



Volume 35, No. 11

770.421.9729

www.georgiacanoe.org

November 2000

November GCA Meeting

The November GCA meeting will be held at the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Sandy Springs on Thursday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. The program will feature Marvin Cole and Knox Worde presenting a show on their recent paddling trip to Idaho, with videos, pictures, a short talk, and lots of Q&A. This trip almost didn't happen because of the recent rash of wild fires in the Montana - Idaho area, so we are very fortunate to be having this show.

The church is located on Highpoint Road (runs north/south), between Glenridge Road and Windsor Parkway, both of which intersect Roswell Road. From I 285 topside perimeter, take Roswell Road/Sandy Springs exit south (inside the perimeter) to Glenridge Road. Turn left on Glenridge Road and right on Highpoint. The church is on your left about one mile south. From Buckhead, come north on Roswell Road and take a right on Windsor Parkway and a left on Highpoint. The church will be on your right. From Rte 400 north or south, take the Glenridge Connector exit (north of the toll booth, but still inside the Perimeter). Turn west at the end of the ramp. Turn left on Glenridge Road (it's Johnson Ferry to the right) and immediately left on Highpoint Road (marked well). The church is on your left about one mile south.

See you there!



December GCA Meeting

The December GCA meeting will once again be the Annual Holiday Party. Bring a covered dish and/or a desert, a festive holiday mood, some good paddling tales and an appetite, and we'll all get together and celebrate the holiday season.

We just heard from the City of Atlanta Parks Department that our old meeting place at the Garden Hills Community Center should have its reconstruction completed by November, so we are tentatively planning to resume meeting there beginning in December. Look for exact date and time information and an update on the reconstruction of Garden Hills Community Center in the December *Eddy Line*.



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"Change yourself and you have done your part in changing the world. Every individual must change his own life if he wants to live in a peaceful world. The world cannot become peaceful unless and until you yourself begin to work toward peace."

- Paramahansa Yogananda.



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Who Ya Gonna Call?

The following list is provided for your convenience:

For general information about the club - Call the club telephone

number, 770.421.9729, and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

To volunteer to help with club activities - Call President Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 or contact the committee chairperson for your area of interest.

For information on payment of dues or membership status - Call Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

To sign up for a club trip - Call the trip coordinator at the number listed on the activity list.

To sign up to lead a club trip - Call Cruisemaster Jim Griffin at 770.498.3695.

For change of address or for *Eddy Line* subscription

information - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

If you didn't receive your *Eddy Line* - Call Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

For information on GCA clinics - Call the clinic coordinator listed on the clinic schedule, or call Training Director Gina Johnson at 770.971.1542.

For information on winter roll practice - Call Revel Freeman at 404.261.8572.

For information on placing want ads in *The Eddy Line* - Call Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318, or see "To place an ad" in the Want Ad section of *The Eddy Line*.

For information on commercial ads - Call Advertising Director Jim Kautz at 770.321.9826 or Newsletter Editor Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318.

For information on videos and books available from the GCA Library - Call GCA Librarian Rachel Gates at 404.296.4480. ✂

Board of Directors Meetings

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Thursday of even months (February, April, etc.) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, located on Piedmont Road at the Prado, next to Piedmont Park. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Brannen Proctor at 770.664.7384 so he can add your item to the agenda. Attending Board meetings is a great way to become more involved with the GCA. ✂

GCA Executive Committee

President	Brannen Proctor
Vice President	Marvine Cole
Secretary	Lindsay Meeks
Treasurer	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair	Rachel Gates
Recreation Chair	Jason Schnurr
Resource Development Chair	Debra Berry
River Protection Chair	Vacant
Training Chair	Gina Johnson

Submitting *Eddy Line* Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication in the next *Eddy Line* is the fifth of the month, i.e., for the January issue, material should be submitted no later than December fifth. The editor must receive all articles, trip reports and want ads by the deadline or they MAY NOT be published in the next issue. To submit material via EMAIL, send to gacanoec@mindspring.com. The text of an article can be placed in the body of a message, and photo images can be attached to the message as attached files. To submit material via COMPUTER DISK submit articles or trip reports on a 5-1/4 or 3-1/2 inch IBM/DOS formatted disk as an ASCII text file labeled with a ".txt" file extension, or as a text file on a 3-1/2 inch high density MacIntosh formatted disk, and include a printed copy (Disks returned only if requested). To submit material via U.S. MAIL, send to: **Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Drive, Marietta, GA 30066**. All classified ads will be run for two months unless otherwise requested. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Newsletter Editor **Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318** for questions. Thanks for your cooperation.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



November

4	Upper Amicalola (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384
4	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Randy Chappell	706.865.0915
4	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Paul Lund	770.271.7360
5	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Randy Chappell	706.865.0915
11	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Bill Convis	770.751.9258
11	Middle Tellico	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Charles Clark	770.998.9544
11	Chattooga Section IV	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
12	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Louis Boulanger	404.373.4775
12	Cartecay	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767
16	Club Meeting — Entertainment — Fun — Episcopal Church of the Atonement — Kay Redmond			404.237.7242
18	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Mike Bilello	770.441.2418
18	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Ray Channell	404.636.5944
18	Chattooga Section 3-1/2	Class 3-4 Advanced	Jason Schnurr	770.422.9962
19	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Jim Griffin	770.498.3695
25	Leader's Choice	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Sam Blackwell	706.342.0511

December

2	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jeff Engel	706.548.5015
2	Chattooga Section IV (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	770.720.6269
3	Upper Hooch	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Stacy Patterson	770.466.7538
7	Board of Directors Meeting — Members Invited — Atlanta Botanical Garden		Brannen Proctor	770.664.7384

Note 1: Paddle with the Prez.

Note 2: Trip will end at Camp Creek and will not include Five Falls.

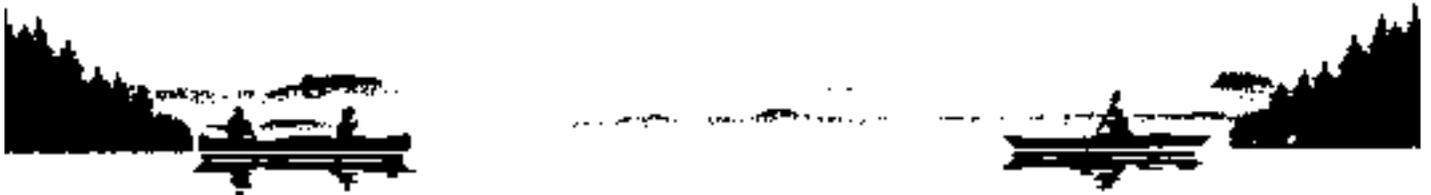
Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call the Cruise Master and Sign Up Now!!

Signing Up: Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Call early in the week to ensure you get a spot on the trip, and in consideration for the coordinators, PLEASE avoid calling late in the evening.

Training Trips are a combination of recreation and training designed to attract those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what you learned in the clinic and expanding your skill level.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call the Cruisemaster, Jim Griffin, at 770.498.3695. As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flat water to class 5 white water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

Chattooga Trips are limited to 12 boats on ANY section on ANY trip, club trip or private (USFS regulation). Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated. 



GCA Library Items Available

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Rachel Gates at 404.296.4480 to find out what is available. The cost is \$3.00 per tape or book for postage and handling.

Any / all donations or loans to the library are welcome. (Please, no bootleg video copies.) Send them to:

Rachel Gates
PO Box 1485
Pine Lake, GA 30072

The following items are currently available:

Videos:

A Second Helping - A Review of Kayak Basics Canoes by Whitesell

Cold, Wet & Alive

Faultline (Will Reeves)

First Descents (North Fork Payette)

Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)

Heads Up, River Rescue

Introduction to Canoeing

Kayak 101 (mastering the basics)

Kayak Handling - The Basic Strokes

Only Nolan (Canoe Technique)

Path of the Paddle: Quietwater

Path of the Paddle: Whitewater

Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)

Plunge!

Prijon Wildplay Wildwasser Sport

Solo Playboating!

Take the Wild Ride

Tallulah Gorge (Rob Maxwell)

The C-1 Challenge

The Kayaker's Edge

The Open Canoe Roll (Bob Foote)

Ultimate Canoe (Niagara Gorge & Other Rivers - Whitesell)

Waterwalker (Bill Mason)

We Come to Play (Orosi)

Whitesell

Whitewater Groove

Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I and II

ACA Canoeing & Kayaking Instructors Guide

A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida

Alabama Canoe Rides

AMC White Water Handbook

American Red DCross Canoeing & Kayaking

A Paddler's Guide to the Obed/Emory Watershed

Arkansas information (assorted)

Basic River Canoeing

Boundary Waters I&II

Brown's Guide to Georgia

Buyer's Guide 1993 (Canoe Magazine)

Buyer's Guide 1994 (Paddler Magazine)

Buyer's Guide 1996 (Paddler Magazine)

California Whitewater - A Guide to the Rivers

Canoe Racing (Marathon & Down River)

Canoeing Wild Rivers

Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)

Cruise of the Blue Flujin

Cumberland River Basic Canoe Trail Guide

Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement

Florida information (assorted)

Idaho Whitewater

Indiana Canoeing Guide

Kentucky Wild Rivers

Missouri Ozark Waterways

Northern Georgia Canoe Guide

Ohio County Maps & Recreational Guide

Paddle America (Guide to trips & outfitters)

Paddle to the Amazon - The World's Longest Canoe Trip

Path of the Paddle

People Protecting Rivers

Pole, paddle & Portage

River Rescue

River Safety Anthology

River's End (Stories)

Sea Kayaking Canada's West Coast

Song of the Paddle

Southeastern Whitewater

Tennessee Canoe Guide

The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North Georgia Mountains

The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande

They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?

