

Volume 3, Issue 6 | November 2017

PADDLE

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

ACA Honors Experts Annual Awards Presented at Conference

ACA Named Olympic & Paralympic NGB!

Clean Water Act under review

**Instructors of the Month -
October & November**



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
Mike Foreman- Conservation, Stewardship & Public Policy Director
Katie Hansen- Membership Coordinator
Kimberly Jenkins- Paddle eMagazine Editor
Brett Mayer- Public Policy Chief
LeighAnn Rakovich- Insurance Coordinator
Carrie Schlemmer- Education & Grant Coordinator
John Sims- Social Media Coordinator

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Intro to Paddling- Ben Lawry (CA)
Prone Kayaking- Adam Masters (NC)
Rafting- Josh Oberleas (CO)
River Canoe- Beth Wiegandt (VA)
River Kayak- Mike Arnoff (VA)
Safety & Rescue- Sam Fowlkes (NC)
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Surf Kayak- Nigel Law (GA)
Surfski- Chris Hipgrave (NC)
Touring Canoe- Molly Gurien (OH)

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SEIC Chair Appointment- Peter Casson (RI)

Liaison Member

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USCG- Tom Dardis (DC)
USCG Auxiliary- Don Goff (MD)

Cover photo

Kayakers enjoy a sunny autumn day on the Potomac River.
123rf photo

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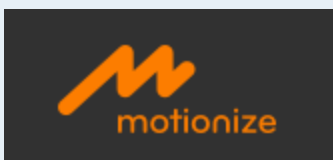
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KS- Available	NC- Kyle Thomas	WI- Thomas Schrader
	ND- Available	WY- Helen Tozer-Wilson

For information about the State Director Program,
please contact Amy Ellis at the ACA National Office.

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.

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Meet your



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director
The Super G



Besides canoe/kayak,
what is your favorite
**Olympic/
Paralympic
sport**
to watch?



Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief
Snowboarding

www.americancanoe.org/staff



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership
Coordinator

My favorite Olympic sport is table tennis. It's come a long way from its humble beginnings as a parlor game in Victorian England where whatever could be found was used as equipment: books as a net and a paddle, and a champagne cork as a "ball."



LeighAnn Rakovich
Insurance Coordinator

I really enjoy watching Olympic gymnastics.



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach Director
& Grant Manager
The Pentathlon!



Kimberly Jenkins
Paddle eMagazine Editor

I've always been a fan of gymnastics. Alpine and para alpine skiing are also favorites.

ACA Staff



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator
Equestrian!



Carrie Schlemmer
Education & Grant Coordinator
Ice skating!



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer
Javelin



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Manager
I'd call it a tie between gymnastics and whitewater slalom.



Dave Burden
International Paddlesports
Ambassador
Mountain bike cycling and wheelchair fencing



Mike Foreman Rakovich
Conservation, Stewardship & Public Policy Director
For the winter games, I like to watch bobsledding due to the element of danger in the speed of it. The biathlon is interesting, too.



Kandace Bowers
Financial Coordinator
Curling!!



John Sims
Social Media Coordinator
Ice hockey. It's always great to see the different countries compete, and the Miracle on Ice is an all-time good memory. Can't wait for 2018!



ACA COO elected chair of National Safe Boating Council

ACA Chief Operating Officer Christopher Stec was elected chairman of the National Safe Boating Council at their annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, in September.

“It is an honor to have been elected to serve the boating community in this capacity for the next two years,” said Stec.

The remaining 2018 NSBC board members serving with Stec include:

- Vice Chair: Stu Gilfillen, US Sailing
- Secretary/Treasurer: Alan Dennison, BoatU.S. Foundation
- Member-At-Large: Stephanie Hussey, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
- Member-At-Large: Joe McCullough, Alaska Office of Boating Safety

The NSBC Board of Directors serve as the governing body of the NSBC and work closely with the organization’s executive director to provide strategic guidance and oversight of the NSBC Strategic Plan, 2015–2019.

The NSBC was organized in September 1958 and its mission is to be the foremost coalition to advance and promote a safer recreational boating experience through education, outreach and training. The NSBC presently has a membership of over 500 organizations, instructors and individuals all with an interest in boating safety and education. The NSBC membership is diverse, with membership consisting of nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, certified instructors and individuals, www.safeboatingcouncil.org.

“On behalf of the newly elected NSBC Board of Directors, thank you to the membership for putting their trust in us to continue the NSBC’s mission of safer boating through education, outreach and training,” remarked Stec. “We look forward to continuing to collaborate with partner organizations to make America’s waterways safer and more enjoyable for all.”



Be an Outsider with L.L. Bean

Embracing their motto to “Be an outsider,” L.L. Bean encourages everyone to enjoy the outdoors. The company believes the more time you spend outside together, the better. That ties into their reason for designing a wide array of outdoor apparel and footwear, plus sporting & camping gear – to make it easier for everyone to enjoy the outdoors.

Being an outsider isn’t just about enjoying nature, it’s about respecting it, too. That’s why L.L. Bean supports dozens of nonprofit conservation and outdoor recreation organizations that help protect precious wildlife and natural spaces, keeping them healthy, vibrant and accessible to all.

Over the past 10 years, L.L. Bean has donated \$26 million to local, regional and national nonprofits to help conserve natural

spaces, ensure access to outdoor recreation and support our local communities. They explain that “caring for our planet literally means the world to us – and to everyone we share it with.”

The ACA is among the organizations that have received support from L.L. Bean. Because paddling is one of their favorite way to be an outsider, L.L. Bean takes great pride in being a Sustaining Partner of the ACA and helping the nonprofit organization in their efforts to make sure as many people as possible can enjoy this on-water activity.

L.L. Bean focuses on supporting the stewardship efforts of local paddling clubs and organizations through the Club Fostered Stewardship Grant

Program, ensuring their access to life-changing paddlesport experiences for generations to come. Also, L.L. Bean’s Outdoor Discovery Schools program has a strong partnership with the ACA. Many of their paddling instructors are ACA-certified.



ACA *Awards* 2017

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 2017 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.

Jimmy Holcombe was hired as the Nantahala Outdoor Center's first employee in 1972 and started teaching the following year. Four and a half decades later, he's still at the NOC sharing his passion for the river as one of the NOC'S Paddling Schools most requested instructors and, arguably, one of the longest continuous serving instructors in the country.

Holcombe has worked with thousands of guests over the years and never seems to forget a face or name. His authentic easygoing, humorous approach to paddling instruction seems to satisfy everyone and his boundless energy will wear out most of those on the river.

Holcombe pioneered many of the classic southeastern runs and has numerous first descents to his name. He is an expert in C-1, open boats, and kayaks. Holcombe remembers well when instruction at NOC began in the summer of 1973. "We were teaching three-day courses for Outward Bound in 17 foot Grumman canoes. The first two days were spent on the Little Tennessee and the last day on the Nantahala. We taught our first kayak course in the summer of 1975."

Looking back over the years, Holcombe said the biggest change between those early whitewater clinics and the Center's current ones has been the clinic guests.

He explained that in its infancy, whitewater boating was a sport viewed as something "on the edge" and a "little wilder" and people that signed up for whitewater instruction reflected this sentiment. "Skirts



The first employee at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, Jimmy Holcombe is a virtual walking encyclopedia when it comes to paddlesports.

leaked, boats leaked, and you were always a little cold, but that's what was expected," he said. "Back then, our whitewater instruction clinics were catering to the adventurous souls that were attracted to a new sport surrounded by a sense of the unknown."

Excellence in Instruction

Presented to an ACA member for his or her outstanding contribution to paddlesports instruction.

He added that while undoubtedly some of those same types of people are still drawn to the sport, kayaking has become “a little more comfortable” and a little more well known, and hence families, camps, and retirees give it a try, looking for a new medium to experience the outdoors or stay in shape.

Holcombe remarked that there are simply more good kayakers today than ever, and the progression from beginner to expert is much quicker. In short, more people are becoming better paddlers in a shorter amount of time. He credits this phenomenon to the change in boat design and the introduction of the playboats. The skills learned in playboats are transferring over to the river-running/creeking realm.

As an example, Holcombe stated that back then, people tended to avoid playing in holes, not because they didn't have the competence, but because it was boring side surfing a 13-foot boat. Nowadays, side surfing is a stepping-stone to a variety of other tricks, and more paddlers are spending more time in holes. This has led to an increase in comfort level and confidence which has transferred to the downriver realm of boating.

Obviously, the pure number of boaters has increased exponentially as well. Through a smile Holcombe remarked, “I used to know every paddler on the East Coast, now I don't even know every paddler in the county.” Nonetheless, he repeatedly refers to paddlers as a family, an idea which has been a foundation of the NOC vision for 35 years.

Having taught rescue courses all over the U.S. and in Europe, **Mike Mather** has an unconventional approach to the topic. He excels at keeping topics clear, accessible and applicable for rescue professionals, experienced boaters and novices alike.

Kent Ford described Mather as a “highly skilled person, with a valuable set of skills, including guiding, guide training and broad national experience in swiftwater rescue. His experience level is truly unique on a national level.”

In the late 1980s, he left Texas and headed for the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and started climbing. The next year *Climbing Magazine* did an article on endless climbing in the New River Gorge, West Virginia, and he had to go check it out! “At that time the only jobs available in West Virginia for a guy like me were, a) Coal Miner or b) River Guide. I went with b and my life changed forever,” he recalled.

With his climbing rope skills and his passion for moving water, Mather jumped on the fast track to become a rescue instructor.

“That was a little more than 25 years ago and I am lucky enough to still be traveling the world teaching today,” he said.

He became an EMT in 1991 and a Firefighter/EMT in 2003. He has a Rescue Educator Foundation Degree from the University of Central Lancashire. He is a Rescue 3 International Instructor Trainer for Rope, Water, Rescue Boats, personal watercraft, as well as an American Canoe Association Instructor Trainer Educator for Safety & Rescue and Rafting. “I have also taken more FEMA courses than merit mentioning,” he added. “With this and more, I hope I get to share my training and life experience with whomever is interested.”

(Continued on page 10)



With more than 20 years to develop his judgment on and in the water, Mike Mather is one of the more experienced and entertaining rescue professionals in the industry.

Sanctioned Event of the Year

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



The **Penn Cup** is a fall series of races designed to introduce paddlers to the sport of slalom racing. Races are held on Sundays, with Saturdays reserved for course construction, practice, and clinics. Clinics are taught by experienced racers – including former series champions and some of the best paddlers in the state and in the US – and serve to introduce beginners to the sport, and to help more experienced racers advance from the basics of running the gates to discovering and paddling the most efficient lines.

Awards are presented at each race, and overall series awards (earned on a point system) are presented after the final race. There are many classes available at each race for open and decked boats, solo and tandem boats, racing boats, recreational boats, canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, juniors, cadets, and masters. The emphasis is on fun and learning, and so the races in this series make an excellent

introduction to the sport. Courses are designed to be challenging to beginning-intermediate paddlers.

Penn Cup Series is dedicated to building interest in slalom racing at the grassroots level. Some past participants have gone on to national, international, and Olympic teams in the sport. This event series has been ongoing for more than 40 years, and has a strong youth slalom development program. This is the perfect example of local clubs and instructors working together to form a multi-location competition series that also places strong value on education and training.

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.

Buffalo Niagara WATERKEEPER is a community-based nonprofit organization that was established in 1989 for the purpose of protecting the quality and quantity of water, while connecting people to water within the Niagara River watershed. The group accomplishes this by cleaning up pollution from the waterways, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, and enhancing public access and connection through leading kayak eco-tours for youth and adults, coordinating large scale recreational paddling events and developing access points and greenways that expand parks and open space.



**BUFFALO NIAGARA
WATERKEEPER**

The prime focus of the organization has been the Buffalo and Niagara rivers, both of which suffer from severely impaired water quality from years of abuse and neglect. The Buffalo River was actually declared “dead” in the 1960s and was avoided by people and wildlife. Through the efforts of the BNW bringing together multiple partners, community leaders, and other non-profits, the Buffalo River has been revitalized to the point that within the last five years it has become a fast-growing major urban paddling and recreation destination and has been recognized internationally as a model for community engagement in water restoration.

BNW instituted canoe and kayak eco-tours and supports paddlesport recreation events, including Paddles Up Niagara! that introduces thousands of people annually to paddling on the waters of the Niagara River watershed, including the Buffalo River. The entire watershed covers 1,440 square miles between eastern Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and contains 3,200 miles of waterways.

Annually the BNW organizes a community volunteer waterway

shoreline cleanup that targets over 40 spots and garners over 2,000 volunteers. Many Western New York paddlers owe their introduction to paddling to a BNW program or event. Nearly half of the staff of 25 are certified ACA instructors in canoe and/or kayak and many volunteers have gone through the skill and safety programs offered by the certified staff.



Anthea Raymond's selfless service and commitment to conservation, recreation and education earned her the Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year award.

Club, an ACA PAC.

