



BAYOU BYLINE



May 2026

Calendar of Events

May

- 15-16 OWL Trail Maintenance - OWL center in Dubach - contact is Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com
- 19 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Jenny Hackman will present a program on Trail First Aid
- 23 Dorcheat Bayou Paddle - 9:30 am at Dixie Inn - contact Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com
- 25 Red River Paddle - 10:00 am - Highway 2 at Plain Dealing - contact Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com or Mark at mariomark14@yahoo.com

June

- 4 1st of 4 Wild Child Camps in June - see note on right side of page for more information
- 13 Black Bayou Paddle - 9:30 am - contact Mark at mariomark14@yahoo.com
- 19 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm
- 27 Bike Ride at Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Karnack, Texas - 9:30 am - contact Marian at marianehoward@comcast.net

July

- 12 Sunrise Triathlon - 6:30 am on Cross Lake - provide safety boats - contact Roy at royoneal2@gmail.com
- 18 Ouachita River Paddling - 9:00 am at Pencil Bluff in Arkansas - contact Stephanie mssteph44@yahoo.com
- 21 Brandy Branch Paddle in Marshall - 9:30 am - contact Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com
- 21 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm



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.



Jenny Hackman will present a program on Trail First Aid

Wild Child Camps

Every Thursday in June from 8:30 am to 11:00 am - contact Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com or David at tjerni88@hotmail.com

Supervise kids paddling and getting in/out of boats at Bodcau Campground

BCOS Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2026

By: Secretary Jenny Hackman

Meeting was called to order by Tammy J at 6:30pm

March meeting minutes were approved as written in the newsletter, 1st Barbie H, 2nd Wayne K.

Treasurer Report: Mark R reported that there is \$6172 in checking account and \$5 in savings account. There are 128 active members. Athens-Big Fork sign has been paid for and is being manufactured currently. It will be mailed to the mall and will be installed. It will have the history of the Athens-Big Fork trail. There is \$517 left from the money that was earmarked for the sign.



Crawfish Boil: May 2nd, send money to Mark R.

Red River Wildlife Refuge project: may be able to place benches in the play area

Wayne spoke about kayak maintenance:

- All of the club boats, life jackets, and paddles were washed and organized this past week.
- May want to spray the inside of boats with raid to get rid of spiders and bugs and then wash it out prior to getting into it.
- Check the handles on the front and back due to breakage and tighten screws
- Check the bungie straps to see if they are still working
- Check the eyelets to see if they need to be replaced
- Check seat straps to make sure that they can still be adjusted and stay in place
- Check foot pegs to make sure they are the correct distance and hold in place
- Check seats, the seats may be made more comfortable by placing a cushion or stadium seat on top of the seat.
- If your seat leans back you may want to try to place a pool noodle on the back edge to make it more comfortable
- Check paddle splash guard as they wear out, need to be repositioned, check grips and adjust as needed
- Can add cup holders to the boat

Wayne reported that a work weekend at the OWL is set for May 15 and 16. The bunk house has been reserved and there are 40 to 50 beds. On Friday, there will be work from 1 to 3 or 4 pm. Saturday will be 9 to 12 noon. Friday night there will be a pot luck cookout. Bring lunch for Saturday. Last year, the OWL provided pizza and is not sure if this will occur or not.

All Society Meeting: Tammy J went to the meeting. There are 126 active members in our chapter. There are 6 chapters. We have been asked to have a sign in sheet for all of our activities.

Bug Bazar: There were 1500 visitors

Lake Bistineau/Webster Parish Paddle: There were over 100 participants. Amy from Webster Parish tourism sent a thank you note which Tammy read.

Tammy J announced that on Thursday morning a new kayak rental company will start renting kayaks for use at Cypress Lake. There may be a need to put in a paddle trail from the launch to the bayou channel from highway 162 kayak launch.

We have done 4 water paddle trails so far.

Tammy reported that at the Cypress Lake boat launches that if your boat doesn't have a motor, there is no fee to launch a boat.

Tammy reported that the chapter kayaks will be stored at Bodcau. She will check with Gary on how to borrow a boat from Bodcau. The boats will be stored inside.

Upcoming events at Bodcau: Kids camp every Thursday in June, Wildlife and Fishing Day in September

Lake Claiborne has new pavilions and covers over picnic tables at the beach

Moonlight paddle is scheduled for May 1, Friday.

There is a new manager at the RRWR. To use equipment for maintenance, you need to sign a release. Contact Tammy for the release form.

Door prizes were handed out.

Meeting was adjourned.



Earth Day Hike At Walter B. Jacobs

By: Kim Cox

15 BCOS members celebrated Earth Day by enjoying some hiking and nature center exploring at Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park on Wednesday April 22nd. Despite the pesky mosquitoes the group had a great time spotting deer and really cool plants and insects along the trails. After the hike they admired the eagles/ owls and toured the amazing new nature center. If you haven't made a visit to this park since their renovation/ expansion you need to make plans to go it's fabulous!! Thanks to all who came out to celebrate with us today!



Kayak Wash Day

By: Tammy Jernigan

We put out a "call to arms" and 8 workers responded. Well, at least the retirees (or partial retirees) did.

David, Tammy, Barbie, Marian, Wayne, Roy, Mark and Gary spiffed up 12 kayaks, over 40 PFDs and a dozen paddles on Monday April 20th. We fixed straps, replaced footpegs and dodged Roy's sneaky spraying techniques. Tools of the trade included towels, shop vacs, blowers and brushes.

Afterwards we feasted on mustard-less and mayonnaise-less burgers and boudin. The kayak trailer is now in presentable shape for its new home. Thanks for those that came out to help!



Bug Bazaar - April 11, 2026

By: Tricia Grayson

The Bayou Chapter had a fantastic time participating in Sci-Port's Bug Bazaar on April 11, which welcomed more than 1,500 visitors—making it the largest turnout in the event's history. We were especially encouraged to hear from Sci-Port leadership that community partner exhibits, like ours, received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

A big part of the excitement was the appearance of Coyote Peterson of Brave Wilderness, whose energetic and engaging online videos and passion for wildlife and conservation helped draw a large crowd and amplify messages about caring for the natural world.

Our table stayed busy throughout the entire event, with a steady stream of kids eager to take on the "River Detective" challenge and learn how insects can tell us about water quality. It was exciting to see so much curiosity and engagement, and even more rewarding to connect with parents about our mission, upcoming outings, and ways to get involved. We were also pleased to have several teachers take our activity sheets to use in their classrooms, extending the impact of the event beyond the day itself.

Special thanks to our volunteers for the day: Mishael Burney, Tricia Grayson, Barbie Halbert, Sandy Roerig and Tammy Jernigan.

Events like this are a great reminder that when people—especially young people—are given the chance to explore and learn about nature in a hands-on way, it sparks a lasting interest in protecting it.



Webster Parish Paddle on Bistineau

BCOS was well represented at the Webster Parish Paddle at Lake Bistineau on Saturday April 18th. The weather couldn't have been any better with cloudy skies and a slight cool breeze. We finished the 5 mile course in around 2 hours, give or take. Afterwards we were treated to a fish fry and music at the pavilion.

Special thanks to David Jernigan for clearing a pathway thru the salvinia, Mark Robinson for leading the paddle and Mishael Burney and Roy O'Neal for being the sweep boats. There were over 100 boats at the start of the paddle and a dozen or so others who were late and joined in after we started. Well done, Webster Parish!



Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Chair

Tammy Jernigan
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Vice-Chair

Sharon Windham
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Secretary

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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

Sandy Roerig
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BCOS members at Walter B. Jacobs Nature Park celebrating Earth Day 2026!