

# PADDLE

A Bimonthly Publication from ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue  
Volume 1, Issue 2, May 2015

**Adaptive Paddling:  
It's About Freedom**

**Instructors of the  
Month | April & May**

**2015 CFS Grant  
Recipients**

**Outdoor Alliance,  
the ACA, and you**



# 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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Leave No Trace  
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators  
Western States Boating Administrators Association  
Polynesian Voyaging Society

Cover photo

Paddler: Dan Ives

Photo: Ben Morton

Location: Soca River, Slovenia

Follow us on...



# ACA Staff

**Wade Blackwood**  
**Executive Director**

"I'm really looking forward to a family canoe camping trip on the Edisto River in SC."



**Christopher Stec**  
**Chief Operating Officer**

"SUP surfing with the family in La Jolla, CA."



**Kelsey Bracewell**  
**SEI Coordinator**

"Spending more time on the river with my new boat. And teaching Catharine Lloyd how to roll."



**Zane Havens**  
**Stewardship Coordinator**

"White Water Open Canoe Downriver Nationals on the Penobscot River in Maine!"



**Candy Patten**  
**Insurance Coordinator**

"Hiking, rock climbing, and paddling with my family and dogs!"



**Amy Ellis**  
**State Director/Membership Coordinator**

"Finding out if Tink, the dog we rescued in late fall, will be a water dog."



**Cireena Katto**  
**Office Manager**

"I am looking forward to our vacation in Daytona Beach, FL and our mini-vacation in Atlantic City, NJ. Beach time!"



**T.J. Turner**  
**Education & Outreach Coordinator**

"To get more people to understand and enjoy the surf environment!"



**Dave Burden**  
**International Paddlesports Ambassador**

"Comparing the seafood in China to the seafood on Virginia's eastern shore."



**Catharine Lloyd**  
**Communications Coordinator**

"Going kayaking with Kelsey Bracewell so she can teach me how to roll!"



**Katie Hansen**  
**Membership Coordinator**

"Since I am new to both the ACA and paddlesports, I am looking forward to spending some time on the water!"



**What are you  
looking forward  
to most this  
summer?**

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# STEWARDSHIP





## River Access: Can I Paddle That?

*By Zane Havens, ACA Stewardship Coordinator*

River access is an issue that is generally very controversial in our country. For one thing, it differs from state to state. For example, Arizona has very strict river access laws that favors private landowners (if the river flows through private property, you need landowner consent to paddle), while neighboring Utah has very little that stands between the paddler and the river (Boat? Lifejacket? Cool, you're good to go!). Additionally, the solutions that are created to appease both private landowners and recreational enthusiasts are often convoluted and flawed.

What does this mean in terms of paddling? It means that in some states, the recreational paddler needs to be very careful about what waterways they attempt to access and how

they access these waterways. For instance, a bill was recently introduced to the New Mexico Senate that would designate the streambed between two pieces of private property as private. However, according to the New

**“In some states, the recreational paddler needs to be very careful about what waterways they attempt to access.”**

Mexico constitution, all waterways in the state of New Mexico belong to the public. This creates a situation where the waterway is public and

legally accessible, but the streambed is private property and if you were to so much as touch the streambed (without the landowner's consent), you could be cited with trespassing. This is complicated for a number of reasons (including access for fly fishing, swimming, etc.), but most importantly are the safety implications of such laws. In the case of emergency, it can be imperative for a paddler to stand on the stream bed; if the Senate bill is signed

into law, any paddler who touches the stream bed between two privately owned pieces of property (even in cases of emergency) can be charged with trespassing.

The ACA, alongside other organizations such as the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and the Adobe Whitewater Club of New Mexico, has voiced opposition to this legislation, and the ACA's New Mexico State Director has been very involved in combatting the bill. Even with our combined efforts, the bill managed to pass the senate and make it to Governor Martinez's desk.

While the ACA will continue to fight for unhindered waterway access across the country,

it is important to note the underlying lesson in the legal mess that is stream access in the USA: Always do your research before getting on the water!



If you know the rules where you are paddling, you might just manage to avoid getting into legal trouble for stepping out to scout a rapid; a night in jail can really sour an otherwise perfect paddling experience!

For more information on how the ACA is fighting for waterway access, [click here](#).







# Green Paddlers of the Month

By Phil Riggan, Writer/Photographer/Volunteer in Richmond, VA

The James River in Virginia is America's Founding River and we've made great strides since the Clean Water Act in the 1970s to clean it up after decades of neglect. The outdoors in Richmond has made a big comeback since and now we have bald eagles nesting within the city limits and class III and IV rapids running beneath whitewater rapids downtown.

However, people still haven't learned not to litter. Richmond has many active volunteer groups who help do their part to keep Mother Nature green and free of trash, but we could always use more help.

The Riggan family does its part. My wife, Trish, and our children, Mitchell (11) and Carly (9), help make picking up trash a game wherever we go outdoors. We've shared many of our photos to social media, just check #RVAttrash.

We used to take bulky 5-gallon buckets before getting out in nature but now we stuff either a large or small Paddle Green Bag in a pocket, just in case. So far, we've found that the bags are Paddle, Pedal and Pedestrian Green -- great on the water, on a bike or out on a hike. It doesn't take long to fill a bag and you'd be surprised a how good it makes you feel to make the trash disappear.

We're very proud that our children care so



much about a clean environment and are so eager to snag recyclables like bottles and cans as well as our least favorite -- cigarette butts.

**"I think about how cleaning trash may save an animal's life."**

"If we can clean up trash, people won't see trash anymore and maybe they won't litter anymore," Carly said. Mitchell said that cleaning trash is fun, but it makes him sad

that it needs to be done. "I think about how cleaning trash may save an animal's life." We've seen what happens when garbage like plastic bags and six pack rings harm wildlife and hope that our stewardship helps prevent more unnecessary injuries to wildlife.

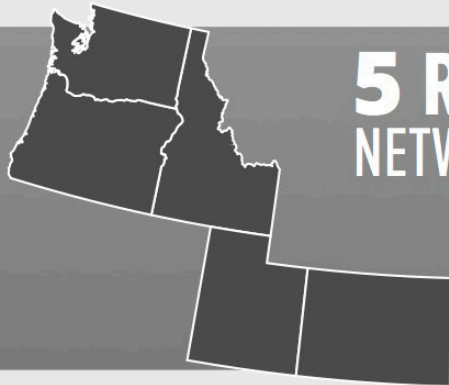
I often ask people to take ownership in the outdoors and picking up trash is one of the easiest ways to help. Everything we pick up makes a difference, no matter how small.

**Want to become an on-water steward? Visit [www.americancanoe.org/StreamtoSea](http://www.americancanoe.org/StreamtoSea) to get an ACA Paddle Green Bag and get involved.**

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

## WORKS TO PROTECT THE PLACES WE SKI, HIKE, CLIMB, PADDLE, AND BIKE.

We bring together the voices of the human-powered outdoor recreation community to protect America's mountains, forests, and rivers. In 2014, our coalition got busy:



### 5 REGIONAL NETWORKS BUILT

Colorado  
Idaho  
Oregon  
Utah  
Washington

### 3



### MAJOR COALITION-BASED CAMPAIGNS to PROTECT LAND

Browns Canyon, Colorado  
Boulder-White Clouds, Utah  
Mountains to Sound, Washington

## 25 REGIONAL LEADERS MET IN WASHINGTON DC FOR THE OUTDOOR ALLIANCE ADVOCACY SUMMIT

Advocacy training and meetings with policy makers

20 meetings with congressional delegates from 5 states

Meetings with DOI, USFS, CEQ, and BLM to discuss regional conservation issues



### LAUNCHED A DATABASE TO MAP RECREATIONAL RESOURCES ACROSS THE U.S.

Maps will inform our policy work to protect priority landscapes



### CHAMPIONED POLICIES FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE RECREATION

Over-snow vehicle rule

Forest Planning

BLM Planning 2.0

Encouraging use of recreation data in land planning

Keep public lands in public hands

Smart energy policies

Fire funding



# What is Outdoor Alliance? Good Question!

**ACA is a member of Outdoor Alliance, a national coalition of outdoor recreation groups that advocates for protecting public lands and waters.**

Outdoor Alliance unites the voice of the human-powered outdoor recreation community—paddlers, backcountry skiers, climbers, and mountain bikers—to increase our influence in Washington, DC and promote the ethic of sustainable recreation on our public lands. By joining together on the common issues that impact us, we amplify our voice and greatly improve our ability to impact public policy.

