CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP GRANT REPORT 2020

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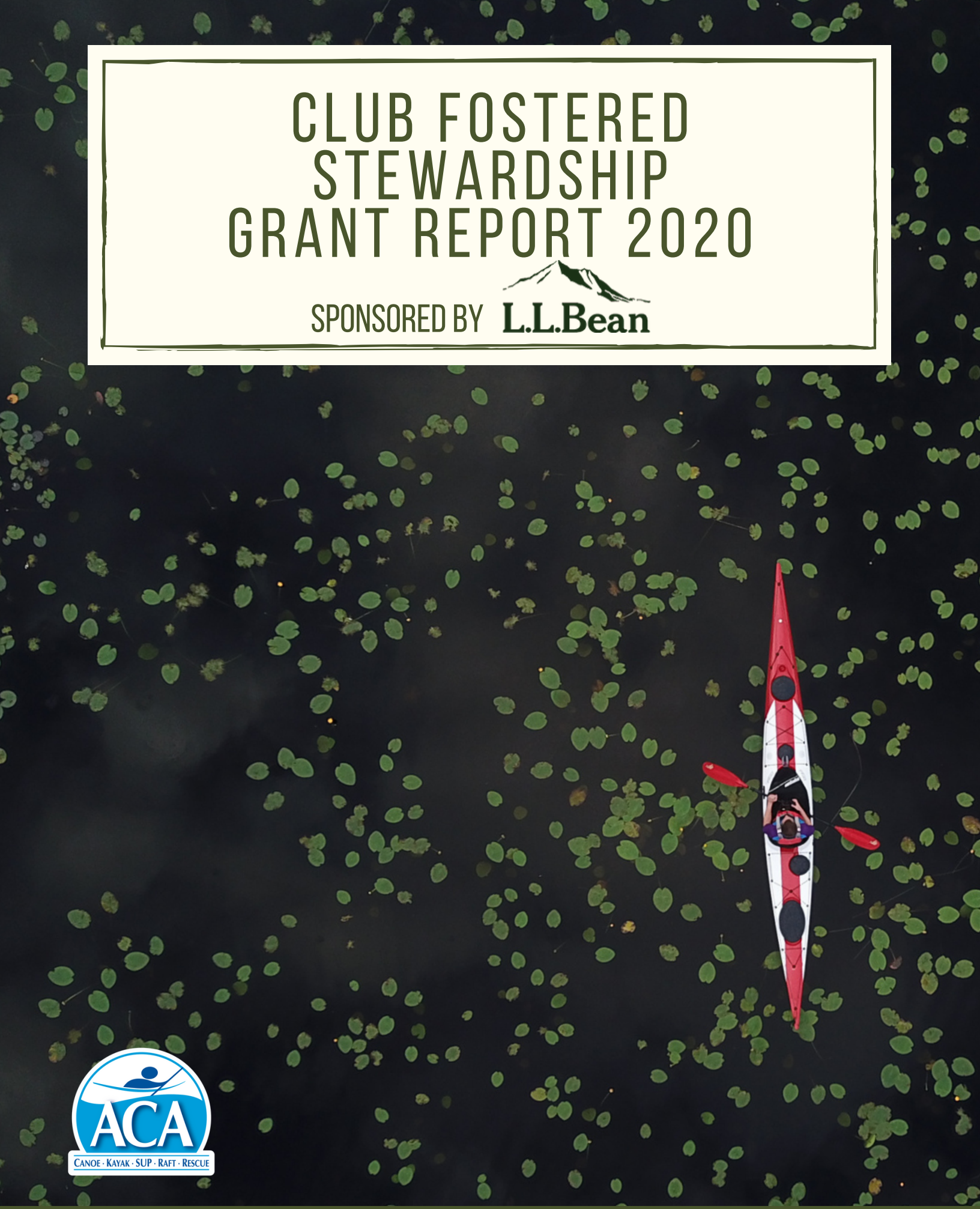

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CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

