

# PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue, Volume 2, Issue 4, July 2016

***Instructors of the Month  
for June & July***

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

***Rafting Oregon's  
Rogue River***

***Canoeing Fairforest  
Creek, South Carolina***

# 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

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Coastal Kayak - John Browning (WI)  
Canoe Sailing - Larry Haff (MA)  
Surf Kayak - Nigel Law (GA)

## Cover photo

Photographer: [Nathaniel Wilson](#)

## Follow us on...



# Meet Your ACA Staff



**Wade Blackwood**  
Executive Director

“Off the coast of Block Island, RI on the Hōkūle‘a.”



**Christopher Stec**  
Chief Operating Officer

“The confluence of the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers in Virginia.”



**Candy Patten**  
Insurance Coordinator

“Northern Italy.”

Where is your favorite place  
(in the whole wide world)  
to enjoy the great outdoors?



**Kelsey Bracewell**  
SEI Coordinator

“Western North Carolina.”



**Dave Burden**  
International Paddlesports  
Ambassador

“China.”



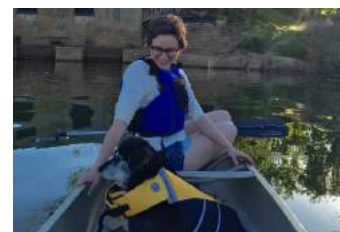
**Amy Ellis**  
State Director/Membership  
Coordinator

“The Red River Gorge in the Daniel Boone National Forest”



**Barbara Bendele**  
Office Manager

“Oak Openings Preserve Metropark near Toledo, Ohio.”



**Catharine Lloyd**  
Communications Coordinator

“Riding my bike alongside the Seine in Paris, France.”



**Louis Metzger**  
Public Policy Chief

“Newfoundland.”



**Katie Hansen**  
Membership Coordinator

“My parents’ farm in Virginia!”



**Marcel Bieg**  
Western States Outreach  
Director & Grant Manager

“Anywhere and everywhere there is water!”



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

“Oahu, Hawaii.”

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

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Photo by Larry Gioia

# STEWARDSHIP



Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission has incorporated Paddle Green Bags into their program. Photo by Joshua Hall.

# 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](http://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](http://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 here:

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



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

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

# Paddle Green Spotlight:

## College of Life Foundation Estero, Florida



**“We are pleased to report that the Lee County project led by Wanda Wooten is now complete. The Estero River east of US 41 is open for recreation. Brandy and I paddled with Wanda to see the river and were both amazed at the difference! With removal of the invasive Brazilian Pepper plants along the bank, the river is much wider. This allows paddlers a safer passage along the river where many areas were once single file.**

**Thank you to Lee County and the Village of Estero for completing this project! In many areas, we noticed native vegetation (Mangroves, Royal Palm) along the banks. These native plants will now be able to thrive with the removal of the Brazilian Pepper.**

**Our next phase of our project includes painting/cleaning the graffiti covered Seminole Railroad Bridge. Once the bridge is painted, we will put together a team of volunteers to conduct a trash pick-up of the entire 7 miles of the Estero River.”**

**-Peg Phillips, Florida ACA State Director**

**To learn more about organizing a clean up in your area, please visit:**

**[www.americancanoe.org/streamtosea](http://www.americancanoe.org/streamtosea)**



# Recent Paddle Green Policy Action

## Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)


The ACA continues to advocate for full funding of the LWCF through permanent appropriations. The ACA is working with the LWCF Coalition to urge the Senate to take action.

Since 2010, the ACA organized local human-powered recreation organizations from California, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Montana to communicate their support directly to their respective Senators.

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



**43%**  
of paddling  
happens on  
public lands



Find a job you love

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

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## The ACA Career Center Website is now better than ever!

Use it as a one-stop-shop to find awesome jobs all over the country at places like REI, the U.S. National Whitewater Center, and more. You can even sign up for email notifications so you know when new jobs get posted to the site!

Visit [www.americancanoe.org/employment](http://www.americancanoe.org/employment) to find your dream job in the outdoor recreation industry today.



## Margo Pellegrino's Clean Water Paddle is YOUR Clean Water Paddle

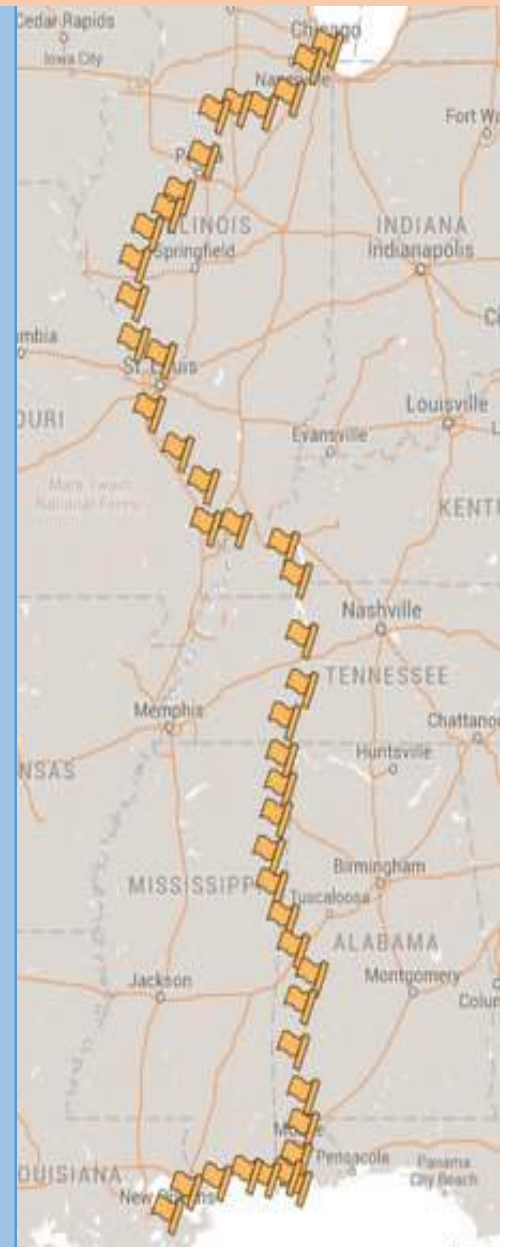
Chicago → New Orleans  
August - September  
**JOIN THE PADDLE TODAY!**

This summer, Margo will work with environmental allies to draw attention to issues impacting our inland waterways and ocean. At community and media events they will discuss why clean water, and the people whose jobs and health depend on it, should be a top issue for the United States in this most important election year. Your support and help is crucial to the paddle's mission.

