

## The Wet West Texas Hill Country by Bill Grimes

Like most Houstonians, the wet winter turn our back yard into a mucky mess. Clay incrustated tennis shoes were deposited at the back door, Japanese style, to save the house from muddy footprints and clay balls. Lawn work was delayed to avoid excavating deep ruts into the topsoil. By the end of the third major deluge, our backyard was on the verge of being declared a wetland sanctuary.

The wet winter filled the soil with life giving moisture and painted the Texas Hill Country with deep penetrating colors. For those of you who have visited the hill country in recent years, this is an amazing experience. Brown brittle grasses are green and supple. The dry stucco roadsides are littered with Indian Paintbrushes, Black-eyed Susans, Prim Roses and Blue Bonnets. Normally dry creeks, "arroyos secos", drained wet pastures into the rivers. A dry dirt cliff along the river became a symphony of sound as inverted ferns dribble seepage from deep within the cliffs.

The major gift to paddlers is **HIGH WATER LEVELS**. From 1997 on, every paddle trip began with the crew gathering on the riverbanks amazed by the new low water level. Year after year the trip began with mournful pronouncements: "I've never seen it so low" and "Be prepared to walk some."

Not this Easter! The rivers swept us along in its generous flow. Three Foot Falls on the upper Guadalupe (near the little town of Center Point, Texas) drops off less than two feet. We ran our short play boats over Stewart Falls on the Medina anticipating only a half-swamp, not the usual full swamp (water up to the gunnels). We did not have to climb cliffs at the take-outs or walk the boat to mid-river before boarding.

How long will it last? When will the sun parch the land and dry out the vegetation? When will the pumps along the banks of the rivers of Kerr County begin flooding the apple orchards sucking the river down to minimal flow levels? Now is the time to sweep the dust off of your swift water boats, fill your air bags and rush to the Hill Country. Enjoy it while you can!!!



f- James Wiseman, Debbie Snow, Carla McCabe, Tracy Caldwell, Marilyn Peery, Joey Naeger, Beth Cugini, Natasha Sorokina, Bob Naeger, Gary McCabe b- Ken Bernard, James Wood, Donna Grimes, Sharon Anderson, Bill Grimes, Randall Nord, Randy Caldwell.

## Easter on the River by Sharon Anderson

Early on Good Friday, the James gang (two young men with the same names) and I rode up in a small Nissan pickup with the camper filled to the ceiling. Most of the gear seemed to be mine. Marine biologist James Wood climbed into the back of his truck and packed my stuff more snugly. James Wiseman, the marine engineer, helped put my Mohawk on top and put their two kayaks in the camper shell.

We pulled up to the Guadalupe River at Center Point at 9 AM. Clouds had hung low in misty fog all morning and were still with us. About 19 people were supposed to show up. Some were already there fishing, like Ken Bernard and Debbie Snow. Others arrived and unpacked their boats. Donna and Bill discussed the rules. "In case of trouble hold your paddle up in a vertical position to stop on coming paddlers, horizontal for okay to continue on, point the paddle right to go right, left to go left. More rules will be addressed as we paddle down the river," Bill said with a smile.



*Gary McCabe surfs a wave on the Guadalupe River*

The river level was ideal, getting us over rocks and ledges "with the greatest of ease." Then we came to a quick right turn with Bill pointing out the route. Because I was watching him instead of the open V, I went right into a large low hanging limb. It pinned me flat on my back. As the water pushed me farther under the heavy

limb, my boat and I started to sink. It felt like my PFD was going to be torn off me with the pressure from the rushing water pushing sideways and limb pressing down. As the boat started filling with water, it slowly flipped over then floated into another tree, pinning itself. I swam over to it and bounced it until it came free. Lucky me. Bill looked at me and tapped his head, a code for asking if I were okay. I tapped mine back thinking... "yeah; I'm okay, just feeling silly." My paddle was missing, the very paddle I was going to take to Canada! So I took off looking for it. I should have told the leaders but I didn't (wrong decision) they were on the other shore and I thought my paddle was on its way down stream. James Wood and Marilyn Peery followed to help in the search. We paddled fast and hard until we came to a low bridge. James helped us get our boats over the road and into the water on the other side. I was off in the stroke of a paddle. I didn't think to help James with his kayak. I was singular focused: find my new paddle.

