



## 2015 Club Fostered Stewardship Grant



# Final Report

# Since 2002...

## 15,560

Total number of volunteers that have participated in projects



## 97,615

Total Amount of Hours Donated by Volunteers

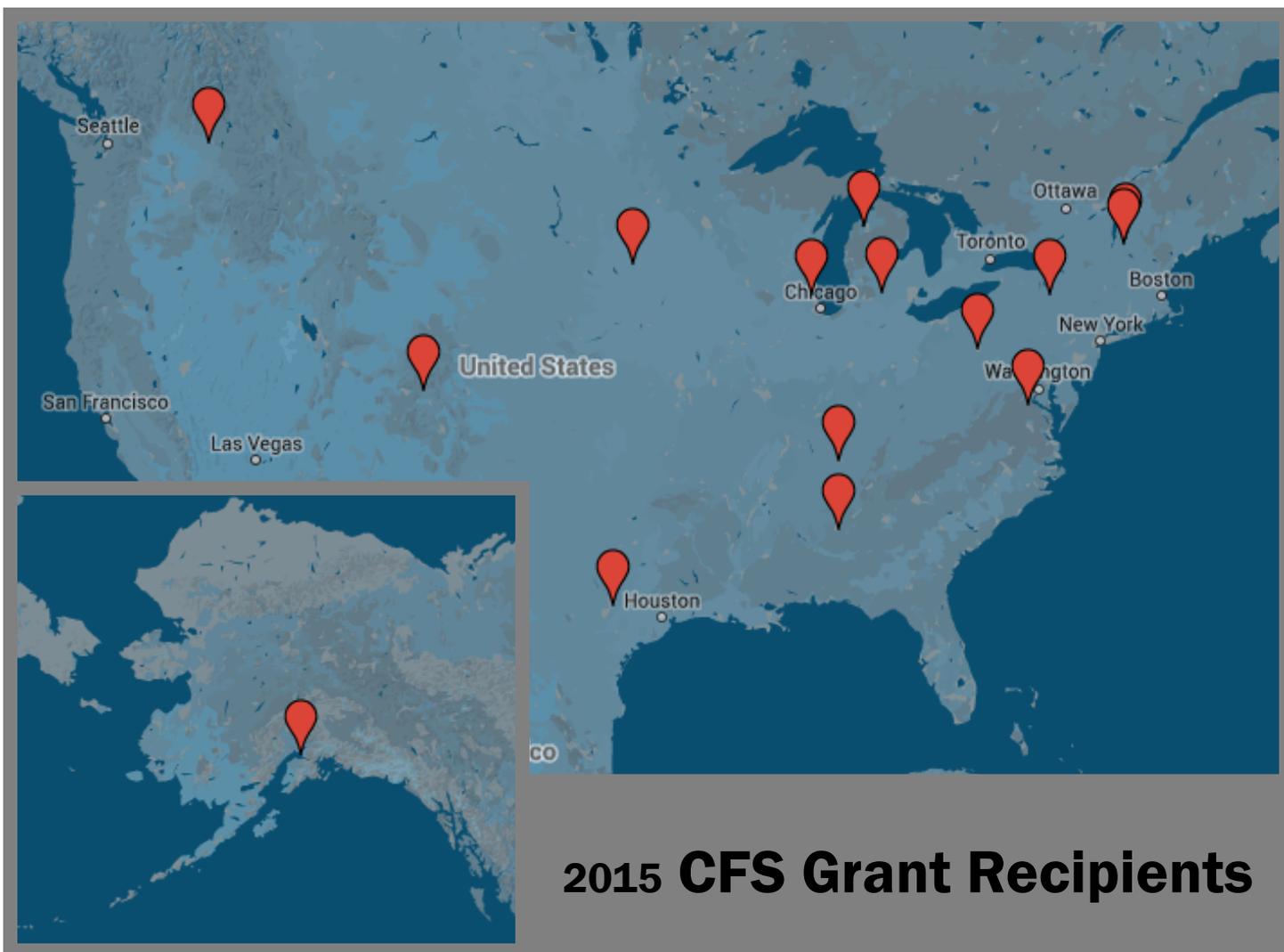
## \$2,205,005

Total Value of Volunteer Time



## 622,960

Total Pounds of Trash and Marine Debris Removed



## 2015 CFS Grant Recipients

The ACA is proud to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make the world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L.Bean, the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Grant Program has provided nearly \$130,000 to over 135 different stewardship initiatives since its inception in 2002.

The purpose of the CFS Grant Program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving our nations waterways. This year, L.L.Bean is funding 15 projects run by the following organizations:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Anchorage Waterways Council              | Friends of Waterbury Reservoir            | River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow |
| Boardman River Clean Sweep               | Illinois Paddling Council                 | South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association  |
| Cahaba River Keeper                      | Northern Forest Canoe Trail               | Spokane River Forum                       |
| Eaton Rapids Adventure Club              | Paddle Without Pollution                  | Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association       |
| Friends of the Colorado River Foundation | Plastic Tides & the Plastic Ocean Project |   |
| Friends of the Rappahannock              |   |   |

# Anchorage Waterways Council



## The Anchorage Waterways Council's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Creek Cleanup

The Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) is a 501 (c) (3) that was established in 1984. Its mission is: to promote the prevention of further environmental degradation; and the protection, restoration, and enhancement of waterways, wetlands, and associated uplands within the Municipality of Anchorage. This is accomplished through outreach projects, youth education, volunteer water quality monitoring, addressing issues and concerns with agencies and property owners, and organizing large community events, such as our annual creek cleanup in May.

The location of the area of activity is primarily the Anchorage “bowl”. This is the highly urbanized portion of the 2,000 sq. mi. Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). There are several sites that needed trash cleaned along the major creeks and lakes in the MOA. These include Ship Creek, Chester Creek, Campbell Creek, Little Campbell Creek, Furrow Creek, Fish Creek, Rabbit Creek, Westchester Lagoon, Potter Marsh, University Lake, Taku Lake, Goose Lake, Eagle River, Glacier Creek (outside the “bowl”), and more.

Over the 8 days of cleaning (May 9-16), there were 40 teams officially signed up. The number of participants ranged from 1 to 30. Some people who cleaned did not sign up, so their volunteer numbers were not captured. It is estimated that approximately 800 people contributed in some capacity. The number of human hours captured varied by team, but an estimate is at least 2,000 hours of time was volunteered (this is conservative).

