



Houston Canoe Club *WaterLine*



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The Waterline is the monthly newsletter of the Houston Canoe Club, Inc. The Waterline is made possible by your dues and critically depends on member contributions. Please submit items to HCC's Newsletter Editor, Linda Gorski at LindaGorski@cs.com.

The Waterline is prepared by an on-line newsletter editor written by Fraser Baker, HCC's Webmaster.

Next Meeting Announcement

When: June 10, 2009
Where: Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas
Directions: First driveway, North side of Bissonnet, just East of Hillcroft.
Speaker: Billy Welborn and Christy Long
Speaker Bio:
Description: Calling all whitewater enthusiasts. The HCC meeting for June will feature a program on paddling whitewater rivers both here in Texas and on the east coast. HCC Members Billy Welborn and Christy Long will team up to present a slideshow about their personal experiences in whitewater rafting, kayaking and canoeing. Billy will talk about rafting and canoeing whitewater in Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina. He will also talk about some whitewater a little closer to home (Texas). He will also discuss some projects that he has participated in that might be of interest to other club members. Christy Long will attend the upcoming Carolina Canoe Club event, Week of Rivers (WOR). This will be the fifth year she has made the trip and will share a few of her WOR experiences with you. Her presentation will include a summary of a WOR paddling day, a short slide show from past events, and several maps of the area. See photos in the articles section of the newsletter highlighting the June program. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 at the Bayland Recreation Center on Bissonnet near Hillcroft. Come early and meet our speakers and chat with fellow paddlers.

Be sure to set this date aside on your calendar, then come out to support our speaker and club.

Last Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 2009

Recorder: John Ohrt

Minutes: Houston Canoe Club General Meeting May 13, 2009 Bayland Park Community Center Commodore Bill Grimes called the meeting to order Bill announced that there were club pamphlets and posters and invited members to take some for distribution. He discussed the club book and DVD library being headed up by Joe Coker Officers were introduced and new members and guest were greeted The program was a power point presentation by members of PACK, Paddling Anglers in Canoes and Kayaks. Fleet Captain Donna Grimes gave the trip report. Past trips included Cypress Creek, Buffalo Bayou, Lake Charlotte, Oyster Creek, Dragon Boat races, Spring Creek and the Buddy Paddle in San Marcos. Upcoming trips included Bay Day, Lake Charlotte, the Sabine River three day campout, the Memorial Day Columbus Loop, and possibly a Burnham Ferry trip Mary Z was thanked for her generous donation to help defray the expenses of mailing letters in support of the Neches wilderness corridor. Bruce Litton spoke about the need of two Texas paddlers, Michelle Kvanli of San Marcos and Rebecca Moore of Houston, for financial assistance to go to Europe and race in furtherance of their trying to make the U S whitewater team. Ken Anderson gave a safety minute on throw ropes The minutes of the April meeting were presented and approved Carl Gilson gave a financial report. Paul Woodcock announced that bumper stickers, pamphlets and business cards are here and available for members. Fraser Baker discussed reaching the club roster through the web page. John Bartos announced that the pro Neches Wilderness corridor decision was being appealed by Dallas The Membership Enhancement Task Force again mentioned the availability of posters and other promotional materials for members to use in promoting the club. Additional pamphlets have been ordered. The meeting was adjourned.

Please contact HCC's recorder, John Ohrt, if there are any omissions or corrections.

New Members

Member Name: Rolf Laub
Membership Type: family
Member's Family: Charlotte Ten Brink
Emma Laub

Member Name: Nancy Christian
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: John Eby
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: David Kitson
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Thom Johnson
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family: Keddy Outlaw

Member Name: Howard Huey
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Von Maszewski
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Sondra Fabian
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Cassidy Johnson
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Roy Cruzen
Membership Type: family
Member's Family: Lydia Cruzen

Member Name: David Turner
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Travis Wehrman
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Polly Buenger
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Gordon Gray
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Milton Robertson
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Darren D. Gaebel
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

Member Name: Thomas C. Kartrude
Membership Type: family
Member's Family: Beth Kartrude

Member Name: Stephen P. Spence
Membership Type: individual
Member's Family:

The HCC cordially welcomes new members to our club. New members are the life blood of the HCC, so be sure to provide opportunities for all our new members to paddle by coordinating more trips.

Market Place

Items For Sale

Item: Canoe - Old Town Discovery 119
Description: Has pedestal and can provide the wood seat. Used infrequently, very good condition. See Old Town site for information
http://www.oldtowncanoe.com/canoe/generalFamily/discovery_119.html.
Also reviews at
<http://www.paddling.net/Review/showReviews.html?prod=26>
Asking Price: \$425
Contact Name: Louis Aulbach
Contact Phone: 713-683-8379
Contact Email: lfa@hal-pc.org

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Item: Canoe - Old Town Discovery 169
Description: Old Town Discovery 169. Blue. Good condition. Has skid plates. From the Old Town website:
Discovery 169 - These value packed recreational canoes are made tough, rugged and unsinkable, thanks to our 3-layer process. Discovery is sure to be a family favorite for years of outdoor enjoyment.
*Roto-molded decks with grab handles
*Ash carrying yoke and thwart
*Vinyl gunwales
*Black blow molded seats.
Length - 16'9" / 5/1 m
Width - 37" / 93.9 cm
Width at 4" waterline - 35" / 88.9cm
Bow Height - 23" / 58/4 cm
Depth - 15" / 38.1 cm
Weight - 85 lbs / 38.5 kg
Max Load range 1,350 - 1400 lbs
Suggested retail - \$1,049.00 US
http://www.oldtowncanoe.com/canoes/generalFamily/discovery_169.html
Asking Price: \$325
Contact Name: Louis Aulbach
Contact Phone: 713-683-8379
Contact Email: lfa@hal-pc.org

