

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L.Bean to provide the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Grant Program to local paddling clubs and watershed organizations who are working to protect and preserve our nation's waterways.

2013 marks the 101st anniversary of L.L.Bean, as well as the 12th anniversary of our partnership together. The L.L.Bean CFS Grant Program has officially funded 100 projects across the country.

This year the CFS Grant has funded 13 projects across the United States in Tennessee, New York, Michigan,

Pennsylvania, Idaho, Illinois, Florida, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Connecticut.

By inspiring people to explore outdoors with quality products and demonstrating a corporate commitment to a sustainable future, L.L.Bean upholds the values and environmental commitments that are reflected in the paddling community.

The ACA is proud to have L.L.Bean as a partner and to continue the legacy of fostering future generations of waterway stewards, as we have for 133 years.





## Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

[Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association](#) (TSRA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of the scenic, free-flowing rivers of this state. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, the organization has approximately 1,000 members across the state.

TSRA successfully built an access for paddlecraft on Whites Creek with the CFS Grant they were awarded.

Over four days of building in May, TSRA had over 50 volunteers, including youth from Boy Scout Troop 93 and the Tennessee Aquatic Project. When you have too many volunteers for the task at hand it is good to have an alternative project going at the same time. TSRA coordinated with the Whites Creek Watershed Alliance (WCWA) to organize a clean-up. An impressive amount of marine debris was taken out of the waterway, including a hot tub.

The access built by TSRA on Whites Creek is a great addition to the other access points along the river. It opens up the area to paddlers, fishermen and waders. Four miles downstream is an access point that is currently inaccessible, but TSRA is making plans to build an accessible entry at this location during the fall.

While the new paddlecraft access was being built, it generated a lot of enthusiasm and interest from people at nearby Hartman park; a number of which has had never kayaked or canoed.

This encouraged TSRA to sponsor a "fun day" with Metro Parks. Metro kayaks and TSRA brought canoes and kayaks, to demonstrate to new paddlers how to use the paddlecraft by the access ramp. This resulted in a lot of kayaking, canoeing, splashing, wading and fun in Whites Creek.

TSRA remains active in conservation issues, joining with other groups to combat threats to rivers like the Dry Fork, near Spencer, and threats to entire watershed areas posed by practices like mountain top removal coal mining. TSRA members "adopt" streams to monitor health, and TSRA conducts cleanups on these waterways.









## Boardman River Clean Sweep

The [Boardman River Clean Sweep](#) (BRCS) is a volunteer based non-profit organization formed in 2011. On June 2, 2012, they conducted the 8th annual community-wide cleanup of the Boardman River.

This year's event is complete and was a huge success, thanks in part to the ACA and L.L.Bean CFS Grant. Over 70 volunteers turned out on Saturday, June 8th to work in 6

section on the Boardman River. Volunteers from BRCS were on foot in the Downtown Boardman area and removed over 500 pounds of marine debris from the river. The volunteers were placed into 6 groups. Each group had digital cameras to document the different sections of the clean-up.

BRCS has completed all of the 12 cleanups that they have scheduled for the 2013 season. The L.L.Bean CFS Grant helped acquire new paddle craft

for their annual clean-ups. Now that their boat "livery" is full, BRCS will now concentrate on obtaining power equipment for the removal and

repositioning of large pieces of debris like dock sections and blocking trees and deadfalls.

In total, BRCS cleaned up and removed over 8,000 pounds of wreckage from the river.



# Black Creek Watershed Coalition

[The Black Creek Watershed Coalition](http://blackcreekwatershed.org) (BCWC), with the help of the L.L.Bean CFS Grant, printed the Black Creek Watershed Map Guide [blackcreekwatershed.org](http://blackcreekwatershed.org). BCWC would not have been able to reach their target funding to pay for the printing without the CFS Grant. The Guide Map allows area users to keep the beautiful photographic and graphic design work of the late Christine Sevilla in front of the public while giving the BCWC one of the most popular "calling cards" any member has ever had the pleasure of handing out. The timing of the grant was in high season for reaching people who live, work and recreate in the watershed and on Black Creek.

