

Ozark Society Bulletin

Autumn 1976



Tupelo Gum Pond, Mark Twain National Forest, Oregon County, Mo. An upland sinkhole pond with a relic southern flora, including the tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*).

- Photo R. Roger Pryor

OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

Autumn 1976

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BNR Has Park Interpreter

Buffalo National River has its first permanent Park Interpreter, Superintendent Lorraine Mintzmyer announced. Richard E. McCamant comes to that position from Padre Island National Seashore where he served four years as Park Naturalist and Environmental Specialist.

Richard has been with the National Park Service since 1964 and has previously worked at Glacier, Yellowstone, Everglades and Hot Springs National Parks, as well as Padre Island before coming to Buffalo River.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW CHAPTERS

We welcome two new chapters whose officers are listed on this page. They are representative of the two halves of Arkansas which lie on either side of a line passing diagonally SW-NE through the center of the state, the hill country on one side and the flat lands on the other.

The Union County Chapter at El Dorado and the Buffalo River Chapter at Mountain Home are about as far apart geographically as one can get and still be in Arkansas, but have a common bond in their conservation interests.

The SIERRA CLUB, at its annual banquet in San Francisco, honored several conservationists for their outstanding achievements. Among them was Scott Heppel of the Tennessee Chapter, creator of a widely acclaimed slide and tape show on the Great Smokies. Scott received the Ansel Adams Award for the show.

Members of The Ozark Society were privileged to see the show at the Spring Meeting at DeGray Lodge. Scott is a member of The Ozark Society.

Jaques Costeau was the speaker at the banquet and received the John Muir award.

Two Wilderness Areas For Louisiana

If you believe Kisatchie Hills and Saline Bayou should be set aside as wilderness areas write your Senators and Congressmen asking them to do everything possible to insure the eventual establishment of these two wilderness areas.

These two areas are included in U.S. Senate Bill 520 and House Resolution 3507. At the end of the 94th Congress, Senate Bill 520 had not gone to an initial hearing. House Resolution 520 has had its initial hearing and should move to the Sub-committee during the next Congress.

For more information, read page 12 of the Spring 1976 Bulletin or write: Dwayne N. Cruse, NSU P.O. Box 3005, Natchitoches, LA 71457.

The Ozark Society Foundation Approved

The Ozark Society Foundation, which was created by the Ozark Society's Board of Directors in the summer of 1975, has now become operational. The last legal barrier was cleared when the Internal Revenue Service declared that the Foundation was a tax-exempt organization in October of 1976. This means that all donations to the Foundation are legitimate deductions when computing your federal income tax. It is thought that this tax status will make fund raising less difficult.

The goal of the Foundation is to operate for scientific, literary or educational purposes and for the preservation and conservation of the streams, wildlife, plant life, forests, wetlands, and all natural resources. The following activities have been identified as means to achieve the purpose of the Foundation:

1. Publishing and developing for publication books and other literature of an educational or scientific nature. Examples are *The Buffalo River Country* by Ken Smith, the *Buffalo River Canoeing Guide* and *The Mighty Mulberry* by Harold and Margaret Hedges, and the upcoming book on the Illinois River by Ken Smith. Several future publications are under consideration;
2. The formation of an "Interpretive Association" with the National Forest Service which will enable the Foundation to distribute publications related to the purpose of the Foundation. One such outlet could possibly be at Blanchard Springs Cavern. The Foundation's application has been filed with the National Forest Service;
3. The development of a limited schedule of outings for which small fees will be charged. The Hedges' "Play for Pay" outings are examples of the type of outings the Foundation hopes to sponsor. These outings could not only provide recreational fun, but also educational experiences by utilizing the expertise of Ozark Society Members as guides;
4. The use of donations and surplus funds to purchase or otherwise protect endangered streams, wetlands, prairie land, forests, or preserves for endangered wildlife and plant life.

Tax deductible contributions to support these activities are now being accepted. Any size donations are welcome and can be made by mailing your check to Foundation Treasurer, Tom Foti, Arkansas Ecology Center, Little Rock, AR 72202.

Members of the Foundation Board of Directors are Bob Fisher (Chairman) and Mary Virginia Ferguson (Secretary) of Conway, Tom Foti (Treasurer) and Tom McRae of Little Rock, and Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville.

Illinois River

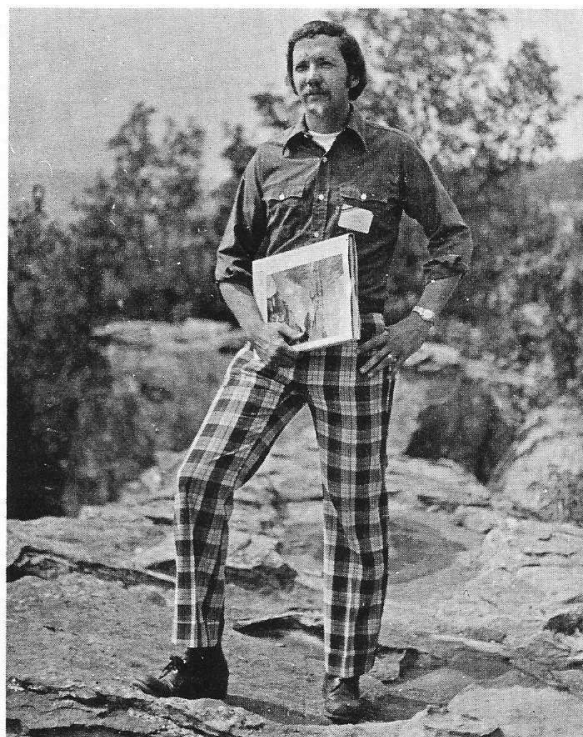
By Sam Powell
Outdoor Editor, Tulsa World

The complete story of the future of the Illinois River will not be known for probably another year or so. That's the basic "time table" that Rolland Handley, director of the southwest region of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, gave to me in a conversation following the big citizens' workshop held concerning the Illinois.

The weekend workshop, held at Western Hills Lodge on Fort Gibson Lake in eastern Oklahoma, for the first time, brought together the two factions that have been engaged in a pretty bitter battle in recent months. For the first time also, there seems to be a new spirit of friendship and better understanding between landowners along the Illinois valley, and conservationists and others from across the state, who are interested, and committed, to seeing this great stream preserved in some fashion.

Conservation elements have been pushing for inclusion of the stream in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, and unfortunately, most of the people from the area of the river are apparently dead set against that.

I was a group leader of a discussion group, one of 10 set up for the day and a half meetings, and during my group's first get-together, it was dramatically apparent that both sides of the fence really want the same thing for the river — we just



Bill Bates - Camille Thompson

Bill Bates, Ozark Society member of Springfield, Missouri, became the sixth recipient of the Neil Compton Award at the fall meeting at Petit Jean Mountain on September 18. Bates was presented with a copy of the book, *GENTLE WILDERNESS*.

Bill was recognized for his tireless efforts in coordinating the drive for Missouri wilderness preservation. Bates is also active in the Sierra Club, serving as a director of the Ozark Chapter. Bates helped spearhead the drive to secure funding for "Designs for Conservation," an expanded program for the Missouri Conservation Department, serving as 7th Congressional District chairman. Bill is a charter member of the Schoolcraft Chapter having served in many capacities with Missouri's only Ozark Society Chapter.

Bates' conservation work is characterized by dedication, expertise and a high degree of success in achieving his goals.

disagree on how to go about getting that. We had landowners, canoe concession operators, some of the most hard-core conservationists, and even the middle-of-the roaders in my group, and it made for an interesting, worthwhile weekend.

