



# Club Fostered Stewardship Grant Report

2018

Sponsored by  **L.L.Bean**



# Club Fostered Stewardship Program assists local, regional paddling organizations

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L. Bean to sponsor the Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program. The CFS Program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs and organizations that undertake stewardship projects on waterways in their area. The purpose of the program is to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving the nation's waterways.

CFS grants are available for projects that utilize volunteers in efforts to protect, maintain or restore recreational waterways, provide for or improve public access, or enhance safe navigation. Eligible projects include cleaning up waterways, clearing in-stream safety hazards, maintaining access areas, erecting signs and controlling erosion, establishing and maintaining paddle trails, acquiring threatened access points, and providing sanitary facilities. Grant amounts range from \$100 to \$1,000.

Past projects receiving CFS grants have included:

- Removing heavy debris and trash from rivers and bays in numerous locations throughout the U.S.
- Improving access for local paddlers
- Establishing water trails
- Water quality monitoring
- Environmentally sensitive woody debris removal
- Riparian buffer restoration and improvement
- Environmental education and outreach programs

The ACA is proud to be able to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waterways and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's CFS Program has provided nearly \$150,000 to over 160 different stewardship initiatives since its inception. With the continued support 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. For more information, please visit [www.americancanoe.org/LLBean\\_CFS\\_Grant](http://www.americancanoe.org/LLBean_CFS_Grant).

In 2018, the CFS Program funded 13 projects run by the following organizations:

- Florida Paddling Trails Association
- Friends of the Chicago River
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- Illinois Paddling Council
- Kayak New Mexico
- Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds
- Mobile Baykeeper
- Northern Forest Canoe Trail
- Paddlers for Conservation
- Rivers for Change
- The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
- Viking Canoe Club
- We Love Clean Rivers



CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

**CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP**

*A grant program funded by*

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## About the American Canoe Association

Founded in 1880, the 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. The ACA is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the Olympic paddlesports of canoe slalom and canoe sprint and the Paralympic sport of Paracanoe.

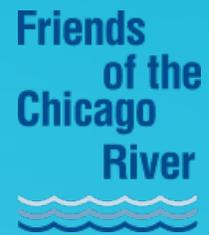
The ACA believes it is our role to:

- Provide the general public with FUN paddlesport opportunities;
- Make paddling education and instruction accessible;
- Improve access to all paddling venues;
- Expand paddlesport to people of all abilities and to the underserved;
- Influence stewardship issues and public policy that affect paddlers and the paddling experience;
- Promote paddlesports competition at the local, regional and national levels;
- Create strategic alliances with clubs and other organizations that represent the outdoor experience in order to expand awareness and knowledge of paddlesport;
- Communicate the benefits of canoeing, kayaking, rafting and stand up paddleboarding as healthy lifetime recreation activities; and
- The heart of the ACA is the people who paddle, cherish and protect the rivers, lakes, streams, bays and oceans of the United States and beyond.

The ACA has more than 30,000 members, and 300 paddling clubs and affiliated organizations. The ACA provides sponsorship and insurance for over 4,000 events each year, including 200 races. The ACA education program has an estimated outreach of 800,000 people a year. ACA members reside in all 50 states and over 35 countries worldwide.

For more information, please visit: [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).

# Friends of the Chicago River



[Friends of the Chicago River](#) (Friends) improves and protects the Chicago River system for people, plants and animals. The group achieves this mission through education and outreach programs, public policy and planning, and on-the-ground projects. Friends believes bringing people out on the water to form a connection with it is a powerful first step in building an ethic of personal stewardship. Friends introduces thousands of people to the Chicago River system through canoeing, including individuals and families as well as school, civic, and corporate groups.

## About the Project

Friends held its 26th annual Chicago River Day on May 12, 2018. This annual volunteer day has an immediate impact and collectively brings about long-term improvements in the health of the Chicago River. Spanning the river's 156-mile system with over 60 locations to choose from, people of all ages have multiple ways to get involved, including removing litter from the river in canoes. In 2017, 2,000 volunteers contributed 7,000 hours of service to watershed restoration.

Growing interest in the river led organizers to expand the event from 57 sites across the watershed in 2017 to 70 sites in 2018. Sites were located throughout the City of Chicago into suburban Cook County.