- a. Other milestones that occurred involved the amount of trash that was officially weighed. This was provided by the MOA Solid Waste Services and amounted to just over 5 tons. Other trash was collected by the MOA Parks and Rec Department, estimated at 2 tons, and some individuals and teams took their trash home, which meant it was not counted by weight.
- b. This was the first year for collecting monofilament fishing line and debris. It was separated from the other trash, cleaned, and recycled.

The primary limitation of the project involved trash collection. A few years ago the MOA went to automated trash trucks which meant the typical garbage truck with one or two people at the back who could collect the brightly colored bags no longer exists. The result was that teams of people had to go out to areas where trash was known to have been cleaned on the specific day and collect it in personal vehicles to transport to the dump. In Anchorage, if trash bags are left unattended they can be ripped open by dogs and bears or opportunistic people decide to deposit their own garbage at a site where they see creek cleanup bags. It made for a sense of urgency to be notified where trash was and to dispatch someone there as fast as possible.

The project and specifically the CFS logo were marketed in several ways: fliers, social media, i.e. FB, e-newsletters, our website [anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup\\_about.php](http://anchoragecreeks.org/pages/creekcleanup_about.php) (which will remain up until next year), and a paid thank you ad in *The Anchorage Press*. Even though the event is over, the benefits of this grant to AWC's May cleanup will be further touted. In addition, there will be a Creek Celebration on Sept. 12 where the logo will be displayed on a banner.

The local community loves Creek Cleanup. For many it's a decades-old tradition. They come out year after year to participate, and every person who does clean up is more aware of trying to curb trash in the creeks. It's both visual and educational.

Thank you!



# Boardman River Clean Sweep



The Boardman River Clean Sweep organization has been doing river cleanups since 2004. It's something we are good at. But this project was completely different from anything we had ever done and we had to break the mold to get it done.

On October 24, 2015, the Boardman River Clean Sweep (BRCS) and Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD) teamed up to plant 2318 trees in one day. It was by far the most difficult, complicated, technical and tiring one-day project we have ever done. Plus it was breezy, misting and raining all day and just as we completed planting the last trees and got everyone off the field, the wind started to blow about 40 miles per hour and took our patio tent down.

The project actually took 4 days.

Day 1. Four days before the event, we purchased the trees, tagged them, got food, got tools and made the preparations for record keeping. We spent 630.00 for the trees and 69.00 for shovels. All the food, and extra expenses were borne by the BRCS. We got a 10% discount and paid no sales tax thus allowing us to get 2 or 3 extra trees.

Day 2. Two days before the event, we helped the GTCD sort their trees to get them ready to plant.

Day 3. The day before the event, we staged our trees out on the field and marked the locations with GPS. We made a map of the location for our volunteers. The field is large and is covered with chest high grass. The trees were staged lying down so they would not get damaged by the wind. They would have been very hard to find again without the GPA locations.

Day 4. We did the planting and took the photos for the dedication certificates and report.

The GTCD's volunteers planted 2300 - 24" trees in one 4 acre location and the BRCS planted 18 large and very large trees in a 5 acre location across the river to the west.



Our first grant request was to plant 1000 - 24" trees within a 8 -10 acre plot on the Upper Boardman River in a location within a 100 acre area which was formerly a pond before a large dam was removed. But due to the fact that our GTCD partner received a multi-year grant to plant 22,000 - 24" trees in a very wide area, we asked for a change to allow us to plant 700.00 worth of larger trees on a riverside meadow which will be left as a grassy field and

not be planted with the smaller trees, thus making our trees more visible and also available for perches for birds of prey, shade for deer and other animals, habitat for song birds and seed banks for the lot. That request was approved.

The BRCS has no lack of paddlers to do river cleanups but this project didn't attract many volunteers. We put out the word that these trees had been obtained with an ACA grant and since they were "free" we would let the first 18 people who signed up plant one of these "ACA Legacy Trees" in memory or in honor of a loved one. We would take their photo while planting the tree and provide them with a certificate with their photo while



planting the tree, name of their loved one and the GPS location of the tree so in the future they or their family members could keep an eye on the progress of the tree using Google Maps or they could come back to visit it and know exactly where it was planted. 17 people signed up almost immediately. No markers or name tags were allowed on this public property.

The extra tree was a very large and heavy White Spruce which was planted last by all the participants and was dedicated to the ACA in gratitude for the many grants that made this project and so many of our projects possible. We all worked on the "ACA Spruce" since the root ball weighed over 400 pounds. A dedication certificate will be mailed to the ACA separately.

We were very fortunate to have a professional gardener sign up and he was our "FOREMAN". We did not plant any trees until he checked the hole and made sure we did it correctly. He was a busy guy that day.

We also, had a pastor come to plant a tree and he said a few words for the volunteers since these were Legacy Trees in memory of loved ones.

After the ACA tree was planted and dedicated, we had a little hotdog lunch. Then nine of us stayed around to help the GTCD plant their trees on the other side of the river.

The types of trees, accounting information, GPS locations and photos are contained in separate a file.

There was a newspaper reporter for the Traverse City Record Eagle at the site and we did a short interview with him and we mentioned several times that the project was made possible by the ACA. No article has been published but if one is published, we will forward it to the ACA.

The BRCS wishes to thank the ACA and LL Bean for their very generous and gracious financial and moral support over the years. We literally could not have done the very successful work we have done to make our NW Michigan rivers as clean and pristine as we have done without your help and assistance.



# *Trees For The Boardman*



**October 24, 2015**

**Today a native tree was planted in Gratitude to**

**The American Canoe Association**

**&**

**The LL Bean, Inc.**

**On the banks of Boardman River in the area of the Brown Bridge Pond  
by Boardman River Clean Sweep**

**At This Location: N44.64974 W85.48938**

# Cahaba Riverkeeper



The Cahaba Riverkeeper has been honored to receive the \$700 grant provided by L.L. Bean through the ACA's Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program in 2015. The funding was used to purchase 100 of both large and small reusable green, mesh bags to use for trash pickup.

Being able to provide our volunteers with trash collection bags that they know will not go into the dump along with what they have picked up was an idea that was received with enthusiasm by our members and volunteers.

Our first large scheduled event since receipt of the bags will be held in late November, a pickup at the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge. Working with us will be members of the local Friends of the CRNWR. Friends and other volunteers representing Jefferson, Shelby and Bibb Counties will also participate.

In several small pickups, we handed out the smaller bags to our younger team members, who were delighted to carry bags that they knew, when they were filled, they would be able to easily carry back to the trailhead.



