

Volume 5, Issue 1 | January 2019

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

ACA Honors Experts Annual Awards Presented at Conference

ACA Revamps Membership Structure

ACA State Director Elections Now Underway

Instructors of the Month



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Gabriel Ghizila photo

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
JD Martin- Financial Coordinator
Kelsey Bracewell- SEI Manager
Dave Burden- International Paddlesports Ambassador
Amy Ellis- State Director/Membership Coordinator
Michelle Flynn- Membership Coordinator
Kimberly Jenkins- Paddle eMagazine Editor
Brett Mayer- Public Policy Chief
LeighAnn Moore- Insurance Coordinator
Chris Mulrow- Social Media Coordinator
Carrie Schlemmer- Education & Grant Coordinator

Competition Department

Vacant- 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
Vacant- Paracanoe High Performance Manager/Coach
Vacant- Slalom High Performance Manager

Cover photo

Young athletes compete in the K4 at the ACA's 2018 Frostbite Training Camp.
Gabriel Ghizila photo

Follow us on...



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

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

Board Members

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

At-Large Directors

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

Independent Directors

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

Affiliated Organizations Director

- *Vacant*

Property Management Committee

- Bill Micks (Virginia- 2018)

Safety Education & Instruction Council

- Steve Hutton (South Carolina- 2019)

Competition Council

- Marsh Jones (Minnesota- 2019)

Elite Athlete Directors

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

Immediate Past President

- Anne Maleady (Colorado)

Liaison Members (non-voting)

- Tom Uebel- Sugar Island (New York)

Ex-Officio (non-voting)

- Wade Blackwood- ACA Executive Director (Virginia)



SAFETY, EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION COUNCIL (SEIC)

- Chair- Trey Knight (TN)
- Vice Chair- Josh Hall (SC)
- Secretary- John Traendly (GA)
- Past Chair- Steve Hutton (SC)

Committee Chairs

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

Liaison Members

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

COMPETITION COUNCIL

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

STATE DIRECTORS

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

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



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

Bruce Lee in a similar story to "Enter the Dragon" but with paddling. The updated plot would follow the story of a addlesports athlete who agrees to spy on a reclusive crime lord using his invitation to a tournament as cover.



Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of those rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters."

— Norman Maclean, "A River Runs Through It"

If they made a

movie of your life

what would it be about, and
who would you want
to play you?



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership
Coordinator

I love all the flora and fauna of the world, but dogs will always hold a very special place in my heart. Therefore, my movie would be a lighthearted comedy starring Molly Shannon as a woman on a mission to rescue all the unwanted dogs in the world.



Marcel Bieg

Western States Outreach Director
& Grant Manager

Mine would be about the quest for adventure while still trying to operate morally in Western society highlighting the physical, emotional and personal sacrifices this path takes on both sides of that line.

Actor: The late Patrick Swayze ("Point Break" time frame)

ACA STAFF

www.americancanoe.org/staff



Chris Barlow

Sprint High Performance Manager

The movie would have to be about service to others on their worst possible day and so obviously it would be about my full-time job with the San Diego Fire - Rescue Department. However, to counteract all the fire scenes, it would involve some swift-water rescues and lots of flat, whitewater and ocean kayaking scenes!!

I think either Daniel Craig or a young Sean Connery would be awesome picks to play me, but knowing my luck they would be unavailable and I would end up with either Rhovan Atkinson or Ricky Gervais!!



Kimberly Jenkins

Paddle eMagazine Editor

A zany comedy featuring Kristin Bell as a modern woman trying to hang on to her sanity while her world keeps getting turned upside-down.



Aaron Huston

Sprint National Team Canoe Coach

The movie would be a remake of "twins" with Danny devito and Arnold Schwarzenegger chronicling two brothers re-united at long last, based on the story of me and San Diego Canoe Kayak Team canoe coach Joe Harper.

Obviously, Arnold would play my character.



Christopher Stec

Chief Operating Officer

Teaching paddlesports across the World, played by Robert Redford.



Zsolt Szadovszki

Sprint National Team Kayak Coach

The movie would chronicle he life of a child in Hungary who loves the water and eventually finds himself immersed in kayak racing and dreaming of the Olympic gold. Racing becomes his life and he wins a number of medals. Then, one day, a narrow defeat in a championship that would have led the Olympics leads him leave the sport entirely and move to the U.S. A few years later, he finds himself joining an outrigger club and rediscovering his water spirit. His athleticism re-kindled, he soon excels in surfskiing and finds his niche as a paddle-sports coach.

My choice for the actor would be Vin Diesel.

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LeighAnn Moore
Insurance Coordinator

A funny take on my story would be a remake of "The Truman Show," which originally starred Jim Carrey as an insurance adjuster who discovers his entire life is actually a TV show.

Jane Krakowski would be a great actress to play me in this comedic role.



Michelle Flynn
Membership Coordinator

My movie would be about scouting. As a kid I was in the Girl Scouts from age 7 to about 14. I didn't really like Girl Scouts, but that is where my friends were and we went cool places sometimes. Young me would be played by Millie Bobby Brown, who plays Eleven on "Stranger Things."

As an adult with my own kids, I have been super active in Scouting. My daughter was a Girl Scout for about 6 months. My son has been a Scout for 11 years, Tiger Cub Scout all the way to Eagle Scout. My son and I have had sooooo much fun in Scouting, doing things that we never would have imagined doing on our own. Adult me would be played by Sandra Bullock.



Chris Muldrow
Social Media Coordinator

I think a movie about my life would be a Vacation-esque comedy about a guy's wacky attempts to figure out how to be a good dad to a couple of kids while also over-reaching in the hobbies and pursuits that used to be easy when I was in my twenties.

I'd LIKE to be played by Brad Pitt, but it's more likely they'd pick a Jaws-era Richard Dreyfuss.



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports Ambassador

The movie would chronicle the life of an adventurous paddler who travels the world. The main character would be played by Bradley Cooper.



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



Carrie Schlemmer
Education & Grant Coordinator

After much deliberation, my life movie would be about a girl who loves adventure and exploring.

The actress playing me would be Jennifer Lawrence.



JD Martin
Financial Coordinator

Given my career in budget and finance, I think my movie would be akin to "The Christmas Carol," with Michael Douglas playing the lead.



Rafal Smolen
Slalom National Team Coach

The story of a strong-willed athlete who was member of the Polish National Slalom Team for years before moving on to coaching professionally for Poland, Chile, Canada and at the Nantahala Racing Club.

It would've been interesting to see the late Alan Rickman play my role.



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Manager

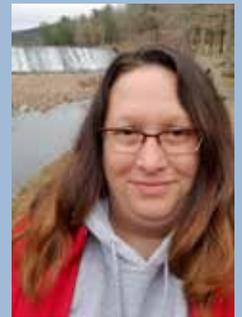
My movie would be called something like "Trying to Figure It All Out & Be There on Time...All with a Perpetual Bad Hair Day."

I'd like Sandra Bullock to star, granted her hair is on point 99% of the time.

ACA welcomes new membership coordinator

The ACA would like to welcome Michelle Flynn to its membership department. Michelle joins the team as Membership Coordinator and works with Amy Ellis (*Membership & State Director Coordinator*) and LeighAnn Moore (*Insurance Coordinator*).

Michelle is a lifelong Virginia resident who attended Virginia Tech to study Forestry and George Mason University to study Earth Science Education.



After marrying her high school sweetheart and while raising their two children, Michelle continued to pursue her love of the outdoors. She has been a volunteer with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for 10+ years, an active Boy Scouts of America volunteer, and a preschool teacher for the past 13 years.

Michelle looks forward to continuing to share her love of the outdoors while helping people get out on the water while with ACA. She currently lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with her husband, two teenaged children, three dogs, two turtles, and the family cat.

ACA's *Paddle* eMagazine lands national award

Paddle eMagazine recently won a coveted MarCom Award, given annually by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. The ACA's bimonthly digital magazine won a gold award in the *Digital Media | E-Communications | E-Magazine* category.

Managed by editor Kimberly Jenkins since 2016, *Paddle* is the go-to source for news in the world of paddlesports. The magazine features article and updates on stewardship, paddlesport-related policy changes, competition, education, adaptive, and events. For more information about the magazine, please visit www.americancanoe.org/Paddle.

MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes excellence in communication. Entries come from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, design shops, production companies and freelancers.

One of the oldest, largest and most respected competitions in the creative industry, the MarCom Awards competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind in the world with over 6,500 entries 20 from countries.



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.

ACA Awards 2018

Each year, the ACA recognizes numerous individuals and organizations who have provided invaluable assistance to association in undertaking its myriad strategic objectives. Following are the 2018 award recipients.

