

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue, Volume 3, Issue 1, January 2017

Honoring Achievers

***News From Your
ACA State Directors***

***Instructors of the Month
for December & January***

Competing in the Chattajack

ACA Mission Statement

Founded in 1880, the ACA is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.



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Wade Blackwood - Executive Director
Chris Stec - Chief Operating Officer
Amy Ellis - State Director/Membership Coord.
Bailey Roseveare - Social Media Coordinator
Barbara Bendele - Office Manager
Dave Burden - Intl. Paddlesports Ambassador
Katie Hansen - Membership Coordinator
Kimberly Jenkins - Paddle Magazine Editor
Kelsey Bracewell - SEI Manager
Louis Metzger - Public Policy Chief
Marcel Bieg - Western States Outreach Director
T.J. Turner - Education & Outreach Coordinator
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Safety & Rescue - Charlie Walbridge (WV)
Rafting - Vacant
Adaptive Paddling - Joe Moore (SC)
Intro to Paddling - Ben Lawry (CA)
Stand Up Paddleboard - Raphale Kuner (Germany)

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SEIC Chair Appointment - Peter Casson (RI)

Liaison Member

BSA Liaison - Keith Christopher (TX)

Cover photo

Kayaking in the Rocky Mountains
123rf photo

Follow us on...



Meet your ACA Staff



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer

Learn how to do a dynamic bottom turn on my SUP.



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports Ambassador

Spend more time on the marshes, barrier islands, and coastal creeks of the Eastern Shore of Virginia.



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership Coordinator

Spend less time in the digital world and more time in the real world.



Barbara Bendele
Office Manager

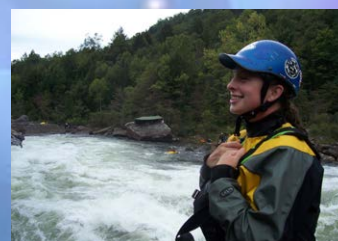
Teach my teenage son how to drive a car. He just got his learner's permit! Oh my...



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator

Compete in my first Brazilian Jiu Jitsu competition.

Name a goal for 2017



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Coordinator

Simplify – my homespace, my workspace, and my headspace.



Yolanda Alsop
Insurance Coordinator
Get myself and the ACA licensed in all 50 states.



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

Grow the ACA membership!



Bailey Roseveare
Social Media Coordinator

Continue to support and highlight everyday ACA ambassadors!



T.J. Turner
Education & Outreach Coordinator

Continue to get underserved youth out on the water in different paddlecraft.



Kimberly Jenkins
Paddle eMagazine Editor

Learn to be happier by learning to find joy in the little things and not to let problems bring me down.



Louis Metzger
Public Policy Chief

Obtain wins in our Bridge-to-Water campaign and in our efforts to reverse denials of access to water that have recently been brought to our attention.



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach Director & Grant Manager

Not work as much and gain a better work-life balance.

www.americancanoe.org/staff

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ACA Awards 2016

Each year, the ACA leadership recognizes a number of individuals and organizations who have provided invaluable assistance to the association in undertaking its various strategic objectives.

Legends of Paddling
Presented to one or more individuals each year for their legendary contributions to paddlesport. Recipients of this prestigious award will be inducted into the ACA Paddlesport Hall of Fame.

Joe “Glicker” Glickman was the wordsmith of paddlesports. The way he was able to convey the thoughts of all paddlers in an engaging, insightful and comical way was second to none.

As a two-time member of the U.S. National Marathon Kayak Team, Glickman was an inspiration to all who knew him and a legend in every sense of the word. The passion he had for paddlesports and ensuring its future success was limitless. His vivacity, kindness and energy was infectious, but it was his selflessness that touched the lives of so many.

Glickman was the author of numerous books, videos and articles about kayaking. His most well-known book, [“Fearless: One](#)



Known as the wordsmith of paddlesports, Joe Glickman was honored posthumously with the Legends of Paddlesports award .

[Woman”](#) about [Freya Hoffmeister’s](#) extraordinary paddle around Australia, gained international praise from both paddlers and non-paddlers alike. His documentary [“2012 US Surfski Championships – Sitting on the Dock of the Bay”](#) has also been widely acclaimed where the sport was showcased to the public, capturing the essence of surf ski paddling in an insightful and unique way.

In memory of this incredible man, the U.S. Surfski Championships will award the “Glicker Inspirational Paddling Medal” to the top non-elite finisher in the long course who is racing in the U.S. Surfski Championships for the first time.

As an international advocate, coach and mentor to many paddlers, Glickman’s legacy will last forever. A couple of weeks before Glickman passed away, his good friend Russ Anderson jokingly implemented a new policy into his training program nicknamed OMMFG (One more mile for Glicker) where one extra mile would be added on at the end of each session to pick up a little of the slack as Joe couldn’t paddle as much. Hundreds of paddlercraft are now sporting OMMFG stickers in memory of Glickman and his everlasting impression on the international paddlesports community.

Mr. Glickman passed away May 24, 2015, after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer.

Excellence in Instruction

Presented to an ACA member for his or her outstanding contribution to paddlesports instruction.

An example of impeccable ethical and honorable character, **Lyle Phetteplace** has made a life-changing impact on countless people who otherwise may not have been able to experience the joy of paddling. He truly does embody the ACA mission, and he makes the world a better place to paddle.

Phetteplace is the owner and operator of the Colorado-based paddling school [Renaissance Adventure Guides](#). Employing a multitude of ACA-certified instructors, his school is well known in Colorado as a premier paddling educational program. This paddling school offers year-round instruction in Colorado and the surrounding states, as well as international paddling schools and certification programs

in Central and South America. Phetteplace is the first ACA Instructor Trainer to offer River Safety & Rescue certification programs in Costa Rica.

Phetteplace founded the nonprofit organization, [Epic Experience](#), which is an adventure camp program for adult cancer survivors. As the paddling program director for this organization, he is responsible for maintaining absolute comfort and safety of these individuals. He also facilitates their thriving in the face of cancer diagnosis and treatment as they learn to whitewater kayak and SUP.

Phetteplace has attended and greatly contributed to ACA events, including the 2013 and 2015 Swiftwater Rescue Conferences, the 2014 Adaptive Paddling Summit, and the 2015 Instructor Trainer Conference. His wide breadth of knowledge is greatly complement-

ed by his humor, positive energy, and genuine passion for sharing safe and enjoyable paddling opportunities to people of all abilities and walks of life.

In July 2016, Phetteplace became the only civilian to be awarded the “Lifesaving Award” by the Garfield County (Colorado) Sheriff’s Office. He earned this honor for a kayak-based rescue of an unresponsive woman, who had been floating in cold water for almost 5 miles. The woman would have likely drowned if she had been flushed through the large rapid towards which she was drifting.

Phetteplace’s attitude and behavior toward other instructors, as well as the ACA staff, is reflective of his sincere cheerful nature and unrelenting drive to share the ACA’s mission with paddlers everywhere he goes.

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His extensive work in spreading the joy of paddling earned Lyle Phetteplace the Excellence in Instruction award.



Excellence in Instruction

The prestigious Excellence in Instruction Award is presented to an ACA member for his or her outstanding contribution to paddle-sports instruction.

Ben Lawry has been paddling for more than 40 years and teaching/guiding for over 30. He has taught paddling on five continents and competed on three.

Lawry is head instructor/owner of Kayak Camp with his wife, Elizabeth. Because of his knowledge and experience, he is a popular speaker at paddlesports events. He spoke at the ACA's National Conference in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and at the National White-water Symposium in 2010. He also presented at the ACA Europe Conference in 2013 and 2014.

Lawry has led trips and traveled extensively in South America, South Africa, Europe, Taiwan and North America. He has competed in sprint, sea kayak, slalom, rodeo, marathon canoe and kayak, outrigger, surf ski and wildwater events. He now his time between teaching paddling and working with stores. His work takes him to symposiums, shows and paddling rendezvous all over the United States, Europe and South America.

As a Technical Instructor, Lawry is involved with kayak design in sea, touring and white water kayaks as well as helping in designing paddles, accessories and clothing for all disciplines. His rich experience has led to an in-depth knowledge of instruction/guiding practices and procedures, a strong commitment to quality service, as well as excellent organizational and problem-solving skills.



Ben Lawry's passion and expertise in kayaking earned him the Excellence in Instruction Award.

Sanctioned Event of the Year

Presented to the top ACA sanctioned event as nominated by the paddling public.

Established in 1986, **Buffalo Bayou Partnership** (BBP) is transforming and revitalizing Buffalo Bayou, Houston's most significant natural resource. BBP's geographic focus is the 10-square-mile stretch of Buf-

falo Bayou from Shepherd Drive to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. Thanks to the generous support of foundations, corporations, individuals and government agencies, this nonprofit organization has raised and leveraged more than \$150 million for the redevelopment and stewardship of the waterfront.

Buffalo Bayou officially starts just west of Katy, Texas, and flows approximately 53 miles east through the Port of Houston and Houston Ship Channel into Galveston Bay and onto the Gulf of Mexico. Ever since the Allen Brothers founded

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership received the Sanctioned Event of the Year award for its annual regatta to raise awareness and funds for stewardship of Houston's Buffalo Bayou.



Houston in 1836, Buffalo Bayou has played a critical role in the evolution of the city. However, in more recent years, Buffalo Bayou had been a neglected river. Additionally, Houstonians built a perception of the city's bayous as drainage ditches since a number of the city's sewage-treatment plants discharged directly into Buffalo Bayou. The water smelled and was not deemed safe for recreational boating or swimming.

In an act that was part joke and part celebration of the bayou, Wayne Walls, a local canoer, and his friends from the Houston Canoe Club created "The Reeking Regatta: The World's Smelliest Canoe Race" in 1972 with posters and a logo that depicted a paddler wearing a gas mask. Expecting only a handful of people to participate, the first-ever race in 1971 gathered 120 brave paddlers and then grew to 500 paddlers within five years – the largest race "west of the Mississippi." More environmental-awareness and social gathering than official boat race, participants navigated trash and debris in the water and were greeted with beer steins at the finish line at Allen's Landing.

In the late 1990s, Buffalo Bayou Partnership took charge of planning and executing the annual boat race and renamed it to the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta. Now 700 to 900 participants – skilled and novice paddlers ages 12 and up – in approximately 600 kayaks and canoes, race down a 15-mile stretch of Buffalo Bayou. It is Texas' large canoe and kayak race and is one of the top five largest in the nation, attracting hundreds of spectators to the bayou's banks each March.

Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation

Presented annually to an individual or a group that has made an outstanding contribution to paddlesport by protecting America's waterways.

The **Friends of the Pecatonica Foundation** was organization in November 2009 to improve the quality of the Pecatonica River in northwest Illinois and to acquire and develop access/egress points for paddlers and conduct paddling instruction and events. The group has worked with county, state and federal agencies to acquire land for canoe/kayak launch sites and picnic areas, hauled tons of trash from the river, and even developed two postcard booklets showing historic pictures of the river and town to raise funds to continue their river restoration and access efforts.

The Illinois House of Representatives designated the Pecatonica River as a Water Trail in February 2012 and the National Park Services provided a Master Plan Grant for 58 miles of river development in 2010. All 58 miles of the river in Stephenson County have been adopted by the organization's members.

FPRF are encouraging use of the river by providing free monthly canoeing and kayaking instruction and also holding an annual competitive event.

The organization's efforts have resulted in a significant increase in the use of the river during the last seven years. The National Park Service Department of the Interior, has recognized one of the developed access sites – called Atten's Landing, as part of their Rivers and Trails Program which was the only such project in Illinois.



Its efforts to improve the quality and access points of the Pecatonica River earned the The Friends of the Pecatonica Foundation received the Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation award.

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Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year

Presented to one or more volunteers each year for extraordinary service at the local or Divisional level.

Bruce Bodson's selfless service and commitment to conservation, recreation and education have made a profound impact on countless lives. He has been an instrumental force in establishing paddle trails throughout Texas, and his work for Bayou Land Conservancy and other local non-profits, such as the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, has helped Houstonians embrace outdoor recreation.

Bodson regularly makes the trek across Houston to work with Bayou Land Conservancy's *No Child Left Inside* environmental education program, where he has served as a paddle guide for hundreds of high school and middle school students. He has won or placed in a multitude of long-distance kayak races, where he regularly defeats people half his age. As an expert long-distance paddler and award-winning racer, Bodson has instilled a love of paddling and a respect for nature into the next generation of land stewards.



