



Spring
March 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

Newly Released Arkansas C&H Water Monitoring Study Used Taxpayer Money to Test Wrong Fields for Hog Waste Contamination

Coalition calls on state to fully reopen C & H's permitting process; Local citizens ask University of Arkansas to cease unauthorized testing on their land

On February 12, a coalition of public interest groups sent a letter to Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Teresa Marks pointing out misrepresentations around the permitting of C & H Hog Farms – a 6,500-swine facility in the Buffalo National River watershed. As a result of these misrepresentations, which reports show occurred as recently as January, the coalition is urging the agency to fully reopen the permitting process for C & H. In addition, a letter was sent this week by Mt. Judea farmers and owners to a University of Arkansas research team studying the impacts of the C & H operation. The landowners asked that the research team cease water monitoring and testing that is currently underway on their land and that was never approved by the property owners.

Last year, Arkansas approved the spending of over half a million dollars in taxpayer money for water monitoring around C & H. As part of the facility's nutrient management plan (NMP) submitted and approved by ADEQ, C & H claimed to have access to 17 fields to dispose of their hog waste. However, property owners of land in three of those

fields had declined permission to use their properties as manure sprayfields when they were initially approached by C & H. Remarkably, two of those three fields have since been identified as the focus of the state-funded University of Arkansas water monitoring project, despite the fact that they have not and will never receive C & H waste. This has occurred while both ADEQ and C & H had knowledge of the ownership issues with the fields identified in the NMP, as acknowledged in subsequent compliance inspection reports.

"The people of Arkansas and the university research team have been seriously misled," said Ozark Society President Robert Cross. "We've learned that both ADEQ and C & H previously knew that three fields were improperly identified as fields set to receive manure applications. So why did they erroneously allow the University of Arkansas research team to use these fields to conduct monitoring and consequently waste a lot of taxpayer money?"

In its first quarterly report sent to the governor in mid-February, the University of Arkansas research team noted that they have already accessed one of the

falsely identified properties for research and monitoring, and plan to conduct further testing on these fields moving forward.

The aforementioned letter sent by Mt. Judea landowners to the University of Arkansas states: "We have not granted permission for C & H to use our lands as manure sprayfields, nor have we granted permission for the Big Creek Research Team to access our lands to perform research on the impacts of the C & H facility. We request that your Team immediately cease all activities on our property and seek our approval before accessing our properties in the future."

In June of last year, well-known Arkansas hydrogeologist Dr. John Van Brahana called on ADEQ to suspend C & H's permit to address "significant omissions and potential problems." While Dr. Brahana proposed a research program to

assess the water quality of the region to more fully understand the impacts of the facility before field application began, his offers were bypassed – with the state instead opting to fund a University of Arkansas monitoring program that costs

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Snow's Gone. Time to Build Trail!

Beginning Saturday, February 15, work resumed for creating more of the Buffalo River Hiking Trail. Ken Smith, project coordinator, is to meet trail builders at 9:30 a.m. every morning (as weather allows), weekends and weekdays, at the Tyler Bend maintenance shop off U.S. 65 north of Marshall. Volunteers need to bring a daypack with lunch and drinking water, and have appropriate clothing. The National Park Service provides trail tools.

From March 14 till April 19, group campsites 1 and 2 at Tyler Bend will be available for those wanting to stay overnight. There will be a completely equipped cook tent at the campsites for use by volunteers--though at times the kitchen will be shared with student groups already scheduled for trail work.

Trail work will be within the first mile or so each of Highway 65, involving a car shuttle of 2 or 3 miles from the maintenance shop.

If you plan to come, you can obtain information by phoning Ken at 479-466-7994. He'll try to reply to messages left on his cell phone. We're behind schedule on this much-needed trail project. Come and help!

Spring Flower Detail – Drawing by Fred Paillet



SOCIETY OFFICERS: **President:** Bob Cross, (479) 587-8757, racross@uark.edu; **Vice President:** Position Open; **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.

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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.



January Hike One for the Books!

By Steve Heye, Pulaski Chapter Outings Chair

Ok, I will admit that I had advertised the January day hike from Fairview down to Chancel as being “Easy”. Well, the last time I did this stretch in the early 2000’s, it was. A dozen years later, let’s say things do change in the woods even though we don’t notice!

First off, the day started off OK, sunny and above freezing. Thethree days before, however, had seen heavy rain in Little Rock and icy conditions north of Conway. The rain on the Friday before got the ice off the roads and the only problems we had was the several Semi trucks that had slid off or tipped over. The wreckers had some areas tied up but we made it Fairview on Hwy. 7 in a bit more than normal time.

