

## Spring Membership Meeting March 25

by Denise Keller, GCA Social Chair

Elvin and Nancy Hilyer have agreed to host the 2007 spring membership meeting on Sunday, March 25th at their home in Dahlonega on the Etowah River. Plan on doing a little paddling, then some eating and then a slide show from Doug Woodward. Elvin also has informed me that for those who just want to relax there is a lot of deck space and a riverside beach, short hiking trails and commercial tubes for playing at Chuck Shoals.

Jamie Higgins has invited Doug Woodward to join us for the day. Doug is the author of *Wherever Waters Flow*. He's willing to bring a slide show of the making of "Deliverance," in which he was a canoe double for Ned Beatty. He's also willing to sign copies of his book and hopefully will bring a few books for sale.

Of course there cannot be a membership meeting without food, so plan on bringing a dish to share. The tentative plan right now is to meet at the Hilyer residence for 10:00 am. Get some coffee, set up shuttles, get on the river and get back to the Hilyer's abode between 3:00 and 3:30 to eat and listen to Doug.

This is going to be "fun"!! Nancy, Elvin and I are looking forward to starting the GCA paddling season off to a great start. Directions to the Hilyers' are on page 5. Please come and join us. If you need more information, call 770.591.0980 or email [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net).



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## Volunteers Needed

### Tallulah Time Again

This spring's Tallulah Gorge releases will be April 7-8 and 14-15. As usual, GCA's own Joan Hutton is in charge of volunteers. GCA will be providing those volunteers the first release weekend.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs and they are first come - first served. No previous Tallulah experience is necessary: inexperienced volunteers will be placed with experienced ones. If you volunteer, plan to arrive early to watch the river come to life as the usual dam-controlled trickle becomes a truly impressive whitewater river.

Shari Heinz is helping Joan this year by coordinating volunteers for the GCA weekend April 7-8. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Shari at 706.867.0116 or at [shariheinz@yahoo.com](mailto:shariheinz@yahoo.com).



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY —  
ERIN GO PADDLE



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## Who Ya Gonna Call?

### GCA Contacts

**For general GCA information:**  
Call 770.421.9729 and leave a message; your call will be returned as soon as possible.

#### To volunteer for club activities:

Contact GCA President Vincent Payne at 770. 834.8263 or the chairperson of the relevant committee.

#### For membership or dues info:

Call GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734.

#### To sign up for a club trip:

Call the trip leader at the number in the trip list.

#### To sign up to lead a club trip:

Call GCA Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 770.760.7357.

#### For information on GCA Clinics:

Call the coordinator listed on the clinic schedule or Training

Director Gina Johnson at 404.512.0832.

#### For information on winter roll practice:

Call Lous Boulanger at 404.373.2907.

#### For information on the GCA Library:

Call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636

### Eddy Line Contacts

#### To submit or send written materials:

Email to the\_eddyline@yahoo.com or mail to The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.

#### To contact an Editor:

Use the email or address above or contact Editor Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546.

#### For information on commercial or classified ads:

Contact Advertising Manager Rick Bellows at 678.617.2546 or by email at the\_eddyline@yahoo.com.

#### For subscription information, to change your address or if you don't get your copy of the newsletter:

Contact GCA Treasurer Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734. ✂

## Board of Directors Meetings

The Georgia Canoeing Association Board of Directors meetings generally are held quarterly the first Thursday of the last month of the quarter (March, June, September, December) at 7 PM at the Carl E. Sanders Family YMCA in Buckhead, 1160 Moores Mill Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30327. All GCA members are encouraged to attend. If you have an item for discussion, please call GCA President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263 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 .....	Vincent Payne
Vice President .....	Tom Bishop
Secretary .....	Jamie Higgins
Treasurer .....	Ed Schultz
Member Services Chair .....	Vacant
Recreation Chair .....	Denise Keller
Resource Development Chair .....	William Gatling
River Protection Chair .....	Don Kinser
Training Chair .....	Gina Johnson

## Submitting Eddy Line Material

Deadline for material to be submitted for publication is the fifth of the prior month, e.g. December 5 for the January issue. Material received after deadline MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED. GCA members are encouraged to submit articles, trip reports, editorials, photos, cartoon, etc. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced throughout with no indentations or spaces between paragraphs: if possible, please prepare articles in "plain text" rather than in a word processing format.** Material may be submitted to the\_eddyline@yahoo.com or to **The Eddy Line, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441.** The text of an article can be placed in the body of an email or as an attachment: photo images can be attached files. If possible, please submit photos and other graphics in "jpg" or "tiff" format and specify the photographer of each picture. To submit material via disk, please contact us for information. Classified ads will run for one issue, but will be rerun at the advertisers request. Hand-written or phoned in material CANNOT be accepted. Contact Editor **Rick Bellows, 678.617.2546** or the\_eddyline@yahoo.com if you have questions. Thank you.. ✂

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## UPCOMING GCA TRIPS

### March

3	Lower Amicalola (Note 1)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Peter Elkon	404.314.3861
3-5	Okefenokee (Note 2)	Flatwater/Camping	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
8	Board of Directors Meeting	1600 River Edge Parkway, Suite 900	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
9	Tellico (Note 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	John Hudgens	770.573.3145
9-12	Suwannee River (Note 4)	Flatwater/Camping	John Holley	478.972.2771
10	Charlotte WW Park (Note 5)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Janet Chisholm	404.291.4476
11	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Janet Chisholm	404.291.4476
18	Town Creek (AL)	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Dane White	256.435.3827
24	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
24	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	John Holley	478.972.2771
24	Leader's Choice	Class 3-4 Advanced	Duncan Cottrell	678.493.7804
27	Tellico (Note 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	John Hudgens	770.573.3145

### April

6-8	Sipsey River (AL) (Note 6)	Flatwater/Camping	Karen Saunders	770.834.2151
14	Toccoa	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
15	Upper Amicalola	Class 2-3 Intermediate	Edward Stockman	770.441.9767

### Future Canoe Camping Trips

5/26-28	Big South Fork (with Tennessee Valley Canoe Club)		Lois Newton	706.398.3069
6/1-3	Flint River (overnighter, Class 1-2 - all craft, all skill levels)		Vincent Payne	770.834.8263

Note 1: Or equivalent, depending on water levels.

Note 2: Red Trail; 30 mile trek; 2 nights camping in swamp.

Note 3: Put-in below Jared's Knee.

Note 4: Put-in at Fargo; length of trek and take-out TBD.

Note 5: Park fee of \$15 for single session (1.5 hours) or \$25 for day pass.

Note 6: **Originally scheduled for March 24-25.** Potential for other Alabama rivers as well: camping two nights.

# Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster Steve Reach at 770.760.7357!

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**Signing Up:** Call the trip coordinator listed to sign up for trips. Most trip coordinators will move a trip to an alternate venue if the water levels and conditions for a particular trip are not favorable. 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 for those boaters who have completed a formal training clinic and would like some on-the-river time with instructors practicing what was learned in the clinic and expanding skill levels.

**Canoe Camping Trips** are multi-day trips, generally on flat or mild water, with at least one night of camping. For details on a scheduled trip, call the trip coordinator. To arrange a trip, call President Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.

**To Volunteer To Lead Trips:** Call the Cruise Master, Steve Reach at 770.760.7357. 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). Boating is prohibited above the Highway 28 bridge. Your cooperation in protecting this National Wild and Scenic River is appreciated.

**Winter Roll Practice:** Monday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00, through March 26 at the Warren/Hollifield Boys' and Girls' Club near Grant Park. Look for details in this issue of *The Eddy Line*.

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## GCA Library Items

The GCA Library has many videotapes and books available to any GCA member. All you have to do is call GCA Librarian Denise Colquitt at 770.854.6636 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:

Denise Colquitt  
3794 Glenloch Road  
Franklin, GA 30217

The following items are currently available:

### Videos:

Canoes by Whitesell  
Cold, Wet & Alive  
Expedition Earth  
Faultline (Will Reeves)  
First Descents (North Fork Payette)  
Grace Under Pressure (learning the kayak roll)  
I Said Left, Stupid: A Video Guide to the Chattooga River (Sect. 2 & 3)  
In the Surf  
Introduction to Canoeing  
Mohawk Canoes (promotional w/detailed boat outfitting instructions)  
Mohawk Whitewater Canoes (promotional w/ detailed outfitting instructions)  
Only Nolan (Promotional, Canoe Technique)  
Path of the Paddle: Quiet Water  
Path of the Paddle: White Water  
Performance Sea Kayaking (the basics & beyond)  
Play Daze  
Retendo  
Solo Playboating!