Our goal is to identify the big issues and challenges facing our public lands and waters and develop strong policy solutions that protect these unique landscapes and improve our recreation opportunities.

This year, Outdoor Alliance worked to protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country and our newest National Monument. In particular, the ACA worked with Outdoor Alliance to ensure that access to boating, rafting, and paddling was protected under the new designation.

[www.outdooralliance.org/who-we-are](http://www.outdooralliance.org/who-we-are)

# Announcing the 2015 CFS Grant Recipients!



For the past 13 years, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to provide the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Grant to grassroots stewardship initiatives all across the country. We're excited to congratulate this year's grant winners:

- Anchorage Waterways Council
- Boardman River Clean Sweep
- Cahaba Riverkeeper
- Greyhound Central Performance Academy
- Colorado River Alliance
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir
- Illinois Paddling Council
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- Paddle Without Pollution
- Plastic Tides
- River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow
- South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association
- Spokane River Forum
- Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association



Clean ALL the rivers!



ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

The ACA is so excited to support these organizations and their 2015 stewardship initiatives!



# EDUCATION



# SUP: Leashes & Lifejackets

[www.americancanoe.org/SUP\\_PSA](http://www.americancanoe.org/SUP_PSA)



## Check out the ACA's new educational SUP video!

### *Leashes & Lifejackets: When to Wear, When Not to Wear*

*SUP: Leashes & Lifejackets* makes it clear to stand up paddlers what types of leashes and lifejackets are appropriate for different water venues. This five minute video is intended to educate all those new to stand up paddleboarding (SUP), as well as those who have experience with the sport but are unaware of leash and lifejacket best practices. Some of the rules and recommendations regarding these pieces of equipment may surprise you.

Visit [www.americancanoe.org/SUP\\_PSA](http://www.americancanoe.org/SUP_PSA) to watch it now.

This video was produced with funding from the National Safe Boating Council under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



## April Instructor of the Month - Larry Gioia

### *What drew you to become an ACA certified Instructor?*

I have always had a interest for being active, teaching, life-long learning, and community building - paddling has proven to be the perfect outlet for all of these interests!

About six years ago, I became a volunteer Trip Leader with Venture Outdoors (VO) - a Pittsburgh-based non-profit who's mission is to connect everyone to the great outdoors. It was here that I began to take an active role in supporting, organizing, and leading various group kayak outings around Pittsburgh - night time fireworks paddles, eco tours, full moon paddles, and longer endurance paddles. One thing led to another and I was asked to assist with VO's 'Intro to Kayaking' and 'Trip Leader Kayak Training' programs. It was around this time that I began to seek out additional kayak training to continue my own paddling and teaching skills. The closest paddling school at the time was Exkursion Outfitters and that's where I met ACA coastal instructors, George

Ondish and Jesse Twichell.

I took a few different courses from George and Jesse over the years - sea kayak touring, advanced strokes, open water navigation, and advanced rescues. Me in my clunky rotomold recreational kayak, fumbling around with a 5lb paddle - the dynamic duo, George and Jesse, with their composite sea kayaks, carbon fiber bent-shafted paddles - they made their boats dance on the water. I had to know how to do that too!

Each course I took with George and Jesse further solidified my own interest in becoming an instructor and sharing my passion for kayaking. I went on to complete my L1-3 coastal training/certification with Tom Nickels of River Wind Kayak, Russell Farrow of Sweetwater Kayaks, Phil Hadley, Gene Tetz, and Terry Hobbs. As though that wasn't enough, John Carmody, just happened to be in town and tagged along for my ICE (no pressure!)

I went on to complete my Adaptive Endorse-



ment with John MacDonald, Joe Moore, and Elaine Mravetz in Ohio a year later. I am currently in the process of completing my Level 2 and Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer certifications.

Thanks to all of those mentioned here (any the countless others who I met along the way), for being such great instructors, mentors, and ambassadors for the ACA and our sport!

***Do you have any memorable trips, events, or stories, that stand out as your 'favorite paddling moment?'***

There are many memorable paddling trips and stories - from the maiden voyage of my older brother's tandem down the Youghiogheny River to the 10-day unsupported paddling excursion in the Peninsula Valdes in Patagonia, Argentina.

Stories abound, there is one particular paddling experience that has stuck with me through the years. A few years back, I spent a weekend providing kayak demos at the Chicago Boat & RV Show. In between demos, we made boats available to anyone interested in trying out a boat for themselves. Younger show-goers were quick to take advantage of the opportunity and formed a line as far as eye could see! Over two days, we put over 300 people on the water (275 of them were under the age of 14)! Of all these newly minted paddlers, there was one young man who I remember quite vividly - Evan.

Like the hundreds of those before him, Evan

was full of excitement and grinning ear-to-ear at the opportunity to kayak in the comfort of a pool as the snow came down outside. He was quick to dawn his life jacket, plopped into the kayak, and was eager to explore every inch of the 60' x 20' pool. He paddled up-and-down the pool, flawlessly demonstrating his mastery of pivot turns, only to race back to the other end and do it again. What I failed to mention is that Evan is a right above elbow (RAE) congenital amputee. He paddles with his residual limb without a prosthesis or any assistive device.

Evan opened my eyes to the world of dis-



ability and, more specifically, sparked my own interest in adaptive sports and recreation. Soon after paddling with Evan in Chicago, I began to volunteer with a few different adaptive sports organizations in Pittsburgh - learning about hand cycling, adaptive

skiing, wheelchair basketball, sled hockey, etc. There was very little by way of adaptive kayaking in our region and I felt compelled to change that!

In 2013, we established Dynamic Paddlers ([www.dynamicpaddlers.com](http://www.dynamicpaddlers.com)) as the region's only paddling school to offer private instruction and experiences for youth and adults of all abilities. Our team of ACA instructors is continually humbled at each opportunity to share our passion for paddlesports and doing our small part to grow awareness of the ACA Adaptive Paddling programs at the state and national levels.

Suffice to say, Evan really got me thinking about the importance of emphasizing the ability in disability and the magic that is contained in water. Water truly is the ultimate equalizer!

***Have you participated in any particularly meaningful paddling programs, outreach events, educational sessions, or projects?***

In 2013, I attended a 15-mile kayaking endurance race in Erie, PA organized by Paddle Without Pollution (PWP). This was a great community event and it's cause even more noble - raising funds for the Wounded Warriors Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. But it wasn't the event or cause that had such a lasting impression on me. It was, however, PWP's Founders, Dave and Melissa Rohm and their organization's mission - to restore and protect the health of rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands through hands-on stewardship and education, thereby benefiting the region's communities, economy, and quality of life.

As a paddler, it's hard not to support such a worthy mission. I became involved as a volunteer 'Water Warrior,' supporting PWP's river clean-up efforts and later joined PWP's Board

of Directors. I am very proud of the multitude of PWP volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to remove over 42 tons of litter from Western PA waterways since 2012. PWP earned the ACA Green Paddle Award in 2014 and I was honored to accept this award on their behalf during the first annual Adaptive Paddling Summit in Grand Rapids, MI just this past summer.

