



BAYOU BYLINE



August 2026

Calendar of Events

August

18 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - No speaker.
We'll have a planning meeting and plan out the calendar for the rest of 2026.

28 Moonlight Paddle - Location TBA - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com

September

5 Castle Tree Paddle at Chemin-a-Haut - Contact TBA

6 Irwin Lake Paddle - contact is Melissa Leporati at melissa_axb@yahoo.com

15 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm

26 National Hunting and Fishing Day at Bodcau - Tom Merrill Recreation Area - 9:00am to 2:00pm - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com

October

17 Red River National Wildlife Refuge Celebration - 10:00am to 2:00pm - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com

20 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm

November

17 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm

December

6 BCOS Annual Christmas Party at Red River National Wildlife Refuge. White Elephant Gift Exchange and Ugly Sweater Contest.



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.



No Speaker this month!
We'll have a planning meeting and fill out the calendar for the remainder of 2026!

BCOS Meeting Minutes - June 16, 2026

By: Acting Secretary Kim Cox

**1. Call to Order & Welcome**

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Member Share: Kim brought a generous amount of fresh garden produce (okra, peppers, and squash) to share with members, provided by her father, Fred Rankin.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: A motion was made by Grace to accept the minutes from the June meeting as published in the newsletter.

Second: Barbie

Outcome: Approved unanimously.

3. Officer & Organizational Reports

Treasurer's Report (Mark)

Account Balance: Current checking account balance stands at \$6,254.52.

Debit Card Security Update: Mark reported a recent unauthorized fraudulent charge of \$50-\$60 on the chapter debit card. Mark and the bank are investigating to reverse the charges and issue a new card.

Ozark Society Governance Update (Tammy)

Designation Review: Discussions at the regional Ozark Society meeting centered on whether local groups should be titled an "Affiliate" or a "Chapter."

Recommendation: It is recommended that the group officially be designated as a Chapter.

Financial & Legal Benefits: Operating as a Chapter places the group under the main Ozark Society's tax ID, maintaining non-profit status and eliminating the need to file separate taxes (which an Affiliate group would be required to do).

Responsibilities: Fulfilling the Ozark Society mission and submitting an annual financial report to the main body.

Action Taken: Sandy made a motion that the group pursue official designation as a CHAPTER (rather than an Affiliate group). Motion seconded by Barbie. Approved unanimously by all in attendance.

Conservation Report (Sandy)

Carbon Capture (Part 2 - Individual Action): Sandy presented the second part of her presentation on carbon capture, shifting focus to actionable steps for individuals:

Agriculture & Nature: Growing cover crops, planting trees, and supporting ocean/marsh preservation.

Energy Efficiency: Recommended thermostat settings (78°F in summer, 67°F in winter); switching off lights/fans; unplugging inactive devices.

Waste Reduction: Choosing reusables over disposables and recycling (noted that Best Buy accepts old electronics for recycling).

Fuel Conservation: Obeying speed limits, carpooling, keeping tire pressure correct, washing laundry in cold water, and walking or cycling.

Low-Water Dams Hazard Update: Sandy reported on a recent Ozark Society Zoom meeting concerning low-water dams/slab bridges. Three fatalities occurred this year due to hydraulics below these structures, in addition to harmful ecological impacts. Proposed solutions include filling sub-dam spaces with rock materials or replacing slab bridges with raised span bridges.

4. Past Events Recap (Tammy)

Sunrise Triathlon Safety Boating: Led by Marian, 14 members volunteered to ensure swimmer safety throughout the event.

Bodcau Pop-up Paddles: Wayne led two successful pop-up paddle trips in July.

Wild Child Camps: Held every Thursday in June at Bodcau, educating 80+ youth on kayaking. A big thank you to all volunteers who assisted!

Caddo Lake Bike Ride: Led by Marian, followed by lunch at Big Pine Lodge.

July Meeting Minutes - continued**5. Upcoming Events & Activities**

Lower Mountain Fork Paddle: Saturday, July 25, 2026 (Trip Leader: Jill Frost).

Roy O'Neal's 88th Birthday: Saturday, July 25, 2026 — Happy Birthday, Roy!

Caddo River Tubing: Weekend of August 1, 2026 at Caddo Valley/Arkadelphia (Trip Leader: Tammy).

Castle Tree Paddle: Saturday, September 5, 2026 (Led by Paddling Morehouse Parish).

Lake Irwin Paddle: Sunday, September 6, 2026 in Morehouse Parish (Trip Leader: Melissa L.).

River Rat Paddle Challenge (Monroe): Saturday, September 19, 2026. The "Bayou Bandits" team is reforming. Options include an 8-mile race or the 3-mile "Minnie Mouse" course.

Bodcau Hunting/Fishing Day: Last Saturday of September. Expecting 250+ participants; volunteers needed for fitting life jackets and assisting paddlers.

Red River Wildlife Refuge Event: 3rd Saturday of October. Volunteers needed to assist with boat handling and lake supervision.

6. General Announcements & Other News

Refuge Mural Project: Bossier Technical School students are currently working on a mural for the children's activity stage at the Refuge.