Raymond paddles all around California, including joining up with a woman-focused kayaking group, the California Women's Watersport Collective, which is actively advancing paddling skills for women in California. She is also serving in her third year as a member of the ACA's California Council. Raymond helped architect our online outreach efforts via ACA-California's Facebook page. She takes her duties seriously and provides steady and ceaseless contributions to the Cali-council's efforts to promote paddlesports and the ACA in California.

Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year

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

Anthea Raymond is a steady contributor to the paddling community and has been key to developing the Los Angeles River Race over the past few years. She also is an avid sea and whitewater kayaker and a crucial contributor to the California state chapter of ACA, where she serves as director of events, outreach, and education.

Raymond's work with the LA River Race is truly special. In a big state with an economy the size of a top 10 country, she has helped develop a unique focus on the LA River, a long dilapidated stretch of riparian history hidden among freeways and industrial spaces in Los Angeles. With Anthea's help, a large LA river restoration plan is being advanced, and the mayor and key

legislators, including LA's highest ranking legislator, Senator Kevin De Leon, are actively talking about how to improve and bring back the LA

river. This focus will also support efforts to remake and improve LA in advance of the 2028 Olympics.

The LA River race is also special for how it brings the community together. With its low gradient and stream-side walk paths, the river has highlighted to probably thousands of viewers how kayaking and stand up paddleboarding are possible in inland LA. This type of enthusiasm will be key for ultimately revitalizing the long-paved stretches of the LA River, and establishing a unique desert river system in one of the major cities of the world.

Raymond has supported the community and volunteered in many other significant ways, too. She has helped organize and manage trips for the UCLA Marina Aquatic Center (where she served as a Sea Kayak instructor for many years). She has also spearheaded whitewater trips and played leadership roles for the LA Kayak Club. Anthea annually supports ACA-insured trips to train and teach newbies to whitewater kayak through the LA Kayak

Stoke of Achievement

Presented to one or more ACA Affiliated Clubs each year for



superior performance and program development.

The Tennessee Valley Canoe Club (TVCC) was founded in 1967 and is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. TVCC is known across the Southeast for three major programs it has developed: Paddle School, the Ocoee Race, and its Safety Program.

In a recent interview, founding member Jean Dolan (101 years old) stated, "Almost nobody had any experience in being a part of a school. We just knew we needed paddling schools,

(Continued on page 12)

so everybody winged it. We had planning meetings on what should go on and agreed on certain rules.”

Since the first paddle schools in the late 1960s, TVCC has gone on to develop very successful year-round paddling program that begins with Paddle School, held in early summer each year. At Paddle School students learn the fundamentals of paddling with classes ranging from beginner to intermediate with very low instructor-student ratios.

Paddle School is followed with a summer-long series of weekend training trips led by knowledgeable TVCC trip leaders providing a safety-infused environment to test members’ skills, increase confidence, and gain river experience. This extension of Paddle School offers opportunities to members at all skill levels from Class II to Class IV to learn and develop new skills, hone and maintain current abilities, and participate in self-paced, organized training programs that will take paddlers from novice to expert and anywhere in between. Paddle School now hosts over 150 students and over 400 participants total (including instructors, support boaters and volunteers). Almost all of the instructors at Paddle School are ACA-certified.

The Ocoee Race was started in 2008 after an idea by two members Emily Marsh Smoot and Brian Goodwin that it would be fun to race down the river and see who could do it the fastest. Since then it has grown to include over 15 categories of boaters expanding from Men and Women’s Elite Longboat to include fun categories like Tandem Parent/Child. Last year, the race had 151 start times made up of 119 racers.

The race has a very successful after party with all proceeds (\$1500 in 2016, and a \$1000 match from TVCC, for a total of \$2500) benefiting the Team River Runner Chattanooga, helping disabled American service veterans get out on the river and enjoy paddle sports. TVCC has developed a truly stellar safety program, regionally recognized for its outstanding quality and value.

J. Henry Rushton

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



The **San Diego Canoe/Kayak Team** is a nonprofit organization focused on developing young athletes in Olympic style sprint Kayaking & Canoeing, Ocean Surf-ski racing and Stand Up Paddleboard racing. Founded 20 years ago by USA Sprint Kayak Olympian Chris Barlow, the team includes paddlers of all skill levels and ages.

For beginners, SDCKT offers an Introduction to Paddling Program which meets one to three times a week and emphasizes the fundamentals of Canoe/Kayak/SUP technique and water safety. In the winter, SDCKT runs the Lightning Cup Series to give younger paddlers an opportunity to participate in racing

events. The SDCKT racing team allows athletes to progress into faster and more challenging boats with the goal of competing at regional events, National Championships and trying out for USA National Teams. In the winter, Racing Team members have the opportunity to take part in the SOCAL Ocean Racing series on surfskis. In the summer the emphasis is on USA National Team Trials, USA National Championships, and International Championship opportunities.

To encourage college students to continue paddling as a life-long activity, SDCKT offers a Collegiate Program, complete with coached morning workouts, with a focus on competing at regional, national and international competitions.

SDCKT also offers a Master’s program, open to adults interested in improving technique, and SDCKT supports paracanoeists and has paracanoes available for use. SDCKT provides access to over 150 assorted watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards, prone boards, surfskis and more. The organization’s inventory is filled with everything from training boats to elite race racing craft, and singles to team boats. SDCKT also has strength and conditioning equipment. SDCKT has won National Championship Titles in the Bantam, Juvenile, Junior and Senior Age Groups. With respect to protecting paddling environments, SDCKT participates in beach and waterway cleanups all around Mission Bay in San Diego, in partnership with I Love a Clean San Diego. In addition, during the drought in California, SDCKT did its part in minimizing water usage around the boathouse.

President's Award

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

Kirk Havens was tossed into a canoe at the tender age of 3 as part of his family's longstanding involvement with paddling. His great uncle, grandfather, uncle, and father were all Olympic paddlers. He enjoys all forms of paddling from outrigger to whitewater, and in the late 1980s he founded the Mid Atlantic Paddlers Association. He served on the ACA Board of Directors as chair of the National Competition Council and later as vice president. In 2005 he became the ACA's president and board chair and was elected to two terms during a period of difficult financial times for both the nation and the ACA.

During his tenure as ACA President, Dr. Havens facilitated the relocation of the headquarters of the organization from a landlocked industrial complex to the vibrant riverfront community of Fredericksburg, Virginia, along the banks of the Rappahannock River.

He expanded the ACA's presence nationally by negotiating with the federal government to allow placement of an ACA safety and instructor information message on U.S. Geological Survey stream gage websites nationwide (over 7,000 sites) and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tide gage website. He facilitated the ACA's connection to NOAA's Marine Debris Program that formed the foundation of the ACA's "Stream to Sea" stewardship effort in river and coastal cleanups.

He also championed the ACA presence on the international stage by facilitating the ACA's involvement with the famous Hawaiian navigator, Nainoa, and the Worldwide Voyage (WWV) of the double-hulled sailing canoe Hōkūle'a. The Worldwide Voyage of the Hōkūle'a traveled more than 40,000 nautical miles over three years and visited 23 countries and



Kirk Havens' numerous accomplishments as a two-term ACA president as well as his longtime involvement in the paddlesports industry earned him the President's Award.

territories, with 150 stops. During the WWV, crews connect with classrooms and educators and with community and indigenous groups who share the Hawaiian Mālama Honua (care for island Earth) values and the vision of navigating toward a healthy and sustainable future.

Havens was a strong advocate for increasing the ACA's involvement with youth, particularly with colleges, and initiated the ACA National Collegiate Downriver Canoe & Kayak Championship series. He formed a partnership with disabled veterans and children groups and started the Power of Paddling Initiative which teams skilled disabled veterans as instructors in paddling to serve as teachers and role models for children with similar disabilities which laid the groundwork for the first National Adaptive Paddling Summit. In an effort to bring together all forms of paddling, he facilitated the initial meetings between the ACA, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and USA Canoe/Kayak to re-engage a partnership to promote paddling from local recreational clubs to elite performance athletes and he continues to work on the ACA PaddleStar Initiative.

Havens' passion, however, is with the history of the ACA from its roots in New York and Sugar Island to the banks of the Rappahannock River. He promotes the importance of the ACA's rich heritage and stresses the significance of historian Daniel Boorstin's quote "trying to plan for the future without a sense of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers." Havens holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy and donates his time on various national, regional, and local boards.

(Continued on page 14)

Higgins & Langley Swiftwater Rescue Awards

Given in honor of outstanding achievement in the technical rescue discipline of swiftwater and flood rescue.



Outstanding State Director

Presented to one or more State Directors each year for their contributions to enhancing paddlesports in their state.

Mike Cavanaugh is the ACA's New York State Director and holds an ACA Level 3 Instructor certificate with Adaptive Paddling and Trip Leader endorsements. He also instructs and leads trips for Atlantic Kayak Tours and the Adirondack Mountain Club.


Over the past year, Cavanaugh has tirelessly advocated for positive public policy and stewardship based initiatives to assist paddlers in his state. Mike is also the lead instructor for the David Fisher Upper Hudson Heroes, a kayaking program for disabled veterans.

The awards were established in 1993 by members of the Swiftwater Rescue Committee of the National Association for Search and Rescue. Recognition goes to swiftwater and flood rescue experts worldwide in several significant categories, including the Outstanding Achievement Award, Program Development Award, Special Commendation Award, and Swiftwater Rescue Incident Award.

Mike Mather, ACA Level 5: Advanced Swiftwater Rescue Instructor Trainer Educator received the Special Commendation Award. This award recognizes the breadth of possible contribution in the field of swiftwater rescue. Awards of this type can be for media contribution, product innovations, strategic planning, individual heroism or esprit de corps. Results are reflected within the swiftwater community and/or the general public.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Forest Rangers, several of whom are ACA certified Raft Instructors (including Art Perryman pictured) received the Program Development Award. Presented to individuals or agencies that commit time, resources and training for successful swiftwater rescue program development. Programs must reflect a level of excellence that defines a state of the art deployment for swiftwater and flood rescue, and can be considered international models for the science. Long-range outcome is a fundamental criteria.





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.

STEWARDSHIP



Cahaba Riverkeeper photo



Paddle *Green* Spotlight

ACA announces stewardship grant awardees (part 2)

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to sponsor the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program. This program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations that undertake stewardship projects on waterways in their area. The purpose of the program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving the nation's waterways.

The ACA is proud to be able to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's CFS Program has provided nearly \$150,000 to over 160 different stewardship initiatives since its inception. For more information, please visit www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant.

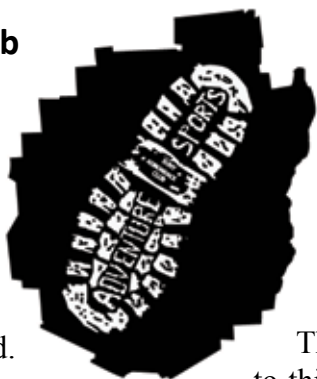
In mid-May, the ACA announced this year's CFS Grant recipients. The recipients by state are as follows:

- Alaska: Anchorage Waterways Council
- Alabama: Cahaba Riverkeeper
- Illinois: River Action
- Indiana: Paddlers 4 Conservation
- Michigan: Boardman River Clean Sweep
- New Mexico: Kayak New Mexico
- New York: Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- New York: SUNY Adirondak Adventure Sports
- Pennsylvania: Allegheny Aquatic Alliance
- Puerto Rico: Coalition for the Northeast Ecological Corridor
- Vermont: Vermont River Conservancy
- Texas: The Colorado River Alliance
- Washington: Spokane River Forum
- Wisconsin: Harbor District Inc.

In the July issue of *Paddle*, we began highlighting the work of the 2017 award recipients. To learn about three more of the award recipients, please see the next three pages.

SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club

Let's face it, shoreline litter cleanups are not particularly unique. They are, however, especially effective in collecting massive amounts of trash, raising community awareness of the problem and stimulating a sustainable network of volunteers and partners for future stewardship programs within the same watershed.



The [SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club](#) proposed a unique journey. The AVS Club provides students of SUNY Adirondack with outdoor adventure sports opportunities. The club is managed by students of the Adventure Sports program (AVS program) at SUNY Adirondack. The club participates in a wide variety of activities including paddling, rock climbing, hiking, ropes courses, and skiing. The club also partners with many youth based organizations including: Adirondack TREKS, Adirondack ARC and regional outfitters, including Lake George Kayak Company, Fountain Square Outfitters, and RockSport Climbing and Guiding.

Their project, called Canoes for Community, took a more original approach to litter cleanups. In September 2017, the SUNY Adirondack Adventure Sports Club embarked on a three-day, 32-mile journey down Lake George. Paddling from north to south, the group followed a historic trading and military route from the shores of Fort Ticonderoga to the beaches in front of Fort William Henry in Lake George Village. Instead of traveling with a small fleet of canoes or kayaks, the club paddled together in two 24-foot, 12-man war canoes. Along the way they stopped at shoreline communities and campsites to gather the accumulated trash following

a long summer season of tourism. They also visited some of Lake George's more than 150 islands to collect trash and debris from the nooks and crannies of these small hideaways, some of which are just big enough to host only a single tree.