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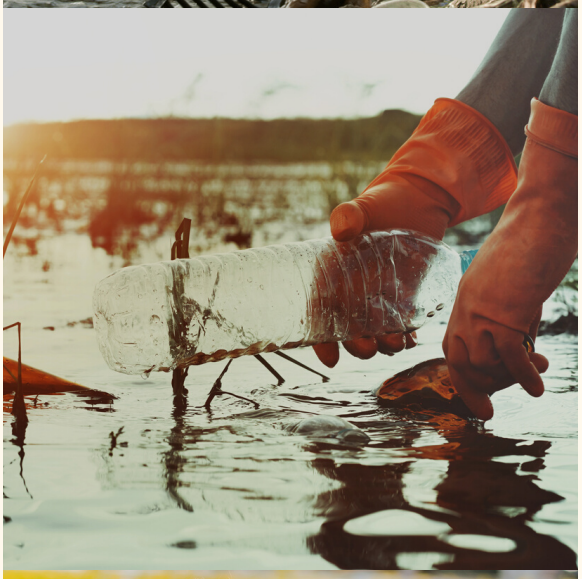


PHOTO BY MICHAEL NEUMANN

ABOUT THE ACA

FOUNDED IN 1880, THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (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.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L.L. BEAN, WE WE BELIEVE THE CFS GRANT PROGRAM'S ROLE IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO ALL PADDLING VENUES; INFLUENCE STEWARDSHIP ISSUES AND PUBLIC POLICY THAT AFFECT PADDLERS AND THE PADDLING EXPERIENCE; CREATE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT REPRESENT THE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE IN ORDER TO EXPAND AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF PADDLESPORTS; AND COMMUNICATE THE BENEFITS OF CANOEING, KAYAKING, RAFTING AND STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING AS HEALTHY LIFETIME RECREATION ACTIVITIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.AMERICANCANOE.ORG

CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PHOTO BY SARAH RUHLEN

SINCE 2002, THE ACA HAS PARTNERED WITH L.L. BEAN TO SPONSOR THE CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP (CFS) PROGRAM. THE CFS 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 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 $175,000 TO OVER 185 DIFFERENT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES SINCE ITS INCEPTION. WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF L.L. BEAN, THE ACA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PADDLING CLUBS AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CARE FOR OUR WATERWAYS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.AMERICANCANOE.ORG/LLBEAN_CFS_GRANT.

IN 2020, THE ACA FUNDED THIRTEEN (13) ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

36TH ANNUAL CREEK CLEAN UP

BY THE ANCHORAGE WATERWAYS COUNCIL

ANCHORAGE WATERWAYS COUNCIL (AWC) WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ACA AND L.L. BEAN FOR FUNDING THE 2020 ANNUAL CREEK CLEANUP. IN MAY, AWC HELD ITS 36TH ANNUAL CREEK CLEAN UP IN A SAFE MANNER THAT ALIGNED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE'S COVID-19 MANDATES.

THE CLEANUP WAS EXTENDED TO A 2-WEEK PERIOD FROM THE PAST HABIT OF 5 DAYS. WE ENCOURAGED FAMILY AND SMALL "BUBBLE" GROUPS/TEAMS TO SIGN UP. ONE MEMBER FROM EACH GROUP PICKED UP THEIR SUPPLIES FROM A DRIVEWAY WHICH MEANT NO INTERACTION. THIS YEAR WE HAD 30 TEAMS COMPRISED OF A COMBINED 300 PARTICIPANTS.

THEY WERE MADE UP OF FAMILIES AND THEIR NEIGHBORS OR CLOSE FRIENDS, A TEAM OF NURSES, SEVERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING FIRMS, SCOUTS, UPS, KAYAKERS, OUTDOOR GROUPS, THE ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION, ATTORNEYS, AND MORE. AWC PROVIDESD VOLUNTEERS WITH GLOVES, BAGS, HAND WIPES, AND FORMS FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS. NO INCIDENTS WERE NOTED OTHER THAN THE PROVISION OF HOMELESS CAMP LOCATIONS. SADLY, CREEK AREAS ARE A VERY POPULAR PLACE FOR HOMELESS TO INHABIT WHICH IMPACTS THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERWAYS. URBAN ANCHORAGE SPORTS 7 MAJOR CREEKS AND SEVERAL LAKES AND MARSHES. WE HAD TEAMS ON EVERY CREEK, 2 LAKES, AND POTTER MARSH. FOUR HUNDRED LARGE BAGS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO VOLUNTEERS, WHICH WERE USED TO COLLECT SEVERAL TONS OF TRASH. VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROJECT ARE ESTIMATED AT 750. *DUE TO INCREASED INTEREST IN OUR CLEAN UP EFFORTS SINCE THE MAY EVENT, WE DECIDED TO HOLD 2 SMALL FALL CLEANUPS ON SEPTEMBER 12 AND 19.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

