

Volume 4, Issue 3 | May 2018

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

**ACA Video
Named Finalist
in Film Festival**

Young Athlete Garners New Grant

CFS Grant Recipients Announced

Instructors of the Month

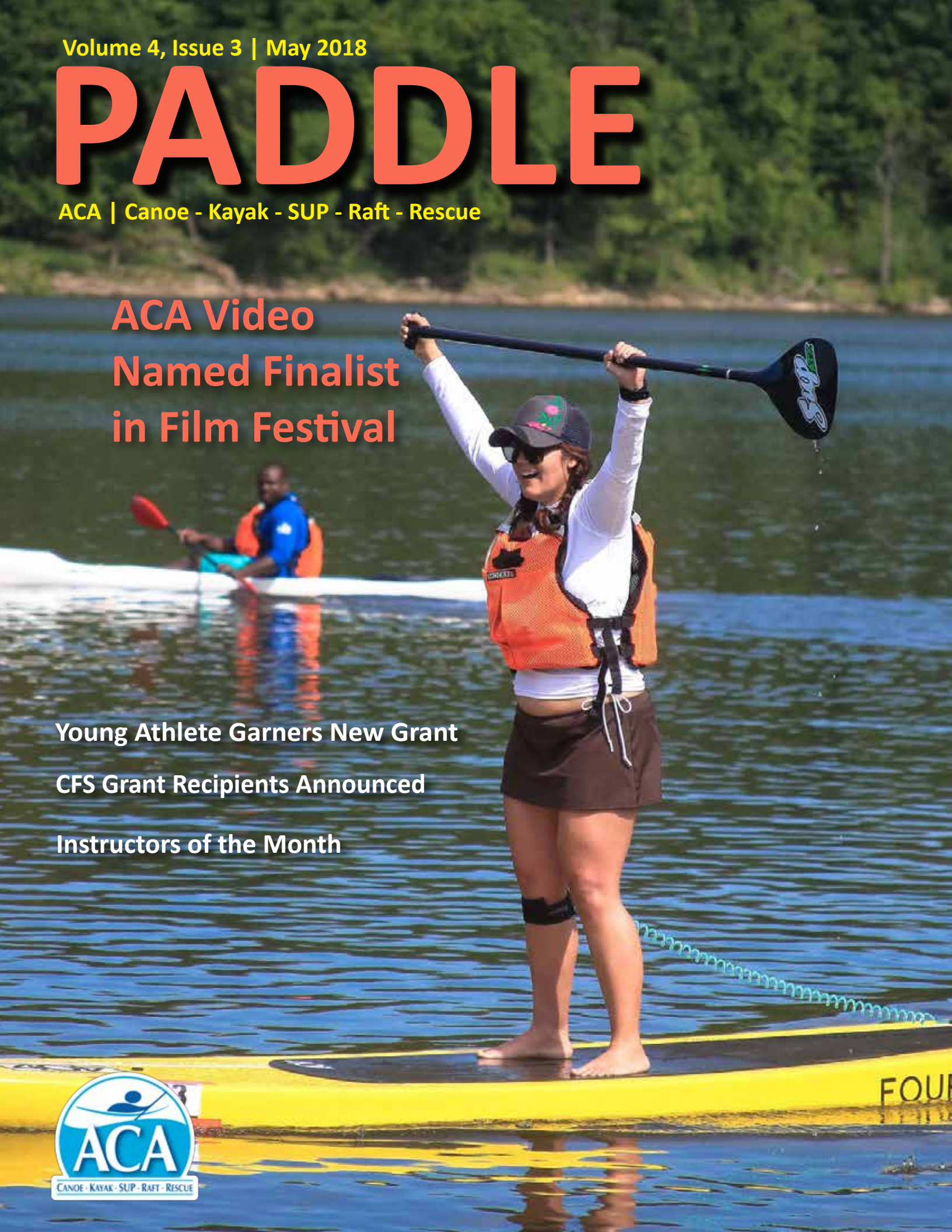


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ACA Mission Statement

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
John Sims- 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
Zuzana Montagne- Slalom High Performance Manager

Cover photo

A young woman celebrates completing the Taylorsville Lake Paddle Battle.

The Explore Kentucky Initiative 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

- *To be elected*

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 (MI)
- 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)

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 Rozsaheqi | 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

If you were sent to live on a space station for three months, which **three personal items** would you take with you?



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

ACA hat, laptop, jelly beans.



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach Director
& Grant Manager

1. A photo of my family taken in one of my favorite natural places.
2. A piece of rope to practice knots and such to pass time.
3. A plant to get through the synthetic of the environment in which I would be living.



Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief

Photos of my family, tablet, books on climate change.



LeighAnn Moore
Insurance Coordinator

Family photos, toothbrush, books.



Chris Barlow
Sprint High Performance Manager

1. Picture of wife and family.
2. KayakPro Kayak Erg so I could stay in good paddling shape.
3. Favorite book... *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay.



Morgan House
High Performance &
Competition Director

Laptop, Phone, Toothbrush.



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Manager

Tooth brush. Journal. Radio (assuming it worked in space).

ACA STAFF

www.americancanoe.org/staff



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator

1. Coffee
2. Toothbrush
3. Toothpaste



Zuzana Montagne
Slalom High Performance Manager

1. *The Sea and the Bells* by Pablo Neruda
2. *Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust* by David Bowie
3. Nerves (the best dice game in the known worlds)



Carrie Schlemmer
Education & Grant Coordinator
Macaroni and cheese, my Hawaiian themed ACA shirt, and pictures of me and my friends.



Kandace Bowers
Financial Coordinator

1. The entire collection of "Top 100 books you must read before you die"
2. A download of all six *Disturbed* DVDs (and headphones)
3. A three-month supply of Watermelon Now and Later



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer

A picture of my family, a camera, and toothpaste!



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports Ambassador

Camera, travel journal, and a travel chess set.



John Sims
Social Media Coordinator

Items to stay connected and document the trip: laptop, tablet, digital camera.

Continued on page 7

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



Zsolt Szadovszki
Sprint National Team Kayak Coach
Camera, laptop, running shoes for the treadmill.



Kimberly Jenkins
Paddle eMagazine Editor
Photo of my husband, a sci-fi book series, travel pack of essential oils.



Aasim Saleh
Sprint Jr. Team Manager
My dogs Dash and Robinson, because they are already out of this world, and an iPod with every episode of *This American Life*.



Aaron Huston
Sprint National Team Canoe Coach
Stopwatch. Chase boat. ACA hat.



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership Coordinator

If dogs don't count, then my answer would be:

1. A Sansevieria plant – in NASA research, this plant helps purify the air.
2. Thermals – because I'm always cold!
3. One of the lengthier classic novels I've been meaning to read.



Shaun Caven
Paracanoe High Performance Manager/Coach

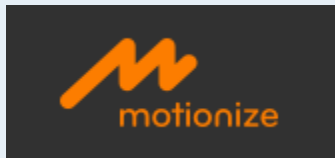
1. iPad loaded with pictures of family and books.
2. TRX - Gym Straps (because I doubt NASA would allow a Kayak Ergo!!)
3. Notebook.



Rafal Smolen
Slalom National Team Coach
I'd bring two long books and a camera to capture the cool views.

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





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 where 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 13 clubs:

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

Beginning with this issue, the efforts of 2018 CFS grant recipients will be featured in *Paddle* eMagazine. Please read the first three recipient summaries on the next three pages.



Friends of the Rappahannock

[Friends of the Rappahannock](#) (FOR) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, based in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Established in 1985, FOR focuses on advocacy, restoration and education efforts to foster environmental stewardship in the Rappahannock River watershed.

FOR has initiated [Nuestro Rappahannock](#) (Our Rappahannock), a stewardship effort bringing messages about river safety and conservation concepts to the watershed's growing Spanish-speaking population. River safety issues

encompass localized information about drowning hazards (i.e., tidal effects in the Fredericksburg area), and the importance of wearing life jackets. Conservation concepts include Leave No Trace principles and the Pack It In, Pack It Out ethic.

The CFS grant will underwrite the printing of related materials in Spanish, such as the ACA Póngaselo! (Wear It!) trifold, a Leave No Trace Principles trifold, and a FOR-generated pamphlet, "Healthy Rivers Start at Home." These materials will be distributed at river

cleanups targeting public access areas, and outreach events, such as Earth Day and FOR's Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

The project began March 24, 2018, with a public outreach effort at FOR's eighth annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Warsaw, Va. A public access area cleanup took place April 21 during Earth Day celebrations at Old Mill Park. Another public access area cleanup will occur in June at Falmouth Beach. The printed materials will be distributed at each event, as well as other events throughout the 2018.





Friends of the Chicago River

Since 1979, [Friends of the Chicago River](#) has been working to improve the health of the Chicago River system for the benefit of people, plants and animals. By doing so, the organization has laid the foundation for the river to be a beautiful, continuous, and easily accessible corridor of open space in the Chicago region. Friends achieves its mission through education and outreach programs, public policy and planning, and on-the-ground projects.

At the time of Friends' founding, canoeing on the neglected, heavily polluted river was unheard of. In

1992, Friends hosted 25 volunteers for Chicago River Rescue Day. That small group "rescued" the river by pulling shopping carts, mattresses, and plastic bags from its banks. Little did these volunteers know that effort would continue year after year, now hosting thousands of volunteers at over 60 sites along the river each year. Thanks to the improving health of the river, Friends has renamed the event [Chicago River Day](#).

Friends started the first organized canoeing program on the river in the early 1990s. In those years, the

program consisted of little more than a single guide and a few boats, entering the river wherever the bank was accessible. Today, Friends introduces over 2,000 people to the Chicago River through canoeing with a core of experienced, enthusiastic volunteers leading the way.

Friends believes canoeing is a form of grassroots environmental activism. Paddlers depend on healthy water for a safe, enjoyable experience. Friends' canoeing program began as an integral part of the process to raise the Chicago River's water quality standards.

Saturday, May 12, 2018, is Friends' 26th Chicago River Day. This annual volunteer day has an immediate impact and collectively brings about long-term improvements in the health of the Chicago River. Spanning the river's 156-mile system with over 60 locations to choose from, people of all ages have multiple ways to get involved, including removing litter from the river in canoes.

In 2017, 2,000 volunteers contributed 7,000 hours of service to watershed restoration. Friends aims to surpass these measures in 2018, with a goal of 2,500 volunteers.





Florida Paddling Trails Association

The [Florida Paddling Trails Association](#) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization comprised of a state-wide community of paddlers, clubs, outfitters and other water trail supporters with a common purpose of “connecting paddlers to water trails.” Their goal is to knit the paddle community together.

The FPTA was formed in October 2007 under the guidance of the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails to be the steward for all Florida’s water trails, including the Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail.

The FPTA’s major missions are:

- Develop water trails;
- Protect the environment along the trails; and
- Serve as a resource and voice for paddlers.

Toward the goal of protecting the environments that paddlers enjoy exploring throughout Florida, the FPTA has developed a [Paddlers Environmental Toolkit Training](#) program. PETT seeks to educate paddlers about the environments they travel through, how to best interact with wildlife and habitats, and empower them to serve as waterway stewards.

The stewardship component includes information and resources on how to lead cleanups, report certain environmental issues to appropriate agencies, and be the “eyes and ears” of Florida’s paddling trails.

FPTA is collaborating with the Florida Master Naturalist Program to offer a three-hour curriculum indoors, followed by lunch, and then a short paddle on a nearby waterway where paddlers are challenged to put into practice what they’ve learned in the classroom.

Paddling clubs across Florida are an audience for the PETT program. FPTA can vary program content to include flora, fauna, and resource information most relevant to each region of the state. This year, thanks to the CFS grant, FPTA will bring the PETT program to at least three more paddling clubs across Florida over the next year.