The war canoes offered a unique element to this cleanup effort, which will become an annual event. First, they are a tribute to the war canoes used by Native Americans in the region for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain and other waves of Western European explorers, trappers and settlers. Similar canoes were also used alongside small bateaux during the French & Indian and Revolutionary wars that took place in the region over 240 years ago.

In addition to their historical significance, the war canoes offered a unique team-building experience for a group of paddlers that pull together in a single craft where everyone's effort counts. The wide beam of the war canoes also provided a stable platform to haul both the trash gathered and the gear required for the three-day journey down the lake.

Finally, the war canoes helped build a story to share via social and regional media to draw community attention to the need

for further protection of the unique environment that Lake George offers. The club remained committed to telling the story during this journey and tracking the volume and weight of trash collected as well as include observations of other environmental threats observed along the way.

(Continued on page 19)



River Action

[River Action](#) strives to foster the environmental, economic, and cultural vitality of the Mississippi River and its riverfront in the Quad City region.

River Action, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Village of Milan, requested a grant to improve the infrastructure at Hennepin Canal Environmental Park and restore the ecosystem at the Steel Dam in Milan, Illinois. Grant money was used to purchase six wayfaring signs designating the park, portage, and water trail. Ramp construction took place in early June, with signage placed upon completion.

Along with restoration efforts, they offered environmental learning opportunities showcasing the value of natural spaces and local history. These programs engaged youth in stewardship, provided opportunities for hands-on, experimental learning, and inspired students to take active roles in their environment and community. Weekly lecture classes began in mid-June. Paddling classes began at the end of that month.



PADDLERS FOR CONSERVATION INC

Paddlers for Conservation

Founded in 2015, Paddlers For Conservation (P4C) is a 501 (c)(3) not-for profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for canoeing/kayaking along with educational opportunities to discuss the importance of water quality, riverine habitat restoration, and community-based volunteer opportunities. Their mission is to restore and enhance the Tippecanoe River and Kosciusko County lakes and streams through hands-on environmental stewardship and educational opportunities to preserve them for the future.

The 2017 P4C Tippecanoe River Watershed Stewardship Campaign is a volunteer-based project aimed at recruiting new paddling members to promote the Tippecanoe River by engaging students from the Washington Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM Academy) in Warsaw, Indiana.

Following a student float trip organized by P4C in October 2016, the group decided to partner with the STEM Academy to create an educational partnership to bring more than 50-100 students and parents to the organization's river cleanup days and family float trips on the Tippecanoe River located in Kosciusko County, Indiana.

The project promoted paddling, appreciation for riverine habitats, and environmental educational opportunities to an anticipated more than 50-100 students/parents in the summer of 2017. The club offered several events, including river cleanup days, environmentally sensitive woody debris removal, educational programming on riverine ecosystems, as well as five family float trips throughout the summer of 2017. The CFS Grant funding enabled the group to help organize equipment such as trucks, buses, canoes, kayaks, trailers, paddles, life jackets, safety throw ropes, etc. to be able to bring the students to the river.

(Continued on page 20)

Harbor District Inc.

With nine miles of shoreline in the Harbor District geography, water recreation is a top priority, especially in terms of safety. The Inner Harbor is an active international port but also the confluence of three rivers, making it an attractive spot for paddlers as well as freighters. Milwaukee's three rivers – the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic – are seeing a renaissance of paddlesports in recent years. As recreational paddling increases in the city, concerns for freighter-kayak, pontoon-paddle board, and speed boat-canoe collisions abound among many stakeholders.

Harbor District Inc. is a non-profit organization working to create a new vision for the industrial Inner Harbor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Their mission is to achieve a world-class revitalization of Milwaukee's harbor that sets the standards for how waterfronts work – environmentally, economically, and socially – for the next century. Harbor District Inc. is developing a Water and Land Use Plan to help guide future developments in the area, with an emphasis on sustainability, water quality, and improved public access to the water's edge. Further, one of Harbor District's priorities includes improved recreation and water safety.

Harbor District Inc., in partnership with members of the Milwaukee Harbor Safety Committee, proposed to provide a public facing, visible signal of our efforts to address safety concerns and build a welcoming atmosphere for paddlers in Milwaukee's rivers. Their plan was to install a series of four safety signs in Milwaukee's urban waterways to remind paddlers of "the rules of the river."

This signage campaign is the first step in implementing a longer-term planning effort for a Water Safety Initiative in Milwaukee. These signs and this initiative will promote basic rules of the river in a fun and story-telling manner. The proposed safety signs would contain limited content, would have a fun and eye-catching appearance, and would provide

an explicit reminder about commonly overlooked safety practices. "Keep Calm & Stay to the Side of the River" and "Keep Calm & Wear Your Life Jacket" are two examples of content along with a few paddling symbols.

The organization planned to begin designing the signs in the summer of 2017, with installation by August 2017. Sign locations would include the following river/road intersections, all in Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

- Milwaukee River and Wisconsin Avenue (Downtown Milwaukee)
- Milwaukee River and Broadway Street Bridge (Downtown Milwaukee)
- Menomonee River/Milwaukee River Confluence (Downtown Milwaukee/Walker's Point)
- Kinnickinnic River near Kinnickinnic Avenue (Harbor District)



The New Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Rule and its Potential *Impact* on Paddling

By Mike Foreman, ACA Conservation, Stewardship & Public Policy Director

Nothing is more important to us as lovers of paddle-sports as clean and plentiful water. We depend on these natural resources, therefore, we must continually be aware of potential changes in the rules governing our waterways. The following is information that we, as ACA members, must be aware of as we work to ensure that this shared resource is not threatened by a lack of oversight by governing agencies.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army are publishing a proposed rule to initiate the first step in a comprehensive, two-step process intended to review and revise the definition of “waters

of the United States” consistent with the Executive Order signed on February 28, 2017, “Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the ‘Waters of the United States’ Rule.”

The ACA Policy team has commented on this proposed rule change by requesting the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers not move forward with any changes to the Clean Water Act. This request was due to the possibility of weakening the legislation through regulatory process. Please continue reading to learn more about possible changes.

Overview

The first step of the review proposes to rescind the definition of “waters of the United States” to re-codify it in the Code of Federal Regulations, which currently governs administration of the Clean Water Act, pursuant to a decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit staying a definition of “waters of the United States” promulgated by the agencies in 2015.

The agencies would apply the definition of “waters of the United States” as it is currently being implemented, that is informed by applicable agency guidance documents and consistent with Supreme Court decisions and long-standing practice. Proposing to re-codify the regulations that existed before the 2015 Clean Water Rule will provide continuity and certainty for regulated entities, the states, agency staff, and the public.

In a second step, the agencies will pursue notice-and-comment rulemaking in which the agencies will conduct a substantive re-evaluation of the definition of “waters of the United States.”

(Continued on page 22)



The regulatory definition of “waters of the United States” in this proposed rule is the same as the definition that existed prior to promulgation of the Clean Water Rule in 2015 and that has been in effect nationwide

since the Clean Water Rule was stayed on October 9, 2015. The agencies will administer the regulations as they are currently being implemented consistent with Supreme Court decisions and long-standing practice as informed by applicable agency guidance documents.

State, tribal, and local governments have well-defined and established relationships with the federal government in implementing CWA programs. These relationships are not altered by the proposed rule. This proposed rule will not establish any new regulatory requirements. Rather, the rule simply codifies the current legal status quo while the agencies engage in a second, substantive rulemaking to reconsider the definition of “waters of the United States.”

Pertinent Legal History

Federal courts have reviewed the definition of “waters of the United States” and its application to a variety of factual circumstances. Three Supreme Court decisions, in particular, provide critical context and guidance in determining the appropriate scope of “waters of the United States.”

- In *United States v. Riverside Bayview Homes*, 474 U.S. 121 (1985) (Riverside), the Court, in a unanimous opinion, deferred to the Corps’ ecological judgment that adjacent wetlands are “inseparably bound up” with the waters to which they are adjacent, and upheld the inclusion of adjacent wetlands in the regulatory definition of “waters of the United States.” *Id.* at 134.
- In *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 531 U.S. 159 (2001) (SWANCC), the Supreme Court held that the use of “isolated” non-navigable intra-



state ponds by migratory birds was not by itself a sufficient basis for the exercise of federal regulatory authority under the CWA.

- The SWANCC decision created uncertainty with regard to the jurisdiction of other isolated non-navigable waters and wetlands. In January

2003, EPA and the Corps issued joint guidance interpreting the Supreme Court decision in SWANCC (“the 2003 Guidance”). The guidance indicated that SWANCC focused on isolated, intrastate, non-navigable waters, and called for field staff to coordinate with their respective Corps or EPA Headquarters on jurisdictional determinations which asserted jurisdiction for waters under 33 CFR 328.3(a)(3) (i) through (iii). Waters that were jurisdictional pursuant to 33 CFR 328.3(a)(3) could no longer be determined jurisdictional based solely on their use by migratory birds.

- Five years after the SWANCC decision, in *Rapanos v. United States*, 547 U.S. 715 (2006) (Rapanos), a four-Justice plurality opinion in Rapanos, authored by Justice Scalia, interpreted the term “waters of the United States” as covering “relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water . . .,” *id.* at 739, that are connected to traditional navigable waters, *id.* at 742, as well as wetlands with a “continuous surface connection . . .” to such water bodies, *id.* (Scalia, J., plurality opinion).

The Rapanos plurality noted that its reference to “relatively permanent” waters did “not necessarily exclude streams, rivers, or lakes that might dry up in extraordinary circumstances, such as drought,” or “seasonal rivers, which contain continuous flow during some months of the year but no flow during dry months . . .” *Id.* at 732 n.5 (emphasis in original). Justice Kennedy concurred with the plurality judgment but concluded that the appropriate test for the

History of the Clean Water Act

Congress enacted the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-500, 86 Stat. 816, as amended, Public Law 95-217, 91 Stat. 1566, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq. ("Clean Water Act" or "CWA" or "Act") "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters" [Section 101(a)]. A primary tool in achieving that purpose is a prohibition on the discharge of any pollutants, including dredged or fill material, to "navigable waters" except in accordance with the Act [Section 301(a)]. The CWA provides that "[t]he term 'navigable waters' means the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas" [Section 502(7)].

The CWA also provides that States retain their traditional role in preventing, reducing and eliminating pollution. The Act states that "[i]



t is the policy of the Congress to recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution, to plan the development and use (including restoration,

preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources . . ." Section 101(b). States and Tribes voluntarily may assume responsibility for permit programs governing discharges of pollution under section 402 for any jurisdictional water bodies (section 402(b)), or of dredged or fill material discharges under section 404 (section 404(g)), with agency approval. (Section 404(g) provides that states may not assume permitting authority over certain specified waters and their adjacent wetlands.)

States are also free to establish their own programs under state law to manage and protect waters and wetlands independent of the federal CWA. Most states do exactly that but states must have a program at least equal to the federal CWA while allowing flexibility in programming. My home state of Virginia, for example, runs a robust program with dedicated staff. The statute's introductory purpose section thus commands the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to pursue two policy goals simultaneously: (a) To restore and maintain the nation's waters; and (b) to preserve the States' primary responsibility and right to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution.

scope of jurisdictional waters is whether a water or wetland possesses a "significant nexus" to waters that are or were navigable in fact or that could reasonably be so made." Id. at 759. The four dissenting Justices in *Rapanos*, who would have affirmed the court of appeals' application of the agencies' regulations, also concluded that the term "waters of the United States" encompasses, inter alia, all tributaries and wetlands that satisfy "either the plurality's [standard] or Justice Kennedy's." Id. at 810 & n.14 (Stevens, J., dissenting).

While the *SWANCC* and *Rapanos* decisions limited the way the agencies' longstanding regulatory definition of "waters of the United States" was implemented, in neither case did the Court invalidate that definition. After the *Rapanos* decision, the agencies issued joint guidance in 2007 to address the waters at issue in that decision but did not change the codified definition. The guidance indicated that "waters of the United States" included traditional navigable waters and their adjacent wetlands, relatively permanent waters and wetlands that abut them, and waters with a significant nexus to a traditional navigable water. The guidance did not address waters not at issue in *Rapanos*, such as interstate waters and the territorial seas. The guidance was reissued in 2008 with minor changes. ⁽¹⁾

(Continued on page 24)



After issuance of the 2008 guidance, Members of Congress, developers, farmers, state and local governments, environmental organizations, energy companies and others asked the agencies to replace the guidance with a regulation that would provide clarity and certainty on the scope of the waters protected by the CWA. Following public notice and comment on a proposed rule, the agencies published a final rule defining the scope of “waters of the United States” on June 29, 2015 (80 FR 37054). Thirty-one states and a number of other parties sought judicial review in multiple actions in federal district courts and circuit courts of appeal, raising concerns about the scope and legal authority of the 2015 rule.