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Item: Dagger Vesper Touring Kayak
Description: Dagger Vesper Touring Kayak. Excellent condition. Length 13'10". Width 23.75 inches. Weight 45 lbs. Nice little touring kayak for lakes, rivers and bays. Easily adjustable footpegs. Works well for the smaller paddler, under 5'10" or so and less than 175 lbs. Good southeast Texas type of boat. Email Bob Arthur for photo.
Asking Price: \$450
Contact Name: Bob Arthur
Contact Phone: 713-681-0888
Contact Email: rwarthur@oplink.net

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Items Wanted

Please contact the Newsletter Editor to post any items that you may have for sale or desperately need.

Sam Houston Park on Buffalo Bayou

Buffalo Bayou

by

Louis Aulbach

The view for boaters on the bayou as they approach Interstate 45 is that of a maze of bridges. There are separate bridges for the north bound and south bound lanes of the freeways. Sliding off of these main lanes is an intricate array of entrance and exit ramps, each forming its own bridge over the bayou. All in all there are eight distinct bridge structures associated with the I-45 freeway at this point. In order, going downstream, they are: 1) the West Dallas Avenue exit ramp, 2) the I-45 south main lanes, 3) the Allen Parkway exit ramp, 4) the I-45 North main lanes, 5) the Memorial Drive exit ramp, 6) the I-45 North entrance ramp from Allen Parkway, 7) the McKinney Avenue exit ramp, and 8) the Walker Avenue entrance ramp.

Each of these bridges is supported by large concrete pillars, many of which are located within the stream bed of Buffalo Bayou. At normal water levels, these mid-channel obstacles do not present any major difficulty to boaters. However, when the rate of flow increases to levels above 1,000 cfs or more, the pillars become dangerous obstacles for canoers, kayakers and other boaters to negotiate. Caution should be carefully observed when weaving through the strong currents and billows that form around the bridge supports.



I-45 Nest of Concrete Pillars - The pillars from the I-45 complex as it crosses Buffalo Bayou near Sam Houston Park can create a hazard to boaters at higher water levels.

Photo by Louis Aulbach

The nest of concrete associated with I-45 also obscures the view of the historic Sam Houston Park which lies on the south bank of the bayou



Logjam at I-45 - High water on April 30, 2009 created a logjam near I-45 and Rusk Avenue that completely obstructs the channel.

Photo by Louis Aulbach

where the bayou begins its gentle turn to the northeast. With a glance over the right bank immediately before the McKinney Avenue ramp, the tops of a number of the houses and buildings of the park can be seen from the bayou.

Sam Houston Park has the distinction of being the first public park land acquired by the City of Houston. In June, 1899, Mayor Samuel Brashear purchased land for a city park that included the old Samuel Young

brickyard on the north side of Buffalo Bayou and the Noble and Byers property on the south side. Although the tracts had played a significant role in Houston for over fifty years, the properties had fallen into disrepair by the time of the purchase. The Noble family home, which had been built by Nathaniel Kelly Kellum in 1847, was the main structure on the property, and it was salvaged for use as the headquarters for the park.

As early as 1837, the banks along this area of Buffalo Bayou were identified as a source of clay for making bricks. It was about this time that a man named Hathaway had a brick yard near the foot of McKinney Avenue. The demand for building materials in the early days of Houston inspired others to try to exploit the natural resources in the area, and by 1842, Nathaniel Kellum was advertising high quality bricks for sale from his brick yard near the foot of Lamar Avenue.

Kellum, who was born in Virginia about 1818, arrived in Houston in early 1839. He began to purchase lots in town in May, 1839, but eventually, the twenty-one year old Kellum set up a kiln and brick yard operation on the southwest edge of town. Nathaniel Kellum married Elmyra Cotton on January 23, 1842, and he set out to establish himself in the community. In July, 1842, the local newspaper reported that Kellum's bricks were of a quality similar to those bricks which were imported from the United States. With the success of his brick business, Kellum then sought to acquire ownership of the land for his enterprise.

In a series of transactions in 1844 and 1845, Kellum put together the tract of about thirteen acres where he had established his operations and, later, built his home. Kellum purchased 2.1 acres for \$200 from James J. Holman on February 9, 1844, adjoining the property that he was already using as his brick yard. On May 16, 1844, he purchased eight acres where he had his brickyard for \$500 from Thomas M. Bagby. This tract had previously belonged to William N. Mock and was resided on by R. P. Stewart, but Augustus C. Allen had forced the property into foreclosure in 1839, and it was sold to Bagby in a sheriff's sale in 1843. Lastly, on November 22, 1845, Nathaniel Kellum bought eight town lots adjoining his property on the east from Francis R. Lubbock for \$150. These lots comprised a tract known as the Hospital Lot where Ashbel Smith had established the General Military Hospital for the Republic of Texas in 1837. The hospital ceased to exist in 1841 after the capital was moved to Austin and the army was disbanded.

In 1847, Nathaniel Kellum began construction of a stately white brick house in the style of a Louisiana plantation from bricks fired in the kiln at his brickyard.

The two story, Southern colonial brick structure displays an Old Louisiana French influence in its double verandas that are supported by narrow, square brick pillars.



