



BAYOU BYLINE



June 2026

Calendar of Events

June

- 13 Black Bayou Paddle - 9:30 am - contact Mark at mariomark14@yahoo.com
- 16 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Captain Ron of Captain Ron's Swamp Tours out of Uncertain, Texas
- 18 3rd off 4 Wild Child Camps in June - see note on right side of page for more information
- 25 4th of 4 Wild Child Camps in June - see note on right side of page for more information
- 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
- 24 Lower Mountain Fork Paddle - Join us for paddling on Lower Mountain Fork/Presbyterian Falls near Broken Bow, OK! Contact is Jill at rubyriver105@gmail.com

August

- 2 Safety Boats for River Cities Triathlon - Cypress Black Bayou Park - 6:00 am - contact is Tammy at Tjerni88@hotmail.com
- 18 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.



Speaker is Captain Ron of Captain Ron's Swamp Tours out of Uncertain, Texas. Read more about this on page 7.

BCOS Meeting Minutes - May 19, 2026

By: Secretary Jenny Hackman

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

Visitors were welcomed.



Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter by a motion made by Wayne K and 2nd by Phillip W. No one opposed

Treasurer Report: Mark R

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF April 30, 2026: \$6,172

SAVINGS BALANCE AS OF April 30, 2026 \$5.00

John Sefcik with the Bayou State Trail was invited to speak about the Bayou State Trail which is a long distance hiking trail across LA. The website is bayoustatetrail.com. LA is 1 of 3 states without a long distance hiking trail. The trail goes from Ivan Lake to Morgan City and is just under 500 miles. There is a book that has been written about it called **Captain Jack Takes a Hike**. 57% of the trail is non paved. They are still building the trail. Currently there are no markers or a formal trail head. In the Fall, there is a plan to take long day hikes of 5, 10, and 15 mile hikes. The Facebook page is called Bayou State Trail.

Wayne K spoke about paddling and volunteer opportunities:

In June every Thursday at the Bodcau Campground from 8:30 to 11:00 am - 8 to 10 volunteers are needed to assist with the Wild Child Camp that is being hosted by Caddo Parish

May 23: Saturday a paddle schedule on Dorcheat Bayou at Dixie Inn at 10:00. Shuttle will be run at 9:15 to Sibley. It is a 6.1 mile and will take 2 to 2.5 hours. Watch Facebook and email due to questionable weather forecast

May 25: Monday a Red River paddle, put in at Hwy 2 bridge in Plain Dealing, paddle north to a sandbar, eat lunch and paddle south to the takeout/put in.

Wayne wants to start back the Tuesday evening paddles for about an hour with put-in about 5:30 or 6:00 and off by 7:00

Past Outing at the OWL: maintenance was done. Wayne thanked those who were able to make the event. They got several miles of the trail cleared for the horse riding. They got to feed the animals and had fun.

Presentation by Jenny H on First aid and outing preparedness

Conservation Report presented by Sandy R:

Red-cockaded woodpecker lives in mature pine forests in the southeastern US. It risks becoming endangered due to the loss of habitat. The longleaf pine trees: In LA, AL, and TX there is a pine cone count for the longleaf pine. Each pinecone has 50-100 seeds and the cones are 6 to 10 inches long. 37 year old trees are the most productive and will have more that 100 pine cones per tree. In LA in 2024, more than 6,600 acres of planting took place.

Meeting was adjourned.



Wild Child Camp #1 - June 4, 2026

Wild Child Camp #1 at Bodcau was a big success this morning! 10 BCOS members - Wayne, Roy, Gary, Marian, Jill, Teresa, Cheryl, Misheal, Mark and Barbie - showed up at 8:30am and put about 25 kids and counselors in kayaks and provided basic instruction and safety measures for kayaking. The Wild Child Camps are sponsored by Walter B Jacobs Nature Center. The kids were split into 2 groups, while one group was kayaking the other one was learning archery. Thanks to all who came out this morning to work with the kids. Way to go, BCOS!



Memorial Day Paddle on the Red

17 BCOS members celebrated Memorial Day by paddling on the Red River. We had 14 kayaks, 1 tandem canoe and a paddleboard. We put in at the Hwy 2 bridge over the Red River at 10:00am. There was a stiff headwind and we paddled upstream to a sand bar and sat around and talked and played catch with a softball and gloves. Around 1:30pm we started to hear thunder so we headed back to the takeout. Luckily we paddled with the current and everyone made it back safely. Thanks to Wayne Kiefer for organizing and leading this event. We are so blessed to live in this country - Home of the Free Because of the Brave!!!



