



Post Office Box 7023
Atlanta, Georgia 30357

THE EDDY LINE

Special Points of Interest:

- *Paddle Georgia*—page 11
- *Sweep the Hooch*—page 19

SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA

by Cheryl and Rich Beverly

Save the Dates : May 4-6

Come join us for three awesome days of paddling, camping, and barbeque at Smokey Mountain Meadows. Tent and Rv sites are available as well as a few cabins. Reservations to SMM are not needed except for the cabins. Contact info:

Freda Livingston, Owner
Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground
755 East Alarka Rd
Bryson City NC 28713
919-488-3672
smokymtnmeadows.com

We'll have paddling trips scheduled for all three days. **Trip Coordinators are needed - so please volunteer!!** We'd like to have all skill levels represented.

There will be a group barbeque on Saturday evening. Please bring one side dish to share and whatever type of meat you'd like to grill for yourself. **Volunteers are needed for grills, charcoal and firewood.**

So that the club and coordinators know how many to expect, **please rsvp to cherylbrannon40@yahoo.com**

Thanks and hope to see everyone there!

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THIS ISSUE

by Mark Holmberg
Eddy Line Editor

This issue of the Eddy Line is full of information about upcoming paddling trips of all kinds. There are flat-water paddling and camping trips, a family paddle weekend in the western North Carolina area, whitewater trips, river cleanups, the GCA quarterly meeting at Garden Hills, and, of course, the GCA Spring Extravaganza—all scheduled during the coming months.

Spring will be upon us soon. Make plans to get out and enjoy your favorite river, stream, or lake.

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MLK WEEKEND, 2012

by Lamar Phillips

Back around the first, second, or perhaps the third of October, Buddy and I were discussing excuses that we had not used that we might give our brides to explain why we had spent another day on our duff rather than make some long neglected repairs around our castles. I'm sure Buddy was the one that said, "Why don't we get a trip together down to sunny and warm Florida for MLK weekend," January 13 through 16.

Although this sounded wonderful, I told Buddy that we should stay home and celebrate the holidays with our wives. Even at Buddies' advanced age, his selective memory is very good and he reminded me that Maggie had told him several years back how much she appreciated him "getting Lamar out of the house for a few days so I can relax without his supervision." This made sense so I decided that I would give her a break and our trip planning began.

We decided that the weather would be great down in the Pan Handle and we made reservations at Blackwater State Park where we have stayed several times. We posted it and almost at once started getting calls from others wanting to enjoy some warm, sunny weather.

A few days before we were to leave, we had thirty-two folks sign up for the trip so we decided that we had to split the group up and paddle two different rivers each day. Two of the rivers were on Eglin AFB and requires a permit to paddle the streams. (Originally, I thought we would not have over fifteen paddlers so I had to order more passes.) We obtained passes for Titi Creek and Turkey Creek for both Friday and Saturday. Both are rated as A or A+ for scenery by "Canoeing & Kayaking Florida." By the way, Liz Carter a long time GCA member was one of the authors.

Turkey Creek is about an eight mile paddle that begins in a pine forest, flows through a hardwood swamp and finally through a saltwater bayou to the take out. On the upper section the water is very clear with a white sandy bottom and a very good current. The creek is narrow with many tight turns and paddlers need to be alert and keep separated. After a few miles you reach the swampy section and from there to the bayou, the current is rather lazy.

On Friday Liz Carter and Buddy took a group including Butch Horn, Rebecca and Chris Walling, Marie Short, Tommy and Connie Hollis, Debby Ray, Jean Brown, Tammy Goolsby, Mike Goolsby, Ralph Bartow, Carolyn and Bruce Cook and the most important member of the group, Dickie Tillman who acted as our emergency rescue squad, paddled Turkey Creek. There were a number of spills due to the current pushing paddlers into under brush in the tight turns. We may have a problem getting Dickie to go on any more trips with us because we had some problems a couple years back on this river and Dickie ended up being the Good Samaritan. We highly recommend anyone planning a trip to take Dickie along! He comes in handy.

Titi Creek also is on Eglin AFB and it too is very clear and shallow. It also has a speedy current and is very woody. It flows through a tupelo and cypress swamp with closely spaced trees. Several other streams flow into Titi. You best not relax too much or you'll find yourself broached against a tree or stump and in the water. After the swamp, the creek flows into Shoal River, a blackwater steam, a couple of miles before the take out.

Jim Nuetzel led our group consisting of Mary and Matt Carroll along with Matt's mom, Brenda Carroll, a new paddler. Brenda had a few close calls but she stayed up right and gained so much confidence that she went through one rather swift twisty hazard backwards! Other paddlers were Dick Polmatier, Richard Salenfriend, Poni Shannon, Chad Chandler, Angeline Young, Elise and



Dan MacIntyre, Emily Strickland, and Jane Cason. Fortunately we all made it through in the upright position.

We had several paddlers that were not accustomed to the tight turns and current on Titi and Turkey Creeks, so some of us decided to stick with wider streams with not as much current. Saturday we split up again and some paddled Titi and Turkey while others paddled Blackwater River. From the name, it tells you it is a black water stream with beautiful large white sandbars as well as some steep clay banks. It's about an eight-mile paddle and the take out is right at the park. Everyone had a really great paddle.

By the way, going south to find warm weather doesn't always work! Friday night was down to a brisk twenty-five degrees but the days were really nice and sunny and great paddling weather. It warmed up to a more comfortable mid-thirties Saturday and everyone was ready for another paddle Sunday.

We paddled Juniper-Sweetwater Creek Sunday and again split up into two groups with some paddlers putting on the water about two and a half miles above the rest of us. This is another beautiful, clear creek with many sand bars and a current of one or one and a half mph so we did not have to work very hard and the lazy break on the sand bars under the warm Florida sun was wonderful.

It was a fantastic weekend and we had several folks that had not been on a trip in the Pan Handle before. All agreed that it was well worth braving the cold weather and want another trip down there. Even the ones who took a swim said they wanted to go back down, although one of them said they would most likely just hang around the campfire so the paddlers would have a warm fire when they returned.

THREE RIVERS PADDLE

April 20-22nd

Towns Bluff Park, Hazlehurst, GA

Join The Georgia Conservancy on a paddle and camping trip highlighting Middle Georgia's beautiful waterways.

Featuring sections of the Ocmulgee, Oconee, and Altamaha Rivers. The trip will begin on April 20st in Hazlehurst, as we meet at Towns Bluff Park to camp for the night. The morning of the 21st, we will be shuttled upriver to Lumber City, where we will begin our paddle on the Ocmulgee with experienced guides to lead the way. That night, we will again camp at Towns Bluff Park in Hazlehurst.

