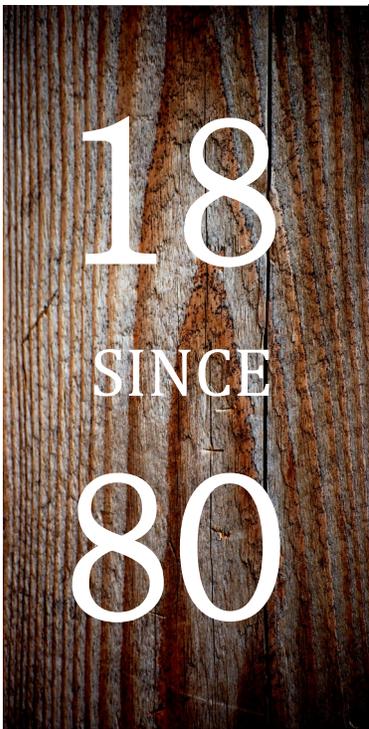


2012 CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP GRANT REPORT



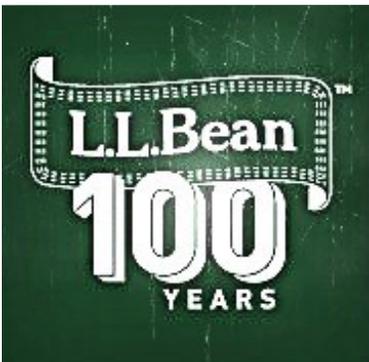
Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L.Bean to provide the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Grant Program to local paddling clubs and watershed organizations that are working to protect and preserve their local waterways!

for L.L.Bean's 100th!

By inspiring people to explore their outdoors with quality products, demonstrating a corporate commitment to a sustainable future, and by funding initiatives like the Club Fostered Stewardship Grant Program, L.L.Bean upholds the values and environmental commitments that are reflected in the paddling community.

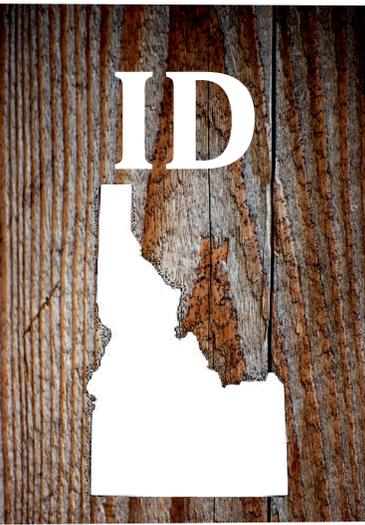
This year is a momentous one for many reasons. 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of L.L.Bean, as well as the 10th anniversary of our partnership together! To celebrate and honor L.L.Bean's contributions to promoting stewardship in the areas that we love to paddle, the ACA's CFS Program has officially funded 100 projects across the country

The ACA is proud to have L.L.Bean as a partner and to continue the legacy of fostering future generations of waterway stewards!



Alzar School

Building tomorrow's outdoor leaders



The Alzar School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been fortunate enough to acquire a 102-acre site on the North Fork of the Payette River. This site, with over 1.3 miles of river frontage, will serve as the school's campus for generations of young leaders. The school offers semester-long leadership training programs for students in 10th and 11th grade, with an emphasis on outdoor adventure sports (such as paddling!) and environmental stewardship.

The campus had previously been the site of cattle grazing for decades. While much of the property is wooded with strong populations of native plants such as Ponderosa pines, Quaking aspens, and sage brush, most of the trees are relatively young. Due to the grazing activity, the river bank on campus had been greatly deteriorated by cattle eating native riparian plants and trampling the river's edge.

Alzar's campus sits approximately 2.5 miles downstream of Kelly's Whitewater Park. The section of river is popular for trout fishing, and increasingly more users are canoeing the 8-mile flatwater run between the whitewater park and the Cabarton put-in (the Cabarton is a local Class II-III section). Throughout the year, elk, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, beaver, osprey, owls, and other wildlife call the campus home.





Recipient of this year's ACA CFS Grant, the Alzar School used the funds provided by the ACA and L.L.Bean to begin replanting the riverbank. The funds from the ACA and L.L.Bean helped purchase over 150 native plants from local nurseries, including Ponderosa Pines, Douglas Firs, and Water Birch. Additionally, this past fall, another Idaho nursery had donated over 300 Quaking aspens.

To help get all these plants in the ground, the Alzar School recruited volunteers from its Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, and networks of supporters. In addition, the Boise High Earth! Club sent hardworking volunteers, and the Idaho Fish and Game supplied an experienced river restoration crew and all the tools. In total, over 30 people worked for 8 hours. The group focused on the upstream third of river bank, the area most degraded by grazing.

The planting on Earth Day, April 21st, was just the first step in the Alzar School's goal of completely restoring the river bank on campus. After the planting, the school immediately constructed a brand new fence to keep neighboring ranches' cows out of this section of river. It is also currently a finalist for a large grant from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, which would supply even more plantings and supplies. Watch for continued improvements on the North Fork of the Payette!



Great River Paddlers Club

The Great River Paddlers Club and the City of Prairie du Chien received a CFS grant to revitalize the Washington Street Park as part of a local Waterfront Plan. The funds will be leveraged along with other grants and sources of funding to construct a canoe and kayak dock and storage facility on Marais de Saint Feriole, the Mississippi River clough between St. Feriole Island and the mainland.



Overall project costs to improve access to the Mississippi River at this site is an estimated \$133,000. The project is designed to minimize the impact on the scenic quality and ecological integrity of the area, while implementing a simple, elegant design for low-maintenance and long-lasting enhancement to the area. Key objectives of the Washington Street Park enhancements are to increase outdoor recreation opportunities, both on and off the water, by increasing access through trails, docks, amenities, and ramps to make facilities wheelchair accessible.

by L.L.Bean,” said Aaron Kramer, Prairie du Chien City Administrator. “In addition to the work at Washington Park, we are excited to be adding a canoe and kayak launching area at the Campion Street Boat Landing in 2012.”