Recent *Paddle Green* Policy Action

ACA supports new water trails in Ohio

In conjunction with the ACA-Ohio State Director, the ACA wrote letters of support toward the creation of the Lake Erie and Cuyahoga River Water Trails networks. Establishing these important trail networks provides paddlers with opportunities to learn about the value of local ecology and understand connection to water resources.



Designating access points and providing educational materials creates a paddling experience that is more accessible and helps build the next generation of water resource stewards by providing a platform for collaboration and the eventual implementation of strategies that enhance and restore the health of local waterways.

Read the support letters here:

- [Cuyahoga River Water Trail Support](#)
- [Lake Erie Water Trail Support](#)

Choose clean water in Maryland

On behalf of paddlers, the ACA signed on to an important letter, alongside partners with the Clean Water Coalition, about the Conowingo Dam relicensing. The letter was addressed to the governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan; the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, Ben Grumbles; and Deputy Program Administrator for Maryland's Department of the Environment, Elder Ghigiarelli.



The letter urges Maryland to impose conditions to require Excelon, the power company owning the Conowingo Dam, to participate as a financial partner in pollution control reduction projects and best management practices to mitigate downstream impacts on water quality standards that would ultimately affect the Chesapeake Bay.

[Click here](#) to read the letter to Governor Hogan.

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

Conservation volunteers lead the way

By Georgia Ackerman, Riverkeeper and Executive Director of the Apalachicola Riverkeeper

The Apalachicola River basin is often touted as a “remote and magical” place by recreational enthusiasts who spend time birding, hiking and kayaking the abundant public lands surrounding the river that stretches over 100 miles from Chattahoochee southward to Apalachicola Bay.

The Apalachicola moves the largest volume of water of any of Florida’s rivers. The region is a widely recognized biological hotspot — one of only six in the United States. Suffice to say, numerous important plant and animal species inhabit the region. Some are not found elsewhere on the planet.

As stated on the [Apalachicola Riverkeeper](#) website, “Apalachicola Bay is widely recognized as an exceptionally valuable estuarine system, one of the most outstanding

remaining in the Northern Hemisphere. This River and Bay System is truly an American treasure—unique and matchless in aquatic and land species...This entire magnificent River-Bay system is being threatened on multiple fronts.”

Apalachicola Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and stewardship of the Apalachicola River and Apalachicola Bay. As part of the [Waterkeeper Alliance](#) and with the support of 1400+ members, Apalachicola Riverkeeper is voice of the River. We focus public and political attention on the importance of saving this truly unique resource.

The organization was founded as Apalachicola Bay and River Keeper in 1998 to advocate for the protection and restoration of the

Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay, all of the waters that flow into them, and the adjacent lands. Our mission includes promoting stewardship of the plants, animals, and other natural resources within the surrounding habitat.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper works closely with local communities, cities, towns and counties along the river and basin. Our strength as advocates for the Apalachicola River and Bay comes from relationships with friends and supporters throughout the 107 meandering miles of river basin, and through our dedicated volunteers, donors, members and supporters.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper sees four fundamental threats to the health, ecological productivity, and biological diversity of the Apalachicola River and Bay, and to the lives and

During the annual RiverTrek a select group of kayakers run the 107 miles of Apalachicola River to the Gulf of Mexico in five days, camping along the way. Apalachicola Riverkeeper photos





Apalachicola Riverkeeper volunteers lead a variety of eco-educational tours for the community.

livelihoods of the thousands of people who depend on these resources:

- Loss of life-sustaining freshwater;
- Loss of floodplain and wetland habitat;
- Point-source and nonpoint-source pollution; and
- Unrestrained growth and development.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper organizes kayak trips, both beginner-friendly short trips and excursions, to connect people to their landscape. It's an effective tool to demonstrate the magic and ecological significance of our river.

One popular outreach and fundraising campaign is the annual [RiverTrek](#). During this event, a select group of kayakers run the 107 miles of Apalachicola River to the Gulf of Mexico in five days, camping along the way. The first RiverTrek was held in 2007.

During the five days of RiverTrek, the kayak paddlers travel an average of 20 miles a day with side trips and camp on along the river's edge at night, according to Tommy Thompson, organizer and board member of Apalachicola River-

keeper. He explains, "The paddling team will meet with biologists and other history and ecology experts along the way. They are training as river ambassadors of sorts and the best way to learn about a river is to explore it."

Thompson adds that many on the RiverTrek team are from Georgia and Central Florida. Each paddler is charged with fostering learning opportunities about Apalachicola River and Bay in her respective community along with raising funds to support the ongoing advocacy work of Apalachicola Riverkeeper.

The 2018 RiverTrek will be held Oct. 9-13. Prior to launch, the volunteer paddlers seek donations from friends, family members, businesses and community members. RiverTrek volunteer paddlers are asked to set a minimum individual fundraiser goal of \$1,000. Most paddlers exceed this. Including related fundraising events, the 2017 RiverTrek Team collectively raised nearly \$60,000! For more information, please visit apalachicolariverkeeper.org/rivertrek/.

Riverkeeper volunteers also lead a monthly [Fourth Saturday Paddle](#) trip and other eco-educational field trips – both paddling and hiking trips – for the community. Our volunteers who lead these trips know that connecting people to their natural habitat is crucial in achieving long-term conservation goals. Staff and volunteers agree that the best way to learn about a place is first-hand experience.

In the past year, Apalachicola has partnered with Apalachee Audubon, Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy, Big Bend Sierra Club and Florida State University in effort expand conservation learning specific to the Apalachicola River basin. We're working especially hard to engage young people in conservation learning along the Apalachicola River.

One project that has gotten dozens of students involved is the [Apalachicola River Project](#). Spearheaded by Andy Opel, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Communication and director of the Digital Media Production Program at Florida State, the Apalachicola River Project is an interdisciplinary effort of students and

(Continued on page 17)



FSU students set up to film at Apalachicola Bay as part of their coursework in the Apalachicola River Project, an interdisciplinary effort to help the river.

Apalachicola River Project photo

faculty from Florida State University in partnership with Apalachicola Riverkeeper and other conservation and environmental partners.

The project aims to bring renewed attention to the Apalachicola River and Bay system. Last spring, more than 125 undergraduate students spent a semester learning about the challenges facing the Apalachicola River and Bay. The project included students from multiple departments, including Digital Media Production; Media and Communication Studies; English; and Environmental Science and Policy. Additionally, the digital media and social media students produced blogs, photos, and videos.

“This project is a way to bridge a gap and get students out into the field, using experiential education to reinforce classroom concepts, Opel said. “When students feel their work matters beyond the classroom, they work harder and produce better results.”

He added, “Knowing community partners are going to look at their work moved this experience from a classroom exercise to a real-world effort to make a difference.”

Apalachicola Riverkeeper staff and professional volunteers also coordinated classroom lectures and a series of science field trips along with weekend recreational outings. Students participated in kayaking at Lake Seminole, birding in the Apalachicola National Forest, and hiking at Torreya State Park. All recreational outings were offered at no cost to students thanks to collaborative partnerships with Big Bend Sierra Club and Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy.

Professional volunteers participated in the project contributing over 320 hours of field trips and outings supervision. Trips took place over the semester between February and April. Boat captains, trail leaders, kayak guides, classroom speakers all pitched in. Every project part-

ner spoke of the imperativeness of engaging young people in environmental efforts.

Erin Canter, an outings leader at Big Bend Sierra Club, trekked through Torreya State Park with a group of undergrads. Canter believes it’s important to introduce people to their natural world. “People will protect the places they love and the places that have become part of their storyline,” Canter said. “I hope that through exploring this area even for just a few hours, students will attach an experience to a place, and that will forever be a part of who they are and what they want to protect.”

The students echoed Canter’s sentiment. According to media production student Emma Watson, “Overall this was an eye-opening experience which brought to light many critical issues that we as a group were unaware of until diving into the community.”

About the Author

Georgia Ackerman is riverkeeper and executive director of the Apalachicola Riverkeeper. She has been involved with the organization for over a decade as a business sponsor, a program volunteer and board member. Georgia is also an ACA certified kayak instructor and leads conservation trips with Sierra Club National Outings and Apalachicola Riverkeeper.

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



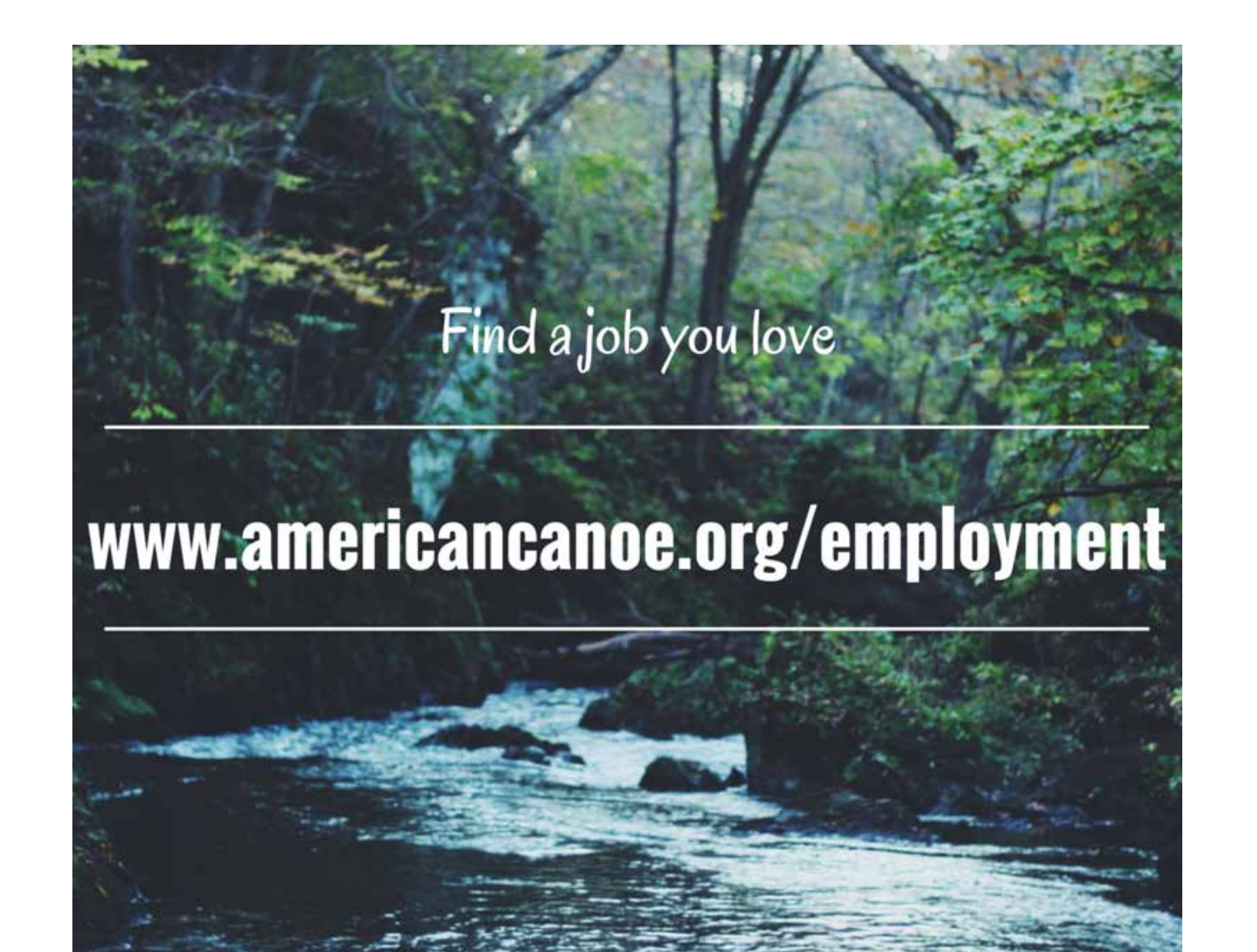
How much is there? Where does it come from? Help the ACA and NOAA **'Track Trash'** and clean up your local waterway in the process! Learn how to participate:

www.americancanoe.org/TrackTrash



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

www.americancanoe.org/LNT



Find a job you love

www.americancanoe.org/employment

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

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

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

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



EDUCATION

March Instructor of the Month



Josh Oberleas

Josh Oberleas has worked at the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center for nine seasons as a raft guide/instructor, kayak instructor, and SUP instructor. He has been an ACA instructor since 2006 and a kayak instructor trainer for four years.