The C-1 Challenge  
The Middle Fork of the Salmon River (Idaho) — by Photographic Expeditions  
Trailside: White Water Canoeing the Chattooga River  
Vortex -- low cost storm water sampler  
Waterwalker (Bill Mason)  
Whitewater Self Defense

### Books:

A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Florida  
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Kentucky  
ACanoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Ohio, Vols I & II  
A Canoeing & Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee-Vol I & II  
A Hiking Guide to the Trails of Florida  
A Paddler's Guide to the Obed Emory Watershed  
ACA Canoeing & Kayanning Instructors Guide  
Alabama Canoe Rides  
AMC White Water Handbook  
American Red Cross Canoeing & Kayaking  
Arkansas information (assorted)  
Basic River Canoeing  
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 & Kayaking Guide to Georgia  
Canoeing Wild Rivers  
Carolina Whitewater (Western Carolina)  
Endangered Rivers & the Conservation Movement  
Florida information (assorted)

Georgia Mountains  
Godforsaken Sea: Racing the World's Most Dangerous Waters  
Happy Isles of Oceana: Paddling the Pacific  
Homelands: Kayaking the Inside Passage  
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  
Paddling SC-Palmetto State River Trails  
Path of the Paddle  
People Proteeting 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  
Southern Georgia Canoeing  
The Georgia Conservancy Guide to the North  
The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande  
The Mighty Mulberry-A Canoeing Guide  
They Shoot Canoes, Don't they?  
White Water Tales of Terror  
WhiteWaterTrips (British Columbia & Washington)  
Wildwater (Sierra Club Guide)  
WildwaterWestVirginia  
Youghiogeny-Appalachian River

### Maps:

The Big South Fork

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## Announcements

### GCA Email List

By joining the GCA group email list, you can share information with over 400 members and others. Here's how the list works:

By sending an email to "gcalist@yahoogroups.com" you automatically reach all subscribers to the list with the message. Only those subscribed to the list can send email to the list.

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 posted on the GCA email list. If you want to receive any of this information, please subscribe.

The email list is intended to facilitate communication, so don't be shy about using it to invite others on paddling trips, to discuss paddling related issues or to disseminate or obtain



information about paddling related topics, rivers you're interested in, etc.

To subscribe to the list, send an email to "gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com". You will receive a verification that you are subscribed 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.

When you change or lose your email ID, please take the time to "unsubscribe" your old ID and to "subscribe" your new one.



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### GCA Web Page

Check it out at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org>. We are continually adding information and links of value to paddlers. Send your ideas for updates to the GCA web committee at [gcaweb@gmail.com](mailto:gcaweb@gmail.com). Membership applications, GCA waivers and other forms for use by members are also available on the site.



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## Mail Failure Notices

Each month the electronic version of *The Eddy Line* results in numerous mail failure notices from members with bad or discontinued email addresses. If email can't be delivered to your email address, you will be deleted from the recipient list for the electronic version until we get an updated email address from you.

When GCA receives a mail failure notice in response to an email to you on the GCA Email List, you will be automatically unsubscribed by the listserve software. You are responsible for keeping your email address current. Thank you — it makes less work for our all volunteer staff. ✂

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## Directions to Spring Meeting

From Atlanta, go north on 400. Pass the red light at North Georgia Premium Outlet Mall about 38 miles above 285. Continue on 400 to the third red light (not counting the Outlet light) - about 3.5 miles farther. Watch for big signs just before the light on both sides of the northbound lanes - "136" - hard to miss. Take a left on 136 and go about 6 miles to a stop sign - this is Highway 9 - take a right and go about 7 miles. Be on the lookout on the right for a driveway sign "3865". If you come to the bridge over the Etowah River, turn around and come back about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - same sign: "3865." That is our driveway. (The other driveway between us and the bridge is for Pine Valley Recreation Area, or the old "College Farm"). Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway. Our place overlooks what is shown on topo maps (at least the old ones) as Chuck Shoals on the Etowah River.

From Dahlonega, take 9 South and 52 West. Stay straight on 9 toward Dawsonville when 52 cuts right toward Amicalola. Cross the Etowah River bridge at about 6 miles and go about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - with sign "3865." Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

From Ellijay way, turn right on 9 from 52 and go about one and a half miles, cross the Etowah River Bridge and go about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - with sign "3865." Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

From Dawsonville, take 9 North for about 9 miles. Be on the lookout on the right for a driveway sign "3865". If you come to the bridge over the Etowah River, turn around and come back about one tenth of a mile to the second driveway on the left - same sign: "3865." That is our driveway. Park alongside the road or in the eyebrow turnoff and walk down the driveway.

Don't hesitate to call if you feel lost. Nancy Cell: 706.429.7079; Elvin Cell: 706.429.6011; Residence: 706.864.9003. ✂



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## Winter Roll Practice

Indoor pool roll sessions are from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays through March 26 at the Warren/Hollifield Boys' and Girls' Club at Berne and Marion Streets near Grant Park.

Directions: Exit I-20 at the Boulevard/Grant Park/Cyclorama exit. Go south about 1/2 mile to the light at Berne Street and turn left. Go another 1/2 mile and you'll see the facility, a large brick building on the left. Turn left on Marion Street. The pool entrance is in the back - enter via the gate at the far end of the building to unload boats. Boats must be cleaned before entering the pool.

This is your opportunity to learn to roll, practice your roll to stay sharp, teach a fellow paddler to roll or work on other techniques such as wet exits, hand rolls, deep water re-entries, etc. The indoor heated pool is a great place to hone these skills during the cold winter months.

If you can't make Mondays, Atlanta Whitewater Club is having its indoor roll practice on Wednesday and Thursday nights from 8:00 to 9:30 at the YWCA, 48 Henderson Street SW in Marietta. Cost for guests is \$7 and space is limited. Further info at [atlantawhitewater.com](http://atlantawhitewater.com). ✂

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## Support Our GCA Supporters

The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to the companies that support GCA financially by advertising with us. Help out those who help us out — patronize our advertisers. Thanks! ✂

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*Representing boaters and normal people since 1992*

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## GCA Board Meeting, January 5, 2007

**Present:** Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, Gina Johnson, Allen Hedden, Tom Bishop, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Bonny Putney, Richard Grove, Vincent Payne, Ray Cvelbar.

**Old Business:** GCA board meeting minutes were read and approved unanimously.

**Treasurers Report:** Ed Schultz Ed recapped the Treasurers Report. GCA has consistently lost money during roll practice. We are looking to go through February instead of through March for roll practice. The Executive Committee to raise the cost of pool practice from \$5 to \$7.

**River Protection Chair:** Vincent Payne for Don Kinser

Vincent announced plans for an expert boater panel to paddle the Chattooga headwaters. It will be the first group to legally paddle the headwaters in 30 years.

American Whitewater, GCA and Atlanta Whitewater Club participated in a mediation ordered by the appeals court. The government is resolute in their position and nothing was accomplished, but another session is planned.

John Pinyard and Russell Bailey gave a presentation refuting Sally Bethea's letter in *The Eddy Line*. The board agreed that we need to get Sally to send a letter stating they are supportive of access at Old Riverside Road. Lamar will write an article for *The Eddy Line* discussing this issue.



Vincent introduced Bonny Putney to the Executive Committee and announced that she is heading the river clean-up initiative. Bonny is on the Rivers Alive Board and has recently joined GCA. Bonny will write an article for *The Eddy Line* regarding future clean-ups.

**Training Chair:** Gina Johnson

Gina is working on the training schedules. Louis is injured and might not be able to paddle for awhile.

**Membership Services Chair:** Vacant

John Scott has resigned as GCA store manager.

Looking to do some website training and getting members to manage portions of the site.

**Resource Development Chair:**


William Gatling

William has published a flyer and put ads in various newspapers. The logo is completed. Altamaha Technical College has volunteered their bus for the Ohoopsee River trip. William is expecting it will be sold out.

**Georgia Paddling Trails Chair:** Lamar Phillips

Wade Lupo is looking to meet with the city of Columbus to discuss the Columbus Chattahoochee Paddling Trail.

Lamar is going to some of the SCORP meetings. He has been emailing someone at SCORP about the importance of paddling trails and offering GCA's support.

**Miscellaneous Business:** Vincent asked the Board/Executive Committee to complete a survey. 

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

March 1-3 - One Tough River Trip - Chattahoochee River, Buford Dam to Franklin, GA - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

March 3 - Chattahoochee River clean-up sponsored by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper - Bonny Putney, 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

March 3-4 - Mulberry Fork Slalom & Wild Water Races - Garden City, AL, [www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org/Races](http://www.BirminghamCanoeClub.org/Races).

