



Fall 2005/Winter 2006

Volume 24 Number 1

2006 OHCRA Trip Schedule

Month	River
JAN (Tentative) Watch Website	Winter Outing Near Hocking Hills Jock & Deborah
APRIL 22/23 or 29/30	Greenville Creek Ted Spradlin
MAY 6/7 Dates Tentative	Little Beaver Creek Harold Scobie
MAY Dates Pending	Buffalo River, AR Harold & All
JUNE 17/18	Hocking River Clean-up Jock Klinger
JULY 7/8	Ohio River PaddleFest http://ohioriverway.org/paddlefest/
JULY 15/16	OHCRA Reunion Website
AUG 12/13	Little Miami Ted Spradlin
SEPT 23/24	Cuyahoga River Harold Scobie
OCT 14/15 or 21/22	Kokosing River Tony Sands

WWW.OHCRA.ORG

Summer Reunion Planned

2006 marks the start of the Ohio Historical Canoe Route Association's 24th year. As you know, Jim French, an ODNR employee, had the dream of uniting people that wanted to travel by way of canoe from Lake Erie to the Ohio River and vice versa, by the routes of the Native American Indians and later the settlers.

Many joined the ranks, canoed and moved on. Hobbies changed, time was limited or physical limitations made canoeing impossible. Whatever the reason for not actively participating, this year we would like to invite ALL original, past and present members to a reunion. A chance to relive the trips of the last 24 years.

Currently the reunion is scheduled for July 15th and 16th at Mt. Gilead State Park. (Which is centrally located in the state). We will also have information on the website so check the association's website often at: WWW.OHCRA.ORG
We'll keep the fires lit!!

May the New Year bring Good Health & Prosperity!!

From the President

When people who have the same interests get together, they have lots to share and converse about. When canoeists get together they canoe, share techniques, recipes, and tell stories of past trips, whether true or not. I know. I have heard a few of the tales from 23 years of the Ohio Historical Canoe Route Association's existence. I joined the club in May of 2003 after reading an article about OHCRA in the Country Living Magazine. The group was canoeing an "Across Ohio Trip, 20 years later, 1983 to 2003", from Lake Erie to the Ohio River by way of the Sandusky and Scioto Rivers ending in Portsmouth. I caught up with the group in the town of Green Camp and after an hour or so of "BS-ing" I knew I would enjoy the company of this group of enthusiastic individuals.

I met the group the next weekend in Columbus where there was a ceremony with Hope Taft (the governor's wife). When I saw everyone in period dress with buckskins and moccasins and those funny hats, I kind of felt out of place. It didn't last long. Everyone was friendly and pulled me right back in the mood. I even got to (or had to) run the gauntlet. Unfortunately prior commitments prevented my participation in the monthly trips until the Raccoon Creek trip in September.

When I arrived at the base camp along the Raccoon Creek, there sat Ted, George T., Paul W., and Jock. I thought to myself, where is everybody. Well that trip cemented my desire to canoe with OHCRA. I liked the pace, the way everyone helped one another, and the food. The potlucks always seem to have enough food to feed an army.

I was able to participate in all but the one trip in 2004 and one in 2005.

There was and still is one item that bothers me. Where ARE all the members??? I have been informed that there are roughly 80 members in the association but I only see the same 10 to 15 folks. WHY?? Is it an aging club or is the pace too fast??? Has personal interests changed or is it just burn out. Do we have bad BO from camping or do you need to borrow a canoe. We can help with canoe situation. OK maybe even the BO.

Paul W. had past copies of "Around The Bend" the newsletter you currently have in your hands. I read letters from 1983 up thru 2003 and I noticed the same concern in most of those letters that I now address.

At the trip planning meeting in November, which 8 of us attended, we voted to abolish the yearly dues and pay expenses from the savings account. If we keep personal costs down would more members participate?

As your President I want to help. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas of how we can breath new life into a sport that takes us back in time. To where life is slower paced. Away from the daily grind that consumes us mentally. Where friends share food together, laughs and from what I've heard even marriages. I look forward to hearing from you, the members. Please don't hesitate to contact me one way or another.

A bad day canoeing beats a good day at work!!

Tony Sands
6626 TWP 66
Edison, Ohio 43320
E-mail: tbone@redbird.net
Telephone: (740)262-1055

OHCRA Annual Fall Meeting November 13th, 2005

www.ohcra.org

Members present: George T., Harold S.,
Jock K., Laurie, Paul K., Paul W.,
Ted S., and Tony S.

