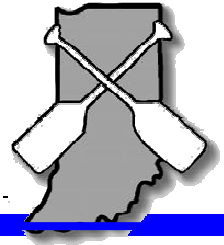


The Hoosier Paddler



Volume 49, Issue 6

<http://www.hoosiercanoeclub.org/>

July 2011

HCC Safety Outreach Ramps Up

“Paddle Safe Indiana,” the HCC’s campaign to promote paddling safety, is entering an aggressive new phase. This month will see statewide distribution of posters and fliers featuring cartoon frogs carrying the message “Don’t Croak on the River,” and offering six key tips for staying out of harm’s way. (The poster is available to download and view on the main page of the HCC website.) The campaign aims to cut the number of drownings that occur every year on Indiana waterways - ideally to zero. With a budget of \$3,500, and two years in the making, it represents perhaps the most important and ambitious public service project in the club’s history.

The first public announcement of the campaign came in February 2010, in a letter from Theresa Kulczak to NUVO magazine on the anniversary of the death of outdoorsman Ethan Runnel, who drowned in the White River in 2009. The letter caught the attention of Jim Runnel, Ethan’s father, who donated \$500 to support the campaign. A broader publicity effort launched over the Memorial Day weekend in 2010 targeting newspapers around the state. Numerous papers wrote stories based on a feature article by Jordan Ross, which spelled out the key steps for river safety. But media interest was short lived. The HCC board commissioned a Safety Outreach Committee – composed of Dan Valleskey, Theresa Kulczak, Jordan Ross, Mariann Davis and Terry Busch – to try to come up with a longer-lasting measure. After a study of available resources, the committee found that, while there is plenty of good information available from organizations like the American Canoe Association and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, there is no existing effort to ensure this information reaches inexperienced paddlers in a quick and easy form. The committee’s vision was to create a single poster illustrating the most vital river safety steps that could be displayed in canoe liveries, paddle sport shops, and, ultimately, posted at stream-side put-ins. A brochure version of the poster with additional information is also being created, primarily for distribution through canoe and kayak dealers.

It has been a long process and a team effort. Theresa and Jordan came up with the frog theme and the “Don’t Croak” headline. The intent behind this concept is not to make light of the risks on the river, but to make discussion of them acceptable and interesting to paddlers in the 20-25 age group, which, along with children under 5 and senior citizens is, the demographic that suffers the highest number of drowning deaths every year. The whole team debated and refined the six key points that had to be on the poster. Mariann found a talented art student at IU’s Herron School, Mary Schnellbacher, who was willing to work with the team and its budget. Theresa brought in Pat Prather, a friend who is also a professional designer. Terry served as creative director during the poster’s development, writing the copy and meeting regularly with the artist and designer to be sure the art work clarified and amplified the words. Dan had a hand in all phases of the project but his most important contribution was his long and patient effort to bring in prospective partners from the Friends of the White River and the Indiana DNR.

The deal is not yet complete, but Dan has helped negotiate an agreement in principle whereby the HCC would share in a grant, sponsored by IDNR but funded from federal gasoline taxes, which would give the club access to a fleet of new kayaks for boater education (they would be owned and managed by the FOWR) and provide a sizable financial multiplier for the safety outreach effort. In the meantime, the DNR has indicated it will approve and support the “Paddle Safe” effort and has given permission to use the DNR name and logo on the poster and related materials. This in itself is a huge boost to the public visibility and credibility of the campaign.

The Newsletter of the Hoosier Canoe Club

Mariann Davis will coordinate the first phase of the poster distribution, which will target key paddle sport dealers and rental liveries around the state. If the DNR-sponsored grant does come through, the effort will be expanded to a broader range of vendors and venues, and an effort to post permanent signs at riverside put-ins will begin. At that point, the HCC will need to tap the energy and ingenuity of its full membership. If you would be willing to help post signs or have strong contacts with boat dealers or rental liveries in your area, please notify Mariann at mariandvs@gmail.com. What she needs to know, besides your contact information, is your location, with what rivers in your area you are most familiar, and what connections you might be able to use to help the HCC spread its safety message. She will build a database of member responses and let you know when there is an opportunity to get involved

This project began in the Fall of 2009 as a spontaneous reaction to series of fatal boating accidents that made media headlines around the state. "We represent the paddling community. We have to do something," was the widely shared sentiment. Unfortunately, the need has not diminished over time. This year has seen another spike in boating accidents and drowning deaths, with four young people drowning in just the space of the Memorial Day weekend. We still need to do something, but now, at last, we are ready.

