



# Gator TALES

Newsletter of the  
Bayou Haystackers  
Paddling Club  
LOUISIANA  
Issue 4—2007  
July-August



Paddlefest is just around the corner, and this year, it'll be local—here at our own Foutainbleu State Park! It sounds like a lot of fun, and it'll be a chance to invite friends and family that might not want to travel a longer distance. So put it on your calendar — September 14th thru 16th. See you there!

☞ Leslie ☞

Remember! You can view all photos in color on the website version of GatorTales.

Newsletter deadline for Issue 5—2007/September-October is **August 20, 2007** ☞☞☞  
If you would like to submit an article in the newsletter, please contact Leslie Goodwin (985) 246-9889 or e-mail: [newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com) ☞

**DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE!! NO REMINDERS ARE CURRENTLY BEING SENT. THOSE MEMBERS RECEIVING A HARD COPY NEWSLETTER, CHECK THE LABEL FOR EXPIRATION DATE.**

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## Presidential Ramblings ... by Pat Fontova

Well, the summer started off great with the Black Creek Memorial Day paddle. It was the first Bayou Haystacker trip that I've ever been on where the women outnumbered the men! There were 4 women – Kathy Knierim, Elaine Lear, my daughter, Amelia and me; 2 men – Gary Smith and Hoyt Sayler, the trip leader; and my new dog, also a female, Sparky. The water was a little low but not too bad and the weather was nice and kind of cool at night. All in all, it was a very good trip.

I just realized I haven't been on a club trip since then! Between my daughter's graduation, my husband's birthday, parent orientation at LSU and a family vacation, I haven't had much time for paddling, but that will soon change. This weekend is my Magee's Creek paddle and it looks like it is going to be a good group with a couple of new people.

There's not too much on the calendar for the end of July but maybe we can get in an unscheduled last minute trip on July 28 or August 4 – any suggestions?

The Ex-Com meeting for August has been changed to Wednesday, August 8. There was a conflict on the 15th and we wanted to have an extra week of planning time for Paddlefest.

And speaking of Paddlefest – DON'T FORGET!! It will be on September 14 – 16 at Foutainbleau State Park, Group Camp 3. We have a variety of activities planned and it should be a fun and educational experience. There is some information on the website about it now and more to follow including on-line registration. If you'd like to volunteer to help – we'd love to have you. Just get in touch with me either by email – [president@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:president@bayouhaystackers.com) or by phone – 504-577-9342. Or even if you don't want to volunteer but have questions about Paddlefest, don't hesitate to contact me. I'd love to hear from you. Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your co-workers. This will be a great time to find out more about paddling – whether they're interested in kayaking or canoeing. I'll have some fliers ready by the end of the weekend. If you'd like some to distribute at some local sport shops or wherever, just let me know and I'll get some to you.

And now I'll leave you with this quote from one of the little paddling books Kim donated to the club: "There's more joy in paddling a bad canoe with a good paddle than a good canoe with a bad paddle" – so next time you think you want a new canoe, you may try just getting a new, beautiful paddle. You'll save some money and at the same time feel very extravagant.

## General Membership Meeting— Weds. July 18, 2007

### How-To's: Leading BPHC Trips

... by Martina Ellis

The heart of the Bayou Haystackers is paddling---be it rivers, creeks, swamps, the Gulf, the lakes, moving or still water. We paddle. To do this as a club, we depend upon someone stepping forth to lead the trip.

At our July General Membership Meeting, two of our most intrepid trip leaders--Gary Smith & Hoyt Sayler — are going to tell us about the ins & outs, nuts & bolts of leading trips for the Bayou Haystackers. From deciding what streams to paddle, to the ACA paperwork, a well-run trip requires planning & decisions that are often invisible to those of us just along for the paddle, but make for those memorable trips & stories we share around the campfire.

More trip leaders mean more trips & more variety of trips. So come, get educated and inspired ---and lead a trip!!



## Calendar

### BPHC Events

Before attending a BPHC trip, you should contact the individual Trip Coordinator (well in advance of the trip) for more specifics and to make sure the trip or event is still scheduled, etc. Trip leaders will be able to give you recommendations as to what kind of boat is suitable (canoe, rec. kayak, sea kayak, etc.) and skill level required. BPHC sponsored trips are free to BPHC and ACA members. Non-member guests are welcome to come on trips, however, there is a \$10.00 club liability insurance fee.

