

Volume 4, Issue 5 | September 2018

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

Adaptive Outrigger Tipovers They CAN Happen

New ACA Leadership Academy in November

ACA Elects Competition Council Chair

Filming Begins for ACA Youth Web TV Series



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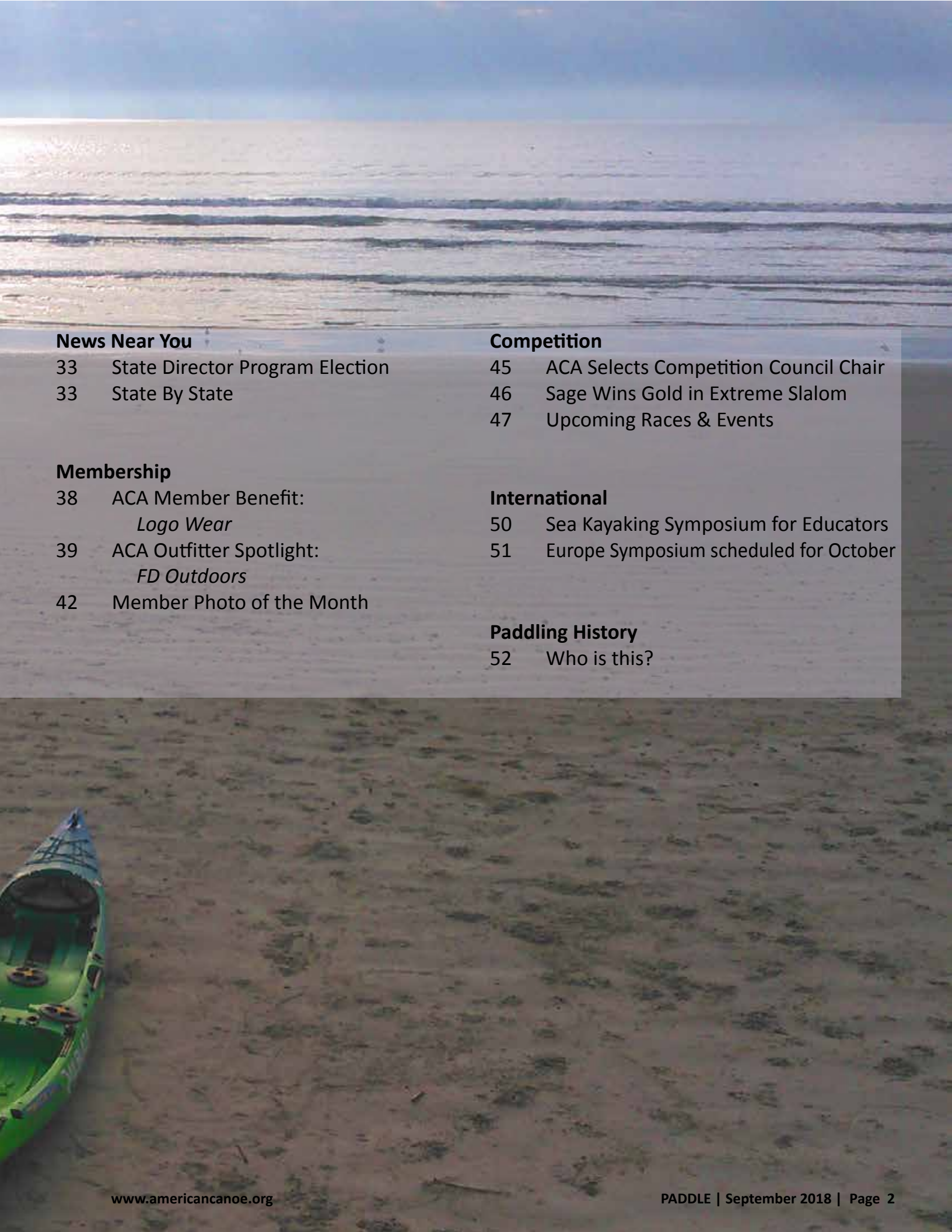
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ACA Mission Statement

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.

NATIONAL STAFF

Wade Blackwood- Executive Director
Chris Stec- Chief Operating Officer
Marcel Bieg- Western States Outreach Director
Kandace Bowers- Financial Coordinator
Kelsey Bracewell- SEI Manager
Dave Burden- International Paddlesports Ambassador
Amy Ellis- State Director/Membership Coordinator
Katie Hansen- Membership Coordinator
Kimberly Jenkins- Paddle eMagazine Editor
Brett Mayer- Public Policy Chief
LeighAnn Moore- Insurance Coordinator
Carrie Schlemmer- Education & Grant Coordinator
Vacant- Social Media Coordinator

Competition Department

Morgan House- High Performance & Competition Director
Rafal Smolen- Slalom National Team Coach
Chris Barlow- Sprint High Performance Manager
Zsolt Szadovszki- Sprint National Team Kayak Coach
Aaron Huston- Sprint National Team Canoe Coach
Aasim Saleh- Sprint Jr. Team Manager
Shaun Caven- Paracanoe High Performance Manager/Coach
Vacant- Slalom High Performance Manager

Cover photo

Canoeists prepare their canoe ride on Canada's Moraine Lake with clouds descending on the Valley of the Ten Peaks in the background.

123rf photo

Follow us on...



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

President- Peter Sloan (NC)
Vice President- **Robin Pope (NC)**
Treasurer- David Bell (OK)
Secretary- Anne Maleady (CO)

Board Members

**Terms expire at the annual meeting of the year listed*

At-Large Directors

- William Irving (North Carolina- 2019)
- Lili Colby (Massachusetts- 2019)
- Robin Pope (North Carolina- 2018)
- Kirk Havens (Virginia- 2018)

Independent Directors

- Jeff Rouse (Virginia- 2019)
- David Bell (Oklahoma- 2019)
- Peter Sloan (North Carolina- 2018)

Affiliated Organizations Director

- *Vacant*

Property Management Committee

- Bill Micks (Virginia- 2018)

Safety Education & Instruction Council

- Steve Hutton (South Carolina- 2019)

Competition Council

- Marsh Jones (Minnesota- 2019)

Elite Athlete Directors

- Slalom- Scott Mann (Virginia- 2019)
- Sprint- Stanton Collins (Georgia- 2019)
- Paracanoe- Kelly Allen (Oklahoma- 2019)

Immediate Past President

- Anne Maleady (Colorado)

Liaison Members (non-voting)

- Tom Uebel- Sugar Island (New York)

Ex-Officio (non-voting)

- Wade Blackwood- ACA Executive Director (Virginia)



SAFETY, EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION COUNCIL (SEIC)

- Chair- Steve Hutton (SC)
- Vice Chair- Trey Knight (TN)
- Secretary- C.C. Williams (SC)
- Past Chair- Robin Pope (NC)

Committee Chairs

- Adaptive Paddling- John McDonald (OH)
- Coastal Kayak- John Browning (WI)
- Intro to Paddling- Beth Weigandt (VA)
- Prone Kayaking- Adam Masters (NC)
- Rafting- Elisha Lynn McArthur (CO)
- River Canoe- Greg Wolfe (OH)
- River Kayak- Mike Arnoff (VA)
- Safety & Rescue- Sam Fowlkes (NC)
- Stand Up Paddleboard- Raphael Kuner (Germany)
- Surf Kayak- Sean Morley (CA)
- Surfski- Chuck Conley (VA)
- Touring Canoe- Molly Gurien (OH)