The event proved extremely successful, with 2,586 individuals registering to volunteer. Volunteers removed several tons of litter from the river and river-edge lands during Chicago River Day. This litter ranged from cigarette butts to a cash register.

Chicago River Day involved significant advance and day-of logistics, including assembling and distributing packages of gloves, shirts, and trash bags; and coordinating media coverage. Training for site captains was held April 14, 2018, to share best practices for the event and ensure volunteers had an enjoyable experience.

This Chicago River Day dramatically expanded past efforts to remove trash directly from the river, with partners including REI, Wateriders, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County joining mainstay partner Wendella Boats. Seven sites involved volunteers entering the river in canoes and kayaks to remove trash directly from the river. These sites spanned the length of the river, ranging from city neighborhoods in the north and south sides of the city as well as downtown. Having sites across the city

encouraged a diverse group of volunteers to sign up.

Volunteers enjoyed their experience, with surveyed participants giving the day an average of "eight" on a scale of one-to-ten, and 79 percent of respondents saying they would participate again. The event also expanded Friends' audience, since 57 percent of survey respondents said it was their first time volunteering with the organization.

Friends' seasonal paddling program began a few weeks after Chicago River Day, and the program manager expects over 1,000 people to join Friends for a trip by the end of the season. A record 15 new canoe guides joined the program in 2018, and Chicago River Day served as a great introduction for them to Friends' broader mission, because it integrated multiple efforts.



# Friends of the Rappahannock



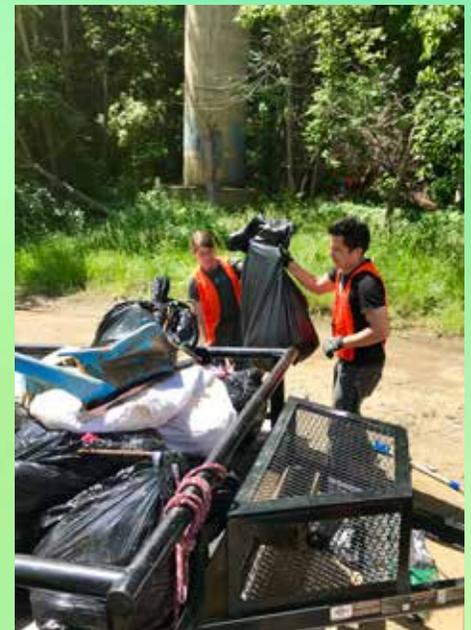
Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, based in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Established in 1985, FOR focuses on advocacy, restoration and education efforts to foster environmental stewardship in the Rappahannock River watershed.

## About the Project

FOR has initiated Nuestro Rappahannock (Our Rappahannock), an outreach effort bringing messages about river safety and conservation concepts to the watershed's growing Spanish-speaking population. River safety issues encompass localized information about drowning hazards (i.e., tidal effects in the Fredericksburg area), and the importance of wearing life jackets. Conservation concepts include Leave No Trace principles and the Pack It In, Pack It Out ethic.

The CFS grant funding was spent on two brochures that FOR translated into Spanish and printed locally. These materials were first distributed at the April 21 Earth Day event in Fredericksburg, where volunteers also performed a riverside cleanup. The brochures were featured again at the June 2 Rock the River event. FOR will continue to use these brochures at all future FOR outreach events and river cleanups.

Regarding the future of Nuestro Rappahannock, FOR representatives have made contact with Iglesia Pentecostal Cristo la Roca church in Falmouth and are planning a "day on the river" with their youth group. Organizers include college interns, Kelsey Bracewell from ACA, and staff from VOC.



# Florida Paddling Trails Association



The [Florida Paddling Trails Association](#) is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization comprised of a state-wide community of paddlers, clubs, outfitters and other water trail supporters with a common purpose of “connecting paddlers to water trails.” Their goal is to knit the paddle community together.

The FPTA was formed in October 2007 under the guidance of the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways & Trails to be the steward for all Florida’s water trails, including the Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail. The FPTA’s major missions:

- Develop water trails
- Protect the environment along the trails
- A resource and voice for paddlers

## About the Project

Toward the goal of protecting the environments that paddlers enjoy exploring throughout Florida, the FPTA has developed a [Paddlers Environmental Toolkit Training](#) program.

