Ozark Society Bulletin

Spring 1980

April 13 snow covered dogwood near Arkadelphia as Ozark Society's Spring Meeting ended — Joe Clark

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OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

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WE WELCOME A NEW CHAPTER...

We welcome the Eureka Chapter, listed on this page for the first time, into the Ozark Society.

Chapter Chairman, Roger Pettit writes "Late last summer we discovered that there were several members of The Ozark Society in the Eureka Springs area so a notice was put in the local paper announcing a meeting for anyone interested in the Society. Thirty-seven people, most of them new to the Society came to the initial get-together and have been meeting regularly ever since. We elected to call ourselves the Eureka Chapter, Eureka, of course, means, 'I have found it!'

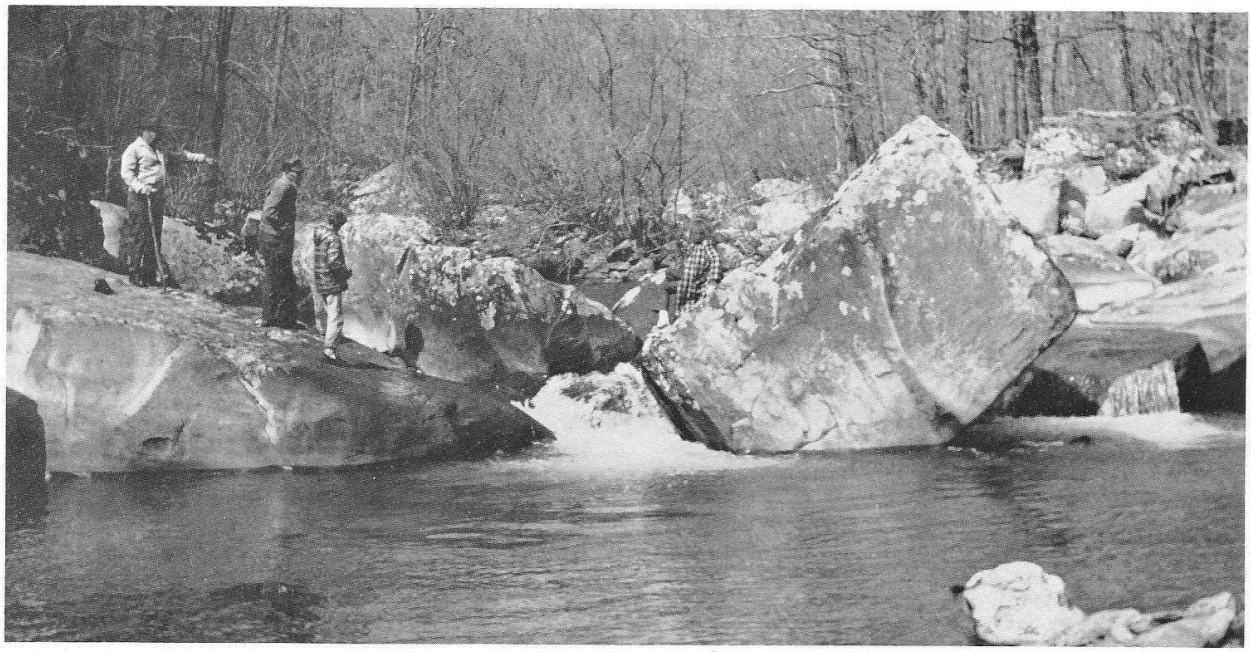
"As a chapter, we have been involved with Richland RARE II, the Hobbs Estate, the location of a new sewage plant in Eureka Springs, the Water Street Preservation Project to construct a walking trail park in the valley immediately east of Eureka Springs, and we have sponsored a letter writing campaign in opposition to excessive roadside brush-hogging and tree cutting by the Highway Department. Recreationally, we have organized three local hikes and, together with the Highlands Chapter, we've hiked Terrapin Branch and Whitely Creek, and have floated the Elk River."

Dr. Neil Compton and the Chapter Chairman put on a program with slides for the Rotary Club and the Chairman was interviewed on KESP, the local FM Radio Station. It was planned to have a Canoe Instruction Clinic, swimming party, and pot luck picnic at the Chairman's house on Beaver Lake, June 1st.

Most of the illustrations in this issue are out of season, but so was the snow storm on April 13. We hope to have the summer issue of the Bulletin out on time.

Richland Creek: Saving a Special Part of Arkansas' Heritage

Bill Coleman



Richland Creek's boulder strewn streambed provides excitement for hikers, fishermen, and canoeists — Joe Clark

Along the hardwood and pine tablelands of the Ozark Plateau, among the Boston Mountains in particular, a hearty and independent spirit has grown up among the inhabitants as well as their love of the mountains, recognizing the gifts granted by ancestral rock and tree; gifts of strength and well-being. Such a spirit was present in the Osage tribes in times long past, and is present still in the descendants of the Spanish, the French, the pioneering Englishmen who, for centuries, have written songs of drudgery and delight into their hearts; songs that call forth the successes and failures of mountain life in statements of blessing and freedom. Hard work and long hours have made for lean frames in this people, especially in these hills of thin soils and rocky ground, but an active mind can pass this away as but a single feature of the grander story being told among distant ridges and valleys — given as an impression of life that has always seemed real and sensible to the true-spirited mountaineer.

In that past (not so long ago that all direct traces have been lost) there was an abundance of character and circumstance of forest that we have now come to call "wilderness", just as there is an abundance today of the wild and free attitude that grew up in that setting. But that was before the advent of wide-reaching, highly intensive forest management that placed the industrial revolution squarely in the lap of the forestlands native to this country; before the use of clear-cutting and conversion and massive road building campaigns; before the prospectors, the drillers and the miners. Now in the Ozark forests the traces of that original wilderness are few and far between — so few, in fact, that virgin stands of oak-hickory or beech-maple forest are the rare exception, the anomally and anachronism — with a significance to scientists and educators who desire to know more about our relationships to a natural system, or of our prospects for a secure ecological future. Whatever significance is found by these purposeful investigators, a different, equally important pro-wilderness sentiment stems from a growing segment of the population that is interested in the challenge and insight to be had or granted at the hands of an untrammeled, pristine, nature-for-nature's-sake, outdoor setting.

The Richland Creek Wilderness Study Area is one of these anomalies; one of these curious combinations of rugged terrain and inaccessibility with a still largely wild character. Situated within the Boston Mountains of Arkansas, in Newton and Searcy Counties, these 12,000 plus acres stand as one of perhaps two or three such areas in the entire 1.1 million-acre Ozark National Forest — all that is left to remind us of the country that DeSoto found for Europe, within which adventurers and explorers such as Schoolcraft and Gerstaecker wandered during the early part of the nineteenth century. And now considerations given to setting this area aside, to designating this one percent of the Ozark National Forest as

wilderness, are encountering full force the adverse reaction of the descendants of those same explorers and settlers; descendants who, by right of proximity, it seems, have come to claim the forest for their own exclusive use, outside of the tenents of multiple-use management and overall public ownership.

The independence and freedom delighted in by the present-day resident of these mountains is worthy and admirable, for it tells us of a value established in a highly structured and principled world. It is largely vulnerable, however, especially in this day of rapid, unpredictable change, and as a result it has fostered suspicion of those things that go to create the changes themselves. It has developed a distrust and dislike for things associated with government too big to be sensitive to the needs of its people, and of a society too diverse to want to protect unchanged a life style that may be two centuries old rapidly becoming older. And so the urban-dweller, the wilderness advocate, or the advocate of change in any form, is likely to be cast into the role of outlander, meddler, or thief. For longer than reason a single family may have owned and farmed and grazed lands that, if not adjacent to the National Forest, happened to remain inside the boundaries of that land when big Government established a mission for itself. Now, the mobile city dweller, of different temperement and personality — of different background — comes courting the politicians and claiming a part of this land, by virtue of his own, different, way of life; asking that it be set aside from the rest and given that intangible, inaccessible label of "wilderness".