Institutional Members

- SEIC Chair Appointment- Josh Hall (SC)
- SEIC Chair Appointment- Peter Casson (RI)

Liaison Members

- Boy Scouts of America- Rob Kolb (TX)
- USCG- Tom Dardis (DC)
- USCG Auxiliary- Don Goff (MD)

COMPETITION COUNCIL

- Chair: Marsh Jones- Sprint
- Vice Chair: Mike Shandroff- Outrigger
- Secretary: Risa Shimoda- Freestyle

STATE DIRECTORS

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| AL- Chris Anderson | NE- Steve Kuhl |
| AK- Levi Hogan | NV- Available |
| AZ- Available | NH- Available |
| AR- Tom Burroughs | NJ- Jason Parker |
| CA- Alexander Morris | NM- Robert Levin |
| CO- Theresa Zook | NY- Mike Cavanaugh |
| CT- Available | NC- Doug Stager |
| DE- Chris Beckman | ND- Available |
| DC- Meredith Waters | OH- Ryan Pepper |
| FL- Tommy Thompson | OK- Aasim Saleh |
| GA- Scott Fraser | OR- Available |
| HI- Indar Lange | PA- Steve Barber |
| ID- Available | PR- Omar Ramos |
| IL- Lenore Sobota | RI- Available |
| IN- Joe Rozsahegyi | SC- Jefferson Atkins |
| IA- Available | SD- Cory Diedrich |
| KS- Available | TN- Bob Snuck |
| KY- Nathan Depenbrock | TX- Charley Kemp |
| LA- Ben Sandmel | UT- Available |
| ME- Rob Hutchison | VT- Available |
| MD- Chuck McMillin | VI- Available |
| MA- Kevin Beckwith | VA- Steve Eudy |
| MI- Micheal Gray | WA- Bill Corson |
| MN- Bridget O'Boyle | WV- Evan Young |
| MS- Brian Ramsey | WI- Thomas Schrader |
| MO- Justin Adams | WY- Helen Tozer-Wilson |
| MT- Available | |

For information about the State Director Program, please contact [Amy Ellis](#) at the ACA National Office.

MEET YOUR

Have you recently gone anywhere for the first time?



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

Bar Harbor, Maine. What a laidback town. I ate a lot of lobster!



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach Director & Grant Manager

Chile-South America – nothing short of amazing. Beautiful place with beautiful people. Mountains, rivers, oceans, deserts and anything in between. Lovely!



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Manager

I just returned from my first trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon!



Kimberly Jenkins
Paddle eMagazine Editor

Last summer my husband and I took our first trip across the pond and visited Ireland for our 10th anniversary. We had the best time ever! The people were so warm and welcoming, the scenery was awe-inspiring, and the beer and food were delicious!



Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief

Disney World, and, yes, I met Mickey Mouse!



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports Ambassador

Panama's San Blas Islands – beautiful islands away from civilization.



LeighAnn Moore
Insurance Coordinator

I went to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for the first time in November 2017 for my honeymoon and it was absolutely gorgeous! The Great Smoky Mountains were remarkable and they had everything decorated for Christmas. It was so pretty.

ACA STAFF

www.americancanoe.org/staff



Morgan House
High Performance &
Competition Director

I recently visited Tokyo, Japan, to view the Olympic sites for 2020. Although this was my 2nd time to Japan, it was my first time to Tokyo. After visiting, I truly believe that this Olympics will be very well run and will allow for our athletes to have the best possible opportunity to bring home some medals!



Aaron Huston
Sprint National Team Canoe Coach
The Grand Canyon. Simply put, it was awe-inspiring.



Carrie Schlemmer
Education & Grant Coordinator
Earlier this summer, I went to White Salmon, Washington!



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator
A place I went to the first time was recently I went to a farm in Charlottesville, Virginia and met a horse and rider who represented the U.S. on our Dressage team at the last Olympics.



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer
A mokoro camping trip in Botswana with the family this summer.



Kandace Bowers
Financial Coordinator
This is going to sound odd, but I finally went to Cold Stone Creamery for the first time last year. I had heard all the rave reviews and glowing comments but had thought "it's ONLY ice cream." Oh no, my friend!!! It is THE BEST taste delight on earth – especially on a hot summer's day. Now I am addicted, have joined the e-club, and longingly await the next BOGO in my inbox!

Continued on page 7

*Making the World a Better Place to Paddle!
Since 1880.*



Shaun Caven
Paracanoe High Performance
Manager/Coach

New York City – Exciting place to visit lots to see and do... Whole place is a giant movie set. I was touched by how appropriate the 9/11 memorial is for all to remember the tragedy that happened on that day.



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership
Coordinator

My husband and I recently visited Squashapenny Junction in Doswell, Virginia. Pulling up, we knew immediately this is no ordinary antiques store. Scattered throughout the grounds are a 9-foot-high hand positioned to “wave” at passing trains, a slightly off-kilter, life-sized black fiberglass horse, and a whimsical found-art sculpture of a silver man on a silver bicycle, among countless other found-art sculptures and vintage advertising oddities.



Rafal Smolen
Slalom National Team Coach
Demänovská Dolina, a village of
northern Slovakia



Aasim Saleh
Sprint Jr. Team Manager
Yellowstone National Park



Zsolt Szadovszki
Sprint National Team Kayak Coach
Vancouver, British Columbia



Chris Barlow
Sprint High Performance Manager
La Ventana, Baja, Mexico – kite sailing Mecca but also a fantastic place for a downwind surfski paddle. Enjoyed consistent 25mph winds, beautiful ocean, friendly people and incredible wildlife – all as I surfed by on an Epic V8 Surfski on a 6ft wind driven wave. Awesome place!

We're Hiring!

The ACA currently has three staff positions open. If you'd like to work with a great bunch of people, read on!

Membership Assistant (part-time)

The Membership Assistant is responsible for maintaining a connection between the National Office and the ACA membership. The position works with the other members of the department on the day-to-day management of the membership database, along with membership mailings, phone calls and replying to email inquiries. The position will also need to be able to identify and target areas for membership growth. The Membership Assistant must work with a high level of diligence and courtesy. This position reports to the ACA's Membership Coordinator.

Social Media Coordinator

The Social Media Coordinator (SMC) position has oversight over the creation and distribution of the ACA's online social media. The SMC position works with other staff, the general public, other organizations, and the media. The SMC must maintain professionalism through both written and verbal inquiries and must work with a high level of diligence and courtesy. This position reports to the ACA's Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director and lasts until August 31, 2019, with the potential to extend further.

Slalom High Performance Manager

The Slalom High Performance Manager (SHPM) position serves as the primary liaison for the ACA to the slalom community. This position works with other staff, coaches, athletes, race officials, event organizers, clubs, volunteers, other organizations, the ACA's Slalom Committees, and the general public. The position also manages the Slalom portion of the ACA's Olympic High Performance Plan (HPP).

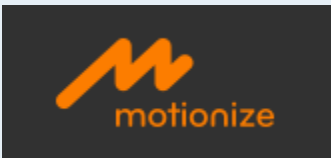
The SHPM must work with a high level of diligence and courtesy while enforcing a fair and ethical environment for paddlesports competition. The SHPM must be committed to the development of a training and competition environment for canoe and kayak slalom athletes in the United States that establishes the highest performance expectations, promotes team work and transparency and establishes a solid foundation and tradition of excellence for the future. The goal of the SHPM is to develop and sustain Slalom programs that produce medal winners in international competition, including World Cups, World Championships, Pan American Championships, Pan American Games, and the Olympic Games. The Slalom National Team Coach(es) will be direct reports to this position. The SHPM position reports to the ACA's Director of High Performance & Competition.