Old Business:

- OHCRA reunion – It was again discussed to have a reunion and try to get as many of the original members to attend as possible, as well as present members. A chance to relive the trips of the last 20 years. Currently it is scheduled for July 15th and 16th at Mt. Gilead State Park. Everyone agreed to start contacting members. We will also have information on the website and in the newsletter.
- Newsletter - With all the information on the website and the cost of putting out the newsletter, and finding an editor, the club agreed to cut the newsletter down to one per year. A fall/winter newsletter, with the next year's trip schedule will be published.
- Treasury Report – Paul reported on OHCRA's financial position. We've paid out more than we took in, but that includes website costs for 3 years. We have considerable shirts, patches and decals inventory, for sale.
- Hospice of Scioto County – Ted needs to get the address info for Paul. We haven't made the donation in the memory of "Goose" (Paul Jordan), yet.

New Business:

- Monthly Dues - The only expense the club currently has is the website and the one newsletter per year. With the savings account OHCRA has, Paul Wood suggested and it was voted on, to abolish the yearly dues and pay the little expenses we have from the savings account. There will be a one-time \$10 initiation fee for any new members, but no further yearly dues. It will be decided on an event basis, if any fee needs to be charged it will be assessed at that time to cover any extra associated costs.
- Winter Outing – We also discussed a winter outing. Just a friendly get together, probably at some cottages around Lake Logan/Hocking Hills area. Activities will be up to member's imagination (canoe sledding Ted?). Watch the website for more information (i.e. month and dates).
- Out-of-State Trips - There is interest in an outing on the Buffalo River around the end of May or first of June. Again, watch the website for updated information. (www.ohcra.org).
- Planning Meetings - Since we meet every month in the summer for trips and hold unofficial meetings, we decided to only have the annual planning meeting, in November, and do away with the March meeting.

Geocaching

It's the new craze to hit the world, or maybe to just some people. Geocaching is part of a worldwide game dedicated to GPS (Global Positioning System) users. The game basically involves a GPS user hiding "treasure" and publishing the exact coordinates so other GPS users can go on a "treasure hunt" to find it. I was turned on to this sport by Jim Wolf at his Big Darby Creek trip in May 2004. Jim hid 2 containers along the river and we the canoeists had to find them using a GPS. Well Jim and Jock were the only 2 owning one at that point, but it generated a spark in me so I went out and bought one. The same brand and model both Jim and Jock own. I figured they could help teach me how to use it. (I'm teaching them now).

I'm having a great time looking for treasures across Ohio, in city parks, state parks even cemeteries. But the possibilities are endless for locating or hiding caches along the river or in the woods. Ohio alone has over 1800 caches hidden in the state. And you don't need to purchase the most expensive GPS model on the market. I paid \$169.99 for a Garmin E-trek Legend. For another \$100.00 you can buy topo software for more detail. Check out the Geocaching website for more information.

WWW.GEOCACHING.COM

ISS

On those clear starry, summer nights as you sit around the campfire, you sometimes see movement in the sky. Is it a shooting star? An airplane? A UFO?? Maybe!! But if it is a steady moving yellowish light, chances are you're seeing the International Space Station.

With all our modern technology man can accurately predict the time, path, and altitude of the ISS. By checking the following website

<http://www.heavens-above.com/>

You can track the ISS and numerous other satellites, including the space shuttle when it's in space.

So the next time you're sitting around an OHCRA campfire and you see that mysterious yellow starry light moving across the heaven's you can proudly exclaim "that's the International Space Station".



OHCRA REUNION

July 15th & 16th 2006 - Mt. Gilead State Park, Mt. Gilead, Ohio

Come join all your fellow past and current OHCRA friends at our first reunion, 24 years after Jim French of the ODNR Watercraft Division first prepared a group of want to be canoers, to re-enact the voyages of the Native Americans and French Voyagers across the state of Ohio from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

Come relive the summers of 1983, 1984, 1985 and some fantastic years that followed. Remember the long days of up to 26 miles of paddling? The tight schedule to make ceremonies in the next town? The great evenings of comradery with unforgettable friends? The floating at 7 mph, due to flood level waters on the Scioto? The portaging of Ted Spradlin's 400 pound Bluehole over the low head dams on the Great Miami? Does anyone remember eating Don Meyers barbecued muskrat (I think)? How about his "ducky" dance on the gunwales of his canoe? We can watch and re-watch the infamous sled run with Ted's Bluehole by Ted, Jim Wolf, & John Kuch, and the poor canoe (and John's foot) run in with a tree.