March 24 - Locust Fork Classic Slalom Races - Cleveland, AL - Sam Howell at [showell@brescoine.com](mailto:showell@brescoine.com) or Mark McGraw at [bricebuilding.com](http://bricebuilding.com).

March 24 - Lula Bridge Flatwater Race, Lake Lanier - 10k and 20k races - more info at [www.lckc.org](http://www.lckc.org).

March 31 - Canoochee River Flatwater Race - more info at [www.ogeecheecanoocheeriverkeeper.org](http://www.ogeecheecanoocheeriverkeeper.org).

March 31-April 1 - Webster Wildwater Weekend River Festival - Webster County, WV - info at 304-847-5449 or email [wcd@websterwv.com](mailto:wcd@websterwv.com).

April 4 - Tallulah release weekend staffed by GCA

volunteers - Shari Heinz, 706.867.0116 or [shariheinz@yahoo.com](mailto:shariheinz@yahoo.com).

April 21 - Cartecay River clean-up - contact Bonny Putney at 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net) or Mark Niesler of AWC at [markn@ellijay.com](mailto:markn@ellijay.com).

April 21-22 (tentative) - U.S. Slalom and Downriver Championship Races (Class 2 Whitewater), Nantahala River - more info at [www.georgiacanoe.org](http://www.georgiacanoe.org).

April 28 - 12 Mile River Canoe and Kayak Race, Lake Hartwell, Clemson, SC - Jim Normandine, [paddler98@bellsouth.net](mailto:paddler98@bellsouth.net).

May 4-6 - GCA Spring Extravaganza - Paddling & camping weekend - Denise Keller, 770.591.0980.

May 5 - Coosa River Basin Initiative Flatwater Race and Canoe-A-Thon - more info at [www.coosa.org](http://www.coosa.org).

May 19 - 17 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Buford Dam to Medlock Bridge - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

June 2 - 14 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Medlock Bridge to Azalea Park - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

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## From The President The Welcome Mat Is Out At The Presidential Compound

by Vincent Payne, GCA President

Wanted: GCA needs members to act as welcoming guides to our new members.

Requirements

\* Rudimentary grasp of the English language or a close approximation.

\* Ability to read The Eddy Line or hear someone reading it to you.

\* Basic people skills (ability to carry on a conversation with only minimal assistance).

\* Possess a personality or a reasonable facsimile.

\* Ability to use a telephone and access to a phone (you don't have to own that phone).

\* Use of email can be substituted for telephone.

\* 5 or 10 minutes of free time per month.

\* Some knowledge of the GCA, the people in the club and the activities we engage in. (BTW, just the club related activities).

If you possess a few of these skills, then you qualify to be a mentor. This is the easy job that you have been looking for. Geographical Guides are needed to contact new members from your hometown area.

Just read the list of new members each month in The Eddy Line, call or email the new members in your area and welcome them to the club. Ask about their interests, needs, training, experience, trips, carpooling, family, or anything else



that might help make them feel welcome. Explain to them how to sign up for a trip, get in on training classes, attend a meeting, volunteer for a committee or put them in touch with other club members with similar interests.

Where home towns are heavily represented (Alpharetta, Roswell?) we may need to have multiple mentors covering various zip codes. Where home towns are more remote (Franklin, Plains?) we may need to think West Georgia or South Georgia. But YOU get to decide what that area will be, based on what you are willing to handle. We may not get enough volunteers to cover all geographic areas and then we may look at having a guide at large to fill in the gaps.

We also need guides in several interest areas: rivers, canoe camping, flat water, sea kayaking, recreational boats, Class 1/2 whitewater, Class 2/3 whitewater, Class 3/4 whitewater and possibly others. These Focused Guides will act as a contact with

new folks to help connect them with others with a common interest.

Now if you are thinking that these roles look way too easy for you, then I have another role that might suit. We need some one to manage the list of Geographical Guides and Focused Guides so that we get as much coverage as possible. It is very important that we help new members. Help them feel welcomed. Help them get the full benefit from their club membership. Help them want to renew each year and remain loyal and active members.

Call me today at 770.834.8263 to claim your area before all the good ones are gone. Help an aspiring paddler enjoy the GCA and the waterways we call home. ✂

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June 2-3 - USACK Marathon Team Trials - Stone Mountain Lake - hosted by Southeast Paddlers - contact Barend Spies, barendspies@msn.com.

June 2-10 - National River Cleanup Week, sponsored by American Rivers - [www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org).

June 9 - Back to the Chattahoochee Flatwater Race and Festival - more info at [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).

June 16 - 13.5 mile Chattahoochee paddle - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

June 23-29 - Paddle Georgia 2007 - Ocmulgee River, Monticello to Hawkinsville - more info at 706.549.4508 or [www.garivers.org/paddlegeorgia/pghome.html](http://www.garivers.org/paddlegeorgia/pghome.html).

July 7 - 31 mile Chattahoochee paddle - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

July 10-15 - ACA Whitewater Open Canoe Downriver and Sprint National Championships - Youghiogheny River, Ohiopyle, PA - e.sharp@att.net or watson@telpage.net.

July 14 - Chattahoochee Evening Paddle - Morgan Falls

Dam to Paces Mill - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

July 15-21 - Junior Wild Water World Championships - Saluda River, Columbia, SC (Classic Race), Charlotte White Water Park (Sprint Race), John Pinyerd, 678.357.7843, email [jpinyerd@cs.com](mailto:jpinyerd@cs.com).

July 21 - 27 mile Chattahoochee paddle - Azalea Park to Paces Mill - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

July 28 - Overnight Chattahoochee paddle - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html).

August 11 - Paddle Mania - Chattahoochee River, Medlock Bridge to Franklin, GA - 24 hours continuous paddling - [www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/community4.html). ✂

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## You May Be Out of Your League If ...

... at each rapid, EVERYBODY in your group sets safety for you.

... others recognize you by the bottom of your boat.

*From the Conewago (PA) Canoe Club page.* ✂

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## Spring Extravaganza May 4-6

by Denise Keller, GCA Social Chair


Greetings. Mark your 2007 calendars for the weekend of May 4-6 for the Spring

Extravaganza. It will be held at Smokey Mountain Meadows Campground in Bryson City, NC. The venue seemed to work out well last year.

SMM closes down for the winter so when I find out when they'll be open for the 2007 season, I'll let everyone know. I've been in touch with SMM's owner, Freda Livingston, and she

said to e-mail her at [smmcamp@yahoo.com](mailto:smmcamp@yahoo.com) if you would like to make reservations now for camping or a cabin.

Monica Cook has agreed to cater the event again this year (YEAH!!). If you were at last year's SE, she put on her own sort of cooking show, and the food was wonderful. Not sure if she'll do the same dishes yet, she and I are working on a menu right now.

If there are any questions or suggestions please send me an e-mail at [baloata@bellsouth.net](mailto:baloata@bellsouth.net) or call me at 770.591.0980. 

## From The Trash Queen Georgia Trash Talk

by Bonny Putney, GCA River Cleanup Coordinator

Greetings fellow paddlers. My name is Bonny Putney and I am a trashaholic. It really bugs me to see trash littering a beautiful river eddy, and I feel compelled to do something about it. If it also bugs you, great, you are just the person I am looking for!

Vincent's request for a "Trash Czar" has been answered, although I prefer the title "Trash Queen." I am currently on the Rivers Alive Advisory Board, Co-Chair for Lake Lanier Shore Sweep and manage my own group paddle cleanup effort, The Buford Dam Garbage Paddle, so I have lots of experience with water cleanups, big and small. I paddle with a group of friends who I had to drag to the first cleanup but we all have so much fun I have to find clean up events just to keep them amused!


My goal is not only to help organize cleanups, it is to help all of us that enjoy water sports think about what we can do every day and on every paddle to give back to the river. Little things make a difference, like carrying a trash bag and securing our water bottle when we paddle. We can also help on land and in our own neighborhoods by keeping trash out of storm drains and culverts; it all ends up in the river.

There are two big water cleanup efforts yearly, in the spring during June with the National River Cleanup Week ([www.nationalrivercleanup.org](http://www.nationalrivercleanup.org)) and in the fall with Rivers Alive, Georgia's annual waterway clean up.

I am starting a calendar of Georgia River cleanup dates, tool and disposal information, cleanup facts, cleanup sign up sheets and other helpful information that will be linked to the GCA website. If you want to organize a cleanup on a river near you but have no idea how to get started, visit [www.riversalive.org](http://www.riversalive.org).

