



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.

Next Meeting Announcement

- When:** February 11, 2009
Where: Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas
Directions: First driveway, North side of Bissonnet, just East of Hillcroft.
Speaker: Ben and Michelle Kvanli
Speaker Bio: Founders of the Power Olympic Outdoor Center in San Marcos, Texas
Description: They will catch us up on last year's Olympic Trials, Junior Olympics events, Springs Fest in San Marcos and much more!
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Be sure to set this date aside on your calendar, then come out to support our speaker and club.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes are not available.

New Members

New Members were not made available.

HCC Market Place

Nothing to sell or wanted.

Buffalo Bayou's British Connection, the World Class Art of Henry Moore

by

Linda Gorski and Louis F. Aulbach



Linda Gorski stands near Henry Moore's Large Reclining Figure at Kew Gardens in London. The Palm House, a distinctive Victorian iron-framed glasshouse, provides an evocative backdrop for the modernist sculpture. Photo Credit: Linda Gorski

A major exhibit of monumental works by pre-eminent British sculptor Henry Moore was recently held at the famous Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in London. Twenty-eight of Moore's outdoor sculptures were gathered from across England and sited in Kew Gardens from September, 2007 to March, 2008, making it the first exhibition of its kind in London. It was also one of the most well-attended events ever held at Kew Gardens.

But, did you know that we have one of Henry Moore's sculptures right here in Houston?

"Large Spindle Piece" was created by Moore in 1969 and was originally part of Moore's Spindle series which was placed in London's Hyde Park to honor the sculptor. In 1979, the tall bronze sculpture was purchased by the Knox Foundation and given to the City of Houston.



Large Spindle Piece by renowned British artist Henry Moore. Photo Credit: Linda Gorski

Originally, the sculpture was to stand in Tranquility Park. However, when Moore came to Houston, he deemed the proposed site there unsuitable, saying it was too complicated, too confined and that the architecture surrounding it would interfere with the lines of the piece. Instead, he selected a prominent knoll along Buffalo Bayou, between Allen Parkway and Memorial Drive, where the sculpture stands today.

Moore's Spindle series evolved from a visit he made to the Vatican in 1925. He was fascinated by Michelangelo's depiction of God creating man with the touching index fingers in the Sistine Chapel fresco. Describing his Large Spindle Piece, Moore said, "Sculpturally, it's two points just about to meet. This work is on the same theme, only the two fingers are going out, not in."

The Large Spindle Piece is a 12 foot tall cast bronze abstract sculpture mounted on a circular cast concrete base that is painted matte brown. Although this is a significant work of art, there is no plaque or sign near it that identifies the sculpture or the artist. Upon close inspection, the artist's signature and designation of the sculpture's number in the series ("4/6") can be seen near the base. A foundry mark of Hermann Noack of Berlin also appears on the lower edge, facing the Houston skyline. Unfortunately, as is the



Henry Moore's signature on the Large Spindle Piece. Photo Credit: Linda Gorski



case with so many stunning pieces of art around the world, this sculpture has been marred by graffiti, a small amount of which is shown in the photo.



Henry Moore was born in 1868 in Yorkshire, England and died on August 31, 1986, at the age of 88, at his home in Hertfordshire. As is befitting such an important British sculptor, his body is interred in the Artist's Corner at St Paul's Cathedral in London. He had an interesting career in the arts, including a period during World War II when he was commissioned as a war artist, notably producing powerful drawings of Londoners sleeping in the London Underground while sheltering from the blitz. These drawings boosted Moore's international reputation, particularly in America. However, Moore is best known for his abstract monumental bronze and carved marble sculptures which can be seen in many outdoor spaces around the world as public works of art. Occasionally, Moore created his large scale works using fiberglass, as in the Large Reclining Figure on display at Kew. The lightweight nature of fiberglass was especially suited to the production and transportation of a few of his larger works.



The panorama of the collection from the Art Gallery of Ontario shows the breadth of his monumental style.

Although Moore's works are exhibited in major cities around the world, including a current display at the New York Botanical Garden (May 24-November 2, 2008), Moore's iconic spindle on Buffalo Bayou is Houston's best kept art secret.

The Galveston Bay Foundation

by

John Bartos



When there is an issue around Galveston Bay, and the media is looking for someone to speak for the bay, the Galveston Bay Foundation has become the spokesman for our natural resource that can't speak for itself. The Foundation is in this position based on its reputation developed since it was founded in 1987, for fair and science based advocacy of bay issues and the many projects it has undertaken to restore bay habitat.

GBF is not just another environmental group. There are members who represent all of the users of the bay. Commercial fisherman and sport anglers, bayside industry and environmental organizations, municipalities and members of the public, recreational boater and shipping and barge interests are all represented on the GBF board. Somehow all these divergent interests have been able to come together for the good of the bay. The Housotn Canoe Club has been a delegate organization to GBF since near its beginning.