Black Creek, known by the Seneca Indians as Checkanango Creek, begins in Middlebury, Wyoming County in New York. It flows north and east through Monroe County until it joins the Genesee River just north of the Ballantyne Bridge.

The Black Creek watershed has an approximate east-west dimension of 40 miles and an approximate north-south length of about 20 miles. The Black Creek drainage area is about 202 square miles and the main stream (stem) runs for over 46 miles. Land use in the Black Creek watershed is predominantly rural agricultural, but also includes residential, commercial, wetland and forest areas.

To learn more about the natural history and historical places in the Black Creek watershed please read below.

## Natural History

The bedrock of the Black Creek watershed – composed of limestone, dolostone, shales with interbedded siltstone, rock salt and gypsum beds– originated from the compaction of sediments deposited approximately 400 million years ago, when this region was part of a continental sea. At this time the Appalachian Mountains were uplifting to the east, and the Michigan Basin to the northwest was subsiding. After the sediments turned to rock, there was a period of uplift, followed by a long period of

erosion. And then came the Ice Age.

A fault zone –the Clarendon-Linden fault zone crosses the western side of the Black Creek watershed. The fault zone makes a rather prominent topographic escarpment that can be viewed on the campus of Genesee Community College; the northerly flowing segment of Black Creek parallels the fault zone. This fault zone is moderately and sporadically active. Most landscape features visible today result from glaciation that occurred 30,000 to 10,000 years ago. Ice advance scoured bedrock leaving resistant rock formations as high areas and less resistant bedrock as low areas. A thin blanket of glacial till was spread across most areas and elliptical drumlins pointing to the southwest mark the local ice advance flow direction. After glacial ice retreated from the Black

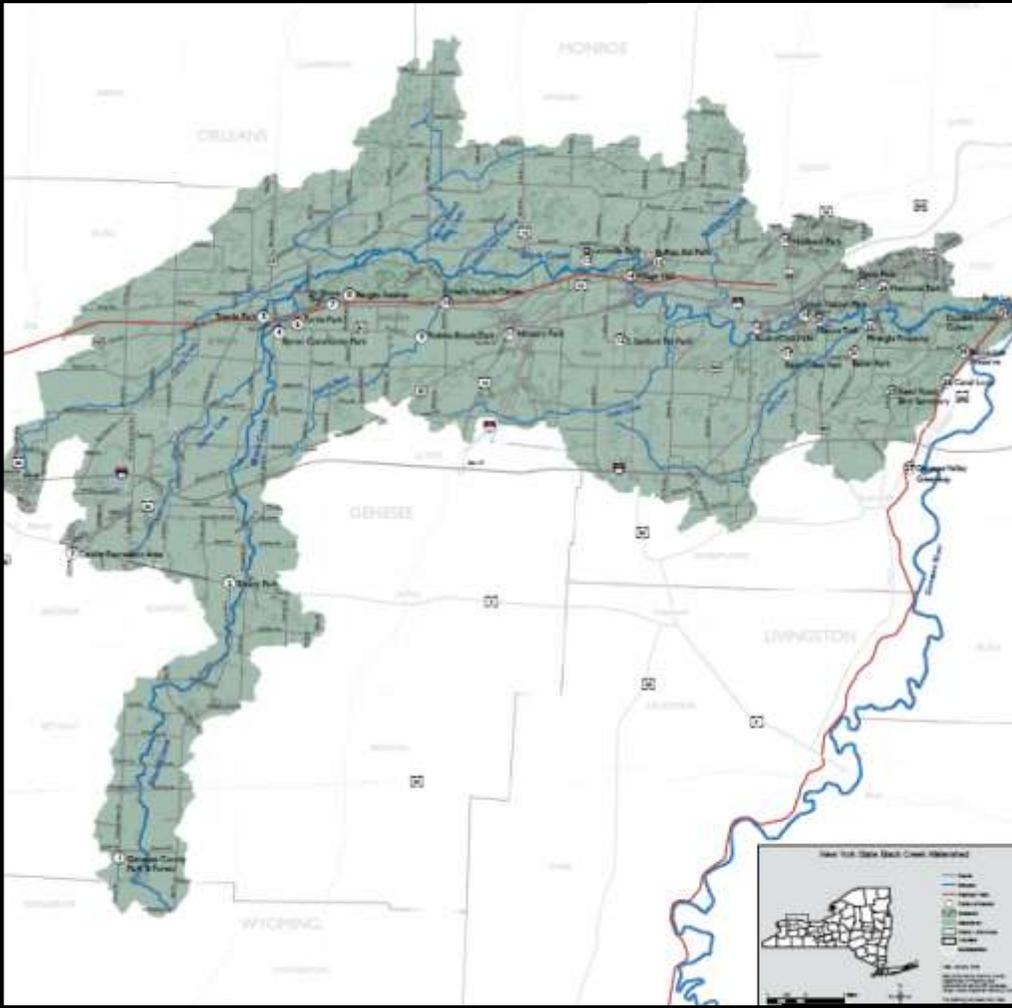
Creek watershed, lake and stream deposits and mucklands filled the lowest areas –modern streams flow in these low floodplain areas.

