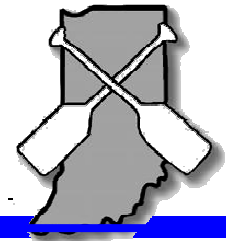


# The Hoosier Paddler



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May 2011

## April Fools Big Pine Trip Report

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Garry Hill

The 34th Annual April Fools on Big Pine Creek was held Saturday, April 2nd with a flow that was just about as low as it has ever been. So surprising when you think of the nearly continuous wet weather we've had this Spring. Yet, not so surprising for anyone familiar with Big Pine's ability to "Drain Itself".

We went from Rocky Ford's S-Turn to Twin Bridges, which is about 6 miles. The level was -12" on the Rainsville Gauge and the weather was 44° and sunny at the Launch Site.

Twenty-eight boats with 30 paddlers launched at "The S-Turn", the last rapid at the end of Rocky Ford. There were 13 Solo Canoes, 13 Kayaks, and 2 Tandem Canoes. I hate to admit this, but Muskrat was sick, did not unload his Canoe and missed the Paddling part of the day. I sent an email request to those who went down the Creek, and their responses fill the following story.



Launching and Playing at S-Turn

The weather was delightful with sunny skies and 44-degrees with not a hint of a breeze at the Put-in. The sky turned cloudy as the day progressed, and the wind increased at times, with some reports of strong "playful" gusts, but the weather remained enjoyable for all.

Nearly everyone reported that low water was not a big issue. Everyone was out of their boats once or twice, but we all expected much worse. I feel that Mud Pine Creek was responsible. For some reason, that little Tributary was carrying more water than would have been expected, additional flow that would not be recorded on the Rainsville gauge, and which made the flow of Big Pine better once you passed the confluence, about 1/4-mile down from the start.



Ben Vallesky surfing the S-Turn

There were several good wildlife sightings, including a Bald Eagle, several hawks, some real (and healthy) Muskrats, along with a pair of Geese "making out" on a cliff ledge.

Those who attended included the following: Betty & Rick Moulton, Mary & Bill Rowe, Dennis Stoner, Theresa Kulczak, Sue Foux, Neil Laymon, Bill Suhre, Roger Robinette, Rob Wood, Gary Smelser, Kristy Conner, Bryan Kestle, Neal Bennett, Terry Pontius, John Prewett, Jim Gough, Dan Valleskey, Ben Valleskey, Elizabeth Trybula, Morgan Johnson, Ashley

Kimmel, Ed Ragsdale, Rachel Hughes, Rich Howard, and a few others who failed to sign up. There was also a visitor from Wisconsin who attended our Pine Village gathering just to say Howdy.

Muskrat certainly hated to miss this Trip, but was still proud to attend to the duties of Trip Leader before the Launch. From Rocky Ford, I just drifted back toward home, not for one moment enjoying the ride, was in bed by 2 PM and did not get up for nearly 24-hours.

(continued on next page)

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Just remember this for future reference: Muskrat's April Fools On Big Pine Cruise will be held again next year, and the next, and the next, and on the "First Weekend Day of April that is not a part of the Easter Holiday Weekend". And Muskrat will not be sick next year.

In addition, next year will be the 35th Annual, and a very special t-shirt is being planned.

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### **Note to New Paddlers!**

The month of May brings the paddling season at full speed, and you'll find a great variety of trips on the HCC calendar in all of the paddling branches. From a simple, leisurely lake paddle, to a full-day flatwater trip, to a rocking whitewater adventure, you'll find all kinds of trips requiring varying levels of skill. If you're interested in a trip, it's especially important that new paddlers and new members communicate in advance with the trip leader. Here's the information you should share with them: your previous paddling experience and current skill level, type of boat you have in mind for the specific trip, any relevant health issues or physical conditions, and your contact information. If you're bringing guests, the trip leader needs the same information for each guest. And don't hesitate to ask trip leaders questions about the trip! They will welcome your inquiries and questions. It's a challenge for all to find that you're ready to be done with a ten-mile trip when you're only at the two-mile mark. The goal is for all to have a great day!