The river was fast with rapids, rocks, and turns. We did well and I felt exhilarated -especially after pinning my boat. But no paddle was to be

found, the group was split up, and I was responsible. So we stopped, waited for the rest of the group while eating our lunch. Bill arrived with my paddle; it had lodged itself in the tree where my boat had been pinned.

As we lazily paddled down some quiet water Donna said, "What a beautiful dream this is." I assumed she was talking about the river, scenery, people,

and the spirit of it all. I thought to myself. "She's right, if I am dreaming, this is the perfect dream and all these people are having perfect dreams too."

April is my favorite month! All the flowers are in bloom. As we paddled the breeze intermittently brought us delightful fragrances. Clusters of lavender flowers, exuding a sweet smell, graced a colony of trees in a beautiful



spray amongst the green canopy like a Monet painting.. White honeysuckle climbed the banks and hung heavily in the air with pungent scent. You could taste nectar in the air. The river was translucent turquoise with a slight brownish tinge. We could see through the water to the bottom of the riverbed, which was filled with limestone rocks, bent river grass, and large tan boulders. A few schools of fish swam near the bank.

The paddle ended after a fine day in damp-cold weather with warm-hearted folks. The gray clouds never lifted. We again packed the truck. The James's once more packed with good humor and witty jokes about the abundance of my gear.

The boaters caravanned to the By the River Campgrounds in a long winding train of trucks loaded with a variety of colorful water toys. The campsite was nice and clean. We camped in the primitive section located across a low river, which flowed over the road that led to the campground. There were rock fire pits, a table, chairs, garbage cans, and a port-a-potty. Across the river were hot showers, clean restrooms (all available to us) and RV's.

We were up and running the next day for the Medina. "Don't park on the bridge; we've been warned not to," yelled Donna to the herd of paddlers. So we all backed up to unload. We played in the rapids while others drove shuttle. With 17 boats on a tiny, winding river, the group must split up into two groups – Bill leading one group and Donna the other. This was another exciting river with sharp, fast turns, translucent aqua-green water, warm sunlight, happy paddlers, risky rapids, and a fall. At Steward Falls, several of us went over the four-foot falls numerous times. The first time I went over, the water came up to my neck. I was making fish faces puffing for air. (At least that's what James said, or was he

teasing me again?) The second time I held on to the gunnels (a no-no). I landed upright and afloat, but not paddling caused my stationary boat to fill up with water from the falls. As my water-laden canoe slowly sank, I twirled my paddle in the universal symbol for victory! It was a fun place to have lunch and watch the colorful array of different sized and shaped boats clear the dip and rocks of the falls or go under the suds in unique styles.

Further down the Medina, we jumped off The Big Flat Limestone Boulder into the chilly water. The boulder resides in the middle of the river so we had to put a boat on top of the rock so that everyone would have something to tie on to. James Wiseman won the rock-skipping contest. Joey splashed water on us and started



*Paddling the beautiful tree arbor on the Medina*

water fights. If you weren't in the water play ,you got sprayed any way!. Ahhhhh, what a day!

On Easter morning, an early dawn put a smile on our faces as we each found colored decorated eggs on a small nest of basket grass (my egg had a canoe and a sticker on it) from



Bunny-Donna Bug. That was really neat. We disassembled camp while eating

boiled eggs. I was worried I wouldn't be totally packed by 8:30 to leave with every one for the

Guade-lupe paddle from Bergheim Campground to Edge Falls. What a blast that was! Rock Pile afforded opportunities to eddy into tight spots, to run through the rapids, to play the surf. Marilyn, Donna, Deborah, and Ken gave us lessons on all kinds of paddle strokes and maneuvers. James Wood tried to learn the Eskimo roll with a contused shoulder.