Kellum-Noble House-front - The Kellum-Noble House built by



Kellum-Noble House-rear - This pictures shows the L-shape of Kellum-Noble House and the integral balconies all around the house. The exterior stairs provide the only access to the second floor.

Photo by Louis Aulbach

Nathaniel Kellum in 1847-1848, and later occupied and remodeled by Abram W. Noble.

Photo by Louis Aulbach

Nevertheless, despite these accomplishments, Kellum began to liquidate his land holdings in Houston in 1849. On October 13, 1849, Kellum granted his power of attorney to Benjamin A. Shepherd to sell his former residence and brickyard, comprising about fourteen acres, a two story building, out houses and other improvements. On January 29, 1851, Shepherd sold the Nathaniel Kellum brickyard property to Abram W. Noble for \$2000 with a promissory note due on April 1, 1852.

Kellum may have been motivated to find a better place to raise his growing family, especially following the births of his sons Robert in 1844, Nathaniel in 1846 and Ruthven in 1849. By November, 1850, the Kellum family had settled in Grimes County about ten miles northwest of the town of Anderson. The land that Kellum acquired included a sulphur spring that had been identified as early as 1836 as the Navasota Sulphur Springs. Jacob DeCordova's map of 1849 identified spring site as White Sulphur Springs, but the J. H. Young map of Texas in 1850 referred to the place as Kellum's Sulphur Springs.

By the mid-1850's, Kellum had built a resort and health spa around his mineral springs. The complex included a two story, fifty room hotel, eighteen cottages, a bathhouse and several reservoirs. Spring water was pumped into the hotel. Accommodations could be had for 400 to 500 persons with board, lodging and bathing priced at \$1 per day. The hotel was the social center of the resort with musicians on the staff and, every Tuesday evening, parties and dances were held in the second floor parlor.

During the mid-nineteenth century, Texans sought recreation and the healing influences on mineral waters at springs in the countryside. Thousands of visitors enjoyed the small resorts and health spas like Kellum Springs and Piedmont Springs, located about ten miles to the southwest of Kellum Springs. Like Kellum Springs, Piedmont Springs developed extensive facilities. A four story hotel with a hundred rooms was built there about 1860, and the resort became even more popular than Kellum's, with entertainment that included billiards, poker and horse racing.

A small community grew up around Kellum's resort, and, on October 11, 1859, Kellum was appointed the postmaster of Kellum's Springs, Texas. The success of Kellum's venture in his resort was evident by 1860 when he declared that he owned real estate valued at \$20,000 and held personal assets of \$25,000. Nevertheless, the difficulties of the Civil War led to a decline in business at the resort. In newspaper ads in August, 1862, Kellum assured the public that Kellum Springs was indeed open for business. In deference to the hardships of the war, however,

Kellum wrote that dance parties at Kellum Springs were suspended for the duration of the conflict.

The economic downturn in the aftermath of the Civil War led to a significant decline in business at resorts like Piedmont Springs and Kellum Springs. Nathaniel Kellum died prior to 1870 and the valuation of the property dropped to about \$3,000. Nevertheless, on August 29, 1877, the Navasota Tablet reported that groups of ladies and gentlemen from Navasota, Anderson and the surrounding countryside made weekly visits to both Kellum Springs and Piedmont Springs and they enjoyed the resorts. On July 29, 1879, Grimes County Sentinel reported that Grimes County had some of finest springs and summer resorts in Texas, including Kellum Springs and "the celebrated Piedmont springs." Eventually, though, after the death of Kellum's wife, the upkeep of Kellum's hotel deteriorated to a large extent and the building was condemned.

Yet, the Kellum Springs area served as a community gathering place well into the 1890's. On July 13, 1894, Dr. J. J. Burroughs, the populist candidate for Congress, and Congressman Tom Ball met in a debate at Kellum Springs. Two years later, in the next election campaign, the Honorable Tom Ball, the Democratic candidate for the First Congressional District, and Joe Eagle, the populist, held a debate at Kellum's Springs on August 27, 1896. The newspaper reported that both the debate and the associated barbecue were a success. Nevertheless, Kellum Springs, as well as the other mineral water spas and resorts in Texas, closed and were largely forgotten in the twentieth century.

After Kellum's departure from Houston, the Kellum house and brick yard property became the home of the family of Abram Noble. Abram Washington Noble, born in Lawrence County, Mississippi on February 28, 1815, brought his wife Louisa and their young daughter to Nacogdoches County, Texas in 1840, following his older brothers Edward who came to Texas in 1837 and Stephen who came in 1838. Louisa Noble died in 1849 and Abram Noble settled his family, which by then included five children, in Houston in 1849, but it is unclear whether the move to Houston occurred before or after the death of his wife. In April, 1849, Abram Noble married Zerviah Metcalf Robinson Kelly, a widow from Connecticut with a daughter, Catherine, who was born in 1834. In early 1851, the large extended family moved into the Kellum house. Shortly thereafter, on February 10, 1851, Zerviah Noble opened a school in her home for children under twelve years old. She was assisted by her seventeen year old daughter Miss C. A. Kelly, and several of her stepchildren were students.

Zerviah Noble lived and taught school in the Kellum-Noble House until the 1890's. She operated it as a private school at first, then as one of Houston's first public schools. When the City's public school system was established in 1877, her school became the Fourth Ward Public School.