**Blue Frontier's Ocean Explorer Margo Pellegrino will paddle from Chicago to New Orleans, the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of her 2 year journey from the Big Apple to the Big Easy.**

*Here's how you can help make Margo's clean water paddle a huge success!*

- Margo and her crew will make **45-55 stops** along this extraordinary paddle route - **What individuals and organizations do you know along this route?**
- The paddle will have a **robust social media** presence that will include frequent posts on Facebook, Twitter, Periscope, Margo's blog, and YouTube/Vimeo - **Follow and repost Margo's updates:**
  - **Blog** - <https://paddle4blue.wordpress.com>
  - **Facebook** - The Big Apple to the Big Easy
  - **Twitter** - @Slowpaddler
- Margo and the crew will **engage and mobilize more than 1,000 people** including: paddlers; local conservation and clean water organizations; outdoor enthusiasts; and tourism offices, businesses and municipal leaders who care about the importance of a **clean waterways – clean ocean economy**
  - **Will you join the paddle for part of the trip?**
  - **Are you with an organization or business that wants to host Margo and/or participate in an event along the way?**
  - **Can you help the paddle with a contribution or sponsorship?**
- The team will hold at least **25 media events**
  - **Do you have media contacts along this route?**
  - **If you live along the route, what are the most important issues facing your part of this iconic inland waterway?**



### CONTACTS:

Margo Pellegrino, Paddler – [outriggerone@mac.com](mailto:outriggerone@mac.com) OR 609-678-6159

Lauren Townsend - Development & Communications – [lauren@bluefront.org](mailto:lauren@bluefront.org) OR 215-939-7621

Blue Frontier – [info@bluefront.org](mailto:info@bluefront.org) OR 202-387-8030

# EDUCATION





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

Do you know an instructor who deserves recognition?

[Nominate them today!](#)

## June Instructor of the Month - Gerry James

*ACA:* What aspect of paddling is the most exciting and engaging to you? Approximately how much of your time do you dedicate to paddling (or thinking/training/dreaming about paddling)?

*James:* For me it is the exhilaration of liquid shredding up and down a waterway propelled by my own locomotion, all whilst being in commune with mother nature and fellow paddlers. When I am out paddling, my worries melt always as I become one with my board and transform into a single, graceful, efficient unit. (At least that is how it seems to me. I could look like a goof out there!)

I probably spend around 15 - 30+ hours on the water a week; touring, training, and working on my skills and infinite amounts of time dreaming about paddling. This summer my organization is going start focusing even more on promoting paddling safety and skills across Kentucky. I see a ton of people paddling, but often with lifejackets, proper knowledge of water hazards, etc., and I want to help educate the public. I also want to help people understand that SUP isn't something just relegated for the Floridian coasts, it's an activity

we can do on our 50,000+ miles of waterways in Kentucky.

*ACA:* Can you please describe your activities with the Explore Kentucky Initiative?

*James:* I started the [Explore Kentucky](#) project my senior year of college, in 2013, in an effort



to motivate Kentuckians and visitors to the Commonwealth to share their adventures and discover in a collective manner the many natural beauties that Kentucky offers. Fast forward to 2016, and we have over 30,000 followers on Instagram and we are now an organization (working towards nonprofit status) that is dedicated to inspiring active lifestyles fueled by adventures in Kentucky's outdoors.

We have hosted rock climbing clinics, hiking & photography workshops, guided tours, and we continue to promote adventure tourism in Kentucky. My goal as director is to host events, tell stories, and help promote a progressive, adventurous, and modern view of Kentucky.

ACA: Can you please describe your participation in the recent Cincinnati to Louisville Voyager trip?

Well, not only did we complete it, but we did the 137 miles in less than 30 hours. I have to tell you it was one of the most grueling feats and one of the most epic odysseys have ever

embarked on in my life. We left Cincinnati on Saturday at 8:30 A.M and arrived back in Louisville on Sunday around 12:30 PM. This trip was special to me as it was a chance to explore our beautiful country in an old school way, connect with the "Good River" (Ohio means "Good River" in Iroquois), and also advocate for an Ohio River narrative beyond it just being known as a commercial waterway, but as something so full of life, vibrancy, adventure, and wonder.

I want to give thanks to my crew members: David Wicks's sharp wit, tunes, and guidance kept me going; Kimberley Kneppshield Hillerich of Skipping Fish Boat School Swedish Fish provided nourishment along with her uplifting spirit, leadership, and strong paddle stroke; Chris Williams and Jackson Gahl for their several hours of being our steersmen; Mitch Larsen for his awesome job being our skipper when we could use our sail; Jim Metz for his tireless paddling; and the other David for his tree knowledge and having the best tall tales!



# July Instructor of the Month - Ge Wu

*ACA:* What aspect of paddling is the most exciting and engaging to you? Approximately how much of your time do you dedicate to paddling (or thinking/training/dreaming about paddling)?

*Wu:* Competing, whether kayak polo or kayak racing or dragon boating, gives me the most pleasure and makes me feel most at ease. It helps me test my skills and abilities, but also gives me the opportunities to observe and learn from other fellow paddlers. Hanging out and having a good time with these awesome and like-minded people are priceless to me. When not competing or training for competitions, my time is divided between designing lessons plans, kayaking programs, teaching kayak polo and giving ACA courses in China. I absolutely enjoy teaching and passing on the skills and knowledge to people from all walks of life, it's such a joy and fulfillment.

I used to work at 9-5 office jobs, now I feel so lucky to be able to make kayaking my full time job and get to travel to many beautiful places. I hate addictions— I wouldn't drink more than 1 cup of coffee each day because I don't want to get a caffeine addiction—but I'm afraid my



kayaking addiction got me hooked so fast, and now it's incurable.

*ACA:* Can you please describe some of the locations in which you teach/paddle? We've seen some amazing photos from your classes – that scenery is great!

*Wu:* China has no shortage of rivers, lakes and a very long coastline. Many rivers cut through imposing gorges and landscapes, such as this Ayi River in central China where I participated in a downriver race in May. The first day we were there, it was sunny and we could see the vertical cliffs rising into the sky. There were bamboos and other trees, streams coming off the top of the cliffs forming waterfalls of various sizes. The second day, it was foggy and misty, it felt so surreal.





My favorite lake is called Qiandao Lake, or One Thousand Islands Lake. It literally has over 1070 islands. It was formed after the local river was dammed. Hundreds of thousands of people had to be relocated to higher ground, and their ancestral villages are now submerged at the bottom of this lake. These villages were established around 200AD, it's crazy to think that we are paddling right above them.

ACA: Can you please describe your participation in the sport of canoe and/or kayak polo?

Wu: Kayak polo (or canoe polo as it's known outside the US) is what started my kayaking obsession and career. The first time I saw and sat in a kayak was a polo kayak, and I instantly got hooked. I pretty much learned most of my kayak skills by playing the game of kayak polo. It's such a fun and action packed sport. A quick search on Youtube, you will find some scary looking clips (my favorite is the "decapitation sprint"), and most people would think this is a very dangerous sport. It's actually

relatively safe, because you have to wear all this protective gear, and play by the rules that specifically define what is and what isn't allowed in the game. In 13 years of playing kayak polo, and competing at various levels, I've never had any injuries more than a couple of scratches in my hands occasionally. Since I moved to China, I set up my own kayak polo club and managed to help other cities to start their own clubs. The annual national championships have been going for 3 years, and my club has won all. I feel honored and proud that I have the privilege to play on the US kayak polo national team. My team has traveled to Canada, South America, Europe and played at Pan American Championships, World Championships and other tournaments. Right now we are training for the 2016 World Championships in Italy.

***To learn more about previous Instructor of the Month award recipients, [click here](#).***



# ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



UMD's [Recreational Sports Outdoor Program](#) is dedicated to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and connections to the natural world through personal and professional experiences.