PETT seeks to educate paddlers about the environments they travel through, how to best interact with wildlife and habitats, and empower them to serve as waterway stewards. The stewardship component includes information and resources on how to lead cleanups, report certain environmental issues to appropriate agencies, and be the “eyes and ears” of Florida’s paddling trails.

FPTA is collaborating with the Florida Master Naturalist Program to offer a three-hour curriculum indoors, followed by lunch, and then a short paddle on a nearby waterway where paddlers are challenged to put into practice what they’ve learned in the classroom. Paddling clubs across Florida are an audience for the PETT program. FPTA can vary program content to include flora, fauna, and resource information most relevant to each region of the state. This year, thanks to the CFS grant, FPTA will bring the PETT program to at least three more paddling clubs across Florida over the next year.



# Illinois Paddling Council



The [Illinois Paddling Council](#), an ACA Paddle America Club, strives to promote all aspects of paddling in Illinois. As part of its mission, the council partners with the Openlands on the Illinois Water Trailkeepers program.

## About the Project

Much like the Adopt-a-Highway program, through the trailkeepers program volunteers adopt a section of water trails in the state and monitor, maintain (clean up), advocate, and report on conditions on their reach of water trail. Water



TrailKeepers volunteers typically organize, lead, and/or participate in around 15-20 cleanup efforts per year. The IPC and Water TrailKeepers is strictly a volunteer-run organization.

Several individual groups are working toward the same purpose: To develop and promote water trails, paddlesport access, and stewardship of Illinois paddle-able waterways. The Illinois Paddling Council, along with its Water Trailkeepers program, is in a unique position to sponsor an event in which like-minded organizations, governmental agencies, and recreational users gather to network, share lessons learned, develop best practices, and united, increase effectiveness in shared missions.

The council was awarded a CFS grant to engage the local community, paddlers, and regular volunteers

to conduct four river cleanups. The locations selected include:

- Upper Calumet River in Blue Island
- Des Plaines River Between Lake and Cook Counties
- Fox River in Algonquin
- Sangamon River in Central Illinois (50+ miles of water trail across multiple counties)

The council's general approach to cleanups to invite members of the paddling community to help clean the river from their canoes and kayaks. Community groups, youth groups, and members of the general public are invited to join in walking the shores of the river. The four section sections of river were selected to help build new community relationships and continue to grow existing relationships with partner organizations and the local communities.



# Kayak New Mexico



[Kayak New Mexico Inc.](http://www.kayaknewmexico.org) is a volunteer-run nonprofit that values inclusive programming, developing independence through broader community involvement, and helping individuals with disabilities find purpose through mentorship and community service.

## About the Project

On July 21, 2018, Kayak New Mexico teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Albuquerque's Boy Scout Troop 444 to clean up Cochiti Lake. Twenty-five volunteers (12 Boy scouts including their leaders, 1 adaptive paddling participant, a mother and brother of an adaptive paddling participant, 8 members of the New Mexico paddling community, and 3 KNM board members) collected 1,291 pounds of trash.

A wooden pallet, 16 tires, 2 metal drums, a metal handrail bar, and a refrigerator were the largest items collected. Plastics, aluminum, and glass were sorted and taken to a recycling center (289 pounds). One of the metal drums collected will be "recycled" by using it as a garbage can at the group campsite.

Broken Trail Brewery & Distillery of Albuquerque, New Mexico, donated grain sacks from their brewery for the collection of trash that was not recyclable. The grain sacks are strong – far better than plastic bags – and the volunteers were able to "recycle" something Broken Trail Brewery & Distillery no longer needed.

The Army Corps of Engineers graciously provided free use of their group campsite for the entire weekend for all volunteers. Natural Resources Specialist Trevor Wallin and Juan Sanchez piloted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ranger boat and heaved all trash from volunteers onto the boat. Once filled, the boat was brought to the staging area for sorting by more volunteers. Two trips were needed by Wallin and Sanchez to carry all the trash back to the staging area. An Army Corps of Engineers front loader was then used to take non-recyclable trash from the staging area.



