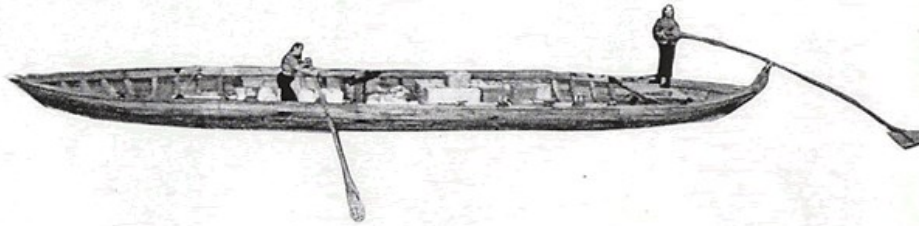


Newsletter
Volume 9 - Number 1 - 2006

It's Here!

Down at the HAHS Museum we've been anxiously waiting for our ship to come in. Finally, after several false starts, floating around paperless in the shipping system, and resting on a loading dock in hurricane devastated Gulfport, Mississippi, it landed upside down (fittingly) in Hattiesburg.



What is it? It is a scale model of The Leaf, the circa 1830-1852 river craft found buried upside down in a Leaf River sandbar near New Augusta in the summer drought of 1990. The model was constructed by Butch Bouvier of L & C Replicas who has built many museum quality models as well as full-sized operational replicas of United States river craft.

At first The Leaf was believed to be a keel-boat since it seemed too large to be a bateau. However, after further investigation it seems that this double-ended craft may be the long looked for "missing link" between the two better known boats.

Our staff is currently working on an exhibit and program about The Leaf and trading on area streams. We hope to outfit our boat with an authentically dressed crew and display items that could have made the river journey. The exhibit will also eventually show the differences between this boat and other boats used on our nation's streams.

Anyone interested in helping should call or come by the HAHS Museum during operational hours. We could use help with clothing for our crew, arranging the display, preparing educational materials for children, and designing backgrounds.

