



# PACK & PADDLE



Fall  
September 2011

“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

## ‘BLUE GOLD’ FROM AUSTRALIA TO ARKANSAS: LESSONS LEARNED By Acadia Roher, Conservation Chair

As many of you know, I am currently in Australia completing a 10-week project as part of a Master’s program at the Clinton School of Public Service. My work has taken me across the country, from dusty western Queensland cotton farms to board rooms in Canberra, the nation’s capital, talking with government officials and stakeholders about community engagement in water planning. The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and the federal Murray-Darling Basin Authority have sponsored me to conduct a review of past and current

helps to have an independent perspective to synthesize difficulties and think of fresh solutions.

Australia is often touted as a leader in arid zone water management, but a recent decade of intense drought heightened fears around the country. The drought especially highlighted the dire straits of riverine ecosystems and wetlands that sometimes go years without water while farmers and industry continue to use it for economic gain.

In Australia, the power to manage water has typically resided with the states,

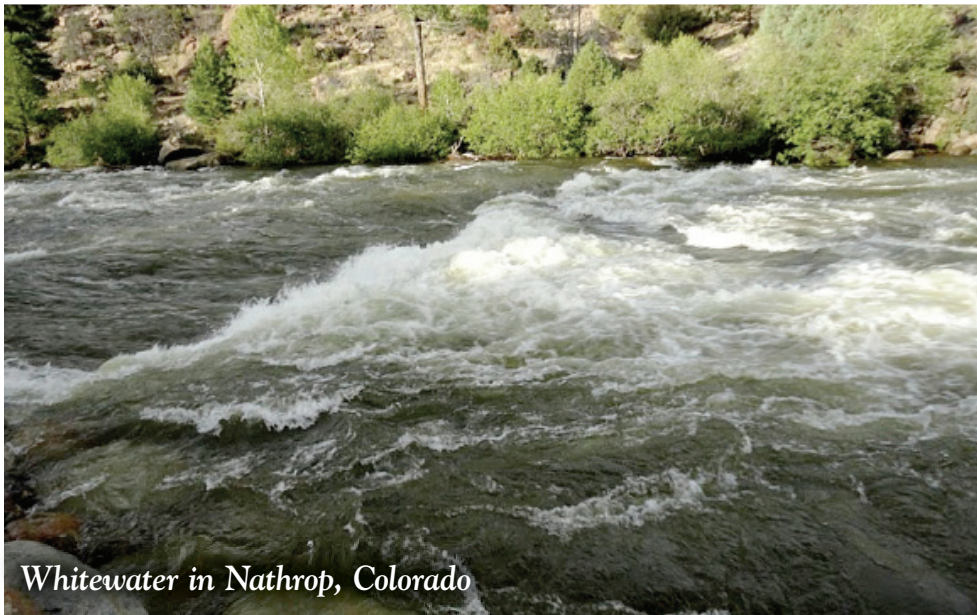
the country’s total area and generates 39 percent of the national income derived from agricultural production, is the first test case for planning across state boundaries on the scale of an entire river system that takes into account “environmental water,” or water reserved specifically for sustaining key environmental assets and processes.

The world is watching closely, as the successes and failures of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority will have implications for water reform around the world, including the water planning that Arkansas legislators authorized this past spring. Arkansas natural resource agencies have begun to set the stage for a new state water plan, which, thanks to the hard work of our conservation allies (including some committed Ozark Society members), will now take into account the in-stream flows necessary for healthy watersheds.

While Arkansas may not have the arid climate that Australia endures, it is just as important that we take steps to implement policies of wise use for our water sources, set aside and protect pristine streams and water bodies like those many of you enjoyed this summer, and ensure that our state will have plentiful high quality water to sustain key ecological processes, support healthy recreation and tourism, and continue to be a major factor in economic stability far into the future.

Reviewing and observing

(Continued on page 6)



*Whitewater in Nathrop, Colorado*

community engagement processes and help them develop better practices. They know that the best outcomes will only be achieved by maximizing the support and participation of all affected parties, and it

but the federal Australian government recently centralized power in order to create a holistic, inter-state framework for water sustainability. The Murray-Darling Basin, which makes up 14 percent of

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# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST BUFFALO TRAILBUILDERS

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Presently we have four volunteer teams scheduled through the entire month of October to build a section of the Buffalo River Hiking Trail. We need other volunteers to help set up and dismantle the trailbuilder's camp, and also to protect the camp's kitchen equipment during the weekends when no one else can be there.