Bruce Bodson's selfless service and commitment to conservation, recreation and education earned him the Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year award.

He has also lent his talents as a paddle trail scout to the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, where he has helped to establish trails on Houston's most visible natural resource. Additionally, Bodson leads kayaking trips for novice paddlers, where his expertise, patience, and passion provide a positive outdoor experience for all participants. He also serves as the "caboose" for the Cypress Creek Regatta, a 7.5-mile ACA-sanctioned race. Bodson is the first one in the water and the last one out, ensuring all racers have completed the course safely.

Besides his role as an expert paddler, Bodson is an environmental attorney who has served on the board of Bayou Land Conservancy for nine years. He is chairman of the Lands Committee and holds the officer position of Vice President. He is also a board member of the Bayou Preservation Association and Christmas Bay Foundation and has previously served on the board of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Bruce is a lecturer and professor at Texas A&M University – Galveston, where he teaches Environmental Impact Analysis and Environmental Policy.

Stroke of Achievement

Presented to one or more ACA Affiliated Clubs each year for superior performance and program development.

Founded in 1989, the **Nantahala Racing Club** was originally conceived to provide a support platform for canoe and kayak athletes training for the Olympics. It has provided some level of support to now 23 Olympians and dozens of more World Championship and World Cup athletes across multiple disciplines. However, today the NRC is committed to engaging youth and families in whitewater sport.

Specializing in the development of slalom, freestyle and downriver competition, NRC develops and supports athletes of all ages and ability levels through a variety of training resources and events. By using whitewater-based exploration and competition the NRC encourages connections with the outdoors, promotes continuous self-improvement and empowers youth participants to expand their horizons. Through the provision of



The Nantahala Racing Club received the Stroke of Achievement award for its programs to support athletes of all ages and abilities.

J. Henry Rushton

affordable and professional coaching as well as the organization of outings, events and training groups the NRC allows members to maximize their competitive and personal potential. The fun, supportive environment created by the NRC benefits club members, their families, and volunteers alike.

The NRC is made up of a collaboration of members who are whitewater athletes, volunteers, and enthusiasts. NRC members believe in the intrinsic value of outdoor sports and work as a team to develop and grow paddlesports in the United States.

One of the NRC's most successful programs is the Nantahala Kids Club, a six-week program designed to get kids active and engaged in the outdoors through introduction to paddlesports. The focus is on learning basic whitewater safety skills and building a supportive community of strong, confident, healthy kids. Participants are encouraged to advance at their own pace, while coaches provide individualized instruction and lead group games and exercises. In 2015, the NRC provided approximately 2500 active hours of paddlesports opportunities for its membership, the large portion of which was youth focused.

Presented annually to an organization or other group for outstanding achievements in advancing paddlesport and the mission of the ACA.

Owned by Ken Williams, **California Aquatics** trains and outfits hundreds of novice kayakers and SUPers daily, exposing tens of thousands of new paddlers to these activities every year. The company maintains consistently high standards of safety and training by using innovative blended teaching techniques including video, simulators, excellent instructors and equipment.



California Aquatics' work to introduce tens of thousands of paddlers to kayaking and SUPing each year earned the company the J. Henry Rushton award.

In 1976 Williams started training high school students in scuba diving for the school districts in Los Angeles and Orange County, California, after a number of fatal accidents in the area. He developed a strong training program to ensure safety and consistent quality while handling a large volume of students. Williams has drawn on these training experiences to develop an efficient "certification course" that provides safety, fun and 100% proof of non-omissions.

Williams started training kayakers in 1992 and SUPers in 2012. He has developed a unique, innovative, high-quality program of safety and training for new paddlers in a high-volume environment. This blended program integrates on-site video, online education, instructor-led on-the-water training as well as beach simulator training. Williams is continually investing in the training program by improving the system and training his staff. He has hosted four ACA instructor certification workshops for his staff.

This is an innovative, unique, exemplary program that deserves national recognition so other programs can emulate it. Seven days a week hundreds of people of all ages and backgrounds, most of whom have never paddled before, gather at Williams' beach-front location due to word of mouth; he does not advertise.

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President's Awards

Given by the President of the Board of Directors to individuals for outstanding service to the ACA on a national level.



Katherine and Paul Macey received a President's Award for their work in promoting kayaking and the ACA.

Katherine and Paul Macey typify the generosity and philanthropic personality that sustains the kayaking community. They are exemplary paddlers and stewards of the community, continuing to dedicate their time, expertise and passion in growing and supporting the sport of paddling and paddling communities, organizing events, welcoming newbies, and so forth.

The Maceys founded the Los Angeles Kayak Club over a decade ago and have consistently supported and led the organization to promote paddling in Southern California. They use the ACA's Paddle America Club structure for many activities and promote ACA membership, safe paddling, proper instruction, and good stewardship and community.

The LAKC has successfully maintained ACA PAC status for many years and runs its annual 'beginner trips' on the Kern River through the ACA for insurance purposes. The Maceys both emphasize how community is a key to kayaking.

They generously promote and lead kayaking activities, including rallying

support for the annual Kern River Festival. The Maceys have truly built generations of kayakers, including Alex Morris and Bryant Burkhardt, two individuals serving on the CA ACA State Director council. This year, in recognition of their contributions to the LA area, the Maceys received a community award from the Los Angeles Mayor's office.

The **College of Life Foundation** planned and facilitated a restoration project along the Estero River. The seven-mile river was littered with debris, crippled by non-native, invasive species, blocked by downed trees, and served as an eyesore for families as a railroad bridge was covered in graffiti. The Foundation partnered with Lee County Natural



A comprehensive stewardship project for the Estero River helped earn The College of Life Foundation a President's Award.

Resources on removal and treatment of the invasive species and removal of the downed trees. Within just two weeks, native vegetation began to grow.

The Foundation partnered with local businesses and volunteers to paint the graffiti-covered Seminole Railroad Bridge. A climbing club from FGCU helped by rappelling over the bridge to reach the suspended parts over the river. ACA/LL Bean provided a grant and liability coverage for this project. Then, the Foundation

organized a trash / litter pick up of the seven miles of Estero River that empties into the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.

Partners in the community rallied around this event and were so grateful for a clean river to enjoy paddlesports with their families.

Charles "C.C." Williams, a native of Fort Mill S.C., is passionate about teaching and learning through the outdoors. A paddler and ACA instructor since 2005, he has spent the past five years teaching and guiding students of all levels as they discover the waterways of South Carolina. He is currently an Active Learning & Living (A.L.L.) Outdoors coordinator for the City of Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, a Level 4: Swiftwater Rescue Instructor, a Level 4: Whitewater Kayak Instructor, and a Level 2: Essentials of River Kayaking Instructor Trainer.

C.C. was instrumental in organizing the inaugural ACA Level 1 / Level 2 Instructor Symposium in September in South Carolina. The ACA and the City of Rock Hill Active Learning & Living Outdoors program teamed up to offer the first symposium designed to address the specific needs of Level 1 & Level 2 Kayak, Canoe, and SUP instructors.



A passionate paddlesports enthusiast and instructor, C.C. Williams received a President's Award.

ACA Chief Operating Officer honored with MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



At the 96th meeting of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) in Washington D.C., Rear Admiral Paul Thomas of the U.S. Coast Guard presented ACA Chief Operating Officer Chris Stec with the USCG's Meritorious Public Service Award.

Stec has represented paddlesports on the federal advisory council for six years, serving as chairman of the Prevention through People Subcommittee for the past four years.

The National Boating Safety Advisory Council provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security through the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on matters relating to recreational boating safety. The National Boating Safety Advisory Council is responsible for specific assignments and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and/or with state and local government jurisdictions.

For more information about how the ACA works to help paddlers, please visit: www.americancanoe.org/Public_Policy.

Florida paddlesports enthusiast wins State Director Award

Peggy Phillips, state director for ACA – Florida, was recently selected by her peers as the State Director of the Year.

Phillips works with a dynamic executive council in the Sunshine State, focusing on safety, education, competition, stewardship, and access for paddlers. Partnering with the national office, the team facilitated the USCG Sustainable Paddlesports Education grant for Underserved Communities. In addition, an ACA-sanctioned summer camp for at-risk youth included over 350 participants. Growing up in the foster program in rural Georgia, Peg has a passion for working with youth and giving back to the community.

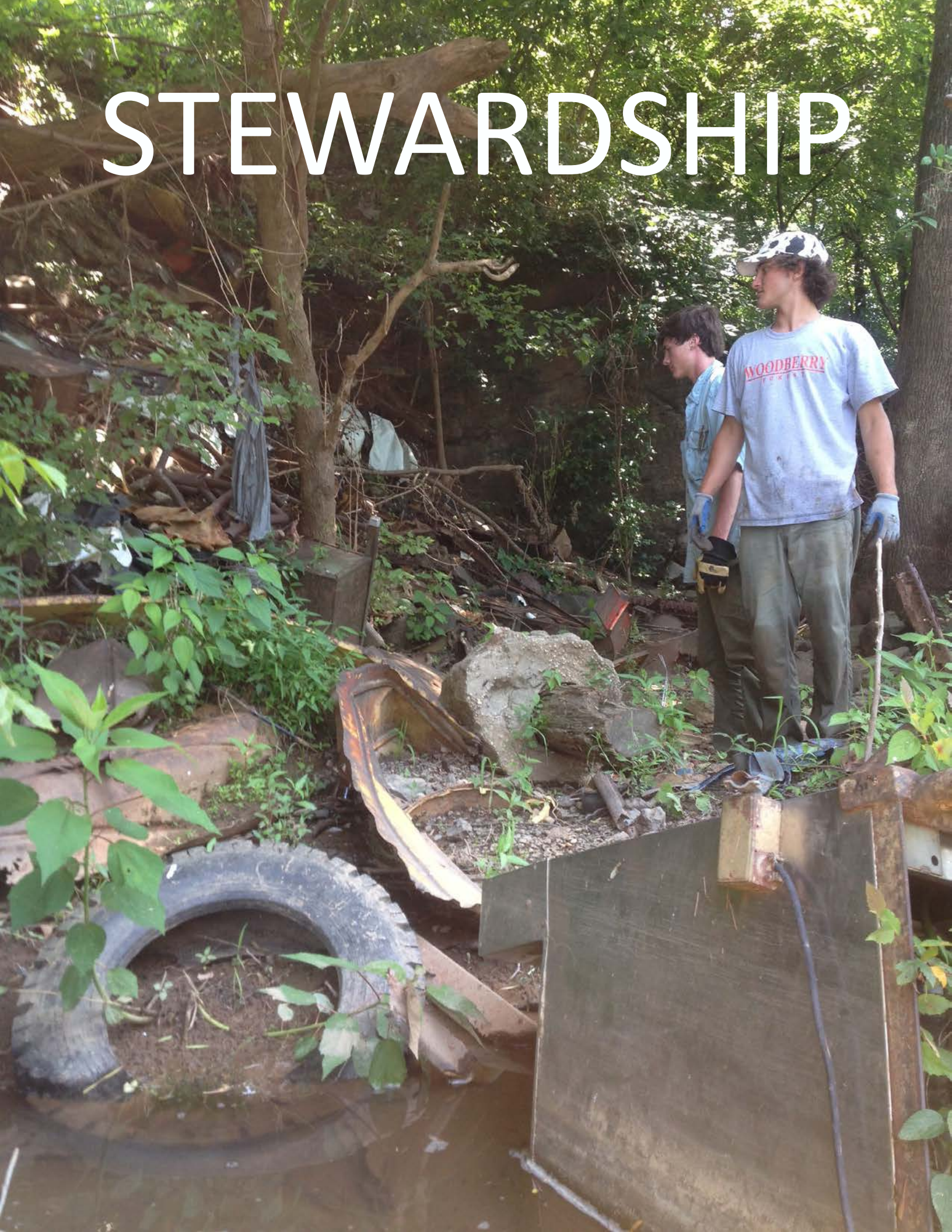
Hurricane Hermine and Hurricane Matthew brought stewardship to the forefront, and several projects were completed during 2016. The Estero River was cleared of invasive species, debris, and fallen trees that created a hazard for paddlers. In the Tallahassee area, the Wacissa River Blueway was cleared of fallen debris. Projects along the Kissimmee River are ongoing and part of the larger Everglades Restoration Program.

In other efforts, an ACA-sanctioned race was started – Calusa Palooza – providing competition for kayak, canoe, and SUP. This event was well attended and is slated to become an annual race.