We will have all of the original AOCA (All Ohio Canoe Adventure) trip deer hide maps. All of the other trip memorabilia, like the peace pipes, thousands of pictures. We can share the 20 year re-enactment of the original 1983 trip in 2003, of which about 9 of the 1983 participants completed again, 20 years later. We will be able to catch up on the lives of all the old, long time no see or hear original members, and what they have been up to, reflect on those friends that are no longer with us.

So, PLEASE, everyone, make an extra effort to contact some of our long lost fellow canoers, ask them to contact those they remember. And who knows, we may be able to enjoy an memorable reunion with all of our old friends and relive the cherished moments of OHCRA and it's past that has now endured more than 20 years!!!!

Keep checking the OHCRA website for more details (www.ohcra.org) or changes, or contact one of your fellow paddlers! Plans will develop on reunion happenings, like events, accommodations, food plans, etc. Some OHCRA contacts are listed below.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Cell</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ted Spradlin	(513)-742-2459	513-382-7999	canoeted@cinci.rr.com
Jock Klinger	(740)-385-4346		jockklinger@msn.com
Paul Wood	(419)-332-6970		
Paul Kerlin	(419)-547-6343		pkerlin@woh.rr.com
George Tompkins	(330)-358-2209		tompkinsgeorge@hotmail.com
Tony Sands	(740)-262-1055		tbone@redbird.net
Harold Scobie	(330)-659-9356		hscobie@aol.com
Jim Wolf	(614)-425-3262		