The Summit was nothing short of an incredible experience - four days packed with networking, equipment demos, workshops, socializing, and hands-on learning! I really didn't know what to expect, as this was the ACA's first attempt at such an event with a focus on adaptive. Mission accomplished!

The Summit proved to be a worthwhile investment, affording everyone the opportunity to network with other instructors and educators from across the country. It was awesome to see old friends, make new ones, and finally meet those whom I had only known through a social media profile picture or a voice on the telephone! If you are looking for a new paddling conference to add to the line-up, I would highly recommend that you consider joining us in for the APS in 2017!

**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 [here!](#)**

**Kōkātāt<sup>®</sup>**



## May Instructor of the Month - Matt Hite

Born and raised around the water, Matt Hite's draw to becoming an ACA SUP instructor came as no surprise as he grew up in a family of long time ocean lifeguards and educators. He is an avid paddler, surfer, level 3 SUP Surf Instructor, and also a level 2 SUP Instructor Trainer.

Matt started paddling stand up paddleboards in 2008 and quickly became an instructor as the commercialized sport made its entrance into Florida. With a strong desire to be on the water whenever possible, Matt was immediately hooked on SUP because it filled the gap when there were no waves to surf. As soon as certifications were established, he took his love of the sport to the next level by becoming an ACA SUP instructor.

Matt currently directs weekly classes and leads a growing club of over 1000 SUP

enthusiasts in Jacksonville, FL. He also enjoys volunteering his time with several non-profits and coaching a Special Olympics SUP team. He is also a manager and head instructor at Black Creek Outfitters.

"I always love teaching and seeing my students light up, whether they're learning something new, or just having fun," says Matt. "One of my favorite paddling moments happened recently when I was given the opportunity to experience the US Virgin Islands with one of my sponsors, BIC SUP. The experience allowed me to see its pristine beauty, through touring, racing, snorkeling, and surfing, all from a SUP."

Matt considers himself a true Florida waterman and is committed to sharing the excitement, safety, and knowledge of the ocean and riding its waves.

# 2015 Swiftwater Rescue Conference

## Save the date!

Date: Oct 9-11, 2015

Location: Western North Carolina

Venue: Tuckaseegee River

Registration: Available Online - June 2015

*Only 100 spaces available!*

For more info, please visit:

[www.americancanoe.org/SWR\\_Conference](http://www.americancanoe.org/SWR_Conference)



# ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



The [Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center](#) has been the premier whitewater kayaking school in the Rocky Mountain West since 1982. Our cozy Salida, Colorado outpost offers access to all sections of the famous Arkansas River.

Over a hundred miles of runnable river and three awesome whitewater parks make this an amazing place to kayak, raft, or stand-up paddle.

There are great beginner runs while classic sections like Brown's Canyon, Royal Gorge, and The Numbers provide epic training grounds for intermediate to advanced paddlers.

Professional courses are offered in Swiftwater Rescue, as well as ACA Kayak and SUP certification. We look forward to paddling with you!

*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](http://www.americancanoe.org/ProSchools) to find a Pro School near you.**

# The Paddling Life

*By Cindy Scherrer, ACA Level 4 Coastal Kayak Instructor and ACA Level 2 SUP Instructor Trainer. Cindy owns and manages Shellback Paddle Experience in Ocean Park, WA with her husband Steve.*

Steve and I have been paddling enthusiasts for more than 30 years. Paddling has also become our pursuit of a “career” and creating more paddling enthusiasts is our mission. We were self taught whitewater kayakers in the early days simply because we didn’t know anyone and there wasn’t much information available. We understood our limits and recognized the skills we needed to learn to advance and stay safe. Through chance encounters on local rivers and a popular paddling club, we met people and paddled as much as we could get away with. As the sport grew so did our circle of friends and our skills.

Sandy River. It turned out to be a perfect place to teach people a few skills. The evolutionary process was set in motion. Store sold equipment, store owner gave lessons and (surprise) store owner got to spend time on the river guiding trips.

Our business was growing at a healthy pace as was kayaking. We decided to pursue a more systematic approach to our instruction program. Steve had the opportunity to get certified as an American Canoe Association whitewater kayak instructor in 1992. This was the beginning of an ongoing relationship with

the ACA and getting the opportunity to work with many gifted trainers and educators. It was just what we needed to create a sustainable culture promoting paddlesports education.

Over the next 23 years Steve continued the journey through the ACA Instructor certification process to earn upper level certifications in various disciplines. They include: Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer, Advanced WW Kayak (L/5) Instructor Trainer Educator, Advanced Open Water Kayak (L/5) Instructor Trainer Educator,

Stand Up Paddleboard (L/2) Instructor Trainer Educator.

After we sold the store I became certified



Steve is a natural born teacher/thinker. He’s got to figure it out and then test it on whoever is around, usually me. We opened a kayaking shop close to our home which was on the

as an Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor. We had the opportunity to travel and teach in different areas of the country working for Confluence Watersports. This was a great opportunity to cross pollinate by experiencing regional differences in paddling which contributed to our ability to stay current with trends and styles. We taught at kayak symposiums, worked demo events and consulted for boat design and equipment development. It was great to be able to continue working with our many friends we had made over the years in the industry.



When Steve tried SUP he was immediately hooked by the freedom to move around and the challenge of it. It took me longer to be

swayed. I thought a sea kayak was a much more efficient and worthy vessel. Once he was certified as an instructor and I once again the guinea pig, using his guileful charm and superior teaching methods he won me over, hook, line and sinker! So much so I also became

an ACA L2 SUP Instructor Trainer.

Last year we decided it was time for a change and we left our positions with Confluence and decided to keep spreading the ACA instructional message. Through Shellback Paddle Experience we plan to travel around the country specializing in ACA SUP

teaching and training. We'll see old friends and meet new ones, still chasing that paddling lifestyle career!

**The First Event Exclusively For ACA ITs & ITEs!**

[www.americancanoe.org/ITConference](http://www.americancanoe.org/ITConference)

# ADAPTIVE





# It's About Freedom...



*By Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Manager for the U.S. Forest Service. Zeller is a lifelong paddler, first canoeing and for the past 25 years also sea kayaking. After a 1984 accident resulted in quadriplegia, she was determined to return to paddling. Janet developed the ACA adaptive paddling program in 1989. She also served on the ACA Board of Directors for 12 years and for two terms as President of the ACA.*

Our tandem kayak glides across 8- to 10-foot swells in the Pacific off Monterey, Calif., as we paddle toward the seals draped on the buoy at the end of the peninsula. My wheelchair is back in the van in Monterey, waiting for me to return, but for now I am free.

Canoeing and kayaking open experiences for me where a wheelchair can't go. Winding our canoe through the mangrove swamp in the Florida Everglades we keep a sharp eye for alligators. That night we camp on a platform in the swamp. My spirit was renewed, as the summer sun became a golden disk slipping lower on the horizon, while it sent a red beam across the surface of the lake. The towering pines became black silhouettes against a sky of deepening pastels. The only sound was the gentle lapping of the lake against the shore as the sun set in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. And there are the friends who make special paddling experiences possible. The water level in the San Marcos River, not far from Austin, Texas, was running high enough that November day to make a whitewater run possible. With Gordon Black in the stern, I relived the thrill of

paddling whitewater for the first time since a disability became part of my life.

Paddling is freedom from my wheelchair and a sense of being equal on the water that is unique to paddlesports. After many years of paddling, disability changed my life in mid 1980s when as the result of an accident I became a quadriplegic, unable to walk and with limited use of my hands. But thanks to adaptations and the help of friends, I am still paddling.