The following day (April 22nd) is Earth Day, and will feature a 9 mile paddle and river cleanup to Grey's Landing, in partnership with Rivers Alive.

The Georgia Conservancy has reserved all of Towns Bluff Park for camping the nights of the 20th and 21st, but space is limited so be sure to register early to guarantee your spot.

The Three Rivers Paddle is one of a four "Heartland rivers of Georgia" series of camping, paddling and stewardship trips in south and central Georgia to bring to light conservation efforts, economic development and recreation opportunities on the Flint, Ocmulgee, Oconee and Altamaha Rivers.

Largely unknown to the Georgia outdoor enthusiast - Flint, Ocmulgee, Oconee and Altamaha Rivers - are a treasure trove of unparalleled natural beauty and recreation opportunity just a short drive from home.

Tickets

\$30 for paddling only (no camping)

\$95 for camping (no boat)



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FAMILY FRINDLY 3-DAY PADDLE & CAMPOUT—ALTAMAHA RIVER TO COAST, MARCH 23-25, 2012

by Marie Short



The Altamaha River is a little known paradise for paddling, bird watching & camping. Photographers, artists, & nature-lovers enjoy the abundance of this pristine waterway. As we explore we will blaze a trail of new awareness thru firsthand experience. Join us as GCA heads to the coast of GA for our March 2012 campout and paddle trip. March 23, 24 & 25, 2012. We will be heading to Darien, GA, to explore the Altamaha River and it's tributaries, the fishing village of Darien, and those that stay, can explore the coastal islands, too.

We are working with the GA Conservancy, (<http://www.georgiaconservancy.org>), Altamaha Riverkeeper (<http://www.altamahariverkeeper.org>), and Danny at Altamaha Coastal Tours (<http://www.altamaha.com>) to make sure we have a fantastic time and explore all of the best, local spots. We will be base camping on the banks of the Altamaha River. RV and tent sites with bathhouses and riverside sites available.

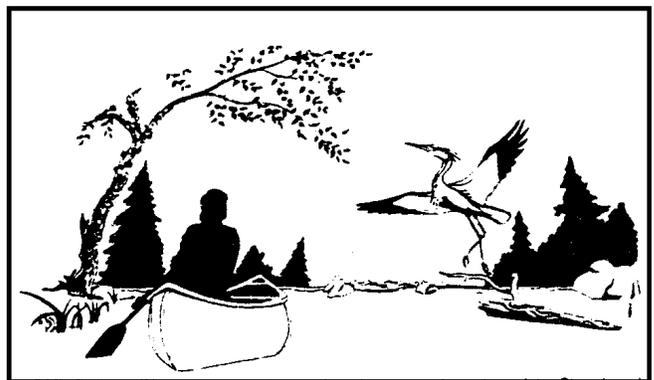
Friday, March 23, 2012 - For those who arrive early on Friday, March 23, a trip will be available that afternoon on Cathead Creek. Cathead Creek drains part of Buffalo Swamp and was used by rice growers during the 18th and 19th centuries. The abandoned rice fields and irrigation canals are now overgrown with freshwater vegetation and teem with wildlife. There are miles of

waterways and canoe trails. Canoes and kayaks are appropriate.

Saturday, March 24, 2012 - Altamaha River - Approx. 10 miles - Canoes and Kayaks. On this day we will put-in at Williamsburg Landing (Upper Sansavilla) on the lower Altamaha, Georgia's mightiest river. The first leg will take us through bottomland hardwoods and cypress swamps. We will pass Lower Sansavilla Bluff and Ft. Barrington, where we'll explore the Tupelo forest of Barrington Lake. We will stop at a sandbar adjacent to a bluff, with a beautiful view of the river, for lunch. We will proceed down river to Altamaha Regional Park, our take-out, with an optional side trip up one of the many sloughs along the way.

We will have a group dinner and presentation on Saturday night. We will probably go to a local restaurant overlooking the river. However, we are also considering a group cookout. Firm plans to follow.

Sunday, March 25, 2012 - Altamaha Delta - Approx. 6 miles - Kayak appropriate. On this day we will start at Darien's historic waterfront past the picturesque shrimp fleet. We will head south across the delta through General's Cut, dug in 1808 to shorten the water route to St. Simons Island. We will take Butler River past Rhett's Island to the main part of the Altamaha River. From there we will cross over to Wood's Cut along Broughton Island to view an eagle's nest and stretch our legs on a sandbar before our journey back. This trip will require paddling with and, at times, against the tide. There will be opportunities to cut the trip short for some who might not be able to continue. If conditions are good canoes would be appropriate for this trip.





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Thinking of Owning Mountain/River Property Near NOC?

Well Built 2/1 Located within 5 Minutes to NOC and all it has to offer: Brew Pub, Play Hole, River's End Restaurant with Great Views from Deck & Porch on a Private 3.6 acre tract.
New Kitchen, Plumbing, Hardwood Floors, Tankless Water Heater, & More.
Affordably priced, won't last long.
Call Peggy Jennings at 828-269-4406 or email at peggy@4smokys.com listed on www.4smokys.com and Trulia.com 828-269-4406

If you don't have the appropriate boat, Altamaha Coastal Tours will provide kayaks, \$20 a day, tandems \$40 a day, and canoes \$30 a day. First come first serve, call for reservations. Shuttle service is also available, rates will vary. Trips subject to change.

Annual GA Canoeing Association (GCA) membership is the price of this trip (\$35.00). Go to www.gapaddle.com to join.

If you plan to attend, please email me (Marie S.) at mail4marieshort@bellsouth.net or call 404-202-9546 and leave a message.

YOU are financially responsible for your camping reservations, providing your own equipment, meals, and transportation to Darien, GA. Reservations can be made after 1/1/12.

For more information, watch episode 1904 at <http://www.gpb.org/georgia-outdoors>.



Keeping In Touch

To contact GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357 .

Groupmail: GCA maintains a group email list to help members share information of general interest. To sign up, send an e-mail to gcalist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Website: Information about GCA, forms (including membership application and GCA waiver form), a link to the GCA Store and links to *Eddy Line* advertisers are all at <http://www.gapaddle.com>.



