



# PACK & PADDLE



Winter  
December 2012

"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

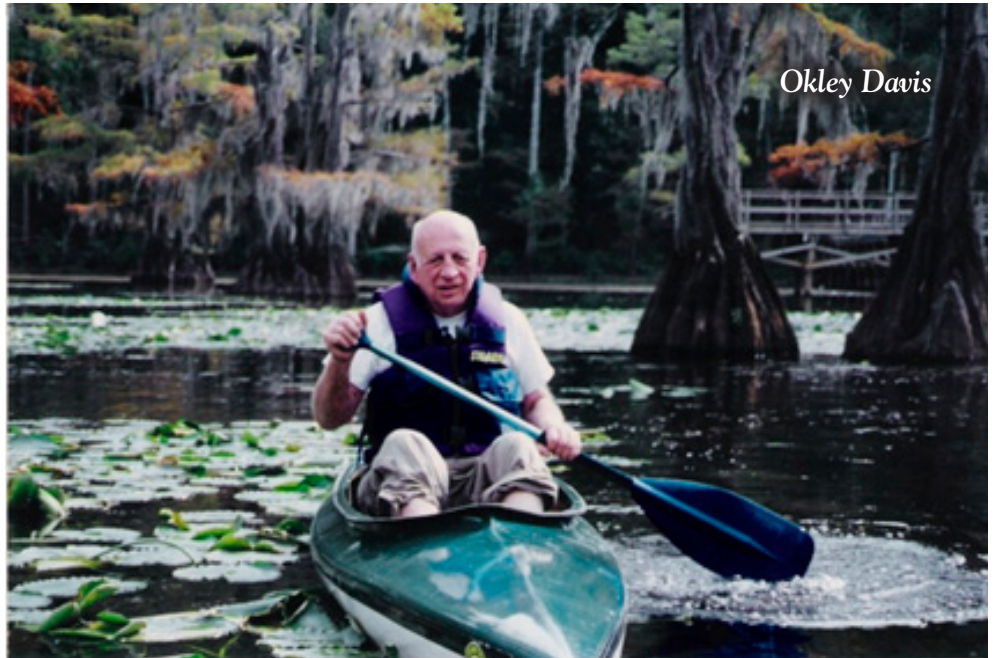
## Remembering Okley Davis (2/2/1920 - 10/26/2012) By Sandy Roerig

Okley Davis, a longtime Bayou Chapter-Ozark Society member, passed away on October 26 at the age of 92. Okley was our Chapter Conservation Chair until a few years ago and faithfully provided reports at our monthly meetings. He also served as a Louisiana State Director for the Ozark Society for many years.

Okley participated in local paddling outings, in a unique Verlin Kruger-designed, Sawyer Canoe Company-built Loon. This ultimate tripper canoe is no longer built and Okley eventually sold his to Sue Calloway, a Bayou Chapter member. I think about Okley whenever I see her paddling it. I remember a wintertime float on Jeems Bayou in which he flipped his boat on a hidden cypress knee and was in the water for a while. It was a cold day, but Okley was tough!

He was less active in hiking events, but I remember a long hike in the Kisatchie National Forest in the mid 1990's when he joined a large group on the Caroline Dorman Trail. He could out-hike many much younger participants.

Okley participated in the annual June Ozark Society Buffalo River float in 1998. Henry Ann Burton, Marian Howard, Jack Land and I were also on this trip from the Bayou



Okley Davis

Chapter and we had a great time. We particularly remember that Okley had great fun during water fights with his long distance water shooter. He was as playful as a ten-year-old kid!

Okley, Vernon Miller and I made a road trip to Bentonville, AR to attend the memorial service for Neil Compton in 1999. Even though he sat in the back seat, without a map, Okley served as our navigator, keeping me from making wrong turns.

I remember several All-Society meetings in which Okley participated. In fact, we drove to the meeting at Mt. Nebo, AR together, and he let me drive his big car. He always pitched his small tent (no cabins with soft beds for him) and cooked

delicious-smelling breakfasts.

Okley had many additional interests and hobbies including rock polishing/jewelry making, rose gardening and coin collecting and was active in multiple organizations promoting these hobbies.

He was born on February 2, 1920 in Addison Vermont. He served with the US Army Air Corps as a B-24 gunner in World War II. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Norwich University in 1948 in Civil Engineering, he worked for the State of Vermont, the Army and the Air Force.

He retired from engineering with the Strategic Air Command in 1980.

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# Ozark Society General Meeting Spring 2013

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**Where:** Lake Fort Smith State Park  
**When:** April 12 & 13, 2013  
**Theme:** Significance of Lee Creek and Frog Bayou to NWA.