**Location: Duluth, MN**

**Contact: Randy Carlson, [rcarlso6@d.umn.edu](mailto:rcarlso6@d.umn.edu)**

*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.

# How to SUP With Your PUP



June 18 & 19 • July 23 & 24 • August 6 & 7

**Because adventures are better shared.** Join Black Dog Paddle in Ashland for 2 days of training and learning with your best furry friend. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., SUP gear provided. For more information or to register visit [blackdogpaddle.com/booknow](http://blackdogpaddle.com/booknow).

How to SUP  
With Your PUP



# Paddlesports Safety

# Facilitator

The ACA is proud to announce the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) credentialing program! This program is ideal for outfitter or guide service staff, camp counselors, water sport instructors, and other recreation program employees.

Visit [www.americancanoe.org/PSF](http://www.americancanoe.org/PSF) for more information!

# ACA Rafting Program Takes Off in Oregon

By J.R. Weir, Owner and ACA Instructor Trainer at Sundance Kayak School

When the first brave river men and women began exploring wild rivers in inflatable boats, the art of river running was still in its infancy. Inspired by the prospect of adventure and rare splendor to be discovered in remote river canyons, these adventurous souls ventured into the unknown, determined to immerse themselves in true wilderness adventure.

These early white-water rafters learned through trial and error, testing theories and learning valuable lessons which they shared and developed, passing skills down to new generations of river runners. Today, rafting is an art form and to watch a true expert maneuver their craft in whitewater is a thing of beauty.

[Sundance Kayak School](#) has been training whitewater enthusiasts and professionals for over 40 years on the Rogue River. As a center for learning and paddlesport development, we have decades of experience and expertise in training river runners and guides. Our mission is to get people paddling so that they can experience the natural rhythm of river life, and to empower them to continue boating for themselves.

This year we set out to create a rafting school

for professional rafters, cut from the same mould as our legendary kayak instructor courses. More than just a guide school for rafters, this course is designed to cultivate rafting teachers. Where many raft guides are highly skilled as whitewater tour guides, these rafting instructors will not only be able to get people safely down the river, but also

teach them the skills to do it themselves and become self-sufficient river runners.

In mid-April, Sundance Kayak School teamed up with Mather Rescue to produce the first ever American Canoe Association (ACA) Level 4 Raft Instructor Certification Workshop on

the legendary Rogue River in Oregon.

The 5-day course began with an intensive 3-day development workshop, where the instructor candidates worked to hone their personal technique and teaching ability. The course culminated in a 2-day, simulated rafting class, designed and conducted by the ACA instructor candidates.

Among the participants were raft guide school instructors, college outdoor program facilitators, professional river guides, and wilderness educators, all professionals, with a staggering amount of combined experience and exper-



tise. One of the most informative aspects of the course is the knowledge that is shared among the participants – each person demonstrating their own unique style of teaching and boatmanship.

Each day on the water, we practiced a diverse skill set and a wide array of necessary talents that is the art of raft guiding. We explored the science of river currents and hydrology, paddle and oar techniques, leadership, planning and decision making, boat captain responsibilities, and vital knowledge in a myriad of areas including rescue, safety, and equipment. We worked hard and had a ton of fun, and each day we made sure to stop at the “mole hole” – our favorite surf spot. All the while surrounded by the breathtaking scenery, wildlife and whitewater of the legendary Wild and Scenic Rogue River.

Off of the water, we discussed coaching theo-

ry and methods for giving great presentations. We set up rope systems, rescue scenarios, and explored topics ranging from warm-up exercises to raft rigging technique, to strategy for escaping dangerous river hydraulics. As we floated into the takeout on the last day, I was





excited to see these professional instructors graduate and begin a new chapter as ACA certified raft instructors, but I couldn't help but wish that we had more time to surf and laugh and share ideas. In the end, everyone passed with flying colors. Congratulations to 7 new ACA certified raft instructors!

Check out the ACA's [schedule of classes](#) to find a Raft Instructor course near you! This class is great for river professionals such as outfitters, trainers, guides, instructors and coaches, but also for river parents and anyone who enjoys teaching others how to row boats, or likes to let their fellow boatman "take the oars" once in a while. The Raft ICW will grow your personal rowing expertise, but more importantly, it will help you be a better coach on the water. It is also a great way to document your expertise. The ACA certification rep-

resents the [golden standard in paddlesports](#) for instructional excellence, professionalism, and safety.

\*Photos courtesy of Mike Mather, Nate Wilson, and Sundance Kayak School

\*\*Special thanks to [SOTAR inflatables](#) and [Sawyer Oars](#) for their support of paddlesports safety and instruction



# U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Paddlecraft Course



The ACA has partnered with the USCG Auxiliary in a unique program called AUXPAD.

There will be opportunities across the country for ACA Instructors to provide kayak skills assessments for local Auxiliarists.

In addition, ACA kayak Instructor Trainers might have increased opportunities to offer L2: EKT ICW's for select groups of Auxiliarists across the U.S.

Learn more at [www.americancanoe.org/AUXPAD](http://www.americancanoe.org/AUXPAD)



# New Paddle Smart WebTV Series!



The ACA is proud to introduce the new Paddle Smart WebTV Series. This series was made possible by generous grant funding provided through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the United States Coast Guard. The goal of this video series is to reduce paddlesport related accidents by providing immediate knowledge through short and focused instructional videos.

Visit [www.americancanoe.org/WebTV](http://www.americancanoe.org/WebTV) to view the first few videos. The rest will be released over the course of the summer.

Are you a beginner that is excited to get on the water for your very first time, or perhaps an intermediate paddler that has never taken any formal paddlesport training? If so, then check this series out! The videos are designed to provide you with the need-to-know information required to make smart decisions and stay safe on the water. You will learn about Stand Up Paddleboarding, Recreational Kayaking and Kayak Fishing and each series consists of 12 episodes that are entertaining and to the point. Now sit back and enjoy the ACA Paddle Smart WebTV Series.



**SAVE THE DATES**

# Instructor Update & Symposium

Level 1 & Level 2 - Kayak, Canoe, & SUP

September 9th - 11th, 2016

Rock Hill, South Carolina



## 2016 National **PADDLESPORTS** Conference



Sausalito, California  
November 11-13



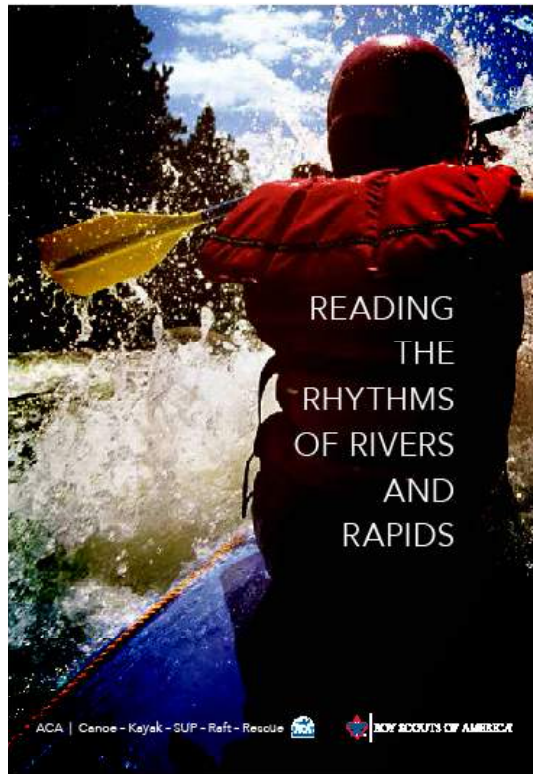
**SEATREK**  
KAYAK & SUP SUPPLY STORE CENTER



# New Video from BSA & ACA

Over the past two years, the ACA has partnered with the Aquatics Taskforce of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to produce a video under a United States Coast Guard non-profit grant, National Safe Boating Campaign: Targeted Outreach – Moving Water.

