



@@first\_name@@,

The ACA National Office is serving up the latest paddlesports news! To find the content that matters to you most, use the guide below.

- **Forward Strokes** brings you exciting news from the NASBLA Annual Conference and a great opportunity from the RAC on how to be a more effective paddler advocate.
- **Making Waves** shares several opportunities to make a positive impact for paddlers everywhere through volunteerism and award recognition.
- **Bringing Home the Gold** delivers updates from the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships and news about upcoming international events being hosted next month in the USA!
- **Safety Talk** announces our newest ACA Instructor of the Month and upcoming opportunities to self-nominate for ACA Discipline Committees, At-Large, and International Representatives.



**Brett Mayer, ACA Policy & Stewardship Director delivered three different presentations at the 2023 NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) Annual Conference** in Denver, Colorado this September 19-22. These presentations outlined the ACA's commitment to recreational paddling and safety education while sharing a vision of collaboration with NASBLA. This included a partnership to expand the number of states we work with during National Safe Boating Week and demonstrated the value of our on-water skills curriculums through a poolside demonstration.

Brett ended his time in Denver by signing an MOU with NASBLA on behalf of the ACA. "I am honored to represent the ACA and our Policy Advisory Committee. We all worked hard over the past several months to clarify policy objectives and chart a new path forward," stated Brett. "We have lots of important work to do. I look forward to continued progress, and again thank you for the efforts from the ACA Board and Staff to accomplish this important goal!"



*ACA Policy & Stewardship Director Brett Mayer presenting at the 2023 NASBLA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado*

The ACA Regional Activity Council invites you to attend a Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Session on Paddler Advocacy! This training will be hosted on October 10 at 7pm Eastern via zoom. In 2023, members of the ACA Board of Directors, members of the SEIC, and members of the RAC were all involved in delivering paddler testimony in legislative and regulatory issues of interest to paddlers in multiple states across the country. More legislative and regulatory issues related to paddlers, rivers, and access to public waterways are coming in 2024 and we want you to have the tools you need to be a confident paddler advocate within your state.

This 1-hour learning session will provide some foundational knowledge about how to be an effective citizen advocate when an issue arises in your area. This is an opportunity to learn from guest speaker Beth Joslin Roth, Career Legislative Staff Member with the Tennessee General Assembly. Attendees will learn the basics of:

- State Legislature 101 -- how does it work
- Where are the key moments in the process when citizen advocates can have the most influence
- How to rally the troops on issues you care about and be most effective
- Effective communication with legislative staff and legislators
- The strategic differences in being proactive versus being reactive Join the

Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87654064995?pwd=eFdBMXEzQIZLRlovMW5XQzZGVjdGUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 5406 4995

Passcode: 100251



**Time is running out to submit nominations for the 2023 National Awards!** Each year, the ACA presents a series of prestigious national awards to individuals and organizations who have illustrated exemplary leadership, service, and dedication to various aspects of paddlesports.



**Excellence in Instruction**  
Presented to an ACA member for his or her outstanding contribution to paddlesports education and instruction.

**Sanctioned Event of the Year**  
Presented to the top ACA sanctioned event as nominated by the paddling public.

**Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation**  
Presented annually to an individual or a group that has made an outstanding contribution to paddlesports by protecting America's waterways.

**Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year**  
Presented to one or more volunteers each year for extraordinary service at the local, regional or national level.

**J. Henry Rushton for Organizational Excellence**  
Presented annually to an organization or other group for outstanding achievements in advancing paddlesports and the mission of the ACA.

**Havens Leadership Award**  
The Havens Leadership Award rewards individuals whose practices and behaviors best serve the interests and success of USA paddlesports athletes.

**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.

[Submit Nomination](#)

**The ACA is seeking nominees to serve on our Board of Directors.** At the most basic level, ACA's goal is to grow the paddling community by helping paddlers have more fun on the water. Our members are spread across the United States and more than 30 countries worldwide. Board members have the privilege of supporting our members and the paddling community, while setting the organization's overall direction. This is an incredible opportunity to make a positive impact for all paddlers.