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OCMULGEE BLUEWAY

Macon Telegraph, Feb. 06, 2012

Blueway effort for Ocmulgee River moves ahead, by S. Heather Duncan

Backers of an Ocmulgee “river trail” for paddlers and other outdoor enthusiasts are creating a nonprofit called the Ocmulgee Blueway Partnership to spearhead the effort. The goal is to identify existing resources such as boat ramps and riverfront trails and mark them and create marketing brochures by the end of the year, said Charlotte Gillis, a landscape architect for the National Park Service.

Eventually, communities along the river might decide to pursue creating additional boat ramps, camp sites or greenways to further improve river access, Gillis said.

Gillis is helping with the project because it is one of seven in Georgia receiving a kick-start this year from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. The award, which provides assistance, not funding, was announced last month.

The blueway project began several years ago, growing out of Hawkinsville’s effort to revitalize its Mile Branch Landing and Riverfront Park. The city is creating a greenway to connect the park’s boat ramp with another a mile and a half away, said Karen Bailey, director of Hawkinsville Better Hometown.

The boating trail concept was initially focused on 54 miles of the Ocmulgee River that border Pulaski, Houston, Twiggs and Bleckley counties.

Pulaski County recently chipped in \$1,000 to help form the blueway nonprofit, and Houston County has announced its intention to do the same, Bailey said. She expressed hope that Bleckley and Twiggs counties would follow suit.

In addition to creating a nonprofit to coordinate and market the effort, this second phase will more formally define the trail, develop a website and raise money, Bailey said. Signs showing your location on the river, the name of the park, and other information would be placed at boat landings. That step has already been taken in Pulaski and Bleckley counties, she said.

Phase 2 of the project also broadens the scope to about 200 miles from Macon to Lumber City, where the Ocmulgee combines with the Oconee to form the Altamaha River.

Increasing access

The blueway is using the Altamaha River Partnership, which has more than a decade of experience, as a model.

Gillis is putting together a report this year that will also identify portions of the river where more public access is needed and where local governments might want to plan negotiations with private landowners to achieve that during the next five years.

These elements will piggyback on an existing feasibility study being conducted by four regional commissions to determine whether an interconnected recreation system can be created for the Ocmulgee and Oconee rivers, Gillis said.

That study encompasses not only with river trails but also other trail systems and parks from Lake Jackson and Athens to Lumber city, said Kristi Harpst, historic preservation planner for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission. It will identify opportunities, impediments and funding possibilities, with preliminary findings likely to be presented at a public meeting in May, she said.

Tie-ins with boat launches at Spring Street and Water Works Park in Macon will be key links in the blueway plan, Gillis said.

Also in the Macon area, Gillis said she has been speaking with officials at Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, which has long planned to add a canoe launch, about speeding up that process.

She said she is also collaborating with leaders at the Ocmulgee National Monument to discuss how to provide better access onto the river from the park, which is home to Macon’s ancient Indian mounds. The park offers a trail to a sandy bank of the Ocmulgee, but it is far from vehicle access.

The blueway could extend Hawkinsville’s current efforts to capitalize on its riverfront for economic development and tourism, Bailey said. A historic cotton mill is being renovated into apartments, a farmers market is being



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developed, Mile Branch park has been upgraded, and the Hawkinsville Rotary Club is extending the town's riverwalk another half a mile north of the Uchee Shoals Landing in the city, she said.

Economic impacts

Unlike Hawkinsville, many other local communities involved don't have downtown riverfront.

But they do have hotel rooms, restaurants and grocery stores that could benefit from the visitors, and some residents say the expanded recreation opportunities will be great for locals, too.

"As this (blueway) grows, we anticipate all the usual places that spring up around these things: restaurants, coffee shops, outfitters," Gillis said.

"It's a very small financial investment on (the local community's) end for good value added, as the community and public support the blueway and start expanding activities on the river, like river festivals and races."

Walton and Becky Wood of Perry, who enjoy fishing and taking wildlife photos on the Altamaha River, attended the last blueway meeting a few weeks ago. They say they hope to see the united effort improve the quality of Knowles Landing at Ga. 96 in Houston County, as well as landings all along the river.

"Eventually, I hope this will make the river navigable from Macon to Lumber City," said Walton Wood. He predicted it would take a lot of work and money to deal with the uprooted trees and sand bars that block travel opportunities when the river is low.

Blueways are a relatively new concept, so few regional studies have been done to show their economic impact, Gillis said. But the paddling trails have been found to boost tourism and investment along river corridors.

A 2007 study in Virginia found that travelers to the state's blueways spent \$18.7 billion, resulting in tax revenues of \$2.4 billion and \$4.3 billion in salaries and payroll to those employed in related jobs. The Virginia study found that recreation visitors generally stayed longer than the average visitor and spent 37 percent more.

After a combined greenway and blueway effort on the Congaree River in Columbia, S.C., a canoe and kayak outfitter reported in 2009 that it received 1,314 new visits from Georgians alone.

Columbus is banking on similar results as it spends more than \$20 million to remove two defunct dams on the Chattahoochee so a whitewater rafting course can be developed within the city.

The next Ocmulgee River Blueway meeting will be held in Hawkinsville Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. in the county annex auditorium, Bailey said.

For more information, call Karen Bailey at (478) 783-9294.

To contact writer S. Heather Duncan, call 744-4225





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GCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

by Francheska Thompson
GCA Secretary

January 5, 2012

Attendees:

Chuck Armentrout
Cheryl Beverly
Rich Beverly
Shane Calvert
Jay Davis
Sam Galloway
William Gatling
Allen Hedden
Dan MacIntyre
Todd McGinnis
Vincent Payne
Lamar Phillips
Francheska Thompson
Rick Thompson
Adam Turner
Mike Winchester

GCA Executive Committee January Meeting
Call to order 6:56 p.m. by William Gatling, President.

