



Houston Canoe Club  
*Waterline*



www.houstoncanoeclub.org :: Volume 2008 :: March

## Table of Contents

Next Meeting Announcement  
Last Meeting Minutes  
New Members  
Market Place  
And the Circle Turns  
Grand Central Station - Houston  
OLYMPIC TRIALS AT RIO VISTA  
Safety Minute  
Backwater Backwash  
Interview With A Paddler

## Trip Reports:

Upcoming River Trips  
HCC Trip on Sheldon Lake  
Featured Organization of the Month - TRPA

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](mailto:whitewaterider@yahoo.com).

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

## Next Meeting Announcement

---

- When:** March 12, 2008
- Where:** Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas
- Directions:** First driveway, North side of Bissonnet, just East of Hillcroft.
- Speaker:** Mike and Eva Quearry
- Speaker Bio:** We are both past officers of the HCC Members since 1990 More armchair canoeing these days, but do get out occasionally Eva canoeing since 1990 Mike since 1966 Favorite River ... Buffalo in Arkansas ...canoe/camp it most summers
- Description:** They will share with us tales of their paddling adventures in Vermont and Scotland.
- 

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

## Last Meeting Minutes

---

**Date:** March 12, 2008

**Recorder:** Robert Langley

**Minutes:** February 13th 2008 General Meeting Safety Moment: Donna Grimes gave a presentation on painters covering what type of rope to use, appropriate lengths and how to store for easy access. Bob presented the paddling awards for 2007 Stats: Total Trips in 2007 24 Total trip milage 362 Total HCC Participants in trips 61 Total Guest Participants in Trips 8 Total HCC Miles Paddled 2,922 Total Miles paddled by club and Guests 3,156 100 Mile + Paddlers Ken Anderson 165 Dana Enos 159 Cecila Gill 145 Christy Long 127 Ron Nunnelly 156 Bob Pearson 127 Paul Woodcock 173 Mary Zabrowski 173 Each paddler received a survival kit in a bottle purchased from Academy Most Trips Led Mary Zabrowski 7 Donna Grimes 3 Mary Z and Donna received a gift certificate to REI valued at \$20.00. Most Trips Attended Ken Anderson 12 Paul Woodcock 10 Mary Zabrowski 10 Most Mileage for Single trip Pecos River - Donna 780 Current River – Mary 406 Sabine River – Mary 308 Bob Author introduced the speaker, Marry Ellen Whitworth Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association. Marry Ellen gave a presentation on the water quality in the Houston area streams and the state of development. Committee Reports: Asset Committee: The committee formed to develop a long range plan for the clubs assets gave preliminary report. It was the opinion of the committee that there was no urgency to spend the clubs assets. The moneys should be held in a rainy day fund until needed. ACA Trip Committee: The committee charged with reassessing the clubs practice of making all trips ACA sanctioned trips and charging non-ACA members \$10 to participate in club trips gave a preliminary report. It was the opinion of the committee that: The club should stay a paddle America club (keep our affiliation with the ACA) Members who go on ACA sanctioned trips will need to sign a waver and non members will be charged \$5.00. (Current ACA rate) At the trip leaders option the trip could be a non sanctioned trip and the \$5.00 fee would not be required. Both sanctioned and non-sanctioned trips should be given HCC mileage credit. New Business: A motion was made to make Richard and Bonnie Donovan honorary members of the Houston Canoe Club. The motion was seconded and passed. Upcoming Trips Bayou City Regatta March 8th Volunteers are needed for sweep boats and safety. There is also an opportunity to set up a HCC booth at the finish line.

---

Please contact HCC's recorder, Robert Langley, if there are any omissions or corrections.

## New Members

---

**Member Name:** Zoltan Mraz

**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:** 15' KEVLAR SAWYER CUSTOMIZED SOLO CANOE  
**Description:** SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT, SUPER FAST, SUPER CLEAN! Too many boats! This one paddled 5 times & never in rocks or mud. BEAUTIFUL EMERALD GREEN COLOR. CUSTOM CONTOURED BUCKET SEAT with 2" closed cell foam & CUSTOM TOP GRAIN LEATHER COVER makes this a one of a kind! This boat will get you there FAST with COMFORT and CLASS! Comparable boat new would be over \$2400.

**Asking Price:** \$\$1100  
**Contact Name:** Randall Oliver  
**Contact Phone:** 972 962 4847  
**Contact Email:** roliver9999@embarqmail.com

###

**Item:** KLEPPER AERIUS II CLASSIC 2-PERSON FOLDING KAYAK  
**Description:** Ideal for long expeditions or air travel. Classic wood frame with rustproof alloy fittings, blue canvas deck, Grey hypalon hull. Extra keelstrip reinforcements.

Length: 17 feet  
Beam: 34 inches  
Capacity: 2 people and lots of gear (up to 850 lbs. total)  
Assembles in about 20 minutes. Breaks down into canvas bags for travel or storage.