Refuge Grounds Maintenance: Volunteers are needed for mowing and weed-eating. (Special thanks to Michele for recently weed-eating the children's area). Contact Tammy if interested.

Paddle Trail Signage: Cypress Black-Bayou purchased signs for the north end of the lake marking the route through Cypress Bayou to the heron nesting trees. BCOS members will install/mark the trails soon.

BCOS Swag Orders: Long-sleeve t-shirts and caps will be ordered soon. Sharon is heading up the order and will provide details shortly.

LA Wildlife Federation Support: BCOS will support LWF legislative efforts focused on coastal conservation and reducing habitat loss.

Free Memberships: The chapter can grant three free 1-year memberships. Contact Tammy with candidate recommendations.

Safety Alert: Marian shared that member Tom's dog, Penny, was recently bitten by a copperhead on the 1North trails. Members are advised to stay vigilant for snakes while hiking with pets.

7. Door Prizes & Adjournment

Door Prizes:

Sandy — Suet Feeder

Phillip — Birdhouse

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Broken Bow Weekend - July 24-26, 2026

By: Jill Frost

After arriving at the VRBO Friday evening we made an executive decision to completely dodge the bumper-to-bumper circus of Hochatown, opting instead for the peaceful vibes of Broken Bow. We made a quick trip to Roma's Italian Restaurant to load up on carbs. Afterwards, Melissa taught several of us the very entertaining game of Quiplash. The goal is to be the most clever and humorous with our answers...so you know we had a lot of laughs over the competition. Suffice it to say, Jimothy won!

Saturday morning, fifteen BCOS members and friends took on the Lower Mountain Fork River-thirteen in kayaks and two choosing a rubber tube against nature's rocky obstacles. The river was running low, which meant several overly aggressive rocks decided to turn our float into a low-speed obstacle course. Still, the cool water was an absolute gift.

Our VRBO was so close to the river, we practically rolled out of bed into the water. We spent Saturday afternoon swimming, floating, fishing and politely judging the techniques of other paddlers going by. Saturday night we spent our time relaxing at the house, playing more games and devouring tacos.

Now for an important announcement: Next summer, we are launching an official GoFundMe for Tammy before we head to Oklahoma. It turns out the river has a personal vendetta against her and demands an annual sacrifice. On Saturday evening, the river mysteriously surged and made off with a paddleboard, paddle, PFD and David's pocket knife. There was a report of a large carp riding a paddleboard downstream while wielding a pocket knife, but that was not confirmed.





Bodcau Bayou Paddle - July 19th

By: Mark Robinson

Six paddlers set off from Bodcau Dam boat launch towards highway 157 at 4:00pm on Sunday the 19th. The air was hot but there was ample shade along the edges until we reached the canopy of the trees. A slight current kept us moving as the water was high from recent rains. A good time was had by all. Thanks to David for running shuttle!

**Ozark Society Board Meeting - July 23, 2026**

By: Tammy Jernigan

The Ozark Society Board meeting took place on July 23, 2026. Old business consisted of completion of the Pryor Center Oral History Project.

Board reports were presented by those chairs present.

New Business included the Affiliate versus Chapter discussion. The Board voted unanimously for all chapters to be Chapters. Guidelines and reporting requirements will be forthcoming.

The OS Board Vice President position may be open if anyone is interested in serving in that role.

The Fall OS meeting will be at Buffalo Point on November 13-14. It will be a pot luck event. There is no hosting chapter. Group site 4 is reserved if you want to tent camp. A field trip will be taken to the Panther Creek property which was recently acquired and renamed the Hill Hamilton Preserve.

Chapter reports were presented and meeting adjourned.

Bayou Chapter Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Chair

Tammy Jernigan

bayouchair@ozarksociety.net

Vice-Chair

Sharon Windham

bcos@ozarksociety.net

Secretary

Jenny Hackman

jandgman@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Mark Robinson

membershipchair@ozarksociety.net

Communications Chair

Tricia Grayson

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Conservation Chair

Sandy Roerig

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Conservation Liaison

Roy O'Neal

royoneal2@gmail.com

Activities Chair

Kim Cox

bpccptagirl@gmail.com

Ozark Society Officers - 2026

Louisiana State Director

Karen Pitts

tuffenufchuck@aol.com

Louisiana State Director

Sandy Roerig

sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu

August Meeting and Shirt/Hat Order

By: Sharon Windham

For our August meeting we will conduct a "planning meeting"; allowing all members to suggest/ participate as we plan our calendar. Come prepared to offer your suggestions for favorite activities - be it a hike, kayak experience or bike ride. Any community events you are interested in are up for consideration as well.

Bring your calendars and let's have fun as we book upcoming events! Bring a snack to share! We can munch and share our ideas!

Looking forward to lots of great ideas and volunteers to lead the events!

Shirt/Hat Order - We'll be placing an order for long sleeve shirts made out of the same comfy material as the last t-shirt order. You have your choice between **Burgundy and Cream**. The cost will be \$15 each for sizes S - 2XL. Larger sizes will be \$17.

We'll also be placing an order for the **Khaki hats** that sold out so quickly the last time we ordered them. Cost for the hats will be \$16.