White Water Tales of Terror

White Water Trips (British Columbia & Washington)

Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)

Wildwater West Virginia

Youghiogheny

Announcements

GCA Email List

The member response to the GCA email list has been great. We have at this printing over 325 subscribers. Thanks to Mike Kaplan and our friends

at Kaplan Communications (an Internet Access Provider) for providing software and server space for the GCA email list.

Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gacanoeflipper.kapcom.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Anyone can use the address — it's just another email address — and all subscribers will get the email. The list is an "open list", i.e., anyone can subscribe to it mechanically by sending an email to "majordomo@flipper.kapcom.com" and on the first line of the body of the message type:

subscribe gacanoeflipper.kapcom.com

You will receive a verification that you are sub-



scribed and a welcome message with instructions on how to unsubscribe and various other commands available through the service. Be sure to save this information for future reference.

All GCA announcements and forwarded email from other sources concerning new river access issues, late breaking news items of interest to the paddling community, etc., will be sent out via the GCA email list at gacanoeflipper.kapcom.com. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe to the list using the above instructions. Also, don't be shy about using the list to send out or to request information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

By the way, should you change or lose your email ID, please take a minute to "unsubscribe" your old ID and/or to "subscribe" your new one. ✂

GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org>. We are adding information and links of value to paddlers with each update. Send your ideas for updates to Allen Sinuefield at asinuefield@corecommerce.com ✂

Need an Internet Service Provider?

If you plan to sign up with an internet service provider for the first time, or if you plan to change providers, and are considering MindSpring as your choice, you can do your paddling club a big favor. When you call to sign up, tell the MindSpring sales rep you were referred by Georgia Canoeing Association and we will receive a \$20.00 credit toward our monthly ISP subscription cost. You will need to give them the GCA email ID — gacanoe@mindspring.com — for us to receive the proper credit. Thanks for your help!

Weekday Paddlers

There has been good response to the request to develop a list of paddlers available to paddle during the week. We now have 70+ entries on the list, including members who are retired persons, those with variable or non-standard work schedules, those available to paddle weekdays when school is out (students and teachers), and even those who have a lot of vacation time to burn and want to take vacation days for paddling. The list includes members who paddle smooth water as well as all classes of white water

If you would like to be included in the list, please call Allen Hedden at 770.426.4318 and leave your name, phone number, days of the week you are available to paddle, and class of water (flat, I thru V) that you are interested in paddling. You will then receive an up-to-date copy of the list. The list will be re-published quarterly (January, April, July, October). Updates are available by request through the GCA phone line. If you received your copy of the list more than 3 months ago, you should request an updated copy (the October update is out). There have been considerable changes to the list. To receive an up-to-date copy, call the GCA phone line at 770.421.9729 and leave your name and address with a request for the updated list. ✂

Electronic Eddy Line Email Failures

Not getting your electronic version of The Eddy Line? The following email IDs had mail failure notices for the October Electronic Eddy Line mailing. Send any corrections or changes to Ed Schultz, 3060 Pharr Court North #315, Atlanta, GA 30305, or call Ed at 404.266.3734, or you may email him at heloeddy@mindspring.com. Failed email IDs:
dnlsmith@bellsouth.net

bpelkon@bellsouth.net
bmitchell@niac.usra.edu
rseasy@mindspring.com
vyzoth01@aol.com
mottbish@aol.com ✂

Upcoming Events of Interest

December 2 — Bryson City Jiffy Slalom — Tuckaseegee River, Bryson City, NC, NOC Programs Office - 888.662.1662.

December 3 — NRC December Wild Water Race — Nantahala or Tuckaseegee River, Bryson City, NC, NOC Programs Office - 888.662.1662.

April 13-15, 2001 — World Cup #1 Sprint Canoe / Kayak — Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com.

August 7-12, 2001 — USCA National Championships — Sprint & Marathon, Lake Lanier, Gainesville, GA, Connie Hagler, 770.287.7888, ConHagler@aol.com. ✂

Winter Roll Practice

Remember when the roofer fell through the roof into the pool room at the Warren Memorial Boys' & Girls' Club last winter and ended roll practice for the season? Well, guess what! The repairs to the roof and the pool are not yet complete. But don't abandon hope — the pool is expected to be open by year's end. If all goes well, we will again have winter roll practice at the Warren Club pool.

Joint GCA / AWC sessions are scheduled to begin the second Monday in January (the first Monday is the New Year's Day holiday) and run through the last Monday in March, with the exception of the third Monday in January, which is the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Sessions start at 7:00 PM and end at 9:00. Revel Freeman will again be heading up this program, with help from several other GCA members. See the December *Eddy Line* for the latest word on this event.

If you can volunteer to help out with any aspect of winter roll practice, please contact Revel Freeman at 404.261.8572. ✂

Don't Be Bored, Get on the Board

The GCA Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to be nominated as Members at Large on the GCA Board of Directors, the governing body of the GCA. To remain a vibrant organization, the GCA needs Board Members representing all facets of the membership. The GCA Bylaws provides for this through GCA Board Mem-

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bers at Large.

Serving as a GCA Board Member at Large is an excellent way to become involved with the governing of the club. Duties include attendance at GCA Board Meetings, held the first Thursday evening of even-numbered months. During those meetings, Board Members discuss and vote on issues before the Board, review reports from GCA Officers and Functional Committee Chairpersons, and provide direction to the Officers and Chairpersons.

The Nominating Committee will select a slate of candidates and present them to the existing Board of Directors for approval. Members at Large are elected for a one-year term. The Nominating Committee's objective is to nominate approximately four to six new Board Members at Large in addition to the existing six Board Members at Large.

GCA members may recommend themselves or another GCA member to be a Member at Large. If you recommend someone else, you must have that person's agreement that they will serve if nominated and elected. The recommendation should include a statement that you are interested in participating in club governance, including why you are interested.

Recommendations must be submitted no later than November 15. Email or phone recommendations to:

Brannen Proctor

bproctor@mindspring.com

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All candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Nominating Committee and a proposed slate will be presented to the GCA Board at the December 7 Board Meeting. Nominees who are approved by the Board will assume their duties immediately. ✂

GCA Fall Gala Canoeing Affair

by Denise Colquitt

Hi All. Just want to express my sincerest thanks to everyone who came to the Fall Gala this year and made this such a fun weekend. The weather, though a bit chilly, was absolutely beautiful & we really lucked up that the leaves are turning and provided a spectacular background for our festivities.

Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway Campground provided us with a great meeting/HQ location and I thought the facilities were very comfortable. Elsie, Gene, Earl & Linda really showed us great hospitality and were the perfect hosts. They told me that our group was a pleasure to have and that we are welcome to come back any time we'd like. I really appreciate everyone showing the best side of our club to the folks at Nelson's.

Along with the paddling trips, several groups enjoyed other activities. Some went to the Corn Maze, created in a corn field for Halloween in Andrews. Others went on hikes around the area and reported the fall scenery and blue skies to be positively beautiful. Some went shopping, while others went horse back riding at a local livery. There seemed to be lots to do.

After dinner Saturday evening, we even had our traditional bon fire, despite the growing chill to the air. We enjoyed a few games, such as river rescue tug-o-war, [which, I must say, the evil yakkers cheated at to win!!!! Canoeists will rise again & prevail!! :)] and throw bag bowling. That Elliott will be the next Tom Glavin some day (isn't he a pitcher?) but Cindy really showed the macho yakker guys what fer. Way to go girl!

Thanks again everyone. Thanks especially to everyone who so willingly (& some not so willingly!) helped out. You know who you are — you're the best. Sorry I got a bit irritable at times. I just wanted everyone that had come such a long way to have a good time.

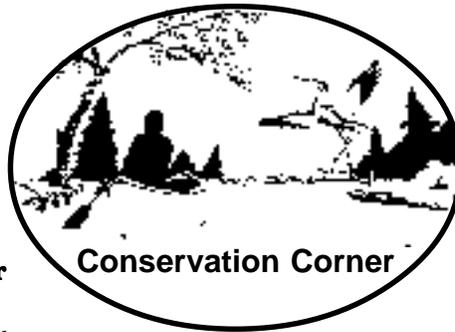
For those of you who couldn't make it, you really missed a great time. Maybe next year.

SYOTR. ✂

"Experience is not what happens to a man. It is what a man does with what happens to him."

- Aldous Huxley.

GCA Presentation to the Clean Water Initiative of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
by Daniel I. MacIntyre, River Protection Chairman, GCA



This presentation is fundamentally based upon personal and individual observations made by the author and other members of the GCA. We do not, as an organization, contend to have any unique scientific insight into the nature of the problems which are being inflicted upon Georgia's rivers or the cures for those problems. We do believe, however, that our observations based upon the years of watching Georgia's rivers deteriorate can provide a personal and important perspective which compliments the scientific findings which have been presented to the Clean Water Commission.

We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint the Clean Water Commission with some excellent scientific work which has been done by the U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior. One of our

members, Evelyn Hopkins, is part of the team that produced several publications on the water quality of the Chattahoochee. We are providing copies of a Summary Report written for the educated lay audience on the Water Quality in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin. The principal author of the Summary Report, Betsy Frick, is also a paddler. We also refer the Clean Water Commission

to the following web sites, which set out that research in detail: www.ga.usgs.gov/nawqa/ and ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/chatm. We would recommend to the Clean Water Commission the establishment of a link from the Clean Water Commission's web page to these sites.