Meeting Minutes

- Secretary: Francheska
 - Francheska stated that she had passed out the December meeting minutes.
 - Allen Hedden noted that the Executive Meeting title needed to be corrected, as the December meeting was a Board Meeting.
 - Dan MacIntyre made the motion to accept the minutes with the noted revisions, and Todd McGinnis seconded the motion.
- Treasurer: Ed Shultz
 - Ed provided the November and December statements for review with 2010 and 2011 side by side.
 - Raffle total was \$849.00 with half being allotted to the general fund, and the other half being allotted to the river access fund.
 - Todd indicated that he had a total of \$859.00, a discrepancy of \$10.00.
- Mike noted that he appreciated seeing statements with the previous year.
- William made the motion to accept the statements as submitted, and Mike Winchester seconded.
- Recreation Chair: Cheryl and Rich Beverly
 - Cheryl reported that the Christmas Party had gone well.
 - William and others congratulated Cheryl and Rich for their hard work.
 - William provided Cheryl with May 5th as a viable date for the Spring Gala so as not to conflict with Boater Chick Festival.
 - Mike inquired if a date had been selected for the Fall Gala. William and Cheryl replied that a date had not been set.
- Roll Practice
 - West Cobb Roll Practice
 - Adam Turner reported that Stingray Pool representative sent a contract and proposal to the Amberton Neighborhood HOA. The HOA is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 11th to review the contract and proposal.
 - The earliest date for the first roll practice could be Friday, January 20th.
 - Cost will be \$45 per hour. Two hour duration per session.
 - A contract will need to be signed, but there is a one month trial period.
 - Dan and William will review the contract prior to William signing it.
 - Adam will try to obtain a copy of the contract rough draft.
 - Grant Park Roll Practice
 - No update.
- Training Chair: Mike Winchester
 - Mike noted that he was putting together a calendar so as to avoid conflicts with major paddling events.
 - Mike indicated that instruction rates were raised last year, and that he wanted to discuss the idea of being more competitive with other clubs.



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- Vincent inquired about the capacity of the clinics last year, and Mike responded that some were full, but others only had a couple students.
 - William noted that the goals for the instruction classes were to be a benefit to the club and to be profitable.
 - William also suggested that the fee structure needs to be revised and simplified on the website.
 - It was agreed to that the instruction rates would remain as is.
- Resource Development: Jay Davis
 - William reported that he had been putting Jay Davis' trip reports on the website.
- River Protection
 - William noted that Haynes would be willing to assist anyone who would want to take over the position.
 - Todd inquired as to the duties of the position.
 - Adam mentioned that he might be interested in the position.
 - Vincent added that River Protection could be divided into two parts: Access and Environmental.
 - It would be beneficial for the chair to inform the membership about meetings so members could attend and lobby for river protection.
- Legal: Dan MacIntyre
 - Dan indicated that he had renewed the club with the Secretary of State, and turned over the renewed charter to Ed along with a receipt for the renewal fee.
 - Dan noted he had been following the email chain of the Altamaha River on the list serve, and that GCA's role in the partnership with the Georgia Conservancy needed to be clarified.
 - Dan reported that the meet up group Georgia Outdoor Steward associated with the Georgia Conservancy, has a membership discount on their website.
 - Dan noted that an initial 20% membership discount for the first year would be very beneficial to the club.
- William stated that there is a discount option on the website, but that it would need to be activated.
 - William suggested that the link should be disabled from their website until we have the discount active on our website.
 - Dan agreed to discuss the issue with Marie.
 - William motioned to work out the mechanics on how to offer a 20% discount on the first year membership for those who joined through the meet up group, and Lamar seconded the motion.
- Tech
 - William indicated that Mighty Membership had been installed, and that members would notice a slight difference the first time they would login, but that it would go back to normal afterwards.
- Old Business
 - Races
 - Todd noted that he wanted to set up a meeting to review the local races.
 - The committee will meet after the Executive Committee meeting.
- Dan called to adjourn the meeting.
- Next board meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 pm – duration 1 hour 20 minutes.





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OKLAHOMA CITY TO HOST US OLYMPIC FLATWATER SPRINT APRIL 20-21

OKLAHOMA CITY - February 11, 2012 USA Canoe/Kayak has announced that the Oklahoma River will be the site for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials for Flatwater Sprint, April 20-21. Two-time Olympian, Carrie Johnson (San Diego, Calif.) and 2011 Pan Am Games Bronze Medalist, Ryan Dolan (Kailua, Hawaii) can each earn a berth to the Olympic Games in London with victories in the Women's Singles Kayak 500-meter event and the Men's Single Kayak 200-meter event, respectively. USA Canoe/Kayak will also hold its National Team Trials for the 2012 ICF World Cup and ICF Para Canoe World Championships during the event. The sport of Para Canoe has been recently selected to debut at the 2016 Paralympics.

"The Oklahoma River is an ideal location for us to host these events as we select our top athletes for 2012 and identify talent as we look toward 2016," said USA Canoe/Kayak Executive Director Joe Jacobi. "We're also excited to offer metro area youth the opportunity to actually kayak with some of these top athletes in the nation as part of the event."

On Saturday, OKC RIVERSPORT will host a free *Paddle Now!* youth event for kids ages 8 to 16. Youth will have the opportunity to get into a sprint kayak with a top U.S. athlete and go for a short paddle on the Oklahoma River.

"It's truly a once in a lifetime opportunity," Jacobi said. "I know a lot of moms and dads will be wishing they had the chance to experience the sport like this. The real beauty is that the kids don't have to have any previous kayaking experience to do it. The athletes will make sure they have a great time."

The competition and *Paddle Now!* youth event will be free and open to the public.

New Starting System

During the 200m event, the first of three state-of-the-art starting systems to be funded via MAPS 3 will be unveiled. These starting gates will be identical to the ones used at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. The pneumatic gates hold the boats in place and then drop with the starter's gun, ensuring a fair start and a higher standard of racing. The gates are manufactured in Hungary and will be another key benefit to the

Oklahoma River venue making it the only place in the country where athletes can train with the system they will encounter in international competition.

Oklahoma City Athletes

Several of the athletes competing in the Olympic Trials currently train in Oklahoma City including Maggie Hogan (San Diego, Calif.), Kaitlyn McElroy and Jen Burke. Other athletes expected to challenge Johnson and Dolan for Olympic positions include Ariel Farrar-Wellman (Bethesda, Md.), Tim Hornsby (Atlanta, Ga.) and Morgan House (Gainesville, Ga.) among others.

"As home to the OKC National High Performance Center for both rowing and canoe/kayak, it will be exciting for us to watch the athletes who live and train in OKC race here to qualify for Team USA," said OKC Boathouse Foundation Executive Director Mike Knopp. "Over the past two years, these athletes have really become a part of Oklahoma City, so we want to give everyone the chance to come down to the river and cheer them on as they race for a shot at their Olympic dreams."

This is the second time the Oklahoma River has hosted the Sprint Olympic Trials. In 2008, U.S. Olympic Trials for Flatwater Sprint were held in Oklahoma City, as were the 2008 and 2010 USA Canoe/Kayak Sprint National Championships. USA Canoe/Kayak announced the relocation of its headquarters to Oklahoma City in December 2011.