The major point still forcing a division between all sides, is the actual mechanism whereby the river would be afforded some form of protection. Landowners factions are pushing for adoption of something called the "RC&D alternative management plan." It would set up a governing board, in which conservation elements are too heavily weighted in favor of the landowners, and other groups along the river. The adoption of some form of management and protection plan, is the key to the future of the river. It's also anticipated that there will be some legislation brought forth soon in the coming session of the Oklahoma Legislature that would have significant bearing on the river, and the entire Oklahoma Scenic Rivers system and legislation.

BOR, which was given the task of studying the river for possible inclusion in the system, says that it will take the many suggestions and alternative proposals that came out of the Fort Gibson meeting, mold them into some form of recommendations, and then hold another series of public hearings, to let the interested public again hear what it plans to propose for the river. From that step, final recommendations will go to the Secretary of Interior, and he will forward final recommendations to Congress.

As Handley said, the Illinois' story is still a long way from being completed, and by early in 1978 — we hope — we will have some idea about what is going to happen to the stream.

The Play for Pay Canoe Trip

BY THE PAYING PRESS

Sunday, October 3, the gravel bar at Gilbert became the scene of much activity as car after car, each carrying a canoe, came crunching to a stop. Tents were pitched, duffle bags and other gear spilled out until the bar contained a full encampment. In the midst of all this was the cook tent with work tables under the fly and and a campfire out in front. A grill with two large coffee pots sat over the fire. The leaders, Margaret and Harold Hedges, and assistant Mary Virginia Ferguson, were busily preparing the evening meal. This was to be the put-in of Ozark Society's second "Play for Pay" trip down the Buffalo.

We were behind with our canoeing for the past two years, so decided to catch up, to some extent by joining this six day trip of the Hedges. The trip, as advertised, was conducted October 3 to 9 on the Buffalo River. Because of low water from a lack of rainfall, it started at the village of Gilbert, 45 miles below Pruitt, the originally scheduled put-in point.

The 3rd was on Sunday; that afternoon 22 people gathered from Natchez, Mississippi, and Monroe, Wisconsin, and some points in between reminding one of the gathering of the prairie schooners at Westport Landing in the early 1800's for the westward trek. On the gravel bar at Gilbert, we began to get acquainted, threw up our little tent city for the first time and ate our first supper together. (The piece de resistance was roast beef.) We were greeted that night by an almost full moon which we would watch swell during the rest of the trip. (While it was swelling, the writer's air mattress went down and he was on the rocks the rest of the trip.)

Monday morning, there was the long shuffle of our cars to Norfork on the White, 12 miles below the mouth of the Buffalo and about 70 miles from Gilbert. All of the drivers returned in one pickup truck, had lunch at Gilbert bar and, shortly after one o'clock, the flotilla of 11 canoes took off, each carrying its portion of the

commissary which included pickle buckets number 1, 2, and 3 filled with home made cookies. The stop that first night was opposite beautiful Goat's Bluff, about four miles downstream.

Next day, Tuesday, we passed Maumee bar on which we had camped so many times after the first day of each of the annual clean-up floats. Familiar things greeted us, the steep, slick slide down from the parking on the west bank of the river, the big bar along the east bank, lonesome without the summer groups of campers, the immense barn beyond and the long hog back dropping down from the south into the entrenched meander.

Beyond, the weather became forbidding and, after a while, one might think he was approaching Dante's frozen inferno. Black clouds swooped down, rain varied from drizzles to downpours, and a chill wind penetrated clothing and tossed waves against us. We finally reached our day's destination, the bar across from Spring Creek bluff, glad of the chance to pitch our tents and get into dry clothing and enjoy the roaring fire which Harold had built. One of the group came in chilled and had to go through a warming process tucked in a sleeping bag with a hot water bottle. The rain had ceased but the air was chilly. Proper rain gear and clothing are a must at this time of year because of unpredictable weather.

Wednesday, we passed under Highway 14 Bridge and Buffalo Point. We hesitated at Barnes' camp for a mother to telephone home to report and to see how her baby was getting along without her. We stopped at Buffalo Point long enough to drop off some tin cans. Several of the men would have liked to have had the luxury of a warm shave in the bath house, but there was no time for it; we had to keep moving. We ended the day at Toney Bluff between Buffalo Point and Rush on another beautiful bar marked by the two or three large rocks out in the river known as Toney Rocks.

Thursday, we stopped at Rush where we were met by Butch Baker with a pickup load of supplies from the store at Gilbert. Missing was Fred Durst who had met us with an out-stretched and empty hand for so many years. Gone was the old bus body which was Fred's home. We wondered how it had again become mobile after it had sat there so long surrounded by his treasures. Instead, the Park Service had installed, off to one side, a modern privy in enameled beauty which lacked the splinters and half moon of an earlier day. Going on, Clabber Creek Shoals was different, but no doubt only temporarily until the rains come. It just didn't look the same; more like a rocky gully subject to flash floods.

That night we camped on a bar about 2 miles above the mouth of Big Creek. Friday morning, as we passed Big Creek, we recalled the time, years ago with Doc Compton leading, we took out there. We had our cars brought in by local drivers. The road down to the river was steep, rocky and partially washed out. At least one car was damaged from sliding over the rocks. Coming out, there was a turn where you looked out into space just as you do when you top Pike's Peak in a car. We found the beautiful white poppy, Argemone in bloom on the bar. At a later date, we were on a trip led by Dick Murray for members of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Sierra Club. Perhaps this was the first Sierra Club float on the Buffalo. At that time the river was up and muddy.

Friday, we snaked, and dragged through what seemed to be a surprising number of shoals for this part of the river. Margaret Hedges had spied several heavily loaded persimmon trees on the bank and declared a "persimmon break". At the same time, we saw Elephant Rock in the distance with its face turned up river looking at us. While most went for the fruit, some of us took advantage of the stop to get distant shots down the river of this magnificent sight. It was good that we did as it was getting rather near takeout time, so when we passed Elephant Head, we were bearing down on the paddles with several gravel bars to be passed before Harold would find a suitable one. We went through the worst shoal of all and finally made camp a mile and a half below Elephant Rock on the last good bar above Last Chance Bar and two miles above the entrance to White River.

Saturday morning, we had our breakfast, took some group pictures, stored our paraphernalia into the canoes and embarked for the last time on this trip. In a short distance, we could see from the wet banks that the water had dropped some two feet and knew that we were close to the mouth of the Buffalo where the water backs in from the White. This could also be confirmed by the much lower temperature of the water. We glided easily into the White, and the swiftness of the clear, cold water did not require any paddling except to steer. However, everyone was in a hurry to get started home, so the trip to Norfork was almost a



Encampment at Gilbert - Joe Clark

race. It didn't take long to make the 12 miles, but we did have our last lunch stop on the way to savor cold grilled chicken and steak.

After transferring our gear to our cars on the landing at Norfork, and saying our goodbyes, we stopped on the hill to examine the Wolf House. This was a treat as only last winter we had read the "Life in the Leatherwoods" by John Quincy Wolf.

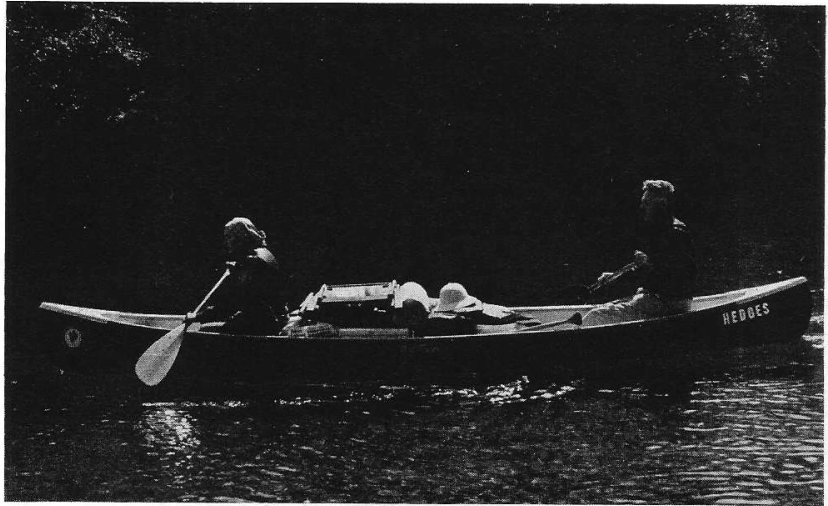
Since we kept no diary, we will lump together the fine experiences of the trip into the words included afterward in a letter to the Hedges by one of the participants: "I had such a good time on the Ozark Society canoe trip that I can see why Tom Gilchrist signs up every time you hang your shingle out. No one can believe we were fed so sumptuously, and are properly amazed and impressed by our reports of grilled steaks, chicken, fresh tossed salads, garden grown vegetables, and homemade bread. — I know how much planning and organization was behind it, and I loved it all and am grateful for being kept so healthy as well as Happy. Harold—we always felt we had such competent leadership that it was just plain relaxed fun for us. We were aware all the time that you really *know* the Buffalo, the gravel bars and the river's ways, as well as we know our own neighborhoods."

