



# BAYOU BYLINE

Bayou Chapter, Ozark Society

June, 2009



## JUNE, 2009

- 13 **Blueberry Picking.** Meet at 7:45 at Academy Sports on Bert Kouns. Contact Ann Gibson at 865-2579.
- 16 **Monthly Meeting,** 6:30 p.m. Centenary College, Carlisle Auditorium (Room 114) in Mickle Hall. "Wild Things of Vancouver Island" by Beth Russell.
- 21 **Toure de Cyprus** 9:00 a.m. Meet at Richard Fleming Park. Contact Mike Wolcott 631-8244 mwolco@yahoo.com
- 27 **Duck Pond Clean-up,** 8:00 a.m. Kings Highway Duck Pond. Contact Kathy Kramer 742-9992

## JULY, 2009

- 4 **Bike Ride to the Fireworks,** Clyde Fant Bike Trail. Contact John or Cathy Joyce 797-6783
- 18 **Sabine River Float,** Contact Rick Larned 742-8698
- 19-25 **Colorado River Trip.** See [ozarksociety.net](http://ozarksociety.net) for more info.
- 21 **Monthly Business Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Centenary College, Carlisle Auditorium (Room 114) in Mickle Hall. Program presented by Steve Michalisko, Master Gardener.

## AUGUST, 2009

- 2 **Cypress Triathlon,** rescue boats needed for swim event. Gary or Jenny Hackman 228-9096.
- 2-8 **Nantahala River Trip,** Contact Adam Willard 423-1690
- 18 **Monthly Business Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Centenary College, Carlisle Auditorium (Room 114) in Mickle Hall. "Louisiana Wildflowers" presented by Jenny Hackman.
- 22 **Watermelon Bike Ride,** contact Toni Spitale 869-1015
- 27 **Board/Outing Meeting for Officers and Committee Chairs.** Contact Kathy Kramer 742-9992, with your ideas for Fall outings, events, and programs.

## SEPTEMBER, 2009

- 4-6 **Labor Day Weekend Float on Sabine River.** Contact Maurice Loridans, 424-7384
- 15 **Monthly Business Meeting.** 6:30 p.m. Centenary College, Carlisle Auditorium (Room 114) in Mickle Hall. "D'Arbonne All Society Meeting Preview" by Sandy Roerig, & Jenny Hackman.

## **All Society Fall Meeting**

**September 19, 2009**

The **All Society Fall Meeting** will be held at Lake D'Arbonne State Park near Farmerville, LA.

More information to be announced.

## **Toure de Cyprus**

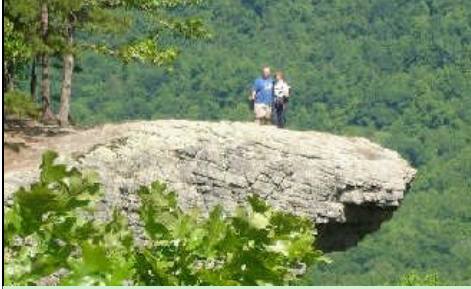
Meet at Richard Fleming Park and be ready to launch at 9 a.m. "Toure de Cyprus" will explore the swampy areas of Cross Lake. The Cross Lake Patrol has granted a one day waiver of the \$20 sticker normally required.

Mike Wolcott and his wife, Becky, have invited us to their house for burgers, brats, and beer after the float. Please RSVP so they will know how many to plan for. Please call them at 631-8244 or email Mike at mwolco@yahoo.com.

Richard Fleming Park is located at 7919 West Lakeshore Drive. For park information, call 929-2806.

# Buffalo Blast

By Louis Covington



Perfect water, perfect weather, the perfect group of BCOS companions made for four perfect days on the Buffalo in May, including “Lady Baryshnikov.”

Upper Buffalo was ideal for a float from Ponca to Kyles Monday, followed by Kyles to Erbie Tuesday. With crystal clear water reflecting bright blue skies and brilliant sunlight bouncing off sparkling rapids and river waves, the Buffalo was at its most beautiful and fun. Plenty of current to float us along with riffles, waves, and shoals to keep it interesting added to the challenge of tight bends and strainers from this winter’s ice storm. These were the prettiest days I’ve ever seen on the Buffalo. Bright sunshine and highs around 70 warmed the cool nights (41 – 45 degrees, great campfire weather!!).



Hikes included the rugged, physically challenging as well as beautiful Indian Creek, Glory Hole where the noonday sun sent shimmering light through the hole and the waterfall below, Hawksbill Crag was it’s always spectacular self, and ample water plunging over Hemmed-In-Hollow were all at their very best!!



Kathy Kramer’s ballet-like boat handling earned her the nickname “Lady Baryshnikov” from BCOS member Bob Ordeneaux from Baton Rouge who kept us entertained with his Cajun humor, Ann Gibson kept us well fed and showed great proficiency in her kayak, and new friend Gerry Hemmer kept us informed with her local knowledge and good nature. It was such a pleasure to chill with them on the Buffalo.



## In Loving Memory of a Beautiful Person

*Karen Penninger*

A memorial service will be held at All Souls Unitarian Church on Ellerbe Road, Saturday June 13, at 4:00 p.m.

Anyone wishing to share their remembrances will have the opportunity to do so.

*“I pray Karen is at peace, as this is my prayer today for each one of us.”* Perry Hill

# Reflections from Bayou Pierre

By Jon Soul

May 11, 2009 was two days removed from the one year anniversary of 2008's record setting rainfall event and subsequent flooding in Shreveport. This fact did not escape my mind as we prepared to lead a group of middle school students down Bayou Pierre as part of our annual adventure trip. As a continuation of studies which started at the beginning of the school year on Shreveport's Old River, the purpose of this trip was to deepen appreciation of and seek real adventure in a seemingly familiar environment.