The goal of this grant project was to combine existing knowledge based resources, along with video and animation techniques to create a single video to address drownings and near misses in moving water environments. This product should help to reduce the number of recreational boating casualties and meet the overall performance goals of the 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program.



We partnered with both volunteers and professional staff from the BSA, as well as a range of ACA subject matter experts and SEIC Discipline Committees to produce this moving water to whitewater video: Reading the Rhythms of Rivers and Rapids.

Please visit [www.americancanoe.org/BSA](http://www.americancanoe.org/BSA) to learn more.

## Important update for ACA Instructor Trainers

Currently certified ACA Instructors seeking to begin or continue the Instructor Trainer (IT) Application process should check out a ***new resource on the ACA website***:

### [How to Become an IT](#)

This webpage outlines the revised process, provides registration and application forms, and answers a lot of basic questions about the role and responsibilities of becoming an ACA Instructor Trainer.

Have more questions? Contact the SEI Department at [sei@americancanoe.org](mailto:sei@americancanoe.org).

These silly humans think  
they don't need life jackets.  
What do they think they are?



“ If you're not a fish,  
you've got to Wear It! ”

– Shaw Grigsby, Host, “One More Cast”



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

This message brought to you by  
the National Safe Boating Council.

[SAFEBOATINGCAMPAIGN.COM](http://SAFEBOATINGCAMPAIGN.COM)



[facebook.com/safeboatcampaign](https://facebook.com/safeboatcampaign)



[twitter.com/boatingcampaign](https://twitter.com/boatingcampaign)



# ADAPTIVE



WELCOME BRENDAN,  
TOM & ELLEN

**Dynamic Paddlers**

Photo by Larry Gioia

# Adaptive Expeditions Nearly Triples Number of USA Paracanoe

By Joe Moore of Adaptive Expeditions

[Adaptive Expeditions](#), Charleston's Paralympic Sports Club and Disabled Sports USA Chapter, is excited to take delivery of forty Paralympic sprint racing kayaks called Paracanoe. Adaptive Expeditions imported the kayaks into Charleston, SC from NELO Kayaks in Vila do Conde, Portugal.

The shipment is part of Adaptive Expeditions' contract to manage two grants for the ACA and USA Canoe/Kayak, the National Governing Body for the Paralympic sport of Paracanoe. The grants were awarded from the Craig H. Neilson Foundation and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. No official count of USA

Paracanoe exists, but estimates indicate that this shipment nearly triples the number of Paracanoe within US borders.

As part of the grant management contract, Adaptive Expeditions' Executive Director, Joe Moore, will lead eight two-day adaptive kayak trainings around the country this summer. The goal of both grants is to better enable USA based adaptive kayak clubs to develop elite level Paralympic athletes for the 2020 Paralympic games.

Paracanoe will debut at the Paralympic games later this year in Rio.



# Creating Ability's Universal Paddling Seat for Kayaks



Creating Ability's Universal Paddling Seat for kayaks was designed with one purpose in mind: to open the sport of paddling to everyone. Regardless of the level of support needed, the seat provides as much or as little support as a paddler needs.

The back structure consists of pelvic, lateral, lumbar, and upper-back supports. The back has several vertical adjustments to fit different torso lengths and types. The upper unit (the upper-back rest and laterals) can be adjusted independently or removed completely, for those who don't need the high-level support.

The kayak seat base has an adapter for each brand of kayak. Please be sure to specify brand and model when ordering.

Please visit the Adaptive Paddling section of the [ACA eStore](http://www.americancanoe.org/aca-estore) for more information on all of the adaptive equipment available for purchase. Don't forget to login for ACA member pricing!

# Revised Essential Eligibility Criteria

*We've made some changes!*



The ACA recently made changes to its Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) in an effort to increase the accessibility of all ACA paddle-sport education programs.

Please visit [www.americancanoe.org/EEC](http://www.americancanoe.org/EEC) for more information.

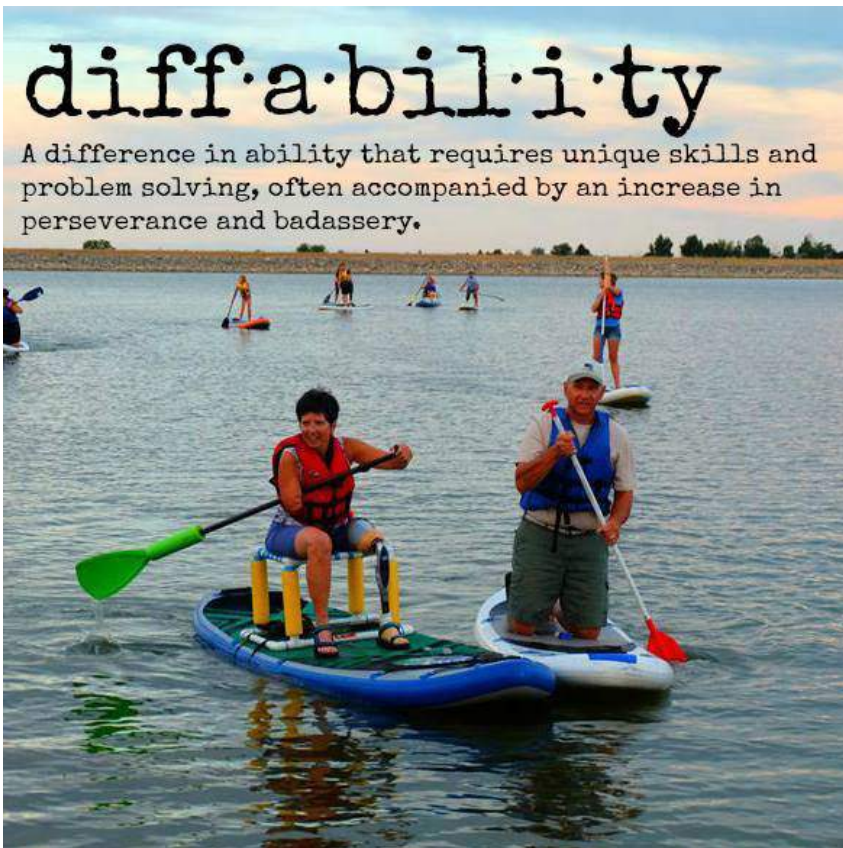
If you have any questions about the ACA's essential eligibility criteria, please contact the [Safety Education & Instruction Department](#).



# Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops (APWs)

9/22/2016 Hosted by: Big Bay Harbor  
Location: Big Bay, Michigan  
[More info](#)

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



# News Near You





# STATE-BY-STATE

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

## Alabama

It's paddling season in the South! The Birmingham Canoe Club just helped the Friends of the Locust Fork with its annual Kids Day on the river. The event exposes kids to different boats, the importance of wearing a lifejacket, and basic river skills. Through the State Director Program the ACA helped sponsor safety signage on the Locust River that the county has installed. There are many trips and courses scheduled through our local paddling clubs: Birmingham Canoe Club, Huntsville Canoe Club and the Cullman Parks and Recreation Center. State Director Helen Todd also led an adaptive kayaking course for the Lakeshore foundation.

Contact: Helen Todd

[ALStateDirector@americancanoe.org](mailto:ALStateDirector@americancanoe.org)

## California

ACA supported efforts to open a new water trail on the Owens River. This stretch of river flows through deserts beneath Mount Whitney, the tallest point in the lower 48 states. It is a unique ecosystem with intriguing political history related to Los Angeles' water needs and desires! Thanks to ACA volunteers and ACA California Council member Anthea Raymond!! for helping with this cool project.

Contact: Alexander Morris

[CaStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:CaStateDirector@americancanoe.net)



The River Kids day held with the Birmingham Canoe Club and Friends of the Locust Fork.



At the 28th annual White River cleanup in Indiana, volunteers removed 56,000lbs of trash.

## Florida

Our FL Executive Council is coordinating with non-profit organizations to implement a USCG grant paddling workshop for youth. Three locations throughout the state were chosen based on number of annual rescue calls: Tampa, Miami, and Ft. Myers. Tommy Thompson, Michael Shugg, Peggy Phillips, Brandy Minchew, and T. J. Turner are traveling throughout the state to provide instruction during the two day workshops. Youth learn paddling skills, rescue, safety, and assessed on L1 criteria.

Contact: Peggy Phillips

[FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

## Indiana

The 133-mile Kankakee River has received National Water Trail status thanks to the two year effort of the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association. The trail traverses northwestern Indiana and northeastern Illinois in what was once one of the United States' largest wetlands. See <http://kankakeeriverwatertrail.org> for information. River cleanups continue around the state, including the 28th annual White River cleanup that removed 56,000lbs of trash! Five new Indiana Kayak Instructors were certified during the 2nd annual ICW held in Kokomo.

Contact: Joseph Rozsahegyi

[INStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:INStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

## Louisiana

A series of paddling races will be held in Louisiana between August and October. They range in length from 250 yards (for kids aged 5 to 7) to a 410-mile run from Shreveport to Berwick. There are also race routes of 275 miles and 135 miles, and double-digit yet still-estimable competitions of 59, 49, 35, 30, 27, and 24 miles, respectively. For additional information visit <http://www.tourduteche.com/>



Adaptive Kayak class on Cahaba River, AL.

[com/](http://www.tourduteche.com/)

Contact: Ben Sandmel

[LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

## Maine

Check out the brand new [Maine Island Trail App](#). This version is a complete rebuild from 2015, providing boaters the ultimate mobile tool for planning a trip along Maine's rocky coast and 217 islands from Kittery to Eastport. It includes anchorages, boat launches, tide charts, campsites, hiking trails, and more.

Contact: Randy Smith

[MEStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:MEStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

## Michigan

After a snowy Mother's Day the water is finally beginning to warm up in Michigan! The sea kayak symposia are in full swing with Port Austin coming up June 24th, Great Lakes starting July 14th, Ladies of the Lake August 11th, and the Gales October 7th. Besides sea kayaking our river paddlers are also hitting the water. The Traverse Area Paddle Club (TAPC) is very active with river clean-ups throughout Michigan. On May 28th the 12th Annual Boardman River Clean Sweep event was held. Over 80 people helped remove 1500 lbs. of trash

from the river. The club will also be sponsoring clean-ups on the Upper Platte, Betsie, AuSable, Jordan, Golden Cedar, and Manistee Rivers this summer. To join a clean-up event visit the TAPC website or email Norm Fred at: nrfred@yahoo.com.

Contact: Lynn Dominguez

[MiStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:MiStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **Missouri**

This has been a busy time in Missouri, with Missouri Whitewater Association completing their Annual whitewater clinic. The had over 100 individuals participating. Missouri ACA, St. Louis Canoe and Kayak Club, and the Mississippi River Water Trail Association had their 20th Annual Paddlefest. Over 350 people were introduced to paddling. We also participated in the first Great Rivers Greenway Life Outside Festival in which ACA instructors taught over 50 people in mini kayaking classes.

Contact: Dave Haessig

[MoStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:MoStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **Oklahoma**

As summer temperatures approach the triple digits, paddlers in Oklahoma are staying cool on the water in a variety of ways. Kayak fishing continues to be a top activity as organized tournaments and leagues flourish state wide. RIVERSPORT Rapids, Oklahoma City's new \$45.2 million whitewater rafting and kayaking center recently hosted the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Canoe/Kayak Slalom #2. The center has become a beacon for experienced whitewater paddlers and would-be paddlers as thousands experience whitewater rafting, kayaking, and tubing 7 days a week just minutes from downtown Oklahoma City and the Bricktown entertainment district. Oklahoma City will also host both the USA Canoe Kayak Sprint National Championships and USA Canoe Kayak Slalom Age Group National Cham-

pionships this summer in early August.

Contact: Aasim Saleh

[OkStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:OkStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvanians are creating awareness about protection of our rivers and the importance of clean water. Riverkeepers throughout the state are having river event days like the one on July 2nd on the Middle Susquehanna, Sunrise to Sunset Paddle, 22 miles to celebrate and bring attention to our waterways.

Contact: Steve Barber

[PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **Puerto Rico**

The ACA-PR participated in the second SUPIA Youth Days on June 11 and June 25, providing on water safety, PFD and leash education to the paddling community. The third annual ACA State Director Conference will take place in Puerto Rico in December; more information is available [here](#).

Contact: Omar Ramos

[PRStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:PRStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **South Carolina**

ACA South Carolina showed our support of the 1st ever Pump House River Run in Rock Hill, SC. We committed to being a sponsor for this year's annual Traditional Inuit Paddlers of the Southeast retreat at Lake Greenwood. The ACA South Carolina Executive Council are continuing to put together the logistics for the L1/L2 Instructor Update & Symposium happening on September 9-11, 2016 in Rock Hill, SC.

Contact: Ethan Talley, Kyle Thomas

[SCStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:SCStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

### **Texas**

Texas experienced "The toughest canoe race in the world. The annual 260-mile Texas Water

Safari paddling race occurred June 25. Well done participants!  
You can help stop the permit to drain 1/3 of the Critical Habitat of the San Marcos River. Contact Ben Kvanli at [www.SavetheSMTXRiver.org](http://www.SavetheSMTXRiver.org).  
Contact: Lorraine McPhee  
[TXStateDirector@americancanoe.net](mailto:TXStateDirector@americancanoe.net)

As a national organization, it can be difficult to know about all the paddling issues in every state. That's where the [ACA State Director Program](#) comes in! This volunteer program is designed to close the gap between paddlers on the ground (and water) and the ACA.

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

For additional information on the ACA State Director Program, please contact Amy Ellis at



SUPIA Youth Days in Puerto Rico.