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### **Ball State University Recreation Rental Center**

Want to try kayaking, backpacking, camping, or other related outdoor activities, but don't have the necessary equipment? Ball State University's Recreation Rental Center is the place for you! They offer many different types of equipment, including different styles of kayaks and canoes, for rent at reasonable rates! For more information, including rates and contact information, please visit their website at <http://bsu.edu/recreation/rentalcenter.html>.

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### **Volunteers Needed for 25K Masters Swim on Morse Reservoir**

#### **Theresa Kulczak**

The 25K Open Water National Championships sanctioned by the United States Masters Swimming Association will be held on Saturday, June 18 at Morse Reservoir. The USMSA is looking for "safety boaters" and additional kayakers for volunteers who don't have kayakers. The safety boaters will escort solo swimmers for 1 or more laps of the 5K loop and patrol the course for safety purposes. Short and long shifts are available. It is not necessary to volunteer for the entire day as a safety boater can choose to volunteer on a per-loop basis. Swimmers travel from throughout the United States to compete in the event at Morse. We are hopeful that the HCC members will volunteer and help the club show support for this major event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Herman Arrivillaga of the Kayak Committee for the USMSA at [hmccrae@gmail.com](mailto:hmccrae@gmail.com) or call 317-823-6031. Details about the event are available at <http://www.grinswim.org/2011USMS25K>

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### **HCC Fall Creek Clean up—Volunteers Needed**

**Saturday, June 4, 2011**

#### **Dan Evard**

Plans are underway for the HCC Fall Creek Clean Up on Saturday, June 4th, 2011. The last two years we have run a section upstream from the Emerson bridge, so we'll probably concentrate our efforts downstream from there this year. Let's plan on meeting at 9:30 at the old O'Malia's parking lot, which will probably be our put-in location. We should be off the water about 1:00, and we will grab some pizza for anyone interested. If you are not familiar with Fall Creek, it runs from Pendleton above Geist Reservoir as well as below the reservoir, and down to about 10<sup>th</sup> street. Good websites are: <http://www.fallcreekindiana.com> and the Fall Creek Trail, Indy Greenways website at <http://www.indygreenways.org/fallcreek/fallcreek.htm>. The club will provide trash bags, gloves, drinking water, etc. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

**What to Bring:** Your boat and paddle (of course) along with your PFD, hat, sunscreen, bug spray and protective footwear.

**Contact information:** Dan Evard (317) 753-1226, [danevard@aol.com](mailto:danevard@aol.com)



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## Eagle Creek Triathlons 2011

### John Wainscott

The 2011 Triathlons at Eagle Creek will be coordinated by me, John Wainscott. If you didn't know, HCC provide safety boats (canoes & kayaks) for the swimming portion of the race. In return, the HCC gets a healthy check at the end of the year, which goes into the club's general fund. For your efforts as a volunteer you get a great t-shirt. It's a great time to get out and paddle with members and not have to drive very far or do any shuttles. Typically, some paddlers venture out onto Eagle Creek's northern section after the event. This area is full of wildlife and provides some beautiful scenery and bird watching. I usually arrive at day light, donned with a fishing pole and try my "luck" till it's time to start the Triathlon. Keep in mind the following dates for this event: June 18 – Sprint Triathlon, July 23 – Sprint Triathlon, August 20 – Sprint Triathlon, August 27 – Go Girl Triathlon. All of the events start at 8:00 AM. It's not a hard thing to do, nor do you need to be a life guard or experienced. Just bring your boat a smile and have a great time. My contact info is: [wldleak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wldleak@sbcglobal.net), cell 317-250-8107. I'll be sending out calls for volunteers closer to each event, but feel free to sign up now! I am looking forward to seeing you out there at Eagle Creek. PS, anyone wanting to help with coordinating and picking up t-shirts let me know. I am currently working another business in Florida and attempting to plan my monthly visits here in Indy with the Triathlons'. There may be times I won't be here to help. So if you're interested please drop me an email or phone call.

