

ISSUE  
06

Spring  
2014

# Talking Trash

ACA Stewardship Newsletter



503 Sophia Street  
Suite 100  
Fredericksburg, VA  
22401  
(540) 907-4460

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Quick Look

Attention

NOAA Marine Debris

Paddling Science

Paddle Green Bags

Rawanduz River Expedition

Stewardship Spotlight

**Since 1880** The American Canoe Association (ACA) has been 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 and recreation. The ACA is a national 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

*To stand at the edge of the sea, to sense the ebb and flow of the tides, to feel the breath of a mist moving over a great salt marsh, to watch the flight of shore birds that have swept up and down the surf lines of the continents for untold thousands of years, to see the running of the old eels and the young shad to the sea, is to have knowledge of things that are as nearly eternal as any earthly life can be.*

*- Rachel Carson*

## ACA Partners and Supporters

Subaru

L.L. Bean

Rapid Media

Hobie Polarized Sunglasses

MTI Adventurewear

Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education

Werner Paddles

Kokatat

International Whitewater Hall of Fame

Whitewater Symposium

Stand Up Paddle Industry Association

USA Canoe/Kayak

Leave No Trace

Outdoor Alliance

Outdoors Alliance for Kids

BSA Aquatics Taskforce

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety

U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary

National Safe Boating Council

NOAA Marine Debris Program

US Geological Survey

National Geographic

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Western States Boating Administrators Association

American Sailing Association

Polynesian Voyaging Society

Virginia Outdoor Center

Seal Line

Clean Waste

City of Fredericksburg

Fredericksburg Parent & Family

Klean Kanteen

New Belgium Brewery

R-Board



# Support the Stewardship Department!

Donations to the Stewardship Department are used exclusively to work on issues regarding the stewardship of waterways. The ACA leads efforts in a number of areas including fighting for clean water, advocates for appropriate access, organizes and participates in your (local) clean-ups, and actively promotes education to remove and prevent debris in local waterways.

The ACA's Stewardship Department diligently works on behalf of all paddlers and those interested in restoring waterways.



# Quick Look

In case you missed it, the ACA has moved!



*New Address: 503 Sophia Street, Suite 100 Fredericksburg, VA 22401*

## Public Policy



Check out what has been happening with Virginia Senate [Bill 629](#).



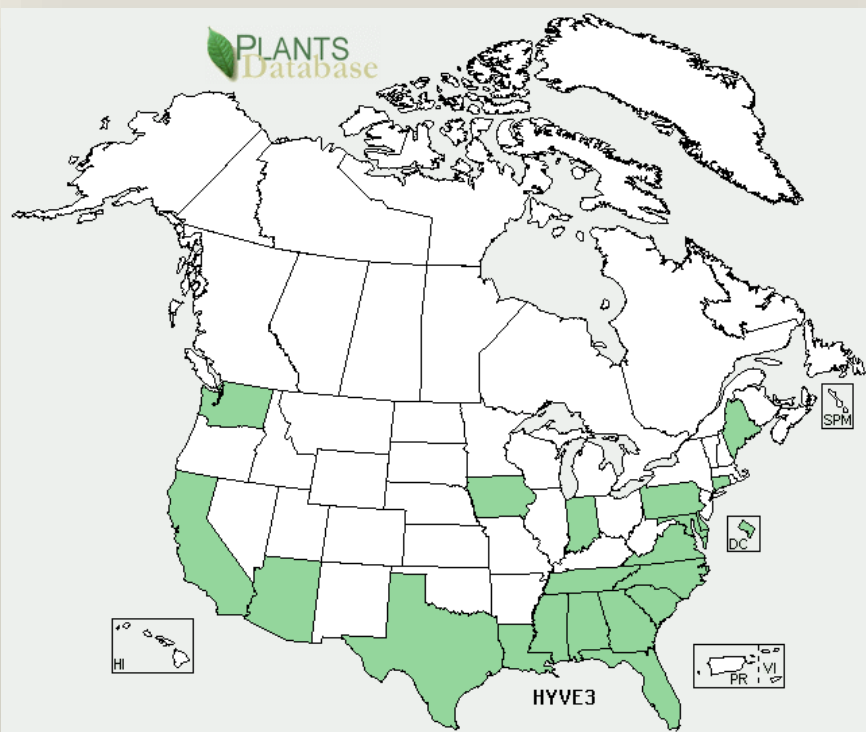
Check out what has been happening with Utah House [Bill 37](#).



