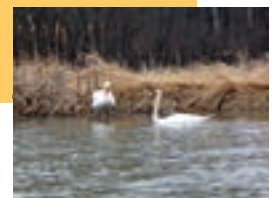


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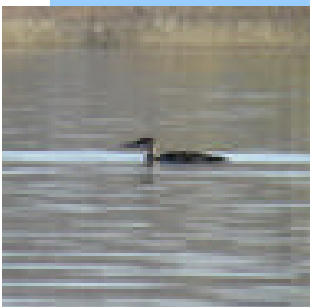


From our Skipper:

WOW!! What great weather for paddling lately—if you did not have to work during the week. We had a great trip on White Lick creek where I got to meet several new paddlers. We have several great trips coming up. Join Muskrat for the April Fool's on Big Pine trip on Sunday, April 1 for a great stretch of whitewater (water level dependent) and beautiful scenery. Thanks to everyone who helped with the Boat, Sport and Travel show. We had a lot of positive feedback, several new members, and we had a great opportunity to talk to people about what we love to do: Paddle! We are already working on ideas of how to make it even better next year. Please come on out and paddle with us soon.

Dwayne

Taken by Jim Sprandel in March 2012. Muted swans have established a colony in the headwater of Geist Reservoir. In the last 3 years, they have grown so that there are now 15-20 swans on the lake.



This loon was photographed by Tom Beckerich Lake Monroe last May. Loons have been started showing up on Eagle Creek and Geist Reservoir in the last 2 weeks.

Flatwater/Whitewater Trip Announcement

Muskrat's 34th Annual April Fools On Big Pine Cruise

Sunday, April 1, 2012

Trip Sponsor: Garry Hill

Muskrat's 34th Annual April Fools on Big Pine Cruise is Saturday April 2, 2011. The meeting time is 9:30 AM at our traditional gathering location, in downtown Pine Village. **Please, Don't go to the Putin! Go to Pine Village!!!** Sometimes we don't know where the Putin will be until we meet in Pine Village. There are several possibilities, with the selection based on water levels.

There are 3 Meeting Locations: In addition to Pine Village, this event has two other meeting locations available— one in Kokomo and another in Lafayette. All 3 locations and meeting times are described below:

1) The west-side McDonalds in Kokomo, corner of Sycamore & Dixon. Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 33. From US-31 Bypass, go west on Sycamore Street (first street north of Wildcat Creek). Follow Sycamore all the way thru the city. Micky-D's is on the left just before the light at Dixon Road. This is the site of the April Fool's Traditional "Trip Leader's Breakfast", which has been held every year since the beginning in 1978. Muskrat will arrive at 7AM if you would like to eat, sip some coffee, and listen to some "pitifully old and raucous River Tales". We will leave from there promptly at 8:00 AM.

2) The Lafayette McDonalds just west of the Jct of I-65 & SR-26. Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 31. Be there NO LATER than 8:30 AM. The group from Kokomo will arrive at 8:45 and leave ASAP, hopefully by 9:00 AM, or as soon as all the potty-stops have been accomplished.

3) Downtown Pine Village, on SR-26, about 20-miles west of Lafayette. Indiana Atlas & Gazetteer Page 30, at the Jct of SR-26 & SR-55, in beautiful, downtown Pine Village. The boat-laden auto caravan from Kokomo & Lafayette will arrive in Pine Village at, about, around, or somewhat after, 9:30 AM. Be there early!!!!!! Park anywhere downtown. Expect to see Paddler-people wandering around in the middle of the highway. The locals just ignore us. They know we're harmless, and that we'll soon be gone.

Expected Paddling Conditions: I know there may be some members who are not familiar with Big Pine Creek, so let me pass on a few words of caution: My April Fools Trip is a bit different from the normal trip, so I think it's prudent to describe this event a bit more in detail.

Big Pine Creek is the best Whitewater Stream in Indiana, but it's nearly dry and not Paddleable most of the time. Enough water to make the rapids enjoyable (0" or more on the Rainsville Gauge), which happens maybe 30-40 days per year. Good water on a warm comfortable day, and you're down to about 10-15 days. When the water is up and the Sun is shining, the Whitewater rapids of Big Pine Creek draws Paddlers like "flies to road kill".

Here's a idea of what the Creek is like. At normal water levels ("0" or less on the Rainsville gauge) Big Pine is very shallow and rocky (much more so than a Summertime Wildcat or Sugar), still with many rapids that are equal to the best Wildcat Creek has to offer.

However, if the water level is up (anything above "0"), Big Pine has several good Class I+ rapids. In addition, if it's up, we will also be running Rocky Ford, which is 3/4-mile of continuous Class II, with some of the best Whitewater in Indiana, easily able to swamp Open Canoes. The most fun level for this event is about 1-2 feet.