Abram Noble took over Kellum's brick yard business about 1851. By 1860, he employed one brick maker and four laborers at his brick yard, and he was moderately successful in the venture. During the Civil War, Noble served as a captain in the Confederate army. Zerviah and Abram W. Noble divorced in 1865, and Abram moved to Kaufman County in that same year. Zerviah Noble retained the Kellum-Noble house and continued her career as a teacher and principal there almost until her death in 1894.

In June, 1899, Mayor Samuel Brashears purchased the land, which included the Noble property, that became the city's first public park. In 1902, Mayor O. T. Holt formed the Parks Department to maintain the City Park. When it opened, the City Park was decorated with flowers and plants, and it was made appealingly bucolic with wooden footbridges, an old mill and a picturesque pond. A small zoo featured native Texas wildlife including squirrels, rabbits, prairie dogs and alligators. By 1913, the park had been named in honor of Sam Houston.

As other parks were developed in the city, the use of Sam Houston Park declined. The zoo was relocated to a new thirty-four acre site in Hermann Park on January 11, 1925. By the early 1950's, Sam Houston Park and its main facility, the Kellum-Noble house, were in danger of being demolished. Fortunately, a group of concerned citizens recognized the value of the historic brick home and its park land. The Harris County Heritage Society was formed in 1954 to save the house and the park, and the downtown city park has become the focal point for the preservation of historic Houston structures. The Kellum-Noble House is the oldest surviving brick structure in Houston, and it sits on its original location.

LaSalle Odyssey - a great summer trip for the family

by
Linda Gorski

Summer vacation has started for most Houston area school districts. Parents are already looking for short trips to take with the kids that include camping, hiking, paddling and sightseeing. Fellow paddlers and explorers Louis Aulbach, Linda Gorski, Dana Enos and one of our newest HCC members, Von Maszewski took a trip recently that could fit the bill. The trip is called the LaSalle Odyssey and roughly followed this route.

We centered our trip in Edna at Lake Texana State Park. It's an easy two hour drive from Houston to the park which offers excellent camp sites, canoe rentals, and hiking trails. You can also bring your boats!!! The lake is large and you can put in directly from your campsite if you choose wisely. We were at site 44, a huge site directly on the lake and next to the large fishing pier. We put up four tents and there was plenty of room for more. Site 42 is equally good if not a little more private. There are several other campsites directly on the lake. Caution: there are alligators! Swim and paddle at your own risk!



The LaSalle Odyssey is a great short trip from Houston.

Map by Louis Aulbach

For more information about Lake Texana go to:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lake_texana/

The LaSalle Odyssey actually begins in early February of 1686 when a small French ship, the Belle, went down in the murky waters of Matagorda Bay on the Texas Gulf Coast. With the ship went a famous explorer's dreams and a king's ambition to expand his empire in the New World. The La Salle Odyssey, a series of exhibits in seven museums along the Gulf Coast, tells the story of this ill-fated expedition and the remarkable discovery and excavation of the Belle and Fort St. Louis 300 years later beginning in 1995.



A misty morning at beautiful Lake Texana. Our campsite was huge and right on the lake. A perfect place to launch your canoe or kayak, too.

Photo by Linda Gorski

For the complete story on the discovery and

excavation of the LaBelle go to: <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle/>

The artifacts from this ship which are displayed in the exhibits in these seven museums are amazingly well preserved and kids and adults alike will find them fascinating. Leather shoes that are completely intact, wooden tools that look like they were made yesterday, seven pristine cannon, and tons and tons of trade beads and other articles that are as fresh as when they were made a continent away over 300 years ago.

In addition to artifacts from the LaBelle, each museum has unique additional exhibits ranging from one of the best children's museums I've ever seen (Bay City) to the Maritime Museum in Corpus Christi where replicas of Columbus's ships the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria are permanently displayed ? a gift from Spain in the early 1990s to commemorate 500 years of the explorer's trip to America.



Several of the cannon from the LaBelle

Photo by Linda Gorski

We spent three days following the LaSalle Odyssey and sightseeing along the way. The first day we left Houston early in the morning and drove directly to Lake Texana where we set up camp. That afternoon we visited the museums in Edna and Victoria. On day two we followed the route shown above to museums in Port Lavaca, Rockport and Corpus Christi. Day three took us to museums in Palacios and Bay City. For complete information on this museum route and links to each individual museum see:



Columbus's ship the Santa Maria, shown here, is on display at the Maritime Museum in Corpus Christi along with the Nina and Pinta

Photo by Linda Gorski

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/lasalle/pdfs/Odyssey.pdf>

We also sidetracked to Blessing, Texas and the Hotel Blessing. Famous for excellent home cooked food, it's an all you can eat treat in a hotel built for railroad passengers in 1903 that has undergone few changes in the last 100 years.



Good food and affordable rooms at the 1903 Hotel Blessing

Photo by Linda Gorski

The Blessing Hotel is a favorite food stop for motorcyclists in Texas, so you know the food is



good and there's lots of it! The restaurant is open from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. every day and the lunch buffet draws a crowd.

All in all, a great trip for the family. If you want more information about this trip feel free to email me at lindagorski@cs.com. If my grandkids lived nearby, we'd be taking this trip right now.



The lunch buffet is served directly from these old stoves in the dining room of the Hotel Blessing.

Photo by Linda Gorski

Helpful Hints - Gorilla Tape and Super Glue

by
Linda Gorski

Meet the newest additions to my first aid kit – gorilla tape and super glue.

During our recent 6-day paddle on the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande, HCC member John Rich (or Dr. John as he has become known to most of us) performed river surgery using these two products.