There are probably a multitude of reasons why this view of the wilderness system has been fostered over the past decade. It probably began with the timber and mining industries who first saw the development of a national wilderness system as a threat to economic productivity and growth. Later, other resource users may have seen limitations implied by the preservationist philosophies. In the main, wilderness designation has elicited economic arguments, but some of these may have served as a screen for deeper, more personal objections. What these real objections may be, and where they may have originated, is difficult to know. They are real, nevertheless, and where there is an absence of valid, objective argument in the anti-wilderness camp, then it seems that emotional fears and uncertainties become particularly pronounced. In the case of Richland Creek, it has been the irrational arguments that have held sway; it has been emotional statement and a blind ignorance of the facts, much akin to the upsurgance of unthinking mob action witnessed in so many parts of the world today: emotion seems always to be available where reason and consideration are lost. With Richland Creek, there has been the economic question, to be sure. But overshadowing any attempt at reasonable discussion of these issues has been this suspicion, this fear, motivating a strong, anti-wilderness sentiment.

It may well be that a compromise on the Richland Creek wilderness designation will be impossible. It may be that a situation of "civic maturity" sought after by the Forest Service in its attempt to referee the opposing sides in this issue will simply never emerge. It could be that the controversy in Newton and Searcy Counties will preempt any effort on the part of conservationists at reasoned, critical evaluation of the merits of wilderness in the Ozarks. And this is unfortunate, perhaps tragic. Materialism vs. preservationism: the wilderness argument seems almost boring after ten years of confrontation.

Multiple-use management of the National Forests is called for in well thought out legislation provided by the U.S. Congress. Recognizing that there is and will continue to be a wide-ranging set of demands placed upon publicly owned lands in the National Forests, Congress has instructed the Forest Service to develop management plans that will address in some balanced fashion the needs of all segments of the society. Timber harvesting, recreation, wildlife conservation, mining, wilderness — all of these categories of "uses" fit into an accepted scheme of forest management; each requires attention and planning. Proper management of the forest indicates an allocation of lands to each category, dependent on long-range goals and objectives set out by the Forest Service and reviewed by the public. Dealing with the objectives of multiple-use management, though, is much like setting out different desserts at the dinner table: the children each have a different taste, a different want, and each loves to pound the table if dissatisfied.

The Supervisor of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest seems to be making a reasonable attempt to calm the kids. He has not, at least, taken an obvious personal stand in this question. Neither has he sold his objectivity to the local politicians and land owners as a way of holding on to his own sanity and stature. And even though he has not made many conservationist friends through the media, and even though he has seemed to respond most quickly to emotional outburst rather than to studied argument, he has at least kept the same footing with both opinionated groups: by his own language he has succeeded in keeping us all "equally mad at each other", a true test of communication skills. And those who have a longing for solitude, for pristine, unregulated natural beauty, or those who see a need for "unmanaged" forest settings for scientific and educational purposes have less to fear from the Forest Service than from an angry local populace. Not very comforting, is it?

The Richland Creek Wilderness Study Area is 12,173 acres of public land and some 70 acres of unoccupied, private land lying within the Ozark National Forest. It is not far from Ben Hur, Arkansas, if you know how to find this little village, but it is nearer to the almost isolated hamlet of Moore (pop. 20?), the boundaries of the area built around all or part of three of the most independent mountain watersheds in the state. The eastern border is formed by Falling Water Creek, flowing head-over-heels into Richland Creek, to the north. Richland Creek itself comprises the heart of the sandstone and limestone scenery within the boundaries of the study area, and although it does not originate inside of the study area, it flows essentially unmolested by sewage or sediment or other by-products of the local residents. It flows for about four miles thru bluff-ridden twists and turns — thru territory so rough that timbering

activity has been possible only at a premium — before being joined with the waters of Falling Water at the eastern border, and flowing on to the Buffalo National River some distance beyond.

The third actor in this waterplay are the Devils Forks, which are wholly contained by the area boundaries. Big Devils Fork and Long Devils Fork spill and tumble their way down the central and northwestern portions of the area, to where they come together at Twin Falls, and then move on together before a confluence with Richland not far below. The rugged terrain — hardwood laden, bear and bobcat blest — forms one of the most removed and untouchable portions of the forest. The scattered knots of pine grant a tint of green during the worst of winters, and always seem to indicate that spring is nearby, a hopeful alternative. When the water-courses are coated with ice and snow, with crystals and multi-layered ice flows, and if one can test the elements by managing a safe trip there and back, then the entire Wilderness Study Area deserves applause for a season experienced during the worst of conditions.

I have never kayaked the Richland Creek, but daredevil friends and crazy associates tell of their attempts in the fall and winter, and of their successes in the spring. The series of little drops afforded by the upper portion of the Creek is joined by a larger family member in Richland Falls, over which boatpeople careen in a suicidal splendor. Familiar with the double bladed oar, and confident of the union between self and craft, the kayaker can (and does!) work the stream forwards, backwards, horizontally and vertically, atop the water and from underneath. Between grimaces and heartstops, the antics provoke disbelief, even assurance on the part of the observer that longevity cannot be the concern of someone who gambles his life in the manner of the river-rat. Still, the exhilaration and enthusiasm that shows itself on the faces of these individuals indicates a love affair between the Creek and its human visitors; something that is satisfying and challenging in its own right, without the limits of rule and arbitrary judgment. It is personal and intimate, this watery relationship between man and stream.

While it is possible to actually participate in the playfulness of Richland Creek, as do the kayakers, the Devils twins are neatly different. These also show spirit and emotion, but in building and shaping their part of the Boston Mountains a different feeling is generated. Where Richland is broad and deep in places, the Devils Forks are narrower, shallower. Where Richland loves to talk and to play, the Forks are more quiet, displaying a mystery, protecting secrets. The Devils Forks caress the sides of such features as Middle Bridge, Sugar Tree Knob, and Cherry Flat, all of which are sandstone protectors of the underlying formations; the bosses of topographic relief. And if the sandstone can be protected and maintained — if the solids derived from these ancient seabeds and early forests can be held securely by the oak, the hickory, and the pine, then the entirely sippable quality of the deepening streams can be assured for years to come; an important aspect of wilderness preservation.

Each of the Devils Forks has a different personality, as one might expect. They exhibit character and talent each after its own fashion. Where the two come together at Twin Falls, though, the streams seem to be in agreement, seem to speak an identical language, and rattle on about ages past, about champion Black Bear, perhaps, or about forests that were older and more majestic than any now known by mankind. And although the foresters have removed most of the original cover from the area, there is still a promise given of patches of virgin forest;

Twin Falls of the Devils Forks

Neil Compton

colonies of oak and hickory, or of beech and maple, that might carry the character and vitality of ancestors as old as the glaciers. The temptation is great to sit and chat with the stream about such rumors, but then one remembers the mischevious, prank-playing humor captured in the names, and one understands how they originated. Little devils, and scheming, both of them.

The Richland Creek area was given the status of "Wilderness Study Area" in 1975 as a part of the Eastern Wilderness Bill passed in that year. Originally the area was 3400 acres in size (erroneously reported as 2100 acres), but it became obvious to conservationists and land managers that the area outside the early boundary was as rugged and pristine as the original. During the Second National Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, an approximate 9,000 acres was added, both to improve the wilderness experience for those who visited the area, and to protect the watersheds of Devils Fork and of Richland Creek itself. Currently, the boundaries are shaped by dominant, natural formations, exclusive of private lands around the perimeter. This characteristic provides for an area easily managed, easily defined, specially wild and scenic.

But the attitudes and opinions of the local residents, and of the resource users who look only at the dollar values associated with setting this land aside, are fixed and resolute: there is already too much wilderness, and there need not be any more. Or other expressions related to landowner rights, bad experiences with government agencies, and the like. Yet the facts are simple when viewed in their own light: there will be no condemnation of private land, timber losses can be easily made up by more intensive management of the surrounding forest, and the inclusion of Richland Creek into the wilderness system of the Ozark National Forest will mean that 1% of public land will be set aside from other forms of multiple-use. One unit out of a hundred. And even here, grazing, hunting, primitive recreation will be allowed — all uses, in fact, except those dependent on motorized traffic. And there has to be somewhere in this vast world where a body can escape from the growl of four-wheelers, pick-up trucks and forest-eating machines.