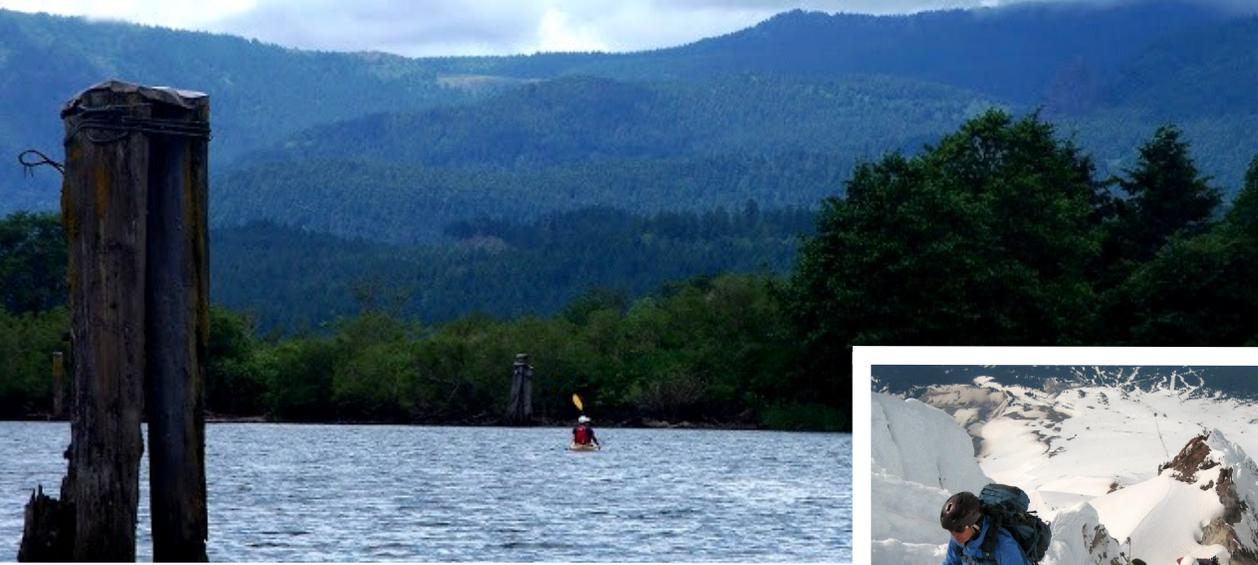
Currently awaiting tentatively approved DNR funding, the project’s amended construction date is slated to begin in 2013. Mike Ulrich, Parks and Recreation Director, added “that because of your generous initial support we were also able to enlist [other supporters] to assist us in Fundraising up to \$50,000 for the Washington St. project!” The ACA is proud to be able to work with L.L.Bean to provide small grants that can clearly have such a huge impact!

“We sincerely appreciate the donation from the ACA and their CFS program sponsored





Oregon Ocean Paddling Society



The [Oregon Ocean Paddling Society](#) (OOPS) is "the Premier kayaking club of the northwest" that offers high quality trips and classes to all levels of paddlers with an emphasis on safety and promoting good on-water stewardship.

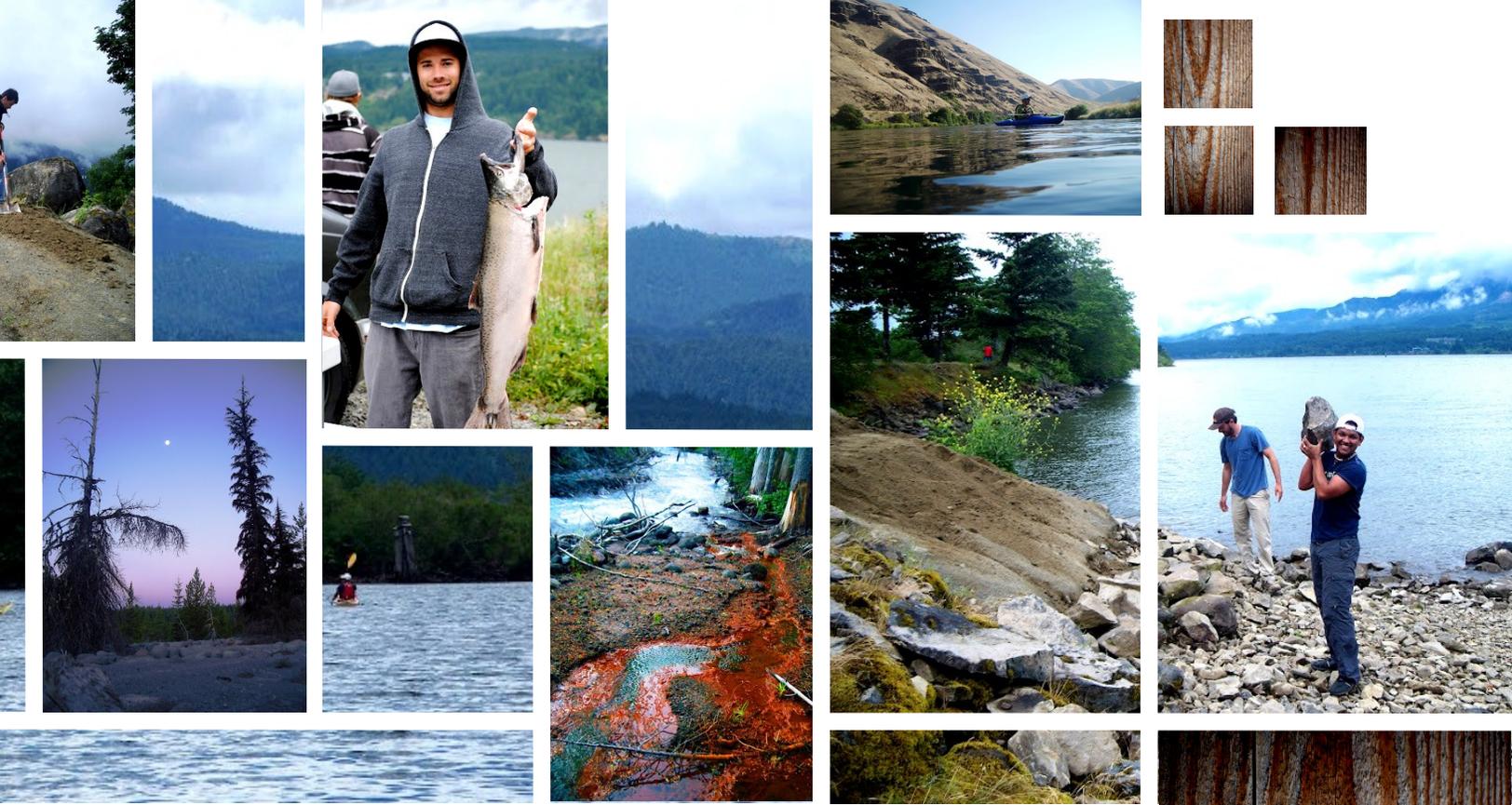
This year OOPS, in conjunction with SOLVE, has partnered with the BeachWalk Project (BWP) to organize the Oregon Waters and People from Summit to Sea initiative, which seeks to build a strong awareness of the human connection and dependence to water by celebrating the Native American presence on Oregon waters for over 10,000 years.