Sure did enjoy the trip and all the people who were there. Bill and Donna always have fine trips. Now I just need some rest and I'll be ready for another one.

Stardust



*Ken runs rapids at Rock Pile*



*Donna catches an eddy at Rock Pile*



Y  
E  
A  
H!

Lets  
do it  
again



*James Wood leans too far upstream.*



*James takes his kayak up for another run and then another and another*



## Houston Canoe Club

### Officers for 2001

Commodore Fraser Baker 713-796-0946

[fraser@pobox.com](mailto:fraser@pobox.com)

Vice Commodore Lillian Tigard 281-494-7977

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#### Governors:

Mary Carter 713-461-5466

[marcar1@pdq.net](mailto:marcar1@pdq.net)

Mark Andrus 979-849-3732

[Gandrus@dellempro.com](mailto:Gandrus@dellempro.com)

Rendezvous Chair: Jim Null 713--664-1083

[medislide@earthlink.net](mailto:medislide@earthlink.net)

### Newsletter Deadlines

Submissions to the Newsletter are encouraged. The preferred method is a Word document. Pictures in jpeg or gif. Submit articles, sales items, pictures by general meeting OR by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Electronic submissions:

[Donna.grimes@mindspring.com](mailto:Donna.grimes@mindspring.com)

#### Snail Mail:

Donna Grimes

4838 Kingfisher

Houston, TX 77035

#### Change of Address

Contact HCC Recorder, Marilyn Peery

### Hulsebosch Committee members For 2000:

Paula Dittrock - chair

Mary Carter, John Olden, Martha Williams

Lewis Aulbach, Wes Simmons and Marilyn

Peery

(composed of 2 governors, 4 elected members, and permanent member,

Martha Hulsebosch Williams

## Houston Canoe Club General Meeting

April 11, 2001

The meeting was called to order by the Commodore, Fraser Baker. Officers present included Lillian Tigard, Vice Commodore, Marilyn Peery, Recorder, Candy Donahue, Purser, Donna Grimes, Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Cleary, Fleet Captain and Governor Mary Carter.

Karl Elers presented an interesting program on Texas birding with a special emphasis on High Island.

The minutes were read and approved. The fleet captain's report was presented. Candy presented the treasurer's report. A motion to pay one year in advance on our storage area passed. This will give us the 13<sup>th</sup> month free.

Guests were introduced. Donna reported that we now have business cards and encouraged members to carry them plus a couple of applications to pass out to anyone interested in the club.

John Bartos reported for the conservation committee that TPWD will hold a public hearing on April 19<sup>th</sup> at C.E. King Middle School from 7 to 9 PM to discuss plans for new facilities at Sheldon Reservoir.

Jim Null reported that campsites for Rendezvous may be reserved now by filling out and mailing in a form with a check.

Kevin Casement presented Jim Null with the Rendezvous Chairman's Loving Cup.

Candy Donahue moved that Rendezvous profits less money needed to run the club be donated to the Hulsebosch Memorial Fund. Donna Grimes seconded the motion. John Bartos amended the motion to read that a portion of the Rendezvous profits should go to the Hulsebosch Memorial Fund. Bob Arthur seconded the amendment. The amendment passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Peery

Recorder

**LIVE TO PADDLE:  
PADDLE TO LIVE**



# Spotlight Cruise for May: Sheldon Reservoir

Our Spotlight Cruise for May will give club members a tremendous opportunity to paddle one of the most interesting bodies of water in the Houston area. In reality this is one of the most unusual paddles in the state or even in the country. Sheldon State Park

distinguishes itself as one of the few rare state parks in the country to have "Canoe Trails." It is also a unique example of how a surplus government facility can be converted into a public park with every imaginable activity and facility. Although camping is not available, there are fishing piers, boat ramps, and educational center, nature trails, boardwalks, wildlife-viewing platforms, and a fish hatchery as well as the extensive canoe trail system.