OUTINGS

New Year's float; Jan. 1 on Cadron or Piney depending on water and weather. Camp out New Year's Eve before trip. Contact Alice Andrews the week before at 5610 "B" St., Little Rock, 72205, phone 663-3023 home or 372-8361 (bus.) Experienced floaters.

1977 OUTINGS SCHEDULE will be printed in the Winter Bulletin. Schedules will be mailed to Chapters by January 1. If you are not in a Chapter and want a schedule, write Carl Guhman, 1315 S. Scott, Apt. C., Little Rock, AR 72202.

Marvin Altman, the steak broiler - Rose Hogan



The Leaders, Harold and Margaret Hedges - Rose Hogan



Activity at the cook tent - Joe Clark



ANNUAL FALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Camp Mitchell, Petit Jean Mountain was the site of the Annual Ozark Society Meeting. It is a beautiful and inspiring location on the flat top mountain with a 700 foot overlook into Ada Valley.

We had the opportunity to meet Lorraine Mintzmeyer, the new superintendent of Buffalo National River who told of the status of the Park and future plans. Others on the program were Larry Henson, Superintendent of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests; Harold Grimmett, Director of the Arkansas National Heritage Commission; Tom Foti, Director of the Arkansas Ecology Center and Conservation Chairman of the Ozark Society; and Bill Bates, Wilderness Chairman, Schoolcraft Chapter, Springfield, Missouri.

Afterwards, there was the banquet and an unscheduled program of excellent slide shows by John and Vashiti McCollum of Springdale and Norm Hartley of the Newton County Wildlife Association. Expresident and founder of The Ozark Society, Neil Compton, ran some of his movies taken during the early days of the fight to save the Buffalo from being dammed. They had been effective in winning support and in bringing together those who joined to form The Ozark Society. A sing-a-long followed which lasted far into the night for some of the more energetic participants.

At the business meeting, a slate of officers was elected. All succeeded themselves except those filling the positions of Secretary and Membership Chairman left

vacant by the resignations of the Secretary, Jo Wilson, and the Membership Chairman Kriste Rees.

The officers for next year are:

President: Steve Wilson, Little Rock, Arkansas

1st Vice President, D.F. (Buzz) Darby, Springfield, Missouri

2nd Vice President (Society Outing Chairman): Carl Guhman, Little Rock

Treasurer: James W. (Bill) Wiggins, Little Rock

Secretary: Nedra Bolin, Little Rock
Membership Chairman: Edwina Walls, Little Rock

Directors at Large: Tom Gilchrist, Shreveport, Louisiana; Harold Hedges, Ponca, Arkansas; June Kendall, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Rose Hogan, Little Rock, continues as Executive Secretary, and

Tom Foti, Little Rock, remains as Conservation Committee Chairman

The Resolutions Committee composed of Buzz Darby and Ralph Roseburg presented the following resolutions which were accepted:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Ozark Society opposes the construction of the Union Electric Nuclear Plant in Calloway County, Missouri, until alternative power resources can be fully researched.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Ozark Society endorses the concept of roadside planting of native vegetation such as proposed in Senator Morris M. Henry's

recent suggestions to the Arkansas Highway Department and the State Highway Commission.

WHEREAS, The Ozark Society recognizes that the Ozark region is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, and

WHEREAS, unplanned and uncontrolled growth can have certain deleterious effects on the environment and can put undue stress and demand on our local and regional resources,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Ozark Society supports efforts which will structure growth in such a way to preserve the natural beauty, environment and high quality of life unique to this area.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Arkansas has taken a firm stand against a proposal to lower the Water Quality Standards set by the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, and

WHEREAS, the lowering of such standards could clearly lead to the degradation of the surface waters of Arkansas, and

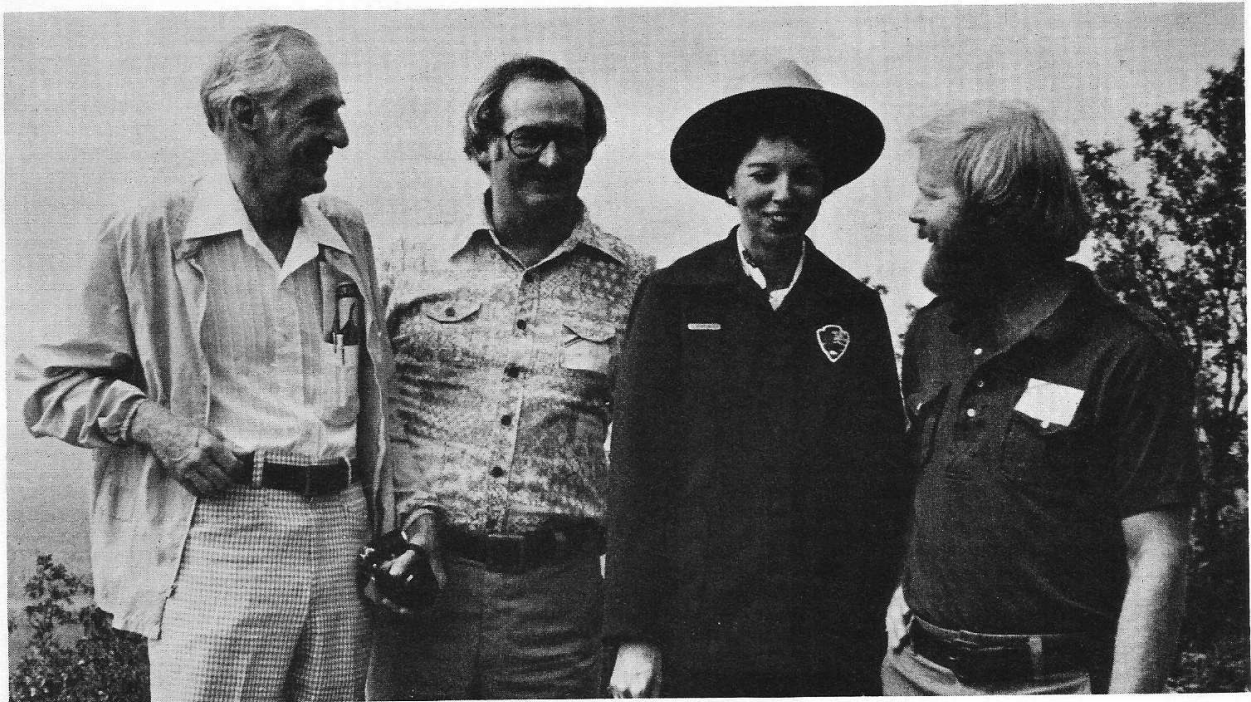
WHEREAS, the protection of the surface water of the State of Arkansas is of vital importance to health, and well being of its citizens,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ozark Society commends Governor David Pryor for his stand on this issue and urges that he continue his opposition to any attempt to lower the water quality standards for the State of Arkansas.