ACA Staff, members, and local residents help clean-up the local waterway!  
[More information.](#)

# Invasive Species!

[Hydrilla verticillata](#) is quickly spreading across the United States! Hydrilla is a highly invasive in the states of [AL](#), [AZ](#), [CA](#), CT, [DC](#), DE, [FL](#), [GA](#), IA, [IN](#), [KY](#), [LA](#), MD, [ME](#), [MS](#), NC, PA, SC, [TN](#), [TX](#), [VA](#), and [WA](#). The Hydrilla plant threatens the health of lakes and rivers, which affects recreational activities such as fishing, paddling, and swimming. Please be aware, the Hydrilla plant is easily confused with the American Elodea (native aquatic plant). If you think you have seen Hydrilla please take a picture and [contact your local US Fish & Wildlife Service](#).

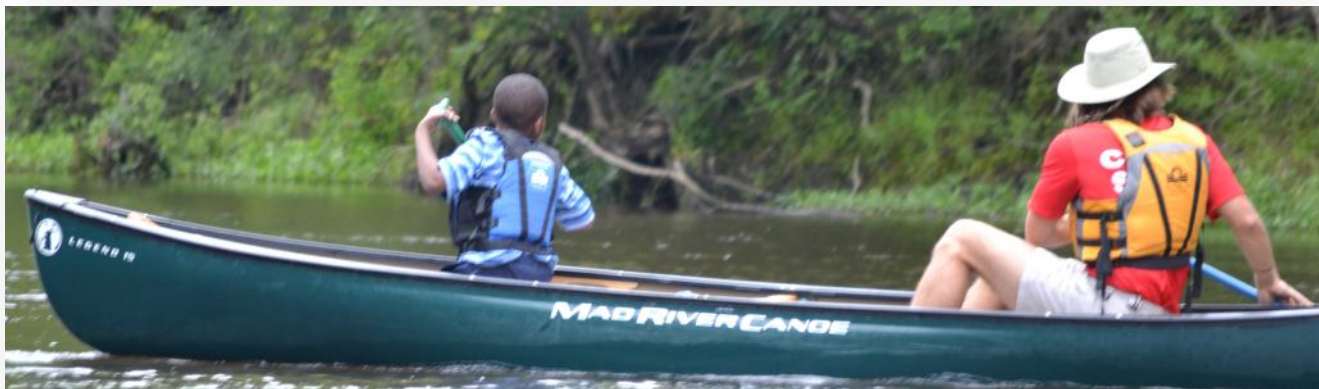


Find out more information by clicking on the above picture.



The Hydrilla species is extremely well-adapted for competing in an aquatic environment. It grows rapidly—up to an inch a day! Once it reaches the water surface, it quickly produces a dense mat of stems and crowds out desirable native plants. Early detection of Hydrilla could save the federal government and your state millions of dollars in control costs and prevent recreational and ecological consequences.

[Find more information on niipp.net](#)



# 2014 Paddle Green Events

## The ACA wants you to start your own Paddle Green

**Event!** Paddle Green Events support the ACA's Stream to Sea Initiative and promote the health and safety of our local waterways. Paddle Green Events provide local community members, businesses, paddlesport users, and outdoor organizations a way to help first time paddlers establish a permanent relationship with their waterways. Paddle Green Events promote a safe and healthy lifestyle by arranging clean-ups, on water activities, basic instruction and safety through canoeing, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and rafting.

