



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, Cecilia Gill at whitewaterider@yahoo.com.

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

Upcoming HCC Meeting Program

- When:** January 09, 2008
- Where:** Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas
- Directions:** First driveway, North side of Bissonnet, just East of Hillcroft.
- Speaker:** Ben Kvanli
- Speaker Bio:** Texas' own Olympic whitewater athlete. Ben and his wife Michelle manage the Power Outdoor Olympic Center in San Marcos, Texas.
- Description:** Ben will be talking to us about their upcoming Olympic bid and local San Marcos events in 2008. OK, this already happened. I would like to thank Ben on behalf of the whole club for coming all the way from San Marcos just to talk to us! That was a great presentation and an interesting subject! Hope to see you again soon, Ben!
-

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

HCC Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2007

Recorder: Cecilia Gill

Minutes: In the morning, there was a paddle down the Buffalo Bayou followed by a lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse. In the evening, we had a Christmas Party at the Kirby Building on Richmond Ave. It was pot luck, with lots of great foods! We saw slides of past trips and parties. At the end, the person sitting in the chair with the red ticket on the bottom won the Poinsettia centerpiece. Lonnie won one! There was an after party "Tequila Tasting" party at the Bartos' Residence, which I hear was nice, but I didn't get to go to that as the boys were tired and a little too young to drink tequila anyway. Fun was had by all that day!

Please contact HCC's recorder, Cecilia Gill, if there are any omissions or corrections.

New HCC Members

Member Name: No new members at this time.
Membership Type: family
Member's Family:

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

HCC Market Place

Items For Sale

Items Wanted

Item: White water paddles (2)
Description: Preferably Bob Foote paddles but equivalent quality will do. 62" minimum
Contact Name: Fraser Baker
Contact Phone: 713-202-2503
Contact Email: flbaker@sbcglobal.net

###

Item: White Water Canoe
Description: 11-13 feet. Since the main use will be for tripping on the Pecos River, it has to be maneuverable.
Contact Name: Linda Day
Contact Phone: 832-264-4224
Contact Email: linda@daycreative.com

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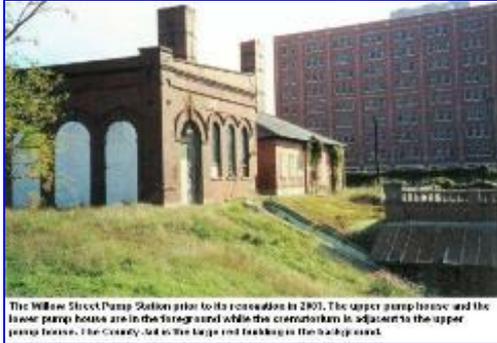
Please contact the Newsletter Editor, Cecilia Gill at whitewater rider@yahoo.com to post any items that you may have for sale or desperately need.

Waste Water Treatment and More

by

Louis F. Aulbach

The front page of the Houston Chronicle recently blared: "Bayous are flush with fecal bacteria." Although the city has made significant progress in wastewater treatment since the 1980's, Buffalo Bayou still does not meet state standards for contact recreation activities such as swimming or wading because, at times, the levels of bacteria from human and animal waste are elevated beyond what is acceptable.



Houston has had to deal with the pollution of Buffalo Bayou many times in its history. In 1895, in response to a demand from the US Army Corps of Engineers to clean up the scum-covered Houston Ship Channel, the City Council approved a \$300,000 bond issue to construct the city's first wastewater treatment plant, the Willow Street Pump Station.

The Willow Street Pump Station, completed in 1902, is located on White Oak Bayou, a short distance above the confluence with Buffalo Bayou. The Romanesque Revival style building can be seen on the east bank, opposite the University of Houston-Downtown campus at One Main Street. The name of the facility derives from its address on Willow Street which was renamed North San Jacinto Street some time after 1907 (probably after the construction of the San Jacinto Street bridge in 1914)..