The reservoir and canoe trail system is closed from November through March 1 to allow the any migratory waterfowl to nest. When open, the reservoir offers paddlers a tranquil (no large power boats allowed) setting to see abundant bird life, native plants, and an occasional alligator. April and the first part of May is the breeding time for the wild birds that nest here. The area is profuse with birds, nests, and "ugly duckling" chicks crying to be fed.

Join other club members for a wonderful experience as we paddle on this jewel in our "backyard". Our Spotlight Cruise will be coordinated by **Mary Zaborowski on May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to contact her first at (713) 884-1925 or [maryzabo@flashnet.net](mailto:maryzabo@flashnet.net) Bring your binoculars to enjoy the birds!

To get there: Take Hwy 90 northeast past the Sam Houston parkway ( Beltway 8) and turn left at the first traffic light on Pineland, go north around the reservoir to Garrett Rd. turn east for 1/8 mile and turn left into parking lot. The Park headquarters are located two miles east of Beltway 8 on Garrett Rd.

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## Joey's Favorite Place

8. How will you feel when you return?

As a school assignment, Joey Naeger had to illustrate his favorite place, answering the following questions:

1. Name one or two words to describe your favorite place.
2. What is your favorite kind of day there?
3. What is your favorite time of day there?
4. Name two or three sounds you hear there.
5. Name two or tree things you see there.
6. Name two – *ing* words that tell two things you like to do there
7. When will you go to your favorite place again?



## HCC TRIPS

**5/5 Marsh Mania**, sponsored by the Galveston Bay Foundation, help restore lots of marsh at various locales throughout the Galveston Bay system, 281-332-3381.

**5/5 Sheldon Reservoir- SPOTLIGHT CRUISE** on Hwy 90, then after the paddle a Picnic Lunch or old fashion weiner roast, at the Sheldon Lake Educational Center Ponds and Hiking Area. Contact: Mary Zabrowski (713) 884-1925 , and cell 713 480-3600or [maryzabo@flash.net](mailto:maryzabo@flash.net)

**5/9 HCC Monthly meeting- 7:00 PM** at the Red Cross Building, 2700 SW Frwy. west of Kirby. – Tom Goynes on Hidalgo Falls Land Purchase and other TRPA issues

**5/12 Medina River Cleanup.** The Lake Medina Conservation Society (LAMCOS). City of Medina to English Crossing (12 miles downstream from Bandera) LAMCOS will trade food for trash starting at noon at the Bandera City River Park. Parking permits will be provided to participants at no charge and shuttle help will be available if arranged in advance. Trash bags will be provided. Email or call Bob Brischetto for maps and assignments: [brischetto@wireweb.net](mailto:brischetto@wireweb.net) or (830) 612-3643. We will provide overnight lodging for those who want to stay or arrange for camping.

**5/19 Wallisville Canoe Trip-** guided trip through cypress wonderland- GBF event- Fee- 281-332-3381

**5/19, 6/16.** Martin Dies, Jr. SP Floating the Forks, Go on a half-day guided canoe trip on the Angelina and Neches Rivers. Paddle through the Angelina/Neeches/DamB WMA from historic Devilport to the Walnut Ridge Unit of the park. For the novice or experienced canoer. 8 am - 2 pm TPWD Fees. 409-384-5231.

**6/1- 8/1 Pigeon and Grass Rivers, Manitoba Canada.** Wilderness trip approx. 25 days per river. Trip will include white and flatwater, portages, camping, flies and mosquitos. Contact: Mary Zabrowski 713 884-1925 and cell 713 480-3600 or [maryzabo@flash.net](mailto:maryzabo@flash.net)

**6/2 Armand Bayou/Horsepen Bayou-** guided canoe trip- GBF event- 281-332-3381

**June 9. Buffalo Bayou SPOTLIGHT CRUISE** from Woodway to Sabine St. Five miles of 'wilderness' bayou (log jams possible) and 3 miles through scenic and historic parkland. All day paddle. Class I to II moving water. Call Louis Aulbach 713-683-8379 or better: [lfa@hal-pc.org](mailto:lfa@hal-pc.org)

**6/16-17 Colorado River Cleanup** and Guinness World Record paddlecraft raft attempt. Austin. Watch this space for more details.