## Historic Places

Northeast of East Bethany on Black Creek, the hamlet of Little Canada was formerly known as Bennett's Mill for mills erected by James Bennett in 1808. The name change came about as a result of an argument between two women: one of the Bennett women, who lived on the south side of Black Creek, had a disagreement with a woman who lived on the north side of the creek. During the argument, Mrs. Bennett told the other woman to go back to Canada (the north side) and stay there. Hence, the name change.

Little Canada also boasted a Methodist Church with a 17-member congregation, a cooper's shop and a dance hall. The Town of Stafford, just north of Bethany, sold willow chairs and settees during the 1880s and 1890s and cider from 1883 to the 1920s; Stafford was home to a boys' summer camp in the 1920s. The hamlet of Morganville in Stafford was named for the Morgan Affair in 1826 when William Morgan tried to expose the secrets of Masonry. The hamlet was the site of a large mill. A mill race powered a grist mill and a saw mill. Black Creek has always played an important role in the Village of Churchville. Settlement in Churchville began in 1806 when Samuel Church purchased 897 acres in what was known as West Pultney.







## Friends of the Chemung River Watershed

[Friends of the Chemung River Watershed](#) (FCRW) want to thank the ACA and L.L.Bean. FCRW removed more than eight tons of trash and litter from in and along the Chemung River in Chemung County, NY.

The CFS Grant funds were used to purchase items such as trash bags, work gloves, safety vests, whistles, rakes, shovels, pry bars, water coolers, first-aid kits, sunscreen, insect repellent and covered transportation costs. The CFS Grant allowed FCRW a safer waterway environment and for more people to volunteer in the cleanups and to remove marine debris from the waterway environment.

FCRW has conducted seven cleanups since April 13, 2013 that involved more than 130 community volunteers. FCRW has four more cleanups scheduled before the end of 2013.

The largest cleanup, an Earth Day event, included 68 volunteers from area businesses and scouting groups. FCRW removed nearly two tons of trash and litter along a newly built rails-to-trails-recreation/nature trail that follows a beautiful trout stream that ends at the Chemung River. FCRW's local municipalities hauled the cleanup trash to the local landfill.

This grant has helped River Friends expand a program through their local probation department to use non-violent offenders to do trash cleanups and brush cutting along the

river as part of their community service.

The CFS grant helped FCRW purchase supplies and equipment for volunteers from local businesses and a Rotary Club that joined their adopt-a-launch program.

Volunteers adopt and maintain public boat launches on the 45 mile Chemung River.

FCRW river clean-ups reduce pollution and wildlife deaths and improve the safety and the beauty of our rivers. Best of all, clean-ups help the public turn from spectators to participants in protecting and improving our environment.

The volunteers gain a better

respect for the waterway and a greater appreciation for the part that individuals play in protecting our rivers. The cleanups are a great way to introduce youth to nature and their future roles as environmental caretakers.