Phillips serves on the Boating Advisory Council Non-Motorized Boat Working Group, representing Florida ACA members as policy is established by the legislature. As an L2 Kayak Instructor, she teaches with an emphasis on safety and fun! She provides no cost instruction to youth and their mentors in southwest Florida.

STEWARDSHIP



Stay up-to-date on ACA's Stewardship Initiatives

Interested in the political process? Check out some of the local and regional policy letters the ACA has submitted on behalf of paddlers:

www.americancanoe.org/PublicPolicy



Want to help your local waterway? Watch these videos from fellow paddlers at their Paddle Green Events:

www.americancanoe.org/PGEvents



How much is there? Where does it come from? Help the ACA and NOAA 'Track Trash' and clean up your local waterway in the process! Learn how to participate:

www.americancanoe.org/TrackTrash



How do the *7 Principles of Leave No Trace* apply to river corridors? Learn more at:

www.americancanoe.org/LNT



Paddle *Green* Spotlight:

Award-winning cleanup helps keep Virginia beautiful

Each summer a crew of high school and college age men and women work together to clean up sections of two of Virginia's rivers. This is part of a major cleanup project organized by StreamSweepers, an innovative, privately funded job corps program to clean up the Rapidan and Robinson rivers.

The ACA insures this event, and in 2014 the nonprofit organization recognized the event as its "Top Sanction Event of the Year." In 2015, 30th District Delegate Ed Scott and 17th District Delegate Bryce Reeves presented Center for Natural Capital Board Member David Perdue with a [Joint Resolution from the Virginia General Assembly](#) commending StreamSweepers "...as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for StreamSweepers' work to keep Virginia beautiful."

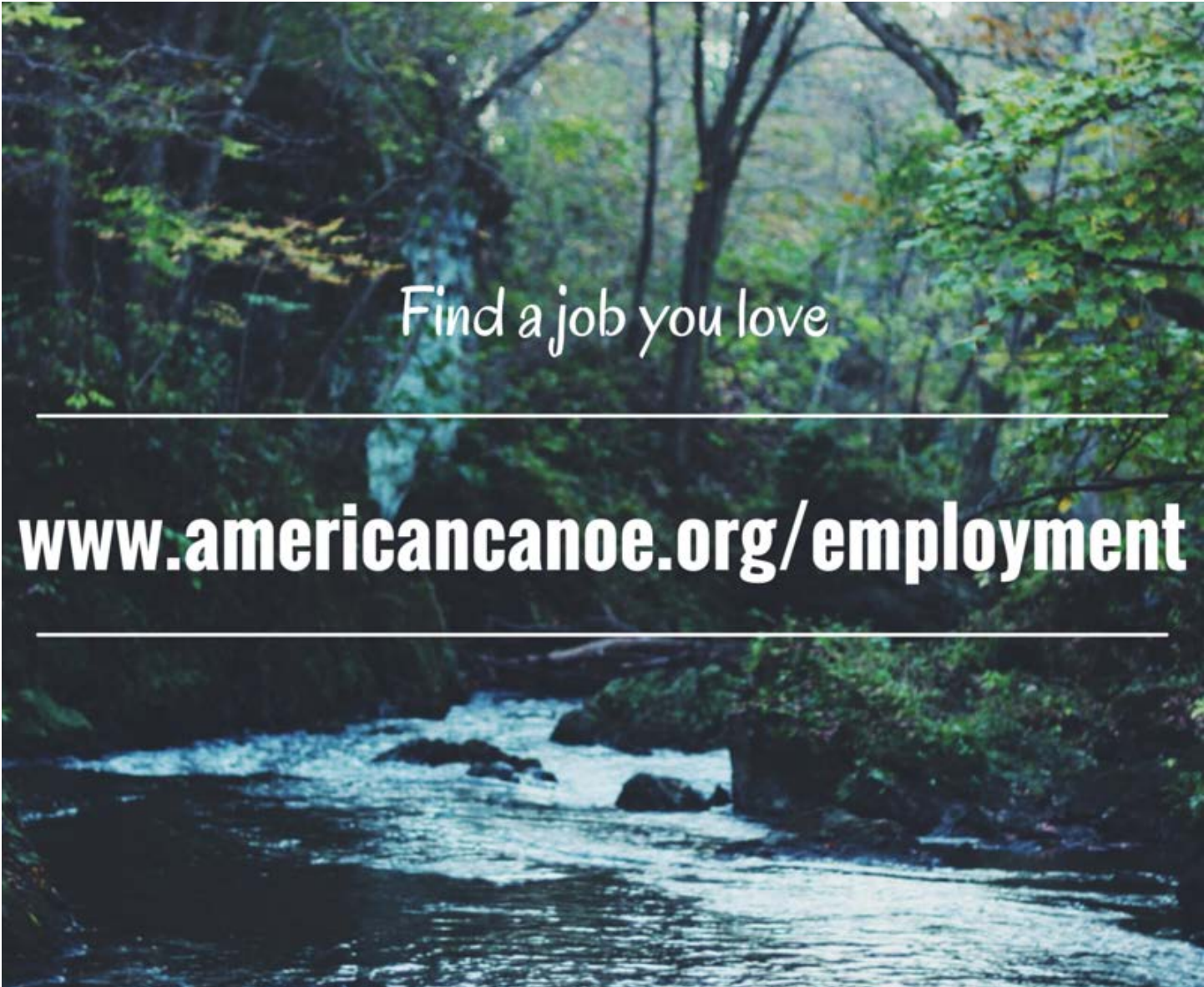
StreamSweepers has been documenting the cleanup efforts with a series of videos. The third video, titled [300 Tires and an Old Sofa](#), recently received a national award in the environmental film category from an organization that hosted a film festival in Portland, Oregon.

The video shows the teamwork used by the young men and women to remove what amounted to 7.5 tons of debris from the rivers.

Beth Seale, an ACA instructor who served as On-Water-Manager for StreamSweepers, commented, "If you don't think of the river as a water source and a wildlife habitat, a thing of beauty in your area, if you just think of it as a way to get rid of stuff, I guess that would be the mentality. I really don't understand..."

One summer, the debris the StreamSweepers removed included 300 tires, dozens of tarps, bottles and cans, scrap metal, drain tile, lumber, culverts, road barriers, appliances, and even an old sofa.





Find a job you love

www.americancanoe.org/employment

The ACA Career Center Website is now better than ever!

Use it as a one-stop-shop to find awesome jobs all over the country at places like REI, the U.S. National Whitewater Center, and more.

You can even sign up for email notifications so you know when new jobs get posted to the site!

Visit www.americancanoe.org/employment to find your dream job in the outdoor recreation industry today.

Recent Paddle Green

Hydropower Reform

The [Hydropower Reform Coalition](#) and [American Rivers](#) “have been fighting bad hydropower provisions in the Energy Bill (both H.R. 8 and S. 2012) that will make it harder for states, tribes, and federal agencies to carry out their authority under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.”



Now, “Senators, Representatives, and their staffs are currently negotiating a final energy bill... we are asking the conference committee to remove hydropower language from the bill on the grounds that the process that led to the bills did not include input from the environmental community and because the language of the bills is so extreme that it has been condemned by states, tribes, and the environmental community.”

Your ACA has gladly become a signatory to [the letter generated](#) to urge changes that will address the negative consequences of the above bills.

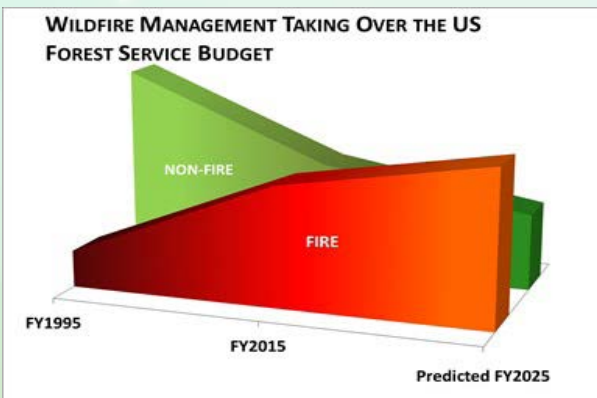
[READ MORE](#)

Protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge

The [Alaska Wilderness League](#) sent a letter to President Obama asking him to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge. This letter, “signed by over 200 organizations representing 49 different states ... was delivered to the Obama administration during a meeting ... where a coalition representing many different voices made the call to protect the Arctic Refuge.” Your ACA was one of the signers of this letter.



Fire Suppression Funding



The [Nature Conservancy](#) has [generated a letter](#), signed by the ACA, to the congressional leadership “in support of a comprehensive fire funding solution. Addressing fire funding impacts on land management agencies is critical to ensuring land management goals are met.

As Congress considers a fire funding solution, we urge you to ensure the solution addresses the impacts of the increasing cost of suppression on land management programs.” This request addresses the problem that increases in the costs of fighting wildfires is taking over the U.S. Forest Service budget.

Save the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Mineral leases in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness have been granted, and mining companies are now proposing sulfide-ore copper mining operations within this watershed. While not within the protected area, leaks from these mines could easily pollute the pristine water of the BWCAW. Your ACA is closely monitoring this activity and will strongly oppose any potential devastation of this pristine area. To learn more, visit <https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/>.

POLICY ACTION

Burlington Island in the Delaware River



As reported Nov. 5 by Joseph Green in The Burlington County Times:

A group of nearly a dozen kayakers paddled all the way around Burlington Island on Saturday to show solidarity against anything that might blemish their beloved Delaware River gem.

The gathering came as the city fights a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to deposit dredge spoils from the riverbed on the storied island with a view of Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania.

Louis Metzger, public policy chief for the Fredericksburg, Virginia-based American Canoe Association, turned out to show his support. The ACA promotes paddling sports such as kayaking, canoeing and rafting and engages in safety education, waterway conservation and other activities.

“I just want to be sure that recreational paddlers have a voice in what goes on on this island,” Metzger said as he stood on the East Pearl Street ramp. “I would hope that whatever is done, is done with a lot of attention to the environment.”

Denial of River Access in New Jersey

Scott Douglas, president of the Lehigh Valley Kayak and Canoe Club, notified us that several of its members were denied access to the Wanaque River by the N.J. Department of Parks and Forestry. This is one of the go-to streams in N.J. for whitewater boating. In response, we submitted a letter to the NJ DEP requesting that this incident be reviewed. At this point we have been told that a formal response will be sent. We will share this once received.

Proposed Cleanup of Darby Creek

Steve Johnson, Regional Field Operations Manager for LL Bean, is planning activities on Darby Creek, in the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. Steve notes, “We are looking to educate the people of Philadelphia on the great wildlife opportunities available right in their own back yard. We will be teaching introductory kayaking to youth and adults.” In addition, Steve is gathering volunteers and resources to mount a clean-up effort on Darby Creek. Your ACA will be providing green bags for this effort.



Read the ACA's recent [policy action letters](#).



PARTNERING FOR STEWARDSHIP



The ACA is proud to be able to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program has provided nearly \$140,000 to over 150 different stewardship initiatives since its inception in 2002.

We'll highlight the 2016 participants here and in upcoming issues of *Paddle*.

Support for Anchorage Waterways Council's 32nd Annual Creek Cleanup



The Anchorage Waterways Council has an annual creek cleanup every May. The area of activity is primarily the Anchorage "bowl," the highly urbanized portion of the 2,000 sq. mi. municipality of Anchorage. Several sites along the major creeks and lakes within in the area needed trash cleaned.

Nearly 40 teams signed up for the four days of cleaning (May 12-15), with a total of nearly participants. Just over 2.5 tons of trash was removed during the 2016 cleanup. This was the second year for collecting monofilament fishing line and debris. It was separated from the other trash, cleaned, and recycled at Berkley Industries.

The local community loves Creek Cleanup. For many it's a decades-old tradition. They come out year after year to participate, and every person who does clean up is more aware of trying to curb trash in the creeks. It's both visual and educational, and many adults said that they were very excited to see their children involved in the tradition, so it's leading to a generational tradition.



Maps provided courtesy of:



Anchorage Creek Cleanup

Stream Name: Ship Creek
Segment: 1
Mouth to Dam
Length: about 0.5 miles

Betsie River Tree Trimming Project

The Boardman River Clean Sweep organization has been doing river cleanups since 2004. Last year's events took place June 11 and July 23. The June event was a river cleanup, The July event focused on trimming trees along the Betsie River.