Further, this presentation is focused on the problems, sources and solutions for non-point source pollution. It appears from the materials that have been presented to the Clean Water Commission that the point source pollution problems have been largely identified and quantified and that the solutions to them are available through existing technology. All that remains is to find the political will and funding to solve those problems. Non-point source pollution presents a different kind of problem, and a problem as to which we who are intimate with Georgia's paddlable rivers can offer some unique insight. **THE PROBLEM — AS OBSERVED FROM CANOE OR KAYAK LEVEL**

Where We Paddle. The GCA endeavors to organize at least six paddle trips per week. We do somewhat more than that during warm weather months, and somewhat less during cold weather months, but we paddle all year round. We paddle all over Georgia and the Southeast, but a majority of our paddling is in North Georgia. We extensively paddle the entire Chattahoochee River from just below Helen to just above Peachtree Creek. At high water, we paddle the Chattahoochee above Helen. We paddle the Chestatee River from beginning to end and, at Spring water levels, its major tributary, Tesnatee Creek. We would love to paddle the Soquee River, a major tributary of the Chattahoochee River above Lake Lanier, but unfortunately have been barred from it for as long as I can remember by a combination of a malevolent landowner and an archaic 1853 Georgia statute. We also extensively paddle the Conasauga River, Mountain Town Creek, Talking Rock Creek, Cartecay River and the Coosawatee River, all of which join in Gordon County to form the Oostanaula River. We also frequently paddle the Etowah River from its headwaters in Lumpkin County through Dawson County and into Cherokee County where

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it flows into Lake Alatoona.

I mention these rivers specifically because they constitute the actual and potential water supply for Metropolitan Atlanta. I also mention these rivers together because they are all facing the same threats.

What We Have Observed in Thirty-Three Years of Paddling. The first and most obvious observation of Georgia's rivers is diversity. They range from churning, frothing white water suitable only for expert adrenaline junkies to placid ripples ideal for a family canoe trip, even including young children outfitted with proper safety equipment. If these rivers had proper environmental and legal protection, suitable access and a modicum of marketing and promotion, they could be a huge tourism asset for Georgia. Several of them already have excellent outfitters. To envision the tourism potential of Georgia's many rivers, you only need to visit the Nantahala River in North Carolina or the Ocoee River in Tennessee, both of which have become the largest single revenue producer in the county in which they are located.

The next observation that we have made is that Georgia's rivers are changing for the worse, and the rate of change is rapidly accelerating. The first and most obvious change is that the rivers rise to flood stage much more quickly after a rain and fall below normal levels far too quickly thereafter. The source of this increased fluctuation is obvious to even the untrained observer. It is the dramatic increase in impervious surface through the rivers' watersheds.

The second observation is a decrease in water quality, particularly after rains when we see the silt and smell the organic matter being washed into the rivers from tributaries large and small. These observations are supported by sampling conducted by the USGS. Data from 'synoptic' sampling at a number of streams in the metro area are available at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/projects/chjatm/data/synoptical.html>. Because concentrations of non-point pollutants are usually higher at high flows, proposals to allow increases in point discharges during

periods of high water might increase the total load of pollutants.

The River Environment. Even more striking than what is happening to the river itself is the changes we have observed in the river environment. Riverside development is rapidly converting the banks of the rivers which supply Atlanta's water from a natural to a suburban environment.

The US Geological Survey publication "Water Quality in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin" Georgia, Alabama and Florida, 1992-1995 ("USGS ACF Report") sets out the following descriptions of the impact this change in environment has on water quality:

"Although urban and suburban land use accounts for only 5 percent of the ACF River Basin, it has the most important effect on stream-water quality. The intensity of the land-use effect on water quality varies in proportion to various measures of urbanization such as impervious area, population density, and percent industrial and transportation land use. As the percentage of suburban land use increases within a watershed, nutrients, pesticides, trace elements and organic compounds are more prevalent and occur at higher concentrations in streams. Water sheds in the Piedmont with higher population densities generally are drained by streams dominated by a few species of pollution tolerant, mostly non-native fishes, indicating poor biological condition and potentially poor water quality. Data indicate that the continued urbanization of forested and pasture land surrounding Metropolitan Atlanta are likely to be accompanied by increasing detrimental effects on water quality in area streams, including the area's source of drinking water."

Riverside Development. Riverside development, as it is currently being practiced in Northern Georgia, is a uniquely deleterious form of suburban development. Riverside development destroys the last buffer available to impede the flow of pollution into the river.

Most current riverside development is accompanied by roads built in the flood plain parallel to the river. These roads degrade a long stretch of vegetation, wetlands and small creeks which, had they not been removed or culverted, would filter out much of the silt and pollution which will flow into the river.

The alternative of steep roads plunging into the flood plain is in no way preferable. Many of these riverside developments include artificial walls and/or docks which damage the stream bank. Finally, many of these riverside developments are pouring their waste directly into the river or into small tributaries through which it flows directly into the river. Even in those developments which have septic systems, the topography requires fields to be

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laid far too close to the river to prevent sewage from leeching directly into the river.

A further problem with Georgia's current mode of riverside development is that it almost all occurs within the flood plain. This destroys the ability of the flood plain to absorb overflow, and sends the excess water rapidly downstream where it meets additional structures built on the flood plain. I had occasion to Paddle Fighting Town Creek from the Cohutta Wilderness to McCaysville, Georgia some years ago, soon after the town of McCaysville had been completely flooded. As soon as we left the mountains and descended into the areas where the riverbanks had been developed, we began to see building materials, automobiles, and even whole houses which had been washed into the river. This is what happens when we degrade the flood plains. It turns ordinary rains into floods. It turns ordinary floods into 100 year floods. It turns 100 year floods into disasters.

THE SOLUTION

Interestingly, the solution to our non-point source pollution problem can be observed in our own ACF River Basin. As described in the U.S.G.S. ACF Report:

"In the Coastal Plain of the ACF River Basin, cropland and silvicultured land and upland areas are separated from streams by relatively undisturbed riparian flood-plain and wetland habitats. This is in contrast to many intensively farmed areas of the United States where wetlands have been drained, channelized or filled, and little or no riparian buffers remain between crop lands and streams. Several water-quality implications that can partially be attributed to these wetlands buffer areas to streams include (1) fewer pesticides detected and lower pesticide and nutrient concentrations in streams than in other areas of the Nation, (2) lower nitrate concentrations in ground water underlying forested flood plains than in ground water underlying up gradient cropland, and (3) reduced disturbance of fish communities during and after large floods."

Nature has provided us with the answer to non-point source solution. Not understanding what we were doing, we have destroyed nature's gift in our urban and suburban Metropolitan Atlanta area. Now that we know better, we must not repeat that error in the headwaters which provide our drinking water supply.

Had we begun thirty years ago, Metropolitan Atlanta's water supply could have been protected by more modest measures. Unfortunately, because of ignorance and indifference, we have allowed water quality and supply to Metropolitan Atlanta to become a crisis. We must now take actions which are appropriate to combat a crisis. We must cease destroying the natural systems for

controlling non-point source pollution and we must begin reversing the damage which we have already done. We must severely curtail development which further damages our already compromised natural systems for containing, purifying and later releasing storm water runoff. This effort must begin most urgently on the stream sides of our major rivers, but it also must include major tributaries, minor tributaries, small streams and wetlands. With the extent of the damage we have already done, we cannot afford to further compromise the natural systems which provide the only mechanism for protecting our drinking water supply from intolerable degradation from non-point source pollution. We also must reclaim as much as possible of the natural storm water filtering systems which we have previously compromised or destroyed.

SOLUTION MECHANISMS

Zoning, Planning and Building Restrictions. We acknowledge the Clean Water Initiative's expressed preference for "carrots" rather than for "sticks". Had we started thirty years ago, we might have saved our water quality with inducements for preserving natural environments. From our intimate observations of Georgia's rivers for the past thirty-three years, we must sound the alarm that it is too late to address this problem with incentives alone. This problem must be addressed comprehensively with regulation, enforcement and incentives. Every year of delay simply makes it more difficult and more expensive.

It is also clear from our observations that we must address water quality issues on a river basin basis, from the springs in the mountains where our rivers begin, all the way to the sea. We can no longer afford to let local governments' inadequate protection of the streams which flow through their jurisdiction create problems for those downstream which cannot be addressed downstream. This is not going to be a politically popular step. It is going to be particularly difficult step for the City of Atlanta and Metropolitan Atlanta because we are the worst offenders. It is a step that must be taken, lest we poison our own nests.

Enforcement. The accompanying pictures (available on the Clean Water Initiative web site) give a small glimpse of the complete lack of enforcement of even the present woefully inadequate regulatory provisions we have for protecting our rivers and our water supply. The local authorities upstream from us, because of inadequate resources, lack of political will and unfortunate (but at least partially justified) antipathy for the big city folks downstream, simply are not going to enforce meaningful zoning, planning and building restrictions which can protect our water. There must be a state agency to do this.

It must be a state agency with real authority and real resources.

Greenways and Linear Parks. [underline] Though we do not believe the task at hand can be accomplished without zoning, planning, building restrictions and enforcement, we are fully and enthusiastically supportive of the obvious "positive" mechanism for addressing our non-point source pollution problems. We may have, at this moment, a serendipitous convergence of emerging political trends. Governor Barnes has declared green space preservation to be a priority of his administration and an important part of the legacy he wishes to leave to the state. What better green space could there be to preserve than river corridors, creek corridors and wetlands. Linear parks and greenways can be developed in a way that they provide disbursed quality recreational experiences to a wide variety of people throughout the river basin, close to where they live. At the same time, this crucial riverine environment can be preserved to perform its function as a buffer between polluted storm water runoff and the rivers which provide our water supply. The Clean Water Initiative and the Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber should get behind immediate major funding for land acquisition to preserve existing riparian buffers and to acquire and restore crucial areas which have already been degraded. We also should all get behind a permanent funding source for continuing acquisition and maintenance of these parks and, green ways.

