

ISSUE

03

Summer

2013

ACA STEWARDSHIP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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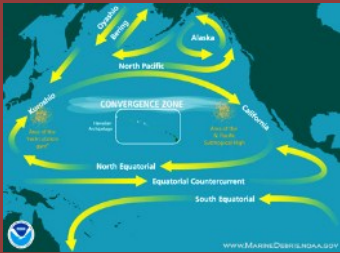
Stewardship Spotlight

Words from Rachel Carson

Fast Facts:

Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch

The “garbage patch,” as referred to in the media, is an area of marine debris concentration in the North Pacific Ocean. The name “garbage patch” has led many to believe that this area is a large and continuous patch of easily visible marine debris items such as bottles and other litter—akin to a literal blanket of



trash that should be visible with satellite or aerial photographs. This is simply not true. While litter items can be found in this area, along with other debris such as derelict fishing nets, much of the debris mentioned in the media these days refers to small bits of floatable plastic debris. These plastic pieces are quite small and not immediately evident to the naked eye.

Want to get involved?

If the ACA has not currently scheduled a Paddle Green Event in your area give us a call and we can help you organize your own cleanup.



Lead by example: ACA's Stream to Sea Initiative

The ACA's desire is to lead by example is initiating monthly clean-up walks. These events take place during the last Wednesday of every month at 4:00pm starting from the ACA National Office. ACA staff and community members travel through downtown Fredericksburg and pick up land based litter that would ultimately end up in the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. The ACA staff feels it is their duty to lead by example and to reduce the amount of marine debris entering watersheds.

The ACA staff has removed over 75 pounds of debris from the Rappahannock River Basin since the initiation of the clean-up walks three months ago.

In addition to creating environmentally friendly legislation, providing instruction to paddlers, and delivering recreation opportunities for all paddlers, it is also the ACA's intent to show the paddling community are the ones at the forefront of fighting the marine debris issue.

ACA's Celebrate the Rappahannock

In an ongoing effort to connect first time paddlers with their waterways, the ACA hosted its second annual Celebrate the Rappahannock event on June 1st. This Paddle Green Event was held at Riverfront Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This year the ACA and the VOC sponsored the 2013 Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race. The overall focus of Paddle Green

Events is to connect the community and youth with their local waterways and outdoor environments through education, instruction, and volunteering for river clean-ups.

“Getting community members and youth to start paddling or participating in clean-ups can help those individuals create a lasting relationship with their waterway that they will continue for the rest of their lives,” said Greg Rolf.

Celebrate the Rappahannock included canoeing, kayaking, and SUP instruction with over 150 participants. There were a total of three clean-ups within Fredericksburg totaling over 500 pounds of marine debris and over 40 volunteers.

Paddle Green Events

Clean-up Events	Locations	Dates
LOVE the Lake	Lake George, NY	July 19-20
Maine Island Trail Association 25th Year Anniversary	Portland, ME	August 31
National Paddlesports Conference	Bend, OR	September 27-29





Paddle Green Bag

The Stream to Sea Initiative is designed to combine recreation and good stewardship. We believe the best way to inspire people to care about our waters is to encourage exploration and to experience first-hand why these environments should be protected.

Accompanying this grassroots initiative is the belief that everyone can make a difference. While community-wide cleanups and large stewardship events are great, good stewardship is a lifestyle, not a single day of volunteerism.

The ACA has developed the Paddle Green Bags as part of our Stream to Sea Initiative. Our Paddle Green Bags are durable mesh bags that will not get water logged while paddling, allowing you to pack out your own trash while proactively cleaning up the waterways you

paddle. Great for the individual paddler, these bags also allow for co-branding. Whether you are an



CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

outfitter wanting to provide them to patrons during rentals, a non-profit organization using them at your stewardship events, or a local homeowners association trying to encourage good stewardship of your

neighborhood, the ACA wants to help you protect local waterways!

- The ACA Paddle Green Bags allow you to reduce your plastic waste by providing a means of collecting trash in a sustainable way
- Paddle Green Bags only cost \$3.50 per bag
- You pay for the production of the bags and The ACA pays for the screen printing for your logos!
- Through co-branding options, they also give your business or organization an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to cleaner waters and a sustainable future
- Must order at least 12 bags for co-branding

[Click Here for More Information](#)



Important Dates in 2013

- World Population Day July 11
- International Tiger Day July 24
- National Tree Day July 28th
- International Youth Day August 12
- World Humanitarian Day August 19th
- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer September 16



Clean Up the World September 17-19

World Water Monitoring Day
September 18

Zero Emission Day September 21

Car Free Day September 22



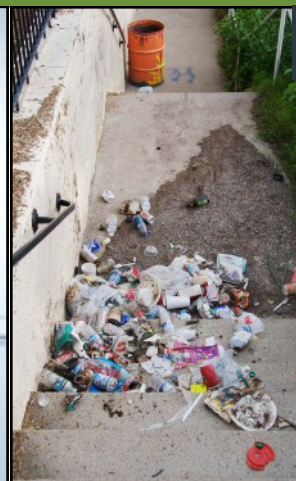
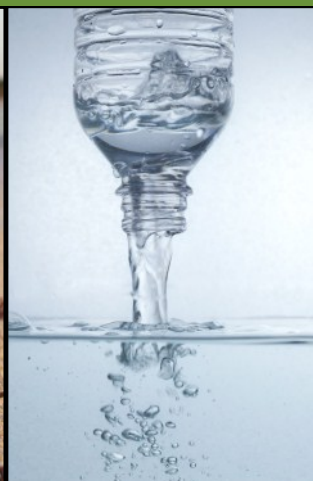
World Rivers Day September 28

World Habitat Day October 7

World Planting Day October 22

International Day of Climate Action
October 24

World Soil Day December 5



Single Use Plastic

Why is plastic marine debris so common?

Plastics are used in many aspects of daily life and are a big part of our waste stream. Many plastics are colorful and will float in water, which makes plastic debris a very visible part of the marine debris problem. However, an accurate estimate does not yet exist for how much debris is composed of plastic materials.

Do plastics go away?

