

ISSUE


02

SPRING

2013

ACA STEWARDSHIP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Fast Facts:

- The USA spends \$420,000,000 annually to mitigate trash
- The top 5 plastics in marine environments are PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP
- Nicotine from cigarettes are water soluble affecting marine life
- 38% of litter on road-sides are a tobacco product



ACA's Stream to Sea Initiative

2012 was the start of the ACA's Stream to Sea Initiative focusing on marine debris in our nations streams, lakes, and coastal environments.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, 6.14 million tons of debris are estimated to enter marine environments annually. The United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution has estimated that land-based sources can account for up to 80% of the world's marine pollution. Increasing efforts to remove debris and litter in freshwater streams and rivers, prior to entering coastal or marine environments, has the potential to make a tremendous impact.

Who better to tackle this growing global issue than the ACA? As paddlers we already paddle in marine environments or recreate on all the waters that eventually flow into them. And with an estimated 50 million people paddling annually, small acts of good on-water stewardship can really add up!

If 1/10th of those who are estimated to paddle each year pledged to collect 1 bag of trash during 1 paddle, 75,000,000 pounds of trash (37,500 tons) would be removed from our nation's rivers and streams!

This year, the ACA will host 5 Paddle Green Events and help promote many more. Designed to mobilize the recreation community to proactively create healthier waters, the ACA community development program will educate, equip, and encourage local boaters to paddle sustainably, and inspire new boaters through the outreach program that provides instruction in canoes, kayaks and SUPs.

The ACA will spearhead a series of cleanups in the summer of 2012 that will be executed with oversight from the Stewardship Coordinator at the National Office and volunteers from regional

paddling clubs and partners. Scheduled events include:

Clean-up Events	Locations	Dates
4th Annual Occoquan River Clean-up	Prince William, VA	April 13
Clean Up on the Indian River Lagoon	Sebastian, FL	April 20
Black River Cleanup	Lorain, OH	May 5
Celebrate the Rappahannock	Fredericksburg, VA	June 1
Clean the Bay Day 25th Year Anniversary	Chesapeake Bay	June 1
LOVE the Lake	Lake George, NY	July 20
Maine Island Trail Association 25th Year Anniversary	Portland, ME	August 31
National Paddlesports Conference	Bend, OR	September 27-29

For more information and specific locations visit <http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=MarineDebris>

"We as paddlers are in a unique position to add a 'corrective stroke' to the marine debris problem," says ACA Executive Director, Wade Blackwood. "Not only does the ACA want the paddling community to understand the severity of the issue, but realize paddlers have an opportunity to significantly decrease the amount of debris flowing into oceans today. A little effort from paddlers will make an enormous impact on the waterways we cherish."

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. Remember, whether it's an entire watershed or just a few paddling buddies, every bit makes a difference!



Paddle Green Bags

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 firsthand 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 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 themselves. 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



Find more information at americancanoe.org

Letters to the Stewardship Department

Dear ACA,

With funding from the L.L.Bean CFS Grant, two kiosks were constructed, one at the Autauga Creek Canoe Trail put-in site at the Prattville City Creekwalk and the other at the take-out at Canoe Trail Park. Artwork and descriptive information was printed and was mounted on the kiosks. Paddling activities on the creek have greatly increased with the publicity of our committee programs, including the opening of a new canoe and kayak rental business in the city. The kiosk signs will further enhance the interest of potential paddlers on the creek. The signage provides answers to many of the questions that new paddlers may have such as equipment needs, shuttle routes, points of interest and safety concerns. We anticipate that during the next spring and summer seasons, recreational use of this outstanding stream will continue to increase as more and more citizens view the information provided on the kiosks. An official "ribbon-cutting" and publicity release regarding the new kiosk signs is planned in the near future.

Sincerely,

Robert

Dear ACA,

Thank you so much for your donation of Paddle Green Bags to collect marine debris. My after school group, Earthforce, is planning to collect waste in the Folly River beginning in March. They will be plotting their finds and using the wind and tide charts to attempt to identify the point source [of marine debris]. The students will be creating a public service announcement to convince the public to eliminate the use of single-use plastic water bottles. Aided in our vision by help from our local Piggly Wiggly with a donation of 100 reusable water bottles and by Subaru with a donation of 100 collapsible water bottles, the students will be giving away the reusable water bottles. The students hope to begin a change in the mindset of the public about our reliance on single-use plastic. We are working on stewardship of our local waterway and appreciate all the help we can get from our friends and neighbors. Thank you again for believing in youth for a change.

