



# PACK & PADDLE



Winter  
December 2014

*"The challenge goes on. There are other lands and rivers, other wilderness areas, to save and to share with all. I challenge you to step forward to protect and care for the wild places you love best." — Dr. Neil Compton*

## OZARK SOCIETY DELTA BIKING TOUR NOVEMBER 1 – 4

By Janet Nye

This tour could have been called the tour de windy flat lands in the delta of Arkansas, but to anyone who has spent any time in the delta they know that the delta is always windy.

The tour began in Tyronza, AR at the Museum of the Southern Tenant Farmer, which is a museum worth your visiting with or without a bike ride. This ride is an annual event hosted by the Sunken Lands Chamber. It is a 54- mile circuit touring museums and historic sites in the Sunken Lands of Poinsett and Mississippi Counties.

Brian Thompson, Alan Nye and I began this day of riding in 43 degrees and winds out of the north, north east. It was a sunny day which made it absolutely beautiful. Riding in the farm counties of Arkansas is amazing. Of course one can see for miles ahead and all around, but there is a deep appreciation for the lifestyle and non-stop work that is evident at the end of the harvest season.

Our first stop was the Dyess Colony, formed as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. This museum is another property that Arkansas State University is supporting. Having never been to this area, we were all amazed by what we learned and how this whole area was converted to farming in the 1930's to help those suffering during the Depression. As part of this stop we



all hopped in a pick-up and were taken to the house of the most famous of the families who became a part of this colony, the Cash family. We were escorted into the Johnny Cash house and saw the original furnishings, bedding, piano, photos, etc. Seeing the meager furnishings and hearing about how difficult life was for those who were a part of this Colony was very humbling. Also we had the perspective of knowing how Johnny Cash's life was full of hardship and later an incredible music career.

We returned to our bikes and the north wind heading to Lepanto. We were headed for the Painted House which was used in the filming of the movie of the same name from the novel by John Grisham. This bike tour is not meant to ride fast unless you make no stops. The people at each stop were like family. We so enjoyed hearing their stories and about their communities. Not to mention that the people we visited with were inside buildings and we could get out of the wind.

(Continued on page 4)

**SOCIETY OFFICERS (as of Jan. 1, 2015):** **President:** Alan Nye, (501) 851-7524, ajnye@swbell.net; **Past President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, racross@uark.edu; **Vice President:** Duane Woltjen, (479) 521-7032, ozarktraveler1@att.net; **Financial Chair:** Bob Ritchie, (501) 225-1795, britchiear@aol.com; **Recording Secretary:** Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, sroeri@lsuhsc.edu; **Conservation Chair:** Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, Alice209ok@yahoo.com; **Education Chair:** Fred Paillet, (479) 935-4297 fredp@cox.net; **Membership Chair:** Jenny Hackman, (318) 288-9096, jandgman@bellsouth.net; **Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle:** Carmen Quinn, (501) 993-1883, ccquinn23@yahoo.com.

**STATE DIRECTORS:** **ARKANSAS:** Laura Timby, (870) 439-2968, ldtimby@ritternet.com; Ed Vollman, hknman1@sbcglobal.net; **MISSOURI:** Position open; **LOUISIANA:** Roy O'Neal, (318) 272-0259, roneal2@bellsouth.net; Catherine Tolson, (318) 343-7482, catherine.tolson@comcast.net.

**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** **Bayou Chapter:** Karen Pitts, tuffenufchuck@aol.com; **Pulaski Chapter:** David Peterson, drdp@windstream.net; **Highlands Chapter:** Terry Frederick, (479) 442-3812, terrfre@att.net; **Sugar Creek Chapter:** Joseph Meyer, meyer@ipa.net; **Buffalo River Chapter:** Farrel Couch, (479) 200-2621, f.t.couch@att.net; **Mississippi Valley Chapter:** Virginia Wiedefeld, (573) 270-1812, vwiedefeld@sbcglobal.net.

**Ozark Society Supplies & Publications:** Mary Gordon, (501) 425-4471, mb2rene@aol.com.

**Buffalo River Trail Coordinator:** Ken Smith, (479) 466-7994, kennethsmith616@yahoo.com (new email address)

**OZARK SOCIETY DEPOSITORY:** Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 71701, (501) 575-5577.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Dues for membership in the Ozark Society are: Individual and Family: \$15; Contributing: \$25; Sustaining: \$25; Life (one-time fee): \$200 under 65 years, or \$100 for those over 65.