Good condition, lightly used. Approximately 12 years old. Always stored indoors. There is a tear to an interior nylon sponson liner (not the air bladder), but it is not visible and does not affect performance.

Rudder, paddles and spray deck included. If bought new today, this boat would cost more than \$3,000. Manufacturer' s description: [http://www.klepper.com/en/faltboote\\_zweisitzer\\_aerius\\_ii\\_520.php](http://www.klepper.com/en/faltboote_zweisitzer_aerius_ii_520.php)

**Asking Price:** \$1,200.  
**Contact Name:** John Caldeira  
**Contact Phone:** 972-416-4712  
**Contact Email:** john@outdoorplace.org

###

**Item:** CIRRUS LT WOODEN KAYAK  
**Description:** A fast, lightweight and attractive touring kayak for paddlers between 100 and 180 pounds. Mahogany plywood hull and cedar strip deck. Length is 16 feet, width is 21.5 inches. Straight-tracking, excellent secondary stability. Very good condition, constructed in 2005. Priced for quick sale,

Photos of this kayak:

<http://www.outdoorplace.org/paddling/CirrusLT/CirrusLT3.htm>

**Asking Price:** \$1,100  
**Contact Name:** John Caldeira  
**Contact Phone:** 972-416-4712  
**Contact Email:** john@outdoorplace.org

###

---

## Items Wanted

**Item:** Canoe Saddle and knee pads  
**Description:** I would like a canoe saddle/pedestal and some knee pads to put back into my big canoe like I used to have in there. They were removed to re-outfit the boat for a trip to Canada, but never put back.

I could also use some closed foam padding that I can cut and shape as I need.

**Contact Name:** Cecilia Gill  
**Contact Phone:** 832-741-2713  
**Contact Email:** whitewaterider@yahoo.com

###

**Item:** Small Canoe end bags  
**Description:** Small triangle shaped air bags for the very tippy tips of my canoe. Anyone here have a couple they have lying around taking up (not much) space?

Either that or closed cell foam blocks that are either already pretty much the shape of the ends of a canoe or that I can shape myself.

**Contact Name:** Cecilia Gill  
**Contact Phone:** 832-741-2713  
**Contact Email:** whitewaterider@yahoo.com

###

---

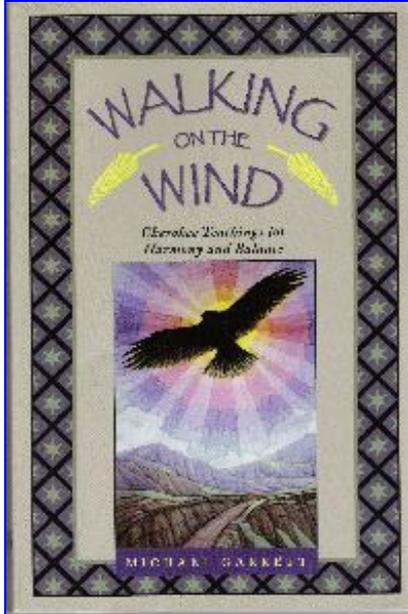
Please contact the Newsletter Editor, Cecilia Gill at whitewaterider@yahoo.com to post any items that you may have for sale or desparately need.

# And the Circle Turns

by

Paul Woodcock

The following chapter from "Walking on the Wind Cherokee Teachings for Harmony and Balance" explains better than I can, why I spend so much time camping on river banks.



## AND THE CIRCLE TURNS

We are connected with all things, and we need only discover this truth to discover the power and beauty of relation that flows through the Circle. In the Cherokee Way, we call upon all our relations for strength, guidance, wisdom, and protection. We call upon our relations for comfort and for sharing. There is harmony and balance in the energy of our connections.

All things are alive and have spirit. All things have a purpose in this world and all things are deserving of the respect and kindness we would give to any brother or sister. It is up to us to really listen and to "feel" the connection that we have with all our relations, including the plants and trees, or "tree people;" the animals as our four-legged brothers and sisters; the birds, or "winged ones the fish, the little insects, and all the rocks and minerals or rock people. The ground upon which we walk or" Mother Earth;" the winds, or "Four Powers;" the rain and the cloud people:" "Father Sky," "Grandfather Sun and Grandmother Moon," and "The Red Thunder Beings" We are members of this sacred family. And we too, have an honored place in the circle.

We give thanks to the Great One, to each of the Four Directions, to Father Sky, to Mother Earth, and to all our relations for all the gifts that we receive. All of these things have life of their own, and all these things are sacred. Each one has a special reason for existing and a sacred purpose to fulfill in the greater scheme of things. Each one has a lesson to offer us if we just take the time to watch and listen, and to feel the spirit of our brothers and sisters. Each one represents a single strand in the Web of life or a single color in rainbow of many colors. All of these things are to be respected as a special part of the Greater Circle

Of life. And it is the "relation" of each part to the others that creates a special flow into the energy called "Life," through harmony and balance. Therefore, we look to each of the Four Directions and give thanks.