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## Flatwater Trip Announcements

### Weeknight Trips for River Rats

#### Sue Foxx

Wednesdays on Eagle Creek offer a wonderful option to paddle during the week. However, many flatwater paddlers may prefer a river option. As a result, we have scheduled two in town paddles in May. The first is a paddle is on Fall Creek on Thursday, May 12th. We will meet at the Walgreens at 56th Street and Emerson (Kessler comes in there too) at 6 pm and leave promptly for the put in. Take out will be at the bridge over Emerson where the old O'Malia's was located. The second paddle will be on White River on Thursday, May 26th. We will meet at the put-in by the Broadripple Art League at 6 pm. We will paddle to the Rocky Ripple Town Hall. Restaurants are located near both take outs if anyone wants to catch dinner afterward. Since these are short trips, they will be a good option for new paddlers. If the trips prove popular, we'll try and schedule more throughout the season. Call Sue Foxx at 317-363-4074 (cell) if you have any questions.

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## Driftwood River Trip

Saturday May 14, 2011

### Trip Sponsors: Dan Evard, Linda Smith

The Driftwood River, flowing from the confluence of the Big Blue River and Sugar Creek, winds through farmland with wooded strips bordering both banks. Our trip will begin in a secluded state wildlife preserve and continue through a part of Camp Atterbury wilderness area. Deer, beaver, heron, osprey and wild turkeys have been spotted along this area. We will travel from Furnas Mill Dam on the Sugar Creek to Heflin Park (8 miles) or to Lowell Bridge PAS (15 miles) depending on water flow. Appropriate for all skill levels.

**Meeting Place:** The Shell Station at Exit 80 on I-65 south at the intersection of State Hwy. 252 and I-65 south

**Schedule:**

9:30 am	Arrive at Meeting Place - The Shell Station at Exit 80
	Travel to Put In
10:00 am	Run Shuttle
11:00 am	Start Paddling
	Lunch Break
4:30 pm	Landing at Take Out

**Contact Information:** Please contact one of us by Friday, May 13th to confirm your attendance and to make sure the water level is sufficient for this trip to be a go.

Dan Evard (317-753-1226, [danevard@aol.com](mailto:danevard@aol.com)) or Linda Smith (317-450-5638, [smit063@comcast.net](mailto:smit063@comcast.net))

Those wishing to rent canoes or kayaks from Blue's Canoe Livery (812-526-9851)

[www.bluescanoelivery.com](http://www.bluescanoelivery.com) to participate in the trip are welcome to do so –contact Dan or Linda to coordinate.



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## **Cedar Creek – Intermediate Level Trip**

**Sunday, May 1**

### **Trip Sponsor: Theresa Kulczak**

This trip will take us on an adventure to Cedar Creek, north of Ft. Wayne, the second stream in Indiana to be designated as a “Natural and Scenic River.” The Blue River was the first and you’ll notice the difference between northern and southern streams on this trip. Our guest trip leader is Nick “Raincrow” Norris, a legend of the Indiana paddling community. Nick teaches paddling, was a certified whitewater instructor, and has paddled since before The Black Toad was born. His group, “A Boaters Bunch”, will join us, along with Wizard. According to Nick, the Cedar is a tricky stream to catch with water, requiring a minimum flow of 92 cfs but risky with flows above 400. The trip will involve quick maneuvering, carries around trees and logjams, fast current, and who knows what else.



The northerners meet for a big breakfast and decide the final plan for the day. Given the fickleness of the flow, we’ll stay flexible for last-minute adjustments. If the flow is high, Nick will suggest an alternate stream such as the Pigeon. Bring a lunch or snacks for a stop on the river. And dry bag with a change of clothes. Watch the Bulletin Board for updates. Yours truly will coordinate for the HCC.

**Meeting place for breakfast:** 9:30 for breakfast at Bob Evans at the junction of I-69 and DuPont Rd. on the northwest side of Ft. Wayne. Gazetteer page 29 A8. 10:30 departure from restaurant to putin.