Legends of Paddling

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



Nainoa Thompson is the president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and a Pwo navigator. Inspired by his kupuna – his teachers – he has dedicated his life to exploring the deep meaning of voyaging. On long voyages, under a dome of stars and surrounded by the vast empty ocean,

Nainoa came to appreciate the Hawaiian concept of “mālama” – care taking.



“Our ancestors learned that if they took care of their canoe and each other,” he has often told his crew, “and if they marshaled their resources of food and water, they would arrive safely at their destination.”

Astronaut Lacy Veach, who observed the Hawaiian Islands from space, helped Nainoa understand “mālama” from a planetary per-

spective. “The best place to think about the fate of our planet is right here in our islands,” Veach told Nainoa. “If we can create a model for well-being here in Hawai‘i, we can make a contribution to the entire world.”



From all these teachings comes the next great voyage of exploration – Hōkūle‘a’s journey around the world to “mālama honua” – care for the planet.

Learn more about the [Hōkūle‘a’s World-wide Voyage](#).



Excellence in Instruction

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

Ge Wu has been instrumental in moving the ACA's education and instruction program forward in China. In addition to the wide variety of courses he has taught, he has also helped facilitate bringing numerous ACA Instructor Trainers from the United States to co-teach in China. For more information about the ACA's paddlesports outreach in China, please visit www.americancanoe.org/China.

Ge currently serves on the ACA's Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC) as one of its international representatives. Ge holds numerous ACA Instructor credentials:

- Level 1: Introduction to Canoeing - Assessment
- Level 2: Essentials of SUP - Instructor
- Level 4: Whitewater Kayaking – Instructor
- Level 4: Open Water Coastal Kayaking - Instructor
- Adaptive Paddling Endorsement

In addition, he is in the final stages of becoming an L3: Coastal Kayak Instructor Trainer.

(Continued on page 13)

Sanctioned Event of the Year

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

The [Manhattan Kayak Circumnavigation](#) is one of the most highly anticipated, and definitely the most visible, human-powered boating event in New York City every year. Lee Reiser, who has been involved in organizing and trip leading the event for years, recently made it an official ACA event and brought in the participation of the Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club.

An average of 150 paddlers participate, many coming from countries around the world. The organizers work closely with NYPD Harbor Patrol and collaborate with U.S. Coast Guard to provide safe passage for the flotilla. The high visibility, including significant press coverage, of the MKC has been a powerful driver of enhanced recognition of paddler's access to and safe passage through New York City's increasingly busy waterways.

Reiser has been an integral part of several NYC-area boathouses/clubs, including YPRC, Gowanus Dredgers and North Brooklyn Boat Club.

New York City, with waterfront residential development exploding along miles of previously industrial shoreline, is going to be an area of tremendous opportunity for ACA. But, the mythology about the insurmountable danger (pollution/currents/traffic) of the City's waterways persists. Lee Reiser's Manhattan Kayak Circumnavigation is a vital event in showing a large group of paddlers safely doing what many people continue to think is impossible.





Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation

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

[The Outside Foundation](#) is a grassroots organization that focuses on preserving both the beach and the tidal salt marsh environment in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The Outside Foundation and its executive director Jean Fruh strive to inspire both locals and tourists to embrace and protect our local waterways. They employ several different methods to encourage as many people as possible to become involved with cleanup and conservancy efforts.

They have also played a critical role in important environmental initiatives getting pushed through legislation. One of the most important initiatives they have employed this year is the Oyster Recycling and Reef Build Initiative (ORRBI), a community-based oyster shell recycling and bed restoration project. The Outside Foundation was also part of the driving force that pushed through the plastic bag ban in Beaufort County and on Hilton Head Island as well as the "Skip the Straw" initiative.

To further their stewardship efforts, The Outside Foundation organizes and hosts more than 12 cleanups every year. Since 2014 the group has conducted 23 cleanups utilizing 745 volunteers and removing over 3 tons of trash. The foundation also created and has organized the "Keep The Broad Creek Clean Festival" for the past three years. This is one of the largest kayak cleanups of Broad Creek kicks off the festival each year.

The Outside Foundation believes that children cannot invest in protecting that which they don't know and understand. Since its inception in 2014, The Outside Foundation has introduced over 2000 schoolchildren to the local tidal ecosystem using kayaks and paddle boards as modes of transportation. This program, called Kids in Kayaks, addresses the future of conservancy by putting paddles in the hands of teachers and students and getting them out on the water to learn/explore.

Jean Fruh and The Outside Foundation have, with ingenuity and passion, found a way to draw people into the outdoors and inspire them to get involved. By reaching out to the youth and enticing them to get outside and embrace their surroundings, The Outside Foundation is ensuring the future conservancy of our waterways.

(Continued on page 15)

Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year

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

Gerry James has been a stalwart for Kentucky's outdoor community for the past five years. He is the founder of the Explore Kentucky Initiative (EKI), whose mission is to promote Kentucky nature by "embracing environmentalism, outdoor recreation, diversity & inclusion, storytelling, and collaboration." James's goal is to uplift Kentucky's people and natural spaces.

As part of this goal, James founded the Kentucky Waterman Series, Kentucky's first paddlesports racing league. He was also instrumental in creating the Beaver Creek Blueway Trail in partnership with the City of Glasgow.

Following the success of the inaugural Waterman's Series, James said he wanted to put on an event to showcase his own backyard. After receiving encouragement from Tourism Director Robin Antenucci, James got started on the project and Expedition Frankfort was born. This event involved a 3.7-mile run and 6-mile bike ride through Capitol View Park and a 5.5-mile paddle on the Kentucky River. To cap off the biking portion, riders crossed the East-West Connector bridge to the Old Lawrenceburg Road boat ramp.

One aspect that made the event more inclusive is that entrants were allowed to participate with teams if they did not want to do all portions of the event. The purpose of Expedition Frankfort is to showcase the city through its downtown, parks and the Kentucky River. Additionally, the event aims to promote physical and mental health but also to drive economic development through outdoor recreation, Seavo said.

James is a strong supporter of diversity and inclusivity in outdoor recreation. He created and hosted In My Backyard, a Red River Gorge environmental education festival that exposed families of various socioeconomic statuses to various activities involving one Kentucky's greatest natural resources.





Stoke of Achievement

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

[Georgia Canoeing Association Inc.](#) originated in 1968, largely due to the efforts of Bill Crawford and Horace Holden, who felt a club should be formed to provide a common outlet for canoeists, whether novices or experts, as well as safety and paddling instruction. The club has grown from a handful of people to several hundred families and individuals and has expanded to include decked boats as well as canoes.

GCA membership consists mainly of people from Georgia and adjoining states who share the common objectives of exploring, enjoying and preserving the recreational waterways of America, particularly those in the Southeast. The association utilizes human-powered craft and firmly believes in maintaining the wilderness character of waterways through determined conservation efforts. One of GCA's most critical endeavors is to promote proficiency and safety on moving water through instruction, publicity and cooperation with other outdoor clubs.

The GCA is active throughout the year with scheduled trips from February through November, as well as impromptu trips during the frigid months. Many trips are on moderate whitewater (the Etowah, Toccoa, etc.); there are a few float trips (no rapids) and some trips to truly wildwater (sec IV of the Chattooga, Ocoee), which are guaranteed to challenge the most expert paddler.

In 1969 the GCA organized the first whitewater slalom race in the Southeast on the Nantahala River in North Carolina over the July 4th weekend. This Southeastern U.S. Canoe and Kayak Championship race has become a major annual event and attracts paddlers from all over the country. In 2018 it celebrated its 50th anniversary!

(Continued on page 17)

J. Henry Rushton

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

Christine and Walt Vosicka created [Wogg Works Kayaking](#) over 10 years ago to encourage safe kayaking skills in the Omaha, Nebraska, area. They have worked with the city of Omaha to be sanctioned as a mobile outfitter. Walt has over 60 years of boating experience and takes great pride in discussing the various design elements of each kayak that is part of his fleet. Chris and Walt stress safety above anything else, and that includes making sure that the kayak fits the individual. They accomplish this by having a wide variety of kayaks as part of their mobile fleet. During the year Chris and Walt will launch over 1,000 kayakers.

Numerous Boy Scout troops have come to Wogg Works Kayaking to complete the badge requirement skills. In addition to individual lessons, Wogg has created lesson packages for a women's college volleyball team, church groups, 4H clubs, scouts, and team building activities. Chris and Walt have also work with the VNA to support breast awareness and have an annual outing to raise funds. Both are certified ACA Level 1 Instructors with the Adaptive Paddling Endorsement. Through the Adaptive program they have been able to get stroke victims back on the water. Wogg Works Kayaking is an active participant with the Nebraska Game and Parks Department and provides guided river opportunities to help teach river skills to other interested members of the paddling community.

