



A Paddle America Club



# Gator TALES

Newsletter of the  
Bayou Haystackers  
Paddling Club  
LOUISIANA

Issue 4—2006  
July—August

Well it seems as though I just finally got this newsletter thing down and then off I go.

It has been my pleasure serving as a committee chairperson and a board member for the BHPC; and who knows, maybe one day I will return. Unfortunately, my time has come to say good bye. I hope to see you someday again and will always have fond memories of all of my new friends. Don't be surprised if I pop up on an outing or two (I'm still an active member). For now the future is unclear and full of new adventures.

Take care, think of me often and bless all of you.

HAPPY PADDLING!

*Lisa*

Remember! You can view all photos in color on the website version of GatorTales.

Newsletter deadline for  
Issue 5—2006/September—October is  
**AUGUST 21, 2006**

If you would like to submit an article in the newsletter, please contact  
Pat Fontova (985) 893-3041 or e-mail:  
[president@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:president@bayouhaystackers.com)

**DON'T LET YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE!!  
NO REMINDERS ARE  
CURRENTLY BEING SENT.  
THOSE MEMBERS RECEIVING A HARD  
COPY NEWSLETTER, CHECK THE  
LABEL FOR EXPIRATION DATE.**

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## Presidential Ramblings ... by Pat Fontova

I started writing an article about “packing light” last Fall after a delightful trip on the Tangipahoa River. It was delightful until we got to the take out. Then I was amazed at how much stuff I had to carry up to my car. It sure didn't seem like that much at the put in! I was determined that next time I was packing for a trip I would “Think of the Takeout” and keep reminding myself of the take out every time I was tempted to add an item to my pack. In the original article I had tips on what to do for each category of items: kitchen, sleeping, paddling, etc. but I've decided not to bore you with the details and just tell you to remind yourself to “Think of the Takeout” when you're packing – it really helps! However, I do want to include one tip: Check with your trip leader to see if Woody will be on the trip. If he is, you can pack really light knowing he will have at least one extra of everything! ;-)

We've had quite a few outings and events since the last newsletter. The SRC was great (see page 2). Demo Day was fun and we had a bunch of boats to try out. The last General Membership meeting with Scott Williams and Ernest Herndon was wonderful (see page 6).

On another note it seems I can't keep board members! Mimi Cleary, who has been wonderful and helpful in so many ways, is moving to Houston. She will still be membership chair (thank you, thank you, thank you!) but she can no longer be on the board. Lisa Pitre has resigned for personal reasons and George Jiha is not able to participate in ex-com meetings. Luckily we have two old members and one young one – oops I mean “new” – 2 old members and 1 new member – that have agreed to step in and take their places: Walter Tabary, Darryl Pry and Leslie Guidry. They are currently “acting” board members but need to be officially elected at the next general membership meeting.

Speaking of which, the next general membership is July 19 (see article below) followed by a Trip Planning meeting. We usually have a trip planning meeting at the end of the year and we end up with a lot of trips for the first half of the year but the calendar starts to get kind of sparse around the end of the summer. This short meeting will be to plan some additional trips for the rest of this year.

## General Membership Meeting—Wednesday, July 19, 2006

... by Martina Ellis

The July program is a presentation by a fishing group called "the Puddlers" on fishing from kayaks and canoes! They will show us the ins & outs of rigging the boats as a fishing platform, where they like to fish, and what they catch. Since kayak fishing is one of the hottest segments of the market right now, I thought we should explore the overlap between these two areas of recreational boating.

Who knows we may end up having a gourmet "catch a fish or don't eat trip"! (It might also be the Jenny Craig trip). Should be fun and informative.

They are going to bring a canoe & kayak rigged out which we may have to inspect on the sidewalk if we can't get them upstairs easily or I just might be able to find another venue for this one meeting so **all members make sure you check the location of the July Meeting. If it's changed an update will be sent out prior to the meeting. Otherwise it will be the CFACT office as usual.**

Our September guest speaker will be Larry Koenig and his presentation will be on First Aid.