I can even organize Rivers Alive workshops in your area for interested parties so contact me and let's get started! Some of the first cleanups are already on the calendar and will happen the day before each of the Georgia River Explorer Series trips. The whole point of the series is to introduce new paddlers to GCA and the joys of paddling: a clean river is not just a good idea, it is mandatory!

My email is [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net), so drop me a line and let's talk trash!

Joining a cleanup effort not only gives you the opportunity to make new friends and maybe paddle a river you have never been on, it makes you feel great. Organizing a clean up will do all that to but with the added bonus that you own that piece of river in your heart. 

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## Volunteers Needed Chattahoochee, Cartecay Cleanups Scheduled

The 2007 river cleanup season is already getting started with cleanups scheduled for the Chattahoochee in metro Atlanta and the Cartecay in Gilmer County.

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is organizing a cleanup of the Long Island Shoals area of the Chattahoochee on Saturday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. The area, upstream of the I-75 bridge, really needs some help with river trash. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited are doing a major work project in the area the following weekend and UCR would like to get the trash cleaned up before they start.

The area can be accessed via Whitewater Creek Road. Paddlers can also put in at Powers Island and paddle down to the cleanup area. For further information, contact "Trash Queen" Bonny Putney at 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

Mark and Diane Neisler of Atlanta Whitewater Club, who






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live in Gilmer County, are coordinating a Cartecay River cleanup on April 21. The cleanup will be in conjunction with Gilmer County's Earth Day activities.

Plans are still be finalized, but the Neislars hope to have at least three teams working on different projects centering around cleaning up the river. Perhaps one of those teams

could be GCA team. The Neislars are also working with the two local outfitters to arrange for put-ins and shuttle assistance.

More information is available from Mark Neisler at [markn@ellijay.com](mailto:markn@ellijay.com) or from GCA Trash Queen Bonny Putney at 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net). 

## Lawsuit Against National Park Service How Many Is Too Many?

by Garance Burke, Associated Press

The plunging waterfalls and soaring crags chiseled by the Merced River draw millions of visitors each year, but the crowds are precisely what threatens the waterway and the park. Efforts to safeguard the Merced have spawned a court battle over the future of development in Yosemite National Park's most popular stretch.

The case may come down to the challenge facing all of America's parks: Should they remain open to everyone, or should access be limited in the interest of protecting them?

In November, a federal judge barred crews from finishing \$60 million in construction projects in Yosemite Valley, siding with a small group of environmentalists who sued the federal government, saying further commercial development would bring greater numbers of visitors, thus threatening the Merced's fragile ecosystem. "The park's plans for commercialization could damage Yosemite for future generations," said Bridget Kerr, a member of Friends of Yosemite Valley, one of two local environmental groups that filed the suit.

The government is appealing, fearing the ruling could force the National Park Service to limit the number of people allowed into Yosemite each day, a precedent it doesn't want to see echoed in other parks. "I don't think we've ever had a ruling with these kind of implications," said Kerri Cahill, a Denver-based planner for the park service. "It's going to have a direct influence on the public who care about these places."

The case has Yosemite's most loyal advocates sharply divided over how to balance preservation with access to public lands. Even environmentalists can't agree on how to minimize the human footprint - some believe cars should be kept out entirely; others say visitors should have to make reservations in advance.

Yosemite was the first land in the country set aside for its scenic beauty, declared a public trust in 1864 by Abraham Lincoln. Its 1,200 square miles of granite peaks and towering waterfalls became a national park in 1890, and with few exceptions its gates have been open to all ever since, though backcountry permits are limited to minimize the human impact on wilderness areas. The Merced itself is protected under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The current fight began when the Merced flooded in

1997, wiping out campgrounds and parking lots and damaging rooms at the popular Yosemite Lodge. The park service drew up a \$442 million remodeling plan that included moving campgrounds, rerouting a key access road, rebuilding employee housing and upgrading hotel rooms on the valley floor.


Kerr's group and Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government sued, claiming aspects of the park's plans - including blasting part of the river canyon - threatened the Merced. The groups also fear the costs of park upgrades would be passed on to visitors in the form of price hikes for hotel rooms and campsites, turning Yosemite into a playground for the rich.

Park officials say no such rate increases are planned. Accommodations now range from about \$20 per night for a campsite to nearly \$1,000 for a suite in the deluxe Ahwahnee Hotel.

Park spokesman Scott Gediman called the plaintiffs a "fringe group" pushing a radical agenda. "They want us to set a quota for the number of visitors coming into the park, which is something we just don't want to do," he said.

Well-known conservation groups like the Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy aren't directly involved in the fight, though the Sierra Club was among more than 60 organizations that signed a legal brief supporting an earlier version of the suit.


Gediman said the number of visitors is falling and crowding isn't a problem except at the height of summer, when there's bumper-to-bumper traffic near popular sites like El Capitan, the 3,000-foot granite monolith rising from the valley floor. In 1996, when the park had a record 4 million visitors, rangers shut gates when all parking spaces were filled. But last year, the nation's third-most popular park hit a 16-year low with 3.36 million visitors.

"This is the United States' version of the crown jewels, so why wouldn't we protect it as best we can?" said Peter Newman, a natural resources management professor at Colorado State University who filed a legal brief supporting the park service. "I've just never heard of any other plan that has been so contested." 

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## You May Be Out of Your League If ...

... at the put-in the other members of your group play rock paper scissors for your gear.

*from the Conewago (PA) Canoe Club page.* 

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## 2007 GCA INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & CLINIC INFORMATION

### Schedule on Page 12

Clinics will be taught by ACA-certified instructors and qualified assistants. In order to provide individual attention, the maximum student-to-instructor ratio is 4:1. Events will be coordinated by GCA Members. Space is limited.

#### EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

##### **BASIC WHITEWATER SAFETY:**

This is not a Swift Water Rescue course, but rather a one-day safety course focusing on the skills needed to immediately effect a rescue after an incident has occurred. It follows the American Canoe Association's Basic White Water Safety curriculum and is a full day of learning and practicing simple safety concepts and rescue techniques. The morning is demonstration and land-based exercises, including throw ropes. The afternoon is water-based exercises, including self-rescue, rescue of others and retrieval of boats and gear. If you've never taken a river safety course, or haven't taken one recently, this is an excellent first course or refresher course. The only prerequisite skills are basic paddling techniques such as those learned in a beginning paddling course.

##### **RECREATIONAL KAYAK:**

This class is designed for recreational kayak boaters who want to experience moving water and Class 1 & 2 whitewater. Basic safety will be reviewed and river skills will be practiced.

#### CLINIC DESCRIPTIONS

##### **SEA KAYAK:**

These courses are for longer, narrow kayaks with rudders or skegs. The beginner class is two days of basic strokes, maneuvers, and rescue skills. One day is on quiet water, the second is in mild surf. Instruction level will be geared to the skill level of the participants. For more information see <http://webpages.charter.net/cramersec/skflyer.html> and <http://www.acanet.org/sei-coastal-kayak.htm>

##### **BEGINNING WHITEWATER KAYAK & CANOE:**

For people who have minimal experience on moving water and/or have not had recent instruction. Three-hour evening classroom session with videos and lectures covering equipment, safety, river features and paddling techniques for tandem and solo boaters. Full day Saturday flatwater session emphasizing strokes, safety, self-rescues. Full day Sunday session on whitewater river. You must attend both the dry and flatwater sessions to participate in the whitewater river portion of the course.

##### **TRAINED BEGINNER WHITE WATER KAYAK & CANOE:**

Participants should have had fairly recent beginner level instruction and at least 5 days of white water experience after the instruction. Participants should be able to do basic maneuvers on Class 2 rivers (eddy turns, peel outs & ferries). Polish-up beginner skills, plus bracing and rolling (kayaks).

##### **INTERMEDIATE WHITE WATER KAYAK & CANOE:**

Intermediate clinic participants should be comfortable paddling class II-III whitewater such as the Nantahala, wish to master the roll in rapids (kayaks), and learn how to play confidently in Nantahala-type waves and holes. Intermediate kayakers should have a 100% flatwater roll and a 50% reliable combat roll in class II rapids. Saturday morning lake session working on strokes and rolls (kayaks) and an afternoon session on a Class 2-3 river working on turns, surfing, eddy hopping, etc. Full day Sunday trip on a Class 2-3 river.

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**SWIMMING ABILITY:**

You must be able to swim and should not panic with your head under water. Beginning kayak clinic participants will spend a lot of time upside down inside their kayaks on the lake. All students will practice swimming & self-rescue skills in rapids.