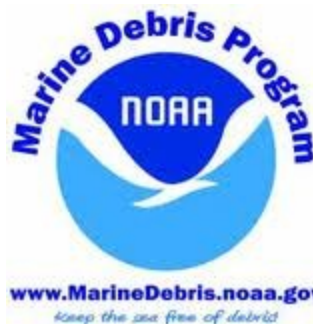
Plastics will degrade into small pieces until you can't see them anymore (so small you'd need a microscope or better!). Because the ocean is a cold, dark place, this process happens slower in water than on land. But do plastics fully "go away?" Full degradation into carbon dioxide, water, and inorganic molecules is called mineralization. Most commonly used plastics *do not* mineralize (or go away) in the ocean and instead break down into smaller and smaller pieces. We call these pieces "microplastics" if they are less than 5mm long.

Bio-based and truly biodegradable plastics break down in a compost pile or landfill, but are generally not designed to degrade as quickly in the ocean.

What can you do?

- Get involved! Participate in local clean-ups in your area.
- Remember that the land and sea, no matter where you are, are connected.
- Reduce the amount of waste you produce.

- Reuse items whenever possible. Choose reusable items over disposable ones.
- Recycle as much as possible. Bottles, cans, cell phones, ink cartridges, and many other items can be recycled.



Can plastic marine debris harm fish?

Plastic has the potential to harm fish and other wildlife in two main ways.

Direct Impacts - Studies have shown that fish and other marine life do eat plastic. Plastics could cause irritation or damage to the digestive system. If plastics are kept in the gut instead of passing through, the fish could feel full (of plastic not food) and this could lead to malnutrition or starvation.

Indirect Impacts - Plastic debris accumulates pollutants such as PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) up to 100,000 to 1,000,000 times the levels found in seawater. PCBs, which were mainly used as coolant fluids, were banned in the U.S. in 1979 and internationally in 2001. It is still unclear whether these pollutants can seep from plastic debris into the organisms that happen to eat the debris and very difficult to determine the exact source of these pollutants as they can come from sources other than plastic debris. More research is needed to help better understand these areas.

Learn more about marine debris from the [ACA](#) or [NOAA](#).

What's new on the Stewardship Website?

Keep up with Current topics in the Conservation Newsroom

[Click Here to Access](#)

The ACA's Conservation Newsroom is updated weekly with current stewardship topics!

Keep up-to-date on current issues. The new Conservation Newsroom keeps you up-to-date on current topics that are trending around the world and in your waterways.

Home	
Join The ACA	>
Education / Instruction	>
Stewardship	> CFS Grant >
Public Policy	> Conservation Newsroom
Competition	> Initiatives
Paddling Clubs	> Stream To Sea >
Find Instruction	> Our Community
WaterTrails	> Outdoor Alliance
Insurance	> Paddle Nation Project
Conferences	> Stewardship Newsletters
2013 Excursions	StewTube: Broadcast Change
Event Calendar	>
Partners	>
About Us	>
EStore	

Have questions about the new Stream to Sea Initiative?

Need to know more about the Stream to Sea Initiative?

[Click Here to Access](#)

Explore new information about marine debris and our new data entry for Tracking Trash. Track Trash lets anyone input information about their clean-up to better understand the positive affect paddlers are having on waterways.

Stewardship	>	CFS Grant	>
Public Policy	>	Conservation Newsroom	
Competition	>	Initiatives	
Paddling Clubs	>	Stream To Sea	> Paddle Green Bags
Find Instruction	>	Our Community	Paddle Green Events
WaterTrails	>	Outdoor Alliance	Paddle Green Memories
Insurance	>	Paddle Nation Project	Paddle Green Track Trash
Conferences	>	Stewardship Newsletters	
2013 Excursions		StewTube: Broadcast Change	

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 to the [Marine Debris Tracker Website!](#) Get it today for free!









[Click Here for more information](#)

Have Stewardship events? Let us help!

The ACA's online event calendar now includes Stewardship Events!

[Click Here to Access](#)

Looking for events in your area? Recruiting volunteers for a stewardship activity on your waters? Post your event on our calendar to reach the many paddlers that frequent the ACA website! Events posted to our site may also be featured on our Water Blog and social media outlets.

2012 EXCURSIONS	
Event Calendar	> Post An Event
Partners	> ACA Events
About Us	> Adaptive Paddling
FAQ	Club Events
EStore	Competitions
    	Festivals & Symposiums
	First Aid & CPR
PADDLE FOREVER	Instruction Courses
	Stewardship Events



Hōkūle‘a’s Worldwide Voyage

The Polynesian Voyaging Society's Worldwide Voyage launched the sailing vessel, Hōkūle‘a, and her sister canoe, Hikianalia, statewide in Hilo, Hawaii. They began this expedition in May of 2013 and are going to continue the Hawaiian voyage until October 2013. This first phase will help establish Mālama Honua “Taking Care of Island Earth” at home and to connect with local communities before leaving for the South Pacific starting in May 2014.

As part of the ACA's heritage and stewardship program, the ACA will be assisting in the coordination of the U.S. east coast leg of this trip. In addition, the ACA Board of Directors met in Hilo, Hawaii for the launch of this historic sailing canoe.

For this voyage, specific and measurable goals and objectives will be refined through a collaborative process with some of the best thinkers – youth to adults – who love Hawai‘i and care for its future well-being. Hawai‘i is blessed with a host of incredible organizations and individuals, each with distinct skills focused on particular aspects of sustainability. In assisting community members and groups to work together, we will create a “Hawai‘i Challenge” – inspired by challenges issued in Fiji, Micronesia and the Caribbean – that stimulates leadership, fosters a stronger sense of stewardship, increases resources, and shares skills, knowledge, and technologies to catalyze concrete action.



Currently, our compass – and indeed the world’s – points toward an unsustainable future. However, as on a canoe, our ability to survive is directly dependent on our ability to help each other. By bringing together and working with scientists, educators, policy makers, business leaders and concerned citizens, we believe Hawai‘i can one day become a model of social and environmental responsibility to the world.

If we view our Earth as an island, our only voyaging canoe in the sea of space, it becomes apparent that we must change course to ensure a healthy, sustainable world.

The Polynesian Voyaging Society was founded in 1973 for scientific inquiry into our history and heritage: How did the Polynesians discover and settle small islands in ten million square miles of ocean, geographically the largest “nation” on earth? How did they navigate without instruments, guiding themselves across ocean distances of 2500 miles? In 1973-1975, we built a replica of an ancient double-hulled voyaging canoe to conduct an experimental voyage from Hawai‘i to Tahiti in order answer these questions. The canoe was designed by founder [Herb Kawainui Kāne](#) and named Hōkūle‘a, Star of Gladness.