It was time then for the shuttle down to Chancel. This is normally a 40 minute ordeal because of the winding road and steepness of them. In addition, it is about a 20 mile round trip. But as we soon found out, things were not normal this time around. Once we made our way down muddy forest roads to the bottom of the valley, we had to contend with high side streams. The snow and ice that had melted in the rain the day before had swelled the small side creeks up to a couple of feet deep. After a bit of driving through water and side roads, we did find a place to park the shuttle cars and made our way back to Fairview about an hour later to begin the hike.

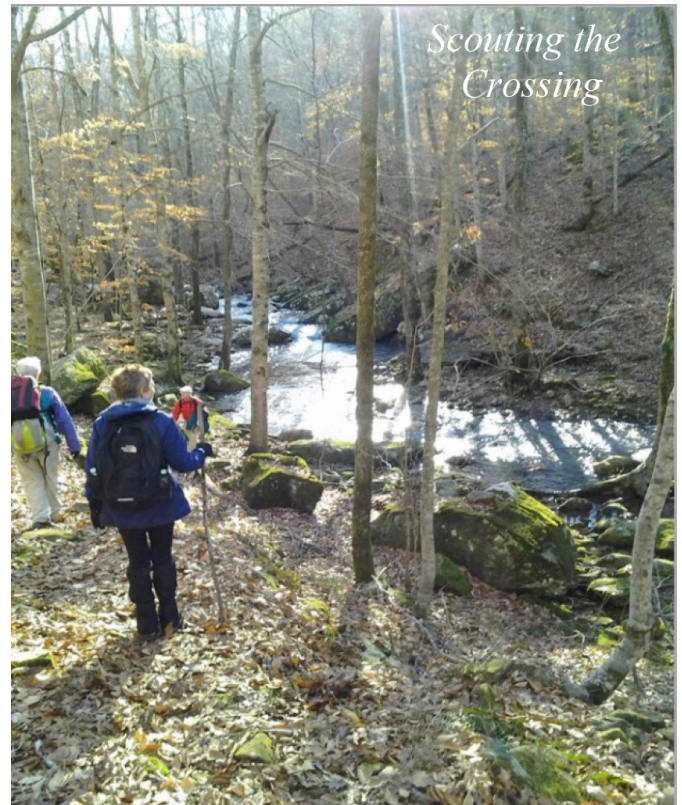
It was just a hair past 11 when we got started and the trail was in decent condition as we started the steep descent into the Hurricane valley. Everyone seemed to be doing okay; and for the first hour,

we enjoyed a sunny winter day with small waterfalls up side creeks.

How many of you were on or have heard of the HIKE FROM HELL? This was the hike held about 10 years ago under similar conditions. That hike was from Stack Rock over to the bridge at Richland Creek campground, about 7 miles, but relatively flat. Should have taken about 4 hours...should have.

The problem on that hike that made it so memorable was that it was under similar conditions: snow and ice in the days before and then melting on the day of the hike. The result was all the side streams that are dry 95% of the time had a lot of water in them. Some folks got wet at the first crossing and it went downhill from there with wet pants, socks, boots and even tops. The pace ground to a crawl as folks searched for 20 minutes at each crossing looking for ways to get across dry. Result: the hike did not end until 7:30, well after dark.

Flash forward to January 11, 2014. The only thing different this time is the trail is losing altitude and it’s a sunny day. Just about lunchtime we came to the first crossing. We all ate first before trying to cross the 20-foot wide stream in front of us. Some just said, “Screw it” and just walked into the foot deep water while others stripped



their boots and socks off and barefoot it across. I managed to find a log to hold me up and made this crossing dry. Tim Ernst’s guidebook mentions two more crossings of size along the trail until we get to the cars. It turned out to be four more.

Normally this would not get the hike into the book of “Epic” hikes. No, to get there we have to toss in the fact that since the last time I did this stretch with a group the trees were not under attack by beetles and disease. Several areas of the trail had large trees down and going around them was difficult by the sloping terrain. These delayed our progress about as much as the stream crossings. Mud in some areas did not help either.

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taxpayers over half a million dollars to identify issues after the fact. Brahana has moved forward with testing with his own money and support from other organizations.

“The more we look into this permitting process for C & H, the more flaws, misrepresentations, and omissions we’re finding that allowed this hog facility to fly through under the radar,” said Earthjustice attorney Hannah Chang. “This whole monitoring process is such a huge waste of taxpayer money and one that our coalition warned about when the water testing was originally proposed by the state. Given these recent discoveries of serious missteps and scientific research that validates our environmental concerns, we are urging ADEQ to fully reopen the permitting process for C & H Hog Farms.”