Thirty-five people put in 185 man-hours on the two one-day projects, cleaning three sections along 13 miles of the Betsie River. They removed miles of fishing line, 500 pounds of trash, glass, fishing line, lead and hooks.

For the tree trimming project, the group used grant money from the ACA to purchase a gas-powered pole saw. The saw was used in removing the worst offending tree limbs on the Betsie River – those which attracted the most fishing line and which were so high that they could not be cleaned off.



The group had marked 13 trees during the June 11 cleanup. However, they ended up trimming 23 trees all but two of which were dead. Following these projects, the Betsie is a safer and more beautiful place.

Downeast Lakes Water Trail Campsite Construction and Improvements

The Downeast Lakes Land Trust is nearing the completion of the project “Downeast Lakes Water Trail Campsite Construction and Improvements,” in which five water trail campsites are being created and/or improved. The CFS grant provided crucial funding for the purchase of five picnic tables, weatherizing stain, lumber for outhouses, and campsite signage.

This project is making an impact in the community of Grand Lake Stream, Maine, by offering more options for overnight stays and a general improvement of local tourism infrastructure. Supporting the local economy of Downeast Maine is a critical part of DLLT's mission, and the CFS grant program has greatly contributed to this endeavor.



In addition to hours contributed by DLLT staff members, this project included help from 22 volunteers, totaling approximately 80 hours of time to the project. Of those 22, 11 were from the Wigwams Program – a collaborative, outdoor-based program that allows local teenagers to complete conservation work with area organizations. They helped clear the sites, install an outhouse, and build firepits.

In addition to Wigwams, six younger children from Grand Lake Stream, ages 10-15, spent a morning clearing one of the campsites and hauling rocks. This was an installment in DLLT's education program, “Serious Skills for Boys & Girls,” a weekly summer series that provides outdoor lessons for local children of the Downeast Lakes region.

The major work of this project has been completed. The campsites have been cleared and improved, firepits built and/or improved, and picnic tables installed. The only work left is placing the signage and installing campsite logbooks at each picnic table.

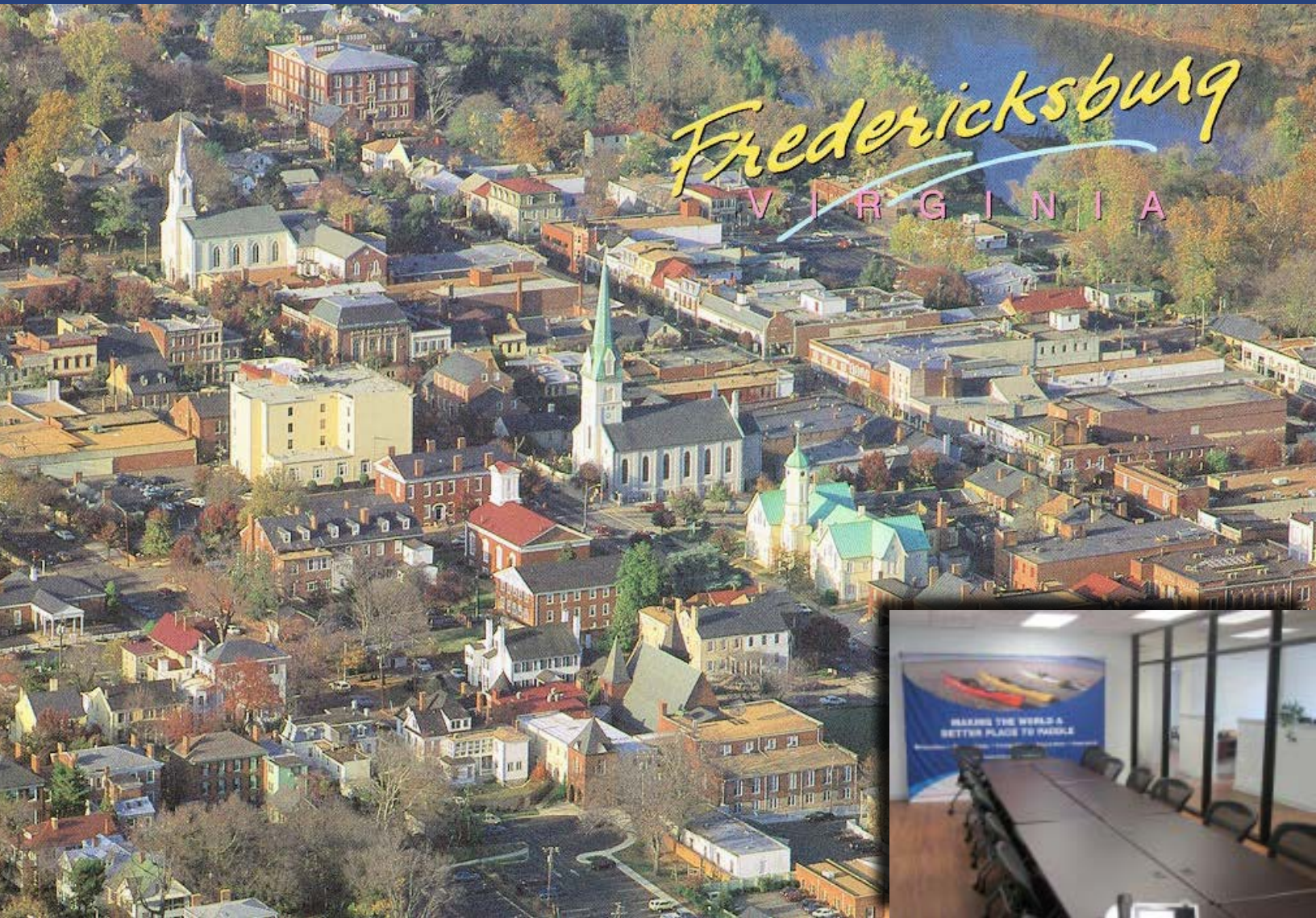
With the addition of 21,870 acres to the Downeast Lakes Community Forest, DLLT is working this winter to update all hiking trails and campsite maps to reflect these new additions and to have broader public outreach of the Downeast Lakes Water Trail.

EDUCATION



Want to help fellow paddlers develop educational programs for canoe, kayak, SUP, raft and rescue?

If so, please join ACA Staff and the Safety Education & Instruction Council in Fredericksburg, Virginia, March 2-3, 2017.



For more information, visit the Events page at www.americancanoe.org.
SEIC Discipline Committee meetings
SEIC Meeting

ACA hosts successful National Paddlesports Conference

The 2016 National Paddlesports Conference was held Nov. 11-13, in Sausalito, California. The goal of the ACA's conference program is to provide opportunity for social interaction, information dissemination, education expansion, and the chance for members and instructors to certify in several paddlesports disciplines as well as update current certifications.

More than 160 people took part in the conference, including about 120 attendees, 25 or so presenters and instructor trainers, many instructor and endorsement candidates, and several ACA staff.

The ACA is incredibly honored and humbled to have had so many talented instructors, presenters and partners participate in the 2016 National Paddlesports Conference. Hailing from all points of the country, these individuals made the trek to Sausalito to help the association and our members grow and achieve our goals.

Major conference highlights were through the educational sessions and pre- and post-events. For the first time, the conference offered a three-day Instructor Trainer update and a two-day Instructor update – both of which were well attended. The Level V Advanced Coastal Kayak IDW/ICE and the Level III SUP Surf ICW were completely booked as well as the Adaptive Paddling Endorsement with 13 candidates. Every educational session was excellent and a few really shined through.

For on-water sessions, Helen Wilson's "Simplifying the Roll" was completely full. Kenny Howell's "Introduction to Surf Ski" and Cate Hawthorne and Jeff Laxier's "Whitewater of the Sea" filled within the first hour of conference check-in.

The Angel Island Overnight Trip, Richard Lee Smith's "Practical Navigation" and Michael Gray's "Leadership Beyond Group Management" all saw strong numbers. Dry land sessions flourished as well, especially Jane Bale's presentation on "Lessons Learned – Implementing Adaptive Kayaking Programs for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities" and Helen Wilson's "Yoga for Paddlers."

The success of the 2016 National Paddlesports Conference is strongly linked to the overall health of the ACA. During this year's conference we saw an extremely strong presence and passion from our membership. This enthusiasm draws a deep humbling and respect from the conference committee and ACA staff. It also energizes us all for the 2017 National Paddlesports Conference, which will be held at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser, North Carolina, October 18-22. We are so excited to see you all there.



Don't miss the 2017 paddlesports conference!



**Mark your calendar for the
2017 National Paddlesports Conference.**

The ACA provides a range of recreational opportunities and has been established as one of the premier standards of paddlesports safety and education. As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, the organization initiated this annual conference to target all facets of the paddlesports community. Don't miss out!

This year's conference takes place October 18-22 at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in Wesser, North Carolina, and has a great deal in store for you. Offerings include exceptional educational sessions, instructor updates, navigation classes, outdoor activity opportunities, and exciting events for paddlers of all experience levels.

To learn more, please visit <http://www.americancanoe.org/NPC> today!

December Instructor of the Month

Georgia Ackerman

Georgia Ackerman of Tallahassee, Florida, enjoys spending any day in the woods or on the water. She especially enjoys getting folks out on the quiet, pristine rivers and bays of north Florida far from the distractions of civilization.

"I like exploring our area's wooded river basins. I love floating around in the Gulf in a kayak, spotting pelicans and rays, just a small speck in the vastness of nature. And, I especially enjoy our magnificent spring-fed rivers. They're exceptional," she said.

Certified as an ACA instructor in kayak touring since 2005, Ackerman spent nearly a decade as a kayak

instructor, guide, and summer camp leader during her tenure as an eco-tourism outfitter in North Florida. She said her ongoing ACA training keeps her groups safe on the water, commenting, "Oh yeah, I have some zany what-almost-went-wrong stories, but I'm happy to tell you that the emphasis on safety practice and solid trip planning has served me quite well. I'm especially proud of working with kids, our future water stewards. We all know how to have fun and be safe on the water."

Ackerman continues to use her instructor training in local conservation volunteer work. As a recreational outings organizer with [Apalachicola Riverkeeper](#), Ack-

*Georgia Ackerman
stands on the bank of
the Apalachicola River.*





Ackerman paddles her kayak during a river cleanup in 2015.

erman coordinates the safety planning for the non-profit's annual 100+ mile river paddle-camping fundraiser and awareness campaign. "The Apalachicola is a magical and remote river. After five days paddling the length of the mighty Apalach' to the Gulf, it's not uncommon for a new paddler to tell me the experience was life-changing, and I get it because it truly is."

Additionally, Ackerman is [Sierra Club national outings](#) volunteer, co-leading land- and water-based service trips. Ackerman expects to paddle her touring kayak along the coastal area of St. Marks Wildlife Refuge, just south of Tallahassee, this winter. She adds, "It's a beautiful region and our water adventure choices are limitless."

January Instructor of the Month

Kelly Marie Henry

Kelly Marie Henry is completely addicted to high-performance surf kayaking. "For me, surf kayaking is very challenging, a little bit terrifying, and pure joy. When I am up and riding, the background noise of life fades away and there is only silence. I am fully present in the moment on that wave. As the ride ends, the surge of positive emotions is overwhelming – I am grinning from ear to ear," she explained.

She enjoys instructing almost as much as surfing. "I find helping paddlers at all levels build their skills and increase their comfort and confidence on the water truly rewarding. Several years ago, I left a promising career in oceanography to work full-time in paddle-sports," said Kelly.

She instructs introductory and intermediate sea kayaking, surf kayaking, and stand up paddleboarding through [California Canoe & Kayak](#). Recently, she collaborated with several San Francisco Bay Area instructors to form [River & Ocean Paddlesports Coaching](#)



Kelly Marie Henry shares her passion for surf kayaking as she instructs a student.



Henry enjoys some time on the water.

Henry enjoys promoting paddlesports participation, particularly among women. “The more time I spend in coastal kayaking and surf kayaking, the more aware I become of the lack of women in both disciplines,” she explained. Several times a year, she collaborates with the [California Women’s Watersport Collective](#) – an organization dedicated to creating and fostering a community of women who share a love of the water – to offer women’s specific sea kayak and surf kayak clinics and multi-day classes.

In addition to encouraging women in paddlesports, she volunteers with the with the [US West Surf Kayak Club](#) to promote the sport of surf kayaking on the West Coast. “With the help of Sean Morley and Bill Vonnegut, I organized a new event this year, the [Bodega Bay Bash Expression Session](#). The event included two full days of surf kayaking, clinics, and camping open to all levels. Over 30 paddlers attended and spent the weekend enjoying short boat surfing!”