**PHYSICAL CONDITION:**

Whitewater paddling is a physically and mentally challenging activity that requires fitness, flexibility, and a positive attitude in stressful situations. Kayaking is a high-risk activity for individuals with a history of shoulder dislocations. Applicants should discuss potential physical limitations with the Coordinator before signing up.

**EQUIPMENT:**

You must furnish all of your own equipment. You will receive a detailed list of required and recommended equipment.

**REGISTRATION:**

To register for one of these clinics you must be a member of the Georgia Canoeing Association. For an application to join the GCA go to the GCA Web Site at <http://www.georgiacanoe.org/membership.htm> or call 404.421.9729. Dues are \$25. Classes are \$65 per person for a two day clinic or \$35 for a one day event, unless otherwise stated. To register for a clinic, call the coordinator of the clinic for more information, including questions on your skill level and/or course objectives. You will NOT be registered until the coordinator receives this completed form and a check for appropriate fees. Please don't wait to register. All classes are subject to being closed due to student limits or being rescheduled or canceled if there are insufficient students registered. Registration closes ten days before each class due to insurance and planning considerations.

**CLINIC** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SEX** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALLERGIES OR PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:**

If you wish to cancel or switch to another date, please notify the Clinic Coordinator as soon as possible. If you cancel at least 10 days before the first class session your fees will be refunded. After that, refunds will be made only if a replacement is found.

**Clinics will be conducted rain or shine.**

**Schedule on Following Page**

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## GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION 2007 INSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

### Whitewater Kayak

Beginner (TBA)  
June 5 (eve.), 9 & 10  
Tom Bishop  
Bishop.t@comcast.net

Trained Beginner (TBA)  
May 5 & 6  
Tom Bishop  
Bishop.t@comcast.net

Intermediate (Nantahala)  
May 5 & 6  
Louis Boulanger  
Louis.boulanger@ece.gatech.edu>

Nantahala Falls (Working in the Falls)  
September 8 & 9  
Louis Boulanger  
Louis.boulanger@ece.gatech.edu

### Recreational Kayak

Introduction to Moving Water( Chestatee)  
May 19, Moving Water-Class 1  
Jamie Higgins  
Jmhiggins\_99@yahoo.com

Introductory White Water ( Tuckaseegee)  
July 14, Whitewater Class 2  
Jamie Higgins  
Jmhiggins\_99@yahoo.com

### Whitewater Canoe (Solo and Tandem)

Beginner (Broad)  
May 12 & 13  
Steve Cramer  
cramersec@charternet

Trained Beginner (TBA)  
June 9 & 10, August 18 & 19  
Jim Albert  
jimalbert@gmail.com

Intermediate (TBA)  
May 9 & 10  
Marvine Cole  
marvinequilts@earthlink.net

Intermediate I (Tuckasegee)  
August 25 & 26  
Gina and Haynes Johnson  
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Intermediate II (Nantahala)  
September 22 & 23  
Haynes and Gina Johnson  
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

### Safety

Flatwater Safety - Kayaks and Canoes (Lake Lanier)  
June 9  
Gina and Haynes Johnson  
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

Basic White Water Safety (Amicalola)  
July 14  
Gina and Haynes Johnson  
Haynesandgina@alltel.net

### Sea Kayak (call for class fees)

All taught by Steve Cramer  
cramersec@charter.net

Introduction - Charleston, SC  
May 28-29

Safety & Rescue Clinic - Athens area  
June 9

Sea Kayak Weekend - Charleston  
Sept 29 & 30

Sea Kayak Strokes - Athens Area  
August 11

### FEES:

Two Day classes are \$65.00 for instruction or events  
One Day classes are \$35.00  
All fees included American Canoe Association Insurance. If you are an ACA member, your fees are reduced by \$10 per class or event.

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## Tragedy and Response

by Rick Bellows

Many who subscribe to the GCA groupmail or other paddling groupmails have probably read the widely circulated article, "Accident on the LRB," by Charles Parrish. Mr. Parrish was watching from a bridge on New Year's Day as three kayakers paddled the Lower Rocky Broad River in North Carolina.

One of the kayakers was washed into a boulder sieve and tipped. As Mr. Parrish watched, his companions tried to rescue him. The trapped boater, Paul McKinney, died January 10.

The morning after the incident, Mr. Parrish posted his first-person account of it. That account is, to say the least, chilling. For anyone who didn't see it, Mr. Parrish's article and many responses to it are online at <http://riverpirate.proboards26.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1167745240>.

The article produced responses on paddling groupmails all over the country. One was posted by Charles Brabec, a whitewater instructor with Carolina Canoe Club and West Virginia Whitewater Association and consists of a handout he gives his students on the first day of each clinic. As he said when he posted it, it sums up his thoughts about paddling, safety and personal responsibility.

### Thoughts

1. Paddling is an inherently risky activity. The best way to reduce the odds of becoming a statistic is to recognize the inherent risk and act accordingly. This does not mean giving up paddling. It means always taking paddling seriously.

2. Remember who's waiting for you back home when you are making basic decisions. Your choices have implications for them too.

3. Choose your equipment carefully and know how to use it. All boat designs involve compromises. The compromises that make some boats great for racking up points in rodeos reduce the margin for error when using them in more difficult, decision-intense situations. Keep in mind that you WILL on occasion make mistakes ("shit will happen" if you're more comfortable with this concept) and that some boat designs are more forgiving than others.

4. Choose paddling partners carefully. You are dependent on them and they on you.

5. Dress to be comfortable if you have to be in the water a long time to rescue someone else.

6. Honestly evaluate your paddling skills, not just in general but in the context of the specific day you're boating. Being able to survive a class 5 run and being a class 5 boater are not the same thing. Take pride in always exactly hitting your lines in difficult rapids, not just in getting to the bottom of

them. If you're not exactly hitting your lines most of the time you're relying on luck to get down the drops, and luck is not always good.

7. Paddling skills involve more than just boat control. They include judgment, rescue and first aid skills. You can't maintain these skills if you don't first attain them and then practice them. Your efforts may well make you more humble and respectful of your limitations.

8. Beware of letting your guard down on days when everything seems to be going right. The "paddler's high" of a great day on the river can be intoxicating to the point of losing the mental edge necessary to paddle safely.

9. If you want an extra dose of humility, purposely take a swim at least once a year. It never ceases to amaze me how much more I'm at the mercy of the water when I'm out of my boat than when I'm in it. For many top-end boaters this is a real eye-opener because they so seldom swim.

### My Plea to You

Please think carefully about your motivations for doing things and think about the consequences of your decisions.

Please don't do hard runs just because everyone else is doing them. Few will think less of you if you don't. (And those few may need to re-examine their own priorities.)

Please don't do them because you have testosterone poisoning (and that applies to the women, too).

Please don't do hard runs on an off day (and all paddlers

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have them). The river will be there when you come back.

Please consider walking that hard rapid if you're not comfortable running it today - even if you've run it before.

Please don't assume that just because you managed to get through something in one piece that you've mastered it and can move on and up.

Please take into account the fact that your paddling companions will try to come after you if you screw up, putting themselves at risk on your behalf.

Please realize that there are a lot of ways to challenge yourself in this sport besides seeking more difficult whitewater. (If you're a kayaker, try learning C-1. If you're an open canoe team, try slalom. And so on.)

Please realize that what happens to you out there can affect everyone else — in the form of regulations and restrictions.

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## Part Two Rediscovering the Chattooga Headwaters

by Don Kinser, GCA River Protection Chair  
Day 2 - Chattooga Cliffs (a/k/a Section 00)  
and Ellicott Rock (a/k/a Section 0) — 7.7  
miles

Saturday morning dawned clear and somewhat cooler. The rain from the day before was replaced with sunny blue skies. The morning chill faded and warmed to nearly 60 degrees by afternoon. The gauge at Burrell's Ford had come up a tenth of a foot overnight. We could not have asked for anything better.

Today's adventure would turn out to be much more physically demanding than the day before. Again we convened for another "alpine" start at the Burrell's Ford parking lot at 8:30 a.m. We enjoyed another "Green Truck" shuttle, thanks to the USFS. After checking the new staff gauge at Grimshawes Bridge on Whiteside Cove Road, we arrived at the trailhead.

Unlike yesterday, when we saw no one, today we were met at the trailhead by Buzz Williams and several other members of the "Friends of the Upper Chattooga" (FUC for short). Buzz went about his normal grandstanding routine, telling the USFS how they were doing everything wrong and how dangerous it was to allow boating on the river. He had also blocked the trailhead with his truck to make things more difficult for us. One of our group made the mistake of leaning his paddle against the tailgate of Buzz' truck and learned first hand about Buzz' southern hospitality.

