers and hot dogs for supper on Thursday, a Taco Bar for supper on Friday, and Gumbo, Salad and Garlic Bread for supper Saturday night. There were lots of desserts including pecan pie with Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla Ice cream, a dutch oven cobbler and brownies. We always eat good at BCOS events and sit around a campfire each night playing trivia and just enjoying each other's company. On Saturday afternoon, we visited Poison Springs Battleground State Park and the Arkansas Little Grand Canyon. Thanks to all who shared in a wonderful weekend!





Bayou Chapter, Ozark Society

Annual Crawfish Boil

Saturday May 2, 2026

Noon - 4:00 pm



Steve and Grace Eyer's Home

126 Peterson Dr.

Benton, LA 71006

Bring whatever you want to drink, lawn chairs, awning for shade, dessert to share.

Grace - 318-455-7148

Steve - 318-458-6234

Directions: If coming from Shreveport/Bossier:

North on Benton Road (Hwy 3)

Turn Right at light on Hwy 162

Approximately 5 miles, turn Left on Sirman Road

Turn Left on Peterson Drive, 1st gravel road, and go to the end of the road to the last house on the right.

Send \$20 per person (checks payable to Bayou Chapter Ozark Society) to:

Mark Robinson

5432 Benton Road

Bossier City, La 71111

Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Chair

Tammy Jernigan
bayouchair@ozarksociety.net

Vice-Chair

Sharon Windham
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Secretary

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Treasurer

Mark Robinson
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Conservation Chair

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Conservation Liaison

Roy O'Neal
royoneal2@gmail.com

Activities Chair

Kim Cox
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Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Louisiana State Director

Karen Pitts
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Louisiana State Director

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