



## Flat Water Racing The Other Paddlers

by Rick Bellows

One sign that our sport is becoming more and more popular is the ever-increasing visibility of canoes and kayaks in the non-paddling media. Magazine ads and television commercials for all manner of products show paddlers in their boats.

Another sign of that growth is the ever-increasing number of canoes and kayaks we all see on Georgia's streets, highways and freeways. Scarcely a day goes by that I don't see at least one vehicle carrying a boat or boats. There also seem to be a great many vehicles with racks designed to carry kayaks or canoes.

For most GCA members, the boats we see are the same kinds of boats we paddle: flat water, whitewater or mixed-use canoes and whitewater, recreational or touring kayaks. Besides seeing these boats on the roads, we see them on the same lakes and rivers we paddle.

But in Gainesville/Hall County, we also see a type of kayak few of us ever paddle - incredibly long, insanely narrow, unbelievably light and delicate and built for speed in every way. The canoes are even more unusual - needle thin and feather light with a strange looking bulge in the middle. We also often see kayaks and canoes designed for two, four or even more paddlers. And it's not unusual for these strange boats to carry the flags and marking of foreign countries.

That's because Gainesville/Hall County is a "hot spot" for the "other paddlers" - flat water canoe and kayak racers. The area is blessed with a world class sprint racing facility, a remnant of the 1996 Olympics. The area also has not one but two canoe and kayak racing organizations, Lanier Canoe/Kayak (LCKC) and Southeast Paddlers, both of which are headquartered on Lake Lanier. Thanks to the facility and these clubs, the area is home to several world class paddlers.

GCA members paddle a wide range of craft on everything from flat water to Class 5 whitewater. By and large, though, we're recreational paddlers, interested in the scenery, the companionship and sometimes the thrill, not in getting from Point A to Point B as rapidly as possible. Some of us paddle rivers precisely so the current will actually propel the boat and use the paddle to steer and avoid hazards.

But unusual as we may find their emphasis on speed, the flat water racers are a part of the same sport as us. With that in mind, the next few issues of *The Eddy Line* will provide a window into the world of flat water canoe and kayak racing.

The first installment, in this issue, is about the Georgia Flatwater Series, a series of flat water races that will culminate with the Back to the Chattahoochee Race and Festival on June 9 (see page 14). Future issues will talk about LCKC and Southeast Paddlers, about the racing league for middle school students and perhaps about some of the great racing paddlers who call Georgia home.

Do you have an aspect of flat water racing you would like to see included in these articles? If so, please let us know.



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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 .....	Kate Wilkerson
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. Letters to the Editor are also encouraged. **Submissions should be typed, single spaced and not indented: 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 two issues, 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

### June

1-3	Flint River (Note 1)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Vincent Payne	770.834.8263
2	Tuckasegee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770.856.4489
9	Metro Chattahoochee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
9	Chattooga Cleanup (Note 2)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Roger Nott	770.536.6923
16	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	John Hudgens	770.573.3145
16	Chattooga Section 3.5	Class 3-4 Advanced	Rhett Smith	404.729.9201
17	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Steve Reach	404.579.3166
23	Nantahala	Class 2-3 Intermediate	James Royston	770.500.6520
23	Broad	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Connie Venuso	404.633.8038
24	Hiwassee	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Matthew Crawford	770.573.3374
24	Leader's Choice	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	William Gatling	770.529.7103
29-7/3	New River Gorge (Note 3)	Class 3-4 Advanced	Louis Boulanger	404.894.2957

### July

7	Chattahoochee (Note 4)	Class 1-2 Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770.998.0350
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Note 1: 2-night camp, Paddle With the Prez.

Note 2: Fall Creek to Woodall - cleanup from Thrift's Ferry to Bull Sluice.

Note 3: Class 4 - Cunard to Fayette Station.

Note 4: Buford Dam to Settles Bridge

# 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 flatwater to class 5 whitewater. 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.

**Roll Practice:** Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until dark, May through the end of Daylight Savings Time, at Stone Mountain Park. For more information, look for the announcement in *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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## Summer Roll Practice

GCA Summer Roll Practice will be held at Stone Mountain Park at 6:00 p.m. (or earlier) on Wednesday from May through the end of Daylight Savings Time. Roll Practice is free, but participants will need to pay for entry to the park. A season pass is recommended for folks who plan to attend multiple sessions.