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Ozark Society reaffirms its opposition to any impoundment on the free flowing Meramec River or its tributaries;

(Cont. on Page 13)

Past Presidents Neil Compton, Joe Nix, Lorraine Mintzmeyer, Superintendent of Buffalo National River, President Steve Wilson - John Heuston



Botanical Notes

MAXINE CLARK

Early in September we spent two weeks driving back roads in Garland, Hot Spring, Polk and Pike Counties. The Ouachita Mountains differ from the Ozark Mountains of which the Boston Mountains are a part. The strata in the Ozark Mountains lie very nearly flat with only gentle slopes which in Arkansas are generally to the south.

The Ouachita Mountains are characterized by intense folding with beds shoved over each other, standing on end in long ridges, and overturned. The rocks are very hard due to metamorphism resulting from intense heat and pressure. Limestone is not present as it is in the Ozarks.

Although it was too early for the deciduous trees to have colored, I particularly enjoyed the variety of bronzy roadside grasses with back lighting on the feathery spikelets. We drove to the crest of many steep, winding, one lane roads and then descended to rocky gorges crossing numerous sparkling clear streams bordered with alder and witch hazel.

The stream bottoms are a mosaic of subtly colored, rounded rocks, reminding one of the section of the Cossatot, which the Ozark Society tried so desperately to save, but is now drowned by Gilliam Dam. We did get to the headwaters of that stream; it is clear and beautiful but not as spectacular and wild as the dammed section.

Beech, sweet gum, American Holly and stately pines forest the deep ravines. Evergreen Christmas ferns and rockcap polypodiums have wide distribution and are common in the area. But the large cinnamon and royal ferns with fronds at least 30 inches high grow in pockets of alluvium along the streams. They are not evergreen but become dormant in the winter.

One plant that has always delighted me is the partridge berry. We saw it growing at the base of a large beech. It occurs in acid soils of moist sandstone ledges and banks of streams. Evergreen dark glossy leaves are opposite on the trailing plant. Small white flowers resembling bluets in form occur in pairs along the stem and are united at their bases producing a twin red berry.

Much of our exploring was in the vicinity of Malvern. The terrain is quite different from the mountainous area. The rolling sandy plains are intensively farmed. In roadside ditches and banks along the highway were masses of autumn flowers that flourish in sunny situations. The dominant species of the landscape was golden Bidens commonly called tickseed or beggar ticks. The seeds of this particular species of Bidens are not armed with barbs and do not become attached to clothing or animal fur.

Wet ditches were filled with biennial Gaura, a most unusual and beautiful member of the evening primrose family. No doubt you have seen the delicate pink flowered plant growing along the waysides. In common with other members of this family the flower parts are in fours or a multiple of four. A stout stem is surmounted by a much branched inflorescence bearing a myriad of pink flowers. The pink was more intense than the color of the gaura of the Ozark area, possibly due to the acidity of the sandy soil.

Growing with Gaura was Baltonia which resembles an aster but is botanically different. The flowers may be white or pale blue. In the Malvern area they were white, but in the wet ditch bordering our driveway, they are blue. The perennial plant has a long blooming season and is an attractive feature of a natural garden.

The most common aster in the Ouachitas is the very large Aster paludosus. The blue-violet flowers have petals up to 25 mm. long, and flourishes in very dry situations. We saw one plant in the barren sterile soil near Magnet Cove. If you plant this aster, use very sandy soil.

In wet roadside ditches was beautiful purple Gerardia, a member of the snapdragon family. The large yellow flowered Gerardia was seen growing out of rocky road embankments. We decided that the most common understory plant in the upland wooded area is Dittany. The mild mint flavored leaves make delicious tea.

The queen of all the autumn flowers is the cardinal flower, Lobelia cardinalis. It grows along the banks of mountain streams and wet roadside ditches. Blue lobelia seems tolerant of a drier situation and we saw many robust plants growing roadside.



Baltonia with morning dew. - Photo Roger Pryor

One roadside bank was covered with heather-like wild buckwheat. The shrubby plant has gray-green needle like leaves and is covered with snowy white flowers tinged with pink. It grew along the banks of the Caddo now covered by De Gray reservoir. But the most spectacular sight we saw was an old abandoned railroad track completely filled with blue chickory.

PLANT LIST

Alder -	<i>Alnus serrulata</i> Willd.
Witch hazel -	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i> Sarg.
Beech -	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> Ehrh.
Sweet Gum -	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> L.
American Holly -	<i>Ilex opaca</i> Ait.
Christmas Fern -	<i>Polystichum aristichoides</i> Schott.
Rockcap Fern	
Resurrection Fern -	<i>Polypodium polypodioides</i> Watt
Polypody -	<i>Polypodium virginianum</i>
Cinnamon Fern -	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> L.
Royal Fern -	<i>Osmunda regalis</i> Gray
Partridge Berry -	<i>Mitchella repens</i> L.
Tickseed, Beggarticks -	<i>Bidens polylepis</i> Scherff
Gaura -	<i>Gaura biennis</i> L.
False Starwort -	<i>Baltonia asteroides</i> Cron.
Aster -	<i>Aster paludosus</i> Ait. subsp. <i>hemisphericus</i> Cron.
Purple Gerardia -	<i>Gerardia purpurea</i> L.
Yellow Gerardia -	<i>Gerardia flava</i> L.
Dittany -	<i>Cunila origanoides</i> Britt.
Cardinal Flower -	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> L.
Blue Lobelia -	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> L.
Wild Buckwheat -	<i>Polygonella americana</i> Small
Blue Sailors -	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.

A College Class in Whitewater Canoeing: A Popular Wilderness Adventure

Jim Simmons is associate professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation, Northwestern State University of Louisiana. He has been a canoeing enthusiast for many years and has considerable experience in whitewater canoeing. He has taught basic canoeing and whitewater canoeing for several years.

He is a member of and participates in the regional and national programs of the American Canoe Association, The American Rivers Conservation Council, and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association.

He is a native Arkansan from Magnolia and is a member of the Ozark Society.

In the fall of 1975, the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, Louisiana, began offering a class in whitewater canoeing. The initial class, which was conducted during the Thanksgiving holidays, was filled with eighteen enthusiastic participants and it was a huge success. Other classes are held during the Easter holidays in April and again after the completion of the spring semester in May. Possibly in the summer we will offer another class, depending upon sufficient water levels on the rivers at that time. All of the experiences that the class received were on rivers in the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas.

Basic canoeing has long been a popular part of the service program of activities offered in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at our institution. Also, we have always promoted wildwater boating as much as possible and for the past thirteen years Phi Epsilon Kappa Fraternity has made whitewater trips to Arkansas each fall and spring. That fraternity is a professional group for men in physical education and the canoe floats have highlighted the yearly program of that organization. Only recently have we been able to increase our budget so that we could begin to offer a formal class in the sport. The department owns a stable of aluminum canoes and this past year we were able to purchase six new whitewater models which brought the number of whitewater canoes to twelve. In addition we obtained three new canoe trailers and other needed accessories. Gradually we will increase our amount of equipment as more funds become available to our program.

Under the present format the class spends a five and one-half day period away from the campus. This allows three to four days of canoeing instruction and practice in a river setting. The base campsite is the Long Pool National Forest Campground located on the Big Piney River in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. The Big Piney is suitable for all canoeists, from beginners to experts, and it has a few sets of rapids that would rate as class III depending on the water level. Other outstanding rivers in the nearby area that we use are the Mulberry River and the Buffalo National River. The Buffalo is noted for its scenic bluffs and the

Mulberry is Arkansas' most challenging river. Our class gets on the Mulberry only if the water level is suitable for beginning students.