By 1907, the City Street Cleaning Department was added to the site, and in 1915, the crematory facility was constructed adjacent to the sewage pumping station. During the early twentieth century, wagons pulled by horse and mules hauled merchandise in the city. The trolley system also used mules to pull the cars. If, and when, these animals died on the job, the city street cleaning crews handled the removal of the carcasses and their disposal at the Willow Street facility



The Willow Street Pump Station was built on the south half of the tract initially set aside in 1837 by A. C. Allen for a steam saw mill. The president and several other members of the Texas Steam Mill Company fell victim to shipwreck in the Racer's Storm of October and to yellow fever in late 1837 on their journey to Houston. The company collapsed and the steam sawmill envisioned by Allen never materialized. The site lay vacant until the 1880's when the Houston Press Company Compress was constructed on the site. Ziegler's Warehouse and Gin occupied the site in 1890, but the structure was dilapidated and falling down by 1896.

The Willow Street Pump Station was an essential component of the city's sewage disposal system as the North Side Sewage Treatment Plant, located on Buffalo Bayou east of town at Japhet Street, was constructed in 1928. Subsequent wastewater treatment facilities have been built on the bayou at 69th Street and at Lockwood Avenue in order to keep up with the growth in the population of Houston throughout the twentieth century.

The Willow Street facility eventually was decommissioned, fell into disuse and lay

in ruins until 2003 when the University of Houston leased the property from the City of Houston and renovated the buildings into a community conference and exhibition center. The beautifully restored facility is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Backwater Backwash

by
Cecilia Gill

Welcome to "Backwater Backwash", a random and incomprehensible collection of thoughts, observances and experiences in no particular order, so that it makes absolutely no sense at all.

Paddling trips during the holidays.that magical time between the week before Thanksgiving and the day after New Year's Day. Most of us WANT to do a trip. Most of us who like to camp and paddle would like to camp and paddle for a living, I think! Or at least most of our time, anyway. However, "this is a time for family to get together." So most of us never end up going anywhere except maybe to someone else's house, anyway...



...And let's just say there are REASONS why many people only see family once a year

I hear these wonderful tales of Thanksgiving on the river and Christmas in the mountains, or Thanksgiving in the mountains and Christmas on the river. Or, one or both on the beach. Or at a lake. Or on an island. Take your pick. I actually got the family to go to Huntsville State Park right before Thanksgiving one year. ..

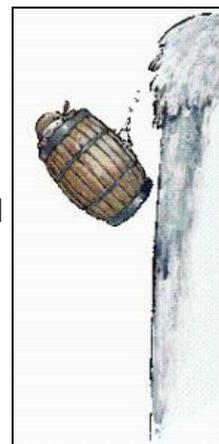
...And let's just say, there are reasons why some people don't go camping or boating...



Without going into great details, there was a combination of high heels, improper clothing, make up, hair rollers, "where do I plug this in at (do you REALLY want me to answer that?)" and the assumption that the state park provided you with a tent and gear.....!/? *what?*

Forget trying to get these people into the canoe..."We'll flip!" We won't go very far away from the banks. "I can't swim!" I have extra PFD's. "There's water moccasins!" That's OK, the alligators eat the snakes. Oops.... I shouldn't a' said that last bit... Oh, boy.....

Then they were worried about the boys going canoeing...ON A LAKE. I guess if they as adults were too scared to go, they figured it couldn't possibly be OK for little ones to go! They didn't seem to want to understand that the boys already had a number of RIVERS under their belts by this time, complete with currents, strainers, and even a bit of white water. And they acted like I was planning to send them over Niagara Falls in a barrel! Sheesh!



But neither Joe nor I had to say a word. The boys let them know under no uncertain terms that they wanted to get in the canoe and go paddling no matter what! And they proceeded to put on their PFD's and started getting in the boat themselves.



No one said much of anything when we got



back except, "Did you have fun?"

I am thinking about starting some kind of fun traditional camp/paddle trips at Thanksgiving and/or Christmas time... I figure if I hog tie them, cover their mouths with duct tape and strap them to inner tubes we

can all go down the river together as a family whether anyone likes it or not. It will be like a festive cross between calf roping and Christmas caroling!