During a trip following the water from Oregon's highest mountain (Mt. Hood), down the class III/IV rapids of the White and the Deschutes Rivers, the Columbia River Gorge (the Northwest's largest river), and along the entire Oregon Coast, the OOPS team of paddlers will be hosting river and beach cleanups, presentations, and community paddles along the way.

Legs of the Summit to Sea trip will continue into the fall. Mt. Hood and the White Glacier were descended in May; the remote White River was completed in July; and the Deschutes River was completed the first week in August. As the team enters the Columbia River the pace will pick up quickly for nearly 200 miles before reaching the coast, in Astoria. The team will then take a turn south, past the 'Graveyard of the Pacific' and down to Brookings, Oregon, near the border of California. The team invites any ACA or L.L.Bean members to join them along the way.

"We are all connected to water," says Bob Weinman, coordinator of Summit to Sea. "We want to connect children and communities with their watersheds by sharing the stories and traditions from local tribal members whose people have lived here for over ten thousand years."





On June 2nd, more than 20 volunteers from OOPS; different watersports clubs; as well as natural resource students from Mexico, Nicaragua, and El Salvador; came together to help the Summit to Sea team restore a windsurf and kayak launch in the Cascade Locks. Volunteers also worked to clear invasive plants, groom a canoe/kayak/SUP launch for a beginner area in a sheltered cove, and build a ramp for a local mountain bike trail. Afterwards, the international students were taken on the first paddling trip of their lives, where they ate fresh salmon that was caught in the waters they had just paddled.

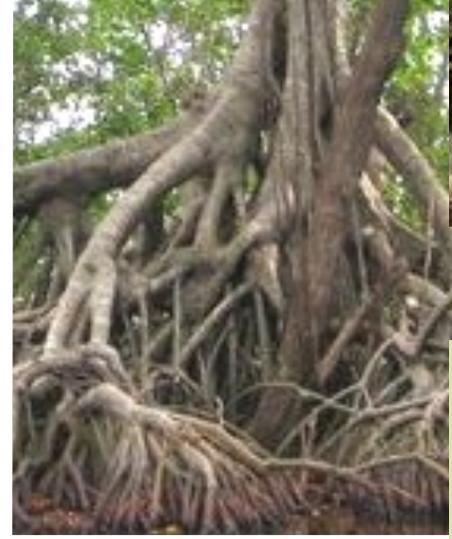
OOPS used their funds to purchase their own tools for the project and so that they can do future stewardship initiatives. They also acquired a portable shelter to help accommodate volunteers during the unpredictable weather that is so typical of the Oregon region. The portable shelter tent will be used for organizing future restoration events, including additional work at Cascade

Locks and a cleanup along the southern coast in Port Orford on September 22nd.

The work done at Cascade Locks was only made possible because of funding from the ACA/L.L.Bean CFS Grant Program, and it has stimulated additional work in the area. In late July, Mt. Hood Community College coordinated a youth work crew of 9 students to volunteer for the first time in the area. Over the course of three days, they were able to complete a lot of the projects started in early June. These efforts have also encouraged the Port of Cascade Locks to collaborate more with the community college and local watersports clubs for future funding and work that will benefit recreation and the environmental integrity of the region.



Florida Paddling Trails Association



The Florida Paddling Trails Association (FPTA) is a state-wide association of paddlers, clubs, outfitters, and other water trail supporters. Their mission is to develop water trails and protect the environments along them. To achieve this mission, FPTA offers environmental training to paddlers, promotes water conservation to preserve their spring-fed waterways, and conducts cleanups throughout the state.

FPTA applied for a 2012 CFS Grant to help support their mission by purchasing cleanup supplies, trail signage, and the promotional materials to supplement their environmental campaigns.

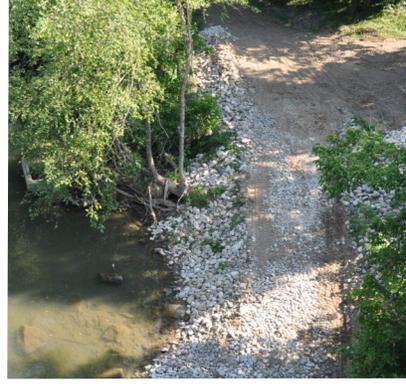
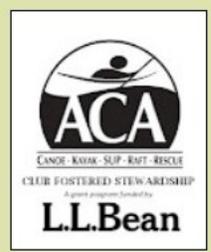
FPTA will provide the ACA with an updated report at the end of the year outlining all volunteer initiatives and events that used ACA/ L.L.Bean CFS funds. However, Hank Brooks, former Safety Harbor resident, updated us on one of FPTA's recent efforts to help the Manatee County Natural Resources Department cleanup Frog Creek.