**6/30 Armand Bayou Moonlight paddle SPOTLIGHT CRUISE,** Natalie Wiest 281-332-2730 or [wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu](mailto:wiestn@tamug.tamu.edu)

**7/11 HCC Monthly meeting- 7:00 PM** at the Red Cross Building, 2700 SW Frwy. west of Kirby.

**10/12-15 The 13th Annual Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous-** including the ACA National Interpretive Freestyle Canoeing Championship- watch this space for details. Note the new dates

## Welcome to New Members:

**Debbie Lockey** 9111 Kalewood Houston, TX 77099 hm ph 281-879-4648 [lockey@hal-pc.org](mailto:lockey@hal-pc.org) Heard about us at REI

**Robert & Jo Ellen Hatfield** 3807  
Black Cricket Ct Humble, TX 77396  
281-454-4605 Heard about us from  
member Ron Nunnelly

**Page Williams** 4229 W. Alabama St  
Houston, TX 77027 713-622-8533  
[pagewilliams@cs.com](mailto:pagewilliams@cs.com) Heard about us from  
Mary Carter and John and Cindy Bartos

**Janice Frels** 6338 Maple Hill  
Houston, TX 77088 713-466-7906  
[janice\\_frels@dp7uptx](mailto:janice_frels@dp7uptx)

Heard about us from Fraser Baker

**Ron & Karen White** 1421 Hillcrest  
Graham, TX 76450 940-549-2445  
[txrph@brazosnet.com](mailto:txrph@brazosnet.com) Heard about us from  
the internet

## Lake Buchanan and Travis Update: Monday, April 9

**Lake Level:** Lake Buchanan: 1,018.43 (9 a.m.) 95% full: Lake Travis: 680.69 (9 a.m.) 99% full

### Comparison to This Month's Average Levels:

Lake Buchanan is almost 6 feet above its April average (1,012.59).

Lake Travis is almost 10 feet above its April average (670.74).

### News, Updates and Notes:

Be Alert to Possible Spring Floods: The lakes are full, the ground is wet, and we're heading into what is traditionally the rainiest part of the year. That is the classic recipe for floods. Residents along the Highland Lakes and area rivers and tributaries anyone who lives inside of a floodplain needs to pay attention to weather conditions this spring and look out for heavy storms that could result in flood conditions.

### What Effect Could Heavy Rains Have on Lake Travis?

The lake is currently at near-full capacity (681 feet is full ). Heavy rains inside the Travis watershed have a much greater potential this spring of pushing the lake into its "flood pool" to levels we haven't seen for the past few years.

That could affect residents who have chosen to live inside the Travis flood pool. Residents Along Rivers and Creeks Should **Watch for Flash Floods, especially in the Hill Country.**



River	Location	River Basin	Mini	Sat.	Ideal	Caut.	Experts
Angelina	Hw 21/US 59	Neches	200	500	<b>1,000</b>	2,000	5,000
Barton Crk	Loop 306	Colorado	150	300	<b>600</b>	800	1,000
Blanco River	Wimberley	Guadalupe	125	250	<b>450</b>	700	1000
Bosque	Waco	Brazos	125	250	<b>450</b>	700	1000
Brazos	Clear Fk	Brazos	150	300	<b>500</b>	700	1000
Colorado R.	Austin	Colorado	200	500	<b>1000</b>	3000	5000
Devil's River	Hwy 163	Rio Grande	250	400	<b>600</b>	900	1200
Frio River	Garner St P	Nueces	150	250	<b>400</b>	700	1000
Guadalupe R	Comfort	Guadalupe	125	250	<b>400</b>	700	1000
Guadalupe R	Spring Branch	Guadalupe	125	250	<b>450</b>	750	1200
Guadalupe R	Sattler	Guadalupe	150	250	<b>450</b>	750	1200
Guadalupe R	Cuero	Guadalupe	200	800	<b>1000</b>	2000	3000
Llano River	Junction/Mason	Colorado	250	500	<b>1000</b>	2000	3000
Llano River	S. Fork	Colorado	100	250	<b>400</b>	700	1200
Medina R.	Medina-Pipe Ck	San Antonio	125	250	<b>350</b>	700	1000
Navasota	Bryan	Brazos	200	500	<b>1000</b>	2000	3000