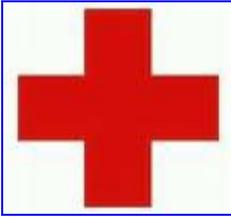


SYOTR!
Cecilia

Safety Minute

by

John Olden



Safety has always been a priority for the HCC. This year the club will have a short presentation of a safety topic at each meeting. The intent of these presentations is to help us to keep safety issues in mind when planning and participating in a trip. A trip cannot be enjoyable if it is not a safe trip. A different topic will be presented each month. If you would like to make a safety presentation, please contact me. (johnold@ix.netcom.com) The January topic was Cold Weather Paddling



COLD WEATHER PADDLING

Cold weather and water can be dangerous. This is particularly critical when the combined temperature of the air and water is below 120 degrees (some say 100 degrees). Paddlers should plan ahead to avoid situations that can lead to trouble. Some important plan ahead items are listed below:

PLAN AHEAD!

Have alternate takeouts-to allow people to get off the water early if they get wet and/or cold

Wear layers of synthetics (no cotton)

Wear (or carry) waterproof jacket

Wear hat (that will stay on in water)

Wear your PFD (even out of the water)

Bring food to fuel your body

Carry change of clothing (in dry bag)

Carry a space blanket

Carry fire starting materials (signal flares work great)

Consider WetSuit/DrySuit



HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is a dangerous condition that results when the body can no longer maintain its normal temperature. Hypothermia can set in if your core body temperature drops just 3.5 deg. below the normal 98.6 deg. In an effort to protect the core (heart, lungs, and brain), the body begins to shut down, and judgment and coordination are adversely affected. One of the best indicators of when someone is becoming hypothermic is if they begin to shiver uncontrollably while at rest. Being at rest is important because the body heat produced by the exercise of paddling tends to temporarily mask the onset of hypothermia. Take frequent breaks where everyone stops exercising and use this time to check who begins to shiver.

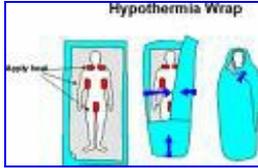


HYPOTHERMIA SYMPTOMS (in general order of onset)

Shivering

Impaired Judgment
Clumsiness - Loss of Manual Dexterity
Slurred Speech
Inward Behavior - Withdrawal
Shivering Stops
Muscle Rigidity
Unconsciousness

TREATMENT OF HYPOTHERMIA



Mild hypothermia (victim shivering but coherent): Move victim to place of warmth. Remove wet clothes, give warm, sweet drinks;

no alcohol or caffeine.

Moderate hypothermia (shivering may decrease or stop): Victim may seem irrational with deteriorating coordination. Same as above but no drinks. Victim should be kept lying down with torso, thighs, head and neck covered with dry clothes, coats or blankets to stop further heat loss. Seek medical attention immediately.

Severe hypothermia (shivering may have stopped): Victim may resist help or be semiconscious or unconscious. Seek medical attention immediately.

Credits: Much of the above was taken from the ACA website and publications. For more information on various safety topics, go to www.americancanoe.org

Don E. Wilson

by

Donna Grimes

Don E. Wilson – What a Character!

The first part of December, when Christy Long sent out the email announcing the death of Don E Wilson, I was truly saddened. I remember few HCC meeting without Don there. Who can forget Don's stentorian voice as he enthusiastically gave a trip report or added to the discussion?

Don's obituary read:

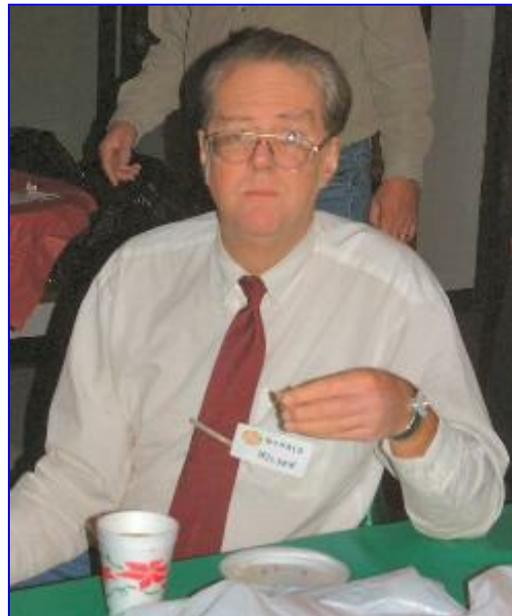
DONALD E. WILSON, age 60, died Sunday, August 12, 2007, at his residence in Houston. The son of the late Edwin and Elizabeth Frolely Wilson, he was born August 2, 1947, in Brooklyn, New York. Don enjoyed kayaking and was a member of the Houston Canoe Club. He was also a member of the Texas Real Estate Commission. Don is survived by his brother, John Wilson and his wife Dolores of Pearland, TX. As per his request, there will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to United Cerebral Palsy at www.ucp.org.