Word Search



ashtabula

canoe

hocking

miami

ohcra

portage

stern

yoke

birchbark

cuyahoga

kokosing

mohican

olentangy

river

tuscarawas

bow

gantlet

licking

muskingum

paddle

sandusky

voyageur

campfire

grumman

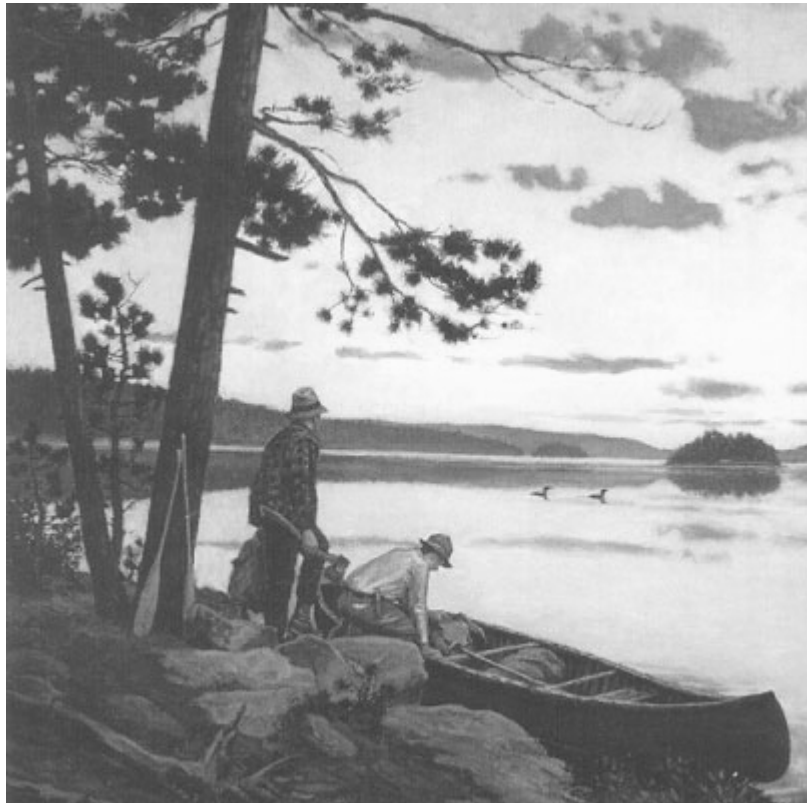
lifejacket

native american

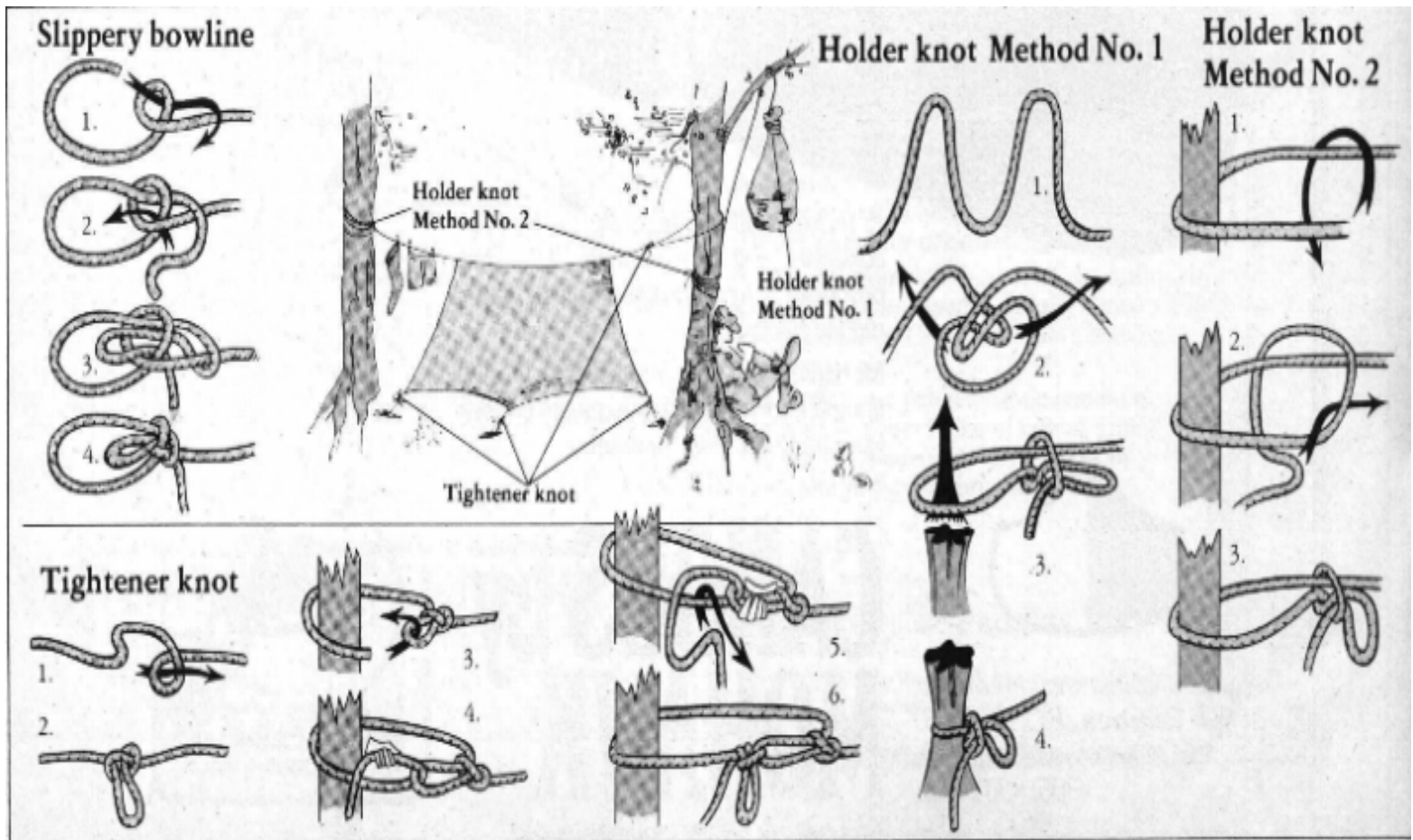
painterline

scioto

walhonding



Knots Reprinted from Canoe Magazine, July 1980



GENUS HOMOPADDLEAQUA

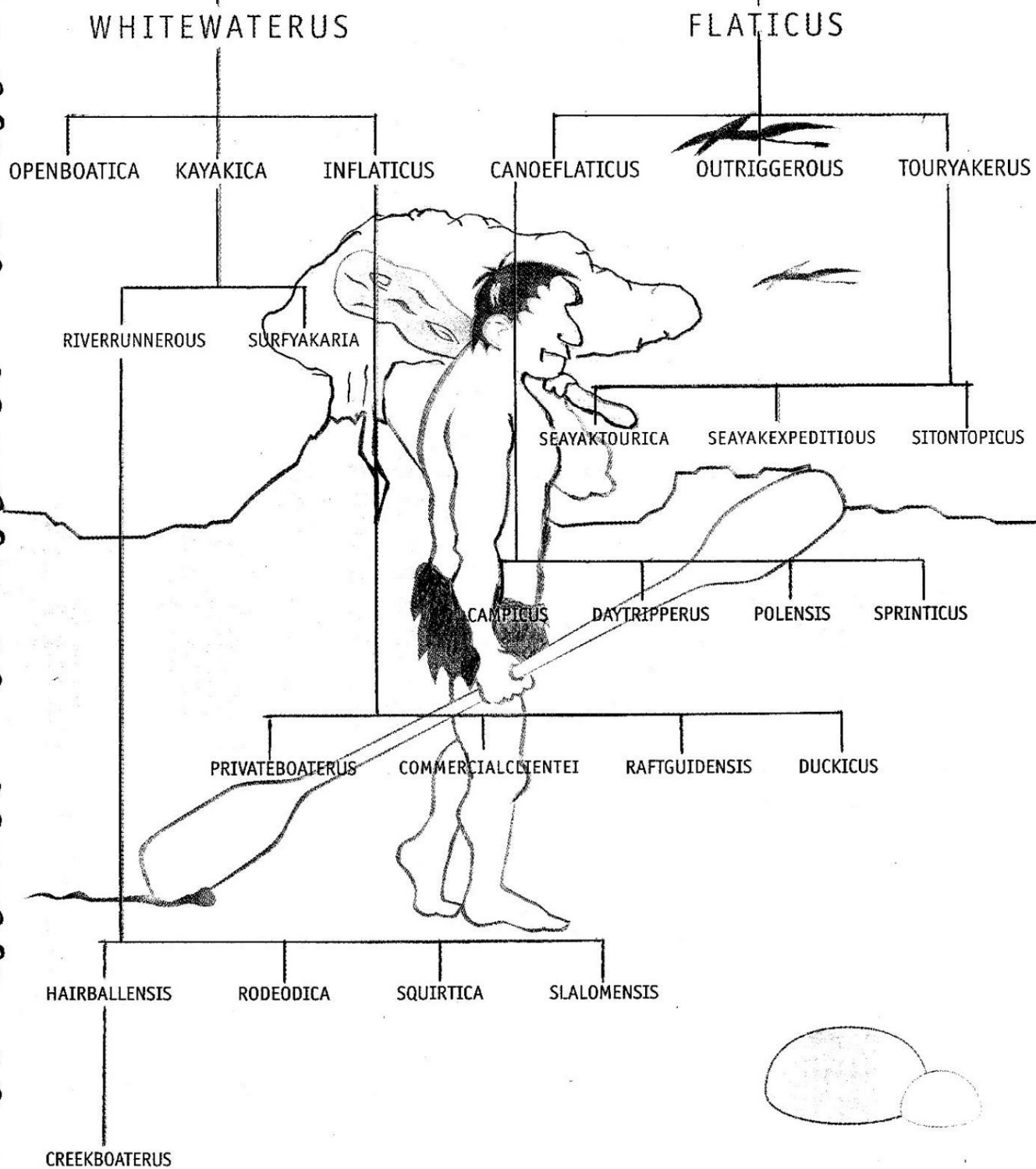


illustration by Chris Blakeman



For Sale

Canoe Trailer hauls 5 canoes

Trailer, two extra wheels, \$200.00
Can deliver to Columbus or to one of the outings.

Call George at: 330-358-2209

E-mail: tompkinsgeorge@hotmail.com

Yakima Q Towers Roundbar

A set of four Yakima Q Towers.

These towers retail for \$125-\$130. Q towers fit on more cars than any other rack on the market and are a much stronger and sturdier alternative to factory racks. They DO include 4 rubber "feet" and installation instructions, but do NOT include the SKS Locking Cores. The racks still work without the lock cores but if desired, you can purchase them separately. You will also need to purchase the crossbar kit that retails for \$50.00. Visit Yakima.com for more info. First \$50.00 takes them.
Call Tony at 419-845-2010
e-mail tbone@redbird.net

Great River Quotations

Wild rivers are earth's renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes, resisting the authority of humans, always chipping away, and eventually always winning.

Richard Bangs, *River Gods*

The mark of a successful man is one that has spent an entire day on the bank of a river without feeling guilty about it.

Chinese Philosopher

In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.

Leonardo da Vinci

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

Loren Eiseley, "Four Quartets", *The Immense Journey*

A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself.

Laura Gilpin, *The Rio Grande*

There's nothing . . . absolutely nothing . . . half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats.

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows* (River Rat to Mole)

Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known.

A.A. Milne (*Winnie the Pooh*)

OHCRA Membership

Return to OHCRA, c/o P. Wood, 914 June St., Fremont, OH 43420

Name: _____ Date: _____
Name of spouse, children: _____
Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____
County: _____
Phone: _____

One-time initiation fee (includes entire family)	\$10.00
Organizational Membership	\$20.00
OHCRA T-shirt (Adult sizes)	\$10.00
Tax deductible donation	_____
Total enclosed	_____

My Interests ARE:

<input type="checkbox"/> History	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-enactment's
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural History	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting, Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> All Day Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Tours
<input type="checkbox"/> Extended Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing Skills

OHCRA
914 June Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WWW.OHCRA.ORG