Only paddling can bring this sense of freedom and equality to a person who is otherwise dependent on a motorized wheelchair for mobility. A body that is so uncooperative on land becomes part of a sleek craft gliding through the water; there are no barriers to stop me. Paddling is truly freedom.

Why do you paddle? Is it the sense of challenge and discovery; the beauty of the land, water, and wildlife around your boat; the energy renewal after a great paddle; or the bond between paddlers? For paddlers with disabilities, it is all of those reasons plus it is free-

dom. And with 57 million people in the United States possessing a disability, it's likely that disability affects your life in some way, or that of a friend or a family member. The unavoidable truth is that if you live long enough, you will likely experience some level of disability. The great news is that thanks to adaptations you will still be able to paddle.

When Tom Kyler, an operation management specialist from Parma Heights OH, injured his spinal cord in 1997, he was left a paraplegic and uses a wheelchair. He could still play his favorite sports such as basketball, softball and backpacking, but these activities were not the same. The rules had changed. "Canoeing, however, is exactly the same sport for me," he says. "I have to take a different route to get to the water and adapt my seating but the sport has not changed."

In 1998 Kyler participated in an American Canoe Association (ACA) Adaptive Paddling Workshop (APW) that gave him the knowledge and confidence to participate again in canoeing. "I like to canoe with my family, and I especially want to involve my daughters, and they are happy to participate," he says. "The first time after my injury that I paddled with my daughters, my older daughter turned and smiled at me from the bow. It was a smile I will never forget. It told me she was happy to be back out canoeing with her dad. I will never forget that smile and I will continue trying to make it reappear."

For John Creagh, an artist from Warwick, NY, disability came before he discovered the freedom of paddling. While on a vacation on Cape Cod, John and his wife, Mary, decided to give sea kayaking a try. The outfitter didn't have

much experience working with individuals with disabilities, but some temporary adaptations were devised. Within minutes of being out on the water, John says he knew he had found just the activity he had been searching for. After 20-plus years using a wheelchair, John knew he needed to find an activity that would alleviate his stressed shoulders. The rhythm of paddling came almost naturally, a flashback to the days of his youth before the accident when he had canoed and kayaked as a Boy Scout and Explorer. John could feel the change in his shoulders the paddling improving his flexibility and range of motion and counter balancing the repetitive motions used in pushing his wheelchair. But most importantly John and Mary had discovered a sport they could enjoy together.

**"A body that is so uncooperative on land becomes part of a sleek craft gliding through the water; there are no barriers to stop me."**

The husband and wife team knew before they could actively pursue their new sport, for safety's sake, they needed to learn how to handle themselves out on the water. They completed an Introduction to Kayaking course through an ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop (APW). Over that weekend, they learned techniques for adapting a kayak, practiced wet exits and re-entries in a pool, and took their new found skills out on a group paddling excursion on the bay.

After years of wheelchair racing and tennis, John has found that kayaking is opening up new opportunities. "In a kayak, I can get to areas I could never access in a wheelchair," he says. "It's great to be out on the water and out of the wheelchair. Ultimately, we'd like to purchase our own kayaks and explore some of the beautiful lakes in our area," says John. His wife concurs, "We have finally found something we can do together, at the same pace."

It's also a great social outlet and we have already met some great people kayaking." As an unexpected bonus for Mary and John, Paul Pizzutello, an instructor at the Paddle-sport Center of Atlantic Kayak Tours located in Cortlandt, N.Y., near the couple's home, was completing his Adaptive Paddling Endorsement at the same APW session they took. Paul, an ACA sea kayaking instructor, believes kayaking should be available to everyone. Integrating people with disabilities into paddling just makes sense. Since they met, Paul has outfitted a kayak for John's use and has been working with the couple on the Hudson River. The freedom they have found has opened an entirely new world for them. That freedom awaits each person, including those of us with disabilities.

If you're an ACA certified paddling instructor, you can open the world of paddling to a person who has a disability. Whether they have arthritis in their hands and are having difficulty hold their paddle in cold weather, or a person who has paralysis, an amputation or another type of disability limiting their

function so paddling is difficult, you can make the difference. Some additional training in the how-tos added to your paddling instruction skills is all you need. You can get those skills by completing an ACA APW. Plus, as a certified instructor, successful completion of the APW will add the Adaptive Paddling Endorsement to your paddling certifications AND you'll receive an Update credited to your paddling certification. The best part, you'll be ready to integrate paddlers into your courses, tours or trips including those clients who have a disability.

Are you an outfitter, paddling program provider or rehabilitation professional? If yes, the 4 day APWs perfect for you. You'll improve your paddling skills and learn the how-tos of creating the right adaptation for a person who has a disability. You'll be paired with a certified paddling instructor and for two days a novice paddler who has a disability will also be part of your team. Working together you'll open up the world of paddling to that person and you'll be ready to expand your own work related to paddling.

## Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

At the core of the [ACA Adaptive Program](#), Adaptive Paddling Workshops (APWs) involve hands-on learning in both a classroom and in calm, protected waters. These workshops are designed to provide instructors, outfitters, recreation program providers, and rehabilitation professionals with the information they need to integrate paddlers with disabilities into programs. Check out these upcoming APWs:

- 5/19/15** [Hopkins, Massachusetts](#)
- 5/28/15** [Durham, New Hampshire](#)
- 6/5/15** [Farmington, New Mexico](#)
- 6/25/15** [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#)
- 9/17/15** [Big Bay, Michigan](#)



# State Director News



# STATE-BY-STATE

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

## Alabama

Provided [ACA Paddle Green Bags](#) for clean-ups on the Cahaba River. Supported Black Warrior Riverkeeper in their effort to prevent the proposed Shepherd Bend Mine operation directly across from the city of Birmingham's main drinking water intake on the Black Warrior River's Mulberry Fork in Walker County. Held all three slalom canoe and kayak races that make up the Alabama Cup Racing Series; each race saw record numbers of starts and attendees this year.

## Alaska

Promoted ACA instructor certification through outreach to paddling clubs. Worked with ACA Outreach coordinator T.J. Turner to ensure ACA's cold water immersion language is consistent with wilderness medicine standards on the risks of cold water.

## Arizona

Do you want to learn the skills to keep you and your friends safe on the river? Join ACA Arizona and Steep Creek Rescue for a SWR course on the Lower Salt River! Sign Up Now at: <http://acaarizonaswr060515.eventbee.com>

## Arkansas



## California

In California, the ACA State Council has been learning from paddling community leaders about how to best support stewardship, competition, and education efforts. The President and VP of "Rivers for Change" discussed how the ACA's Paddle America Club structure supports their efforts to coordinate community paddle days and to develop "source to sea literacy" of river systems.

## Colorado



## Connecticut



## Delaware



## Florida



## Georgia

The ACA State Director's program in Georgia has founded a non-profit, tax exempt corporation, the [Collegiate Paddlesports Association](#) to promote paddlesports at the collegiate level. Ten of the largest collegiate outdoor recreation and leadership programs in the state are affiliate members. The Association's first symposium featuring on-water and classroom training, as well as competitive events was held April 17-19 in Ocoee, TN.

## Hawaii



## Idaho



## Illinois



## Indiana



## Iowa



## Kansas



## Kentucky

Outfitters, educators & paddlesports enthusiasts have been working to create a new state paddling organization, Adventure Paddlesports Association of Kentucky (APAK). The goal of this organization would be to give paddlesports in Kentucky one central voice. Interested participants should contact ACA State Director Nathan Depenbrock, at [nathan@canoeky.com](mailto:nathan@canoeky.com)

## Louisiana

Greg Guidroz (education/recreation coordinator for the Bayou Vermilion District, of “the living history park” Vermilionville, in Lafayette, LA) has announced the publication of a paddle-trail map of Bayou Vermilion. The trail runs 59 miles from Lafayette, LA, to Intracoastal City, LA, and accesses Palmetto Island State Park. Get more info at: <http://apps.lafayettela.gov/paddletrail>

## Maine



## Maryland



## Massachusetts



## Michigan



## Minnesota



## Mississippi



## Missouri

The Mississippi River Water Trail Association and Missouri ACA will be having a paddle race July 4th. It will be at Lincoln Shields Park in West Alton, MO. The race will be 12 miles long for kayaks and canoes and 3 miles for paddle boards. Kids races will follow. Mandatory safety meeting will be at 8:30 am with races starting at 9:30.