Big Pine is a beautiful and fun Stream loved by Paddlers all over Indiana. Its difficulty varies greatly with flow level; ranging from a "boat-beater" in dry times, to huge waves and hydraulics in high flows. However, Big Pine could be considered appropriate for Novice Paddlers at levels under 2-ft on the Chuck Weis Gauge, as long as their equipment is appropriate and they are part of a more experienced group.

If you're interested in attending this Cruise, but have concerns about your abilities or equipment, please feel free to contact Garry Hill.

Last Minute Updates: Each year I make a scouting run thru the Big Pine Valley on the day before my April Fools Cruise. I check the water level (on the Chuck Weis Gauge in Rainsville) immediately upon arrival. Then I visit all possible Put-ins and Takeouts, visit with the Landowners at each location, dropping off a copy of a letter if no one is home. When I'm ready to leave, I check the water level again and note any changes. My plan for that day includes being home no later than 6PM, so I can prepare my email update which I promise to have available to my Expedition Team Members after 7PM. For everyone else, I will be sitting next to both phones all evening, beginning at 7. Feel free to call me any time after 7PM to see about the water level and the expected level of difficulty. The Launch Site, however, will not be announced until we meet in Pine Village.

Contact info: Garry Hill: garryhill@aol.com, 765-628-3155 home

For those of us that may wish to combine an enjoyment of reading with the love of paddling:

Book Review of *Big Water, Little Boats* by Tom Martin

Moulty Fulmer and the First Grand Canyon Dory on the last of the Wild Colorado River

Did you know a Hoosier made the first Grand Canyon dory? Stephen Moulton Babcock Fulmer, known as "Moulty" to his friends, grew up in Muncie, Indiana. After graduating from Ball Teachers College in 1929, now Ball State University, Moulty worked his entire adult life as Athletic Director for the Muncie YMCA. The "fleet footed Muncie boy" was a basketball champion in the 1920s, and was one of the first inductees into the Ball State Athletic Hall of Fame.

So what does Moulty have to do with Lava Falls and the big whitewater out west? The Colorado River in Grand Canyon and the White River in Muncie have one thing in common. Stephen Moulton Babcock Fulmer.

Bitten by the river running bug during a San Juan River trip in 1942 with Norm Nevills, Moulty built his first boat, called the TUB, and had it on the White River in 1942. The TUB looked like a bathtub, and when the White flooded to over 9,000 cubic feet per second in the spring of 1943, Moulty was out on the water in his TUB. Later in 1943, he built a second boat, a nine-footer. While serving in World War II, a chance meeting in 1945 with the legendary McKenzie River dory boat builder Woodie Hindman in Oregon catapulted Moulty's boat building into a new breed of boat.

Right after the War, Moulty constructed his first decked McKenzie dory and rowed the San Juan River in 1947 from Shiprock, New Mexico, to Lee's Ferry, AZ, with his wife Janice. The next year, Moulty was back out west. Traveling through the Grand Canyon in 1948 on a Norm Nevills expedition as a passenger, Moulty met Colorado River historian, Otis "Dock" Marston. The two became fast friends, and went on to run the Yampa and Desolation Canyon together and correspond for the next thirty years. Marston listed Moulty as the 98th person to float the Grand Canyon.

Moulty built his second dory, the GEM, specifically for the Grand Canyon's big water. Joining forces with river runner Pat Reilly in 1954, they ran the Grand Canyon five times in their home-built boats. Their adventures included rowing the wild Colorado River in 1957 on 126,000 cubic feet per second, the highest flow anyone has ever boated in the Grand Canyon. In 1955, Moulty's boat the GEM was the first Grand Canyon Dory to make the cruise through the Canyon.

Using historic photos, river logs, letters and interviews, author Tom Martin not only recounts Moulty's whitewater career, but weaves in the voyages of a number of unsung river runners during the transformation from Grand Canyon expeditionary river running into today's premier whitewater recreation. BIG WATER, LITTLE BOATS also chronicles the start of the National Park's river running permit system in 1955, the construction of Glen Canyon Dam, and the explosion of river running that occurred after the completion of the dam in 1963.

For more information, see www.bigwaterlittleboats.com

Invest in the banks of White River

Lend a hand for the 24th Annual White River Cleanup, scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 8 a.m. to noon. This will be a morning of satisfying fun/work as we clean the banks of White River in downtown Indianapolis. The first 150 people to pre-register for this family-friendly event will get a commemorative tee shirt and free lunch. You can sign up today, using our quick-and-easy online registration form at the Friends of the White River web site (<http://www.friendsofwhiteriver.org/wrCleanup2012/index.html>). To guarantee a tee shirt and lunch, you must sign up by Monday, April 2.