# Middle Grand River Organization of Watershed



The [Middle Grand River Organization of Watershed](#) (MGROW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2011 as an umbrella group serving the people and organizations within the Middle Grand River watershed. Its mission is to protect and preserve the history and the natural resources of the Middle Grand River watershed by promoting education, conservation, restoration, and wise use of watershed resources.

## About the Project

MGROW oversees The Lansing Earth Project, which works to build paddlesport and watershed appreciation through planned volunteer-based cleanups throughout the year in multiple locations within the watershed and the Metro Lansing area, including on the river, in nearby parks, and on nearby trails.

In their project report, MGROW representatives Elissa Voigt and Paul Brogan, stated, “Our goal in using the CFS grant was to build paddlesport and watershed appreciation through a series of planned clean-up campaigns. We aimed to restore the watersheds to their natural states by removing combating pollution, reinstating the organic environment and making watershed quality information and watershed conservation stewardship initiatives available and accessible to the public. In particular, we made a signif-

icant dent in our ongoing goal of achieving a cleaner watershed.”

They went on to say that one way they accomplished their goal was by providing volunteers with effective tools for the cleanups. With a portion of the funds provided through the CFS grant they purchased much needed supplies, including Over 60 three-foot trash grabbers, a large supply of latex gloves, trash bags, trash containers, waist-high waders, and 200 re-usable mesh river bags.

The Lansing Earth Project also organized over 15 different cleanup operations in 2018. The areas affected focused on the populated sections of Lansing and East Lansing, Michigan.

“Most of the Middle Grand River Watershed is fairly clear of inorganic materials and trash because of our efforts and your support this season. However, we have significant issues in the more dense urban areas. It is difficult to measure the amount of trash collected. It is estimated the Lansing Earth Project picked up somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 gallons of trash. This does not include larger items like bikes, TVs, traffic barrels, trash cans, etc.,” they added.

Voigt and Brogan added that a key goal of the project has been to engage the community and provide

them with a platform to give back to our wonderful natural resources: to reverse the negative effects of mankind and demonstrate the power of unity and love for our blue ways and green ways.

“Over 300 volunteers joined MGROW through the season and cleaned portions of the Red Cedar River and Grand River, as well as many sections of the Lansing River Trail and parks adjacent to the rivers,” they said. “We had many organizations join us this year. Some were local small businesses and nonprofit organizations. We also had churches organize cleanup projects for their members for community service days. In October, the Lansing Earth Project teamed up with the MSU Fisheries and Wildlife program and the MSU Outdoors Club to clean the Red Cedar through Michigan States Campus.”



# Mobile Baykeeper



[Mobile Baykeeper](#) formed in 1997 as West Bay Watch when a group of concerned citizens joined forces to fight the construction of a chemical facility at the Theodore Industrial Park, along Mobile Bay's western shore. As the group investigated the environmental implications of these plants, it was discovered that for decades Mobile County's economic leaders had focused their efforts on industrial recruiting. As a result, the pollution amounts led the Environmental Defense Fund to rank Mobile County second in the nation for the presence of chemicals known to be cancer hazards in the Toxics Release Inventory.

The volunteers expanded their mission, and in 1998 changed the organization's name to Mobile Bay Watch Inc. to express the reality that air and water quality issues affect the east and west sides of the bay. The volunteers hired a full-time director to serve the growing organization and then applied for and received its 501(c)(3) nonprofit

status. In September of 1999, Mobile Bay Watch Inc. became affiliated with the international organization, [Waterkeeper Alliance](#).

## About the Project

As a part of a larger National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Removal Grant, Mobile Baykeeper is restoring the historically and ecologically important One Mile Creek. One Mile is a tributary of Three Mile Creek, which contains a high biodiversity and potential for the community to use again for recreation. It is located adjacent to downtown Mobile and, therefore, receives a significant amount of urban litter from downtown activities and festivities.

The Baykeeper's goal is to remove 8,000 pounds of litter on One Mile Creek over a two-year period. To accomplish this, the nonprofit organization is hosting a series of water-based community cleanups that utilize volunteers onboard canoes and kayaks to actively remove the

litter that has accumulated along the creek banks.