Why does HCC have an interest in this? There are many great places to paddle around the bay, but the interests of GBF also extend to the tributaries of the bay. That includes the Trinity River, San Jacinto River, Buffalo Bayou as well as smaller tributaries like Armand Bayou, Clear Creek, Turtle Bayou, Double Bayou and Dickinson Bayous. GBF has been working on water quality and water quantity issues for many years. The latter involves trying to protect the amount of freshwater that enters the bay and its estuaries. That freshwater is vital to keep the bay healthy and protect habitat. You may have heard recently that there has been a major extension of a fish advisory due to dioxin and PCB's around the bay. This type of thing really points out the urgent need to protect the bay.



GBF also has restored hundreds of acres of marsh in the bay system, much of which has been lost due to subsidence, development and wave action. Marsh Mania is one of the events conducted by the Foundation each year that creates new marsh. GBF also has acquired land that it protects around the bay. It has worked to restore islands, remove barges and promote a boater waste disposal program.

The Foundation has an educational outreach program that works to teach school students as well as adults about the importance of the bay to the



quality of life in Houston and bay communities. It is amazing that many students don't know where the bay is, how close it is to downtown Houston and its importance for birds and wildlife. GBF conducts Bay Day each year to bring publicity to bay issues to the public. Lots of other fun events like annual Trash Bash and the Bike Around the Bay are coordinated by GBF.



GBF really is a vital organization for the protection of the bay for all of its users. I believe that it is important that HCC maintain a presence with this group. I hope that you will look into the many other activities that GBF is involved in and maybe get involved and/or become a member. Read about it at <http://galvbay.org/>. Get involved. It is fun as well as important for the future of Galveston Bay which affects all of us in the Houston Area.

John Bartos is proud to have represented the Houston Canoe Club on the GFB board since 1992.

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.

This won't be quite as much fun as past issues, but I promise it will be every bit as confusing and pointless. Because of everything that has happened this summer, and thanks to Hurricane Ike, I now have new hobbies. Not the kind of hobbies that produce useless cutesy stuff, but hobbies none the less. So, this issue is about hobbies, sort of, and how I acquired them.

Well, summer has come and gone. Hurricane season has come and gone, Ike has caused a lot of people grief, and school is still in session. So far, one trip has been canceled due to Hurricane Gustav, and another was postponed thanks to Ike. We could have gone somewhere up Northwest to run the Llano or something, but we stayed home to batten down hatches, as we have many hatches that need battening down. I heard how much fun people who did OTHER trips around Texas and other places had. We had no fun at all battening down hatches. However, we found a good use for the wooden fence that was falling down on its own. We boarded up the windows with the fencing. It actually looks kind of cute! This accomplished 2 things: keeping the old fence from becoming a ballistic missile and protecting the windows. I will be making actual working shutters out of the fencing later.



Before Ike hit, the Thursday before, I went to get our hurricane supplies at the liquor store. Thanks to all the camping we do, we already had about 15 gallons worth of block of ice in the deep freezer, batteries, propane, MRE's, etc. etc. etc... so, all I needed was Tequila and mix for Margaritas. Along the way on Holland Avenue, there is a long stretch of nuthin'. I spotted a tiny kitten in grave danger of getting hit on the side of the road up ahead. The two cars ahead of me just passed him up. I stopped. I picked up this emaciated dehydrated tiny kitten that could not have been more than 6 weeks old, if that. Joe named him Ike... We agreed that he was in such bad shape that if I hadn't of stopped and picked him up, he might not have lived to SEE the storm, much less made it through it! He is now the adopted son of Puff and Bird. They couldn't have one of their own, you see...



We have about 47 ice cream trucks in our neighborhood that all play the same stupid song: "Do your ears hang low, do they wobble to and fro..." After the wind and rain started picking up on that fateful Friday, I would have sworn I heard an ice cream truck out there...



Our neighbors two doors down were planning to go grocery shopping after the storm. HAH! They stayed, with 4 little girls and a boy. They had no food. So, we proceeded to haul out our smoker and grill, and a family pack of drumsticks, ribs, brisket, pork chops, salmon fillets, steaks and chicken breasts. We had our tiki torches out, our radio, and had a sort of block party, with kids running back and forth to each others' houses. There was beer. The old man next door to us broke out the El Presidente.

The next day, there were hung over men with chain saws all up and down the block. It was really kind of nice! ...And even somewhat entertaining.

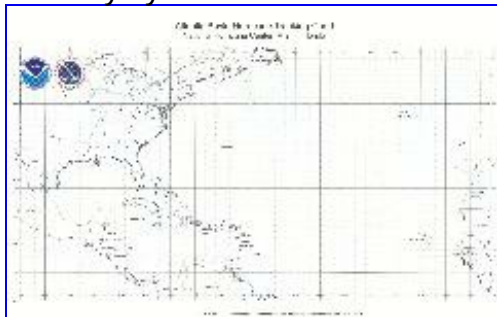
We are one of the precious few who take the paper. Because no one had power or a battery operated TV, none of us had seen whatever nightly show the rest of the country was seeing. Our newspaper became very popular!