On April 14, volunteers are asked to arrive at White River State Park by 8 a.m. Come to the parking lots at 801 West Washington Street, on the east side of the river near Victory Field. You should wear clothing suitable for the weather and outdoor work; gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Introduction to Kayaking Clinic

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Instructors: Dave Ellis, Jim Sprandel

Here's a chance to jumpstart your paddling! As a new kayaker, you know how to move your boat around the lake. However, this class will work with you to make your paddling easier and more effective—to give you more control over your boat. We will work on your strokes and other paddling skills that you may need to safely enjoy the sport. This course will be based on the American Canoe Association "[Introduction to Kayaking](#)" course.

At first, Dave Ellis and I talk with you about the basics that you need to know to paddle safely and then quickly get on the water to teach you how to move your boat forward, backwards, and sideways as well as how to turn and stop. Since the water may be cool, we will demonstrate all of the rescue skills but you won't *intentionally* be getting into the water at this clinic. (Until the water warms up, I would recommend going to Thatcher pool for rescue and wet exit practice.)

This course is intended for recreational, touring, and sea kayaks that are 12 feet long or longer.

Meeting Place: Eagle Creek Park –Marina Once you are in the park, follow the signs to the Marina.

Note: There is a fee of \$8 to bring a kayak into Eagle Creek if you don't have a park pass.

Class Size: Attendance will be limited to 15 paddlers. HCC Members will accepted based on when they contact me for the class. If the class overflows, I will set up a second class for those students.

What to Bring:

Recreational, Touring, or Sea Kayak - 12 feet or longer. Fore and aft flotation is recommended.

Personal Flotation Device

Paddle, Splash Jacket, Sun Screen, Lunch, Water

Safety equipment that you normally carry (e.g., pump, paddle float, stirrup, tow or throw rope, ...) so we can demonstrate how to use them.

Paddling Clothing—Even though you won't *intentionally* be capsizing, be sure to dress appropriately for the weather and bring a wind-proof paddling jacket since it may be cool.

Spare clothes in a dry bag (just in case)

Spray skirt if you have one.

Questions—think about what you want to learn before the class and come with questions.

Schedule:

9:15 am

Meet at Marina Parking Lot

9:30 am

Boats down to the beach

9:30 am—12:30 pm

Clinic

12:30-1:15 pm

Lunch and Discussion on the point

1:15—3:30 pm

Clinic

Registration information: If you are would like to register for this class or have any questions, please contact Jim Sprandel at (317) 257-2063 or merlin-3d@sbcglobal.net. If you e-mail me, please send me your name,

Touring / Sea Kayak Thoughts

Jim Sprandel

Ah, it's Spring and a person's fancies naturally turn to paddling. With 80 degrees outside, it has been easy to forget Winter and to start planning our Summer paddling adventures. The Touring/Sea Kayak fleet has a full schedule ahead of us as well as chances to sharpen up our skills through training clinics.

I have started paddling the local lakes and this is a great time of year. You are starting to see migratory birds—loons, grebes, and cormorants— as well as the eagles, herons, kingfishers, gulls, geese, and ducks that you see throughout the year. Watch the Bulletin Board and your IND_TOURING_KAYAK e-mail since people may post week-end paddles when there are not any Touring Fleet events and it is just too nice not to paddle..

Monthly Sunday Afternoon Paddles on Geist - Next Paddle is Sunday, April 8, 1:00 pm

Our next regular Sunday Afternoon Paddle on Geist will be held Sunday, April 8 at 1:00 pm. The water will still be cool so dress accordingly.

We moved these Sunday paddles to the afternoon so that more people could attend. When you look at the list of dates below, you will see that the dates are not always the on the 1st Sunday of each month - when there was a conflict with another Touring Fleet event, we moved the paddle to the following Sunday.

•**Dates:** Sundays April 8, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 12, September 2, October 14, November 4

•**Time:** 1:00 pm - Ready to launch

•**Where:** Geist Park - Geist Park is located on Fall Creek in the headwaters of Geist Reservoir and the entrance is located just south of the intersection of 113th and Florida Road. If you have a car GPS, the address is: 10979 Florida Road, Fortville, IN. Map to Park: <http://g.co/maps/kdpff>

Eagle Creek Paddles start on Tuesdays in May

I spoke with the Discovery Center at Eagle Creek and we will again be allowed to paddle there weekly from May through September on either Tuesday or Thursday. I polled the Touring Fleet and we decided to move our weekly paddle from Thursday to Tuesday evening this year. People preferred Tuesday since some people missed several days last year either traveling to or getting ready for weekend trips. Watch the May Newsletter or the Bulletin Board for full details and for the Admission Pass.