Many people speak of the wilderness experience in terms that seem hard to grasp. Why, even the word itself indicates a slippery, subjective concept — one clouded with visions of danger, vulnerability, uncertainty. More and more, though, it is being proven that real, tangible benefits can accrue to those who challenge or confront an unpredictable natural setting. Scientists have discovered that individual reactions to the wilderness experience may be personal ones, but may be grouped with others who may have shared a similar reaction. The experience can be truely meaningful — wonderful, in fact. It has been shown that the main theme acting to tie together the various experiences of being in the wilderness is one related to self-expansion, growth, introspection, even religious insight. It is a telling tale in this day of alienation, enculturation, and social isolation. The wilderness serves as a testing ground for some, as a friend and conversationalist for others, and as a model for still others to study in their search for self-importance and relevance. For those depressed, scattered, isolated souls, such experience can be revitalizing. Overall, it can be argued that the society is healthier because there is the opportunity for the wilderness adventure.

All of this brings to mind a trip to Richland organized by my friend John, and attended by Larry, Sandra and myself. I had known Larry for some time, but Sandra was a new face, and she and Larry had just begun to date, so there was a period of stiff conversation between us all at the first part of the journey. She seemed to be reserved and shy, hardly speaking a word during the trip into the area. Larry was gregarious, active, making up for the quiet in other ways. While Sandy viewed the countryside during the drive, the three of us chatted about nonsensical stuff, hoping that she would not completely screen us out in her unfamiliar situation.

This was the middle of the summer, and Richland was low, rocky, and occasionally strewn with unwelcome residents — moccasins, mosquitoes, poison ivy. Swimming was great, though, and we even had thoughts of daring the Richland rapids in a vinyl raft that Larry had brought along. After scouting the lower stretch we changed our mind, however. No one was willing to test the current's strength, and it could be that a misjudgment would result in a long and prickly hike back up the slopes of the mountainside, after an irresistable slide down a half-mile or so of quick water. But no matter, our campsite was splendid, the evening meal more than adequate, and there was a promise of a star-laden sky to complement the cool evening and set us into a watchful, humble state of mind. After pieces of conversation and a sip of the communal bourbon, I was ready to retire.

Without areas such as Richland Creek to explore we could never have the assurance of this unique kind of space, this sort of environment in which the human psychology might find a way to touch higher, more elaborate purposes. Without Richland Creek, we might never know that there is a chance to discover hidden parts of ourselves, deep-set and important. This, then, is the subjective, articulated argument for preservation.

Richland Creek might not serve as the most important ecological representative of the Ozark National Forest; it could be that endangered species, rare or sensitive animal or plant species might not inhabit the area at all. It could be that special significance of this kind would best be found in areas currently designated for other forms of multi-use. This should not, however, diminish the importance of the area as wilderness. It should be instead that the opportunity to study a wild community, unaffected as much as possible by the further intervention of technology, should stand on its own merit. Here we have the chance to set aside whole watersheds for study and education. Wildlife habitat studies are possible, related to the bear, the bobcat, or even the vanishing cougar, and granted a setting largely unaffected by man's actions. An undisturbed and protected area of the forest can serve in many capacities. It is simply a matter of designating some portions of the forest, some minor percentage, for this special status. In its current meaning, wilderness accomplishes much

(continued on page 10)

Impacts of Recent Timber Management Practices on Wildlife Habitat

by Fred L. Burnside

Governor Bill Clinton recently appointed a task force to evaluate current timber management practices in Arkansas. Representatives from the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission, Department of Local Services, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Service, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Department of Commerce, Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Governor's office were appointed to the task force. Twelve open hearings were held from December 11, 1979 to March 6, 1980. One of the topics discussed was the relationship of current timber management practices in Arkansas to wildlife habitat. I made a presentation at that hearing and the following information was taken from it.

The topic of timber management and related wildlife habitat is by far the most complex problem facing forest managers, wildlife specialists, and scientists in the future. The complexity of this problem is almost overwhelming, for no longer are we dealing with a management plan for one species or a small group of related species. In the past, too much emphasis was placed on managing our forests for individual organisms or species, and populations of the same. Now we must use the information that we have accumulated to focus our attention one step further to the concepts of community and ecosystem.

A quote comes to mind that suggests this same approach. "The public is (and the sportsman ought to be) just as interested in conserving non-game species, forests, fish and other wildlife, as in conserving game. In the long run lop-sided programs dealing with game only, songbirds only, forests only, or fish only, will fail because they cost too much, use up too much energy in friction and lack sufficient volume of support." This statement was made 50 years ago by the well known wildlife biologist, Aldo Leopold, in a report to the American Game Conference on American Game Policy. I wish we all possessed that kind of foresight. Perhaps at times we can excuse ourselves for not having the foresight needed to prevent a problem from arising. But, there is no excuse for not taking advantage of our hindsight.

Our animal species in Arkansas are many, so I have limited myself to the animal group with which I am most familiar, the birds. Although I am only addressing the ecological relationships of one class of animals, most of the data and management suggestions mentioned in this talk can be applied to other faunal groups.

Bird species worldwide have been greatly affected by habitat destruction. The Red Data Book, published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, is considered to be the authoritative compilation of the status of threatened organisms throughout the world. It lists 265 species and 140 subspecies of endangered or threatened birds worldwide. Of all the causes for endangerment listed, habitat destruction is the most significant. Three quarters of this is in the form of forest destruction. Fifty percent of all endangered bird species have achieved that status because of forest destruction (King 1978). This destruction can take the form of clearing forest land for other purposes, changes made in forest structure, and fragmentation of forests.

Extensive forest destruction in Brazil has led to the fragmentation of once large tracts of forest land into a mosaic of smaller units (King 1978). This fragmentation, and related problems, have led to 21 Brazilian bird species being placed on the world endangered list. In a study concerning avian distribution patterns in forest islands of different sizes Galli et al. (1976) found that the number of bird species increases as forest island size increases. With modern day forest management leaning strongly toward even aged management and cutting in blocks, the wildlife biologist must be aware that much of the available wildlife habitat is, and will be in the future, in the form of forest islands.

The edge effect is well known for causing an increase in wildlife populations. But, as is stated by Anderson (1979), increased edge can in fact reduce the number of non-game species if the forest becomes fragmented into many small units. Some avian species require large, unbroken forests with little or no edge for survival. Noon et al. (1979) compared the avian species composition between mature undisturbed forest habitats and early successional habitats. The greatest difference seen was a lack of what they called "rare" species in the early successional stages. These rare species usually are the first to disappear after forest disturbance because they have specific habitat requirements. Shugart and James (1973) studied the bird populations in ten stages of ecological succession in northwest Arkansas. They found that the density of bird populations increased with ecological age of the study plots. Not only did population density increase with ecological age, but so did species diversity.

Whitcomb et al. (1979) found that those birds that are sharply reduced by forest fragmentation have these characteristics 1) they are long distance migrants that winter primarily in the New World tropics, 2) they must live in the forest interior, 3) they tend to nest on the ground, 4) they build nests in the open rather than in cavities, 5) they raise only a single brood a year, and 6) they have a comparitively small clutch size. In contrast, many of the birds that reproduce successfully in forest edge habitat 1) are resident species or short distance migrants, 2) attempt 2 or more broods per season, 3) have an average nest height that is higher than the above mentioned

(Continued on Page 10)

Panel Members

Panel Members, from left to right: Jarrel Southall, Director, Department of Pollution Control & Ecology

Jim Phillips, Director, Arkansas Waterways Commission.

Bill Gresham, Director, Arkansas Forestry Commission (since resigned to private practice).