In the direction of the East, Grandfather Sun rises each day, once again bathing us in his warmth and light. As the night sky fades into the west and Sun renews his path along the sky vault, we are again reminded of the Circle, ongoing, everlasting. Young flowers bend themselves toward the brightness and open their petals to receive Sun's life energy. The little plants embrace the sunlight as they welcome the new day. In the traditional way, we also greet Father Sun every



morning, giving thanks. Every day, we acknowledge his warmth and light as everything on Mother Earth flows strong and flourishes in his beauty. Grandfather Sun is sacred and so . Too. Is his child, The Sacred Fire.



Every day, we can acknowledge the beauty in every living thing by taking the time to notice it. The same is true of our relations with other people. We should acknowledge the warmth and light everyone. We can acknowledge the Sacred Fire in every living thing. We all share much in common no matter who we are or where we come from. We are all part of the same family.

In the direction of the South, we give thanks for the natural beauty of the plants, the trees, all the greenery that gives food to eat, shelter to protect us, tools for our survival. Mother Earth has been around since the beginning of time. She has undergone many changes, and she has endured with great splendor and mystery.



We human beings have been around for a long time, too. And we have survived only because of the attention that mother earth devotes to us, her children, providing us with all the things that we need to live and grow. We too must give our attention to Mother earth as she requires nurturing and care. It is important for us to find time every once in awhile to just go out and spend some time with Mother Earth, even if only for fifteen minutes or so. It is important for us to

thank our Mother for the gift of life and appreciate all of her beauty. As always, it is good for us to give thanks for the gifts we receive and to give something in return no matter how great or small.

In the direction of West, we are reminded of the sound of raindrops falling on leaves-raindrops falling to the ground, gently, steadily. We can hear the soothing sound of the rain in our minds; we can feel the cleansing in our hearts. We are reminded of the still surface and wondrous beauty of ponds and lakes. We can at once see our reflections in the surface and depths of what lies beneath. We are reminded of the sound of a mountain river rushing over heavy rocks and feel of a soft mist on our faces from the river's steady motion. We can hear the river singing its ancient song.

The sacred element of Water is purifying and healing in its gentleness and infinite strength. Water quenches our thirst. I cleanse our body mind, and spirit of toxins, and it gives of itself in all ways so that we may live. When we once grew inside our mothers, we were surrounded by the comfort of Water . The spirit of Water is that of purity and it reminds us of the importance of appreciating and embracing the natural flow. It reminds us that we, too are liquid beings(our bodies are some 80 percent water) who must flow in order to be in our best Medicine. Water is one of the most powerful elements because of its ability to absorb such enormous amounts of energy.



We also have the ability to embrace the energy of all things and to value the energy that makes every living thing unique and strong in its own way.

In the direction of the North, we listen to the quiet of Wind carrying our thoughts

forth. When we are born, Wind gives us our first breath. From that time on, Wind is always with us and we inhale and exhale, inhale and exhale we are during our time on mother Earth forever receiving and giving back. So too, Wind enters our bodies, our minds and our spirits, bringing solitude and strength and then leaves us, taking uncertainty and fear with it transforming this disharmony into gentle energy.

Right now inhale deeply as you count to four, then slowly exhale, counting



backward from seven. Do this four times and give thanks each time. The spirit of Wind is that of calm and quiet-wisdom. Wind is most generous in its movements. It breathes life upon all things and carries away destructive energies, replacing them with a sense of stillness. Just as Wind breathes life into us we have the ability to breathe life into those

around us by allowing our gentleness and kindness to show through and embrace our relations.

With each of the directions, we are reminded of our interrelationship with all things. We must acknowledge and encourage our interdependence with all our relations for the Circle of life to continue in harmony and balance. We have the opportunity to give thanks for all the gifts that we receive in the way that we live and the way of life that we choose. Like all living beings, we have a sacred place in the Circle and we always have something to give. It is up to us to discover what that is. It is up to us to know our Medicine and to use it for the benefit of the Circle and all our relations.

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

# Grand Central Station - Houston

by

**Louis F. Aulbach**

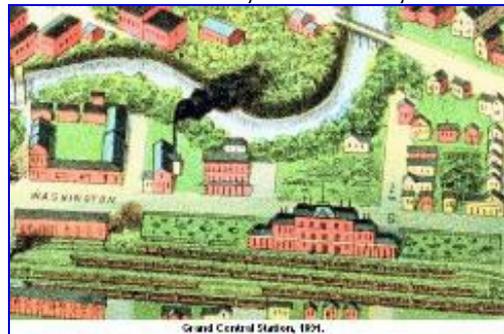
As you paddle under the Preston Avenue bridge and approach the bend in the bayou that takes you toward Allen's Landing, the forty foot concrete wall of the 1928 channelization project obscures your view of Buffalo Bayou's historic north bank.



