



Around the Bend

Spring 2001
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From the Editor,

Houston, we have a web site. That's right! Thanks to Justine Feinstein we now have a presence on the Internet. www.ohcra.org is our site address. It is great and will only get better. Membership input on this will be invaluable so don't be bashful with suggestions. Criticism you can keep. This is costing us a little extra money, so in order to try and cut some costs we are going to offer to email the newsletter to any member who wishes to have it delivered that way. We will save some money in printing costs and postage. Of course if I somehow send your email to Outer Mongolia and you don't get a version within a normal delivery date, let me know and I can try again, or send you a paper copy.

I haven't written anything about the cross state trip lately, but fear not, more details will be forthcoming. We have been actively planning the event and will keep everyone posted from time to time, as the event gets closer.

We have a pretty good slate of trips this year. There are some rivers that we haven't floated in a while and couple that we're going to try again that got shortened or canceled last year because of the weather. Hope to see a lot of new faces along with the old, familiar ones out there this year.

I guess that'll do it for now, see you on the water.

Bert & Ernie



"Rivers course through my dreams, rivers cold and fast, rivers well-known and rivers nameless, rivers that seem like ribbons of blue water twisting through wide valleys, narrow rivers folded in layers of darkening shadows, rivers that have eroded down deep into a mountain's belly." – **Harry Middleton, Rivers of Memory**

Paint Creek

Before Paint Creek was impounded to form a reservoir, the creek valley had no rival in the state for scenic beauty. Some of this unspoiled land remains above the lake. Wild geranium, jewelweed, yarrow and Queen Anne’s lace are just some of the wildflowers that can be found in the surrounding woodlands. *Sullivantia*, an extremely rare wildflower blooms mid-summer in nearby Rocky Fork gorge. The area provides habitat for blue heron, osprey and bald eagles as well as songbirds, raccoons, white tail deer and wild turkey.

The region lies at the edge of the Appalachian Plateau and marks the boundary between the hilly eastern section of Ohio and the flatter western area. Although glaciers never reached most of this area of Ohio, Paint Creek Valley bears evidence of glacial activity. Rocky Fork Creek was blocked by glacial ice and reversed direction, rapidly cutting the beautiful gorge we can visit today.

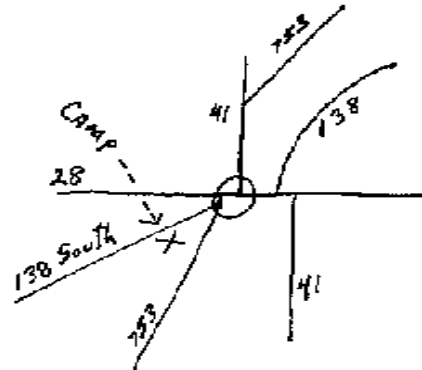
Prehistoric Indians built many earthworks throughout this region and the Shawnee considered Paint Valley home. One notorious Shawnee known as Waw-will-away is said to have had his funeral pyre at the confluence of Rattlesnake Creek and Paint Creek.

The areas many streams provided power for early mills. Waters flowing over the many dams constructed on these waterways facilitated grinding, wool processing and sawing. Many of these milldams still exist, as do some of the log cabins that provided shelter for early settlers.

The Paint Creek watershed encompasses 1,142 miles through 6 counties.

**Upper Paint and Rattlesnake Creek
OHCRA Outing – April 21st & 22nd**

Come join us for the April Outing on the Upper Paint Creek and Rattlesnake Creek. Camping will be available on private property Friday and Saturday nights on the Unger Farm just South of Greenfield on S.R. 138. There is plenty of room for tents and campers. Outhouse will be on-site. There will be potluck on Saturday evening. Shuttles will run at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. From Greenfield, take S.R. 138 South for ¼ mile. Farm is on the left, signs will be posted. Any questions? Call Dave Caplinger @ 1-937-393-2739 or email dvdhincap@aol.com.



Discover History on Ohio’s Waterways

**Last Gasp of the Season -
Sandusky River Oct. 23rd & 24th 1993**
By Dave Westrick

This was a last attempt to get a river trip in before winter. Met Ted and Don at 9 a.m. at Abbott's Bridge east of Fort Seneca. It was a beautiful sunny day. We set up a shuttle and were on the water by 10:30 a.m. The day warmed up nicely from the '30's to well into the '60's. Ted and Don were in an aluminum canoe. I took most of our gear in my solo canoe. We learned that there was an eagle's nest with young ones upstream from our put in. We briefly considered paddling up to see them, but decided no to risk disturbing them. Despite a dry season, we had plenty of water the first part of the trip. The colors were beautiful. There were a variety of birds and plenty of squirrels (and squirrel hunters). Ted and Don caught some small suckers, catfish and carp. I got skunked.

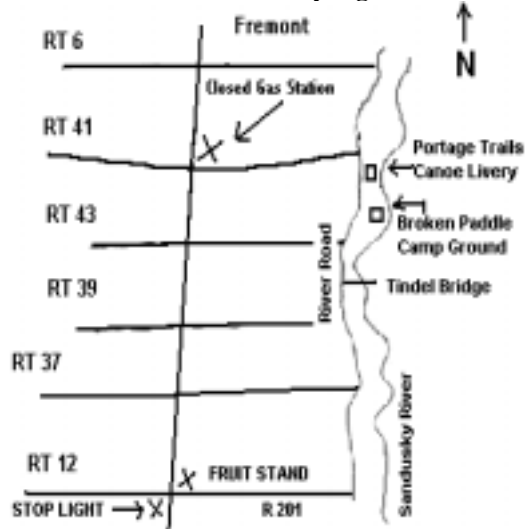
We covered half of our day's journey by lunch. At Gilmore Bridge we began running into shallow spots. Though we had to get out and push a few times, it wasn't that bad. Around three o'clock we came upon Wolf Creek State Park and like the last time we canoed here, had a hard time finding a decent spot to set up camp. We finally made our way back upstream about a half-mile and found a spot.