As a raft guide/instructor, he has worked on the Arkansas River in Colorado with the ACA Pro School Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center in Buena Vista, Colorado. He enjoys teaching new guides and showing people the beauty of the river.



Oberleas studied Outdoor Leadership and Geology at Western State Colorado University in Gunnison, Colorado. He has been visiting Chile since 2007 when he first went with his school. He began working in Chile on the Maipo River and then in Pucon as a safety kayaker and raft guide.

In 2014 he completed his IT training and decided he wanted to share

his knowledge in South America. Since then, he has conducted several courses in Chile and Brazil.

“My goal was to share the information that was still fairly unknown [in South America]. After the first

course the students were fascinated to learn about so much and the progression of teaching in South America. There is a lot of interest here, and the ACA has a beautiful and reputable name,” said Oberleas.

After that positive feedback, he started offering courses and spreading the ACA in South America. He has had students from all over South America, Europe, and the U.S.

The most eye-opening experience Oberleas has had while teaching courses has been realizing there was no formal instruction in Chile. Most kayakers learned from their friends. Essentially, they would learn the roll and then go to the river.

“Showing them that there is another way to learn/teach has exploded this sport here and I am honored to have helped accelerate the growth of kayaking and rafting in South America,” Oberleas said.

With Spanish as a second language, Oberleas has found teaching to be a great challenge, but also a very rewarding undertaking.

“In Chile it is amazing to be guiding on the Trancura River in Pucon. It’s a different type of river to run, and you learn a lot from how people in other places in the world run rivers,” said Oberleas.

April Instructor of the Month

Tosh Arwood

Tosh Arwood's life is whitewater. His career revolves around his true passion for whitewater, and he has the ability to share that passion with others.

Arwood began his career at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in its retail organization as paddlesports product manager. In that capacity, he was responsible for all paddlesports product offerings, ordering and replenishment, and sales in the NOC Outfitter's Store, where he controlled millions of dollars of inventory.

Arwood was then promoted to paddling school manager, where he oversees the largest whitewater paddling school in the world. He holds

numerous certifications, including Wilderness First Responder, ACA Kayak Instructor Level 5, ACA Swiftwater Rescue, Rescue 3 Swiftwater Rescue Technician-A, and Whitewater Rescue Technician-A.

Most recently, Arwood went on a self-support kayaking trip with other NOC guides down the Grand Canyon. His favorite NOC adventure is Adventure Travel to Chile.

"I have been fortunate enough to spend multiple winters in South America, between Ecuador and Chile," said Tosh Arwood.

"I have facilitated everything from exposing unknowing locals to the amazing resources in their own



back yard, to providing my students from the U.S. the opportunity to paddle in the warmth of winter in the southern hemisphere, progressing as paddlers. In each case, seeing the confidence and growth gained is extremely rewarding. I'm pretty much living the dream," he added.

One of the more remarkable aspects of teaching for Arwood is how paddlesports bring people together.

"We have students in our programs from all walks of life. In any given clinic you could have a lawyer, a college student, a tradesman, and an IT consultant. The river brings these diverse individuals together initially, but the friendships they form during the week/weekend last well beyond. More often than not they network on their own and return the following season together as a group."

He continued, "The learning environment on the river neutralizes many social contrasts. We are all vulnerable in these conditions and it often brings out the best in us."



News from the SEIC

The [Safety Education & Instruction Council](#) (SEIC) completed their discipline committee elections at the beginning of the year, and there are now some new faces within these committees to accompany our dedicated volunteers who have helped build the ACA instructional programs for several years. SEIC meets twice per year to discuss revisions and additions to existing programs, curricula, and ACA policy.

The most recent SEIC Discipline Committee meetings were held March 2, 2018, followed by the collective SEIC meeting on March 3. Resulting from these important discussions, the following updates were approved by both the SEIC and the ACA Board of Directors:

- New certification level structure for **River & Whitewater SUP Instructors**
- Level 3 Instructors (and higher) now able to deliver **Paddlesport Safety Facilitator Program**
- Changes to the **River Kayak Curriculum**
- Changes to the **Coastal Kayak Curriculum**

[Click here](#) for more details on these changes.

The next **Discipline Committee & SEIC Meetings** will be held in conjunction with the ACA Leadership Academy, being held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 24-25, 2018. Find all the insider info [here](#).

For more information about the SEIC, including a list of the current staff and committee members, please visit www.americancanoe.org/SEIC.



Larry Ausley photo

Is your INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION expiring this year?

In order to fulfill Instructor, Instructor Trainer (IT) or Instructor Trainer Educator (ITE) maintenance requirements, it is necessary to report a minimum number of courses.

However, the SEI Department encourages Instructors to report all courses. Having an accurate assessment of the ACA's safety, education and instruction outreach is a vital component in advancing the mission of the association.

To maintain your certification, be sure to report your courses and seek out an instructor update opportunity. Find out how, [here](#).

Remember, you can complete these requirements at any time during your certification period – don't wait until your fourth year of certification.

ACA provides new PowerPoint for instructor trainers, educators

The ACA has updated its [sample Instructor Certification Workshop PowerPoint presentation](#).

This free resource provides a variety of slides to help instructor trainers introduce various important topics about the ACA so that Instructor Candidates are better informed about resources, tools, and requirements concerning their certifications, teaching habits, and outreach efforts.

Feel free to use some or even all of the PPT slides from the sample presentation in your next Instructor Certification Workshop.

Access this and other helpful tools online at www.americancanoe.org//Resources.



Instructor Certification Workshop

Date:

Instructor Trainer(s):

Education. Recreation. Stewardship. Exploration. Competition.



ACA canoeing video named **finalist** in film festival

The ACA's *Golden Rules of Canoeing* instructional video was recently selected as a finalist in the [2018 Paddling Film Festival](#). As a result, the film will be on tour to over 120 cities around the world this year.

Also since the film has been selected to go on tour, it's now also up for the [Aqua-Bound People's Choice Award](#), where festival-goers have a chance to vote for their favorite film. Winners in that category will be announced at the end of the world tour once all votes have been tallied.



The *Golden Rules of Canoeing* is part of an instructional series produced in partnership with the ACA. In this film, director and producer Ken Whiting takes a look at choosing an appropriate paddling location, using the power of your torso and learning to be prepared for the unexpected.

For a full list of tour dates and cities, please [click here](#).

ACA welcomes new ProSchool:



[Boating in Boston](#) offers adult sailing, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and canoe classes for all skill levels as well as youth sailing day camps. Their experienced, friendly instructors teach all lessons in a fun, safe environment.

For more breathtaking water fun, join them for a unique scenic sunrise or sunset kayak tour and take in the Boston skyline as you've never seen it before. There's so much for you, your family and your friends to enjoy! Be sure to check out their value-packed Season Passes that make it even easier for you to enjoy your favorite boating activities all summer long!



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.

Don't forget to WEAR IT



With spring blooming in most of the U.S., boaters are eagerly taking to the water. In a few weeks, National Safe Boating Week will kick off the annual [North American Safe Boating Campaign](#) to remind boaters to be safe while enjoying water-based activities.

The campaign kicks off the weekend before Memorial Day with National Safe Boating Week. This year's National Safe Boating Week takes place May 19-25.

The campaign is a yearlong effort in the U.S. and Canada focused on spreading the message of boating safety and the critical importance of always wearing a life jacket every time on the water.



The campaign also reminds boaters of the importance of boating responsibly, encouraging them to take a boating safety course, never boating under the influence, use an engine cutoff device on motorboats, and know navigational rules.

Organized by the [National Safe Boating Council](#), the North American Safe Boating Campaign is produced under a grant from the Sports Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Whether you're an adult, teenager, child, infant, or even a family pet, there's a life jacket that's right for you. Life jacket styles are available for almost any boating activity – from inherently buoyant to inflatable options. Please visit [safeboatingcampaign.com](#) and the NSBC's Online Store for more boating safety and life jacket information. The campaign offers free and paid resources.

Thanks to the NSBC, two re-branded Wear It logos are available for ACA members to use. The updated logos are available for download at [www.americancanoe.org/About Us](#).



ACA



Paddlesports

Questions about the campaign, or interested in becoming a campaign partner? Contact the NSBC at [outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org](#).

GET INVOLVED



- **May 18, 2018: Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day**
Wear your life jacket, snap a picture while at work and share on social media with the hashtags #life-jacket2work and #safeboating. Photos may be shared directly to outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org.

This annual event is a fun opportunity to heighten life jacket awareness and educate coworkers about the proper life jacket for them, different styles, and how to use an inflatable life jacket by wearing your life jacket to work.

- **May 19-25, 2018: National Safe Boating Week**
The Safe Boating Campaign kicks off the weekend before Memorial Day with National Safe Boating Week and continues throughout the year with various events and activities. Share on social media with #safeboatingweek and #safeboating.

Plan a local event in your community with template resources for proclamation, media advisory, press release, posters and more!



- **Wear It! Life Jacket Pledge:** This is a great way to show your dedication to boating safety. Pledging to always wear your life jacket will serve as a great reminder to yourself and to those around you. Begin the pledge [now!](#)

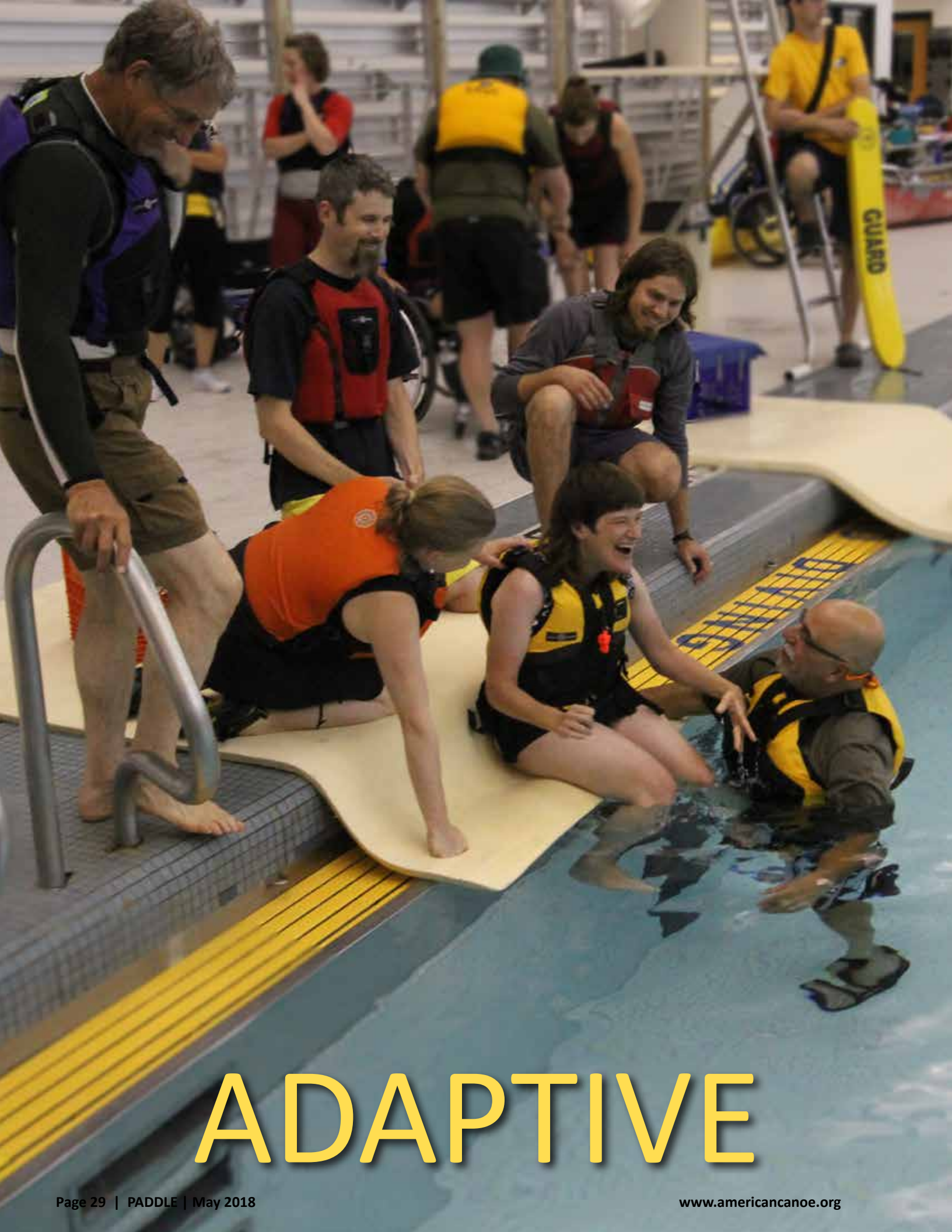
- **May 19, June 9, July 7, August 11: Ready, Set, Wear It events**



Participate in one of four Ready, Set, Wear It events hosted by the Safe Boating Campaign to raise awareness about the importance of wearing a life jacket). Previously comprised of a single event during National Safe Boating Week, Ready, Set, Wear It is now offered four times throughout the summer to offer even more opportunities for grassroots support of the campaign: May 19, June 9, July 7, and August 11.