Sincerely,

Sandie

Updated Stewardship

Website

The stewardship portion of the website has been updated!

Keep up-to-date on current issues that the ACA is fighting for paddlers in the new Conservation Newsroom on current topics that are trending around the world and in your neck of woods.

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 have on waterways.

- Reduce the impact of Marine Debris in your local water corridor while creating healthier environments
- Help collect data and show the impact that your organization is making to curb Marine Debris
- Assist in identifying the different types of debris in marine environments on a national level
- Add scientific research and promote the importance of the ACA's Marine Debris Program

Important Dates in 2013

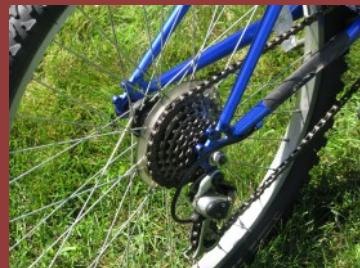
March 22 — World Water Day



April 22 — Earth Day

May 12 — International Migratory Bird Day

May 17 — Bike to Work Day



May 22 — International Biological Diversity Day

June 1 — National Trails Day

June 5 — World Environment Day

June 8 — World Ocean Day



June 15 — Global Wind Day

June 17 — World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought



A call for action in your community

The ACA was founded on camaraderie for exploration of waterways. Today, exploration and good stewardship have become synonymous and remain important components of the ACA and its history. We encourage you to act now and start a clean-up event in your community.

9 Steps to Start your Own Clean-up!

Step 1

Pick a waterway that needs to be cleaned with volunteers. This may be one or multiple sites. Make sure that the access points are safe for paddlecraft to be in the water. If it is unsafe, you may want to start your clean-up event on the banks of the stream, lake, or coastal environment.

Step 2

How many people will be attending your clean-up? Are you just one person, or will there be over 100 people? If there is going to be a large number of people check with your local government for permits. If insurance is required, the ACA can help provide insurance for any clean-up event.

Step 3

Proper planning prevents poor performance. Write out simple, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely goals that you and your volunteers can achieve. This will help create a timeline of the things you need to finish before the clean-up event starts.

.... 4

Create a daily schedule. What time will everyone meet and at what location? Will you count the number of volunteers at the beginning and end of the event? Will there be multiple sites or just one gathering point? When and how will you delegate responsibilities to volunteers? How long do you think your volunteers should work? When will the event end and will there be awards for the volunteer's efforts?



.... 5

Get local or national organizations to sponsor your event. You can list your event on the ACA website and attract more volunteers at americancanoe.org. Local and national organizations can help cut the cost of the event by donating food, materials, and even boats! Local paddling clubs can also help get the word out.

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Marketing will be one of the most important categories and probably the most difficult. To effectively market start at least three months before the event date. Use social media: Facebook, Google +, Twitter and Google Blogger for free. Get an interview with your local newspapers, radio stations, and magazines. Lastly, create flyers for local business, schools, and churches to display in their store fronts.

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Make a list of the items that you will need. Will you be using canoes, kayaks, SUP or other type of paddlecraft. What will you use to collect the marine debris, plastic trash bags, or sustainable Paddle Green Bags? Will you need a large dumpster? Cameras? GPS? Maps? Insurance? First Aid kit?

.... 8

Run the event.

Last

Collect data at the clean-up to help establish a national marine debris baseline and upload your findings to the ACA website — Track Trash at americancanoe.org

- Number of bags collected?
- Types of bags used?
- How much weight did the clean-up collect in total?
- How many people were at your clean-up event?
- Where was your event located?
- What body of water did you clean-up?



Meet the 2013
L.L. Bean
Club
Fostered
Stewardship
Grant recipients!

- Allegheny Aquatic Alliance
- Alzar School
- Black Creek Watershed Coalition
- Boardman River Clean Sweep
- Chicago Voyagers
- Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network
- Friends of the Chemung Watershed
- Great Rivers Paddlers Club and the City of Prairie du Chien, WI
- Interact Club of Addison Trail High School
- Kentuckiana Paddlers Association
- Paddle Without Pollution
- Quinnipiac River Watershed Association
- Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

2013 Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

Effecting Change on a Grassroots Level

The ACA is proud to help local paddling clubs and organizations to help improve their waters corridors and make the world a better place to paddle! Through funds provided by L.L. Bean, the ACA's Club Fostered Stewardship (CFS) Program has provided nearly \$80,000 to 94 different stewardship initiatives since its inception in 2002.