Their love for the water is so strong that when others would have retired, they keep going. As a result, many folks have joined the ACA and the number of paddlers in the Omaha area has grown exponentially thanks to Chris and Walt Vosicka of Wogg Works Kayaking.



Outstanding State Director

The Outstanding State Director Award is presented to one or more State Directors each year for their contributions to enhancing paddlesports in their state.

Tom Burroughs lives to teach. His main goal is to share any and all knowledge he has about the water. He gives so much to everyone and never looks down on anyone for asking questions. He is extremely helpful to all who are willing to learn.

Burroughs enjoys the water with boaters of all types, from beginners to far more experienced paddlers. He reaches out to the paddling community – in Arkansas and nationwide – and volunteers his services. Folks look to him for guidance and trust him implicitly. Tom is renowned for his vast accumulation of resources, his accredited expertise, his active presence in the paddling world, and more than anything, his kindness to all.



Haven's Leadership Award

The Havens Leadership Award rewards individuals whose practices and behaviors best serve the interests and success of USA paddlesports athletes.



Chris Barlow is a U.S. Olympian competing in Sprint Kayak in 1992 in the 1000m K4. He continues to race today in surf ski races and Sprint National Championships. However, his true passion is coaching athletes.

Barlow has been the head coach and founder of the San Diego Canoe Kayak Team since its inception in 1996. He also has national and international coaching experience as the men's coach at the 2009 and 2011 Junior World Championships in Moscow and Brandenburg.

He was named Head Coach of the USA Junior National Team for the 2010 Pan American Championships in Mexico City. Chris has been a director with the Sprint Coaches Association since its formation in 2007. Chris is a certified "Sprint High Performance Two Coach" with the International Canoe Federation (ICF). In addition, Barlow is the ACA's Sprint High Performance Manager.

(Continued on page 19)



National Canoe Slalom Award presented by Team Colorado

The National Canoe Slalom Award, presented by Team Colorado, annually goes to the individual coach, athlete or volunteer who best upholds high standards for the sport of Canoe Slalom and who consistently inspires and supports others to meet those high standards.

Sage Donnelly was selected for the National Canoe Slalom Award because of her absolute devotion to the sport, her positive attitude, and her extremely personable character. Donnelly spends the entirety of the year training in both the K1 and C1 disciplines of Slalom in order to get faster and maximize her performance at each domestic and international event she competes in. Sage perseveres through this training and racing schedule while managing diabetes, celiac, and thyroid disease, a feat that requires significant mental and physical strength and perseverance.

Along with her devotion to training, Donnelly constantly displays an extremely positive attitude in the sport and is constantly finding the optimistic views of things. Even when things go for the worse she manages to find the right path to persevere bringing those around her up with her.

Along with this positive attitude, Donnelly's extraordinary personable character helps to inspire and drive everyone she meets and trains with while helping to shed a positive light on the ACA and the overall slalom program. An example of Donnelly's extremely personable attitude was displayed this past spring while she was in Charlotte, NC training. Donnelly volunteered her training time during multiple Citizen Slalom sessions to help coach young kids just entering the sport of canoe slalom.

In addition, Donnelly climbs 5.10, skis double diamonds, competes in Whitewater FreeStyle, extreme races, and stand up paddleboards.



President's Award

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

Tom Uebel has been an ACA member for over 50 years. He has served on the Sugar Island Board of Trustees and has been chair of the Trustees for two terms. In addition, he has represented Sugar Island on the ACA's Property Management Committee.

When not canoe sailing and placing at the national championships, Uebel spends his time volunteering with maintenance projects at both the ACA's Camp at Lake Sebago as well as on Sugar Island.

"I'm proud of direction Sugar [Island] is going. My goals at the beginning were to get on the same page as National and bring the island facilities up to code. I look back and smile knowing I planted a seed that is growing. We must work together for this to happen. The award that was given to me was truly special. But it could not have happened without support from both the ACA Board of Directors and the Sugar Island Trustees," said Uebel.



Joe Moore is the founding executive director of Adaptive Expeditions, an educational nonprofit founded with a mission to organize, provide and enable outdoor adventure activities for individuals with physical and sensory disabilities. The aim of the organization is to build a community where Paralympic hopefuls and outdoor adventure seekers can share ideas and common experiences, have fun, push limits, and redefine what's possible.

Moore wrote a grant to host the ACA's 2nd Adaptive Paddling Summit. The event took place in November 2-4, 2018, in Weeki Wachee, Florida. The event was a blend of family friendly activities, professional collaboration, social & networking events, and educational seminars and on-water workshops that fuel the ACA's mission and programs worldwide.

Moore also wrote a grant to expand the ACA's Adaptive Paddling Program to include auditory, visual and cognitive components.

"I am passionate about working to improve the world we live in through education, advocacy and sharing positive life experiences with others. My love of the natural world and my drive for excellence guide most of my life choices," said Moore.



STEWARDSHIP & POLICY



ACA attends Outdoor Alliance Summit

Brett Mayer, public policy chief for the ACA, attended the Outdoor Alliance Summit held Nov. 29-30 in Washington, D.C. The ACA is a founding member of the Outdoor Alliance, a coalition of groups that represent human-powered recreation across the country and works to conserve public lands and ensure those lands are managed in a way that embraces the human-powered experience.

The Summit focused on key issues facing public lands and strategies to position shared interests, including two huge threats: a growing sense of a lack of permanency, and a lack of urgency to enact legislation to ensure these lands remain protected.

“The ACA and OA are increasingly concerned that policy makers do not look at public lands legislation as something they need to do right now, and that public lands may increasingly be subject to the whims of election cycles,” said ACA Public Policy Chief Brett Mayer.

Following a full day of meetings with Outdoor Alliance member organizations, including American Whitewater, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, the Mountaineers, the Access Fund, the Colorado Mountain Club, the Winter Wildlands Alliance, and the International Mountain Biking Association, Mayer worked with others to visit key congressional offices to voice ACA concerns about H.R. 3990, the National Monument Creation and Protection Act, H.R. 4532, the Shash Jaa National

Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act, H.R. 4558, the Grand Staircase - Escalante Enhancement Act, and finally H.R. 3905, Minnesota’s Rights in Superior National Forest Act.

“Each of these pieces of proposed legislation either codify existing changes to National Monuments and their proclamations, or further limit the availability of the Antiquities Act as a meaningful conservation tool,” said Mayer.

“The idea of public lands is an American ideal. The ACA feels there is a finite amount of public land that we can protect, and that if we wait, it will only be more expensive, and the taxpayer will eventually be on the hook,” he added. “It is our job to not only help designate, but continue to support the authorization of programs and funds that keep our public lands healthy and maintained for the long term, ensuring opportunity for future generations of paddlers.”



Racing for conservation

By Brett Mayer, ACA Public Policy Chief

Every fall for the past 23 years, on the first Saturday of November, a bold collection of paddlers lines up in an eddy above the Green River Narrows, one of the world's most famous steep creeks. The Green is a challenging boulder-strewn maze of tight moves that plunges through marvelously beautiful terrain in one of the East Coast's deepest gorges.

Carrie Schlemmer and I connected for the first time in person recently, training for the Green River Narrows Race, on the Ledges section of the French Broad River. We both recently migrated to Asheville and were excited to find each other in an eddy. I serve as the Public Policy Chief, and Carrie is the Education and Grant Coordinator. Our work for the ACA helps us further the connection we feel with the river and the larger paddling community by doing our best to give back for the greater good of paddlesports everywhere.

The Green Race is an exemplary grassroots event, open to all capable paddlers. It represents a mo-



ment for the paddling community to come together and collectively celebrate the community and the practice of paddling.

This year marked my third attempt at the race, and Carrie's first. Carrie was one of seven female paddlers racing the Green. She overcame a training accident just 10 days prior to the race, which required stitches, and still mustered the courage to line up at the starting line on race day – a great testament to her resolute dedication.

We love this race because it is a chance to give our best for the love of paddle-sports, and this is the same spirit we hope to bring to our work at the ACA. The ACA is proud to support grassroots efforts like the Green Race by sponsoring insurance.

Our organization is proud to see local efforts through the Green River Conservation Project to raise over \$3,500 to support Green River access, water quality monitoring and improvements, and gamelands expansion and upkeep.

Whether it is lining up to race the Green, or setting out for a quiet paddle on your favorite local stretch of water, we recognize that we are community built out of our collective search and love for these kinds of moments – moments where we get a chance to connect with the water and with each other.

Here's to your next moment, and we hope to see you on the water!

Paddle *Green* Spotlight

Corvallis, Oregon holds its first *Trashy Thursday*



November 29 marked the first-ever Trashy Thursday event in Corvallis, Oregon. Due to the success of the Trashy Tuesday event in Eugene, the [Willamette RiverKeeper](#) decided to expand the idea 30 miles north to Corvallis.