USCG Grant Course in Fort Meyers, FL.

# MEMBERSHIP



# ACA Member Benefit!

## Discount on Bishop Boards



#SUPforEverybody



ACA members receive up to 40% OFF SUP boards, paddles, gear, apparel, leashes, storage bags, water wear and everything else you'll need to get out on the water. Visit the [Bishop Boards website](#), and contact the ACA National Office for a discount code.

# ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Spotlight



## Stone Harbor Wilderness Supply

[Stone Harbor Wilderness Supply](#) is your Grand Marais, MN outdoor adventure store!

Whether you are a veteran wilderness enthusiast or brand new to the outdoor life, we are excited to help you out. Take a trip through our store and you'll find [high quality gear and clothing](#), hand-picked by our staff. Can't make it to Grand Marais right now? Bummer! We understand and we won't take it personally. Just visit our new [online store](#). You miss out on our friendly banter but the same great gear and clothing can be shipped directly to you.

If you are planning a summer expedition, check out our [Summer Rental Department](#),

where you can find top notch gear like canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, fishing gear, car carriers and camping gear. Want to try a guided tour? Give us a call at 218-387-3136 and ask about our kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and fly fishing tours. We can provide you with suggested routes and other tips to make sure you're getting the most out of your trip. We love this place and we can't wait to share it with you!

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



wernerpaddles.com



**HEALTHY  
WATERS**



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



“Alan Parrish of Cleveland, OH is all smiles after completing his Intro to Kayaking course during last month’s Adaptive Paddling Workshop (APW) in Akron. This was Alan’s first time in a kayak and if his expression is any indication, we’ll be seeing him back on the water again soon! Keep calm and paddle on, Alan!” - Larry Gioia, ACA Instructor, Dynamic Paddlers

***Want to see your photo here? Submit your photos to ACA Communications Coordinator, Catharine Lloyd at [clloyd@americancanoe.org](mailto:clloyd@americancanoe.org) for a chance to be featured.***

# ACA National Awards Nominations Now Open!



Every year, the ACA recognizes several individuals and organizations who exemplify outstanding leadership, service, and dedication to paddlesports. Nominations for the 2016 National Awards are now open!

Legends of Paddling  
Excellence in Instruction  
Sanctioned Event of the Year  
Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation  
Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year  
Stroke of Achievement  
J. Henry Rushton  
Outstanding State Director  
President's Award

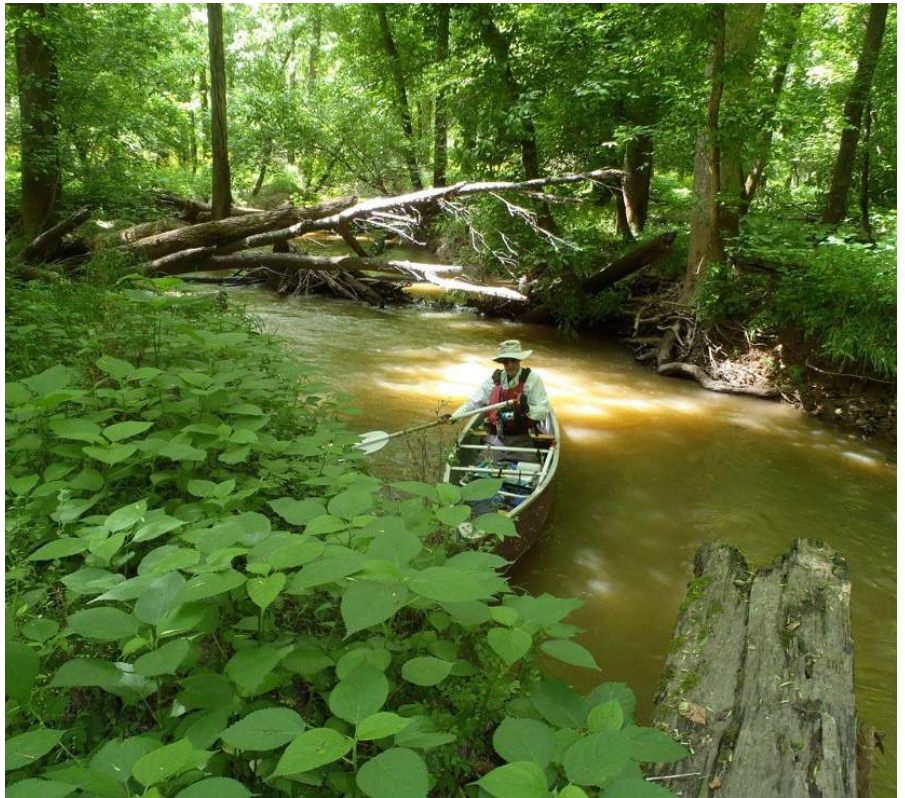
If you would like to nominate a paddler for one of the honors above, please visit [www.americancanoe.org/Awards](http://www.americancanoe.org/Awards) for more details on how to submit your nomination.

**The submission deadline is Friday, July 29, 2016.**

# Canoeing FairForest Creek, South Carolina

*By Burt Kornegay. Burt retired 2 years ago after working for 30 years as a professional wilderness guide. As owner/operator of Slickrock Expeditions, he ran canoe trips around the U.S., including 3 wilderness canoe excursions for the ACA. Burt currently lives in North Carolina.*

For several years I had been stopping on bridges to look down on Fairforest Creek, in the Upstate of South Carolina, and thought it would be a beautiful stream to canoe. My friend Paul Ferguson thought so too, and he also wanted to include Fairforest in a future 2nd edition of his paddling guidebook, *Canoe Kayak South Carolina*. So this May we decided to explore the creek for 3 days. It would be what boaters call a “personal first descent” for both of us. And, based on what we experienced, it may very well have been a first descent period.



Fairforest Creek has its headwaters in the town of Spartanburg, and it flows southeast from there around 50 miles to join the Tyger River, on the way passing through Croft State Park and Sumter National Forest. Though called a “creek,” Fairforest grows to be the size of a small river.

The plan that Paul and I decided on was simple. Carrying food and gear, we’d canoe for two days and camp one night on the lower 25-mile section of Fairforest. Then we’d spend the second night at a campground in Croft State Park and make a day trip from there on the creek’s upper section, with unloaded boats. But Fairforest Creek, it turned out, had an even simpler plan for us.

Fairforest looked open and inviting from the bank where we launched, near the Sulphur Springs Road bridge, and it was about three

canoe-lengths wide. But just around the first bend, just out of sight, the creek began to split, then split, then split again, as it carried us through the first of what would be many mazes formed by small wooded islands. And with every split, the creek cut its width in half. Soon we found ourselves paddling down twisting channels so narrow it was a challenge to fit our canoes around the tight turns. And the river was obstructed with fallen trees throughout.

I tried to keep a running tally of all the logjams and tangles we had to haul the boats over, squeeze under, chop and saw an opening through, but there were just too many. Paul’s total was 53. In places progress depended more on engineering and/or brute strength than on paddling. Sometimes Paul and I would

join forces to get the canoes up and over a blockage, one boat at a time. Though many of the banks were steep and muddy, the first night we were lucky enough to find a choice sandbar for camping, among river birches and sycamores. Well worn from the day's exertion, we both turned in before it was fully dark.

