***Ozark Society Spring Outing (One-Day Event) and 6th Annual Buffalo River Classic***

***When:  Saturday, 21 March 2015***

***Host:  Ozark Society Highlands Chapter***

***Location:  Ozark Campground Pavilion near Jasper AR, and other locations along the Buffalo National River***

The Highlands Chapter will host the Ozark Society’s Spring Outing by inviting all Ozark Society members, hikers, floaters, and lovers of the Buffalo River to the chapter’s 6th Annual Buffalo River Classic on Saturday, March 21, 2015.  There will be three simultaneous events at this one-day recreational outing:  a long “marathon” hike, several shorter “regular” day-hikes, and a canoe-kayak float.  Participants in all three events will converge at the Ozark Campground Pavilion on the Buffalo River near Jasper AR for a cookout/potluck at 4:00 p.m.  Everyone is welcome to the cookout whether or not they participate in the hikes or the float.  And, everyone is welcome to participate in this event whether an Ozark Society member or not.

**Camping and Overnighting**:

Although this is a one-day Saturday event, participants driving from distant chapters may want to overnight in the Jasper AR/Buffalo River area.  FYI, distances to Ozark Campground from the six OS chapters are:  45 mi from Gilbert AR, 80 mi from Fayetteville AR, 97 mi from Bentonville AR, 146 mi from Little Rock AR, 277 mi from Cape Girardeau MO, and 350 mi from Shreveport LA.  The Ozark Campground has a number of campsites.  See the National Park Service website at: <http://www.recreation.gov/> for facilities at the Ozark Pavilion Campground and other sites in the Buffalo National River Park.  There are also a number of commercial campsites, cabins, and motels in the nearby Jasper AR area (6 mi south), or in Harrison AR (16 mi north).

***Events: Three simultaneous Buffalo River outings followed by a cookout:***

1. ***Long (marathon) Buffalo River Trail Hike***:  Ponca low-water bridge to Ozark Campground Pavilion, rated “very difficult” with a distance of 23.6 mi and cumulative elevation gain of 3,450 ft.  A re-hydration station (energy drinks, carbs, fruits, liquids) and a “bail-out” vehicle will be at Kyles Landing (10.2 mi).  A $10 registration fee will be charged for rehydration supplies.  A car shuttle from Ponca to the Ozark Campground will be available.  Start time is 7:15 a.m. at the Ponca Low Water Bridge.  Terry Fredrick is coordinator, at 479-422-7776 or terrfre@att.net
	1. *Pre-registration*:  To pre-register for this marathon hike and the cookout, send an email to Terry Fredrick terrfre@att.net  (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.  Bring the $10 marathon registration fee to the Ponca trailhead.  A five dollar ($5) donation will also be collected from all marathon-hike participants at the cookout.  Cookout details are below.

1. ***Two Shorter (regular) Buffalo River Trail Day-Hikes***:  Ozark Campground Pavilion to Cedar Glade Return (out-and-back), rated “easy” with a distance of 3.4 mi; and, Ozark Campground Pavilion to Pruitt Return (out-and-back), rated moderate with a distance of 5.2 mi.  Choose one or both hikes.  Start times are 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Ozark Campground Pavilion.  Luke Parsch, coordinator, 479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu
	1. *Pre-registration*:  To pre-register for the short hikes and the cookout, send an email to Luke Parsch at lparsch@uark.edu  (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.  A five dollar ($5) donation will be collected from all short-hike participants at the cookout.  Cookout details are below.

1. ***Buffalo River Float (Canoe or Kayak)***:  Erbie Campground to Ozark Pavilion Campground (5.5 mi); or, Pruitt Landing to Hasty (6.5 mi) depending on the river level, rated “pleasurable” and all downstream.  Provide your own kayak/canoe.  Start-time is 10:00 a.m. at either launch site where floaters will arrange a car-shuttle to the take-out. Tell JB whether you will canoe or kayak, and whether your vehicle can help with the shuttle to the take-out.  JB Clark, coordinator, 479-442-5091 H or 479-422-0869 M or julianbclark@yahoo.com
	1. *Pre-registration*:  To pre-register for this float and the cookout, send an email to JB Clark at julianbclark@yahoo.com  (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.  A five dollar ($5) donation will be collected from all float participants at the cookout.  Cookout details are below.

1. ***Buffalo River Pot-Luck Cookout***:  Grilled burgers, pot-luck dishes, and socializing, rated “just-plain fun” at the end of an active day spent with other nice people who enjoy the beautiful Buffalo River.  Everyone is welcome to the pot-luck cookout whether or not they participate in either of the two hikes or the float.  A five-dollar ($5) donation is requested of all persons at the cookout.  Hamburgers and hot dogs, plates, silverware, and fixings will be supplied.  Everyone is requested to bring a side-dish (snacks, dessert, salad, covered dish) and to provide their own beverages.  Start time is approximately 4:00 p.m. at Ozark Campground Pavilion Chris Kline is coordinator - 479-409-0394 or cl\_kline@sbcglobal.net
	1. *Pre-registration*:  If you are not hiking or floating, you must register separately for the cookout so we have a headcount.  To pre-register only for the cookout, send an email to Chris Kline at cl\_kline@sbcglobal.net (include your telephone number) by 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.  A five dollar ($5) donation will be collected from all participants at the Ozark Campground cookout.

**Disclaimer**:  All participants in the hikes and the float are required to sign a “liability release” <http://www.ozarksociety.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/OS-Sign-Up_Sheet_rev4.pdf> at the trailhead or launch site in order to participate in this Ozark Society outing.No pets are allowed on any outings, and no children are allowed in the marathon hike or float.  Children under 12 years must be accompanied by a guardian for the shorter day-hikes.  Everyone is welcome to participate in this event whether an Ozark Society member or not.

**Contact Details for Additional Information:**

Luke Parsch, Highlands Chapter Outings Chair:  479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu

Terry Fredrick (marathon hike):  479-422-7776 or terrfre@att.net

Luke Parsch (short hikes):  479-442-3817 or lparsch@uark.edu

JB Clark (float)**:** 479-442-5091 H; 479-422-0869 M or julianbclark@yahoo.com

Chris Kline (cookout):  479-409-0394 or cl\_kline@sbcglobal.net