On a rainy and cold November day, a small but mighty crew met for the inaugural Corvallis River Guardians riverside cleanup at Crystal Lake Park. Working with the South Valley Advocate, Michelle Emmons, team members from Corvallis Parks and Recreation, Oregon State Parks, Marys River Watershed Council, the ACA and volunteers removed 4 yards, or 1700 pounds, of trash from an important floodplain area on the banks of the Willamette River.

Cafe Mam donated 60 coffee shipping bags that we were able to repurpose to pack and carry the trash instead of having the bags go straight into the landfill.

Do you live on Corvallis/Albany area and want to take part in clean water efforts to protect and restore your Willamette? Contact the Willamette River Keepers at <http://willamette-riverkeeper.org>.



Recent *Paddle Green* Policy Action

Tennessee proposes rules for commercial outfitters

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) recently posted proposed rules for official public comment regarding commercial outfitters for non-motorized paddlecraft on Tennessee waters, which includes lakes

and rivers that do not already have existing rules in place, such as the Nolichucky and Ocoee Rivers.



The ACA wrote to its members in Tennessee in early October to inform them that the rulemaking process was underway. In addition, the ACA wrote [a letter to Assistant TWRA Director Chris Richardson](#) requesting the formation of an advisory board including representatives of the commercial outfitting industry. The TWRA was transparent and responded with the formation of an advisory board that met twice starting in late October. The advisory board helped form the current proposed rules.

First and foremost, the ACA is working to ensure that its membership in Tennessee is included in any process, on any governmental level, related to rulemaking regarding paddlesports. It is vital that the paddling community has a seat at the table when it comes to the formation and implementation of rules related to paddling.

ACA Public Policy Chief Brett Mayer recently met with Senator Lamar Alexander's office in Washington D.C. He expressed the ACA's concern about rulemaking on the state level that might ultimately impede the public's ability to access Tennessee state waters, and that may potentially make it more difficult for small liveries and outfitters in Tennessee to operate their business and thrive economically.

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

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





Crystal Skahan, ACA Instructor of the Month for December, assists a new paddler.

EDUCATION

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center

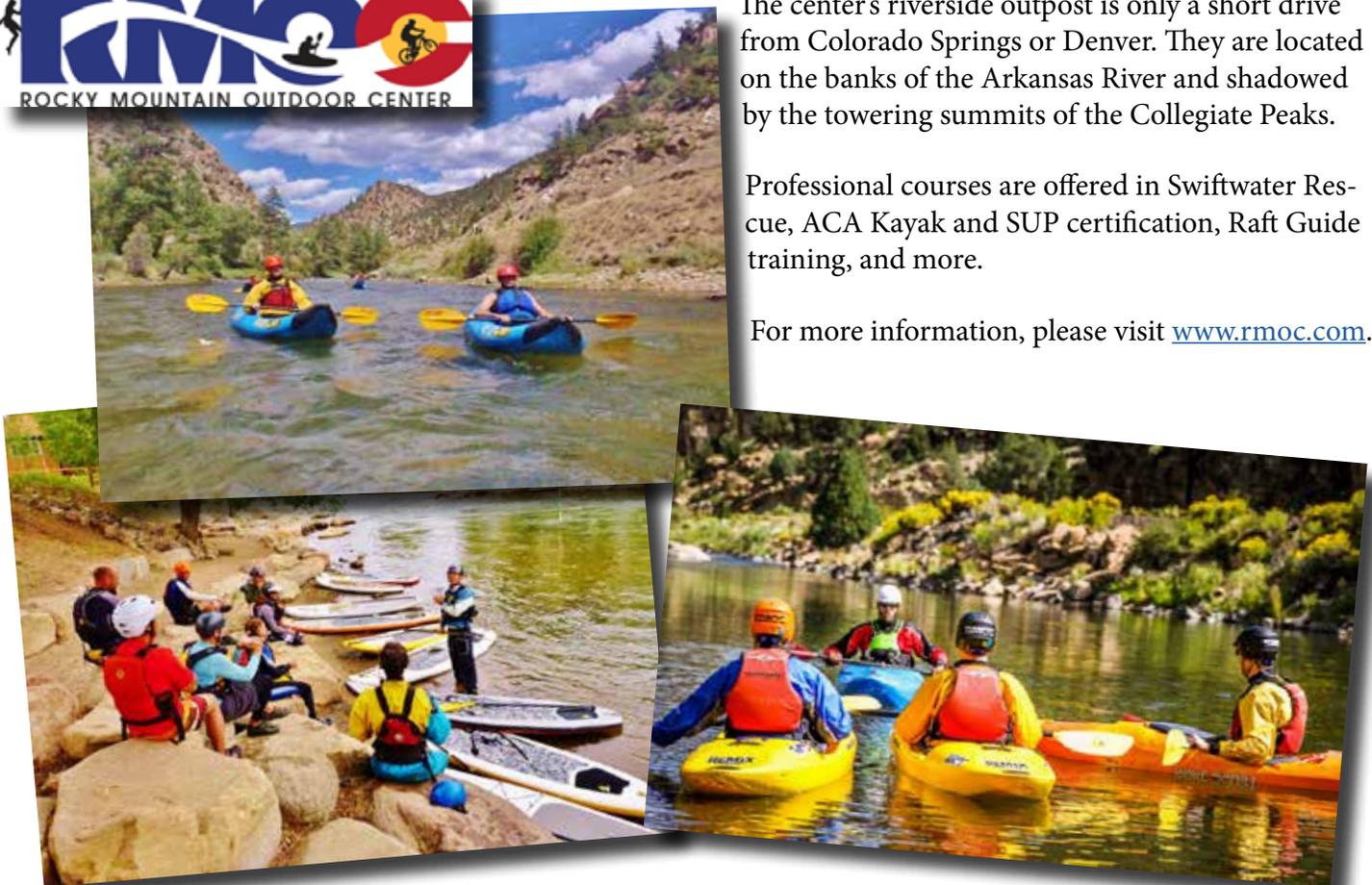
The [Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center](#) has been a leader in outdoor adventure since 1982. They offer professional kayak instruction and SUP instruction, as well as guided rafting trips on the beautiful Arkansas River near Buena Vista, Colorado. Check out classic sections like Brown's Canyon or The Numbers.



The center's riverside outpost is only a short drive from Colorado Springs or Denver. They are located on the banks of the Arkansas River and shadowed by the towering summits of the Collegiate Peaks.

Professional courses are offered in Swiftwater Rescue, ACA Kayak and SUP certification, Raft Guide training, and more.

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



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

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

November Instructor of the Month



Wang Fukang

Anna Levesque recently contacted us with a nomination for Instructor of the Month. “I recently traveled to China to teach two SUP yoga university courses and two SUP L1/L2 ICWs,” she said. “Wang Fukang, or Kangkang as he is affectionately known, was my assistant for both of

my ICWs. He always made sure that the ACA banner was visible and in photos. I told him I think he is the best ACA ambassador in the world – in China, for sure!”

Levesque went on to say, “He is generous, committed, organized

and a great paddler and teacher. During my month-long stay I observed him working hard on his skills, teaching others, assisting others and being pro-active in his duties of promoting the ACA in China. He is a wonderful example of a high-quality teacher, coach, mentor and friend. He is committed to growing paddlesports in China in professional and sustainable way.”

When notified of being selected, Kangkang replied, “It is my great honor to have been chosen as ACA Instructor of the Month! Thanks for your recommendation.”

Kangkang is an L3 Coastal Kayak instructor and an L2 SUP instructor. He said he has taught in Beijing, Baotou and Hangzhou this year.

He added, “In the near future, I want to improve my skills in paddling and kayaking. In addition, I want to try new waterways and new crafts. What is more, having a good teaching skills and teaching more students is important and necessary.”



December Instructor of the Month

Crystal Skahan



“Water has always had a restorative effect on me, and I like to share that experience with others,” said Crystal Skahan. She grew up swimming in Minnesota lakes, paddling canoe, and immersing herself in water whenever she could. She still does.

After graduating college and moving to New Hampshire to begin her career as an adapted sport professional, Skahan had her first opportunity to sea kayak and was captivated.

“I felt ‘one’ with it. To this day, when I’m feeling stressed, my go-to strategy is to go hang upside down in my kayak with my fellow paddlers. As one of my paddling mentors put it... ‘I find serenity in a low-oxygen environment.’ I continue to enjoy learning and look forward to continue helping others discover this lifelong versatile activity that brings so much to so many people,” Skahan said.