Flatwater Trip Announcements

Thursday Night River Paddles

We'll continue the weeknight paddling experience in July on different sections of White River on Thursday, July 7 and July 21.

On July 7th we'll paddle downtown between 16th Street and Washington Street so you can enjoy the skyline. Meet at 6 pm at Pepper Construction off 16th Street just east of Lafayette Road (1850 W. 15th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202). Paddling starts at 6:30...be prepared to work together to carry boats over the levee.

On July 21st meet at 6 pm at Hazel Landing Park (10601 Hazel Dell Pkwy, Carmel, IN 46033) and we'll paddle down to the White River Yacht Club.

Contact: Sue Foxx sufoxx713@aol.com 317-363-4074 (cell)

Picture from last month's Weeknight paddle on the White River:



East Fork White River
Trip Sponsors: Richard Tekulve & Earl King

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Please join us on Saturday, July 30th for an easy Southern Indiana trip down one of the states' premier "float streams"...the East Fork White River. We will paddle from Brownstown to the junction of East Fork White – Muscatatuck. On this journey we will go under three old, historic bridges: Fort Vallonia Iron Bridge built in 1887, two-span, 250 feet; B & O Railroad Trestle built in 1898, three-span, 286 feet, and the Medora Covered Bridge built in 1875, three-span and an astounding 435 feet long. Along the way there will be numerous sandbars and toward the end a beautiful view of the 300 foot Indiana "Knobs". The East Fork is one of Indiana's few 24-7-365 paddle streams even in drought-like conditions. This will be a very laid back trip with an average current seasonably of 2 ½ - 3 mph. This will be a 16.4 mile trip with little distractions. Lunch will be at the historic Medora Covered Bridge DNR Access Ramp. The bridge is considered the 2nd longest covered bridge in the world and is undergoing a multi-million dollar restoration. It is truly an engineering marvel to see.

Meeting time: 10:00 A.M.

Put-in: U.S. 50 bridge Brownstown DNR Access (1 mile west of Brownstown on U.S. 50 before bridge on left with sign).

Take-out: White-Muscatatuck DNR Access (3 miles west of S.R. 135 (Milport)).

Shuttle Distance: 28 miles round trip

Trip: 16.4 mile "float"

Width: Varies 125' – 250' wide

Time on River: est. 5 ½ - 6 hours

Scenery: ¼ mile long sandbars and 300 ft. plus views of Indiana Knobs

Distance: From 'downtown Indy' to put-in at Brownstown 69 miles

Best route from Indy: I-65 south to exit 55 (SR 11), SR 11 into Seymour to U.S. 50, U.S. 50 west through Brownstown 2 miles to DNR boat ramp on left before East Fork White River Bridge

Lunch: 9.4 miles downstream from put-in at Medora Covered Bridge Access with tour of the longest standing covered bridge in the United States.

CONTACT INFO: Please contact one of us before 10 pm Friday, July 29th

Richard Tekulve: Cell (812) 592-0661 canoeindiana@yahoo.com

Earl King: Cell (812) 569-5043 campchef@juno.com

Lower Tippecanoe River
Trip Sponsor: Jay Moyer

Saturday, July 16, 2011

Usually this time of year most creeks are drying up however the Tippecanoe River is still flowing and makes for a nice paddle.

Trip length: will be decided on the morning of the trip based on water level and flow but should be between 9-15 miles.

Direction: We will meet at the McDonalds on SR 43 at 8:30am for breakfast and leave for the put in at 9am. From the south you would take I-65 north to SR 43 (just north of Lafayette). Exit SR 43 and turn right. The McDonalds will be about a 1/2 mile on your left.

Please contact Jay Moyer no later than Friday July 15th by 11 pm if you plan to attend and to get any last minute updates.

(765)376-6316 or Moyer_farm@sbcglobal.net

Joint Flatwater/Touring Trip Announcement
Lake Monroe (Bloomington, IN)
Trip Sponsors: Sue Foxx & Kellie Kaneshiro

Saturday, July 23, 2011

Plan to make it a double header and go to Lake Monroe after helping out at the Triathlon at Eagle Creek. We've set the time a little later to accommodate those who choose this option. Monroe is the largest lake in Indiana and has lots of paddling options for sea kayakers, canoers and recreational kayakers. Lake Monroe information is available at http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/monroe_trail.pdf. Kellie Kaneshiro will lead the sea kayakers on a longer and faster paddle and Sue Foxx will lead the recreational paddlers. Both groups will rendezvous for lunch about 1 pm and then set out again on separate paddles until about 4:30 (this can be adjusted based on what the group wants and weather conditions).