Rather than put in at Grimshawes Bridge, the USFS basically dodged the private landowner issue with a 1.8

Please realize that we will all miss you if you're gone. I'm not asking or telling anybody to stop. I'm just pleading with all of you to THINK. First.

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## Chattooga Rescue

by Suzanne Welander

My deepest gratitude goes to the rescue team who provided for my safety and comfort, and ultimately fetched me out of one serious pickle in the Chattooga corridor on January 14 after a vertigo-inducing middle ear infection left me incapacitated on the bank. Jim Tibbets, Julia Franks, George Hedrick, Marshall Fox, Mike Stockton and Scotty (with the raft) of the Chattooga Whitewater Shop, and Slick made valiant, selfless contributions to a successful rescue. They are great people.

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mile "forced march" down to the confluence of Norton Mill Creek. The trail was good and we arrived at the river about 45 minutes later. After a group photo, we put on and started downriver at 10:40 a.m.

Norton Mill Creek joins the Chattooga about 2 miles downstream from Grimshawes Bridge and about 0.6 miles above a massive logjam. Here the river is narrow with steep banks, thick with lush rhododendron.

We arrived at the logjam about 10 minutes later and took about 10-15 minutes to climb up and over with our boats. After this, the bottom drops out and the real fun begins. Once past the logjam, it took us nearly an hour and a half to travel the next 0.7 miles. This stretch is full of numerous Class 4 rapids and at least one Class 5 drop.

Immediately after the logjam, we encountered a cool grotto and then a nice Class 4 ledge. Things were starting to get very interesting.

Next was a stout Class 5 drop that several of us portaged. After Milt (in his canoe) shamed the kayakers into running the drop, everyone that ran it made it look easy. We then entered the first of three narrow, cliff-lined "alleys" that give this stretch of river its name, Chattooga Cliffs.

The river opens up somewhat after this alley before reaching another Class 4+ drop where you want to make sure you don't go left. However, after looking at the wood in the right side of this drop, several of us again chose to portage on the right.

We now found ourselves in the Alleyway, a spectacular narrow sluice with vertical bedrock walls. We portaged around a large root ball that plugged the river and ran several significant rapids, including one with a large boulder bisecting



the riverbed.

Somewhere down in the Alleyway there is a stunning waterfall on river right that pours into the river from high up on the cliff. I have visited and explored the Chattooga for nearly 30 years and this was unlike any other place I have seen exploring the river. This is also a place nearly impossible to see on foot.

We reached the sieve shortly after noon. The sieve rapid is a difficult obstacle and everyone portaged.

The logistics of this portage were made more difficult by our large group. This was really one of the few places our group size was much of a liability. It is very difficult to stage the group down into the "eddy" above the sieve and exit your boat. I say "eddy" because it is more like a slow spot in the current, up against a steep, slippery, vertical rock wall. Milt, the only open boater in the group, was able to jump out of his canoe here more easily and helped us exit our kayaks.

It took a long time to portage. It was slippery and crowded. Someone wisely set a safety rope and we worked together to ferry our boats across a difficult spot. Once across, we had to put in immediately above a challenging 6 foot, Class 4 ledge.

From the logjam to here the river had been unrelenting. Once back on the water we found it an easy 20 minute cruise with a number of fun Class 3 ledges and drops for the remaining mile down to the Iron Bridge at Bull Pen Road.

There we encountered a large audience waiting for us when we arrived just after 1:00 p.m. The Class 5 drop immediately below the bridge is quite impressive and was in full sunlight. I am sure many of the onlookers were expecting

(and secretly hoping for) a great deal of death and destruction. There was even a troll under the bridge with a camera.

We disappointed them as all but two of our group ran the drop in a dazzling display of the state of the sport. Just for the record, I walked. I probably should also mention one consultant's swim at the bottom of the rapid after he admonished us at the top not to do anything stupid for the crowd.



**Milt Aitken runs the rapid Brian Jacobson calls "No Kayaks" on the Chattooga Cliffs section. Photo © Brian Jacobson/Trout Lips Video.**

With barely a moment to eat a quick bite of lunch, we were herded off at 1:30 to find our way down to Ellicott Rock and ultimately Burrell's Ford. This reach was rumored to be the most enjoyable and the most popular of the three sections. We would not be disappointed.

The two or so miles immediately below the bridge to Ellicott Rock is a wonderful read and run, Class 4 boulder dance, roughly bisected by the biggest rapid on the Chattooga, Class 5 Super Corkscrew.

Super Corkscrew is long and scary. It starts with a hard 4+ entrance and just keeps getting nastier from there. I think four of us walked the rapid along the rock shelf on river right. Several of the group, including Wade and Ken, made it look easy, others maybe not so much. Todd discovered just how shallow it was at the bottom part of the rapid. Shayne took all the style points for his great ender in the middle hole.

Once below Super Corkscrew, the pace quickened and we found a rhythm as we danced down one boulder drop to the next all

the way to Ellicott Rock, arriving there at about 3:00 p.m. Once below Ellicott Rock, the gradient began to ease for the next 3.5 miles or so and we reached Burrell's Ford shortly before 4:00

*continued on following page*

p.m.

Our team was tired and hungry, but we were all smiles as we packed up and headed once again to the Ranger office to debrief.

### Epilogue

For me personally and several others on the trip, these were two of the most emotionally significant days of our paddling lives. After having worked so hard, for so long, to gain access to this truly amazing river, I was concerned that I might be let down once I actually got the chance.

I had nothing to worry about. The upper Chattooga did not disappoint. I have had some great outdoor adventures in my life. In the last six years alone, I have climbed Long's Peak via the East Face, the Grand Teton via Exum Ridge, and Mount Baker. I have paddled the Grand Canyon, the Selway and the Middle Fork of the Salmon.

These were all great adventures. Our "expedition" to rediscover the upper Chattooga, however, was more rewarding than any of these other adventures, at least for me, because of what it took to get the chance and because it is right in my own back yard.

We were also very, very lucky. The "perfect storm" had come together and allowed this to happen so successfully - the storm Dec. 31 that surged the river to 6,000 cfs, warm weather, stable flows, a skilled team with a cooperative spirit, more rain and great support from everyone involved, especially the USFS.

I just hope it is not the last opportunity I have to legally enjoy this magnificent place. Legal or not, I am sure to return. Maybe, just maybe, you too will be able to share this adventure and experience the upper Chattooga for yourself sometime soon.

### Water Level Information

This study was primarily framed as a "flow study" to attempt to gather data about "boatability" and "fishability" at different flow levels. Last summer the USFS installed new staff gauges at Grimshawes Bridge, Iron Bridge

and Burrell's Ford Bridge, complete with data loggers, as part of the study. The USFS hydrologists established a flow curve for the Burrell's Ford gauge to correlate the staff gauge to cfs.

The previous week's storm surged the river to nearly 6,000 cfs, primed the pump and made the user trials possible. A modest amount of rain fell Thursday night onto already saturated ground, and continued rain during the day Friday started the river rising slowly during the day and overnight. The result was an extraordinarily stable hydrograph for our study.

On Friday, when we paddled the Rock Gorge Section, the new staff gauge at Burrell's Ford read 1.5 feet when we put on. With the rain during the day the level rose to 1.6 feet while we were on the river. This was reported to be 340 cfs based on the newly estab-

lished flow curves for Burrell's Ford. The Chattooga was 1150 cfs (2.29 feet) at the U.S. 76 gauge at about 1:00 p.m.

I must admit I expected a rocky, bony, difficult day on a river that didn't have enough water in it. I was wrong. What we discovered was a river with an enjoyable flow and plenty of water. Later that day, during the debriefing, the panel considered it to be the low end of the optimal flow range. I agree.

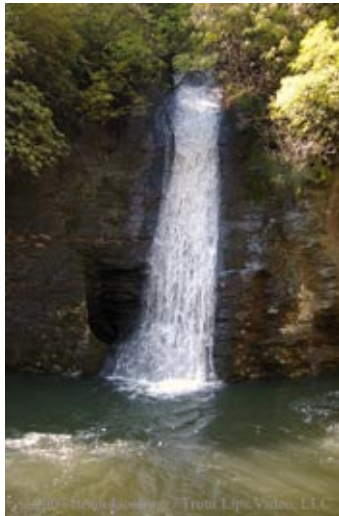
The water quality was outstanding as well. While maybe it was not exactly clear, the river was certainly not muddy and was quite beautiful.

