



OZARK PADDLER

September 2011 www.ozarkmtnpaddlers.org

Conservation Education Recreation Conservation Education Recreation Conservation

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Calendar of Events:

Thursday, September 8th

Monthly Member Meeting - Annual Gear Swap!

Rummage through your closet and garage and bring out your old gear to sell or swap. As always, OMP will be furnishing burgers, so bring a side dish and beverage of your choice. Brian Grindstaff will host this event at his shop:

Machine Concepts, 220 Industry Rd., Rogersville.

Directions: Go East on Hwy 60 one mile past the intersection of VV and 60. Industry road is the first left (North) past the light. The shop is the last building on the right.

Saturday and Sunday, September 10th & 11th

Monthly Float hosted by Michael Baird

Take a little time for the river during our monthly float on September 10th and 11th! September usually provides gorgeous weather for floating, and this month's float will be hosted by Michael Baird, a.k.a. President at large.

This trip takes you 10.9 miles from Alley Spring (the 10th largest spring in the state) to Shawnee Creek. The Jacks is a spring-fed river with great fly fishing for those of you who want to wet a line. Those who would rather go for a day trip can float 6.3 miles to Buttin Rock in Eminence and take out there. Please bring your own food and beverages for Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast. Saturday evening will be a potluck...so bring a dish to share. Please RSVP Michael if you plan to attend. Check the website a couple of days before the float for further details! Hope to see ya there!

Saturday, September 17th

Good Samaritan Boys Ranch Boathouse Race on Springfield Lake

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

This annual event features 5K race on land and a 5K race on the water, and all proceeds go to benefit our favorite hotspot for annual roll sessions, the Good Samaritan Boys Ranch! OMP runs safety for the canoe/kayak leg of this event each year, and volunteers are needed to make this partnership a success.

For event details, visit www.ranchlife.org. Certifications are not required. Contact Ed McClung at 417.776.7960 to sign up.

Sunday, September 18th

Ironman 70.3 Branson at Table Rock Lake

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The goal of kayak safety is to provide the swimming portion of the race with staff who keep eye out for distressed swimmers, offer visual references of the course, and create time-out spots as swimmers need a break. We have a very important role to ensure these athletes safety, and it is a great honor and responsibility to be involved with THE IRONMAN team. By registering online, you secure your free t-shirt and a kayak if you need one. Contact Denise Pepmiller for more information, or go to <http://ironmanbranson.com/> and select **Volunteer**.

President's Corner ~ by Michael Baird

MAKING TIME FOR THE RIVER

I am probably the last person you would expect to write this article, I know, I can hardly believe I am writing this, however I did find a little time recently to spend a day on the river.

I know it is tough sometimes to feel like you have any time to take for yourself. Maybe you work 60+ hours a week or perhaps you're busy running the kids to all of their events, not to mention making sure they have something to eat and clean clothes to wear. Perhaps you are like me—you work a full time job and your time outside of work is spent helping, leading or volunteering with several organizations. Perhaps all the above! You have your reasons ~ you do not have the luxury to spend a little time on the river ~ too many people counting on you.....Right?

Let "Dr. Michael" now explain why putting off this kind of getaway can actually make things worse. See, I was pretty stressed out—I hadn't been getting much exercise (**WAY** too HOT in July) I was working on gaining some large clients at work, and let's just say I was really pressed for time. So on the second Thursday evening of the month I dutifully headed to the Nature Center to lead the....cough, cough-clearing of throat....OMP meeting. The meeting was a lot of fun as we took the presentation outside (Herman was presenting "Leave NO Trace") and had a few laughs along the way. After the meeting Denise said, "Hey Michael, you want to come float with us tomorrow?" I almost declined the offer... *remember...you're too busy*. But instead I thought to myself...*you really need this*.

The following day we floated from Shelvin Rock to Hooten Town. It was a gorgeous day, the water was cool, the trees were beautiful, and I was with good river companions. The float was close by so I could still sleep in a little and even treated myself to a nice breakfast before I left the house that morning. On the river, I saw several Blue Herons and lots of chicks (baby herons, that is!) turtles, and spent some time collecting little shells in the cool clear water for a necklace I intended to make. We had a few ripples that were fun to paddle through and for the most part took our time going downstream. The best part of all this was I started to relax. I could feel the stress glide away and became at peace within. Just what "Doctor Denise" had ordered.

The following week, I did land the large clients I spoke of earlier. Would I have landed those accounts without making some time for myself? ...I am not sure, but what I am sure of, my stress had been starting to show. I was much more relaxed the following week and thus it all worked out.

This would not be a President's Corner without an "I do not recommend" section, so here goes: I do not recommend stress! It is bad for your health, body, mind and soul....It is just bad, man!

I will be hosting the next OMP monthly float on September the 10th and 11th. Now is your chance to make a little time for the river.

~Beyond the horizon awaits a wondrous and mysterious place~

Watershed Center Opens at Valley Water Mill ~ by Kellie Herman

Herman

On Friday, July 20th I attended the much anticipated ribbon cutting for the new Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill located in north Springfield. *This is a big deal, folks!* The Watershed Center is a one-of-a-kind nature center built purely to educate the public about water conservation and it is AWESOME! This site is unique because of the number of diverse ecosystems found in such close proximity to one another. As you walk the trails, you will find monitoring wells, glades, forests, sinkholes, caves, springs, a wetland, a seventeen-acre lake, and a small creek. A 2½ mile walking trail loops around the entire site, connecting the four major outdoor classrooms—or learning stations—located at the spring, wetland, lake and stream.



