

Skunk River Paddlers Spring Newsletter 2011

Summer seems to have finally arrived and it's been great to meet new paddlers as well as get together with old friends on Wednesday evenings. We hope that even more of you will be able to join us this summer.

2011 Winter and Spring News:

- *New Year's Day Paddle* – On an extremely cold and bleak New Year's Day morning several of us joined other CIP paddlers launching at Sycamore Access and paddling up to the Saylorville Dam. Ice encrusted paddles, spray skirts and kayaks were the norm along with a few ice-slicked kayaks blowing off cars in the high winds.



- *Winter Hikes* – Cindy Barowcliff and Jeff White continued Greg's weekly hikes throughout the winter months.

- *Canoesports EXPO* – (February 14th) – Several of us participated in two days of vicarious kayaking, camping, and adventuring to break the winter doldrums. Diane Lowry and friends gave a presentation on 'Paddling from a Women's Perspective'

- *Annual Pancake Paddle* – Saturday, March 19th Iowa Arboretum. Dave Kramer was in town for this annual event! (If only we'd known.) Unfortunately none of the Ames Paddlers were able to attend. But the good news is that Dick Howard, John Holzmueller and John Wenck showed up and after supporting the Arboretum by eating pancakes and sausage they all did a short paddle on the Des Moines River.

- *ISU Canoe and Kayak Club Trip to Whitebreast Creek* - See the photos on the Skunk River Paddlers website: skunkriverpaddlers.org

- **VEISHEA/Service Day/Stash the Trash** - (April 16th)- After breakfast at the Grove Café in Ames paddling volunteers collected a pickup truck load of trash along the Skunk River from Sleepy Hollow to the dam. Thanks to Cindy Barrowcliff for coordinating this successful event and Jeff for bringing a canoe for the heavy hauling. It made a positive difference to the Ames community.

- **Annual South Skunk River Spring Float** – (April 23) The annual spring paddle also started with breakfast at the Grove Café and included a stop at the Story City Park for lunch. 12 paddlers participated in this great early spring event. See Dick Howard's trip report of the annual springtime paddle on the South Skunk River in the May edition of the CIP Newsletter. www.paddleiowa.org

- **Story County Conservation Partners Annual Spring Festival** – (May 1st) SCC Spring Festival was well attended despite the windy conditions. Over 100 people, including many family groups that had never been in a canoe before, paddled around the pond at McFarland Park. A good time was had by all, but many new canoeists had to have assistance getting back to the dock. Piper towed in more than 5 loaded canoes – using her Stand-up kayak board!



- **Spring Squaw Creek IOWATER Snapshot** – May 14th. Rick, Jeff, Don and Steve helped with the Spring IOWATER Snapshot which included 34 sites this year. See the results posted to www.squawcreekwatershed.org/watershed.html

- **Bluff Creek Triathlon -** (May 22nd) Don Williams Lake. Over a dozen paddlers volunteered as safety boaters in kayaks and canoes. In keeping with the trend of this season the wind blew so hard that the Olympic-length swim was cancelled for safety reasons and all the swimmers were limited to the sprint course. Thanks to Piper for coordinating this event.■



■

- **South Dakota Kayak Challenge** (May 28) was cancelled due to high water on the Missouri River this year. Rick, Eric, Diane and Gary, having trained all spring to beat their performance last year; have vowed to get even with the weather in 2012. sdkayakchallenge.org

- **First Annual Memorial Day Big Creek Paddle and Grill-Out** – The first annual SRP Memorial Day paddle was a success with a half dozen paddlers braving extremely windy conditions followed by a Grill-Out and picnic dinner. Thanks to Cindy for organizing this event.



- *Story County Conservation/ Heart of Iowa Nature Trail ribbon cutting* – (June 6th)
Rick, Cindy, and Greg (yes, he came back for a few weeks! – Yeah!!) attended the SCC celebration of the opening of 4 new miles of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail.



- *ISU Pool Sessions at Forker Pool* have ended for the season. Contact Chris or Kurt Pelzer for more ISU Canoe and Kayak Club information.



Summer SRP Paddling Opportunities and Community Events:

- **Paddling at the Park** - **Wednesdays 6:30 pm.** Paddling at Ada Hayden Park has begun for the season. We paddle until dark, then talk and snack. Everyone is welcome just bring a boat and join in. Ada Hayden Park is located a mile north of Ames on Highway 69. Contact Diane for information. dogs4bird1@mchsi.com



- **Ames Friendship Ark /Canoe Event** – Tentatively scheduled for July 20th. Contact Rick Dietz for information. rsdietz@yahoo.com

- **Project AWARE** – **July 9 – 16**. This year the event will spend a week floating, learning about, and cleaning the Turkey and Volga Rivers in the northeast part of the state. This is an excellent opportunity to have a good time while making a positive contribution to an Iowa River system. www.iowaprojectaware.com

- **Iowa Games Canoe and Kayak competition** – Saturday, **July 16** at Ada Hayden Park in Ames. All paddlers are encouraged to participate and join in the fun. Contact Piper Wall for information or Iowa Games. www.iowagames.org

- **Squaw Creek Community Float** – (**July 21**) Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition in partnership with the Iowa River Revival organization is sponsoring their annual paddle Thursday evening July 21st. Piper Wall will be giving a short safety briefing. A grill-out for paddlers is planned after the event. Contact Rick Dietz for more information. rsdietz@yahoo.com

- **Hickory Ridge and Lake Red Rock Water Trail Dedication and Paddlers Celebration**
Friday **July 22** and Saturday **July 23** at Lake Red Rock (Southeast of Des Moines). Water Trail and Hickory Ridge Dedication. This celebration will include opportunities for paddlers to explore the new Red Rock Water Trail and meet other paddlers. On **Saturday 5:30 pm** there will also be a Pot Luck Dinner at Hickory Ridge for all paddlers, families, and friends. Please bring something to share and join the fun. Camping will be available at the new Hickory Ridge Campgrounds. Contact Diane at dogs4bird1@mchsi.com for more information.

- **Hickory Grove Triathlon** – **August 28th** at Hickory Grove Park. Safety boaters are needed. Contact Piper Wall for more information. piperwall@q.com

- **GAAR (Ames Great Adventure Race)** – Sunday, **September 11**. This is GAAR's 5th year! Paddle/Bike/Run as an individual or a team. Watch for our new Logo this year. Volunteers at still needed. We can't do this event without our volunteers! Contact Rick Dietz to volunteer: rsdietz@yahoo.com
www.greatamesadventurerace.org

- **CIP Night at Gray's Lake** – Meets every Thursday night during the summer at 6:30 Gray's Lake in Des Moines. centraliowapaddlers@gmail.com

- **Blue Tuesdays** – Blue Heron Lake in Raccoon River Park in West Des Moines. Meets every Tuesday night during the summer at 6:30. Contact Todd Robertson for information. Gutwrencher39@aol.com

- **Adopt-A-Park** - Volunteers for Clean-up of Sleepy Hollow Park/Access for the remainder of the year: We always welcome additional help! Contact Rick Dietz for information. rsdietz@yahoo.com

June – David O.

July – Gary K.

August – Diane L.

September – Jeff W.

October – Cindy B.

November – Still looking for a Volunteer to take November.

December – Rick D.

Did you know that Skunk River Paddlers has a Facebook Page? Check it out:

[South Skunk River \(in Facebook\)](#)

Don't forget to check the website for more information and photos:

skunkriverpaddlers.org



SRP Newsletter is a joint effort by members of the Skunk River Paddlers Board.