## The ACA's wants you! The ACA:

- will help promote and organize your ACA Paddle Green Event.
- wants your local community involved with your waterway.
- will help create a marketing plan through our social media (*Google+, Water Blog, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Pinterest*) for your Paddle Green Event.
- will add your event to our ACA calendar with your logo.
- will give you a 10% discount on Paddle Green Bags, and have your organization featured in the Talking Trash Quarterly Newsletter.

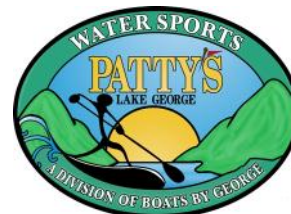


LAKE · GEORGE  
WATERKEEPER®

## Paddle Green Dates

Lorain, OH	May 3
Rosman, NC	May 17
Fredericksburg, VA	June 7
Lake George, NY	July 12-13

*Click on the events to learn more!*



Add Your  
Paddle Green  
Event Here!

[More information on Paddle Green Events.](#)



CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP

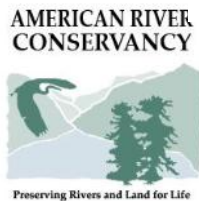
*A grant program funded by*

**L.L.Bean**

The ACA is proud to help local paddling clubs and organizations improve their waters and make this world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program has provided \$120,000 to 120 different stewardship initiatives since 2002. Check out the 21 winners below!



Kayaks Unlimited



SEPTEMBER 24, 2011  
PITTSBURGH



# NOAA Marine Debris Blog: Wendy & Tinkerbell Untangled



Smithsonian National Zoo.

The Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., is home to Wendy and Tinkerbell, two gals that used to soar high across the blue sky in their heyday. But these two are not the Disney sidekicks you might be picturing. They are two brown pelicans exhibited along [American Trail](#).

Wendy and Tinkerbell were found entangled in fishing line and rescued by the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores, Florida. After rehabilitation, the Zoo acquired Wendy and Tinkerbell in 2001, since they could not be released into the wild with their sustained injuries. The pelicans now serve as living reminders of the damage that abandoned fishing gear can cause to wildlife.

One of the most common issues with marine debris and birds is entanglement. Dozens of species of birds get caught in fishing line, tires, and pieces of plastic every year. Marine debris can have a huge impact on a bird's ability to fly. When a bird becomes entangled, their aptitude for flight is either compromised or lost all together. Birds that are unable to fly often face painful, long, and unpleasant deaths. They starve, drown, become susceptible to predators and can't seek shelter during harsh weather or environmental conditions. If and when birds are actually able to separate themselves from the debris, they often have debilitating injuries to their bones, ligaments and feathers, all of which are parts that have to work together for a bird to take flight."



In 2013, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded "Impact of Marine Debris: Educating National Zoo Visitors," an education and outreach project through the [Fishing for Energy](#) program.

Wendy and Tinkerbell serve as the Zoo's marine debris ambassadors. Through their story, the Zoo's millions of annual visitors will gain an understanding of how we can all be better stewards of marine environments and learn more about the marine debris issue and every day solutions that will help prevent injuries to marine life. [Learn more about the American Trail and keep up to date on the current exhibits.](#)

[Read the full story here!](#)

Image and story provided by NOAA & Asma Mahdi

## Marine Debris App



from NOAA

The "Marine Debris Tracker" allows you to make a difference by checking in when you find trash on our coastlines and waterways. You can easily track and log marine debris items from a list of common debris items found on the beach or in the water. The app records the debris location through GPS and you can view the data on your phone and submit it to the [Marine Debris Tracker Website!](#)



For more information on these topics please visit

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



**Our viewpoint  
since 1880.**



# Kayakswarm: Paddling



At the intersection of stream stewardship and recreational paddling is a group of Missouri Stream Teamers known as Kayakswarm. They are an informal troupe of paddling enthusiasts with experiences ranging from amateur naturalist to endurance paddler that frequently gather to enjoy the great outdoors, with a twist. Some members are trained by the Missouri Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program to collect water quality data while others focus on keeping rivers free of litter. Together, they have a vision to add value, adventure, and education to their outings to do something that has never been done in Missouri – something that provides important data and educates the public. The idea that emerged nearly seven years ago is now known as the *Great Meramec GPS Paddle*.