To get to roll practice, enter the park from Stone Mountain Freeway (East Entrance) and take the first left. Continue about a mile until the road crosses

the dam, then take the first right into the parking lot. The boat ramp is on the right.

The boat ramp is very busy with power boats putting in and taking out, so use the ramp area to load and unload only and park away from the ramp. Once in the water, try to stay clear of the ramp for the same reason.

Please note that swimming is prohibited at this location. If you're in the water spotting for someone, be prepared to explain to park officials that you are not "swimming."

Roll practice is an informal arrangement that requires volunteers. If you can help with kayak, canoe or C-1 rolling, your assistance would be appreciated. ✂

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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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**March 8, 2007**

## GCA Executive Committee Meeting

by **Jamie Higgins, GCA Secretary**

In Attendance: Jamie Higgins, Ed Schultz, Allen Hedden, William Gatling, Lamar Phillips, Gina Johnson, Vincent Payne, Denise Keller, Roger Nott

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

New Business:

Treasurers Report: \$1900 positive income, no expenses.

River Protection Chair: River Clean-up: Roger Nott plans to lead a river clean-up on the Chattooga.

Recreation Chair: Spring Extravaganza: Endless River is coming Friday night to talk about the Cheoh. Mark Singleton of AW will be there on Saturday night. Fall Gala: September 21-22, location to be determined.

Denise got an email from Jim Hunter, who owns a new outfitter called Adventure Roman Around and would like to partner with us. Gina and Jamie will talk with him and Jamie will forward training schedule.

Training Chair: Reviewed summer instruction schedule. Looking at doing flatwater and rec kayak instruction. Have several kayak and canoe whitewater training classes, so we have a full calendar.

Resource Development Chair: Have 36 paid paddlers for Georgia River Explorer Series. Joe Cook was very helpful and gave William the name of Jim Hunter - William is going to see if Jim will help with shuttle on the Etowah trip.

Georgia Paddling Trails Chair: Etowah Blueway: Gina and Haynes will represent GCA - Lamar will be alternate. Arden and Sherry Olson might be interested in representing

GCA.

Miscellaneous Business: AW and Joan Hutton still looking for volunteers for Talluha Gorge releases on April 7-8. Jamie talked about GCA supporting the Southeast Pad-

dlers' race on June 2. Roger Nott talked about having a river-clean up each weekend. Vincent will talk with Bonny to organize a river clean-up in June.

The meeting was adjourned.



## Trash Talk

by Bonny Putney, GCA Trash Queen

I can't believe how hot it is so early, and how little rain we have gotten. One of the good things about a lower water level is it makes it easier to get trash. The National River Clean Up week is June 2-10, so if the water stays low and the weather stays warm, grab a boat and a bag and get busy!

We have 4 clean ups planned for that week on the Upper Chattahoochee:

Saturday June 2, Section 3, Hwy. 115 to Duncan Bridge, 5 miles;

Sunday June 3, Section 2, Hwy. 255 to Hwy. 115, 5 miles;

Saturday June 9, Section 4, Duncan Bridge to Belton Bridge, 10 miles;

Sunday June 10th, Soque River - Hwy. 105 to Duncan



Bridge, 5 miles.

We have registered this event for National River Cleanup Week.

All trips will meet at Wildwood Outfitters on Duncan Bridge Road at 10:00 a.m., shuttle included, extra boats available on first come/first served basis, please reserve. Sponsored by Wildwood Outfitters, The Dam Store, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Rivers Alive and the Soque River Watershed Association.

If you can join us, great! We hope to have a big turnout! For more information call Carl Kirkpatrick at Wildwood Outfitters, 706.865.4451

Wildwood Outfitters or Bonny Putney at The Dam Store Canoe and Kayak, 404.216.9351.

We just got done doing a big clean up on Lake Lanier. Kayaks work great - we can paddle out to boats and bring the big pieces of styrofoam back to shore. It is harder then it looks

## America's 10 Most Endangered Rivers

by Rick Bellows

American Rivers has released its annual list of America's 10 most endangered rivers. The most endangered river is the Santa Fe in New Mexico, which is endangered by existing dams. None of the rivers is in Georgia and only two are in the southeast, the Neuse in North Carolina at #8 and Lee Creek

in Arkansas and Oklahoma at #9.