Once Friends members saw the bags, they wanted to use them in their monthly cleanup along the county road leading out of West Blocton and into the Refuge. Cahaba Riverkeeper provided the Friends with 10 of our bags, knowing that they will be put to good use. More importantly, Friends will bring those bags with them when they come to the Refuge cleanup in March 2016, in which 80-120 volunteers will participate. The Refuge is located in Bibb County, which is one of the less affluent counties in Alabama. The Friends group is composed of dedicated citizens who would, otherwise, be unable to afford such special bags.

Another 10 bags have been shared with Canoe the Cahaba, a commercial venture operated by a member of the Cahaba Riverkeeper board. He plans to provide rentals with a bag and encourage them to gather trash they may encounter along their paddle. The bags will be collected after each canoe returns to be emptied and used again. We feel that these bags will provide an unforgettable reminder for the paddlers to watch for trash and not add any they may make to the accumulation on the banks.

ACA and LL Bean can be assured that these trash bags will be used for many years to come. We are deeply appreciative of the award and thank you, again, for the honor.



# Colorado River Alliance



## The Lake Travis Cleanup Paddling Pioneers

The 21 year-old Lake Travis Cleanup (LTUC) has removed over 108 tons of trash from Lake Travis in Austin, TX, which is part of the Highland Lakes chain within the Texas Colorado River. Three partners administer the LTUC: The Colorado River Alliance, Keep Austin Beautiful, and Travis County Parks & Recreation. The first two partners are environmental non-profits advocating for locally-based watershed protection, and the third is a governmental agency.

The Lake Travis Cleanup recruited over 800 volunteers supporting annual litter removal from 10 shoreline and 10 underwater dive sites in Lake Travis (see Figure 1). 500 volunteers signed up to clean up 10 shoreline parks, and 384 divers registered to clean the dive sites. For the first time in the event's history, partners recruited paddlers to clean large sections of riparian and shallow water habitat that are particularly vulnerable to litter pollution, and inaccessible to other volunteers.

Paddler participation and the CFS brand were promoted on the Lake Travis Cleanup website (<http://laketravisunderwatercleanup.org/>), Keep Austin Beautiful's online volunteer registration and communications webpages, and 16 local paddling clubs and shops in the Austin, TX area.



Figure 1: Lake Travis Cleanup shoreline and dive sites

On September 13, 2015, 21 paddlers removed litter from the shorelines of 5 of the 10 park sites for two hours (see Figures 2). Event partners provided paddlers a safety orientation, and maps designating paddler entry and priority riparian cleanup locations (see Figure 3).

Paddlers were then given trash grabbers and trash bags (purchased with CFS funds), and walking volunteers on land helped

offload trash for processing. Afterwards, paddlers joined other volunteers at the Lake Travis Cleanup volunteer appreciation after-party. At the after-party, The American Canoe Association, LL Bean, and the CFS grant were given special recognition via emcee announcements and a PowerPoint presentation. The ACA/LL Bean wordmark was printed on volunteer t-shirts, and provided to all volunteers.

Trash from all three volunteer types was brought to a central processing location via trash barge (see Figure 4) and sorted by volunteers

(See Figure 5). During the cleanup, 3.38 tons of trash was collected across all sites, including 720 lbs. of metal and 360 lbs. of recyclable material. The Lake Travis Cleanup engaged members of the Lake Travis Community including 7 marinas, 20 businesses, 8 scuba dive clubs, as well as outdoor clubs and households. This year's event was the first to incorporate members of the paddler community. The project's goal was to recruit 70 paddlers for this year event based on our adjusted event budget. Significant attrition (70%) occurred after volunteer signup, and 21 paddlers attended the event.



Figures 2a – 2d Paddler volunteers in action during the 21<sup>st</sup> Lake Travis Cleanup



Figure 3: Example of shoreline paddler orientation map, Pace Bend Park in Lake Travis, TX

Paddler feedback on the cleanup was very positive. The CFS grant enabled event partners to establish a solid foundation for including more paddlers in future Lake Travis Cleanup events. Partners have paddler volunteer cleanup equipment and volunteer registration mechanisms in place, with plans to increase marketing and recruiting efforts to recruit 233 paddlers to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Lake Travis Cleanup, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2016. This recruitment level will translate into 70 paddler volunteers attending the event based on our current post-registration attrition rate.



Figure 4: A Trash barge transported litter collected from cleanup sites to one processing location



Figure 5: Litter processing involved sorting to permit recycling of aluminum and plastic

# Eaton Rapids Adventure Club



Eaton Rapids Public Schools Alternative

Education High School. The organization provides high school completion and college preparatory courses for disenfranchised youth in the Eaton rapids community. These students possess a great deal of talent but learn in an unconventional manner. The project was geared to give these students real world opportunities and experiences and an appreciation for their environment.

Site location: the grand river between the city of Eaton rapids and the bunker road DNR landing was the location of the project. This encompasses 3 nautical miles of river with limited public access. Much of the river and adjoining bank are controlled by private property owners who take very little pride in its maintenance.

Program/volunteers: the program was broken down into two segments. The first segment entailed the completion of an ACA Quickstart program. There were 13 students and 2 teachers that actively participated. This portion of the program was completed in the Eaton rapids public schools pool due to the time of year. None of the students had the cold water gear necessary to safely complete the program in the open water. The course was registered with the ACA and all participants completed the program and received their Quickstart credentials.

The second phase of the program was the actual clean up of the river. The participants, which numbered 23 (members of the Eaton county sheriff's office were recruited as were additional teachers and 3 ACA instructors) began the project on may 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The participants, using the ACA water clean up bags and "grabbers" supplied by highland river adventures, took to the water after a brief safety talk. The participants worked for 5 hours and were able to gather 77lbs of trash. Which included; 45lbs of metal, 20 lbs of plastic and 12 lbs of misc material. We recovered a lawn mower and numerous campaign and for sale signs. Much of the debris consisted of plastic bottles, bags and empty cans. After completion the participants shared lunch furnished by HRA.

Limitations: we were limited, to some extent, by the high water. An unusual amount of rain had fallen in the preceding weeks. This washed a great deal of debris into the river from the adjoining banks. Unfortunately, much of this debris was trapped in ‘strainers’ and proved to be inaccessible (an additional clean up with some of the original participants was conducted in the month of august and a large amount of debris that was originally inaccessible was removed from the river).