The event with the most participants on each event day will receive a prize! A worldwide tally will be taken at the end of the summer, and the event with the most participants will receive a grand prize.

So, grab your safe boating friends and make a friendly challenge to others that your Ready, Set, Wear It event will be the biggest and best ever! Remember to use the hashtag #RSWI2018. Find out more information at www.ReadySetWearIt.com.



ADAPTIVE



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.

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

We are seeking educational presentation proposals from professionals who work to deliver paddlesport or other on-water programs to individuals with physical and/or sensory disabilities.

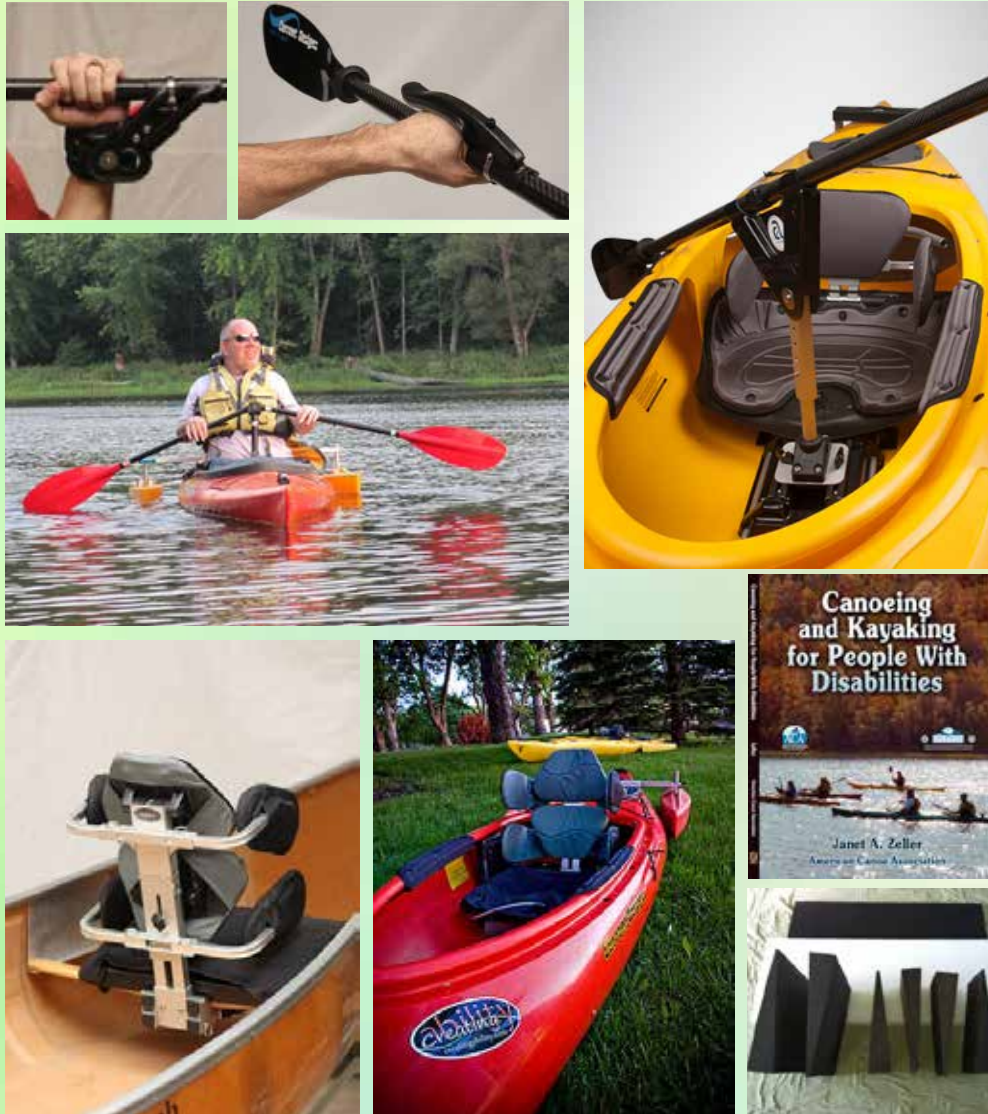
All topics are welcome. However, presentation proposals relevant to the needs of individuals with disabilities resulting from spinal cord injury will receive preferential consideration.

If you are interested in presenting at the 2018 Adaptive Paddling Summit, please [click here](#) for more information and to access the Presentation Application. Proposals are due by June 15.

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Looking for adaptive paddling equipment? Eight unique items are available in the ACA's eStore, including paddles, seats, grips, and foam outfitting kits.

Click [here](#) to learn more about these products.



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!

Committee to develop new **ADAPTIVE PADDLING INSTRUCTOR ENDORSEMENT**

Thanks to grant funding, and a partnership with Adaptive Expeditions, the ACA's Adaptive Paddling Committee will be developing a series of curriculum updates for advanced communications that relate to:

- Vision impairments
- Speech challenges
- Hearing impairments

On May 6-9, 2018, Adaptive Expeditions is hosting a Curriculum Development Summit at Seabrook Island, South Carolina. Hand-picked applicants will work to codify the most effective strategies for teaching and learning, risk assessment and management, and effective facilitation of on-water group dynamics for paddlesports programs that include individuals with these disability types.

The resulting AC-AP Endorsement will be a new national level instructor credentialing that will benefit veterans and all other people who have vision impairment or blindness, hearing impairment or deafness, as well as speech, language, and/or perceptual impacts from traumatic brain injury and/or other acquired brain injury, such as stroke, brain tumor, etc.



Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

June 7-10

[Adaptive Paddling Instructor Certification Workshop](#)
Durham, New Hampshire

September 20-23

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

October 5-7

[ParaCanoeing World Conference](#)
Stockholm, Sweden

diff·a·bil·i·ty

A difference in ability that requires unique skills and problem solving, often accompanied by an increase in perseverance and badassery.



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





NEWS NEAR YOU

Boating in DC photo

Series developed to *invigorate* Kentucky's paddlesports racing community

The Kentucky Waterman Series (KWS), the commonwealth's first statewide paddlesports racing series created by Frankfort-based [The Explore Kentucky Initiative](#) (EKI), returns for 2018 with a new presenting sponsor, Breaks Interstate Park. Now in its second year, this all-inclusive race series will guide paddlers of all skill levels on an amazing journey across the state's scenic waterways and lakes through 11 paddlesports races.

Organized by grassroots race directors and the EKI team, each race will feature a unified class system, rankings leaderboard, and will con-

tinue the tradition of rad custom awards & prizes. The KWS class system was expanded this year to offer several different disciplines for paddlers to race across the series from recreational kayaks, sea kayaks, SUPs, canoe, high performance kayaks, and more. The point system is straightforward; racers will be assigned points according to their place at the finish line.

Top finishers will get a plaque and will be eligible for grand prizes, including vacation packages featuring lodging, dining, and activities across Kentucky.

The first event of the year is the Bluegrass River Run, which launches from Fort Boonesborough State Park on May 12 along the start of the Kentucky River Palisades. The Bluegrass River Run will feature the Kentucky Waterman Series Kickoff Party after the race at Proud Mary's BBQ. The season closer, the 3rd Annual Big South Fork River Dash, will take place October 6 in the National Park Service's Big South Fork National River & Recreational Area.

EKI is very excited to host the Kentucky Waterman Series. In 2017, the series hosted over 500 paddlers from more than 10 states. They



KENTUCKY WATERMAN

PRESENTED BY
Breaks Interstate Park

SERIES

SUP • KAYAK • CANOE

helped generate over \$50,000 for local economies through ecotourism-related income. Also, communities along the various waterways formed coalitions to help support events as a tourism/public health initiative. EKI is striving to build upon this foundation by providing a sustainable program to further invigorate Kentucky's paddlesports community.

"We believe that Kentucky's waterways offer a number of underappreciated opportunities for recreation and adventure, not just for those who live on Kentucky shores, but for the kids who will grow up to be watermen and -women, for those who want to travel here and become a part of our great community, and for the members of the general public who have not yet embraced life on the water," said Gerry Seavo James, director for The Explore Kentucky Initiative.

This season's presenting sponsor is the Virginia State Parks & Kentucky State Parks' Breaks Interstate Park. [Breaks](#), as it is affectionately known, is a 4500-acre bi-state park located in the Appalachian counties of Pike & Dickenson County, Kentucky and Virginia respectfully.

The Park features several hiking trails, ziplining, world-class rock climbing, and challenging class IV whitewater on the Russell Fork River that goes through the Breaks Canyon system (many call it the Grand Canyon of the South). The partnership between EKI and Breaks is part of an ongoing multi-year partner-

05.12.18	Bluegrass River Run
06.09.18	Taylorsville Lake Paddle Battle
06.23.18	Morehead Paddlefest
07.07.18	Lovely Laurel River Lake Paddle Blast
07.10-14.18	KR255
07.21.18	The Western Kentucky Battle for the Paddle
	TBA
08.04.18	SUP 4 The Cup, Race to the Roebling, & NatiNKY Nine Mile
08.18.18	The Mighty Cumberland River Run
09.15.18	The Great Ohio River Odyssey
09.22.18	Mighty Cumberland River Challenge
10.06.18	Big South Fork River Dash

KENTUCKY'S FIRST PADDLESPOUNTS RACE SERIES | PADDLEKENTUCKY.US

ship between the two entities who are working to help with economic transition of the Appalachian region through ecotourism.

Another supporter of KWS 2018 is [Kentucky Waterways Alliance](#), a statewide nonprofit dedicated to protecting, restoring, and celebrating Kentucky's waterways. KWA will be serving as a buoy sponsor, and their logo will be emblazoned across

all KWS race buoys on the water during events. The race buoys will provide a visual testimony to paddlers and the general public of the hard work that KWA does to protect the state waterways for current and future generations of Kentuckians.

For more information, please visit www.explorekentucky.us/kentucky-watermanseries.

Flooding prompts **ASSISTANCE REQUEST** from Hawaiian canoe clubs



Severe flooding has caused an enormous amount of damage to North Shore canoe clubs on Kauai. Hanalei Canoe Club and NaMolokama have lost canoes and equipment estimated at a value of \$250,000.

Paddling clubs are often the lifeblood of a community. Reaching hundreds of local keiki each year our clubs give back to community and help build and maintain strong culture. It's a huge loss for these clubs to be devastated and will take years for them to get back on their feet without help.