Deadline for online application submissions is Friday, September 7.

For more information about employment opportunities with the ACA, please visit www.americancanoe.org/Employment.

PARTNERS

We are grateful to these organizations and companies for their significant commitment to help us achieve our mission and goals.



Partnership Opportunities

If you would like to align your business with the nation's oldest paddlesports organization, please [click here](#) for partnership opportunities with the ACA.



STEWARDSHIP

Mobile Baykeeper photo

ACA sponsors 1st Illinois Water Trail Conference

The Illinois Paddling Council and the Potawatomi Paddlers Association will hold the [First Illinois Water Trail Conference](#) on October 15, 2018, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon, Illinois. The ACA has signed on as a sponsor of the one-day event.

The purpose of the conference is to educate attendees on the economic, educational and

environmental benefits of water trails, and to promote their development and expansion within Illinois.

The target audience includes representatives from state, county, municipal governmental organizations, stakeholders of river/watershed groups and many more. Even organizers anticipate an audience of more than 70 attendees from a variety of governmental, private and nonprofit groups.



Confirmed speakers:

- Diane Banta, National Park Service
- Laura Barghusen, Openlands
- Karen Miller, Kane County Development, Fox River
- Joe Ginger, Pecatonica River Foundation
- Carol Hays, Prairie Rivers Network
- Scott Hewitt, Sangamon River "Abe Lincoln Trail"

Discussions to focus on

- Benefits of water trails
- How to establish water trails
- Community engagement
- National water trail designation
- Living water trail – paddle events
- Leave No Trace campsites
- Fundraising

Anticipated participants to include

- Water trail and waterway advocacy groups
- Federal, state and regional planning agencies
- City and county planners and administrators
- Planning consultants
- Kayak/canoe enthusiasts
- Event planners
- Local canoe and kayak organizations





Paddle *Green* Spotlight

ACA announces 2018 CFS grant recipients

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to sponsor the [Club Fostered Stewardship Program](#). The CFS Program provides small grants to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations to assist with and enhance volunteer-driven waterways stewardship activities.

Many of the stewardship needs of our nation's waters are best addressed at the local and regional level. Paddling clubs and watershed organizations are in an ideal position to lead these efforts. These paddlers tend to care deeply about their local waterways and are often willing to volunteer their time and energy to help improve the places they enjoy.

Some clubs operate successful stewardship programs on their own. Others need a little help. That is why L.L. Bean and the ACA have teamed up to sponsor the CFS Program. In many instances, CFS grants make projects possible when they would otherwise be impossible. In addition, through administering this program, the ACA can collect and share information on proven approaches to volunteer stewardship projects.

CFS continues to provide this support in 2018 and has awarded grants to the following 14 clubs:

- Arkansas Canoe Club
- Florida Paddling Trails Association
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- Illinois Paddling Council
- Kayak New Mexico
- Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds
- Mobile Baykeeper
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Paddlers for Conservation
- Rivers for Change
- Viking Canoe Club
- We Love Clean Rivers

Beginning with this issue, the efforts of 2018 CFS grant recipients will be featured in *Paddle* eMagazine. Summaries of recipients 7-9 follow on the next three pages.



Rivers for Change

[Rivers for Change](#) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of passionate river enthusiasts dedicated to changing the way people think about and interact with water. Through adventure, conservation and education, Rivers for Change works to connect individuals and communities to rivers and promote source to sea literacy. They envision a world where people and communities are active stewards of river systems with a holistic understanding of their interconnectedness and interdependence.

June 2-11, 2017, the nonprofit organization ran its first [Truckee River Source to \(Inland\) Sea Environmental Learning Adventure and Paddling Fundraiser](#), and it was a huge success.

With community support, Rivers for Change raised almost \$20,000 for educational outreach and their Student Ambassador Team. As part of the Source to Sea Adventure, Rivers for Change hosted five public event days including four public paddling days on Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River. The event

reached more than 800 kids in classrooms, provided an in-depth environmental learning experience to 10 student ambassadors, and facilitated connection between the organization and other nonprofits and community members from South Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake.

Ten student ambassadors (representing seven different schools throughout the watershed) completed six days of exploration on the Truckee River, traveling through widely different landscapes between South Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. This included a float in individual watercraft through beautiful mountain meadows on the Upper Truckee River, paddling a six-person outrigger canoe along the west shore of Lake Tahoe, class II-III whitewater rafting through Truckee as well as Reno, and then another paddle in individual watercraft through 10 miles of Nature Conservancy restoration east of Reno. In total the student team paddled almost 60 miles, and on the final day, they explored 6 miles of the Truckee River on the Tahoe Pyramid Bike Way ending at Pyramid Lake.

Due to high-water safety concerns, the Pauite Tribe revoked access to taking the student team on the river; however, biking turned out to be a fantastic way to view the river from the top of the bluffs as it nears Pyramid Lake, with amazing views of hundreds of nesting white pelicans.

The group finished the day with a tour of the Marble Bluff Dam fish passage facility where every year hundreds of thousands of spawning native Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and Cui-ui Sucker fish are transported up 40 feet in a fish elevator. Located 3 miles upstream of Pyramid Lake, this facility is a fascinating story of extreme river stewardship.





Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#) works to protect and steward its water trail and foster community vitality to promote inspiring outdoor experiences in the Northern Forest Region. Completed in 2006, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740-mile water trail from Old Forge, New York, to Fort Kent, Maine. The trail follows traditional travel routes used by Native American, settlers and guides. It is the longest inland water trail in the nation and consists of 23 rivers and streams, 59 lakes and ponds, 45 communities, and 65 portages.

This summer the nonprofit organization completed a series of three paddler access improvement projects on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Funds from the CFS grant went toward material costs (rough-cut cedar lumber, hardware, rebar, stone gravel, signage), as well as trucking expenses and permit fees.

- **Lawyers Landing Access (Missisquoi River, VT):** NFCT replaced access stairs at the Lawyers Landing Access in Enosburg Falls. Flooding and ice scouring during the winter of 2018 destroyed previous infrastructure. New infrastructure consists of six-cribbed timber steps constructed from 6x8 cedar, armored with rip-rap rock and backfilled with gravel. This is a more flood resilient design than the prior steps and will ensure safe and continued access for years to come. This project was completed as a training project for NFCT stewardship interns.
- **Brownway Campsite (Missisquoi River, VT):** Volunteers under the supervision of NFCT staff improved access to this paddler campsite by building and installing an eight-step

cedar staircase. The stairs are anchored with helical anchors, and they are designed to be removable during the winter to avoid ice damage.

- **Errol Rapids Access (Androscoggin River NH):** In late July, NFCT stewardship volunteers and community volunteers installed a set of 12 timber cribbed access step at an access above the Errol Rapids on the Androscoggin River. The previous access was steep, unimproved, and eroding. The new steps provide access to one of the most popular Class II-III whitewater reaches in New England. The project also involved regrading a parking area to reduce stormwater runoff. ACA/LL Bean contributions were used as match for a grant committed from the state Recreational Trails Program.