On Saturday, when we paddled the Chattooga Cliffs and Ellicott Rock sections, Friday's steady rain had subsided. The river had risen slightly and then fell overnight. The new Burrell's Ford staff gauge read 1.6 feet when we headed up to the put-in at Norton Mill Creek Saturday morning.

The new staff gauge at Grimshawes Bridge read 1.25 feet when we drove over the bridge. It was heavily guarded by the local landowners' militia. When we passed the new staff gauge at the Iron Bridge on Bull Pen Road, it read 3 feet. The Burrell's Ford gauge read



Wade Vaughn under the iron bridge at Bull Pen Road. Photo © Brian Jacobson, Trout Lips Video, LLC.



Waterfall on river right in "The Alleyway." Photo © Brian Jacobson, Trout Lips Video





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1.55 feet when we arrived there Saturday afternoon.

Both the Chattooga Cliffs and Ellicott Rock reaches had plenty of water at these levels. This was particularly true of the upper reach, the Chattooga Cliffs reach. The Ellicott Rock reach was good, but a little more juice would have helped - not much more juice, however, because some of the holes could become big and hungry fast. Once again, the water quality was outstanding.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our expedition to rediscover the upper Chattooga River. I also hope you stay tuned into the ongoing User Capacity Study. Better yet, if you would like to have the chance to explore this wonderful place from your own boat, let the USFS know right now. Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/> and share your thoughts with John Cleaves, the User Capacity Analysis Project Coordinator.

*Editor's Note: Article copyright 2007 by Don Kinser: may be reprinted with permission and attribution. Photos copyright 2007 by Brian Jacobson/Trout Lips Video LLC and Todd Corey. Text and photos used with permission. Additional photos of this trip are on the American Whitewater website at [www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1049](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/1049). Correction: Photographer Todd Corey's name was misspelled in Part 1 of this report in the February issue. The Eddy Line regrets the error.*

### Paddle With The Prez

## Ground Hog Day on the Etowah

by Vincent Payne, GCA Chief Ground Hog

Forty five people showed up for this annual event including about a half dozen sea kayakers, a huge cataraft, three good old boys in a twelve foot fiberglass tandem, a couple of kids in shorts paddling sit on tops, and John H. in a patched inner tube.

The sky was slightly overcast and drizzling a cold frosty mist. By 10:00 a.m. things had warmed up to the low thirties so the ground was soft and muddy at the put-in. That is where we had our first mishap when a tandem boat containing Robert H. and Kelly H. slid into the water and immediately turned over. They missed their roll. They missed the throw rope. They missed the cold beer David B. threw to them. Mostly they missed the feeling in their arms and legs.

Once on the river the kids with the sit on tops complained a bit about the self bailing feature of their boats. To their credit the complaints soon ceased. I personally prefer to hear complaining to pathetic sobbing. People really do turn blue when they get really cold.

Belton D., Buddy G. and some fat guy in the fiberglass boat kept getting hung up on rocks, trees and any where the  
*continued on following page*

water was less than two foot deep. Otherwise the route to the tunnel was only marred by the chatter of teeth.

We did find another use for duct tape that was heretofore unknown. It seems that Karen S.'s fingers were no longer able to hold her paddle, "I'm not going to make it. Y'all go on without me." So we duct taped the paddle to her hands.

At this point we still believed that we would leave no one behind. The duct tape was brilliant. Ira F should get a merit badge of some kind.

Once at the tunnel William G. got out of his boat to look into the tunnel when he slipped into the water and began to get swept downstream. As he went through we could hear him banging against the walls of the tunnel. Gina J. said he might need his boat so we shoved it in after him.

After some discussion, Jamie H. chunked her first aid kit into the tunnel and opted to paddle around. A few of the kayakers followed her. Denise K. said "things could be worse". As we all shot her a nasty look it began to rain. Nancy shook her head then said, "Well now it can't get worse." It was then that the rain turned to sleet.

By now Ed and Lamar had gotten impatient and were in a shoving match to see who would go through next. Ed insisted that since he was wearing a hard hat it was obvious that he should go next. Above their banter the roar of the tunnel soon began to annoy me. The hideous buzzing grind

reminded me of an alarm clock.

Wait. It was my alarm clock. I shut it off and rolled over, truly relieved that not one single person had signed up to run the tunnel today. ✂

## Etowah Rebuttal

by John Holley

I, John Holley, did not paddle the Etowah February 2nd. It is also untrue that I paddled a patched inner tube. February 2nd I was on Altamaha in pursuit of Elverna Pottz. I have photos to prove this.

Since Elverna knocked a hole in the boat with her prosthetic leg in an attempt to kill a water moccasin (Akgistrodon Piscivorous) on August 13, 1985, I knew that this was the woman for me. For years I followed her, fish camp to boat ramp; Bullard to Bug Suck, Rag Point to Rifle Cut, got close to her once at Clayhole Swamp and ran her aground at Ballast Bluff. There she said she is in love with Moncrief P. Schinsnauzer of Puddin Swamp, South Carolina who once bit the dorsal fin off a Mako shark in the Sampit River.

Devastated, I dragged up for Rio Duvida with Teddy Roosevelt and some cute C1 girls. Just now I have got back to Musella in time to run Broad tomorrow.

Do not believe a word that evil Vincent Payne writes.

The Truth Shall Set You Free. ✂

## Denise and Edward's Toccoa Adventure

Last Will and Testament of Denise L. Keller

I, Denise Keller, being the dummy I am, have agreed to do tandem canoe with Edward Stockman January 14th. I know NOTHING about canoes. So, knowing that I stand the chance of facing certain death, either by Edward's boney hands wrapped tightly around my neck or the chill of the water should I end up IN the water, I thought it best to get my priorities straight.

Doug Ackerman has agreed to hold the money for the Thomas Keller Widower Fund, for those of you that want to place bets on "who will kill who first" in this epic tandem adventure. Edward has a few advantages. He's much older and a tad wiser, and meaner too! I, on the other hand am younger and much more color coordinated when it comes to paddling than he is. (My motto: I can't paddle for cr\*p, but I look good trying!)

Should I be rendered unconscious or dead, or both, I keep a vial of Holy Water in my dry bag. I'll need someone to administer Last Rights, in keeping with my Catholic faith, in order to get to Heaven. (Someone please place me in my beautiful, purple RPM kayak before hand. I would much rather meet my maker in my RPM than a canoe!)

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To Trish, I leave my cherished Rob Zombie action figure doll. I know you all are ready to fight her for it. But Miss Trish has shared time and space with Mr. Zombie and I know she and Cody will take good care of him. (Tom would just put him on E-bay!!)

To Marilyn, I leave the "beagles from Hell" otherwise, Tom will sell them on e-bay too. Gretchen, you'll need to check on Thomas from time to time to make sure he's still with us and not selling jack hammers at all hours of the day. (On e-bay of course!)

To Denise Colquitt, I give you my Anne Rice book collection. I have many first editions and 3 I had signed by her. I leave you these because you are blessed to have the first name Denise!! No one will ever know. Can't leave them to Tom, he'd only put them on E-bay!

To Douglas, I leave my patchouli plant, you old "hippie!!" Tom wouldn't know what to do with the plant other than put it on E-bay or try to smoke it!! (I'm joking!!) John H., your trip on Tellico, Tom wants to do Baby Falls, take pictures of Mr. Tom coming down so I can sell the pics on e-bay. That is, if I'm here.

Christine, do me a favor and keep the girls in line at the annual Chick Paddle in August. Never mind, they'll need to keep YOU in line!

To all my paddling buddies, "so long! It's been good to know ya!!" ✂

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## Toccoa Trip Report

### If I Had To Do It All Over Again...My First Time in a Canoe

by Denise Keller

For 3 years I've been bugging Edward Stockman about a tandem canoe lesson. Mainly just to bug him. But, I think he was a little scared of the idea too. Or so I thought.

Saturday, January 13, late afternoon, I got a call from Edward and he's all excited saying "The boat is done! Do you want to do tandem tomorrow?" Allen Hedden had finished outfitting Edward's Mohawk Probe 14 for tandem boating and he wanted to take it out for a maiden voyage. I thought "what an honor" and agreed to the trip.

I told my husband Tom what Edward and I were going to do and he promptly fell to the floor laughing. "You two are going to kill each other," he said. Well, that got me thinking so I spent the rest of the evening writing my Last Will and Testament just in case.

Sunday morning and I'm heading to the Toccoa river to meet Edward, Haynes and Gina Johnson, Lamar Phillips, Robert Harris and the "cruisemaster" himself, Steve Reach. When I get there, I realize that I don't have to unload my kayak or paddle or put on a spray skirt, Oh no!! I was going to be 'an

*continued on following page*

open boater' today! My first time ever.