The Executive Order

On February 28, 2017, the president of the United States issued an Executive Order titled “Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the ‘Waters of the United States’ Rule.” The Executive Order states

that it is in the national interest to protect the nation’s waters from pollution as well as to allow for economic growth, ensuring regulatory clarity, and providing due deference to states, as well as Congress. Executive Order section 1.

These various priorities reflect, in part, the CWA itself, which includes both the objective to “restore and maintain” the integrity of the nation’s waters, as well as the policy to “recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and right of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution . . .” CWA sections 101(a), 101(b). Re-evaluating the best means of balancing these statutory priorities, as called for in the Executive Order, is well within the scope of authority that Congress has delegated to the agencies under the CWA.

The Executive Order directs the EPA and the Army to review the 2015 rule for consistency with the policy outlined in section 1, and to issue a proposed rule rescinding or

revising the 2015 rule as appropriate and consistent with law. Section 2. The Executive Order also directs the agencies to consider interpreting the term “navigable waters” in a manner consistent with Justice Scalia’s plurality opinion in *Rapanos*. Section 3.

The agencies have the authority to rescind and revise the regulatory definition of “waters of the United States,” consistent with the guidance in the Executive Order, so long as the revised definition is authorized under the law and based on a reasoned explanation.

To reiterate an important point, this rulemaking is the first step in a two-step response to the Executive Order, intended to ensure certainty as to the scope of CWA jurisdiction on an interim basis as the agencies proceed to engage in the second step: A substantive review of the appropriate scope of “waters of the United States.”

In this proposed rule, the agencies would rescind the 2015 Clean Water Rule and replace it with a recodification of the regulatory text that governed the legal regime prior to the 2015 Clean Water Rule. The proposal retains exclusions from the definition of “waters of the United

States” for prior converted cropland and waste treatment systems, both of which existed before the 2015 regulations were issued. Nothing in this proposed rule restricts the ability of states to protect waters within their boundaries by defining the scope of waters regulated under state law more broadly than the federal law definition.

This rulemaking action is consistent with the February 28, 2017, Executive Order and the Clean Water Act. This action will consist of two steps. In this first step, the agencies are proposing as an interim action to repeal the 2015 definition of “waters of the United States” and codify the legal status quo that is being implemented now under the Sixth Circuit stay of the 2015 definition of “waters of the United States” and that was in place for decades prior to the 2015 rule. This regulatory text would, pending completion of the second step in the two-step process, continue to be informed



USCG photo

by the 2003 and 2008 guidance documents. In the second step, the agencies will conduct a separate notice and comment rulemaking that will consider developing a new definition of “waters of the United States” taking into consideration the principles that Justice Scalia outlined in the *Rapanos* opinion.

In addition to the objective of the Act and the goals and policies identified to help achieve that objective in section 101(a), in section 101(b) Congress articulated that it is “the policy of the Congress” to recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of states to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution; to plan the development and use (including restoration, preservation, and enhancement) of land and water resources; and to consult with the Administrator in the exercise of his or her authority. Section 101(b) also states that it is the policy of Congress that the states manage the

construction grant program under this chapter and implement the permit programs under sections 402 and 404 of the Act. 33 U.S.C. 1251(b). Therefore, as part of the two-step rulemaking, the agencies will be considering the relationship of the CWA objective and policies, and in particu-

lar, the meaning and importance of section 101(b).

The scope of CWA jurisdiction is an issue of great national importance and therefore the agencies will allow for robust deliberations on the ultimate regulation. While engaging in such deliberations, however, the agencies recognize the need to provide as an interim step for regulatory continuity and clarity for the many stakeholders affected by the definition of “waters of the United States.”

Our Mutual ACA Role

It is critical for our membership to keep informed, stay active with their legislators – both federal and state – and maintain the perspective of a strong Clean Water Act. Without this complete and stable oversight, we, as Americans who love to paddle and enjoy our natural resources, run the risk of allowing a degradation to our shared waters. Once the rules change, it becomes more difficult to regain lost ground.

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



Outdoors enthusiasts gear up for *50th anniversary* of Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

Across the nation, river enthusiasts, communities and government agencies are preparing to celebrate wild rivers with the [50th anniversary of the passage of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act](#).

Congress passed this landmark legislation on Oct. 2, 1968, to preserve selected rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act safeguards the free-flowing character of rivers by precluding them from being dammed, while allowing for the public to enjoy them. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries, and promotes public participation to develop goals for protecting streams.

Of the approximately 3.6 million miles of streams in the U.S., less than one quarter of one percent – 12,734 miles – are protected by the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. These miles include some of the most primitive and breathtaking landscapes in North America. The names of the streams, many of Native American and pioneer origin, roll off the tongue:

- Alatna, Noatak and Salmon in Alaska
- Owyhee, Rogue, Skagit and Willamette in the Northwest
- American, Kern and Tuolumne in California
- Virgin, Verde and Fossil Creek in the Southwest
- Snake, Cache la Poudre and Rio Grande in the Intermountain West
- St. Croix, Missouri and Vermillion in the Midwest
- Allagash, Wildcat and Delaware in the Northeast
- Chattooga, New and Wilson Creek in the Southeast

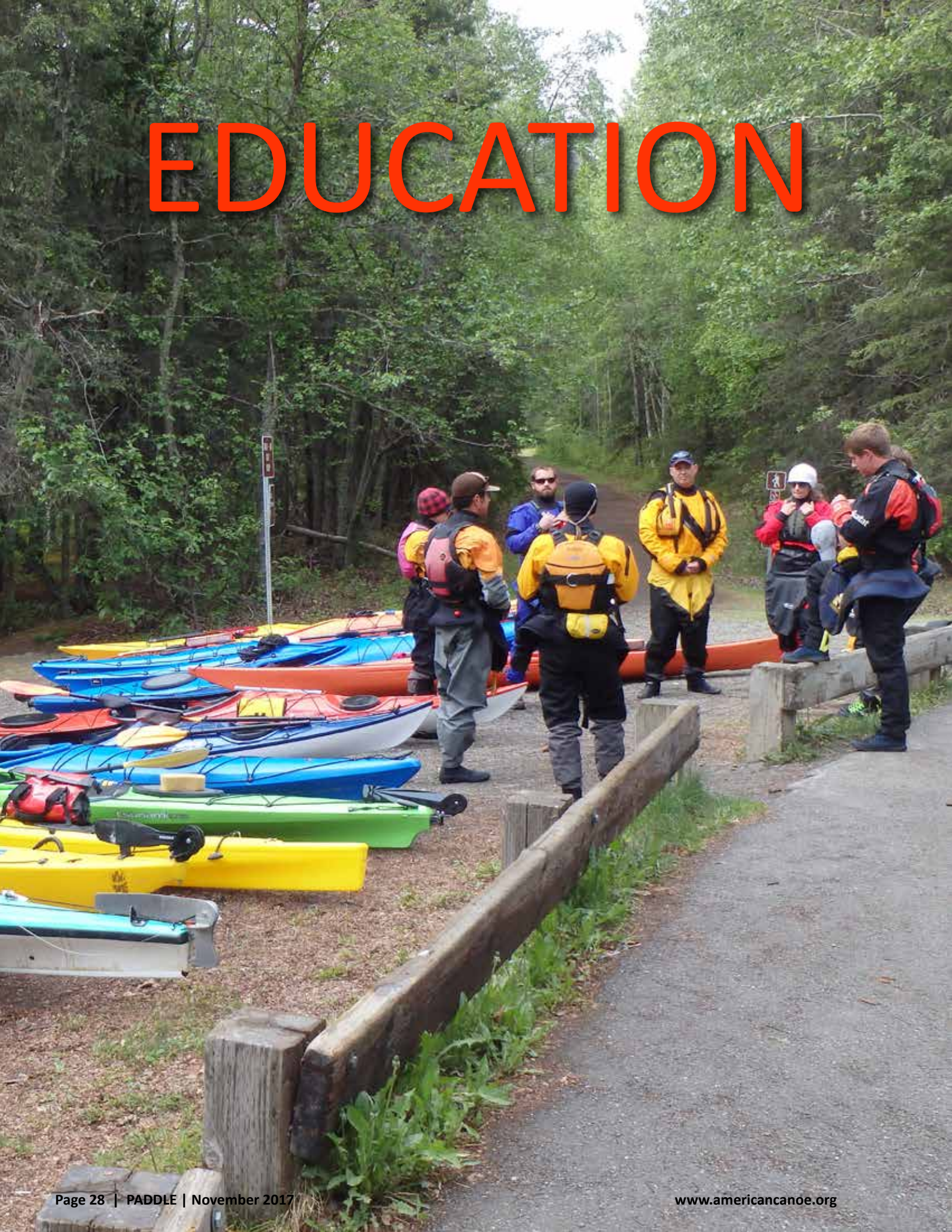
You can [explore designated rivers here](#), and [learn about upcoming events](#) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic River Act, as well as ways to participate, by visiting the [50th Anniversary Toolkit](#).



In this 1985 photograph, paddlers launch their boats at Martins Creek on the Delaware River in Pennsylvania. National Park Service photo/Julia Bell

On October 2, 2017, river management agencies and their nonprofit partners released a video to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Check it out at www.doi.gov/video/makeyoursplash.

EDUCATION



10th Annual National Paddlesports Conference

deemed a *success*

Over 150 people hailing from Alaska to New Mexico and from Florida to Massachusetts converged at the Nantahala Outdoor Center in western North Carolina for the 10th annual ACA National Paddlesports Conference. This year's conference was held Oct. 18-22.

The conference offered informative pre-event sessions:

- Level 3 Surf SUP Instructor Certification
- Level 3 Coastal SUP Instructor Certification
- Solo ASHI CPR
- Solo Wilderness First Aid

Wednesday, Oct. 18, the ACA's various Discipline Committees met to discuss the past year's accomplishments and to gear up for next year's projects. Thursday the Safety Education & Instruction Council held an all-day meeting.

The conference opened Friday the 20th with a welcome from NOC President William Irving and ACA

Executive Director Wade Blackwood. They were followed by Sam Gaugham, executive director of the Nantahala Racing Club, and Chris Stec, ACA chief operating officer, who provided an overview of the conference and its offerings.

Saturday morning's sessions began with an update from Stec on the state of paddlesports. Following that were the board of directors meeting, the state directors meeting, as well as roundtable discussions on paddlesports youth development, teaching on land vs. water, and the challenges of evaluating instructor candidates consistently.

That evening, this year's class was inducted in the International Whitewater Hall of Fame during a special ceremony and banquet.

Sunday the 22nd featured the ACA Annual Membership meeting. During this gathering, the ACA membership voted to approve revisions to the ACA Bylaws, mak-



ing the ACA the official National Governing Body for the Olympic sports of slalom and sprint and the Paralympic sport of paracanoe.

Members then received an update from ACA President Peter Sloan. Also, during this meeting the ACA's annual awards were presented.

(Continued on page 30)



Members vote during the annual membership meeting to approve revisions to the ACA Bylaws, making the ACA the official National Governing Body for the Olympic sports of slalom and sprint and the Paralympic sport of paracanoe.



Following the membership meeting, the board of directors and the state directors completed their fall meetings. After reviewing this year's goals and accomplishments, the directors worked on setting goals for the upcoming year.

In the meantime, the Southeastern Downriver Championship race began at the Nantahala River put-in.

Open to racers of all ages and boat types, this is the oldest whitewater race in the Southeast.

Each afternoon of the conference offered on-water programs for conference attendees. From whitewater SUP, and bellyaking to flatwater sprints and a downriver race, participants sampled all that western N.C. has to offer.

The annual conference drew to a close early Sunday afternoon. Participants consider the event another success.

Jim from Massachusetts said, "... just wanted to take a moment to say 'thank you' to you and your team. We had a great time at the conference and it was awesome to experience NOC."

Amy from Ohio added, "Thank you to you and all the staff at ACA for a fantastic conference. Congratulations and thank you for all your help and dedication to taking on canoe kayak as an NGB too."

Next year's conference will debut an entirely new format, as the ACA transitions the annual event into the new ACA Leadership Academy. Read more below.

ACA transforms annual conference into *leadership academy*

As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, the annual paddlesports conference is being transitioned to the new [ACA Leadership Academy](#) to target all facets of the paddlesports community.

This brand-new program will have educational tracks for paddling clubs, competition disciplines, the SEIC, retail store employees, as well as whitewater and flatwater paddling opportunities.



The new ACA Leadership Academy will take place August 24-30, 2018, in conjunction with the [Paddlesports Retailer Show](#) being held in Oklahoma City.

Paddlesports Retailer is a tradeshow – endorsed by the Paddlesports Industry Coalition – providing the premier commercial and cultural experience for exhibitors, retailers, media and industry advocates alike. Next year's Paddlesports Retailer will take

place Aug. 27-30 in Oklahoma City's Cox Convention Center. For more information, visit www.paddlesports-retailer.com.

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](#)
- Discount 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 (PFD file) to give to the receiver.

October Instructor of the Month



Brendan Fitzpatrick

Brendan Fitzpatrick's obsession with fly fishing led him to become an ACA instructor.