A Generation of Renewal 1975 – 2000

On March 8th, 1975, at the sacred place called Hakipu‘u-Kualoa , in Kāne‘ohe Bay, O‘ahu, Hōkūle‘a was



Hōkūle‘a’s Worldwide Voyage

that marked a generation of renewal for the Hawaiian people: renewal of pride in our language, stories, chants, dance, art, and many other expressions of traditional culture. This same era saw the end of abuse to the Island of Kaho‘olawe, its return to the people of Hawai‘i (1994), and the beginning of its healing.

Voyages of Rediscovery

[Hōkūle‘a’s first voyage to Tahiti in 1976](#) was a tremendous success. The Tahitians have great traditions and genealogies of ancestral canoes and navigators. What they didn’t have at the time was a voyaging canoe. When Hōkūle‘a arrived at the beach in Pape‘ete Harbor, over half the island’s people were there, more than 17,000 strong, and there was a spontaneous affirmation of what a great heritage we shared and also a renewal of the spirit of who we are today.

On that first voyage, we were facing cultural extinction. There was no navigator from our culture left. The Voyaging Society looked beyond Polynesia to find a traditional navigator to guide Hōkūle‘a: [Mau Piailug](#), a navigator from a small island called Satawal, in Micronesia. He agreed to come to Hawai‘i and guide Hōkūle‘a to Tahiti.

Without him, our voyaging would never have taken place. Mau was the only traditional navigator who was willing and able to reach beyond his culture to ours.

In 1978 Hōkūle‘a set out for Tahiti again. The heavily loaded canoe capsized in stormy seas off of Moloka‘i. The next day, crew member [Eddie Aikau](#) left on a surfboard to get help. Crew member Kiki Hugho remembers, “We were hours away from losing people.

Hypothermia, exposure, exhaustion. When he paddled away, I really thought he was going to make it and we weren’t.” But the crew was rescued; [Eddie was lost at sea](#). After the tragedy, Nainoa Thompson recalls, “we could have quit. But Eddie had this dream about finding islands the way our ancestors did and if we quit, he wouldn’t have his dream fulfilled. He was saying to me, ‘Raise Hawaiiki from the sea.’”

In 1979, Mau returned to Hawai‘i to train Nainoa to navigate Hōkūle‘a and to guide us in recovering our voyaging heritage. [In 1980, Nainoa replicated Mau’s 1976 voyage](#); he also navigated Hōkūle‘a [from Tahiti back to Hawai‘i](#), a feat that hadn’t been accomplished in 600 years. Mau sailed both to and from Tahiti to support Nainoa.

After the first two voyages to Tahiti, Hōkūle‘a continued to sail in the wake of our ancestors, including [a two-year voyage to Aotearoa \(1985-1987\)](#) and a [voyage to Rapa Nui \(1999\)](#), one of the most isolated islands on earth, at the far southeastern corner of the Polynesian Triangle.

With each of her voyages in her first twenty-five years, Hōkūle‘a brought revelations of how our ancestors navigated across open ocean, found islands, and settled Polynesia. (For a list of voyages and links see [Holokai: Our Voyages](#).)

Education

During the generation of renewal, from Hōkūle‘a’s first voyage, we recognized the key role of education in the

revival and perpetuation of Hawaiian and Polynesian traditions. The [1992 voyage to Rarotonga](#) was called No Nā Mamo (“For the Children”), a Voyage for Education. We worked with teachers to develop curriculum for schools to support the teaching of Hawaiian language and culture and to pass on voyaging traditions to the next generation in Hawai‘i. We also trained other Polynesians in non-instrument navigation and voyaging to spread the revival to other island groups.



Eddie ‘Aikau

Mālama Hawai‘i

In ancient times, building and sailing voyaging canoes required the labor and arts of the entire community, everyone working together—some collecting materials in the forest, others weaving the sails, carving the hulls, lashing the parts together, preparing food for the voyage, or performing rituals to protect the crew at sea. In 1991, in order to recreate this kind of community based on traditional culture, we embarked on building another voyaging canoe. Unlike Hōkūle‘a, which was built mainly of modern materials, the

Click image to play video



Hōkūle‘a’s Worldwide Voyage

new canoe would be built out of native material. The canoe was named [Hawai‘iloa](#), after one of the legendary discoverers of Hawai‘i.

What we discovered, however, was that building such a canoe was no longer possible. In the last eighty to a hundred years, ninety percent of our koa trees, the traditional materials for canoe hulls, had been cut down. The ecosystem that once supported healthy forests was in trouble. We couldn’t find a single koa tree big enough and healthy enough to provide a hull.

What saved the project was a gift of logs from native Alaskans, who donated [two giant Sitka spruce logs for the hulls of the canoe](#). Hawai‘iloa was built under the leadership of master canoe-builder [Wright Bowman, Jr.](#) She was launched in 1994 and sailed with Hōkūle‘a and other canoes [to Nukuhiva in the Marquesas in 1995](#).

Soon after that voyage with the realization that we not only had to rebuild community, but restore and maintain a healthy natural environment to perpetuate Hawaiian culture, the Voyaging Society joined with Queen’s Health Systems to establish Mālama Hawai‘i (“to care for and protect Hawai‘i”). [Mālama Hawai‘i](#) developed into a coalition of community organizations taking responsibility to strengthen what we value about Hawai‘i: its beauty, its mana, its unique environment and native culture, its multi-ethnic community.

Navigating Change

The voyage home from Rapanui allowed us to begin to articulate what home is and how we want to envision it and care for it.

Following Rapa Nui, in 2003 and 2004, Hōkūle‘a made two voyages to Papahānaumokuākea ([Northwestern Hawaiian Islands](#)), to examine the cultural and biological wonders of these unique and remote islands, whose coral reefs represents what the reefs of the main Hawaiian islands must have been like formerly before overfishing and sediments and pollution from land development began to damage them.

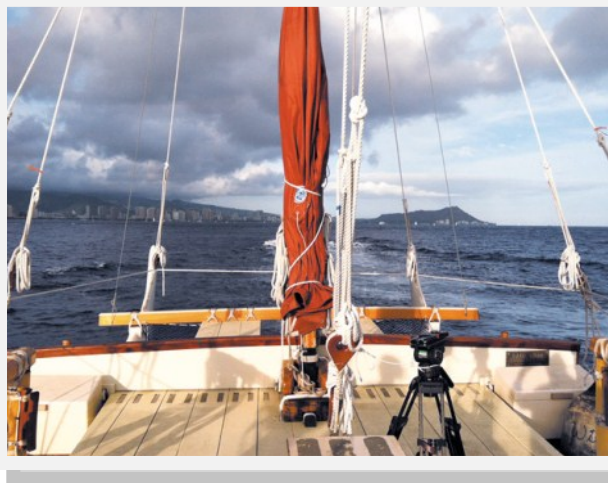
Called “[Navigating Change](#),” the Papahānaumokuākea voyage was the foundation of an [educational partnership of cultural and environmental organizations and state and federal agencies](#) sharing a collective vision for creating a healthier future for Hawai‘i and for our planet. This collaborative multi-agency effort aims to change the way we live by creating an awareness of the ecological problems we face and making them relevant to the decisions

that confront us in our daily lives.