WHAT GCA MEMBERS AND OTHER PADDLERS CAN CONTRIBUTE

In reporting to its members in its RLIN update of July 25, 2000, the Chamber made the following points which we enthusiastically endorse:

Members of the Clean Water Initiative Task Force heard presentations from several groups last week.... Each organization presented its views on improving Metropolitan Atlanta's water quality and wastewater capacity concerns. Several common themes emerged.

- (1) We need a 'quantum leap in the capacity to measure water quality'. In order to fully understand our water quality status and to measure the impact of point source and non-point source controls, there needs to be comprehensive database for water quality information.
- (2) Water quality planning must respect and adhere to watershed boundaries, not simply jurisdictional lines.
- (3) Land use and water quality issues are inextricably linked. Reduction of impervious surfaces and adequate stream buffers for all streams would have a substantial impact on our water quality.
- (4) We must utilize and enforce existing storm water protection regulations.

(5) The EPD lacks the resources to effectively execute their mission. EPD needs additional funding in order to increase the overall size of their department, as well as to attract and retain top talent."

As a solution to items 1 and 5 above, I would propose 1,000 Georgia paddlers, trained and empowered to observe and report what is happening on Georgia's rivers and to sample and measure water quality along the many miles of rivers which we regularly paddle. To obtain the enthusiastic support of all GCA members and thousands of other paddlers who belong to other clubs or are not joiners, only four prerequisites would be required.

- (1) We would have to be asked, trained, organized and directed.
- (2) We would have to be given access to the rivers where we would make our observations and take our samples.
- (3) Our legal right to passage down rivers would have to be assured. As the law stands now, the polluters would have a good chance of prohibiting us from observing or sampling the results of their misdeeds
- (4) We would need assurance that our efforts are actually producing results.

WHAT WE BELIEVE THE CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE AND THE CHAMBER SHOULD DO

We believe that the Metropolitan Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, with the materials and information it has received through its Clean Water Initiative, knows what needs to be done. It is set out in the July 25, 2000, RLIN update quoted above. What the Chamber must now do is exercise the leadership and take the initiative to cause the State to develop the political will to apply these known solutions.

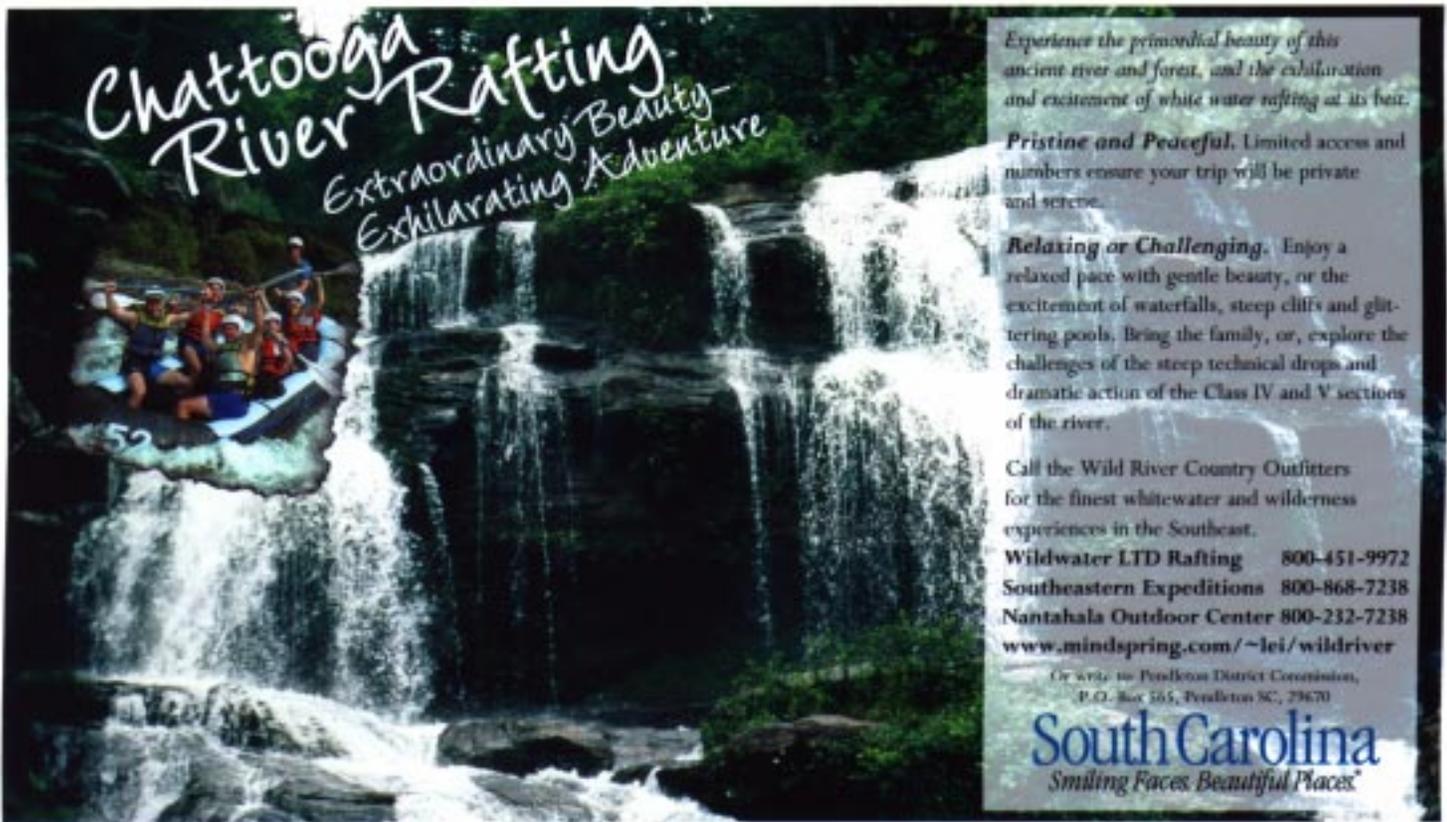
Based upon the performance of Georgia State Government to date, this is going to require bringing about a sea change. According to the summary of legislation published by the Secretary of State, the Georgia General Assembly passed and Governor Barnes signed into law two major pieces of water quality legislation in 2000. Both were giant steps in the wrong direction. I offer to you the following descriptions of these two pieces of legislation as provided by the Secretary of State:

Act 805; HB 1123

"This Act changes requirements for vegetative buffers along streams. The Act reduces the required buffer from 100 feet to 50 feet for trout streams. The Act provides for the piping of certain trout streams. The Act provides for variances."

Act 867; SB 524

"The Act provides a complete defense for contractors of DOT and the State Tollway Authority to any action



brought by the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources for noncompliance with the "Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975. "If we are going to save Metropolitan Atlanta from a water quality crisis which brings the area to its knees, the Chamber must exercise all of its political might to cause the government of the State of Georgia to reorder its priorities to address Metropolitan Atlanta's and the State's water quality problems constructively.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate this opportunity to make our views and opinions known. We offer at any time to organize, lead and participate in a paddling trip down any river of interest to any task force member or Chamber of Commerce member who has an interest in seeing first hand the things which we discuss in this presentation. If any of you will come with us, we believe that you will come away from that experience as we do from each river trip, personally renewed and with a new appreciation for the marvels which are Georgia's rivers.

Sea Kayak Safety Advisory

**by F. L. Whipple
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Officer In Charge, Marine
Inspection**



The following story is reprinted courtesy of Marine Safety Office, Portland, Maine. While the temperature in Hawaii may be quite different than in Maine, all sea kayakers must make the same safety preparations.

In May of 1995, a group of sea kayakers paddling near Harpswell, Maine, unexpectedly encountered strong

currents that resulted in three kayakers being separated from the group and set out to sea. While their friends were set offshore, the main group was able to land their kayaks on a small island. Because a member of the group now ashore carried a signal mirror, the group was able to attract the attention of persons on the mainland, who in turn notified the Coast Guard. Based upon information from persons ashore, an intensive five hour effort was launched that eventually located and recovered the missing kayakers.

This incident underscores the need for proper planning and signaling equipment, and revealed some of the inherent difficulties in mounting open water searches for objects as small as sea kayaks. Based on this and similar

incidents, Marine Safety Office Honolulu recommends all sea kayakers to carefully consider and adopt the following procedures to increase their safety.

Voyage planning: When planning a voyage, no matter how short or simple you intend it to be, take a few minutes to leave a float plan, including departure/arrival times, number of people and color of kayaks, with a responsible friend. If it's a spur of the moment trip, write a plan just before you go and leave it in an envelope marked "FLOAT PLAN" on the dashboard of your vehicle. Make sure to always monitor the weather before and during your trip.

Know your limitations: You alone are the best judge of your own physical limitations, the capabilities of your kayak, and most importantly, your ability to operate your craft and gear. Respect the indiscriminate power of the sea along the exposed coast, and carefully avoid operating in restricted visibility, including fog, rain, and darkness.

Wind: The wind is a powerful factor in kayaking. Remember that if you start paddling with the wind, the return will take much more time and effort. Be sure to conserve enough energy for the return leg.

Choose your gear carefully: Make sure your kayak and paddling gear is in good condition. Properly dress for the prevailing conditions and include extra clothing and

provisions to allow for changes in weather, no matter how nice the day appears. Make sure you've prepared for emergency situations by including safety equipment such as pumps, sponges, a survival knife, paddle float, and most importantly, a high quality, high visibility personal flotation device.

Signaling capability: Sea kayaks are exceptionally difficult to see from a distance, especially in marginal conditions. Compensate for this fact by choosing brightly colored sea kayaks and clothing, use retro-reflective tape and carry advanced signaling equipment. In a sea kayak you're disadvantaged by size. Bring the most advanced signaling equipment available. At least one kayak in a group should carry an electronic communications device, preferably a VHF marine radio or cellular phone. All kayaks should carry a whistle or air horn, signal mirror, and strobe light.

Commercial vessel traffic: Stay well away from commercial vessels, and avoid crossing channels and thoroughfares, especially in restricted visibility. Large vessels often cannot deviate from their course and fishing vessels should be expected to operate on highly erratic courses as they tend gear.

- From the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Hawaii Internet Home Page www.aloha.net/msohono. 

Instruction / Training

"Excuse Me While I Crash Into Your Eddy."

**The ins and Outs of River Etiquette
by Dena Foltz**

There are no rules posted at the put-in, no handbook, no river cops to monitor rude paddlers. River etiquette is more common sense. As more and more people become addicted to paddling, river etiquette and common consideration become more important. These "rules of the river" will make paddling more enjoyable for you and others who share the river. Remember, we are all out there for the same reason — to play and have fun!

Be ready to go.

Nothing is more annoying than having to wait an hour at the put-in for someone who "oops" left his or her spray skirt at home.

Tell someone in your group if you leave.

Your group will wish you had drowned if they spend two hours looking for you only to discover that you took out early and hitched a ride to the take-out. You will save worry, frustration, and time by letting someone in your group know if you decide to take a break.

Check upstream for oncoming boaters.

Rafts and others coming downstream have the right of way. It only takes getting run over once to figure out why this rule is important.

Always look upstream before leaving an eddy and before getting on a wave to play.

Please see the above rule. Though the general rule has been "yield to people running down river", those running down river should try to pick lines that don't interrupt someone's surf if possible.

Leave plenty of room between boaters.

Don't tailgate. Save "bumper boats" for a game of kayak polo. Wait for a boater to move through a tight spot before following. Different boat designs will move at different speeds. Adjust the space you need accordingly.

Do not cut in front of a boater running a drop.

Do not enter a crowded drop or eddy when there is no room.

It is very unnerving to have someone come crashing into your eddy. If there isn't room in an eddy you need to catch, wait upstream in another eddy until there is room for you.

When waiting in an eddy, move away from the eddy line to allow more room for other paddlers to enter — unless you enjoy people plowing into you as they try to enter the

eddy.

Wait for a group to move through a rapid before you pass.

Try to pass in a calm section of the river.

Limit groups to a moderate size.

Smaller groups are less intrusive.

Respect other river users.

Pass fishermen quietly without disturbing their hole. Make room for others at heavily used access points. Load and unload your boats as quickly as possible and move your vehicle so others can use your spot.

Talk with other boaters on the rivers to decide campsites.

This will prevent conflicts later on when you are tired and hungry and less likely to compromise.

Don't be a hole hog.

The lines are getting longer and longer in eddies. Be considerate; tailor the length of the ride to the number of people waiting in line.

Wait your turn.

It is bad river karma to cut in line. Unless the person ahead of you is not paying attention. Then it is your duty to keep the line moving — step up!

Practice minimum impact and help maintain the pristine river environment.

Pack out all garbage and the garbage left behind by

others.

Show respect for locals & private property.

These people own the land you paddle through. Paddlers are lucky to have the limited access they do, don't ruin it for everyone. It is not part of the experience to be chased by some irate landowner with a shotgun.

Keep the noise to a minimum.

A few hoots and hollers are fine, but excessive yelling and screaming can be annoying to other river users.

Don't walk through other people's campsites.

When putting in or taking out, respect others' space, if you must pass through, ask permission.

The group you are paddling with may have its own set of rules that you will have to quickly learn and abide by — regardless of how nebulous the rules may be. For instance, this is what one paddler informed me: "Don't swim; if you do swim, you owe me a beer (unless you are a significant other, then it depends how significant you are)." So I guess I can assume that if I swim and my significant other makes me buy him a beer, I'm not looking at a very long-term relationship.

As always, the most important rule: Have fun and be safe!

- From the OutdoorPlay web site www.outdoorplay.com via "Bow Lines", newsletter of the Bluegrass Wildwater Association. 

Letters

GCA:

I write in response to Daniel Arrugueta's letter to the editor in the September *Eddy Line*.

I am very blessed to have three sons and a daughter and a wife that paddle with me. I have always tried to set a good example for them to follow in matters of river safety and river courtesy. You must understand that my children are all adults and have been making decisions for themselves for years now.

In my letter "Rowdy River Cops" I was writing about one incident involving one US Forestry Ranger who acted very unprofessionally. His name is Steve and he was spitting tobacco every where and acting very cocky and smart. He was training the other new ranger who was with him.

Daniel, you say that I disagree with your approach to pay because it is in your opinion law. On the contrary, I had my pass on, as did all the other folks with us except Erin, who wanted to buy one, and my son, who refuses to buy one. He is 29 years old and made that decision, being willing to stand up for what he considered his right to



protest the Fee Demo program. He did indeed paddle off when Ranger Steve came skidding onto the side of the road.

So, you see, sometimes things are not what they appear, and you read a lot into my account that was not there. I, by the way, am proud of my son. Erin, on the other hand, asked if she could buy a pass from him. I had bought my pass from a ranger on the side of the river earlier in the season. The only reason she did not have one was because there were no rangers at the put-in and she did not want a paper day pass, she wanted the season pass. I told her to have her husband run down and get one for her. Too bad he had not had the time to do this for her.

You say the ranger was only doing his duty, but you, my friend, were not there. If it was his duty to lecture a young girl about breaking the law when she had just ask him to sell her a pass so she could comply with said law, and if it was his job to harass her and her husband until she thought he was going to take her to jail or something — then he did his job. I think his job was to see to it that all paddlers he saw that day had passes. He had to make a judgment call and he could have either sold her a pass or written her a ticket without lecturing her for seven minutes.

As far as notifying his superior, I called for Mike, the head ranger of the district, and could never get him on the phone. I left my toll free call back number 3 times and he never returned my call. I asked Erin to write a complaint, but she just wanted to forget about the whole thing. I was one of those folks who just bought a pass and said "Oh well, it's not that much," and since this all happened, I have decided that I positively do not agree with Fee Demo.

Daniel, I have never met a ranger that I did not like until I met Steve that day. I have the utmost respect for law officers who put their life on the line, but this ranger acted like a jerk — sorry, sometimes you get a bad apple when you buy a bushel.

I think next year if Fee Demo continues and Congress doesn't get stupid and make it permanent law, there will be some of us who will refuse to buy a pass and will receive citations and we will see what the federal judge in Atlanta thinks about enforcing a citation for a fee that is not actually law, but a demonstration program with no laws on the books for enforcing it. We may have to get a lawyer, but some of us are willing to use the material Bob Bartsch has put together to test this law. I think the end result will be the same as in California.

I am not sure you understand the nature of the Fee Demo program. It is unfair and this is the good ole USA where we can actually voice our opinion when we see unfairness. I do not appreciate you saying my suggestions and example are "base sorriness". If I am not mistaken, you just said I was sorry. You might want to come paddling with me and get to know me before you make a hasty Judgment.

You cannot cover the bad attitude, unprofessional manner and rudeness of Ranger Steve. He was wrong!! A little common courtesy goes a long way, and he left his somewhere when he came to work that day. You know, he might even be a decent guy most of the time, but not on this day. You see, Erin was pulled right up to the side of the river and he could have just written her a ticket. Why did she have to get out of her boat?

This is not a police state, where cops go ordering citizens around. Have you ever stopped someone for speeding and then ordered them out of their car and walked them around behind a building and lectured them for 7 or 8 minutes before giving them a ticket? I think not.

I will concede that you have a point about me saying, "If it had been me, I would have just paddled off." But, you have to understand that it seemed to me at the time that Ranger Steve was overstepping his bounds by making her get out of her boat when he could have just written a citation and handed it to her. If the USFS folks want people to buy a pass and Erin told him immediately that

she wanted to buy one, what else could she do? She was with seven people who had a pass on and she paddled up to him and asked him if she could buy one. If he chose not to believe that she actually wanted to purchase one, then write the citation and be done with it.

Daniel, I have voiced my opinion about Fee Demo through proper channels and hope this double taxation will soon be taken off the books. How about you and me go paddling some time? You just might make a good friend.

Sincerely,
Terry Newlon

We received the following email from the folks at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway campground.

GCA:

We at Nelson's Nantahala Hideaway campground wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the pleasurable weekend you and your leader brought to our campground. If all our guests were as easy to work with, we would feel like we were offering a great service to visitors to Western North Carolina and the Nantahala area.

Denise, Elsie and the gang congratulate you for the marvelous organization you put into a very difficult task. We wish that it could have been a little warmer. Thank you for the help you gave Elsie in making her job a little easier. GCA and its members will be welcome as our guests any time.

Have a wonderful winter and come see us when you can.

Gene

The following letter was received by GCA member Hank Klausman in response to his letter to his Congressman regarding Fee Demo and access to public lands.