## Accommodations:

- Wild Turkey Lodge: 10 dormitory beds for women, 10 for men (6 on one side of the hall, 4 on the other). Must rent for both nights at \$10 per night (\$20 total). Provide your own linens or rent linen for \$7.50 per night (\$15 total). \$35 for the weekend includes linens. The lodge also has a large modern kitchen for guests. Full payment must accompany reservation request. Send to Bob Ritchie. **NO REFUND AFTER APRIL 30, 2013. No pets in any building.**
- Campsites are available. ALL CAMPSITES ARE RESERVABLE. Call early - all are likely to be reserved for the weekend. Call Lake Fort Smith State Park 479-369-2469 for reservations.
- Cottages under construction will be available for rental by reservation beginning January 1, 2013. No pets in cottages. Call Lake Fort Smith State Park 479-369-2469 for reservations.

**Questions:** Contact Judy Woltjen, ozarktraveler1@att.net

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

## STATE DIRECTORS:

**ARKANSAS:** Duane Woltjen, (479) 521-7032, ozarktraveler1@att.net; Sally Stone, (479) 521-4062, sstone29@gmail.com; **MISSOURI:** Bill Bates, (417) 887-0145, cindyandbillbates@mchsi.com. **LOUISIANA:** Karen Pitts, (318) 965-4580, tuffenufchuck@aol.com; Catherine Tolson, (318) 343-7482, catherine.tolson@comcast.net.

**CHAPTER CHAIRS:** Bayou Chapter: Harvey Kennedy, (318) 617-7940, harvlee@bellsouth.net;; **Pulaski Chapter:** Janet Nye, (501) 851-7524, jbnye14@swbell.net; **Highlands Chapter:** Gene Milus, 479-387-7186; **Sugar Creek Chapter:** Joseph Meyer, meyer@ipa.net; **Buffalo River Chapter:** Katie Auman-Murray, katimae@eritter.net; **Mississippi Valley Chapter:** Phil Dodson, (573) 339-7169, mbdodson25@sbcglobal.net; **UA RSO:** Libby Nye, lnye@uark.edu;

**Ozark Society Supplies & Publications:** Mary Gordon, (501) 860-6653, mb2rene@aol.com.

**Buffalo River Trail Coordinator:** Ken Smith, (479) 466-7994, 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: \$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.



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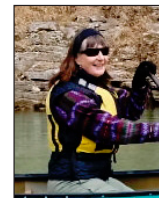
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# Eddy Line: Gathering at the River

By Laura Timby, Vice-President

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This past October the Ozark Society gathered at Buffalo Point to once again celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Buffalo's designation as a National River and the 50th anniversary of the Ozark Society's existence. In keeping with this year's celebration the Buffalo River Chapter, acting as hosts, chose to focus the weekend's activities on a historical note.

Despite cool morning temperatures the weather cooperated perfectly with sunny skies and gradual warming into the afternoon. The morning program started with a warm welcome from NPS Ranger Mike Simpson and Buffalo River Chapter Chair Katie Murray outlining the day's activities. Laura Timby made an announcement regarding plans for the Sunday river cleanup, followed by an informative business meeting with reports from Ozark Society President

Bob Cross and various committee members. The Ozark Society elections were held with very few changes to the existing slate of officers other than Past President Alice Andrews is now Conservation Chair, Fred Paillet is Education Chair, Jenny Hackman is Membership Chair, Stewart Noland replaces Sally Stone as AR Director, and Roy O'Neal replaces Karen Pitts as LA Director. These changes take place in January.

After a short lunch break, members reconvened at the pavilion for the afternoon programs. Millie Phillips, a noted outdoor educator, had set up a touch table of various bones, skins, and skulls. This sparked quite a bit of interest from both young and old and Millie always has some kind of interesting fact associated with each different object. She even provided a game of Bug Bingo that was both fun and educational!

Ray Wiggs was set up at another table with an amazing array of articles he had gathered from around the Ozarks. Ray has spent a large part of his adult life living and working

along the Buffalo and, in my opinion, there is no one better at replicating the articles of daily life used by the earliest inhabitants of the Ozarks, the Native Americans. His collection includes an extensive array of native grains and tubers used as food sources, plant fibers used in textiles, various vessels made from gourds and woven reeds, and tools and weaponry fashioned from stone, wood and river cane. The crowd listened with rapt attention as Ray described with intimate knowledge how each item (he describes as an extractable resource) was obtained and used by the indigenous people. There was no shortage of questions-in fact we probably could have gone on listening to Ray for hours- but we had another speaker waiting in the wings.

