



# EARTH DAY CLEANUP AT CHATFIELD RESERVOIR



The Rocky Mountain Sea Kayak Club supported the American Canoe Association's Green Earth Day Cleanup by holding a water-borne trash collection paddle at Chatfield State Park on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

RMSKC members Marsha Dougherty, Tim Fletcher, Sue Hughes, Dave Hustvedt, Clark Strickland, and Kristy Webber were joined by Kerry and Pauline Edwards of the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club. The day was cloudy and cool, but the forecast high winds did not materialize and the moderate breeze did not adversely affect the cleanup. The water level was high, providing good access to the vegetation along Kingfisher Cove and the inflow of the South Platte River into Chatfield Reservoir, where the shore side trash picking took place.



Chatfield State Park Operations Manager Jennifer Anderson coordinated permits and administrative arrangements, including waiving park entrance fees for cleanup participants. Park Ranger Lauren Turpin met the group and offered to rendezvous by patrol launch with the kayaks and canoe to pick up trash. Communications protocols were established between Ranger Turpin and Trip Leader Strickland and the group prepared to launch.

Clark Strickland distributed mesh ACA trash collection bags and conducted a brief pre-launch meeting. Group members were paired up to provide for a safe paddle. The group paddled around the perimeter of Kingfisher Cove, traveled up the South Platte to the State Park bridge and then into the lagoons east of the South Platte inlet.



Pauline and Kerry Edwards showing the usefulness of a canoe for transporting bulk trash

Four RMSKC paddlers had scouted the area on the day before and were surprised to find that there was relatively little in the way of floating plastic and beverage containers in the area.

Taking a little more time and care produced a substantial amount of bottles, cans, styrofoam containers and pieces, and some large items, including a steel fencepost. About 50' of plastic safety fencing was cut into four pieces by Dave, Clark and Tim, who wrestled the pieces out of the shallow water near the lagoon.



A PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE DAY

The well-travelled canoe of Kerry and Pauline Edwards was perfect for transporting the large items like the rolls of derelict fence, so it was not necessary to call Ranger Turpin for trash transport. The Edwards' bore the gentle teasing about the scow that they were paddling.

In about three hours, the group's total trash haul amounted to more than 40 pounds. The trash was deposited in a dumpster at the Kingfisher Cove parking area and Clark notified Ranger Turpin that we were safely off the water. The paddlers enjoyed a leisurely lunch talking about places they'd paddled, or wanted to, and getting to know Pauline and Kerry. Everyone was heading home by 1:30.



Standing: Tim Fletcher, Pauline Edwards, Kerry Edwards, Dave Hustvedt, Kristy Webber, Clark Strickland, Marsha Dougherty Kneeling: Sue Hughes

**WEDNESDAY EVENING CHERRY CREEK PADDLES:** RMSKC members have been enjoying regular Wednesday evening paddles at Cherry Creek State Park. Brian Hunter and Clark Strickland co-lead the official RMSKC ACA Paddle America Club paddles, and held the first one of the 2016 season on April 6.

The group meets at the east boat launch at Cherry Creek State Park and launches at 6PM. We paddle counterclockwise and usually poke our bows into Cherry Creek or Cottonwood Creek. Bird life is varied and abundant.

After each paddle the nearby Casa Vallarta [4002 South Parker Road] is the cerveza and nachos refueling stop.



Sandy beach at the east boat launch