For more information and to register, please visit: <http://firecrackerrace.org>

## Montana



## Nebraska



## Nevada



## New Hampshire



## New Jersey



## New Mexico

The Gila River, the last wild river in New Mexico, is being threatened by a \$1 billion diversion project. Find out how you can take action: <http://protectthegila.org>

## New York

Our plans for a paddling club in the northern New York/Adirondack region continue to unfold - we hope to offer whitewater instruction and safety classes by later this year and into 2016 to entice new paddlers to the region - one of the world's best whitewater destinations! New York is a destination for all types of paddlesports - from whitewater to kayak fishing, SUP to coastal.

## North Carolina



## North Dakota



## Ohio

Join hundreds of paddlers at the Cincinnati Paddlefest Weekend June 18-20, 2015. There are many family-friendly activities, and they stop all traffic on the Ohio River just so we can paddle.

## Oklahoma



## Oregon



## Pennsylvania

ACA Pennsylvania has created a website featuring the abundant paddlesport opportunities this state has to offer. ACA recognition and reciprocal linking is abundant throughout the site and we encourage all viewers to become a member of the national community. [www.americancanoe-pa.com](http://www.americancanoe-pa.com)

## Puerto Rico

ACA Puerto Rico met with the Department of Natural Resources on February 24, 2015 to discuss collaboration on the following: stewardship activities, establishing waterways, and paddlesports education. We also participated in Paddle for the Cure, began providing free safety conferences to the paddling community, and extended discounts to ACA Members at Paddle Paradise PR.

## South Carolina

ACA - South Carolina supported the Tallulah Gorge whitewater releases in Clayton, GA on April 11-12 and the East Coast Paddlesports and Outdoor Festival in Charleston, SC on April 17-19. ACA State Director Kyle Thomas presented "The Mental Game: The Other Half of Paddling" and assisted on the Intermediate to Advanced Short Boat Surfing master class at ECPOF.

## South Dakota

The Missouri River bordering South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa will host the South Dakota Kayak Challenge on May 23-24. ACA will provide support and insurance for this annual event, which attracts 150+ paddlers from across North America.

## Tennessee



## Texas



## Utah



## Vermont



## Virginia



## Washington

ACA Washington will be at the Upper Clackamas Whitewater Festival May 16-17 and the Wenatchee Whitewater Festival June 13-14. We have been very active supporting the defeat of HB 1056 that would have restricted river access and supporting SB6044 which will enable water access when a bridge project is up for construction or reconstruction.

## West Virginia

We have been busy supporting the annual New River Clean Up (July 2015) in cooperation with the National Park Service, WV Professional Rafting Outfitters, and Active Southern WV. ACA Chief Operating Officer Chris Stec and West Virginia State Director Melanie Seiler will be certifying the staff at the National Boy Scout Reserve in June.

## Wisconsin

Wausau Whitewater will be hosting the 2015 Age Group Nationals welcoming competitors from all over the United States. This will mark the 27th event that Wausau has hosted for USACK in the 41 years that they have been open for whitewater use and 91 total events not including recreational releases.

## Wyoming

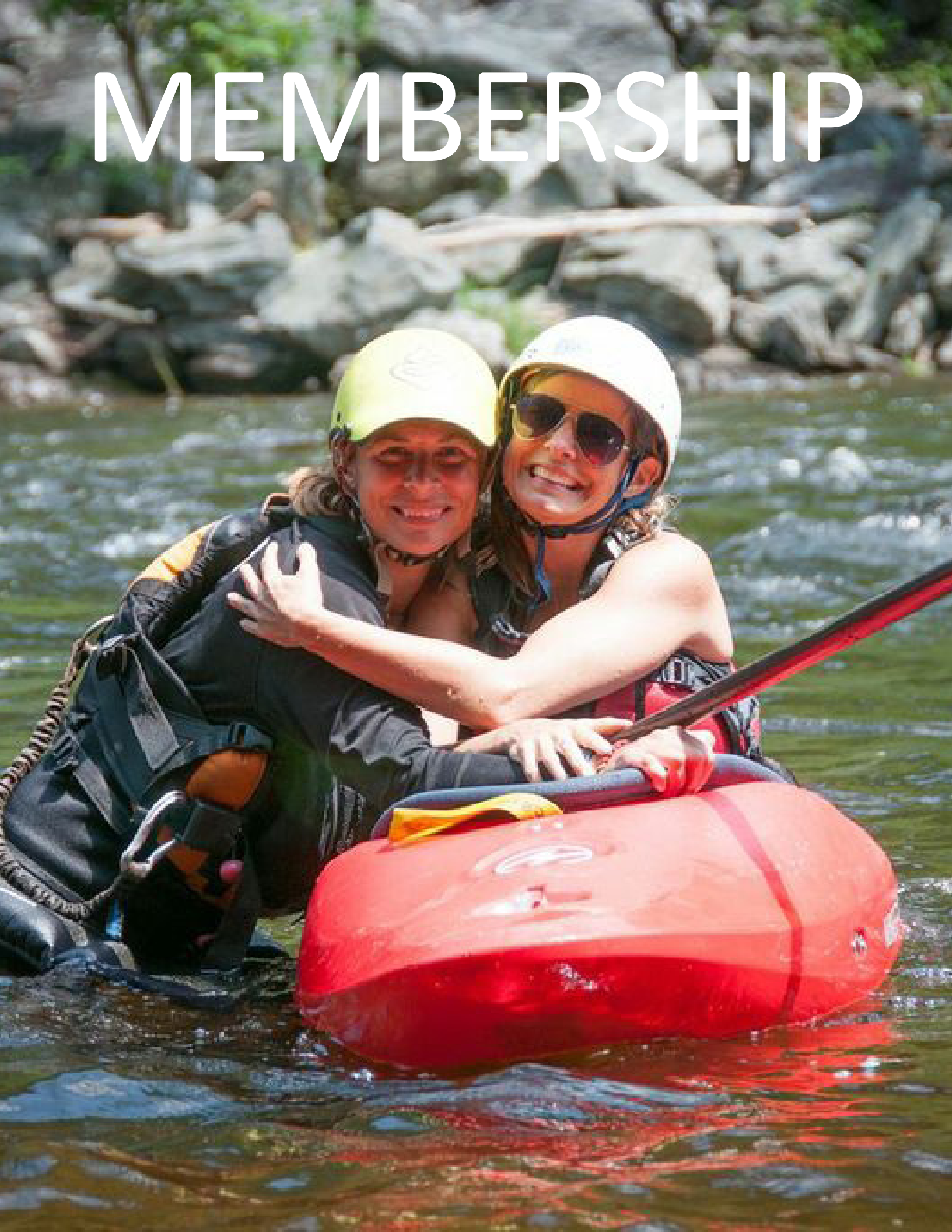
In February 2015, Wyoming Representative Cynthia Lummis introduced a bill in Congress known as the Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act. Currently, paddlers are only allowed on lakes, sections of the Snake River and one stream in the respective National Parks. The current bill asks that over the next three years the parks study the feasibility of opening access to paddlers. Paddling enthusiasts are hoping the parks will evaluate 5% or 480 miles of rivers within their boundaries rather than a more prohibitive and exhaustive review of the full 7,500 river and stream miles.

