



Welcome back to the ACA's Monthly Newsletter!

August 2022



Search for next generation of ACA State Directors: We are excited to announce that we are looking for our next generation of State Directors and supporting team members! The State Director Program is a group of volunteer ambassadors that work together with the ACA National Office to support communities in every state. If you love paddling, are passionate about the paddling community in your state, and love to connect with other local paddlers, you should click [here](#) to see the nomination form and more information. We need you, our talented members, to support the interests of local paddling communities in every state. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at bmayer@americancanoe.org.

2021 Marge 'River Mom' Cline Memorial Grant recipient shares about his experience at the World Class Kayak Academy: Erik Bate was one of the 2021 Marge 'River Mom' Cline Memorial Grant recipients and he recently shared some of his experiences as a student of the World Class Kayak Academy. While attending this academy, Erik spent time in Ecuador, Chile, and the Western United States. While in Ecuador, he helped teach some of the local kids to kayak. When he wasn't paddling, he spent time visiting an indigenous tribe and helping them with their harvest, as well as replanting old farm fields with native trees to help reforest the Amazon. Once back at home, Erik took several kids on their first class 2 whitewater trip and worked on cleaning up the Fox River. Thank you for sharing, Erik! Marge would be proud!



Erik Bate, Marge 'River Mom' Cline Memorial Grant recipient paddling the magical Siete Tazas on the Rio Claro in Chile.

Erica Knepper joins the ACA Staff: Please join us in welcoming Erica Knepper, who will be joining the staff in the ACA's Membership Department. Born and raised in Cumberland, Maryland, Erica grew up with a great appreciation for natural resources and the opportunities they present. Previously, Erica worked in parks and recreation and natural resource management. Her career in parks and recreation has reinforced her passion for outdoor recreation and public education. When she is not working, Erica can be found volunteering her time as a Virginia Master Naturalist, as well as hiking, camping, paddle boarding, swimming, and practicing archery with her amazing daughter. Erica hopes that her knowledge base and experiences will positively impact the ACA. Welcome Erica! We are thrilled to be working alongside you!



Paddlesports Angler Endorsement and Skills Course curriculum now available: The ACA is proud to present our paddlesports angling endorsement and skills course curriculum! Enthusiasm and support for this program reboot

was made possible by ACA Tennessee – who brought together many amazing people and organizations to host the inaugural course from the new curriculum!

“Hooked on Safety: Kayak & Safety Skills for Kayak Anglers” was a course that was a year in the making!! [Tennessee State Parks](#) and [Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency](#) came on board as sponsors bringing kayaks and gear and allowing us to use the remarkable facilities at TWRA Buffalo Ridge Refuge. ACA President of the Board of Directors, Robin Pope participated in the course, joined ACA instructor Geoff Luckett, founder of Tennessee Kayak Anglers. They were joined by ACA instructors Daniel McKee, Daniel Rogers, John Michael Cassidy and Andrea White representing Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, West Tennessee Canoe & Kayak Club, Metro Nashville Parks, and [Georgia River Network](#). Big thanks to Ande Demetriou from [Blues City Kayaks](#) for huge administrative support as well. This course was the kickstart to the unrolling of [ACA's new paddlesports angling curriculum](#), which is currently available for ACA certified instructors in river kayak, coastal kayak, and SUP. Stay tuned as this program grows and expands across the nation!

Special thanks to Paddlesports Angler Curriculum authors Geoff Luckett and Donald Dehm, as well as workgroup members who contributed to the curriculum development: Jeff Atkins, Trey Rouss, Julie Munger, Byron Beers, Brent Roth, Lynne Andrus, Daniel McKee, Daniel Rogers, Ande Demetriou, and Andrea White!

Instructor of the Month: Congratulations, Debbie Briscoe, ACA's Instructor of the Month for August 2022! After more than twenty years of paddling, Debbie thought she knew all the ins and outs of Swiftwater Rescue...until she took an ACA Level 3 Instructor River Safety and Rescue Course. This sparked her teaching career and got her hooked on the feeling of accomplishment she experiences when her students improve and are excited to learn more. Debbie is a Kayaking and Safety Instructor at the Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute in Tennessee where she plays a leading role in their flatwater safety classes. Debbie is recognized as an exceptional instructor for her ability to identify and fill gaps in instruction. Thank you, Debbie, for your hard work, we know you have made a huge impact on your community. To read Debbie's entire Instructor of the Month profile, click [here](#).

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, follow [this link](#) to nominate them as a future Instructor of the Month. Not only can your favorite instructor be featured in our newsletter and on the website, but they will receive a limited-edition ACA Instructor of the Month hat!