On day two the river squeezed down to a channel so small there was barely enough water in it to float our boats--though it was brim full with blowdowns and tangles. It took us two hours to go one mile. That's when Paul renamed the creek "Fairfucked." But just when we thought we'd have to start pulling the canoes through the forest like we were mules, capillaries bled back into the little artery we were on, the splits began to reunite, and the entire small river came together again... but only until it reached the next island maze.



It was exploration at its finest, and we didn't see another soul. But at times it was also canoeing at its slowest. By the second afternoon, we knew there was no way we would reach the Tyger River that day. What we did reach, however--a quarter of a mile beyond the Buffalo West Springs bridge--was the first of two major rapids. There Fairforest Creek plunged in a series of ledges over the Fall Line from the Piedmont down into the sandy Coastal Plain. We knew the whitewater was coming up because of the closely spaced con-

tour lines on the map. But we were surprised to find ourselves backpaddling above an intimidating horizon line--the lead-in to what turned out to be a long, rocky Class IV drop. After scouting the entire rapid, we ran the easiest parts, lined others, and portaged the rest on the right.

The second rapid came unexpectedly at noon on day three, a couple of miles before we reached the Tyger. Emerging from still another island maze, I suddenly heard loud turbulence ahead and yelled back to Paul, "Rapid!" But this time the whitewater wasn't the result of the river rushing over rocks. As far as I could see ahead, one big tree after another lay toppled in the channel, and the sound came from very fast current boiling through the woody obstacle course. I knew that to get our boats through that gauntlet would be exhausting and dangerous. It looked like we might be spending still another night on the creek.

Then I remembered having seen a small side-channel a short distance back upstream that curled off to the left and went out of sight. No matter what kind of challenges that narrow run might hold, it could not be any more difficult than what awaited us in the "Devil's Quarter-Mile," which I'd already mentally named the wood-rapid ahead. So we paddled back, angled into the little side stream, and found it carrying us fast around

turn after turn--all of them open. After so many difficult miles, the tight run was exhilarating. And, even better, it led us back into the main channel downstream of the enormous blockage. Relieved to have the wood-rapid behind us, Paul and I got out on a shady sandbar and celebrated by eating what little food we had left.

True to form, Fairforest kept challenging us with blowdowns and a braiding channel until we reached the wide-open Tyger late that day. The two miles of cruising down the Tyger to our take-out at Beatty Bridge were so easy I thought the river ought to be renamed Pussy-cat.

I discovered on the trip that in one important

way Fairforest Creek does live up to what can be seen of it from the bridges: it flows through a forest that truly is fair--fair as in deep green and lush, "dendro-diverse," bubbling over with birds and flowers. On our second night we camped at the base of a loblolly pine that was four feet thick in the trunk and stood 150 feet tall. The tree rose clear for 100 feet to the first branch. The loblolly was in a grove of similar-sized pines, along with oaks and cottonwoods and gums. The forest floor beneath was so open we could see for 200 yards. It was worth the whole trip just to camp in that fair forest. May no logger ever go there to cut it. As Henry David Thoreau has said: "All the pines shudder and heave a sign when that man steps on the forest floor."



# COMPETITION



# Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

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

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>July 6, 2016</b>  | <b><u><a href="#">Penobscot River Whitewater Nationals Regatta</a></u><br/>Old Town, Maine</b>        |
| <b>July 11, 2016</b> | <b><u><a href="#">Camp Cup 2016</a></u><br/>Bryson City, North Carolina</b>                           |
| <b>July 22, 2016</b> | <b><u><a href="#">ACA Open Canoe Slalom Nationals</a></u><br/>Wausau, Wisconsin</b>                   |
| <b>Aug 3, 2016</b>   | <b><u><a href="#">Lake Sebago's ACA Annual Youth Regatta</a></u><br/>Haverstraw, New York</b>         |
| <b>Sept 10, 2016</b> | <b><u><a href="#">Interpretive Freestyle Exhibition &amp; Competition</a></u><br/>Peninsula, Ohio</b> |

**[CLICK HERE](#) to see the full ACA competition event calendar**

# USA Canoe/Kayak Update

*15 Olympians need YOUR help to get to the Summer Games in Brazil!*



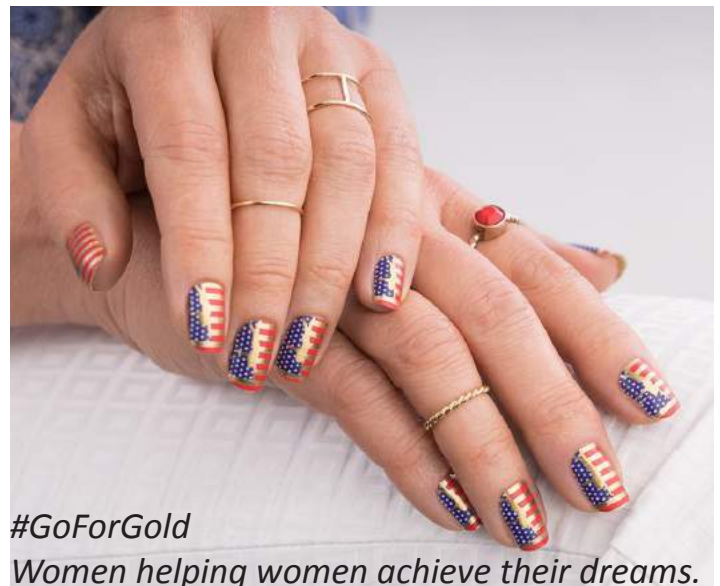
[Jamberry](#), a line of do-it-yourself nail wraps, is providing an opportunity to help 15 amazing US women athletes achieve their dream of going for gold at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro! We're calling it the Go for Gold Fundraiser (#GoForGold)!

Jamberry has created 15 wrap designs — one for each athlete — all with a Summer Games theme (including some with patriotic designs, so you can wear them for July 4th!). For each Go for Gold wrap sold, \$3.50 will be donated to a fund which will be distributed directly and evenly to the athletes themselves.

Funds raised will go to help support their training, expenses for the games, and getting their families to Rio to cheer them on. Our goal is to sell 75,000 Go for Gold wraps to

ensure we put these Olympians in the best position for success at the games through the funds raised.

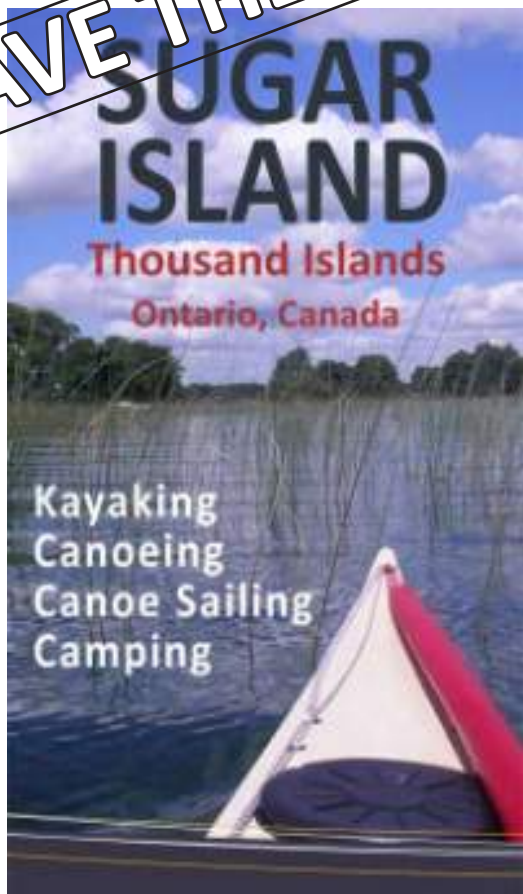
Visit [Jamberry's website](#) for more information.