**Chapter membership** adds to the fun of Ozark Society membership, but is not required. **However, chapter membership requires membership in the Society.** Their dues structure is as follows: **Mississippi Valley Chapter of Cape Girardeau, Missouri:** \$5; **Bayou Chapter of Shreveport, Louisiana:** \$10; **Highlands Chapter of Northwest Arkansas:** \$10; **Sugar Creek Chapter of Northwest Arkansas:** \$5; **Buffalo River Chapter of North-Central Arkansas:** \$10, or \$5 for email newsletters only; and **Pulaski Chapter of Central Arkansas:** \$10; **Student Membership:** \$5. Mail one check for both Society and chapter dues to: Ozark Society, P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.

---

## BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL VOLUNTEERS BUILD NEARLY TWO MILES MORE!

---

Well, actually about one and eight-tenths miles. But without accurate measurement yet, let's call it nearly two miles.

In October and November, and after last-minute changes in plans, construction took place in two areas between U.S. 65 and the Red Bluff Road. The result was that the trail was made about 99% complete in that eleven-mile stretch. Most of what remains to be done there is breaking away rock protruding into a few short sections of trail tread and building a 21-foot-long trail bridge across a deep gully. That, and providing signage, etc., at three trailheads. Only after those last improvements can the trail be opened to the public.

The entire trail, U.S. 65 to Highway 14, is divided by county roads into five parts. Parts 4 and 5, nearest Highway 14, are complete and open to the public. Parts 1 and 2, beginning at U.S. 65, are 99% complete as described above. Construction in Part 3, the trail's 5.5-mile midsection is being delayed until archeological requirements are met and a tract of private land astride the trail (or a right-of-way across that tract) can be placed in public ownership.

Ken Smith, coordinator of volunteers for building the trail, says that more than forty volunteers participated in building trail this Fall. He says also that 2.4 miles, in Part 3, are left for volunteers to build.

---

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016 TERM

---

The general meeting at Buffalo Point in October included the election of new officers for the 2015-2016 term:

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| President:            | Alan Nye                     |
| Vice President:       | Duane Woltjen                |
| Treasurer:            | Bob Ritchie                  |
| Secretary:            | Sandy Roerig                 |
| Membership Chair:     | Jenny Hackman                |
| Conservation Chair:   | Alice Andrews                |
| Education Chair:      | Fred Paillet                 |
| Communications Chair: | Carmen Quinn                 |
| State Directors:      |                              |
| Arkansas:             | Ed Vollman, Laura Timby      |
| Louisiana:            | Catherine Tolson, Roy O'Neal |



---

# CARGILL LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN IN PROGRESS

---

Brian Thompson of Fayetteville is working on a program that has a strong chance of influencing Cargill regarding the C & H Hog Farm issue. *This is a grass-roots program separate from any of the groups fighting factory hog farms in the Buffalo River watershed. The Ozark Society approves and encourages you to participate in Brian's letter campaign but it is not an official Ozark Society program. It is your choice to help in a new way.* So far there are about 60 participants.

If you should decide you wish to participate by writing letters to Cargill's customers, send an email to: [thompsonaddc@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonaddc@gmail.com) with a message that simply says "opt-in". If you simply want to stay informed by receiving the letters, reply to [thompsonaddc@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonaddc@gmail.com) with "opt-monitor."

Brian's description of the program is below; please contact Brian Thompson with questions.

**Program Information:** There have been a lot of letters written to Cargill with very little effect. This is not surprising when you take a closer look. To understand why, read on:

## **Why Influencing Cargill is Tough**

Cargill responded to extensive public outcry in opposition to the location of C & H Hog Farm near Arkansas' Buffalo National River by steadfastly committing to the factory hog facility's ill-sited location. It seems obvious that an industrial feed lot generating waste roughly equivalent to a city of 20,000 upstream of a pristine national treasure is a pretty bad idea. You would think Cargill would want to resolve this, and it is certainly within their power to do so. They simply choose not to. Why has Cargill been so difficult to influence on this matter? Four reasons:

**1) Cargill is a corporate behemoth** with \$134.9 billion dollars in annual revenue, four times the size of our own Tyson Foods. It is the largest privately held company in the United States. If it were a public company, it would be the second largest in the world. They are extremely powerful, and they are very good at advancing their cause through back channels and public institutions. They have plenty of public relations and legal personnel who deftly manage environmental disputes and they have lots of experience doing it.

**2) Cargill keeps a low profile.** In 1979 they listed this phrase as one of their nine strategic beliefs. Brewster Kneen, who has written extensively about Cargill, refers to them as "The Invisible Giant". Consider this: Cargill's trading and processing businesses include grains, oil seeds, fruit juices, tropical commodities, fibers, meats, eggs, petroleum, and fertilizers. It is one of the largest sources of grains and oilseeds in the domestic and international markets. In fact, it is almost impossible to eat at a restaurant or buy from a grocer without Cargill having been involved. That Cargill is so large and so influential in our food supply and yet to have so little known about them, is a testament to their success at keeping their heads down. For example, if you contact Cargill about their role in contracting this farm, they will immediately redirect back to the "family farm" itself. And indeed, when a severe weather event eventually leads to an overflow of the waste lagoons resulting in the economic destruction of a 44 million dollar tourism industry, Cargill will take a step back and point directly toward the farm's owners. They strive to maintain a "background" role.

**3) Cargill is privately owned.** As a privately held company, Cargill is not subject to the same oversight as a

publicly traded company. They have no public shareholders to answer to. This is mightily convenient as shareholders might consider Cargill's position on the risks posed to a national river as callous. There is no legal requirement for them to publish an audited financial statement. A privately owned company of this size is very difficult if not impossible to examine and likewise, very difficult to influence.

**4) Cargill has almost no brands.** They are not selling labeled products to you and me. They are selling ingredients and logistical services to the Fortune 1000 food producers, restaurants, and grocers that in turn sell to us. The practical purposes, is not a Cargill customer. We are "downstream". Cargill is effectively beyond the influence of the average citizen.

So, in order to influence Cargill, we have to shine a light on the issue; but this must be done for the right audience: Cargill's corporate customers. Restaurant chains, food producers, and grocers need our letters to educate them on the risks of this farm to the Buffalo National River and appeal to them to contact Cargill to do what is right. Most of these companies have corporate cultures centered around strong ethics-we need to appeal to these values and their commitments as sustainable corporate citizens. How do we know this will work? Because NOTHING is more important than the customer. Multiple departments are established whose sole purpose is to cater to and coddle the customer. Nothing could be more distasteful to Cargill than having a bright light illuminating corporate customers to Cargill's misbehavior. But it will take letters to have the desired effect, and the Cargill CEO needs to be copied on every one of them.

---

## ***Bike Tour (continued from page 1)***

inside buildings and we could get out of the wind.

Our tour stopped again at the museum in Marked Tree. By then we were traveling with the wind and we were riding much faster and easier. We completed the ride at 4:45 pm, which is not a typical time for a 54 mile ride, but the people and historic sites were so amazing and we were all excited about what we had seen and learned. We topped off our day with dinner at Tyboogies in Tyronza. We inhaled our food.

The first night we stayed at the Schoolhouse Lodge in Bayou Meto, AR. We drove to this community in Arkansas County and met up with Ti Davis, Ann and Rick Owen and Jojo Duncan. This lodge is a former one room schoolhouse built in the 1930's and was used as a school until the late 1960's. The owner who came and told us stories of his life in this community, went to this school as a child.

On Sunday, the 2nd we rode to Arkansas Post, a 28 mile ride from Bayou Meto. We were riding into the wind, but

it was another beautiful day. We were treated like royalty at the Post. The Friends of AR Post treated us to a chili lunch complete with cookies. We were treated to the "Medicine Woman" stories. Dyan Bohnert, president of the friends group, presented a brief description of the medicine women who helped with the injured during the Civil War. We heard about how the friends group works with the Post and later got a tour of part of the area led by Joe Herron, interpreter at AR Post. The Post is rich in cultural and natural history. In one site there was a Revolutionary War battle, Civil War battle, the first European settlement in AR, and an Important Bird Area. It also has the champion osage orange tree and alligators. It is an amazing place. Four of us rode back to the lodge traveling with the wind.