In earlier times, the north bank sloped up to Washington Road where the Houston and Texas Central Railroad had its passenger depot. Near the terminal tracks, the switching yards and the parkways near the depot was Henke's Wagon Yard, a campsite established during the 1870's as an adjunct to Henry

Henke's New Orleans Store. On the strip of land between Washington Road and Buffalo Bayou, opposite the site of the railroad station, was Vinegar Hill, a notorious slum where drinking, gambling and brawls were common, and cocaine addicts frequented its dives. In late October, 1886, the Texas Central Depot became the center of local interest when the fierce Apache chief Geronimo was on display at the depot while a prisoner of war of the US Army and en route from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio to confinement in Florida with thirty-two Apache braves, their women and children.

With the growth of the railroads in Houston and the acquisition of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad by the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1883, a modern, three story brick Grand Central Station was constructed in 1887 for \$80,000 to replace the earlier depot on the site. Railroads were an important transportation link between Houston and the rest of the country. By the 1890's, hotels were built in the vicinity of the depot to accommodate the traveling businessmen and the general public.



The Grand Central Hotel was across from the depot on the southeast corner of Washington Avenue and 7th Street. The hotel Dining Hall offered ten course dinners costing fifty cents in 1899. The Lawlor Hotel was located on the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and 7th Street and was near the top of the bank of Buffalo Bayou. By 1906, the Brazos Hotel was built between Buffalo Bayou and Washington Avenue, across from Grand Central Station. It was a popularly priced hotel that catered to the traveling salesmen who arrived in Houston by passenger train. The Macatee Hotel was one block east of Grand Central Station. By 1920, the Tennison Hotel, a "railroad station hotel" serving business travelers arriving by train, was built to the west of the station. The Tennison was "popularly priced" at \$2 per night.

Grand Central Station was remodeled twice, once in 1906 and, again, in 1914. By



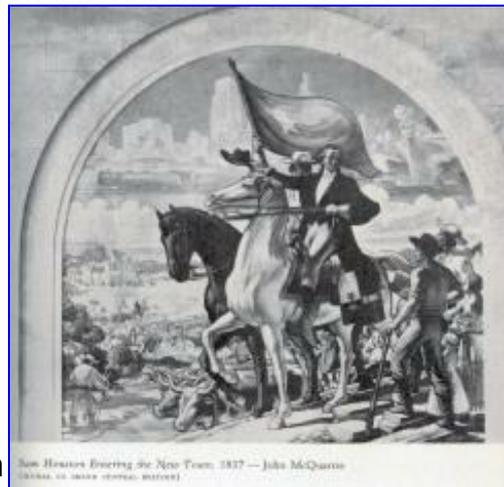
1924, the Grand Central Depot consisted of a passenger depot in the center of the main building with railroad offices on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Other offices were located on the east wing, and the baggage room and mail offices were on the west wing. Two 600 foot long train sheds extended over the tracks on



the north side of the depot to protect the passengers from the elements.

Plans were made for a new passenger depot in 1929. Construction began in May, 1933, and the new Grand Central Station opened on September 1, 1934. The project was a joint venture between the Southern Pacific Railroad and the City of Houston. The total cost of \$4,347,000 for the facility and tracks as well as improvements to the city streets and the bayou was divided equally between the city and the railroad company.

The modernistic station was designed by Wyatt C. Hedrick of Houston. The exterior of the building was Texas Cordova cream-colored limestone set on a base of Texas pink granite. The main waiting room was a large, two story chamber with a floor of marble and terrazzo and walls with a marble wainscoting topped with a cream-colored marble. Wood trimmings were of black walnut. Decorative panels at each end of the main room consisted of murals by John McQuarrie of San Francisco, one depicting Stephen F. Austin and Baron de Bastrop in 1823 and the other of Sam Houston entering the town in 1837. The main waiting room was flanked by offices and a restaurant on the west wing. A smaller "colored waiting room," offices, a lunch room and the baggage room were located on the east wing.



Grand Central Station was razed in 1961. It was replaced by the new US Post Office which still occupies the site.

# OLYMPIC TRIALS AT RIO VISTA

by  
**Anne Olden**

This should be in the "Trip Reports" section of the newsletter. Apologies.  
Cecilia



Saturday, February 16, had been rainy and gray, but toward evening a rainbow became the good omen for Sunday's competition. The weather prognosticators were right. Sunday was perfect – warm and sunny. Over thirty Olympic competitors in racing kayaks, C1's and C2's slalomed through 18 gates hanging over the three-tiered Rio Vista rapids. They came from many states, including Colorado, North Carolina, California, and Idaho. The top female kayaker that day was a young woman

with dual British/American citizenship who came from England. Athletes as young as ten and as old as 76 tried the course in non-Olympic groups, one of which was the Hill Country Paddlers. It was especially exciting to watch Ben Kvanli and Mark Poindexter negotiate the gates in their C2.