Schedule: 11:30 Arrive at Put-In
12:00 Start Paddling
1:00 Lunch

Meeting Place/Put-In: Cutright SRA. We will meet at the first boat ramp after you enter Cutright (not the marina).

Directions to Meeting Place: From Hwy. 37, take the SR 46 exit east. Stay on SR 46 past the IU Stadium and turn left at the light at 3rd Ave at the Bloomington Mall and continue east on SR 46 towards Nashville. Turn South on SR 446 to Lake Monroe. Cutright SRA is on your left immediately after you cross the causeway when driving south from Bloomington so turn left into the Cutright Access Area. This is about 1 hour 40 minutes from the intersection of Hwy. 37 and I-465 on the southeast side of Indianapolis.

What to Bring: Bring lunch, lots of water (this is JULY), sunscreen, and your bathing suit if you want to take a dip along with all your paddling gear. Don't forget to purchase your 2011 DNR Lake Access Sticker unless you want to pay the \$113 fine! You can get the stickers at the Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center South for \$5.00.

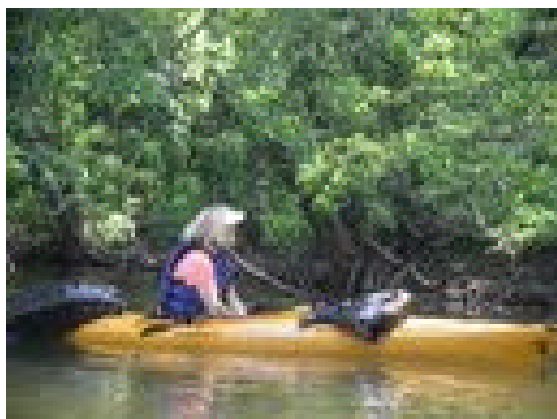
Contact Information:

Please be sure to contact one of the trip sponsors since we may have to change plans in case of bad weather. If there is a change, we'll let everyone know via the Bulletin Board or directly by phone or email.

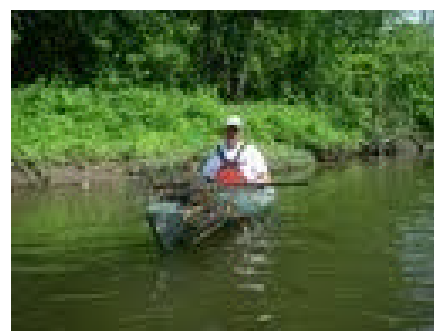
Sue Foxx sufoxx713@aol.com 317-363-4074 (cell)

Kellie Kaneshiro knkane@gmail.com 317-274-1612 (work) 317-407-6467 (cell)

Fall Creek Clean-Up



Participants Sue Foxx (left) and Jim Eckerty (right) helping to clean up Fall Creek during the HCC's annual cleanup.



(photo credits: page 2— Jim Eckerty, page 4—Joel DeLashmit, page 5, 6—Jeff Kuhn, page 7—Jim Sprandel)



Touring Trip Announcements

NWIPA New Buffalo-to-Michigan City Paddle

HCC Coordinator: Jim Sprandel

Saturday, July 9, 2011

Here is a chance to paddle the eastern end of the newly dedicated Lake Michigan Water Trail that was recently dedicated. Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association (NWIPA) will lead a 14-mile paddle from New Buffalo, Michigan to Michigan City, Indiana. On the way, the group will make a rest stop at the Long Beach Stop 24 Kayak Launch that was opened last year as part of the Water Trail initiative.

I have received preliminary plans from this year's trip leader and these are listed below. I will post final details to the Bulletin Board and send them out to the Touring Kayak e-mail list when I receive them. Or, you can check for updates directly at the NWIPA web site at: www.nwipa.org/calendar.html

Logistics: People should meet at Hansen Park in Michigan City by 9:00 am CDT (Chicago Time). Several cars will be left at Michigan City and the remaining cars will carry all of the boats up to New Buffalo so that we can begin paddling by 10:00 am CDT. We should finish the paddle in Michigan City around 3:00 pm CDT and will then shuttle up to pick up the cars in New Buffalo. People should be able to head home by 4:30 pm CDT.

Michigan City is approximately a 3-hour drive from the North side of Indianapolis.

Camping: Some of us will probably head up on Friday Night and stay over Saturday Night. One member has a camp site at Indiana Dunes State Park but no more are currently available. I'll check out camping alternatives in the area and post them to the Touring Section of the Bulletin Board. People camping in the area Friday and Saturday night may paddle Lake Michigan Friday afternoon and/or Sunday morning so contact me if you are interested.