Skahan is an active ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer, providing paddling opportunities for individuals with disabilities and training opportunities for paddle-sport instructors and adapted sport professionals. As a recreation therapist at Northeast Passage, a program of the University of New Hampshire and chapter of Disabled Sports

USA, her specialty in adapted sport has enabled opportunity to provide paddling programming to assess the unique characteristics of each individuals’ experience with their disability, and utilize a strengths-based approach to facilitate fulfilling recreation participation.

With a personal and professional focus on education and training, Skahan continues learning, teaching, and collaborating with other professionals to advance training, curriculum development, and opportunities for individuals with disabilities to experience paddlesport. She has conducted a number of presentations at professional conferences on topics of *Essential Eligibility Criteria*, *Risk Management*, and has most recently presented at the ACA’s 2018 Adaptive Paddling

on the topics of *Advanced Communication Skills for Instructing Paddlers with impaired Speech, Language, and/or Processing Delays* as well as *Paddleboard Seating Adaptations, Rescues, and Risk Management Considerations*.



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

Paddle Quest is an animated, family friendly way to spread the fun and excitement of paddling with children (and adults, too)! The game is the newest addition to the ACA's ongoing campaign to develop, produce, and disseminate a wide range of safety, education, and instructional programs.

With the world's young and aspiring paddlers in mind, the content of this game is not only fun, but it provides an engaging way introduce paddling safety and trip planning concepts to help make future paddling trips enjoyable for the entire family!

Visit the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download the FREE Paddle Quest app today!

outdoor adventure,
safe paddling,
& lots of fun!

PADDLE QUEST

Download & Play Now!

ACA
CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY
YOUR BOATING
DOLLARS AT WORK

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

GET IT ON
Google play

Available on the
App Store



ADAPTIVE

Second Adaptive Summit deemed a **SUCCESS**

By Marcel Bieg, ACA Western States Outreach Director and Grant Manager

The ACA hosted the second Adaptive Paddling Summit November 2-4, 2018. The event was organized in partnership with [Adaptive Expeditions](#) and partially funded through a grant from the [Craig H. Neilsen Foundation](#). The event was held in Weeki Wachee, Florida, at the [Boating In Florida Facility](#) located in Weeki Wachee Spring State Park. Here, industry leaders came together in a collaborative environment to learn from each other, refine best practices, and celebrate the latest innovations in the field of adaptive paddling.

Over 85 members, recreation specialists, paddlers and instructors attended the summit from 80 different adaptive organizations and 30 states. Clinics were offered on new and critical techniques, time was available to demo the latest and greatest gear, and solid connections were built among organizations and individuals.



The venue was amazing with incredibly clear spring water to play in. The bird life around the spring was amazing, and we even had

a mother manatee and her juvenile come and visit on the final day of the event. The Saturday night BBQ banquet, keynote presented by Paddle Canada and multiple socials were well received and nothing but fun, fun, fun. We are very excited for the next Adaptive Paddling Summit.



Since 1990, the ACA has led the adaptive recreation industry, training instructors and program providers in the best practices of inclusive paddlesports. To learn more, please visit www.americancanoe.org/Courses_Adaptive.

Universal Paddling Seat



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

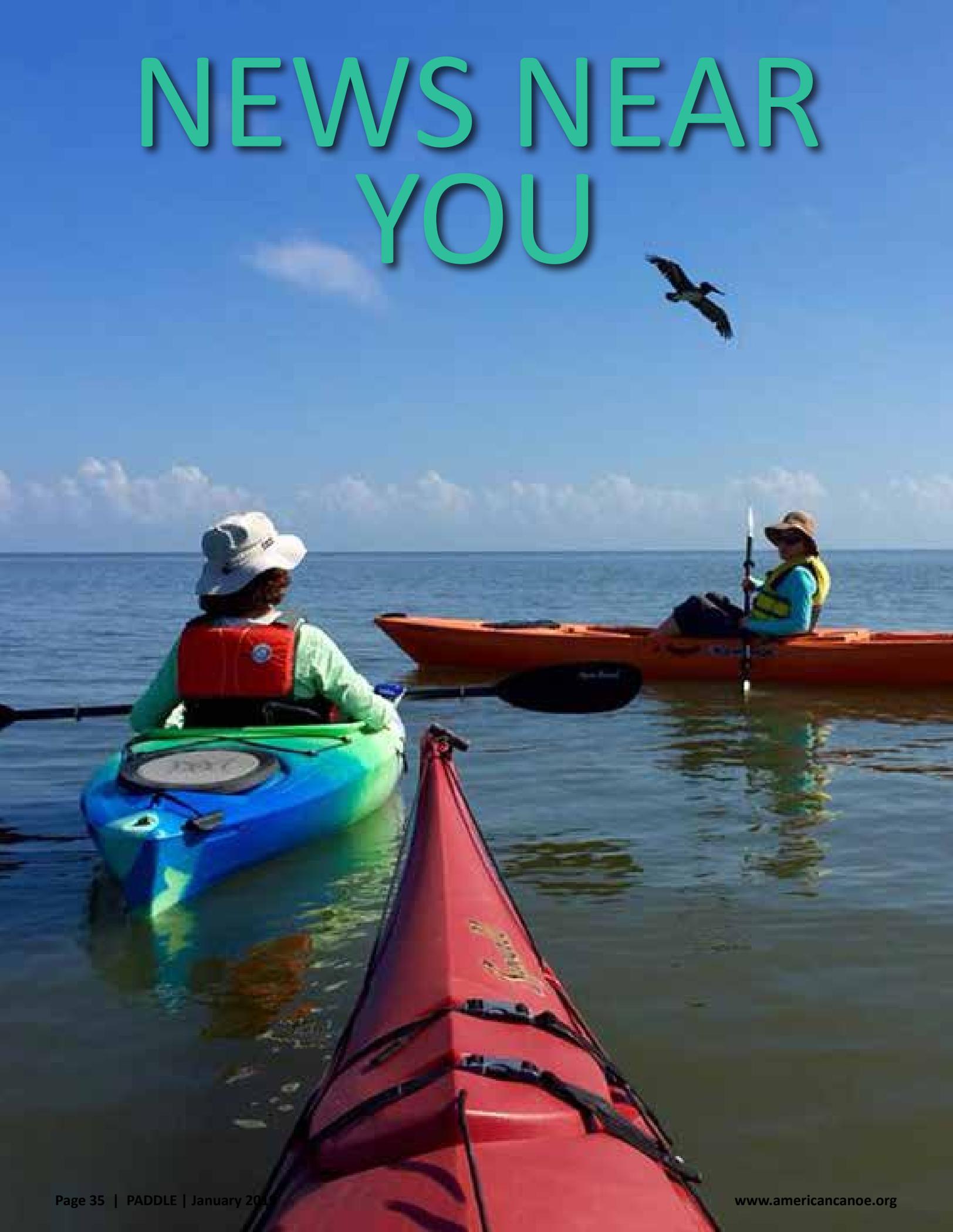
The back structure consists of pelvic, lateral, lumbar, and upper-back supports. The back has several vertical adjustments to fit different torso lengths and types. The upper unit (the upper-back rest and laterals) can be adjusted independently or removed completely, for those who don't need the high-level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

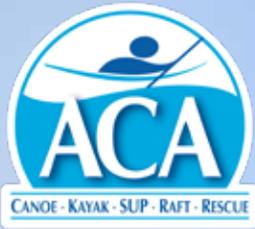
The kayak seat base has an adapter for each brand of kayak. Specify brand and model when ordering.

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!

NEWS NEAR YOU





Elections open January 3-17 for State Director program

Elections for the ACA's State Director Program open Jan. 3 and will be open through Jan. 17. Please take the opportunity to vote for your State Director and your State's Executive Council.

All State Executive Council positions are elected by the state ACA membership for a two-year term. The election of the nominees has been determined by the majority of votes cast by electronic ballot in November by members eligible to vote. In order to vote, you must be a current member of the ACA and over 18 years of age.

To learn more about the State Director program, please visit www.americancanoe.org.





Florida

On November 9, 18 paddlers gathered in the island town of Cedar Key for a Paddlers Environmental Toolkit Training program co-presented by Jill Lingard of the Florida Paddling Trails Association and Dr. Savanna Barry from the Nature Coast Biological Station.



The morning session covered the flora and fauna paddlers most commonly see in the region, how to minimize wildlife disturbance and practice Leave No Trace ethics, and plug into water-related stewardship opportunities. After lunch, participants launched kayaks for a paddle around nearby Gulf islands and put into practice on the water concepts covered in class. FPTA is grateful to the ACA and LL Bean for their Club Fostered Stewardship Grant which makes programs like this one possible.

Tommy Thompson, FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Illinois

This is about the Illinois Water Trails Conference on Oct. 15 at which I was the ACA representative.

The attached photo is: Dan Plath of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association discusses work on the Lake Michigan Water Trail.

Water trails bring people together and help them get out on the water. They improve quality of life, promote education, contribute to economic development and increase awareness of the importance of stewardship.