In spring 2017, Henry said she will spend six weeks paddling and teaching in Taiwan “with my good friend and co-conspirator, Laura Zulliger.” Their expedition aims to contribute to and advance Taiwan’s sea kayaking community through co-led workshops with local instructors and a month-long expedition spanning the island’s eastern coast. Their instruction will focus on teaching advanced kayaking skills as well as furthering female outdoor leadership among Taiwanese women paddlers. Be sure to follow them at [fearlessformsa.com](#).

“While I am always planning my next adventure, I am truly blessed to live, teach, and paddle in one of the premier paddling destinations in the world. The San Francisco Bay Area and the surrounding coastal waters have a little bit of everything – flat water, surf, rock gardens, and tide races. I am also lucky enough to work and paddle with some of the best sea kayakers and surf kayakers in the business. What more could an aspiring paddler ask for?!”

[Collective](#). Through this group, Henry offers advanced level instruction and long-term paddler development programs. “I am really excited about this newest coaching endeavor!” she added.

Henry said that while competing is not for everyone and most surf kayakers will have years of enjoyment from the sport without ever entering a competition, she admits to being fiercely competitive and that she knew from her first days in a surf kayak, she wanted to compete.

“Last March, I entered the Cowells Classic intermediate competition at [Santa Cruz Paddlefest](#). After two days of fun and friendly waves, I surfed my way into second place. This fall, I entered the expert category in the [Ventura Paddle Surfing Championships](#) and found myself the sole female competitor lined up with some of the best male surf kayakers on the West Coast. And more recently, I competed in some exceptionally stormy conditions at the [Davenport Paddlesurf Classic](#) and came away Queen of the Wave. Next up, I have my sights set on the 2017 World Championships of Surf Kayaking in Portrush, Ireland!”



We are proud to partner with Kokatat to bring you the **ACA Instructor of the Month program.**

Do you know an instructor who deserves recognition?

[Nominate them today!](#)



ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The [University of Minnesota – Duluth’s Recreational Sports Outdoor Program](#) is dedicated to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and connections to the natural world through personal and professional experiences.

Their water-based programming, Paddle Surf Kite, provides opportunities for students and community members to participate in water- and snow-based adventure sports. Goals include skill development, social interaction, environmental awareness, and a feeling of stoke!

Enjoy discovering paddle surf kite through the following various forms:

- Sea Kayaking
- White Water Paddling
- Stand-Up Paddleboarding
- Surfing
- Kiting
- Kayak and Canoe Activities
- Employment and Certifications



ACA Pro Schools are some of the best organizations across the country to find top quality ACA certified instruction. Plus, current ACA members receive discounts on certain Pro School instructional programs.

Please visit www.americancanoe.org/ProSchools to find a Pro School near you.



SWIFTWATER RESCUE CONFERENCE

Date: October 13-15, 2017

Location: Pacific Northwest - Mill City, Oregon

Venue: Santiam River, Oregon

Registration will be available online in June 2017

Only 100 spaces will be available

Cost: TBD

Sponsors

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2017 ACA SWR Conference, please contact ACA SWR Committee Chair, Sam Fowlkes at whitewatersam@gmail.com.

Presenters

If you are interested in presenting at the 2017 ACA SWR Conference, please contact SWR Conference Chair: Aaron Peeler at apeeler@usnwc.org.

Additional Highlights

Challenging on-water sessions for paddlers of all experience levels

Learn from a list of who's who in swiftwater rescue

Educational sessions for fire and rescue personnel

High quality land and water educational sessions

ACA Safety & Rescue Instructor Updates



ADAPTIVE



Creative collaboration produces successful adaptive paddling event

By Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder, Seabirds International

Ten ACA Adaptive Paddling Endorsement candidates representing organizations across New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Maine and Virginia came together June 3-5, 2016, in Western New York, to learn best practices for working with people with physical disabilities in paddlesports.



Workshop participant Luther Vic said, "The candidates I worked with made me feel extremely comfortable and at ease."

Seabirds International photos

30 / PADDLE / January 2017

Southern Tier Stand Up Paddle Corp, Binghamton University, L.L. Bean, Stride, Fairfax County Park Authority, City of Light Fitness, Island Paddlers, Buffalo Riverkeepers, Heritage Christina Services, Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, Breakaway Excursions and Seabirds International were represented. The camaraderie among the candidates was apparent throughout the course of the event as new friendships and partnerships were formed.

The APW was funded through a variety of sources to make the workshop more financially accessible to the candidates. Joe Moore of [Adaptive Expeditions](#) served as lead instructor for the course. He said, "This was likely the lowest cost APW in history of the ACA," with each candidate paying only \$150 toward the course costs.

The [2015 Paddlefest](#) in Buffalo, New York, Eric Hahn, and the Blue Sky Grant provided donations. In addition, the Cattaraugus Community Center in Irving, New York, donated classroom, workshop and pool time as match funding. "We are grateful for their support," said Moore.

In exchange, newly endorsed ACA instructors are expected to deliver

www.americancanoe.org



A recent adaptive paddling event brought together paddlers from five states to learn best practices for working with people with physical disabilities.

at least two adaptive paddling classes or excursions over the next year. As we strive to develop the paddling community in Western New York, working in partnership with these committed instructors is essential.

We are fortunate in this part of the planet to have access to many places to paddle, including historic waterways, beautiful rivers and a couple of great lakes to enjoy. Physical access is being improved as the waterways develop here so that paddlers can safely access the water. With over 350,000 physically disabled people in Western New York and the growing paddlesport community in area, the need for accessible opportunities is apparent.

Steve Spitz of the [Western New York Adaptive Water Sports](#) is developing a paddling program for their members.

“The diverse resources and skill sets that came together in this APW was unique. Upstate New York presents excellent potential to become a hub for all types of adaptive paddling,” said Moore.

Participant Luther Vic expressed thanks as the candidates he worked with “made me feel extremely comfortable and at ease,” explaining that they didn’t treat him differently like many others have done. The feedback from the volunteers is key as we grow our skills as instructors and coaches.

During the evaluation, Marty Grew said, “Good things happen when we try.”

Other participant commented:

“The course started me thinking.”

“I overcame my fear of kayaking.”

“Flexible and patient instructors.”

“Wonderful venue”

“Hands-on learning – I was in my glory!”

Thanks to everyone who made this course possible and especially to the participants and volunteers who gave up their time to join us for the first Adaptive Paddling Workshop in the beautiful and inspiring Buffalo Niagara region. We are making a difference in Western New York by working together to share our passion for this growing discipline.



Marty Grew shared that "Good things happen when we try."

www.americancanoe.org

Equipment Spotlight

Try the patented *Angle Oar*

The patented Angle Oar opens up new possibilities for people who didn't think they had the strength or endurance to kayak due to injury, ability, health condition or age. It's also great for any recreational kayaker who wants to enjoy the fun of kayaking without the workout it sometimes entails.

Designed by Jim Van Gompel, a lifelong outdoorsman and retired mechanical engineer, the angled paddle allows anyone with a missing hand or limb to easily paddle a kayak and is great for other people with limited strength or flexion. Kayak anglers also love the Angle Oar because they can now hold the rod with one hand and paddle with the other.



The Angle Oar comes with a support post and several types of mounting options, all of which support the weight of the paddle. Using a simple rotary movement of the forearm(s) – much like pedaling a bike with your hand(s) – you can glide through the water with minimal effort. Angle Oar eliminates the back and torso rotation, as well as joint and shoulder stress, that occur with a regular paddle.

Whether you own or rent, the mounts work with most kayaks – both sit-in and sit-on top. You can also use the Angle Oar like a traditional straight paddle, either in or out of the mount, making it versatile for different members of a family or group. dle, just pop it out of the mount.

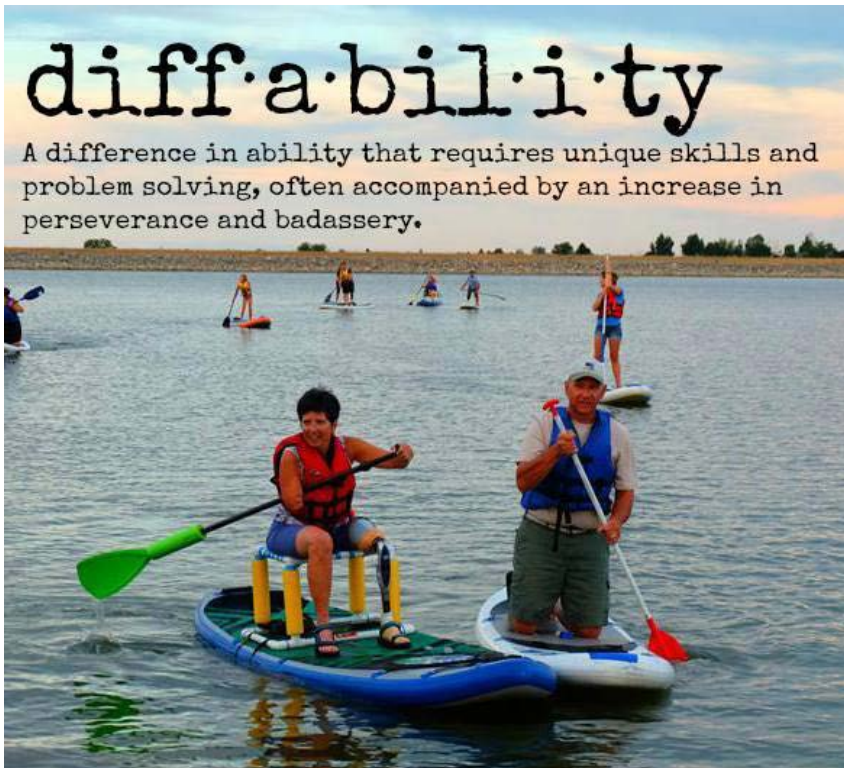
**Please visit the Adaptive Paddling section
of the [ACA eStore](#) for more information
on all of the adaptive equipment available for purchase.
Don't forget to login for ACA member pricing!**

Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops (APWs)

February 16, 2017 Adaptive Kayaking Open House
Hosted by: Kayak New Mexico Inc.
Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Visit the [Adaptive Event Calendar](#)
to stay up-to-date on APWs happening near you!



Thank you

Kayak New Mexico Inc. would like to extend a big thank-you to the Mariposa Community Center for hosting the Adaptive Paddling Workshop Oct. 23, 2016.

During the event, 10 kayak instructors and volunteers outfitted kayaks for five children and adults (four of

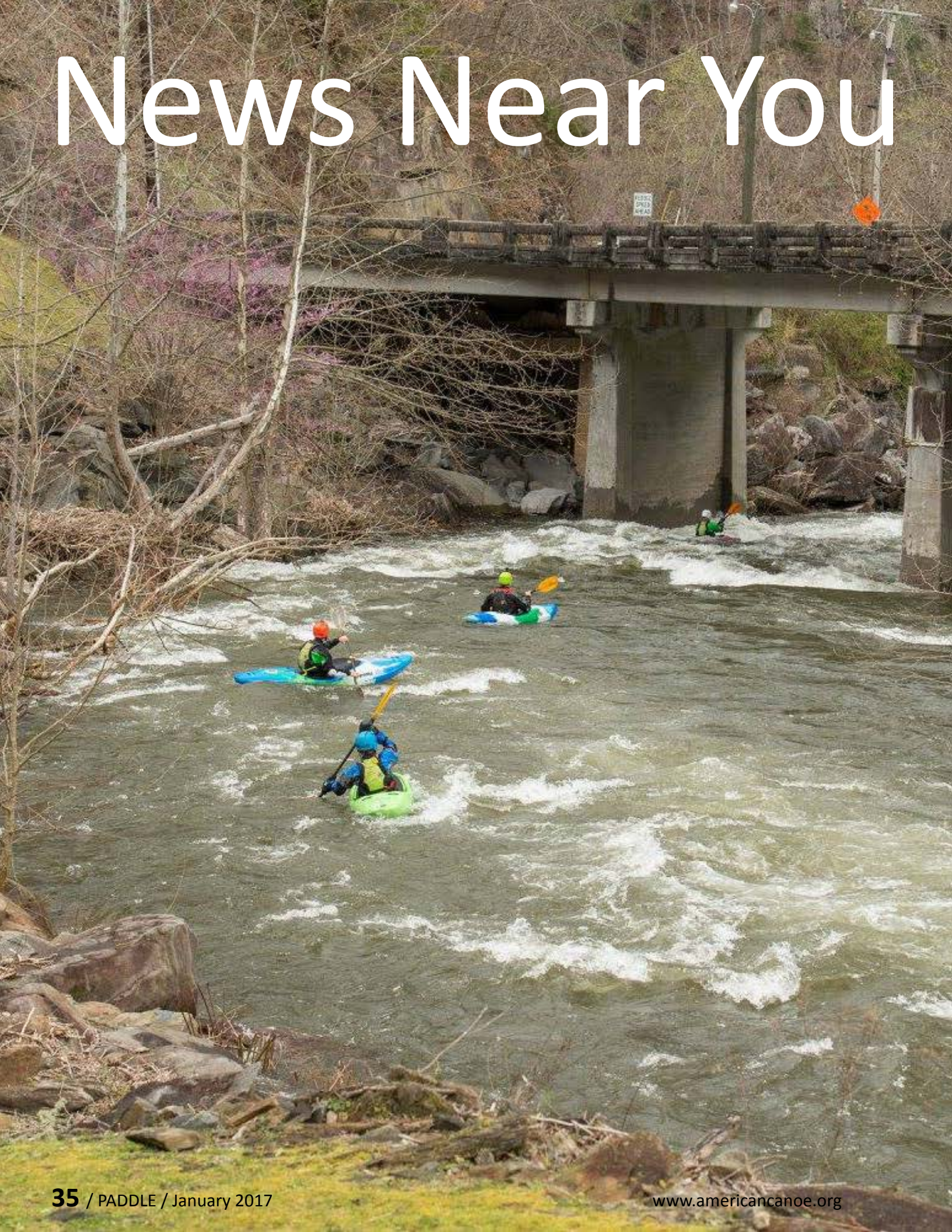
whom use wheelchairs). Then, everyone headed to the pool to learn how to: safely exit a kayak after it flips, enter a kayak in the water, and use the paddle correctly.