About USA Canoe/Kayak

USA Canoe/Kayak is a non-profit membership organization based in Oklahoma City, OK, promoting canoe and kayak racing in the United States. A member of the United States Olympic Committee, USA Canoe/Kayak is the national governing body for the Olympic sports of Flatwater Sprint and Whitewater Slalom and the official U.S. federation of the International Canoe Federation. Other paddling sports sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak include Marathon, Freestyle, Wildwater, Stand Up Paddleboard, Canoe Polo, Canoe Sailing, Outrigger, and Dragon Boat. For more information about USA Canoe/Kayak, please visit us on the web at www.usack.org, on Twitter at @usacanoekayak and Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/USACanoeKayak.



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PADDLE GEORGIA REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Ohoopsee and Altamaha Rivers from Reidsville to Darien June 16-22, 2012

Paddle Lite - June 16 and 17 only, registration by lottery, Register Now!

Get ready for a Coastal Plain Paddlin' Party! Paddle Georgia 2012 features the quintessential tour of South Georgia--a **108-mile journey** on the Ohoopsee and Altamaha Rivers. The blackwater Ohoopsee near Reidsville will enchant you with its tupelo and cypress-lined banks and snow-white sandbars and the Altamaha will inspire you with its sweeping vistas and abundant wildlife. With any luck, you'll even see a dolphin in the tidal waters surrounding Darien.

Along the way, you'll paddle through the Big Hammock, Griffin Ridge and Sansavilla wildlife management areas along with the Altamaha State Waterfowl Management Area, and you'll encounter aptly named river features like Alligator Congress, Old Hell Bight and Bug Suck Lake. A journey for the faint of heart it is not!

Off river, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about these rivers and the region through water monitoring opportunities, tours of area attractions and nightly activities at campsites that include entertainment, games and programs highlighting the river's cultural and natural heritage. An educational adventure for the whole family, Paddle Georgia will show you Georgia as you've never seen it before.

Register NOW! Don't delay; make your plans today. In 2011, spaces for thru-paddlers sold out in less than six weeks

PG 2012 Itinerary on the Ohoopsee and Altamaha Rivers

Day 1, June 16:Blackwater Bossa-Nova - U.S. 280 to Ga.147 12 miles

Day 2, June 17:Ohoopsee Hula - Ga. 147 to Big Hammock WMA 13 miles

Day 3, June 18:Big Hammock Hustle-Big Hammock to Upper Wayne Co. landing 14 miles

Day 4, June 19:Jaunt to Jessup Upper Wayne Co. to Jaycee's Landing 17 miles

Day 5, June 20:Almost Paradise - Jaycees to Paradise

Park 22 miles

Day 6, June 21:Penholloway Polka - Paradise Park to Altamaha River Campground 15 miles

Day 7, June 22:Marsh Mambo - Altamaha River Campground to Darien 15 miles

Paddle Georgia features:

Daily paddle trips averaging 15 miles

Nightly camping with meals, games, entertainment and educational programs

Tours of industrial facilities, historic sites and more Scientific research including chemical and biological water monitoring

Companionship and camaraderie with hundreds of fellow paddlers

Fundraiser for Georgia River Network and Altamaha Riverkeeper

108 Miles, 7 Days, 1 Great Time!

You can go to Joe Cook's blog at <http://garivernetwork.wordpress.com/> and learn about his scouting trips for the 2012 adventure.

Register at http://www.garivers.org/paddle_georgia/pgregister.html

Participation is limited to first 300 thru-paddlers for thru paddling.

Paddle Lite on June 16-17, 2012 Due to overwhelming demand, spaces for Paddle Georgia Lite (June 16-17) will be awarded through a lottery system. If you wish to participate in Paddle Georgia Lite, please fill out the form by April 7. Winners of the lottery will be announced by April 15. You will complete the registration process if your party is chosen to participate. The number of lottery spaces awarded will depend on the number of thru-paddler registrations received by April 15.

Canoeathon Participate in canoeathon and create your own canoeathon webpage now! Visit http://www.garivers.org/paddle_georgia/pgcanoeathon.html

to get started setting up your online fundraising page through Firstgiving.

Sponsors - Georgia Power, Hennessey Land Rover, Patagonia, Johnson Outdoors, Mohawk Carpet Foundation, The Outside World, Cedar Creek RV & Outdoor Center,

Stream Techs, Coca-Cola Refreshments, China Clay Producers Association



THE EDDY LINE

CANOING, MY EXPERIENCE

by David Mell

Part I

For you seasoned veterans, this tale may be trivial. As for me (a river first timer), it was a true adventure. The beginning of this new canoe quest was in 1962 when I attended Westminster summer camp in Conyers GA. A location that was, in that area, a day's travel from the young and growing City of Atlanta. Now-a-days, it is only 45 minutes away from most of us in the metro area.

This camp had a two acre lake/pond, a small dock and two aluminum canoes. I had never been around water much except for the creek that ran through my backyard. I spent most of my time at this creek during the summer. I used to practice my engineering skills by dredging up sand with my Tonka toy dump truck and trying to build a dam so the creek would achieve a depth of more than ankle deep. My experience with water, deeper than I was tall, was not in my resume. As a summer camp first timer, I learned that when you are signing up for your daily activities, in order to qualify to slide across what this seven year old considered an ample sized lake in one of those shiny aluminum canoes, one had to first pass a swimming test. I had never seen a canoe before coming to camp that summer, and certainly had no opportunity to learn to swim. However, those silver crafts had caught my ambition by the tail and I didn't want to shake'em loose. The writing was on the wall! I had to learn to swim! The next day when I was choosing my activities for the day, swimming lessons were at the top of the list. Try as I did, the two weeks of wailing away in the camp pool was only barely enough to achieve keeping this skinny seven year old above water, much less pass THE TEST of swimming the entire length of the pool without touching the bottom or the side. Nevertheless, as I left my swimming lessons each day, I would walk away from the pool on a path past the lake and long to paddle the cherished crafts across the smooth surface of the lake.

That summer I departed camp without reaching my goal of becoming the greatest canoeist of all time and with a spawned dose of determination to achieve my heart's desire the first chance I was allowed. Well, that chance came the first day of camp 1963. I had two weeks in front of me and a single goal. It's day one, my activity – swimming, my goal - THE TEST. Making sure that the lifeguard was watching to witness the occurrence of the anxiously anticipated swimming test, with a deep breath, into the water I went, arms flailing & legs kicking. A seeming eternity lapsed while this eight year old slowly and inefficiently splashed his way across the swimming pool. Finally, with a gasp of air, my hand reached the wall of the far side of the pool. I had finished the test. The security of the solid wall; the achievement of a year-long goal. The triumph of knowing I was now qualified to swim in the deep end of the pool, including jumping off the diving board. NOW, I could sign up for canoe lessons, the crown jewel of my desires. That is exactly what I did the next day.