As you can see, the L.L.Bean CFS grant helped FCRW improve a community partnership that works to protect and improve their natural waterway environment. The partnership includes a nonprofit organization, municipalities, businesses, a county probation department, private landowners, community volunteers and the ACA and L.L.Bean.

In total, over eight tons of litter was removed from the river. The grant and the cleanups were publicized in the [local news media](#), [River Friends' website](#) and [Facebook page](#).





The [Allegheny Aquatic Alliance](#) (AAA) mission is to restore the watersheds of Western Pennsylvania to their natural state by removing and combatting pollution, reinstating the organic environment, and educating citizens of the threats to our waterways in order to empower and encourage public action for watershed preservation.

In 2012, AAA successfully cleaned the first 10 mile stretch removing 54,873 pounds of marine debris, including 578 tires! The entire community supported this cleanup and over 150 volunteers contributed to its success. This year with the help of the L.L.Bean CFS Grant, AAA continued this crucial project and focused on another 20 mile section.

The grant money went to providing cleanup supplies for the 190 volunteers that came together to remove garbage from this polluted creek and to recycling the 289 tires that were taken out of this precious waterway this year.

These cleanup results reveal the current deplorable state of this creek and the continued need for future cleanups. The removal of the physical garbage and tires from Connoquenessing Creek will ensure the restoration of the aquatic species that once flourished in this waterway and allow the community to once again use this creek for the many recreational activities that once took

place.

On the morning of the cleanup they had to confront the challenge of weather, which played a huge role in creating the worst water conditions possible! Volunteers were met with what looked like chocolate milk flowing rapidly down the creek on the morning of the cleanup. It was high, muddy, and fast. Despite these undesirable conditions, AAA

volunteers were able to remove massive amounts of garbage and tires! It was due to the L.L. Bean CFS grant that made this second cleanup such an achievement. The massive amount of garbage that has been removed is astounding!

In total, AAA removed 30,035 pounds of garbage from Connoquenessing Creek



this year! This means that in just 2 days, over a two year period, they have successfully removed 84,908 pounds of garbage, including nearly 900 tires from this vital waterway! They are so proud of Their results and never imagined they could accomplish so much in such a short amount of time. With each year, their efforts will bring them closer to restoring this natural resource back to its beautiful, healthy state. A goal that is worth working hard for! Again, AAA wants to thank the L.L.Bean CFS grant support.

Removed 30,035 lbs. garbage

In total 84,908 pounds of garbage, including nearly 900 tires have been removed from this vital waterway



# Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network

The [Florida Youth Conservation Center Network](#) (FYCCN) "Paddling Pickup" is designed to foster conservation stewardship and demonstrate how paddling enthusiasts of all ages can facilitate restoration of Florida's scenic waterways. The FYCCN provided the opportunity, training and leadership needed for youth paddlers to assist in restoring and protecting the Sopchoppy River and Lake Munson through hands-on education and stewardship. Twenty-five of the FYCCN's kayaks were utilized by volunteers of all ages and paddling abilities. Paddlers focused on shallow areas of the river and lake, removing debris and trash from the waters that could not typically be reached by motorized boat or land-based cleanups.



## Sopchoppy River Cleanup

Number of Volunteers: 15  
Program: Intro to Kayaking  
Amount of debris removed: 400lbs  
FYCCN Staff: 4  
ACA certified instructors: 2



Wakulla County was hit by tropical storm Debby in 2012. Residents along the rivers experienced record flooding. The primary focus of the county and city was on relocating, cleaning and rebuilding houses and infrastructure of the affected areas. However, the rivers were still in serious need of cleaning.

The FYCCN and the youth volunteers spent many hours on the river. Youth were able to successfully

clean a two mile stretch of shoreline. Items found on the river included several chairs, an abundance of dock debris and even a Star Wars space ship (along with TV's, clothing, and fishing gear).