Upon receiving the grant funds, the Baykeeper purchased two kayaks, making the organization's litter and invasive species removal efforts and stream bank trash assessments possible. Since adding the kayaks, the organization – with the support of 58 volunteers (232 volunteer hours) – has removed more than 300 pounds of litter from One Mile Creek. The team will continue to conduct litter cleanups on the creek until the original goal of 8,000 pounds removed is reached (currently at 4,165 pounds). Additionally, the Baykeeper has been able to conduct monthly trash assessments along the stream banks to look at the type of litter that is accumulating so the organization can better prevent these sources from entering the waterway.

The kayaks supported the Baykeeper's efforts to remove an invasive species, the Apple Snail, from Three Mile Creek. At the organization's most recent Apple Snail Roundup event, 170 volunteers removed 1,776 snails from the creek. The goal is to continue to provide volunteers the opportunity to remove Apple Snails from the creek through do-it-yourself roundups.



# Northern Forest Canoe Trail



The [Northern Forest Canoe Trail](#) works to protect and steward its water trail and foster community vitality to promote inspiring outdoor experiences in the Northern Forest Region. Completed in 2006, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a 740-mile water trail from Old Forge, New York, to Fort Kent, Maine.

The trail follows traditional travel routes used by Native American, settlers and guides. It is the longest inland water trail in the nation and consists of 23 rivers and streams, 59 lakes and ponds, 45 communities, and 65 portages (70-plus miles).

## About the Project

This summer the nonprofit organization completed a series of three paddler access improvement projects on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, including flood resilient access stairs at the Enosburg Falls Carry and the Brownway Campsite on the Missisquoi River (VT) and the Errol Rapids access on the Androscoggin River (NH). Funds from the CFS grant went toward material costs (rough-cut cedar lumber, hardware, rebar, stone gravel, signage) for the three projects, as well as trucking expenses and permit fees.

- **Lawyers Landing Access (Missisquoi River, VT):** NFCT replaced access stairs at the Lawyers Landing Access in Enosburg

Falls. Flooding and ice scouring during the winter of 2018 destroyed previous infrastructure. New infrastructure consists of six-cribbed timber steps constructed from 6x8 cedar, armored with rip-rap rock and backfilled with gravel. This is a more flood resilient design than the prior steps and will ensure safe and continued access for years to come. This project was completed as a training project for NFCT stewardship interns.

- **Brownway Campsite (Missisquoi River, VT) –** Volunteers under the supervision of NFCT staff improved access to this paddler campsite by building and installing an eight-step cedar staircase. The stairs are anchored with heli-

cal anchors, and designed to be removable during the winter to avoid ice damage.

- **Errol Rapids Access (Androscoggin River NH):** In late July, NFCT stewardship volunteers and community volunteers installed a set of 12 timber cribbed access step at an access above the Errol Rapids on the Androscoggin River. The new steps provide access to one of the most popular Class II-III whitewater reaches in New England. The project also involved regrading a parking area to reduce stormwater runoff. ACA/LL Bean contributions were used as match for a grant committed from the state Recreational Trails Program.



# Paddlers for Conservation- Kayak and Canoe Club



The [Paddlers for Conservation-Kayak and Canoe Club](#) P4C is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer-based organization dedicated to promoting paddling, education and conservation. Their mission is to restore and enhance the Tippecanoe River and Kosciusko County lakes and streams through hands-on environmental stewardship in order to preserve rivers, lakes and streams for the future. The organization aims to bring the community together through various cleanup projects and organizing family fun float trips which will foster a healthier environment and instill positive friendships amongst our members and community.

## About the Project

P4C had another successful year in northeast Indiana and was able to put CFS grant funds to good use in promoting conservation and education efforts in the Tippecanoe River Watershed.

P4C partnered with numerous local organizations, individuals, schools, and other nonprofit groups to foster awareness of local natural resources and promoted conservation efforts to clean up the Tippecanoe River, including several of its tributaries.

“Mother Nature played a major role in our group’s accomplishments in 2018, as we were forced to cancel two river cleanup days due to more than 25” of rain in May through early September,” said P4C Paddlers for Conservation Vice President Scott E. Fetters. “Despite the above-average rainfall in 2018, we completed four river cleanups from June to mid-September totaling 21.5 hours, 89 volunteers, and 1,913.50 volunteer hours. We removed 69 log jams, 10 tires, 15 bags of trash, and numerous items including; a storm door, a plastic chair, numerous kids toys, and a broken fishing pole,” Fetters added.