(Continued on page 15)





Mobile Baykeeper

[Mobile Baykeeper](#) formed in 1997 as West Bay Watch when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to fight the construction of a chemical facility at the Theodore Industrial Park, along Mobile Bay's western shore. As the group investigated the environmental implications of these plants, it was discovered that for decades Mobile County's economic leaders had focused their efforts on industrial recruiting. As a result, the pollution amounts led the Environmental Defense Fund to rank Mobile County second in the nation for the presence of chemicals known to be cancer hazards in the Toxics Release Inventory.

The volunteers expanded their mission, and in 1998 changed the organization's name to Mobile Bay Watch Inc. (MBW) to express the reality that air and water quality issues affect the east and west sides of the Bay. The volunteers hired a full-time director to serve the grow-

ing organization and then applied for and received its 501(c)(3) non-profit status. In September of 1999, Mobile Bay Watch, Inc. became affiliated with the international organization, [Waterkeeper Alliance](#).

As a part of a larger National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Removal Grant, Mobile Baykeeper is restoring the historically and ecologically important One Mile Creek. One Mile is a tributary of Three Mile Creek, which contains a high biodiversity and potential for the community to use again for recreation. It is located adjacent to downtown Mobile and, therefore, receives a significant amount of urban litter from downtown activities and festivities.

The Baykeeper's goal is to remove 8,000 pounds of litter on One Mile Creek over a two-year period. To accomplish this, the nonprofit organization is hosting a series of wa-

ter-based community cleanups that utilize volunteers onboard canoes and kayaks to actively remove the litter that has accumulated along the creek banks.

Funds from the CFS grant allowed Mobile Baykeeper to purchase two paddlecraft for volunteer use at all community cleanups and organized removal efforts on One Mile Creek. These craft add to the existing fleet made possible through a collaborative exchange with local outfitters providing canoes/kayaks for volunteers. The organization's capabilities to remove litter on the creek have been significantly increased with the addition of these paddlecraft and they will be utilized by volunteers and our AmeriCorps Members for invasive species removals, water quality monitoring, and youth outdoor education.



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



EDUCATION

Mark your calendar

1st ACA Leadership Academy takes place Nov. 9-11



The first [ACA Leadership Academy](#) will be held Nov. 9-11 in Isle of Palms, South Carolina.

As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, the annual conference has been transitioned to a new leadership academy to target all facets of the paddlesports community.

In partnership with Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission (CCPRC), the ACA is pleased to present an array of on-water clinics and courses that will help you savor the rich history, remarkable paddling, and ecologi-

cal diversity of Charleston! Within minutes of historic Charleston, the Isle of Palms hosts fantastic scenery and access to pristine coastal waters, marshes, and tidal creeks.

In conjunction with the on-water programming, instructor updates, and networking opportunities, the ACA will be hosting the Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC), the PAC Advisory Council, the Competition Council, and the ACA Board of Directors.

For more information, please visit www.americancanoe.org/NPC.



ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



The [Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission](#) (CCPRC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The agency was established in 1968 as Charleston County Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and today it is a large park system featuring over 11,000 acres of property.

The mission of CCPRC is to improve the quality of life in Charleston County by offering a diverse system of park facilities, programs and services. The park system features four land parks, three beach parks, four seasonally lifeguarded beach areas, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three waterparks, 19 boat landings, a skate park, a historic plantation site, a climbing wall, a challenge course, an interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities.

CCPRC offers a variety of canoeing, stand up paddleboard and kayaking skills classes and trips, including educational outings for beginner to expert paddlers. From day-trips, weekend skills classes, to certification courses, their ACA-certified paddling instructors and trainers focus on safety and fun. Learn the essentials needed to make your paddling experience an enjoyable one from our friendly and knowledgeable instructors. Serving over 25,000 individuals of all ages and abilities annually, our Outdoor Adventure Program is the first of its kind to be accredited by the Association for Experiential Education. CCPRC also brings you the East Coast Paddlesport & Outdoor Festival every April.

For more information on CCPRC, visit www.charlestoncountyparks.com.



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.

Check out our *new paddle app game* for kids: *Paddle Quest*

*outdoor adventure,
safe paddling,
& lots of fun!*



Download & Play Now!



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Program recognizes *outstanding*

The ACA launched its Instructor of the Month program six years ago as a way to recognize certified instructors who are making significant strides in their communities and to the sport of paddling overall. Here's a look back at a few previous honorees.

August 2012

Becky Harger



Becky Harger has loved the water all her life and began participating in water sports as a youngster in Louisiana. After retiring from a successful career in Land Developing, she moved to Pensacola Beach. A new passion was born when she was introduced to stand up Paddling by her friend and mentor, Yancy Spencer III, who was one of the pioneers for Gulf Coast Paddle Boarding. After stand up paddling for four years, she decided to attend the ACA SUP certification course. At 60-years-old Becky became the first ACA certified stand up paddle instructor in the Florida Panhandle. Since then she has formed Water Warrior, LLC and has passed on her passion to hundreds of students from all over the world.

March 2013

Chuck Conley

Chuck Conley lives in Virginia Beach and is involved in many aspects of paddling. Competitive paddling is his passion, and he races surf skis, kayaks and outrigger canoes. He sells Stellar surf skis and kayaks, and he is an ACA Level 4 Coastal Kayak instructor as well as a Level 3 Surf Kayak instructor and Level 2 Surf Kayak Instructor Trainer. Chuck has been an eco-tour guide and guide trainer for almost 20 years. He is also the organizer for the Hampton Roads Kayak Meet-up Group. In 2011 Chuck started Team River Runner-Virginia Beach, a nonprofit organization that takes wounded warriors and their family members paddling. It has become his passion and he feels it is some of the most important work he has ever done. TRR-VB has recently become a Paralympic Sport Club which will help it reach an even larger population of adaptive paddlers.



July 2014

Omar Ramos



Omar Ramos is an ACA SUP and Coastal Kayak Instructor from Gurabo, Puerto Rico. Omar was introduced to paddling at the young age of 7 through the Boy Scouts of America. He has been hooked on paddling ever since, meeting and paddling with his mentors: Gil Hidalgo, Jose Gonzalez, and Keith Keller (also esteemed ACA Instructors). Omar started a company called Paddle Paradise Puerto Rico, through which he provides quality paddling educational programs for the people of Puerto Rico. He has made it his mission to spread his passion for paddle-sports as well as provide healthy, fun, and safe paddling experiences.

instructors

March 2015

C.C. Williams

Charles “C.C.” Williams, a native of Fort Mill, South Carolina, is passionate about teaching and learning through the outdoors. A paddler and ACA instructor since 2005, he has spent the past several 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, Level 4: Swiftwater Rescue Instructor, Level 3: River Kayak Instructor, and Level 2: Essentials of River Kayaking Instructor Trainer Candidate. C.C. continues to renew and broaden his ACA instructor certifications because they help him to “provide the best possible learning experience for students to develop new skills and overcome challenges.”



December 2016

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. 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.”

If you know a certified instructor deserving of recognition, [nominate](#) him or her today!

Filming begins for ACA's Web TV series for kids

In August, filming began for the ACA's Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series, a project funded through a grant administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series caters to beginning youth paddlers and their parents in an effort to focus their recreational boating career in a safe direction. The goal of the series is to provide critical and immediate information to aid in making smarter decisions and stay safe on the water. The series will be distributed using grassroots initiatives and social media outlets, which are known to be extremely popular among the youth of today.