Those were among the messages delivered at the Illinois Water Trails Conference this fall near Channahon. It brought together about 7 people from across Illinois and neighboring Indiana and Wisconsin to discuss what's been done and what can be done.

“Our waterways need to be recognized for being the life-giving arteries of our planet,” said Sigrid Pilgrim of the Illinois Paddling Council, which organized the event along with the Potawatomi Paddling Association. Such recognition is important, she said, “whether it’s the wilderness of the Boundary Waters or the urban setting of the Chicago River.”



Speakers and panelists shared ideas of different ways to create water trails, forming coalitions – and sometimes forming nonprofit organizations – end enlisting volunteers.

There are currently 21 National Water Trails. One of the newest, the Kankakee River National Water Trail was near the conference site. Learn more at www.nps.gov/watertrails.

Even if you're not seeking national designation, conference speakers said the criteria for such trails offer a good roadmap for such a project.

Their advice? Take an inventory of assets along the proposed trail. Ask yourself if the body of water under consideration has local support, is safe and of adequate depth most of the year, would require only low cost improvements and would provide a quality experience.

Minimum requirements are safe and legal access to the waterway, a means of transferring boats and people between land and water (such as ramps, slides, steps or sandy shorelines) and vehicle parking.

Karen Miller of the Fabulous Fox River Trail, which flows through both Wisconsin and Illinois, said volunteers were enlisted to paddle segments of the proposed trail to fill out forms listing access points, dams, amenities such as parking and other key details.

Dan Plath, resource manager at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and a leader of the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, described how representatives from four states came together to develop the Lake Michigan Trail Network, which includes not only paddling routes but also cycling, hiking and driving routes.

He cited the importance of bringing various sides together, including government entities, private landowners, tourism agencies and interest groups. Identify potential adversaries early and reach out to them, he recommended.

“Put your egos aside,” he said. “Build coalitions. Think about those non traditional partnerships.”



Louisiana

Across Lake Pontchartrain, some 30 miles north of New Orleans, lies Saint Tammany Parish. (In Louisiana, parishes are equivalent to counties.)

While the topography in New Orleans is totally flat, Saint Tammany's gently rolling landscape and fragrant “piney woods” offer many options for paddling, and a visit to www.louisiananorthshore.com/things-to-do/water-recreation/canoe-kayak-paddleboarding/ offers information on them all, from rivers with a touch of whitewater to bayous where ‘gators abound, to Lake Pontchartrain itself.

Ben Sandmel, LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Youth Paddlesports Grant for the Midwest

A master of canoe and kayak, Marge Cline was one of the top paddling instructors in the country. A stickler for safety and proper technique in her classes, she thrived on the exhilaration of taking on a wild river. Her signature move was a headstand in the bow as her canoe shot through white water. The paddlesports community suffered a great loss with River Mom's death in October 2007.

In honor of Cline's son, Mike, the ACA is pleased to assist in continuing Marge 'River Mom' Cline's legacy to encourage youth in the Midwest (IL, IN, MI, WI) to participate in paddlesports. Each year, as funding permits, the ACA will grant up to \$1,000 to individuals or nonprofit organizations to provide paddlesports opportunities for youth in the Midwest. These funds should be used to further an individual's ability to participate in canoe, kayak, SUP or rafting.

A condition of acceptance is that the recipient(s) will commit to giving back to their local paddling community. For example, the recipient could talk about whitewater safety at an event, organize a local river clean up, etc.

Applications due by January 31, 2019.

For more information, please visit: www.americancanoe.org/MargeCline



Donations welcome!

The ACA has set up a dedicated account for contributions to this grant program for youth paddlesports education in the Midwest. If you would like to make a donation, please visit www.americancanoe.org/donations/donate.asp?id=17481.

MEMBERSHIP





ACA simplifies membership structure, reduces dues

In order to better serve the needs of ACA members, athletes, paddling clubs, affiliates, instructors, and pro schools, the ACA has listened to your feedback over the past year and simplified the overall membership structure.

The primary changes include:

- The number of different membership types has been significantly reduced.
- Dues have been reduced for most membership types.
- Joining and renewing has been made easier through an online process.
- Family memberships have been removed. Each person now has his or her own \$25 Individual Membership.
- Competition individual members will now be able to:
 - select their primary and secondary disciplines (if applicable)
 - electronically sign their Athlete Code of Conduct form
 - electronically sign their yearly waiver if they are a member of a Paddle America Club (PAC).
- Paddle America Clubs and Affiliates now have only one price point, versus a tiered structure.
- The \$5 event membership remains unchanged for an insured ACA club, affiliate or instruction event.

Learn more at www.americancanoe.org/MembershipSimplificationPlan.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
KEEP IT
SIMPLE**

ACA RELEASES NEW YOUTH SAFE PADDLING VIDEOS

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

The Youth Safe Paddling Series offers the following videos (all are available on the ACA's [Educational Videos webpage](#) and [WebTV page](#)):

- [Do Kids Need to Wear a Life Jacket?](#)
- [Does Your Child's Life Jacket Fit Properly?](#)
- [At What Age Can Kids Start Canoeing?](#)
- [At What Age Can Kids Start SUP?](#)
- [At What Age Can Kids Start Kayaking?](#)
- [Tips for Kayaking with Kids](#)
- [Tips for Canoeing with Kids](#)
- [Tips for Stand Up Paddleboarding with Kids](#)
- [How to Paddle with Little Ones](#)
- [Top 5 Tips for Paddling Fun with Kids](#)
- [Where to Paddle with Kids](#)
- [What to Do if You Flip with a Child](#)
- [What Gear Do Kids Need?](#)
- [Keeping Paddling Fun for Kids](#)
- [Safety Tips for Paddling with Kids](#)



ACA OUTFITTER, LIVERY & GUIDE SPOTLIGHT



STAND UP PADDLE
BOARDING CO.

[GJ SUP](#) is designed to promote and perpetuate a healthy lifestyle by bringing together families and the community in an active, fun and eco-friendly way.

They're a private, locally owned, small business and they strive to be known as a company that is fully educated on the skills set by the stand up paddle (SUP), yoga and fitness industry. They are committed to continual education to learn new teaching and instructing methods.

Located on the western slope of Colorado, GJ SUP offers lake & river SUP instruction, rentals yoga & fitness classes and can cater private groups. GJ SUP instructors are American Canoe Association & World Paddle Association SUP instructors.



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:

- [Subaru VIP Program](#)
- [Stewardship](#) support
- [Public Policy](#) representation
- Free [Rapid Media](#) subscription
- Reduced admission to thousands of ACA sanctioned [events](#) and races each year
- [Pro Deals](#) for certified instructors
- Bimonthly [Paddle](#) eMagazine featuring local, regional, and national paddlesport issues
- [Members only discounts](#)
- 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
503 Sophia Street, Suite 100
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.



wernerpaddles.com



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us



**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



Gerry James was named the 2018 Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year. James, who founded the Explore Kentucky Initiative, has been a stalwart for Kentucky's outdoor community for the past five years.

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 to be featured in a future issue of Paddle.

COMPETITION



Novice paddler becomes Olympic hopeful

A novice paddler was elected as one of the eight winners from season two of "Milk Life presents, Scouting Camp: The Next Olympic Hopeful." Shaye Hatchette, from Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, compiled a last-minute video in May for the talent-identification program. She never expected to make the cut, but she did.



Now the 22-year-old has moved across the country to train at the Lake Lanier Olympic Park as a sprint kayak hopeful for the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo.

"Scouting Camp: The Next Olympic Hopeful" was created by the United States Olympic Committee to increase and enhance the pipeline of world-class athletes pursuing Olympic sport. Nearly 3,500 athletes from across the country applied online or participated in tryouts hosted exclusively at 24 Hour Fitness clubs and regional tryout locations. From this pool of athletes, 90 were invited to the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to participate in the finalist phase of the program.

Following the OTC tryout, the eight winners were invited to join the national team camps for the eight participating sports: bobsled, boxing, canoe/kayak, cycling, rowing, rugby sevens, skeleton and weightlifting. The eight athletes are eligible to receive financial, training and medical support as they work toward representing Team USA and the opportunity of competing at the Olympic Games.

The winning athletes are:

- Kayla Caldwell (Tuscarawas, Ohio), weightlifting
- Stephanie Grant (Bellflower, Calif.), boxing
- Fabian Griffith (Victorville, Calif.), skeleton
- Shaye Hatchette (Fort Gibson, Okla.), canoe/kayak
- LaDarren Landrum (Spartanburg, S.C.), rowing
- Deena Manitu (Charleston, W.V.), cycling
- Lindsey Mayo (Gallatin, Tenn.), rugby sevens
- Rodriquez Russell (Danville, Va.), bobsled

For more information on the winners and information on season three of "Next Olympic Hopeful," visit TeamUSA.org/ScoutingCamp.