Marketing: we provided the participants with shirts that proudly displayed the ACA logo, the LL Bean logo, the HRA logo and most importantly the ER logo along with their mascot. The participants were provided with these shirts prior to the project and wore them to school with pride. This was key to enhancing their participation. As was related in the opening remarks, many of these young people felt a degree of anonymity from their peers. The shirts instilled a sense of pride in themselves and in their community. By helping the river they were, in essence, helping themselves.

Community impact: the river environment was dramatically improved. The participants fostered relationships with each other, their teachers and local law enforcement. They will continue to be good stewards of the river and will pass their experiences along to others. Many stopped by during the course of the summer to express interest in the river and the environment that it supports.

Authors perspective: from my perspective this was a truly humbling experience. This group of young people demonstrated that given the opportunity they are willing to “step up.” So often they are discounted. Myself and my fellow instructors saw a real determination and effort to make a difference. The smiles were a mile wide and their sense of accomplishment was palpable to everybody.



**American Canoe Association**

<http://www.americancanoe.org/>

October 29, 2015

To whom it may concern:

There are so many students who are disenfranchised from our traditional educational system. These students may either learn differently, such as being more hands-on, self-directed, needing more guidance, or even completely online learners, or they have had family/life situations thrust upon them that do not allow education to be a priority. In the eyes of these students, our current educational set-up in most school districts has failed them. These students are the ones who have fallen behind in credits due to lack of attendance, failing coursework and/or lack of motivation. In order to combat this phenomenon and to assist these students in being successful, we have an alternative middle/high school in Eaton Rapids Public Schools that is set up to meet the needs of many of these students.

Greyhound Central Performance Academy (GCPA) combines an online and face-to-face approach designed to be more workable for our students, their schedules and their idiosyncrasies. A huge part of our success has been the incorporation of Team Building and Community Service that is required for graduation along with the regular state academic requirements.

The old adage, "Students don't care what you know until they know that you care," holds true. The teachers at GCPA do not "sweat the small stuff", like dress code, seat time in class (although they must log 25+ hours/week online to stay in the program) or the "order" of courses taken. Schedules are built around each individual student (over 100 students) according to their needs and what it will take for them to be successful.

Last year, because of the initiative of two men, Scott Fraser and Paul Malewski of Highland River Adventures, GCPA students were afforded the opportunity to become stewards of the Grand River in Eaton Rapids, MI. The Grand River flows through the city making it a virtual island due to the splitting, then re-joining outside of town. Clean up can only be managed the most ecumenically from the water, so when I went to Scott to ask him if there was anything he could do to help me to give my GCPA students a river experience, Scott offered to help us all apply for the ACA Club Fostered Stewardship grants. Paul worked on the grant itself and I wrote a letter of support for my students. Amazingly enough, we were chosen and the morning after graduation 10 GCPA students who had been trained by Paul Malewski in our district pool, along with teachers, sheriff deputies and myself, set out on the Grand River to do clean-up. Three hours, 3.1 nautical miles and 77 pounds of trash later, everyone disembarked at Bunker Road Landing exhausted, muddy, but oh so proud of all the work accomplished! We are talking about 10 students, 9 of which had NEVER been in a kayak or canoe, being able to experience both paddling down a river, making the watershed safe and clear of debris for fish, wildlife and community, and having that wonderful feeling of accomplishment for the rest of their lives!

We hope to make this an annual event in May or June of every year and have encouraged the students to come to Highland Adventures throughout their summer break and take advantage of Scott's offer: clean up the river for an hour and earn an hour of free kayaking! This is truly something that 99% of our students would have never experienced had it not been for the grant opportunity.

I would personally like to thank Scott, Paul and the American Canoe Association for affording us this amazing opportunity to learn, grow and give back to our community. We could not have otherwise had the opportunity.

Educationally Yours,



Brooke Bailee-Stone

Principal of Greyhound Central Performance  
Academy Curriculum and Instructional Tech-  
nology Director at Eaton Rapids Public Schools  
Eaton Rapids, MI

# Friends of the Rappahannock



## Confluence Canoe Launch and Rappahannock River Cleanup

Friends of the Rappahannock is a regional environmental non-profit organization founded in 1985 with the mission to be the voice and active force for a healthy and scenic Rappahannock River. We achieve our mission through advocacy, restoration, and education. Each year our programs reach over 6,000 students and work with hundreds of volunteers on projects that protect and restore the Rappahannock River watershed.

The Rappahannock River is approximately 184 miles long and includes portions of 17 counties in both the Piedmont and Tidewater Virginia in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. FOR is active in all portions of the watershed with offices in Fredericksburg and Tappahannock, Virginia. The confluence of the Rappahannock River and the Rapidan River, the largest tributary of the Rappahannock River, is located



upstream from the City of Fredericksburg, and is comprised mostly of Culpeper County. The river frontage of the Confluence is owned by the City of Fredericksburg and is a part of their Watershed property and is protected under a conservation easement. There is an access road from Richard's Ferry Road in Culpeper County which provides public access to the easement property. The access is gated to prevent vehicular traffic from entering the property but hikers, paddlers, anglers, and campers are encouraged to take their gear to access the River.

Friends of the Rappahannock was approached by a Girl Scout Gold Award candidate interested in partnering on this project. Other partners included Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the City of Fredericksburg, Home Depot Foundation, Woodwork Studios, and the American Canoe Association. Throughout the process the Girl Scout was soliciting additional donations, securing materials, and recruiting volunteers. The project took 2.5 days to install. Day one we had 10 partners and volunteers comprised of girl and boy scouts and family members. Day two we had 5 volunteers and family. FOR partnered with Stream Sweepers and other volunteers to clean up the camp site areas associated with the project and remove trash and debris from the Rapidan side of the confluence (8 partners and volunteers).

Site access with equipment was a large hurdle which took some strategic planning to overcome the delivery of materials and construction of the practice itself.

Securing additional monetary resources for the project was the largest limiting factor for the project. Eventually outside funding was secured.

Friends of the Rappahannock worked with the Girl Scout and other partners to publish a newsletter article on the front page of our Fall Newsletter. 2,000 plus members and supporters receive this publication. The permanent sign installed at the project includes the ACA/LLBean logo along with all other project partners.

The community now has a safer and cleaner river as a direct result of the removal of over 18 tires and other trash and debris from the river and areas around the confluence.

The river community now has a safe, stable, and professional access point to the Rappahannock River at the Confluence. This new feature will enable overnight paddlers to exit the river for camping without eroding the stream bank or damaging vegetation. This is also a very popular fishing spot by local anglers. This canoe launch has stairs which allows a wider range of anglers to safely navigate their way into the river and mitigates any erosion or damage to vegetation.