**What's with all the blank space?  
The [ACA State Director Program](#) is just getting started!**

**Next issue, we look forward to bringing you even more updates from our hard working volunteers. Want to get involved? [Click here](#) to get in touch with your local ACA State Director, and start improving stewardship, education, and competition opportunities in your state!**



# MEMBERSHIP



# ACA Member Benefit

SINCE LONG BEFORE THEY WERE BORN.



## Free Rapid Media Subscription!

When you join the ACA, or renew your membership, you get a free print or digital subscription to your choice of 1 of 4 Rapid Media Titles:

Adventure Kayak  
Canoeroots  
Rapid  
Kayak Angler

[Click here](#) to learn more about this and other ACA member benefits!



WE PADDLE. WE CARE.™

# Paddling Club Spotlight



Explore North Coast (ENC) is an association of paddlers that holds regular paddling events along the coast of northern California and southern Oregon. Paddling venues include rivers, lakes, lagoons, sloughs, bays, open ocean, surf and tidal rock gardens. In addition to organizing paddling events, ENC's goals are to promote paddling safety and education, and encourage stewardship of Humboldt Bay and coastal access along the north coast.

The club has hosted numerous expeditions to Vancouver Island, B.C. as well as annual multi-day events along the northern California and southern Oregon coast. ENC-hosted events are planned each month throughout the year, and range from regularly scheduled day paddles, to interesting presentations on Members Night, to coastal cleanup participation. This year will also



mark the sixth year of the ENC Social "thingy", a non-commercial get together that runs for four days. ENC will host out-of-area paddlers from northern California and beyond to have fun and share our beautiful waters.

Explore North Coast was established as a 501(c)(3) in February 2002. It currently has 80+ members, and has an active board of directors elected by members annually. Club membership is open to anyone, and we offer both individual and family memberships.

Through members' collaborative efforts, ENC has published a paddle guide entitled Sea Kayaking the Redwood Coast, that covers over 20 paddling destinations with maps, photos, and descriptions of each paddle. The guide is available on the club's website, as well as local book stores.

[Click here](#) to find a paddling club near you!

# COMPETITION



# Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming races...

**May 15-17, 2015**

**The Golden Games**  
Golden, Colorado

**May 16, 2015**

**Kayak Trader Oyster City Challenge**  
Apalachicola, Florida

**May 16, 2015**

**60th CCA Potomac Downriver Race**  
Potomac, Maryland

**May 17, 2015**

**58th Annual Des Plaines River Canoe &  
Kayak Marathon & Minithon**  
Libertyville, Illinois

**June 6, 2015**

**The 35th Annual Great Rappahannock  
Whitewater Canoe Race**  
Fredericksburg, Virginia

**[Click here](#) to see the full ACA competition event calendar**

# Game Changing Partnership



Member, U.S. Olympic Committee

**The ACA and USACK have formed a joint partnership. ACA Executive Director Wade Blackwood has been named Chief Executive Officer of USACK and will lead both organizations.**

**For complete information on this partnership, please visit  
[www.americancanoe.org/USACK](http://www.americancanoe.org/USACK)**



# ACA National Championship Races



## CANOE POLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 5-6, 2015

Fredericksburg, Virginia

Canoe poling competitions consist of both wildwater and slalom events with classes for beginners, intermediates, and experts. Fundamental instruction is generally provided for beginners prior to each race.



## OPEN CANOE SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

July 22-24, 2015

Barry's Bay, Ontario, Canada

The purpose of the Open Canoe Slalom Committee is: to encourage, sanction and sponsor amateur competition in "whitewater open canoe" slalom at local, regional, national, and international levels. The Nationals & North American Championships will take place in Barry's Bay, Ontario.



## WHITewater OPEN CANOE DOWNRIVER COMPETITION

July 22-26, 2015

Old Town, Maine

The purpose of the Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver Committee (WWOCD) is: to encourage, sanction and sponsor amateur competition in "whitewater open canoe" at local, regional, national, and international levels. The WWOCD National Championships will take place in Old Town, ME, on the Penobscot River.



## FREESTYLE CANOEING INTERPRETIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 5, 2015

TBD

FreeStyle Canoeing is the "art and science" of quiet water paddling. It emphasizes smooth, efficient flatwater paddling and precision boat control. FreeStyle can be applied to all canoeing situations. Many FreeStylers paddle to music making an expressible, interpretive art form.



## CANOE SAILING CRUISING CLASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 5-6, 2015

Sloatsburg, New York

The purpose of the Canoe Sailing Committee is: to encourage, sanction and sponsor amateur competition in canoe sailing at local, regional, national, and international levels.



This year the **ACA North American Open Canoe Slalom Championships (NORAM)** will be held at the Madawaska Kanu Centre in Barry's Bay Ontario Canada. Race dates are July 22 – 24. Come early and join fellow racers in local paddling opportunities, or stick around afterward, the water is warm and levels in the area of Ontario will be great!

The Madawaska River is justifiably celebrated as one of the best places in North America for open canoe slalom racing.

Flowing past MKC's front door, through a forest of pines and hardwoods, the river's supply of dam-controlled water is warm, clean, and dependable all summer long. This 5km section of drop-pool whitewater is known locally as Bells Rapids, or to area paddlers as the Middle Madawaska.

For more information, check out [opencanoeslalom.com](http://opencanoeslalom.com) and follow the [NORAM facebook page](#).



# Competition Updates from the ACA National Office

## [Canoe Poling National Championships](#)

Have you ever wanted to stand tall while paddling? If so, join canoe polers from across the country as the ACA hosts the Canoe Poling National Championships on the Rappahannock River in Fredericksburg, Virginia on June 6 & 7th. In addition to the championship races, there will be free clinics and intermediate/novice events.



## [Collegiate & High School Travel Assistance](#)



Through a generous donation, the ACA will match up to \$250 to help college or high school paddling teams attend the 2015 ACA Whitewater Open Canoe National Championships to be held on the Penobscot River in Old Town, Maine on July 22-26 .



# 2015 Slalom National Team & Pan American Games Team Selected

By Aaron Mann, USACK Communications Director

CHARLOTTE, NC - Slalom National Team Trials, a Spring tradition unlike any other. After months of preparation, athletes from across the nation came to the U.S. National Whitewater Center to try and earn themselves a coveted spot on the 2015 National Team, which will compete at the 2015 World Championships at the Lee Valley White Water Centre in London, England, as well as the 2015 Pan American Games Team. The competition was fierce as only the top boat in each category would be eligible to qualify for the Pan American Games.

The C1 Men's category turned in some of the tightest racing of the weekend. After some spectacular racing, two-time Olympian Casey Eichfeld (Charlotte, NC) came out on top as the overall winner of the team trials. Finishing second was 2014 World Champion Fabien Lefevre (Bethesda, MD). The young Zach "Bug" Lokken (Durango, CO) put together a solid weekend of racing to once again earn himself a spot on the national team. Tyler Hinton (Denver, CO) took fourth by the narrowest of margins, beating former national team member Tad Dennis (Charlotte, NC) by one-tenth of a percentage, which makes him eligible to compete at the Pan Ams Olympic Qualification race and World Championships.

In the K1 Women's race, perennial team member Ashley Nee (Darnestown, MD) paddled like a woman possessed, winning the class and also earning a spot on the Pan American Games Team. In second and third were Anna Ifarraguerri (McLean, VA) and Sage Donnelly (Carson City, NV), both of whom will represent the

U.S. at the Pan American Olympic Qualification race and World Championships.