#GoForGold  
Women helping women achieve their dreams.



SAVE THE DATES



## Sugar Island Encampment

July 27- August 6, 2016

An exclusive member benefit!

[Sugar Island](#) is an ideal family camping and canoe-kayak base located near the border of Canada and New York. Join fellow paddlers on this 35-acre island protected by the ACA in the beautiful St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

Whether you want to stay for a weekend or a week, we hope you'll consider camping on this pristine island. You might even catch some fish or see the ACA canon in action! (that's right - the ACA has a canon!)

Learn more about Sugar Island and join fellow paddlers at the [2016 ACA National Encampment](#).

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## ACA Open Canoe Slalom Nationals & North American Championships



July 22-24, 2016



Join canoe racers from all over North America in Wausau for the 2016 Slalom Championships! [Click here](#) for more information.

# -THE CAMP CUP - A NANTAHALA RIVER TRADITION

*By Jami Black, Admissions Associate at Alzar School*



On July 11-12, 2016, the largest youth paddling festival, Camp Cup, will take over the Nantahala River. For two days, camps from all across the southeast come together to paddle, play, and find other impassioned peers. The Camp Cup takes place in the beautiful Nantahala Gorge in western North Carolina. This fantastic event is a way for young paddlers to network, be exposed to slalom and downriver racing, and practice their paddling skills. Over the course of the event, campers can choose to participate in a down river event, freestyle throwdown, slalom course, and learn from guest coaches. At the Camp Cup, students meet other kids their own age

who paddle and are often surprised to see peers from their high school kayaking.

The first day of the event is a training day where participants take practice runs for the downriver race through Nantahala Falls looking for the fastest line. They can explore the slalom course and learn to navigate upstream gates or a series of offset gates. For many participants, this is the first time they have run a section of river for speed, or navigated a set course through a rapid. A laid back freestyle event takes place at the NOC wave with points awarded for all moves, including the window-shade.

Off the river, participants talk strategy with guest coaches, and are treated to an Ice Cream Social at Endless River Adventures, a longtime supporter of the Camp Cup. Participants vary in whitewater experience, from intermediates to highly skilled paddlers. Each participant finds fun on the water in this citizen-style race where learning and trying new skills are the emphasis.

The Camp Cup was started by whitewater legend Kent Ford in the 1990's as a way to bring together the many youth in the southeast who spent their summers exploring rivers. Chris Stec of Falling Creek Camp and Lee Leibfarth of the NOC took over the event for a number of years before Sean and Kristin Bierle of the Alzar School brought the event back in 2008 while working for camps Mondamin and Green Cove. The event has grown to approximately 100 participants and diversified in

events offerings. The Alzar School is familiar of the power and importance these types of events for young paddlers. The Alzar School is a semester school for highly-motivated sophomores and juniors with an emphasis on leadership development through the challenge of the outdoors. Students spend one semester of high school exploring the rivers of Chile and Idaho while taking AP and honors classes.

The ACA has been a longtime partner in the event, working to develop the next generation of paddlers. This event would only be possible with the ongoing support of the ACA, national agencies, local outfitters, outdoor retail companies, and the participating camps. These partners help transform the Camp Cup into an even better event with each passing year. Visit [alzarschool.org/campcup](http://alzarschool.org/campcup) for more information.



# Make your events easier with online waivers!



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

# INTERNATIONAL



# Stand Up Paddle St. John

## RETREAT & CERTIFICATION COURSE



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

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

**WHEN:** January 21st-25th, 2017

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



**INCLUDED:** Housing, transportation, SUP board & gear, clinics & classes, ACA L1 Cert. Course

**ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:** ACA SUP Yoga Endorsement Course, Extend your stay at \$175/night

**COST:** \$750 Reservation Deposit // \$1,700 Total Per Person // \$1,350 w/o L1 Cert. Course

**(407) 766-3680 // SUPADVENTURETRIPS.COM/ST-JOHN**



# SAVE THE DATE

[ACA Europe Paddlesports Symposium](#)

October 14-16, 2016

Vienna, Austria

Hosted by Gerhard Grimm



**SAVE THE DATE**

**ACA State Director Conference  
December 2-4, 2016  
Puerto Rico**



**[More details on our website](#)**





# Have You Tried the PADDLE READY app yet?

[Download the app for your iPhone](#)

[Download the app for your Android](#)

**“Needed this for so long!”**

-Margaret Roth

“This free app has some pretty cool features that I can see coming in quite handy. You can check tides, river and surf levels for locations where you are headed, as well as find the closest access to put-ins. Perhaps the coolest feature on the Paddle Ready app is the ability to file a float plan.”

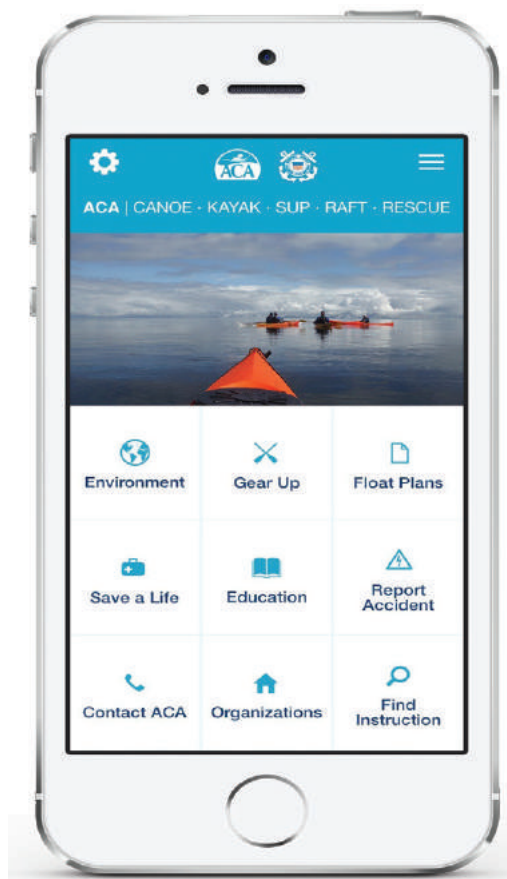
-Tee Clarkson, Richmond Times Dispatch

“I use this app multiple times throughout the week to see what’s going on at my favorite spots”

-Jay Yarborough

**“This app looks sick!  
Just downloaded it and  
cannot wait to use it!”**

-Alex Mauer



**Surf Forecasting**

**Tide Forecasting**

**Course Reporting for ACA Instructors**

**Improved Float Plans**

**Access Points**

**Paddle Club Search**

**Improved ACA Instructor Search**

# Paddling History



**We're bringing the ACA Yearbook back!**

**Stay tuned for more information this fall.**

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

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

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

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