This project was an overwhelming success and could not have happen without all of our amazing funders, partners, and the dedication of Mary Jane Titus, who successfully completed the challenge of the Gold Award. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you would like additional information.



# Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir

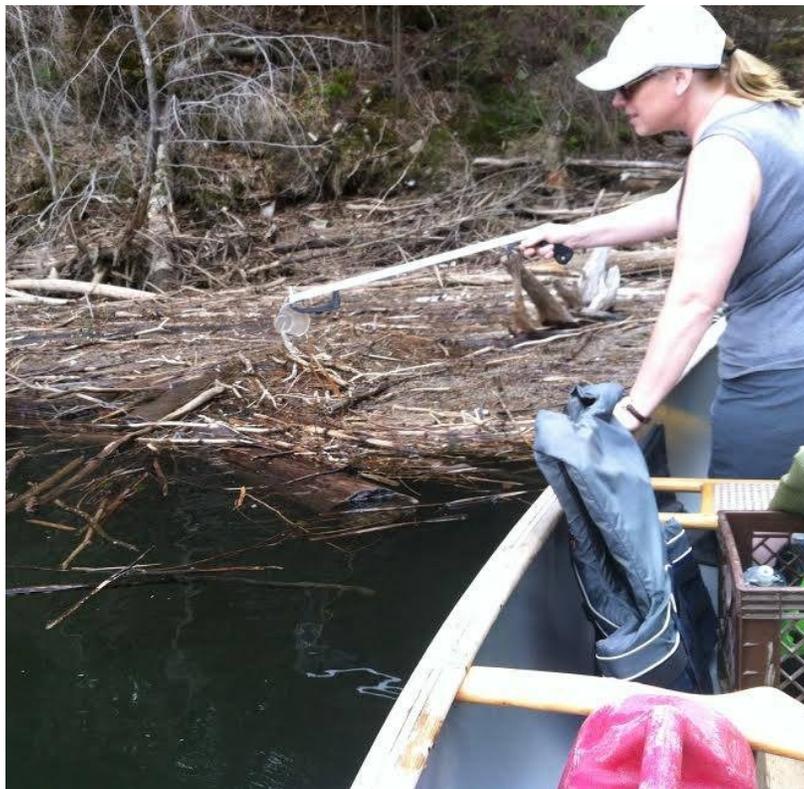


Friends of Waterbury Reservoir (FWRes) [www.friendsofwaterburyreservoir.org](http://www.friendsofwaterburyreservoir.org) is a Vermont nonprofit committed to protecting and improving the ecological, recreational, and community values of the Waterbury Reservoir. We accomplish our mission through stewardship, research, community involvement, collaboration with stakeholders, and connecting people and place. The Reservoir is located at the cross-roads of the world-class resort towns of Stowe, Warren (Sugarbush), and Bolton Valley yet offers a remote experience for users. The 860-acre Reservoir is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest body of water in the state and nourishes 40,000 visitors per year at its two State parks, 3 multi-use boat access areas, remote campsites, and miles of hiking and back-country trails.

In 2014, the FWRes launched Phase I of its Trash Data Study. Working closely with Rozalia Project for a Clean Ocean ([www.rozaliaproject.org](http://www.rozaliaproject.org)), FWRes created a customized Trash Data Card and a Trash Zone Map. Volunteers recorded the trash that they recovered on the data card, and submitted the cards to a program manager. The program manager compiles and analyzes the data to illustrate trends and “hot spots” for other volunteers. The data from the trash study is helping answer: What is the actual amount of trash found around the lake? Is the problem more or less serious than visitors think? Is the Reservoir’s water quality being effected? Is wildlife impacted? Where is the trash most often found, and how and when did it get there? Is the trash debris being re-distributed throughout the Reservoir due to normal water currents or storm and wind events? Are there other factors that influenced the arrival, distribution and re-distribution of trash? This data will help inform FWRes and government policy-makers regarding appropriate enforcement



In 2015, the LLBean CFS grant helped support Phase II of the study as well as stewardship work to educate and encourage Leave No Trace principles for all users. Information on the study is available at [www.friendsofwaterburyreservoir.org](http://www.friendsofwaterburyreservoir.org). Five high-quality trash grabbers were purchased in 36” and 52” lengths to allow volunteers to safely reach debris such as cans, tennis balls, bottles, and flip-flops from canoes, kayaks, stand-up-paddle boards and motorboats. The tools were available to borrow from a commercial vendor’s booth at one of the State Parks. FWRes entered a cooperative relationship with Keurig-Green Mountain (formerly Green Mountain Coffee Roasters) to



allow eight of their employees to donate up to 50 hours of volunteer time on the Reservoir participating in the Trash Data Study throughout the season. FWRes was an active participant in the annual Green-Up Day (in May). Throughout the summer, FWRes utilized social media – particularly paid boosted postings on FaceBook, Twitter, and Front Porch Forum (a community-specific online bulletin board) – as well as the Stowe Reporter and Waterbury Record to communicate Leave No Trace principles.

All summer, visitors told us anecdotally that the amount of trash on the Reservoir is significantly less than they’ve seen in previous years. At the end of the season, we asked our online community to tell us what they noticed about trash on the Reservoir and we heard the same. There are three identified “hot spots” which we believe will need enforcement and stewardship attention. These are located at a popular picnic area known as Elephant Rock, the canoe access at the northern tip of the lake called Cotton Brook, and one particular remote campsite which is easily accessible on foot and is located near the Little River State Park.

At our October 2015 FWRes Autumn Mixer, 12 attendees self-selected a work group on the topic of pollution and LNT principles and will continue to meet over the fall / winter and plan for next steps in the 2016 season.

# Northern Forest Canoe Trail



In 2015 the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) fielded a four-person roving Stewardship Crew. This crew accomplished a number of field projects focused on improving the 740-mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Projects were accomplished in each of the four states that the NFCT travels through. The ACA-L.L. Bean Club Fostered Grant was used to support a large project accomplished in Derby, Vermont. In 2014 the need for a portage and increased camping opportunities on the Lower-Clyde River were identified through paddler feedback and site visits. Through a community outreach campaign we found a landowner who granted the NFCT permission to both install a portage trail and a lean-to on his property.

