



Houston  
Sailing's

# Action Action

June 2022

Issue 4 Volume 66



Stephen Cook's brand new  
World's Championship sail.

## Inside

Interview with new park  
manager Kathryn Conner **2**

Dry Moorage Update as park  
plans to close storage area  
and racks by ramps. **5**

Someone posted that they had just made synonym buns. I replied, "You mean just like the ones grammar used to make?" I am now blocked.

## Memorial Day Series Ends Spring/Starts Summer with a Bang!

HSA's 66<sup>th</sup> season is well underway and despite the sword of dry moorage hanging over our heads, it has been a memorable start.

Good wind (often more than wanted early on) has been the hallmark of the Spring Series with a glorious Memorial Day Series that saw some pretty spiffy breezes cap the weekend just finished.

At 10-17 mph winds in smashing, sublime sunshine, those who raced knew they had something rare – a perfect race series competition grade wind. And for two days in a row? How fortunate.

Notable beneficiaries of the dazzling weather were Don Fecher, Brian Callahan and the duo of Pete Peters/Rose Schultz who all won their respective divisions. But there were many more happy faces no

**Continued on page**



# Kathryn Conner

Hueston Woods Park  
Manager

## New Park Manager on Duty at Hueston Woods

Hueston Woods State Park has a new park manger, but Kathryn Conner is not new to the park nor to us as a club. She has been here since 2017 and once gave a talk to our club with a hawk on her arm a few years ago at a Launch Day luncheon.

She came to Hueston Woods in 2017 after graduation from Hocking College and a brief stint at Pymatuning State Park in northeast Ohio. Her work history includes, rather remarkably, jobs as different as making pizza when in high school to operating heavy machinery with the railroad.

If you are not impressed yet, the 26-year-old naturalist is the youngest park manager in the history of Hueston Woods and the first female to hold the position.

Conner, who hails from Salem, Ohio, is, as she says, “in love with Hueston Woods” and wants to make it a

park that people want to come to. She believes her strong work ethic will help her accomplish her goals of making the environmental and educational programs at Hueston Woods a top priority.

Among the projects she is currently overseeing? The most obvious one is the beautiful new Nature Center rising from the ground near the old one. After the new roof was installed on the lodge last year, the new step there is to completely re-do the electrical system. It is due to open soon.

A new dog park fence is in the near future, and she will be working towards a revitalization of trails and picnic areas as well. “We have a summer load of projects we are working on,” she told us. The old Nature Center will be used for storage initially and eventually torn down.

(Continued on page 5)



## Capri Fleet Adds a Skipper

After sampling from a tasty menu of boats, Bob Taylor has landed squarely in the lap of the Capri 14.2 fleet.

As a new member and racing enthusiast, Bob is also a cruiser skipper, having sailed his Macgregor 26 as far away as Tampa Bay and then here in a race last weekend.

He also tried a Y-Flyer on for size and found the boom and boat too cramped for his 6 ft. frame.

The Capri is an ideal boat for those beginning to race or just to learn to sail. The club has four of them and there are others who own and/or race them at Hueston Woods.

There is a high density of them in Southern California, but they are found everywhere. Catalina Yachts, the builder, probably never intended to get the boat into the one design racing market, but that is exactly what has happened all over the country.

## Spring Series Reaches Halfway Point; Series Championships Race Wide Open

The Spring Series has been underway since late April, and we are already through four weekends of racing. It has been an interesting one so far with capsizes, boom bonks, man overboards, and some very wild, windy days.

A Capri, a Y-Flyer, and more than a couple of Sunfish have thrown their riders thus far in wind that will often do just that. We have even had a runaway boat when skipper Scott Eversole was ejected from his Y by an unexpected jibe. Scott had little warning of the boom coming as the jibe was caused by an equally unexpected rounding up into the wind by Roger Henthorn, who had lost his tiller as they approached the leeward mark overlapped.

All were well and the Spring Series has so far been a whopping mix of challenge and excitement. The Hobie fleet has not seen much action, but the weather has not cooperated for them.

In the Handicap fleet, Brian Callahan has sailed every race possible so far no matter the conditions and leads the fleet. Both he and fellow Sunfish racer Laura Peters have four wins apiece and have dominated the handicap start. Both have been pushed but no one has kept them from crossing the line first save one another.

In the Y-flyers, three boats have a pair of bullets and only three points separate them with Mike Stratton and Them leading by a single point. Roger Henthorn and crew Bobbie Bode are in second with Pete Peters and Rose Schultz in third.

For the first three race days, only two Y's made it to the starting line with the wind acting out its Spring seizures. But on weekend four there were seven Y's on the line and a really interesting race. Newest Y skipper Eric Anderson and daughter Lauren finished third overall that race day with two very good showings.

Scott Eversole and daughter McKenna have braved the high winds and made it on the water more than any of the others, but capsizes and collisions have thwarted their attempts to finish well.

The Spring Series resumes on June 12<sup>th</sup> with Spring Five as the club finds itself ready to head into serious summer. There are 14 races in the Series, up two from last year.

## Memorial Day Ends Spring with a Bang

(continued from page 1)

matter the finish.

The better stories were in the details. Hobie sailor Kevin DeArmon came back to the race course and let his first mate Brooke crew for his dad Charlie in the Y start. The results on that Sunday were a bullet and a second place for dad. Not bad for one of HSA's rising Y-Flyer powers, one who showed last year that the top of the fleet is now within reach.

On Monday Charlie returned without Brooke and instead took crew Raymond Vinevicius with him. It resulted in a couple more stellar finishes that catapulted him into second place for the Holiday Series. Raymond has now been signed on, wisely, to crew for Charlie the rest of the Spring. Look out.