Navidad	Morales/Ganado	Lavaca	200	400	<b>700</b>	1000	1500
Neches	Hwy 21	Neches	500	1000	<b>1500</b>	2000	5000
Neches	Town Bluff	Neches	500	1000	<b>2000</b>	5000	10,000
Paluxy	Glenn Rose	Brazos	100	200	<b>400</b>	700	1000
Pecos R.	US 190/Gerwin	Rio Grande	125	300	<b>500</b>	900	1500
Pedernales	Johnson City	Colorado	125	250	<b>400</b>	700	1000
Rio Gr. R	Santa Elena	Rio Grande	200	300	<b>500</b>	1000	1500
Rio Gr. R	Boquillas	Rio Grande	200	300	<b>500</b>	1000	1500
Rio Gr. R	Lower Canyons	Rio Grande	200	300	<b>500</b>	1000	1300
Sabine	Tol.Bd/Burkville	Sabine	500	1000	<b>2000</b>	5000	10,000
San Bernard	Boling	Coastal Basin	200	500	<b>1000</b>	1500	2000
San Jacinto	W Fk/Houston	San Jacinto	200	500	<b>1000</b>	1500	2000
San Marcos	San Marcos	Guadalupe	100	150	<b>300</b>	700	1200
Trinity	Loop 820	Trinity	70	140	<b>280</b>	500	1200
Trinity	Elm Fk/cal.Xing	Trinity	100	400	<b>700</b>	1000	2000

## HOUSTON CANOE CLUB CASH FLOW ANALYSIS FOR THREE YEARS 1998-2000

	1998	1999	2000
Dues	2769	3392	3640
Entry fees	411	1062	0
Interest income	703	542	516
Other Income	300		0
	4183	4996	4156
Affiliations	180	115	65
Awards		1095	674
Bank charges	143	264	109
Boat show	60	125	0
Christmas party	251	88	790
Donations	6119	4264	6305
Insurance	45	318	0
Legal/prof	0	65	85
Memorials	44	51	119
Merchandise	0		-59
Office	317	252	375
Postage	385	531	485
Printing	2143	3274	2175
Rent	875	1034	632
Sales tax	563	345	211
Supplies, business		0	238
Telephone	898	814	477
Training		10	0
	12023	12645	12681
Net before RDZ	-7840	-7649	-8525
Add back donations	6119	4264	6305
<b>Operating net</b>	<b>-1721</b>	<b>-3385</b>	<b>-2220</b>
RDZ net inflow reconcile to quicken	6900	2950	10819

Net before RDZ -7840 -7649  
RDZ net inflow 6900 2950  
account adjustments

-940 -469

This shows that BEFORE giving away any donations (even the money we give the Red Cross sort of in thanks for letting us use the room there) we've gone in the hole \$1721, \$ 3385, \$2220 for 1998, 1999, 2000, respectively. I've got a net income before Rendezvous, added back the donations to derive the operating loss, then shown the Rendezvous inflow as a separate item at the bottom. **Candy Donahue**, HCC Purser

### Hidalgo Falls is Ours!

This afternoon Tom Goynes, President of the Texas Rivers Protection Association, signed the transfer of deed in which TRPA, acting for paddlers though-out the state, obtained ownership of 10.1 acres of land along the Brazos River at Hidalgo Falls near Navasota. Originally we had planned to purchase only seven acres, but the opportunity arose to buy three more acres (including some riverfront property), so we jumped at it. Thanks to the generous support of numerous Texas boaters, we were able to come up with the \$62,801.78 needed for the property and closing costs. Most people would think that a bunch of paddlers could never get that

much money together for a project like this. But this effort goes to show that when we have a chance to show how much we love this sport and how much we value special places like Hidalgo Falls, we will commit ourselves and our money.