With the 2015 ACA-L.L. Bean CFS grant and added support from the Outdoor Gear Exchange, individual donors, the NFCT Trail Fund, and the generous support of the land owner the NFCT was able to construct and install:

- a double-chamber moldering privy
- a picnic table
- a lean-to foundation and floor
- appropriate take-out and portage signage
- a 2,000-foot portage trail



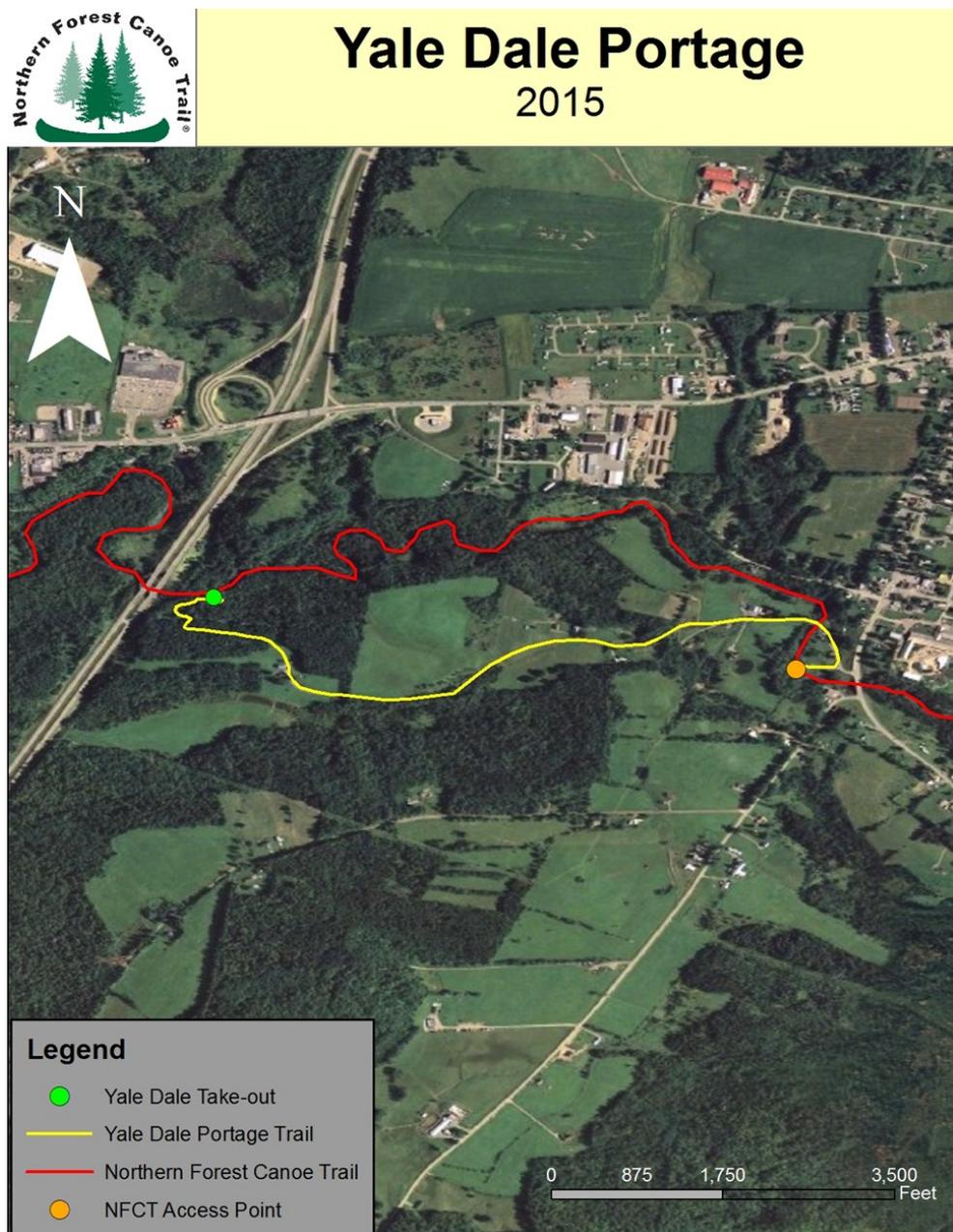
This work greatly improved a section of trail in need of increased camping opportunities and portage corridor. The new portage that was installed gave paddlers a much safer route around a section of river on the Lower-Clyde River that can be nearly impassable during certain water conditions.

### Personnel and Volunteer Time

The NFCT Stewardship Crew worked on this project for a total of 2 weeks pulling in the support of 12 volunteers.

### Expenditures

The ACA-L.L. Bean Club Fostered Grant was used to purchase materials used at this location. Materials include lumber and hardware needed for the privy, picnic table, lean-to, and signage.



# Paddle Without Pollution



Paddle Without Pollution's (PWP) 2015 Watershed Stewardship Campaign, part of their ongoing stewardship initiative, continued to decrease the amount of litter, debris, and hazardous materials in Pennsylvania's rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands, and achieved immediate, highly visible results. It also increased the public's awareness of the effects of that pollution and involved the community in direct action, low-impact events that enabled volunteers to make a positive difference through hands-on stewardship. The CFS grant enabled volunteers to get an up-close look at the condition of their watershed, the causes of the pollution affecting it, and the importance of their work.

Paddle Without Pollution uses volunteers in kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards to restore and protect the watersheds of Western Pennsylvania. Over the past four years, Paddle Without Pollution's Water Warriors have removed more than 55 tons of illegally dumped debris and litter from waterways in Western



Pennsylvania.

Paddle Without Pollution's method is low impact but achieves big results. Their volunteer crews are able to clean entire shorelines, not just specific points, and can reach areas that are inaccessible on foot. They work efficiently and effectively because they are actually in the water, not just walking alongside of it.



This year, approximately 150 volunteers participated in cleanups of Chartiers and Ten Mile Creeks, North Park and Pymatuning Lakes, Moraine State Park, and the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers in southwestern Pennsylvania. Each cleanup lasted four to six hours.

At the end of each cleanup, paddlers unload the litter and other items they have collected at a predetermined location, usually at the initial launch point. The bagged items and loose debris are documented and weighed before being properly disposed of. Subsequent cleanups of the same areas reveal information that will allow us to measure the effectiveness of the cleanups.

The main limitation this year was weather conditions which forced the cancellation of two cleanups. Paddle Without Pollution marketed the CFS logo through Facebook and their web site. We advertise our stewardship events through Facebook, Twitter, our Web site, a monthly e-newsletter, and posters. The ACA/LL Bean logo will continue to be on all posters and banners and the Web site, as well in other applicable marketing materials.

Paddle Without Pollution also found that funding for environmental causes seems to be on the decline in the area, with various previous funders shifting their focus to other needs. This forced PWP to scale back on certain marketing initiatives and event attendance.