Approximate mileage: 10

Cedar Creek Putin at Cook’s Park on Coldwater Road; Takout at Cedarville

Contact: Theresa Kulczak, [theblacktoad@lightbound.com](mailto:theblacktoad@lightbound.com) cell: 317-409-6771

Nick “Raincrow” Norris: [raincrow@frontier.com](mailto:raincrow@frontier.com) cell: 260-312-1020

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## **Friends of the Muscatatuck River Society Rendezvous**

**Saturday, May 7**

The Friends of the Muscatatuck (FOMRS) hold an annual paddling rendezvous every May in the Vernon area. Originally called the “Spring Tonic,” it evolved into a memorial paddle for Wayne Durbin and Dan Shade. Two years ago, the HCC paddled with the Muscatatuck group, and we got lucky because the recent rains allowed for the rendezvous to paddle Otter Creek, one of the most gorgeous and fun streams in Indiana. On Saturday of the Rendezvous, the Friends of the Muscatatuck typically paddle one river in the morning and one in the afternoon, with lunch at the campground in between. The rivers aren’t determined until close to the date and often not until that morning. In the evening there’s an optional pitch-in and silent auction to benefit the FOMRS. Camping is available Friday and Saturday nights. Experienced paddlers who are up for adventure are encouraged to participate.

**Schedule:** Breakfast from 7:00 to 8:00 at Log Cabin Inn, Vernon

First shuttle from Muskatatuck Park Campground at 9:30

[www.muscatatuckpark.com](http://www.muscatatuckpark.com)

Return to campground for lunch, and paddle again (optional)

For more info contact the Rendezvous organizers:

Bill Suhre [bill.suhre@hilexpoly.com](mailto:bill.suhre@hilexpoly.com) (812) 528-1623

Roger Robinette [rrobinette@comcast.net](mailto:rrobinette@comcast.net) (812) 392-3091

Troy Jackson [tl.jackson@comcast.net](mailto:tl.jackson@comcast.net) (812) 592-0481

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## **Wanted: Your trip reports and stories!**

Did you recently go on a HCC sponsored trip and have a great time? Then let the rest of the club know! Share your stories and your pictures with the rest of the club by writing a trip report or even just a short, interesting (or humorous) anecdote so that we can all get a glimpse of what it is like to go on a club trip or paddle through a particular area. The article/story can be as long or as short as you’d like to write. All newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of the month for the upcoming month’s issue. Please submit anything you might want to share with the rest of the club to [editor@hoosiercanoecub.org](mailto:editor@hoosiercanoecub.org). **Thank you!**



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## Touring Trip Announcements

**NWIPA Lake Michigan Water Trail National Trail Designation Day**      **Saturday, June 4, 2011**

**HCC Coordinator: Jim Sprandel**

Mark Saturday, June 4 on your calendar. Northwest Indiana Paddlers (NWIPA) will hold a one-day event to celebrate the dedication of the first 75 miles of the Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail by the US Department of Interior.

The event is intended for all paddlers ranging from beginners to advanced. The paddling venue will be broken into a sea kayak section and a flatwater section. For sea kayakers, there will be a 10-mile round trip paddle on Lake Michigan from Marquette Park in Gary to the Portage Lakefront and River Walk to take part in the dedication ceremony before paddling back to Gary. Flatwater paddlers will be able to paddle up the Little Calumet River to the Portage Lakefront where they can join in the festivities. NWIPA has reached out to supporters of this project including US Congressmen, Chicago Mayor Daley and the South Shore Mayors as well as business, environmental, and regional leaders. Paddlers will converge on Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk; participate in the dedication ceremony unveiling of the Lake Michigan Water Trail South Shore Poster, and enjoy the reception following the event.

NWIPA is still firming up details for this event and I will post them to the Touring Section of the Bulletin and broadcast them the Touring Kayak e-mail list as soon as I receive them.

In addition, several HCCer's have reserved campsites at Dunes State Park for Friday and Saturday nights. We should have room for a total of 5-6 people there—we know of another campground in the area if more people want to camp overnight and are unable to get into Dunes State Park. I'm thinking that it might be fun to play in Lake Michigan off the Dunes State Park beach before heading back on Sunday if the surf is up.

Stay tuned. I'll get this information out to people as it becomes available.