ACA Instructor of the Month Debbie Briscoe, doing what she loves to do!

2022 Recreational Paddlers Instructor Contest - July Leaderboard: The ACA Board of Directors, Safety Education & Instruction Department, and the ACA State Directors are proud to announce the current leaders of the [2022 Instructor Contest](#) (As of July 31, 2022). Please Click [here](#) to see the contest's current standings.



August was an incredibly busy month for our athletes featuring events for Sprint, Slalom, Stand Up Paddling, and Canoe Polo! See below for a list of event highlights. Well done to all athletes competing in these events.

ICF Paracanoe World Championships and the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships: In Halifax, Canada, both the ICF Paracanoe World Championships and the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships took place August 3-7. Nevin Harrison repeated her reign as the World Champion in the C1 200m event. To catch up on the headlines and to see the rest of the results

from these exciting days of racing, click [here](#) for the Paracanoe World Championships, and [here](#) for the Canoe Sprint World Championships.



Image by: Balint Vekassy, Nevin Harrison competing in the C1 200m final at the ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships on Lake Banook in Halifax, Canada.

Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships: Shortly after the Paracanoe and Canoe Sprint World Championships, Halifax then hosted the Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships from August 10-12. Jonas Ecker and Aaron Small became the 2022 Pan American Champions in the K2 500m race. Jack Wallace also received a gold medal in the KL3 200m. More medals were earned by Miles Cross-Whiter, Nate Humberston, Jesse Lischuk, and Nate Errez who won bronze medals for the K4 500m event. Jillian Elwart also earned a bronze medal for the VL3 200m race. Jonas Ecker received a second medal for his tie for bronze in the K1 1000m race. Nice work to all our athletes who competed at the Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships!

Canoe Polo World Championships: This year, the ICF Canoe Polo World Championships were held in Saint Omer, France. Teams from all over the world competed for the men's and women's world titles from August 16-21. Germany took both available gold medals on the final day of the fourteenth ICF Canoe Polo World Championships. To see the rest of the results and to read the headlines from these exciting matches, click [here](#).

ICF Stand Up Paddling World Cup: The ICF Stand Up Paddling World Cup shared a date and location with the ICF Canoe Sprint Super Cup for the first time at RIVERSPORT in Oklahoma City. Results from the weekend's SUP

events can be found [here](#). The ICF Canoe Sprint Super Cup took place on August 26 and 27 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Super Cup featured unique 350-meter sprint events that attract both sprint and distance athletes. To see the results of this event, please click [here](#).

ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup: Also taking place August 26-28 was the 2022 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup in Pau, France. Always exciting events to watch, you check out the latest news, see the results, and watch replays [here](#).

ICF Freestyle World Championships Amendment: In July's Newsletter we missed two USA medals from the ICF Freestyle World Championships held in Nottingham, UK. Landon Miller won a gold medal in the Men's C1 Surface followed by Dane Jackson who earned his second medal by placing second in the Men's C1 Surface.



Inflation Reduction Act and what it means for us: On August 16, history was made when President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into Law. For paddlers, this is a really big deal. This bill provides \$369 billion in funding to address the climate crisis. Paddlers have all witnessed firsthand the effects of climate change on paddling. High-water years grow fewer and further between as winters get warmer. Wildfires close down sections of rivers as fire seasons turn into fire years. Lakes are being overcome by toxic algae and other pollutants. Investing in wildfire mitigation, forest management, and conservation will help protect the lakes, rivers, and oceans that we love to paddle for generations to come. This is America's biggest investment in climate action ever. Here is a breakdown of where some of this money will be going:

- \$2.6 billion is going to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for conservation of coastal and marine habitats and for helping coastal communities adapt to climate change impacts like extreme storms.
- \$2 billion is for wildfire mitigation.
- \$1 billion investment into agencies that manage public land. That means the National Parks Service, National Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management will receive additional funding for staffing, stewardship, and restoration projects that will protect public lands and advance equitable access.
- \$700 million for the Forest Legacy Program, which provides critical funding for conserving private forest lands for carbon storage, equitable recreation access, and other benefits.
- \$200 million will go toward supporting climate and other atmospheric research related to oceans and coasts.

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! You can find the latest stories and updates from the ACA at americancanoe.org/news.

Have some news to share? Please [click here](#) to submit content for consideration.

Sincerely,

ACA National Office Staff

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft -
Rescue

P.O. Box 7996

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

aca@americancanoe.org

americancanoe.org/news

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