The 10 river's on this year's list are, in order, the Santa Fe, San Mateo Creek in California, the Iowa in Iowa, the Upper Delaware in New York, the White Salmon in Washington, the Neches in Texas, the Kinnickinnic in Wisconsin, the Neuse, Lee Creek and the Chuitna in Alaska.

Most of the listed rivers are endangered by various forms of construction: the Santa Fe and White Salmon by existing dams, the Neches and Lee Creek by proposed dams, San Mateo Creek by a proposed toll road, the Upper Delaware by a proposed power line and the Chuitna by a proposed coal mine. Poor enforcement threatens the Iowa, toxic sediment is the problem in the Kinnickinnic and poorly planned development endangers the Neuse.

The Neuse flows from Falls Lake near Durham, NC to Pamlico Sound, just landward of Cape Hatteras. Lee Creek is a popular kayaking venue in northwest Arkansas. Removal of the Condit Dam from the White Salmon in Washington is one of American Whitewater's top stewardship priorities in 2007.

While no Georgia rivers have been on the list since 2003, Florida's Caloosahatchee was on the 2006 list, Tennessee's Roan Creek and the Santee River in South Carolina on the 2005 list and the Tennessee River on the 2004 list. The Tallapoosa River in Georgia and Alabama made the 2003 list, the Altamaha was on the 2002 list and the Tri-State (Georgia, Alabama and Florida) River Basin was listed in 2000. The Chattahoochee was on the 1998 list.



Kayakers on Lee Creek, one of the nation's 10 most endangered rivers. From the AW website: photographer unknown.



Lava Canyon, one of several beautiful panoramic shots taken on a paddle of the Grand Canyon by David Herberg of Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association (GCPBA). His pictures are online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gcpba/files/Panoramas>. 

## Runoff Requirements Weakened

by Tom Welander

House Bill 463, which amends Georgia's erosion and sedimentation law, has been passed by the House and the Senate. It's headed for the Governor's signature. The portion of the bill relaxing education requirements for workers and supervisors involved in land-disturbing activity is noteworthy.

The existing law requires that every jobsite have a supervisor trained in Best Practices actually present on-site during any land-disturbing activity. This new bill relaxes that requirement for having a trained supervisor on site.

Instead, it specifies that the supervisor and the equipment operator at the job site must have a meager two-hour "awareness seminar" rather than substantive training in Best Practices, provided a general contractor somewhere offsite has taken a class which the law calls a "fundamentals seminar." The net effect is eliminating the requirement for having qualified erosion control supervision at jobsites.

Let's work on making this law better next year. Education is much cheaper than relying on enforcement. The State of Georgia has 40 jobsite inspectors on the payroll, and that isn't enough to make enforcement work by itself. 

## Report on Georgia Statewide Water Resources Planning Meetings

by Jamie Higgins, GCA Secretary

As most of you know, I represent GCA on the Georgia Water Resources Committee Statewide Advisory Committee. I've attended a couple of meetings over the last couple of months and thought it best to highlight some of the issues I think are important to GCA members as state citizens and as paddlers.

### Consumptive Use Budgets

Perhaps the most controversial and complicated concept of the state plan is the idea of Consumptive Use Budgets or CUBs. CUB is a water supply management tool where a watershed is divided into sub-basin planning units. Upon the analysis of the water supply capacity and community needs, EPD will assign a budget for the CUB sub-basin. In theory, once the CUB sub-basin has reached its budget then the sub-basin must go somewhere else within the basin to meet its water supply consumption needs.

### Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

The state plan discusses utilizing ASR's in South Georgia. ASR's are when water (usually stormwater runoff) is transferred into an aquifer. The normally fresh water will sit on top of the more saline water in the aquifer and produces a bubble of freshwater. This freshwater bubble could then be drawn out for drinking water or other consumption during times of drought. The water would be treated before it goes into the aquifer and then treated again before it is used for drinking water.

