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HotLine 713.467.8857

Volume 32

**October 2003**

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#### **Program - October 8, 2003**

*Bayou Preservation Association*

BPA Executive Director Mary Ellen Whitworth will tell us about the BPA and work they are doing to preserve the bayou. She is a professional engineer with over 15 years of experience in environmental engineering.

#### **We need your correct email address!**

Please send your current email address to Marilyn Peery now.

Email address: [mpeery@ev1.net](mailto:mpeery@ev1.net).

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 trip reports, news worthy items and any literary musings you wish to inflict on your paddling buddies to the Editor at the following address.

[sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com)

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Reminder: Freestyle Roundup

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Texas Freestyle Canoe Roundup

National Interpretive Freestyle Canoeing Championship

October 11 & 12, 2003

Oyster Creek / Fluor Business Complex, Sugar Land, TX

For details, contact Lillian Tigard; WK # (713)966-6824; HM # (281)494-7977

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Officers for 2003

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Commodore: **John Ohrt**

713.877.1504

[jcohortjr@aol.com](mailto:jcohortjr@aol.com)

Vice Commodore: **Mary Zaborowski**

713.884.1925

[coachz66@hotmail.com](mailto:coachz66@hotmail.com)

Recorder: **Mary Carter**

713.461.5466

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

Purser: **Kevin Casement**

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[paddlinman@hotmail.com](mailto:paddlinman@hotmail.com)

Fleet Captain: **Fraser Baker**

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713.722.9685

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[william.grimes@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:william.grimes@centerpointenergy.com)

Governor 2: **Anne Olden**

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[aolden@ix.netcom.com](mailto:aolden@ix.netcom.com)

Governor 3: **Paul Woodcock**

713.722.4945

[plwdcck@yahoo.com](mailto:plwdcck@yahoo.com)

Waterline Submissions

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Submit content to the Newsletter Editor, Sherri Blifford, by the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send electronic submissions to [sherrib57@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrib57@hotmail.com).

Send snail mail submissions to Sherri Blifford  
8233 Kingsbrook Rd., #134  
Houston, TX 77024

General Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2003

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These minutes have not been approved. Any changes or amendments will be posted in next month's issue of the Waterline.

Commodore John Ohrt presided at the meeting.

John announced there was a full moon and the dog days of summer are over. Now is the time to PADDLE. John encouraged members to lead trips to take advantage of the nice weather. The officers were introduced to the attendees.

Donna Grimes gave a helpful talk on river signals for communicating on the river.

Guests introduced themselves and told a little about their paddling experience and their interests.

Mary Z. introduced Lillian Tigard who gave a presentation on Freestyle paddling with the assistance of John and Cindy Bartos.

Lillian also spoke about the Freestyle Competition to be held at the Fluor facility October 11. There will also be clinics taught by excellent paddlers from all over the country as well as HCC's own qualified instructors. Lillian encouraged everyone to come and learn more paddling skills and to watch the Freestyle Competition which promises to be wonderful.

The minutes from the August meeting were read and accepted.

The purser's report was given and accepted.

The newsletter is online. The HCC 2003 roster was mailed out this week. Special thanks to Cliff and Marilyn Peery and to John Ohrt for making this happen.

Fleet captain Fraser Baker asked for reports of trips taken during the past month, and announced upcoming trips. John Ohrt announced that YMCA Pool roll sessions were cancelled until a new

pool is located. The Westside Y has been closed because of the I-10 expansion.

The Christmas party will be held December 13 at the Northwest Fitness Center. Mark your calendars for this annual fun event.

Under new business: John Bartos made the following motion: That the HCC fund up to \$750.00 for a generator, awards and a sound system for the Freestyle Competition to be held October 11, 2003. The motion was seconded. After serious discussion, the motion passed 17-7.

The meeting was adjourned.

#### Change of Address

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Submit change of address to Marilyn Peery.

Email address:

[mpeery@ev1.net](mailto:mpeery@ev1.net)

Physical address:

Marilyn Peery  
4119 Mischire Rd.  
Houston, TX 77025

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First Water Rights Donated To Texas Water Trust  
News release from TPWD

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News Media Contact: Kristen Everett (512) 389-8046 or  
kristen.everett@tpwd.state.tx.us

EL PASO, Texas -- A West Texas rancher and attorney has donated 1,236 acre-feet of water per year to the Texas Water Trust to provide water for fish and wildlife in the Rio Grande.