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## **CALLOUT: Greek Island Inn-to-Inn Sea Kayaking**

**July**

**Trip Sponsor: Theresa Kulczak**

Explore **Greece** by sea kayak, island hopping by from inn to inn, along high cliffs and across the aqua blue bays of the Mediterranean! Yes, the HCC is going international! We're partnering with **Geneva Kayaks** (Yorkville, Illinois) to create a customized dream trip for the HCC. Geneva Kayaks regularly offers this trip and we're asking them to put together a package for us, shorter than the usual trip, so that there's time for optional sightseeing in Greece. The tentative dates for the paddle trip are July 6-12 (yes, this year) for five spectacular days of paddling in the Dodecanese Islands. Paddle from island to island staying in intimate inns each night, with the chance to experience the beautiful culture of the area. Rich in history, each island has its own unique character. During the day, we'll discover villages, castles, and volcanoes, and come upon fishermen, monks and local townspeople. Each day will finish in a traditional village with dinner at the local *taverna*. And there's always time for snorkeling in the pristine turquoise waters. The paddle tour is **ALL-INCLUSIVE** including accommodations, ferry transports during the trip, boats, basic gear, and all food, including alcohol. The top-notch fleet includes fiberglass Nigel Dennis and Romany boats. The cost for the all-inclusive paddle-tour portion of the trip (only) is approximately \$2500. Final pricing to be announced soon. Participants must arrange their own travel to the town of Kos.



A minimum of 6 participants is required to make the trip a "go" so please let me know ASAP if you're interested. Previous sea kayaking experience is required (minimum Level 2 on the Geneva Kayaks web-site [<http://www.genevakayak.com/adventure/greece.html>]). If interested (or wish more information), please contact Theresa Kulczak at home (317) 570-0506 or [theblacktoad@lightbound.com](mailto:theblacktoad@lightbound.com)



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## Open Water Rescue Clinic for Touring and Sea Kayaks    Saturday, May 7, 2011

**Instructors:** Jim Sprandel, Dave Ellis,

When paddling on larger lakes or the ocean, you get away from shore and sometimes capsize due to wave or wind conditions. When you capsize in these conditions, pulling your boat to shore and emptying it is usually not an option—you have to know how to reenter your boat quickly. On my first trip to Lake Superior, I capsized and the techniques that I learned in a class like this one were critical especially given Superior's 50 degree water. The people on that trip practiced these techniques as a group in calm water before having to try them under the conditions where we were likely to end upside down.

Dave Ellis and I will lead a clinic on solo and assisted open water rescue methods for touring and sea kayaks. To start the clinic, we'll discuss hazards associated with open water paddling and the personal equipment that you and your group need to carry when you paddle in these conditions. After this discussion, we'll get out on the water and practice rescues. Each student will practice how to wet exit, how to swim with their kayak, how to do solo and assisted re-entries, and how to tow another paddler. We will all be very wet by the end of the day.

These skills are some of the skills that you need to paddle bigger water safely and learning them removes some of the "panic" if you happen to capsize in more interesting conditions. Like Swift Water Rescue for Whitewater boaters, these are skills that you need to practice frequently—before a real need arises. The goal is to get a person back in their boat within a minute. For this reason, consider attending even if you attended last year's or previous open water rescue sessions.

**Note:** This or equivalent training is strongly recommended for the club trips coming up on Lake Michigan, Erie, and Superior this year.

### Course Details

**Date:** Saturday, May 7, 2011

**Location:** Eagle Creek Park Marina (You will have to pay a park admission fee of \$5 per car to enter the park as well as an additional fee of \$3 per boat.)

**Schedule:**

9:00 am	Meet at Eagle Creek Marina
9:15 am	Introduction/Shore-Based Training
10:00 am	Start on the water training
1:30 pm	Lunch – Questions/Answers

**Required Equipment:**(Contact with [Jim](#) or [Dave](#) if you want an exception to these requirements since we may have extra equipment that you can borrow):

- Touring Kayak or Sea Kayak (14' or longer)
  - Must have perimeter deck lines running to the bow and stern.
  - Fore and aft bulkheads
- PFD, Spray Skirt , pump, water, food, dry clothes.
- Wet Suit or Dry Suit—We are holding this class two weeks earlier than last year and we learned that you need at least a wet suit to be comfortable.

**Recommended Equipment:** (Please bring if you have.)

- Paddle Float, tow rope, throw bag, rescue stirrup

**Contact Information:** If you wish to sign up, contact Jim Sprandel at [merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net) or (317) 257-2063 by Thursday, May 5, 2011. Contact [Jim](#) or [Dave](#) if you have any questions about the course.



