



Welcome to the ACA's Monthly Newsletter!



Check your inboxes for an email from Lily Otu, our DEI Coordinator, for the dates of our DEI Summer Series. This series of dialogues aims to explore various topics around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Each session is designed to provide the attendees with the knowledge and opportunity to begin to build capacity around perspective taking and inclusive language. The series is open to all ACA members and is free to attend. The first course has already been filled so keep your eye out for links to register for “Perspective taking” (7/20), “Microaggressions: What are they and what can I do about them?” (8/3), and “Social Identity Development: Understanding Socialization and Liberation” (8/24). If you would like to donate to support future initiatives, you may do so [here](#).

This June we welcomed Nate Humberston to the ACA Team as our new Athlete Safety and Compliance Manager, filling the role previously held by Stanton Collins. Nate is joining us from San Diego, California with the intent of supporting the ACA in creating a safe paddling community where all members can enjoy and grow in the sport. He was first introduced to paddling through ocean lifesaving sport, beginning with surfski racing for lifeguard competitions. From there, he found his way into longer distance surfski racing and eventually landed in the sprint canoe and kayak community. Nate is a current member of the U.S. Sprint Kayak National Team, since qualifying in 2019. As a lifelong athlete and a student of French, International Relations, and Political Science, we have no doubt that Nate will make a fantastic addition to our staff and will further advance our efforts to create safe spaces for paddlesports athletes to compete. Welcome Nate, we are thrilled that you have joined our team!



Two participants from the Aqua Float, hosted by Black Women Who Kayak, enjoying the last of the evening light on Town Lake in Austin, Texas.

We are very excited about the events held on June 19 in celebration of Juneteenth by some incredible organizations. Black Women Who Kayak hosted a hugely successful Aqua Float and an on the water concert, making history with the largest diversity of people on Town Lake in Austin, Texas.

Issa Vibe Adventures held a cookout complete with hiking, meditation, African drumming, and many other activities at South Mountain State Park in North Carolina. Participants wore black in commemoration of ending slavery in the United States.

Massachusetts celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride month on the Deerfield River with a community float. In addition to the day's events, Zoar Outdoor offered discounted kayaking lessons to people identifying as LGBTQ+. Let us continue to help make room for underrepresented groups in the paddling community and offer our support to those who are creating space for themselves!



With years of rough water paddling experience and rescue practice, ACA trained kayaker Allen Hutto performed a heroic rescue of two men who fell overboard from a capsized skiff in Lake Murray, South Carolina. “All those years paddling - the courses he took to improve his strokes, to master his roll, learn rescue techniques and incident management - they paid off that day on Lake Murray.” To read the article in Paddling Magazine about Allen’s rescue, click [here](#).

ACA Level 3: Packraft Instructor Certification Workshop was a resounding success! We are very excited to have added packrafting to our list of course disciplines and are extremely proud of all our newly certified instructors! This Instructor Certification workshop was hosted by Turnagain Kayak out of Hope, Alaska. Instructor Trainers Patrick Higgins and Levi Hogan are fantastic and will be teaching another class this fall. Keep an eye out for it on the ACA's Course Calendar.



Instructors from the Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute delivered Kayaking 101 at Warriors Path State Park as part of the partnership between ACA Tennessee and Tennessee State Parks for National Safe Boating Week. Pictured from left to right: Jess Christian, Debbie Briscoe, NOLI Founder Scott Fisher, ACA Executive Director Beth Spilman, Ryan Shealy, Park Manager Sarah Leedy. Photo credit: John Shramlin.

The partnership between ACA Tennessee and Tennessee State Parks as part of National Safe Boating Week was a huge success! ACA Tennessee partnered with Tennessee State Parks to offer 12 simultaneous Kayaking 101 training events statewide on May 21 as part of National Safe Boating Week. The classes were held at 12 different state parks, emphasizing access to the 5 largest urban centers and the State Parks with the most popular paddling destinations. ACA certified instructors from across Tennessee volunteered a day of their time to work in collaboration with State Park Rangers, delivering affordable training to the public at a cost of only \$15 (to benefit State Parks) for training that would normally be priced between \$50-\$100. Tennessee State Parks also made free kayak and gear rentals available at most of the training events. Partnerships like this are instrumental in informing the public about safe boating practices, nice work ACA Tennessee and Tennessee State Parks!



June's Instructor of the Month, Laura Zulliger (left) teaching an ACA Open Water Kayaking Course off of the coast of California.

Laura Zulliger's name might sound familiar from her recent recognition by the ACA California Chapter as one of their annual Paddle Heroes award winners for Leadership in Instruction. We are honoring Laura again as June's Instructor of the Month for her passionate work to develop safe, inclusive, and joyous paddling communities, as well as for the steps she has taken to help shatter the glass ceiling for women hoping to paddle and teach at the highest level of their disciplines. To see Laura's full Instructor of the Month profile and learn more about her journey to becoming one of a handful of Level 5 ACA Instructors who are women, 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!



The 2022 World Waveski Surfing Titles are coming to the United States for the first time in 36 years! On November 7-13, Ventura, California will be hosting this exciting event that showcases the world's best waveski surfers. If you aren't familiar with waveski surfing, it is a dynamic sport that combines the paddle power of a sit on top kayak with the maneuverability and performance of a surfboard. To learn more about this event and waveski surfing in the United States, please click [here](#).



Evy Leibfarth competing in the 2022 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup Ljubljana-Tacen, Image Credit: canoephoto.com / Balint Vekassy (ICF)

The Canoe Slalom World Cups 1, 2, and 3 took place this month. [ICF CSL World Cup 1](#) was held in Prague, Czech Republic June 10-12; [ICF CSL World Cup 2](#) in Krakow, Poland June 17-19; and [ICF CSL World Cup 3](#) in Ljubljana-Tacen, Slovenia June 24-26. Click on each event to see the results and congratulations to all the athletes who competed!

Evy Leibfarth placed second in the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup in Ljubljana-Tacen last weekend in Women's Canoe Slalom. Her finishing time was 98.27 seconds, only 1.75 seconds behind England's Mallory Franklin. Evy also secured a fourth place finish in Women's Kayak Slalom the day before. This is the best U.S. finish at a World Cup in a long time. Big congratulations to Evy, whose hard work paid off in her impressive performance last weekend.



The ACA and Outdoor Alliance urge you to ask your lawmakers to protect public lands and outdoor recreation. Outdoor Alliance has been working on a big public lands and recreation package that we hope to see passed by the end of the year. The 2022 Public Lands Package could protect more than 5.1 million acres of land and more than 6,000 river miles. Currently, there are fifteen bills to protect public lands and waters across eight states: California, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Minnesota, Montana, and Arizona. Read on to learn more about the places that could be protected [here](#), and then take less than two minutes to [send a letter to Congress](#) to pass public land protections.

Our friends at American Whitewater have had a busy June full of successful efforts to protect American waterways. "On June 8, the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing on two Wild and Scenic River bills that would permanently protect over 830 river miles in New Mexico and Montana. This hearing was a critical milestone for these bills and moved them closer to the President's Desk and being signed into law. On June 14, Colorado's Water Quality Control Commission voted 7-1 to protect 520 miles on 25 streams across Southwest Colorado, adopting the first proposal of its kind." On the year of the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, AW was able to "uphold California's clean water certification for the Don Pedro and La Grange Hydropower Projects located on the Tuolumne River."

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