"Our 10 instructors and volunteers learned so much," said Jane Bales co-founder and treasurer of Kayak

New Mexico Inc. "Our instructors understand so much more about working with people with disabilities. Everyone is excited about the future. Two of our students are planning on trying out for the paralympics canoe/kayaking in April 2017."



News Near You



STATE-BY-STATE

News delivered directly from [ACA State Directors](#) across the USA

Florida

At their next meeting, the Boating Advisory Council Non-motorized Boat Working Group will be discussing boat registration. We'd like to hear from boaters so that we can represent our ACA members and paddling community.

The meeting will be held February 1-2 in Orlando and is open to the public. Boaters may also email Peg Phillips at kayakerpeg@gmail.com. In addition, there are many events during our upcoming season, so please check out the events calendar at <http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=EventsbyState>.

Contact: Peggy Phillips, FLStatedirector@americancanoe.net



Idaho's been getting lots of snow that will fill the state's rivers and lakes in the spring.

Idaho

Happy New Year! It seems that we've been good this year, as Santa has been bringing lots of snow to fill our rivers and lakes in the spring. If you're passionate about paddlesports in Idaho, please consider getting involved with the ACA State Director Program. This year is my last as the State Director, and I'd love to pass the mantle on to someone enthusiastic. Best wishes in the New Year, and see you on the river!

Contact: Elliot Jacobs, IDStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Louisiana

In northeast Louisiana, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge has dedicated four new paddling trails throughout the refuge and partnered with Louisiana State University's AgCenter to work on enhancing paddling opportunities. Options include **paddling trails from Fool River to Ben Lilly Bridge and from Tendal to the Visitor Center**, as well as on Africa Lake and Indian Lake. For information, please visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Tensas_River/visit/visitor_activities.html

Contact: Ben Sandmel, LAStateDirector@americancanoe.net





The [Quietwater Symposium](#) is held each year at Michigan State University in East Lansing and highlights paddlesports, camping, hiking, and biking opportunities throughout the state.

Michigan

Winter weather and ice may have put a stop to much of the paddling activity in Michigan but it also means we can look ahead to the upcoming paddling season and make plans.

Be sure to save the date Saturday, March 4, 2017, for the [Quietwater Symposium](#). This meeting is held each year at Michigan State University in East Lansing and highlights paddlesports, camping, hiking, and biking opportunities throughout the state. Nationally known guest speakers, on-site canoe building demos, club booths, and presentations are just a few of the exciting activities that are part of this early season show!

Last year's symposium featured over 200 exhibits, speakers and demonstrations.

Contact: Lynn Dominguez, MIStateDirector@americancanoe.net

North Carolina

We have been hard at work to build the grassroots for ACA - North Carolina and to connect paddling clubs and educators across the state with the ACA. Our ACA - North Carolina Facebook page is growing in audience, and we hope that you will connect with us and share with your fellow paddling enthusiasts.

A highlight of the year was participating in the safety crew for the 2016 Green Race, actively using our swift-water rescue skills at Zwick's Backender rapid and in "The Pit" below Gorilla rapid on the Green River Narrows. ACA - North Carolina was also fortunate to participate in the safety crew for the first Tallulah Race, a whitewater race hosted in beautiful Tallulah Gorge and featuring many of the best in the sport. We are excited for 2017 and for what the newly elected ACA - North Carolina Executive Council will accomplish.

Contact: Kyle Thomas, NCStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Continued on page 38

A highlight of the year for ACA - North Carolina was participating in the safety crew for the 2016 Green Race.





These safety boaters woke up EXTRA early to keep racers safe at the 1st Tallulah Race in South Carolina.

South Carolina

From an education perspective, Lowcountry Regional Director Jeff Atkins recently hosted a L3/L4 Coastal Kayak training in Charleston for paddlers out of the Washington, D.C. paddling community. From a safety perspective, State Director Kyle Thomas volunteered as part of the safety crew for the first Tallulah Race. Last but not least, ACA - South Carolina was represented at the ACA Conference in Sausalito, California, with Joshua Hall presenting, Steve Hutton and Joshua Hall remaining on the SEIC Board, and Upstate S.C. Regional Director Charles "C.C" Williams being elected as SEIC Secretary.

Contact: Kyle Thomas, Ethan Talley, SCStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Texas

Texas has so much to offer every type of paddler. One amazing thing to do is surf kayak or surf SUP on the gulf coast. Port Aransas and Mustang Island are great spots to try your hand at surfing! Check out this blog: <http://the-wet-exit.blogspot.com/>. This could be you! Contact: Lorraine McPhee Burroughs, TXStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Wisconsin

Wausau Whitewater is fundraising for phase one of improvement projects, including increased accessibility for paddlers, spectators, and river access ramps for adaptive paddlers. Phase one has an estimated cost of \$309,000. The Board of Directors has received a community matching grant of \$150,000. For more info, please visit <http://www.wausauwhitewater.org/home.aspx>. To donate to the matching grant, use the "Donate" button in the top right corner of the webpage. Contact: Tom Schrader, WIStateDirector@americancanoe.net

As a national organization, it can be difficult to know about all the paddling issues in every state. That's where the [ACA State Director Program](#) comes in!

This volunteer program is designed to close the gap between paddlers on the ground (and water) and the ACA.

If you want to get involved, [reach out](#) to your local ACA State Director, and start improving stewardship, education, and competition in your state today.

For additional information on the ACA State Director Program, please contact Amy Ellis at aellis@americancanoe.org.

www.americancanoe.org/StateDirector



ACA Members meet in Puerto Rico

By Amy Ellis, ACA State Director Coordinator

During the third annual ACA State Director Conference, held December 2-4, 2016, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, ACA members from Alaska to Florida joined together for a working, yet fun, weekend. From dinner at Barrachina's (where the Pina Colada was invented) in Old Town San Juan to kayaking in the bioluminescent bay in Fajardo, the conference offered plenty of opportunities for networking. A big thank-you to Omar and Jessica of Paddle Paradise, for hosting a fiesta for the State Directors to kick off the conference.



When the state directors rolled up their sleeves for the working portion of the conference, a significant amount of positive synergy was achieved. From discussions on how to handle potential boat registrations to enhanced social media techniques (thanks, Tim Chandler!), to how to provide better benefits to members in each state, the volunteer state directors continue working hard on behalf of paddlers across the United States.

Mark your calendar: The next ACA State Directors Conference will be held October 20-22, 2017, in Bryson City, North Carolina. The event will be in conjunction with the 2017 National Paddlesports Conference.

For more information about how ACA volunteers are making a difference in your state, please visit http://www.americancanoe.org/State_Director.



MEMBERSHIP



ACA Member Benefit

Nighthawk Canoes

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www.americancanoe.org/Discounts

ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Spotlight



Grand Junction Stand Up Paddle

At [Stand Up Paddle Colorado](#), we are foremost watermen and waterwomen, environmental stewards, renegades and nonconformists. Our calling for adventure and the outdoors has placed us passionately in the position to offer the most instructional, informative and flat-out fun Stand Up Paddle experiences in the Rocky Mountains. We strive to be one of the leading local, regional and international whitewater and recreational SUP outfitters that creates highly cherished, memorable and life changing experiences for our guests and patrons..

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CANOE & KAYAK

Member Photo *of the* Month



Chris and Lydia Wing

Chris and Lydia Wing are the owners and directors of Whitewater Dreams, a paddling instructional company that strives to bring adventures and training to all levels of paddlers everywhere. With a self-diagnosed addiction to media, Chris has done extensive photography and video editing work to make paddling tips, tricks, and inspiring stories available to the world. Both have been ACA Instructors and Trainers for years and have donated lots of their time to assisting ACA with their various projects and events – all of their efforts stem from their passion and desire to learn, improve, and impart their love of the river to others.

ACA photo/SEI Manager Kelsey Bracewell

Want to see your photo here?

Submit your photos to ACA Paddle eMagazine Editor Kimberly Jenkins at kjenkins@americancanoe.org for a chance to be featured.

INTRODUCING THE NEW

Paddling Club Advisory Council



The **Paddle America Club Advisory Council** provides advice and recommendations to the ACA on matters related to enhancing the paddlesports experience for club members and the general public.

The council held its first meeting September 24-25 at the ACA National Office in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Learn more at www.americancanoe.org/PACAdvisoryCouncil.



COMPETITION

Surviving the Chattajack 31

By T.J. Turner, ACA Education & Outreach Coordinator

The [Chattajack 31](#) is like no other race I have been a part of; the race has the beauty of the Tennessee River Valley, some of the most variable conditions possible on the East Coast (in temperature, winds, etc. from year to year), competition with some of the world's best paddlers, and 31 miles of water on a normally placid, non-moving river.

The race has grown tremendously over the last five years. The number of participants has grown from 30 racers in 2012 to having to cap the registered participants at 555 this year. Touted as the M2O (Molokai

to Oahu) for the East Coast and for the inland paddler, the Chattajack has intrigued some of the world's best and most prestigious paddlers to challenge themselves on this 31-mile (actually, 32-mile) course.