C & H is under contract with Cargill – the largest privately held company in the nation and the sole customer for the facility. Public pressure has been mounting against both Cargill

and ADEQ to remove the facility from its current location, with billboards, rallies and petitions appearing across the state. Both ADEQ and Cargill have steadfastly supported the location of the facility, though ADEQ Director Teresa Marks readily admitted in a December New York Times article that “some of this waste could reach the Buffalo River.” In the same article, Dr. Brahana, whose experience with such matters is considerable, was much more explicit, saying: “There is a probably greater than 95 percent chance that we are going to see impacts of degraded water quality and major environmental degradation.”

In another equally important facet of this case, the coalition opposing C & H filed a lawsuit in August of 2013 challenging the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for their inadequate review and improper authorization of loan guarantee assistance to C&H. In providing federal assistance, SBA undertook

no environmental review, while FSA prepared a deeply flawed and insufficient environmental assessment that fails to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The agencies also failed to consult with the superintendent at Buffalo National River, as required by law.

“We’re not talking about a bunch of conservationists who are the only ones opposed to this hog factory,” said Buffalo River Watershed Alliance member Dane Schumacher. “The letter from local landowners illustrates how C & H Hog Farms is already impacting life for local Mt. Judea farmers. Opposition is being driven by those most affected by this operation, and it’s time ADEQ and C & H listen to their concerns.”

The letter to ADEQ was sent by Earthjustice, Earthrise Law Center, and local attorney Hank Bates on behalf of the Buffalo River Watershed Alliance, National Parks Conservation Association, The Ozark Society and Arkansas Canoe Club.

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- To read the letter the coalition sent to ADEQ, as well as the letter sent by local landowners to the University of Arkansas, click here: <http://buffaloriveralliance.org/Resources/Documents/Letter%20to%20ADEQ%20Feb%202012%20Complaint%20and%20New%20Information.pdf>
 - For the University of Arkansas’s flawed initial report on water quality testing, click here: <http://newswire.uark.edu/articles/23389/ground-penetrating-radar-water-monitoring-stations-set-up-by-bigcreek-research-team>
 - For background on the lawsuit, click on the link: <http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/pressreleases/2013/groups-go-to-court-to-protect.html>



Colorado High Adventure Trip – July 13 – July 19

The 2014 Colorado high adventure trip this year will be Sunday July 13 thru Saturday July 19. 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 so if you want to go you need to send in your reservation in by June 1, 2014.

You should plan to arrive at the campground by mid-afternoon Sunday July 13. The first meal will be that evening. All meals will be provided

through dinner on Friday July 18 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. Meals at the campground will be provided for all trip participants, regardless of whether you are camping or staying at the lodge.

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

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 \$100 for non-campers to: Bob Ritchie, 707 Pleasant Valley Dr. #10, Little Rock, AR 72227. If you have questions concerning the Colorado outing, the Colorado outing, contact Stewart Noland at bosshq@aol.com or 501-666-2989.