Attending a BPHC trip means discussing pertinent medical conditions, in advance, with the Trip Coordinator; wearing a PFD (life vest); not consuming alcohol before or while on the water; agreeing to and signing the *Club's Waiver and Release of Liability*.

### Trip Ratings

- ? ? **Easy**—Distances < 6 mi/day; little or no current; minimum maneuvering skills required.
- ? ? **Intermediate**—Distances 6 to 12 mi/day and/or current greater than 1 mph with some maneuvering skills required
- ? ? **Strenuous**—distances > 12 mi/day with currents in excess of 3 mph and/or maneuvering and/or some upstream paddling required

## JULY

**Sat., July 14: Magee's Creek.** Intermediate - 13 miles. Contact Patricia Fontova pfontova@yahoo.com or 504-577-9342

**Saturday, July 14- Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - aquaventures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

**Wednesday, July 18: General Membership Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at end of this page for directions.

**Saturday, July 21 - Lafitte Terrace Planting.** Join the BTNEP volunteer team to plant marsh grass to create habitat and protect newly constructed wetland terraces. Your effort will create important wetland habitat and ensure that the Lafitte terraces function as an asset to this ecological community. For more information go to <http://volunteer.btneep.org/> (Not a BPHC event.)

## AUGUST

**August 3-6: Hiwasee River in Tennessee.** Intermediate. Call Walter Tabary at 985-764-9500.

**NEW DATE!! Wednesday, August 8: Executive Committee Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions.

**August 10-11: Red Creek Overnighter.** Easy. Contact Gary Smith - GaryPaddler@aol.com or or 504-913-2214.

**Saturday, August 11 - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. For more info contact Mimi Clifton at aquavetures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

**Saturday, August 25 - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - aquavetures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

## SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 1 - 3: Labor Day Weekend on Black Creek.** Intermediate. Contact Hoyt - abitabird@yahoo.com or 985-502-4468.

**Saturday, September 8 - Level 2 Sea Kayak Course.** Take your skills to the next level where you learn how to really handle your boat instead of your boat handling you. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - aquavetures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

**September 14-16: Louisiana Paddfest.** Fontainebleau State Park - Group Camp 3. Bunkhouses are available - they sleep up to 65 people. Camping is also available for a fee at the state park. To make reservations for camping please go to Reserve America (to sleep in the bunkhouse you do not need to make reservations - we've already reserved it.) For more information on Fontainebleau State Park go to <http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/iFontaine.aspx> For more information on the event, contact Patricia - president@bayouhaystackers.com

**Saturday, September 15: Topisaw Creek.** Easy. This will be re-scheduled due to Paddfest. New date will be posted soon. Contact Martina - martinaellis@yahoo.com

**Wednesday, September 19: General Membership Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions.

**Saturday, September 22 - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - aquavetures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

**September 29 - 30: Tangipahoa Overnighter.** Easy. Contact Hoyt - abitabird@yahoo.com or 985-502-4468.

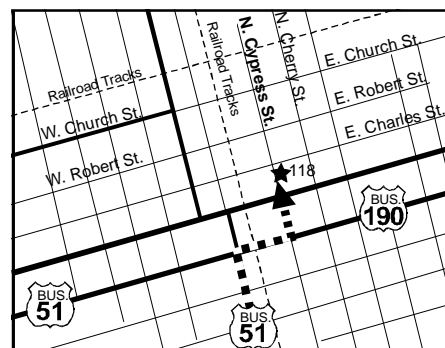
**September 29- Level 3 Sea Kayak Course.** This course will take you out onto the open water where you will use your advanced strokes and maneuvers. You must complete Level 2 prior to taking the Level 3 course. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - aquavetures98@yahoo.com or go to southcoastkayaks.com (Fee charged. Not a BPHC event.)

## OCTOBER

**October 13 - 14: Red Creek Epicurean Excursion (EE).** Easy. Contact Gary Smith - GaryPaddler@aol.com or 504-913-2214.

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If you would like to list an event that would be of interest to the paddling community, please send the information (in 25 words or less) to [newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com)



**MAP TO THE MEETING PLACE:** Take I-12 to Exit 40. Go north on US 51-Business into Hammond. Turn east (right) on US 190. Go one full block past the railroad track and turn left onto Cypress Street. The meeting place is near the end of the second block on the right.

**Saturday, October 13 - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. For more info contact Mimi Clifton - [aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com) or go to [southcoastkayaks.com](http://southcoastkayaks.com) (Fee charged. Not a BHPC event.)