Jerry Hill, Chief, Environmental Engineering Section, Arkansas Department of Health.

Susan Brenholtz, Director, Natural and Scenic Rivers Commission.

Jeanne Jackson, Governor's Office.

Steve Wilson Director, Arkansas Game and Fish (former president of The Ozark Society).

Norman F. (Bill) Williams, Director, Arkansas Geological Commission.

Harold Grimmet, Director, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

John Saxton, Director, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Photos by Joe Clark

April 13 Snowstorm

Ozark Society Spring Meeting

The Annual Spring Meeting of The Ozark Society was held Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 at the Convention Center of DeGray State Park Lodge. It was a successful meeting highlighted by the participation of Governor Clinton and later by a panel made up of eight directors of state commissions, each of whom discussed his department role in the Present Status of Natural Resources Management in Arkansas. The panel was lead by Jeanne Jackson of the Office of the Governor.

PROGRAM

April 12, 1980

9:55 Call to Order and Announcements — **Joe Nix**

10:00 Keynote Address — **Bill Clinton,** Governor of Arkansas

10:30 State Responsibility in Natural Resources Management — **Tom McRae,** President, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

11:00 Natural Resource Policy: The Politics of Change and No Change — **Daniel R. Grant,** President, Ouachita Baptist University

11:30 Natural Resource Management in Missouri — **Jim Schroeder,** Director, Metropolitan Office of Missouri Department of Conservation, Springfield

1:30 President's Address — **Bill Wiggins,** President, Ozark Society

1:50 The Ozark Society Foundation — **Bob Fisher,** Chairman of the Board of the Ozark Society Foundation

2:00 Panel Discussion
Present Status of Natural Resources Management in Arkansas — **Jeanne Jackson,** Office of the Governor
PANEL MEMBERS — SEE COPY —

4:00 Operation of the Governor's Subcabinet for Natural Resources — **Steve Smith,** Office of the Governor and Chairperson of the Subcabinet for Natural Resources

7:00 What is a River? — **Joe Nix**

April 13, 1980

8:30 Business Meeting — **Bill Wiggins**

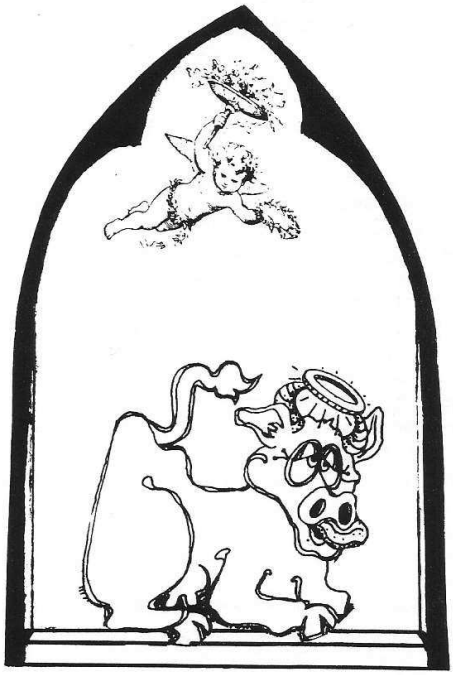
On Sunday, April 13, as the morning business meeting was closing, an untimely spring blizzard roared in dropping temperatures and covering blooming plants with snow which clung to branches and blossoms. The dogwood, in full bloom, was encrusted with additional white, a very unusual and beautiful sight.

Immediately after the business meeting, we drove to Caddo Gap and back into the forest. We were rewarded for having driven up a wood road with the wind driving the snow flakes past at a low angle. Dogwood blossoms were covered with snow. Mayapple leaves were snow covered and bending down under its weight. We took the opportunity to photograph which resulted in some of the pictures in this issue.

The Cow That Went to Church

by Bob Winn

Grapevine, Fayetteville, Arkansas, January 30, 1980



This is a true story about something that happened in the little town of Winslow many, many years ago. Before good roads and the increasing number of speeding automobiles made life hazardous for all creatures on foot, livestock had free range of any land not under fence. Most of the stock running loose confined their grazing to territory thus legally theirs, but a definite exception was one certain cow that apparently regarded herself above all rules and fences.

Maudie was an intelligent rogue; there were no two ways about it. She belonged to the pixie-like Mrs. Cornelia Wein, and maybe Mrs. Wein's affection for all creatures including Maudie, gave the animal a sense of superiority that carried special privileges. True, Maudie did have a heavy responsibility. Mrs. Wein's kind regard for all animals led some unscrupulous persons to take advantage of this kindness by unloading all their unwanted cats at her doorstep, knowing that they would find a good home with the gentle widow. With kind treatment the cats stayed and multiplied as is the way with cats. Naturally, the cats had to be fed, and this feeding was largely Maudie's responsibility. Mrs. Wein never could have bought enough food for the multitude; since cats are reputedly very fond of milk, Maudie did what she could to supply the demand. All animals seem to have built-in timers and when the cats saw Mrs. Wein emerge from the kitchen door with a pail, they knew it was feeding time; they frisked and scampered on all sides and under the feet of the little woman who chatted and gently chided them for being underfoot. They knew where they were headed, and long before the woman reached the side of Maudie standing patiently by the lot gate, the cats were there purring and licking their chops in anticipation of the warm, foaming milk that was soon to be their supper. Maudie munched hay contentedly and gave generously of her substance. Mrs. Wein saved enough of the milk for her coffee and to make the fluffy breakfast biscuits that she also shared with her furry friends; but most of the fresh fluid went into pans and was immediately lapped up by the greedy creatures that were clamoring for it. In spite of Maudie's best effort she could hardly produce enough food to satisfy the hunger of so many cats, and poor Mrs. Wein would not have been able to provide enough extra food for them, but the cats were as resourceful as Maudie; so they did their part by keeping down the mouse population in Mrs. Wein's house, barn, and garden. Thus they unwittingly helped keep nature in balance while satisfying their own appetites. While the cats thrived on this diet of mouse and milk, Maudie had to forage more widely.

Not only did Maudie regard herself as a specially favored animal, she was resourceful as well. Somewhere in her life she had acquired one crumpled horn; whether by natural defect or as the result of a well-aimed rock hurled by a neighbor is unknown. Maudie turned the handicap into an advantage. The horn was twisted so as to make a crude hook, and with this hook Maudie learned to open gates. Unless it was wired securely, no garden gate in town could withstand Maudie's cunning. Many a neighbor awoke to look out upon a garden that he had considered entirely beyond the capability of this marauding nocturnal prowler, to see Maudie contentedly munching what was left of the corn stalks. Maudie was not easily panicked: her reaction to the sticks and kicks and curses of the irate owner of the garden was to saunter casually from the garden onto the open range, only to repeat her invation of some other garden the following night.

Because of the kind treatment of her owner and tolerance of neighbors, Maudie was afraid of nothing nor anybody and felt that she had a perfect right to go anyplace that her owner could go. Thus it was that Maudie went to church.

It is doubtful that Maudie was headed for the mourner's bench that bright spring Sabbath to repent of her many sins of invading and destroying gardens; but her owner was sitting on one of the front pews and Maudie felt that she had a right to be there also.

Maudie was late in arriving. The service was almost over. The minister who was known for his long and devout supplications to the Almighty knelt beside the pulpit, eyes tightly closed better to exclude all worldly distractions. Many parishioners, perhaps no less devout, but less able to concentrate for such long periods sat with heads bowed in prayer or slumber.

The wide door of the church was open; the warm spring sunshine cast a bright glow just outside. The air was filled with the muted sounds of bees and bird song. Nobody knew how long Maudie stood just inside the door contemplating the devotional service within, nor how she managed so stealthily to approach the man sitting with bowed head on the last bench just inside the door. The first indication of the cow's presence was when the man felt something like warm sandpaper make a wide slurp across his bald head. Startled from his peaceful nap, he was not fully awake when he opened his eyes and saw a long horn beside his face; a glance at the floor revealed a cloven hoof.