The next speaker, Doretha Shipman, is a lifetime resident from the Buffalo Point area and nearby Mull (also known as the Old Dillard Settlement). In fact, some of the National Park land at Buffalo Point originally belonged to her family. It was an honor to have

Doretha share with us recollections of her life on the Buffalo, and later, the eventual loss of part of the family farm to the newly formed Buffalo National River. Doretha's grandfather and father operated Dillard's Ferry up until approximately

*(Continued on page 4)*



*Volunteers for the River Cleanup  
(Photo Courtesy of Laura Timby)*



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## Eddie Line

(Continued from Page 3)

1950 when the present Hwy 14 Bridge was built. While Doretha spoke she would often hold up an article of clothing, or a tool, or an arrowhead from her personal collection and weave a fascinating story about how they lived back then. When questioned, she spoke with sorrow about losing their land to the NPS, saying it was a very dark time for their family. Ever resourceful and resilient, this loss did not turn her bitter. Today Doretha stands as an inspiration to all of us and a reminder of a way of life that is all but gone. All too often we think of the Buffalo National River as it is today and forget that those who lived here before its designation made a huge sacrifice in its creation. We owe them a debt of gratitude

Following the afternoon's speakers, BRC chair Katie Murray led a hike in the historical Rush Mining district. Since Katie formerly worked at the Buffalo in Interpretation, she has a wealth of knowledge about these areas of historical significance was happy to share it with Ozark Society members. It was really a treat to get such an in depth tour of the area.



Doretha Shipman describing her life on the Buffalo



Clancey and the Rag Tags  
(Photo Courtesy of Joseph Meyer)

As usual, the evening's potluck was fabulous with appetizing dishes of every description. There was no shortage of food and the dessert table was especially attractive. It might be a good idea sometime to print an Ozark Society cook book so we can capture some of these potluck specialties!

Last but not least, the evening's entertainment was a group of musicians from Mountain View, *Clancey and the Rag Tags*. Their lively renditions of traditional mountain music, as well as popular ballads, had everyone tapping their toes with a few of the more adventuresome venturing out onto the dance floor. What a fun way to end a day spent along the beautiful Buffalo, gaining new appreciation for our shared history and culture.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear, perfect weather for the planned river cleanup. Sixteen Ozark Society volunteers met at Wild Bills and at Buffalo River Float Service for assistance with canoes and shuttle service. The section of the river chosen for the cleanup was from Spring Creek to the Hwy. 14 Bridge. Thanks to recent rains the river was actually up enough to allow for floating. Amazingly clear water made our job easy, although it was a little too chilly to do much diving for trash. Everyone found something though and left the river just that much cleaner for our enjoyment. A big "thank you" to all the volunteers who made our gathering and cleanup a success.



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## Chapter News

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### From the Sugar Creek Chapter

Meeting time: 2nd Monday of the month, 6 – 8 p.m.

Meeting Location: Bentonville Library

### Upcoming Programs:

- ☞ **December 10:** Do you sometimes wonder if the younger generation is going to love the outdoors as much as we do? Jeff Belk, Outdoor Education Director at Rogers High School, will give us details about how he gets high school students involved in the great outdoors. They do a bit of everything from archery and rock climbing to canoeing.
- ☞ **January 14:** Where do towns get their crazy names? Suzan Young, curator at Shilo Museum in Springdale, will present a program on the funky place names found on Arkansas maps.
- ☞ **February 11:** We all live in a watershed. What happens when 'development' interferes with Mother Nature's ability to control stream runoff? I am lining up programs concerned with stream restoration in the Ozarks. All streams have serious erosion problems. How these problems are tackled depend on the physiography of the stream. We'll start with the headwaters of the Illinois and Elk River systems and show how rain gardens can make a difference in water quality. Other programs involved in stream restoration are being planned.
- ☞ For more information about hikes and events, check the Ozark Society web page: [www.ozarksociety.net](http://www.ozarksociety.net). Click on the Calendar, or ABOUT US, / NEWSLETTERS. The Highlands Chapter of Fayetteville is famous for their hikes. If you would like to go canoeing or hiking in a certain location, give Joseph Meyer a call at 479 925 2290.

### An update from the Highlands Chapter:

New officers were elected: Terry Fredrick was elected as President, Pat McKeown was elected as Treasurer, and Nancy Garner was elected as Refreshment Coordinator. These folks will assume their duties beginning in January. Fred Paillet will continue as Program Chair/Vice President, Luke Parsch will continue as Outings Chair and Listserve Manager, and Roy Penny will continue as Conservation Chair. In addition, the chapter voted to donate \$1,000 each to the Compton Scholarship Fund and the Hedges Scholarship Fund.