## CALENDAR

ACA Members—know your ACA number when you go on a trip, the

Before attending a BHPC trip, you should contact the individual Trip Coordinator (well in advance of the trip) for more specifics and to make sure the trip or event is still scheduled, etc. BHPC sponsored trips are free to BHPC and ACA members. Non-member guests are welcome to come on trips, however, there is a \$10 club liability insurance fee.

Attending a BHPC trips means discussing pertinent medical conditions, in advance, with the Trip Coordinator; wearing a PFD (life vest); not consuming alcohol before or while on the water; agreeing to and signing the Club's Waiver and Release of Liability.

## Trip Ratings

- ? **Easy**—distances < 6 mi/day; little or no current; minimum maneuvering skills required.
- ? **Intermediate**—distances 6 to 12 mi/day and/or current greater than 1 mph with some maneuvering skills required.
- ? **Strenuous**—distances > 12 mi/day with currents in excess of 3 mph and/or maneuvering and/or some upstream paddling required.

JULY

**July 1-2 (SAT-SUN): Bogue Chitto, Overnighter, Tylertown, MS** — Easy. Contact Mimi Clifton at (985) 264-6468 or [aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com).

**July 4 (TUE): Cane Bayou Paddle to watch Fireworks over Lake Pontchartrain, Mandeville, LA** — Easy. Paddle out to the lake and see the fireworks. Contact Hoyt Saylor, (985) 502-4468 or [abitabird@yahoo.com](mailto:abitabird@yahoo.com).

**July 8 (SAT): Upper Bogue Chitto, MS**—Easy/Intermediate. Contact Martina Ellis, (985) 748-6038 [martinaellis@yahoo.com](mailto:martinaellis@yahoo.com)

**July 8 (SAT) - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. Fee charged. Call Mimi Clifton, (985) 264-6468 or [www.southcoastkayaks.com](http://www.southcoastkayaks.com) (Not a BHPC event)

**July 8 (SAT) - Backpacker Free Paddle Day.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Cost is FREE but participants MUST pre-register no later than 48 hours in advance by emailing [info@backpackerbr.com](mailto:info@backpackerbr.com). This is a great time to try out that boat you've been thinking about and compare boats. (Not a BHPC event)

**July 15 (SAT): Magee's Creek, Tylertown, MS** — Easy. Contact Mimi Clifton at (985) 264-6468 or [aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com).

**July 19 (WED): General Membership Meeting** — 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map on bottom of page 4 for directions. **Guest Speaker: A fishing group called "the Paddlers". They will do a demonstration on how to fish from your kayak/canoe. More info on page 1.**

**July 22 (SAT) - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. Fee charged. Contact Mimi Clifton, (985) 264-6468 or [www.southcoastkayaks.com](http://www.southcoastkayaks.com) (Not a BHPC event)

**July 29 (SAT) - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. Fee charged. Contact Mimi Clifton, (985) 264-6468 or [www.southcoastkayaks.com](http://www.southcoastkayaks.com) (Not a BHPC event)

AUGUST

**August 12-13 (SAT-SUN): Red Creek - City Bridge to Ramsey, Wiggins, MS** — Exploratory—Contact Gary Smith, (504) 913-2214 [GaryPaddler@aol.com](mailto:GaryPaddler@aol.com).

**August 12 (SAT) - Level 1 Sea Kayak Course.** Learn all the basics you need to safely enjoy a day on the water in your kayak. Fee charged. Call Mimi Clifton, (985) 264-6468 or [www.southcoastkayaks.com](http://www.southcoastkayaks.com) (Not a BHPC event)

**August 12 (SAT) - Backpacker Free Paddle Day.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Cost is FREE but participants MUST pre-register no later than 48 hours in advance by emailing [info@backpackerbr.com](mailto:info@backpackerbr.com). This is a great time to try out that boat you've been thinking about and compare boats. (Not a BHPC event)

**August 16 (WED): Executive Committee Meeting** — 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map on bottom of page 4 for directions.