In one of those moments of panic when one's whole life flashes through the mind, the man's past sins flashed before him. He fully expected to feel Satan's hot breath on the back of his neck. In stead he felt another slobbery slurp of Maudie's wet tongue across his bald head. Now wide awake enough to look around he found himself looking, not into the face of the ruler of the underworld come to gather him to his eternal punishment, but the calm and innocent bovine eyes of Maudie. Just what happened next is unknown because the man somehow got Maudie out of the church without making enough noise to disturb the rest of the congregation. He had hardly sat down, however, when he heard Maudie's step inside the door again and headed right straight for his bald pate. With less caution than before he got Maudie turned around, and facing the door. Some of the congregation aroused by the commotion, raised their heads just in time to see Oda Miller as he placed a well aimed kick on Maudie's hind quarters. Well that the mumbled words formed on his lips were not loud enough to be heard; it is doubtful that they would have been harmonious with the preacher's prayer. This time Oda made sure that Maudie stayed out of the church. He followed her far enough away that she did not return; neither did Oda — but the preacher prayed on.

IMPACTS (Cont. from Page 7)
species and more nest in cavities, 4) usually raise more young per year than forest interior species. Thus, a bird that is adapted to living in the forest edge has a better chance of reproductive success than a forest interior species would have in forest edge habitat (Robbins 1979). The forest interior species are the ones we are most likely to lose if our forests become fragmented.

Keep the problem of forest fragmentation in mind as we move on to another area of concern. This is the decrease of vertical and horizontal diversity in forest habitats. Even-aged forest management creates a forest with decreased vertical stratification of forest layers. Due to the fact that in association with even-aged management hardwoods are culled from the understory, fewer vegetational strata are available for animal species to occupy. Odum (1959) states that stratification increases the number of habitats available in a given surface area and enables a large number of species to utilize the area. Climax, or near climax forests offer the most vegetational layers and thus the highest bird species diversity (Anderson 1979). Much of this high bird species diversity can be attributed to the fact that insect populations are higher in this complex forest environment and many forest bird species are insectivorous.

While even-aged management does not allow for sufficient vertical diversity it does allow for horizontal diversity. Natural forests were not homogeneous by any means. Numerous small openings were present thus allowing early successional plants and animals to remain a part of the forest ecosystem. Tree distribution in a natural forest is not uniform but clumped. Even though the overall forest is characterized by certain dominant species, other tree species occur and clumping of tree species into species associations is common. Thus even-aged management does resemble a natural forest situation with regards to horizontal diversity.

Uneven-aged management, where trees are harvested selectively, provides greater vertical diversity than does even-aged management. More vertical layering is present in the forest. But, with regards to large forest tracts, uneven-aged management does not provide the horizontal diversity needed in a natural ecosystem.

So, it seems that if we could somehow combine those attributes from both even and uneven-aged management which favor high avian species diversity than we would be well on our way to coping with the problem at hand. Here are some management suggestions that I feel would favor avian species, and other animal species, on forest lands.

- —Avoid forest fragmentation which results in isolated small forest units.
- —Allow forests to mature **ecologically**. a suggested cutting rotation for pine would be 80-100 years.
- —Allow clear cuts to regenerate naturally.
- —Do not cull understory tree species nor reduce the vertical layering of the forest.
- —Plan rotations where old tracts border other old tracts and so on. This will provide larger forest tracts available to animal species.
- —In areas where mature (ecologically) forests are limited allow a sufficient acreage of mature forest to remain nearby.

Let's consider the reasons the great demands are being placed on our forests today. Forest industries are in business to make a profit. This could, and most likely does, lead to more intensified forest management practices. But we, as consumers, must assume some responsibility for forest destruction and the present intensive forest management practices. We need to conserve, make the products we buy last longer, and buy fewer forest products. This is a place everyone can start solving this problem.

I would like to leave you with one last thought. You've heard it said repeatedly that "forests are renewable". I concede that forests are not nearly as renewable as trees.

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RICHLAND CREEK (Cont. from Page 6)
that other kinds of land use cannot. Our present opportunity lies in the disposition of Richland Creek.

Public support is asked for in this case; public understanding of the nature of the question and the value to be shown in setting aside these 12,000 acres for wilderness purposes. As we have mentioned, the purposes are varied, the benefits unpredictable. But as wilderness Richland Creek can serve as a long-term guide and purveyor, for man may need to admit to himself at some point that his actions, his decisions, his purposes may not always be in touch with those of the natural world. The hearty and independent Osage seemed to have learned to live in concert with the wilderness; the hearty and independent and technologically superior European learned to confront and overcome it. It may be that this new song, this song of conservation and preservation, will mean a blending of the two ways. From wilderness comes the reflection of ourselves, after all. In wilderness, with a bit of attention, one may discover the whisper of an age-old path and purpose, relevant to mankind as a whole, but outside of the struggles of timebound men and machines.

Wetlands Management Recommendations for the State of Arkansas

position paper delivered to the Office of the Governor, State of Arkansas

Over the five major physiographic divisions of the State of Arkansas scattered areas of wetland communities are known to occur. Indeed, within the Mississippi Alluvial Plain bottomland hardwood forests have been the dominant natural community, replaced in recent times by dollar crops of soybeans, cotton and rice. Also, within the West Gulf Coastal Plain division, where soil and slope conditions have allowed, large areas of bottomland hardwood forests developed; the Saline, Ouachita and Red Rivers provided much in the way of favorable conditions for these communities. Here too, however, economic incentives have favored the reduction of these forestlands; the productivity of soils in this area can be high, and properly drained and prepared, they can provide additional yields of quality pine timber — a commodity that is highly sought after in this region. Within the Gulf Coastal Plain oil and gas industries, along with mining and agricultural interests, and along with the increasing growth of rural and urban settlements, contributed to the decline of these wetland forests. Today there are few remaining examples of the "unmanaged" bottomland forest, where important natural processes can take place for the benefit of man and the support of his environment.

It should be realized that each of the physiographic divisions are known to include some representation of wetland communities. Each natural division is different from the next, and derives changing and unique environmental conditions from which equally unique wetland communities have grown. For example, where floodplains in the Arkansas River Valley provide for wetland habitats, bog areas of the Ozark Mountains do likewise, but on a more secluded or isolated basis. The same can be said for the Ouachita Mountains, or for Crowley's Ridge, where local microclimate conditions have provided for and maintained examples of wetland associations.

Wetlands consist of areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground waters at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, natural ponds and the like. Wetland vegetation consists of plants that require wet soils to survive as well as plants, including certain trees, that gain a competitive advantage over others because they can tolerate prolonged wet soils and their competitors cannot. In addition to plant populations and communities, wetlands are delineated in some cases by hydrological and physical characteristics of the environment.*

There is an important need at the present time to become aware of the values to be derived from the proper management of remaining wetland communities in the state. Major portions of the functioning wetlands in the Mississippi Delta division have been altered or eliminated, as has been mentioned. Of the eight million acres of Delta land in Arkansas — acreage that had once been entirely dominated by bottomland hardwood forest only one million acres remained under forest cover in 1977. By 1985 it is estimated that only 875,000 acres will remain, and by 1995, less than 750,000.** Thus, 90% of the original wetland has been removed, altered or modified. What fate remains for that scant acreage left behind?