P4C also supported the 2018 Lakes Festival and helped coordinate the Kayak for Kids event, providing an opportunity for kids, many of whom had never been in a kayak or canoe, a chance to experience it for the first time.

In addition, the organization conducted cleanups on Walnut Creek and Cherry Creek assisting other community groups in their efforts to improve water quality in the Tippecanoe Watershed. P4C’s efforts in the past three years have encouraged others to conduct their own riverine projects and we have been there to provide equipment and manpower to continue in our community’s efforts to promote water quality, improved access, and quality paddling experiences for our residents.



# Rivers for Change



[Rivers for Change](#) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of passionate river enthusiasts dedicated to changing the way people think about and interact with water. Through adventure, conservation and education, Rivers for Change works to connect individuals and communities to rivers and promote source to sea literacy. They envision a world where people and communities are active stewards of river systems with a holistic understanding of their interconnectedness and interdependence.

## About the Project

The 2018 Truckee River Source to Sea Educational Paddling Adventure constituted the second year of a unique adventure-based watershed education program. Over

the 2017-18 school year, the 2017 student ambassador team gave presentations to their peers at their respective schools, sharing their experience and knowledge gained from exploring the Truckee River watershed the previous summer. A total of 1,100 students were reached at seven middle schools throughout the watershed.

During the spring of 2018, Rivers for Change coordinated three on-shore learning events with three schools. Approximately 115 students participated in these events, which included hands-on learning exercises and/or presentations related to water-based recreation safety, stream channel restoration, water supply allocations and water use management, and water quality.

The 2018 Truckee River StS project then culminated in a six-day exploration of the Truckee River watershed with a 14-member student ambassador team, representing six middle schools. Four members of this year's team were returnees from last year and performed as mentors to the 10 new student ambassadors. Student ambassador mentors not only helped with camp logistics but also functioned as additional safety boaters during the journey.

The journey began in the upper watershed June 1-3, including the Upper Truckee River on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, and the Truckee River near Truckee, CA. During the second weekend, June 8-10, the team explored the lower watershed from Reno, NV to the inland sea terminus of Pyramid Lake. During the six days of exploration the team utilized a wide variety of recreational water craft, including kayaks, paddle cats, outriggers canoes, stand-up paddle boards, whitewater rafts, surf-skis, and prone paddle boards. During each day of exploration, the team met with a variety of partners to learn about ecological values and conservation efforts affecting the river, within the context of the entire watershed. The students also participated in hands-on stewardship activities, including a beach cleanup and a river cleanup, during the journey. \_



# The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment



[The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment](#) is an educational and research center at Texas State University committed to sustainable water solutions. The center is the entrusted steward of Spring Lake, an environmentally sensitive spring-fed lake that is home to eight federally endangered or threatened species. The lake is part of Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Over 120,000 visitors come to the lake annually for environmental education, research and recreation. The lake must be maintained and cared for, and several invasive species have made home in the lake – compromising the habitat for native species, some of which are threatened or endangered. Among these invasive species, Water Lettuce and Water Hyacinth grow at a rapid rate and need to be managed not only for habitat integrity but also to keep the waterways clear for educational programs. The lake remains a constant 72 degrees throughout the year, allowing aquatic vegetation to grow unabated year-round.

## About the Project

One of the objectives of the education program at Spring Lake is to fuse environmental education with recreation. The ACA Club Fostered Stewardship Grant was a perfect fit to have volunteers come together in an effort that included an introduc-

tion to safe paddling skills, education about native and non-native invasive species at the lake, and a stewardship initiative involving the joy of kayaking on the clear spring waters.

The center organized three separate events engaging volunteer youth from the Texas State University community and the Austin Youth River Watch. All three programs were fantastic as participants learned about paddling and the lake and then kayaked into areas that were heavily inundated with invasive vegetation. Volunteers were able to learn about the invasive vegetation and remove it from the lake – stacking it in their kayaks as they paddled. Wildlife sightings abounded as did conversation and community. In total, the events removed 420 pounds of invasive vegetation from the lake.