Intended to encourage paddling clubs to take an active role in protecting and improving the nation's rivers, lakes and coastlines, the CFS Grant program provides funding to local and regional paddling clubs that undertake stewardship initiatives on their waterways.

2013, funded projects are ranging from source-to-sea cleanups, community

development, engaging youth in river restoration, outreach programs to draw at-risk youth in clean-ups and teaching, improvements in access, and trail development.

The ACA is excited to continue the partnership with L.L. Bean and fund many more exciting projects on waterways across the country. The 2013 grant cycle is already finished. The CFS Grant has been awarded to thirteen different paddling clubs, schools, and clean-up organizations.

So far, 2013 initiatives demonstrate incredible promise with projects that include removal of debris from Hurricane Sandy, engaging over 500 volunteers in total, fostering stewardship to all ages,

building safe access sites, creating a watershed guide to help people identify the location of their watersheds, increasing access points, and cleanup events.

Become a part of this growing legacy of stewardship and apply for your grant in January 2014! Grants range from \$100-\$1,000. Applications will be available in January 2014 and awarded in March 2014.

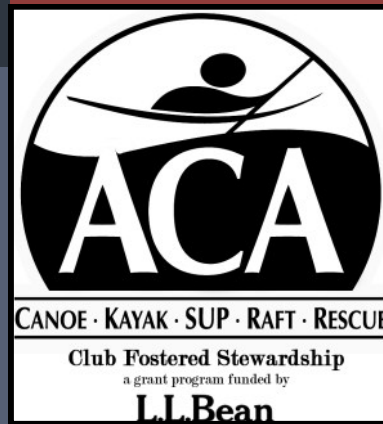
For more information on the Club Fostered Stewardship Grant please visit americancanoe.org for more details.

Have Stewardship events? Let us help!

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

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 ACA Water Blog and advertised on our many social media outlets.

Visit americancanoe.org to submit an event today!



ROCK THE BOAT: Saving America's Wildest Rivers

Paris has the Seine, London has the Thames, and Los Angeles has the concreted 51 mile L.A. River. **Rock the Boat** is an entertaining look at the history and impact of the L.A. River – made famous in Hollywood movies – and how cities might reimagine and reclaim their once-natural resources to benefit urban areas today.

When a government agency decides that the derided waterway is not worthy of environmental protection, a biologist becomes a whistle blower, a writer trades pen for paddle, and together with others they change the course of history in a local battle with national significance.

For the past hundred years we've built our cities and roads, factories, dams and agricultural centers wherever we've wanted to, our engineering often triumphing over the natural lay of the land, more balanced design and even common sense. With climate change and an impending worldwide water crisis, we are now forced to examine the impact on nature of our urban lifestyle. Nowhere is this battle better illustrated than in Los Angeles – a dream city turned into nightmare sprawl. And nothing epitomizes man's efforts to reshape the face of the earth better than the L.A. River: used, abused and forgotten, it is now at the center of a major vision to transform

this hermetically-sealed metropolis into a more sustainable model city for the 21st century.

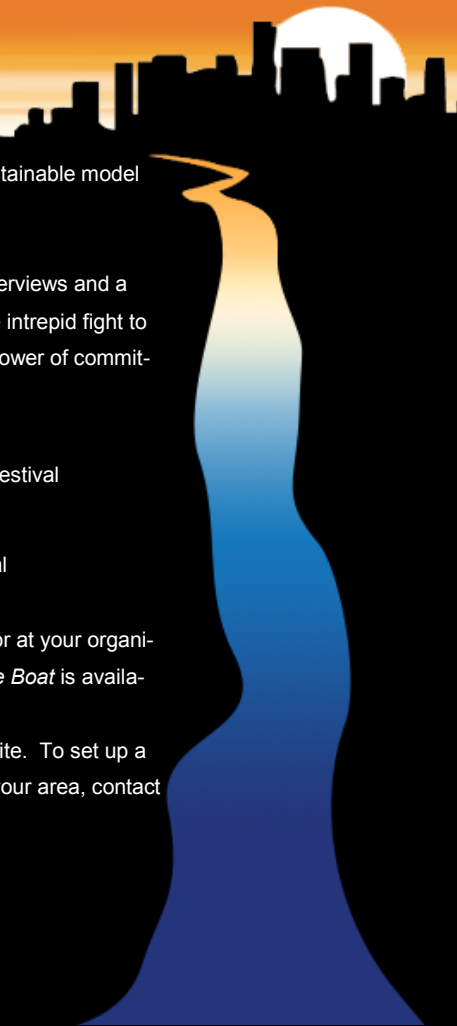
With striking images of the L.A. River, insightful interviews and a soft spot for humor, **Rock the Boat** documents the intrepid fight to renew the river and the city itself, and affirms the power of committed individuals to jump-start that change.