Because Don loved paddling so much and was so faithful in his attendance to our club, I decided I wanted to write a short memorial to him...but I knew very little about him. I called his brother John and he told me that Don's father was in the Navy, so the family lived in a number of places. When Don was a kid, his family lived in Florida where his father, his brother John, and Don became interested in paddling and fishing – two life-long interests that stuck with Don throughout his life. His brother said that Don and he even made a canoe and would take it out sometimes. Don also got into canoe racing. He moved to Houston in 1961 where he attended San Jacinto High School, graduated and went to college

From our Members, I learned:

Ann Derby:

"About 10 years ago, at an HCC Christmas party held at Forest Cove's clubhouse, we got a bunch of club members up on the stage to sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas". I asked Donald to sing the "4 calling birds" line because he was as full of the Christmas spirit as anyone. For a number of years he even brought a Christmas tree he'd decorated. When the song reached the 4th verse, Don surprised us with his nice singing voice, embellished with flapping wing arm gestures. Of the 12 singers, it's Donald I remember. Good job, D.W., and happy trails."



Christy Long:



“Don attended many pool sessions. After the session and after he had loaded his boat, he stayed in the parking lot until all pool session participants were safely in their car. He contributed to our safety.”

Fraser Baker: “Don was always at the Buffalo Bayou Regatta and although he could no longer race, he would help out by standing on the bridge calling down to the participants, giving them how many more minutes until the race started. If you were there and heard a loud voice calling out, “Five More Minutes! Five more Minutes!”, that was Don”



Bob Arthur:
“Don was known for his Speedo swimming trunks that he wore paddling.. (and here Bob gave his famous chuckle). But one interesting thing about Don was one time when I was commodore, we were asking members to write letters to their senators or something like that, and one of the best written letters was Don’s.”

Don was not alone when he died. His brother John – who only occasionally saw Don – happened to be. at his house on Aug. 12th, helping arrange the bedroom to add a newly purchased mattress to Don’s bed. Don went into the living room and sat down. A little later when John went in to check on him, Don was dead on the floor – a massive heart attack. Don was cremated and the family took his ashes out to into the Gulf and released them. Don returns to the item of his love – the water



What's New!

**by
Bob Price**

HCC is pleased to announce the addition of a DVD lending library. DVD's can be checked out at the general meeting and need to be returned at the next general meeting or mailed back to the Fleet Captain.

If you would like to contribute a video to the library, please bring it to the general meeting.

We will make a DVD Copy to add to the library and return your original with a DVD conversion.

Titles include;

Quick Start Your Canoe (ACA)

Pivot Point (Canoe)

Whitewater Bound (Canoe)

Quick Start Your Kayak (ACA)

Kayak Handling

Kayak Basics

Decide To Return (ACA – Sea Kayaking)

Rollin with Nolan (Kayak)

Go with the Flow

Texas Whitewater

Slalom Technique (Kayak)

The Citizen Racers Workshop

New Additions

LL Bean – Guide to Canoeing

Thanks,

Bob Price

HCC Fleet Captain

Upcoming Paddling Trips

HCC Trips:

Date: Saturday, January 19, 2008

Title: Freeze Trip moved to San Marcos River due to Burning Ban in Bastrop

Inclusive Dates: Sat-Sun Jan 19-20

Description: Meet at Tom Goynes , Pecan Park, get camp site and organize what sections of river to run. Dutch Oven Cooking at Night. \$6.00 a person, kids 1/2 price. Bastrop County is under a Burning Ban and will not allow us with open fires or BBQ pits on the Island. Gib has canceled this one and we are getting with Tom for a Camp Out and Dutch Oven cooking out at Pecan Park. \$10 per person to camp.