Area residents have since voiced their appreciation to the FYCCN, the L.L.Bean CFS grant, volunteers and local newspapers. FYCCN is happy to report that the residents have continued the cleanup effort and the river is getting back to its natural state.

Leon County provided a great venue for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Paddle Pickup at Lake Munson. This Lake is a shallow man-made lake located south of the City of Tallahassee. The lake receives storm water drainage and pollutant loading from the Southeast side of City. The lake has a history of severe water quality and ecologic problems. The Lake has also become overrun with Apple Snails. The community and other organizations have been working diligently to correct the problems with the lake.

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> the FYCCN dedicated a day as Munson Day. The lake provided plenty of opportunities for instructors to teach about the watershed, pollution and invasive species. It was an eye-opening experience for the high school students that participated. The vast majority wanted to know when the next scheduled pickup was and if they could borrow the kayaks to just have fun paddling.

FYCCN wants to thank the L.L.Bean CFS grant. FYCCN will be able to recreate our cleanup efforts throughout the state of Florida at some of our additional 238 partner sites. The L.L.Bean CFS grant has provided a great starting point for the FYCCN community enhancement component.

## Lake Munson Cleanup

Number of Volunteers: 16  
Amount of debris removed: 370lbs  
Program: Intro to Kayaking  
FYCCN Staff: 4  
ACA certified instructors: 4



**CHICAGO VOYAGERS**  
*Guiding Youth On Their Journey*

[Chicago Voyagers](#) (CV) hosted seven clean-up events at Busse Lake outside of Chicago Illinois. CV goal was to host a series of canoe trainings and clean-ups, engaging 70 participants. CV exceed their goal by having more than 80 people participate in the program. CV had seven groups work to clean up Busse Lake via their canoe training programs. CV also trained 55 youth on canoeing skills.



The story of “Daniel”, is one that CV would like to share in show-casing how their programs can impact the youth they serve. Daniel showed up anything but ready to participate! Daniel’s reputation for being challenging and unenthusiastic preceded him. But at CV, they approach each participant with an understanding that the greater the challenge, the greater to reward. CV staff started with some teambuilding games to promote working together and effective communication. He gradually warmed up and started participating, but quickly fell back into his typical routine and walked off. CV staff tried a couple of times to get him to re-engage with the group, but he decided to sit out of that game. After lunch, the entire group went canoeing – learning both how to canoe and also giving back by cleaning up trash from the lake. After a discussion about whether his monitoring bracelet was water-proof, everyone hit the water. Daniel seemed to come to life during this activity and even helped pick up some garbage while he learned how to canoe. CV staff kept encouraging him. On the way back, CV staff asked who wanted to be the leader to guide us back. The staff saw a look in Daniel’s eye and decided to ask him if he would be their leader. Daniel accepted the challenge and did a fine job getting them back. The group’s pride in him was obvious as was the pride in leaving the lake cleaner. The one smile he shared that day came during our wrap-up discussion, when CV told him they were proud of him for being our leader on the way back. CV hopes that Daniel decides to continue to come back with us so we can continue to empower him to see his own potential, connect with others in a positive manner, and make better decisions.

CV shared their program results on Facebook and are also advertising the support of the L.L.Bean CFS grant logo on CVs web page and program brochure. CV is sincerely grateful to L.L.Bean and the American Canoe Association for your generosity and investment in CVs important work. We are proud not only to leave our lakes cleaner, but also to invest in the next generation of stewards.



1st – 10 participants  
2nd – 8 participants  
3rd – 20 participants  
4th – 9 participants  
5th – 12 participants  
6th – 7 participants  
7th – 14 participants



# Paddle Without Pollution

[Paddle Without Pollution's](#) (PWP) mission is to restore and protect the health of waterways of Pennsylvania through hands-on stewardship and education, thereby benefiting the region's communities, economy, and quality of life. PWP uses non-motorized boats and operates with very little impact to the environment. PWP had thirteen cleanups in 2012 and removed more than 30,773 pounds of marine

debris and illegally dumped debris from Pennsylvania's watersheds. PWP received two Proclamations from the City of Pittsburgh for their efforts, and engaged over 340 volunteers. PWP's 2013 Watershed Stewardship Campaign continued to decrease the amount of marine debris and hazardous materials in the states waterways and achieve immediate visible results. This campaign addresses the tremendous amount of marine debris and dumping that degrades the waters of Pennsylvania. Marine debris is readily visible, damages the environment, presents a hazard to people and wildlife, and detracts greatly from the image of their area. In addition, it requires an innovative solution because much of the trash is only accessible by water.