"I purchased a canoe to allow me to fish more water. I contacted Mike Aronoff at Canoe, Kayak and Paddle Company and he set me up with Kenny Guerrant for a canoeing lesson. Kenny, Mike and I became good friends, and I quickly realized becoming an instructor would polish my paddling skills," said Fitzpatrick. "I now have an unhealthy obsession for teaching others how to paddle and have fun on the water."

Fitzpatrick is the most active instructor using the ACA Paddlesport Safety Facilitator program in his region.

"The Paddlesport Safety Facilitator endorsement has served me well over the past two years. It is most popular with organizations (e.g., Girl Scouts) that require more than a skills course, but find the commitment and pricing of a multi-day ICW inconvenient. At CKAPCO we were able to slightly modify our beginner kayak course to include the

additional safety and rescue topics of the PSF and certify folks to evangelize paddling at their facilities. The written exam has actually proven to be a fun way to see if students are retaining the information we teach," said Fitzpatrick.

Currently, Fitzpatrick is an Instructor Trainer candidate in whitewater canoeing. His near term goal is to complete that process and then work on becoming an IT in whitewater kayaking.

"My longer term aspirations are to get my four kids to fall in love with paddling and join me on paddling adventures. It would also be nice to be a full-time guide or instructor when I finally retire," he added.



INSTRUCTOR OF THE MONTH AWARD

Nominate your favorite ACA instructor today!



November Instructor of the Month

Walter Felton



Paddling has been a part of Walter Felton's life since he was a small child.

"My family would go to local Arkansas rivers for day trips and that grew into a passion for paddling," he said.

By the late 1980s Felton decided that he wanted to explore more difficult whitewater and purchased a kayak. He then joined the Arkansas

Canoe Club. He soon discovered that he loved the open boat more and began taking ACC and NOC classes for open boating.

"By the early '90s I found myself unwittingly thrust into an open boat teaching role for the local club and realized I needed to know a lot more if I was going to teach for the Arkansas Canoe Club," he said.

In that same time frame the ACC started engaging the ACA instructor program and he joined.

"My teaching and learning about teaching has grown from a desire to support the Arkansas Canoe Club, to a passion for sharing knowledge about a sport that I love," Felton added.

By the late 1990s Felton was paddling Class IV whitewater and helping

with swift water rescue workshops around the state. He had realized that he needed to know how to get himself out of trouble and how to support his paddling group if they had a problem.

"That drive for knowledge led to my first certification as a SWR instructor and sharing SWR skills grew into a passion for developing new teaching ideas and SWR techniques," he added.

Felton said his development as an instructor has been influenced by several people, many in the Arkansas Canoe Club and several from the ACA, most notably Sam Fowlkes and Robin Pope.

"These mentors taught me how to teach people first and then how to offer the various skills to those people. Teaching in this sport has been a life journey," Felton said.



Coexisting Peacefully

Stand-up paddleboarding safety from both sides

By Carol Newman Cronin and Susan Shingledecker

Paddleboarders and boaters can peacefully coexist when both parties know the rules and take safety precautions.

From The Paddler's Point Of View

With stand-up paddleboarding getting more popular by the day, how can paddlers and boaters safely navigate around each other? Let's learn from both sides. First up, our paddleboarder, Carol Newman Cronin.

Stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) can be like fiberglass gnats: unpredictable and hard to spot. Beginners, especially, need to paddle defensively, which means avoiding congested areas until you can reliably control your own board. It takes time to develop the skills and strength needed to maintain a stable speed and direction. Until you do, the best place to learn is somewhere away from boating traffic. Once you're confident in your board-handling skills, the key to defensive paddling is to take responsibility for getting out of the other guy's way. Here are some specific tips:

- **Anticipate interactions.** You'll see other boats coming before they see you. Don't wait for them to alter course. With enough lead time, you can get out of someone's way, even if you have to paddle perpendicular to your planned route to do so.
- **Make your intentions clear.** SUPs can seem erratic in direction. Hold a steady course and, if necessary, use hand signals: Point to your chest first, then hold your arm or paddle out in the direction you intend to go. (Repeat these gestures a few times.)
- **Avoid the channel.** Most harbors have a clearly marked route for larger boats to pass through the anchorage. Paddleboarders, please don't use this. If you have to navigate in the channel, hug the starboard side.

- **Cross traffic efficiently.** Take the shortest route possible across a traffic lane (usually perpendicular to traffic). It's often hard for other boaters to figure out where you're heading, so do your best to maintain a steady pace and direction.

Can You See Me Now?

SUPs are hard to see from any distance. Freeboard is the biggest factor in boat visibility, and even boards with really thick rails have only around 6 inches of it. You may feel quite tall, and your board might be bright red when you look down at it, but from a quarter mile away, your profile will blend in with the background — even against an open horizon. Here are two ways you can increase the chances of being seen:

- **Wear bright colors,** especially on your torso and head. Sometimes the only difference between a too-close encounter and safely passing port to port is the quick eye-catching "What's that red thing?" question from the boat coming at you and the second look its operator might take as a result.
- **Be flashy.** On sunny days, the most visible part of a distant SUP is the reflection off a shiny paddle blade or handle, the same way the windshield of a boat too far away to see can flash as bright as a strobe. Consciously "flashing" your paddle at an oncoming boat will help draw attention to your location.

Safety, Visibility, And Rules

SUPs are defined by U.S. Coast Guard rules as "vessels" outside a surf zone, so paddlers are required to carry



BoatUS photo

or wear a life jacket and a signaling device (whistle in daylight, flashlight after dark). Other smart ideas:

- **Wear a leash at all times.** If there's any wind, your board will blow downwind faster than you can swim.
- **Add an "if found" sticker on your board** (if available in your area). Otherwise, write your contact info on the board — not just to help find it if you lose it, but to track you down if your board is discovered floating without you.
- **Consider painting one side of your blade international orange** so it can be used as an overhead sign of distress if needed.

Maneuverability — A Mixed Blessing

SUPs can turn, go straight, or come to a full stop very quickly, and they're almost never constrained by their draft. But this directional flexibility can tempt us to go places we shouldn't, like into marinas and empty slips. Doing so makes our next move quite hard to predict for a boat operator. By using our maneuverability to stay out of the way, rather than to explore places where larger vessels are trying to maneuver themselves, we'll minimize the chances of surprising or annoying their operators. More tips:

- **Stay away from casting areas.** Like other boaters, shoreline fishermen may not see you until it's too late. I've had several anglers cast right across my bow, only to realize after the hook was in the water that I had to stop in my tracks to avoid running into their lines. If you can, paddle far enough away from the shoreline to avoid casting areas. Otherwise, call out to fishermen who look ready to cast right across your bow. Once they see you, most will wait until you're safely beyond the fishing area — or drop the tips of their rods so you can paddle over their lines.
- **Beware of blind spots.** When paddling between moored boats, keep a sharp lookout for traffic. You and your board may be completely hidden from view.
- **When in doubt, use your whistle.** Paddlers are required to carry a sound-signaling device. If another boat doesn't see you, blow your whistle. It's amazing how far a sharp piercing sound like that will carry.

Carol Newman Cronin paddleboards every day around busy Newport and Jamestown, Rhode Island. She's a writer, editor, and 2004 Olympian.

(Continued on page 36)

From The Boater's Point Of View



Especially in areas with lots of SUP rentals, users may not be well versed in navigation rules. In order to share busy harbors, let's look at the sport from Susan Shingledecker's boating perspective.

On any given day, boaters can be faced with a minefield of commercial traffic, moored boats, kids sailing Optis, and flotillas of kayakers and stand-up paddleboarders. SUPs are considered vessels, so operators must follow the same navigation rules as other boats. For many, however, this may be their first time on the water, so for boaters, collision avoidance should supercede all other considerations. Here are a few tips for boaters to help us all share the water:

- **Move slowly in congested waters.** Allow time for others to see you and vice versa.
- **Pay close attention when entering and exiting slips and fairways.** Novice paddleboarders often like to stay close to docks for added security, making them difficult to see.
- **Assign a spotter.** It's smart, especially when lots of paddlers are around, to assign a designated

lookout stationed in an area of the boat that offers maximum visibility.

- **Expect the unexpected.** Paddlers falling off their boards can happen easily.
- **Watch your wake.** Being aware of our wake is always important, but even more so with SUPs around. Even a modest wake can send a paddler into the drink. Reduce speed whenever operating in congested waterways, especially near paddlers and SUPs.
- **Use clear signals to indicate your intentions.** When making sudden changes of direction or crossing the path of paddlers, point to your chest first, then hold your arm out in the direction you intend to go. (Repeat a few times.)
- **Assess the skills of paddlers near you.** Paddlers making strong strokes and good progress likely are more stable and predictable. Paddlers unsteady on their feet, sitting on boards, or making little progress may be inexperienced. Steer clear!
- **Look for light at night.** While SUPs, kayaks, and other paddlecraft are required to carry appropriate lights for operating after dark, the assortment of lighting methods used varies from suction-mounted navigation lights to headlamps to glow sticks. Be suspect of any lights you see on the water at night.
- **Help others in distress.** Especially in cooler temperatures, keep an eye out for paddlers and any other boaters who could be in distress. Many paddlers don't carry VHF radios or other signaling devices and have limited means of seeking assistance.

Susan Shingledecker, vice president of the nonprofit BoatUS Foundation, started boating on the Great Lakes and now enjoys exploring Chesapeake Bay with her family on their 28-foot sailboat.

Originally published August/September 2017 | This article was reprinted with permission from *BoatU.S. Magazine*, the flagship publication of the Boat Owners Association of The United States. For the online editions, membership, insurance, and towing information, visit www.BoatUS.com.

ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

CanoeSport Outfitters

[CanoeSport Outfitters](#) was founded more than 20 years ago with the purpose of exposing paddling enthusiasts to high-quality gear, providing useful information on places to paddle, and helping improve skills through professional on water instruction. Today they are still passionate about all types of paddling. However, they've also expanded into quality bicycles, bicycle repair, and car topping solutions.

CanoeSport continues to focus on providing quality gear designed to make paddling more efficient, less stressful on the body, and lighter weight to make participation easier. They emphasize the importance of instruction and the improvement of personal knowledge and skill to make paddling safer. Providing knowledgeable service and educational opportunities requires CanoeSport Outfitters to maintain staff members who are experienced, skilled paddlers and cyclists. The staff is comprised of enthusiasts who are constantly developing their own knowledge and skills.



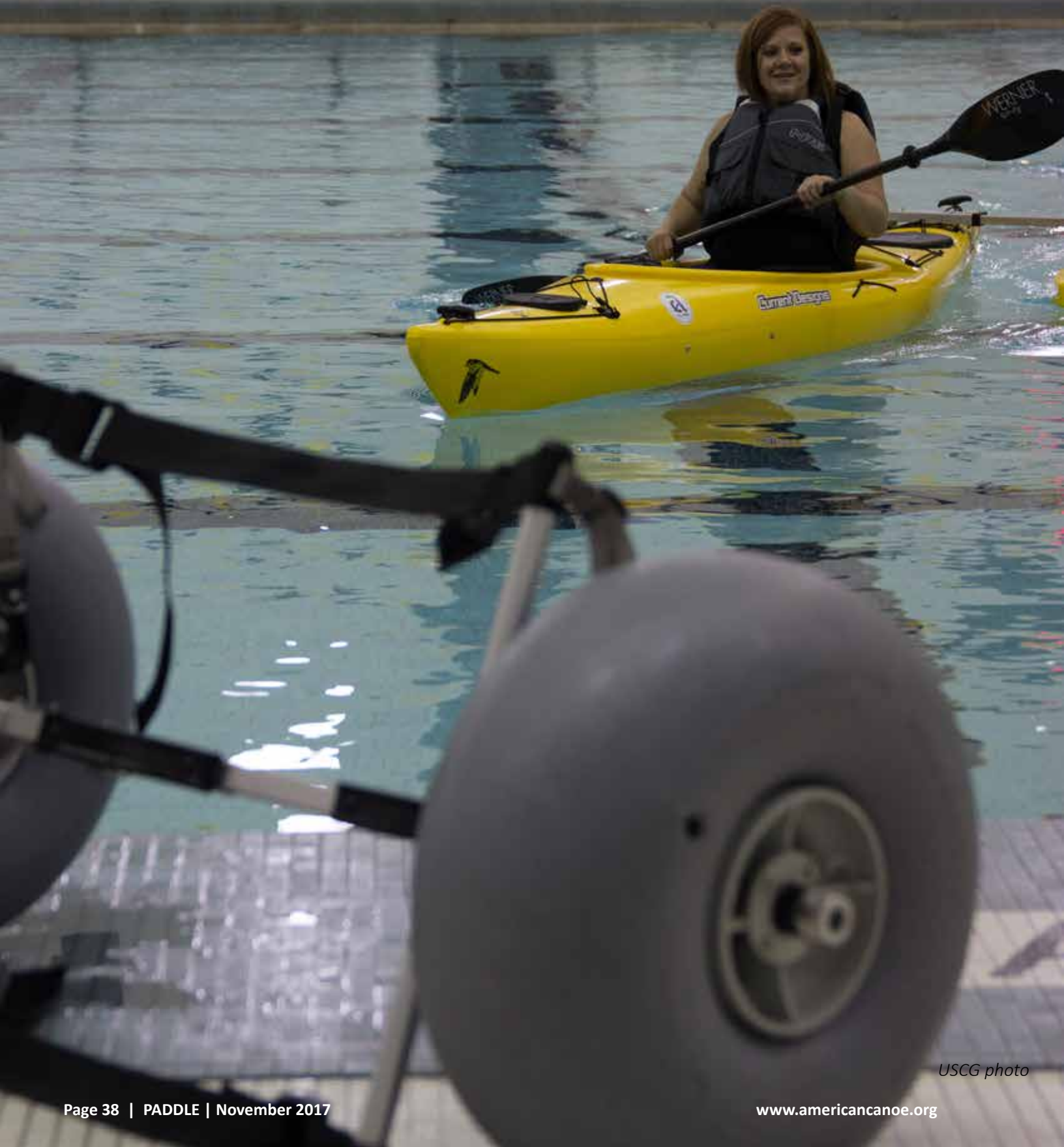
CanoeSport offers personalized service with the opportunity to test paddle their products. However, they are dedicated to doing more than simply selling a product to their customers. They want their customers to acquire knowledge and develop skills. To this end, they provide free instruction with every boat purchase, free tune-ups for a year with a bicycle purchase, and free rack installation with the purchase of a roof rack. CanoeSport also conduct a variety of on-water and classroom clinics, events, and seminars throughout the year. Even in the sales process, they spend extra time explaining tracking, stability, materials, boat design, and more.

