



Serving paddlers since 1880



Spring is in the air and the paddling season is beginning to ramp up. While between paddling trips, we hope you are able to enjoy the latest edition of the ACA's Monthly Membership Newsletter!

This month, we are excited to highlight some inspiring paddler advocacy and stewardship, grant recipient announcements, the beginning of canoe slalom & kayak cross racing, and ACA Instructor of the Month and Pro School features!



Western North Carolina Paddlers Lead River Restoration Efforts After Hurricane Helene

Six months after Hurricane Helene's devastating floods, paddlers in Western North Carolina are leading the efforts to restore the region's waterways. MountainTrue has removed 286,000 pounds of trash and debris from their local rivers and streams—often one raft at a time. In a collaboration effort between paddlers, outfitters, and the U.S. Forest Service, Stackhouse Boat Launch, a key whitewater access point, has been reopened for commercial and public use. But there's still work to do!

Want to get involved? Learn more about the ongoing efforts and how you can help!



Colorado Stream Access Coalition: Advocating for Clear, Legal Rights to Access Colorado's Rivers and Streams for Responsible Outdoor Recreation



Despite Colorado being the most popular destination for river recreation in the country, they have some of the worst public access laws in the west. The Colorado Stream Access Coalition believes that there is a path forward to ensure that outdoor recreation on Colorado's rivers can be enjoyed by all while ensuring that private landowner and water rights are protected.

Under federal law, states own the beds of navigable waterways, holding them in trust for public use, including fishing, floating, and recreation. But Colorado has failed to uphold this trust. In fact, the state has consistently undermined public rights to access navigable waters, even denying their navigable status outright.

For non-navigable waterways, the situation is even more restrictive. A 1979 Colorado Supreme Court ruling declared that the public has no right to use waters flowing over private land for recreational purposes without landowner consent. This decision disregards the Colorado Constitution, which declares that all natural streams are "the property of the public." Justice Carrigan, dissenting in the case, argued passionately that our waterways were dedicated to the use and enjoyment of all people—not just the select few who own land along their banks.

[Learn More & Sign the Petition for Colorado Stream Access](#)



Announcing the 2025 L.L.Bean Club Fostered Community Grant Recipients

In partnership with L.L.Bean, we are thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2025 Club Fostered Community (CFC) Grants. These outstanding organizations have been selected for their dedication to increasing access, inclusivity, and engagement in paddlesports. Through their innovative programs, they will inspire new paddlers, foster community connections, and promote stewardship of our waterways.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all recipients and look forward to seeing the incredible impact of these projects. Thank you to L.L.Bean for their generous support in making paddlesports more accessible and inclusive for all!

[Read More](#)

Announcing the 2025 Recipients of the Marge Cline Memorial Grant

We are proud to announce the two outstanding recipients of the 2025 Marge Cline Memorial Grant. This grant honors the legacy of Marge Cline by supporting programs that promote youth paddling programs in the Midwest. This year's recipients, the Symons Recreation Complex and the Crossroads of America Council, Scouting America, exemplify Marge Cline's passion for fostering paddlesports within their communities.



Voyageur Canoe Training Program / Image Credit: Crossroads of America Council, Scouting America

[Read More](#)



Paddling Action Heats Up at OKC RIVERSPORT for the Second Weekend of U.S. Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Team Trials 2025 Pan American Championships Results

After an exhilarating first weekend of racing at the 2025 Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Pan American Championships in Montgomery, Alabama, the paddling community now turns its attention to OKC RIVERSPORT, where the second weekend of the U.S. Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Team Trials and ICF Ranking Race will take place from March 28-30. From March 21-23, top athletes from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela competed at Montgomery Whitewater, vying for the title of Pan American Champion. With stunning weather and top-tier performances, the event provided an incredible showcase of paddling talent.

As the competition shifts to Oklahoma City, athletes will continue their battle for a place on the U.S. Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Team. The ICF Ranking Race adds an extra layer of intensity, as paddlers vie for international recognition and crucial ranking points.

Pan American results and more information on this weekend's competition can be found on the ACA website. Attending an event in person and wondering how to cheer for your favorite athlete? Get professional coaching on how to be a world-class canoe slalom spectator on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!

[Read More](#)

New Video from U.S. Performance Center!

U.S. Performance Center is proud to partner with ACA in supporting athletes and advancing sports excellence. Watch their latest video to learn more about their mission. Featured in the video is 4x Olympian Casey Eichfeld, highlighting his journey and dedication to the sport.



Stay Connected with USPC! Get the latest on events, athlete exclusives, and behind-the-scenes action at the United States Performance Center. Sign up for our newsletter for training insights, community activations, and major sporting events coming to Charlotte!

[Subscribe Now and Join the USPC Community!](#)



Instructor of the Month: Wolf Albury

Congratulations to Wolf Albury, ACA Instructor of the Month for March 2025! Wolf's journey into sea kayaking began under the guidance of the late, great Russell Farrow of Sweetwater Kayaks in St. Petersburg, Florida. What started as an introduction to the sport quickly evolved into a passion, with kayaking becoming a form of therapy and a way to deeply connect with nature. As an ACA Coastal Kayaking Instructor, Wolf primarily teaches beginners and those who have never received formal instruction. His passion lies in making

paddlesports accessible to individuals who may otherwise have limited opportunities to experience them.

Based in Nassau, Bahamas, Wolf teaches at Bonefish Pond National Park, a stunning natural setting that serves as both a classroom and an inspiration for new paddlers. Through his dedication, Wolf Albury is not just teaching paddling techniques—he is opening doors to adventure, connection, and confidence for a new generation of kayakers!



Instructor of the Month, Wolf Albury

[Read More](#)

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

ACA Pro School Feature: Paddle-N-More

We are thrilled to welcome Paddle-N-More to the distinguished group of ACA Pro Schools! Located in the heart of New York's Finger Lakes region, Paddle-N-More brings a wealth of experience and passion to paddlesports education, setting the standard for safety, leadership, and skill development on the beautiful waters of Cayuga Lake.



Paddle-N-More strengthens the paddlesports community by enhancing introductory lessons and advancing leadership programs through the ACA Instructor Development and Certification (IDW/ICE) program, as well as expanded trip leader and guide training. What sets them apart is their ability to create engaging, high-quality programs that inspire participation. From our youth leadership development programs to structured lessons, we help paddlers build confidence, skills, and leadership. Over the past 14 years, many employees have returned to earn their ACA credential, and counselors-in-training see certification as a pathway to becoming strong counselors and leaders.

As an ACA Pro School, Paddle-N-More sets the standard for safety, leadership, and skill development. Each year, they train more than 40 employees through the ACA curriculum, with key leaders earning instructor certification to ensure a consistent, high-quality paddling experience across our rental program and youth camps. Paddle-N-More programming will start up for the 2025 season this May!

[Read More](#)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest stories and updates!

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

Sincerely,

Kaycee Maas, Communications Manager

American Canoe Association

P.O. Box 7996

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

americancanoe.org

If you wish to stop receiving mail from us, you may simply remove yourself by visiting: @@unsubscribe_url@@