**August 19 (SAT): PhatWater Training Paddle—Bogue Chitto, Franklinton to Enon.** Intermediate/Strenuous. Contact Martina Ellis, (985) 748-6038 [martinaellis@yahoo.com](mailto:martinaellis@yahoo.com) or Pat Fontova - [pfontova@yahoo.com](mailto:pfontova@yahoo.com) or (504) 577-9342. (See Oct 14—PhatWater Challenge)

**August 26 (SAT) - Level 2 Sea Kayak Course.** Take your skills to the next level where you learn how to really handle your boat instead of your boat handling you. Fee charged. [www.southcoastkayaks.com](http://www.southcoastkayaks.com) or Mimi Clifton (985) 264-6468. (Not a BHPC event)

SEPTEMBER

**September 2-4 (SAT-MON): Labor Day Weekend, Black Creek Overnighter,** near Wiggins, MS — Intermediate. 3 days! This is Hoyt's annual Labor Day weekend overnighter. Contact Hoyt Saylor, (985) 502-4468 or [abitabird@yahoo.com](mailto:abitabird@yahoo.com).

**September 9 (SAT) - Backpacker Free Paddle Day.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Cost is FREE but participants MUST pre-register no later than 48 hours in advance by emailing [info@backpackerbr.com](mailto:info@backpackerbr.com). This is a great time to try out that boat you've been thinking about and compare boats. (Not a BHPC event)

**September 16 (SAT): Topisaw Creek—Easy/Intermediate.** Contact Martina Ellis, (985) 748-6038 or [martinaellis@yahoo.com](mailto:martinaellis@yahoo.com).

**September 20 (WED): General Membership Meeting** — 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions. **Guest Speaker: Larry Koenig on First Aid.**

**September 30 (SAT) - Houma Loop**—Strenuous. 17-mile round trip paddle via Bayou Terrebonne, Company Canal, Intracoastal Waterway. Call Leonard at (985) 446-6007.

OCTOBER

**October 6-8 (FRI-SUN): Louisiana Paddlefest** — More information to follow at a later date.

**October 14 (SAT): PhatWater Challenge —** 45 miles on the Mississippi River. Port Grand Gulf to Natchez MS. Keith Benoist [www.kayakmississippi.com](http://www.kayakmississippi.com). (Not a BHPC event)

**October 18 (WED): Executive Committee Meeting —** 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions.

**October 28-29 (SAT-SUN): Red Creek “Epicurean Excursion” (EE) Overnighter, Wiggins, MS —** Intermediate. For more information or to sign up, contact Gary Smith, (504) 913-2214 or [GaryPaddler@aol.com](mailto:GaryPaddler@aol.com).

**NOVEMBER**

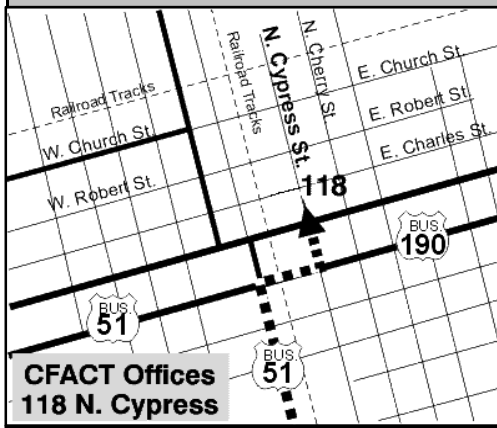
**November 11 (SAT) - Bayou Lafourche Trip—** (Veterans Day) - Easy. 9-mile paddle from Labadieville to Thibodaux with a lunch stop at the E.D. White historic site. Call Leonard at (985) 446-6007.

**November 15 (WED): General Membership Meeting — ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS** 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions. **Guest Speaker: TBA**

**DECEMBER**

**December 20 (WED): Executive Committee Meeting —** 7:00 p.m. 118 N. Cypress, Hammond, LA. See map at bottom of this page for directions.

If you would like to list an event that would be of interest to the paddling community, please send the information (in 25 words or less) to [newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com)



**CFACT Offices 118 N. Cypress**  
**MAP TO MEETING PLACE:** Take I-12 to Exit 40 Go north on US 51-Business into Hammond. Turn east (right) on US 190. Go one full block past the railroad track and turn left on Cypress Street. The meeting place is near the end of the second block on the right.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

To include an ad in this section, call Pat Fontova at (985) 893-3041 or e-mail: [information@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:information@bayouhaystackers.com). There is no charge for this service. (Please let Pat know when items are sold so that this page can be kept up-to-date —Thank You!)