Upon arrival, Hank said, "I wasn't quite sure what to expect from this group. The collection of eleven boats showed a wide variety of paddling types with everything from sit-on-tops, small recreational boats (6 feet long), a tandem boat, a canoe and several full blown sea kayaks ... As we paddled along the creek the small kayaks would often stop and then dart into the mangrove roots to fish out some trash which I hadn't even seen. From what I had initially considered a fairly clean creek, in three hours we managed to get about five bags of trash including a tire and an old, unmarked crab trap. I remarked to the group that they were the 'trashiest paddlers' I knew."

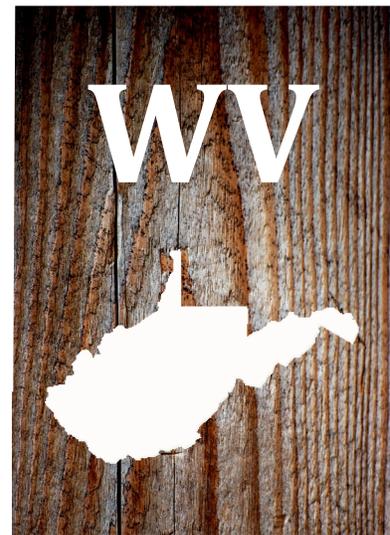
The ACA and L.L.Bean are Trail Guardians within the FPTA's partners. The ACA is proud to partner with such an active group that is so passionate about the health and preservation of Florida's waters.



Coal River Group



- CRG News:**
- ★ **300+ Tires removed from the Big Coal!**
June 25, 2012
[Read More >>](#)
 - ★ **Big Coal Tire Cleanup - June 23**
June 19, 2012
[Read More >>](#)
 - ★ **Tour de Coal sets record numbers!**
June 18, 2012



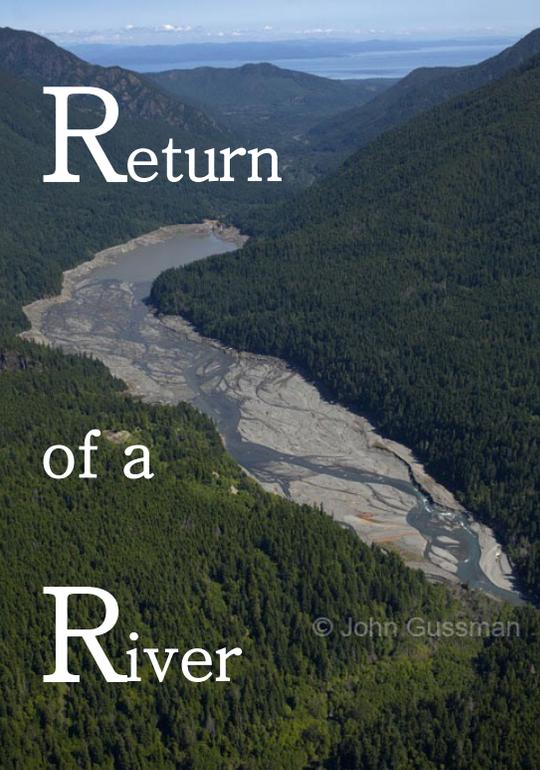
The Coal River Group (CRG) used CFS grant funds to construct a new public access boat launch site on the Coal River Water Trail at Meadowood Park in Tornado, WV. Located just above a dam and the rocky drop called Upper Falls, this public access site allows paddlers and anglers to exit safely before the dam, portage their boats, and re-enter below the falls to continue downriver. The site consists of a parking area and ramp to the water.

The construction of the boat launch involved clearing a slope from the existing park road down to the river at a grade suitable for lowering boats into the water. CRG then added rock and boulder material to the riverbanks to prevent erosion and stabilize the hillside.

The CFS grant made this public access point a reality. Grant funds were used to purchase the rock material, to rent the excavation equipment, and to obtain signage for the public access point. The construction of the entire project was completed by volunteers and with help from the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office.

“The addition of this new boat launch site is a major accomplishment that could not have been achieved without the generous support of the ACA and L.L.Bean’s CFS Grant Program. We thank you again for helping us make our Coal River Water Trail a safer and better place to recreate,” said Bill Curry, Chairman of the Coal River Group.





Return

of a

River

© John Gussman



John Gussman

10-4-2010



7-5-2012



9-30-2010

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7-5-2012

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The removal of the Elwha Dam is a pivotal story not only in the Pacific Northwest. It is the largest dam removal project in the history of our country. *Return of a River* is a documentary that explores the tenacity of the people and the fish who would not give up on a river in the years leading up to the dam removal. It addresses environmental justice issues that resonate far beyond the Pacific Northwest, and in a world of grim news about the environment, the Elwha River is one of those success stories that fills one with hope. *Return of a River* is a story with global ramifications, exploring the complex relationship between people and the land they call home.

The Elwha River is the ancestral home of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, who witnessed firsthand the effects of the 108-foot high dam on the river and all life that depended upon it. Build without fish ladders, the Elwha dam, which began

construction in 1910, served as completely impenetrable barrier to fish migrations. For the first time in over 100 years, due to the tireless work of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, countless activists and conservation organizations, the salmon run has been restored on the Elwha.

John Gussman has been a professional photographer for almost 40 years and was drawn to this project for a number of reasons. He lives in Sequim, and has spent the last 33 years hiking, camping, fishing, and photographing the beautiful Olympic Peninsula.

“I have always felt a special spiritual connection to this area and to the Elwha Valley in particular. When the dam removal was finally scheduled, I saw the opportunity to document this once-in-a-lifetime event and to witness the healing of this special place and the people who share this land.”



© John Gussman

8-30-2010



© John Gussman

6-20-2012



Jessica Plumb, the producer and chief editor of the film, came to live on the Olympic Peninsula a decade ago, leaving behind a career in Boston and Beijing. Plumb is a filmmaker and writer whose work focuses on the relationship between people and the places they call home.