The donation marks the first water rights ever deposited in the Texas Water Trust. The trust was created in 1997 by the historic water reform law Senate Bill 1 as a way to protect river instream flows, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, or bay and estuary inflows. As an ancillary benefit, it also safeguards river flows for outdoor recreation such as fishing and boating. The trust is part of the Texas Water Bank, a water rights marketing clearinghouse also created by SB1.

"I donated to the water trust because I wanted to see the Rio Grande running," said Colquitt "Kit" Bramblett, who grew up on his family's ranch in southeast Hudspeth County. The ranch has 23 miles of river frontage and about 500 acres of farmland with associated water rights. Bramblett is the county attorney for Hudspeth County, although he's had a longstanding law practice in El Paso and still keeps an office there.

"The river ran from the 1970s until this spring, when it dried up and all the fish died," Bramblett said. "I'd like to see some more people donate water. I'd like to see some water in that river." The stretch of the Rio Grande from El Paso to Big Bend National Park dried to a trickle this summer, shutting down popular rafting trips.

Bramblett first conveyed his water rights to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which then deposited them in the Texas Water Trust. The Texas Water Development Board administers the trust.

"This sets a wonderful example for others to follow," said Larry McKinney, TPWD Resource Protection Division Director "There are many incentives to place water in trust, not only for fish and wildlife protection, but for water quality, for aesthetics, for whatever reason people would want to have water flowing in a river. A secondary benefit for the donor can be a tax deduction for a charitable donation."

For more information about donating to the Texas Water Trust, contact Colette Barron with TPWD at (800) 792-1112, ext. 7008 or by e-mail at [colette.barron@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:colette.barron@tpwd.state.tx.us).

General information is also on the water development board Web site <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/waterbank/wtrust.html>.

The TWDB currently waives all fees for deposits to the water trust.

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## Oktoberfest in Houston? Breweries on the Bayou

by Linda C. Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach

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After a hard day of paddling, the thing you are most likely to hear from your canoeing partner is “Man, what I wouldn’t give for a cold beer!”

If you had paddled Buffalo Bayou in Houston’s early days you wouldn’t have had to go far to find whole breweries full of beer. Since the mid-1800’s many breweries have been built along the Bayou and if you look at the names of the brewers, it appears that the German community in Houston had a lock on the brewery business!

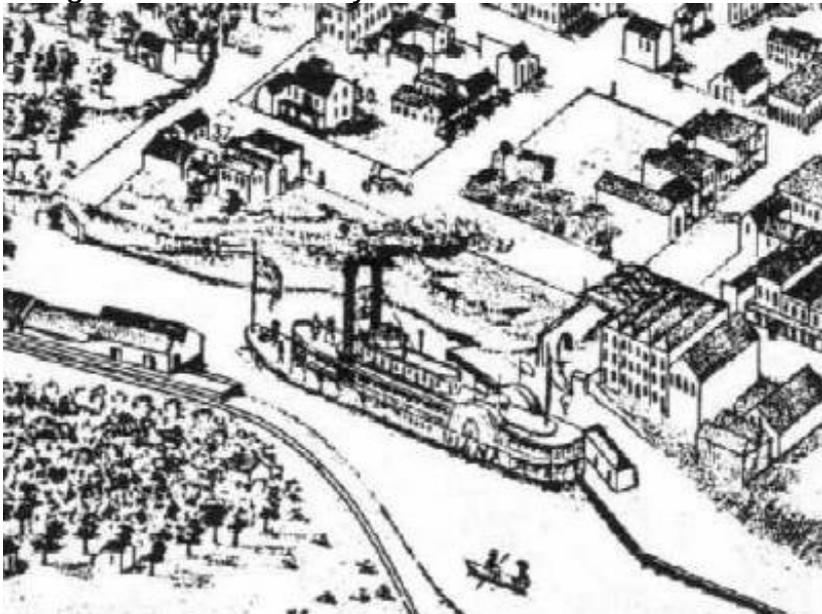
Peter and Michael Floeck opened the Houston area’s first recorded brewery in the 1850s in the largely German community of Frostown, located near the present day McKee Street Bridge and James Bute Park. Their brewery was on the southwest side of the Frostown Subdivision on their property on Maple Street near the bayou.