Some smaller cities are using this process. The GWC opposes this process, citing that it could damage the fragile biochemical makeup of the aquifer. Florida is in the process of constructing ASR pilot projects and Georgia could wait to see the results of those pilot projects before making any decisions.

### Water Quality

Perhaps of greatest importance to paddlers is water quality. The state is proposing several new initiatives to *continued on following page*

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You could not step twice into the same river, for other waters are ever flowing on to you.  
Heraclitus of Ephesus

Another proposed aspect of the state plan is pollutant trading. This is similar to CUB's in that communities would be allowed a pollutant wasteload along reaches of the river. Once they have met their wasteload capacity, they could buy unused pollutant capacity along another reach of the river. Many stakeholders think that this would lead to intra-state bickering.

**Private Property Rights**

This is not really mentioned in the plan, but on more than one occasion representatives from the farming community have raised this as an issue. Most South Georgia farmers have private wells for irrigating their crops. Until recently, these wells were not regulated by EPD.

The farmers are the opinion that they own the water underneath or on their property. Julie Mayfield, lawyer for the Georgia Conservancy, pointed out during a recent meeting that the current riparian law prohibits them or anyone from owning the water. She went on to say that water is a public resource and is managed by the state for the public good.

This issue has the potential to be very controversial in the state capital. As we are seeing with the Chattahoochee Blueway proposal, as more and more pressure is placed upon our water resources, there will be more friction among various users of that resource. The state planning process may provide an opportunity to address some of these issues.

There are still a couple more meetings that I will attend. Also, EPD is planning another round of town hall meetings: I'll post those dates on the GCA listserve once they are published.

To learn more about the state water planning process, you can go to EPD's website at <http://www.gadnr.org/gswp/>. It has a wealth of information regarding the state's planning process.

manage water quality within the state.

**Fecal Coliform Testing**

The most frequent contaminate in our water ways is fecal coliform, a bacterial pathogen that can cause sickness and infections in humans. The GWC recommends that EPD adopt the EPA's criterion for fecal coliform or use the more accurate E.Coli testing methodology.

**Environmentally Sensitive Rivers/Waterways**

The new state plan adds another designation, "Environmentally Sensitive Waterway." This new designation would be just below the state's "Scenic" designation.

Right now, it is very hard to get a river designated as a scenic waterway because it prevents people from building along the designated river. Land developers, which are a very powerful lobby, would halt any such designation. A slightly lower yet still protective designation such as "environmentally sensitive" could be used to help protect our rivers and waterways. GWC supports this concept. Rivers like the Etowah, with its diverse and endangered species, might greatly benefit from this type of designation.

**Wasteload Allocation Along Watersheds**

A widely approved aspect of the plan is the concept of looking at a watershed or river basin holistically and determining the watershed's wasteload.

**Pollutant Trading**

**Whitewater Kayak Instructor Certification**

*Private Classes - 1-2 People*

No prior instruction experience necessary, but you will need river skills (including a roll). Whether you want to teach or just be a better paddler, I can help. Other private instruction available: rolling, river skills, stroke review.

**Steve Thomas**

ACA Instructor Trainer

87-88 US Canoe/Kayak Team

770.455.0476 or [wh2osteve@earthlink.net](mailto:wh2osteve@earthlink.net)

# Nantahala River

by Todd McGinnis

With the alarm clock screaming in my dream I awoke to fumble my way to the coffee and start to get some wits about me. The goal here was to have the truck loaded, feed and cloth myself and get on the road by 7:30, making my way to the NOC. There were 8 others of our group doing the same thing. Well maybe not Jack - I think he spent a night or two up there.



Arriving around 10:00 I found John Holley in the parking lot pondering something and Jack making his final preparations for his run of the Nanty. I was surprised there was a good bit of activity around the NOC for an April weekend. The store had a

good crowd of folks renting bikes, boats you name it. I walked out with a blue permit for 2007 and was ready to go.

We all met at Patton's and assembled our group of nine folks. It was a motley crew, but we could hold our own; we had some with years on the rivers and then one that was new to the river. Our Group members were GCA Cruisemaster Steve Reach, Jack Taylor, Brannen Proctor, John Holley, Garth Brown, Shari Heinz, Mark Nevergotthelastname, James Anotherlastnamemissed & Todd McGinnis. (Editor's Note: Mark Albitz and James Guyton.)