The grant funds helped with the purchase of life jackets and paddles. The center had sparse equipment that was worn, and the newer gear worked great and helped everyone get on the lake in a proper and safe manner.

“We are excited about the results of the program and have had an overwhelming response to continue our efforts. With the equipment and curriculum in place we should be able to do just that. Interestingly, numerous volunteers commented how peaceful it was combining kayaking and gardening (weeding) so to speak! It really was an all-around effective blend of instruction, adventure and stewardship,” said researcher Rob Dussler.



# Viking Canoe Club



The [Viking Canoe Club](#)'s purpose is to promote and encourage the recreational navigation of wild and scenic rivers by canoe, kayak and other self-powered craft; promote conservation of wild and scenic rivers by practicing conservation as a club, by cooperating with local and national conservation organizations, and by communicating the club's concerns to governmental authorities and to the public; develop paddling skills through instruction, training and participation in canoeing and kayak events, and promote appreciation for the beauty of our wild and scenic river resources and for the recreational value of wilderness cruising, camping, canoe racing and whitewater sports. Each year our 100 active paid member club performs several river cleanups in Kentucky.

Often called the "Niagara of the South," Cumberland Falls has attracted the attention of countless people since prehistoric times. The falls draw thousands of visitors each year, and the 11-mile paddle below the falls is a favorite of the club. However, over the last few years increasing amounts of river trash have been collecting in the eddies below the falls.

## About the Project

In 2018, the club organized, advertised and participated in two cleanups. The first cleanup took place March 17 at the Falls of The Ohio State Park, located in Clarksville, Indiana, directly across from Louisville, Kentucky. Twelve participants with the VCC assisted with collection around the shoreline of the Interpreter Center. The club orga-

nized their efforts with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and collected enough trash to fill a 30-yard dumpster.

Another cleanup took place at the put-in below Cumberland Falls. The logistics of the cleanup proved to be challenging because it required hiking down to the base of the falls, collecting the trash from rock- and tree-filled debris fields, and then navigating the trash back up the sets of stairs to then remove it from the park. Because of these challenging logistics, the cleanup required several partners, so the Viking Club partnered with SUP Kentucky, Sheltowee Trace Outfitters, the Kentucky Environmental Foundation, local county officials and Cumberland Falls State Park.



# We Love Clean Rivers Inc.



[We Love Clean Rivers Inc.](#) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to cleaning high-use rivers by mobilizing the river recreation community in partnership with local environmental, recreation and educational organizations.

By coordinating with kayakers, rafters, anglers, scuba divers and tubers to clean up waterways, We Love Clean Rivers broadens engagement with river restoration activities, increases the recreation community's understanding of threats to watershed health and provides unique opportunities (drizzled with fun) for the community to give back to the incredible resources we use year-round.

## About the Project

For the last 15 years, We Love Clean Rivers has been promoting the restoration of rivers through recreation. The organization's flagship event is the annual Down the River Cleanup hosted on the Sunday after Labor Day following the high summer use. The annual Down the River Clean Up is an on-the-river, 20+ mile cleanup made possible by a rich network of river recreationalists, outdoor companies, environmental organizations, government entities, and local community leaders.

Over the last 15 years, WLCR has facilitated the removal of more than 75,000 pounds of trash from the Clackamas River and has supported the development of other river cleanups on the Sandy and Willamette rivers, both in Oregon. 2018

marks the 16th anniversary of the DRCU. This year's event will take place September 9.

In the past two years, the Down the River Clean Up has extended its cleanup to include an additional 10 miles of river to encompass the entire lower Clackamas River from Milo McIver State Park in Estacada, Oregon, to the confluence of the Clackamas and Willamette River in Oregon City, Oregon. This river cleanup covers 25 miles of river and activates over 350 volunteers in this one-day event. Paddlers and anglers join the effort in non-motorized rafts, dories, SUPs, kayaks, and canoes to remove non-woody debris from the waterway.

For more information, please visit [www.welovecleanrivers.org/clackamas-down-the-river-clean-up-sep/](http://www.welovecleanrivers.org/clackamas-down-the-river-clean-up-sep/).



*The ACA thanks L.L. Bean for its many years of support  
for the Club-Fostered Stewardship Program.*

*Working together, we have made the  
world a better place to paddle,  
and a better place to live.*