The principal expenses for the class (transportation costs, etc.) are borne by the Department of Physical Education and Recreation. Each participant must provide food for the trip, personal gear and equipment, and incidental items and expense money. Paddles, life jackets, and needed accessories for each canoe are furnished; and individuals may check out camping supplies if they do not already have their own.

The following discussion explains the procedures that we follow in preparation for the trip, both on the campus lake and in the forest. Many of the students who enroll in the class have already completed basic canoeing. Those who have not are given a mini-course in basic canoeing. Each person is then evaluated for swimming ability, for previous experience, and for physical fitness level. Practice sessions are held on the campus lake with direct attention given to the skills needed for running a river. In these sessions we strive to develop and polish the fundamental strokes and to develop proper boating technique. Two phases of the English Gate, along with variations that we have developed, are used to teach the canoeing techniques that are necessary to handle the canoe with confidence. Students greatly improve in their ability to think quickly under pressure. In addition, each participant is asked to swim laps in the university pool in order to possess the needed fitness for river canoeing. During colder weather we also teach canoe rescue techniques indoors in the swimming pool.

FORMAT FOR THE TECHNIQUES AND KNOWLEDGES THAT ARE TAUGHT

- I. Review of Basic Canoeing Skills; Evaluation of Each Participant
- II. Practice of the Fundamental Strokes Needed for River Running
 - A. Bow and J - Strokes
 - B. Draw and Pry Strokes
 - C. Sweep Strokes, Forward and Reverse
 - D. High and Low Brace
 - E. Back Paddling Techniques
 - F. Variations as Needed
 - G. Practice on the English Gate (with variations).



**Running "Lunch Break
Rapids"** on the Big Piney -

Jim Simmons

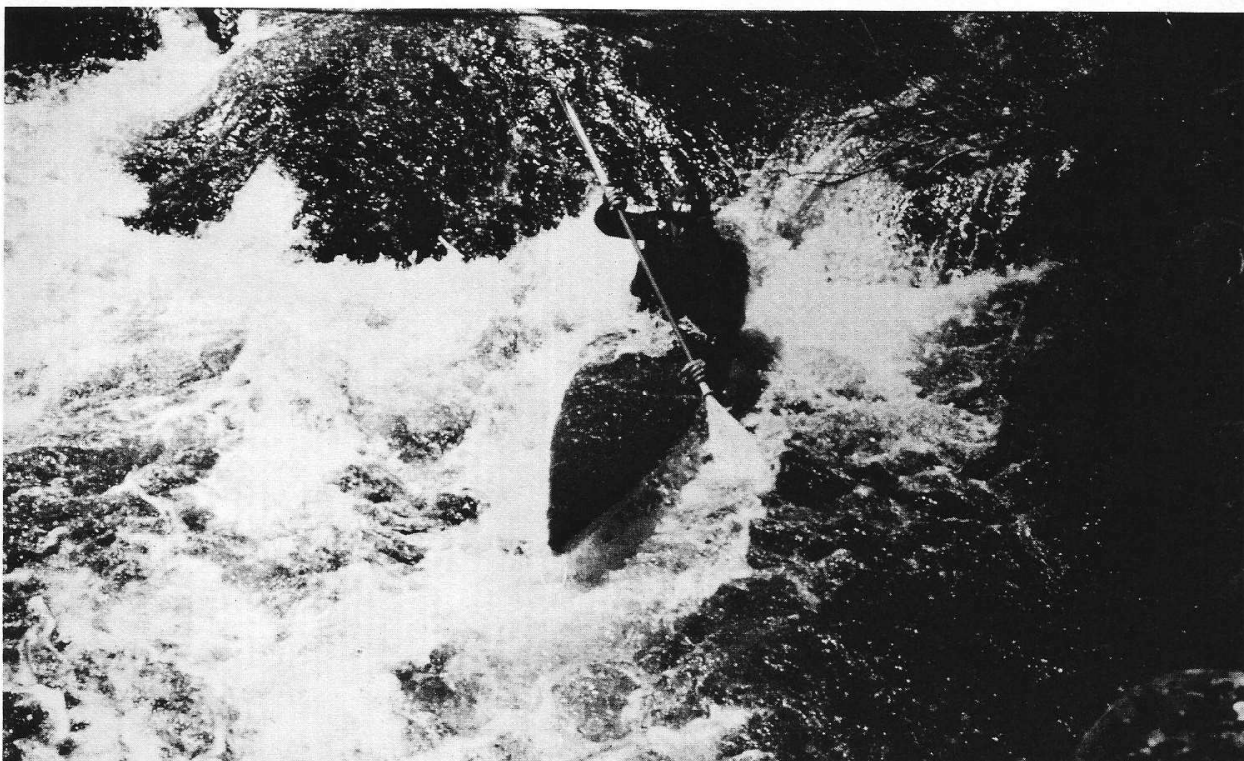
- III. Techniques Required of Partners for Correct Maneuvering on the River
 - A. Kneeling in the Bow and Stern; Use of the Knees for Balance
 - B. Pivoting the Canoe
 - C. Side Slipping the Canoe to Avoid Obstacles
 - D. Back Ferrying
 - E. Forward Ferrying
 - F. Making Eddy Turns
 - G. Moving Into and Away From the Shore
- IV. Knowledge Needed for Running the Whitewater
 - A. Reading the Current
 - B. Use of Ferrying Techniques to Avoid Rocks, Logs, and Trees
 - C. Knowledge of Current Differentials and Bends in the River
 - D. Scouting the Rapids from Shore Before Running
 - E. Each Canoeist Learns the Skills and Techniques from Both Bow and Stern
 - F. Detailed Study of the Safety Code as Published by the American Whitewater Affiliation
- V. Safety Skills and Rescue Techniques
 - A. Canoe over Canoe Rescue; Other Appropriate Rescues
 - B. Entering and Leaving a Canoe in Deep Water
 - C. Proper Way to Swim a Rapid in Case of an Upset; Getting Upstream of the Canoe
 - D. Use of Safety Ropes to Assist Canoers, and for Freeing a Pinned Canoe
 - E. Review of Basic First Aid, Etc.
- VI. Outfitting the Canoeist; equipping the Canoe for a Trip
 - A. Wear Wool When the Water is Chilly
 - B. Old Keds or Basketball Shoes are Used to Protect the Feet
 - C. Knee Pads for Kneeling while Shooting the Rapids
 - D. Spare Paddle for Each Canoe; Painter Lines for Bow and Stern
 - E. Army ammunition Box for Carrying Incidental Items, Snacks, Etc.

- F. Waterproof Canoe Bag for Dry Clothes, Rain Suit, or Other
- G. U.S.C.G. approved life vest
- H. Basic First-Aid Supplies
- I. Duct Tape and Caulking Cord or Canoe Repair

The first day on the river is devoted to practice on the basic techniques and to becoming familiar with a fast current. Canoeing partners learn to work effectively from both bow and stern and they also become accustomed to each other. Since two paddlers must constantly work as a team, we really stress "team" responsibilities so that each person understands how the canoe must be handled in order to be successful. The second day we make a trip of about six or eight miles on an easier section of the river and the following days we progress to more challenging parts of the Big Piney or to one of the other rivers mentioned previously. By using this procedure the students gradually build confidence in their ability to control their canoe. Much time is spent in "playing the river" so that students can carry back and run a rapid again in order to polish a particular technique. Throughout the entire time that we are on the rivers we constantly stress the safety code (as published by the American Whitewater Affiliation) and we emphasize group responsibility. Around the campfire each night we hold instructional sessions and review the float made that day and we help anyone who may have trouble with a specific stroke or technique. We re-emphasize safety skills and it is felt that an awareness of safety and group responsibility are two of the biggest gains that our students make during the five-day class.