BY THE BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

THE BLACKSTONE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL / FRIENDS OF THE BLACKSTONE (BRWC/FOB) IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED UNDER RHODE ISLAND STATE LAW TO REPRESENT THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE BLACKSTONE RIVER AND ITS WATERSHED. IN 2002, THE BLACKSTONE RIVER COALITION (BRC) BEGAN A WATERSHED-WIDE 75 SITE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM (WQM). THE PROGRAM IS SPLIT INTO 3 REGIONS: HEADWATERS, MID-REACH, AND RHODE ISLAND. BRWC/FOB SPONSORS THE RI PORTION WHICH IS COMPRISED OF 17 SITES LOCATED IN BURRILLVILLE, CUMBERLAND, LINCOLN, NORTH SMITHFIELD, PAWTUCKET, AND WOONSOCKET AND BELLINGHAM, MA. WE MONITOR EACH SITE ONCE A MONTH BEGINNING IN APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER.

DURING THE 2020 MONITORING SEASON, OUR PROGRAM UTILIZED 22 VOLUNTEERS (INCLUDING FIELD MONITORS AND FLOATERS) FOR A MINIMUM OF 200 VOLUNTEER HOURS. THIS YEAR, WE RECRUITED 7 NEW VOLUNTEERS THEREBY CREATING ANOTHER WAVE OF CITIZEN SCIENTISTS. THE FUNDS FROM THE LL BEAN CFS GRANT HELPED BRWC/FOB SECURE THE SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT MONITORING. BY KEEPING WQM GOING, WE OBSERVE BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM CHANGES TO THE WATERSHED, AND WE CAN USE THE DATA TO PUSH MUNICIPALITIES INTO MAKING AND ADHERING TO REGULATIONS. THE DATA ALSO GIVES BRWC/FOB A FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE EDUCATION ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY. OUR VOLUNTEERS BECOME CITIZEN SCIENTISTS AND THIS CREATES A WEB OF ACTIVISTS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABLE ACTION AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL.

WE WANT TO THANK LL BEAN AND ACA FOR SELECTING BRWC/FOB FOR THE CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP GRANT AND FOR HELPING TO SUPPORT THIS VITAL PROGRAM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS TOGETHER.

LANSING EARTH PROJECT

BY THE MIDDLE GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION OF WATERSHEDS

THE LANSING EARTH PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NON PROFIT, THE MIDDLE GRAND RIVER ORGANIZATION OF WATERSHEDS, AND SUPPORT FROM THE L.L. BEAN CFS GRANT PROGRAM. THIS YEAR PRESENTED UNIQUE CHALLENGES, AND DUE TO THE LOCAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND THE GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY ORDERS, OUR ORIGINALLY PROPOSED PROJECT HAD TO BE ALTERED.

STAFF AT OUR LOCAL LIVERY, RIVER TOWN ADVENTURES, CONDUCTED SEVERAL RIVER CLEAN-UPS THIS YEAR WITH SMALL GROUPS OF VOLUNTEERS. TARGETED CLEAN UP AREAS WERE MAINLY FOCUSED ON THE RED CEDAR RIVER NEAR THE CAMPUS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND ON THE GRAND RIVER IN DOWNTOWN LANSING. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO COLLABORATE WITH ANOTHER LOCAL GROUP CALLED #PICKUPLANSING AND DONATED THE USE OF OUR SUPPLIES TO THEM FOR ADDITIONAL CLEAN-UP EVENTS.

THE LANSING EARTH PROJECT IS SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF L.L. BEAN AND THE ACA. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT WE WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF OUR LOCAL RIVER AND TRAIL SYSTEMS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

VETERANS FOR CLEAN WATER: KAYAK CLEAN UP PROJECT

BY THE SAVANNAH RIVER KEEPER

THE SAVANNAH RIVER KEEPER IS GRATEFUL TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED AN ACA & L.L. BEAN CFS GRANT FOR 2020. WHILE WE ENCOUNTERED HARDSHIPS DUE TO COVID-19, WE QUICKLY ADAPTED AND CREATED NEW PROTOCOLS SO WE COULD CONDUCT OUR CLEAN UPS AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE. WITH THIS GENEROUS GRANT SUPPORT, WE WERE ABLE TO CONDUCT MULTIPLE WATERWAY CLEANUPS THAT ALSO RESULTED IN CONTNUED PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS.