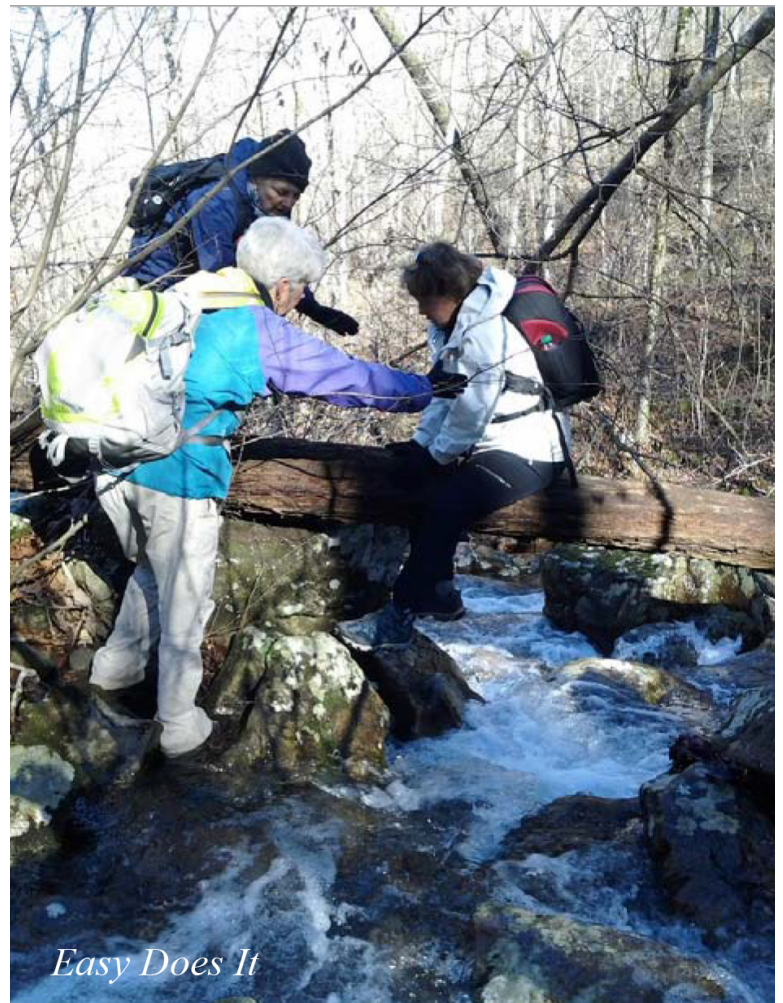
January Hike

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In addition, a couple of our hikers were novices and were just flat worn out by the added obstacles. We encouraged them as best we could to keep the group moving. They responded well to our pleas to keep moving, explaining that we had all been there at one time or another. We even pulled out the Hike from Hell story to let them know that it happens to everyone! It was 2:30 and we were just half way done.

Because it was early January, the sun would duck behind the ridge about 3 p.m. and dark would start coming on about 5 p.m. It was 5 o'clock by the time we got to the last big crossing we had to make, Buck Creek. This was about 40 feet wide and 18 inches deep and no way to hop rocks or shimmy on logs. I had made it all the way with boots on and dry feet. Not this time. The only saving grace for wading the cold water was the fact that the cars were about 5 minutes away!

It took us 6 hours to walk about 6 miles. There were five major stream crossings and at least ten down tree diversions. Toss in the mud and slippery rocks and you have the makings of another Epic hike for the Ozark Society! But I was never more proud of those who made it! This is as tough as it will ever get on one of my hikes and they all came through!



Easy Does It



Special Ozark Society Outings Coming Up This Year

By Stewart Noland

As previously reported, the OS is planning to escalate its All-Society outing program. The Colorado trip is back on the schedule this year for July 13-19; the details are available at www.ozarksociety.net and on page 5 of this newsletter. In addition, two additional outings are planned for 2014.

First, Bob Cross will lead an outing in late September or early October in the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. The outing will include

both car camping and backpacking. Second, Janet Nye will lead a cycling trip in October on the Natchez Trace in Mississippi. More information on both of these outings will be available at www.ozarksociety.net.

Future trips could include a base camp trip on the Appalachian Trail, an Isle Royale backpack, a Buffalo River float trip, a motor powered raft trip through the Grand Canyon, an Alaska backpack, a Bob Marshall Wilderness trip, a hike

and boat trip to Glacier National Park, cycle trips on the Michelson, Gap, and Katy trails, and possible trips to New Zealand, Patagonia, and Portugal.

Ozark Society members are encouraged to take advantage of these high quality outing opportunities, and a sincere thank you is in order for all volunteer outing leaders and coordinators.

More information will be posted in the next issue of Pack & Paddle, and also on our website, www.ozarksociety.net.

Spring Meeting April 11-13 at Tyler Bend

The Pulaski Chapter will host the Spring All-Society Meeting at Tyler Bend, which will be more fun than meeting. The emphasis is on hikes, canoeing and recreation, not on business. Group camp sites 3& 4 are reserved for April 11 &

12. There will be hikes and float trips on both April 12 and 13, starting at 9 am at the Pavilion. There will be a light breakfast on Saturday morning, and potluck supper on Saturday at the pavilion, starting at 6 pm. After the

potluck we will have each Chapter do a SKIT. So put your heads together and let's see who can do the best. The skits will be followed by musical entertainment.



*Dogwood Blossom
Drawing by Fred Paillet*





The Ozark Society Membership Application/Renewal

Join us or renew now! You can use this form, or renew online using the PayPal link. Dues are for one calendar year; they include a subscription to the Society's newsletter, *Pack & Paddle*, and conservation bulletins. New memberships paid after October 1 are good through the following year.

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(s) you are joining:

1. General Dues: (Please Circle One)

Individual/Family: \$15

Contributing/Sustaining: \$25

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.)*

2. Chapter Dues: (chapter membership is not required; you may join more than one chapter if desired.)

Bayou Chapter - \$10 (Shreveport, LA)

Highlands Chapter - \$10 (N. West AR)

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

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

Sugar Creek Chapter - \$5 (Bentonville Area)

Pulaski Chapter - \$10 (Central AR)

Name(s):

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(if your email has changed, please let us know the old one to be deleted)

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Total Amount Enclosed: _____

(Please specify above which type of membership and which Chapter you are joining.)



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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.