At the put in we shuffled people and gear around and then set shuttle for the day's run. Shari could be found snapping pictures here and there with a laugh in between. The group was ready to set shuttle and get on the river.

Shuttle would give us the first of a few separations for the

An advertisement for Amigos drysuit-repair.com. It features the company name in a stylized font, the website address, a phone number (1-800-483-0188), an image of a drysuit, and text: "Specializing in Gasket Replacements to keep you dry", "Ship it to us for FREE &gt;&gt;", "The Outside World is now an Amigos drop-off center", and "DANSONVILLE, GA" with a globe logo.

day. As we all headed back to the put in one of our crew was misplaced — while waiting in front of the store he feared he was left behind so he hitched a ride. Little did he know we never leave our own behind — it's just not the GCA way!

On the way to the top we dropped two off below Patton's and the rest of the group started from the top. The GCA group would pick these two up after a run of Patton's. After a clean run of Patton's, the other two joined us and it was here that Shari would start her first Nanty experience!

First noticeable change to the river since last fall was orange caution tape and a chain blocking off the eddy hopping route (aka Small World Ride) at Campground Rapids. They need a better sign here because I went to run Small World and there is now a pedestrian bridge about 6 inches above the water line. After taking the last eddy before the bridge I signaled the group to not take the route. Injuries will happen here unless they better notify people of the change in the river landscape.

At Pyramid Rock I got the first roll practice of the day and came up with a nice Nanty brain freeze. From there Ferebee would be the lunch spot.

While at Delabar's Rock several in the group took the Delabar challenge and cleanly ran the S-turn. We stopped to play at Whirlpool. Shortly after Whirlpool our first two cast-aways left to make their way down river and return their wet suits before closing hour.

Making our way we would stop and play several more times and then all of a sudden we could not find John! Was he  
*continued on following page*



Steve Reach and Todd McGinnis near Nantahala Falls. Photo by seamomeliifoot.



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above or below? We stopped and waited but he did not show so we pressed hard ahead for about 300 yards and he was not there either. Pulling off the river, two of our party grabbed a throw rope and took to the road to be sure John had not run in to some kind of trouble. He was nowhere to be found up river

so we all got back in the boats to see if John was at Surfing Rapid. Once back in the boats John came walking up the road looking for us — he was worried we had run into some kind of trouble. Turns out he was waiting for us in an eddy just a few hundred yards down river.

After surfing rapid we cast away two more of our group so they could book it down river to return a Diesel before closing time. Never did get the final verdict from James but I think he liked the Diesel. Then there were 5 of us left to finish the run.

Making our way down we took Chamber of Waves backwards, just for fun. Then we pushed our way through the dull drums and skinned a few cats along the way, all the while anxiously awaiting the speed bump in the river that would push us to our final falls to the Rivers End for dinner.

Though we cast off several members through out the day I believe there were no swims on this trip. All of us had a good run of the falls with a few rolls to end the day with some suspense and drama. See y'all next trip. ✂



Don't EVER let this man get ahold of your camera. Photo of Steve Reach by Steve Reach.

I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers.  
*Charles Kuralt, The Magic of Rivers*

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## The Death of Ashley Miller

by Rick Bellows

Ashley Miller, 24, of Asheville drowned April 22 after falling from a raft on the Cheoah River in western North Carolina. The direct cause of her death was that her shorts snagged on an underwater branch.

The Cheoah, like many other dam-impounded rivers, has seen the growth of trees and brush in the riverbed. As rivers are reopened to paddling during dam releases, the trees and brush become an additional hazard.

Perhaps the best defense against such hazards is to remove them. American Whitewater, whose efforts were instrumental in reopening the Cheoah to paddling last year, organized a volunteer brush and tree removal day on the river May 18.

Another defense is to avoid loose or baggy clothing, which can easily snag on underwater branches. For kayakers, though, even loose clothing would probably represent less of a snagging danger than the spray skirt. For a swimming kayaker in the typical position - feet downstream and head back - the rear portion of the spray skirt represents a very real snagging hazard.



A brief internet search did not turn up any articles on the danger of spray skirt snags. Surely the best option would be to roll and avoid swimming in the first place, but even a "bomb proof" roll is sometimes impossible.