WE PARTNERED WITH LOCAL NON PROFIT, VETERAN'S FOR CLEAN WATER, AS WELL AS STUDENTS FROM THE LOCAL UNIVERSITY.

BETWEEN THE END OF JULY AND MID-NOVEMBER 2020, WE HOSTED SIXTEEN (16) CLEAN UPS THAT WERE CONDUCTED WITH KAYAKS. WE HAD A TOTAL OF 116 VOLUNTEERS WHO COLLECTED AN AVERAGE OF TWENTY (20) POUNDS OF TRASH EACH, FOR A TOTAL OF 3,213 POUNDS OF TRASH COLLECTED FROM OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS.

SAVANNAH RIVERKEEPER®

It's Your River, Protect It!

Augusta, GA | Allendale, SC | Savannah, GA

SPOKANE RIVER CLEAN UP

BY THE SPOKANE RIVER FORUM

THE 2020 ACA L.L BEAN CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP GRANT SUPPORTED DOZENS OF CLEAN UP EVENTS WHICH PRODUCED EXTRAORDINARILY SUCCESSFUL RESULTS. OVER A 3-MONTH PERIOD FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 33 CLEAN-UPS TOOK PLACE. THESE RESULTED IN 9,360 LBS OF TRASH BEING COLLECTED BY 324 VOLUNTEERS DONATING 1,128.5 HOURS OF TIME. ADDITIONAL CLEAN-UPS THROUGH THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER RESULTED IN THE 2020 TRASH TOTAL EXCEEDING OVER 11,000 LBS.

TO PROVIDE THE MOST ACCESSIBLE SOCIALLY DISTANT CLEAN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS, WE OFFERED THREE CLEANUP FORMAT CHOICES:

- 5 PUBLIC CLEAN-UP DAYS, EACH FOCUSED ON A SPECIFIC RIVER AREA AND OPEN TO ALL
- PRIVATE CLEAN-UP DATES SCHEDULED BY A GROUP
- DO IT YOURSELF (DIY) CLEAN UP WHERE STAFF PROVIDE SUPPLIES AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE

THIS VARIETY OF PROGRAMMING REQUIRED OUR PARTNERS TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ON-THE-GROUND STAFF SUPPORT. ANOTHER KEY TO SUCCESS WAS OUR WELL RECEIVED WEB PAGE, REGISTRATION PROCESS, AND PROMOTION THAT LEVERAGED THE FORUM'S ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER LIST AND VERY STRONG FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOLLOWINGS.

SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER®

Spokane RIVER forum

WEST VIRGINIA TIRE RESCUE

BY THE TRASH YOUR KAYAK CLEAN UP CREW

ONE SPRING DAY IN 2016, SISTERS MICHELLE MARTIN & MELISSA HADDIX RETRIEVED A TIRE STUCK ON A TREE BRANCH FROM ONE OF THEIR FAVORITE WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS AND HAULED IT OUT ON THEIR KAYAK. EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED BY THE THOUSANDS OF TIRES AND VOLUME OF TRASH THEY ENCOUNTERED WHILE KAYAKING, THEY BEGAN COLLECTING TRASH AND TIRES EVERY TIME THEY PADDLED.

FEELING CONFIDENT THAT OTHER PADDLERS SHARED THEIR FRUSTRATION AND DESIRE TO TAKE ACTION, THEY LAUNCHED THE TRASH YOUR KAYAK CLEANUP CREW. THEY PARTNERED WITH LOCAL WATERSHED GROUPS AND THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S REHABILITATION ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN (REAP) DIVISION AND BEGAN HAVING TIRE RIVER RESCUE EVENTS AND INSPIRING & EMPOWERING PADDLERS TO PICK UP A BAG OF TRASH OR TIRE EVERY TIME THEY PADDLE.

THE CREW HAS CONTINUED TO ORGANIZE TIRE RIVER RESCUE EVENTS, BRING EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS TO OTHER ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT CLEANUPS, GROW THEIR CREW MEMBERS TO OVER 500 AND EXPAND THEIR STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS. IN JUST FOUR YEARS, THE CREW HAS RESCUED OVER 3,200 TIRES AND 4.5 TONS OF TRASH.