Winner of

- People's Choice Award, Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- ISLA Earth Award, Catalina Film Festival
- Best Feature Film, FILManthropy Film Festival

Want to screen the film

Want to screen the film at a community gathering or at your organization's events and use it as a fundraiser. *Rock the Boat* is available for purchase, at [The Video Project](#). To find out more about the film, visit [Rock the Boat's](#) website. To set up a community screening with your organization or in your area, contact Thea Mercouffer [here](#).



Urban Rivers Revolution *Viva el Rio!*

Urban rivers are seeing a groundswell of activity, and the LA River is at the epicenter of this activity. Having helped to ensure the Clean Water Act protections for the LA River in 2010 set a legal precedent for protecting other watersheds around the country. George Wolfe's Los Angeles River Expeditions (winner of ACA's Green Paddle Award) continues to navigate on the cutting edge of urban river revitalization.

With Environmental Protection Agency protections for his hometown river secured, Wolfe moved on to the issue of public access. He was a key partner in a 2011 pilot program, Paddle the LA River, that put 300 plus participants on the LA River in canoes and kayaks. This was the first time in over 80 years (since channelization began in the 1930s) that people have been openly boating on the river.

Branching off to form his own recreational-educational tour operation in 2012, LA River Expeditions put over 500 participants on the LA River. The 2012 program included the certification of more than 350 participants in the ACA's

Smart Start Paddler Orientation course — the first certified boating and safety training ever done on the river. Additionally, LA River Expeditions' staff was involved in regular trash clean-ups and also helped to facilitate the removal of invasive plant species.

In 2013, Wolfe says, "I'm excited to lead the first guided trips on a stretch of the river that is being officially opened up for recreational use, a soft-bottomed, five mile stretch of Class-I rapids that cuts through LA's downtown core."

Wolfe's actions have not only made him an unwitting activist, but have put him at the center of a new documentary film, *Rock the Boat: Saving America's Wildest River*, that is now touring North America as part of the Reel Paddling Film Festival.





Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Keeping up-to-date with the latest in Marine Debris

The ACA has been busy to help curb marine debris. Greg Rolf and Wade Blackwood attended the Virginia Marine Debris Summit in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Mr. Blackwood presented at the summit on Stemming the tide of trash: Highlights of Innovative Programs, Solutions and Actions. The ACA is please to inform its members of the growing partnerships on a state and national level for mitigating marine debris in our environments.

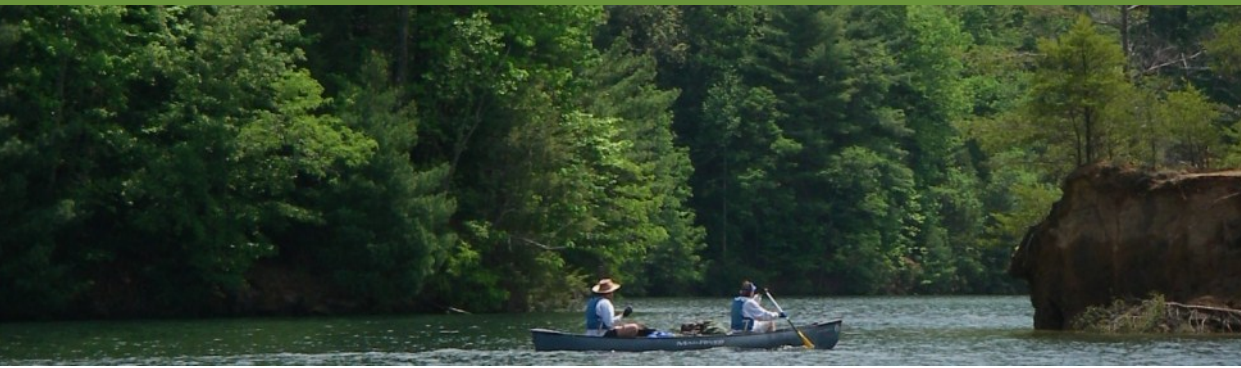
In efforts to promote the mission of the ACA, we make it a priority to present at conferences and learn the latest in research and management from the leading experts.