September 15, 2000

Dear Mr. Klausman:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding access to public lands. It is good to hear from you.

On June 15, 2000, Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) offered an amendment (H.AMDT.825) to H.R.4578, the FY01 Interior Appropriations bill. This amendment states that no funds may be used to assess a fine or take any other law enforcement action against a person for failure to pay a fee for a vehicle pass imposed under the recreational fee demonstration program regarding parking at trail heads and dispersed recreation sites in the National Forest System. The amendment failed by voice

vote.

On May 9, 2000, the Forest Service issued its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the roadless initiative, which would bar the creation of roads in 43 million acres of National Forests. The Forest Service has announced that it will concentrate budget priorities on maintaining and re-constructing existing roads, rather than building new ones. At the present time, the agency has a backlog of almost \$8 billion dollars in road maintenance, and simply does not have the budget necessary to build new roads in roadless areas. I support the re-building of our National Forest infrastructure to better serve the citizens who use these areas.

Many people enjoy touring America's majestic landscapes. Our National Parks should be used for recreational purposes to the maximum amount possible. I do not want to close America's public lands to the public that owns them. I think our National Parks were created for the purpose of the nation's citizens to have reasonable access to them. I believe that in currently existing National Parks that existing roads should be maintained and should remain open. However, I do not favor the expansion of roads within the park lands. It is my hope that the Federal and State Forest Service directors will be able to work out a plan that effectively manages our natural resources, without placing undue restrictions on them.

I do support the preservation of green spaces and to

that I have signed on as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA). The purpose of CARA is to dedicate 50% or more of annual revenues from offshore gas and oil leases — projected at \$3 billion a year — into three separate funds. Essentially, the bill would provide a permanent funding source for a variety of conservation needs in Georgia, such as parks, recreation areas, historic preservation and wildlife restoration. Georgia's annual share would amount to \$40.4 million. Through this funding the bill seeks to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people.

On May 11, 2000, the bipartisan bill H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA) passed the House by a vote of 315-102. This is a truly historic bill. All 50 states will benefit from this legislation. The bill has bipartisan, national, state and local support. We have produced a bill that has the support of a diverse coalition of organizations like the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the US Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Realtors, the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties and the US Conference of Mayors.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on this issue with me and please continue to keep me informed of the issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Congressman Johnny Isakson



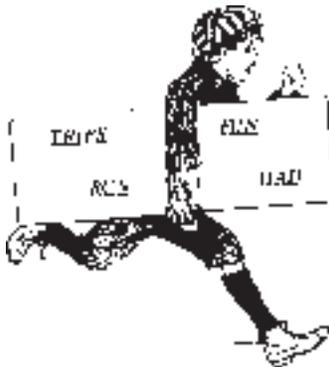
Hiwassee

by Bill Convis

September 24, 2000. This trip was originally scheduled for Saturday but I moved it to Sunday because of a scheduling conflict at home. As a result, several people wanting to paddle were unable to, and it ended up being a pretty small group, Terri Wade, Norm Clark and yours truly, with a couple of other possibles, all in kayaks.

Although originally I planned to paddle an open boat, with such a small group and all experienced paddlers, I elected to paddle my new kayak (Redline). I explained to Terri and Norm at the put-in that I was an aspiring kayaker with a fair amount of open boat experience. In other words, I might need help!

Terri and Norm had arrived promptly by 11:00, so we loaded up my truck, set out for the put-in and were on the water shortly thereafter. What can you say about the Hiwassee. For those who know it, this day was pretty much like others — wonderful. For those who have not yet



paddled this delightful class II river, you owe it to yourselves.

The weather was initially cool, sort of fall-like, with the sun occasionally coming through. It wasn't necessary to bundle up despite the cold water. All in all, it was very comfortable paddling weather and no worries about sunburn.

Terri and Norm are both good boaters and pleasant companions. I enjoyed their company and look forward to being on the river with them again. We played hard all

day, reaching the take-out all too quickly around 4:00 PM.

I thought I knew this river pretty well, but discovered new play spots to which I credit my fellow paddlers and the Redline. We ferried, played and surfed — front, side and back — from put-in to take-out and it was no surprise that by the end of the day the conversation turned to favorite analgesics, Advil, Aleve, Bud, etc.

We played especially long and hard at the rapid I believe is called the Needles. At this point I would like to offer a hearty and sincere thanks to Norm and Terri for

spotting me an Eskimo rescue and gear collection. After my dismal roll attempt, he arrived in the nick of time, and there was Terri, too, with my paddle. Thanks.

So that's the way the day went, and then we were on our separate ways home, satisfied and feeling good; me thinking about how easy that roll is — in my head. Once on the road, I put on a Fleetwood Mac tape, stopped for a bag of hot boiled peanuts and a Coke and headed south. Another great day on the river. ✂

Pigeon River / French Broad

by Susan Oehler

We had a delightful Labor Day weekend paddle on these two rivers. We ran the Pigeon on Saturday, and had a total of eight boaters in all..... Mike Winchester, Katherine Dunlap, Jenni Fuller, Oreon Mann, Tom Burns, Bobby Mitchell, C.K. Miller and (me) Susan Oehler.

It was a warm sunny day, and the Pigeon was a bit crowded, but not overwhelmingly so. We took a break at Lost Guide rapid, and while we were sitting there, we saw a lone sea kayaker come down the rapid. Thinking he would be better off with our group than on his own, we made him part of our group.

His first name was Lee, and he was from Raleigh area. He did okay until we hit the last big rapid, Accelerator, where he flipped and swam. I ran a trip on the Nantahala several years ago for GCA with a sea kayak in the group, so I am starting to think taking sea kayakers down white water rivers is just a part of leading a GCA trip. They do better than one would expect, actually.

On Sunday we did the French Broad river, from Bernard to Stack House. The day before, the FB was running 850 cfs, and several folks backed out of the trip since it was so low (I have never seen the river so low before!), but it rained and rained on Saturday night, and on Sunday the river came up to 1380 cfs. This is still low, but I have seen it that low on many occasions.

On this trip, Dustin Smith and Matt Wood joined me and Oreon Mann for a delightful trip down the river, followed by visiting the hot tubs in Hot Springs (Oreon and I). Thanks to everyone who came on these trips and made my weekend so enjoyable!

SYOTR..... ✂

Paddling with Pigs a la Helene

by Becca Brown

Everyone was anticipating the high water on local rivers and creeks as remnants of tropical storm Helene and other rain producing clouds passed by the Atlanta area. Thursday night my phone rang non-stop until 10:30 p.m. Enthusiastic voices asked, "Is there still room on your Cartecay trip?" followed by apologies for calling at the last minute. "Of course," I replied. "The more, the merrier."

I called MOE's and heard through the watervine that the Cartecay was running about 3 feet. WOO HOO! On Friday the river was maintaining at two and a half feet, according to some local experts. That was far above the one foot level that it had been running during the past month.

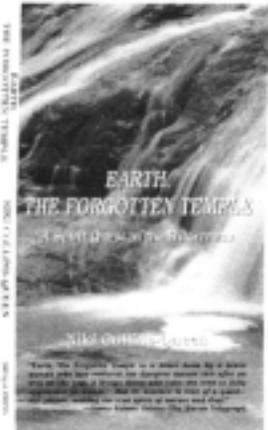
On Saturday, September 23rd, we met at the river and tossed our boats on the side of the road. As we greeted new and old friends, we noticed two things. One was that the river was definitely not 2 or 3 feet, but closer to one and a half feet. Also, there was a strange smell emitting from underneath the bridge. Ray noticed the stench first and claimed there was a dead pig under the bridge.

Without showing too much disappointment over the low water, everyone toppled down the hill in their boat and made a paddling dash down the mighty Cartecay. Was it something I said? Oh I guess it was that dead pig turned sideways in the water with its feet sticking straight out. Someone mentioned having a pig roast after the trip.

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I think most of us declined.

The first part of the river was gentle and smooth. We tried a few challenging tricks such as pulling our boats up on the rope swings. That must be a class V move on this section. Most of us waited to practice our rolls until the pig juice was diluted.

The second section of the river offered some white water challenges. Can you really surf that wave? And some of us tried to attain at the bottom of one rapid. Using a kayak paddle, Andy in his 17-ft canoe had the best luck. He was able to paddle right back up one drop with no problem. Of course half of his canoe was at the bottom of the rapid, while the other half was at the top.

We lunched on the sandy beach at the surfing spot before S-turn. This gave some of us a chance to mooch lunch. Power bars and power gel do get old after a while, so I shared pretzels and gingersnaps with a few hungry paddlers. Cindy, the lunch queen, shared a delicious sandwich and key lime cookies.

After lunch we ambled down to S-turn where some of us scouted and some paddled on down. Thanks to Jason for the safety rope. At the next surf spot, many of us practiced rolls in flat and white water. This helped us for our run at Blackberry Falls, which can be tricky at low water.

At Blackberry Falls everyone had fun and clean runs. A few kayakers showed off their combat rolls. Chad showed us how to go backwards down the falls. A few brave souls tried the rapid several times varying the route each time. Tropical storm Helene gave us a few more inches of water on the river. Yes, more would have been nice, but we had a beautiful, clear day and a great time on the river.