Trip Requirements: Given likely lake conditions, you should have a sea kayak with full deck lines, fore/aft bulk heads, and spray skirt. Lake Michigan will be still be in the 60s so and you should wear a wet suit or dry suit. You have experience paddling in up to 2 foot waves and be able to average 3.5 mph on open water.

Note: Be sure to check the Bulletin Board during the week before the paddle. I'll monitor the [National Weather Service Marine Forecast](#) for this area and will update the Bulletin Board with predicted lake conditions for the event.

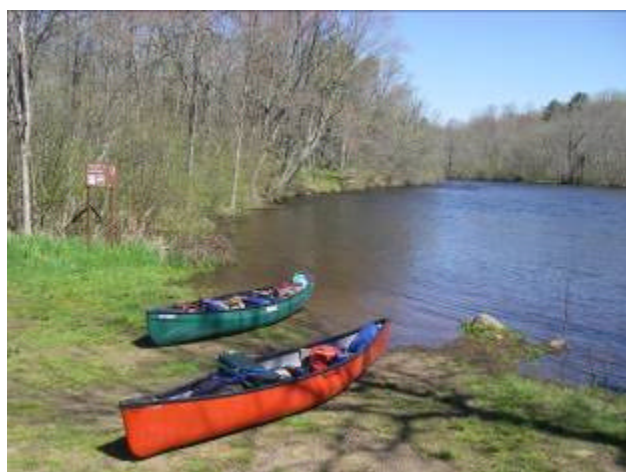
Contact Information: If you have questions about this event or HCC's camping/paddling plans, please contact Jim Sprandel at merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net or (317) 257-2063. I will post final details and plans for the event to the Touring Kayak mailing list and in the Touring Forum of the HCC Bulletin Board as well as information on camping options near Michigan City.

Trip Report: Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers Canoe Camping Trip

May 16-18, 2011

Jeff Kuhn

Tom Siddall and I recently journeyed to the North Country for a canoe camping trip on the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The length of the trip was 48 miles and involved three days of paddling and two nights of primitive camping along the river. We put in at County K Landing on the Namekagon River, just downstream of Trego Dam. From there, the Namekagon flows unimpeded for approximately 31 miles before joining the St. Croix River. From the confluence, we paddled another 17 miles to our take-out at Thayer's landing on the St. Croix. For the last 11 miles of our trip, the St. Croix forms the boundary between Wisconsin and Minnesota.





We had no problems paddling an average 16 miles per day since we had a steady current and sometimes a northeasterly tailwind to help us along. The tailwind was unusual. In past trips I've done to the area, westerly to southwesterly headwind sometimes have made progress difficult. Wind is always something to consider when paddling these rather wide and open rivers. Overall, the paddling is generally easy. There are a few Class I rapids along the way, but they are easy to navigate. Between the infrequent rapids, the current flows consistently and the water is clear although somewhat tannin stained. Other than three or four cabins and a few developed landings, the wilderness experience is moderately high. On past trips, I've seen bear along the river but we sighted none this time. Tying food in the

trees at night is always recommended using the 10-10-10 rule.

Camping opportunities are numerous and it is mandatory to use the marked campsites. Most are primitive and accessible only from the river. The sites are well marked, but most require going "wet foot" to access. The smaller sites have room for one or two backpacking tents, a fire ring, and a vault toilet. The latter is merely a seat over a pit with no enclosure around it. The larger group sites were similar, but also include a picnic table and room for three or four tents. The developed landings have road access and offer various combinations of camping, boat access, picnic tables, enclosed toilets, and drinking water. We camped at the primitive sites. Even though there is water available at some of the landings, it is rust colored. I recommend using a water purifier even if you plan to use the water at the landings.