Greg Rolf will be attending the River Rally 2013 in St. Louis, Missouri, hosted by the River Network in May.



Do not forget about our National Paddlesports Conference in Bend, Oregon this September!



Water Trails: Greening our Waters

Over the past decade, participation in outdoor recreation has increased and is projected to experience continued growth. What does this mean for outdoor recreation enthusiasts and the environments we love to play in? It provides us with leverage to protect those areas that we enjoy. In fact, studies have shown that outdoor recreation participation serves as a mediator effect for the correspondence of environmental attitude to behavior and action. Increased participation also equates to increased access to accommodate this growth.

The U.S. Forest Service Blueway Trails which was established shortly after America's Great Outdoor Initiative and the National Park Service National Water Trails System are two of the new water trail programs in the United States. Water trails, also referred to as "blueways," are modeled like many trails that you have undoubtedly hiked, biked, or traversed before. They provide an established corridor between specific locations on lakes, rivers, and ocean environments and encourage recreation on the water.

While every water trail is different, the basic components include a safe put-in and take-out, parking, restrooms, and sometimes day-use or overnight camping areas. They also provide an excellent resource for disseminating information about the waterway, safety, environmental information, and messages of stewardship.

Water trails provide a host of tangible economic, ecological, and social benefits to the surrounding community with a relatively low investment. They create a venue for nature-based tourism and help to create new opportunities for businesses.

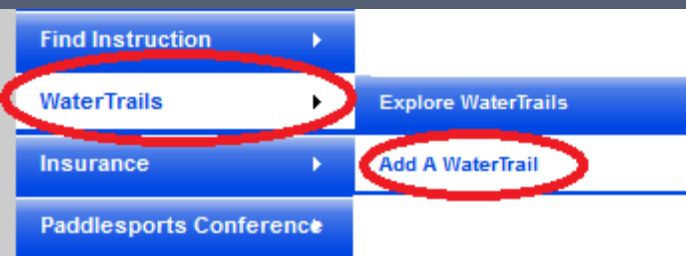
Additionally, water trails help promote healthy lifestyles: both for the paddler and for the environments we love to paddle in. The newly formed America's Great Outdoors Initiative sets a precedent that emphasizes the importance of an active lifestyle and an appreciation of the environment and natural resources around us. To protect those resources, water trails can serve as a conduit for local conservation initiatives. They involve improved planning efforts and cooperative partnerships among stakeholders and government agencies, creating a platform for conservation and management approaches. Often, these partnerships and establishment of a water trail result in land protection, dam removal, increased signage and education, cleanup initiatives, and volunteer programs for trail maintenance and water quality monitoring.

The ACA has over 500 water trails in 38 states. We need your help to create a larger database of water trails in all 50 states. I encourage you to take a couple of minutes, access the ACA website and upload your favorite water trails.

To find a water trail in your area, visit our water trails database today at americancanoe.org

Know of a Water Trails?

Add Your Water Trail Today!



Simply go online to americancanoe.org and submit information for your water trail today to become part of one of the most comprehensive water trail databases for paddlers.

Stewardship World, National and Local News:

Maryland House Bill 797 — Provides an important opportunity to expand the public's access to Maryland's waterways for fishing, canoeing and kayaking - one that can be achieved relatively quickly and at little or no cost. The ACA has helped model HB 797 on similar efforts in North Carolina, Tennessee and California, as well as Maryland's pedestrian and bicycling safety accommodations. This bill would enhance waterway access by:

- Creating an inventory of all the bridges crossing navigable and fishable rivers and streams to identify bridges and approach roadways where waterway access for fishing, canoeing and kayaking can be provided reasonably and safely.
- Requiring State and local transportation departments to review all bridge construction and reconstruction projects currently in the planning and design process to ensure that waterway access is incorporated into planned construction or reconstruction, except where such use cannot be provided safely and reasonably.
- Ensuring that waterway access for anglers, canoeists and kayakers is given due consideration in the comprehensive transportation plans developed by each metropolitan planning organization.