The camp will be 2.9 miles down the river from Gilbert. This backcountry campsite is a big, beautiful gravel bar opposite 250-foot Red Bluff, with camping space also in the woods behind the bar. At the beginning of October we'll carry camp kitchen equipment to the campsite by raft or canoe. (Or if the river is too low, we'll carry it overland from a roadhead a mile south of Red Bluff.) At the end of October we'll take the camp gear out by river 8.6 miles to the North Maumee boat

landing (or overland to the road head south of Red Bluff).

Ken Smith, coordinator of the trail construction project, plans to camp at Tyler Bend September 29 and 30 when preparing to move camp gear into the backcountry. Saturday, October 1, we'll move the camp equipment to the backcountry site. We'll move it back to civilization on Saturday, October 29.

The four volunteer teams are scheduled for successive weeks: Wilderness Volunteers, Oct. 2 - 8; American Hiking Society, Oct. 9 - 15; Sierra Club, Oct. 16 - 22; and "Alumni," Oct. 23 - 29. Since each group will arrive at the campsite on Sunday afternoon and leave the following Saturday morning, we need volunteers to stay at the campsite to protect the equipment from Saturday morning till Sunday afternoon: Oct.

1 - 2; Oct. 8 - 9; Oct. 15 - 16; and Oct. 22 - 23. Anyone staying to protect the equipment will be able to use it for preparing meals, and for shelter in case it rains.

Weather and other factors may require a change in these plans. For updates, contact Ken Smith, 479-443-4098 (home phone, till Sept. 29); 479-466-7994 (cell phone number, but most probably lacking a signal at the river); or 870-439-2502 (Tyler Bend Visitor Center, where Ken will receive messages). Ken will receive e-mail at home till Sept. 29 and at the Visitor Center at times after that; his e-mail address is [trailsmith1@yahoo.com](mailto:trailsmith1@yahoo.com).

Volunteers will be building another especially scenic section of the Buffalo River Trail. We hope you also can help. Come and take part in the action--and the fun!

**SOCIETY OFFICERS:** **President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, [racross@uark.edu](mailto:racross@uark.edu); **Immediate Past President:** Alice Andrews, (501) 219-4293, [Alice209ok@yahoo.com](mailto:Alice209ok@yahoo.com); **Vice President:** Laura Timby, (870) 439-2968, [ldtimby@ritternet.com](mailto:ldtimby@ritternet.com); **Financial Chair:** Bob Ritchie, (501) 225-1795, [britchiear@aol.com](mailto:britchiear@aol.com); **Recording Secretary:** Sandy Roerig, (318) 686-9481, [sroeri@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:sroeri@lsuhsc.edu); **Conservation Chair:** Acadia Roher, (501) 804-9618, [acadia.roher@gmail.com](mailto:acadia.roher@gmail.com); **Education Chair:** Charline Manning, (501) 221-1001, [charlinem2@comcast.net](mailto:charlinem2@comcast.net); **Membership Chair:** TBA ; **Communications Chair / Editor, Pack & Paddle:** Carmen Quinn, (501) 993-1883, [ccquinn23@yahoo.com](mailto:ccquinn23@yahoo.com).

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**BUFFALO RIVER TRAIL COORDINATOR:** Ken Smith, (501) 443-4098, [trailsmith1@yahoo.com](mailto:trailsmith1@yahoo.com).

**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, chapters do require membership in the Society. Their dues structure is as follows: **Mississippi Valley Chapter of Cape Girardeau, Missouri:** \$10; **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.



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# 2011 FALL ALL-SOCIETY MEETING

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The Bayou Chapter will be hosting the Fall All-Society Meeting on October 21, 22 and 23 at the beautiful Caddo Lake State Park in Karnack, Texas. Texas? Yes, Caddo Lake straddles the Louisiana – Texas state line and the park is on the Texas side.

The park's address is 245 Park Rd 2, Karnack, TX and phone number is 903-679-3351; more information at: [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caddo\\_lake/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/caddo_lake/)

Caddo Lake State Park gets its name from Caddo Lake, a sprawling maze of bayous and sloughs covering 26,810 acres of cypress swamp. Naturalists can enjoy stately cypress trees, American lotus, and lily pads, waterfowl, alligators, turtles, frogs, snakes, raccoons, minks, nutrias, beavers, squirrels, armadillos, white-tailed deer, and 71 species of fish.