The trend is the same statewide. Although there have been definite advantages associated with the development of timber, annual crops, mineral interests and the like in Arkansas, it has become evident that the benefits provided by unaltered wetland processes may also be significant in a number of ways, and may, in fact, contribute to the improvement of human health and welfare considerations by maintaining a number of important, supporting biological and geochemical processes. Wetland values have been summarized as follows:

> "Wetlands serve important natural biological functions. They can support high biological productivity. . .Some wetlands may exchange nutrients through water circulation patterns thereby affecting adjacent ecosystems. Wetlands provide habitat for resident aquatic and terrestrial species. Many nonresident species depend on wetlands for food and as habitat at certain stages in their life cycle. For example, wetland functions as spawning and nursery areas for many fish species, and as resting areas for migrating waterfowl. Functioning as a buffer zone, wetlands shield upland areas from wave action, erosion, and storm damage. Some wetlands also serve as storage areas for storm and flood waters. Wetlands may also have beneficial effects on water quality. Pollutants in runoff from surrounding upland areas or in water flushing through wetlands may be retained or converted to innocuous forms, protecting water quality in receiving waters. Wetlands influence natural drainage characteristics, water circulation and sedimentation patterns. Wetlands may serve as aquifer recharge areas."***

It can be seen that a wide variety of important benefits can be had by the proper management of wetland areas. These are long-term, self-sustaining

benefits, however, and require special attention during times when short-term gains from wetland conversion may seem more advantageous.

Thus, resource managers should begin to consider the development of a public awareness regarding the proper management and/or preservation of wetland areas remaining to the state, in order to insure the continuation of many of the high quality characteristics of the environment within which the citizens of the state live and work. Thru educational programs, by voluntary individual action, and thru special incentive program development, this kind of awareness can be created and can result in a balanced approach to land and resource utilization in the state.

There are specific goals that resource managers may begin to consider as a second step in providing for protection of wetland communities:

- —Resource managers should, as a part of their own programs, reduce wherever possible the further loss of wetlands within the state.
- —Thru the preservation and/or management of wetland communities, resource managers can enhance and protect:
  - —biological productivity, nutrient exchange, and aquatic or terrestrial habitat for associated plants and animals;
  - —adjacent upland and downstream areas from wave action, erosion, or storm damage by preserving wetlands as buffer zones and/or storage areas;
  - —water quality thru the preservation of wetland filtration and flushing processes;
  - —the continued recharge of natural aquifers or groundwater storage areas.
- —Where loss of wetlands cannot be avoided, it should be the goal of resource managers to insure that proper mitigation occurs sufficient to maintain the integrity and diversity of the State's wetland communities.
- —It should be the goal of resource managers to encourage the use by private landowners of Best Management Practices outlined in the State Water Quality Management Plan for the purpose of preserving and/or managing wetlands such that further loss of wetland communities can be avoided.
- —It should be the goal of resource managers to develop educational programs aimed at an awareness of the importance of wetland processes and the need for protection measures, in conformance with other such programs outlined by the State Department of Education.
- —It should be the goal of resource managers to investigate need and opportunity for creating programs that provide financial incentives related to wetlands preservation. In this regard, consideration should be given to property tax incentives, direct payment by the State of preservation subsidies, solicitation of privately-granted preservation easements, severance taxes where wetland resources are adversely affected, and State-funded mitigation programs.

Authority for wetlands protection and management activities stems from a number of federal sources, including the following:

- —Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands", issued by President Carter on
- —P.L. 85-624, The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended and from implementation of relevant regulations and guidelines by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- —P.L. 93-500, The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended and especially Sections 208 and 404 of the Act;
- —40 CFR, Part 230, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the mandate of P.L. 93-500;
- —33 CFR, Parts 320 and 323, developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to P.L. 93-500.

The mandate to protect and enhance the quality of the nation's waters is clear from the discussions given in the above references. Also, the need to consider and protect wetland communities is clear. Where there have been tradeoffs possible in the past in relation to wetlands management, these are fast disappearing with the rapid destruction of wetland systems. Because of this, we are faced with a situation of constraints, or reduced flexibility when questions of wetlands management occur. We find that these communities provide valuable ecological services to man and to the natural system, yet these are quickly vanishing. We therefore find that only a few opportunities for "non-preservation" are still available.

One of these non-preservation options is mitigation, and this means the lessening of wetland resource losses thru use of loss prevention measures (management practices, for example), and thru the action of offsetting losses thru use of other compensating measures. Wetland resources can be conserved as a part of project planning by minimizing adverse impacts, by compensating for wetland resource losses, and/or by enhancing wetland values.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that preservation seems the only alternative to a continued threat of natural system imbalance and disfunction; the wetlands case is only one of many that challenge today's resource manager. Yet the wetlands case is not the least important; it may, indeed, be of utmost significance. As developmental pressures continue to grow the need for reasonable evaluation of natural system tradeoffs grows accordingly. Wisdom and prudence, where wetlands protection is concerned, cannot work to our disadvantage in the long term.

Bill Coleman
Conservation Chairman,
The Ozark Society.

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*Derived from 40 CFR, Part 230, 33 CFR, Parts 320 and 323, and from Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands".

**Based on recent projections of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

***Developed from "Guidelines for Specifications of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material", U.S. EPA Proposed Rule issued Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1979, 44FR, 54222.

SPRING ACTIVITIES

by Joe Clark

The Bulletin, like Topsy, just grows. The Spring issue started before The Ozark Society Spring Meeting, April 12-13, and began accumulating material, a very slow and indefinite process. We progressed through the Wildflower Weekend on Petit Jean Mountain April 19-20, the Audubon Society meeting on Petit Jean and at Winrock International, May 2-3, the Arkansas Native Plant Society meeting at Heber Springs which included hikes within the Natural Heritage Commission's Big Creek Natural Area, May 30-31. Afterward, we drove eastward to Crowley's Ridge and Village Creek State Park. All this may have slowed the publication of the Bulletin, but it may have added some material, at least this paragraph.

At all of these meetings, we saw many old friends and made some new ones. We were impressed with the Audubon Society meeting, attended by approximately 125 members. A fine evening meeting was held at Winrock International with president Fred Burnside presiding and Senator Bumpers giving the main address.

We were pleased to see our friends, Shug and Lavois Shugart and Jimmie Brown of El Dorado, who had been on the 25 hour bus trip to Washington in October 1971 to participate in the hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation on the Buffalo National River. Shug didn't forget to remind us that I had gotten locked in the restroom of the bus.

At the Native Plant Society meeting, we renewed our acquaintance with Billy Joe Tatum, author of the *Wild Foods Cookbook & Field Guide* and met Edith Huey, author of the two beautifully illustrated books of *Ozark Wildflowers.* As usual, when wildflowers are involved, Aileen McWilliam and Jewell Moore were present.

Along Crowleys Ridge and at Village Creek State Park, we saw many large trees. Especially numerous were the tulip trees, *Liriodendron tulipifera,* which, in Arkansas, grow naturally only along the Ridge. Within the park are a few beech trees, one of which is known as Big Ben in memory of Ben Crowley for whom the Ridge was named. Big Ben is enormous, the largest beech we have seen.

Crowleys Ridge is unique. It was formed by the Mississippi River eroding out a wide flood plain on each side of what now remains. The river once flowed on the west side of the Ridge, then on the east where it remains. It extends from near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to Helena, Arkansas. It is covered with a thick mantle of loess, a fine soil derived from rock flour ground by the glaciers. As the glaciers melted back the loess was wind blown over much of the central part of the continent. Crowleys Ridge acted much as a snow fence, causing the loess to pile up on it to depths as great as 100 feet. This accounts for the good deep soil favorable to tree growth and to the many orchards on the Ridge.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER. . .Bob McKinney

One of the Ozark Society's long standing goals has been the establishment of a Department of Natural Resources within state government. At the DeGray Lodge spring meeting President Bill Wiggins once again issued a call for consolidation of all natural resource activity under one Department Head who could be held responsible and accountable for the management of our resources. Bill's address was followed by a succession of State Agency Heads who explained that while responsibility is divided the system works and the taxpayer doesn't have to worry about duplication of effort by the various agencies.

Later we found out just how well the system actually does work in Central Arkansas when a question was asked about dioxin found in fish taken from Bayou Meto. We've been reading about dioxin from the Vertac plant at Jacksonville for months now and I, for one, thought that the state had responded and everything was under control. Space won't permit me to relate all the details, but what we heard was that while the Bayou has been quarantined, the quarantine has apparently not been enforced. Also, no routine tests for dioxin have been made on fish taken from the Bayou, and commercial fishing has yet to be banned. At least three state agencies are involved, yet no one has total responsibility or accountability for solving the problem! Later, Game and Fish Director Steve Wilson came out in favor of a ban on fishing at Bayou Meto and perhaps the G&FC will go along with it, but the G&FC seems to be the only agency taking any action. It should be noted that the G&FC is supported by sportsman's license fees, not tax revenues, and historically has been more independent of the bureaucracy.