ACA has helped promote and testified on HB 797 during February 2013. This bill passed the last week in March 2013 and will help promote outdoor recreation opportunities for families, greatly improve safety for recreational users and motorists alike, help stimulate the economies of local communities, and enhance the health and quality of life of Maryland's citizens.

New Legislation Expands Scope of NOAA Marine Debris Program to Deal with National Disaster Debris — On December 20, 2012, President Obama signed legislation reauthorizing the NOAA Marine Debris Program and its mission to address the harmful impacts of marine debris on the United States. The program, which is housed within NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, was originally created in 2006 by the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act.

"The NOAA Marine Debris Program is grateful for Congress's support on this very important issue," said Nancy Wallace, the program's director. "We look forward to continuing our work to ensure the ocean and its coasts, users, and inhabitants are free from the impacts of marine debris."



National Blueway Trails — The NB System is part of the *America's Great Outdoors Initiative* to establish a community-driven conservation and recreation agenda for the 21st century. A National Blueways System will help coordinate federal, state, and local partners to promote best practices, share information and resources, and encourage active and collaborative stewardship of rivers and their watersheds across the country. National Blueways are nationally recognized rivers and their watersheds that are highly valued recreational, social, economic, cultural and ecological assets for the communities that depend on them.

The 700-plus-mile White River and its watershed, which includes two national forests and flows through Arkansas and Missouri, is now the second National Blueway River System in the U.S. after a dedication ceremony Wednesday, Jan. 9, in Little Rock, AR.

"The designation of the White River watershed as a National Blueway demonstrates the Obama Administration's continued commitment to the protection of public and working lands that are crucial to the growth and revitalization of rural America," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The resources made available through this designation will support and promote needed conservation efforts and bolster valuable economic growth and job creation in years to come."

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!

For more information on these topics please visit

www.americancanoe.org



Through our internship programs, the ACA is fortunate to be able to utilize the many skills and talents of students and recent graduates, as well as provide them with professional experience and development to enhance their futures!

Originally from Bogota, Colombia, Ruby obtained her undergraduate degree in Physical Culture, Sports and Recreation from Saint Thomas University in Bogota, Colombia.



Ruby's love for the outdoors started in high school and college while being an active participant of many outdoor activities, for instance the university climbing club and camping expeditions. After many climbing and outdoor expeditions, her joy for traveling and experiencing new cultures made her study abroad. She is currently a graduate student at Western Illinois University in the Parks Recreation and Tourism Administration Department.

Her love for water sports and a previous expedition of canoeing in the boundary waters for 30 days and kayaking in Baja California lead her to work at the ACA. She has worked in different adventure recreation companies in Colombia and the YMCA in Potosi, Missouri.

She holds the following certifications:
-Leave No Trace: Master Educator
-Wilderness First Responder

In her free time Ruby likes to be doing a number of activities outside that includes climbing, kayaking, backpacking and hiking.

Ruby will be working with ACA members throughout the countries of South America to establish an ACA Paddlesports Conference in 2013.

Chattooga River Access — On February 27, 2013 the US District Court in Spartanburg, SC had the American Canoe Association & American Whitewater testify against the United States Forest Service.

ACA-AW arguments:

1) USFS ban on boating is inconsistent with the way other rivers are managed. 2) USFS purported conflicts between fishermen are unsubstantiated and are not a basis for a ban. AW-ACA attorney argued that the two activities are compatible and some fisherman prefer to fish from their boat. 3) The Chattooga River was among the first Wild and Scenic rivers to be designated. At the time boating was described as one of the unique recreational uses in the general attributes which lead to the designation as Wild & Scenic. 4) The semantic of an "Outstanding Remarkable Value" is used today to describe high value recreation activities. This terminology did not exist at the time the Chattooga was designated as Wild and Scenic, it was implied. 5) USFS may not limit boating unless the activity interferes with or degrades the main values of: a) geology b) biology c) scenery d) recreation e) history. 6) USFS Chief said in a statement in 2005 that the ban was wrong and illegal. 7) USFS boating ban is a violation of the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution under the "equal protection" clause and was described as "arbitrary and capricious" by the AW-ACA attorney. 8) Plaintiffs are seeking the following relief: a) declaration –the boating ban is illegal b) injunction – cease publishing the ban and cease enforcement of same c) remand – USFS must make a new decision within a one year time frame d) – reimbursement of legal fees and costs.