For more information, please visit www.canoesportoutfitters.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.

ADAPTIVE



USCG photo

EQUIPMENT SPOTLIGHT

Foam Outfitting Kit



This Foam Outfitting Kit contains three types of high-quality foams that are designed in dimensions most useful for outfitting various paddlecraft to the specialized needs of an individual paddler who has a disability.

Dimensions of the various foams were developed and field tested by Adaptive Paddling IT equipment specialists. This kit is used in all ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshops.

Each outfitting kit contains

- 1 sheet of Ensolite* type foam,
- 1 sheet of Ethafoam* type foam,
- 2 seating wedges of Minicell* type foam, and
- 4 smaller wedges of Minicell* type foam.

Kits are \$90 each plus shipping costs. Individual pricing for separate foam pieces is available. Contact Bob Mravetz at (330) 321-4132 or rmravet@uakron.edu to place your order or for full pricing information.

**Foam names are brand names only for each individual foam type.*

**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!***

Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops

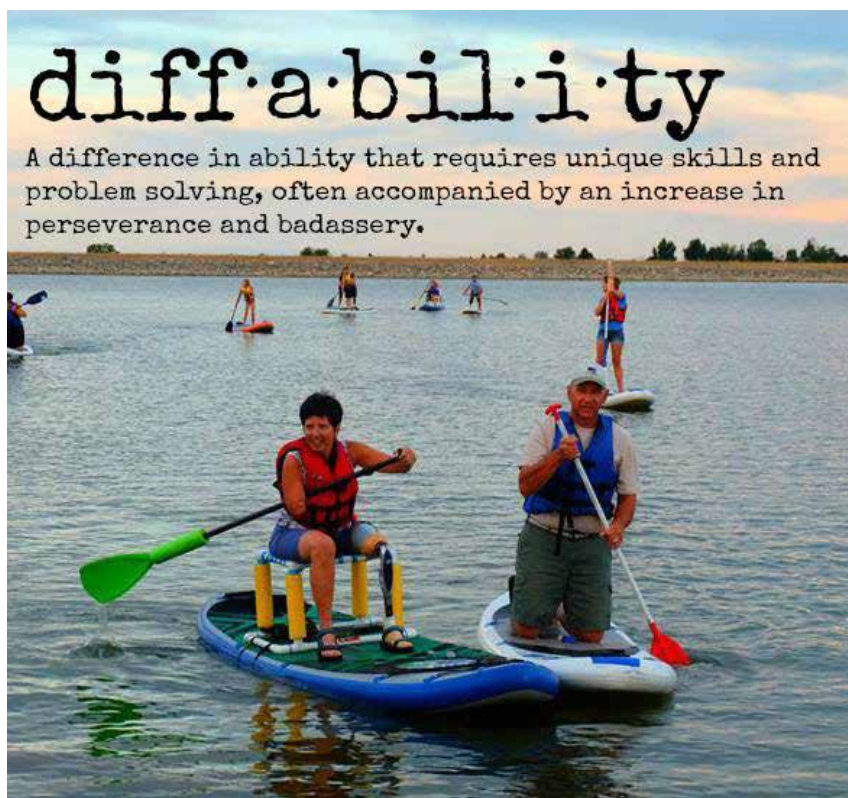
October 12-14, 2018

ParaCanoeing World Conference


Stockholm, Sweden

[Click here for more information](#)

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



NEWS NEAR YOU



Ohio ACA photo

State by State

Florida

We've been busy throughout Florida with stewardship along our coastal shores, inland waterways, and parks. Hurricane Irma brought much devastation throughout the region including fallen trees and accumulation of debris along creeks and rivers. The Florida ACA members, working in collaboration with state and local agencies, stepped up to the task of engaging in good stewardship and clearing much of the debris that caused hazards to navigate for the state's paddlers.

Florida ACA Director, Tommy Thompson, continues to travel the state visiting paddling club meetings to make presentations and to listen to the concerns of local paddlers on how the ACA can support the local paddling communities. If you would like to arrange for Tommy to visit your paddle club, please contact him at FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net.

Tommy Thompson, FLStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Many inland areas – especially in south and southwest Florida – were directly impacted. The swift current from the heavy rains mixed with debris created hazardous paddling conditions. Our FL ACA Executive Council used various social media outlets to advise the paddling community of the weather conditions, the resulting paddling hazards, and the need for local action. It is still advised to seek recommendations prior to launching in areas impacted by the hurricane.



Louisiana

The [Bayou Teche Water Trail](#), managed by [The Teche Project](#) in Breau Bridge, Louisiana, has been chosen as one of 20 Hot Spots for 2018 by the [Leave No Trace Foundation Center for Outdoor Ethics](#). Hot Spots are all public lands — city parks, forests, open space land, national parks — across the country that have sustained damage from overuse. (These locations are not all water trails or paddling related.)



Every day, people seek the outdoors, for adventure, but places explored and adored for years are impacted by recreational use, some more severely than others. With more than 12 billion people visiting public lands each year, many outdoor areas across our nation are negatively impacted by recreational use. The reason is usually not malicious or intent to harm nature and wildlife; rather it's simply lack of knowledge or skills. The end result, however, is usually the same: We are literally loving our land to death.

Hot Spots are damaged sites that can recover and become healthy again with area-specific Leave No Trace applications.

In its sixth year, the Leave No Trace Hot Spot program has helped dozens of damaged public lands regain their health and long-term sustainability. Chosen Hot Spots will receive consultation on solutions and program implementation; a week-long set of programs led by expert Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers; training workshops for volunteers, employees, and members of the community; locally tailored programs to meet site-specific needs; volunteer citizen monitoring programs; and assistance in putting the Leave No Trace program into action.

The specific week-long Leave No Trace training, conducted by expert Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers, includes special events and programs for local officials, land managers, volunteers and the general public.

In other Teche Project news, four new canoe and kayak docks have been installed along Bayou Teche — at Port Barre, St. Martinville, Loreauville and Charenton, bringing the current total to five. Grant applications are currently being written in hopes of receiving funding to install nine more. For additional information, contact Conni Castille at conni_castille@techeproject.org.

Ben Sandmel, LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Ohio

The newly created Lake Erie Islands Water Trail is officially open. It is comprised of one mainland trail along with five different water trails that circumnavigate four separate islands. Combined, there are approximately 50 miles of shoreline that encompasses several state parks and wildlife sanctuaries, 50-foot-high sea cliffs, sandy beaches, and wetlands. Many rarely seen birds and the threatened Lake Erie Water Snake can be spotted along the way.

The trail was created by a number of groups collaborating together including ACA Ohio. We continue to be involved as LEIWT partners representing paddlers. Google Lake Erie Islands Water Trail to find a printable brochure or contact the ACA Ohio State Director.

Ryan Pepper, OHStateDirector@americancanoe.net



MEMBERSHIP



ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Spotlight



Roanoke Mountain Adventures is a full-service outfitter offering guided and self-guided outdoor adventures for mountain biking, road cycling, stand up paddleboarding, kayaking, tubing and other activities. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, National Forests and scenic rivers, the greater Roanoke area offers world-class outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities.



The Roanoke Mountain Adventures team has a passion for the outdoors and the experienced staff takes pride in making sure everyone's outdoor adventure is a great experience.

In addition to rentals and guided trips, an Outdoor Gear Consignment Shop at Roanoke Mountain Adventures. Turn the gear you don't use into cash and get the gear you want for less. They accept most outdoor related gear that is clean and in good shape....bikes, boats, jackets, packs, kids carriers, clothing and more!

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

ACA Member Benefit



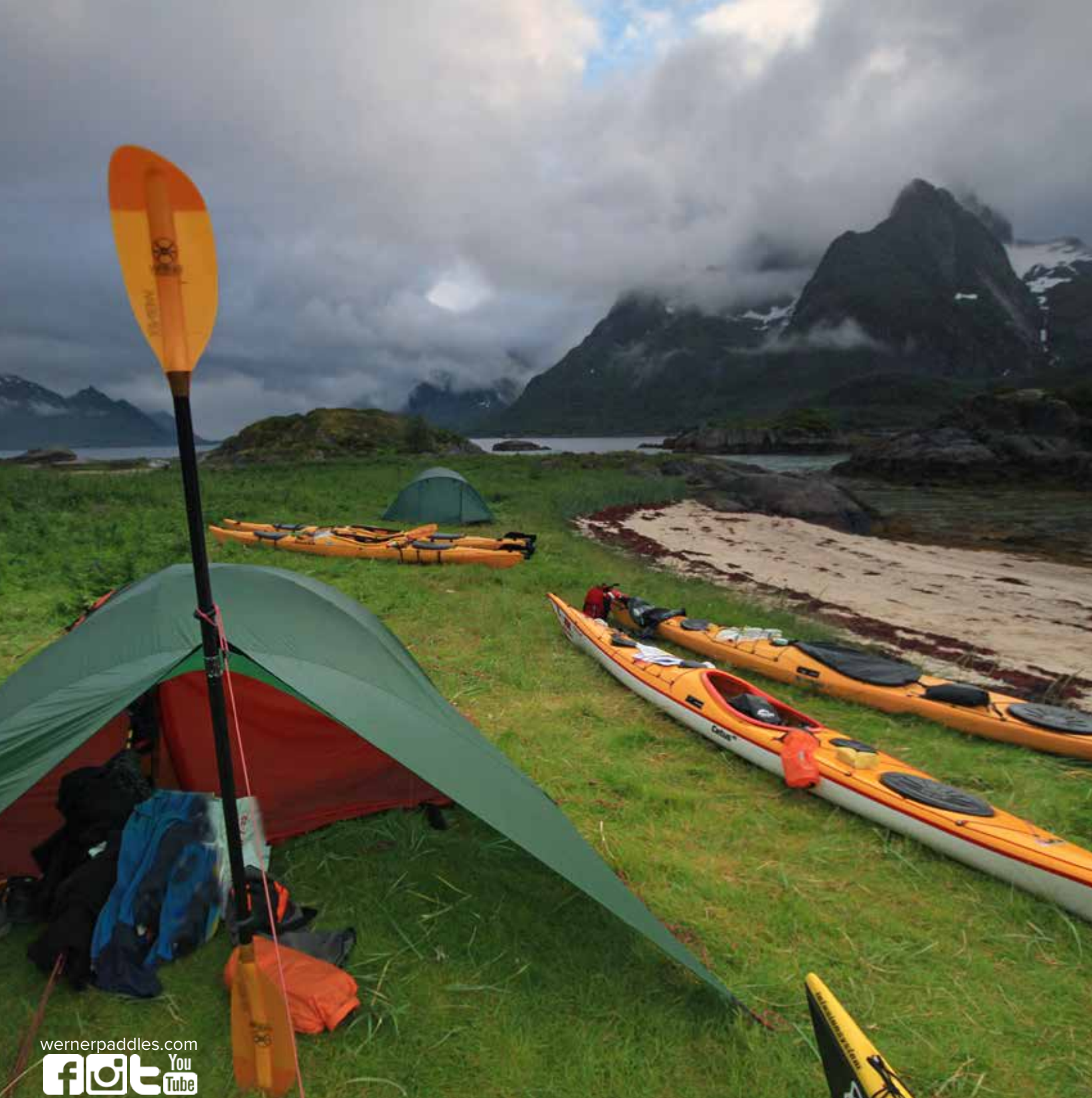
Last month, the ACA began releasing episodes of the new Canoeing WebTV Series. Two new videos will be released each week through November 22.