The weather for our trip was as good as it gets for the North Country in mid-May. Just a few weeks before we left there was still snow on the ground, but for our trip the sky was crystal clear and virtually cloudless. Day-time highs ranged from the upper 50's, to around 70. Nighttime lows dipped into the 20's but we were prepared and brought plenty of warm clothing. The full moon was so bright that it was possible to read by it. One of the highlights of the trip was the scores of Bald Eagles. We saw nesting pairs guarding their nests, pairs doing an airborne courtship flight that simulates a mock attack, and quite a few immature eagles who had not yet acquired their white plumage. We lost count of how many eagles we saw, but they were everywhere along the riverway. The only downside on the trip was the thousands of newly hatched Wood Ticks. We were picking them off of ourselves and our gear the entire trip. On past trips, I've seen a few ticks here and there, but nothing remotely like what we had on this trip. Fortunately, they were Wood Ticks, not the smaller Deer Ticks that carry Lyme Disease. It is possible to paddle much farther down the St. Croix, and to start much farther upstream on the Namekagon. You could easily put together a continuous trip of over 100 miles. Below our take-out at Thayer's Landing, the river tends to be very wide, more susceptible to wind, and has a considerably slower current for the next 15 miles or so. However, if you choose to paddle through it you can experience Kettle Rapids, a Class II rapid that runs for several miles. I've paddled it before and it is a fun series of small ledges and moderate wave trains.

If you are interested in paddling there, information as well as maps of the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/sacn/planyourvisit/maps.htm> Be advised that both the Namekagon and St. Croix rivers are both full of tubers and partiers in the summer months, courtesy of several liveries in the area. Surprisingly, we saw no one on the river for the entire three days we were there. This was my fourth trip to the area and I'll likely return again someday.





The Fleet paddling to the Portage Dedication Ceremony

The Lake Michigan Water Trail Dedication— A 1,600 Mile Paddling Trail starting just 3 hours from your Door

Jim Sprandel

On June 4, 2011, over 100 paddlers and cyclists from Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan met at the pavilion on the Portage, Indiana shoreline to celebrate the dedication of the first 75 miles of the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail. An armada of kayaks ranging from ultra-sleek 21-foot surf skis to Whitewater boats to one kayak with outriggers converged on the pavilion at Portage for the celebration—about half of the fleet came along Lake Michigan from Marquette Park in Gary and the rest came up the Calumet River.

Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake completely within the United State and the portion of the trail dedicated this month includes Indiana's entire Lake Michigan shoreline. At the presentation, the speakers emphasized that this is just the start of something truly exciting—Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois are working to complete the entire 1,600 mile trail around Lake Michigan in the next 2 to 3 years. The Lake Michigan Water Trails Association (LMWTA) is coordinating this effort and is working with non-profits, local government, citizens, and industry to facilitate lake access and camping facilities around the entire lake shore.

The celebration was marked by a series of short speeches by representatives from the different groups that have been driving this portion of the trail and a great lunch provided by NIPSCO (the Northern Indiana power utility). This part of the trail happened only through cooperation among the cities in the regions, the National Park Service, Indiana DNR's, Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA), LMWTA, NIPSCO, the regional steel companies, and many others. It was neat that 2 of the speaker actually kayaked to the presentation.

Kayakers can now paddle from Leone Beach on the North edge of Chicago along this trail to New Buffalo, Michigan. In this section of the trail, there are about 20 access points and four places to camp. The Lake Michigan Water Trail Association is distributing a 2011 map summarizing the access, camping, and paddling information for this section of the trail. I met one paddler at the event who had paddled around the entire lake in only 49 days (over 32 miles per day) about 5 years ago—that is a challenge for someone wanting to test one's skills and heart.

Eight HCC paddler joined the paddle to the Dedication and several took extra paddles to explore other parts of Lake Michigan's shoreline on Friday, Saturday morning, and Sunday morning. Within the last year, the HCC sea kayak fleet has sampled about 30 miles of the dedicated part of this trail—the Chicago Lake Front and the shoreline from Gary to Michigan City. On July 9, we'll get to explore the Eastern end of this section when we join NWIPA's paddle from New Buffalo to Michigan City.

For more information on the Lake Michigan Water Trail, go to www.LMWT.org



Paddling along the Beach

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays	Weekly Pool Sessions 7-9PM	Bulletin Board
July 3	Touring: Monthly Paddle—Geist Park 9:30am	BB
July 7	Flatwater: Thursday night paddle on White River	Page 2
July 8-10	Whitewater: Ridge Fest at Brian Aubin's (Near NOC)	BB
July 9	Touring: NWIPA New Buffalo to Michigan City Paddle	Page 5
July 16	Flatwater: Lower Tippecanoe	Page 3
July 21	Flatwater: Thursday night paddle on White River	Page 2
July 23-24	Whitewater: Tuck/Nantahala Class II Training	BB
July 23	Flatwater/Touring: Lake Monroe	Page 4
July 30	Flatwater: East Fork White River	Page 3

August Newsletter Deadline: Please submit articles to Kim Henry by July 15, 2011. Please e-mail articles and pictures to editor@hoosiercanoeclub.org.

