

September 2026

Paddle Trails

The Ozark Society Pulaski Chapter Newsletter



ozarksociety.net

Upcoming Chapter Meeting

September Potluck!!

July 17

Date: Tuesday, Sept 1



Time: 6:00 pm



Location:

Pinnacle Mountain Big
Maumelle Pavilion

Pulaski Chapter Officers

Chair - Ann Owen

Vice Chair - Rick Owen

Treasurer - Charles Mullins

Outings Co-Chairs - Tommie
Kelly, Mary Heller

**Membership & Newsletter
Chair** - Stacey Svendsen

Conservation Co-Chairs —
Alice Andrews, John Fletcher

Hospitality - Vicki Jett

Nominating - Mary Schlatterer,
Janet Nye, David Peterson

At-large Board Members -
Janet Nye, Alan Nye

A Word from Our Chair

As summer winds down, my thoughts are of all things fall – hiking, backpacking, and our Annual Potluck at Pinnacle Mountain! We will gather for the dinner/meeting/gear swap at 6 pm, but new this year is a guided kayaking trip from 4-6 pm.



Pinnacle Interpreter Matthew Friant will be guiding our paddling excursion, which will launch from the Maumelle Pavilion area, and over dinner, he will give us an update on Pinnacle Mountain. Start saving your gently used items for the outdoor clothing and gear sale. For the float trip, please text your RSVP to Tommie Kelly at 501-658-4595.

Ann Owen, Chair

OZARK SOCIETY PULASKI CHAPTER SEPTEMBER POTLUCK

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1
6:00 PM

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK,
BIG MAUMELLE RIVER PAVILION



Remember to bring a dish to share, your own plate, drink, and utensils.

In addition to the potluck, this meeting will also include our annual "Gear Swap". Bring your gently used items to donate, and then shop the donations on a pay-what-you-want basis! Acceptable items include (but

Treasurer's Report

As of August 5, 2026

As I will be traveling, I am providing an updated Treasurer's Report as of August 5. I will provide the next report at our September meeting.

A check for \$6,639.96 from the Arkansas Times fundraiser was sent to and received by the Arkansas Community Foundation. An additional \$100 donation was received afterward and will also be sent to the Foundation.

We also received a \$150 membership payment from the Ozark Society, and Ann Owen was reimbursed \$13.77 for name tags.

As of August 5, our Regions checking account balance is \$2,156.55. Combined with our Bank of Little Rock CD balance of \$7,679.22, the chapter has total funds of \$9,835.77.

Charles Mullins, Treasurer

Gratitude for Charles!

A big THANK YOU to Charles Mullins!!! Charles, who has served as our treasurer for **8 years**, is retiring from this role. When you see him, please let him know how much you appreciate his faithful service all these years!!!



2026 Fall Native Plant Sale



The Little Rock Audubon Center Fall Native Plant Sale will be held through online ordering and curbside pickup. This is an excellent opportunity to support Arkansas native plant vendors: Pine Ridge Gardens, Grand Designs, Native Sun Nursery, Grand Prairie, The Upturned Pot, NRM, and Audubon will have plants for sale online.

What you need to know:

- Online ordering will be open **Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 8 am through Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 8 pm.**
- Curbside pickup will be October 2 and October 3 at the Little Rock Audubon Center (4500 Springer Blvd., Little Rock, AR 72206).
- The online ordering link will be released in **this FB event**, on our website, and via email to our email list on the morning of September 15.
- To ensure an inventory that is as accurate as possible, the website is not available for browsing prior to September 15.
- A species list will be posted and emailed ahead of online ordering to ensure an accurate inventory.
-

Questions? Email uta.meyer@audubon.org.

Help Protect the Future of Our Forests

Adventure Scientists is recruiting volunteers to help researchers track the health of Arkansas American beech and butternut trees. Partnering with the U.S. Forest Service, Purdue University, and the University of Connecticut, this project asks hikers and outdoor enthusiasts to document

tree health during hikes and trail outings using a simple photo-and-location protocol. Training and any necessary sampling supplies are provided at no cost.

Learn more and sign up at <https://adventurescientists.org/forest-resilience>



Swift Night Out

Tuesday, September 15

Little Rock Audubon Center

6:00pm-7:30pm

Swift Night Out is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts. Swifts will be counted as part of this community science effort.

This is a free event, but donations are appreciated. The Loblolly Ice Cream truck will be joining with one complimentary cup/cone per person.

After a brief presentation about swifts, we'll gather in the parking lot to watch them swirl before they stream into our towers to roost for the night.