If anyone has any thoughts on how the risk of snagging a spray skirt or loose clothing can best be avoided or minimized, please email them to the\_eddyline@yahoo.com so we can hopefully help to avoid any such future fatalities. ✂

## Flat Water/Smooth Water Safety Day

Gina and Haynes Johnson will have a one-day safety class for lake and smooth water paddlers on Lake Lanier on Saturday, June 9. The class will focus on rescue techniques, loading and securing boats, wet exits and re-entries and "wind, waves and weather."

The class is open to recreational kayakers, touring kayakers and canoes. A limited number of canoes may be available to borrow if needed.

The class will be at Gainesville First United Methodist Church, north of Gainesville on Highway 60 (first driveway north of the bridge). For more information, contact Gina and Haynes at haynesandgina@alltel.net or 404-512-0832. ✂

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## Upcoming Events of Interest

June 2 - Upper Chattahoochee Cleanup - Highway 115 to Duncan Bridge - Bonny Putney, 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

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

June 2 - Southeast Paddlers Charity Paddlethon, Stone Mountain Lake - <http://paddlethon.southeastpaddlers.org>.

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

June 2-3 - Neuse River Canoe & Kayak Race - New Bern, NC - 4 and 8 mile races - Dave McCracken, [info@neuseriver.org](mailto:info@neuseriver.org).

June 2-3 - 27th Annual Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Races - Fredricksburg, VA - includes ACA Middle States Whitewater Championships - Alane Reed at 540.286.2493 or [www.grwcr.org](http://www.grwcr.org).

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

June 3 - Upper Upper Chattahoochee Cleanup - Highway 255 to Highway 115 - Bonny Putney, 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

June 8 - 9th Annual Beaverdam Paddle Jam - canoe and kayak races for men, women, teens, kids - Beaverdam Reservoir Park, Gloucester, VA - Karla Havens, 804.693.2107 or 804.785.4055, [khavens@inna.net](mailto:khavens@inna.net).

June 9 - Lower Upper Chattahoochee Cleanup - Duncan Bridge to Belton Bridge - Bonny Putney, 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

June 9 - Back to the Chattahoochee Flatwater Race and Festival - more info on Page 15 or at [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).

June 9 - NC Wildlife Federation Canoe and Kayak-athon, 8:30 a.m., Riverbend Stream Station on Mountain Island Lake near Charlotte - info at 704.332.5696 or [tim@ncwf.org](mailto:tim@ncwf.org).

June 10 - Soque River Cleanup - Highway 105 to Duncan Bridge - Bonny Putney, 404.216.9351 or [bpputney@bellsouth.net](mailto:bpputney@bellsouth.net).

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

June 16 - Sound Country Celebration and Edenton Canoe/Kayak Races - Edenton, NC - [www.visitedenton.org](http://www.visitedenton.org).

June 23 - Latta Launch - Latta Plantation, Mt. Island Lake, Charlotte, NC - USCA, rec kayaks - Rick Garcia, 704.588.8221, [rigarcia222@aol.com](mailto:rigarcia222@aol.com).

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).



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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, Ohio, PA - [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net) or [watson@telpage.net](mailto: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 20-22 - ACA Open Canoe Slalom National Championships - Wausau Whitewater Park, Wausau, WI - [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org).

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).

July 28 - Dan River Race - Claudeville, VA - William McDuffie, 910.948.2609, [www.kiblervalley.zoomshire.com](http://www.kiblervalley.zoomshire.com).

August 7-12 - USCA Marathon National Championships - Allegheny River, PA - [www.uscanoe.com](http://www.uscanoe.com).

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).

August 25 - 9th Annual AW Ohio Pyle Over-the-Falls Festival and Race - Youghiogheny River, Ohio, PA - [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).

September 8-9 - Tsali Challenge Triathlon (3.5 mile lake paddle, 4.5 mile trail run, 12 mile mountain bike ride) - Tsali Recreational Area - NOC, Bryson City, NC - 800.232.7238, [www.noc.com](http://www.noc.com).