Even though I was wearing gloves, I rubbed a huge blister on the inside of my hand by the second day on the river. (Let me add here that this was my first long paddling trip in 9 years as I've been out of the country and away from my canoe for that long). I had some moleskin and surgical tape but John came up with the idea of using the gorilla tape to hold the moleskin in place.

It worked! Despite the fact that the hand was wet most of the time that blister was covered and protected for the next five days. Gorilla tape is amazing stuff!

Now to the super glue. Due to the hot days, cold nights and a river that contains chemicals most of don't even want to know about, some of us suffered from painful cracks and splits on the tips of our fingers and especially our thumbs. After going through numerous treatments of ointment and bandaids, John whipped out his little tube of super glue and applied a dab to each split.



John Rich uses a knife and gorilla tape to perform river first aid.

Photo by Chuck Leinweber



John Rich super glues the cracked fingers of Louis Aulbach and Dana Enos after 6 days on the Great Unknown of the Rio Grande

Photo by Linda Gorski

The cracks instantly closed up and by the time we got home most of us had healed completely.

Dr. John is a good man to have along on a trip!

TPWD Opens Three New Paddle Trails

by
Linda Gorski

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Paddling Trails is a program to develop public inland and coastal paddling trails throughout the state and support these trails with maps, signage and other information. These trails provide well-mapped accessible day trips in a variety of settings and for all levels of paddling experience. There are currently eight coastal paddling trails and ten inland paddling trails, with several communities in the process of applying for participation in this program.

The Paddling Trails program has been a flurry of activity recently, and there are 3 new Texas Paddling Trails for you to explore:

- * Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail in downtown Houston,
- * Limestone Bluff's Paddling Trail near Groesbeck between the Confederate Reunion Grounds State Historic Site and Fort Parker State Park, and;
- * Lady Bird Lake Paddling Trail in downtown Austin.

With more than 3,700 named streams, 15 major rivers and some 3,300 miles of tidal shoreline along the Gulf Coast, Texas offers myriad opportunities for paddling adventures of all types. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, kayaking participation nationwide doubled between 1998 and 2004, with recreational and sit-on-top kayaking the fastest growing segment of the sport. Participation in canoeing also remains very strong.

TPWD continues to seek partnerships with communities interested in developing a paddling trail in their area. Please see the Future Trails section on the TPWD site at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/paddlingtrails> and contact the TPWD Nature Tourism Coordinator to learn more.

Summer is here – get your paddle wet!



This group of paddlers from the Houston Canoe Club took part in a media day event on March 16 announcing the Buffalo Bayou Paddling Trail and the new put in at Briar Bend Park.

Photo by Linda Gorski

June Program to feature slideshow on paddling whitewater

**by
Linda Gorski**

The June meeting of the HCC will feature a slideshow by two of our premier whitewater paddlers, Billy Welborn and Christy Long. See the blurb about their presentation and the location of the meeting in the Meeting Announcement section of this newsletter.

Billy will discuss his experiences paddling whitewater and shares these photos with us as a teaser.

Christy's portion of the program will include a slideshow highlighting the Carolina Canoe Club's Week of Rivers (WOR) which she has attended for the past five years - and she's paddling in it again this year. I've heard about this event ever since I've been an HCC member but have never really known exactly what it is so I'm looking forward to her program. However, for those members who are also in the dark about the WOR, here's a sneak preview.

According to the Carolina Canoe Club's website, the Week of Rivers is a CCC annual event which is held around July 4th. The location provides convenient access to numerous rivers throughout the area including the Pigeon and the Nantahala. There are several dam release rivers, so water is pretty much guaranteed. If there is rain, the number and variety of rivers increases substantially. Rivers range in difficulty from Class I/II to solid Class III/IV. And if there is rain, there can be a lot of Class V excitement.

This year's event is scheduled for June 27 through July 5. The venue site is Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground near Bryson City, NC.

At WOR, the daily routine begins with the morning meeting where river levels are presented. Highly experienced and knowledgeable boaters step up to coordinate trips on their favorite rivers. There are always trips for boaters of every skill level. Then, with some intense logistics caravans head out in every direction for the day's adventures. For more information about the Carolina Canoe Club's Week of Rivers check out their website at <http://www.carolinacanoecub.org/>

So if you would vicariously like to join Christy in paddling some of the nation's best whitewater rivers, join us on June 10th for this program.



Billy canoes on the Chatooga



Billy rafting on the Ocoee

Boat Builders Corner - Getting Started

by
Skip Johnson

This is the second in an ongoing series of articles by HCC member Skip Johnson, an avid paddler and boat builder.

Armed with the desire, location and approval to build a boat, what's next? First select the design to build. In a shameless plug I'd recommend the 12' version of EasyB. The full size patterns are freely available at <http://www.duckworksmagazine.com/07/designs/easyb/index.htm> along with a few comments about the design. It's also a design that I'm intimately familiar with and have built before. In a departure from the majority of strippers building the EasyB in foam or wood uses rubber bands rather than staples to hold the strips together on the form. This is done not so much to eliminate staple holes but rather I find it's a much easier way to build.