Crossing Cultures

From her first voyage in 1975, the need to cross cultures to recover what has been lost was apparent: without Mau, voyaging traditions in Hawai‘i could not have been revived. Time after time, Mau returned to Hawai‘i to nurture the seeds of navigation and voyaging he planted.

The cross-cultural lesson was clear again when Native Alaskans gifted the two logs for the building of Hawai‘iloa to support the revival of Native Hawaiian voyaging traditions.



In 2007, [Hōkūle‘a sailed to Satawal](#) to thank Mau for his years of dedication to teaching the arts of navigation and voyaging throughout the Pacific. Along with Hōkūle‘a was the voyaging canoe [Alingano Maisu](#), built as a gift for Mau by Nā Kalai Wa‘a Moku o Hawai‘i, under the leadership of navigators Clay and Shorty

Bertelmann, two students of Mau.

On Satawal, Mau conducted a [pwo ceremony](#) to initiate his Hawaiian and Polynesian students into the ranks of navigators.

Mau passed away three years later in 2010, but his legacy is alive in ‘[Ohana Wa‘a](#), a family of canoe builders and voyagers with organizations on all the major Hawaiian Islands and throughout Polynesia.

After Satawal, [Hōkūle‘a sailed on to Japan](#), in order to have the canoe shipped back home. The voyage to Japan once again took Hōkūle‘a outside the boundary of her Polynesian culture. There was some uncertainty before the voyage about what this new experience would be like. We were delighted to find that there were core values that were shared between Hawai‘i and Japan, and that the crews were welcomed warmly wherever they went. They were able to both teach about our voyaging traditions and learn about the traditions of Japan.

The Micronesia-Japan voyage has led us to believe that Hōkūle‘a should continue to both revisit places it has been to in order to reaffirm old friendships and explore new places in order to build bridges and spread the values the canoe symbolizes—perpetuating culture and traditions, caring for and protecting the environment, caring for children, honoring elders and ancestry, healing what has been torn apart, promoting world peace.



Missouri River Relief

Just taking a boat ride on the big river can be a transformative experience for many people, especially children. For many folks, [Missouri River Relief](#) events are their first time to actually get out on the mighty Missouri River. After dodging driftwood in a big boat, climbing up muddy banks and picking up bags full of trash, getting splashed by a silver carp and possibly finding a morel mushroom in the process, they'll never look at the river the same way again.

It's our belief that real change happens when people have the opportunity to directly experience the rivers they love. We motivate individuals to learn, act, and work together to make a visible and lasting impact on our rivers, which we demand so much from, with the shared goal of creating better and cleaner rivers for everyone. The mission of Missouri River Relief is to connect communities to the Missouri River, which we accomplish through organizing big river clean ups, education events and stewardship activities.

Missouri River Relief emerged organically from a group of people in mid-Missouri who simultaneously recognized the need for engaged stewardship of the Missouri River and the desire of citizens to take part in watershed solutions. Inspired by a video of Chad Pregracke's [Living Lands and Waters](#) barge clean-up crew, this group of Missouri River lovers put together a coalition of public, private and citizen stewards that brought the barge up the river, holding the first massive Missouri River clean-up at Easley, MO, in 2001.

After twelve years of operation, Missouri River Relief has expanded its reach to more than 800 miles of the Missouri

River, organizing events in communities stretching from Yankton, South Dakota all the way down to the confluence with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri. Anyone, any age, with any skill sets can join the effort.

River Clean-ups accomplish a few things effectively: they engage people proactively in stewardship of our water ways, often getting people out on the



river for the first time. They also educate people about the problem of solid waste on our streams and rivers and physically bring interested parties together to accomplish something real. We don't have to tell people how bad "single-use" items like plastic water bottles are for the environment—we show them. Clean water is something I think we can all agree on, it is quality of life.

Volunteers with Missouri River Relief also get a chance to work with some really cool like-minded organizations, including [Big Muddy Adventures](#), [Friends of Big Muddy](#) and [Missouri Stream Teams](#). Missouri River Relief is proud to be Missouri Stream Team #1875.

Another benefit volunteers receive is access to the organization's resources and expertise. River Relief acts as a communication hub for groups of "action teams" all up & down the river. We've also published a [Manual for Planning](#).

Cleaning up all the trash on the river is a daunting goal. Very quickly, we realized that the easiest way to get rid of trash is if it never ends up in the river in the first place. Education is key. The organization continues to build an education program that focuses on getting groups and students out on the river to experience it more in a hands-on way. We have hosted and participated in 31 Missouri River Watershed Festivals, bringing together corporate, scientific, agency and non-profit experts together to teach 14,694 students about water issues right where it matters most, on the banks of one of the nation's largest river systems. For communities along the river, we have also begun to host monthly presentations we call the "Big Muddy Speakers Series" which now happen simultaneously in Kansas City, Rocheport and St. Charles.

Since 2001, Missouri River Relief has hosted 104 Missouri River clean-ups, bringing more than 18,000 volunteers together to clean more 718 tons of trash from 863 miles of the river in 22 communities. 2013 was Missouri River Relief's 12th year, and River Relief volunteers got a lot done.

Anyone interested in learning more about Missouri River Relief should check out the website at www.riverrelief.org.

Email or call riverrelief@riverrelief.org 573-443-0292 for more information.

Pangaea Exploration—One Water Story



Miami, April 4, 2013. After spending the last several years exploring the issues plaguing our seas, Pangaea Explorations' 72 ft. vessel *Sea Dragon* will sail up the Eastern seaboard and into the majestic fresh waters of the Great Lakes of North America, during the month of June through September of 2013. The aim of Pangaea's upcoming expedition is to create a "One Water Story"—an outreach and educational project that will focus on connecting environmental issues from the oceans with the current state of the Great Lakes; while bringing together water lovers from the oceans and the lakes, Pangaea will improve awareness of the problems facing both ecosystems.