In years to come paddlers at Hidalgo Falls may not know about the people who made the purchase today possible. But make no mistake about it, there were a lot of them. Tom will be sending out a list of the supporters who contributed to the effort, and it is important that we thank each of them and have a celebration to recognize their willingness to take a chance to protect access to the Falls. **The big day is Saturday, May 5**

As those of you who have been to the property know, there is a lot of work that now needs to be done. But for the moment, let's just celebrate the fact that, for the first time, paddlers in Texas have come together to

buy land simply for the purpose of guaranteeing access to a river. Hidalgo Falls is our water-shed. Today is a day we should remember, we must remember, for a long time.

Steve Daniel

## Who be These People?

### **Candy Donahue: HCC Purser** (last year – Vice Commodore)

1. Where were you born and raised? Born in Houston, attended 1-3rd grades in Punta Arenas, Chile because my dad was in the oil field. Went to high school in Magnolia, TX (where the Renaissance Festival is). Lived on 23 acres and raised and showed horses.

2. Are you married, have children Married to the same guy for twenty one years, lived in the same house for 20 of them, have two kids, a girl, 15 and a boy, 13

3. Where educated and degree? Texas Tech Univ: BBA accounting. Currently at Houston Community College getting the science hours necessary to transfer to UH-Clear Lake for a masters in environmental science

4. Previous occupations? how long? CPA 23 years

5. Present occupation - how long? Student, yay!



6. How did you become involved with HCC? Went to a Rendezvous about 6 years ago after beginning to paddle with the girl scouts, joined the club but didn't get active because I didn't have a boat. Finally got a boat and went on the women's Village Creek paddle two years paddling tandem with DONNA and shortly later became an officer of the club.....

9. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? Class I and II hill country rivers

10. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? I volunteer a lot at the Houston Arboretum and Armand Bayou, which has led to the career change.....I work out at a gym and bicycle frequently to stay in shape so I can paddle and do all the other physical stuff I like to do. I read voraciously and currently do lots of homework. I have recently begun weaving baskets and try to work some with my son on a wood lathe.

### **Tracy Caldwell – Rendezvous Volunteer Chair – This year Membership committee**



1. Where were you born and raised? I was born in Biloxi, Mississippi but lived in San Antonio most of my childhood.

2. Are you married, have children I am divorced and have one son, Randy, 13 years old.

3. Where educated and degree? I went to University of Houston Main Campus and earned a BBA in Accounting.

4. Previous occupations? how long? Accountant 15 years

5. Present occupation – Accountant for Unocal.

6. Other places lived, how long in Houston. I lived in Corpus Christi for one year after graduating from high school. After that I moved to Houston to attend the University of Houston. Houston kind of grows on you after a while so I never left.
7. How did you become involved with HCC? I was interested in kayaking and found HCC on the Internet. I went on a couple of club paddles got hooked. If you love the water and the outdoors, paddling is a great sport. If you are new to the sport you need to join the club to learn all the cool places to paddle. It's great fun too.
8. What is your favorite type and place to paddle? I like to paddle flat to moving water. My favorite place to paddle is the San Marcus River. It's such a pretty river and it reminds me of the Hill Country where I grew up.
9. Do you have any other hobbies or outside activities? I like to travel. Most of the trips I go on other than paddling are camping and hiking trips. Usually in the winter when the weather is too cold to paddle. My other hobbies are sewing and growing flowers.



# Water for the City

by Louis F. Aulbach

Houston's first real estate developers were long on promotion and short on planning for essential services. J. K. and Augustus Allen platted a 'great city' on the bayou, but they neglected to make plans for a water system for the growing city.

Early Houstonians captured rain water in cisterns or bought spring water trucked in from Beauchamps Springs, near the present site of Woodland Park at White Oak Drive and Houston Avenue, for \$0.75 for 30 gallon barrel (in 1839). The alternative was to get water from Buffalo Bayou, which was polluted by trash and industrial waste as early as the 1850's.