This lake was the only natural lake in Texas until it was artificially dammed in the early 1900's when oil was

found. Caddo Lake is the site of the worlds first over water oil wells. Caddo Indian legend attributes the formation of the lake to a giant flood. Scientists believe the lake formed when floodwaters,

blocked by massive log jams on the Red River, backed up into the Cypress Bayou watershed, forming the lake.

The park's quaint cabins were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. The U.S. Army had 15 barracks and an army mess hall that were recently remodeled into the 9 log cabins and group recreation hall that we use today. There are canoe rentals at the Millpond in the park and several hiking trails.



*Caddo Lake State Park*

For camping there are 8 campsites with electric, sewer, and water hook-ups; 18 campsites with electric and water hook-ups; 20 campsites with water, and 7 screened shelters. There are also 8 cabins available which are located next to the Recreation Hall where the meetings and activities will take place.

For more details or if you have questions, contact Harvey Kennedy at 318-617-7940, or email him at: [harvlee@bellsouth.net](mailto:harvlee@bellsouth.net).

## Schedule of Events

Friday :	6:30pm	Board Meeting
Saturday:	8am	Registration
	8 -9:30am:	Breakfast by BCOS (Bring your favorite coffee cup)
	10am - 12pm:	All Society General Membership Meeting
	12 - 1pm:	Lunch (bring your own)
	1 - 6pm:	Programs: Program by Don Henley's Caddo Lake Institute Blacksmithing demonstration
	6 - 8pm:	Dinner with Dutch oven desserts. BCOS will furnish Cajun main course. Everyone bring pot luck side dishes.
	7 - 9pm:	PARTY with the musical group "Lip Service" entertaining
Sunday:	8 - 9:30am:	Breakfast (From Saturday breakfast leftovers)
	9am - afternoon:	Choice of activities including hiking on Park trails; canoeing on the Mill Pond; Paddlewheel tour at Uncertain, Texas (5 miles from Park); Visiting historic Jefferson, Texas (12 miles from Park.)



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# WHAT WE DID ON OUR SUMMER VACATION

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In addition to the usual trips on the Buffalo River and to Colorado, the Ozark Society also conducted outings such as kayak lessons and river clean-ups. Cameras are always on hand in this day and age, a good thing; so we'll let the pictures tell the story of Summer 2011.

Thanks to Charline Manning and to the Bayou Chapter for the photos below.



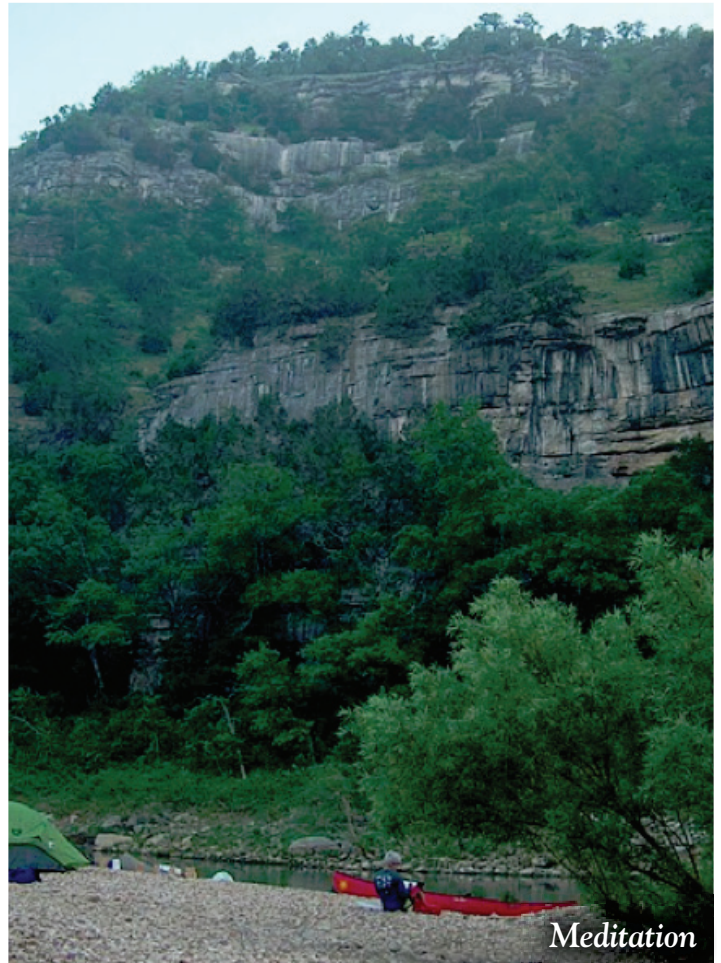
*Panorama*



*A water fight breaks out on the Buffalo River*



*Kayak lessons on the Red River*



*Meditation*





*A Storm Rolls In*



*Diann and Alexis Hopper hit the trail*



*Hikers in Nathrop, CO*



*Clean-Up at Hamel's Beach*








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## Chapter Outings and Events This Fall:

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-  September 6-Monthly meeting and picnic at Pinnacle Mountain State Park (Pulaski Chapter)
-  September 10- Dragon Boat (Bayou Chapter); Two Rivers Trail and Bridge Hike (Pulaski Chapter); Lee Creek Clean-up at Devil's Den (see facing page).
-  October 8-Ouachita Trail north of Jessieville (Pulaski Chapter)
-  October 15- Paddle trip in South East Missouri (Bayou Chapter)
-  October 21 to 23- OS General Meeting at Caddo Lake, TX (See page 3)
-  October 29-Hurricane Lake Canoe Trail near Bald Knob (Pulaski Chapter)
-  November 5-West Loop Trail-White Rock Mountain to Shores Lake (Pulaski Chapter)

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### Mark your calendars now for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

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The Ozark Society's 50th anniversary celebration will take place May 26 – June 2, 2012 at Tyler Bend. The celebration will be combined with the Spring General Meeting and our annual Buffalo River Float Trip. Hiking, canoeing, interesting speakers, and musical entertainment both nights are on the weekend agenda. The Buffalo float trip will depart from Tyler Bend on Monday morning. Get ready for a wonderful week, and watch for more information on the website and in the Winter P&P.

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### Blue Gold *(Continued from page 1)*

the successes of inclusive, participatory water planning and the failures of top-down, authoritarian water planning here in Australia has given me many ideas I am excited to bring back to Arkansas. For one, I was utterly amazed to sit in community meetings where cotton farmers and stockmen actively sought the wisdom of environmental representatives because of a history of cooperative planning and trust—and vice versa, where environmentalists understood and respected the struggles of farmers and businessmen.

Sadly, these relationships have been strained by the new federal water planning process, which uses an unnecessarily authoritarian approach. Decades of inclusive water planning at the state level have created expectations for a similar level of trust and respect, but time shortages, legal limitations, and

fear have stymied effective community engagement at the federal level. Unfortunately, government agencies in Arkansas are often derailed by similar problems when it comes to working with communities and stakeholders. Building trust between environmentalists, government officials, and representatives from other sectors will be key to getting nature's needs met. The Ozark Society has agreed to work closely with our conservation allies to ensure that they are protected through the state water planning process. Providing strong and credible justification for in-stream flow needs is essential. However, as I have learned, water planning without genuine avenues for comment and participation can provoke disgruntled communities and extractive sectors, which often scapegoat the environment as the problem, thus weakening the political

acceptability of strongly environmental outcomes. The Ozark Society needs to look beyond our usual allies and get to know some of the other players involved. Good, fair, balanced engagement can mean a big win for the environment.

I'm looking forward to joining you all back in Arkansas in a few weeks to put this and other lessons to work for our state. I hope you'll consider attending one of several presentations I plan to make in the coming months to share lessons learned from Australia and connect them back to our state water planning process. Until then, continue to enjoy our beautiful waterways and remember that their future is dependent on our active and constructive participation in government water planning processes. What a great opportunity we've got here!



# Lee Creek Cleanup



**Please Join Us!!**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK**



## CLEANUP HEADQUARTERS

DAY USE HORSE PARKING AREA IN DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK  
 (AT THE WEST END OF THE PARK JUST OFF HWY 220)  
 LOOK FOR SIGNS

## CLEANUP AREA

DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK TO ARKANSAS HWY 59 BRIDGE

## EVENT SCHEDULE

*CHECK-IN, LUNCH & PRIZES AT CLEANUP HEADQUARTERS*

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN & CLEANUP

9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

LUNCH

12:00 P.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAYS

1:00 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

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[www.whiterock.com](http://www.whiterock.com)

For More Information: Call John Pennington @ 444-1755 or email [jhpennington@uaex.edu](mailto:jhpennington@uaex.edu)

EVENT ORGANIZERS:





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

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*Stay Informed on the Web!*

*[www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net)*

*Check out announcements, upcoming activities  
and newsletters from other chapters.*

*You can also submit your photos for display.*

*“Friend” us on Facebook!*

*Search for “The Ozark Society”*

*or click on website links.*

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.*