Tom McRae also outlined the problem with our present state government's organization when he stated that no less than 50 state agencies are involved in water resource projects — none of which have total responsibility. It's no wonder we get the run around when trying to pin down the status of a particular project. Agency inaction is practically guaranteed under such a setup.

We may have a long battle ahead, but a State Department of Natural Resources is certainly a worthy goal to strive for, both from the standpoint of a concerned environmentalist and a taxpaying citizen.

Snow blanketed May Apples, April 13th — Joe Clark

OZARK SOCIETY OUTINGS

The *Bulletin* is so late that we have run past most of the scheduled activities. You can always call the outing chairman or officers of a chapter to inquire as to the activity being planned.

"It's a double whammy," says R. Dennis Scott of the International Woodworkers of America. "The big companies cut their own lands too fast, putting us on the edge of a timber gap, and now the housing thing comes along." . . . Wall Street Journal, *April 10, 1980.*

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED

The business-oriented Wall Street Journal, in a front page investigative reporting piece in the April 10, 1980 issue, confirmed a lot of suspicions students of the corporate timber industry have had about harvesting practices in the Northwest and the sudden shift of emphasis to the South, and Arkansas. It offers a rare insight into what's really going on in the timber industry and makes us wonder whether the old days of "cut and run" timber management are really gone after all. The import of this article is so frightening we thought it worthy of reprinting pertinent portions of it in this issue. Read it and weep.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT: THE "CUT AND RUN" philosophy continues

The Wall Street Journal probably didn't intend it that way, but its April 10 issue contained an article, "Skidding Lumber," which highlighted exactly the scenario that opponents of clearcutting and "even age" timber management have been worried about.

In essence, timber corporations in the Northwest have overcut their stands, old-growth timber has been depleted, new plantings of "super pines" and other such measures have not kept pace with the cutting and the result is an economic shutdown at towns like McCloud, Calif.; Lewiston, Idaho; and Eugene, Ore. The big timber companies are pulling out and concentrating their efforts in Arkansas and other states in the relatively unexploited South.

The Journal reported that timber-cutting in the Northwest has outstripped growth by 56 percent and the new crop of trees is still 10 to 20 years from harvest. "Our private forests up here will pick up again in the 1990s, but we're going to have problems until then," the Journal quotes John Wishart, VP of timber and timberlands for Georgia-Pacific. The WSJ said Wishart wanted the Forest Service to "bail us out" by allowing producers to harvest its old trees. The Journal went on to say that the timber industry was "...outraged by the withdrawal of several million acres of Forest Service land from commercial classification while debate continues over how much of that acreage should be designated as wilderness."

Advocates of wilderness and recreation lands have tried to point out for years that the USFS is not solely in the timber farm business, but also has responsibilities to protect water quality, wildlife and recreation. The industry isn't impressed.

So Northwest lumbermen watch in frustration while the timber companies move the bulk of their operations to the South, where forests that once were essentially stripped are again mature. Especially since 1964 when, as the Journal noted, "Georgia-Pacific developed a process for producing Southern pine plywood, big lumber companies have been rushing to secure timber supplies in the Carolinas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia and other Gulf states."

ARKANSAS RIVER RUNAROUND

Making maximum use of one of urban Arkansas' greatest resources — the Arkansas River — is shaping up as one of the more juicier conservation battles of the future. It wasn't exactly planned this way, but the transformation of "old muddy" into a string of lakes by the McClellan-Kerr Navigation Project also created one of the state's best fishing, boating and recreational areas. And it's one that runs right through the backyards of populous Arkansas urban centers like Fort Smith, Russellville, Little Rock and Pine Bluff.

The Arkansas River is now the Number 1 commercial fishing waterway in the state and also has the best sport fishing. Even more important, the locks and dams have filtered out much of the silt and increased pollution control has made the river a very viable alternative for domestic water uses. To be specific, there may be no reason we cannot drink the stuff, with proper treatment, and darn well may have to within the next decade.

Of direct concern to all of us, many qualified water quality professionals — such as our own Dr. Joe Nix of Arkadelphia and Stewart Noland of Little Rock — believe there is a good possibility that the Arkansas River could supply the water requirements of the Arkansas River Valley **without** requiring the damming of dozens of high-quality tributary streams of the Arkansas. Streams like the North Fork of the Illinois Bayou, Big Piney, Little Piney and a host of others prized by hunters, fishermen, white-water boaters and people who just like to watch water flow by unvexed by man's contraptions.

During questioning of various state agency heads concerned with natural resources management at the recent DeGray Lodge spring meeting, it became obvious that we have virtually no **new** information about the water quality of the Arkansas River. Most of the information the State Health Department and others are citing to support **not** using the Arkansas River water for municipal uses is based on information gathered **before** the Arkansas River navigation program was completed. Other than a review of existing data, nothing new has been done since the locks and dams have created profound changes in the ecology of the river.

The potential utilization of Arkansas River water is of such importance that the Society is pushing state and federal agencies to initiate comprehensive water quality studies of the river instead of relying, knee-jerk fashion, on outdated statistics and hunches heavily tinged with inter-agency bias. We need facts.

Political game-playing with the Arkansas River is the major reason Dr. Joe Nix resigned in disgust from SPAC, the Statewide Policy Advisory Committee. SPAC had given top priority to a study of the Arkansas River but EPA ignored it, hiding behind a supposed priority to "non-point" pollution sources, and instead funded a $100,000 study of acid mine runoff on Cove Creek. No doubt this issue needs study, but Nix said it is not critical for at least three to four years and the Arkansas River study is needed NOW; if not yesterday. The Arkansas River is obviously somebody's sacred political cow and there is great resistance to any studies that might alter some pre-conceived views; especially if they might prove that dams on the Illinois Bayou and elsewhere are actually a waste of money.

Plan for the Fall Meeting of The Ozark Society on the campus of The School of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Missouri, September 13-14. The Good Memorial College Center Motel, The School of the Ozarks is available. For reservations write Motel Manager, Point Lookout, MO 65726, or phone (417) 334-6411. Rates start at $18.00.

Alaska's Fate to be Decided July 21

Final Test for Alaska's Wilderness

Many hurdles have been cleared in the quest to protect a portion of Alaska's incomparable wildlands, but the final test is now upon us. The United States Senate will begin debate on this historic issue on July 21st. The vision of a lasting frontier—of untrammeled expanses and wide ranging wildlife—is riding on the balance.

Our goal is simple: to preserve a portion of our nation's last vast wilderness. These Alaska lands are federally owned. **They belong to you and all other Americans.** Only the energy and action of conservation minded citizens like yourself can insure that this legacy of wilderness and wildlife will be passed on to future generations.

The Senate—A Status Report

After the House of Representatives passed the Alaska lands bill in May 1979, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee took up the issue. In November of 1979, the Committee produced a bill for full Senate action—a bill so weak as to be unacceptable to the Carter Administration, House leaders and conservationists. Finding this measure inadequate, Senators Paul Tsongas (D-MA), William Roth (R-DE) and 12 cosponsors joined together to introduce their own Alaska lands bill for full Senate consideration. The "Tsongas-Roth Substitute" is fashioned after the fine provisions of the House bill. Introduction of this strong alternative was a dramatic demonstration of widespread dissatisfaction with the Energy Committee's performance.

In recent action, Senate supporters of a balanced Alaska lands bill have also decided to provide a second alternative by shaping a package of five separate strengthening amendments to the Committee bill. While this amendment package reflects some compromise and is not as comprehensive as the Tsongas-Roth Substitute, it would still go a long way toward correcting the Committee bill's major deficiencies.