Canoe lessons were great once we got past the annoying safety instructions and life preserver fitting. Hay, everybody knows all eight year old boys are six foot tall and bullet proof in their own eyes. For some reason, the "J" stroke sticks out in my memory the most. That stroke got practiced and practiced every day for the remainder of that camping session. There was a seed planted that day from which has budded a love of canoeing. The only exposure or outlet in my life for the next seven years was that lake in Conyers where I went to camp once or, if I was lucky, twice a summer.

By age fourteen I had learned every nook and cranny of that lake. When the opportunity arose to expand my canoeing experience to the Chattahoochee for an overnight camping trip, I jumped on it! I don't remember the logistics, since at fourteen I was not involved in the planning of trips, but I have learned to appreciate those who make plans and take responsibility for any kind of trip. I do remember the calm one can only experience on the flat water and the gentle whoosh of the paddle or gurgle of the water as you travel between the banks becoming one with the river. I remember the



THE EDDY LINE

exhilaration of the faster pace white water. The roar in my ears, the spray of splashing water, the spray on my face and the coolness of the air as it evaporates the moisture off my cheeks. I remember learning respect for the power of nature as the water traveled quickly through the shoals. I watched as a friend's canoe rolled over while they unsuccessfully navigated a rapid losing their Coleman stove in the process. Another friend had built a canoe from canvas, wood and epoxy. The same shoals that claimed the Coleman stove also ripped an opening in the canvas of the cloth-covered boat. I don't know if it was planning or destiny that picked just that spot to camp for the night but as it turned out, that spot was a fine place to dry out my buddies and repair the canvas craft. Thus was my experience with canoeing in my early days.

In 1969 I turned fifteen, automobiles became the focus of my life and canoeing was left to collect dust until recently. Stay tuned till next time...

TRIP REPORTS

by Roger Nott

Lower Toccoa, Sunday, October 13, 2011,

Can the Lower Toccoa really be run at 114 cfs (.71)? I was not worried for myself, since my flat-bottomed, 16-foot Buffalo, paddled solo, draws less than an inch. However, I feared the five kayakers behind me; Joanne Farrell, Kelli Harbac, Elizabeth Pinion, and Jeremy and Samantha Thompson; would be bouncing off rocks and getting stuck a lot.

It didn't happen. We often had to paddle circuitous routes through the rapids, extending the usual seven miles from Toccoa Valley Campground to the Narrows below Party Rock to eight or nine miles. But we all got through well and enjoyed the challenge of dodging the rocks.

We had a mild, but mostly overcast day. Though we missed the predicted sunny skies, the lack of glare allowed us all the better to see clearly the peak fall colors and into the Toccoa's crystal-clear water, where we spotted numerous schools of big trout. On the river we saw no other boaters but quite a few wading anglers between Sandy Bottoms and Shallowford Bridge, where the delayed harvest is held November 1 to May 14. We gave them wide berth, and all were courteous and friendly.

We had a wonderful trip. I'd forgotten my wallet, but Joanne rescued me, loaning me money for a delicious dinner at the nearby Toccoa Riverside Restaurant, where we sat overlooking this beautiful river and enjoyed trout again.

I was very sad to learn that this wonderful eatery burned to the ground the morning of February 13, 2012. Hopefully owner Tim Richter, who lives across the

(Continued on page 14)

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(Continued from page 13)

road from the restaurant, can rebuild.

Chattooga Section IV, Saturday, October 12, 2011,

We enjoyed a sunny day in the low 60's and a wonderful trip. Due to low water, 1.03 on the USGS gauge and .7 on the old bridge pier, we put in about 300 yards upstream of Woodall Shoals, whose main drop we all successfully ran. Due to the low water almost everyone portaged Crack and bumped through Shoulderbone with difficulty. Elsewhere we found plenty of water, though tight maneuvering was often demanded.

On the official GCA trip were Christine Blumberg, Will Bridges, Lisa Haskell, Jay Manalo, Todd McGinnis and Mark Mullinax in kayaks and open boaters Kevin McInturff, Gabriella Schlidt, and I. We also mostly paddled and lunched at Long Creek Falls with several other Georgia friends, including Tom Beisel, Steve Brock, Alp Engin Can, Terry Irrgang, Mary Mills and Robbie Short. Lisa, Todd and Mark were running below Woodall for the first time and did very well.

We paddled leisurely to savor one of the world's great rivers. Most of us topped off an outstanding day paddling and fellowship by feasting together by the fire at Manrique's Mexican Store in Clayton.

GCA Chattooga River Clean-ups, by Roger Nott

We had a hard-working crew for GCA's June 25, 2011, clean-up of our adopted section of the Chattooga, Thrift's Ferry to Hwy. 76. They were: Chris Andrews, Priscilla Dixey, Matt Carroll, Jim Gerwer, Brian Herbert and Betty Rose in kayaks; Fred Stokes in a C-1; Sam & Chuck Wilburn in an inflatable C-2; and Kevin McInturff and I in OC-1's.

Our clean-up was co-sponsored by American Rivers as

part of their National River Clean-up Program. They provide snacks, T-shirts, trash bags and bumper stickers, and the GCA furnishes liquid refreshment.

We were greeted at Hwy. 76 by new USFS Chattooga River Ranger Plinio Beres, who thanked GCA for annually cleaning the river since the Forest Service began their Adopt the Chattooga program in 1990.

Surprisingly we found the river quite muddy, making it hard to locate underwater trash. The rhododendron were in glorious bloom, but their fallen white petals along banks made bits of trash harder to spot. Nevertheless we collected several bags full of such items as footwear, clothes, fishing lures, full cans of beer, food containers, and Styrofoam from the river banks and mostly cigarette butts and bits of paper and plastic from the parking lots.

After exciting runs of the Bull and leaving our booty at Hwy. 76, we rewarded ourselves with a leisurely, purposely myopic paddle to Woodall. We had 1.60 on the Hwy. 76 USGS gauge when we passed it, a fun level for playing. After a great trip on this most beautiful river, fine weather, great comradeship, and welcomed refreshment at the take-out, many of us met for dinner at Rabbittown Café (I-985 Exit 24, east side). It serves tasty, economical Southern cooking which would make *Deliverance* caterer and former GCA member Louise Dillard Caldron proud.