The project is be two-pronged to address age and developmental learning styles of youth. The project will produce:

Video Series 1: Children 5-10 years of age and parents

1. 20 focused informational video episodes
2. 30 to 60 seconds in length
3. Each episode will contain on-screen text for better use on social media
4. 5-question voluntary survey at end of each episode

Video Series 2: Youth 11-17 years of age

1. 40 focused and in-depth informational and skills-based episodes
2. 1 to 3 minutes in length
3. Each episode will contain on-screen text for better use on social media
4. 5-question voluntary survey at end of each episode

To ensure the success, the ACA partnered with [Heliconia Press](#) on this project. With over 30 paddlesport instructional books and DVDs to their name, Heliconia has been a leader of paddlesports productions for over 15 years. Recognizing that no matter how good a video is, its value is directly related to the number of targeted viewers that it reaches; Heliconia has developed the largest social media network in the paddlesports industry.

The Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series will be open for public access immediately upon completion and will encourage viewing on several media outlets including the Heliconia site, YouTube, the ACA home page. Additionally, it will be accessible to anyone to share from one social media platform to another.

The Paddle Smart Web TV Series which was completed during the 2016 grant cycle and was geared towards adults saw over 300,000 views in the first four months of publication. The Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series will have similar success and will be preserved through electronic files within the USCG paddlesport media archives. These archives will provide a legacy of safety messages which will be accessible and useful for many organizations for years to come.



ADAPTIVE



This CAN Happen

*By Kevin Carr, Chosen Valley, LLC
(Chosen Valley Creating Ability & Chosen Valley Canoe Accessories)*



Have you ever tried to balance in a kayak without using your core? Without being able to adjust the position of your body with the use of your trunk muscles, maintaining your balance (and remaining dry) becomes more challenging. For paddlers whose core stability is impacted by physical disability, the challenge of achieving and maintaining balance on the water can be daunting.

We can achieve stability of the core with adapted seating, but sometimes it's also helpful to stabilize the kayak itself – and outriggers are one way to do that. They behave like training wheels, making a watercraft more stable. However, outriggers will NOT prevent an upset. Seeing outriggers on a kayak gives a sense that the kayak is now un-tippable, and there are even folks out there saying such things. It's not true. On top of that, as much as they enhance stability, they can hinder standard rescue techniques if a rescue is needed. In this article, we will cover a few pointers for both stability and enhanced rescue.

Stability

Many factors contribute to stability on the water. Some are universal: design and shape of the hull; size and weight distribution of the paddler; weight of added gear and stowage location; and water conditions. We also know that the height of the paddler in the kayak, relative to the bottom, has a direct impact on stability. As the paddler's center of gravity rises, the watercraft becomes less stable.

In adaptive paddling, where skin protection is of utmost importance, the addition of cushioning to protect the skin can have a detrimental effect on stability. Outriggers can counter that effect, but they also require adjustments to optimize performance. This may involve altering the distance of the outrigger from the hull (farther out=more stable) and the height of the outriggers relative to the water surface (50% in the water is more stable than being above the water). Conditions can also contribute to instability: obstructions in or under the water, current, boat wake and wave action can all cause a disruption in balance that can be magnified by the outrigger's distance from the hull – many times unexpectedly.

Note: Knowing that the potential to overturn exists, the paddler must take steps to learn and become proficient at exiting an overturned adapted kayak. This is a skill that can be learned and practiced – and being able to do it enhances the paddler's security on the water. These techniques will be discussed in greater detail in an upcoming article.

(Continued on page 27)



Rescue

Once an outrigger-equipped kayak has flipped, the stability that was a benefit in the upright position can become a challenge for rescue. Trying to right the kayak with standard techniques is nearly impossible. But there is a simpler way. The series of photos accompanying this article shows how.

By having the paddler place their weight on the nearest outrigger, the boat will begin to roll easily and the off-side outrigger will rise up out of the water. As the off-side outrigger approaches its peak, the paddler grabs the arm of the outrigger with one hand to control the descent (otherwise it could come down on the paddler's head). This technique can also be used by a rescuer from their boat. It is amazingly simple, and empties most of the water from the cockpit in the process.

If the paddler is able to self-rescue (which is unlikely, given the circumstance), the outriggers can be used like a paddle float to assist in re-entry. If the scoop rescue must be used, the rescuer must first slide the outrigger that will be on the water side of the kayak

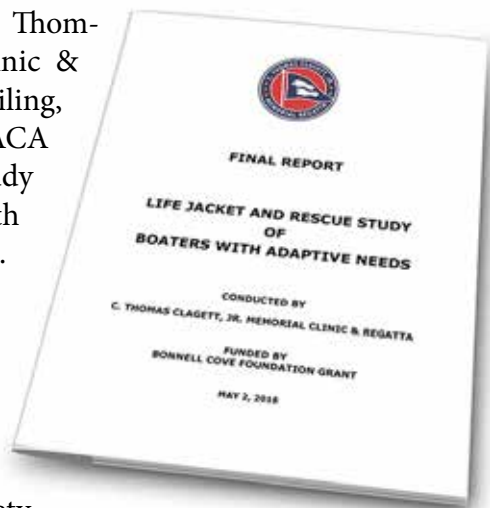
in – placing it as close to the hull as possible. It could also be removed, but that creates another free-floating item to be tracked and managed. Once the kayak is on its side, the airborne outrigger can be used as a stabilizing grab point for the rescuer, if the paddler doesn't need assistance floating back into the cockpit.

As is the case with all techniques, they are best learned hands-on. If you regularly work with paddlers in outriggered watercraft, or paddle one yourself, spend some time in a pool or controlled environment practicing these methods and experimenting with new ones. In addition, I'll be presenting on this topic at the Adaptive Paddling Summit being held November 2-4 at Weeki Wachee State Park in Florida. We will be getting wet and brainstorming techniques – so it will be a wonderful opportunity to learn, practice and share. Until then, please feel free to share any techniques you have developed with me or any other AP IT. We'd love to hear your thoughts.

These are exciting times for adaptive paddlesports – come along and enjoy the journey.

Life jacket, rescue study of boaters with adaptive needs

In partnership with the C. Thomas Clagett Jr. Memorial Clinic & Regatta, US Rowing, US Sailing, and US Powerboating, the ACA assisted in a multi-year study on life jackets for people with various physical abilities. This multi-year study and corresponding report was funded by a grant from the Bonnell Cove Foundation.



The study touches on several facets of life jacket safety, both for able-bodied and disabled persons. Results from the study include a discussion on the effect of body shape on life jacket safety and usability. The study also makes recommendations for those persons or organizations interested in educating themselves on key factors to consider when purchasing a life jacket.

In addition to life jacket performance data on people of various physical abilities, rescue techniques were shared between sailing, powerboating and paddling.

The [full study](#) is available online.



WEAR A LIFEJACKET



1. PROS WEAR IT!

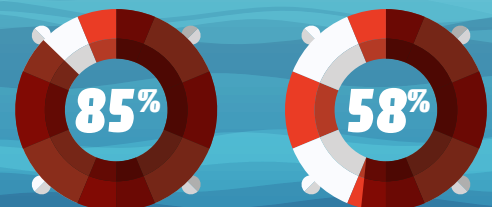
The first sign of a rookie paddler is someone who isn't wearing their lifejacket. Experienced paddlers wear their lifejacket every single time they are out on the water.

2. THE RIGHT FIT

Adjust your lifejacket so it's snug and comfortable. Today's lifejackets come in many sizes, colors, and designs for children, women, and men.

3. DON'T BE A STATISTIC

85% percent of fatal canoeing accidents and 48% of kayak fatalities involve people who weren't wearing a lifejacket. Don't tempt the odds!