After Kevin DeArmon decided not to return on Monday, Don Fecher went head to head with Mark Costandi who found one of Monday's gusts a bit too much. Capsizing is slow in racing and he had to concede race one. And the Series.

In the Handicap Fleet, both Laura Peters and Brian Callahan have four bullets in the Spring Series with Laura besting Brian in the only head to head there. However, on the Memorial Day weekend, it was all Callahan as he took first in three of the four fixtures.

The two will go head to head this weekend in the first of four Sunfish only events as HSA hosts the Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta on Sunday.

Other notable performances were turned in by Stephen Cook with his new Worlds' racing sail. Stephen took a second in one race and found himself suddenly in contention.

In the Y Fleet, both Brett/Maggie Hart and Scott/Mckenna Eversole had impressive showings as the Y Fleet continues to tighten its competition. The Y fleet has four father/daughter crews currently with Mike/Cosette Gunter-Stratton and Eric/Lauren Anderson joining the Harts and the Eversoles.



## Memorial Day Results

1

### Hobie Fleet

1. Don Fecher 1 1 1 1
2. Mark Costandi 2 2 2 2
3. Kevin DeArmon 3 3  
DNC DNC 15

2

### Y Fleet

1. Pete Peters/Rose Schultz  
2114 8
2. Charlie DeArmon 1243  
10
3. Mike Stratton/Cosette  
5422 13
4. Scott Eversole/Mckenna  
3355 16
5. Roger Henthorn/Bobbie  
7731 18
6. Brett Hart/Maggie 4577  
23

3

1. Brian Callahan 1121 5
2. Laura Peters 4212 9
3. Stephen Cook 2443 13
4. Jerry  
Brewster/Darrilynn 5335  
16
5. Dom Everaet 3654 18
6. Diane Pierok/Ken  
Wright 6588 27
7. 8. Bob Taylor 7788 30

# New Park Manager Inherits Dry Moorage Controversy

One of the first acts Kathryn Conner was confronted with was informing those who lease spaces in the dry moorage area that as of the end of the summer season, no more dry moorage space would be available at Hueston Woods.

The move was initiated by former park manager Ken Elliot and his district manager. In conversations with park officials HSA learned that the primary reasons were the difficulty and time spent in leasing, registering, and supervising the dry moorage area and the problem of abandoned, derelict boats.

Although HSA is currently in talks with the park management about the issue, there has been no change in the state's plans. As of October, all boats and trailers must be removed. The change comes as a severe blow to the Hueston Woods sailing community who have enjoyed mast up access to the lake in summer and winter storage for the past 66 years.

Without the ability to leave masts up in the summer, racing sailors and others will have the added burden of trailering their boats from some other location and putting masts up at the lake. Suddenly, the time involved in getting into the water will go from twenty minutes to three or four times that.

Some who store their boats mast up in the winter have indicated that they will be selling their boats or moving to a different lake. "The storage for both winter and summer is a necessity for me. I have no place to store both boat and trailer. I will have to get rid of my boat," said long time HSA friend and cruiser sailor Chris Neglia.

Others are just puzzled by the decision and are questioning the logic. Jim Owens, who also sails a cruiser at Hueston Woods told us that he has been using the lake since it was built. "It saddens me to see them eliminate services that would seemingly benefit the park and boating community," he said. "They do not seem to have been very active in eliminating some of the eye sore boats that look to be abandoned. I am all for seeing some cleanup but this should not impact those of us that pay to keep our boats safe."

Many of those who race at Hueston Woods have stated that the added labor of raising masts at the lake and not being able to store boats there will likely make Hueston Woods much less attractive to prospective sailors and adversely affect the club's ability to race, hold clinics, teach sailing, and introduce new people to the sport.

Ken Wright, an active HSA member and racing sailor said, "This seems like a major downgrade in the functionality of Hueston Woods Lake for us and others."

# HSA Busy in June

Sunday June 5 – Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta

Saturday June 11 – Capri Work Party at Mike's

Sunday June 12 – 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Series

Saturday June 18 – Introduction to Sailing

Sunday June 19 – 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Series

Sunday June 26 – 7<sup>th</sup> Spring Series

SailGP racing is coming to Chicago for the global championship's first US stop of Season 3 on Father's Day Weekend, June 18-19! The United States Sail Grand Prix | Chicago at Navy Pier will see 10 national teams battle out at highway speeds at "Chicago's Skyline Stadium" directly off Navy Pier!



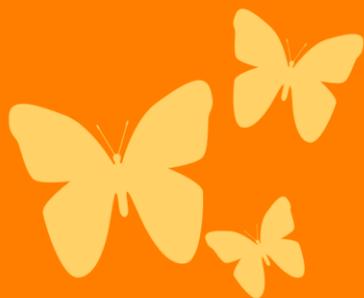
Mark Costandi in Hobie 16

## New Park Manager Kathryn Conner

(Continued from page 2)

### Founders' Day Sunfish Regatta

This Sunday, June 5. Racing begins at 1:30. Post race social planned. This is the first of four Sunfish events this season. Find a 'Fish. Come race with us.



The dredge, a common fixture at our park, will be leaving soon due to an emergency at Shawnee State Park, according to Conner, but it is currently still at Hueston Woods and on duty.

Those who use the lake are still enjoying good water quality, although there are some invasive zebra mussels here. She would like to remind boaters to wash hulls and take other measures to prevent their spread.

The damage to the docks from their recent break always has been repaired. The chains now in place will be replaced with the standard secure brackets soon. She told us the park will likely be taking the docks out of the water for the once the season is over and not risking more damage due to ice.

"We are going to have a wonderful summer season," she said, adding that she hopes users of the park, boaters particularly, continue to be safe and responsible.

It likely helps that her husband of three years shares her interests and her goals at the park. He is park naturalist Shawn Conner.