After a dominating day of racing Sunday, Michal Smolen (Gastonia, NC) proved he is a force to be reckoned with in the K1 Men's category as he won class overall. Coming in second after a solid weekend of racing was two-time Olympic Medalist Fabien Lefevre. Richard Powell (Gastonia, NC) once again proved his consistency, finishing third. Meanwhile, Aaron Mann (Bethesda, MD) finished fourth and will compete the Pan American Olympic Qualification race and World Championships.



Displaying their poise and experience, the team of Casey Eichfeld and Devin McEwan (Salisbury, CT) earned the top spot in the C2 Men's competition.

Finishing second was the team of Tad Dennis and Tyler Smith (Huntersville, NC). The team of Michal Smolen and Zach Lokken finished third. Both the second and third place C2 teams will have the opportunity to compete at the Pan American Olympic Qualification race this July.

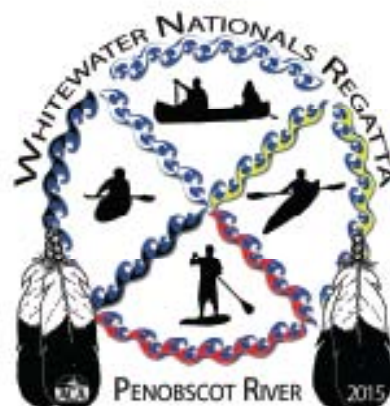
In the C1 Women's category, Colleen Hickey (Mount Holly, NC) won the class with the young Sage Donnelly finishing second and Tracy Hines coming in third.

Congratulations to those who qualified for the 2015 U.S. National Team and thank you everyone who volunteered and help put on this event. These competitions would not be possible without your support. For full results, please visit [www.usack.org](http://www.usack.org)

# Penobscot River Whitewater Nationals Regatta

July 22 - 26, 2015

Old Town, Bradley, Orono, Veazie and Edgington Maine



The Penobscot Nation is hosting the event on this historically important and beautiful 9.5 mile section of river, returned to its free-flowing state following removal of the Great Works and Veazie Dams. The race course includes three Class II-III rapids, numerous ribs and quick water.



**ACA National Championships**  
**Open Canoe, Kayak & SUP**

**Northeast Regional Championships**  
**Wildwater**



Race Chair: Scott Phillips  
207.852.0680  
scott@waterwaysports.com

<http://penobscotriverwhitewaternationalsregatta.com/>

**Old Town**  
CANOES  KAYAKS

**PINE**  
Penobscot Indian Nation Enterprise

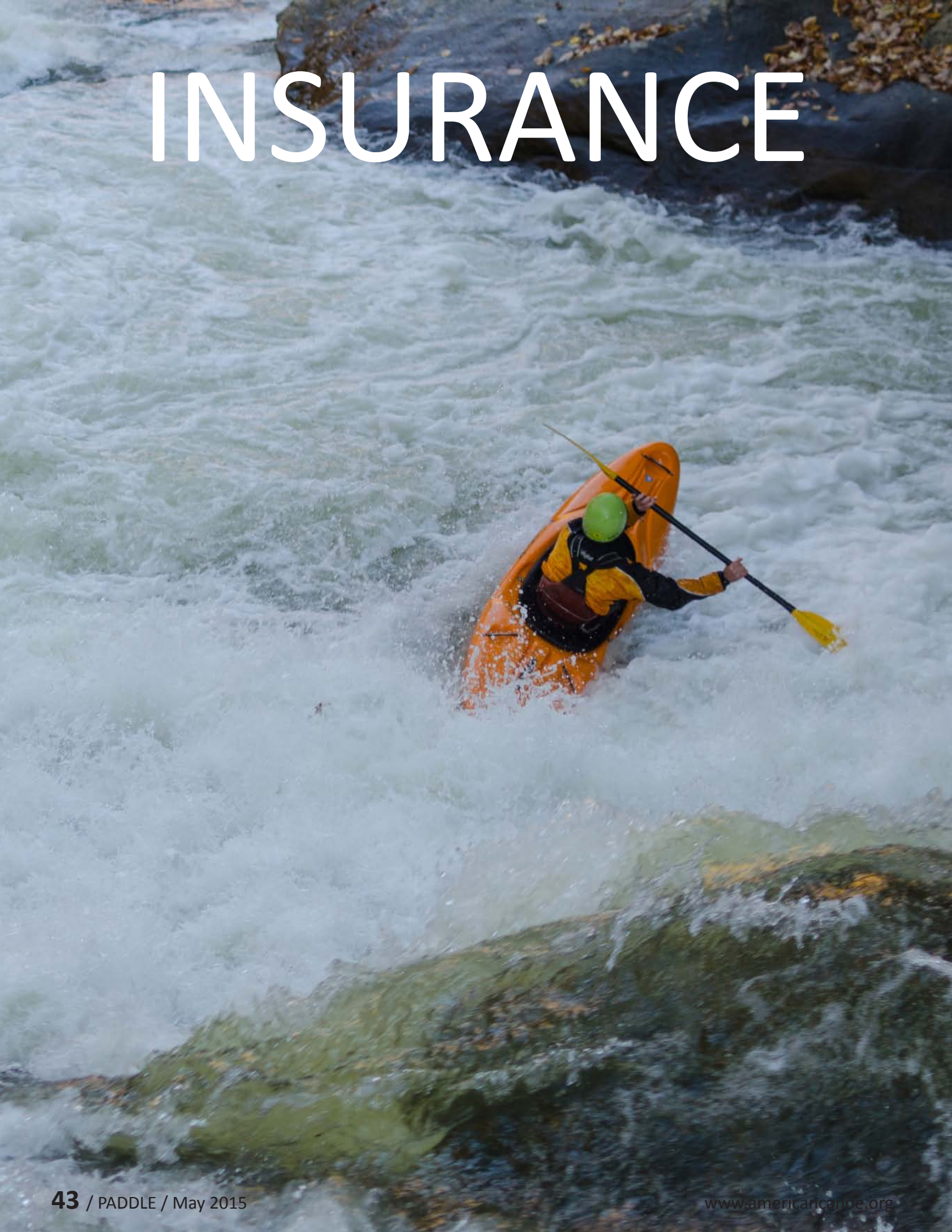


**L.L.Bean**



Penobscot River  
Restoration Trust

# INSURANCE



# Outfitter, Livery & Guide Insurance

As one of numerous member benefits, the ACA is offering partial or comprehensive insurance for paddlesport outfitters, liveries, and guides. By meeting certain criteria, you will be eligible for discounted pricing on your various insurance policies. In addition, proceeds from utilizing this insurance program will benefit paddlers as they will be used to support the ACA's mission of improving education, stewardship, recreation and competition for all.

For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org/Insurance](http://www.americancanoe.org/Insurance) or you may contact ACA Insurance Coordinator Candy Patten at 540-907-4460, [cpatten@americancanoe.org](mailto:cpatten@americancanoe.org).



# INTERNATIONAL





## *Save the Date*

2015 ACA Europe Paddlesports Symposium

OCT 2-4, 2015

London, England

[www.americancanoe.org/EuropeConference](http://www.americancanoe.org/EuropeConference)



- Do you know who's who in the ACA Europe Division? Visit [www.americancanoe.org/EuropeDivision](http://www.americancanoe.org/EuropeDivision) to learn about the ACA's leadership in Europe.
- Looking for an International ACA Instructor or Instructor Trainer? [Click here](#) for a full list!

# Dream Paddling Destination: Venice, Italy

By Nataša Vugrinec, ACA Level 3 Sea Kayaking Instructor and ACA Representative for Slovenia.

Venice is one of the most coveted paddling destinations in all of Europe, offering a unique and fresh perspective on the world-renowned city. And every May, there is a big international boat race in the heart of Venice called the [Vogalonga](#) that has been going on since the 1970s.