Shaye Hatchette Canoe/Kayak

Age: 22

Hometown: Fort Gibson, Okla.

Past Sport Experience: I did gymnastics growing up for about eight years and then transferred into soccer. I did cheerleading for a time in high school; also in high school I did track. In swimming I was a state champion. Then, in college, I played three different sports: rowing, soccer and cheer.

On being named the Next Olympic Hopeful: It's a dream come true. I've dreamt about this since I was 8 years old. To be given the opportunity is amazing, and I'm just going to take it humbly and hopefully become an athlete of influence as well as a role model for younger kids. I think it's one of the biggest platforms you can represent people in.

On being selected for canoe/kayak: I've been looking up YouTube videos of canoe and kayak because I was thinking 'I just want an Olympic sport.' Then thankfully, I got in the kayak and felt kind of natural in it. But, I was open to anything. I was just trying to get every good score that I possibly could, so that I could get chosen by a sport.

On her greatest challenge in canoe/kayak: Honestly, just getting the balance down in the kayak, getting the form correctly and increasing my pace, so I can start decreasing my time.

An insider's perspective on racing against the best in the world

By Michele Eray, 2008 Olympian and 2016 Olympic Coach

The ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships take place annually, and every country in the world sends their fastest two boats per category.

This exciting marathon race takes place over a lap-style course, with each lap being about 4km long with a 100m portage at the end of each lap. Athletes need to be nimble and be able to quickly hop out of their boats, run along the portage, and re-enter, with as little drama as possible.

This creates for a very spectator friendly race, as the paddlers are running past the crowd every 20 minutes or so. A big screen shows the parts of the course not seen from the spectator area, and great commentary informs spectators every step of the way.

Team USA had a small group of paddlers that traveled to the 2019 ICF Canoe Marathon Championships in Braga, Portugal. Andrew Surles (Lake Lanier, GA) was the

sole representative in the Junior Men K1 category, as was Mark Schattensburg (Houston, Texas) in the Open Men's K1. Maggie Hogan (Newport Aquatic Center, CA) and I raced the Open Womens K2 event.

The World Championships takes place from Thursday until Sunday on race week, with Juniors and U23 happening first, followed by the Open divisions. There are K1 (single) and K2 (double) events. Mon-

*Michele Eray and Maggie Hogan Eray and Hogan run the portage in the Open Womens K2 event.
Louis Hattingh photos*



Eray and Hagan compete in an exciting doubles event.



day and Tuesday during race week marks the turn of the Masters, with categories starting at 35 years old, and going up in 5-year increments.

Scott Surles (Lake Lanier, GA) raced the Masters Men K1 55-59 category, finishing in 28th place in his first ever Masters World Cup.

Maggie and I raced the Women's K2 35-39 Doubles event. With a mass start line made up of both men and women, we were excited to use this as a warm-up race for the World Champs later in the week.

We had a cracker of a start and broke away from the field straight away. As this was a tidal and shallow course, the mass starts resulted in large waves all over the place, so getting away early was a key strategy for us.

From there on out, we raced the 5 laps and 4 portages at our own pace, opening up on the field and running the portages comfortably. This was both of our first Masters Champs, and we were stoked to come away with the gold.

Next up was young Andrew Surles in his first international Marathon race. He had a solid hit out and fin-

ished up in 27th position. I hope he stays motivated and gives the world champs another few cracks.

Marathon racing is a great combination of speed, endurance, bunch riding skills and tactical awareness, plus you need to be able not only run with your boat but get in and out as fast as possible! It takes many years to master all these skills.

Mark Schattenberg was also at his first international Marathon Champs. He showed some grit and determination to push on in the race. Again, it's good to see new paddlers on the scene. Hopefully they learned a great deal at this event.

On the final day of racing Maggie and I lined up against the fastest Women Doubles in the world. Portugal hosted the ICF World Canoe Sprint World Champs two weeks before, as well as an ICF Ocean Racing World Cup, so it was great to see everyone from the other events also putting their name in the hat for another crack at a World Championship medal.

As always, the pace off the line was hot! We had a decent start and were well placed in the middle of

the pack, just off the leading bunch, where we stayed for the majority of the seven-lap race. One of the Hungarian crews made a break for it pretty early, and no one chased them down. Renata Csay, who was driving that boat, made the day her own where she took her 12th K2 World Marathon title and her 19th title overall.

With one lap to go, our small bunch of three boats made a concerted effort and caught up to the main pack in front of us. There was now a shot at the bronze medal.

I think we left it too late, and the mad scramble into the final portage – with the last turn into the final 500m – was not enough time to recover from our catchup, and we ended up in 7th position, only 19 seconds off the final medal!

It was a truly exciting race, and with over 20 000 people watching the livestream, Canoe Marathon is definitely growing in popularity! Looking ahead to the 2021 World Games in Alabama, Canoe Marathon will be one of the medal sports contested. All in all, a great few years ahead for marathon paddling!

Athletes, coaches from across US gather for annual Frostbite Camp

By Stephanie Schlitz and Eli Holmes
Photos by Gabriel Ghizila

Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club hosted ACA's annual [Frostbite Training Camp](#) at Green Lake in November, bringing together 84 sprint canoe and kayak athletes from paddling clubs across the U.S. Athletes participated in three days of training and technique sessions with [18 of the nation's top coaches](#).

Camp sessions included both on-the-water training and classroom lectures. In addition to workshops on technique, special sessions highlighted topics such as year-long



Eighty-four young athletes from across the U.S. attended the ACA's annual Frostbite Training Camp in November.

training plans using periodization, ACA's Olympic Development Program, tactics for group racing and distance races, training using speed zones, and improving efficiency with stroke rate training.

Eli Holmes, communications director for Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club, stated that camp organizers recruit “coaches who have international experience and competitive success who can inspire young athletes to make that jump to higher-level competition.”

Among the 18 [high-performance coaches present this year](#) were sprint kayak Olympian and World Champion Greg Barton (Los Angeles 1984, Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992), sprint kayak Olympian and surfski World Champion Michele Eray (Beijing 2008, Portugal 2013, respectively), and sprint canoe Olympian Joe Harper (Atlanta 1996). [Eray](#), who coached Maggie Hogan to the 2016 Rio Olympics and who is recognized internationally in her role as a surfski and sprint coach, said that “it was fantastic to see so many young athletes at Frostbite this year! This is a good sign for the sport in our country.”



Athletes train for the C1 during an on-water camp session.



Paddlers participate in the 10K at the conclusion of the three-day camp.

According to Marsh Jones, chair of ACA's Competition Council and athletics director for Twin Cities Paddlesports, "Frostbite Camp is a great opportunity to work on technique, to hear ideas from a variety of coaches, and to spend time getting to know paddlers from around the country, without the pressure of a regatta, trials, or heightened expectations."

Paddlers in attendance represented 11 different clubs, with athletes traveling to Seattle from as far as Hawaii and Minnesota for the opportunity to train with the elite coaching staff. Many of these athletes currently represent Team USA at international regattas. Seventeen competed at the 2018 Olympic Hopes Regatta in Poland, two at

the 2018 Junior Worlds, and three at the 2018 Pan American Games.

Kali Wilding, who trains with Ikai-ka in Hawaii, commented, "Although I was afraid I would freeze while paddling in weather 30 degrees colder than I'm used to, with the amount of coaching expertise and the help from other athletes, there was nothing better than knowing I'd come off the water a better kayaker than when I got on, and it was surprisingly fun having the change from training in the Hawaiian sun!"

The three-day camp concluded with the [Eric Hughes Memorial Regatta](#), featuring 5K and 10K distance races. With all ages competing together in each distance, the race is an

exciting and challenging event. Sixty-six competitors vied for the 10K title and 32 for the 5K.

In kayak Ashby Bodine was the overall male winner of the 10K (and 1st overall), and Abby Scoggins was the overall female winner (and 6th overall). In canoe, Kenny Kasperbauer was the top male 10K finisher and Andreea Ghizila was the top female. Complete results for the Eric Hughes Memorial Regatta are available [here](#).

Coaches and athletes interested in learning more about Frostbite Camp should contact Eli Holmes at seattle-canoekayakclub@gmail.com.

About the authors

Dr. Schlitz is the parent of sprint kayaker Ashby Bodine, who paddles for Cascade Canoe and Kayak Racing Team. Ms. Holmes is Communications Director for Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club and parent of sprint kayaker Jake Zikan, who paddles for the same.