Beginning in early 2010, Gussman started devoting most of his time to documenting as much of this ongoing process as possible. With the help and cooperation of many individuals, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, National Park Service, US Bureau of Reclamation, Coastal Watershed Institute, NOAA, USGS, WDNR and other government and non-profit agencies, Gussman has been shooting stock footage, interviewing people, and capturing significant events for years.

Gussman plans to continue filming this project beyond the completion of *Return of the River*, documenting the Elwha River restoration effort until at least 2014 to capture the dam removals, restoration, and the return of the first salmon.

“I am so excited that the ACA has provided me with this grant to help in the final production of my film,” says Gussman. “It is such a great feeling to know you are not alone in the fight to help save our natural environment, and it takes many voices to make a change.”

[Watch the trailer or videos about the Elwha Dam removal here.](#)



Paddle Without Pollution



“Low Impact, Big Results.” That’s the slogan for this Pennsylvania-based non-profit working to protect and restore the health of rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands through hands-on stewardship and education. Almost exclusively using non-motorized boats in their efforts, Paddle Without Pollution (PWP) utilizes volunteers of all paddling abilities to paddle into ecologically sensitive or shallow areas and clean waters that can’t typically be reached by motorized boat or land-based cleanups.

Founded in September of 2011, PWP set an ambitious 2012 campaign, “Bridges Over Troubled Waters,” filled with cleanups and stewardship initiatives to educate and raise awareness about the issues that plague our water’s health.

So far, PWP has held eight watershed cleanups that, with the help of more than 450 paddlers and volunteers, have removed more than 27,000 pounds of trash from Pennsylvania’s rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams.

Operation North Branch was PWP’s largest event. In response to requests from the North Branch Land Trust for advice on how to deal with the trash and other debris from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that was littering the Susquehanna River, PWP organized the event in partnership of six organizations. On June 29th and 30th, 120 volunteers removed 3.96 tons of trash, 159 tires, and 2.15 tons of scrap metal from the river over the course of 26 miles.

“We’re direct action. We see a problem, and we go after it. That’s how we get things done,” said David Rohm, President of PWP.

Although the summer may be close to over, PWP’s work is not. After their benefit dinner in August, the group still has two more cleanups scheduled in September: one for the International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 15, and one for their 1st birthday as an organization on September 29th.





“A gentleman showed up, and he introduced himself. Suddenly we have dirt all over ourselves, and he’s helping us lift things we can’t—happily! He’s smiling as he lifts these heavy, slimy things out of the river. So though I’ve never met him, I already know something about him; he’s one of those people who cares and enjoys doing something meaningful. I think all of us, as human beings, are looking to do something that has meaning.

There’s many that would say what we’re doing is a small thing... but I know now whenever I go over a river, whether it’s over a bridge, in a kayak or canoe, or just on some river path, there’s more beauty [in the world because of what we’re doing.]”

— *Paddle Without Pollution River Cleanup Volunteer about David Rohm, PWP President, and her experiences on the water.*

[See more about PWP’s mission with this short video about their Three Rivers Cleanup.](#)



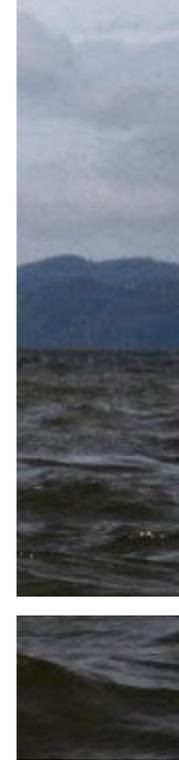
Out of Sight, Out of Mind



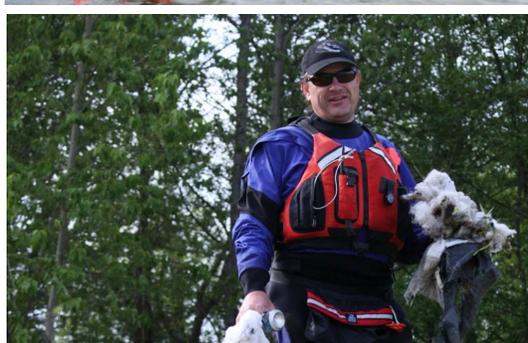
Out of Sight, Out of Mind (OSOM) is a team of three kayakers (Jason Self, Chris Bensch, Shay Bickley) in Portland, Oregon, with a mission to promote the intrinsic and ecological importance of the world's oceans and waterways. By "being the change they wish to see in the world," the group aims to inspire others to join the effort and pick up litter as they recreate or explore their environments. Out of Sight, Out of Mind runs a human-powered monthly cleanup contest that has recruited submissions from every state in the US and 20 other countries.

OSOM was awarded a grant to help fund their "Portland to the Ocean Trashpedition," during which they paddled 100+ miles of the Columbia River to where it meets the Pacific Ocean, all the while towing a canoe to collect garbage. During their trashpedition, which set off on May 5, 2012, the team removed four canoe loads of trash, estimated at 1000-1200 pounds in total over the five-day run.

Their efforts were documented along the way to "show the path of plastic pollution from purchase and consumption at a downtown convenience store to the storm drain, into the river, all the way to the ocean." This documentary will help to spread the message about the dangers of plastic litter and what we as paddlers can do to stop it. Video footage of their journey is currently in the editing phase, with an expected finish date of September 1st. The team's efforts during the trashpedition were documented by the Freesolo Collective, and photos and articles written by Team Member Jason Self have been accepted for publication in Sea Kayaker Magazine. In June, OSOM gave presentations about the Trashpedition at REI Portland, Surfrider Portland's monthly meeting, and at Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe in Portland. After the Sea Kayaker article and photos have been published, more photos will be available for sponsor use.