The GCA has sponsored clean-ups on Georgia rivers every year since 1980 and encourages active paddlers to join at least one river clean-up each year. Why not coordinate a clean-up on one of your favorite rivers? Just go to GCA's website, <http://www.gapaddle.com/>, log in, and go to the trip Coordinators' page to register your trip. To learn of more planned clean-ups, contact "Trash Queen" Bonny Putney (404-216-9351) or go to <http://www.NationalRiverCleanup.org> for information and support from American Rivers.



THE EDDY LINE

AWC TELLICO RIVER CLEANUP

by Amanda McDaniel—from AWC Web site

We invite local paddlers to help us cleanup one of the classic southeastern whitewater rivers--please don't take this gem for granted! The Tellico River rises in the westernmost mountains of North Carolina , but it flows mainly through Monroe County , Tennessee . It is a major tributary of the Little Tennessee River . It is home to great scenery, great whitewater, and good drops.

The Tellico River and its main tributaries are renowned for their brook, brown, and rainbow trout fishing. Upstream from Tellico Lake , above Tellico Plains , Tennessee , the Tellico is a premier trout stream. It meanders through a mountain gorge before reaching the broad plains downstream of Tellico Plains.

With the heavy use comes a good amount of litter and trash along the river. Each spring the AWC organizes a cleanup trip to take care of the river. Members are encouraged to participate, and of course we welcome non-members to join us!

This is a roadside river cleanup only, but after the cleanup traditionally paddlers take to the river. Dependent on river and skill levels Kayakers and canoeist can paddle their own boats on the many sections available on the Tellico River . If you're not comfortable on the Tellico yet or want to bring non-boating friends then sign up for a hiking spot. Afterwards, everyone is encouraged to gather for Dinner at a location decided after the river and hike adventures.

If you are willing to lead a hike in the area, please let Hilary Huff know.

Camping is available for anyone who would like to stay at the McNabb Creek Group Camping off of North River Road . Also, Mountain View Cabin (www.tellicologcabins.com) has offered discounts on cabin rentals for the cleanup. These cabins are located right on the Tellico River , and have a wide variety of options. Contact Tony at [423-253-6218](tel:423-253-6218). Be sure to mention the Tellico River Cleanup and you are with the Atlanta Whitewater Club!

The AWC will be providing lunch. This will be on a first come first serve basis.

For the cleanup bring a pair of work gloves because the Forestry Service will have a limited supply. Trash bags will be provided.

AWC Tellico River Cleanup March 10th, 2012 Agenda

Registration: Tellico Ranger Station 250 Ranger Station Road Tellico Plains , TN 37385 [\(423\) 253-2520](tel:423-253-2520) 8 – 10:00 am

Cleanup River: Tellico River 8 – 11:30 am

Lunch:

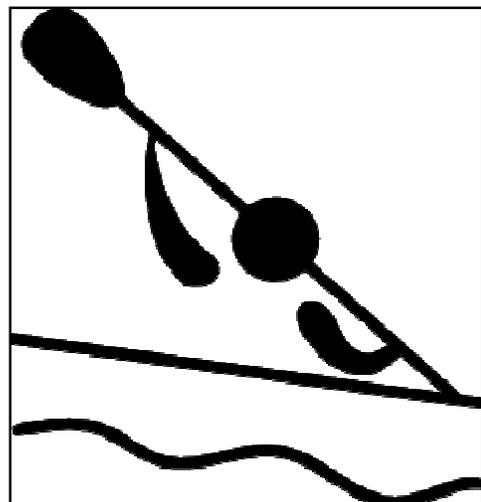
Provided by AWC Baby Falls or Picnic Area above Put-in 11:45-12:30 pm

Paddle river, hike, or be a spectator Meet at Lunch Location and split into groups: 30 – 6:00 pm

Evening option TBD 6:00 pm - until

Let us know if you'll be in a kayak, canoe, or if you'd like to hike. Come on out and let's give back to the river that's been so important to us as a club!!!

Questions? Contact Hilary Huff at hhuff2@student.gsu.edu





TRIP SCHEDULE

03/07	GCA Social Meeting @ Garden Hills Rec Center 7PM (Jeff West Presentation)	Everyone	Lamar Phillips	404-229-2939
03/10	South Sauty	Advanced	Dane White	256-435-3827
03/15	Chattahoochee ~ Metro Section	Beginner	TBA	
03/22	Chattahoochee ~ Metro Section	Beginner	TBA	
3/23-3/25	Family Friendly Paddle and Campout ~ Darien, GA Conservancy Explorer (\$\$\$)	Everyone	Marie Short	404-202-9546
03/29	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
03/31	Broad River	Trained Beginner	TBA	
04/01	Spring Meeting (Metro Chattahoochee Paddle)	Everyone	William Gatling	770-529-7103
04/05	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
04/07	Nolichucky	Intermediate	Robert Weddle	540-320-3268
04/08	Nolichucky	Intermediate	Robert Weddle	540-320-3268
04/12	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
04/13- 4/15	Suwannee River Paddle Camping	Beginner	Lamar Phillips	404-229-2939
04/14	Toccoa River	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
04/14	Ocmulgee River	Trained Beginner	Jimmy Jones	478-747-8610
04/19	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	

Check the calendar on the GCA website at <http://www.gapaddle.com> for additional trips, social events, safety classes, etc.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — Call Cruisemaster Shirley Tharp at 706-814-0207!

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 ripples; new paddlers can learn basic river techniques.

Trained Beginner - moving water with Class 1-2 rapids; basic strokes and bracing skills needed.

Intermediate - rapids up to Class 3; eddying and ferrying skills needed; kayakers need solid roll.

Advanced - rapids up to Class 4; excellent boat control and self-rescue skills required.

For more about "class" ratings of rapids, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitewater>.

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 Vincent Payne at 770.834.8263.

To Volunteer To Lead Trips: Call Cruisemaster William Gatling at 770.529.7103. 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: see gapaddle.com for information



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04/20	Family Friendly Paddle & Campout- Ocmulgee,Oconee, Altamaha Confluence	Everyone	Marie Short	404-202-9546
04/21	Ocoee 1st timer trip	Advanced	Mike Winchester	404-877-8433
04/21	Toccoa River	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
04/26	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
05/03	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
05/04- 5/06	Spring Extravaganza ~ Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground	Everyone	Cheryl Beverly	cherylbrannon40@yahoo.com
05/10	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
05/12	Nantahala 1st timer trip	Intermediate	Mike Winchester	404-877-8433
05/17	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	
05/19	Broad River	Trained Beginner	Stephen McKinnon	850-567-0395
05/19	Tuckaseegee River	Trained Beginner	Todd McGinnis	770-856-4489
05/26	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Brannen Proctor	770-664-7384
05/27	Hiwassee	Trained Beginner	Jack Taylor	770-998-0350
05/26- 5/28	Memorial Day Weekend Co-Club Family Paddle ~ Smoky Mountain Meadows	Everyone	Shirley Tharp	gca_trip@yahoo.com
05/31	Metro Chattahoochee	Beginner	TBA	

KEEP YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS CURRENT

Each month numerous "copies" of the pdf version of *The Eddy Line* bounce back due to bad or outdated email addresses. If email to you bounces back, you will be deleted from the recipient list until we get an updated email address.