Local outrigger canoe racing association [Kauai Outrigger Association](#) has set up a GoFundMe page for donations to help the two canoe clubs. You can make donations at www.gofundme.com/flooded-canoe-club-hales.

Donations will be used to replace/fix outrigger canoes and associated equipment for these clubs. Each racing canoe is around \$20,000 and our smaller one-man canoes are around \$5,000 each.



Paddlers invited to 24th Annual Delaware River Sojourn

The [Delaware River Sojourn](#) combines the experiences of guided paddling excursions with interpretive programs, camping, and camaraderie. Participants may sign up for the entire trip or for the day(s) of their choice; all skill levels are welcome.

Over 60 miles of the main stem Delaware River will be paddled in 2018, split into daily trips ranging from nine to 13 miles during June 16-23.

“The sojourn is a wonderful way to discover the Delaware River and experience firsthand the unique character and diversity of its different sections,” said Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Steve Tambini.

“DRBC has been working for more than 56 years to manage and protect this shared water resource. We encourage the public to participate in this family-friendly paddling and learning adventure,” he added.

Registration fees in 2018 are \$80 per day for adults and \$50 per day for children (ages 15 and under).

There is an additional one-time insurance fee of \$5 per person for this ACA-sanctioned event, except for current ACA members.

Registration fees cover the guided river trip, single or tandem kayak rental (with paddle and life jacket), shuttle transportation, educational programs, most meals, a souvenir T-shirt, and optional overnight camping sites. Participants may bring their own river-worthy boat, but please note that neither aluminum nor wooden canoes are recommended.

On June 15, the day before the paddle trip begins, the sojourn and the National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

are hosting a river cleanup from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers will clean up a four-mile section of the Delaware River starting at the Buckingham access in Pa. and ending at the Lordville access in N.Y. Volunteers must pre-register through the Delaware River Sojourn website. Canoes and equipment will be provided.

Registration details, itinerary overview, sojourn partners, and sojourn guidelines are available at <https://delawareriversojourn.com>. Sojourners can register online using Paypal. Registration-related questions and first-time paddler discount availability inquiries should be directed to De-jay Branch at (646) 205-2724 or info@riversojourn.com.

The nonprofit, annual event is organized by a steering committee with representatives from federal, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and individual volunteers. The DRBC has proudly served on the steering committee since the sojourn's early years and is represented by Communications Specialist Kate Schmidt.



State by State

Louisiana

In Lafayette, the [Bayou Vermilion District](#) has purchased 4.56 acres of land where Bayou Carencro and Bayou Fuselier merge to form Bayou Vermilion. This tract of land is being developed into the northern terminus of the Bayou Vermilion District Paddle Trail. Plans for its usage include installation of a kayak and canoe launch, with restrooms, and mile markers along the trail. For additional information contact Greg Guidroz at environmental@bayouvermiliondistrict.org.

Ben Sandamel, LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Bayou Vermilion District photo

Michigan

Youth and Paddling

I was fortunate to be invited to be a presenter at both the Quietwater Symposium and Canoeconia this year and managed to fly up from winter paddling operations to attend. Both events were very well organized and attended with record numbers this year. The general pulse seemed to be that coastal kayak sales were picking up and it felt like canoe sales were also on the uptick. What was noticeably absent were boats sized for the next generation of paddlers. Since Wilderness Systems

discontinued the Tsunami SP, there is really no “kid” sized kayak on the market with hatches, bulkheads and deck lines. Whatever happened to “build it and they will come...”?

I do have to applaud Current Designs for their new model “Raven” aimed at young boaters at a nice price point for a very light composite boat, but they ought to be pumping out a nicely molded plastic boats at a value price to get families, youth camps and schools into paddling. Hook them now and they’ll be buyers for life...it’s good business. Urge your local retailers to lean on their factory reps for youth gear.

Young Zander Steelman decided to stand up for paddling safety and invasive species awareness by organizing an attempt at a Guinness Book record for a flotilla of Stand-up Paddleboarders on East Grand Traverse Bay. The event is scheduled for June 3. For more information and to get involved, check out Zander’s Facebook page for the event: www.facebook.com/ProtectTheGreatLakes/.

Crystal Lake Adventure Sports in Frankfort and Beulah, Michigan, has been tuned into the youth paddling market for a long time and sponsors a summer race that has a youth class. They recently found that one their vendors (Surftech) was discontinuing their youth-sized



Current Designs photo

performance SUP and purchased all the company had left. They'll have least six carbon displacement hulled boards ready for summer rental and touring. Check them out at <http://crystallakeadventuresports.com/>.

We've all heard of Nature Deficit Disorder and No Child Left Inside campaigns...it's up to all of us as paddlers and lovers of outdoor fun to get young people out on the water. Investing in them IS investing in the wellbeing of our waterways.

Michael Gray, MiStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Missouri

For over 30 years, the Ozark Mountain Paddlers have hosted an annual Whitewater Paddling Clinic on the Mulberry River in Arkansas. The 2018 clinic took place March 24-25 and this state director was fortunate enough to attend.

The clinic consisted of several roll classes held in a pool throughout the winter months culminating in a weekend of on-the-river training, camping, great food and even better company. All classes were instructed by ACA certified instructors and several safety boaters assisted with the river sessions. This was my first time attending the clinic, and I highly recommend it



to paddlers wishing to improve their whitewater skills or, like me, were wanting to get their feet (and pretty much everything else) wet paddling whitewater for the first time.

My group of mostly beginners definitely showed improvement from day one to day two. I think just about everyone swam at least once, but as one veteran paddler told me "we're all just between swims anyway." For more information on the Ozark Mountain Paddlers visit www.ozarkmtnpaddlers.org or find them on Facebook @ozarkmtnpaddlers.

Justin Adams, MoStateDirector@americancanoe.net

(Continued on page 41)





Catching a wave during the Ice Breaker paddle trip on the Rio Grande through Albuquerque.

New Mexico

Padding as a Community in New Mexico

By Michael Carney

Spring is here and community paddling events for all skill levels have kicked off in New Mexico. Easter weekend saw the 7-mile Ice Breaker SUP trip down the Rio Grande and the first in a six-part SUP fitness series.

With fantastic temperatures and good flows, paddlers got the chance to shake off the cobwebs with the benefit of ACA-certified instructors on hand to give out a few pointers to new boaters. If you missed these great events, fear not! There are plenty of community events scheduled throughout this summer.

Albuquerque-based MST Adventures will be hosting weekly paddle sessions at Sandia Lakes every Wednesday evening through September. These weekly sessions offer a great opportunity for experienced boaters to hone their skills and novice paddlers to learn the skills to be safe and have fun on the water. In addition to lessons, this year MST Adventures will host organized games, family-focused events, and SUP yoga.

Building a great community is more than about teaching people how to paddle; it's also about supporting those around us. Over the last year MST Adventures has provided financial and in-kind support to several local groups including the Friends of Sandia Mountain, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Presbyterian

Ear Institute, The Great Sandia Lakes Cardboard Boat Race benefiting the Serenity Mesa Recovery Center, and many more.

Lastly, the Adobe Whitewater Club and New Mexico River Outfitters Association are co-hosting the 61st Annual Mother's Day Races and whitewater festival May 11-13.

This three-day event starts with a Dutch oven cookoff, has race categories for every kind of paddler, and ends with a day of group paddling for everyone from family tips and adaptive paddling to Class IV runs down the Taos Box. The races will be held on the 4.5-mile, Class III section of the Rio Grande known as the Racecourse, which begins just south of Taos, in Pilar, and runs along NM State Road 68.

More details can be found at www.mothersdaywhitewater.com.

Robert Levin, NmStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Participants run toward their rafts for a competition during the annual Mother's Day Races.

Ohio



On November 29, 2017, the Ohio Senate passed Concurrent Resolution 15 designating 2018 as the “Ohio Year of the Trails.” Many great things are happening both on land and on the water. As for the water side, Ohio currently has 10 designated water trails with seven more in development or finalizing their designation. These trails encompass all types of water. Some are leisurely paddles while others have exhilarating white water; some are for sea kayakers, while others support wildlife viewing and fishing.

The trails and their associated maps help paddlers know where we can safely and legally access the water we love. They let us know where we can park and where we might find amenities such as restrooms or food. It takes a lot of work to get these trails designated, and many of your fellow ACA members dedicate their expertise to make these trails a reality. By designating these trails throughout the state, we protect the rights of all citizens to access our rivers, streams and lakes.

Check out the Ohio Department of Natural Resources web page at watercraft.ohiodnr.gov/watertrails for a complete list and support a trail near you – after all, it is the Ohio Year of the Trails. Ryan Pepper, OhStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Pennsylvania

ACA-Pennsylvania is preparing for spring by teaming up with local rafting company Wilderness Voyageurs and WELS Adventure to educate the next generation of whitewater enthusiasts in Fayette County PA. Together we’ve held 10 weeks of kayak education sessions which include introduction to whitewater personal gear, throw bags, raft flip drills and of course kayaking instruction. As for the rest of Pennsylvania River Stewards are working overtime and boaters are hitting all the creeks and rivers taking advantage of the high water. Steve Barber, PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

South Carolina



The Charleston Outdoor Fest was held April 21-22, and the [28th East Coast Paddlesports Symposium](#) was held April 20 and 23 at James Island County Park. Daech year, this event celebrates paddlesports and outdoor recreation.

Organized by Charleston County Parks, an approved ACA Pro School, the event functions as a three-day immersion in the history, technique, hands-on experience, and fun of kayaking, canoeing, SUP, and more. The festival also features several IDWs and ICEs related to kayaking and SUP.

(Continued on page 43)

In anticipation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, the Charleston Outdoor Festival invited Stanton Collins to be a presenter and keynote speaker at this year's festival. Stanton is a Olympic hopeful representing the USA in Sprint kayaking.



Stanton Collins has been paddling since he was 10 years old, and he began sprint kayaking competitively when he was 13. He has competed for the Sprint Kayak U.S. National Team for five years and will be competing for the U.S.A. in the 2018 season.

Collins has competed in many World Championships and World Cups. In 2015 he achieved fourth in the world in the K2 500m, and in 2014 he won the K2 500m at the Pan-American Championships. He has had the opportunity to spend a lot of time paddling in countries across Europe and all over the U.S. He has also been involved in coaching dragon boat teams for the past 7 years in Gainesville as well as at events across the southeast. Stanton grew up and trains in Gainesville, Georgia, at the site of the 1996 Olympic Sprint Kayak and Rowing Venue. He is currently a student at Georgia Tech while training.

Also in April, ACA South Carolina, along with the USCG, held the spring Incident Management Program coordinated by ACA Instructor Scott Brown.

The South Carolina Paddlesports Industry Association had booths at several major tourism festivals in South Carolina such as the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition in Charleston. The SCPIA promotes ACA training for all members of the association to ensure safe practices by its members.

In late April, the Foothills Paddling Club – an ACA Paddle America Club – once again gathered at the beautiful Chattooga River for their annual membership drive and paddling season kickoff. This involved three days of grassroots fellowship with the annual 72-hour

bonfire and many paddling workshops for club members. Their best trip leaders and instructors donated their time to help their members.

The first Coastal Kayak Instructor Development class was held at the College of Charleston. This class was established by Ashley Brown, who serves as adjunct professor of Coastal Kayaking and SUP at the College of Charleston.

In May, Adaptive Expeditions, the ACA and Disabled Sports USA are holding a Curriculum Development Summit to help develop a new ACA Advanced Communications Adaptive Paddling Endorsement (AC-AP Endorsement). This summit will be held on Seabrook Island. *(Editor's Note: For more information, please see page 32.)*

Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism is coordinating the Pumphouse River run in June. They will also offer an adaptive paddling component this year for the first time.

Save the Date: ACA Level 1 and Level 2 Instructor Update and Symposium

When: September 15-16, 2018

Where: Rockhill, S.C.