“Paddlers have a unique view on the water. We move slow and see things most would miss while on land. As scouts of the coast, bays, estuaries, and rivers, we have an opportunity as a paddling community to remove plastic debris from our waterways before they collect in ocean gyres,” says OSOM Team Member Jason Self.



(Photo Credits: Chris Bensch)



Calumet Waterway Stewards



The Calumet Waterway Stewards, a coalition that includes representatives from the Illinois Water TrailKeepers, Openlands, the City of Blue Island, the Chicago Southland Convention and Visitors Bureau, and citizens who want to enjoy and improve our waterways, led 60 volunteers on the Little Calumet River and through three different preserves in the Forest Preserve District of Cook County System during their Cleanup Day on June 2, 2012.

As volunteers paddled from Gouwens Park in South Holland to the Boat Ramp in Blue Island, they collected hundreds of pounds of garbage from all the sites. The River Team pulled several shopping carts, a

park bench, and an array of other refuse that was sitting in the Little Calumet River. The Land Team collected a few dozen bags of trash from the Little Calumet Boat Ramp in Blue Island, Whistler Preserve, and Calumet Woods in Riverdale.

Truly the result of the efforts of a few dedicated paddlers and citizens, funding from L.L.Bean helped to make this day possible! Led by Michael "Captain Mike" Taylor, the Calumet Waterway Stewards thank the ACA and L.L.Bean for their generous contributions and support. They look forward to growing this annual cleanup and inspiring more volunteerism and stewardship in years to come!



Boardman River Clean Sweep

The Boardman River Clean Sweep (BRCS) is a volunteer based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2011. On June 2, 2012, they conducted the 8th annual community-wide cleanup of the Boardman River.

The cleanup included riverbank trash pick-ups along all navigable segments of the river, approximately 30 miles. Three dams have been definitively decided for removal along the river. As this process continues, water drained from nearby ponds has uncovered debris-laden shores that have been under water for almost a century.

The ACA/L.L.Bean Club Fostered Stewardship Grant was used by BRCS to purchase two Old Town 158 canoes to build their capacity for cleanups and to include non-boat owners. The canoes were used to clean the downtown section of the river where the majority of debris is located.

“My goal is to not only keep the Boardman cleaned up, but also to get other groups involved with river stewardship,” said Norman Fred, Club President.

This year’s Clean Sweep was the largest and most successful to date! With the help of the Coast Guard, a diver, and the local conservation district, the group of enthusiastic volunteers were able to pull hundred of pounds of refuse out of the Boardman River.



Boardman River Clean Sweep, 2012



Chesapeake Experience



Chesapeake Experience is a local, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing environmental education on the Chesapeake Bay for students, teachers, special groups, and the general public. Programs are experiential in nature and focus primarily on giving people an experience on the Bay in kayaks. Chesapeake Experience is based in York County, VA, but serves the entire Hampton Roads region.

Thanks to funding through the ACA/L.L.Bean CFS Program, Chesapeake Experience added a marine debris project as part of their 2012 Chesapeake Bay Kayak Camps. Over the summer, seventeen camps were led by Chesapeake Experience and included campers ranging in age from 6-15. Camps were held throughout the Hampton Roads region of Virginia and include week-long day camps in Yorktown, Williamsburg, Newport News, Gloucester, and Smithfield. Campers kayaked in the York and James Rivers and tributaries of the two. Nearly 250 campers were served with Chesapeake Experience's summer programs in 2012.

During each week-long camp, campers collected marine debris from beaches and waterways that they were paddling. As marine debris was collected, it was sorted using hula hoops. Campers were asked to sort the trash in groups and collected data from this sorting to identify types (i.e. plastic, glass, paper) of debris, as well as sources (land- versus marine-based).





Campers collected the trash from dunes, salt marshes, and fresh water marshes adjacent to areas they landed during kayak camp. Some floating debris was also collected. Photos and discussions of sources and types were made after each collection. Campers then selected favorite pieces of debris to bring back to camp to use for art projects. All other debris was bagged and disposed of.

The favorite debris pieces were used to create recycled sculptures each week. Campers were asked to assemble a sculpture that had a Chesapeake Bay theme and were given other items to use such as paint, google eyes, glitter, construction paper, and lots of glue. The recycled art that was created was very creative and will be showcased on the Chesapeake Experience parade float in December.

Chesapeake Experience will continue to collect marine debris and data during their Fall 2012 school field trip kayaking season. A summer intern is working to create a Marine Debris page on their website that will summarize findings and display photos of the Recycled Art Projects. Copies of the collected data, additional photos, and a final report will be sent to the ACA after the fall season.





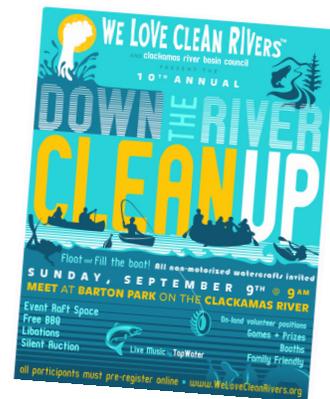
There's more work to be done!

Because there is still a lot of time left in the year, there are still many projects to be completed! While all of the L.L.Bean funds for the ACA Club Fostered Stewardship Grants were allocated early in the year for various projects across the country, some of the projects were scheduled to start in the Fall or had to be postponed due to low waters. Here's a sneak peak of more to come!

10th Anniversary Down the River Clean Up on the Clackamas River

We Love Clean Rivers, Portland, OR

Since its inception, the Down the River Clean Up has involved 2,200 volunteers and removed twenty-three tons of trash from the Clackamas River! Scheduled to take place on September 9th, this year's Down the River Clean Up already has 200 registered volunteers and the involvement of more than 50 local businesses!