**Saturday, October 13 - Phatwater Kayak Challenge on the Mississippi River.** For more info visit <http://www.kayakmississippi.com>. (Fee charged. Not a BHPC event.)

**Wednesday, October 17: Executive Committee Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map on p2 for directions.

**Saturday, October 20: Cane Bayou.** Easy. Contact Hoyt - [abitabird@yahoo.com](mailto:abitabird@yahoo.com) or 985-502-4468.

**Saturday, October 20 - Level 2 Sea Kayak Course.** Take your skills to the next level where you learn how to really handle your boat instead of your boat handling you. For more information contact Mimi Clifton - [aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com) or go to [southcoastkayaks.com](http://southcoastkayaks.com) (Fee charged. Not a BHPC event.)

**NOVEMBER**

**Saturday, November 10: Black Lake.** Easy. Contact Martina - [martinaellis@yahoo.com](mailto:martinaellis@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday, November 21: General Membership Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of page 2 for directions.

**Saturday, November 24: Salt Water Fishing in Port Sulphur.** Easy. Contact Warren Davis - [warr70001@netscape.com](mailto:warr70001@netscape.com)

**DECEMBER**

**Saturday, December 15: Bayou Barbary.** Easy. Contact Martina - [martinaellis@yahoo.com](mailto:martinaellis@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday, December 19: Executive Committee Meeting.** 7:00 pm. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of page 2 for directions.

**WANTED:  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES!**

Send in your articles and trip reports by August 20th for our September BPHC newsletter! Got some good canoe pictures? Send them in! A story? A quote? Good advise? Things you learned while canoeing? Email them to me at [newsletter@bayouyaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouyaystackers.com)



**CLASSIFIEDS**

To include an ad in the classifieds section, call Pat Fontova at (985) 893-3041 or email: [information@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:information@bayouhaystackers.com). There is no charge for this service. (Please let Pat know when items are sold so that this page can be kept up-to-date — Thank you!)

**WANTED ITEMS:**

**Wanted: I'm looking for a solo canoe,** 14-16ft, under \$1000, for overnights on creeks/rivers/bayous. Bill Strickland 504-301-1497(date listed 6/10/07)

**Wanted: Mohawk Odyssey, Challenger or similar royalex solo canoe.** Also small sit on top kayak suitable for a small woman. Contact Hoyt at [abitabird@yahoo.com](mailto:abitabird@yahoo.com) or 985.502.4468 (date listed 6/10/07)

**Wanted: A used kayak in the 9-10 foot range.** Something along the lines of a Sparky, Swiftly, or Otter. For use in bayous and swamps, need to get into tight spaces. Please call Chris at 225-772-0727 (date listed 4/17/07)

**Wanted: Square transom freighter canoe** (Scott Canoe Co. Hudson bay model or similar ) 21' 2000 lb capacity fiberglass capable of handling 15hp motor. Also if anyone you know has one I would love to see it, and then I could decide on ordering a new one. 337- 501-2267 Russell Bourg [russbdad@earthlink.net](mailto:russbdad@earthlink.net) (date listed 6/24/06)

**Wanted: 16-17 foot fiberglass or kevlar canoe.** I plan to use it on calm water with two adults and 3 children under 6 years old. Please contact Bill, [wjdaly@bellsouth.net](mailto:wjdaly@bellsouth.net)

**ITEMS FOR SALE** (*visit our website for photos*)

**12 ', "Fusion" kayak by Extreme Interface** (Canada). Light but very strong Thermoplastic construction, only 39 lbs. Sit in design, 2 watertight compartments. Plastic seat, rod holder, foot braces. Red topsides, white hull, 2 sets of deck bungees, SS security ring for cable or chain. Bought new in 2006, very light use. New price was \$1525. For sale at \$1,000. Contact Jack : [jih@hulsewanek.com](mailto:jih@hulsewanek.com); or (504)835-5582 (date listed 5/09/07)

**NDK Romany 16' sea kayak** with carbon-kevlar hull, Bordeaux red deck over a white hull with yellow trim, mounted compass and foot pump. \$1,300. Call Kay for more info or to see the boats at 225-413-9390. (Yakima car racks and paddles are also available for sale.) (date listed 3/11/07)