The race coordinators are Ben and Kim Friberg. Both are extraordinary paddlers and individuals who help to progress the sport, build the racing community, and protect the waterways in the greater Chattanooga area. In 2012, Ben set the world record for longest distance paddled on a SUP in 24 hours (238 miles). A couple years ago, Ben and

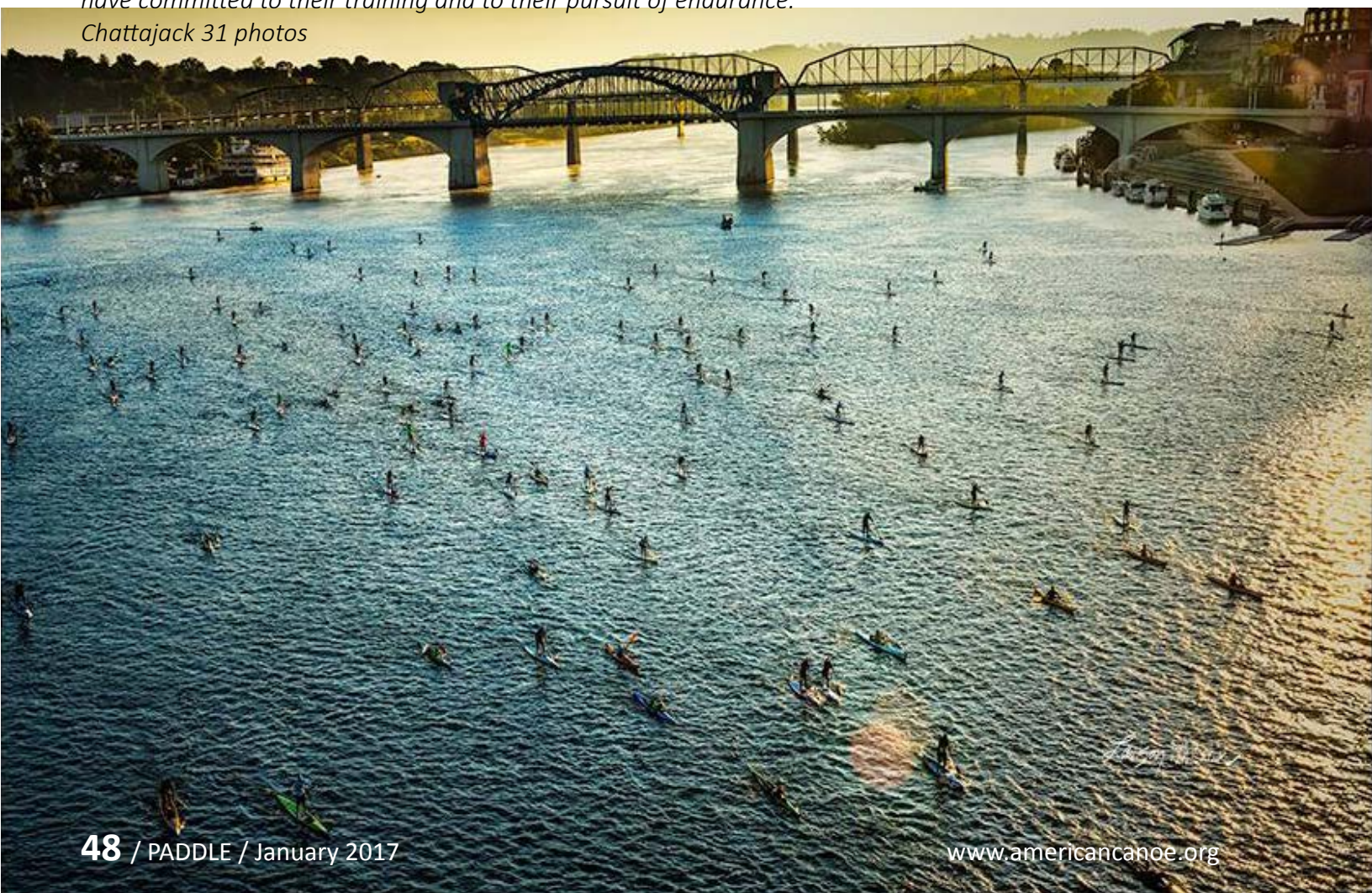
Kim completed the Yukon 1000, each on inflatable SUPs. Both are amazing feats that pushed the limits of the sport.

The Start at Ross's Landing:

The race began at Ross's Landing. Named so for Chief John Ross, leader of the Cherokee Nation. This is the site of the original trading post in Chattanooga and it's considered to be one of the embarkation points of the Trail of Tears, one of the most strenuous journeys that displaced over 16,000 Native Americans – half did not complete the journey.

Covering 31 miles through the Tennessee River Gorge, the Chattajack is set apart from similar races by its length. Its distance calls for athletes who have committed to their training and to their pursuit of endurance.

Chattajack 31 photos



During the race, participants formed draft lines.

The entirety of Ross's Landing was covered in boats, boards, and anxiously anticipating paddlers, ready to hit the water on a brisk 40-degree October morning. The safety meeting began at 0750, a little later than scheduled due to the racer participants and getting everyone ready. After the meeting, the national anthem was played, followed by a moment of silence.

Then, the first heat took to the water, and anticipation was all around, a buzz was in the air. As the Tennessee River filled with hundreds of paddlers, from the likes of Olympians to the average Joe (or Jane) paddler, the entire waterway was covered from bank to bank. I found myself looking at the barges to the south, the mark of the end of the first mile. When the water cannons spouted the start of the first heat, the mass took off. Some were focusing on first place in their division, others were focusing on making the cutoff at the Suck Creek Aid Station at mile marker 12, and others still were just hoping to finish the race before the cutoff, at the 8-hour mark.

As the first heat took off, hundreds of people churned up the water under the Chattanooga bridges and along I-24 West. In the first bend, the end of which marked the 3-mile mark, people still were still challenging each other and drafting to gain an advantage. At this point, the lead pack was still in sight but by mile 5, around Williams Island, they were in the distance, barely able to be seen. By mile 9, vari-



ous groups of paddlers had been established; those that came to race at the elite level, those that came to compete, and those that came to survive the Chattajack. By the cutoff at the 12-mile mark, two hours had passed and the second heat of Surf Skis, OC-1 and OC-2, as well as other crafts started to pass the middle of the pack where I was located. They had taken off 30 minutes after heat one.

The Cutoff at Mile Marker 12:

After making the cutoff at Suck Creek at mile marker 12, I knew the next marker for me was mile 22, Sullivan's Landing, another two hours. Miles 13 through 16 have a bit of a tail wind/down-winder aspect that helped all the paddlers as they started down the river toward the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) site at Raccoon Mountain. This is where people get lost in their own minds and thoughts, paddling into a headwind at 12-15 mph, gusting at 22+ mph (according to measurements by the Chattanooga Airport). The flow of the river was nice. TVA had let some water out of Chickamauga Lake Dam (upstream) the day prior. This proved to be the saving grace for some race participants. This

10-mile section was what I thought would be the most challenging part of the race, especially in front of Raccoon Mountain TVA facility where there was no blockage from the winds. I was wrong.

Writer's Note: Just a run-down of my division, there was a 35% drop-out or Did Not Finish (DNF). For the division I competed in, 72 signed up and registered, 48 finished within the 8-hour mark. Those that were marked as DNF and started either pulled out at Sullivan's Landing at mile 22, or before, as you will see in the next section.

The Trudge Section:

Miles 23-28 were the most grueling I have ever paddled. This really separated the paddlers from the no-paddlers, the racers and die-hards from everyone else. This is the section that made this race stand out to me, the perseverance of the human spirit to push through difficult times definitely came to life in this leg of the race.

The mental fortitude to push forward down the river, literally making up inches with each pad-

Continued on page 50

dle stroke while standing, took its toll on all paddlers. This is where the highest winds were recorded, and most people did anything they could to survive the winds. This was a WPA-sanctioned race. Under this program, taking more than five strikes/paddles while on your knees is marked as a DNF.

At times, I would look over and watch people get pushed back because they took the wrong line into the wind or down the river. Others, their bodies decided to give up. Many people had to take a knee as the wind gusts came upon them. I likened this section of the course to the 21-23 mile mark in a marathon, when most athletes

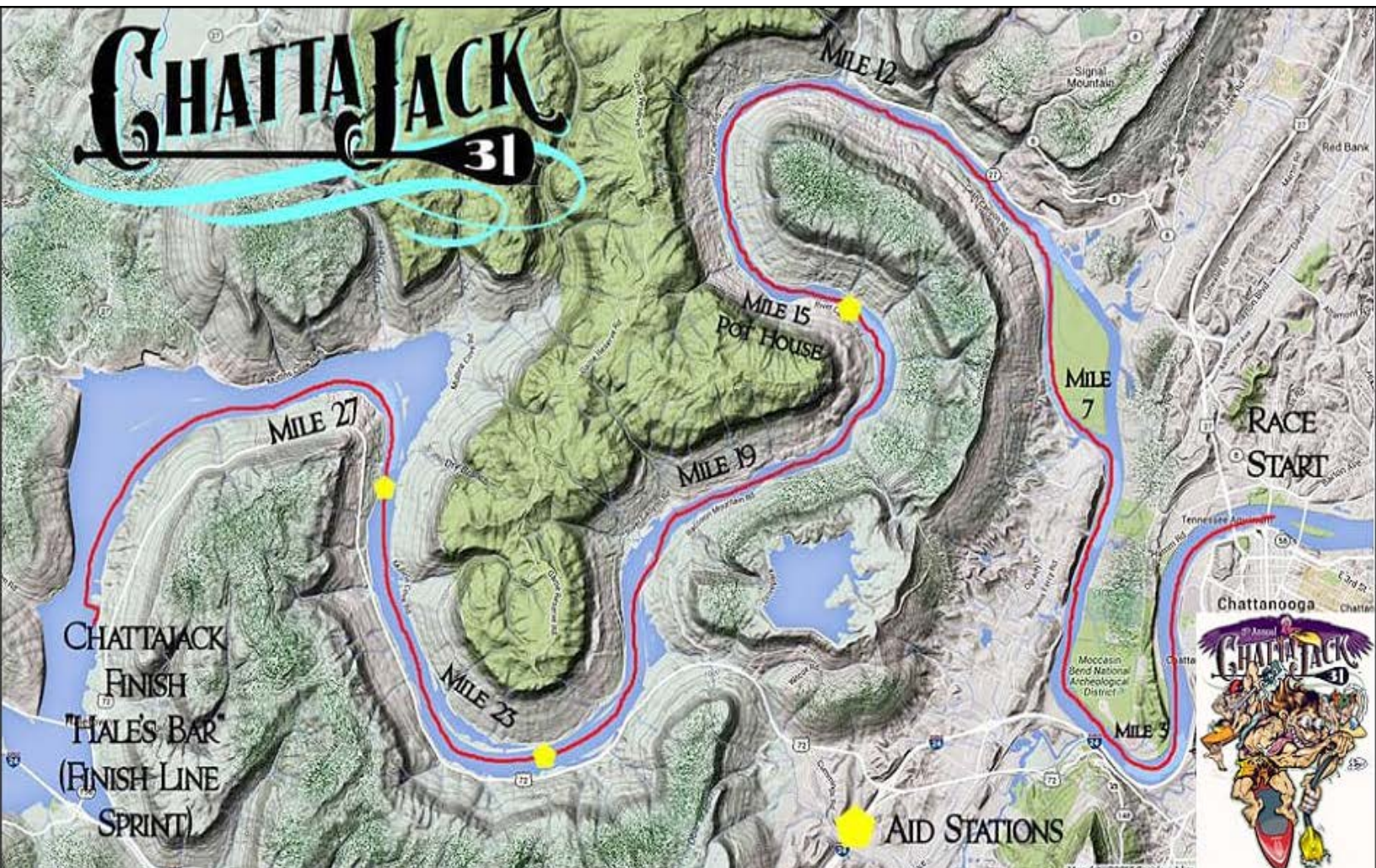
lose all of their glucose and most of their carbohydrate stores. This is normally where most 'hit the wall'; physiologically, their bodies stop. Add your fuel stores depleting and the high-wind conditions – this truly was the year of the 'head wind' at the Chattajack (as stated in other personal accounts and overviews of the race). You can imagine how grueling it was. Not to mention, in this race, you have the 'weeds' section in this portion, meaning the calm, flat, easy water is grown over with hydrilla and other freshwater plants, offering no reprieve on the banks.

The Finish:

Mile 27 into 28, passing the rock quarry operation, the winds shift-

ed and presented a crosswind, which meant that miles 28 to the finish at Hale's Bar was a tailwind/downwinder. As I rounded the last lefthand corner and Hale's Bar appeared in the distance, I knew I had the end in sight, even though it was close to three miles away.

After close to completing 30 miles already, the last three miles seemed like a sprint. However, a sprint in which I wasn't necessarily moving very fast as the kayakers were easily paddling on through. After passing the corner of Hale's Bar, then the final sprint stretch was evident along the dock line. (This was also timed separately for additional prizes.)





abounded as paddlers came from all over the globe to be a part of this race. The farthest paddler was from New Zealand; she came to compete and won in her division and class.

The winners in each division ranged greatly with age and stature depending on discipline. It was amazing to be around people that have made paddlesports their lifelong passion. With beer flowing and friends to celebrate with, the night on the town in Chattanooga was short but sweet as the racers and the organizers wrapped up the fifth annual Chattajack 31.

It was absolutely amazing to hear the crowd ringing cowbells, and screaming and shouting to encourage me and the other racers through the finish. After the finish, we found calm water and an area to rest in the safety of the harbor marina, blocked from the wind.

Post Race:

That night, there was a get-together at the starting point, Ross's Landing. The awards ceremony commenced, some people were still wearing the medals from finishing the race. Smiles and camaraderie

Congratulations to the finishers and to the participants in this race. The physical and mental fortitude needed to complete a challenge of this magnitude is immense, and you all should be proud of your accomplishments!

Learn more about the race at <http://www.chattajack.com/>. Mark your calendars – [the next Chattajack 31](#) will be held October 28, 2017.