**WANTED ITEMS**

**Wanted:** Old Town Pack or other brand small solo canoe. Email [tmcmull@entergy.com](mailto:tmcmull@entergy.com) or call Terry @ (601) 540-8395. (date listed 01/18/06)

**Wanted:** I am looking for a USCA C-1 racing canoe (479) 331-2585. [dwalls000@centurytel.net](mailto:dwalls000@centurytel.net) (date listed 10/10/05)

**ITEMS FOR SALE (visit our website for photos)**

**For Sale: Wenonah made Jensen 17 in fiberglass.** Blue, 17 ft long, about 60 pounds and 33" max width. Have owned for 6 years, used little. Was made in 2000. Bucket seats, wooden yoke, aluminum trim, stern footbrace and sliding bow seat Easy to paddle. Excellent choice for most Haystacker area cruising. \$750 Call Harry at (225) 275-3126 or email [htodd5@netzero.net](mailto:htodd5@netzero.net) (date listed 6/24/06)

**Wanted:** Square transom freighter canoe (Scott Canoe Co. Hudson bay model or similar) 21' 2000 lb capacity fiberglass capable of handling 15hp motor. Also if anyone you know has one I would love to see it, and then I could decide on ordering a new one. (337) 501-2267 Russell Bourg [russbdad@earthlink.net](mailto:russbdad@earthlink.net) (date listed 6/24/06)

**For Free: Camper Shell** for a 1991 Ford F-150. Call Charles Mayeux (225) 193-0990 (date listed 6/15/06)

**For Sale: Merrimack Souhegan Canoe** ([merrimackcanoes.com/souhegan.html](http://merrimackcanoes.com/souhegan.html)) Asking \$1,200. For more information, call Wes at (251) 463-7019. (Mobile, AL) (date listed 6/1/06)

**For Sale: Tandem Wooden Kayak -** Fiberglass/wood hull, teak wood top - hand made, 21ft. long, 30 in. wide. Asking \$2,000 (OBO). If interested call Jean at (985) 893-7746. (date listed 4/25/06)

**For Sale: Thule Exporter truck rack:** \$300 Contact George Butler, (601) 940-1314: [georgewirb@bellsouth.net](mailto:georgewirb@bellsouth.net)

**For Sale: NRS Farmer Bill youth wetsuit;** XXS; 3-mm; worn once; like new; original price \$73, asking \$30. Call Scott (225) 266-8887.

**From the Safety Committee Chair ... by Woody Wood**

When we are paddling in warm weather we don't think about having problems as much as when it is cold. I am here to tell you this is not so. Someone who is not used to being out in hot weather can have a problem. As club members, we must wear PFD's and this adds to body heat. Not just the trip leader, but all should be aware and looking for anyone that is not doing well. I have seen it happen so I know it can.

Most of us will take breaks and get in the water and this is a very good idea. If y'all are on a paddle and see someone that does not wish to get wet (it does happen) please be sure this person is drinking water. Not other stuff BUT WATER. Sport drinks (10-k and stuff) are ok in small amounts, but water is best. Cool water. If someone is not used to being out in the heat (trip leader should know this) someone should be aware and looking at them to see they are doing ok.

Paddling takes more out of some than others as well as the heat does. Lets all have a good safe time. Drink WATER, and break often.

**Bon Voyage Mimi!**

Just as we have gotten to know you, you must push on and we must say our good-byes. However, we certainly hope this isn't the last we see of you. We will miss your humor, your wit and most of all YOU! We wish you well and much success and happiness. Houston is not that far away.