Printed under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Funds, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

NRS System offers tough, adjustable frame for adaptive paddling

By Marcel Bieg, Western States Outreach Director and Grant Manager



The NRS frame system is known in the industry as one of the toughest and most adjustable raft frames on the market. With the combination of nearly indestructible aluminum pipe and NRS LoPros, the possibilities are endless. All that's needed is a pipe cutter, drill, pipe insulation for padding and some creative thinking to build a very functional and supportive adaptation for nearly any craft.

The frames are incredibly strong, reasonably priced and not overly heavy. We have used them for whitewater raft frame adaptations for both paddle rafts and oar frames. We have built seats onto SUPs and we have used the frames to make C-seats for sit on top kayaks which can be a challenging craft to adapt.



To make things even easier, NRS has all types of additions and accessories, including high and low back seats, seat mounts, end caps, foot and high bars to name a few. We have also used cutting boards mounted to the seat mount to provide a flat working area to build a C-seat.

I will be presenting at the ACA's 2018 Adaptive Paddling Summit on how to open the world of rafting to people with disabilities and take an in depth look into how to use these frame parts to achieve your goals.



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 log in for ACA
member pricing!*



Adaptive Paddling Summit

hosted by Adaptive Expeditions

Weeki Wachee State Park
Spring Hill, Florida
November 2-4, 2018

AmericanCanoe.org/AdaptiveSummit



The ACA, in partnership with [Adaptive Expeditions](http://AdaptiveExpeditions), will host the second [Adaptive Paddling Summit](http://AdaptivePaddlingSummit) November 2-4, 2018, in Weeki Wachee, Florida.

This three-day event a unique opportunity for participants to learn about cutting-edge instructional methods for adaptive paddlesports education and coaching, check out new equipment offerings, watch manufacturer demos, attend fun educational clinics, take part in on-water activities, and much more.

Summit organizers are also finalizing details on several pre- and post-conference events. These offerings may include ACA skills classes, assessments, certifications and endorsements to further support the growth of the adaptive paddling community.

Registration will be available online this summer. For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org/Adaptive Summit](http://www.americancanoe.org/Adaptive_Summit).

Highlights for 2018:

- Exciting on-water and classroom events for paddlers of all levels
- High quality educational sessions
- Paralympic opportunities in paracanoe
- New Adaptation Modules for Whitewater Rafting, Kayak Fishing, Surf Ski, Stand Up Paddleboarding, Wave Ski
- The latest in adaptive equipment demonstrations
- New ACA Advanced Paddling Curriculum Updates for Advanced “Try-It-Zone” time where participants will get hands-on with the latest adaptive paddling equipment

Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

September 20-23

[Adaptive Paddling Workshop](#)
Big Bay, Michigan

October 5-7

[ParaCanoeing World Conference](#)
Stockholm, Sweden

November 2-4

Adaptive Paddling Summit
Spring Hill, Florida

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





NEWS NEAR YOU



Nominations open November 1 for State Director program

In 2014, the ACA kicked off the [State Director Program](#). Since that time, this volunteer-based program has provided funding and support for a variety of state projects ranging from getting schoolkids out on the water for the very first time to furnishing safety signage for dangerous sections of whitewater rivers.

New paddlesport competitions for youth and adults have been started, and paddlers have had local and state representation for policy issues that affect them. The ACA State Directors and their Executive Council members provide the National Office with the necessary information to enable ACA to arrange support for the issues, projects, and events that affect paddlers in your state.



If you are passionate about paddling and want to be directly involved in promoting paddlesports and the ACA in your state, consider nominating yourself for your State Director or an Executive Council position.

Online nominations will open November 1, 2018!

Visit the ACA website for more information about the [ACA State Director Program](#).

State by State



Louisiana

After years of careful planning, a new phase of [The Teche Project](#) has begun with the installation of a paddling kiosk at a floating dock in the town of Breaux Bridge, LA, along Bayou Teche in southwestern Louisiana. Additional kiosks will soon be installed at the other floating docks in towns that line the bayou.

As the Tech Project has explained, “In 2009, with community support, The Teche Project launched a grassroots campaign to restore Bayou Teche as the focal point of the towns through which it flows. The goal has been to turn the 135-miles of the Teche and the Lower Atchafalaya Rivers into destinations for residents and visitors alike through community-based initiatives. This vision combines three distinct approaches. To enrich, as it improves the over-all ecological health of the Teche. To explore and enhance boaters’ experiences on the Bayou Teche National Water Trail, by investing in recreation infrastructure. And to embrace, to leverage the Bayou Teche Water Trail’s assets for bayou-side community development.

Understanding the connection between economic development and a clean environment is a critical component in growing the nature-based economy designed in the Teche Renaissance vision. Good water quality and diverse wildlife indicate a healthy bayou, and a healthy community. It demonstrates a community's values and priorities, revealing a quality of life that makes locals want to stay home and that attracts a workforce and their families to move here.”

In related news, Conni Castille, the executive director of The Teche Project is running for a seat on the City Council of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

Ben Sandmel, LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

New Mexico

On July 21, 2018, Kayak New Mexico Inc. teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Albuquerque's Boy Scout Troop 444 to clean up Cochiti Lake. Twenty-five volunteers (12 Boy Scouts including their leaders, 1 adaptive paddling participant, a mother and brother of an adaptive paddling participant, 8 members of the New Mexico paddling community, and 3 Kayak New Mexico Inc. board members) collected 1,291 pounds of trash. The largest items collected include 16 tires, two metal drums, a wood pallet, a metal handrail bar, and a refrigerator.

Plastics, aluminum, and glass totaling 289 pounds were sorted and later taken to a recycling center. One of the metal drums collected will be “recycled” by using it as a garbage can at the group campsite.



Broken Trail Brewery & Distillery of Albuquerque, N.M., donated grain sacks for the collection of trash that was not recyclable. The grain sacks are strong, far better than plastic bags, and we “recycled” something Broken Trail Brewery & Distillery no longer needed!

The Army Corps of Engineers graciously provided free use of their group campsite for the entire weekend for all volunteers. Natural Resources Specialist Trevor Wallin and Juan Sanchez piloted the USACE Ranger boat and heaved all trash from volunteers onto the boat. Once filled, the boat was brought to the staging area for sorting by more volunteers. Two trips were needed by Wallin and Sanchez to carry all the trash back to the staging area. An Army Corps of Engineers front loader was then used to take non-recyclable trash from the staging area.

Robert Levin, NmStateDirector@americancanoe.net

(Continued on page 35)



COCHITI LAKE CLEANUP	
07-21-2018	
Type	Pounds
Plastics & Aluminum	226
Glass 63	
Tires (16)	608
Pallet (wood)	50
Refrigerator	75
Metal Drum	25
Crushed Metal Drum	38
Handrail Bar	45
Trash	161
Total Pounds Collected	1,291
# Volunteers	25
Total Volunteer Hours	177



Pennsylvania

Summer in South Western PA is wonderful! Rafting in Ohio pyle has been a perfect water year. Winter pool sessions have paid off for young boaters with successful first-time rolls in moving water on the Lower Youghiogheny. Families are finding adventure rafting on gorgeous memorable days with puffy clouds that look like turtles on the Middle Yough.



Swiftwater Rescue Clinics are taking place on the Cheat Narrows with new members learning rescue techniques with legends and dedicated assistant instructors. Stand up paddling on three rivers the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio at the same time is always incredible with Heinz Field and the city skyline of Pittsburgh presenting an awesome backdrop.