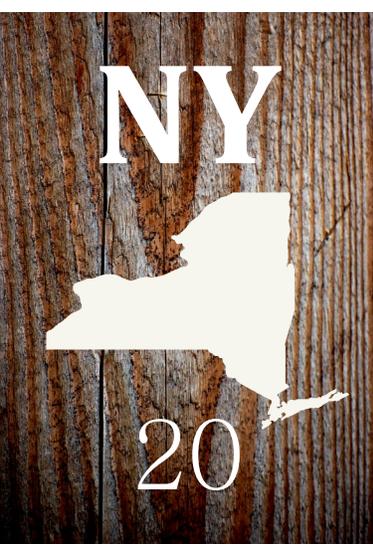


The Great Muscoota River Paddle

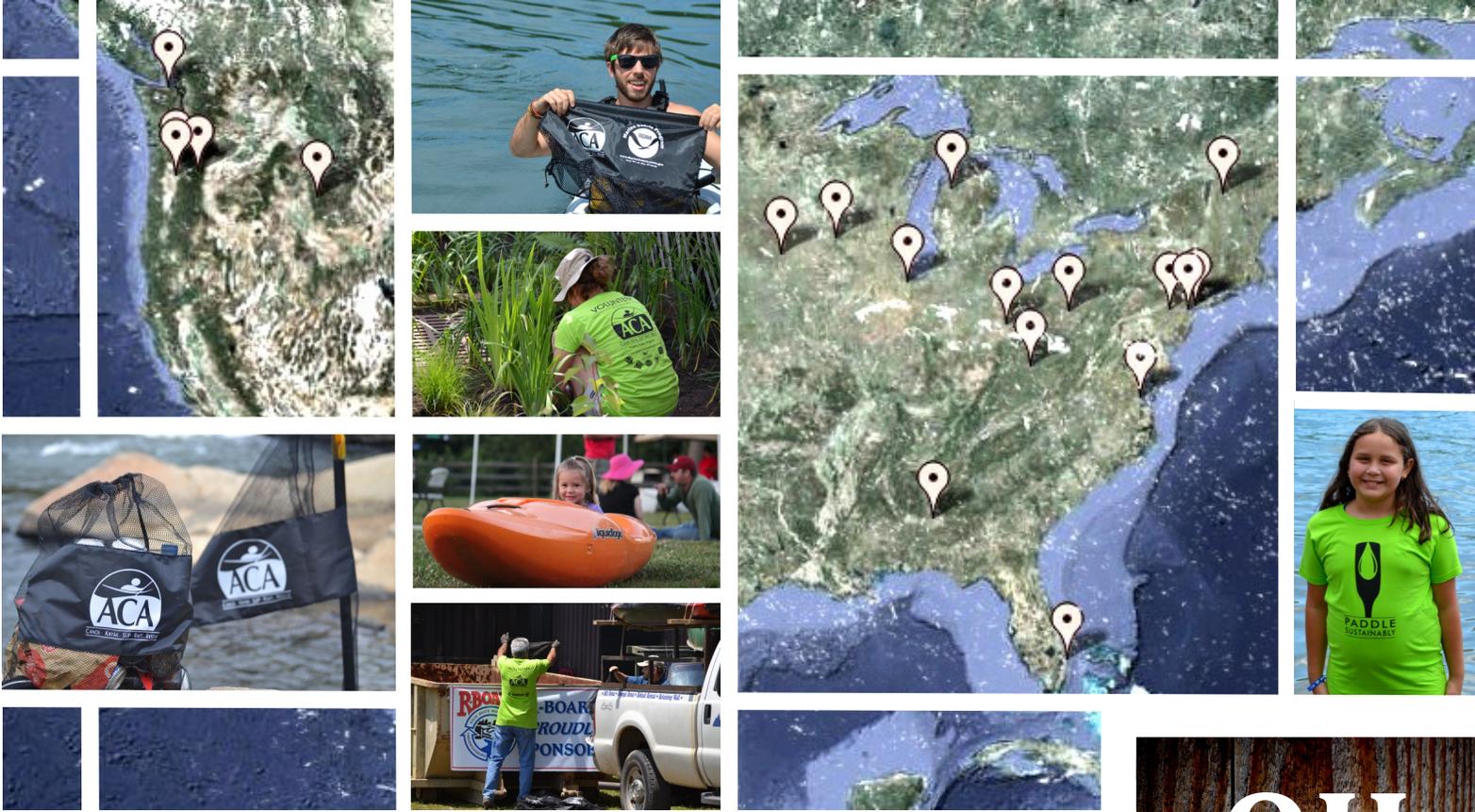
Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy (UDEEC), Brooklyn, NY



To celebrate the nomination of the Harlem River as one of 7 rivers in the US to become part of the Federal Urban Rivers Partnership, the Great Muscoota River Paddle will provide community members with the opportunity to paddle this urban river; learn about the history, geology, and ecology of the Harlem River; take guided ecotours; as well as learn about the river through environmental "edutainment." The Great Muscoota River Paddle is scheduled to take place on Oct. 6th.



20



Camp Oty'Okwa River Cleanups

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, Columbus, OH
 Camp Oty'Okwa is a 700-acre facility in Hocking Hills, OH, owned by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio. The grounds provide residence to youth and staff during their residential summer camps, where campers get to explore and paddle the Hocking River, Lake Logan, and several nearby creeks. Excessive trash and dumping has been noticed in waterways over the last few camp seasons, so Camp Oty'Okwa applied for funding to incorporate waterway cleanups and education into their summer camp program. Between June 10th and August 15th, over 550 youth and 40 adults will have participated in the L.L.Bean funded CFS cleanups.



Boone River Cleanup

City of Webster City, Hamilton County Extension, and Hamilton County Conservation, Webster City, IA

The Boone River Cleanup started in 2007 as the result of the partnership of three non-profit organizations. Starting in Webster City the cleanup extended 22 miles downstream via canoe cleanup and land-based efforts. Their 2012 goal is to reach the confluence with the Des Moines River. Scheduled to take place between the 18-20th of September, low waters might push the Boone River Cleanup further back in the calendar year.





