



# The Prairie Dog Companion: Newsletter of the North Texas River Runners

## Commodore's Column by Lorraine McPhee

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### January Meeting

- Jean's adventure trip to Africa
- Over 20 safaris!
- Bring a friend !
- See you there!

Dear Fellow River Runners, We have picked the best sport in the world! Can you guess why?

Could it be because paddling takes us out into nature? That we travel to some of the most remote and beautiful places on earth? That we become close friends with some really awesome people? That our sport motivates us to good health and an active lifestyle? That the challenge of improving our skill level will never cease? The answer to all of these is a responding, "Yes!"

Having just paddled in Mexico on four very different and beautiful rivers for a week, these benefits were manifest. I found myself in nature. The remote location offered wild beauty and stars to gaze upon undimin-



ished by light pollution. I met new friends, wonderful folks from all over the country that I can't wait to paddle with in the future. I fell into bed each night knowing I had earned a good night's sleep, often having pushed my physical abilities to the limit.

When the trip was done, I realized that my paddling had improved, and yet a world of possibilities await with even better skills. There are tougher rivers to

run, harder lines to choose, boofs to perfect and a cartwheel just out of reach.

Yes we had aches and pains (took a lot of Tylenol) and a sketchy stretch of road could take hours to negotiate. We contended with ticks, poison ivy, bug bites, cold showers, a flat tire, no TP, a horrible beat-down. It seems that adventure and learning about yourself are also some of the great benefits of our sport.

We have truly chosen the best imaginable. Let's paddle!

*Lorraine McPhee*

## January Meeting ---JEAN MUNCRIEF!!!

A photo presentation of Jean Muncrief's 2008 adventure trip to Africa with over 20 sa-

faris will be presented at our next NTRR meeting on **Tuesday, January 20 at**

**7:00 pm, Lake Arlington.**

Check the NTRR website for address and a map.

## Texas the State of Flowing Water



***The one-hour TV program is part of a broader TPWD public information initiative begun with a special water resource issue of Texas Parks & Wildlife***

The San Marcos River is one of several Texas waterways featured in the one-hour video documentary Texas the State of Flowing Water.

The program will air at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 on all Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations in the state.

It is the fourth in an award-winning series of water resource documentaries produced by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and broadcast in partnership with PBS stations.

Texas the State of Flowing Water examines water resource threats facing Texas and looks at what people can do to protect the state's most precious natural resource, TPWD officials said. The documentary features images of rivers, springs, bays and estuaries, plus interviews with an array of experts, stakeholders and policy makers.

The documentary is made possible in part by a grant from the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which funds nearly \$18 million in Texas conservation efforts each year from boater and angler purchases of fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.

It is part of a multi-year TPWD communication initiative called "Texas: The State Of Water," supported this year with additional sponsor funding from the San Antonio River Authority, Brazos River Authority and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

The program explores human use of rivers and water resources in several ways, including the trend of off-channel storage reservoirs to meet future water demands.

Impacts to the natural flow of rivers will be examined, including a profile of the Fastrill Reservoir project, which is proposed for the same area

where a new national wildlife refuge is being created on the Neches River.

It will look at recent legislation designed to determine the amounts of fresh water that should reach the coast to maintain healthy bays.

Climate change is a new topic explored in this latest TPWD documentary, which looks at how changing conditions could alter the ecology of Texas.

It will also examine the importance of keeping Texas rivers flowing into coastal estuaries and bays. It will look at how increasing municipal demand has elevated the importance of water conservation measures.

It explores the link between creek beds and aquifer recharge. It shows how more Texans are gaining an appreciation of our rivers and bays through the ever increasing number of designated paddling trails.

The documentary includes a brief look at the trend of green building and how simple steps people can take can collectively do a lot to diminish future water shortages.

The one-hour TV program is part of a broader TPWD public information initiative begun with a special water resource issue of Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine in July 2002. The initiative also includes radio, Internet and other components.

A companion Web site, Texas The State Of Water, features a preview of the documentary, links to additional information, and after the show airs, the complete program presented via streaming video and a complete written transcript.

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