We are extremely happy that we are able to offer this type of wilderness experience to the students at our university. Not only has the program become very popular with students majoring in physical education and recreation, but the class attracts participants from the general student population as well. Although we are not located in a mountainous area, we feel that interest will continue to grow because of the challenge involved in learning a rugged sport in an outdoor setting. Present day demands for lifetime activities will keep us striving to put more students in touch with the splendid rewards of whitewater canoeing. The magnificent beauty of a wilderness river from the bottom of a canoe is "really the best way to go."

Kayaking through "Devils Elbow", "Bailey's Rock", or "Cascade of Extinction" on the Big Piney - Jim Simmons



Missouri Gets Its Wilderness Areas

THE WHITEWATER NEWS
Henry Rowe Schoolcraft Chapter November 1976

An Open Letter of Thanks

Ah, wilderness! For those who have pursued the wilderness issue over the past five years, that classic phrase is as much a sigh of satisfaction as an exclamation. The National Wilderness System includes many areas of great and small acreages throughout the country to be maintained in a natural condition. Now, Missouri has two areas within its bounds, Hercules Glades and Mingo, designated as wilderness with four others, Piney Creek, Paddy Creek, Bell Mountain and Rockpile Mountain to be studied and within five years, hopefully, designated as wilderness also. There have been many who have volunteered time, talent and effort to bring about the reality of permanent wilderness areas in Missouri. We see this as an incredibly valuable contribution to the preservation of the heritage of a state whose place in this nation's history all Missourians can be proud of.

It would not be easy to list individually

all the names of the people who have participated in providing the legislation which makes this all possible. Missouri is fortunate to have a congressional delegation which understands the value of wilderness preservation. We thank Senators Tom Eagleton and Stuart Symington for introducing wilderness legislation in the Senate and Congressmen James Symington and Richard Boling for initiating the same action in the House of Representatives.

We thank 7th District Congressman Gene Taylor who through his diligent pursuit assisted legislation containing the provisions for Missouri wilderness through the House of Representatives and into the hands of the Senate. In the closing hours of the 94th Congress, Missouri wilderness might have been forfeited but for Congressman Taylor's attentiveness to the desires of his constituency.

We thank the Springfield Newspapers for their fair and impartial reporting and their kind and supportive editorials. They helped a good deal in educating the people

of southwestern Missouri in regards to the wilderness issue.

And we thank all of you who supported this effort. Your letters and contact with your congressmen, invitations to present the case for wilderness to your organizations, articles and editorials in publications throughout the area. All these things did add up.

At a time when cynicism seems to be a national pastime and Americans often feel helpless and insignificant in pleading their case before what appears to be a mind-boggling maze of bureaucracy and insensitive elected officialdom, our congressmen, the media and the people took this pure and simple issue—wilderness values—and made this system work to enhance the quality of life for all of us.

This has been a most gratifying experience and we are sincerely appreciative.

The Executive Committee
H.R. Schoolcraft Chapter
The Ozark Society
Springfield, MO

Johnson Shut-Ins State Park, Reynolds County, Mo. - R. Roger Pryor



Marty Stouffer, noted wilderness filmmaker from Aspen, Colorado, whose credits include five John Denver television specials, a Paul Newman endangered species feature and an award winning film on Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, has joined with Louisiana wildlife photographer, C.C. Lockwood to produce a documentary on the Wetlands of the Atchafalaya Basin. The interest shown in Lockwood's environmental presentations and still photography exhibits has given the pair the motivation to make a film describing the life cycle of the Atchafalaya. The film, which will take over one year to complete, will follow the basin's dramatically changing features from fall to summer. It will focus on the area's overflow water regime and its importance to the delicate chain of life that nature has established there.

Recently the basin has become a subject of heated controversy, aligning sportsmen and environmentalist against the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps wants to dredge a 100,000 square-foot channel down the Atchafalaya River for flood control. Their opponents contend the project will leave the basin, as well as the wildlife, high and dry, suitable only for farming and grazing livestock. The matter is still to be settled.

Stouffer, who made his second visit to Louisiana this year, is combining his expertise in film with Lockwood's first hand knowledge of the basin. For the past three-and-a-half years, Lockwood has traveled the Atchafalaya Basin in bateau, canoe and on foot documenting the unique area with over 5,000 colour photographs.

The two men are boyhood friends and have previously worked together in the Florida Everglades, the Rocky Mountains, and the deserts of Mexico.

The film is due to be released sometime this fall and will feature an original theme song by recording artist Paul Ott, who is also a nationally-known environmentalist.



Marty Stouffer (l) and C.C. Lockwood (R) on Location in the Atchafalaya Basin - Al McDuff

Atchafalaya River Basin: In Trouble

The Atchafalaya Basin is North America's largest river basin swamp. It covers 800,000 acres of hardwood bottomland and 600,000 acres of coastal marsh in Southern Louisiana. This vast wetland plays a vital role in the state's seafood industry by providing a major source of nutrients to the aquatic chain of life as it flows from inland bayous and bays through the marshes and into the Gulf of Mexico. As with other estuarine areas of the Gulf Coast, the Atchafalaya and its ecosystem are greatly endangered by man's ever incroaching development.

Currently the Atchafalaya River, the life line of the Atchafalaya Basin, is facing a massive channelization project. The plan, proposed by the Corps of Engineers, is considered by some as totally unfeasible for flood control and harmful to the environment. The project calls for deepening the Atchafalaya River to 100,000 square feet, almost twice its current size. However, although the plan is proposed in the interest of flood control, it offers no means for insuring that the floodway will be used for its intended purpose after the dredging is completed. The problem is not a new one to the Corps of Engineers. It happened in 1973 in the Morganza floodway.

The Morganza Floodway is located in the Northeast section of the Atchafalaya Basin. In the 1930's the Army Corps of Engineers purchased easements at 100% of fee title over the 72,000 acres of the Morganza Floodway so the Old River Flood Gates could be opened during high water years. But they did not keep the newly drained area from being developed. During the

flood of 1973, the Corps wanted to open the gates. However, land-owners who had cleared and planted the floodway acreage applied considerable pressure against them. To prevent a similar situation from occurring, the Corps must include in their proposed Atchafalaya River Channelization Project a plan to maintain the integrity of the floodway.

A Committee made up of representatives of the La. Dept. of Public Works, the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Comm., the National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and LSU School of Environmental Design and chaired by officials from the Corps of Engineers submitted such a plan to the District Headquarters of the Corps in New Orleans.

Multi-purpose in thrust, it included provisions that would keep the basin's important overflow water regime while at the same time keep it open to the public and undeveloped agriculturally so that it could be maintained as a floodway. But the Corps choose not to include this multi-purpose plan in their draft environmental impact statement.

Proponents of the plan, including both sportsmen and environmentalist, argue that if their proposals are not included as part of the Corp's channelization project, millions of tax dollars will be wasted and one of the country's largest and most diverse wildlife habitats and recreation areas will be ruined. If their arguments are heeded, they say, flood threat will be eliminated while leaving the Atchafalaya Basin,...Wet, Wild, and Free for generations to come.

The Tenth Annual Cleanup Float August 28 and 29

The Buffalo River Cleanup Float is over for another year enabling the competitors to go back to more rational lifestyles for awhile. Over forty people participated with enough enthusiasm that 180 sacks of trash were collected. The pot luck supper at Maumee was worth the trip just by itself as the diversity of and quality of food were excellent. The weather on Saturday was cool and rainy which enabled some of us out of shape types to keep up with the fit ones.

Ralph Roseberg, who attempted to lead and organize the project, wishes to express his gratitude to all those who participated. Also thanks to the National Park Service, Joe Barnes, and the Bakers whose cooperation and help made this undertaking possible. Special thanks are due the contributors of the prizes which added greatly to the interest in the contest.

The first place winners who took the canoe, were **Joe Scott** and **Ralph Roseberg** of Arkadelphia who were 8 points ahead of the 2nd place winners, **Bryan Davis** and **John Heard** of Little Rock. Third place winners were **Frank Murphy** and **Alex Pettigrew** of Fayetteville. All together, there was a total of fifteen winning teams because of the large number of prizes available. In the childrens' division, age 12 and under were: 1st place, **Beau Murphy**, Little Rock and 2nd place **Stephanie Wilson**, Little Rock.