PWP has completed their clean-ups for 2013 and removed a total of 19,993 pounds of debris from Pennsylvania's waterways.





The Kentuckiana Paddlers Association (KPA) was originally approached to help pay for printing of a map of paddling access points based on work done by a University of Louisville graduate class. However, the scope had changed and

KPA was charged with actually doing the work which was in fact impossible. That being said, KPA looked at their community and hearing from people that were interested in paddling and the overwhelming response was that people did not know where to paddle.

KPA decided something needed to be done that would not only encourage paddling, but also be something that would be constantly and consistently updated to better serve the community and encourage more beginners to enter the sport. After a lot of discussion KPA decided that it would set up a wiki site that would be monitored by 12-15 administrators at the start.



#### Data points collected

- County
- Waterway
- Trip Name
- Class of water
- Trip Description
- Safety concerns
- Location of access
- Miles from the Louisville
- Community Boathouse
- Contributor
- Google Map
- Pictures



*Working with Wikispaces, a site originally designed for schools and colleges KPA started a wiki that would include all paddling trips in the Louisville Metro area that they hope will grow beyond our area. Wikispaces provides an ad free site as well as the means to only allow certain admins to post to the*

*site. [Click here](#) for the website. The site was created and they invited 15 people who had expressed an interest in the idea to upload paddling trips based on a consistent set of data points.*

KPA hopes that each trip will be updated with real time information and current pictures as the admins report their trips. KPA has asked the admins to provide a variety of trips to satisfy the needs and desires of beginner to advanced paddlers. The admins have been pulled from KPA, and the Viking Canoe Club to ensure that it has a variety of paddling styles and expertise.



# Great River Paddlers Club



Great River Paddlers Club (GRPC) has provided improvements to the Washington Street Park and the Campion Boat Landing in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. This will increase walking, biking, and boating access to the Mississippi River.

It is with great pleasure that Great River Paddlers Club reports that our Washington Street Park Project has

just been completed. Because of the support from L.L.Bean and the ACA the City of Prairie du Chien Parks & Recreation Department is proud to now be able to offer this upgraded "new" park to the community. Great River Paddlers Club feels the new gateway to the Mississippi River will be utilized as a positive benefit for individuals of all ages, ability levels, and outdoor interests and we look forward to providing this unique river experience to all users!



The overall project cost was \$263,000 and some of the major amenities included: a state of the art canoe/kayak accessible launch, 1/3 mile black top hiking/biking trail, accessible fishing dock made of recyclable plastic, outdoor recreation center, reworked fishing shoreline, 22 stall blacktop parking lot, accessible concrete path to bathrooms and playground, and park benches.

The future of the park includes: providing more opportunities for all ages and ability levels to canoe, kayak and fish in a safe and fun environment, continuing to provide outdoor recreation/leisure programming, and to partner with the local Cub and Boy Scouts to be able to provide weekend rental opportunities beginning in the summer of 2014.



It is with Great River Paddlers Club sincere gratitude that we have to say this is one of the communities most impressive projects ever done and appreciate your commitment in being part of this park upgrade that already has seen multiply users and no doubt will be a positive benefit for many people's lives!



The Alzar School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that sits on a 102 acre site on the North Fork of the Payette River in Idaho. This site, with over 1.3 miles of river frontage, serves as the school's campus for generations of young leaders. The school offers semester-long leadership

training programs for students in 10th and 11th grades, with an emphasis on outdoor adventure sports (such as paddling!) and environmental stewardship.