We had chili and French bread for supper, then sat around the campfire, drank beer and talked until midnight. It was a cold night, but everyone's gear was up to snuff as no one suffered. Ted and Don slept under a tarp. I put up my tent.

The next morning we took our time eating a big breakfast and breaking camp. We drifted along and made the take out by 11 a.m. Even though finding a campsite was a challenge, it was a beautiful and relaxing trip.

**Sandusky River OHCRA Outing
May 19th & 20th**

**We will meet at Portage Trail Canoe Livery.
Primitive camping is available.
Potluck Saturday night.**



Sandusky State Scenic River

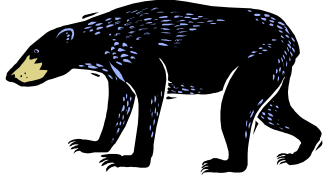
The Sandusky River was the second river in the state to be designated scenic. It is located between Upper Sandusky and Fremont in the northwestern portion of Ohio. As it flows through some of the richest farmland in the Midwest, the Sandusky has exposed many dolomite and limestone outcroppings, which add to its scenic quality. The southern two thirds is relatively flat with some broken ridges ranging from 10 to 50 feet in height, representative of end moraines deposited by glaciers. The northern one third is flat to gently rolling and is characterized by shorelines from ancient lakes formed as the glaciers retreated. Wildlife is abundant along the Sandusky. You are almost guaranteed to see a bald eagle on any trip. The Sandusky is the only stream in Ohio that is home to all six species of Redhorse suckers, including the endangered River Redhorse.

The Sandusky is generally a Class I stream, suitable for beginners, but at high water it becomes a swift and, in spots dangerous, river for all but expert paddlers. Before any trip it is best to check with someone who can tell you the condition of the river if you are unsure of your abilities.

Cleveland Metroparks Guinness World Record Canoe & Kayak Challenge

In the event that you cannot make the Sandusky River outing you may want to try for a world record. On May 19th at Hinckley Lake in Hinckley, Ohio an attempt will be made to set the world record for a “living raft” of canoes and kayaks. There is a \$5 fee per canoe with all proceeds to benefit the Cleveland Metroparks Urban Outreach Program. For more information you can call (216) 351-6300. The current record is 649 kayaks and canoes, held together by hands, free floating for 30 seconds on the Rock River in Byron, IL in 1996.

A Good Reason to Watch Where You “Go” in the Woods....



Black bears are making a big comeback in Southern Ohio. Black bears, once native to all of Ohio, virtually vanished in the mid-1800’s. No one knows for sure how many bears have returned to Ohio, but last year there were 56 sightings of what was thought to be 26 different bears according to the Division of Wildlife at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Said wildlife research biologist Mike Tonkovich in an Associated Press article; “It’s nice to know there are bears in them-thar woods.”

Trout Fishing in Ohio

The ODNR has announced that more than 100,000 rainbow trout will be released in 47 Ohio waterways from March until May this year. Anglers 16 and older must have an Ohio fishing license. If you are over 66 you can obtain a free license wherever licenses are sold.

Shy away from any partner who says, “I’ve never tipped over!” –
The Canoeist’s Little Book of Wisdom

Signs That You Are No Longer A Kid

- You’re asleep, but others worry that you’re dead.
- You can live without sex but not without glasses.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
- You buy a compass for the dash of your car.
- You are proud of your lawn mower.
- Your best friend is dating someone half his or her age, and isn’t breaking any laws.
- Your arms are almost too short to read the newspaper.
- You sing along with the elevator music.
- You would rather go to work than stay home sick.
- You enjoy hearing about other people’s operations.
- You make an appointment to see the dentist.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- People call at 9:00 p.m. and ask, “Did I wake you?”
- You answer a question with, “Because I said so.”
- You send money to PBS.
- The end of your tie doesn’t come anywhere near the top of your pants.
- You take a metal detector to the beach.
- You wear black socks with sandals.
- You know what the word “equity” means.
- You can’t remember the last time you laid on the floor to watch television.
- Your ears are hairier than your head.
- You talk about the “good grass” and you’re referring to someone’s lawn.
- You get into a heated argument about pension plans.
- You got cable for the weather channel (old folks MTV).
- You can go bowling without drinking.
- You have a party and the neighbors don’t even realize it.
- You bring lawn chairs to a canoe outing.**
- And finally...people send you this list.
- Thanks to Harold Scobie for sending me this list.**



Riddle Me This ????

What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it you will die. What is it? (the answer is below)

For Sale

18' Old Town Wooden Canoe with
Fiberglass Hull - \$1,200
1.419.626.3872 Tim Balduff

Safety Tips For Paddlers

- Wear a life jacket
- Paddle water appropriate to your skills
- Learn to control your craft – be able to stop at any time
- Learn to recognize river hazards

Wanting to Buy

Custom outboard motor bracket, sailing rig (mast, sail, side boards, rudder, etc.)
Any condition
for 17' Grumman aluminum canoe
Carl Filer, Jr., 1.614.870.7048



It's Time For Dues!

Just a friendly reminder that in order to keep this insightful, witty, informative and award winning newsletter coming to your mail box this coming year, you need to break out your check book. Do it now. Don't make us send someone to your house.

OHCRA STORE

T-Shirts (logo on front, picture on back)
Adult sizes - \$8.00 (add \$2 for s&h)
Embroidered patches - \$2.00
Decals (limited supply, may not be available) - \$1.00
See Paul at an outing or order by mail

The answer to the riddle is: nothing