NOT WANTING TO LOSE MOMENTUM DUE TO LOCAL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WHICH LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS WITH REAP, IN 2020 THE GROUP SUPPLIED A NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS WITH TRASH BAGS AND EXTRA-LONG TRASH PICKERS AND STEPPED UP THE TRASH YOUR KAYAK CAMPAIGN WITH INDIVIDUAL PADDLERS. THIS EFFORT REMOVED 130 TIRES AND OVER 340 BAGS OF TRASH FROM WEST VIRGINIA WATERS.

RIVERS ALIVE PROJECT

BY THE UPPER OCONEE WATERSHED NETWORK

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, UOWT HAS PARTNERED WITH "KEEP ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY BEAUTIFUL" TO COMPLETE CLEANUPS ON THE NORTH AND MIDDLE OCONEE RIVERS. WE SECURE VOLUNTEERS THROUGH "RIVERS ALIVE," AN ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENT THAT PLACES CLEANUP TEAMS ALONG STREAMS AND RIVER CORRIDORS. THIS COMMUNITY EVENT IS PART OF A LARGER STATE WIDE CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED EVERY FALL TO CLEAN AND PRESERVE OVER 70,000 MILES OF GEORGIA RIVERS AND STREAMS.

THIS YEAR WE ORGANIZED FIVE TEAMS TO COVER APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE RIVER MILES ON BOTH SECTIONS OF THE OCONEE RIVER IN OUR COMMUNITY. KAYAKS WERE USED TO NAVIGATE TIGHT SPACES AND COLLECT TRASH FROM DOWNED TREES, WHICH ACT AS TRASH STRAINERS ON THE RIVER. CANOES WERE DEPLOYED TO HAUL THE TRASH, ESPECIALLY LARGE PIECES SUCH AS TIRES, SIGNAGE, AND OCCASIONALLY SHOPPING CARTS. BEING IN AN URBAN AREA, WE HAVE NUMEROUS HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS THAT PROVIDE SOME UNUSUALLY LARGE COLLECTIONS OF TRASH. AS WE ARE ON THE RIVER, INSTEAD OF ALONGSIDE OF IT, OUR TEAMS ARE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN REMOVING TRASH THAT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCESS FROM THE SHORE. ON AVERAGE THE RIVER'S ALIVE PROJECT REMOVES 3 TONS OF TRASH, 1 TON OF RECYCLING, AND 150 TIRES ANNUALLY. THREE HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTED THIS LOCAL EFFORT. OUR WATER TEAMS AVERAGE FIFTEEN TO TWENTY PADDLERS IN NUMBER, HOWEVER DUE TO LOCAL ORDINANCES IN PLACE GUIDING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS DURING THE PANDEMIC, OUR GROUP SIZE WAS LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVED AND SINCERELY HOPE TO EXTEND OUR EFFORTS NEXT YEAR AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE WATER.

RIVER GUARDIAN PROGRAM

BY THE WILLAMETTE RIVER KEEPER

THE RIVER GUARDIANS PROGRAM WORKS WITH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ADDRESS THIS ISSUE BY HOSTING MONTHLY “TRASHY TUESDAY” CLEAN UPS AND BY TRAINING VOLUNTEERS TO MONITOR ASSIGNED RIVER SECTIONS FOR ANY ISSUES THAT AFFECT RIVER HEALTH. MONTHLY CLEAN-UPS ARE HELD IN EUGENE, CORVALLIS, SALEM, AND PORTLAND. DUE TO COVID, THESE CLEAN-UPS WERE PUT ON HOLD FROM APRIL – JULY OF THIS YEAR. STARTING SEPTEMBER15TH WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD 6 CLEAN-UPS BETWEEN EUGENE, CORVALLIS, AND PORTLAND AND HAVE REMOVED MORE THAN ONE TON OF TRASH FROM THE RIVER.

DUE TO COVID-19 GUIDELINES PUT IN PLACE BY OUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, OUR CLEAN-UP EVENTS WERE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN 15 PEOPLE PER EVENT.

WE HAVE HOSTED 90 VOLUNTEERS FOR A TOTAL OF 270 HOURS OF WORK.

POTOMAC RIVER EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 18, 2021

BY THE GREAT FALLS FOUNDATION

COCHITI LAKE AND RIO GRANDE RIVER CLEAN UP

POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

BY KAYAK NEW MEXICO

IOWA PROJECT A.W.A.R.E.