September 15 - Lumber River Challenge (10 miles for rec canoe/kayak, 40 miles for USCA C-1, C-2 and kayak) - William McDuffie, 910.948.3238, [wlrmcduffie@nctconnect.com](mailto:wlrmcduffie@nctconnect.com).

September 21-23 - AW Gauley River Festival - Summersville, WV - [www.americanwhitewater.org](http://www.americanwhitewater.org).

September 29 - Mountain Island Challenge - racing and rec kayaks only - Mountain Island Lake, Charlotte, NC - Rick Garcia, 704.588.8221, [rigarcia222@aol.com](mailto:rigarcia222@aol.com).

September 29-30 - 32nd Annual Outdoorsman Triathlon (1 mile swim, 4 mile run, 8 mile paddle) - Wesser, NC - Kirk Havens, 804.785.2107, [kirk@vims.edu](mailto:kirk@vims.edu) or Ed Sharp, 540.752.5400, [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net), [www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org](http://www.outdoorsmantriathlon.org).

October 13 - Race Around Roanoke Island - 26 mile relay race for 2-4 men, women, mixed - Manteo, NC - Kirk Havens, 804.785.2107, [kirk@vims.edu](mailto:kirk@vims.edu) or Ed Sharp, 540.752.5400, [e.sharp@att.net](mailto:e.sharp@att.net).



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## Flat Water Racing History of the Georgia Flatwater Series

by Bill Sapp (Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center, Atlanta)

Growing up in the Adirondack Mountains in Northern New York, where canoe and kayak races are held almost every weekend during the paddling season, I was surprised to find when I moved to Georgia that despite over 71,000 miles of lakes, rivers, and streams, Georgia had few flatwater races. In fact, when my initial search for races came up completely dry, I resolved to try to start a race.

I called the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and found that to my delight they had been kicking around the idea of having an event on the river themselves. Together we started planning the race.

It was not long before we had partners in our planning. The City of Roswell and the National Park Service both liked the idea and were willing to support the effort.

Eight months later, on June 7, 2003, we had the first Back to the Chattahoochee Race and Festival. Despite the pouring rain at the race start and some “technical difficulties” during the event, the race was billed a success.

In helping to organize the Back to the Chattahoochee

Race, I also learned of other existing races in Georgia — the Canoochee River Race and the Coosa River Basin Initiative Canoe-a-thon and Race. These races were organized by environmental groups with the purpose of getting people out on the water, much like the Back to the Chattahoochee Race.

Once, we had “discovered” each other, Chandra Brown of the Ogeechee-Canoochee Riverkeeper and Joe Cook of the Coosa River Basin Initiative agreed that it made sense to combine our publicity efforts and issue a joint flyer announcing the races. It also made sense to provide an incentive for racers to race in all the races.

And so, the Georgia Flatwater Point Series was born. The more races a paddler participated in, the more points they could earn towards the series title. All the races benefited by the joint promotion and the added points incentive. We awarded the first series trophies at the Back to the Chattahoochee Race in June of 2004.

The following year, 2005, we added the Suwannee River Challenge, the Hooch Crawl on the Chattahoochee, the Lula Bridge Trophy Race at Lake Lanier, and the Chattahoochee Challenge. Although all the races went well, two of the races did not survive to the following year and one pulled out of the series. The series had experienced its first growing pains.

In 2006, the Georgia Flatwater Series included the original three races plus the Lula Bridge Trophy Race. Again

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

Non-business ads are free to dues-paid GCA members. Business and non-member ads are \$5 for up to 50 words, \$10 for larger. **Ads must be received by the fifth of the month to be published in the following month's issue.** Mail ads to *The Eddy Line*, P.O. Box 441, Gainesville, GA 30503-0441 or email to [the\\_eddyline@yahoo.com](mailto:the_eddyline@yahoo.com). Please, no phone-in or hand-written ads. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested.

**For Sale:** Mohawk Viper 11, very good condition, \$400, no less. Call 770.328.8618 or email [mghouchins@yahoo.com](mailto:mghouchins@yahoo.com).

**For Sale:** Pyranha I:3 222, lime green, in perfect shape inside and out, asking \$495. Call 770.975.3112 or email [dtemplin45@comcast.net](mailto:dtemplin45@comcast.net).