Lake Champlain Heritage Stewardship Expedition

Paddling Through the Past, Hyde Park, VT

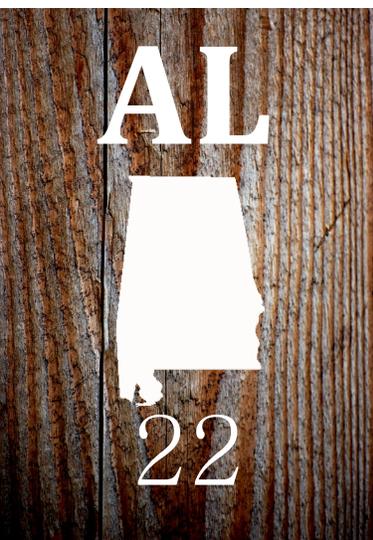
The Lake Champlain-Richelieu River waterway is one of the most historically significant bodies of water in the continental United States. The *Paddling Through the Past Canoe Club* has designed an expedition in heritage stewardship to record the history and archeology of this waterway via canoe to provide an understanding of how the landscape gave rise to so many integral moments of American History. The data collected will be used to create a primary and secondary school curriculum that will stress the historical stewardship of this unique waterway. You can [travel virtually with Paddle Throughout the Past by following them on their blog!](#)



Water Trail Improvements for the Autauga Creek Canoe Trail

Autauga Creek Improvement Committee, Prattville, AL

A canoe trail that resulted from the coordinated efforts of the Autauga Creek Improvement Committee in 2011, the Autauga Creek Canoe Trail is a testament to what can be accomplished through local government support and the work of hundreds of volunteers. Until recently, cleanup efforts and paddling was concentrated on a 4-mile stretch of the river, from the dam downstream to the take out. There has been a lot of effort to improve the trail, increase access, clear safe passage, etc., to expand the trail to be more than 20 miles long. The Autauga Creek Improvement Committee applied for funds to install a kiosk at either end of the canoe trail with maps, descriptions of take-outs and major features, and rules and regulations. Projected completion date for this project is currently 1 September.

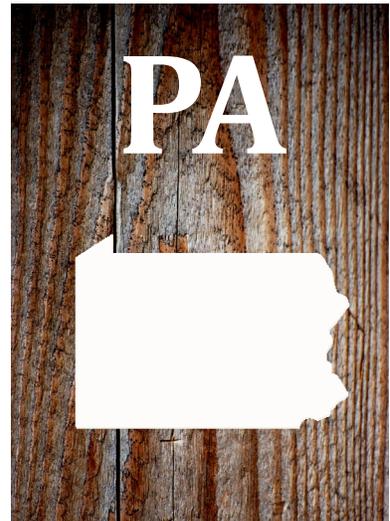




Water Trail Signage on the Delaware River

Tidewaters Gateway Partnership, Pipersville, PA

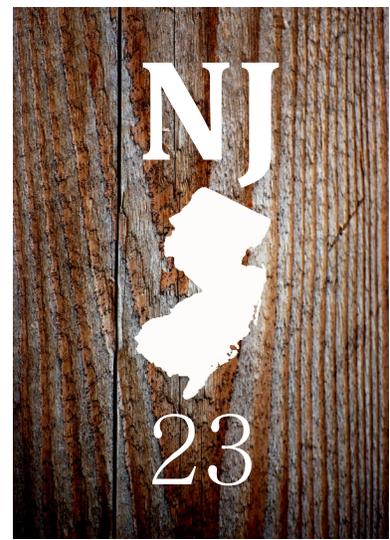
The Tidewaters Gateway Partnership is working in conjunction with volunteers and the Delaware Canal State Park to install 43 signs (with the ACA and L.L.Bean Logo) along 60 miles of water trail on the Delaware River. Several years ago, the Delaware Canal State Park and the D&L National Heritage Corridor received a grant to have the signs made and installed by park maintenance. Unfortunately, due to budget cuts, the signs were never installed. Thanks to a grant funded by L.L.Bean, the ACA/L.L.Bean logos are being added to the signs, and they will be able to be installed along the river by the end of the 2012 paddling season! The added signage will make the trail safer for paddlers and easier to map put-ins and take-outs along the way.



Building Paddling Club Capacity for On-water Trips and Stewardship Initiatives

Raritan Bay Paddlers Club, Perth Amboy, NJ

The Raritan Bay Paddling Club strives to increase access and appreciation for the Raritan Bay through human powered recreation on the water. By introducing new paddlers to the beauties of urban paddling and increasing the number of paddlers on the water, the Raritan Bay Paddling Club works to create future generations of stewards on urban waterways. One of the main barriers to urban paddling is the cost or access to boats for those that don't own their own boat. The Raritan Bay Paddling Club applied for funds to purchase two kayaks, paddles, and vests to build the capacity of their club and include more non-boat owners in their stewardship initiatives.



Committed to cleaner waters and a sustainable future.



Being one of the four tenets that the ACA was founded on in 1880, promoting good stewardship is central to the ACA mission.

The ACA is proud to have partnered with L.L.Bean for the last 10 years to provide grants to small paddling clubs and conservation organizations to protect the places that we all love to paddle. With sources of funding becoming increasingly scarce and competitive, the ACA is grateful for L.L.Bean's generous support and commitment to providing grants that support grassroots change.

With the help of L.L.Bean, the ACA has helped to fund 100 projects across the country, and we hope to continue to help local clubs and paddlers protect the waters that they cherish most.

Paddle safe. Paddle Often. Paddle Sustainably.

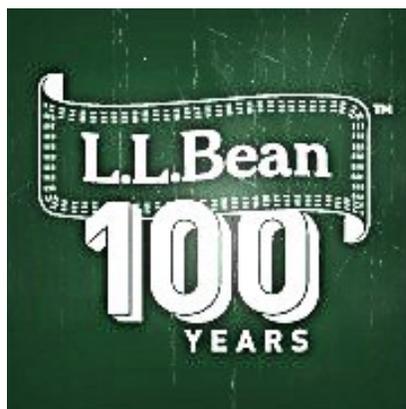


Cate Huxtable
ACA Stewardship Coordinator



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