Weeks of preparation by Michelle and Ben Kvanli and others made this event possible. It is the first Olympic-related competition in Texas. Joe Jacobi, a former Olympic paddler who was on hand to work with the competitors, thinks it won't be the last. Jim Stuart came from Washington, DC to supervise and help with a myriad of details, including teetering on tree limbs over the water to position the gates.

Competitors were registered, judges trained, timekeepers and scorekeepers synchronized. Volunteers came from all over Texas to help out.

Rio Vista was a challenging course, with the most experienced kayakers pinwheeling their double blades through the gates. The top finishers will compete on April 25-27 at the course built in Charlotte, NC. A special thanks to the City of San Marcos, the Kvanlis, Jim Stuart and all those who made this an exciting and successful event. Go to [www.kayakinstruction.org](http://www.kayakinstruction.org) to find the results and pictures.



PS – Put SPRINGFEST on your calendar for April 5-7 at Rio Vista, with vendors,

demos, and fun competition.

Editor's Note:



Along with all the general excitement and fun, some great inspirations for a couple of up and coming little paddlers occurred. When Lonnie and Morgan saw Chris from Colorado in his C1 the day we were setting up the course, They both said, "I want to be like him!" Chris was kind enough to pose with them for a picture.

The next day during the trials, they saw Chelsea, a 10 year old girl not much bigger than 7 year old Lonnie competing. She was kind enough to pose for a picture, too. Morgan was upset when it was all over because, "But, I didn't get my lesson, yet! I didn't get my kayak yet!" Believe it or not, they make kayaks and gear that tiny!



Maybe in a few years some kid will be asking THEM to pose for a picture!

One last image I just had to share... This was caused by the wind after we had already spent a lot of time and effort trying to get the gates, # boards and sponsor names up. Apologies to Tanger Outlet, but yes, paddling sure is a great ANGER outlet!

Cecilia



# Safety Minute

by

**Paul Woodcock**

This month's Safety Minute will be on Rack Safety.

RS1. Always be sure to lock racks when you put them on your vehicle I have heard



of one instance when they were lost when not locked. You should remove racks when not in use as they will make at least 2 mpg difference I have even read an estimated 5mpg. Also they cause problems in parking garages. Notice the green foam to protect head injuries. I always lock mine when I remove them so I will remember to lock them when I install them on my truck.

RS2 Always check bars for tightness. I know of one incident where they worked loose.



RS3 Always check clips for tightness.

Notice I am tightening tie downs on passenger side of vehicle. When possible this is best because if you have to stop roadside to re-tighten straps you are away from passing vehicles (however) RS4 This is incorrect you can not tighten strap with upward motion



RS 6. This is the correct direction to tighten if you are going to park vehicle with canoe on



top for a length of time loosen strap I saw one boat deformed because of the tight straps and heat.

RS8 Always tie down front and back as the wind creates a tremendous amount of lift.



RS 9 Check straps at each stop. This is what I discovered when coming out of Gander Mountain one day. I guess someone needed a tie down strap for something.

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

# 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.

Recently, there has been a lot of controversy about insurance, politics, policies, religion, personal choices in clothing, and single versus double blade paddles used in canoes. Since the most controversial subject is the last one, and no one really cares about any of the others, we will discuss the heated debate of paddle choice. Hopefully I won't ruffle too many feathers with this...



As most of us know, the purists believe that you can paddle a canoe ONLY with a single blade paddle, and ONLY with very specific techniques, while ONLY kneeling in a specific position. Anything else is not canoeing. If one chooses to use a double blade paddle rather than a single blade, oh, well then, they are not canoeing! Of course, the same people who believe this, well, everything they own matches, has a designer label and comes from stores that have a Starbuck's in them and Ghirardelli chocolates near the check out... I mean the purchase assistance counters.



Some of us know that it is perfectly OK to paddle how ever you want. While some people just seem to live to wring the ever lovin' life out of anything that might nearly have resembled fun at one time, others of us know that yes, there are certain basics that should be learned, but unless you are going to teach or do some kind of competition, WHO CARES!!! I double blade MY canoe because it is really an expedition tandem with a 1500 lb. capacity. I paddle solo with kids, gear, food, pets, etc. I am not going to struggle just to make someone else happy.



OK, I admit it. Maybe I'm really a kayaker. I do kayak, and I prefer kayaking, but its hard to tote as much in my kayak and the kids and pets don't like having to swim along side of me...

I have been known to paddle with my legs outstretched, and even with my feet hanging over the gunwales. I could just about live in my boat. It took me a while, but



I finally realized that as long as you can make the boat go that way and then if a rock or something gets in your way, turn, you're doing just fine. And to think, when I first started out I had people who, under the guise of trying to help me learn, all but sucked the enjoyment out of the sport. And isn't that why each and every one of us do this in the first place? For fun?

~~~~~  
SYOTR!