The Meramec River watershed drains 2,149-square miles before emptying into the Mississippi River south of Saint Louis. In its upper reaches this sparkling, spring-fed Ozark

jewel is a favorite choice among weekend floaters, with its dense forests, towering bluff tops, and excellent smallmouth fishing. The lower section exhibits issues typical of an urban stream, such as sedimentation and polluted runoff. Volunteer-collected water quality data from this kind of diverse watershed is a great asset to state agencies tasked with managing dynamic landscapes.

In 2008, Kayakswarm embarked on a lofty adventure to record GPS coordinates, collect water chemistry data, and take photos along 203 miles of the Meramec River. Armed with equipment for the job and a good sense of humor, they collected pH, conductivity, turbidity, temperature, and phosphate data at every river mile while taking photos documenting bank and downstream conditions. Their Meramec River data blitz was completed in five months. In addition, they also removed trash and made note of interesting features and paddling conditions. Sure, there may have been a few mishaps, like the hungry riverbed swallowing



*(Article Continues on Following Page)*

# Science on a New Level



a brand new waterproof camera or actions worthy of the “Tippers Award”, but there was never a scheduled paddle day without a ready and willing crew.

One might think that after such an intense year the ‘Swarmer’ would celebrate and call it quits. Not this cast and crew. Instead they thought, why not do the same thing on all the major Meramec tributaries? In 2009, they tackled 53 miles of the Huzzah and Courtois creeks, also popular float

streams. 2010 was the year they conquered 124 miles of the Bourbeuse River, and finally, in 2011, they covered 108 miles of the Big River.

After paddling a total of 488 miles and logging hundreds of hours and thousands of miles on the road, it’s no surprise that the ‘Swarmer’ took a break in 2012 and 2013 to crunch the numbers. In the meantime, they continued their regular excursions and annual New Year’s Day paddles, and took to the land several times a year to clean up their Adopt-A-Highway section in Rosebud, MO. Plans for 2014 are still in the works, but it’s not implausible that another scenic river will be mapped, monitored, and logged on their website in the near future. To find out more about Kayakswarm and their accomplishments, visit [mvp.org/Kayakswarm](http://mvp.org/Kayakswarm).



Article: Amy Meier

Photo Credit : Jim Darlington



# Paddle Green Bags

Helping Protect Our Waterways



Use your [Paddle Green Bag](#) today!

Upload your [Marine Debris Data](#) on your mobile device.



Find out more information at [americancanoe.org/pgb](http://americancanoe.org/pgb)



**Keeping waterways  
clean since 1880.**

## Meet Our New ACA Stewardship Intern!



Erica joined the ACA in the spring of 2014 as an intern in the Stewardship Department. She is currently a junior at the University of Mary Washington and is pursuing a degree in English, Communications and Linguistics. In her spare time she enjoys spending time outside writing and drawing. She has great respect for nature and the outdoors, and is looking forward to learning more about stewardship, waterways, and paddling environments. She is currently working on the Stream to Sea Initiative Clean-up manual. This manual will help organizations across the county start their own clean-up!

# The Rawanduz River Expedition



The ACA is proud to support the [Rawanduz River Expedition](#), a collaborative effort to raise awareness about the endangered rivers in Iraq.

Environmental protection in Iraq is complicated by negative perceptions of the country. The Rawanduz River Expedition is hoping to change these attitudes by showing people the true beauty of Iraq's waterways, inspiring stewardship and conservation of the region's last wild rivers.