## Eagle Creek Thursday Evening Paddles

Jim Sprandel

This year, Eagle Creek paddles will be on Thursday Night just like last year. This privilege is provided through a Partnership Agreement between the Eagle Creek Discovery Center and the HCC. Eagle Creek grants us admission to the park after 3:00 pm on Thursday evenings and, in exchange, we will clean up the shore of Eagle Creek Lake. Later in the year, I will be recruiting volunteers to help with this clean-up. This agreement was easy to set up this year since Kellie Kaneshiro had established such a good working relationship with the park for the last two years.

Last year, we helped with Eagle Creek's Wednesday night paddles, however, the Discovery Center is no longer sponsoring these paddles so that they cannot be included in the partnership agreement.

If you have never paddled Eagle Creek, it is an interesting area with open water which can get "playful" (1-2 foot waves) for long boaters when the wind is up. Flatwater paddlers can feel right at home on Eagle Creek above the Lafayette Road bridge or up Fishback Creek which are only a mile or so from the marina. There is a lot of wildlife around the park—it's common to see ducks, geese, cormorants, egrets, herons, and even bald eagles on our paddles. Plus, we see the occasion beaver and osprey.

**When:** **Thursday Evenings - May 5 through September 29, 2011.** You may enter the park anytime after 3:00 pm and you must leave by the posted park closing time.

There is no "formal" meeting time—people usually come out and paddle after they get off work. If you want to meet up with people to paddle, set up a Bulletin Board Thread in the [Touring Kayak Forum](#) for this purpose.

**Note:** Be sure to look at the park closing time that is posted at each of the park gates. It changes throughout the year and you can be ticketed if you stay in the park after that time.

**Where:** **Eagle Creek Park Marina**—Enter the park at either the 56th Street or 71st Street entrance and follow the signs in the park to the marina. You must print the 2011 HCC pass using the directions below and show it to the gate staff to get in without charge.

### Directions to print the 2011 HCC Pass to Eagle Creek:

To access the 2011 Eagle Creek Park Pass, go to:

<http://www.hoosiercanooclub.org/ECPs2011.pdf>

**IMPORTANT:** The Eagle Creek Park Pass is password protected on the Hoosier Canoe Club Web-site. Before you can display or print the pass, you will be asked to type in a password. Enter the same password that Dave Ellis has sent you to access the HCC Membership List.

If you have forgotten this password, please e-mail Dave Ellis ([riverpapaw@aol.com](mailto:riverpapaw@aol.com)) or Jim Sprandel ([ecreek@hoosiercanooclub.org](mailto:ecreek@hoosiercanooclub.org)). Please include both your full name and e-mail address when requesting this information since we will check your name against the HCC membership list.

## Upcoming Events

Wed. evenings 7PM-9PM	<b>Pool Sessions- Thatcher Pool</b>	Bulletin Board
Thurs. evenings	Eagle Creek Paddles	Page 7, BB
Sunday, May 1	Intermediate Flatwater—Cedar Creek	Page 4
Sunday, May 1	Touring Monthly Geist Lake Paddle	BB
May 6-8	Whitewater—Cheat Fest	BB
Saturday, May 7	Touring Kayak Training Clinic 2	Page 6
Saturday, May 7	Friends of the Muskatuck Rendezvous	Page 4
Saturday, May 7	Whitewater—Stonycreek Rendezvous	BB
Thursday, May 12	Flatwater Weeknight Paddle on Fall Creek	Page 3
Saturday, May 14	Flatwater—Driftwood River	Page 3
Saturday, May 21	Touring—Grayson Lake	April NL
Saturday, May 21	BWCA/Gunflint Trail	April NL
Thursday, May 26	Flatwater Weeknight Paddle on the White River	Page 3
May 27-30	Whitewater—Annual Wisconsin Trip	BB
Saturday, June 4	NWIPA Lake Michigan Water Trail National Trail Designation Day	Page 5

**June Newsletter Deadline:** Please submit articles to Kim Henry by May 15, 2011. Please e-mail articles and pictures to [editor@hoosiercanoecub.org](mailto:editor@hoosiercanoecub.org).