~~~~

Cecilia

# Interview With A Paddler

by  
Cecilia Gill

First, I have to credit Anne Olden with coming up with this idea. Actually, the original idea was to interview the officers, but the officers seemed to think that the general membership should be interviewed instead. I threatened to interview Anne Olden first, but really, I suppose I could get the ball rolling by interviewing myself. The problem was, once I got me to talking, I couldn't get me to shut up.

THIS MONTH: CECILIA (BARKER) GILL



## 1. WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GET INTO THE SPORT OF PADDLING?

Dog sledding. (Huh?) Watching the Iditerod and dog sledding in general, I got to see a lot of canoes and kayaks. The only ways to get around certain parts of the world are by sea plane, dog sled or canoe & kayak. I have dog sledded myself, am not much for . leaving Terra Firma, and thought that the Inuits had the right idea. That might sound like a strange round about way to get interested in paddling, but that is it. Also, I went for a canoe rather than a kayak originally because I wanted the dogs to be able to ride, too



## 2. WHEN DID YOU FIRST TRY PADDLING?

1994 or '95 on Lake Houston.....That was a disaster I'd rather not talk about. OK, I'll tell you. I wanted to take my new canoe on the San Jacinto River for its maiden voyage. My friend that was going with me (who also had never set foot in a canoe before) convinced me to go to Lake Houston instead, at Deuson Park. The water was choppy, I didn't know to tie anything in the boat, I had a puppy with me, but at least I knew to put stuff in baggies. After flipping, my friend went after the stuff that floated, while I tried to hold onto my new boat which was barely floating underwater, my puppy and a paddle. (To this day I'm not sure where that third hand came from or where it went when the ordeal was over.) I yelled at him to come back. He thought I was yelling "Gar! Alligator Gar!" But what I was REALLY yelling was "Forget the garbage! Forget the G\*D\* garbage!" After we got the boat and the puppy safely on land, plus a nice dent in the boat from some re-bar, and a scar on my shin from said re-bar, both of which are still there and still visible, we discovered that Doritos bags are water tight and float. We sat and ate the Doritos, packed up and went home.

The Canoe Rendezvous, where I joined the Houston Canoe Club and learned a little paddling, was only a month or two after that. I learned about the Rendezvous when I bought the boat at REI. The Rendezvous was where I learned that the Reakin' Regatta, which by then was recently renamed Buffalo Bayou Regatta, was still in existence. I got a beer mug that had "Reakin' Regatta" on it at the Regatta,

but it has since vanished. The funny thing is, my brother did that race many years before when I was a kid, and yet, he was not the reason I got into paddling.

In a nutshell, I bought the boat in '94 or '95, I think it was, went to the Rendezvous a month or two later where I met Mary Z and Paul, then a couple of short trips, then the Buffalo Bayou Regatta the next spring where I met them a second time. They were the first people from HCC that I met.

### 3. WHAT KIND OF PADDLING DO YOU DO?

I like expedition camp-out-of-the-boat canoe trips, and whitewater play boat kayaking. I was getting pretty good kayaking when I got (shall we say) with child. That went out the window for a while, but I am slowly getting back into that. We have already done a lot of camp out of the boat trips as well as short day trips.

### 4. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE RIVER OR SPOT TO PADDLE?

Hmm... I rather like surfing in Padre Island. Any clear river that has some rapids is always nice. Lakes in general are OK, but I prefer a nice river with a good flow or a good beach with a nice surf. The Sabine is generally relaxing. The Medina is really pretty. The San Marcos is nice... Of course there is the beautiful Current in Missouri, and the tons of fun and lovely to boot Nantahala... hard to choose.

### 5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOAT?

I have two faves. My first boat, a Dagger Venture 17 canoe named River Pirate, and my Pyranha Attak! play boat kayak named Little Fishy.

### 6. DO YOU HAVE A GOOD PADDLING STORY TO SHARE?

See question #2. I have others, really, and maybe even better ones, but I'm sure people have quit reading this by now. By the way, I have yet to paddle the San Jacinto River.

THANK YOU!

(These same questions will be asked of the lucky person who gets picked next.)