Sketch of the Gabel Brewery in 1873, southeast of the Court House Square.

As the story goes, another member of the Floeck family, Martin Floeck, later opened a brewery in the Frostown area as well. Talk about bad luck! During the opening party when free beer was being served a lantern was knocked over burning the brewery to the ground on its first day!

Peter Gabel established the first major brewery in downtown Houston on the northwest corner of Preston Avenue and Caroline Street about 1857. Gabel’s brewery sold beer and ale in half and quarter barrels for bar or family use. In those days it was likely safer to drink beer, which had been processed, than to drink the water which possibly came straight out of Buffalo Bayou!



Sketch of the Schulte Brewery in 1873 on Buffalo Bayou

Other breweries operating in Houston in the mid-late 1800s were Felton and Company brewery (1866) located on Capitol Avenue between Bagby and Brazos Streets and the Henry Schulte and Co. Brewers located at the corner of San Jacinto Street and Commerce Avenue.

One of the more interesting and larger breweries in Houston is also one that still has a permanent place on the Bayou. In 1893, the Houston Ice and Brewing Company (also known as the Magnolia Brewery) was established. Over the years it became part of a complex of buildings stretching from Washington Avenue to Franklin Street. These ten buildings were built between 1892 and 1915 as part of Houston Ice and Brewing Company complex. Some of these buildings which included an ice plant, extended out into Buffalo Bayou. Old brick work from the original brewery building is still visible under the Franklin Street bridge. By 1895 the group was brewing over 35,000 barrels of beer a year. By 1906 Houston Ice and Brewing Association was running power boats to Key West to transport their beer to Cuba.



Magnolia Ballroom and structures of the former Magnolia Brewery at the Franklin Street bridge.

The Old Magnolia Brewery, one of three remaining buildings of the brewery complex to survive today, was restored with a beer tap on the first floor and a ballroom on the second floor. This building has ties with the paddling community as historical preservationist and architect Bart Truxillo (brother of Sandy Truxillo, owner of Explorer Pack and Paddle), bought and restored the old Magnolia Brewery, a neo-classical structure at 719 Franklin.

Here's another brewery story with contemporary connections. According to historical records, the American Brewing Association founded by Adolphus Busch was in operation between 1893 and 1918 at Railroad and 2nd Streets. The first product was introduced in 1894 at a huge gala opening ceremony. At one time there were almost 10,000 people on the grounds of the brewery which covered an entire block and was six stories high.

During recent construction at the UH-Downtown campus a surprising discovery was made. The foundation of an icehouse was unearthed on the construction site.

Archeologists believe that this building was the one originally built in the 1880s by Adolphus Busch and first served as an ice factory before becoming a cold beer storage area. According to a news article about the excavations at the construction site, the beer was shipped in refrigerated railroad cars from a St. Louis brewery for sale in the local market until the Houston brewery was built. The brewery was built in the 1890s -- the ruins of which were discovered beneath the UH-Downtown parking garage.

The news article continued to say that a tunnel was discovered in the area of the construction site and leading to Buffalo Bayou. The tunnel runs about 20 feet down and 30 to 40 feet out to the bayou. The tunnel was most likely used for moving equipment and water for the brewery. However, at that time, Buffalo Bayou water was probably only used to cool the beer. At the turn of the century, brewers ran water pipes around brewing tanks and ran the cheapest water they could find through them to draw the heat off the

beer. Bayou water may also have been used to make the ice to keep the beer cold! I wonder how many parents are aware that when they send their kids to college at UH Downtown campus, they are actually sending them to classes on the site of one of Houston's oldest breweries! Cheers!

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## New Members

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Tom Evans

[evans@ligo-la.caltech.edu](mailto:evans@ligo-la.caltech.edu)

Robert Price

[bobprice@swbell.net](mailto:bobprice@swbell.net)

David and Susan Ramsey

[firstbackpacker@hotmail.com](mailto:firstbackpacker@hotmail.com)

Watchara and Bussakorn

Rodbumrung

[watchara.rodbumrung@usa-](mailto:watchara.rodbumrung@usa-spaceops.com)

[spaceops.com](mailto:spaceops.com)

Laura Wilde

[lzwilde@academicplanet.com](mailto:lzwilde@academicplanet.com)

## For Sale

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Dagger Sojourn

Solo touring canoe - great for slower waters

Wood trim; good shape. Cost \$1200 new,  
sacrifice at \$650 obo

Contact Brian Sherwood by email:

Brian1204@ev1.net

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## Classes

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### Southwest Paddlesports Classes and Events

Sea Kayaking by Wayne Horodovich from the Univ. of Sea Kayaking

Sat. Oct. 18 the Texas Kayak Fishing Expo in Aransas Pass from 9-5. Cost \$125

Rolling lessons with Wayne Horodovic

Sun. Oct. 19 h from 9-1. \$60 Aransas Pass

Advanced strokes and maneuvers with Wayne H.