The ACA and the City of Rock Hill Active Learning & Living Outdoors program are excited to offer the second symposium designed to address the specific needs of Level 1 & Level 2 Kayak, Canoe, and SUP instructors.

This instructor update and symposium is your chance to increase the quality of the clinics and assessment courses you offer by improving your personal paddling and rescue techniques, learning new teaching methods for beginner paddlers, and enhancing your ability to assess the strokes and body mechanics of your students while providing them with clear, targeted feedback on their technique.

Jeff Atkins, ScStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Utah Whitewater Club
PRESENTS THE 18th ANNUAL

WHITEWATER FILM FESTIVAL

7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
BREWVIES CINEMA PUB
677 SOUTH 200 WEST
SALT LAKE CITY,
UTAH 84101
(Must be 21 years old, with ID... Cash or checks only)

PHOTO: Jan Reinhart • Boater: Josh Reinhart, Upper Provo Falls, Utah

WHITEWATER FILMS! FOOD! SWAG! RAFFLE! SILENT AUCTION!
A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE
Utah Stream Access Coalition

Utah

The Utah Whitewater Club held its 18th Annual Film Festival on April 19 in Salt Lake City. More than 30 sponsors signed on, donating awesome swag for the raffle drawings and silent auction. All proceeds from the event went to the [Utah Stream Access Coalition](#). The USAC's mission is to promote and assist in all aspects of securing and maintaining public access to, and use of, Utah's public waters and streambeds.

West Virginia

This month, we're giving you some "hard news," along with great solutions to these issues!

West Virginia has been one of the most obese states in America for some time now and has most recently been ravaged by an opioid epidemic of unparalleled proportions. Our focus on stewardship, therefore, transcends the riverbanks and reaches into our communities where the 'cleanup' is needed most.

With more opiate overdoses per capita than any other state in the nation, it's time to think progressively, and leverage paddling as a holistic (drug) prevention method, along with our rivers as a natural resource to support this mission.

May 13-19 is [National Prevention Week](#), an annual health observance organized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In West Virginia during this week, we'll be highlighting river access points and the outdoors spaces around them to encourage our local residents to get out and active, whether on the water or land, and therefore create a community centered on outdoor recreation as opposed to addiction, isolation, and recreational hard-drug use.

Activities will include a safety talk with a focus on life jackets and the Nautical Rules of the Road. We'll also give a walk-through of the access points themselves

(Continued on page 45)





such as boat ramps, docks, etc., along with the proper approach to launching and landing paddlecraft amidst other boat traffic.

As an ACA certified SUP instructor, I'll be leading free SUP demos for all to enjoy while utilizing ACA curriculum to support the ACA's standards of safety and excellence in instruction. In addition to the demos, we'll be leading small group paddles and some short fun races to promote friendly competition at each location.

We ask YOUR support in prompting all West Virginians to get out and paddle for prevention! Please like and follow our Facebook page @AcaWestVirginia for ongoing updates leading up to the big week, and please utilize the hashtag #Paddle4Prevention when sharing our event(s)!

Ultimately, we want to permeate our communities with the joy of paddling to make a true and lasting impact. If we plant the seeds of safe-paddling fundamentals into our youth, we believe they'll take root into a stronger foundation and healthier future for all of West Virginia! Evan Young, WvStateDirector@americancanoe.net

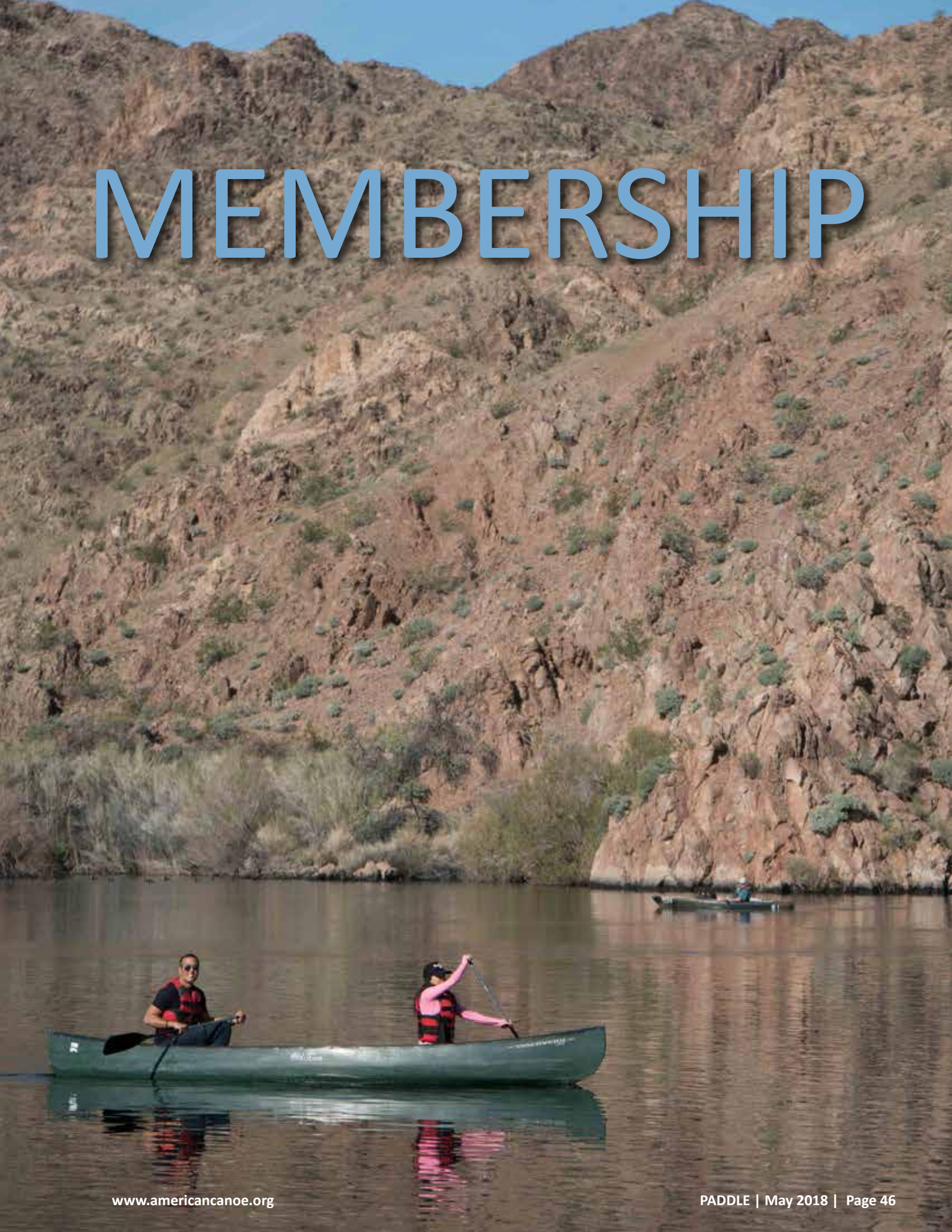
Wisconsin

Boaters are dusting off gear and headed out to lakes and rivers. It is time to practice all of our safety skills as this is the time of year when hypothermia is in play. Being able to get a kayaker or canoer in need of assistance out of the water quickly is paramount. While many people attend pool sessions to make sure t-rescues, hand-of-god, and assisted re-entries are in good shape, not everyone did. Make sure your crews have those skills sharp before heading out to open water and whitewater fun.

Schedules are being posted for festivals and release dates for various rivers. Check your favorite websites and know when you are heading out for some outdoor fun.

Tom Schrader, WiStateDirector@americancanoe.net

MEMBERSHIP



Board member shares stories of Rappahannock

ACA Board of Directors member Bill Micks has promoted river safety and conservation along the Rappahannock River for more than five decades. Inspired by his Boy Scout experiences, in the early 1970s Bill began teaching canoeing classes in the Fredericksburg area through the American Red Cross. His outfitting businesses helped establish the recreational paddling scene on the Rappahannock, and today Bill is co-owner of the Virginia Outdoor Center.

On the conservation front, Bill and his wife, Denise, helped found Friends of the Rappahannock in 1985. Bill was an important voice in the effort that led to the removal of the Embrey Dam in 2004, and he assisted with the establishment of the City of Fredericksburg Watershed Management Property in 2006. He continues to be a conservation leader throughout the Rappahannock watershed.



Bill's involvement with protecting the Rappahannock River has been captured as part of an ongoing oral history program. [Life Along the Rappahannock](#) is a collaborative effort between [Friends of the Rappahan-](#)

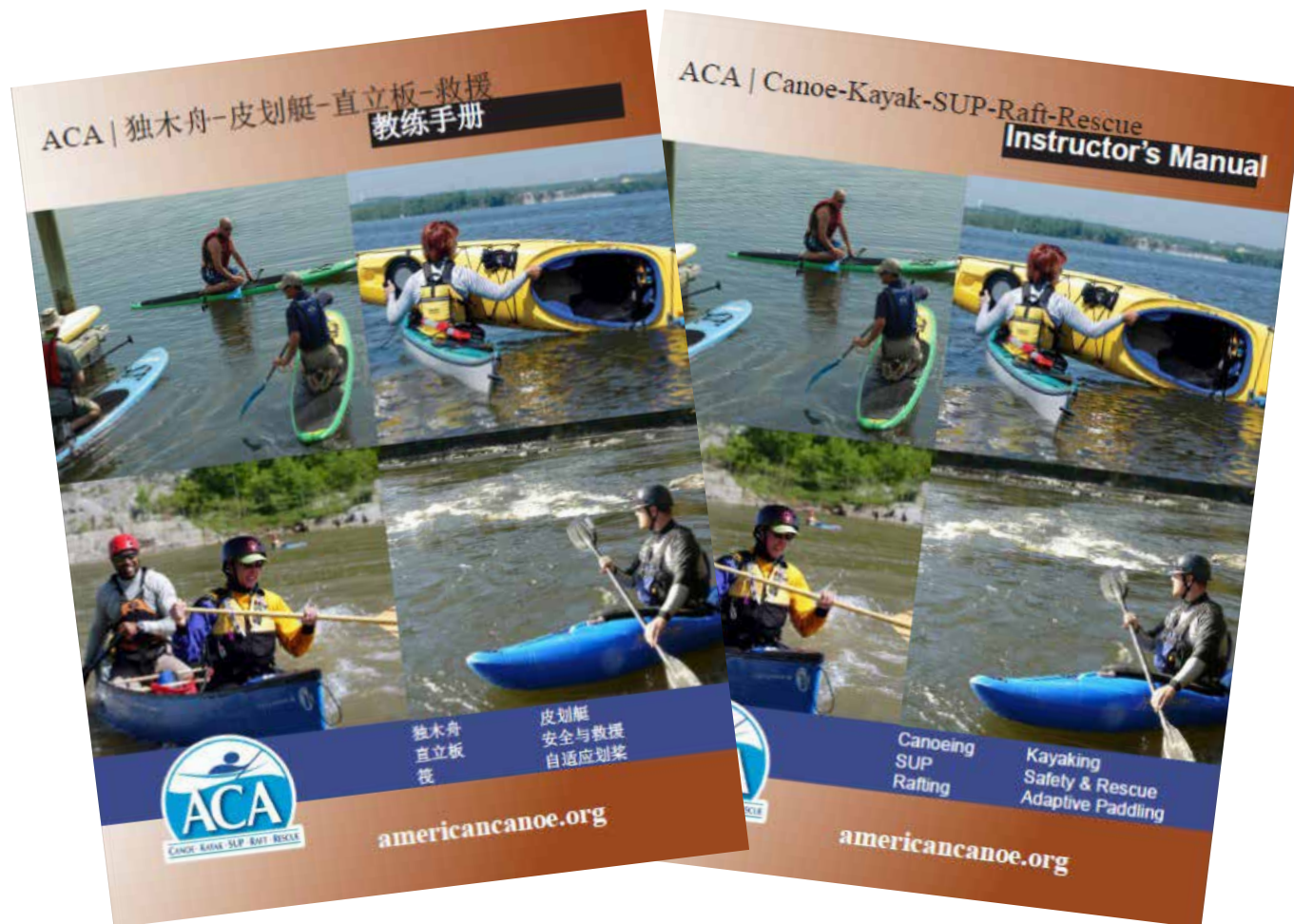
[nock](#) and the University of Mary Washington's Department of History and American Studies to preserve stories about local people and their relationships to the Rappahannock River.