**“PADDLER OF THE EVERY-OTHER-MONTH”**

... by Lisa Pitre

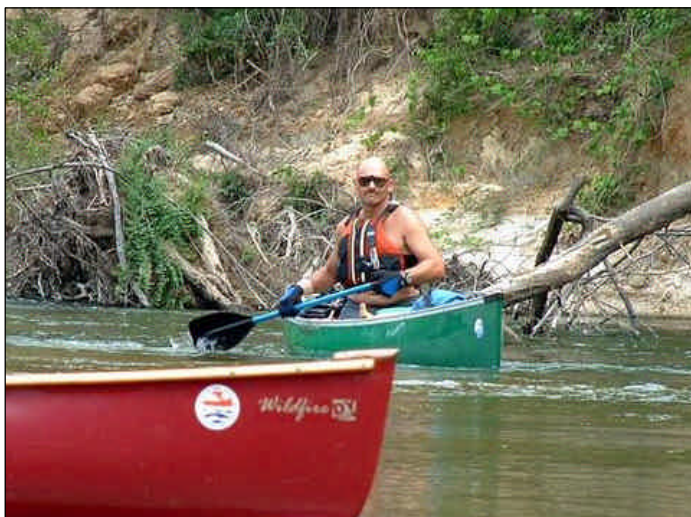
**DID YA KNOW?****NAME:** Glen Wood, aka “Woody Wood”**BIRTHPLACE:** New Orleans, LA**RESIDE (CITY):** (Walhaim) Bush, LA**MARITAL STATUS:** Married (3rd time)**THAT OTHER THING YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT PADDLING (WORK):**

I work as a pipe fitter for 33yrs. I do not stay in one spot or do the same type job from place to place. I guess this gives me a well rounded outlook.

**OTHER HOBBIES:** Other than paddling; I shoot, not just hunt I do that also but I go spend the day at a bench with several guns and "try" to hit a small spot on paper. You can get carried away with different loads for the same gun as well as different guns in the same caliber. They all shoot different. Before I got into paddling I was shooting bows. I shot indoors and outside on 3-d matches. I guess I don't do much camping other than paddling stuff even if it is car camping it is normally all about paddling. I still enjoy fishing some but once again I just as soon be out on the water not fooling with the fish. I believe I could say I have a hobbies of trying out gear. I like to do this. It is amazing to me how different the same canoe will paddle with the seat placed in different spots. I see this more and more. Having the right gear make things so much better.

**FAVORITE BOAT TO PADDLE:** To answer favorite boat to paddle I'm sorry I will need to talk to people in person as I have said enough. This is a long subject as it matters were we would be paddling.

**MOST INTERESTING EXPERIENCE ON AN OUTING:** That will bring me to an interesting experience. I was on a paddle a couple yrs. ago. Several of y'all were there. The weather was known to get bad and I was surprised to see so many boats. I believe we had 18. The weather dropped 30 degrees. It rained some and the wind blew as it does from time to time. I had my gear as most of the Haystackers had talked to me about having. I was still learning at this time. I had my first good canoe. Had a fiberglass canoe before but not a good one. This one was A We-No-Nah a SOLO PLUS. I was one of the few to stay as most left. We were in open water with the wind blowing. I had the correct gear to wear and paddle. It was nice to have a boat I could handle in the wind like that. I do wish I'd never got rid of it.

**Cane Bayou to Madisonville Lighthouse—  
Lake Pontchartrain—June 3, 2006**

... Article by Lisa Pitre

Photos by Mimi Cleary &amp; Lisa Pitre

What a perfect day!! Considering this was my first time in a sea kayak, I am proud to say that I survived the 11 mile trek from Cane Bayou to the Madisonville Lighthouse, but just barely. Since the wind Gods were not in our favor, it was no help to have Mimi Cleary taunt them by frequently saying “Is that all you’ve got?” But besides that, it was just perfect. The water was warm and mildly choppy, the skies were picturesque, the sailboats were a sailin’ and the company could not have been better. The six of us, Woody Wood, Victor Rodrigue, Mimi Clifton, Sue Lawrence, Mimi Cleary and myself, headed off around 10:00 a.m. from Cane Bayou. We finally saw the Osprey and a fledgling with a fish in the famous Osprey nest.

It was such a relief when I found out that it was not a round trip (as I originally had thought!) We lunched at the beach near the Mandeville Marina and caught a glimpse of a deer spying on us. After lunch we headed back out and as soon as we passed the Causeway, we took another break by taking a dip. It proved to be much more difficult to get back into the kayaks then getting out of them.