Mark your calendar

This year's Frostbite Camp will be held Nov. 9-11 in Seattle, Washington. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Athletes selected for 2019 Olympic Development Program

By Stephanie Schlitz

ACA's Sprint Program recently named over 100 athletes to the [Olympic Development Program](#) (ODP). Currently in its third year, ODP seeks "to identify and develop the nation's top sprint canoe and kayak athletes, with the view of supporting and encouraging those who have shown the potential and desire to qualify for the 2020 and 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Teams."

Chris Barlow, ACA Sprint High Performance Manager and founder of San Diego Canoe and Kayak Team, commented that "ODP is unique as a nationwide program

that is open to all levels of sprint athletes, from beginners to seasoned National Team members."

Athletes are selected for the Development, Intermediate, B, A, or Elite Team based on their recent competition and fitness test results.

Barlow explained that each month following selection, "athletes reaffirm their commitment to training by undergoing monthly testing. They then use test results to see where they rank compared to other ODP athletes from around the country. Club and National Team

coaches use test results to set realistic goals with their athletes and to map out pathways to international competitions that allow them to enjoy positive and rewarding competitive racing experiences."

Athletes are optimistic about the program and hopeful it will lead to positive change. For elite canoeist Andreea Ghizila (pictured at top right), who recently earned two silver medals (C1 1000m and C1 200m) and one bronze medal (C1 500m) at the 2018 Pan American Games in Nova Scotia, "ODP has the potential to bring

ODP Training Squad at Lake Placid Training Camp. ACA photo/Chris Barlow





Elite ODP athlete Andreea Ghizila (in blue).
Charles Beaumier photo



Elite ODP athlete Ian Ross
Dezzo Vekassy photo



Elite ODP athlete Samantha Barlow
Charles Beaumier photo



A Team ODP athlete Evan Truesdale

athletes together and to help them compete even when they live and train far away from each other.” Ghizila “hope[s] periodic check-ins from National coaches throughout the training season will help them better support athletes at competitions.”

Evan Truesdale (pictured at left), sprint kayak National Champion and Olympic Hopes Regatta finalist, commented that ODP “has been a great stepping off point for identifying talent throughout the country for both coaches and athletes who are looking to assess their progress throughout the season.”

Truesdale added that “although athletes need to take as much of the process into their own hands as they can, OPD is a great tool to support that.” For athletes new to ODP, Truesdale shared this advice, “Whatever level you ended up in, you are now part of that team, and teams need to work together towards a common goal. That’s where we’ll find our success.”

Top-ranked American canoeist Ian Ross (pictured at left), who has extensive experience competing on the national and international stage, stated, “I’m very excited about the future of our sport in the United States and thankful for the ACA for taking on this challenge. As with any new endeavor, there will be

growing pains, but I feel confident we can work through those together. Just like racing, it will take practice, preparation, more practice, and late-night attention to detail. I’m motivated because for the first time in a long time I feel like the organization above me is working as hard as I am.”

The 2019 ODP Teams include 39 women and 63 men, with six of these athletes qualifying for Elite Team standing. A complete list of the athletes selected for the 2019 ODP Teams is available [here](#).

Olympic Development Program

The Olympic Development Program will serve as a forum to identify and develop athletes to represent the USA at domestic and international competitions.

The foundation of the program is to identify athletes and pick teams with the view of supporting and encouraging those Sprint canoe and kayak athletes who have shown the potential and the desire to qualify for the 2020 and 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Teams.

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

Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

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

March 2-3	<u>Mulberry Fork Canoe & Kayak Race</u> Hanceville, Alabama
March 16-17	<u>USA Freestyle National Team Trials</u> Rock Island, Tennessee
March 22-24	<u>52nd Missouri Whitewater Championships</u> Fredericktown, Missouri
March 30	<u>52nd Annual Red Moshannon Downriver Race</u> Grassflat, Pennsylvania
April 12-13	<u>2019 Sprint & Paracanoe National Team Trials</u> Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
May 26	<u>California River Quest</u> Redding, California
May 31-June 2	<u>2019 ICF Canoe Marathon World Cup</u> Berum, Norway
June 1	<u>39th Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race</u> Fredericksburg, Virginia

Applications being accepted for new grant for female athletes

Applications are being accepted through January 18 for the [Elite Female Slalom Athlete grant](#). Honoring the memory of Shannon Christy, whose passion for kayaking and for life inspired so many, this grant program 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.

To learn more about the grant, please visit www.americancanoe.org/EliteFemaleSlalom.



ACA supports Whitewater Slalom



The ACA has set a goal of raising \$100,000 to support the development and promotion of whitewater slalom in the United States. The funding will directly support development initiatives with slalom paddling clubs around the country.

The ACA is glad to be able to support the athletes and clubs across the United States as they strive for excellence at the national and international levels.

Thank you to those who have already supported this cause. It is because of ACA members like you that our athletes will have the best opportunity to stand on top of the podium at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Please consider [supporting the program today](#).

Make your events *easier* with online waivers!

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



INTERNATIONAL



Wang "Kangkang" Kufang, ACA Instructor of the Month for November, teaches children about kayak safety in China.

ACA Instructor Akademie

Wir freuen uns sehr, die erste ACA Instructor Akademie in Europa ankündigen zu dürfen. Die ideale Gelegenheit für Weiterbildung, Updates und Upgrades für Instructoren aller Disziplin.

We are super stoked to be able to announce the first ever ACA Instructor Academy in Europe. A perfect opportunity for updates, upgrades and further education for Instructors of all disciplines.



Datum: 26. - 28. Mai 2019

Location: D-79859 Schluchsee, Seeweg 2, rafftaff

Teilnehmer:

Wir haben Platz für max. 20 Instructoren aller Level und Disziplin. Die ganzen Vorträge sind disziplin-übergreifend. Updates bis max. Level 2

Unterkunft:

Entweder im Camper direkt vor Ort, im Schwarzwaldcamp (www.schwarzwaldcamp.com) oder in der Jugendherberge nebenan. Für's Camp bieten wir Sonderpreise an.

Preis: 120 EUR

Workshops:

Das Programm startet am Freitag um 18 Uhr und endet am Sonntag ca. 15 Uhr. Hier einige Works-hop-Highlights:

- Einsatz von Video-Feedback in der Ausbildung
- Yoga und Fitness für Paddler und Instructoren
- Effizienzmaximierung am Paddel
- Updates SUP, Open Canoe und Seekajak
- und vieles mehr ...

Info: www.raff.coach - mail@raff.coach

Date: May 26- 28, 2019

Location: D-79859 Schluchsee, Seeweg 2, rafftaff

Participants:

There is space for up to 20 Instructors of all levels and disciplines. All workshops are cross-discipline. Updates are possible up to L2.

Lodging:

There are a few spots for campers right at the event site. Besides that, we offer special deals for the Schwarzwald-Camp (www.schwarzwaldcamp.com). There is a youth hostel and other hotels close by.

Price: 120 EUR

Workshops:

We start at Friday 6pm and end at Sunday 3pm. Here are some workshop highlights:

- Video Feedback - tips, tricks and best practice
- Yoga and fitness for paddler and Instructors
- "Reduce to the max" - paddling the efficient way
- Updates SUP, Open Canoe and Seakayak
- More to come ...

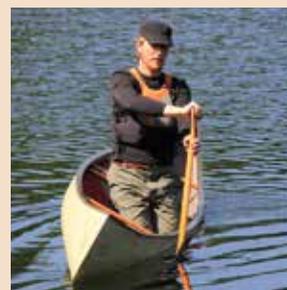
Info: www.raff.coach - mail@raff.coach



Caro Florschütz



Martin Teichmann, IT



Sebastian Stetter, IT



Raphael Kuner, ITE



ICW L2 ACA (Coastal kayak)

Curso para instructores ACA

**13-14-15 de MARzo .2018
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Organiza.seakayakspain.com

Carlos: +34644891407

www.seakayakspain.com

Paddling History

An ACA membership application dated January 1, 1888

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION.

Date *January 1* 188*8*.

To the Purser of the Central Division :

I hereby apply for membership in the A. C. A.

Name, *H. Lansing Quirk*
Address, *Devo Block or 13 Remartine Ave., Yonkers, N.Y.*
Canoe, *Evangeline*
(Be careful to write name, etc., legibly.)

I hereby recommend this applicant for membership in the A. C. A.

(Signature of A. C. A. member.) *Howard* A. C. A. No. *982*

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE APPLICANT.

Q.—What is your age and occupation?
Ans.— *Age 18 - occupation - Clerk in Architects office*

Q.—Have you ever taken part in any competition for a stake or for money, or under a false name, or with a professional for a prize? If so, give the date and circumstances.
Ans.— *No.*

Approved Nov. 2, 1888,
Henry Stanton
N. C. A. B.

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

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

*Michele Eray and Maggie Hogan participate
in the Open Womens K2 event.
Louis Hattingh photo*



www.americancanoe.org