# Plastic Tides and the Plastic Ocean Project



**Plastic Tides** is a non-profit that combines adventure and science through stand up paddle (SUP) research expeditions aimed at fighting plastic pollution. We do this by pairing research efforts with a professional media strategy. Beyond our expeditions we are focused on education and outreach in the community, and advocacy for progressive legislation to protect our waterways.

**Microbead Free Finger Lakes:** Funds from the ACA and L.L. Bean CFS Grant supported an initiative to stop the flow of plastic microbeads from cosmetics into the Finger Lakes. They helped to purchase materials for specially designed manta-trawls that are pulled behind paddle boards to sample for microbeads, as well as chemicals for processing samples in the lab, microscope access for volunteers, and logistical requirements.



Throughout the summer Plastic Tides worked closely with fourteen youth interns from local middle and high schools ages 13-16, and reached many others through presentations and news media. Our interns spent time with us on the water learning the ropes of Plastic Tides. They carried out beach clean-ups removing over 100 pounds of plastic and foam debris, and conducted their own microbead research. Their efforts further confirming the presence of microbeads in Cayuga Lake.

At the end of the program the students wrote a letter to the Tompkins County Legislature explaining the dangers of microbeads and calling for a local ban. They cited the research Plastic Tides did in fall of 2014 as well as their own recent discoveries in support of legislation. The letter was well received and the legislature began looking into the issue further. On Oct. 21st Christian and four of the interns attended a Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality committee meeting where a local ban was introduced. The students spoke in support of the bill and were successful in passing it through the committee. The next step is a public hearing on Nov. 17th and the students will surely be there to see the issue through.

TV interview about the program: <http://cnycentral.com/news/local/tompkins-county-considers-ban-on-products-containing-microbeads>

Thanks again for the awesome support this year. It's been really great working with the ACA and our program has been flourishing!



# River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow



## About RRAFT

River Restoration Adventures for Tomorrow is a Colorado outfitter dedicated to supporting healthy watersheds through stewardship, education, and community engagement.

## The Project

In the summer of 2015, RRAFT partnered with the BML Uncompahgre Field Office, the Colorado Canyons Association, and the Delta High School AP Environmental Studies Program to help support a healthy ecosystem along the lower Gunnison River. The two part project consisted of removing invasive Russian Olive trees and planting native Cottonwood trees to promote long term wildlife habitat. The effort directly benefits the riparian ecosystem in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area!

## Club-Fostered Stewardship Grant Support

The generous grant contribution from L.L.Bean and the ACA helped provide critical protective equipment for the planting and chainsaw work. The funds supported the purchase of chainsaw chaps, helmets, gloves, and various tools necessary for the safe and successful completion of the cottonwood restoration project. This financial support will also have long term impacts as the equipment is utilized during similar projects in the future.



## Project Success!

The project was successfully completed in two segments during the summer. May 18--19, Delta High School students and community volunteers floated down the river and helped plant 200 native cottonwood trees! September 26, RRAFT volunteers and trained sawyers floated down the river and cut down invasive Russian Olive trees that choke out other native flora. Successful planting site along the Gunnison River.



The cages will help protect the small trees from wildlife until they can stand on their own.



RRAFT guides and volunteers transporting young cottonwood trees down the Gunnison River!

# South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association



Established in 1981, the South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association (SDCKA) is a volunteer based organization, passionate about getting people to explore the many waterways in South Dakota. Their mission is to promote paddling education, conservation and safety through the rivers, lakes and streams of South Dakota.

The paddling opportunities in South Dakota vary from prairie lakes, meandering creeks, and larger, navigable rivers, such as the Missouri River and the Big Sioux River. Paddlers enjoy the solitude and beauty found in a rural area. But, due to the rural landscape and large number of livestock producers, paddlers face some difficulties.

One hazard commonly found in South Dakota's rivers and streams is fences. Navigable rivers and streams are designated by the South Dakota Legislature as being capable of supporting a manned canoe or other vessel throughout the summer in two out of every ten years. The South Dakota Legislature and the South Dakota Water Management Board have designated that certain segments of these navigable rivers and streams have gates installed to allow public access through any fence crossing these waterways.

While illegal to run a fence across a navigable body of water without providing an appropriate gate, very few landowners actually comply with the law. With the increased popularity of paddle sports in South Dakota, and more groups venturing out to explore the waterways, fence crossings have become a big concern to the organization.



Using funds from the ACA/L.L. Bean Club Fostered Stewardship Grant, SDCKA volunteered to provide materials and labor to landowners willing to install a paddler friendly gate on their property. Working with Mark Rath, of the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and with the aid of examples researched on the Internet, volunteers developed and built a prototype. Four volunteers scouted the sites, then worked together to install the gates. The time in transit averaged 1.5 hours, and the gate took 1.5 to 2 hours to build and install. The first gate was installed on Split Rock Creek, near Garretson, SD with the cooperation and help of the landowners. On the next gate, installed on the Big Sioux River, near Dell Rapids, SD, the landowner gave helpful suggestions and the gate configuration improved. Each gate recipient was advised that the funds came from the ACA/L.L.Bean grant.

The gate consists of four fence posts with a PVC pipe frame. The frame holds a cable with rope floats which moves up and down as the water level changes. The floats will sink under a kayak or inner tube, but prevent cattle leaving their pasture as the cattle will not step over it. This is a great improvement over trying to navigate under an electric fence at neck level, especially while paddling through rapids, around rocks or sand bars.

This summer was a test of patience for the volunteers waiting to install the fence. A rain storm in Sioux Falls flooded streets, and a storm in Garretson wiped out about 70% of the trees in that town. With these storms, and other rain storms to the north, the Split Rock Creek rose to such levels that it would have been dangerous to walk in the rock filled creek bed. At last, in July, the first gate was installed. And the next rain brought out the white water kayakers. A video of kayakers on Split Rock Creek, using the gate, is found at this website:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=avD04tDA2eU>

The L.L. Bean CFS grant received named a goal of three gates. This one on Split Rock Creek, another was placed on Joe Nemmer's property on the Big Sioux north of Dell Rapids, and one on Dwight Merry's property on the Big Sioux, near Trent, SD. In addition to these three, another gate is being prepared to be offered to the Mitchell landowner who is having trouble with paddlers.