(A WATERSHED AWARENESS RIVER EXPEDITION)

POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 11-16, 2021

BY N-COMPASS, INC.

ACCESS ON THE HARPETH RIVER

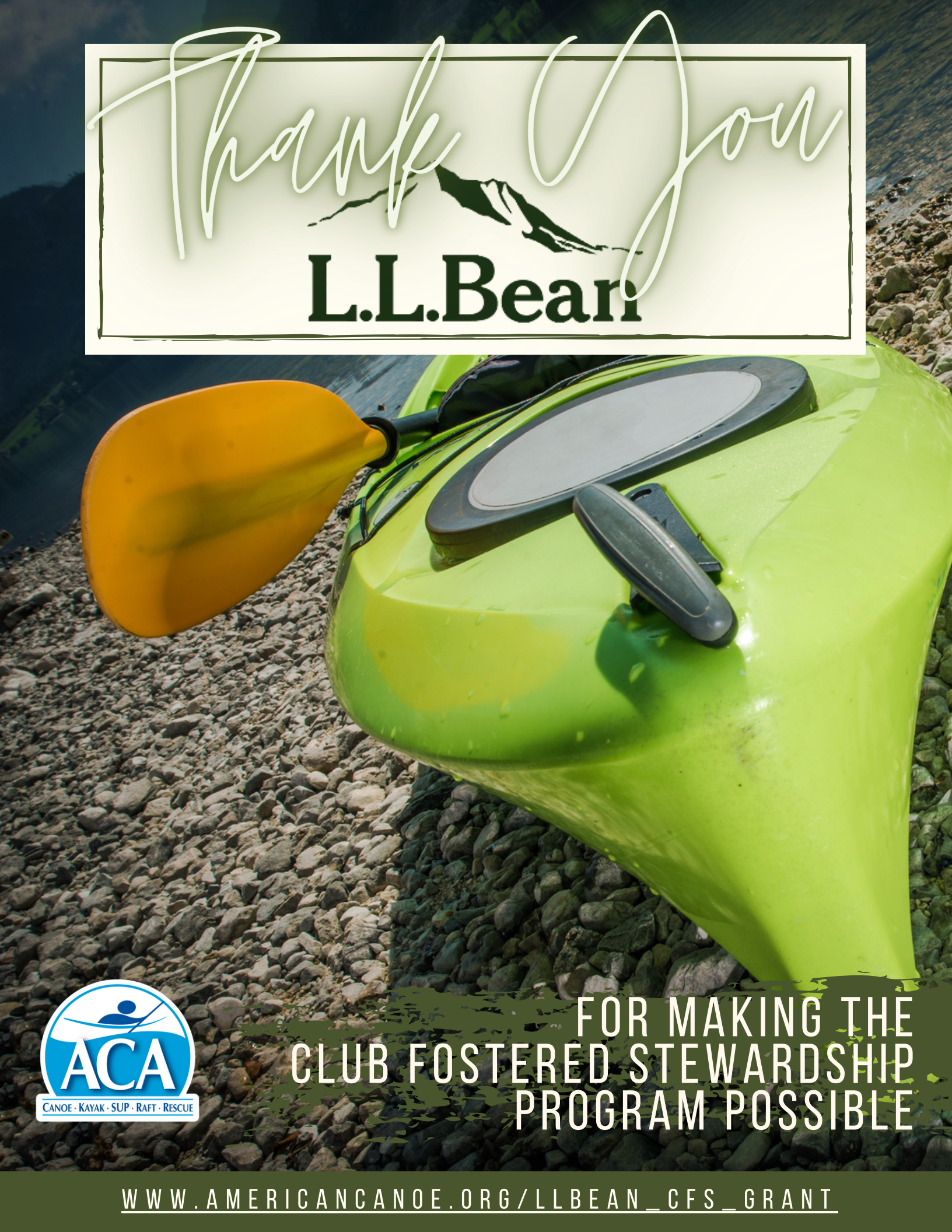
POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

BY TENNESSEE SCENIC RIVER ASSOCIATION

DOWN THE RIVER CLEAN UP

POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

BY WE LOVE CLEAN RIVERS, INC.


Thank You
L.L.Bean
ACA
CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE
FOR MAKING THE
CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM POSSIBLE
WWW.AMERICANCANOE.ORG/LLBEAN_CFS_GRANT