

## **Raise Your Paddle in Support of Protecting the Buffalo River!**

**What:** A float to raise awareness about potential threats to the Buffalo

**Where:** Grinder's Ferry Access by the Hwy. 65 bridge just north of the entrance to Tyler Bend.

**When:** Saturday, July 5th (weather permitting) We hope to launch by 10 am- arrive early to take part in vehicle shuttles and boat decorating.

**The Plan:** If enough people come, we can divide into two groups, one going to Baker Ford to float to Grinder's Ferry, and the other floating from Grinder's Ferry to Gilbert. A group of us plans to arrive to claim a camping area on the gravel bar at Grinder's Ferry and will make room if you want to join us. We had a great time with our first protest flotilla!

On Saturday, July 5th, a group of concerned citizens, going by the name Ozark Water Stewards, will lead our 2nd protest float on the Buffalo River. The purpose is to call attention to, and help spread the word about, the danger of impairment posed by a hog factory farm that is operating in the watershed. Leaking lagoons and the spreading of tons on liquid waste on pastures along Big Creek, a major tributary of the Buffalo, constitute a clear threat to our first National River, yet many people who love the river remain unaware of the situation.

We will begin gathering at 8:00 am to decorate our boats with banners, pennants, signs and anything else we can think of to make us stand out from those who are just out for a day's paddle. We will have signs and other materials, but encourage people to be creative if they want to make their own decorations.

Last month we had three dozen people deployed on two stretches, and we passed out 150 packets with a plastic information card and a sticker. In addition, we spoke with many people out enjoying the river, explaining why placing these kinds of indoor feedlots, called CAFOs, in fragile ecosystems poses a very real threat to water quality, both for the inhabitants of the river, and for the people who come to swim, float, fish and play.

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