On to building, first you need a strongback, which is nothing more than a solid platform to build the boat on. For a boat of this size and type a box beam built from $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood or mdf about 6" wide and 8" deep is just the ticket. Actually the strongback is better built with heavier top and bottom pieces with the vertical web pieces from $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 5.2mm underlay ply. That way there's enough of the $\frac{1}{2}$ " material left for the stiffeners on the $\frac{1}{4}$ " pegboard forms or stations. Start by ripping four strips 6" wide by 8' long and two strips 8" wide by 8' long from a sheet of $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood or MDF. Also rip three strips of $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 5.2mm ply 8" wide by 8' long. Cut five blocks 7" long from one of the 6" strips and cut one of the 6" and 8" strips in half (4'). Assemble strongback with titebond glue and staples. Make the top piece layered from 6" and 8" strips, stagger joints and center the 6" strip on the wider 8" piece which will be the working surface of the strongback. Make the bottom piece of strongback from 6" wide pieces, one 8', one 4' fastened together with one of the 7" long blocks. Fasten the top and bottom pieces together with the remaining blocks spaced about 4' apart. If there's a reasonably flat area available its easiest to set the strongback down upside down and glue and staple the thinner plywood web members in place remember to stagger the joints.

Once the glue has dried set the strongback up on a couple of sawhorses and mark the centerline on the 8" wide top. A good way to do this is to stretch a piece of nylon twine tightly across the top and lightly spraypaint down the twine. Once the paint has dried and the twine's removed you have a nice straight line to line the forms up on. For EasyB the first form is 10" in at each end and forms are 8" on center. Mark the centerline so.

On to making forms. First rip a sheet of $\frac{1}{4}$ " pegboard into three 16" wide strips. I usually roll a light coat of white paint or primer on one face so it's easy to see pencil marks. Take a set of full size patterns and spray glue to a piece of poster board. Lacking spray glue it is possible to use granddaughters glue stick (with permission). Trim around edges of pattern with scissors and start laying out forms. First mark a centerline on pegboard through a line of holes in the pegboard. Then lay the trimmed piece of posterboard with patterns in place aligning the centerline and baseline. Then trace around edge of pattern and mark location of sheer. Then flip the pattern over and mark other side of form remembering to mark the sheer on that side too. Be sure to also mark the form with which station it is, Master, +1, -3, whatever. Then trim the posterboard to the next station and repeat. By alternating which side of 16" wide strip is used as the baseline, waste is

minimized a bit. Once all the forms are cut out plus the bow and stern profiles it's time to take a break.

I'll get into setting it all up next month.

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The requested URL /waterline/2009/june/article_11.html was not found on this server.

Additionally, a 404 Not Found error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDocument to handle the request.

*Apache/2.2.15 (CentOS) mod_ssl/2.2.15 0.9.8l DAV/2 mod_auth_passthrough/2.1
FrontPage/5.0.2.2635 Server at www.houstoncanoecub.org Port 80*

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The requested URL /waterline/2009/june/trip_1.html was not found on this server.

Additionally, a 404 Not Found error was encountered while trying to use an ErrorDocument to handle the request.

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FrontPage/5.0.2.2635 Server at www.houstoncanoecub.org Port 80*

San Marcos River

May 4, 2009

by

John Rich

On Monday, May 4th, five Houston Canoe Club paddlers spent an enjoyable day on the San Marcos River.

Louis Aulbach, Linda Gorski and John Rich drove to San Marcos on Sunday, and camped out overnight at the San Marcos River Retreat, run by Tom Goynes. He has beautiful riverfront campground property there. His campground is no longer open to the general public – he caters specifically to church and school groups. But he may make exceptions for HCC members. No alcohol allowed. Donna Grimes and Ken Anderson got up early on Monday morning and drove over to join us there.

You can view the San Marcos River Retreat campground web site, here:

<http://www.pecanparkretreat.com/>

This map shows the location of this section of the San Marcos River, relative to Houston. It's a 2½-hour drive.

(Click once on the thumbnail images to display a larger version in a separate window.)



Area map



Detailed map

This map shows the detail of the area of this river section, highlighted in blue. The put-in was the San Marcos River Retreat campground, and the take-out was at the Scull Road bridge crossing. This is about a 4-mile paddle. Short enough that you have time to loiter and play at the rapids.

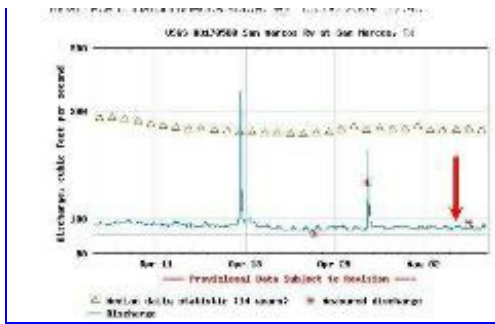
This image shows an aerial view of the river and surrounding terrain.



Aerial photo

Discharge, cubic feet per second
Rapid current conditions are not for use in the San Marcos River

The water flow was about 95 cubic feet per



Water flow chart

second (CFS). The average is about 130 CFS, so this was a little low. But it was enough to provide clearance so that we didn't drag on the bottom, and also still provided some fun little rapids in the rocky sections.

Louis & Linda enjoy the shade of the campground, while the boats stand ready for service in the morning. Here you see Linda's cute little solo whitewater boat (green), Louis' tandem whitewater boat (blue), and John's big expedition cruiser (red).



Campsite

Louis, Linda and Donna had all just purchased used boats from Phil Montgomery during a garage clearance sale, and they were all anxious to try out their new toys.



Preparing boats

Louis assists Linda in installing the air bags in her new whitewater solo boat.

And with that, we're off carrying the boats down the hill and launching onto the water!