The first five interviews are now available on the FOR website. Each hour-long video features a narrator relating stories that involve the river.

Bill Micks is one of the first people to have been interviewed for the oral history project. Watch the full interview online www.riverfriends.org/bill-micks-oral-history/.

INSTRUCTOR MANUAL AVAILABLE IN CHINESE

The ACA Instructor's Manual has been translated into Chinese and is now available in the ACA estore. The Spanish translation is coming soon. Find these and more in the ACA eStore!



The ACA Instructor's Manual provides the necessary broad-based approach to support all ACA instructors and instructor candidates in all paddlesports disciplines. It represents the collective knowledge gained by experts in the paddling community. The manual also contains the relevant policies and procedures from the ACA's Safety Education & Instruction Council.

All instructor candidates must have the Instructor's Manual in one of these formats: downloadable PDF file, spiral-bound book, or CD.

**The manual was last updated in February 2015.*

www.americancanoe.org/eStore

The Verde River Institute

The Verde River Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to developing and facilitating the implementation of policies that help to ensure that the Verde River in central Arizona retains flows that will

to promote a healthy, flowing Verde River and a stronger, greater Verde community;” the institute also helps policymakers understand the many complex water resource issues in central Arizona.



support sustainable, healthy and diverse economies and ecosystems. Its mission is to provide research and data, funding, policy expertise, education and consulting on diverse Verde River issues.

The institute is committed to finding sustainable solutions for the human and natural worlds that depend on the Verde River to supply their needs. Operating under the vision that “Connecting people and resources

Each year, the Verde River Institute hosts more than 300 people on guided kayak trips on the Verde River. These trips are designed to educate and engage people from a wide range of groups, including policymakers, educators, business people from the Verde Valley, conservationists, landowners, water managers, state and federal employees, among other stakeholders.

To learn more about the Verde River Institute, please visit www.verderiverinstitute.org.

**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!

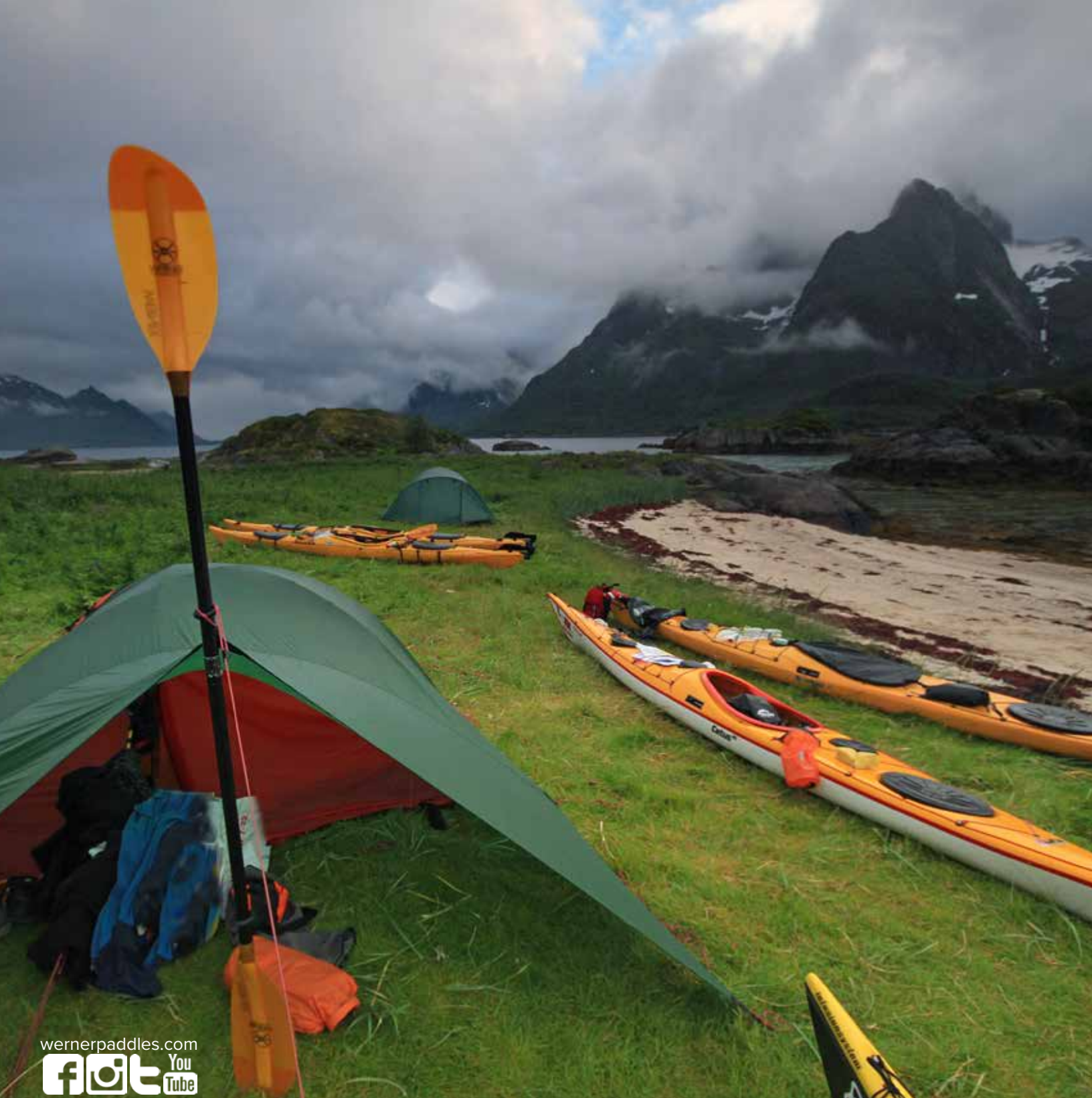
As an ACA member, your gift recipient will enjoy the following benefits:

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- [Public Policy](#) representation
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- 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](#)
- Discounts on ACA [merchandise](#)
- 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:

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue
Attn: Membership Department / Gift Membership
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Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 907-4460 ext 109

After purchasing your gift membership, you will receive a confirmation email with a downloadable gift announcement (PDF file) to give to the receiver.



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American Rivers
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**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



FOUR YEARS OF PADDLING GREEN

My husband and I received our first Paddle Green bag in 2014 and have been stuffing it, along with two more like it, with all sorts of trash from the shores of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers in West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia ever since.

We've hauled hundreds of pounds of garbage over the years, and, despite broken glass and sharp metal, all of the bags are still intact and going strong – hopefully for many more years.

It's important to us, as avid angling paddlers, to be good stewards of our waterways and to make an effort to leave each place we visit at least a little better than we found it. We also hope that the people we run into along the way, who often ask what we are doing and why, may be compelled by our efforts to contribute in their own way, even if it's a little as deciding to dispose of an empty bottle in a trash or recycle bin rather than on the ground.

— Michelle Huston

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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CANOE & KAYAK

COMPETITION



Serge Skiba photo

Extreme slalom cross gains popularity

By Tracy Hines, U.S. National Extreme Slalom Team Athlete



ICF photo

Another year of racing has begun! In mid-April, Charlotte, N.C., hosted the selection

of the U.S. National Team. Athletes from across the country came to battle it out in the tumultuous waters of the mighty USNWC course. This was a unique year for a selection because the age ranges of participants spanned the gamut. The thing that makes slalom so unique is that people of all ages and body types can excel in the sport.

The United States is really beginning a resurgence in this discipline. One of the contributing factors for the rebirth of this sport is the addition of the newest class, Extreme Slalom Cross. This event takes a little different skill set than that of a high-end precision athlete. The Extreme Slalom Cross event requires grit and the ability to remain composed in a variety of awkward and unique situations.

As one battles it out head to head, the adrenaline rises, and miraculous displays driven by instinct and

the will to survive emerge. The once reserved well-behaved athlete turns into a mighty warrior and the game is on!

This is a full combat activity. For the average athlete who does not really get fired up to train technique on flatwater or spend the winter in frigid conditions doing high-intensity lactic efforts, this sport can level the playing field. The small-framed elite athlete sometimes is no match for the big guns of the rad dad who loves lapping the Green River for a workout. Extreme Slalom definitely requires a different mindset.

Watching the top elite athletes battle it out with the hearty and crafty nature of the extreme boating gurus who are coming to keep sharp on their skills of boat maneuvering for the creeks really does show the depth of varied skill that exists in the American paddle sport community. Driving up the standard

of the elite to a high international level caliber often requires a breadth of skills

that go beyond just what can be obtained on flat water or in the gym.

Being able to build that killer instinct is an aspect of sport that is often difficult to manufacture during the average slalom specific workout. Extreme Slalom requires that this skill be built.

It is often the case with elite sport that the mindset of one guy getting to the top emerges. This does not always work to get the top result out of even the most talented athlete. The best will emerge and true greatness for this great nation can and will occur when everyone can truly feel a part of the process.

America remains a strong force in this sport because the community stands behind the effort and understands more about what it means to be involved in the experience.

#togethertotokyo2020

ACA launches new grant for female athletes

In 2017, the [Shannon Christy Memorial Foundation](#) made a generous donation to the ACA in memory of Shannon Christy, whose passion for kayaking and for life inspired so many. Using this donation, the ACA created a grant to support elite female slalom athletes.

The [Elite Female Slalom Athlete grant](#) recognizes one elite American female slalom paddler each year, as funding permits, with a \$750 cash prize. These funds are to be used by the recipient to offset training and competition expenses.

In addition, the recipient will commit to giving back to her paddling community. For example, the recipient could teach a beginner slalom clinic to aspiring youth, talk about whitewater safety at an event, organize a local river cleanup, etc.

The ACA is proud to be able to support this initiative and honor the memory of Shannon Christy.



To learn more about the grant, please visit www.americancanoe.org/EliteFemaleSlalom. To donate to the Shannon Christy Memorial Fund, please visit www.cfwnc.org click on Donate Now and in the box “Other Fund Not Listed” type Shannon Christy Memorial Fund.

Leibfarth named first recipient of ACA Elite Female Slalom Athlete grant

Evy Leibfarth, a 14-year-old paddler from Bryson City, North Carolina, has been selected as the first recipient of the [ACA Elite Female Slalom Athlete grant](#). Evy's commitment and performance in canoe/kayak slalom earned her this recognition.

Though too young, per international rules, to compete at the World Cups and World Championships, Evy, placed first in K1W (women's kayak)



and second in C1W (women's canoe) at the 2018 ACA Canoe Slalom National Team Trials in Charlotte, N.C.

She plans to use her prize to help pay for her training and competition in Europe this summer. She also plans to give back to her community by coaching a slalom clinic for younger members of her club, the Nantahala Racing Club, of Bryson City, North Carolina.

USA Canoe Slalom Team nominated to compete at 2018 WORLD CUPS AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sage Donnelly



Serge Skiba photos

Michal Smolen



Anna Maria Ifarraguerri



Zachary Lokken



The country's top slalom athletes converged on the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, April 6-8 to vie for their chance to represent the USA at the 2018 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cups and World Championships.

Competition was fierce for the three spots available in each of five internationally recognized classes: men's and women's kayak, men's and women's canoe, and tandem mixed canoe.

The youngest athletes stole the show in the women's classes, with three junior women – Evy Leibfarth, Ria Sribar, and Sage Donnelly – finishing in the top three in K1W. Three junior women – Sage Donnelly, Evy Leibfarth, and Michaela Corcoran – also claimed the podium in C1W.