The Watershed Center's main education building is LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and implements many energy and water conservation management practices. Water adheres to rain chains that guide storm water from the roof into a growing rain garden. A cistern collects water to be used as grey water to flush toilets and serve other areas of the facility. And these features are just the beginning of the great things about this new center!

I challenge you to take a drive over to Valley Water Mill as the weather begins to cool. The fall leaves are spectacular on the trails that wind through this 100 acre site!

For more info go to: <http://www.watershedcommittee.org>.

Summer Trip Reports

July OMP Monthly Float ~ by Brian Grindstaff

In the middle of July and after a month of no rain 13 overly optimistic paddlers headed to the put in at Tipton Ford on Shoal Creek just outside of Neosho Missouri for a 7 mile float down to Wildcat Park. To our surprise, the creek was flowing 30 cfs above the mean for this time of the year and the gauge was sitting at a comfortable 2.58 ft. The creek had plenty of water and it was cool.

This meandering stream usually flows gently under a canopy of hardwoods, but due to the floods in May and the soft dirt embankment, our shade cover had literally washed away leaving us exposed to the harsh July sun. We only had to get out of the boats once or twice, but we did have to pick our paths around the downed timber carefully.

With 42 navigable miles Shoal Creek originates west of Cassville and meander northwest until joining the Spring River in Kansas.



Photo courtesy of Kay Mason

Our intrepid band of floaters included:

Anabeth Minx, Lori Hurst-Nickols, Brian Grindstaff, Christine and Jonathan Austin, Christy, Curtis, and Nyah Claybaker, Matt Coombs, Jason Murrill, & David Jackson

OMP Annual Dog Days Float ~ by Marc Graham

Only a handful of other paddlers were encountered on the river during the Dog Days Float, making the Bryant truly one of the hidden gems of the Ozarks. Linda Coroleuski and Marc Graham fearlessly faced the challenge of navigating the mighty Bryant Creek, with Linda in her kayak and Marc paddling HIS NEW CANOE. Yes, folks, it has finally happened...the new 16 ft. Mad River with wood gunnels is sure to be the pride of the OMP fleet!

The day was sunny and warm, but the spring-fed river afforded our intrepid paddlers refreshing solace, including the traditional dip in Brixley Spring. All but one wily bass avoided the masterful angling of Marc, and this monster fought valiantly, even dragging canoe from one side of the river to the other trying to escape. Up and down the river the combatants fought unyielding and determined. But on this day it was Marc who reigned, and the bass was released back into his aquatic domain sure to see mortal combat another day.

Linda commented that a day on the river is much better therapy than could ever be received from any professional. I think we can all agree—well-said, Linda!

Business Memberships

Business memberships are available!

Blue Planet Construction

338 N. Tierra
Republic, MO 65738
417.379.2220

JD3bpg@hotmail.com

Jason Haskin & Jennifer Smith

Dancing Mule Coffee Company

1945 S. Glenstone
Springfield, MO 65804
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www.dancingmulecoffee.com

Randy Austin

Dynamic Earth Equipment

1110 E Republic Road
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Matt O'Reilly

GladeWinds

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Michael Baird

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John Whittaker

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Darrell Jones

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Christy Claybaker

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Brian Grindstaff

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John Haik

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Denise Pepmiller

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Jason Frantz

Water Hikers
presents
the 1st annual
Headwaters Tour

Kayak Fishing Tournament

What:

A **KAYAK-ONLY** fishing tourney.
"Snap and Release" event.

When:

Saturday, October 8th 2011
Fishing sunrise to 4pm
Awards Ceremony and food following

Where:

Table Rock Lake at
Flat Creek Resort
7847 Missouri 173, Cape Fair, MO

How much:

\$40 pre-registration (**ends oct 3rd**)
\$50 late registration

*Booth space for businesses are \$40

The more people, the bigger the prizes!!

**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL
BE DONATED TO THE BOYS & GIRLS**

TOWN



Contact Water Hikers
at **417-714-0426** or
stop by the store.
1543 N Commercial St
#4
Nixa, MO 6571

Volunteer Incentive and Reward Program Comes to a Close for 2011

September 30th marks the end of the 2011 Volunteer and Incentive Reward Program. It's been an exciting year filled with tons of opportunities to share our knowledge, expertise, and love of the river. We appreciate your level of commitment to this club and want to recognize those who have offered their time and talent to benefit OMP and the community we serve.

All members are eligible for this program. Just send a short description of the event(s) you participated in along with the corresponding point value to secretary@ozarkmtnpaddlers.com **no later than September 30th**. If we don't hear from you, we cannot account for your points, which means *you will have automatically forfeited your entitlement*. Do not let this happen! You don't want to be the only one empty-handed at the Volunteer Recognition & Awards Ceremony in November!

Attend an OMP monthly meeting.....	1 pt.
Bring a guest to an OMP monthly meeting	2 pts.
Attend an OMP float	3 pts.
Volunteer for River Rescue or run shuttle at an OMP clinic.....	5 pts.
Take an official lead role at an OMP clinic or River Rescue, or recruit a new member	10 pts.
Hold down the fort at the OMP booth during a community event.....	15 pts.
Host an OMP float or event	20 pts.
Run safety at an OMP clinic or obtain CPR certification.....	25pts.
Sponsor the White Water Clinic	40 pts.
Obtain or renew ACA Instructor Certification	50 pts.
Teach an OMP Clinic	80 pts.
Serve a full term as an OMP Board Member.....	100 pts.

If you have ideas for ways new ways to earn points for next year or questions about this program, please contact the president at president@ozarkmtnpaddlers.com.



Post Office Box 1581
Springfield, MO 65801

See you on the river!