Donna approaches a small rapid with pillow rocks, which appear suddenly after coming around a bend.



Donna



Donna plays

Donna plays with a ledge in her new C1 kayak.

I don't understand the terminology for these things. It looks like a kayak, but since she's squatting in it instead of having her legs stretched out in front inside, she insists that it is a "C1" instead of a kayak. Yeah, okay...

Ken looks happy to be newly retired and out paddling the river.

Psst. Hey Ken. You're gonna lose a paddle overboard doing that!



Ken



Ken

Ken runs a riffled channel alongside a flower-covered bank.

Linda makes a test run with her new cute little whitewater boat.



Linda



Louis is afloat in his new tandem whitewater boat. And the way the bow is sticking up in the air, he has a balance problem to work on with this boat, as a solo paddler. A few minutes later he tied some water jugs to the front on the inside to add some weight and even



Louis

things out a little.

At one bend in the river there is an old cemetery, with graves dating from around 1915 to 1925, all containing Hispanic names. Here you see Louis, John and Linda posing with the sign. It has a fresh new barbed wire fence around it to keep the cows out from the surrounding pastures. This brings up so many questions: Was there a Mexican community here? Were they ancestors of the original Mexican pioneers in Texas? Escapees from the violence of the Mexican revolution? Victims of the influenza epidemic? Why do they call it the "White River"?



Old Cemetery

Photo by Donna Grimes



Headstone

Here is an example of just one of the many headstones, many of which have toppled over onto the ground. This one is interpreted in English as: "A girl, Omanita Cani, who was born the day 28 February, year of 1920, and died the 1st day of May of 1920." Yes, that's right, little Omanita died only two months old.

There may be a character or two missing from the beginning of the first name, and the end of the last name, where concrete has chipped off the cross arms with age.

There were several of these odd concrete helmet-shaped items in the cemetery, this one adorned with seashells and colored baubles.



Headstone



Linda finds a heart-shaped rock. Awww, isn't that sweet?

Linda

The boats are pulled over at a gravel bar for a lunch break.



Lunch break



Lunch break

Having a relaxing lunch in the grass: Linda, Donna, Ken and Louis. Ken brought a little tripod stool, while the rest of us sit on our PFD's for comfort on the gravel.

The three new boat owners; Louis, Linda & Donna, pose for a photo. They are going to send this photo to the seller, Phil Montgomery, to show him that his former assets are being put to good use.

The ropes you see hanging down are a common sight along the river, for swinging out over the water and jumping in.



New boats



Tree roots

Interesting tree roots.

How about a few wildlife photos? There were various types of critters seen on the river; ducks and other birds, turtles, deer, even a snake!





Another quacker



Quacker

Turtles, sunning themselves on a log.



Honker



Turtles

John almost stepped on this snake, which he thinks was a harmless water snake, and already half-dead for some reason. In this photo, he smiles for the camera, while keeping a wary eye on the snake. A half-full pack of cigarettes was found a few feet from the snake, so he might have already had a human encounter, and suffered for it, while frightening someone out of their smokes.



Snake

Photo by Linda Gorski



Linda in rapid

This was the best rapid on the river that day, and here you see Linda threading the needle through the rocks. In the background, Ken and Donna await their turn, while billy goats munch on hillside grass in the background.

Despite Donna's vast whitewater experience, she managed to get her new kayak hung up



sideways between two rocks. And the boat is so new that she hasn't yet purchased a spray skirt for it, so it immediately filled up to the brim with water.

The photo is titled "Donna on the rocks" - sounds like an alcoholic beverage you would order at a bar!



Donna on the rocks

Photo by Linda Gorski



John helps empty Donna's boat

Photo by Ken Anderson

While Donna's new boat may be small, I can personally testify that it seems to hold several hundred pounds of water when full. That thing was hard to budge!

The take-out location was the low wooden bridge crossing called Scull Road. That's "scull" as in a type of boat or oar. Quite fitting for a river that is popular with so many boaters.



The take-out



"Scull" sign

The location is also marked by this sign on a tree, showing a different kind of "scull". Either someone didn't understand the proper name of the road, or they were having fun with a homonym pun.

Linda managed to get everyone to quit scurrying around long enough from the usual hectic take-out activity, to stand still and pose for this group photo. From left to right: Donna, Louis, Linda, Ken & John.



Group photo



Flower with bug

I'll wrap this story up with a couple of my prettier flower photos from the trip.



Flower

This was my first experience on the San Marcos River, and I enjoyed it greatly. On the weekends it's a madhouse of people floating and drinking on inner tubes. But since our paddle day was a Monday, we had the river all to ourselves, with not a single other tuber or boater encountered anywhere.

The End

Boundary Waters
Minnesota September 2008
by
Ken Anderson

Early one morning last September, Louis Aulbach, Dana Enos, and Ken Anderson packed up their camping gear and canoes for a 1,500 mile trip to the Boundary Waters. The plan was to drive for 3 days, camp in parks for 2 nights, spend a day or two in Grand Marais, paddle and fish for 5 days in the Boundary Waters, and return to Houston.

At the time there was, of course, some sort of a storm in the Gulf that was of little concern since the professionals deemed Hurricane Ike was on its way to Corpus Christi or Mexico. Somewhere along I-35 in Iowa their cell phones began crackling. Something about the storm not cooperating with the professionals' opinions. The stalwart paddlers fairly appraised the situation and pushed northward.