After gauging the strength of Senate support for a strong bill, senators championing the conservation position will have a choice: they can either repair the Energy Committee's bill by offering the five amendment package or substitute the Tsongas-Roth bill. **Your action will determine the degree of Senate support and decisively influence the final outcome on the Senate floor.**

The Five Amendments

The Tsongas-Roth-McGovern (D-SD) National Forest Amendment would restore the Wilderness System in the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska as recommended by the U.S. Forest Service and adopted by the House of Representatives. It would provide full protection for such spectacular and wildlife rich areas as Misty Fjords, Admiralty Island and West Chicagof-Yakobi Island.

The Hart (D-CO)-Chafee (R-RI)-Randolph (D-WV)-Culver (D-IA)-Church (D-ID) National Wildlife Refuge System Amendment would re-establish essential boundaries and strong management provisions for national wildlife refuge units including the Yukon Flats and Nowitna—boundaries and provisions which were shattered in the Senate Energy Committee bill.

The Nelson (D-WI)-Levin (D-MI) National Wilderness Preservation System Amendment would safeguard the integrity of the William O. Douglas Arctic Range (formerly the Arctic National Wildlife Range) by designating the entire unit as wilderness, insuring habitat protection for the internationally significant Porcupine caribou herd. The Energy Committee bill would open the Douglas Range to private oil and gas exploration. Critical wilderness areas in seven other national parks and national wildlife refuges would be restored by this amendment.

The Tsongas-Mathias (R-MD) National Park System Amendment would restore the integrity of key national park units such as the Gates of the Arctic, Noatak and Wrangell-St. Elias by excluding mining and road building. This amendment would also provide a better balance between areas of these new national parks closed to sport hunting and park system areas called "national preserves," where hunting would be allowed.

The Proxmire (D-WI)-Eagleton (D-MO) Rivers and Transportation Amendment would tighten the provisions for approval of future transportation projects crossing the new parks, refuges and wilderness areas. The amendment also would designate three new units of the Wild and Scenic River System and would protect from mining claims rivers being studied for inclusion.

The Opposition Has Millions to Spend!

In an all out effort to cripple the Alaska legislation, development interests and the state of Alaska have earmarked millions of dollars for the hiring of powerful lobbyists and for a nationwide media blitz.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW

If we are to overcome the opposition by the well financed development interests and their primary spokesmen—the two Alaskan senators—every other senator must hear from his or her constituents that the strong protection of Alaska's wilderness and wildlife is an issue of national importance and must not be held hostage to the parochial interests of the two Alaskan Senators.

You can make the difference. Write a personal letter to both of your senators today (Honorable _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and:

1) Express your opposition to the unacceptable Energy Committee bill as a whole, and give examples of inadequate provisions (see amendment descriptions).
2) Urge them to support the package of five strengthening amendments (describing them briefly) **and** the Tsongas-Roth Substitute.
3) Ask them to show their commitment by co-sponsoring every amendment in the package as well as the Substitute bill. (Stress that all five amendments must be supported as a group. If all five amendments do not pass, then differences between the House-passed bill and the Senate bill will be so great as to preclude a comprehensive conference committee in the short time remaining the session after the floor debate.) Co-sponsorship is the most effective demonstration of support.

If you would like to help in additional ways, or if you have any questions or comments, please call the Alaska Coalition at (202) 543-3663. For up-to-the-minute information on the status of the legislation, call the Alaska Coalition 24-Hour Hotline at (202) 547-5550.

Your energetic and persistent action now is essential if 1980 is to be a year of decision, not deadlock, for wild Alaska. Let's add a new date to the history of conservation successes in this country; let's pass this final test for the last frontier.

Dues Notice

Please send in your dues for 1980.
Fill out the blank below and send it with your check to Steve Shepherd, Membership Chairman, The Ozark Society, Box 2914, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

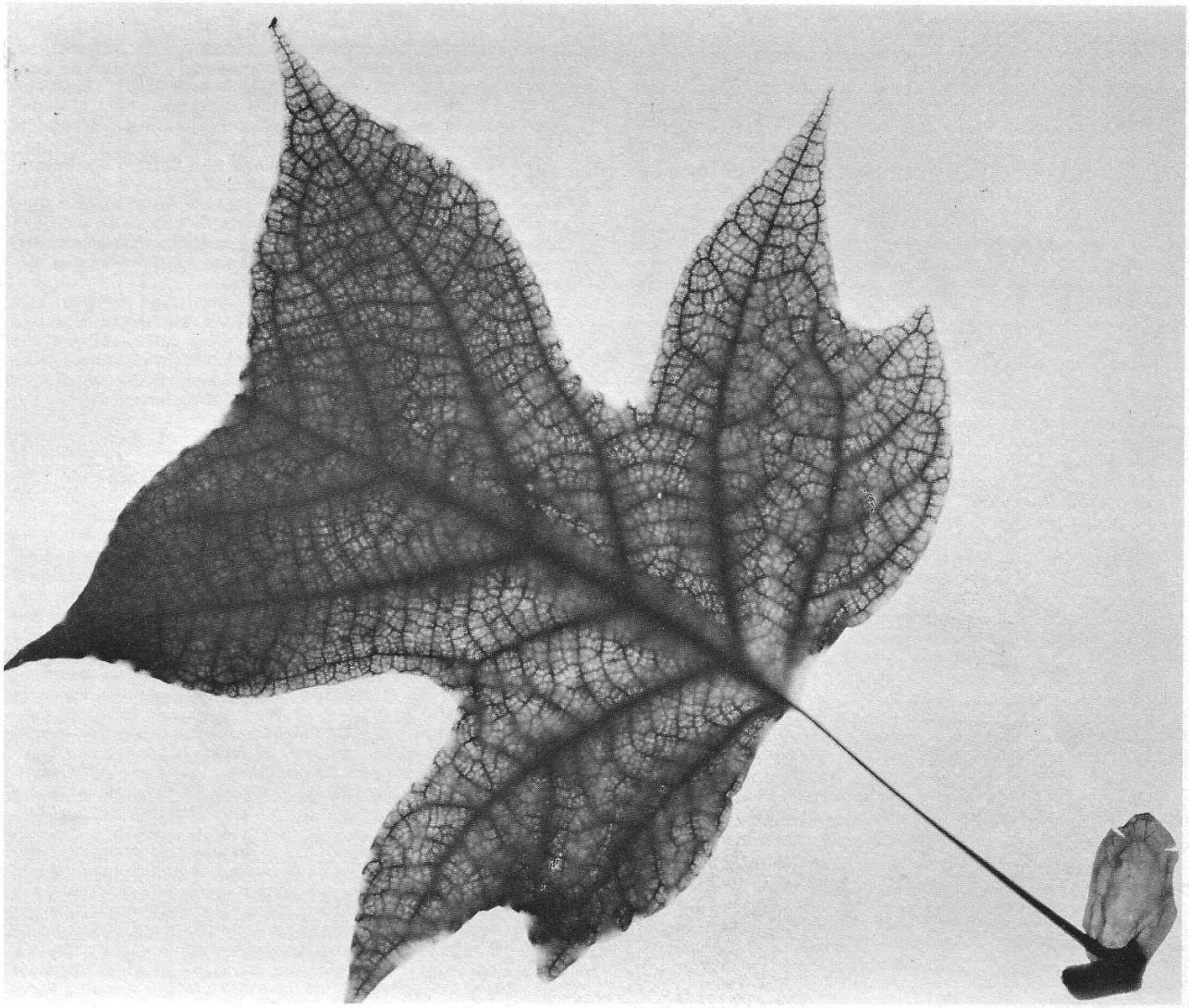
Dues are for the calendar year. They are regular (and family), $5; contributing, $10; sustaining, $25; life, $100

Please check: new member:_____ renewal_____ Date_____

Last name_____ first names of husband and wife_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone_____



Leaf of Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Reduction to 79%) — Joe Clark