The Paddle Smart WebTV Series is made possible by grant funding provided through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The goal of this video series is to reduce paddlesport-related accidents by providing immediate knowledge through short and focused instructional videos.

Helpful for both novices and intermediate paddlers, the videos provide information required to make smart decisions and stay safe on the water. Other videos in the Paddle Smart WebTV series cover the paddlesports disciplines of Stand Up Paddleboarding, Recreational Kayaking and Kayak Fishing. Videos are entertaining and to the point.

Check out these helpful videos on the ACA's Paddle Smart WebTV webpage, www.americancanoe.org/webtv.

www.americancanoe.org/Discounts



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Member Photo *of the* Month



Mike Cavanaugh, New York State
Director

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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COMPETITION



ACA becomes *National Governing Body* for 2 Olympic sports, 1 Paralympic sport

The ACA is pleased to announce that as of Sunday morning, October 22, 2017, it is now the official National Governing Body (NGB) for the Olympic sports of slalom and sprint and the Paralympic sport of paracanoe.

This new status went into effect on the banks of the Nantahala River during the National Paddlesports Conference when the ACA membership voted to approve the revisions to the ACA Bylaws.

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



ACA seeks Elite Athlete Director Nominations for board

Following the ACA membership's approval of revisions to the bylaws on Oct. 22, 2017, the ACA will transition to a new Board structure.

To accomplish this, the ACA must receive nominations and conduct an election for three (3) open Elite Athlete Director positions to the ACA Board:

- Elite Athlete Slalom Director
- Elite Athlete Sprint Director
- Elite Athlete Paracanoe Director

Timeline:

- Until November 24, 2017: Nominations for director positions accepted online
- December 5-22, 2017: Voting for director positions occurs (online and paper ballot)
- January 1, 2018: New Board is fully seated
- February/March 2018: First Board meeting of 2018

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

Olympic canoeist Devin McEwan paddles into *new era* of his career

By Mike Miazga

There comes a time in an athlete's career when it's time to hit the reinvent button.

And that's exactly what 2016 Olympian Devin McEwan is in the midst of doing.

The 32-year-old McEwan, a native of Salisbury, Connecticut, and a member of the U.S. canoe slalom team, is downsizing. Following the Olympic Games Rio 2016, in which he and partner Casey Eichfeld finished 10th together in doubles canoe, the partners decided to focus on the singles boat.

"Casey is more Olympic-focused," McEwan said. "He's currently the No. 1 singles boat in the U.S. We shifted gears, and now I'm focused on singles."

McEwan, whose father, Jamie, was a two-time Olympian and Olympic bronze medalist in the sport, has competed in two world cup events this year and his last race of the season is scheduled at the U.S. national championships in October in Dickerson, Maryland.

While Eichfeld works toward a fourth Olympic Games, McEwan said he's taking a long-view approach, similar to his dad.

"My dad first competed in the Olympics in 1972 when he was 19, and his next Olympics was in 1992 when he was 39," said Devin McEwan, who made his first national team with his dad in 2001. "He was

sport he loves since hopping in the singles boat.

"I've been trying to figure out how to do this without someone else in the boat making me look good," he said with a laugh. "Broadly speaking, any successes or mistakes are totally your own.

There is nobody there to commiserate or celebrate with. It's definitely a new day for me."

Growing up, McEwan said his dad's involvement in the sport led to him and his siblings, at a minimum, dabbling in the sport.

"He made sure all the kids tried it," he said. "I took to it the most and ended up competing in the doubles category with him for a while. When I first started doing it I was in the front of the boat and not doing too much work with him. I didn't think it would end up being a serious pursuit or a future career. I was doing it for fun and to spend time with my dad."

McEwan said he didn't take to the sport in a serious nature "until pretty late with my dad when we made the national team in 2001."

When asked to put into words why he enjoys the sport so much, McEwan took things in a couple directions.



competing more in the world cups and world championships instead. He wasn't as Olympic-focused, and I'm like that. I do the sport because I love doing it."

McEwan admitted going the singles route has taken some getting used to.

"It's definitely strange," he said. "For me, I haven't placed as well so far in singles. In a way there is a lot more pressure because you have nobody else to rely on. In another way, it's a relief because you don't have to coordinate the training aspect. Sometimes it's simpler to do things on your own."

The veteran paddler said it's almost like he's had to relearn the

“It’s a very dynamic sport with the nature of the water changing all the time,” he said. “It forces you to play attention. There is that synergy with the water. It’s a cool way to commune with the natural element of water.”

And there is the technical aspect that appeals to him.

“It’s a highly technical sport,” he said. “There also is a definite physical aspect to it; you have to be in decent shape. With the higher-end technical part, the closest parallel to our sport is boxing and wrestling. The water is so unpredictable that it’s both a collaborator and an opponent at the same time. Even the best in the world at this can get better.”

Looking to the future, McEwan said he would contemplate a return to the doubles side, should he find the right partner.

“It’s tough finding a good doubles partner,” he said. “The sport is marginal in the U.S. There aren’t that many people to choose from. Finding the right partner is pretty darned important. You both need to mesh technically and inter-personally. It’s easier to train with someone if you are vibing together. Finding the right person is pretty essential.

“For the time being, I’m focusing on singles.”

About the Author

Mike Miazga has written about Olympic sports for nearly 25 years and is the former editor in chief of *Volleyball Magazine*. He is a freelance contributor to TeamUSA.org on behalf of [Red Line Editorial, Inc.](http://RedLineEditorial, Inc.)

ACA now hiring for Competition Department

The ACA has started the hiring process for our Competition Department. We are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

- Director of High Performance & Competition (full-time)
 - Slalom High Performance Manager (part-time)
 - Slalom National Team Coach (part-time)
 - Sprint High Performance Manager (part-time)
 - Sprint National Team Canoe Coach (part-time)
 - Sprint National Team Kayak Coach (part-time)
 - Sprint Jr. Teams Manager (part-time)
 - Paracanoe High Performance Manager/Coach (part-time)

To learn more, or to apply, please visit

www.americancanoe.org/networking/opening_search.asp and select the category ‘Competition.’



Young athletes show well in Olympic Hopes Regatta

Each year as fall descends on Eastern Europe, 15-, 16-, and 17-year-old sprint canoe and kayak athletes from across the world converge on their de facto age group world championships the Olympic Hopes Regatta (OHR). Nearly 900 athletes were in attendance for this year's event, representing 33 nations and six continents.

Among them, 30 Team USA athletes and three coaches hailing from Washington, Georgia, Oklahoma and California competed with excellence on behalf of the ACA and the United States of America.

Athletes from the east and west coasts donning brilliant red ACA-Team USA polos gathered to form two travel groups en route to their final destination of Prague, Czech Republic. Upon arrival and after taking in the sights, sounds and possibly a roasted boar in historic Old Town, Prague, Team USA boarded a bus for the legendary re-

gatta venue in Račice. Here, equipment and race preparation began as the athletes continued to acclimate and rest.

"The team came together really well, doing whatever needed to be done in preparation for the competition each day. These athletes who just competed against each other at nationals only a month earlier were able to work together, and it was clear there was a positive culture around Team USA," said Aaron Huston, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team Head Coach and 2017 Team USA Coach.

Additionally, Kalen Scholz, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club Head Coach and 2017 Team USA Coach, "was impressed by the professionalism of our athletes during the competition." Adding, "athletes who were on the OHR team for the second or third time were an asset to the team because of the great examples they set. The younger, newer athletes handled

themselves admirably when facing such steep international competition for the first time. I am proud of all the athletes and truly enjoyed working with them on this trip."

Team USA would ultimately be led by the achievements of the young Nevin Harrison, whose standout performances in women's single canoe at her first international event secured Team USA its first-ever international silver and gold medals in women's individual canoe while also marking the end of a decades-old gold medal drought for Team USA in Sprint Canoe.

Aasim Saleh, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak Head Coach and 2017 Team USA Team Leader, said "Nevin's truly historic first-place finishes in the U16 C-1 500m and C-1 200m were the embodiment of the potential that is held in every American canoe and kayak athlete and junior member of the ACA."

The U.S. Team poses for a group photo at the Olympic Hopes Regatta in Prague, Czech Republic.



Nevin Harrison, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club, won first place in the Women's 200m.



Andreea Ghizila, a veteran athlete at her second OHR, took Team USA's next best finishes with a tantalizingly close fourth-place finish in the U18 C-1 1000m. She also finished seventh in the U18 C-1 500m and sixth place in the U18 C-1 200m. Rounding out Team USA's performances in the finals was the young Paige Farley-Klacik who finished eighth in the U16 C-1 500m and also teamed up with Natalie Brunson, where together they finished eighth as well in the U17 C-2 1000m.

Coach Huston, who took the lead with Team USA canoe athletes while in Račice, reiterated that "the canoeists put in some impressive performances both in singles and team boats. While our female canoeists had very good outcomes making finals, our men's canoeists also showed the potential to compete on the world stage."

Račice, Czech Republic, was the host to not only the Olympic Hopes Regatta this year but also to the 2017 International Canoe Federation Senior World Championships. Račice has hosted many competitions from the 2013 Olympic Hopes Regatta, World Rowing Championships and major Dragon Boat Festivals. Chris Barlow, USA Sprint High Performance Director, described the regatta venue in Račice as "a fantastic place to race, with a purpose-built regatta stadium nestled in the lush green forests of Europe and close to the wonderful city of Prague. As a venue it will always be one of my favorites and especially now as it's the site of USA Gold in Women's Canoe!"

Team USA was extremely close to qualifying for many additional finals, having narrowly missed progressing in a variety of men's and women's kayak and men's canoe

events. For many of Team USA's young athletes, having been so close to the finals, then still missing the mark has left them anything but discouraged.

"Among the whole team there was a sense of excitement and possibility about the future. I was struck at how many athletes told me they were more motivated than ever to get back to their training and return to compete," reflected coach Huston.

Congratulations to the 2017 Team USA - Olympic Hopes Regatta on their historic performances! Wish them the best of luck as they continue their training with high Olympic Hopes for a successful 2018 competitive season.

Team USA Results in Final Events:

C-1 Women 200m (U16)

1st Place - Nevin Harrison, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

C-1 Women 500m (U16)

1st Place - Nevin Harrison, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

C-1 Women 1000m (U16)

2nd Place - Nevin Harrison, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

C-1 Women 1000m (U18)

4th Place - Andreea Ghizila, Cascade Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

C-1 Women 200m (U18)

6th Place - Andreea Ghizila, Cascade Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

C-1 Women 500m (U18)

7th Place - Andreea Ghizila, Cascade Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

C-1 Women 500m (U16)

8th Place - Paige Farley-Klacik, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

C-2 Women 1000m (U16)

8th Place - Paige Farley-Klacik & Natalie Brunson, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

2017 Team USA - Olympic Hopes Regatta

Women's Canoe

Paige Farley-Klacik, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Natalie Brunson, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Nevin Harrison, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

Andreea Ghizila, Cascade Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Women's Kayak

Neha Harle, Unattached - Bellingham

Kali Wilding, Ikaika Hawaii

Elena Wolgamot, Bellingham Canoe Kayak Sprint Team

Sierra Noskoff, Unattached - Bellingham

Nicole Anderson, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Trisha Martinson, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Emma McCoy, Bellingham Canoe Kayak Sprint Team

Caitlin Marsh, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Irisa Danke, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Lisa Anne Swenson, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Men's Canoe

Camden Sexton, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Caleb Copper, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Edward Surles, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Jonathan Grady, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Brice Anderson, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Ben Gregory, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Men's Kayak

Colin McMullen, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Walker Peck, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Augustus Cook, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Andrew Surles, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Aaron Small, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

Jacob Zikan, Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club

Evan Truesdale, San Diego Canoe Kayak Team

Jonathan Barnato, Keystone Paddlers

Kyle Field, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Garrett Wampler, Crystal Lake Canoe/Kayak

Coaching Staff

Aasim Saleh, Oklahoma City RIVERSPORT Canoe/Kayak

Kalen Scholz, Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

Aaron Huston, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

U.S. Olympic hopeful Nevin Harrison powers to the finish line.



Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Nov. 10-12 | <u>Frostbite Camp</u>
Seattle, Washington |
| Nov. 24 | <u>West Coast Paddle Sports Turkey Paddle</u>
San Diego, California |
| March 31 | <u>51st Annual Red Moshannon Downriver Race</u>
Grassflat, Pennsylvania |
| May 17-20 | <u>ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1</u>
Szeged, Hungary |
| June 2 | <u>Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race</u>
Fredericksburg, Virginia |
| June 2 | <u>GRWCR Youth Race</u>
Fredericksburg, Virginia |

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Kayak racing returns to Yonkers

By Lenore Person, New York

Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club (YPRC) hosted the 11th Annual Mayor's Club, an invitational for New York City area kayak clubs, on September 9. While the club did not win the Mayor's Cup, which is based on the longest of the three races that day, the real Yonkers story became evident when the racers and club member gathered around Mayor Spano for the awards presentation.