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### **Remembering Okley Davis**

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Okley then reenlisted in the Army Reserve Civil Engineers from which he retired as a Lt. Colonel. After that retirement, Okley managed an H&R Block office and later served as a tax preparer for AARP. He is survived by his wife (Donna), son (Arthur) daughter (Brenda), grandson (Michael) and granddaughter (Kristen).

We remember Okley's smile, his humor and his support of the Ozark Society. He was truly a man who lived a full life and enjoyed the trip. We will miss him.

### **New OS Board Members 2013 - 2014**

President – Bob Cross  
Vice President – Laura Timby  
Secretary – Sandy Roerig  
Treasurer – Bob Ritchie  
Membership Chair – Jenny Hackman  
Conservation Chair – Alice Andrews  
Education Chair – Fred Paillet  
Communications Chair – Carmen Quinn

Arkansas State Directors: Duane Woltjen, Stewart Noland

Louisiana State Directors: Catherine Tolson, Roy O'Neal

Missouri State Director: Bill Bates



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# Buffalo River Trail: Volunteers Maintained, Did Not Build, Trail

By Ken Smith

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Trail volunteers expecting to build trail while camping at South Maumee on the lower-middle Buffalo River got a last-minute surprise - they were ordered to instead maintain trails on the upper river while camped at Steel Creek. State-of- Arkansas bureaucrats, holding the purse-strings on a grant toward funding completion of the trail from U.S. 65 to Highway 14, halted the construction. Their believed need for archeological testing of the trail route first had to be satisfied.

So the trail volunteers came to Steel Creek, 41 volunteers in all, spread over three weeks from October 13 to November 2. These included 5 students from the University of Arkansas, 8 volunteers recruited through the Sierra Club, 11 enlisted through the American Hiking Society, and 17 “alumni” who returned after “graduating” from previous weeks of trail-building.

Trail maintenance consisted of removing fallen trees and tree limbs, clearing overhanging brush,

miles of the main-stem Buffalo River Hiking Trail, as well as much of the trail mileage in the Ponca Wilderness Area.

By a modest estimate of the volunteers spending 4 hours a day actually at work on trails (not including time for driving/hiking from camp to work areas) the volunteers worked a total of 723 person-hours.

People did have a good time. Fall colors were exceptionally nice.

What next for trail construction? Park archeologist Melissa Baier reported that she expected archeological clearance for the first segment of the construction line, U.S. 65 to Zack Ridge Road, to happen around the end of this year. We await that happening. Also we are interested in learning the number and importance of archeological sites Missy Baier discovers for the State-of-Arkansas holders of purse-strings.

So, stay tuned, folks...



*A perfect fall day at Buffalo Point*

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## COLORADO TRIP

July 7–13, 2013

The 2013 Colorado high adventure trip next year will be Sunday July 7 thru Saturday July 13. We plan to stay at the Cascade Campground in the Collegiate Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest.

The trip is limited to 60 people. Complete details will be in the spring Pack and Paddle.

Reservations may be made starting January 1, 2013. You must be an Ozark Society member to participate in this trip. You can join by sending \$15 annual dues along with your registration. Confirm your place on the Colorado outing by sending a check made out to the Ozark Society for the trip fee of \$150 for campers and \$125 for non-campers to:

Bob Ritchie, 07 Pleasant Valley Dr. #10, Little Rock, AR 72227

If you have any questions concerning the Colorado outing, contact Bob Ritchie: 501-225-1795 or BRitchieAR@aol.com.



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# The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal

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Join us or renew now! Dues are for one calendar year; they include a subscription to the Society; newsletter, Pack & Padde, and conservation bulletins.

Remit to: The Ozark Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2914, Little Rock, AR 72203.

Please check one:    New Member:                       Renewal:

Specify both the type of membership and the Chapter you are joining:

1. General Dues: (Please Circle One)

Individual or Family: \$15

Contributing: \$25

Life: \$200

(This is for OS membership only-it does not include chapter membership.)

2. Chapter Dues: (you may choose more than one)

Bayou - \$10  
(Shreveport, LA)

Buffalo River - \$10 (\$5 for  
email newsletter only)  
(N. Central AR)

Highlands - \$10  
(N. West AR)

Mississippi Valley - \$5  
(Cape Girardeau, MO)

Sugar Creek Chapter - \$5  
(Bentonville Area)

Pulaski Chapter - \$10  
(Central AR)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home)    (Work)    (Cell)

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if your email has changed, please let us know the old one to be deleted)*

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

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please specify above which type of membership and which Chapter you are joining)*





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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.*