



BAYOU BYLINE



September 2026

Calendar of Events

September

- 15 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm - Speaker TBA
- 19 River Rat Paddle Challenge - Ouachita River in West Monroe - Contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com
- 26 National Hunting and Fishing Day at Bodcau - Tom Merrill Recreation Area - 9:00am to 2:00pm - contact Tammy at tjerni88@hotmail.com

October

- 3 Camping in Jefferson, Texas - contact Wayne at wkiefer59@gmail.com
- 10 Red River Paddle - contact Jerry Bertrand at jeb1954@gmail.com
- 17 Red River National Wildlife Refuge Celebration - 10:00am to 2:00pm - contact Sandy at sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu
- 20 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm

November

- 7 Camping at Crater of Diamonds in Murfreesboro, Arkansas - Contact Misheal Burney at mardigrasdogs@bellsouth.net
- 14 Ozark Society Fall Meeting at Buffalo Point - contact Sandy at sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu
- 17 Monthly Meeting at RRNWR - 6:30 pm
- 21 Cross Lake Supermoon Paddle - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Richard Fleming Park
- 27 Grand Ecore Paddle - contact Tammy Jernigan 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.



Speaker - TBA

BCOS Meeting Minutes - August 18, 2026

By: Secretary Jenny Hackman



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

Minutes were approved as written in the newsletter by Philip W and 2nd by Misheal B

BCOS Long sleeve T-Shirts will be ordered. There will be a front pocket logo with the alligator and the Get Outside and Play full back. The color options are cream and burgundy. The shirts are \$15. (\$2 extra for 2XL and 3XL). Orders are being taken for khaki hats which are \$16. Contact Sharon or Mark to place orders and to pay for the shirts and/or hats.

Treasurer Report: Checking: \$6,406.99 and \$5.00 in savings. There is an outstanding \$250.00 check that hasn't been cashed yet.

Tammy J: Registration for the 2026 River Rat Paddle Challenge ends on Monday September 14th. There are 2 course lengths - 8 miles and a 3 mile Minnie Mouse Course.

Kids play area at the Red River Wildlife Refuge update by Tammy J: The mural at the stage was completed by Bossier Technical School. There is a new arbor at the entrance to the kids play area.

Cypress Black Bayou has purchased signs for the new paddle trail at the highway 162. The trail leads to the Bayou at the rookery. An email will be sent out prior to putting up the water trail markers.

Following the above announcements, there was a planning meeting. The activities have been posted on the website.

Volunteers will be needed for the Bodcau Hunting and Fishing Day on September 26 and at the Red River Wildlife Refuge for the Refuge Celebration on October 17.

3 officers will be term ended in December. The offices that will be open are Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. If you would like to volunteer or have questions regarding the job duties please feel free to contact the current officers or the nominating committee. The nominations committee are Wayne K, Jill F and Kim C. The basic duties are the chairperson runs the meetings, the vice chairperson sets up speakers and the secretary records the minutes. The chairperson becomes part of the Ozark Society board which has 4 meetings a year. Two of the meetings are by zoom. A proxy can be sent in your place to an in-person meeting if you are not able to make the meeting.

There are 3 standing committees which are communication committee, conservation committee, and activities committee. Volunteers are always welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Message From Our Chair Tammy.....

At the BCOS October meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of potential candidates for the 2027 BCOS Board of Directors. The job descriptions for the elected positions are listed below. The Ozark Society will also choose two Louisiana State representatives for their Board based on recommendations made by the BCOS Board.

If you are interested in an Officer position, please make sure that a member of the Nominating Committee is aware - Wayne Kiefer, Jill Frost and/or Kim Cox will make sure that your name is submitted.

Chair - Manages the organization by facilitating meetings, communicating with members, the community and other organizations. Also serves on the Ozark Society Board of Directors.

Vice Chair - Serves as Chair in Chair's absence and arranges monthly meeting speaker or activity. Assists Chair with projects and activities.

Secretary - Prepares monthly meeting minutes and organization correspondence.

Treasurer - Keeps the organization's financial records and presents a monthly report for members.

Louisiana State Directors (2) - maintains a relationship with the Ozark Society to ensure compatibility of goals and objectives

The Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions will be voted on in November. We look forward to new faces in these positions. Note that current office holders will be available to help with the transition and the accomplishment of goals in 2027 and beyond.

Caddo Lake Trifecta

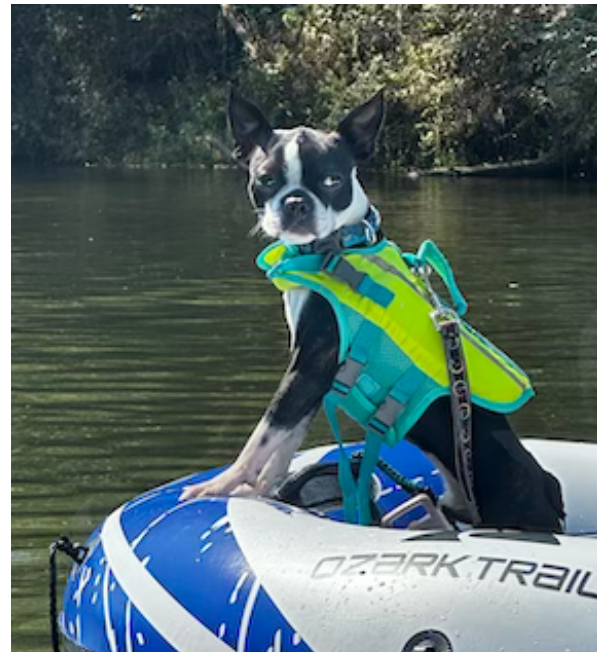
By: Tammy Jernigan

We had a record crowd at our Labor Day float on the Caddo River. Twenty-three fun loving folks tackled a 100 degree day with a cool lazy river and a variety of inflatables and kayaks.