**NDK Explorer Sea Kayak** standard volume and lay-up. 17.5' X 21.5 " Crafted with great attention to detail and quality. Three hatches, recessed and polished deck outfitting. No skeg. Yellow over yellow. Excellent condition. \$1,500.00. Contact Mark [mark\\_gail@bellsouth.net](mailto:mark_gail@bellsouth.net) or 985-264-5143 (date listed 10/23/06)

**For Free: Camper Shell** for a 1991 Ford F-150. Call Charles Mayeux 225-193-0990 (listed 6/15/06)

**Merrimack Souhegan Canoe** ([merrimackcanoes.com/souhegan.html](http://merrimackcanoes.com/souhegan.html)) Asking \$1,200. For more information, call Wes at (251) 463-7019. (Mobile, AL) (listed 6/1/06)

**Tandem Wooden Kayak** - Fiberglass/wood hull, teak wood top - hand made, 21ft. long, 30 in. wide. Asking \$2,000 (OBO). If interested call Jean at 985-893-7746. (listed 4/25/06)

**Thule Exporter truck rack:** \$300 Contact George Butler, 601-940-1314: [georgewjrb@bellsouth.net](mailto:georgewjrb@bellsouth.net)

**NRS Farmer Bill youth wetsuit;** XXS; 3-mm; worn once; like new; original price \$73, asking \$30. Call Scott 225-266-8887.

## Canoe Fishing ...



... by Robb Wiltse

LeadScout is still out there canoe fishing! Bluegills are fine eating, and as they generally predate on insects, they don't accumulate mercury as do the fish that predate on other fish.

This fish is 8 inches long and weighed 8 ounces and is perfect "pan size." Note the chartreuse "woolly worm" fly he fell for, just above downtown Covington, in the Bogue Falaya River.

The current state record for flyrod caught bluegill is 1.64 pounds. The current state record for rod & reel is 1.61 pounds. Any Haystackers interested in some friendly "bluegill" competition for the rest of the calendar year?

## Contact Information

### Officers

**President**—Patricia Fontova, 985-893-3041  
[president@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:president@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Vice President**—Jed Pitre, 985-438-9820  
[vicepresident@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:vicepresident@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Secretary**—Leslie Guidry, 985-246-9889  
[secretary@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:secretary@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Treasurer**—Hoyt Saylor, 985-502-4468  
[treasurer@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:treasurer@bayouhaystackers.com)

### Board Members

**Mimi Clifton**—985-867-9530  
[aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com)

**Warren Davis**—504-888-3496  
[warr70001@netscape.com](mailto:warr70001@netscape.com)

**Gary Smith**  
[garypaddler@aol.com](mailto:garypaddler@aol.com)

**Walter Tabary**

**Woody Wood**—504-813-4581  
[woodywood@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodywood@bellsouth.net)

### Other

**Meeting Program Coordinator**—Martina Ellis  
985-748-6038 [garypaddler@aol.com](mailto:garypaddler@aol.com)

**Membership**—Warren Davis—504-888-3496  
[warr70001@netscape.com](mailto:warr70001@netscape.com)

**Outings**—Robb Wiltse, 985-892-3436  
[leadscout@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:leadscout@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Website**—Patricia Fontova, 985-893-3041  
[information@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:information@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Newsletter**—Leslie Guidry, 985-246-9889  
[newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com)

## A Word About Safety ...

### Summer Storms Can Be Cold!

... by Woody Wood

I went on a paddle in June. This was NOT the time of year you would expect to need gear to keep warm. We paddled in the rain as much as out of it. I am here to say you NEED to bring something to wear in case the weather gets cool during a rainstorm.

What to bring? I had something to lend and something to wear, but found it too hot. I believe a poncho is as much as most paddlers will need in warm weather. I have a new high-dollar rain coat, but I will need to test it before I have anything to say about it. If you're going to be outside in the summer, you need to get something breathable. You do need to bring "something" when you paddle!

## Join us at the January General Membership Meeting

Join us as Gary Smith and Hoyt Saylor discuss the ins and outs of leading BPHC paddling trips. See more info. on page 1. In case of a venue change, you will be notified; otherwise the meeting will be held at its usual location.

**WHEN:** WED - July 18, 2007—7:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** 118 North Cypress Street, Hammond, LA

(see map on page 2 for directions)



Web Site: [www.bayouhaystackers.com](http://www.bayouhaystackers.com)

Bayou Haystackers Paddling Club  
c/o Newsletter—Leslie Guidry  
600 Willow Oak Lane  
Mandeville, LA 70471