Training

Our first training session will be Saturday, April 14 at Eagle Creek. This will be an Introduction to Paddling clinic and will cover paddle equipment, safety, and moving yourself around the water. This course helps you establish a good foundation to build your paddling upon. This course is open to all paddlers but focuses on the needs of newer paddlers. The full course description is in this issue of the newsletter.

In May and June, we will have more free clinics where we refine your open water paddling skills.

•Saturday, May 5—, This is the first intermediate clinic. Dave Ellis and I will follow the ACA Level 3 (Intermediate) curriculum for this course. However, if you have something that you would like to work on, let us know because we have significant latitude within the ACA course guidelines.

•Saturday, June 9—The second intermediate course will be an Open Water Rescue Clinic, even if you have taken Open Water Rescue before, you want to keep these maneuvers fresh **before** you have to use them in 2-foot waves on Lake Michigan. This session was moved back from May to give the water a bit more time to warm up.

•Saturday, June 23—The third training class will be another intermediate ACA L3 Class. We will talk to the students in the May 5 Level 3 class to see what people would like to learn.

Excellent (and Free) Sea Kayaking Guide

The Canadian Government has put out a great 60-page guide to sea kayaking. It also lists places to paddle in Canada. You can download this book at:

http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2007/tc/T29-18-2007E.pdf

Touring Trip Announcement

Brookville Lake

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Trip Sponsor: Robert Moore

We will be paddling from the Dunlapville causeway. Our course will depend upon the interest of the group. A route north (2 1/2 miles each way) could loop through the shallow water and the waterfowl sanctuary area. Last year, we paddled south into open water to the Fairfield Road bridge. Brookville Lake is a 5260-acre lake managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and Indiana Department of Natural Resources for flood control and recreation. A detailed description of the lake can be found on line (http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/brookville_trail.pdf). The shore line is largely wooded. Boat traffic is expected to be light this time of year. The north end of the lake is an idle zone and used predominately for fishing.



North Brookville Lake

Put-In: Meet at the Dunlapville ramp.

From I 70, you can follow State Road 1 south to Connersville. Follow the signs for 1 through Connersville and turn east onto In-44. Turn right on Mt. Pleasant Road (you will see a green Dunlapville sign and a brown Quakertown Recreation sign near the turn). When Mt. Pleasant dead ends, turn left onto Dunlapville road. It crosses the causeway. Take the first left turn after the causeway on to Old Dunlapville Road (near the boat storage facility). Old Dunlapville Road is the boat ramp. The parking lot and out house facilities are on the left.

Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. Bring a picnic lunch.

Contact Information: Robert Moore, [njordball\(at\)frontier.com](mailto:njordball@frontier.com).

Big Blue River Trip Saturday,

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Trip Sponsor: Joel DeLashmit

Join us on an exciting trip down the Big Blue River through Shelbyville. This section of river begins with wooded banks, passes under six bridges, through many fields and ends at a city park. During spring, this river can be very swift. We will stop at a sand bar to enjoy lunch or a snack. Although this section of the river passes through a bit of the urban part of Shelbyville, most of it is farmland. Much wildlife can be seen on this trip, I have seen some Bald Eagles, Turtles, Blue Herons, a variety of Ducks and Geese, and a young owl was spotted during one paddle.

Meeting Place: {N39°36'39.71", W85°44'58.30"} We will meet at the put-in, Roger Shaw Park in Shelbyville which is about 40 minutes from Indianapolis. Travel Southeast on I-74 to SR 9 (Exit 113) then turn left to head North 4.25 miles to CR 600 N. Turn right and travel 0.92 miles, the park is on the right side just before the bridge over the river.

Take-Out: {N39°31'33.68" W85°47'22.18"} Sunset Park in Shelbyville.

Trip Length: 9.1 miles

Expected Water Conditions: Good current with some calm spots

Schedule:

9:30 am Gather at the Meeting Place/Put-In

10:00 am Shuttle leaves

10.30 pm Start Paddling

Trip Requirements: There are some strainers and water levels may produce swift current so good boat control is absolutely necessary in these areas. If water levels are lower, portages may be an option. Every trip that I have led down this stretch has resulted in some people getting wet, just be prepared with proper dress and supplies, and please wear a lifejacket.

Please call with questions or concerns. The river will be scouted sometime before the trip and I can let people know of any specific hazards at the put-in.

Contact Information: Contact Joel DeLashmit by 9 pm Friday April 27th at joeldelashmit@gmail.com or [\(317\) 656-1597](tel:(317)656-1597) if you plan to paddle.