In the men's classes, experience seemed to be a bigger factor in a successful race, as Olympians Michal Smolen and Fabien Lefevre claimed the top two spots in K1M. Charlotte local Tyler Smith, age 19, finished third and claimed the final spot. In C1M, Olympians once again placed first and second, with Fabien Lefevre, Casey Eichfeld, and Zachary Lokken rounding out the USA Canoe Slalom National Team.

Both Junior and Senior National Teams were selected at the event. The three-day race consisted of two slalom runs each day for all athletes, who had to navigate a course of 21 gates as quickly as possible, trying not to touch or miss any gates. The athletes' best run from each day counted toward their final result.

Full results and a roster of the 2018 USA Canoe Slalom National Team can be found at www.americancanoe.org/?page=18SlalomTrials.

Canoe Marathon trials to be held in California

Newport Aquatic Center is proud to host the 2018 Canoe Marathon National Championships June 16-17. This ACA-sanctioned event will serve as the National Championships and the 2018 National Trial Selections. This is a selection event for the 2018 Canoe Marathon World Championships, to be held in Portugal in September.

Presented by Paddle California and Nelo, this two-day event promises to challenge paddlers with a lap-style course, including a 100m portage section guaranteed to shake things up.

Saturday will be the K1 National Canoe Marathon Championships, and on Saturday the doubles will race.

Entry fees:

APRIL 21 - MAY 20: \$65

MAY 21 - JUNE 4: \$95

Entries close June 4 at 5 p.m. PST.

In addition, an Open Class Race will be held in conjunction with the marathon trials. SUP, Prone Paddleboard, OC1 and Surfski are invited to race on Sunday, as part of the U.S. Championships, with a marathon lap-style course, and the infamous portages.

A portion of the proceeds will go toward supporting the USA National Team heading to the 2018 World Championships.



The poster features a circular logo with a silhouette of a person carrying a canoe on their shoulder, set against a background of a sunset with palm trees. The text reads: "2018 ACA CANOE MARATHON NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS" and "NEWPORT BEACH, CA".

Presented by



JUNE 16 & 17TH
SATURDAY - K1/C1
SUNDAY - K2/C2 & OPEN RACES

CONTACT:
INFO@PADDLECAL.COM



The [2018 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships](#) will be held September 12-16 at Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia. Athletes from over 25 countries will gather to compete in traditional canoes adorned with dragon's heads and tails while also celebrating the cultural heritage of this deeply symbolic Asian heritage event. This competition will be the largest world gathering of athletes in the area since the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996.

Dragon boat racing is fast and exciting with crews of either 10 or 20 paddling to the beat of a drum over a set distance. This form of racing has ancient Chinese origins and dates back more than 2,000 years. The first participants were Chinese villagers who held races in the belief it would show worship to the dragon, a traditional symbol of water.

Support Dragon Boat USA!

As the National Governing Body for paddlesports in the U.S., the ACA supports Dragon Boat USA in their endeavors.

Sponsor or donate [here](#) and 100% of these funds go to support Dragon Boat programs and initiatives in the USA.

Dragon boating is huge in Asia and very popular in Europe and Oceania. The 1996 Olympics sparked growth in the popularity of sprint canoe in the U.S. World championships have been held in Russia, Poland, Italy and Hungary. In September of 2018, Lake Lanier Olympic Park will host the International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat World Championships, marking the first time the world tournament will be held in the Americas.

The official race distances recognized by the ICF are 200 or 250m, 500m and 2000m. The 2000m is conducted as a pursuit race with two laps of the 500m course completed incorporating three turns. Events are held for men's team, women's team and mixed team. The mixed team must include a minimum of eight women (four in the 10-seater class).

For more information about the 2018 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships, [click here](#).

Dragon boats are designed to resemble the classic dragon that had the head of an ox, antler of a deer, mane of a horse, body of a python, claws of a hawk, and fins and tail of a fish, so the bow is crafted as the head of a dragon with the stern the tail, the hull painted with scales and the paddles symbolically representing the claws.
Hong Kong Atlanta Dragon Boat Festival

Fundraiser for Team USA

[Dragon Boat USA](#) is organizing a fundraiser to help support Team USA in the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships. The event will be held 6-10 p.m. Saturday, July 21 at Brenau University's Amphitheater in Gainesville, Georgia.

There will be food, live music, photos with Team USA, and more! Exclusive sponsorship opportunities are available. Funds raised will go toward costs for travel, uniforms, accommodations

For more information about this fundraiser, contact Robyn Lynch, Director, Lake Lanier Olympic Park at (770) 535-0397 or robyn@lakelanierolympicvenue.org.



Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming races...

(Click race name for more info)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| May 11-13 | <u>Dragon Boat National Team Trials</u>
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania |
| May 12 | <u>Potomac Downriver Race - Canoe</u>
Potomac, Maryland |
| May 12 | <u>Bluegrass River Run & 2018 Kentucky Waterman Series Kickoff</u>
Fort Boonesborough State Park, Kentucky |
| May 17 | <u>ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1</u>
Szeged, Hungary |
| May 27 | <u>ACA National Canoe Poling Championships</u>
Unionville, Connecticut |
| May 31 | <u>ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships</u>
Muota/Muotathal, Switzerland |
| June 2 | <u>The 38th Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race</u>
Fredericksburg, Virginia |
| June 2 | <u>5th Annual Gainesville Hall Dragon Boat Challenge</u>
Gainesville, Georgia |
| July 14-22 | <u>ACA Open Canoe Nationals</u>
Buena Vista, Colorado |
| August 1-4 | <u>ACA Sprint National Club Championships</u>
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |

Seattle club gears up for annual regatta



The [Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club](#) is pleased to invite you to the 39th annual Ted Houk Memorial Regatta. The event is being held June 9-10, 2018, on Seattle's Green Lake and offers two days of competition with junior, senior and masters paddlers from the western U.S. and Canada.

Registration will be available online beginning May 14. Early registration will close May 25.

This yearly event gathers athletes from the Puget Sound area and Western Canada to the lake for two days of friendly and fierce competition. This event is the largest Olympic style flat-water race series in the

Pacific Northwest and has historically produced some Olympians from the talented pool of athletes that attend each year.

The regatta is named after the creator of SCKC, Dr. Theodore "Ted" Houk. The club was founded in 1969 in order to get Seattle area youth involved in water sports leagues. Dr. Houk's goal was to use competitive paddling to develop healthy young minds and bodies and to eventually work these athletes up to Olympians.

The SCKC has done just that over the years and now has members of all ages and abilities. The public is always welcome to watch races at Green Lake and learn more about the club.

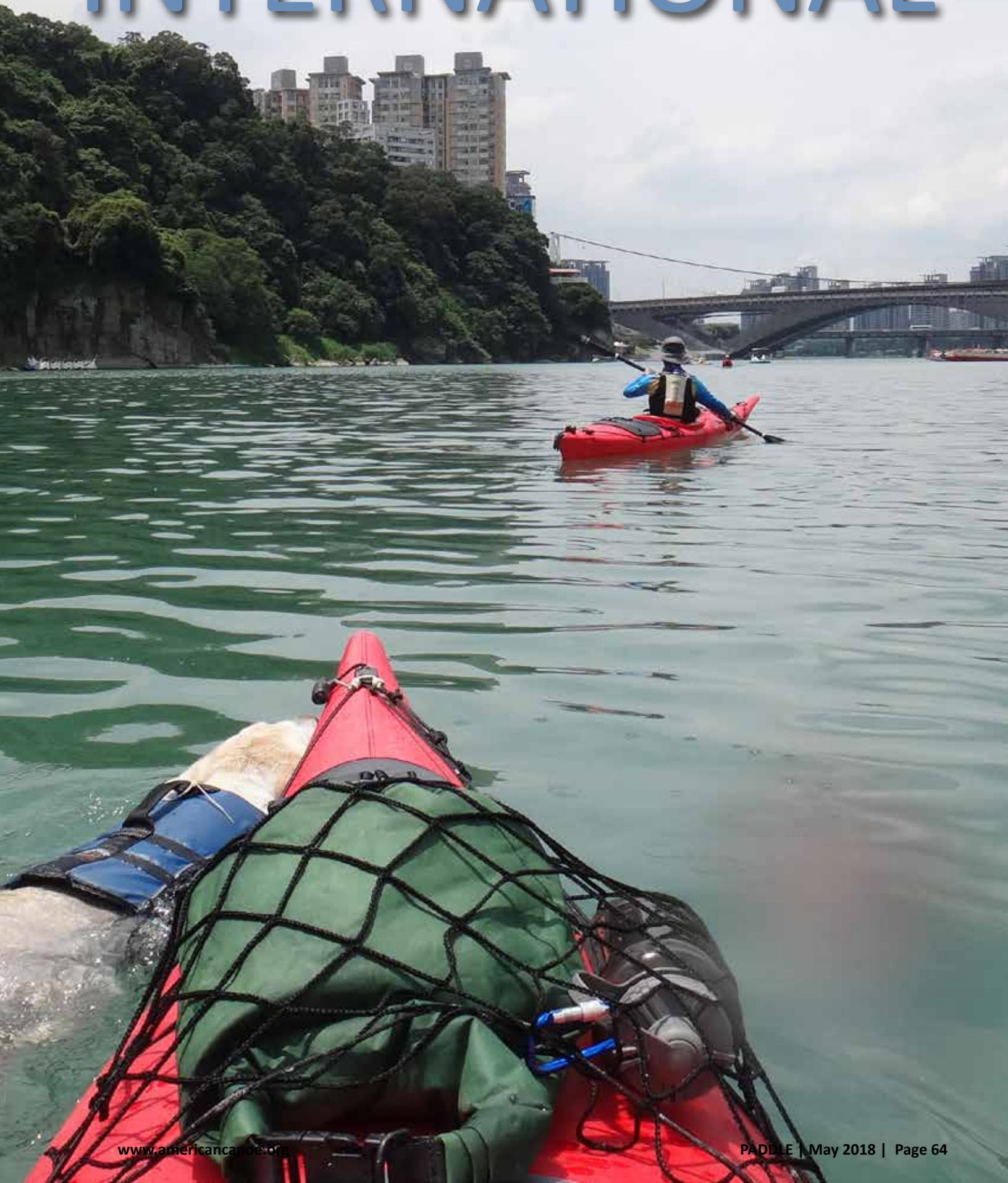


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INTERNATIONAL



Germany to host new

EUROPEAN ACA INSTRUCTOR ACADEMY

An Instructor Academy for ACA Division Europe is being held September 7-9, 2018, at Lake of Schluchsee, Germany. (This is the location at which ACA Europe was founded in 2011!)

The ACA Instructor Academy will provide an easily accessible platform for instructors to get updated and upgraded as well as receive further training from top-notch Instructor Trainers and Instructor Trainer Educators. The academy will also provide an opportunity to meet, paddle together and learn with other instructors.

Highlights will include:

- Workshop: Video feedback – how to and best practices
- Lecture: Mental aspects while teaching and learning
- Workshop: How to use yoga to improve your performance and help students become more flexible
- Paddle trips, bbq and much more

Please contact [Raff Kuner](#) for more info about the event. Or have a look on the ACA Europe website, www.aca-europe.org.



Mark your calendars

ACA Europe Symposium October 26-28, 2018

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

Harry Rushton stands atop a canvas-covered *Indian Girl* outside the boat shop in Canton to test the canoe's hull strength. Harry was the son of J. Henry Rushton, who began building boats in 1875 in Canton, New York. He quickly became well known for his very lightweight skiffs and canoes. Mr. Rushton was one of the 23 founders of the American Canoe Association.



In honor of Mr. Rushton and his accomplishments, the ACA named one of its prestigious awards after him in the mid-1990s. The J. Henry Rushton Award is presented annually to an organization or other group for outstanding achievements in advancing paddlesport and the mission of the ACA.

For more information about the award, please visit www.americancanoe.org/page/Rushton.

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

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

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



www.americancanoe.org