The next day three of us rode to St. Charles, AR through DeWitt, on AR Hwy.1. We were riding with the wind, which made the warmer day fantastic. We arrived at White Ink to eat lunch. We had a great lunch and then rode over

to the St. Charles Museum at city hall. St. Charles is known for the deadliest single shot of the Civil War. The museum focuses on that and other aspects of the community that have contributed to what it is today. The last night of the tour was at Cypress Island Duck Lodge. All I can say about this place is "WOW!" It is amazing. We relaxed on the deck overlooking a beautiful cypress lake.

We also were treated to an understanding of Arkansas County's history with rice farming and duck hunting by Sloan Hampton who lives in the same area as his great grandparents and continues to rice farm as his parents and grandparents did.

The tour was fantastic. We met wonderful people who love their communities and have lived there for generations. It was such a different world from central Arkansas where people move in and out. Arkansas County has a community of people who have lived the same life as their parents. They are rich in community spirit and pride in what they do.

### **Cypress Island Duck Lodge**



---

## 2015 BUFFALO RIVER TRIP JUNE 9 – 13, 2015

---

You are invited to join us for the return of the Buffalo River Float, a tradition dating back to the founding of the Ozark Society.

Trip leaders Stewart Noland and Steve Heye are ready to lead a four day fun float on the Buffalo National River from Tyler Bend (Hwy. 65) to the river's mouth at Riley's landing on the White.

The float begins on Tuesday, June 9th, at 10 a.m. The next three days will be easy-paced paddling, stopping to take in the sights, swim in the rapids, fish and enjoy the company of fellow paddlers. Saturday is an easy half day to the end of the Buffalo and our awaiting cars. Non-stop natural fun!

Cost is \$175 per person (\$150 for children 12 & under.) The cost

includes the car shuttle, food from noon Tuesday to noon Saturday, and an ice drop on Thursday afternoon for coolers. Boat rentals can be arranged for a fee. Let Stewart or Steve know if you want to rent a boat.

You will be responsible for all personal gear, shelter and personal drinks of choice. The john boat will be carrying most of the group gear, kitchens, all the food and group shelters, but save room in your boat for a small piece of group gear. We are also leaders in river hygiene: we use "groover" toilets while on the float to minimize environmental impact.

Space will be limited to 60. We will split into groups of no more than 20. Each group will have a kitchen and group gear.

Would you like to go for free? We need at least two people to drive our john boats carrying the group gear. The boats will have small outboard motors. Ask Stewart or Steve.

Send a check to "Ozark Society" after January 1st to: Bob Ritchie, Ozark Society, 707 Pleasant Valley Drive #10, Little Rock, AR 72227. Please also send an email to either address below telling us that you have sent in your check: bosshq@aol.com or heye@aristotle.net. You can also email either address for additional info.

Signup will close May 26, 2015. We look forward to having you and your family and friends along for a great time!

---

## COLORADO TRIP JULY 12 -18, 2015

---

The 2015 Colorado High Adventure Trip will be Sunday July 12 thru Saturday July 18. The campground reservations have been made at the Cascade Campground in the Collegiate Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest. The campground is located on County Road 162 west of Nathrop, Colorado. The trip is limited to 60 people; you need to send in your reservation in by June 1, 2015.

Plan to arrive at the campground by mid-afternoon Sunday July 12. The first meal will be that evening. All meals will be provided through dinner on Friday July 17 as part of the trip. If

you prefer motel accommodations to camping, you can make reservations at nearby Mount Princeton Hot Springs Lodge, 15870 County Road 162, Nathrop, Colorado, 719-395-2361 or other nearby motels or bed & breakfasts. Meals at the campground are provided for all trip participants, regardless of whether you are camping or staying elsewhere.

There will be a variety of outings to choose from: commercial rafting or boating on the Arkansas River, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, or sightseeing. Rafting on the Arkansas River may be available depending on the number

of qualified raft captains that are part of the group and the water levels.

You must be an Ozark Society member to participate in this trip. If you are not already a member, you can join by sending \$15 annual dues along with trip fee of \$150 for campers and \$100 for non-campers. Confirm your place on the Colorado outing by sending a check made out to the Ozark Society for the appropriate amount to: Bob Ritchie 707 Pleasant Valley Dr. #10 Little Rock, AR 72227. If you have any questions concerning the Colorado outing, contact: Bob Ritchie at 501-225-1795 or britchiear@aol.com.



