

SPRING EVENT UPDATE

5TH ANNUAL PADDLEFEST A SUCCESS!

About 150 people attended this year's PaddleFest at Plum Point in New Windsor. Despite rainy weather the day before, and another forecast of rain for the day of the event, the weather turned out to be ideal for paddling, learning and socializing on the long sandy beach. It was comfortably cool and the sun even came out, its only appearance for five consecutive days. The water conditions were also very good, considering the variability that Mother Nature allows of the Hudson River.

There were many events from which to choose: kayak lessons, canoe lessons, a guided paddle up the Moodna Creek (where two eagles entertained our paddlers), children's activities, kayaks and canoes to test paddle (including two beautiful hand-made wooden solo canoes built by Steve Morris) and a tag sale. There were also presentations and demonstrations. Turner Wilson and David Sides introduced the traditional, but strange to us, Greenland style of kayaking. Kevin Cresci talked about, and demonstrated kayak safety, which included how to prepare for,



Training for Would-be Kayakers

avoid and ultimately deal with an emergency situation. Judi Griffiths-Sever discussed essential kayaking gear and how to use it.



Special thanks to those mentioned above for their thoughtful and well-planned presentations. Also, thanks go to: Gail Epstein, Bill Beehler, Jeff Kaplan, Sheila Underhill, Bob Kaminski, Jean-Claude Fouere, Georgette Weir, Pandora Fawcett, Gary Higgins, and Gina Petrosi for offering to help on water. Thanks to Ralph Pollard, Sue Mackson, Ellen Zelig and Fred Feingold for helping on shore. Thanks to Trish Cina

for her fun-filled children's activities and to Mark Price and James from HV Pack & Paddle for the great kayak lessons. Thanks to Dave and Arlene Kaplan and to Russ Faller for the canoe lessons. Thank you, Frank Dogil and Bob Clark, for guiding paddlers up Moodna Creek and thanks to Don and Andrea Urmston for literally bringing a truckload of diverse kayaks for us to test paddle. And, finally, thank you to Steve Morris for building those beautiful wooden canoes and allowing us to try them out.

It was a great day, filled with fun and activity. If you weren't with us this year, hope to see you in 2007!



David Sides in his Greenland Kayak

(Russ Faller, MHADK Paddle Chair)