



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Illinois' most unique paddling event will take place in Aurora's beautiful Phillips Park this weekend**

AURORA, Illinois (June 9, 2010) The Illinois Paddling Council (IPC) is sponsoring the second annual “AURORA PADDLESPORTS FESTIVAL ” on June 12 and 13, 2010 in Aurora’s beautiful Phillips Park. The purpose of the Festival is to showcase the wide variety of human powered boats, paddling clubs, and the local paddlesport retailers.



Phillips Park’s man-made “Mastodon Lake” will provide a clean, safe place to try out canoes and kayaks or take a class on how to paddle, while the expansive lawn next to the lake will fill with paddle craft dealers, paddling club displays, exhibits and demonstrations.

This fun-filled weekend of paddling activities is designed to attract novices, the merely curious and experienced paddlers alike. The AURORA PADDLESPORTS FESTIVAL is based on the highly successful “Paddling in the Park” event which was held for twelve years in

Palatine and drew thousands of visitors each year.

Sponsored by the IPC, the Chicago Area Sea Kayaking Association and the City of Aurora, the Paddlesports Festival will offer two hour introductory lessons in canoeing and kayaking taught by American Canoe Association certified instructors. Visitors can also test paddle the latest boat designs from well-known canoe and kayak manufacturers. The AURORA PADDLESPORTS FESTIVAL will feature Illinois paddling clubs booths as well as exhibits by statewide and local river and nature conservation organizations.

Over 25 organizations and businesses will be represented including: Sierra Club, Geneva Kayak, Chicago Kayak Club, The Yak Schack, Bear Paw Adventure Inn and Prairie Coast Paddlers.

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Cindy Skrukud, the Illinois Sierra Club's Clean Water Advocate, will train willing paddlers to be on the lookout for unlawful pollution entering our state's rivers and streams. The training will take place from 12-2pm on Sunday at the Aurora Paddlesports Festival. At this training session, learn where to check to see if a discharge you encounter in your paddles is properly permitted and who to contact if you see pollutants such as sediment entering our waters. The training is free to all paddlers.

The AURORA PADDLESPOrts FESTIVAL will also include Illinois' first local paddling film fest. The Prairie Paddling Film Fest will bring Illinois best paddling filmmakers to the Festival with on-going films and live presentations by the film-makers. The one hour film presentations on both days are free to the public. There will be seven films on Saturday and six films on Sunday.

So bring the family and friends to the Aurora Paddlesports Festival to try out a boat, take a lesson and meet the friendly paddlers, instructors and retailers of Illinois' paddlesport community.

#### **ABOUT THE AACVB:**

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The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Big Rock, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sandwich, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at [www.enjoyaurora.com](http://www.enjoyaurora.com) and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369.

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