This not a ticketed event, but we highly encourage you to [sign up and let us know you plan on coming](#). We want to make sure there is plenty of parking and ice cream available for everyone!

Bring a chair and a beverage. Audubon will provide light snacks, some beverage options, and ice cream. Questions? Email uta.meyer@audubon.org

Want to Become a Master Naturalist?

Applications accepted beginning October 1!

For almost 20 years, Central Arkansas Master Naturalists have been stewards of the natural areas in Central Arkansas. They have educated the public and introduced kids to the wonders of nature and the responsibility to care for it. They've built trails, improved habitats, monitored the quality of rivers and lakes, provided housing for birds, picked up litter, removed invasive species, grown and planted native plants, and provided educated citizen scientists. They work hard *and* have fun.



Apply to Become a Master Naturalist

Applications are accepted beginning October 1st for the 2027 training year (note – spots fill quickly so don't delay!). Once your application is accepted, you'll become a Naturalist-in-Training (NiT) and join the training program which begins in mid-January. Completing at least 40 hours of training will qualify you to graduate and earn the title of Arkansas Master Naturalist.

Participate in the Naturalist-in-Training Program

The NiT training program runs from mid-January through September and requires 40 hours of approved classes and fieldwork to graduate. While more than 100 hours of training opportunities are scheduled, you don't need to attend them all—but likely you'll want to!

- NiT training sessions are available on Saturdays, typically twice per month. You are not required to attend every class. These sessions are usually scheduled for a "full day" (9:00-3:30), however there may be two topics covered on a single Saturday, and you may choose to attend the morning session, the afternoon session, or both. Some of the trainings will be available online, but the vast majority will take place in-person.

- Training sessions take place at a variety of partner agency sites, such as Audubon Arkansas, Witt Stephens Nature Center, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, local trails, and other locations.
- Graduation is celebrated near the end of September.

The 2027 training schedule is currently in planning, but feel free to check out the [2026 NiT Training Schedule](#) to see a past example of courses. (Courses may vary slightly from year to year.)

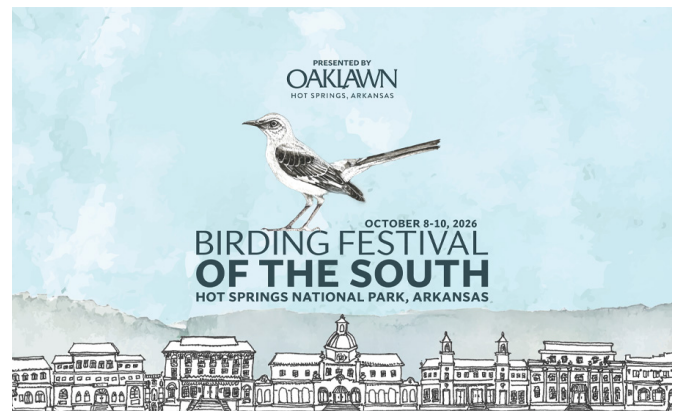
Serve as a Master Naturalist

Once your training is complete, you'll earn full Master Naturalist status! You'll join a special corps of well-trained individuals who serve Central Arkansas, contributing to conservation, restoration, education, leadership, and stewardship projects. Throughout your NiT training, you'll have been introduced to a wide range of opportunities so you can choose the projects that most inspire you. You'll also have access to continuing education to further your knowledge and opportunities to connect with others who share your passion for nature.

Birding Festival of the South

The inaugural Arkansas Birding Festival of the South, a celebration of the fall bird migration, will be on **October 8 - 10!** Passes are on sale now — [click here for yours!](#)

Hot Springs boasts unmatched birdwatching opportunities showcasing: 26 miles of trails in Hot Springs National Park, 31.5+ miles of trails at Northwoods Trails, 1.8 million acres of the Ouachita National Forest, 210-acres of botanical gardens at Garvan Woodland Gardens, specialized ponds at the Andrew Hulseley Fish Hatchery, and thousands of acres of shoreline at Lakes Hamilton, Catherine, Ouachita, and DeGray.



The Birding Festival of the South will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This event will include field trip opportunities, panels, workshops, music, and fun for all levels of birders. Registration is required for the field trips and capacities may vary. The festival pass does not include participation in exclusive field trips where transportation is provided.

For more information, contact Alexis Hampo at ahampo@hotsprings.org or 501-321-2277. Follow them on Facebook at [Birding Festival of the South](#).