That is why we chose to begin our paddle at the Ockley Bridge located in the South Highland neighborhood. This is the first navigable stretch in what by appearance and name is widely referred to as Shreveport's concrete "drainage ditch." The forecast for that day was a forty percent chance of showers. The students knew that barring a serious downpour or lightning, we would go; so no one was surprised we when put our canoes in the water under a steady drizzle. Fifteen minutes later we found ourselves in both a downpour and lightning. From under the shelter of the Southfield Bridge (located no more than one-half mile from where we put our boats in), we witnessed a relatively new phenomenon in Shreveport's waterway history: the flash flood.

The natural tributaries and channel of Bayou Pierre began being replaced by concrete canals during the 1950's. This was done to keep pace with Shreveport's expanding impervious surface areas such as streets and parking lots. The result has been an increasing amount of rainfall run-off: water moving quickly over and across the ground as opposed to slowly being absorbed by it. The bayou serves as drainage for roughly twelve square miles within the city and is becoming more prone toward rapid rising following a significant rain.

"Where does the concrete end, Mr. Jon?" This was the big question. After having to abandon our paddling plan for May 11, we returned to the Southfield Bridge on May 12. Under the bridge we spent time looking for signs of the previous day's water works. The canal itself only had a few more inches of water in it then it had prior to the rains of May 11. It was the line of debris high up on the bank that told the story. After marveling at the change in scenery within less than twenty-four hours, we resumed our paddle. At present, the canal technically becomes a bayou after passing under the Bert Kouns Industrial Parkway. Between here and our take-out at the Flournoy Lucas Road., I blissfully listened to the discovery-chatter going on behind me. "A beaver...two beavers...look at all the babies [wood ducks] ...we're in the grass...what was THAT...so many turtles...snake!"

There were other questions that were more difficult to answer, like, "Mr. Jon, who would throw a fire extinguisher in the bayou?" While scouting the fore-mentioned stretch this winter, I too was filled with similar questions. It is a stark site at that point downstream where so many of the things that have been previously tossed and washed "out of sight, out of mind," suddenly become visible again.

This was not, however, where our paddling adventure was meant to end. We looked forward to providing the students with a contrasting experience. This spring we had also scouted two other stretches of Bayou Pierre well below the city limits; it is worth noting that we had spotted a total of seven alligators while doing so. On May 13, we planned to paddle from Highway 509 to Highway 84; but because of high water levels, pushy currents, and word of a large log lying three-quarters of the way across the bayou, we never left the put-in bridge. Instead, we gave many of the students their first moving water experience while working on maneuvers such as ferrying, eddy-turns, and peel-outs.

"Are we in Bossier, Mr. Jon?" Even though we had spent time looking at maps, to some students it looked and felt as if we must at least be in a different (perhaps even foreign) parish. "No, this is still Bayou Pierre." May 14 was a glorious eleven mile paddle from Highway 175 to Lecour Road. Several of these miles are through a Wildlife Management Area. In contrast to the concrete reminder of civilization found upstream, there are places void of any noticeable signs of human intervention whatsoever. It was easy for me to imagine that this is what Native Americans, Spanish explorers, French traders, and American frontiersman had all encountered at some point on Las Piedras, Bayou Pierre, and Stoney Creek.

Back at school the following week, there was a message from Shreveport's Department of Operation Services (DOS) -- what could the city want to see the trip leaders about? I had a few ideas and oddly enough, I looked forward to the discussion. Personally, I hoped this meeting would symbolize the

**Chairman**

Jenny Hackman 318-288-9096

**Vice-Chairman**

Kathy Kramer 318-742-9992

**Secretary**

Barbie Halbert 318-742-3239

**Treasurer**

Louis Covington 318-949-2385

**Canoe Clinic**

Adam Willard 318-423-1690

**Conservation**

Maurice Loridans 318-424-7384

**Newsletter Editor**

Marian Howard 318-227-1974  
marianehoward@comcast.net

**Newsletter Staff**

Roy O'Neal 318-746-5415  
roneal2@bellsouth.net

Sandy Roerig 318-686-9481  
sroeri@lsuhsc.edu

Brenda Stephens 318-798-2684  
brendagstephens@yahoo.com

**Publicity**

Jack Land 318-865-8106  
jland1@bellsouth.net

beginning of a change in the way we perceive, treat, and teach about our local waterways. For the DOS Director Mike Strong, his job it is to serve the citizens of Shreveport and this is strictly a safety issue. Most people do not fully realize how fast and powerful moving water can be. I have a deep respect for this power and, therefore, completely understand his point of view.

Having said that, I do think it is worth pointing out that Bayou Pierre was once an invaluable resource for children living in Shreveport. My mother who grew up in the Broadmoor neighborhood talks about going down to the "swimming hole" with her friends. At one time the bayou was a place where a child could gain vital information about their surroundings and ultimately themselves. Living less than a block from the canal today, I hesitate to let my own children even touch it, and in many ways I share the perception of the bayou as being a hazard in its current state. I can acknowledge this, but as a teacher and parent whose job it is to provide opportunities that will help children to fully realize their potential, I find it difficult to accept.

The purpose of this trip was to deepen appreciation of and seek real adventure in a seemingly familiar environment. In that regard, I believe the trip was a success.



**The Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society**  
**P. O. Box 4693**  
**Shreveport, LA 71134-0693**