### What is the Purpose of the Expedition?

Championed by [Nature Iraq](#), an Iraqi non-governmental organization, the Rawanduz River Expedition has two main goals:

1. Lead a kayak expedition down the Rawanduz River of Kurdistan, northern Iraq, in the spring of 2014 with a team of professional kayakers, river advocates, and a videographer who will conduct outreach to local communities raising awareness about river threats.
2. Tell the story of the expedition through a short film, which will chronicle this record-setting first kayak expedition down the full length of the Rawanduz River in northern Iraq. The film will be used to raise awareness locally and internationally, showcasing the tourism potential of these rivers and demonstrating how they can be protected and used sustainably.



### How Can I Help?

First, read the full press release [here](#), or watch the video to learn more. Then, be sure to visit the expedition's official [indiegogo campaign site](#) to show your support for this important project.

The ACA is proud to be an official sponsor of the Rawanduz River Expedition (as well as its predecessor project, the [Tigris River Flotilla](#).) For more information, please contact ACA International Paddlesports Ambassador, [Dave Burden](#).

## Submit an Article

Have something to say? Share your story in the next ACA Stewardship Newsletter.



Werner Paddles is committed to promoting access to rivers, lakes, streams and ocean paddling.

They are a valued industry partner of the ACA as their support directly enhances our efforts both to advocate for clean water as well as increase access to all waterways across the country.

Register your Werner Paddle online and Werner will make a donation to the ACA's Stewardship program in your name.

Support access to clean water by registering [here!](#)

# BYOB

The Scrimper



The Big Spender



The Wee One



The Explorer



The Runner



The Purist



The Lone Ranger



The Hipster



The Happy Camper



The Efficient One



The Sharer



Bring your own bottle  
DO THE GREEN THING



### BYOB by Rebecca Penmore

On a hot summer's day when hydration was the name of the game, Pentagram designer Rebecca Penmore noticed that our bottles of tap water are much more than liquid containers they are an extension of our personality. [See more here!](#)

*"The aim of my poster is to encourage people to carry their own bottle and avoid countless re-buying mineral water. I have used the well known acronym BYOB as a simple and straightforward way to communicate this message,"* says Rebecca. *"Bringing your own bottle is not only an easy way to reduce your global footprint, but it can be a great form of self expression!"*

# Stewardship Spotlight



Recognized as the first water trail in the country, the Maine Island Trail consists of over 200 island and mainland sites along the coast of Maine, open for low-impact day or overnight recreation. These sites are owned by public and private individuals and organizations, and managed in partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). MITA is a membership based organization with a mission of volunteer stewardship. For over 25 years, MITA has

successfully promoted a model where those who visit the islands are the ones who care for them.

There are three programs central to MITA's stewardship activity:

**Island Cleanups:** Every year MITA hosts approximately 10-12 large scale regional cleanups. These one-day events are open to anyone and typically bring around two dozen volunteers out to islands to clean the shorelines of marine debris.

**Island Adopters:** These are volunteers who go out in their own boats, on their own time, and check on islands. During their visits they pick up debris, check conditions on the ground, and help educate other visitors about the islands' usage guidelines and stewardship goals.

**Monitor Skippers:** Monitor skippers are at the core of MITA's stewardship programs. In addition to driving the MITA skiffs for cleanups and work projects, they make regularly scheduled trips to check on the islands throughout the summer season.

In 2013, MITA celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and had its biggest year for stewardship yet. In a single season, MITA hosted 11 large-scale regional cleanups, plus two special gear cleanups. On one lobster trap cleanup, roughly 300 derelict traps were removed from two islands, filling 70+ cubic yards of dumpsters and resulting in a grand total of 5 tons of metal recycled. In total, over the course of the summer, MITA volunteers removed 501 bags of trash from islands, made 700 island stewardship visits, and contributed 3,989 hours of service.



The Maine Island Trail exists because of strong partnerships with island owners and dedicated volunteers who care for the islands. If you are interested in getting involved or joining as a member, visit [www.mita.org](http://www.mita.org) or contact Maria Jenness, MITA Stewardship Manager, at 207-761-8225 or [stewards@mita.org](mailto:stewards@mita.org).

Be sure to follow us online.







**Discover the joy of paddling.**



[Make a Donation](#)