Skill Level: **Intermediate:** Knowledge of basic whitewater safety, self-rescue and rescue such as retrieving a pinned boat. Able to capture small eddies, run Class 2 rapids confidently, but challenged by Class 3 rapids such as Cottonseed on the San Marcos at say 300-400 cfs.

Contact: Contact Mary Ellen Zaborowski by phone 832 215 4551, or by email maryzabo@sbcglobal.net.

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Other Club Trips:

Start Date: Friday, January 18, 2008

Title: More at the Alamo City Rivermen Freeze Trip

Inclusive Dates: Friday Jan 18 - Sunday Jan 20

Description: Janice and I like to partake of the sites and scenes that abound in the Texas Hill country. Not that San Marcos is there, but it is close.

We will be leaving Houston about 4pm on Friday. We plan to take 290 to 21 and have dinner at a neat Italian restaurant that is just at the junction of 21 and 77 when we get there. Mama Mia's is just North of 21 on the West side of 77. MM doesn't serve, so BYOB.

We will then either camp or motel it Friday night, but for sure we will be at Pecan Park Saturday morning to paddle the San Marcos from the park to Skulls crossing. We will partake in the festivities Saturday eve, and camp that night.

Not sure what we will do Sunday AM, but for sure we will head back to Houston early afternoon via The Bugle Boy in La Grange Texas to capture some local picking during their Showcase Sunday.

The Bugle Boy is a "Listening Room" that offers a wide variety of original independent musical experiences that include jazz, swing, blues, rock, country and singer/songwriters. Showcase Sunday is a competition of

sorts between local bands. The physical address is 1051 N. Jefferson St. (Hwy 77) La Grange, Texas 78945 and the Internet address is www.thebugleboy.com.

Those are our plans.

Contact: Contact Fraser Baker by phone 713-202-2503, or by email flbaker@sbcglobal.net.

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Brazos River at the Richmond Loop Segment

by
Natalie Wiest

At the risk of scaring off any other folks willing to do exploratory trips with me, following is my report of paddling the Brazos River with Mark Andrus on December 29th, 2007.

This is actually the third of three trips I've done since Christmas – sure sign of paddling withdrawal satiation. I'm ready to keep on paddling, but looks like going back to the real job will be pulling me back off the river.

I'd posted this potential trip to the HCC site, but only Mark responded with enthusiasm and we duly met up in Rosenberg where highway 723 crosses the Brazos. There's a nice little park right there called Brazos Park. There's paved parking, lots of picnic tables, and playground equipment for the small fry. There is no formal access to the river, and the usual high steep banks.



This is somewhat "improved" by what appears to be a contractors' unused cement dumping ground. The good thing is, this gives good firm footing to get down to the river, but not something I'd want to drag a canoe over (and steep enough that carrying is risky); so boats went over the edge of the dirt bank, and Mark and I scrambled over the concrete.

The river itself is broad and flat, with noticeable current most places, and bends a long horseshoe around the city of Richmond to the crossing by highway Alt-90, about 10 miles downstream of the putin. This feature made it look like a good candidate for a day trip, and as far as the river and the time it takes to run it (about 3 hours), it is very desirable. Please read on before you make a decision to paddle.

One of the nice features of the Brazos is the presence of large sand and gravel bars that are nice for camping or picnicking and in our case, taking a lunch break. The first nice one we came to was about two miles downstream as the river makes its first abrupt left turn. The un-nice features of it are the water treatment plant directly opposite, and row of houses. We opted to paddle on and about 5 miles later came on a nice big bar, with an actual ripple of running water over rocks at its far end. It was nice to get out and stretch our legs and eat a sandwich there before paddling on. The air temperature as we put in was about 51; and only 55 when we took out. Only once did the sun peak out from behind the clouds and we were both happy to have our nylon wind jackets on.