## Upcoming River Trips

---

### HCC Trips:

- Date:** Monday, March 10, 2008  
**Title:** Texas Whitewater Rodeo and LVM premiere  
**Inclusive Dates:** March 10  
**Description:** We would like to offer an invitation to the Houston Canoe Club to come out and join us at Rio Vista Falls in San Marcos March 8, 2008 for a Texas Whitewater Rodeo. The rodeo begins at 2:00 p.m. with cash and prizes. After the Rodeo come and enjoy a Lunch Video Magazine Premiere at Austin Canoe and Kayak San Marcos Store at 6:00 p.m. There will be food, drinks, door prizes, and a raffle. Everyone should bring their own chairs! For more information check out <http://www.huckoff.net> and just click on the links for LVM and the Texas Whitewater Rodeo.
- Skill Level:** **Blank:**  
###
- Date:** Saturday, March 15, 2008  
**Title:** Buffalo National River Trip- Arkansas Spring Break - 80 miles  
**Inclusive Dates:** March 15-21, 2008  
**Description:** Will meet at Gilbert, Arkansas General store at 12:00 p.m. for shuttle. Class 1 and 2 rapids. Two short portages. Weather will be unknown from 30 - 80 degrees. Will have planning meeting to be announced. Will average paddling 12- 15 miles per day. Camping skills required. Co-Contact person: Paul Woodcock 731 594 9969
- 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](mailto:maryzabo@sbcglobal.net).  
###
- Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2008  
**Title:** Alabama Whitewater At Easter  
**Inclusive Dates:** March 21 - 23  
**Description:** The plan is to paddle the Locust Fork of the Warrior River for 2 days and the Mulberry Fork 1 day. The Locust Fork is great Class III river and the Mulberry Class II. We had a good time on both several years ago. Info on the rivers is available at [www.alabamawhitewater.com](http://www.alabamawhitewater.com), look at Lower Locust Fork and Lower Mulberry Fork. Both rivers are located just north of Birmingham, about 700 mi from Houston.

These rivers are rain dependent so we may need to alter plans if the water is too low or too high. The alternate will

be the Big Piney in Arkansas.

The trip will be an ACA sanctioned event. Everyone will be asked to read and sign the ACA wavier. Non-ACA members will be required to pay a \$5.00 ACA fee

**Skill Level:** **Advanced:** Paddles a white water boat (canoe or kayak) has mastered basic strokes and maneuvers, adept at playing & surfing, is able to run Class 3 rapids confidently, but challenged by Class 4. Able to self-rescue or Eskimo roll in Class 3 rapids and able to assist in rescues. Reads water quickly & accurately.

**Contact:** Contact John Olden by phone 713-864-0205, or by email [johnold@ix.netcom.com](mailto:johnold@ix.netcom.com).

###

**Date:** Saturday, March 29, 2008

**Title:** Armand Bayou Trash Bash

**Inclusive Dates:** March 29

**Description:** A Houston Canoe Club tradition.

This has been an annual HCC event for 20+ years.

**Skill Level:** **Beginner:** Familiarity with basic strokes and can make the boat go straight on flat water typically experienced on Armand Bayou, can maneuver the boat on slowly moving water, is aware of basic river safety and can confidently avoid hazards and strainers frequently experienced on Texas' Colorado River or the Buffalo Bayou at a modest flow rate.

###

**Date:** Friday, April 04, 2008

**Title:** La Louisiane Freestyle Symposium

**Inclusive Dates:** April 4 - 6

**Description:** La Lou, as it's now known, provides expert canoe instruction on a quietwater venue for folks wanting to improve their paddling skills with an emphasis on FreeStyle techniques at the advanced levels. We have fun while providing an instructive weekend and look forward to meeting old and new friends. Courses include a selection of several skill levels in both solo and tandem open canoeing conducted by experienced ACA certified instructors.

Near Fountainebleau State Park, Mandeville, LA. (north shore of Lake Ponchatrain, across from New Orleans); accessible by I-10 or I-12. Maps will be provided to registrants

Most folks find it much more convenient to stay on site in one of four bunkhouse style dorms. Those people should bring bedding, pillow, and towels. Each bunkhouse has communal bathroom facilities including hot showers. Camping is strictly prohibited on site, but RV or tent sites are available close-by at Fontainebleau State Park Campground.

The Camp has a dining/meeting hall in which meals will be provided for those selecting that option. Past participants will attest to the fine Cajun cuisine at La Lou suppers and full breakfasts at modest prices

Participants should bring a canoe, paddles, PFD (lifevests, not cushions will be required on water), and kneeling pads. We will instruct you in any canoe brought. Since La Lou is obedience lessons for your canoe, most folks bring their own canoes and paddles. For those just getting started or who cannot transport a canoe arrangements can be made in advance for a loaner or rental through John Steib. This applies to kneeling pads, and life vests as well.

**Skill Level:** **Neophyte:** Never paddled before.

**Contact:** Contact John Steib by phone (225) 654-5224, or by email [jsteib@cox.net](mailto:jsteib@cox.net).

###

**Date:** Saturday, April 05, 2008

**Title:** San Marcos Springfest

**Inclusive Dates:** April 5 - 6

**Description:** Rio Vista Falls Park, San Marcos, TX

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

**Skill Level:** **Blank:** Select this level if this portion is not to appear in the listing.

###

---

## Other Club Trips:

# HCC Trip on Sheldon Lake

by  
Natalie Wiest

Mary Zaborowski and Paul Woodcock advertised a paddling trip to Sheldon Lake on Saturday, February 23rd, and my daughter Ellen and I were very pleased to join them for this midwinter paddle. Unlike my usual habit, I got there well before the guides and was much chagrined to find our usual access from Garrett Road not only gated, but also locked! John and Cindy Bartos were next on the scene, followed by Jack Borns and his grandson Jay. Cell phone consultation with Z and Paul decided on putin from the public boat ramp on the southwest corner of the lake, off of Pineland Drive and by 10 a.m. we were underway.