THE PRIZES

Alumicraft canoe donated by an anonymous donor through Commercial Warehouse Sporting Goods, Arkadelphia 71923

The Winners - Joe Clark

Stearns life jacket - Commercial Warehouse Sporting Goods, Hwy. 67 N, Arkadelphia 71923
Medalist Cut'n Jump life jacket - Southwest Sporting Goods, 6th & Clinton, Arkadelphia 71923
Two Water-proof storage bags - Kampers' Korner, 3435 W. 70th St., Shreveport, La. 71108
Car top boat carrier - Bayou Chapter, The Ozark Society, Shreveport, La. 71108
Sawyer paddle - Hedges Canoes, Ponca, Arkansas 72670
Camp Trails back-pack, Hedges Canoes, Ponca, Arkansas 72670
Weatherproof lantern and battery - Hubert and Mary Virginia Ferguson, 105 Baridon, Conway, Arkansas 72032
Coleman camp stove - Wal-Mart Stores of Arkansas, Inc.
Gerry pack - Ozark Outdoor Supply, 5514 Kavanaugh, Little Rock 72207
Four T-shirts - Pulaski Chapter, Ozark Society, Little Rock
Twenty-five dinner certificates from McDonald's restaurants in Little Rock, Conway and Pine Bluff.
Jerry Jug - Dillard's Stores of Little Rock
Two Six-packs of Coors - George McAllister of Little Rock
Three T-shirts - The Shirt Factory, Little Rock
One mens' toilet kit - Dillard's of Fayetteville
Child's life vest - The Pack Rat, 2930 N. College, Fayetteville 72701
Two paddles - The Pack Rat, 2930 N. College, Fayetteville 72701
One life vest - Ozark Mountain Sports, 226 N. School, Fayetteville 72701
Two paddles - Ozark Mountain Sports, 226 N. School, Fayetteville 72701
Coleman lantern - Jones Truck Lines, Springdale
Backpacker's compass - Southwest Associates, Rogers 72756



Arkansas Ferry Boats Vanishing From Scene

By Craig Ogilvie, Travel Writer
Department of Parks and Tourism

Now almost an oddity in Arkansas, river ferries once played a vital role in state commerce and travel. The total number is down to nine and declining.

Frank A. Brooks, Jr. of Batesville has made a study of the five remaining ferries of northcentral Arkansas. "I suddenly realized that river ferries were being phased out...and like most everything else with which we are familiar, we barely take note until a change is made."

Mr. Brooks, a Presbyterian minister, undertook a project of recording the ferry boats in his region and shares the information in hopes that others will become interested in the state's last "floating bridges."

Elgin Ferry, the state's last privately owned public ferry, has been plying the Black River for some 100 years. Named for a city in northern Scotland (where the original owner was born), Elgin Ferry is owned by Mrs. Lucille Taylor and is located five miles west of Tuckerman on Highway 37. The toll boat connects Independence and Jackson Counties.

Ten miles downstream is **Point Ferry** which crosses Black River near its confluence with the White. Privately owned until 1938, Point Ferry is operated 12 hours each day as part of Highway 69. The 18 x 60-ft vessel is stationed near Jacksonport State Park, which features a fine courthouse museum and restored sternwheel riverboat.

Guion Ferry, which crosses White River at the town of that name, connects Stone and Izard Counties on Highway 58. Situated in a deep valley with picturesque towering bluffs, Guion is the lower starting

point for White River trout fishing. A nearby riverside park welcomes campers.

The Norfolk Lake (Henderson) Ferries have been carrying vehicles since the early fifties when North Fork River was dammed. Two routes connect U.S. 62 with State Highway 101, which quickly crosses the border into Missouri, and U.S. 62 at Henderson, Ark. The ferries can carry 15 to 18 cars and are, in reality, flat barges with tugboats attached to the sides for power.

Peel Ferry, Arkansas' most northern Ferry, is located north of Yellville, via Highways 14 and 125. The ride across a section of Bull Shoals Lake takes passengers into Missouri, landing near the town of Protem.

Eastward, **Reyno Ferry** operates on the Current River in Randolph County. Located on Highway 328, the boat is named for a small town nearby and operates 16 hours each day.

One of Arkansas' best-known ferries, **St. Charles**, is located on the lower reaches of the White River, between Marvell and DeWitt. The only ferry on the Arkansas section of the Great River Road, St. Charles Ferry operates 24 hours a day as part of Highway 1 and is adjacent to the huge White River National Wildlife Refuge.

Moro Bay Ferry, located 21 miles northeast of El Dorado on Highway 15 plies the Ouachita River next to Moro Bay State Park. The park provides boating facilities, swimming, water skiing, fishing, camping and picnic areas.

And lastly, **Spring Bank Ferry** on the Red River connecting Lafayette and

Miller Counties on Highway 160. Only six miles from the Louisiana border, Spring Bank is Arkansas' most southern ferry, operating 12 hours each day.

All of the above mentioned ferries are toll-free, except the privately owned Elgin Ferry on Black River. The state-owned boats are maintained by the Arkansas Highway Department. Several large farms also own small ferries for their private use.

Far better than the log rafts which dotted Arkansas streams until the first part of this century, the AHD ferries are regularly inspected to make them as safe as possible. However, bridges are more reliable so efforts continue to replace the steel flatboats.

White River ferries at Oil Trough and Sylamore have been retired during the past year. Colorful boats like **Toad Suck**, near Morrilton on the Arkansas River, and **Greers Ferry** on the Little Red near Heber Springs, are a part of history, although their names live on. And, **Jenkins' Ferry** on the Saline River was the site of a famous Civil War battle.

Should ferry boats be allowed to disappear from the Arkansas scene? Some believe not and hope at least one will be allowed to remain as a memorial to the role ferries played in the state's development.

For further information, contact the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 149 State Capitol, Little Rock, Ark. 72201; the Arkansas Great River Road Division, Capitol Hill Building, Little Rock, Ark. 72201; or the Arkansas Highway Department, 9500 New Benton Highway, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

(Cont. from Page 6)

and further endorses the Meramec Alternative Plan as proposed by the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Crawford County Rural Landowners Mutual Assistance Association, Open Space Council - St. Louis Region and others;

and further endorses a statewide referendum on the issue;

and further calls for a moratorium on spending for the currently authorized projects until the referendum is held.

BE IT RESOLVED: that The Ozark Society urges the creation and putting into operation of a management plan on either the state or federal level which will preserve and protect the water quality and scenic and recreational values of the Illinois River.

WHEREAS, Mr. Tom Foti has, through extensive research, developed a publication on the Natural Divisions of Arkansas, and

WHEREAS, the publication has made a significant contribution to an understanding of the natural history of the state of Arkansas, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ozark Society commends Mr. Tom Foti for his outstanding work in the development of a publication which, through our public school system, will provide the basis for a better understanding of the land on which we live.

Loading the Junk



Purchase of Land For National Park Is Declared Valid

By Dianne Woodruff
Arkansas Gazette Staff

Federal Judge Terry L. Shell has ruled that the constitutional rights of members of the Buffalo River Conservation and Recreation Council had not been violated by the National Park Service's plan to make the Buffalo a National River. The decision, dated Friday, was filed Tuesday at Harrison.

Judge Shell said he was in sympathy with the private owners of "unique and beautiful lands" along the river, but said the Constitution "invests in our Congress the power to establish parks for the benefit of all our people and that, as long as just compensation is paid for the private lands, the equitable balance is in favor of the people's right to legislate for, acquire and protect our dwindling environmental treasures."

He dismissed and rules against the 200-member Council on all but one of its eight separate causes of action.