It was a rarity to see water coming over the lower Lake DeGray spillway which resulted in a wonderful current for the majority of the three-mile paddle. We paused at three gravel bars to frolic in the cool clear water. The last stop was at the rope swing where the young made big splashes while the less adventurous cheered them on.

After four hours on the water, some of us were starved and hit Las Agaves restaurant the sits next door to the Caddo River Rats takeout. Today was the last day of their season.

I'm thrilled that we had a lot of rookie floaters this time. Sharing a special place makes the day that much more memorable. Come make memories with BCOS soon!!



Mid-Week Dorcheat Paddle

By: Tammy Jernigan

13 BCOS members were up bright and early at Roy's instruction for a morning paddle on Tuesday August 18th at Bayou Dorcheat. We had a nice breeze and shade for the majority of the 6.5 mile paddle which is a treat at this time of year. The 3.5 hour paddle from Dixie Inn to Sibley was fairly speedy given that there was zero current.

While all of the party didn't get to make the paddle (Roy and his sons had to forego the exertion), those that did enjoyed seeing some pretty sand bars, an alligator and a huge fish that identified as several different species.

After the paddle, we gathered at Los Compas restaurant for what has become a traditional post-paddle lunch.

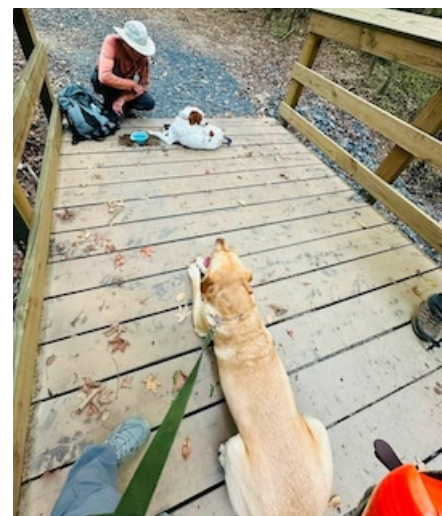


Pop-Up Hike at 1North

By: Marian Howard

Four BCOS members and two pups met at 1North Adventure Trails at 6:45am Saturday morning September 5th to hike the 4.6 mile Soda Lake Loop Trail. Temps were around 80 degrees but we were sick of waiting on fall temps to start hiking again. There were new additions since the last time we hiked there, including many impressive bridges and sturdy benches spaced around the many trails.

1North is awesome and we'll be scheduling many hikes out there this fall. Come join us on the next one!



Caddo River Float - August 22, 2026

By: Tammy Jernigan

At the conclusion of our Caddo Valley River float in early August the most asked question was when can we do it again. It didn't take long to schedule a sequel.

On Saturday August 22nd, we had kayaks, tubes and paddle boards galore. 10 BCOS members either camped on Lake DeGray or drove up for the day. Those who camped at Edgewood Campground swam or paddled in Lake DeGray Friday evening and were treated to a stunning sunset.

The river was as refreshing as it had been earlier in the month. The lower Caddo River is always a good choice as it is controlled by released water from Lake DeGray. That means that the water is always cool and has a current. Join us next time and have a great adventure!



BCOS FUN!!



Moonlight Float on Dorcheat - Friday August 28th

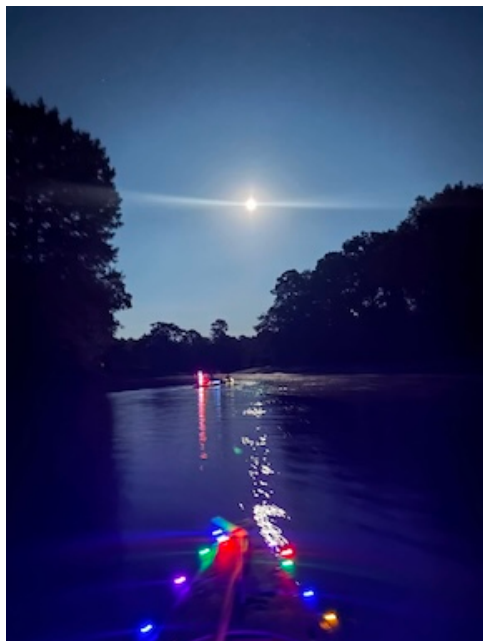
By: Tammy Jernigan

Fourteen folks braved the bayou night to paddle Dorcheat Bayou on Friday August 28th. We were prepared with food, drink, lights and insect repellent.

Just south of the launch, we encountered some salvinia, but it was not compacted - easy to paddle through - and quickly cleared. About 1.5 miles into the paddle, we found a nice flat sandbar that became our rest stop for about an hour. We had Down Home sausage, sliders, popcorn, root beer floats(!), cookies and trail mix to replenish us for the paddle back upstream.

Just as we packed to head back to the launch, the moon peaked over the trees. While we had some dark spots on the paddle back, our colorful kayaks helped keep everyone together. We did have some challenges, but our group pulled together to help each other and our teamwork made the dream work.

Thanks to all that came out. Night paddles always require some adventurous spirit, but it's a great way to ease out of your comfort zone. Especially when we have such a great group of supportive members. See y'all next time.



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

triciagrayson@bellsouth.net

Conservation Chair

Sandy Roerig

sandra.roerig@lsuhs.edu

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



Moonlighting

with BCOS!

Left - Kayaks all
lit up

Right - Melissa
making root
beer floats