Pangaea has run numerous citizen science expeditions, providing affordable access to remote locations for research teams from some of the best scientific institutions in the country, while enabling ordinary citizens the chance to explore the oceans. Their work has focused on such crucial issues as plastic pollution, ocean acidification, coral growth, and ecotoxicology. One Water Story coordinator Asta Mail says: "as a part of the upcoming voyage to the Great Lakes, Pangaea Explorations will continue to conduct citizen science projects. People of all ages and backgrounds will join the expedition and gain first-hand experience with the environment on board *Sea Dragon*. This unique opportunity allows crew members to be part of an educational and personally rewarding voyage while contributing to the conservation of their local resources." Throughout the expedition, the crew will be stopping at lakeside communities to share what they have learned and inspire others to take an

interest in lake issues. These free outreach events will be family friendly, and promote sustainable practices that can be used to help maintain the lakes' health.

Each leg is designed to promote the participation of everyone, from high school students to retirees. In addition to a number of legs for the general public, Pangaea also has two 'Educators on Board' programs, designed for teachers who would like to bring the science of the Great Lakes back to their own classrooms. (An 'Undergraduate Freshwater' research course, as well as 'Young Adventurer' programs for high school students, are other popular offerings on this exciting expedition.)



Pangaea Explorations will be hosting special community events as a part of their upcoming expedition, the One Water Story.

Pangaea Explorations, a Miami-based ecotourism and research organization, is preparing for one of its most exciting and "fresh" expeditions yet. After spending the last several years exploring the issues plaguing our seas, Pangaea's 72' expedition yacht *Sea Dragon* will sail up the Eastern seaboard and into the majestic fresh waters of the Great Lakes of North America.

The aim of Pangaea's upcoming expedition is to create a "One Water Story"—a multimedia project that highlights the connection of all water systems, and celebrates their importance of the Great Lakes in our every day lives.

Pangaea Exploration—One Water Story



expedition sailing vessel Sea Dragon. Over the past 2 years, Sea Dragon has sailed a staggering 50,000 miles across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans carrying out important research on the state of the marine environment.

2013 will be another exciting year for adventure aboard Pangaea's sailing vessel, [Sea Dragon](#). With an expanding mix of partner organizations and scientific experts, Pangaea aims to continue its mission of supporting exploration, education and conservation efforts all over the world.

The Sea Dragon sails to some of the most beautiful places in the world. View full [2012 Expedition Gallery](#). View our [Great Lakes Expeditions](#) beginning in July, 2013.

Click on Map



We would like to deepen the respect and understanding for this important freshwater ecosystem, and explore how issues that arise in the Lakes are also connected to the issues we face in the ocean.

Pangaea hopes to inspire the communities of the Great Lakes to take an interest in water issues, and get involved in the One Water Story through our "One Water Festival" outreach events. At these events, local communities will be invited to visit and explore our research vessel, *Sea Dragon*. Festival-goers will also learn about other green initiatives, businesses and organizations that are passionate about water and environmental protection.

The One Water Festival is a [free, all ages](#) community event. It will be held in 8 major cities throughout the Great Lakes region, and we would like you to get involved!

Pangaea Explorations operates the

One Water Story Event Dates:

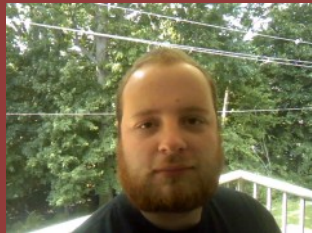
Locations	Dates
Halifax, Nova Scotia	July 1
Montreal, Quebec	July 12
Toronto, Ontario	July 19
Chicago, Illinois	August 17
Traverse City, Michigan	August 21
Windsor, Ontario	August 27
Toronto, Ontario	September 14
Quebec City, Quebec	September 22

For more information on the events, as well as the One Water Story Expedition, please visit our website at www.panexplore.com/great-lakes-expedition.

For detailed event information or to register, please email: Asta Mail, Great Lakes Expedition Coordinator asta@panexplore.com

Meet our Intern!

Currently a rising senior at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Justin is working on his degrees in Environmental Science and Economics. His past research is based upon a multidisciplinary study of aquatic and



terrestrial Ecology using economic analysis alongside the study of Environmental impacts on ecosystems.

He has been an active paddler and fisherman since he was a young boy, his grandfather owns property on the Shenandoah River where he camped most of his childhood. When Justin went to college he decided that he wanted to do some kind of work on the water, eventually choosing to take on his two majors after his first two years of course work.

In his free time, Justin enjoys playing music, composing music events and experiencing the outdoors through hiking, fishing, rock climbing, snowboarding and white water rafting.



ACA Stewardship
Issue 02 Spring 2013

Stewardship World, National and Local News:

Bridgestone Environmental Mission

The Bridgestone Americas Environmental Mission is to help ensure a healthy environment for current and future generations. The driving force behind this mission is conservation- using less of natural resources like water, petroleum and rubber.

Bridgestone's overarching mission is to serve society through superior products. We manufacture and service the best products in the world, taking into account their complete life cycle, from beginning to end. That's why conservation of natural resources is at the core of their environmental mission- so they can bring you products from the beginning of their life until the end.

Their products require significant amounts of natural resources and energy. By working hard to conserve, they can offer customers industry-leading products at lower cost, and with a lower impact on the environment.

Conservation extends beyond their products, to all of their operations. Bridgestone has measured their natural resource and energy use, emissions and waste, and have tracked their reductions for many years. Their conservation ethic is at the core of their company and reflects the Bridgestone Essence.

Bridgestone is proud of their commitment to the environment, achievements and the recognition they've received for their environmental efforts. Bridgestone invites you to read their Corporate Environmental Mission Statement and visit the Operations page for current environmental performance metrics.

For more information about their recycling tire program, [Click Here](#).

Oil Spill in the Oriente Region of Ecuador

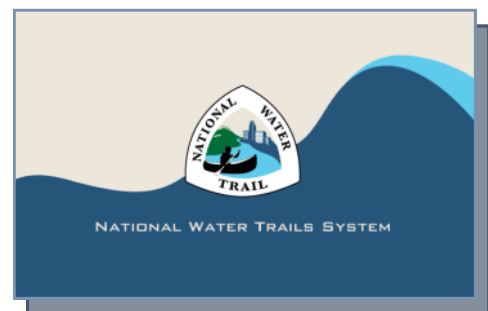
Ten thousand barrels of oil are now making their way down Ecuador's Coca River—a waterway that eventually feeds into the Amazon River—after a pipe run by the state-owned Petroecuador burst during a landslide, says Reuters. The pipe is the

country's largest, and it usually carries around 309 thousand barrels of oil per day. On Monday June 3, says Agence France-Presse, the burst pipe left at least 60,000 people without access to fresh water when well pumps in nearby Puerto Francisco de Orellana were shut off.

The Ecuadorian government says that equipment is in place to control the oil spill. The pipeline is now repaired and back online, but some of the already-spilled oil is now making its way downstream. Some of it could make it into the Napo River, a tributary of the Amazon, eventually making its way to Brazil and Peru.

The pipeline, known as SOTE, broke during a landslide on Friday May 31. This isn't Ecuador's first run-in with broken pipelines or spilled oil. Back in April, Ecuador's second-largest pipeline, known as OCP, burst, spilling 5,500 barrels of oil.

The present spills were attributed to the state-owned Petroecuador, but the history of damage from oil production in the country stretches further back. There has been a long-running lawsuit between Ecuadorian plaintiffs and the oil producer Chevron, the owner of Texaco, a company accused of polluting the Ecuadorian rainforest. That lawsuit has been going back-and-forth for decades, with the plaintiffs seeking \$19 billion in damages.



ACA Supports Letter Appropriating Monies for the National Blueways System

On behalf of ACA members and supporters nationwide, ACA wrote to urge support in appropriating \$3.3 million in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service budget for the National Blueways System.

The program focuses on large rivers and watersheds, which cross multiple and diverse geographical and jurisdictional boundaries. Participation in the National Blueways System is entirely voluntary, locally-led and non-regulatory, with no effect on private property rights, water rights or governmental authorities.

The National Blueways Program promotes cooperation and collaboration among public and private partnerships and across jurisdictions. The program promotes government efficiency by encouraging federal agencies to work together to utilize successful programs that already exist. The program coordinates technical assistance and expertise from a number of federal and state agencies. For a river to be designated it requires both federal and state support.

Outdoor recreation is an important economic engine for the U.S. and sustainable economic development and outdoor recreation are major components of the National Blueway Systems.

With vast number of rivers across the USA, we have only scratched the surface when it comes to establishing Blueways. There is tremendous potential to expand existing trails and create new ones.

The ACA takes pride in the nations rivers and natural areas and share a responsibility to leave the next generation healthier and better connected to our nation's great outdoors.

Paddle Georgia 2013 Sells Out in 24 Hours

On Valentine's Day, river enthusiasts from across the nation showed their love for Georgia's rivers by signing up for Paddle Georgia 2013, selling out this summer's week-long canoe and kayak adventure on the Flint River in less than 24 hours. "Last year, the trip sold out in a little more than 2 weeks," said April Ingle, Executive Director of Georgia River Network (GRN), the organizer of the event. "This year's response surpassed all expectations. It's a hot ticket – almost as hot as a Rolling Stones

concert." Registration opened at 9 a.m. on Feb. 14 and by the following morning all the spots on the trip were sold. The trip was set for June 15-21 and involved more than 350 paddlers on a 106-mile journey on the Flint River.

An annual educational adventure and fundraiser for GRN, a statewide river advocacy group, Paddle Georgia is entering its ninth year. In the event's first eight years, organizers have guided more than 2,400 paddlers down more than 800 miles of Georgia rivers, including trips on the Chattahoochee, Etowah, Ocmulgee, Flint, Coosawattee, Oostanaula, Broad, Savannah, Oconee



and Altamaha rivers. The trips have generated more than \$125,000 for river protection in Georgia.

The 2013 edition introduced paddlers' to southwest Georgia's unique Flint River. Fed by clear cold springs bubbling up from the Floridan Aquifer, the lower Flint flows from Lake Blackshear Dam near Warwick, through Albany and on to Bainbridge and the backwaters of Lake Seminole. Along the way, paddlers will coast beneath ancient limestone bluffs, cool off in "blue hole" springs and get a chance to see alligators, otters, bald eagles and a host of other wildlife.

More than just a canoe trip, Paddle Georgia included educational programs on the river's cultural and natural history, tours of facilities and historic sites located along the river, nightly games and entertainment, camping, and even a research program in which participants helped collect chemical and biological data to give a snapshot of the current health of the river. On the river at night, the participants camped at nearby facilities such as local high

schools and shuttle to and from the river each day. For additional fees, hot breakfasts and dinners are provided, along with sack lunches.

In addition to supporting GRN's efforts to protect Georgia's rivers, proceeds from this year's event provide funding to the Flint Riverkeeper, a non-profit organization working to protect the Flint River from its headwaters near Atlanta to its confluence with the Chattahoochee River in southwest Georgia.

Through support from sponsors and individuals, GRN offers "scholarships" for both teachers and students to participate in the trip. Georgia teachers can participate and receive Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and Project WET training so that they may include environmental education in their classroom activities.

For more information about Paddle Georgia visit [Paddle Georgia](#).

ACA wants kids to Paddle River

In an ongoing effort to connect with area paddlers, the American Canoe Association hosted their second annual Celebrate the Rappahannock "Paddle Green" event held at Riverfront Park in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This year the ACA co-sponsor the Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race at Old Mill Park. While the overall focus is connecting with the community, ACA Stewardship Coordinator Greg Rolf says, "the organization is reaching out to youth with the message that enjoying the river and protecting it and areas downstream go hand in hand". "If you get them to start paddling while they're young, you create a relationship with a waterway that will continue to evolve," he said.

Celebrate the Rappahannock began as part of a pilot Paddle Green effort last year—a community development initiative promoting recreation and good on-water stewardship. This year, the Paddle Green Event ran from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 1st, at Riverfront Park. Among the activities: on-water canoe, kayak and stand-up

paddle board instruction; races for all age groups; riverside cleanups; and a film festival. Rolf said stemming the flow of marine debris—particularly plastic—is a component of Paddle Green events this year, known as the Stream to Sea Initiative. Microscopic particles shed by plastic bags and soda bottles are ingested by insects, fish and other organisms, working their way up the food chain. Fredericksburg, VA; Lake George, NY; Portland, ME; and Bend, OR, are hosting Paddle Green Events this year. Black River, OH hosted a Paddle Green Event this past May. The program is "especially for first-time paddlers, to get them to realize that drains and [storm water] runoff goes into the river," Rolf said.

300 Mile Paddle

In partnership with Ocean Recovery Alliance and YOLO Board, Kimberley Sutton and Kacie Wallace planned to leave the border of South Carolina on June 8, World Oceans Day, and paddle on standup paddleboards roughly 40 miles per day up the North Carolina Intercostal Waterway to the border of Virginia, inviting partners along the way to join in promoting ocean sustainability and reducing their plastic footprint.

Plastic is meant to be disposable, yet lasts forever. It litters our oceans, damages our ecosystems, infiltrates the marine food chain, and kills seabirds, turtles, dolphin, and other



marine life. As they paddle the entire North Carolina coast, Kim and Kacie will document and share the beauty of the North Carolina coastline from water's edge in hopes of promoting its protection and preservation. They

will seek fellow stewards through marinas and coastal North Carolina State parks by inviting their efforts to REDUCE, ELIMINATE, OR RECYCLE plastic.

Kim and Kacie invite marinas and parks to take the following steps in order to help build the community of those committed to reducing marine debris and promoting healthy oceans:

- Offer refillable water sources
- Provide or selling refillable bottles
- Maintain a recycling program for all plastics



- Provide a recycle bin for fishing line and maintaining the Fishing Line Recycling Program
- Post signs to educate people about marine debris and encourage them to eliminate, reduce, reuse, recycle plastics
- Take active steps towards NO single use plastic distribution (containers, cups, utensils, bags, etc.)

Any park or marina that commits to at least four of the above, will be included in the documentation of the paddle and recognized by our partners (Ocean Recovery Alliance, Garden of Life, American Canoe Association) for their commitment to ocean sustainability and helping to reduce marine debris.

House Hearing on Impediments to Recreation on Public Lands

The processes necessary to plan and authorize outdoor recreation services on public lands was a hot topic at a

two hour hearing on May 13 in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. The hearing was conducted by Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT). AOA members testifying included Aaron Bannon from NOLS, Brian Merrill from Western River Expeditions, Sutton Bacon from Nantahala Outdoor Center, along with David Brown, AOA's Executive Director, and Grant Simonds from Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association. Rick Lindsey, Prime Insurance, in Salt Lake and other outfitter witnesses also testified.

Access is already contracting in some backcountry settings due to impassable trails. Planning and regulatory processes are creating logjams to the authorization of new uses.

AOA's Executive Director David Brown testified that several issues have to be addressed to avoid a contraction in recreation access especially for the outfitted public.

He told the subcommittee that agency processes for authorizing permits have become more complex and expensive in part because of lawsuits. He cited cost recovery for extensive NEPA, need assessments and other analyses as a potential threat to the industry and explained why those costs cannot be passed on to outfitters with relatively low profit margins. He urged the committee to help the agencies streamline their processes by adopting categorical exclusions and programmatic environmental assessments.

He also urged the committee to take up reauthorization of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), which is the authority for Forest Service, BLM and Refuge permits. FLREA expires in 2014. He asked the committee to consider better accountability to promote effective use of fee revenues.

Brian Merrill expressed concern to the committee about the new BLM National Landscape Conservation System and its apparent lack of

He suggested that any new BLM designation, which by law automatically becomes part of the NLCS, have recreation as a purpose and authorize outfitted recreation opportunities. He said a new "backcountry designation" which promotes outdoor recreation, should be considered as an alternative to wilderness.

Rick Lindsey from Prime Insurance provided the committee with examples of high liability insurance limits in National Parks as a threat to outfitted services. He challenged NPS to provide examples of awards that justified high limits.

NOLS Public Policy Director Aaron Bannon expressed concerns about group size limits in wilderness constraining commercial outfitters. He said, "Group size limitations are a persistent threat. Land managers struggle to balance the dual mandates of the Wilderness Act, those of preserving naturalness while retaining opportunities for visitors." He elaborated by saying that agency managers often find the easiest way to manage visitation is through constraining commercial outfitter providers. NOLS ceased operating in Canyon lands National Park after the party size there was reduced to seven persons.

Sutton Bacon identified cost recovery as another barrier to development of recreation opportunities on public lands and private sector involvement in the expansion of recreation opportunities. Grant Simonds also testified that cost recovery was a threat to outfitter operations and a barrier to permit issuance. He also pointed to the degradation of trails in the Frank Church Wilderness as the reason the state of Idaho declared the wilderness there a "disaster area". He called for fee credits to

outfitters who open up trails for public use and other strategies to open up impassable trails.

A robust round of questioning accompanied each panel throughout the two-hour hearing in one of the most extensive hearings ever devoted to outfitter issues.

For more information [click here](#).

Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2013

The committee agreed to amend S. 360 to allow military veterans up to the age of 35 to participate in the



Public Lands Corps program and inserted the authority of the Secretary to establish a preference for Corps that recruit members local to the state or region. The amendment also stripped unnecessary language allowing residential centers and temporary housing for Corps in an effort to lower the potential cost of the legislation. You can find the amendment [here](#). Six Senators objected to the Committee passing the legislation (Sen Scott (SC), Sen Risch (ID), Sen Flake (AZ), Sen Lee (UT), and Sen Portman (OH)).

The legislation will next be "scored" by the Congressional Budget Office

(CBO) and then be scheduled for Senate Floor consideration. The CBO "scorekeeping" process includes calculating the budgetary effects of the legislation and impact on the budget resolution. The Public Lands Service Coalition estimates that implementing this legislation will not bring the need for additional appropriations and will in fact help stretch the land and water management agencies operating budgets and looks forward to CBO's scorekeeping. Research conducted by the National Park Service's Park Facility Management Division found that using Conservation Corps to complete maintenance and trail projects provided a cost savings of over 50%.

The Public Lands Service Coalition commends Chairman Wyden (OR) and Ranking Member Murkowski (AK) for agreeing to a bipartisan amendment and passing this critical legislation. We look forward to the legislation being scheduled for floor action and signed into law by the President. Similar legislation has been introduced in the House by Representative Raul Grijalva (AZ-3) and has 32 cosponsors and awaits action by House Committee on Natural Resources.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee amended and passed S.360, the Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2013. An expanded Public Lands Service Corps program will provide more opportunities for thousands of young Americans to gain valuable workforce and career development while assisting our nation's land and water management agencies to address critical maintenance, restoration, repair and rehabilitation needs in a cost effective manner.

SUP EnviroNet

A beautiful thing happened on a windy morning in January. After 230 standup paddlers exited the sheltered waters of Miami's Bayside at the start of the 2013 Orange Bowl Paddle Championships, a flotilla of young



volunteers dispersed on paddleboards to pluck trash from the harbor with the help of a simple but ingenious device. The individual scraps collected may have appeared minor, but the cumulative product was impressive.

Captain Carlos Macias, who organized the cleanup event and provided the equipment, watched with pride as the kids worked. Three years earlier, an eye-opener at Bayside had provided him the inspiration to begin what has become an international movement.

In 2009, Captain Macias was at the marina, preparing to pilot a group of tourists on a tour of Biscayne Bay. Heavy rains the previous night had flushed the city streets and deluged the storm water drainage system, which eventually flows to tide. Macias was shocked as he watched a stream of debris gushing from a culvert into the harbor. He launched his paddleboard and started collecting the floating trash, but found it difficult

to bend down or kneel repeatedly. He tried using a handheld net, but holding both his paddle and a net was cumbersome, so he built a net that attaches to the paddle. Voila.

The EnviroNet consists of a panel of monofilament mesh mounted on an aluminum frame about 10 inches long and six inches wide. The device can be temporarily attached to any paddle using a bungee strap, and its placement perpendicular to, and forward of, the blade does not interfere

with paddling. Add a trash basket on the board deck, and the only other component required is a willing paddler.

Macias, 58, realized that he could not accomplish enough alone, and outreach to watermen, and especially youngsters, became part of his mission.

To demonstrate his dedication to the cause, Macias vowed to leave his hair and beard uncut until he collected a metric ton (2200 pounds) of marine debris. His wife Rose was



glad when he achieved that goal a year later, and shaved his nine-inch beard, in December 2012.

Support from other family members has helped attract international attention. Macias' son CJ (Carlos Jr.) is an avid Environetter. Daughter Nicole and her husband, surfer and standup paddler Garrett McNamara, are supporters.

McNamara recently made history by

surfing the largest wave ever ridden by a human being, and believes in giving back. "Usually, whenever I pick up a paddle it is to go surf, but I gave the Environet a try and had the best time ever. Not only do you have fun but you are also making a difference! We all need to do our part!"

Macias and McNamara have traveled to Nicaragua and Portugal to share their message, combining beach cleanups and education programs with surf and SUP experiences for kids, but South Florida remains the epicenter of the growing EnviroNet Paddle Group.

Macias currently constructs the nets himself, and he is interested in partnering for production with a paddle manufacturer, but the core mission of the program is sharing the concept of environmental stewardship. Macias encourages everyone to, "Take what you need, give what you can." He hopes to make this type of networking cool. "We need to make picking up trash chic."

Marine debris accumulates from a variety of sources, and seizing opportunities to remove trash from our local waterways and shoreline makes a real difference. Each piece retrieved imparts a global impact.

Summarizing his motivation, Macias explains: "I refuse to accept the status quo of my playground being trashed by our system. I have to do something about it, and this is how I am starting. Actions speak louder than words. I'm just taking care of what I love."

The Orange Bowl racers returned to cross the finish line inside the marina basin. Bedraggled after battling the incessant wind and shifting waves, many had been reduced to measuring their progress one paddle stroke at a time. Sometimes that's what it takes to get the job done.

Stewardship Spotlight



Padding
the Twin Tiers
of NY and PA
since 1995

When it comes to cleaning up our waterways, most people think it is a great idea but few take the initiative to clean up their local bodies of water. That's why the ACA likes to spotlight those who take the next step and make a positive change for the waterways in their community! For this edition, the ACA would like showcase a Paddle America Club that make stewardship part of its best practices.

On May 18th, the Ahwaga Canoe and Kayak Club and their community participated in the Tioga County Stream Cleanup. Organized by the Tioga County local government, the government urged residents to help keep its waterways clean so that everyone can continue to enjoy the area's waterways. The Ahwaga Canoe and Kayak Club rallied behind the event and helped collect an abundance of trash along the river way in Livingston Park, including: 119 plastic bags, 305 plastic bottles and cans, 72 cigarette buds, 71 food wrappers, 29 plastic tarps, and 12 tires. The Ahwaga Canoe and Kayak Club Stream Cleanup Leader, Kathy Buchta, said that she was delighted to participate in the cleanup and that "it was very satisfying to be involved in this effort, giving back to our communities and helping to clean up the rivers we love to paddle." After the cleanup, 11 participants enjoyed a paddle down the Susquehanna River.

Do you know of individuals or organizations that are good stewards to our waterways and deserves recognition? Contact Greg Rolf, [ACA Stewardship Coordinator](#), and submit them for next quarters

Stewardship Spotlight.



Be sure to follow us online.



ACA National Awards

Each year, as part of the banquet at the ACA National Paddlesports Conference, a series of prestigious national awards are presented to individuals and organizations who have illustrated exemplary leadership, service, and dedication to various aspects of paddlesport.

- [Legends of Paddling](#)
- [Excellence in Instruction](#)
- [Sanctioned Event of the Year](#)
- [Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation](#)
- [Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year](#)
- [Stroke of Achievement](#)
- [J.Henry Rushton](#)

Since 1996 the ACA has been awarding the, **Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation**. This award has been presented to 19 individuals, organizations and government entities who show an outstanding contribution to paddlesport by protecting America's waterways. Please take a moment of your time to nominate an individual or organization. 2013 Award Nominations are being accepted until July 22, 2013. [Click Here to Nominate](#)



Award Recipients will be announced at the ACA Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony at the upcoming [National Paddlesports Conference](#).

Stewardship needs on your waters?

You can contact Greg at the
national office:

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greg@americancanoe.org

Words from Rachel Carson, *The Edge of the Sea*

“The Edge of the sea is a strange and beautiful place, All through the long history of Earth it has been an area of unrest where waves have broken heavily against the land, where the tides have pressed forward over the continents, receded and then returned. For no two successive days is the shore line precisely the same. Not only do the tides advance and retreat in their eternal rhythms, but the level of the sea itself is never at rest. It rises or falls as the glaciers melt or grow as the floor of the deep ocean basins shifts under its increasing load of sediment, or as the Earth’s crust along the continental margins warps up or down in adjustment to strain and tension. Today a little more land may belong to the sea, tomorrow a little less. Always the edge of the sea remains an elusive and indefinable boundary.”

Rachel Carson was an American marine biologist and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.

Paddle safe, paddle often, paddle sustainably



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