2-5 PM \$50 Aransas Pass

Sat. Oct. 11 Houston Paddlefest at Lake Woodlands from 12-4

Manufacturers reps from Watermark Perception), Liquidlogic, Ocean Kayak, Old others will be there. We will also have Hobie kayaks present.

Free Demo Day at Hidalgo Falls on the Brazos River

Sun. Oct. 12 Lunch Video Magazine vol. I & II will be shown (or some other latest release) at dusk.

Mon. Oct. 13 Hot Dog Lunch for those staying for Columbus Day

Patti Carothers

SouthWest PaddleSports

26322 I H 45 North

The Woodlands, TX 77386

281-292-5600 or 281-36PADDL (7-2335)

[patti@paddlesports.com](mailto:patti@paddlesports.com)

website: <http://www.paddlesports.com>"

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This is part 1 of a series of wrecks that I have had and what I have learned from them.

### *The Fir*

One of the most dramatic wrecks I have had was on the Bloodvein River in Canada on the first trip we took. There was a ledge across the river with a chute and the end of a left turn, and then a straight run through a series of rocks.

It was at the end of the day. We were tired and there wasn't an easy place to exit the river so we scouted it from our boats.

Dana ran it first and eddied out waiting for us to follow him. I drifted fairly close to the left side of the chute waiting for Dana to clear, so we approached it at an angle. I was planning to swing the back of the tandem vertical to the run when I heard Mary yell "We are missing it." I was confident that we would make it and I stroked hard forcing the boat forward.

I still don't know what happened. I remember the boat being on a 75-degree angle seeing Mary high above my head clutching the gunnels. The boat seemed to twist in the air. I would like to think that I bailed out but I probably was flung from the canoe, as it turned over and landed upside down with Mary still in the bow. I surfaced seeing Dana retrieving Mary and her paddle and going to the shore. I still had my paddle and swam to the upside-down canoe climbed aboard and struggled to get it ashore. Dana was starting a fire to heat some tea and we got Mary's nosebleed stopped. She got dry clothes on and finally stopped shivering. By the time we were on the river it had cost us an hour.

**Lesson learned:** Never run a rapid with out scouting it first We were extremely cautious the rest of the day and lined our boats through some rapids that could have been run.

### *Funniest Wreck*

The funniest wreck was on the Bloodvein. It was a long rock garden and as we stood on the bank scouting it I told Dana "I don't think we can make it through but it is not deep and very fast so I don't think any damage will be done to the Bear"

It was a long portage with a difficult take-out so we decided to run it. In retrospect we should have waded the canoes through. We started to paddle when we immediately hit a rock and spun around going backwards down the rapids. I spun around in the seat and tried to steer the boat but Mary and I were facing opposite directions in the canoe "You go first." I saw a rock in front of us but could do nothing, so we spun around again. I turned around in the seat and we were again in the correct paddling position but things were moving fast, even before I could get a paddle in the water we were spun around again. I turned around in the seat our backs were once again to each other

"No you go first."

We again hit and were spun around once again.

"No you go first"

We were now in the correct position bow and stern but we could not make the last turn and were pushed up to a log jam. I jumped out of the canoe and angrily started to drag the canoe over the jam.

The water was extremely cold and I heard Dana call "Wait I will help you". I looked up saw him maneuvering his solo through the rocks. Once again I yanked the boat trying to get it over the small pile of logs when I felt a pain in my thigh. I had torn a groin muscle. Dana made the run, but was also forced right next to me. We got the boats over the log jam and camped early because of the pain I was feeling. I couldn't walk but had to crawl to camp and let them set up camp.

We had to lay over for a day while I rested the leg. One year later I was still having a problem with it.

**Lesson learned:** Control emotions and accept help.

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# Not Found

The requested URL /hcc\_trips.pl 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*