OWL Trail Maintenance Weekend

By: Wayne Kiefer

On the weekend of May 15-16 BCOS visited the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center in Dubach to do community service. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped out on Friday and Saturday - Wayne Kiefer, Misheal Burney, Mark Robinson, Roy O'Neal, Becky Jutze, Larry Moore, Melissa Leporati, and Eden and Ava Foster, Wayne's grandkids. This work is very important to the staff and student riders there. We have done this for a handful of years now. It gets easier each year due to our understanding of how to maintain the trails. Thanks to the Owl staff for sharing the experience with us and providing the bunk house and lunch on Saturday.



OWL Trail Maintenance - Well done, BCOS!!!



Pop Up - Pour Down Paddle on Cypress

Friday evening May 29th, 8 BCOS paddlers (Wayne, Roy, Mark, Marian, Jill, Carla, Nickie and Brandon) put in at the Highway 162 boat launch on Cypress Lake. It was cloudy but there was no rain in the forecast. WRONG! It waited until we were pretty far from the take out to start pouring down. We tried to catch a little shelter under the trees but it was raining so hard that the trees didn't provide any cover. It kept up for almost 30 minutes before 4 of us decided to head back and 4 paddled a little further. We all made it out safely, soaking wet but having enjoyed the experience. Thanks to Wayne for organizing and leading this pop up paddle.



KAYAK
MORE
WORRY
LESS



Wild Child Camp #2 - June 11, 2026

Wild Child Camp #2 was another big success! 11 BCOS members showed up to help teach the kids basic paddling techniques - Wayne, Mark, Philip, Grace, Teresa, Gary, Jenny, Cheryl, Micheal, Sharon and Marian. Temps were pretty warm but overcast skies and a slight breeze helped cool things off a little. Thanks to Wayne for taking the lead on this and to everyone who gave up their morning to help out. We have two more Wild Child Camps on the 18th and 25th of this month and we would love for you to come out and help. We are BCOS Proud!



Here's more about our June Speaker from Sharon Windham!

Join us for our next BCOS meeting June 16th as we welcome Captain Ron Holloman of Captain Ron's Swamp Tours out of Uncertain, Texas. While these swamp tours have been conducted for over 15 years, Captain Ron - current owner/operator- has been in operation for over 5 years. These pontoon boat tours are extremely popular and well known in the area; and was awarded the Travelers Choice Award in 2024 by Trip Advisor.

Caddo Lake is a natural lake with over 26,000 acres - managed and protected by the Caddo Lake Institute. Caddo Lake houses abundant forms of wildlife, majestic bald cypress trees, various fish and alligators. Most known as home to the paddlefish - the oldest surviving animal species in America!

You won't want to miss this fascinating presentation - including the history - of a treasure in our own backyard! Look forward to seeing you there.

Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Chair

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Vice-Chair

Sharon Windham
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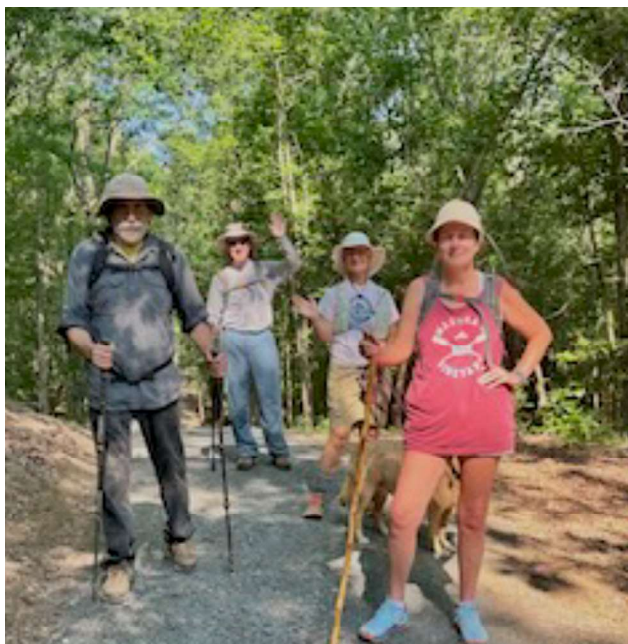
Ozark Society Officers - 2026

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Louisiana State Director

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**Pop Up Hike at 1North Adventure Trails
May 31st**