Yonkers' past, as a racing powerhouse, and its future, touched. In fact, they stood side by side.

Among the YPRC race finalists that day were Bruno Silva, age 14, winning second place in the 100 and 400 meter, and third in the 800 meter, and Chevaughn Dixon, age 26, winner of the men's 100 meter and placing second in the 800 meter. Standing beside them was fellow member Nancy Kalafus, age 65, who took second place in the 100 meter.

"It is so exciting and fun to watch all of these young racers back on the river and representing YPRC," said Kalafus, who was inducted into the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame on October 14, 2017, for her outstanding kayaking career. "They bring a special energy that brings us back to our championship roots."

YPRC—formerly named the Yonkers Canoe Club (YCC)—was na-

tional champion from 1937-1940 and 1955-1958. Members competed in six Olympic games, and brought home two gold medals in 1948. YCC women who took gold medals at the national championships in 1968 and 1972, and in 1970, Kalafus represented the USA at the World Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dixon, Silva, and other young racers, are an exciting result of YPRC's renewed commitment over the last decade to teaching young people to paddle. The outreach, named

card through Portugal's national lottery. In Portugal, Silva kayaked with Clube Fluvial Odemireuse. He was national champion in K4, and third place winner in K2—two categories of small sprint kayaks. In a complete reverse of most American's sport choices, Silva said, "I played soccer when I was young but gave it up to have more time to paddle."

When Silva arrived in Yonkers, he looked in vain for a kayak team, and thought he would have to give up his sport entirely.

It was a stroke of good fortune that he ended up living next door to Dixon, and found his way to RiverRiders, and becoming a member of YPRC.

"My mom is happy I found a club," said Silva.

Silva just began his ninth grade at Saunders High School. He plans to train with Dixon several

times a week after school. "Maybe next year I can win. I need more experience moving through the waves," said Silva, referring to the choppy Hudson the day of the Mayor's Cup.

"Bruno is one of the hardest working kids I've ever encountered," said Dixon. "He can be an Olympic champion."



RiverRiders last year, was what introduced Dixon to water sports when he was thirteen. Now, he has advanced kayaking and stand up paddleboard certifications, and runs the program. RiverRiders was also how young Bruno Silva—a premiere kayaker from Portugal—found YPRC this past summer.

Silva and his mother moved from their native Portugal in September 2016, when his mom won a green

INTERNATIONAL



China welcomes newest instructors

By Ge Wu, ACA Instructor and Zhejiang University Teacher

This summer a few dozen more Chinese paddle enthusiasts successfully became certified ACA instructors in China. They are from different parts of the country and will bring ACA programs and spirits back to their homelands to help promote safe paddling.

Among the ITs and ITEs who led the Instructor Certification Workshops this August and September were John Browning, Dale Williams and Chris Wing. Out of their classes, we now have China's first female Level 4 Whitewater Kayak Instructor, my friend and fellow canoe polo player Xing Zhong. And Ru Chen became the youngest female ACA instructor in Chi-

na, she's a university freshman and now holds ACA Level 3 Coastal Kayak Instructor status.

I spoke to several of these newly certified instructors, one of the most mentioned impacts these certification workshops had on them is that they now look at teaching very differently than they did before. Not only did they learn to teach strokes, rescues and maneuvers more systematically and methodologically,

but they also learned how to conduct safer and more effective teaching.

Many of these instructors and our past students are also eager to see there will be a Chinese ACA website that's easy for people here to access, understand and use. I'm hopeful that with the rapid proliferation of ACA programs into China, more tools and translated materials will be made available to facilitate this growth.



Bacalar hosts fourth paddle marathon

By Gunnar Jentzsch

In late April each year, the small town of Bacalar, in southern Quintana Roo, Mexico, is filled up with cars and trailers loaded with kayaks, paddle boards and surf skis.

Laguna Bacalar with its crystal clear turquoise water once again was showplace for the [Paddle Marathon Laguna Bacalar](#) one of the toughest paddle races in Mexico. Even though 30 km does not seem long, the heat and the sustained 18-knot SE winds, with gusts up to 25 knots, make it a real endurance race, especially for SUP paddlers since the lake runs pretty much north-south.

The three-day event organized by [Active Nature Bacalar](#) and [Protudec](#) in conjunction with the towns of [Bacalar](#), [Gand Costa Maya](#) and [Viajemos todo por](#), Mexico, draws

more than 160 national and international participants, to the south of Quintana Roo. In 2014 the event started with nine participants paddling the entire length of the lake to show that all the villages on Laguna Bacalar are bound together and that whatever happens anywhere on the lake will affect all. The event also increased awareness of the fragile environment we are living in as well as showed children the fun and excitement of this watersport in a safe, environmentally friendly way.

While many races are open only to certain boat classes or categories, the Paddle Marathon Laguna Bacalar welcomes all types of paddlers, resulting in a great mix of SUPs, kayaks, and canoes competing in three different races: 30 km, 5 km and 2 km for young paddlers. For the first time, Ba-

calar was also hosting the Quintana Roo State Championship SUP-Polo, organized by [Surf Mexico](#) and [Starboard](#).

The SUP-Polo brought a lot of fun and excitement, for participants and spectators on the first day of the event. Twelve teams played under hard conditions for the title, which the

SUPMarinos team under the regime of Felipe Rodríguez, Cecilia Gutierrez y Miguel Cantarel Glez took home.

Early Sunday morning the long distance race went under way, with the 104 paddlers (58 teams) heading into the wind. The big Mayan canoes, with all the power and energy of 11 paddlers, were leading the bulk and in between Segundo Hernandez Montoya Veracruz (first Mexican winning the Euro Challenge Surf Ski/Kayak in 2013 and bronze in 2014) and Ronald Zavala Campeche (national selection) in his K1.

After only 3 hours and 21 minutes, Segundo Hernandez Montoya came in as 1st over the finish line, leaving everyone behind. Ronald Zavala came in 5th overall (3 hrs, 31min) behind last year's winners Julio Balinas Bustamente/Alejandro Lima Amaro Veracruz (3 hrs, 24 mins) double Sea Kayak, Akbal-Ha (3hrs, 28 mins) Mayan Canoe from Q.Roo and José de Jesús





Aguilera Del Hombre Veracruz (3hrs, 29mins) Surf Ski. Monica Felix Morena Veracruz reached the finish line after 3hrs, 57mins and got the 1st place in the Sea Kayak woman's category.

Very early in the race Felipe (Pipe) Rodriguez Lorenzo Nayarit SUP 12.6 (who represented Mexico in the 2016 ISA Games World Stand-up Paddle and Paddleboard Championship in Fiji) made it clear he was there to win the harsh race in the SUP category he finished after 3hrs, 40mins (1hour and 4 minutes before the second Luis Canseco SUP 14 Q.Roo crossed the finish line).

In the woman's SUP category Mariana Carrasco Zanini SUP 12.6 Q.Roo was unquestionably the leader, finishing after 5hrs, 15mins, (17 minutes before Fanny Saucedo Diaz Q.Roo).

The Molkaab team (Leonor Alvarez Cerucha, Isis Martinez G. Canton, Monica Lomeli Saenz and Lisa Primus Stahl) Q.Roo with their 2 double pack women power won (5hrs, 57mins) the Sit on Top Relay Category and convinced everyone that a Sit on Top kayak is suitable for a race like this.

Although not everyone completed the race, all participants enjoyed

a great after-race party buffet at [Kai Pez](#) where the award ceremony took place Sunday night.

Mondy morning Huracan, the Mayan God of the wind, had mercy with the paddlers of the sprint races and did not make even one ripple on the lake. Segundo Hernandez (2nd place 2 km and 1st place 5 km) and Ronald Zavala (1st place 2 km and 2nd place 5 km) had a head-on race and divided the 1st and 2nd places between themselves.

While Felipe Rodriguez Lorenzo SUP 12.6 again was unstoppable and won both the short races as well.

As a family event, many youngsters enjoyed paddling solo or with their parents or grandparents and could check out on the outdoor exhibition what's new on the paddling market in Mexico. SUP boards from [4The-OutdoorMexico](#) were available to try out, kayak rental and demo with [Conexion Nativa Cancun](#) as well Surf Mexico showed some Starboard SUP boards. [DockDepot](#) presented the latest news on kite surfing.

[Travel'In](#) from Mahahual and [Enamora Bacalar](#) took great care about the culinary needs of participants and spectators alike, complying with the obligation not to use disposable plastic cups and plates. More

than 400 cold coconuts where brought in for rehydration of racers and visitors and freshly cut open to be enjoyed.

During the three days, many new friendships were bounded, ol' timers met again as well new contacts were made. A broad variety of sea kayaks, SUP boards, surf skis, canoes, sit on top kayaks and even an outrigger canoe were racing against the fierce wind and each other.

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful lake, great company and comradeship. Most of them did not say "goodbye"; instead they said, "See you next year," when once again Bacalar calls together the best paddlers from all over Mexico and North and Central America for the Fifth Paddle Marathon Laguna Bacalar 2018.

Thank you to all participants, sponsors, supporters and helping hands. Without you, this would be not possible. Thank you and see you in 2018 in Bacalar.

Check out these videos from the 4th Paddle Marathon Laguna Bacalar 2017:

[30km race](#)
[2km race](#) -
[5km race](#)



Seafaring traditions to be highlight of canoe summit in Yap

The Yap Visitors Bureau announced that a Canoe Summit will be held Dec. 7, 2017, in Colonia, Yap prior to the annual Canoe Festival scheduled for December 8 and 9.

Pwo Master Navigator Ali Haleyalur will moderate the conference, which will be sponsored by the Yap Visitors Bureau, Yap Traditional Navigation Society, and Waa'gey (Seafaring Future) of Yap.

According to Micronesian scholar and filmmaker Dr. Eric Metzgar,

organizer of the Summit, "The one-day conference will provide the opportunity to discuss issues involved with the safeguarding of seafaring traditions as shared heritage in the region." The conference will be held at the Small Business Development Center in Colonia and will consist of activity reports by practitioners in the region and research reports by experts in the field of Canoe Culture in the Pacific.

Following the Canoe Summit, the annual Canoe Festival will take place at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia. The festival will include a parade of traditional sailing canoes, dances, skills demonstrations and a marketplace offering food and handicrafts for sale. Dr. Metzgar

will provide the keynote address and present his video, *A Voyaging Odyssey*, featuring highlights from the 2010 ocean voyages captained by Pwo Master Navigator Haleyalur and Master Canoe Carver Chief Bruno Tharngan. The ocean crossings "rediscovered" the ancient, traditional sea routes between the islands of Lamotrek, Guam, Yap and Palau.

A photographic exhibit of Yap's seafaring history along with other exhibits will be on display and visitors will have the rare opportunity to taste the traditional offertory, voyaging, and celebratory foods connected with successful long sea voyages.

For more information, visit www.visit Yap.com or email Tom Tamangmow at the Yap Visitors Bureau at tomyvb@mail.fm.

Dr Eric Metzgar & Pwo Master Navigator Ali Haleyalur



Paddling History

In Memory of

William Livingston
ALDEN

In Canoes they sailed and paddled
On many happy days
Where no indolent folks traveled
On rivers, lakes and bays.
The waters were all clear and clean
The shores as yet unspoiled
With trade wastes which today
Are seen
In waters badly oiled

Portrait from *Harpers Magazine* 1880

The First **COMMODORE** of the
American Canoe Association

In 1870 Mr. Alden was the leading spirit in founding the New York Canoe Club first of its kind in America.

Mr. Alden was a writer of more than ordinary genius, a wit and literature who wielded pen and paddle with equal facility. At that time he was a member of the editorial staff of the New York Times and well known to the reading public through a series of witty editorials which were one of the noted features of that newspaper.

At the same time he was writing under the nom-de-plume of "Matador" the dramatic criticisms of *Punchinello*, a humorous weekly which preceded "Puck".

On the third of August 1880, the American Canoe Association was organized at Crosbyside, Lake George, N.Y. There were 23 charter members and the name of William Alden heads the list.

By unanimous vote he was elected Commodore holding the first meet of the Association, which was held on Gorna Island, Lake George.

In 1882 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Canoe Club of England.

A few years later Mr. Alden was appointed American Counsel to Rome. Several of his articles on canoes and canoeing appeared in *Harpers Magazine* in the eighteen eighties.

A. F. Saunders
A.C.A. Commodore 1916-17-18

Organized in 1880 at Crosbyside Lake George

Honorary Member of the Royal Canoe Club of England

Dedication of Tablet to the Founders of the A.C.A. at Crosbyside 1927

Length overall 14' 4"
Depth Bow & Stern 16 1/2"
Beam at waterline 50"
Beam at deck 20"
Depth amidship 9 1/2"

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Designed by MR. ALDEN in 1870

The "Dot" was the third of the model.

Built by Mr. James Everson in 1878. Was owned by Mr. Vaux.

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