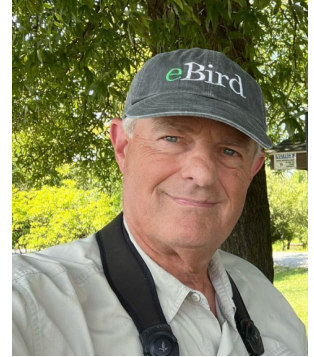
Arkansas Bird Alliance Fall Convention

The annual Fall Convention of the Arkansas Bird Alliance, formerly the Arkansas Audubon Society, will be held at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, on **October 16-17**. The Call to Meeting and registration website will be issued and available soon. A block of rooms will be available at Russellville's Holiday Inn. We hope you can join us for a weekend of great speakers, field trips, and fellowship! Check [their website](#) for more information.

Special Event in November!

Our chapter, along with other conservation organizations, is bringing [Peter Kaestner, birder extraordinaire](#), to Little Rock to speak on **November 10**. In 2024, Kaestner, a longtime American Birding Association member

and frequent *Birding* magazine contributor, reached 10,000 birds on his life list!!! He will also lead a bird walk with us on November 11. Stay tuned for more details!



Wings Over Arkansas

You can start your own birding life list through AGFC's **Wings Over Arkansas**, an award-based program recognizing bird watchers' contributions to Arkansas's outdoors. Once you enroll and submit a copy of your current Arkansas Bird Checklist or eBird list, you will receive a decorative pin and certificate identifying your level of birding experience.



Ozark Society Fall Membership Retreat

For our Fall Retreat, we will gather on **November 13-14** at Buffalo Point, the closest campground to the recently acquired Panther Creek property. Ozark Society President Brian Thompson reserved Pavilion 1 and group tent site 4 for both Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th to accommodate the meeting. If you do not want to tent, there are still a couple of cabins available through the park. Plenty of sites with hookups. There are also some accommodations outside the park. The 120-acre Panther Creek property is wild, undeveloped woodland adjacent to Buffalo River National Park property, close to Indian Rock House in the center

river area. The Ozark Society and its members helped make the purchase by the Buffalo River Foundation possible, ensuring that it remains permanently protected.

Tentative schedule of events:

- Friday evening will be a board meeting at the pavilion. All welcome to listen in.
- Saturday morning, breakfast on your own, then we will explore the newly purchased Hill-Hamilton Reserve, which the Ozark Society helped finance.
- Lunch on your own.
- Saturday afternoon there will be a speaker and a membership meeting - at the pavilion.
- Evening meal will be pot luck. Tentative music planned from 7:00 on.

Newest AGFC Conservation License Plate

The latest edition of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Conservation License Plate displays a Painted bunting, surrounded with spring greens and additional bright tones, now available for purchase.



Since its inception in 2000, the Conservation License Plate Program has raised more than \$21 million for conservation scholarships and internships for students in the state, creative tools, exhibits for AGFC nature centers and land acquisitions.

Previous bird species that were featured on a conservation license plate were ruby-throated hummingbird (2001), eastern wild turkey (2003), mallard (2004), Ivory-billed woodpecker (2006), bald eagle (2013), northern cardinal (2016), northern pintail (2019), and barred owl (2024). Designed by Greta James, this is the 10th piece of artwork designed by AGFC's art director.

GRAND CANYON RAFTING OPPORTUNITY in 2027

The Ozark Society is pleased to offer the following opportunity to join **Canyoneers** for a **6-night, 7-day motorized raft trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon from Lee's Ferry to Diamond Creek on May 2-8, 2027.**

This fully guided trip begins and ends in Flagstaff, Arizona and accommodates up to 24 participants. The cost is \$3,375 per person. Early May is considered one of the best times to experience the Grand Canyon, with comfortable temperatures and stunning scenery.

The Ozark Society organized this same trip several years ago, and it was extremely popular. Planning begins well in advance due to high demand, and Canyoneers may accept reservations from other groups, so early sign-up is encouraged.

For more information and to sign up for the trip, please call Canyoneers at 800-525-0924.



CANYONEERS
GRAND CANYON ADVENTURES
SINCE 1938

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We love including member news, outings, and events in Paddle Trails! If you'd like something featured, please send the details about two weeks before the next chapter meeting.

Upcoming dates:

For the September newsletter, please submit items to Stacey at ospulaskichapter@gmail.com by September 20.

Follow our Chapter on Social Media!



Ozark Society | PO Box 2914 | Little Rock, AR 72203 US

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