Notable rankings 2016 Chattajack 31

Places are noted in their respective divisions:

12'6 – Jeremy Whitted (1st)

12'6 – Kim Hillhouse (2nd)

12'6 – T.J. Turner (20th)

14' – Larry Cain (1st)

Surf Ski – Erik Borgnes (1st) – Fastest Overall

Charlestonians

14' – Justin Schaay (5th)

12'6 – Caleb Clark (10th)

Unlimited SUP – Adam Clark (8th)

12'6 – Amy Clark (21st)

Surf Ski – John Radel (9th)



Make your events easier with online waivers!



If you are an event organizer and interested in using our online waivers as part of your online registration process, please email the [Insurance Coordinator](#) for more details.

Hobuck Hoedown 2016

By Hamp All, ACA Instructor



Talented paddlesports enthusiasts braved cold temperatures to compete during the 2016 Hobuck Hoedown Paddle Surf Festival. Jason Learned photos

The hard rain began at 4:45 Saturday morning, but it did little to dampen the spirits of the crew at this year's Hobuck Hoedown Paddle Surf Festival. By the time the sun was up and coffee brewing, smiles and easy banter were quickly established as both old and new friends made ready for the first day of competition on the stormy Pacific Northwest fall morning.

This year's Hoedown was notable not only for the variety of conditions encountered in the two-day event, but also for the extremely high level of skill displayed across all classes. In particular, the standout level of paddling skills displayed by competitors in the "Battle of the Wave" and both women's and men's HP events impressed judges, spectators and competitors alike and resulted in cheers audible not only up and down the beach but also clearly audible to competitors on the water.

Despite the cold temperatures, stormy surf, occasional hard rain and even a bit of hail on Saturday, the con-

test on the water quickly warmed up with spectacular surfing seen in the initial Men's High Performance (HP) heats by Californians Zack Boyd, Mat Hoff, Oregonian David Brigg and local surf paddler Hamp All.

Women's HP and Men's International Class (IC) set the same standard with strong surfing by Jameson Riser (who as Head Judge managed to sneak off the judging stand for the occasion), Ayu Othman, Kate Hives and Barb Gronseth and in IC with Hamp All, Zack Boyd, Mat Hoff and Steve Heigle all setting the bar high for the rest of the weekend. Waveski and Master's HP events also saw strong performances by perennial competitors Ken Debondt, Chris Bensch and Hamp All.

The trend of amazing performances in the lineup continued in Sea Kayak with standout performances by Kate Hives, Chris Bensch and Costain Leonard and in the SUP event where Canadian friends Glen Pearson, Rick Horn-

Continued on page 54

book and Anton Fruehwirth all established a standard of shred that they were to display all weekend long.

The Whitewater (WW) event, this year judged to a new standard that rewarded maneuvers both by the normal surfing standard on the “green” wave face and also, in recognition of their performance potential, rewarded maneuvers in the breaking wave, saw incredibly dynamic and entertaining surfing by David Brigg, Costain Leonard and Jeremy Beninger and every other class competitor. The resurgence of this class generated optimism for the future of the sport and for the potential to have a growing presence in the surf by the community of WW boaters in the region.

In the Skookum class, a class designed to encourage newcomers to the sport with reduced entry fees, a less competitive approach and a focus on fun, the larger number of competitors present this year allowed the event to be split into their own SUP and kayak heats. Both were highly entertaining and provided many smiles to competitors Bradley Schaff, John Almquist, Duncan Mack (Kayak) and John Sindelar, Kevin Long and Jen Bailey (SUP). Local traditional board surfer Jen Bailey, in her first time ever on an SUP, generated cheers from the crowd for her efforts with the big board and paddle.

By far though, the most entertaining event of Saturday was the “King of the Wave” preliminary heat that saw the first-ever entry of a double sea kayak in the contest, a boat paddled by Jamie Sharp and Becky Rogers. The skilled Canadian team demonstrated standout paddling and impressive boat control, surfing the massive craft with a skill that wowed judges and the beach crew alike. As a capstone to the first day’s competition, it could not have been more impressive.



As twilight faded and the last free surfers straggled from the water, the competitors gathered around the fire for a dinner of amazing locally sourced fish and veggies, a series of tribal vignettes related by Makah elder June Williams, and the usual fire side stories and laughs you’ll find in any group of surf paddlers anywhere. The last event of the night was the widely anticipated gear raffle, an event that, thanks to our many sponsors support, was both enthusiastically received and helped generate many additional donations to the Makah. A late night led to a seemingly early Sunday morning, finals day.

To the relief of organizers and competitors alike, Sunday morning dawned with improving conditions, cleaner swell and no rain. The hard surfing began immediately with the Sea Kayak heat showcasing the incredible skills and even more incredible maneuvers possible by these boats in dynamic conditions. Ultimately dominated by a spectacular performance by Kate Hives, this heat set the tone for the day.



The exceptional surfing continued into the Men's and Women's HP finals, won by Mat Hoff and Jameson Riser respectively, as well as Men's IC, WW, SUP and Waveski with awesome performances by Zack Boyd, David Brigg, Glen Pearson and Ken Debondt dominating those respective events. The Battle of the Wave Final saw a spectacular head-to-head contest that narrowly resulted in Glen Pearson edging out the dynamic double of Jamie Sharp and Becky Rogers for the win.

The final competitive event of the weekend, the Scramble distance event, involving a paddle out through the surf and an approximate two-mile race out and around the offshore rocks, saw David Brigg speed past the field with his surfski hybrid, but also saw Kate Hives dominate the rest of the competitors with a swift second to third place finisher Costain Leonard and the rest of the field.

As the awards were handed out and final surf stories were told, the event committee unanimously awarded the Ellen Debondt Memorial Spirit of Surfing Award to David Brigg for his spirit of aloha during the event, pointing out that his ready smile, willingness to volunteer and his welcoming spirit captured the ideal of the event and the special attitude present among paddle surfers in the Pacific Northwest.

As competitors and spectators headed home with smiles, sun (or was it rain) burns, tired and sore muscles, and with the occasional medal swinging from the rearview mirror, the event committee packed up the tents and judging stand while preparing to donate proceeds of the contest to Makah tribal youth. Until next year we will look forward with excitement to more friendships, spectacular surfing and aloha on the Northwest Coast.



Check it out Collegiate Race Series National Championships

The ACA Collegiate Race Series National Championships is the premier event for colleges and universities from across the country to compete in canoe, kayak, and SUP racing. Whether you have an experienced paddling program or one that is just starting up, attendance at the National Championships will provide camaraderie, networking, and, of course, all the fun associated with racing!

More importantly, after students experience the fun and excitement of paddlesports, they can carry those skills and enthusiasm past their collegiate years and develop them into a family and lifetime activity.

Congratulations to the men of Penn State University and the women of Warren Wilson College for taking home the 2016 National Championships on the Roanoke River in Virginia. Special thanks to ACA volunteer Jon Guy Owens of Hollins University for hosting the race.

For more information, visit http://www.americancanoe.org/Collegiate_Nationals.

Sign up now South Dakota marathon-endurance race


Now in its eighth year, the South Dakota Kayak Challenge on the nation's longest river opened registration Jan. 1. This 72-mile marathon-endurance paddling race takes place on remaining "wild" Missouri River areas in history-rich South Dakota and Nebraska.

Paddlers – some racing, some out for adventure – have 30 hours to complete the course, which runs from Yankton, South Dakota to South Sioux City, Nebraska. The challenge is open to all paddled craft.

Last year, more than 170 racers from across North America took part in the event. The organizers and volunteers hope you'll join them in May for this unique, never-to-forget experience on powerful Midwestern waters. The challenge begins May 27. Visit sdkayakchallenge.org to sign up or learn more.

Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming races...
(click race name for more info)

- 
- January 28, 2017 [Hanohano Huki Ocean Challenge](#)
San Diego, California
- April 22, 2017 [Paddle the Kayaks Fishing Tournament](#)
Cocodrie, Louisiana
- May 27-28, 2017 [South Dakota Kayak Challenge](#)
Yankton, South Dakota
- May 27-28, 2017 [National Poling Championship](#)
TBD, Maine
- May 28, 2017 [California 100](#)
Redding, California
- June 3, 2017 [37th Annual Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race](#)
Fredericksburg, Virginia
- June 3, 2017 [Rock the River](#)
Fredericksburg, Virginia
- June 3, 2017 [Bambu Bash 2017](#)
Belton, Texas

USACK announces 2017 Olympic Development Program National Team Training Squads

The USA Canoe Kayak Sprint Selection Committee recently announced the [2017 Olympic Development Program \(ODP\) National Team Training Squads](#). The [ODP Squads Document](#) details the inaugural ODP Squads, which are divided into the disciplines of Women's Kayak, Women's Canoe, Men's Kayak and Men's Canoe. Each discipline is then divided into Senior, U23, JR born 1999, JR born 2000, JR born 2001, and JR born 2002 or later.

Athletes were assigned points based on responses from them and their coaches to 10 questions about their best performances and testing results. These results then further divided the athletes into Elite, A, B and Development Training Squads. The announcement document details the color key and the ODP points margins.

The Elite and A National Team Training Squads will be used as a guideline for the National Team Coach, the High Performance Director and the Selection Committee when making decisions on potential support to athletes for the 2017 racing session and as a



guideline for pre-purchasing flights, accreditation and nominal entries to World Cups and other International Competitions ahead of National Team Trials in Lanier, Georgia on May 20 and 21, 2017, and for the OHR

selection at National Championships in Clermont, Florida, August 2-5, 2017. It is hoped that this pre-purchase plan will result in significant savings for Elite and A Team athletes and their sponsors.

The National Team Selection Criteria for the various 2017 National Teams will be posted soon and will serve as the final de-

cision maker as to who is selected to the 2017 Sprint USA National Teams. Prior selection to an ODP Training Squad does not guarantee that an athlete will race at a World Cup, OHR or World Championships that decision still depends on results at Trials, Pre-World Training Camps, World Cup results and Time Trials.

Coaches are urged to use the training squad information and announcement to encourage athletes to strive for excellence in paddling as we build toward the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games.

World Championship trials scheduled for May

This year, the [International Canoe Federation World Championships](#) are being held in Decin, Czech Republic, August 23-27. If the schedule remains as in previous years, paracanoe events will take place Aug 23-25.

Trials for the 2017 Paracanoe World Championships will be held, along with the able-bodied trials, at Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club in Gainesville, Georgia, May 20-21, 2017.

USA Canoe/Kayak's 2017 Sprint National Championship will be held in Clermont, Florida, August 2-5. This will be the first time the event has been held in Florida. The 2016 national championships were held in Oklahoma City.

Selection criteria are not yet available.

INTERNATIONAL



Switzerland to host annual **Europe Paddlesports Symposium**



The eighth annual ACA Europe Paddlesports Symposium will take place on Lake Constance in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, October 27-29, 2017.

In addition to the European Division's business meetings, a wide range of educational sessions will be offered both in the classroom and on the water. The symposium provides opportunities for paddlesports continued education, instructor updates for canoe, kayak, SUP, and rescue skills! Not to mention the vast amount of opportunities for networking, meeting professionals, and making new friends.

To learn more, and to register, check out this link: www.americancanoe.org/EuropePaddlesportsSymposium.

Stand Up Paddle

St. John

RETREAT & CERTIFICATION COURSE



Get SUP Certified with BIC SUP Ambassadors in the Virgin Islands!

Join ACA SUP Instructor Trainers Julie Roach & Matt Hite for a two day Level 1 course in the beautiful Caribbean island of St. John. This five day experience in the Virgin Islands will give you the opportunity to become ACA level 1 SUP Certified, participate in additional certification courses, and give you extra time to have fun and explore the remote and tropical island.

WHEN: January 21st-25th, 2017

WHERE: Private Villa in Chocolate Hole, St. John, USVI



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Paddling History



ACA Founders Plaque

The American Canoe Association was founded on August 3, 1880, on Lake George, New York, by a group of 15 notable canoeists. This founders plaque commemorating that historic day rests on an island on Lake George.

The ACA has grown into the nation's largest and most active nonprofit paddlesports organization with 30,000 members and over 400 clubs and affiliates across the United States and abroad.

Each issue, we'll bring you an interesting paddling photo from the ACA archives. We hope you enjoy these little glimpses of paddling past.

To learn more about ACA history and the early days of paddlesports, visit:
www.americancanoe.org/History

www.americancanoe.org