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 listserv software. If your email changes, please "unsubscribe" and re-subscribe with your new address.

Thank you.

All About The Eddy Line

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Ed Schultz at 404.266.3734 or heloeddy@mindspring.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 7023, Atlanta, GA 30357.

Submissions/Advertising: All submissions and advertising should be sent to *The Eddy Line*, at: the_eddyline@yahoo.com.

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 15th of the previous month (e.g. August 15 for the September/October issue).



THE EDDY LINE

FAMILIES PADDLE TOO

Memorial Weekend Paddle

Atlanta Whitewater Club, Carolina Canoe Club, Foothills Paddling Club, and Georgia Canoeing Association invite Southeastern paddling families to a Memorial Weekend co-club family paddle. This event is for paddling families who belong to sponsoring clubs and involve their children and teens in this wonderful sport of ours.

The more the merrier! We know that paddlers have more fun and stay more involved with their sport when they paddle in groups. Kids are no different: kids like to paddle with other kids. Families Paddle Too! Memorial Weekend Paddle is to help kids develop more friendships as the 2012 paddling season begins.

When: May 26-28, 2012

Where: Events to take place in the Nantahala Gorge area

Camping location: Smoky Mountain Meadows, 755 East Alarka Road Bryson City (828) 488-3672, (Call Freda for reservations after May 1st. (\$20/night for two, \$10 for each additional person over 7 years of age)

Schedule includes:

Saturday/Sun: Organized/tiered group paddles on the Tuckasegee and Nantahala rivers

Saturday eve: 5-7:00pm Endless River Adventures "Meet and Greet"

6-7:00pm "Paddling With Kids" A round table discussion led by Juliet Jacobsen Kastorff, ERA

Sunday eve: Around the campfire talent show and skits

Monday: Family Rescue Workshop with ERA (Time TBD)
Slalom work with advanced kids (Time TBD)

To help us plan better, please contact GCA Cruisemaster Shirley Tharp at sand7644@gmail.com or CCC Cruise Chair, Joan Monnig at jtcmonnig@gmail.com and let us know of your family's participation. If we know the approximate numbers and ages of paddling family members, we can tailor the event and activities.

GCA QUARTERLY MEETING

GCA's quarterly meeting is March the 7th from 7pm to 9pm at the Garden Hills Rec Center. It will be an exciting meeting with Jeff West presenting to us about River Safety and Skills. With more rain on the way and the promise of warmer weather we will find ourselves not only on familiar rivers but also new challenging ones. We thought Jeff's presentation would be a great way to kick off the Spring Paddling Season. He does a good job outlining the things we do well in preparing for the river as well as those things we may not, but should. You will leave the evening anxious to get on the river while actively thinking about how you can be a safer and better prepared paddler.

If you have been looking for one of Jeff's "Ocoee Guidebooks" he will have them for sale at the meeting. If you are lucky you may win one of his guidebooks at the meeting.

Come out and enjoy an evening of paddling stories, hot dogs, and a presentation by one of paddling's best.

Please remember to RSVP for the event and to bring your own beverage!

RSVP by emailing imarphillips@comcast.net or by phone 404.229.2939.

Location: Garden Hills Recreation Center
335 Pine Tree Dir. NE
Atlanta, GA 30305

Time: March 7, 2012 7:00PM to 9:00 PM

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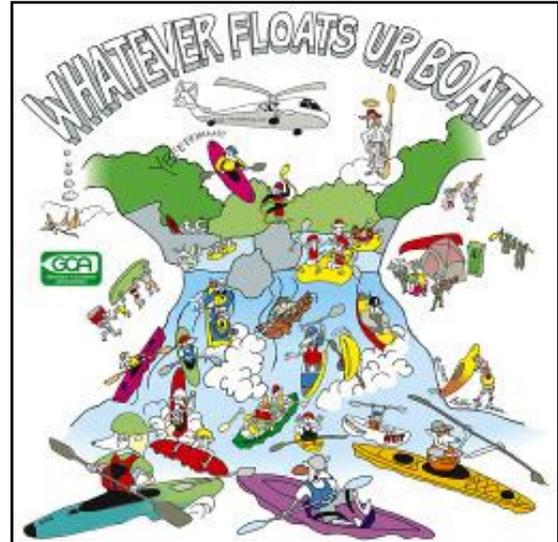
SWEEP THE HOOCH

by Bonny Putney

Sweep the Hooch Set for April 14, 2012
(9:00 a.m.- 1 p.m.)

One day, 18 sites and TONS OF TRASH!

Volunteer and be part of one of the biggest river clean-ups in Georgia. Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Trout Unlimited and the National Park Service will again be joining forces on April 14th to clean up the river within the 48 mile Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Walker, Wader and Paddler Volunteers are needed! All sites have a capacity so register early. All registered participants will receive a "Sweep the Hooch" T-shirt! It is easy to register, just go to <http://www.ucriverkeeper.org/sweep-the-hooch.php>. You will also find links through Atlanta Area Paddlers, Rivers Alive and on the GCA website!

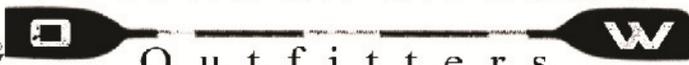


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Atlanta, Georgia 30357

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
www.gapaddle.com

The purpose of the GCA is to have fun and promote safety while paddling.

GCA is a member-operated paddling club with over 800 family and corporate memberships comprising more than 2000 Individuals. Canoeists and Kayakers of all ages and paddling abilities are equally welcome. Some of our mutual interests include whitewater river running, creeking and playboating, river and lake touring, sea kayaking, paddle camp outs and competition and racing activities. We espouse conservation, environmental and river access issues as well as boating safety and skills development. Group paddling, training and social activities of all kinds are conducted throughout the year thanks to the volunteer efforts of our many members and friends. Membership is NOT limited to Georgia residents.