---

---

# Zion National Park

Thanks to Robert Medley of the Highlands Chapter for the photos below, taken during the September OS trip to Zion National Park.

---

---





## Time to Renew for 2015!

Dues are for one calendar year and include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*, and conservation bulletins. **Remit to: The Ozark Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203** using the form below, or you can renew online at: [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net) - click on the "About Us/Membership" link.

1. Please check one: New Member: ☐

Renewal: ☐

2. General Dues: (Required - Please Circle One)

- Individual/Family: \$15
- Individual Students: \$5.00 (High school or college, if not included with family)
- Life: \$200 (over age 65: \$100) (This is for OS membership only-it does not include chapter membership.)
- Contributing/Sustaining: \$25

3. Chapter Dues: (you may choose not to join a chapter, or choose more than one)

- Bayou Chapter - \$10 (Shreveport, LA)
- Buffalo River Chapter - \$10 (\$5/email newsletter only - N. Central AR)
- Highlands Chapter - \$10 (N. West AR)
- Mississippi Valley Chapter- \$5 (Cape Girardeau, MO)
- Sugar Creek Chapter - \$5 (Bentonville Area)
- Pulaski Chapter - \$10 (Central AR)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

(Home)

(Work)

(Cell)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send newsletters to my email address instead of by U.S. Mail

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bayou Chapter - Sabine River Trip - October 25, 2014

By John Joyce

Cathy and I put together a float on the Sabine River (in East Texas) with our granddaughter. We had a blast, especially with a couple of more kids along on



the trip, including Dee Jaye Teutch's grandchildren, Abby and Daisy. Just watching the amount of fun the children had was a joy in itself. Especially funny was when Daisy went swimming and had Jenny Hackman as the lifeguard. Don't know who had more fun - Daisy or Jenny. I do believe though, that Daisy tired Jenny out a little and so be it. Kids run on High Octane while most of the adults now days run on Regular. A few knocks and probably not as smooth as the High

Octane models but nonetheless we do hang on for a little while.

This was a put-together trip on a short notice, but we did manage to pull it off. Our granddaughter, Kenzie ended up having a great time. I'm glad that we found a play spot for the girls to "play-boat" in. Actually, Toni Spitale found it as a lunch spot at first. It just happened to be by a little "run". Kenzie, Abby and

(Continued on page 8)





**The Ozark Society**  
P.O. Box 2914  
Little Rock, AR 72203

**FIRST CLASS**  
**US Postage**  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 3161  
Little Rock, AR

**Please Note:**

If you would like to  
receive Pack & Paddle  
**ONLY** by email,  
not through US Mail,  
please contact  
Mary Gordon at  
[mb2rene@aol.com](mailto:mb2rene@aol.com).

*Sabine River Trip (continued from page 7)*

even Daisy had a time in the water. Kenzie learned the fine art of “surfing” and a couple of eddy turns. She even had a chance to try ferrying. It was fun watching her. Abby, being the old pro at driving a kayak had no problem going from top to bottom and starting all over again dragging the boat back up and heading down. The child is AGILE. It was a time getting them to head down river ‘cause they all wanted to continue to stay and play.

We did get down to the take out though and managed to get everybody out safely in spite of the gumbo/slippery mud that was on the ramp. What a mess that was. Anyway, this was a fun day and so, thanks again to all of you who came: David & Karen Pitts; Gary & Jenny Hackman; Toni Spitale; Sandy Roerig; Dee Jaye Teutsch, Abby and Daisy; Susan Ramares; Kenzie Joyce & John & Cathy Joyce.

By the way, we all thought that the river level was just about perfect. Six inches higher on the gauge would not have been a problem as we saw it. I think it was at 6.67 or close to it. So, if you are looking at going, make sure that that is what the level is.

**Stay Informed on the Web!**  
Visit us at [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net)

**If you wish to participate in Ozark Society outdoor events, please make note of the following statement and requirement:**

*I acknowledge that I understand the nature of this event and represent that I am qualified, in good health and proper physical condition to participate in the activity. I understand the risks to my person and property associated with the event. I agree to release from liability and not to sue the Ozark Society (including the individual Chapters of the Ozark Society) and their officers, directors, the event leaders, coordinators or instructors for any injury, damage, death or other loss in any way connected with the event.*