In the one exception, the Council sought a declaration of its rights of ownership over the river itself. Judge Shell noted that parties in the suit stipulated that Arkansas law is that a riparian landowner on the banks of a non-navigable body of water holds title to the center of the stream.

"If and when plaintiffs' property is taken or purchased by the United States, compensation should be paid for the stream bed as well as its banks," he ordered.

Early Morning on the lower Buffalo

Fence Question

A further question was raised as to whether landowners owning parts of the river may fence off the river to prevent canoeists from proceeding downstream through their property. Judge Shell ruled that they could not, but said they could fence their shorelines to prevent trespassing.

It was testified that canoeists had floated the Buffalo River for many years, increasing steadily until, on one recent day, 1,200 canoes passed the ranger station at Pruitt.

1972 Suit

The Council sued the National Park Service in 1972 over the plan to create the Buffalo National River, which was approved by Congress. The plan calls for the purchase of land along the 132 miles of river, an area of about 95,730 acres. An injunction was issued in June 1973 pending the preparation of an environmental impact statement. That injunction was lifted November 10, 1975, when the court found the statement satisfactory. The National Park Service has to date acquired 60 per cent of the total acres within the proposed park boundary. All purchases made so far have been from willing landowners.

Judge Shell ruled against the plaintiffs' contention that a three-judge federal court should consider the constitutionality of the

statute and found that Congress had not acted unreasonably in authorizing acquisition of the park acreage.

Stream Definition

Judge Shell ruled against the plaintiffs' contention that the Buffalo was not a "free-flowing stream" because much of the upper reaches of the River dries up for extensive periods. Judge Shell said the definition for a "free-flowing stream" in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is "existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway."

The plaintiffs also contended that taking the lands off the tax rolls would increase the tax burden on them. "The Court has serious doubts of plaintiffs' standing to raise this issue but at any rate, can see no substantial difference between this case and the general rule that consequential damages are not compensable," Judge Shell said.

October PADDLE TRAILS, Pulaski Chapter: "Basically, the anti-park crowd is challenging the authority of Congress to establish National Parks and it is inconceivable that Judge Shell would rule in its favor. If he should, no National Park in the country would be safe from similar harassment and chaos would reign within the park system.



Historic Wolf House

By Faune Conner, Travel Writer
Department of Parks and Tourism

If ever on God's green earth there could have been a more perfect setting for a home than the junction of two beautiful rivers overshadowed by tall, picturesque mountains, you never would have been able to convince Major Jacob Wolf.

Wolf came to Arkansas in 1809 to take up his duties as an Indian agent and chose as the location for his home a section of north central Arkansas abundant in geographic splendor. At the confluence of the rambling White and North Fork rivers and near the foot of bordering Matney Mountain, he built an impressive two story log house that was a mansion in its time. Remarkably, 167 years later, Wolfe's house is still standing and, because of its significance, is one of Arkansas' most important historic shrines.

The Old Wolf House, as it is commonly called, is famous as the oldest two story log structure in the state, the first home of white settlers in the state and the first courthouse in the state. The Wolf House also served as an early post office and stagecoach stop and was the economic and cultural center for a mountain frontier.

Today, Arkansas Highway 5 replaces the crude dirt road that once ran in front of the Wolf House, and tourists driving through the Norfolk area can easily stop alongside the highway to tour the old house and learn something of its history.

Major Wolf was born in South Carolina in 1786 and was a responsible and well educated young man when, at the age of 23, he was placed in charge of the Kickapoo, Creek, Coctaw and Seminole Indians in Arkansas Territory. It was during Thomas Jefferson's term as President that he moved from Bowling Green, Kentucky, with his wife, infant son and slaves and established a progressive, influential settlement at the "forks".

Wolf expertly supervised the construction of his riverfront home and, using Indian labor, built it of large yellow pine logs carefully hewed and dovetailed. The two downstairs and two upstairs rooms of the house were all 18 feet square and each had a fireplace made of home dried bricks. A wide hallway, or dogtrot, bisected the ground floor, and four spacious verandas extended the full length of the east and

west sides of the house to provide a view of the merging rivers and surrounding countryside.

Wolf was a skilled craftsman himself and made the wrought iron, rivet fastened hinges for the shutters and doors and also made all the necessary household implements and furniture. In fact, there was little that Wolf couldn't or didn't do. On his frontier estate he had a blacksmith shop, a saw and a grist mill, and a trading post, and he also operated a ferry and oversaw the cultivation of 100 acres of land. He was a member of the Territorial Legislature five times and was a Judge during some of the time his home served as a courthouse for what was then Izard County.

In the early 1800's, the little town of Liberty (now Norfolk) developed around the Wolf House and became an important trade center because of its location on the upper White River. The Old Salt Trail, paralleled now by Highway 5, ran from Springfield, Mo., to Liberty. It was traveled by regional settlers who came to Liberty to trade their furs, buffalo meat, bear oil and pioneer products for such things as tobacco, sugar, cloth and ammunition shipped up the Mississippi River from New Orleans and then transported up the White by keel boat.

As a seat of justice and a community gathering place in early days, the Wolf House was visited by people from all walks of life. Through its doors passed Indians, lawbreakers, slaves, stagecoach passengers and Governors. Legend says Davy Crockett once stopped there and history documents the fact that General Sam Houston occasionally visited Major Wolf. It was Sam Houston's colorful brother James who served as county clerk in the Wolf House and refused to move his office from there when the county seat was changed to nearby New Athens in 1829.

Through the years, two other families of Jacob Wolf's successively lived in the old house and, like their father and grandfather the Major, were expert blacksmiths and metal workers and were community leaders. The Major, who was married three times and was the father of sixteen children, died in 1863 at the age of 77.

In 1938, the citizens of Norfolk restored the Wolf House and made it into a museum and memorial to its builder. The museum is now maintained by the Elma M. Smith Foundation of Eureka Springs, Ark., and is managed by curator Goldie Cantwell of Norfolk. The house is open for tours from the last of May to the end of October. Tour hours from 11:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Saturday and from 2 to 5 P.M. on Sundays.

The four rooms of the Wolf House are now filled with over 400 antiques that reflect the culture of pioneer days. The downstairs parlor contains such items as a weaving loom, spinning wheel, rocking chairs and a picture and painting of Jacob Wolf. Also on display in the parlor are a lap desk, strong box and wooden suitcase, all remnants of the stagecoach days.

The kitchen is furnished with a pie safe, meal and flour chest, a sour dough cabinet, utility cabinet, washstand and drop leaf table, plus antique dishes and cooking utensils. Upstairs, the courtroom has an early Judge's desk, chair and gavel on display, along with antique farm tools. The upstairs bedroom is furnished traditionally with a poster bed and child's cradle.

If Major Jacob Wolf could come back today, he would certainly be surprised at the events that have taken place around his old homestead. In 1873, Baxter County was formed from parts of Izard, Fulton, Marion, Stone and Independence counties and the Wolf House was located in this new county. Progress later brought the railroad to the area, and the tracks of the Missouri Pacific now run just beneath the Wolf House at the bottom of a hill. Four and a half miles away massive Norfolk Dam was built in the 1940's, and numerous recreation sites now bring thousands of tourists to the area.

However, if the Major were to come back today, he would find one thing hasn't changed. The Old Wolf House is still determinedly standing and the brown waters of the White and the green waters of the North Fork still flow together smoothly beneath majestic Matney Mountain.

Dues Notice

Please send in your dues for 1977.

Fill out the blank below and send it with your check to Edwina Walls,
Membership Chairman, Box 2914, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

Dues are for the calendar year. They are regular (and family), \$5; contributing, \$10; sustaining, \$25; life, \$100

Please check: new member; _____ renewal _____ Date _____

Last name _____ first names of husband and wife _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____



Historic Wolf House at Norfolk, Built in 1809. - Joe Clark