You know it's going to be a tough putin when you notice boat trailers draped in water hyacinth and hydrilla like the one in the picture. Even with those boatloads of hyacinth being removed and paths presumably cut by the 4 or so

motorboats ahead of us, it was still tough paddling through the weeds to open water.



Jack and Jay are shown cruising through in style. We paddled north from the ramp, to the west side of the spoil islands that will soon be teeming with nesting birds. Moorhens seemed to be

everywhere, running across the hyacinths – at least some critter seems to benefit from these awful weeds. The islands provided a nice



break from the winds, and the water here is deep enough the aquatic plants haven't quite as much of a foothold.

We had noticed from the former parking lot on Garrett Road that there was almost no passable water in any direction from there. I've enjoyed paddling upstream from there on



Carpenter's Bayou, but there was certainly no getting there from the parking area this day.



I always enjoy watching John and Cindy paddle – their expertise in freestyle paddling certainly translates to fine cruising skills, and here is John demonstrating one-handed paddling pizzazz.

We continued on around the lake. I'm not sure I've ever done the entire circumference and the eastern

side is nicely wild and natural, even with the dike all along there. It was a first for me too to see the dam that maintains the waterlevel on the lake. It seemed to have only slowed the hyacinths but they had also spilled over into the stream below. Aquatic plants are maximized any time of the year here; it's so choked with them in the warmer months as to be virtually impassable. Some of the water lilies' leaves had turned red; some had just begun to green up, and others were waiting for much warmer weather.



It wouldn't be a complete trip without some good food, and Z charcoaled hot dogs for us at the developing Sheldon Lake State Park. I'd never been there either; its entrance is off of old highway 90, Beaumont Highway, a few miles east of the boat ramp. In addition to a very nice picnic area there are miles of hiking trails and a nice exhibit area. Temperatures had started off near 50 and reached a high of 65, nearly perfect for paddling even if a little cool for picnicking. Fragrant Mexican plum trees were in full bloom. We were eating by 2 and leaving by 3 – it was an excellent day on the water and off! You all should join us next time.

In addition to the photos included with the newsletter, I have put up an album at: <http://good-times.webshots.com/album/562649344IBvdJE>

Natalie Wiest

Houston Canoe Club paddler

# Featured Organization of the Month - TRPA

by

**Anne Olden**

This featured article will normally appear in the "Articles" section of the newsletter.



## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL TRPA MEETING

March 2, 2008

As a board member of Texas Rivers Protection Association, I attended the annual TRPA meeting, which is held on the Sunday following the first Saturday in March San Marcos cleanup. Tom Goynes is president, Vice President Dave Reichert, Secretary Leslie Redwine, and Treasurer Duane TeGrotenhuis (TG Canoes). Rich Grayson handles the website (txrivers.org), where you can become a TRPA member through PayPal.

Three new members were added to the board on March 2: Eric McGhee of Spring, Gay Culbertson of College Station and Charles Zucker of Austin. Thanks to outgoing board members Michael Van Winkle, Mark Andrus and Jim Hatcher for their service. Bios of these new board members are in the newsletter, which can be read at the website.

One current issue on TRPA's radar is the potential rockcrusher on the bank of the Guadalupe River in Center Point. Currently only a gravel pit operation is allowed. The business filed for a TCEQ air quality permit and later for a permit to take water out of the river for the rockcrushing operation. TRPA, at the request of Center Point residents, is opposing both of these permits and has asked for a public meeting and a contested case hearing on both. TCEQ has already cited the operation for dust from the gravel trucks. There are residents and a school near the business. The water removal permit is especially insidious because for every three acre feet of water requested, only one acre foot is debited.

Big news for Hidalgo Falls! Steve Daniel, TRPA board member and guiding force of Hidalgo Falls, was given the go-ahead by the board to have a well dug and septic system installed. After this is completed, two small water closets (toilets) will be built. In time, it is hoped that there will be showers, but having potable water will be a plus. To have access to Hidalgo Falls (there is a locked gate at the property, which is owned by TRPA), you must belong to TRPA. Don't forget the Hidalgo Falls Festival on April 12-13. The work mentioned above won't be ready this year, but you can have a good time anyway. See the HCC website for info or go to <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/hf-fest7.html>

# Not Found

The requested URL /waterline/2008/march/trip\_4.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*