The attached article from the Mitchell newspaper gives some background:

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/local/3858256-petition-aims-block-public-access-firesteel-creek>





The hearing held in October, the Game, Fish and Parks argued that the creek is navigable, proven by the kayakers who used it and caused the problem. In December, another hearing will be held to decide if the Firesteel Creek should be removed from the list. Since it is important to the South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association to keep waters available to the public, a gate is to be offered to the landowner. Paddlers do not have to open the gate, nor close it once past. Paddlers who are negotiating a gate are less likely to have time or inclination to do mischief.

By providing safe passage in the waterways of South Dakota, more paddlers can enjoy the beauty of South Dakota, come to know the waters and the challenges faced with this blend of cattle and water, and voice their interest, concern, and ideas on resolving the problems. Until riparian buffer zones become a reality, a gate is a viable solution, protecting the cattle while allowing access to the rivers and streams.

Pictures of the gate construction, with recognition given to the American Canoe Association and L.L. Bean Club Fostered Stewardship, are posted on Face Book and the SDCKA blog: [sdcka.blogspot.com](http://sdcka.blogspot.com)

[A slide show about the grant and gates will be presented at the SDCKA annual conference January 30, 2016, at the Outdoor Campus. This meeting is open to the public](#)



# Spokane River Forum



## **Spokane River Islands Trailhead Access**

The Spokane River Forum is a non-profit organization that creates materials, events and activities to promote regional dialogs for sustaining a healthy river system while meeting the needs of a growing population. The Forum's Spokane River Water Trail, [www.spokanewatertrail.net](http://www.spokanewatertrail.net), initiative provides river and riparian protection, restoration and stewardship; supports safe, non-motorized access for recreational users; and contributes to the community's cultural and healthy living identity.

The Spokane River Islands Trailhead Access Project is located in Spokane Valley. This location currently is part of the Centennial Trail and includes parking and restroom facilities. It's centrally located along the Spokane, WA – Coeur d'Alene Idaho river corridor, which is home to more than 500,000 people. The Islands Trailhead project leverages use of the existing trailhead, which is managed by Riverside State Park, by restoring and enhancing approximately 500 feet of riparian shoreline and aquatic habitat; installing a low-impact development slide system for drift boat and rafting take-out and paddling put-in; and supporting public outreach messaging.

- ◆ The total cost of the project is over \$110,000 and has used numerous volunteers and taken about five years to bring to fruition. ACA funds were specifically used to develop interpretive signage for the access

In the past year the following milestones were reached:

- ◆ In April, proceeds from the Silver Bow Flyfishing Film festival were directed toward completing fundraising for this project.
- ◆ An extensive permitting process involving multiple agencies was completed in September with the final signature being received from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- ◆ An RFP for construction of the slide system was released and a contractor selected in October.
- ◆ A time line for installation of the slide system is being completed with the hope being that installation will occur before the onset of winter.
- ◆ Riparian restoration and planting is scheduled to occur in November – December.
- ◆ Interpretive signage development is complete and will be installed as part of construction of the slide system.

The biggest limitation to the project was securing permits for construction. The partner leading this part of the effort, the Spokane Conservation District, has done everything possible to move the permitting process forward expeditiously.

Volunteers continue to be critical to development of this project. Over 30 volunteers contributed to development of slide system design and hosting of the Fly Fishing Film Festival, which drew over 425 people. 20 – 40 volunteers are expected to help with riparian restoration and planting.

Outreach and use of the CFS logo has and is occurring in several ways, including:

- ◆ Use of the logo on the interpretive sign (see attached) that will be seen by thousands of people annually.
- ◆ Recognition on the safety page of the Spokane River Water Trail, <http://www.spokaneriver.net/watertrail/safety-river-flows/>
- ◆ Recognition on the Spokane River Forum stewardship page, <http://spokaneriver.net/category/stewardship/>
- ◆ Recognition via Spokane River eNews, which is distributed to over 3,000 email addresses every 3 – 4 weeks.

This project has enabled the community to come together and rally around a project that speaks to recreational, environmental and cultural values. From elected officials to citizens coming to the fly fishing film festival, the desire and willingness to participate and support has been extraordinary. This is a high profile project that greatly benefits from ACA support.



# Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association



Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA) is a 501 (c) (3) volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and restoration of the scenic, free flowing rivers of Tennessee. TSRA is active in making the waters of Tennessee accessible through waterway accesses, teaching safe paddling, performing waterway clean ups and organizing paddling trips. More information at [www.paddletsra.org](http://www.paddletsra.org)

About the Project: Thanks to the LLBean Club Fostered Stewardship Grant contribution, TSRA was able to add another access onto Mill Creek in Nashville at Elm Hill Pike. This is the third access onto Mill Creek, that TSRA has built. With the addition of the Elm Hill Pike Access at mile marker 3.5 the official Mill Creek Blueway is 14 miles long. From here one can also paddle downstream for another 6 miles from Elm Hill Pike to the Cumberland River and then onto Shelby Bottoms Park for a take out. In addition to the build we organized our 28th Mill Creek cleanup at the same time as the build.

The access building project took place over 3 days, and involved 55 volunteers working a total of 389 hours. Additionally the cleanup generated 2 truckloads of trash. Both of these projects benefit paddling and clean water.



# Illinois Water Trail Keepers



The Illinois Paddling Council, an ACA Paddle America Club dedicated to advocating for and promoting paddling in the state of Illinois, have won several awards for their stewardship work, including the 2013 ACA Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation award. The offshoot program, Illinois Water Trailkeepers, focuses on maintaining and improving water trails across the state of Illinois.

This year, using L.L.Bean Club Fostered Stewardship grant funds, Illinois Water Trailkeepers will undertake a project that includes both waterway cleanups and watertrail improvement. On the cleanup side, Illinois Water Trailkeepers hosted four community based cleanups, inviting the paddling community to join them as they maintained their waterways. On the water trail improvement side, the Illinois Water Trailkeepers installed signage for the first of four different “loops” of the Banner Marsh Water Trail, near Peoria, IL.





# About the ACA

Founded in 1880, The American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.

For those who know the immense joys of paddling, nothing is more critical than the nation's streams, lakes, and oceans. It is that unique and personal connection between paddlers and nature that is at the heart of the ACA's Stewardship Department.

The ACA works hard to make the nation's waterways paddle friendly and to increase the voice of paddlers in policy decisions which impact paddlers and the waters they cherish. That is why we partners with businesses like L.L.Bean who cherish the outdoors just as much as the ACA.

With the help of L.L.Bean, the ACA can continue to support paddling clubs and grassroots organizations around the country in their efforts to care for our waterways.



[www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

503 Sophia Street, Suite 100, Fredericksburg Virginia 22401