We ask that you please submit your nominations by October 6, 2023, to [feedback@americancanoe.org](mailto:feedback@americancanoe.org). Voting will open on November 6, 2023 and results will be announced by December 4, 2023.

**The [International Whitewater Hall Of Fame \(IWHOF\)](#)** was established to honor the pioneers, explorers, advocates, and champions who helped to form and protect the sport and waterways we cherish. They are excited to honor these legends in 2023: Pioneer – Bryce Whitmore (USA); Explorer – Mike Jones (UK); Champions – Jamie McEwan (USA), Manfred Vogt (DE); Advocates – Isamu Tatsuno (JPN), Peter Skinner (USA).

Help celebrate these legends of whitewater by donating to the fundraiser, organized by the IWHOF Board of Governors!





*Courtesy of The Paddlesports Show from the 2023 IWHOF Induction Ceremony in Strasbourg, France on September 28, 2023.*

[Donate to the IWHOF Fundraiser](#)



**Twelve American athletes represented the United States last week at the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships** in Lee Valley, Great Britain. Athletes qualified their spots at Team Selections hosted by RIVERSPORT in OKC back in April and prepared for the event by competing in World Cups throughout the summer as well as training at the Lee Valley Whitewater Centre, which was built for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Athletes were competing for the title of “best in the world”, but they were also qualifying all important Olympic quota spots for the 2024 Paris Games. Well done to Evy and Casey for securing the U.S. Olympic quotas for both Women’s and Men’s Canoe!

The U.S. will have the opportunity to qualify men’s and women’s kayak and kayak cross quotas next spring at the Continental Qualifier in Brazil. Stay tuned as these athletes continue to work hard throughout the winter in preparation.



*Photo Credit: Justin Setterfield / Getty Images*

*Athlete: Casey Eichfeld*

[More on the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships](#)

**The 2023 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships** will bring the best freestyle paddlers from around the world to Columbus, Georgia this October 9-14! We would love to see as much support for these athletes as we can get. Head to GOODWAVE in Columbus to support the USA Freestyle Kayak National Team and watch them throw huge tricks with the best of them.

**The 2023 ICF SUP World Cup** begins in two weeks! Nathan Benderson Park, in Sarasota Florida will be hosting this World Cup. A Stroke Technique Clinic with Seychelle, world class paddler, coach, and founder of SUP Stroke School, will kick off the long weekend on Thursday, October 12. The official 2023 SUP World Cup – Sarasota, FL will take place over the following three days. If you are looking to try your hand at racing but aren't ready to compete at the World Cup level, there will also be a Recreational 5K SUP Race & Costume Contest taking place on the course on Saturday, October 14! We hope to see you and your SUP there!





[More Information & Registration](#)



**Congratulations, Kira Tenney, ACA Instructor of the Month for September 2023!** Kira doesn't simply teach kayaking. She teaches her students to be compassionate individuals united by their love of rivers. Kira has been teaching kayaking for almost two decades and is currently in the process of becoming an ACA Instructor Trainer. She most often teaches for [Ríos to Rivers](#), an incredible organization whose mission is to inspire the protection of rivers worldwide by investing in underserved and indigenous youth who are intimately connected to their local waters and supports them in the development as the next generation of environmental stewards. We are honoring Kira for her understanding that environmental stewardship and activism must be part of kayaking and instruction.

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, [nominate them as future Instructor of the Month!](#)



*Kira and the crew taking a break during some full days of kayak instruction for River Guides of Panbang with the support of the Bhutan Foundation and Tourism Council of Bhutan.*

[Read Kira's Complete Instructor of the Month Feature](#)

**Self-nominations for ACA Discipline Committees, At-Large, and International Representatives will be accepted from October 1 - October 23!** More information on the available positions and the guidelines for nomination can be found on the ACA Website.

[Learn More](#)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! You can find the latest stories and updates on the [ACA Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)!

Have some news to share? We encourage you to submit your content for consideration using this [Content Submission Form](#).

Sincerely,

Kaycee Maas, Communications Coordinator

ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue

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