I get out of the truck to say "good morning" to all and I find Edward hunched over this green thing. "OK!" I ask, "What vessel are we in?" He points to "the green thing." "WHAT!!! I can't be seen in that! The color coordination with my paddling gear is all wrong, and I'll lose my title as the "most color coordinated paddler in GA." Edward gives me a stern look and says, "The boat is not green, it's teal and just think, you and the airbags are matching yellow!"

I tried one more excuse for not having to paddle in "the green thing." "Edward, this thing is the size of a Carnival Cruise ship! I can't paddle that!" "Oh yes you will and with this," and he hands me this white plastic thing with one blade. "Where's the other paddle blade?" I ask. He knows I'm just being a wise ass and just shakes his head.

Next, a few lessons on dry ground before hitting the water. Edward is a certified ACA instructor for both solo and tandem canoeing, as is Gina. He explains some safety issues. "OK, get in" he tells me. I get in. 2 seconds later he says "OK, get out. You got in backwards!" "You mean to tell me that there is a right and wrong way to get in this thing?" I ask.

He explains about how to sit on this foam thing with my knees on some more foam stuff while my toes are jammed up against the foot brace behind me. Then he tells me to adjust the "thigh braces!" "What are these for Edward?" To help you brace and lean he tells me. "Well, I don't think I need them. I don't brace and lean in my kayak let alone trying to brace and lean in this "QE2!" I get another stern look. Thigh braces suck!

Steve Reach's kayak is unattended because he's changing a tire on his truck. I try to jump out of the braces and run and steal Steve's boat, but the straps jerk me back in the boat. "What are you doing?" Edward asks. "Oh nothing, just getting comfortable," I lied.

Ok, it's time to hit the water. But, before we do I gather the group together and have them read my Last Will and

Testament and show everyone the little vial of Holy Water I keep in my dry bag should I be needing Last Rights. Under their breath I heard a collective "Oh Geez!" Steve just laughs at me.



We are on our merry way. Edward talks about the different paddle strokes and how to use them to get to where you want to be, that sort of stuff. Haynes, being an instructor also, tries to explain the crossover stroke to me. It kind of goes in one ear and out the other because I'm very concerned about people seeing me in this green barge with no color coordination happening or lack there of...I reach for my dry bag to get a drink from the other holy water in my bag,

my Perrier.

As we head down river, I'm starting to get the hang of a few things and starting to feel pretty comfortable. I get quite a few compliments on my paddling but not my color coordination. I realize that I won't on this trip. It ain't happening!!

We are all just floating along when I ask out loud, "Hey! What's a gunnel and why can't I grab it? All paddling by everyone ceases and jaws drop. Even the fishermen on the banks turn their heads and drop their jaws. Steve just laughs at me. Edward says to me, "You are allowed one stupid question today and that was the one." Haynes tells me I asked "the mother of all canoeing questions," that the "G word" is almost equal to the "F word" in the paddling world. Oops!!

Everyone recovers and resumes paddling. Good thing, because we're heading straight for Party Rock rapid. Edward and I get to river left, then ferry to river right and line up for the far right line. We come on through with me yelling an "Oh Crap" (although I didn't say "crap") and us eddying out to the left before the entrance to "Little Nanty."

We head down the Little Nanty, eddy hopping all the way and get to the take-out all in one piece. I get out of the boat only to find that I can't feel my toes. They are permanently curled upwards so I have to walk on my heels. Despite this, I've had quite the adventure and tell the other paddlers so. I even thank

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“the green thing,” in silence. We all had a great day!

I’ve taken quite a few liberties with this article, all in the name of fun. Thanks Edward!! I really enjoyed the trip, let’s go again. Thanks to the other paddle mates that day, you all were great! My hat is off to all the open boaters in the club, solo

or tandem. I did learn a lot. The paddle strokes are the same as for kayaking but it’s a whole different way of thinking with only one paddle blade and being on your knees all day with your toes crunched. Now I know why open boaters are so crabby at the takeout. ✂

## Editorial How Old Is The Grand Canyon? Park Service Won’t Say.

by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Grand Canyon National Park is not permitted to give an official estimate of the geologic age of its principal feature, due to pressure from Bush administration appointees. Despite promising a prompt review of its approval for a book claiming the Grand Canyon was created by Noah’s flood rather than by geologic forces, more than three years later no review has ever been done and the book remains on sale at the park, according to documents released today by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

“In order to avoid offending religious fundamentalists, our National Park Service is under orders to suspend its belief in geology,” stated PEER

Executive Director Jeff Ruch. “It is disconcerting that the official position of a national park as to the geologic age of the

Grand Canyon is ‘no comment.’”

In a letter released December 28, PEER urged the new Director of the National Park Service (NPS), Mary Bomar, to end the stalling tactics, remove the book from sale at the park and allow park interpretive rangers to honestly answer questions from the public about the geologic age of the Grand Canyon. PEER is also asking Director Bomar to approve a pamphlet, suppressed since 2002 by Bush appointees, providing guidance for rangers and other interpretive staff in making distinctions between science and religion when speaking to park visitors about geologic issues.

In August 2003, Park Superintendent Joe Alston attempted to block the sale at park bookstores of Grand Canyon: A Different View by Tom Vail, a book claiming the Canyon developed on a biblical rather than an evolutionary time scale. NPS Headquarters, however, intervened and overruled Alston.

To quiet the resulting furor, NPS Chief of Communication  
*continued on following page*

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bookstores are like libraries, where the broadest range of views are displayed. In fact, however, both law and park policies make it clear that the park bookstores are more like schoolrooms rather than libraries. As such, materials are only to reflect the highest quality science and are supposed to closely support approved interpretive themes. Moreover, unlike a library the approval process is very selective. Records released to PEER show that during 2003, Grand Canyon officials rejected 22 books and other products for bookstore placement while approving only one new sale item - the creationist book.

Ironically, in 2005, two years after the Grand Canyon creationist controversy erupted, NPS approved a new directive on "Interpretation and Education" (Director's Order #6) which reinforces the posture that materials on the "history of the Earth must be based on the best scientific evidence available, as found in scholarly sources that have stood the test of scientific peer review and criticism [and] interpretive and educational programs must refrain from appearing to endorse religious beliefs explaining natural processes."

"As one park geologist said, this is equivalent of Yellowstone National Park selling a book entitled *Geysers of Old Faithful: Nostrils of Satan*," Ruch added, pointing to the fact that previous NPS leadership ignored strong protests from both its own scientists and leading geological societies against the agency approval of the creationist book. "We sincerely hope that the new Director of the Park Service now has the autonomy to do her job."

*If you disagree with the editorial above, or would like to express an opinion about anything in the newsletter, please send an editorial or letter the editor to P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA, 30503-0441 or to the\_eddyline@yahoo.com.*

tions David Barna told reporters and members of Congress that there would be a high-level policy review of the issue. According to a recent NPS response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed by PEER, no such review was ever requested, let alone conducted or completed.

Park officials have defended the decision to approve the sale of *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, claiming that park

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**For Sale:** Pyranha M3-233; creek boat/river runner, green with blue swirls, good condition; \$500. Pyranha Burn; river runner/creek boat, yellow, good condition. Call Jim at 770.587.1172 or email [jls1001@gmail.com](mailto:jls1001@gmail.com).

**For Sale:** Canoe, Old Town Discovery 158; green, flat bottom, very good condition; \$400. Contact Patricia Young at 678.625.7911.

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Contact Duncan at 678-493-7804 or duncancotrell@yahoo.com.

## Alabama Cup Racing Series

by Jim Moon, Birmingham Canoe Club

Each spring, Alabama paddlers host three whitewater races, attracting competitors from throughout the state and the nation. The three events, the Mulberry Fork Canoe and Kayak Races, the Locust Fork Invitational and the Locust Fork Classic make up the Alabama Cup series.

The Alabama Cup is awarded to the racer with the best overall time in his or her class from all three races. It is presented at the final race event, the Classic.

Both Locust Fork races are held on the Locust Fork of the Warrior River, at Kings Bend near Cleveland. The first, the Invitational, was on February 3. The Classic is traditionally held two weeks after the Mulberry, this year on March 24th.

The Mulberry Fork races are held on the Mulberry River, about 30 miles north of Birmingham. This year's Mulberry Fork races will be held March 10.

For more information on the Alabama Cup series, go [http://birminghamcanoecanooclub.org/index\\_files/Page726.htm](http://birminghamcanoecanooclub.org/index_files/Page726.htm).



Race Watch

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From the Conewago (PA) Canoe Club page.

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