They began seeing numbers of large utility trucks heading south on I-35. Many of the trucks had markings from states other than Iowa. This noble band of three fellow canoeists, of course, fairly appraised the situation and continued northward toward Minnesota.

Nice folks in Grand Marais but they don't grant camping discounts to hurricane refugees! It's even possible they don't know what a hurricane is even when you explain it as a Lake Superior winter storm on steroids.

Dana knows the Boundary Waters. He'll deny it, but the other two know when someone knows or doesn't know; Dana knows. Dana laid out for us his plan for when, where and how we'd go in.

We stopped in a local hardware store and "licensed" our boats for Minnesota waters and bought our fishing licenses. Next we went to the Forest Service for our permits and the mandatory reading of the rules. Dana had to swear he'd be responsible for the other two (and boy did he).

We had an extra day to look around the area before legally entering the Boundary Waters so we visited the Grand Portage National Monument. The monument is a reconstruction of a (roughly) 200 year-old depot used by the North West Company in its fur trading business. It was a transfer point for furs brought from the interior by canoe by voyageurs and transferred to great lake canoes for shipment east. There also are exhibits reflecting the culture of the local Anishinabe and Ojibwe Indian tribes.

Volunteers in period dress demonstrated a range of activities for us including how items were handcrafted (there is a working wood-working shop with tools of the period) and food cooked from a local garden.

The next day we started our trip. Dana knows Mike and Lin Sherfy who own a local lodge, the Rockwood Lodge. We checked in with them to find out about local conditions since their lodge is a few miles from where we planned to park the truck. The Sherfys were warm, friendly people and clearly glad to see Dana.

Finally we drove down an ever-narrowing dirt road to a point where it seemed (and actually did) change into a trail. Parking the truck we shouldered our gear and

headed through the woods for what seemed like forever until we saw the glistening blue of One Island Lake. Two trips each and we were in the water paddling to our next portage.

The next (and final) portage was to Rush Lake. Rush Lake is a long finger of a lake on an east-west axis. It's isolated so you don't have to deal with lots of other paddlers although the only paddlers we met were from (ahem) Conroe! yup, that Conroe!

We camped on the western tip of the lake. From the campsite we had an easterly view of the relatively narrow lake with mirror-like water reflecting the forest on either side. Each morning we were gifted with the sun rising over its eastern lip and, in response to each evening's setting sun, a full moon rising to bathe the lake in moon glow.

We cut our own wood and made a fire each night. Every day we fished for small mouth bass and pike that we later cooked over the fire. We took part of a day off to hike and explore one of the ski trails. Managed to find a ski-lodge mothballed for the summer and lots of bear scat!

We heard a moose but once and the occasional loon.

When we returned to Louis's truck there were bear tracks on it. We assumed that if the bear either smelled food or had seen what it thought to be food it would have kicked in a window. Fortunately, Louis keeps a "clean" vehicle.

On the return trip we kept getting reports about the damage done by Ike. Once home we listened to Ike stories. I think we just might do this again, with or without a hurricane.



Dana Enos fishing for dinner on the Boundary Waters.

Buffalo Bayou Memorial Mews to Beltway 8

May 7, 2009

by

Christy Long

Buffalo Bayou

From Memorial Mews Street to Beltway 8 (5.1 miles)

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

1300 cfs on the 08073500 USGS gauge (this gauge is at Dairy Ashford)

http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/uv/?site_no=08073500

Weather: Sunny and warm

Donna Grimes, Harmon Everett, and I launched around 3:30 onto *South Mayde Creek which runs into Buffalo Bayou. The creek was high enough that we simply stepped into our boats from the bank. We gently floated around the tree tops until we reached the bayou.

The bayou flowed at 1300 cfs which permitted us to perform a fast peel-out at the junction of the creek and the bayou. At 1300 cfs the water in the bayou spreads out about 50 feet, is very deep, creates boiling eddies, and is swift.

We encountered strainers and fallen trees.

There were different types of strainers and we stayed in the middle of the bayou where most were live tree limbs and vines hanging into the water. You could paddle through some of these strainers but our goal was to maneuver around them. Paddling through strainers is risky

because you could become entangled in the branches and vines or have wildlife drop on you. Other strainers consisted of large piles of dead fall and debris. Several trees had fallen across the river and we paddled under or over all of them, but one. It was at a level that we had to portage. Fortunately, there was a convenient place on river right to pull our boats on to the bank, around a tree, and over poison ivy.

The vegetation included a great variety of trees, lots of hanging vines, and large patches of the only plant I really look for, poison ivy. I saw large patches of poison ivy at the put-in, all along the banks as we paddled downstream, and on the trees that we had to paddle under and around.

The wildlife included turtles and many types of birds big and small. I was in the lead at one point and saw a duck with her two small ducklings swimming into the shadows.

We paddled and maneuvered our way down the bayou and marveled at how lucky we were to have such a wild and scenic stream so close to home.



Christy Long taking her boat to the put in

Photo by Harmon Everett



Donna Portaging through the mud.

Photo by Harmon Everett

Then at the take out we found some very modern steps that made it easy to get out of the boats without slipping and sliding at the muddy shoreline.

Good way to spend a day-off in the middle of the week.

Christy Long
SYOTR



Wide open and high bayou.

Photo by Harmon Everett

* I was informed by Walter Peckham of precinct three that the creek running along Memorial Mews is called South Mayde Creek by the Federal Government but the Harris County Flood District calls it Langham Creek. The signs at the creek indicate Langham Creek but the maps of Terry Hersey Park show it as South Mayde Creek.