Trip participants included Jim and Maggie Griffin, Chad Spangler, Andy Dannenburg and George Hedrick in OC-1; Frank Crane in C-1; Mary Radford, Bradford Barefoot, John Sieweke, Ray Channell, Cindy Powell, Jason Schnurr, Dave Chaney, Roger Toebben and Becca Brown in K-1. ❄

Upper Hooch

by Dave Chaney, Trip Coordinator

We had planned a trip on the Upper Hooch for Sunday, September 24th, but you already know how the rain situation has been, so we switched to the Nantahala instead. Then out of the blue (actually dark gray) came a downpour. Wednesday night and Thursday morning rained and all of the creeks in Atlanta were at flood stage. Sweet Water Creek was over 6 ft, Big Creek was out of its banks. The Upper Hooch was above 4 ft on Thursday

afternoon! I let everyone know that the Upper Hooch trip was back on.

On Saturday, I had tagged along on Becca Brown's Cartecay trip. As I drove north on Highway 575, I smiled to see a respectable amount of water in all of the rivers and streams north of Marietta. But turning onto Highway 53, I saw that the Cartecay was low, very low. It turned out to be running just over one and a half feet. Minimal. All day Saturday I kept telling myself, "Self, the rain moved east of Atlanta, surely the Hooch got more rain than they got here." I answered myself saying "Everything would work out OK, and quit calling me surely".

Sunday morning was here. Jason Schnurr and I were car pooling to the Hooch and we both kept telling ourselves to think positive thoughts. The Hooch would be half full, not half-empty. Driving north, much to my dismay, the sun-bleached rocks that littered the bottom of the riverbed told the whole story. Half empty was an overstatement. But 24 people had signed up for the trip and I had paddled the Hooch at pretty low water levels. It would be all right.

At the put-in were 18 paddlers ready to rock-and-roll. The outfitter told us that the river was at 1.8' but reality was 1.4' — my personal low for the Upper Hooch. Our group included Joy Scott, Mark Macke, Marty Head, Jack Taylor, Edward Stockman, Steve Olson, Rosie Eisenberg, Susan McConnell, Greg Spencer, Jason Schnurr, Doug Ackerman, Kay Hess, Jim Griffin, Peter Elkon, Rachel Elkon, Sallie Burn, Andy Jordan and Ira Jordan. We split the group based on intelligence with all canoes in one group and kayaks in the other group.

The trip proved very enjoyable. At this very low level all of the lines are changed and you do see more of the river topology than you might like. But it was still a relaxing and pretty paddle.

We didn't have any problems on the river and the scenery was great. While I wouldn't go out of my way to paddle the Hooch at 1.4', I wouldn't shy away from it either. The leaves were starting to turn and the weather was perfect; sunny and in the low 80s. The only real drawback was that there was no place to play.

I need to thank everyone on the trip. There was very little carping about lack of water and everyone seemed to have a good time. And as always — a bad day on the river beats a great day at work. ❄

Lower Nantahala

by Dave Chaney

First I want to thank Denise and Tony Colquitt for an outstanding job this years Fall Gala. It was a truly

great event even without rain. The facility was well run and spotless with HOT water all week-end. The food was both good and plentiful, even though the chef was somewhat cantankerous.

I also need to thank both Gabriella Schlidt and Allen Hedden for a truly enjoyable trip on the little known Lower Nantahala. While the Nantahala is always fun, I had already paddled the Middle Nantahala on Friday and Saturday, and this opportunity for a short (3 hour) trip Sunday was just what the doctor ordered.

This trip begins below Wesser Falls and ends at the Highway 28 bridge over Lake Fontana. The day was cold and clear with a North wind that developed late in the day. The Nantahala was running at about normal, 3.1 on the gauge, and Lake Fontana's flood pool was 1622.4. The lake level is very important. At normal summer levels, the lake actually backs up to Wesser Falls, but at this level the river has current to within a mile of the take-out.

The Lower Nantahala was a pure joy to paddle.

Was This Experience Just Dad's?

by Life Member Fred Couch (59 Y.O.)

After 30 years plus of hair-raising fun in white water canoes and kayaks, the babies have grown to the age of paddling the waters with Dad. The 16 y.o. prefers guys her age and horses (4 legged), but the 11 y.o. girl seems more inclined to sports with old Dad. Yes!

A few years back, Dad got interested in flat water kayaking and saw some GCA articles by Don Bailey. Don kindly advised Fred (Dad) about many wave/storm aspects, surf situations, torso paddling, equipment items on a budget, conditioning, rescue, and boat types. Don even spent 3 days training Dad on Lake Weiss prior to a planned cold water expedition. Dad also spent 3 days on the Outer Banks with NOC's senior instructor.

Last Christmas after searching for months for a reasonable tandem sea kayak with no results, I opted instead for a large cockpit 2 seat kayak. We made one trip — to the class 3 wave at Hawaii 5-0 on the Mulberry — on New Year's Day. You know it's been dry in the South, right? Well, the wave was all of 2 inches deep; not awe inspiring, huh! Not even class 1.

However, we met Mike Cowan and another paddler friend from the past, Arlan Jones (Locust at 9' was great). These guys started sending us regular email about outings with the Bama Back-paddlers group. In the Spring we joined them for two days in middle Georgia, camping out, swapping yarns, etc. Then a late situation canceled a horse show (older girl), so Dad decided to join them (and bring Katie) on late notice for the fun-yak on the warm

There were no other boaters, and the scenery was a patchwork of reds, gold, yellows and green that only Mother Nature can produce. About halfway down the river we spotted an old stone wall that appeared to be part of the railroad right of way before the lake was built in the early 1940's. Gabriella and Allen said that when they paddled the river before, this wall was under water due to a higher lake level.

The water was crystal clear and the river had numerous surfing waves and play spots. We estimated that only one rapid approached class III, and it was fairly straight forward, requiring some maneuvering, although a swim would have been painful.

At the beginning of the stone wall was a great play hole. This hole was at least 50% larger than the hole at Quarry Rapid on the Middle Nantahala. We found one other major league play spot further down the river and more waves than you could count. The scenery, water and company were a great end to a truly great Fall Gala.

waters of the French Broad on Memorial Day weekend.

How to introduce her without scaring her off? A tandem fun-yak had been the idea with the older girl, but a trip down my favorite Nantahala had "frozen" her out of ever again going with Dad. Not to make the same mistake twice, I opted for a raft trip down the Nantahala with Katie.

A chance trip on Memorial Day weekend linked us with a racer from my past, who had the brightest idea — the idea that made her 'crazy for it' like Dad. The 3 of us were in a 8 person raft — just after Ferebee he said "Let's let her 'guide' for awhile!"

After 10 minutes 'guiding' she said, "If this means I can guide through the falls at the end, I'm interested; if not, I don't want to guide." What a champ. Thank you, Payson!!

We got fried on the Broad (didn't use enough sun lotion) but we didn't care; she pushed me to run the hardest part of every rapid. God, I hurt that night, and peeled skin twice the next week. We finished the 3 day weekend with some rental horses. Seemed right.

Lo and behold, it happened. I had left requests all over the web for 2 years for a reasonable priced tandem sea kayak. Pro Canoe in Greensboro had a used rental Prijon Odyssey, and the price was so right. I detest keyholes so I changed that and did some modifications to bring it in line with my Dagger Apostle.

Katie and I tried it on a local lake. At first it was windy, and I had her try the umbrella I always bring as a sail. Actually, that frightened her. Cancel that plan. She preferred to lean out at the most inopportune times and



Dad & Katie in the Prijon Odyssey with "sail."
 - Photo submitted by Fred Couch.

try to catch water spiders. Guess who was doing all the paddling? And, bracing!

Up from the bank a blue heron flew. She said, "Is that the bird that has luggage for a mouth with lots of fish hanging out?" I knew then that my plan to paddle with my Anniston friends and publishers of "The Eastern Sea Kayaker", Dave and Mimi Campbell, in Florida for Labor Day weekend was on the mark. I was ready!

Dave and Mimi wanted to try the Sweet Magnolia Inn (B & B) near Apalachicola and I agreed, as I thought the first trip should be as pleasant as possible. Don Bailey was too sick to go, but we were so hoping he could. What a great guy he is.

Getting the cart before the horse, let me tell you what Katie said the last day.... "Daddy, this is the best 'hotel' (it's an Inn, Hon) I have ever stayed in. I love this place."

The first morning down we went to Wakulla Springs and had lunch; then, we drove some miles away and put in on the Wakulla River to paddle upstream. Looking for

wildlife, we saw cormorants, snipe, and finally — alligator! At that moment the skies said boom-boom so we made a hasty retreat (never saw the manatees) to avoid the rain and lightning. It did this to us all weekend, threatening, pouring horrendously for about 5 minutes, then clearing up.

Back to the Inn and off to supper at the Spring Creek restaurant. Man, I love seafood! After a fantastic meal, we met a paddler in the parking lot, and ramble-talked for 30 minutes; then we met a bearded young fellow who saves animals — all sorts — from bad fates, and who promised to get us into any place we desired. You can bet they gave us some good area paddling guidance.

The next day we went out into the gulf — Katie got to see a luggage mouth bird (pelican), hundreds of hermit crabs, oyster bars, effects of low tide on boat bottom (struggle, push), and stopped dangling her hands in the water when I told her about jellyfish. She was still a bit restless, which really got to bothering my balance sense when I saw cats-paws coming and the beginning of white caps. Broadside it created anxious moments for me which she didn't even notice.

Prijon (Wildwasser) didn't send my rudder on time for the trip. The rudder would sure have corrected the severe weather helm problem we experienced. Coming about and heading downwind, I got her to bring out the yellow umbrella again. Even she noticed that efficient use of this 'sail' made us go faster than Dad's paddling. The lightning and rain arrived just as we were driving off.