The campus had previously been the site of cattle grazing for decades. While much of the property is wooded, with strong populations of native plants such as Ponderosa pines, Quaking aspens, and sage brush, most of the trees are relatively young. Due to the grazing activity, the river bank on campus had been greatly deteriorated by cattle eating native riparian plants and trampling the river's edge.

The campus sits approximately 2.5 miles downstream of [Kelly's Whitewater Park](#), and the section of river is popular for trout

fishing and more and more users are canoeing the 8 mile flat water run between the whitewater park and the Cabarton access area (the Cabarton is a local Class III section).

Throughout the year, elk, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, beaver, osprey, owls, and many other critters call the campus home. A recipient of this year's L.L.Bean Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) grants, the Alzar School used the funding provided by the ACA and L.L.Bean to begin replanting the riverbank and executing bank stabilization efforts.



The funds from the ACA and L.L.Bean helped acquire native willows and tools and equipment to install tree revetments. Additionally, this past year, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality funded a \$20,000 grant to expand this project. To plant the willows and install the tree revetments, the Alzar School students, faculty, and other volunteers worked diligently over several weekends. In total, over 25 people worked for approximately 15 hours, totaling 375. The group focused on the upstream 1/3 of river bank, the area most degraded by grazing.



This year's efforts was a great next step in the Alzar School's goal of completely restoring the river bank on campus. It built on the tree planting efforts (also funded by a L.L.Bean CFS grant). Watch for continued improvements on the North Fork of the Payette!



## There's more work to be done!

**B**ecause of poor weather, there are still two of projects to be completed! While all of the L.L.Bean funds for the ACA Club Fostered Stewardship Grants were allocated during in the year for various projects across the country, some of the projects were scheduled to start in the Fall or had to be postponed due to low water or poor weather. Here's a sneak peak of more to come!



## Interact Club of Addison Trail High School



In 2008 the [Interact Club of Addison Trail High School](#) (ICATHS) adopted 4 miles of salt creek and are committed to cleaning-up this section of waterway annually. Within the past two years ICATHS sister high school, Willowbrook High School has joined ICATHS to add another 2 miles. Weeks prior to the clean up day, ICATHS students will receive a three hour canoe lesson from certified instructors and learn canoe safety and basic paddling skills. ICATHS students and staff take canoes and remove marine debris in and along the creek. This project includes



disposing of marine debris, tires and house hold items. Over half of the students have never volunteered or taken part in clean-ups giving the students an appreciation for nature. This project will conclude at the end of the 2013 school year.

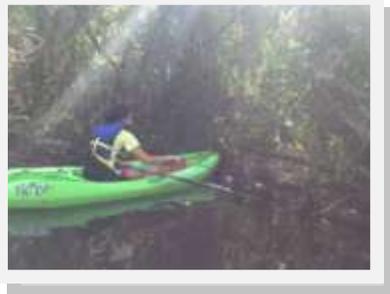


# Quinnipiac River Watershed Association



[Quinnipiac River Watershed Association](#) (QRWA) has started a clean-up in the Upper Quinnipiac River Canoe and Kayak trail. QRWA has maintained the trail since 1998. QRWA has a staff of volunteers who are train to run various types of equipment. QRWA is in the process of purchasing chain saws, tree de-limbers, ropes, straps and come-along-winches. Sections of the river run along nature trails and different access points. QRWA has three work crews and will paddle down river and walk

to remove marine debris from the river. QRWA is a Volunteer based group and does most removal on weekends.



# Committed to cleaner waters and a sustainable future.

Being one of the four tenets that the ACA was founded on in 1880, promoting good stewardship is still central to the ACA mission today.

The ACA is proud to have partnered with L.L.Bean for the last 12 years to provide grants to small paddling clubs and conservation organizations to protect the places that we all love to paddle! With sources of funding becoming increasingly scarce and competitive, the ACA is grateful for L.L.Bean's generous support and commitment to providing sources of funding to grassroots change.

We have helped to fund 100 projects through our partnership with L.L.Bean, and we hope to continue to do so to help you protect your favorite local paddling environments!



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