The final left bend in the river brings the three bridges into view: first the railroad bridge, then westbound Alt-90; then east-bound Alt-90. Fishers were on the outside of this bend, and we could see their car parked about 100 yards away. In retrospect, this would be the most desirable takeout, or at least appears to have a more gradual bank and perhaps firmer footing. As we approached the railroad bridge, train whistles heralded the crossing of a freight train full of containers, presumably heading for the Port of Houston or other distribution center. We paddled on to the second of the Alt-90 bridges

– a big mistake both for the challenge of getting boats up to the road level; and because Mark’s truck was parked upstream of the first bridge. The truck was easily moved – but the bank, UGH! My worst fear of quicksand, boat-sucking mud was fulfilled right there at water level. It took both hands and one leg pulling to get each foot unmired and moved farther upstream. Of course as one pulls free, the other goes down, so it was quite a struggle to finally get to weight-supporting river bank! Both Mark and I had mud from head to toe and were pretty much exhausted until we and our boats and equipment made it to the top of the bank. We both decided we were glad we had paddled this trip once – and that we never wanted to do it again! So, gentle reader, if you desire a struggle of epic proportions to get yourself and your gear to and from the river, here is the excellent spot, and an easy 3 hour paddle in between. If not, you can enjoy vicariously with my photos that are posted at:
<http://outdoors.webshots.com/album/561940302pGpJAG?vhost=outdoors>



Conditions for the trip: air temperature, 51 to 55 degrees F (10.6 – 12.8C); river level, 11/25 feet, approximately 1900 CFS (USGS gage 08114000); wind speed 5-7 mph, from the east and east-northeast.

Natalie Wiest

HCC Paddler

Photos:

#1: A downstream view of the concrete banks and highway 723 bridge.



#2: The upstream view of the putin from the top of the riverbank. The little concrete peninsula provides solid footing to put your boats in the water.

#3: Mark and the boats on the sand and gravel bar where we ate lunch.

#4: An American pipit at the water’s edge at our lunch stop

Christmas Trip 2007

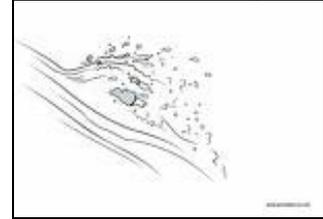
by

Paul Woodcock

Mary and I had decided to host our annual paddle before the Christmas party. We were going to put in at the Shepherd Bridge on Buffalo Bayou and take out for lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse. I declared this a "Paul's paddle", not to be canceled except for flooding. The weather god decided to test my fortitude. When I started to load the canoe, it was thundering, lightening and pouring down rain. Lifting the boat to the top of the truck, the water poured down the sleeves of my rain coat and I started the day off wet. We had about 12 people who had stated that they wanted to paddle with us and the phone calls of cancellations started coming in.

When we got to the park below Deplechin Faith Home, I hiked up to the bridge to check out the put in. When I got under the bridge the dirt ramp at the put in was very slick.

When I saw the Bayou I became concerned. There is a concrete shoot on the opposite bank and the water was rooster tailing out and creating a mighty interesting current. It looked as if you could paddle upstream and come down you might be able to let the current carry you to the opposite bank and miss the concrete bridge pillar. Or you might be able to ferry across the current safely. Either way it would take a skilled paddler to accomplish this. Then I thought most of the people who would show up could do it, but I did find an eddy below the bridge you could get to by dragging your boat across a small ditch and have a safer and easier put in.



When I got back to the park and explained the situation, two boats decided not to do the trip. The rain had let up and we started the shuttle. By the time the shuttle was finished the water had stopped draining off the streets and it was an easier put in. The current made it a very fast float to the take out and the meal at the Spaghetti Warehouse was good.



On the way down Buffalo Bayou we saw a stalker, who was taking pictures of us paddlers all the way down to the bridge at Main. It turned out to be Ann Best, who joined us at the meal.

Cecilia and Joe, who didn't want to expose the boys to the weather, joined us also, along with Rick's wife. The Houston Canoe Club party was great, yet the post party that John and Cindy Bartos hosted put the final touches to a good day. Hopefully next year the Great Spirit will give us better weather, so more can join us on this beautiful stretch of Buffalo Bayou.



Paddlers for this trip included Rick Brunson, Ken Anderson, Tracy Caldwell and her friend Dutch, Mary and myself.

The earth is my mother.

The sky is my father
The animals are my brothers
The canoe lets me get closer to them
Paul.