We finally arrived at the Madisonville boat launch around 4:30 p.m. It was a trip that will not soon be forgotten. Thanks to all my yakin’ buddies for making this strenuous paddle fun and memorable.



## Trip Stories/News

### Me? Lead a trip? ... by Gary Smith

Yeah, little ole you. "But I don't know how to lead a trip" you say. Of course you do. You've been on trips and watched the leader do the pre-trip briefing about wearing a PFD and using the whistle and all that stuff. It's not rocket science. It just involves a little preparation. No, you won't lead a trip perfectly. Nobody ever has. But if at the end of a trip everybody's in one piece and breathing on their own, it's been a successful trip. Having fun is a given. Safety's the main concern. And because our lives are in your hands, we will all help you with the safety issues. There is no ACA rule against asking questions about how to lead a trip. When I led my first couple of trips, I literally read my pre-trip briefing from notes on a clip-board, and I still think that's a good idea. "How will I know what's a good trip to lead?" Well, where do you like to paddle? Then sign up to lead one there. The places I lead trips are places I like to paddle.

When I used to bicycle in the country, sometimes a paceline would form, where everybody rotated to the front to take their turn leading. If somebody was at the back of the pack not taking their turns, they were said to be "sucking wheel". So, quit sucking wheel and take your turn at the front. There's a lot of folks who want to help you if you just display some willingness.

### Meet the Authors! ... by Mimi Cleary

The room was packed at the last General Meeting for authors Ernest Herndon and Scott B. Williams as they discussed their book *Paddling the Pascagoula*. They enjoyed speaking with people who know the rivers they were talking about and shared their passion for paddling.



Thank you Martina! The presentation was wonderful!

*Pictured from left to right—Back Row: Jed Pitre, Ernest Herndon, Scott Williams, Gina Martinez, Walter Tabary, Woody Wood*

*Front Row: Gary Smith, Kathy Knierim, Mimi Clifton, Pat Fontova, Kenny Lindsay, Martina Ellis, Robb Wiltse*

## Contact Information

### Officers

**President**—Patricia Fontova, 985-893-3041  
[president@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:president@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Vice President**—Jed Pitre, 985-438-9820  
[vicepresident@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:vicepresident@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Secretary**—Kim Muller, 985-875-9142  
[secretary@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:secretary@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Treasurer**—Hoyt Saylor, 985-502-4468  
[treasurer@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:treasurer@bayouhaystackers.com)

### Board Members

*(Resigned)* Mimi Cleary—225-268-8612  
[membership@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:membership@bayouhaystackers.com)

Mimi Clifton—985-867-9530  
[aquaventures98@yahoo.com](mailto:aquaventures98@yahoo.com)

*(will be replaced)* George Jiha—225-930-9930  
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*(resigned)* Lisa Pitre—985-438-6900  
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Woody Wood—504-813-4581  
[woodywood@bellsouth.net](mailto:woodywood@bellsouth.net)

### Other

**Membership**—Mimi Cleary, 225-268-8612  
[membership@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:membership@bayouhaystackers.com)

*(will be replaced)*  
**Newsletter**—Lisa Pitre, 985-438-6900  
[newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:newsletter@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Outings**—Robb Wiltse, 985-892-3436  
[leadscout@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:leadscout@bayouhaystackers.com)

**Website**—Patricia Fontova, 985-893-3041  
[information@bayouhaystackers.com](mailto:information@bayouhaystackers.com)

## Join us at the General Membership Meeting

Join us and watch a demonstration on how to fish from your kayak/canoe. The fishing group called "the Puddlers" will show us how! See more info. on page 1. In case of a venue change, you will be notified; otherwise the meeting will be held at its usual location.

**WHEN:** WED - July 19, 2006—7:00 P.M.  
**WHERE:** 118 North Cypress Street, Hammond, LA

(see map on page 4 for directions)



Web Site: [www.bayouhaystackers.com](http://www.bayouhaystackers.com)

Bayou Haystackers Paddling Club  
c/o Newsletter—Lisa Pitre  
1508 Ridgefield Avenue  
Thibodaux, LA 70301-5206