In general, the “City of Water” is not a destination for beginners! You should be aware that it is the busiest and most hectic nautical point of the Adriatic sea with countless vessels, from small boats and famous gondolas, to water buses (“vaporettos”) and ferries. An especially demanding area is the main San Marco channel. A paddler in Venice has to be confident in rough sea conditions and be familiar with the nautical traffic rules.

However, Venice’s inner channels are easy and calm for paddling, as you can see from countless tourist images. A good orientation is essential though, as you can easily get lost in a labyrinth of channels – a map and a GPS are obligatory!

## LOGISTICS

Venice (ital.: Venezia) is located in Italy in the most northern point of the Adriatic sea, which is already a first class paddling destination with some nice lagoons and the Croatian coast with thousands of islands further to the south.

Venice is easy accessible by plane (there are even two airports - Venice and Treviso), train, ship, or car.

If you come from overseas, you should probably contact one of the local agencies providing both the equipment and guides such as [Venice Kayak agency](#), but there are many other providers in the region.



If you have limited time, you can do a one-day paddling adventure. But multi-day paddling is strongly recommended, and allows you more opportunities to visit other less crowded points of the Venice Lagoon.

Standard entry points are San Giuliano, Fusina and Punta Sabbioni, which provide parking, campsites, beaches, restaurants and other accommodations. All of them are around 3 nautical miles (NM) away from the old city, which is a perfect distance for warming up.

Due to the fact the Venice is one of the most renowned tourist destinations, there are thousands of accommodation options.

## PADDLING IN VENICE

A typical tour to the old city and visiting at least some of the famous points (Canal Grande, Rialto bridge, channels around San Marco square, etc.) would take at least 12 to





15 NM, but if you want to visit other islands of the city (Murano, Lido), you should probably split your trip to 2 or even more days.

The lagoon is extremely shallow – sometimes even too shallow for a kayak – so you should follow official waterways, marked by triple pilots.

Due to shallow water there are strong tidal currents that can make our paddling harder or easier. It's a wise idea to check a [tide forecast](#) in advance and plan your trip accordingly.

#### PADDLING RULES

There was an on-going campaign to ban paddling in Venice completely. Fortunately, due to public pressure from fellow kayakers, the city government recently found a compromise and

issued [more tolerant rules](#) valid since April 20th, 2015.

Basically, they limit paddling during the work-days and on Saturday morning. However, all paddlers need to be aware of and obey standard nautical traffic rules, especially in San Marco channel and Canal Grande.

Paddling in Venice can be an extremely rewarding experience, allowing us to see and experience the city from a completely different perspective, away from the beaten tracks!

For more information, please visit: [www.aca-europe.org](http://www.aca-europe.org)

# Find ACA Instructors in 33 Countries!



Argentina

Australia

Austria

Bahamas

Belgium

Brazil

Canada

Chile

Columbia

Costa Rica

Denmark

Finland

Georgia

Germany

Hong Kong

India

Ireland

Italy

Japan

Luxembourg

Mexico

Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

Singapore

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Taiwan

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

Yukon Territory

[Click here](#) for a full list of ACA International Instructors





The ACA, with funding from the U.S. Coast Guard, partnered with Anzovin Studio to create **two new animated videos** with the goal of educating and empowering paddlers to take responsibility for their safety on the water.

Visit [www.americancanoe.org/AnimatedVideos](http://www.americancanoe.org/AnimatedVideos) to watch these humorous, educational, & award-winning videos.

...share them with your family and friends!

# Paddling History



## A Glimpse of the Fleet

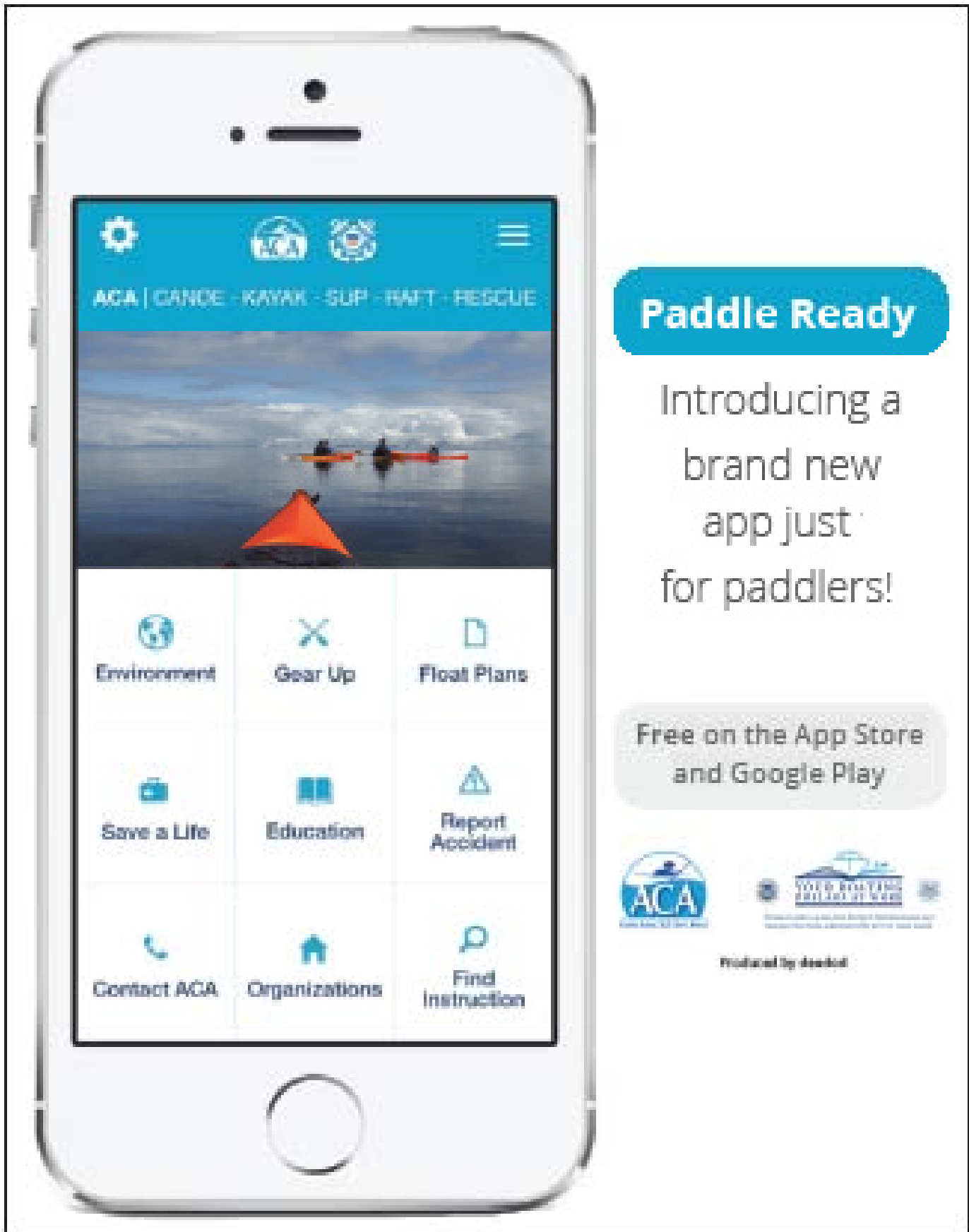
Founded in 1880, the ACA is the oldest paddlesports organization in the United States. This photo shows the ACA fleet of canoes from Lake George, NY at the annual gathering in 1882.

*Each issue, we'll bring you an interesting paddling photo from the ACA archives.*

*We hope you enjoy the little glimpses of paddling past.*

*To learn more about ACA history and the early days of paddlesports, visit:*

[www.americancanoe.org/History](http://www.americancanoe.org/History)



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