Pennsylvania is fantastic for paddlers. Make a trip to get wet.

Steve Barber, PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

North Carolina

The ACA North Carolina, led by Assistant State Director Tom Womble, teamed up with Carolina Canoe Club – a Paddle America Club – during CCC’s annual Week of Rivers, and Swain Clean in July to clean up a section of the Tuckaseegee River in Bryson City. Twenty-four volunteers in the water and 10 or so more on land provided by Swain Clean worked to remove over 150 bags of trash from the river. In addition to the bags of trash, the volunteers pulled out 8 tires; a bowling ball; enough boots, flip flops, sandals and crocs to open a used-shoe store; an ottoman; and a commercial ice maker. This was all done in a four-hour period in an area of about 100 square yards.

The members of Carolina Canoe Club did not stop there with their community work. Assistant State Director Tom Womble also spearheaded an initiative to collect canned goods for ACA Member and former Olympian Wayne Dickert’s Restoration House. This food drive collected over \$7000 in cash and a truckload of food for Dickert’s Restoration House. The CCC felt it was important to give back to the community where they love to come and spend their time playing on the rivers.

Doug Stager, NcStateDirector@americancanoe.net





South Carolina

1. The Foothills Paddling club held the annual Chattooga Fest in May 2018 and reported it to be an excellent event. The annual event promotes the environmental and outdoor recreational use of white-water rivers. This festival celebrates the Chattooga River with paddling, adventure runs, concerts, and guided hikes. More information can be found at [2018 Chattooga Fest - Foothills Paddling Club](#).
2. Spirit of the River 2018 was held at Givhans Ferry State Park on August 18, 2018. This year's event featured opportunities to paddle or tube the beautiful main stem of the Edisto River, kayak clinics, music, food, fun, and an opportunity to learn about the ongoing process of developing a Water Plan for the Edisto watershed – on the way to creating a State Water Plan – and how we, as stakeholders, can have a voice in shaping those plans.
3. Charleston County Parks Outdoor Recreation Program conducted another successful year of camp programs which introduces kids to various paddle-sports. ACA-certified instructors guide this program to help develop children's appreciation for paddling.
4. ACA State Director Jeff Atkins recently led paddling programs in Pittsburgh and an L3 Coastal Kayak Instructor Development Workshop in Maryland as a guest instructor trainer.
5. South Carolina State Parks is sending park rangers to take ACA training courses through the coordination of the SC ACA State Director and the State Park's Program Coordinators.

6. Reminder: The L1/L2 Instructor Update and Symposium in Rock Hill, South Carolina, takes place September 15-16, 2018. This will be the second symposium designed to address the specific needs of Level 1 & Level 2 Kayak, Canoe, SUP, and Rescue instructors. For more information and the register, please visit www.americancanoe.org/events/Event-Details.aspx?id=1040656&group.
7. SC State Director was approached to develop a paddling team to provide input to the town of Great Falls, S.C., on how to improve tourism through paddling in the town. The town is located on the Catawaba River System and its lakes.

Jeff Atkins, ScStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Wisconsin

On July 21-22, 59 vets and family members descended on the Wisconsin River at the Wausau Whitewater Park to get some fun, splashes, and smiles with Team River Runner. At no cost to the vets, 8 hours of instruction and safe whitewater fun was had. The success of the event is due in large part to the 70 volunteers who showed up to help, Wisconsin Public Service who opened the dam, and a number of local businesses that fed the attendees over the 48 hours they were on site. Team River Runner chapters from Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio were in attendance.

Tom Schrader, WiStateDirector@americancanoe.net



MEMBERSHIP



Zoar Outdoor photo

Update Your Wardrobe!!

Kids shouldn't be the only ones getting brand-new clothing this season. Treat yourself to some ACA logo merchandise!

The eStore offers a wide selection of ACA logo clothing, from caps and vests to hoodies and sweatshirts.

[Click here](#) to go shopping today.



www.americancanoe.org/eStore

First Descent LLC

The ACA welcomes FD Outdoors as one of its newest members.

FD Outdoors specializes in kayak instruction, tours and expeditions as well as Wilderness First Aid, CPR and, of course, fun. Their mission is to provide the highest quality training / education with top flight instructors and equipment.

For more information, please visit www.fdoutdoors.com.



**Find an ACA outfitter near you
using the convenient [search tool](#) on our website!**

Give the Gift of an ACA Membership



Give your paddling friend or family member an ACA Gift Membership so they can support safe, enjoyable paddling and protection of America's recreational waterways.

The ACA is the nation's oldest paddlesports organization. Thanks to the support of our members, we have been making the world a better place to paddle since 1880!

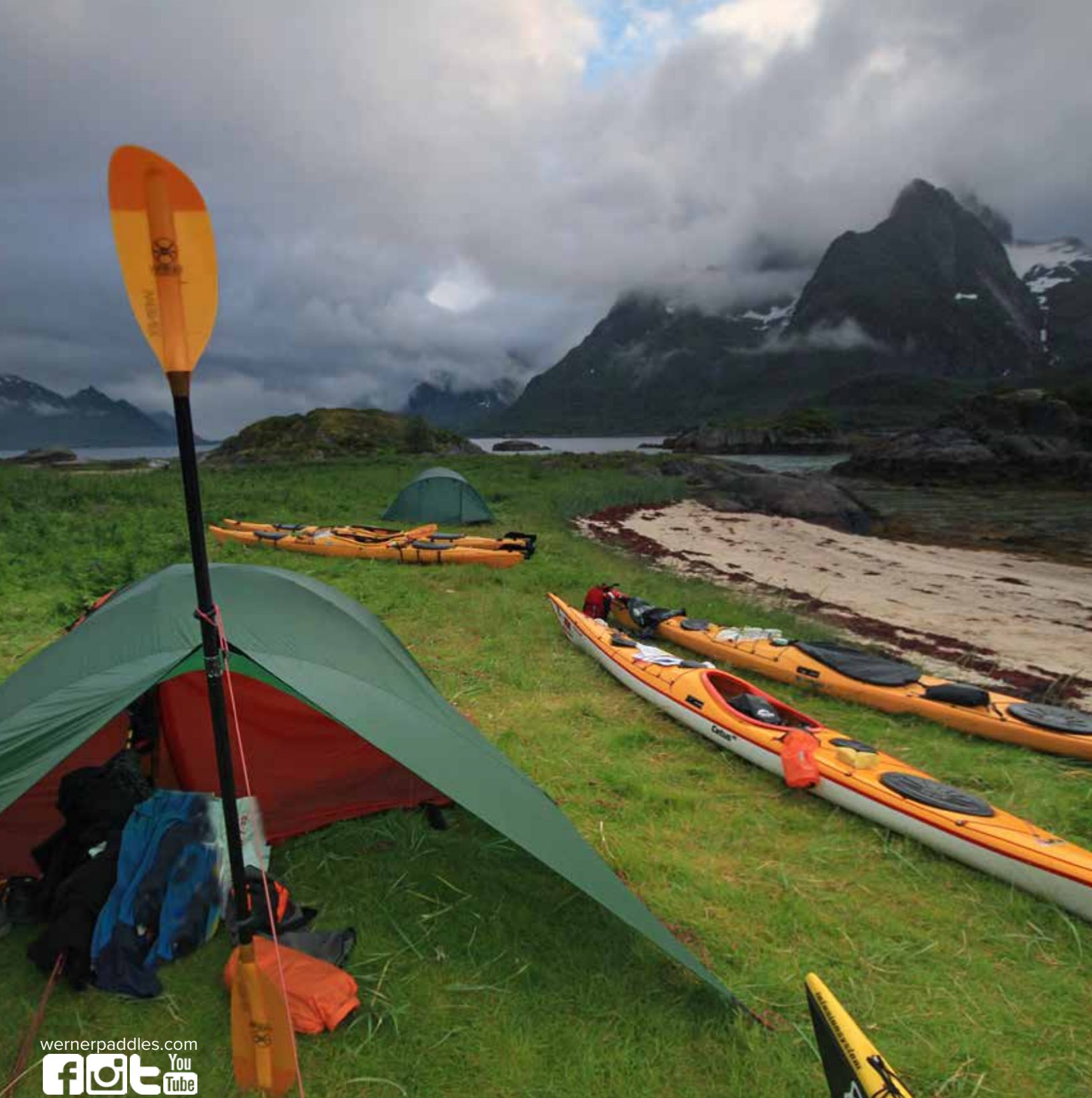
As an ACA member, your gift recipient will enjoy the following benefits:

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- [Public Policy](#) representation
- Free [Rapid Media](#) subscription
- Reduced admission to thousands of ACA sanctioned [events](#) and races each year
- [Pro Deals](#) for certified instructors
- Bimonthly [Paddle](#) eMagazine featuring local, regional, and national paddlesport issues
- [Members only discounts](#)
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- And [more!](#)

It's easy to give an ACA Gift Membership using our safe and secure [online form](#). Or, if you prefer, you can make your gift by mail or phone:

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Fredericksburg, VA 22401
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When you purchase a Werner Paddle you are helping to support our non-profit partners through Werner's Healthy Waters program. Healthy Waters, helping to protect the places we all paddle.



Member Photo *of the* Month



ACA's State Director of Puerto Rico, Omar Ramos, continually encourages his groups to clean up their local waterways.

Send us your photos!
We'd like to showcase your outdoor adventures. Please send photos (along with a brief description) to ACA Paddle eMagazine Editor Kimberly Jenkins at kjenkins@americancanoe.org for a chance to be featured.



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The New York Times



CANOE & KAYAK

COMPETITION



Marsh Jones named chair of ACA Competition Council



The ACA is excited to announce that Marsh Jones, of New Brighton, Minnesota, has been elected chair of the ACA's [Competition Council](#) and now serves as the primary liaison on the Board of Directors for all competitive paddlesports disciplines.

For the past 10 years, Marsh has directed youth paddlesports programs in Minnesota, introducing young paddlers to both the marathon and sprint disciplines. Marsh also has an extensive background in event management, officiating and competing in sailboat, bicycle and cross-country ski racing as well as canoe and kayak.

“In addition to bringing a local, national and international competitive perspective to the board, Marsh also has extensive professional experience in the information technology field,” said Peter Sloan, ACA Board President. “We are glad that he has joined the ACA’s leadership team, especially as athletes are preparing to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.”

“I’m pleased to have the opportunity to help showcase the competitive side of our sports to the whole of the ACA. I’m looking forward to a better understanding of all aspects of the ACA and how we can help further ACA’s vision and mission for all paddlers,” said Jones.

Competition Council

The Competition Council Board is an advisory group to the Board of Directors of the ACA and meets twice a calendar year. This council is made up of volunteers who possess broad experience in the various disciplines of competitive paddling and who are passionate about the sport.

All ACA Racing Athletes, Families, Coaches & Officials are defacto members of the council but the Competition Council Board is the actual group of elected individuals who do the committee work, make decisions for the different disciplines, and report to the ACA Board of Directors.

The Council is coordinated by an Executive Committee:

Chair: Marsh Jones - Sprint
Vice Chair: Mike Shandroff - Outrigger
Secretary: Risa Shimoda - Freestyle

Sage Donnelly wins **gold medal** in Extreme Slalom World Cup



Sage Donnelly of Carson City, Nevada, won the gold medal in the first International Canoe Federation (ICF) World Cup Extreme Slalom Race in Liptovsky, Slovakia, this summer.

Her goal is to go to the 2020 Olympic Games. In the meantime, her plans are to “keep training hard in [canoe and kayak], working hard, racing well, and having fun.”

Learn more about Sage in [this video](#).



Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

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

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| September 6-9 | <u>2018 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships</u>
Prado Vila Verda, Portugal |
| September 13-16 | <u>COPAC Sprint Pan American Championships</u>
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada |
| September 22-23 | <u>Fiddler's Elbow Canoe/Kayak Slalom</u>
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania |
| October 6-7 | <u>Slalom USA National Championships</u>
Dickerson, Maryland |
| October 11-13 | <u>Georgia Cup</u>
Saint Simons Island, Georgia |
| October 27 | <u>Cascade Distance Race</u>
Bothell, Washington |
| May 26, 2019 | <u>California River Quest</u>
Redding, California |

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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.

INTERNATIONAL



ISKES photo

Educators encouraged to participate in INTERNATIONAL SEA KAYAKING SYMPOSIUM

The second [International Sea Kayaking Educators Symposium](#) is being held November 11-15, 2018, at Wilsons Promontory National Park. This event brings together outdoor adventure educators from around the world who value both the sea and sea kayaking for their unique and powerful learning potential.



is to expand instructor openness to new ideas by foster several ways of teaching challenging topics to an ever-diversifying set of students.

Participants will be able to participate in numerous activities, presentations and workshops, with a mix of standard, extended and half-day sessions on both land and water. These presentations will be from an array of speakers who will be guided by the two themes: coastings and crossings.

In *ACA Teaching Theory, Unique On-water Initiatives for Skills Development*, Bieg will apply the ACA's teaching model and theory in a real on-water venue. Through land and on-water games, initiatives and challenges, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how the ACA teaching model works specifically to sea kayak education. The presentation will use hands-on games and initiatives to help work through the educational process in several on-water skills.



Marcel Bieg, Western States Outreach Director and Grant Manager, will be in attendance to represent the ACA as well as give two presentations.

In *ACA Teaching Theory, Games, Initiatives and Fun*, Bieg will look at the educational structure of the ACA while focusing on the teaching model and theory that the ACA uses for curriculum development. He will discuss the reasoning behind the teaching model and how it is applied specifically to sea kayak education.

The presentation will use several land-based games, ice breakers, initiatives and team work trials to help with the educational process. The goal of the presentation

The goal of the presentation is to expand instructor openness to new ideas by fostering several ways of teaching challenging on water hard skills to an ever-diversifying set of students.

In both presentations, hands-on activities will require participation in a fun, supportive and emotionally safe environment. There will also be opportunities to discuss new ideas and potentially create a personalized way to teach a topic or skill. Ideally all participants will take away something to strengthen their own teaching style and curriculum.

For more information about the symposium, please visit www.iskes.org. Also, be sure to check out [this video](#) from the organizers.





BELGIUM TO HOST ACA EUROPE SYMPOSIUM

The ACA's 9th annual Europe Paddlesports Symposium will be held October 26-28, in Belgium.

In addition to the European Division's 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.

For more details, please visit www.aca-europe.org/index.php/en/.



Paddling History

Which former ACA President is shown here?



Be the first to email the correct answer to kjenkins@americancanoe.org and win some paddler swag.

Hint: www.americancanoe.org/History

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

*Making the World a Better Place to Paddle!
Since 1880.*



www.americancanoe.org