A contract for the construction of a municipal waterworks, using the water of Buffalo Bayou above the tide water was signed in December, 1878 by James T. D. Wilson, the mayor of Houston, and James Lowrie of New York. The Houston Water Company was formed in 1879 and it built the City Water Works Plant on Buffalo Bayou at 25 Artesian St.



*. Old Central Waterworks facility at 25 Artesian St.*

The Old Central Waterworks structure can be seen near the Memorial Drive bridge that crosses Buffalo Bayou at Capitol Avenue. Old Central Waterworks, opened in 1879, was the City's 1st water treatment facility. For 8 years it pumped bayou water directly into the city's water mains, gradually switching to artesian wells beneath the site. During 1881, twelve miles of water pipe were laid in the City.

Houston Water Works Company was owned by New York interests until 1884 when it was purchased by a Chicago group who installed new boiler, steam powered turbine pumps and a brick reservoir, expanding service to 8 million gallons a day. This original water tank still remains at the site.

Concerns about the quality of Buffalo Bayou water (the bayou was used as a trash dump

upstream) eased in 1886 after an underground reservoir of water was discovered and the plant tapped into it. In 1887, two artesian wells were drilled. Bayou water was then only used for fighting fires.

Until 1904 the privately run Houston Water Co still resorted to bayou water on occasion, leading to a dispute. That year, a state court ordered the water company to cease pumping water from Buffalo Bayou for any purpose. In 1906, during Mayor Baldwin Rice's administration, the city purchased the water company.

The current facility, a pumping station built in 1926, contains a steam-driven flywheel that powered pumps drawing water from artesian wells. In 1929, the Central Waterworks plant was flooded by bayou water, yet, it remained the city's primary pumping station until the Lake Houston reservoir was completed and began service in 1954. This pump station continued in operation until 1980 when the new pump station facility on the west side of Sabine Street at Buffalo Bayou was built. The rusted pumps, capped wells and crumbling interior of Central Waterworks plant are visible evidence of the plant's 20 years of retirement. The old building is located at the foot of Artesian Street, on the north side of the bayou, between the Police Station and Fire Station Number 1, soon to be redeveloped by Landry's for an aquarium-style restaurant, on Bagby Street.

Access to Buffalo Bayou is possible from the ramp on the northeast side of the Sabine Street Bridge in the vicinity of the Bayou Art Park (watch out for the alligator and other statuary along the banks!). Street parking along Sabine Street is available, although you may feel more comfortable parking in the Fonde Recreation Center lot. The City Water Works facility is about a quarter of a mile downstream from the Sabine Street bridge. An alternate put in is at Eleanor Tinsley Park on Allen Parkway. Although it is about a quarter mile farther upstream, parking is good.

## **Canoe Buffalo Bayou and see the City.**

*(Louis will lead the June Spotlight Cruise on Buffalo Bayou)*



*Fire Station Number 1 at 401 Bagby St.*

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### **What's in the newsletter?**

- Pg.1 – Wet West Hill Country by Bill Grimes  
Pg. 2 –4 Easter Trip by Sharon Anderson  
Pg. 5 - Officers & minutes  
Pg. 6 - Spotlight Cruise & Joey's Poem  
Pg. 7 - HCC trips & New members  
Pg. 8 - High Water in Lakes  
Cfs Chart for Idea Paddling  
Pg. 9 – Three Year Cash Flow by Candy Donahue  
Hidalgo is Ours! By Steve Daniels  
Pg.10 – Biographies on Candy Donahue & Tracy Caldwell  
Pg. 11 – History: Water of City by Louis Aulbach

### **Check out the electronic format of this newsletter – available to current members only – At**

[www.houstoncanoeclub.org](http://www.houstoncanoeclub.org)

Go to trips page, click on waterline, and then as USER- enter email address upto the AT sign. There is no Pass word so skip it.

**Speaker for May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Tommy Goynes** on Hidalgo Falls Land Purchase and other Texas Land Issues

Tom Goynes is the President of Texas Rivers Protection Association, many times a contestant in the Texas Water Safari, owner of Pecan Park on the San Marcos River in Martindale, and former Houstonian and HCC member