**For Sale:** Dagger Transition, \$150 - Wilderness System Woodsman, \$300 - Mad River Canoe, 17', new parts, \$600 - Perception Sea Lion 17' sea kayak, \$450. Call Pat at 678.450.9901, leave message.

**Boats For Sale:** Solo whitewater canoe - Dagger Genesis; red, fully outfitted, very good condition, \$750. Kayak - Wavesport Big EZ; orange, very good condition, \$500. Call Mike Collins at 404.680.3508.

**For Sale:** Pyranha Stunt 300 kayak, good condition, \$75; Perception Horizonline 200cm paddle, \$50; Seals spray skirt, medium, new, \$40; Mt. Surf spray skirt, medium, good condition, \$25; Hydra Centur C-1, make offer. All stored inside. Call Bill at 404.388.5667, leave message, will return.

### Kayaks For Sale:

- Perception SPARC (Small Person's All River Craft), \$300; outfitted, good condition; good river running boat with classic playing capacity.

- Stohlquist River Machine, \$100; Kevlar/fiberglass, 3-meter design; very lightweight and fast.

- WaveSport EZ, \$425; blue & black; outfitted, good condition.

Contact Duncan at 678-493-7804 or [duncancotrell@yahoo.com](mailto:duncancotrell@yahoo.com).

**For Sale:** Wave Sport EZG 60, \$600 - 2005 model, blue with all outfitting. Capacity 180-240 lbs. In like new condition, only used for surf kayaking. Chuck Spornick, [libeds@yahoo.com](mailto:libeds@yahoo.com).

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the races all increased in size with the Back to the Chattahoochee attracting over 300 paddlers.

It was then that I realized that it was time to turn over the reigns to someone with more time and energy to dedicate to the running the series. Larry Castillo, a GCA member and long time C1 racer, stepped forward to accept the responsibility of helping the series grow.

Larry has also picked up the mantle of the race director of the Back to the Chattahoochee Race and thereby will be in a good position to add some consistency to series overall. Already he has done a great job in getting the word out about all the races.

Over the next few years, it is my hope that Larry and others can increase the size of the series to about ten races. It is also my hope that the series itself can attract a corporate sponsor that can provide seed money for new races and awards for the overall series. And, it is my hope that both seasoned paddlers and recreational paddlers will continue to be drawn to these races not only for the spirit of competition, but also to enjoy the wonderful waters we have in Georgia.

The reason I went to the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper with the idea of putting on the first race was that I knew that if the UCR organized the race, it would have an environmental protection aspect to it. And sure enough it does. At the end of the race there is a festival about protection of the river. Many of the other races have such elements. I

hope that future races will be able to support environmental festivals as well.



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## Chattahoochee Race and Festival

The 5th Annual Chattahoochee Race and Festival will take place on Saturday, June 9. The event is sponsored by the City of Roswell, Fulton County, the National Park Service and Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper.

The race will start at 9:00 a.m. and will run from Garrard Landing Park on Holcomb Bridge Road to Riverside Park in Roswell, where the festival, music and awards ceremony will be held. The race is the fifth and last event in the Georgia Flatwater Series and awards will be presented for the series as well as for that day's race.

The festival will run from 10:00 to 2:00 at Riverside Park and will feature great food, bluegrass music and environmental exhibits. The exhibits will include an opportunity to learn fly fishing, environmental arts and crafts tables and live animals at the Chattahoochee Nature Center's wildlife display.

The 2007 event will include a boat and gear swap which will take place concurrently with the festival. Information about the gear swap is available from Bubba Sloan at High County Outfitters, 404.504.9472. More information about the race and festival is available on the UCR website at, [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).





## GCA DEALS FOR MAY

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### Late-Breaking Announcement

Dawsonville, GA – The Outside World

Starting on Monday June 4th the Outside World will again be holding kayak football games at Thompson Creek Access. The park on Lake Lanier is located approximately one mile from the Outside World. No experience is needed and you can even borrow equipment for free if you wish. New this year we will also be holding kayak fishing get togethers at the same time. So whether you want to fish, play kayak football of just paddle around with fellow boaters please join us. With any luck we will have some kayak reps bring by some new models. It's also a great time to work on your roll and enjoy the company of others. Call 1-866-375-BOAT for more information.