My friend across the street who also has 5 children came over to see what I was doing that first week. I told her I was washing clothes. She asked, "You have power?" No, I was doing it the old fashioned way and hanging them up out back. I also discovered that your dishwasher can double as an effective dish drying rack... She put her fingers in a cross and backed away slowly...



School was out for about a week or so... except for those who are home schooled. Lon and Mo were a little annoyed about that...

After almost 2 weeks, the lights came back on. After almost 2 weeks of everyone hanging around outside, everyone's yards really started looking nice. When the lights came back on, we were all able to see inside our houses... at what a mess they had become without vacuuming and all. Another friend of mine said that after her lights came back on, she celebrated, then looked around at her house, and said, "OK, you can turn them back off now..." We celebrated when our lights came back on. Lonnie enjoyed the lights for a few minutes, then came up to me and said, "Mommy, can we go camping?" That's muh boy! ... I say, as I sniff and wipe a tear from my eye.



So, there you have it. I now have lots of new hobbies, (doing things the REALLY old fashioned way, tracking hurricanes and keeping up with supplies, as well as interspecies adoptions) and no one is in danger of getting useless, cutesy objects de arte for Christmas, either!

Upcoming Trips

**Please click on *Trips and Events* on the Main Page
for a listing of all upcoming trips.**

Texas Coastal Paddling Trail at Galveston Island State Park

by
Natalie Wiest

Saturday evening, June 21st, a wild storm came through League City at the head of a rare summer cold front. In my neighborhood that meant a beautiful full rainbow against the dark storm clouds to the east, and a wonderful morning in the 70s, something we might not see again for months. Several friends and I were able to take full advantage of the cool (relatively) temperatures and took our two sea kayaks and open canoe onto the Galveston Bay waters at Galveston Island State Park. This is the location of one of the newly-formed Texas Coastal Paddling Trails. I've paddled the area before but not since it was an "official" trail (see



<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/coastal/galveston/> for more details about the trail). My friend Marilyn Kircus and I daringly (??) defied tradition in once again paddling an open canoe on the open water, both using kayak paddles, so we easily kept up with the more conventional sea kayakers paddled by Becky and Henry.



We paddled about 5 miles before noon, stopping to enjoy a cohort of white ibises and pink roseate spoonbills taking in the scenery from, what else, a bird observation tower. They seemed to be enjoying it immensely for the better view of the silly humans bouncing

around on the bay waters in kayaks and canoe. Brown pelicans weren't very bashful either, perched on the artificial geotextile tubes that function as breakwaters and research subjects for coastal erosion projects. There were quite a few kayakers and fishers out on the water, just lovely to be there and taking it all in. We were happy to see a black skimmer, an oystercatcher, little blue and great blue herons, the ibises and roseate spoonbills, and even an irritated black-necked stilt protecting its nest and many other of the shorebirds that make the park home.

Wish you could have been there too. You'll have to give it a try some day. For a glimpse at the conditions and vicarious enjoyment, I have posted a few pictures at:



<http://community.webshots.com/album/563882340hCVkKn?vhost=community>

Spring Creek

by

John Rich

Editor Comment: Please pardon the lack of pictures in this article, but there is a link to see all the wonderful pictures that the author of this trip report has. In the interest of time and trying to get this newsletter out NOW, I hope you will forgive me. Cecilia Gill.

On Sunday, August 24th, nine HCC members gathered together to paddle Spring Creek.

We met at 8:00 am under the Highway 59 bridge over the San Jacinto River, just north of Bush Intercontinental Airport. Southwest Paddle Sports arrived for the shuttle with a passenger van and canoe trailer. We loaded our boats and gear, and headed out. The first stop was Jesse Jones nature park, where two paddlers hopped out to make a short paddle from there back to Hwy 59. The remaining seven paddlers continued further north to the Riley Fuzzle Bridge over Spring Creek. (I don't know who Riley Fuzzle was, but with a name like that, I'm sure you just had to like him.) The put-in site there was pristine sand, and there was some current flowing in the creek to push us along.

It was an easy and enjoyable paddle, with occasional logs and stumps in the creek that gave maneuvering practice. The bends in the creek just about all contain beautiful white-sand beaches, some quite wide, and the surrounding riverbanks are dense woods. I think we saw only one home along the 14-mile stretch, so it feels like wilderness. You don't hear any motor traffic, and the only sound that drowned out the gurgling water was the jets flying overhead on approach into the airport.

The water was often shallow in places, so you had to seek out the deeper channel. Or at least I did, to keep my battleship afloat. I was using my 15'8" canoe, while everyone else had sleek, fast, shiny kayaks. The creek widens as it nears the juncture with the San Jacinto River, the current disappears, and the last couple of miles are like flat water. The total trip time was about 6 hours, and we stopped for one rest break for about 30 minutes.

It's a pretty stretch of river, and easy to get to. I'm sure I'll be doing it again some day. Those beaches would also make for great overnight camping.

For a photo album of my pictures from the trip, go here:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/JohnRich3rd/SpringCreek>.

Click the "slideshow" button, and you might then want to increase the number of seconds for viewing each picture - the default of four seconds is inadequate in my opinion. There are 27 photos. Enjoy!