It only seemed right to go to a long white beach the last day so Katie could swim in the surf and Dad could snooze in the sun. Then a seven hour drive home. Believe I did it right with this one. Thank you, too, my many friends!!!!

Free Style Championships

On the coldest October 7th ever in Huntsville, Texas, a hardy band of paddlers competed in the 2000 ACA National Interpretive (a.k.a. Free Style) Canoeing Championships. To top that, it was also raining, sometimes hard and sometimes just misting. The luck of the draw determined which competitor got what condition.

The winners were:

Men's Solo:

- 1st Bob Foote Sugar Land, TX
- 2nd Tom Jenkins "5 miles east of Hughes Springs, TX"
- 3rd John Steib Jackson, LA

Women' Solo:

- 1st Karen Knight Sugar Land, TX
- 2nd Becky Molina Fort Pierce, FL

3rd Jill Aaron Ashland, MA

Winners received prizes and plaques from sponsors Extrasport, Northwest River Supply, Teva, Grey Owl Paddles and the Houston Canoe Club.

Congratulations to the winners and all the competitors for a tremendous performance on difficult but beautiful conditions. The fog was swirling around the water. You should have been there. The paddling was artistic and athletic. Thanks to the several hundred in the crowd who hung out in those same conditions. The enthusiastic applause was only partly designed to keep hands warm.

Videos of the performance are available from Marge Cline, 1343 N. Portage, Palatine, IL 60067-1850 for \$20. Copies of '97, '98 and '98 Exhibitions are also available.

Thanks to host Houston Canoe Club and Kevin Casement and his Southwest Canoe Rendezvous volun-

teers for arranging the lights, sound system, removing some hydrilla and great publicity. Thanks to Anne and Tryon Lindabury for laying out the boundaries. Thanks to John Steib for coordinating sponsors.

Thanks to the ACA Free Style Committee and its Chair, Tom MacKenzie. The difficult job of judging was performed by Tom M., Ann Derby, Fred Kracke and

Jackie Peppe. Thanks to all.

Thanks also to all those volunteers that helped and supported our 12th Rendezvous. Hey, notice how many Texans are among the top FS paddlers. OK, so not all of them were born here, but....

- From a submission by John Bartos to the CanoeTX email list. ✂

Just How Cold Is It?

by Tom Butler

This piece of wintry advice was originally going to be used sometime when it was supposed to get cold, such as February. But we're off to a good start with some nippy mornings.

The following chart is part of one devised by the National Weather Service, and can be found in The World Almanac. It shows the perceived temperature when your face and head and hands are exposed to the chilling effect of the wind at cold temperatures. Here I just reprinted the parts most likely to be found in this corner of the country, and the lower wind speeds, because on rivers and in forested areas we are probably less likely to get caught by the brunt of the wind. The chart in the Almanac goes much further, showing, for example, the brutalizing effect of a 30 mph wind at -5° (which would then feel like -56°!).

Winds of 25 mph or more are probably pretty rare to most canoers, unless they are in an open area. But sea kayakers can experience such winds, and for long stretches

of time.

	35°	30°	25°	20°	15°
5 mph	33°	27°	21°	16°	12°
10 mph	22°	16°	10°	3°	-3°
15 mph	16°	9°	2°	-5°	-11°
20 mph	12°	4°	-3°	-10°	-17°
25 mph	8°	1°	-7°	-15°	-22°

There are two good reasons to hang onto a copy of this wind-chill chart:

- (1) If the winter winds get cold and brisk, this chart can give you an idea of what kind of cold you're really up against before you get groggy from hypothermia.
- (2) Any experienced outdoors person knows that if you prepare for something, it doesn't happen. If enough people clip this chart and tape it to the top of their cooler, or the inside of their canoe, the weather will be nice and warm all winter long.

- From "Current Events", newsletter of the Apalachee Canoe & Kayak Club. ✂



CLASSIFIED ADS

TO PLACE AN AD - Want ads of a non-business nature are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business-related ads are \$5.00 for up to 50 words, \$10.00 for larger. Send your type-written ad to: Allen Hedden, 2923 Piedmont Dr., Marietta, Ga. 30066, or email to gacanoem@mindspring.com. PLEASE, NO PHONED-IN OR HANDWRITTEN ADS. All ads will be run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

FOR NIGHTLY RENTAL - Large house near Blue Ridge available for short-term rental. 5 bedrooms each with own Jacuzzi bath. Terrace level with pool table and home theatre. Six decks and balconies. Amazing craftsmanship featuring a curved mahogany stairway in the great room, fireplace, stainless steel kitchen appliances. Short walking trail to Toccoa River. Convenient to the Ocoee, Nantahala, Cartecay and others. Lots of guidebooks and maps available for use. Contact Greg Spencer 404.892.6851, or <http://www.toccoahouse.com/>.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Old Town Discovery 164, 1 year old, \$500. Call John at 770.957.3097 leave message. Also kayak - Perception Dancer with spray skirt & paddle, \$300.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Savage V Skeeter. First roto-molded open canoe. Savage is no longer in business so this boat is hard to find. Used 6 times. Complete with air bags and saddle. Blue. \$600. Call JD at 770.806.6587 or email at clanforrester@yahoo.com

FOR SALE - Canoes. Mad River Outrage X, excellent condition, fully outfitted, saddle, airbags, thigh straps. Used only 1 season. \$750. Mad River ME, very good condition, fully outfitted, set up as solo, wood gunnels. \$475. Both boats kept inside. Very Clean, no excessive UV exposure. Trey 770.445.6406.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Dagger Caper-T. Very good condition. Outfitted with air bags, 2 saddle thwarts, and knee pads. \$500. Larry Castillo 770.590.0699 or email Lcastillo@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Canoe, Dagger Rival, 1998, purple, brand new, never paddled, with Dagger air bags. \$925. Bryan 770.886.2705.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Dagger Pegasus white water sit-on-top. Black and yellow.

Stored inside. Rear "haul-in" handle, padded thigh straps, tapered bow for easier reach, molded-in drain plug, stable hull design, self-bailing scuppers, central storage hatch with liner, "Quick Track" adjustable footbraces, rigged for seat and backrest. Excellent condition. \$300. Call Bob St. Pierre 770.698.0301.

FOR SALE - Kayak. Yellow & black Dagger Pegasus sit-on-top for white water and ocean surfing. Self-bailing drain holes, padded thigh straps, Quick Trak foot braces, rigged for cushioned seat and/or back rest, bow & stern grab handles, storage hatch w/mesh bag, water bottle, drain plug. Very good condition. \$300 Call Bob 770.698.0301.

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FOR SALE - Kayak. Used Perception Pirouette S with float bag. Purple. \$300 OBO. Call Ike at 404.255.7049.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Pyranah Creek 280. Brand New, never even seen the water. List price is \$975, asking \$550. Contact Alan Reaid 770.974.4581, e-mail: reaid@mindspring.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Gravity by Savage - almost new - good all around boat - \$300. Dagger paddle, great condition, "esoteric" great for small boats. \$150. Call Frank at 678.417.0502 (w) or 678.417.9811 (h).

FOR SALE - Kayak, Prijon T-Canyon, blue, excellent condition. Includes HP5 Rhino paddle (like new), float bags, PFD, skirt, helmet. \$640 obo. Call Rick 770.538.0008 or email Rickterray@aol.com.

FOR SALE - Kayaks, 2 sea & touring Wilderness System Altos, excellent condition, rarely used, \$550 each or both for \$1,000. 1 Gruman canoe, 18-foot aluminum with no river rash, very very good condition, no dents or dings, \$375. 706.636.2837, e-mail: moore@ellijay.com.

FOR SALE - Kayak, tandem-sit-upon-kayak. Perception Syncro, self bailing design includes optional nylon seats and hatch storage areas. This craft is excel-

lent for flat water tandem cruising, ocean or tidal area use, cross training or even a day at Lake Lanier dodging the jet skis. \$625. Breakdown kayak paddles available for \$20 each. Call Chuck 770.971.0779 or email chuckg@mail.dnr.state.ga.us.

FOR SALE - Kayak, Savage kayak by Fury, with skirt. \$350 or best offer or trade for a bigger kayak. 770.938.5892.

FOUND - Mysteriously in our car after Beginner Kayak Course on Tuckaseegee River - two small matching utility packs. Call Martha Glisson 404.352.5349 to claim.

FREE TO GOOD HOME - Moving to Maine end of November! Need good homes for: Shanty (terrier Dachshund). Male, neutered, all shots, black. Perfect disposition. Stays close to home (no fence needed), can live on porch, likes kids. Lovable and very sweet. Has been a 'therapy' dog. Ayla (Shorter-haired sheepdog/Breard-type). Spayed female, all shots. Gentle, loving, patient. Likes kids. Salt-and-Pepper color, doesn't shed, great ears (stand up), pretty, elegant. Could be a therapy dog. Buddha Cat: Male, neutered, long-legged (tall), tabby with white on chest/feet, handsome, likes to be roughed up, okay with other neutered cats, in-out cat. Lesson Cat: Female, neutered, pretty, tabby-like with wide stripes, smart (knows several commands), good in-out kitty. Plus, many birds (chickens, guineas, peafowl) (1 male, 1 female, 2 young, African gander, 4 pygmy goats, 2 white (tame) lop-eared rabbits, 4 Bantams, 1 dominicker rooster, 1 game rooster and 4 hens, 6 Rhode Island Reds). Help me find homes for these wonderful animals. E.J. 770.479.6209.

HELP WANTED - Yes, the GCA needs your help. We need volunteers to serve on committees, label and mail newsletters, etc. Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message.

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