USFS arguments:

1) 2012 upper Chattooga usage statistics – 16 days and 99 boaters. Boating is not banned for 365 days a year, flow requirements of 350+ CFS. 2) USFS is charged with managing the resource with an appropriate balance between recreational uses. USFS charge is also to "protect and enhance" the resource. 3) Boating is only one aspect of the recreational values and is not a specific "Outstanding Remarkable Value." 4) Boating and fishing are not compatible due to: a) interference - i.e. "scares the fish" and interrupts the "solitude" experience and quoted an incident from 1976. 5) USFS denies statement from USFS Chief in 2005. 6) USFS is accommodating boaters by allowing boating in the best months for boating.

Overall, the plaintiffs presented a clear case that was well documented and executed. The attorneys were masterful in answering the judge's questions and kept

on point with the key aspects of their case. The USFS was on the defensive and weak on the main points of boating limits, bans and the aspect of actual interference with the anglers. Recently, the ACA and American Whitewater jointly sued the U.S. Forest Service seeking to overturn a 2009 rule continuing the boating ban.

Bolivia designates world's largest protected wetland

— To mark the annual World Wetlands Day, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance has designated the Bolivian Llanos De Moxos wetland its largest site ever. At more than 6.9 million hectares, the site is equivalent to the size of the Netherlands and Belgium together, and is prized for its rich natural diversity, as well as cultural value. The Llanos de Moxos, located near the borders of Bolivia, Peru and Brazil, consists of tropical savannas with cyclical droughts and floods.

These wetlands are especially prized for their rich natural diversity: 131 species of mammals have been identified to date, 568 different birds, 102 reptiles, 62 amphibians, 625 fish and at least 1,000 plant species. Several species – including the giant otter and the Bolivian river dolphin – have been identified as vulnerable, endangered or at critical risk of extinction.

The region is traversed by three major rivers, the Beni in the west, the Iténez or Guaporé to the east, and the Mamoré in the central region. These rivers converge to form the Madeira River, the major southern tributary of the Amazon River. The Llanos de Moxos wetlands are important to avoid floods, maintain minimum flows in the rivers during the dry season and regulate the region's hydrological cycle.

The area is sparsely populated, comprising seven indigenous territories and eight protected areas. Peasant communities and private properties also exist in the region, both mainly dedicated to farming.

The region was inhabited by pre-Columbian cultures from 800 B.C. to 1200 A.D. These together formed the "Moxos water-based cultures" typified by the clever use of hydraulic infrastructure for water management of the vast territory covered by the llanos, or plains, which sustained intensive agricultural production on which these ancient peoples survived.

For more information on these topics see americancanoe.org

Earth Day Media Contest

Celebrating Your Good Stewardship!

- Send us your best photos or videos of stewardship activities on the water by April 22th to golf@americancanoe.org
- Worthy submissions may receive an ACA Quick Dry Shirt or Hat!



Be sure to follow us online, to see entrances and winners!



Stewardship needs on your waters?

You can contact Greg at the national office:

540.907.4460 x 106

greg@americancanoe.org

Words from the Stewardship Coordinator

It is our job as paddlers, conservationists, preservationists, environmentalists and normal recreation users to take care of the environment as a whole. It is our job as the users of these lands and waterways to hold ourselves to the highest standards and be great stewards of our environments. Theodore Roosevelt stated, "There is a delight in the hardy life of the open. There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm." As stewards we must care for the land and waters and show others how to recreate appropriately by exhibiting the correct way to care for all environments.

I have been working as the Stewardship Coordinator with the ACA since January 2013. It has been my great pleasure to stay working in the outdoors as a Leave No Trace Instructor and working with the Wilderness Education Association. My past professions included adventure photography, teaching English in Colombia and Ecuador and leading adjudicated youth on 3 month expeditions. I am very happy to have my feet in one place and ecstatic that I landed in Fredericksburg, Virginia with the ACA.

Paddle safe, paddle often, paddle sustainably,



108 Hanover Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(p) 540.907.4460

(f) 888.229.3792

americancanoe.org

Be sure to follow us online:

