GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187

THE EDDY LINE

VOLUME 51, NO. 5 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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2016-2017 GCA Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee has nominated, and the Board of Directors has approved, the following slate of officers for the 2016-2017 term:

President	Jay Davis (Incumbent)
Vice President	Jenny Taylor (Incumbent)
Secretary	Mike Thompson (Incumbent)
Treasurer	Vincent Payne (Incumbent)

The election of officers will be held at the Fall Membership Meeting and Paddle on Sunday, October 16, 2016, time to be announced, at the Metro Hooch put-in at Power's Island (NOC Outpost). Other nominations can be made at the meeting. All nominees must agree to being nominated and to serving if elected.

Pizza will be served after the short business meeting and election, so please RSVP to the official announcement on the GCA web site, Facebook page and email list so we can order enough pizza for the crowd size.

See you there!! - *EL*

Thank you

I wanted to express a huge thank you to everyone who donated to the GoFundMe account that Jenny Taylor set up to help my daughter and myself. There were several anonymous donations, so I hope that all that gave will be able to read this. Without this we would be going through a very hard time financially. With college starting up last month and the sudden and unexpected loss of my wife our lives were turned upside down. My friends and family stepped up to give us emotional support. They helped out with various things that I didn't even know I needed help with. The paddling community has been amazing in the love and support my family have received. You were all there for me, and still are. I had so many people reach out to me in so many ways that I was overwhelmed in a great way. If the rest of the world acted like our community, it would be a better place. As my daughter and I travel down this tough path we are thankful that we are not alone.
Thank you,
Jimmy Jones

Paddling with Pickle

Story and photos by Mike Tipton

About 5 years ago, at the tender age of 5, my daughter got her first kayak. I had been paddling 3 years in whitewater at that point and was ready to introduce her to the sport. I was hoping to introduce her to something we could do together into my old age. I got her a boat and we started out with the local river shoals. Fast forward those five years and now at age 10 she's prepping to run Nanty Falls in late August. How did we get here?

First and foremost, it was important that she wanted to paddle. She had been watching my GoPro videos and she wanted to paddle with Daddy. I took her out in a canoe a couple of times and we played in the local shoals just swimming around in "not pool water." Any time we went, it ended with, "When can we go again?" I knew she'd was ready to try, so I got the smallest boat out there.

She was so small that the Fun1 by Jackson was my only option. If your kid is a little older, there are lots of boats out there. Fun1.5, Sidekick, Remix 47, Fuse 35, Axiom 6.9 are a few and there's lots more. However don't think you have to start (or end) with a whitewater boat. There's small kid's sit-on-tops at lots of local retailers. Learning strokes and boat control is the most important thing at the beginning and it really doesn't matter what boat they're in. It's more important that they're having fun, and feel safe. Seat time is what they need the most.

We started out with a bicycle helmet and a Dora life jacket and kept things really simple. We absolutely did not use a spray skirt. I kept a rope tied to the stern of her boat and would walk behind her in a shallow shoal, calling out her strokes. If she got into trouble, I would just pull the rope and stop her. I let her have a few scares along the way, but kept it generally easy for her. The first couple of years were the flattest of moving water I could find. Luckily, I live close to the Etowah just above Allatoona, so I have plenty available. We spent that time just trying to keep the boat pointed in the general direction we wanted to go. We didn't really try to do anything special, just have fun going downstream in pretty flat water. When I coached her, it was more about avoidance than anything. My goal was to keep her safe. I made sure she knew strainers were bad news so she would stay away from them.

When she was seven, we moved to very light rapids on a downstream section of the Cartecay in Ellijay (DNR to Woody's Hwy 52 shop). Even though it was a fairly calm section, she'd still get nervous in the shoals. By the next year though, she was leading others down them.

The following winter, I started taking her to roll practice in a heated pool and we started working on wet exit with a skirt. I picked up a Snapdragon skirt. Snapdragon makes skirts with REALLY small tunnels, without having to custom order. I got it with a deck size one up for her boat so it would be easier for her to pull off. Let me stress, your kid should feel comfortable getting out of the boat before letting them go downstream with a skirt. While we were in the pool, we did countless hip snaps. I would flip her and then roll her back up (Hand of God). Then I had her get out of the boat while it was upside down. By the end of winter, I would toss in a couple "surprise rolls" so she had to practice getting out with no warning, like the river likes to do. A proper helmet showed up too. I found a small full face helmet and then lined it with an extra foam layer. It fit perfect. Don't let your kid use a skirt without a helmet. I've had jaw surgery. No one wants jaw surgery.

At age eight we decided to have a go at the Middle Cartecay. The river was 2 feet that day in early June. About halfway down, she caught an eddy line and it quickly put her in the drink. She popped her skirt fine and even swam to shore though moving water. It scared her some, and the next little bit was difficult, but she eventually calmed down. We portaged some of the rapids, but decided to run Whirlpool. which I completely understood. (continued, page 3)

Whirlpool in the duo

Paddling with Pickle, continued

She flipped again in the wave train. She popped out great and we got her collected. She told me she didn't want to run Blackberry Falls after that, which I completely understood.

Two weeks later was Father's Day and we were going to paddle that easier section of Cartecay again. Fifty feet into the run, she was scream crying terrified of flipping over. Even though she had been running this section for 2 years, I had to hold her through any bumpy water. That was certainly a lesson learned. I couldn't just listen to her, and slower was better than pushing with her progress. After this, we spent the rest of the year in a Jackson Dynamic Duo so she didn't have to worry about flipping.

Age nine started out in the Duo some more. She still was unsure about being in her own boat except in the flattest of water. During the summer, she got a lesson from Michael Taylor at Endless River Adventures. She attended a kid's weekend with ERA as well. They worked on their roll and boat control, with a little downstream time as well. We spent the rest of summer practicing on Amicalola doing a mile stretch of the river (short and sweet). By late summer, she started feeling better about things and wanted to try Cartecay again. We went with a lower level of 1.7 and took it easy down the river. We made it a point to get out and swim a couple of the rapids to remind her that they were OK. She had a great time and was finally feeling good in the river again. We decided to step up a bit and take the duo to the Nanty. We got 2 runs in before it got too cold for her. We had picked up a used splashtop at some point, and that made a big difference on the Nanty. Find a kid ~3 years older than yours and buy all their stuff as they outgrow it. Be ready for cold kids on the Nanty, even if it is warm outside. Pack some hot chocolate in your boat to help little ones warm up. Solid food is good for them too, just not a pile of sugar.

This past Winter, she found her roll during pool practice. She followed up during Spring Break with a hand roll. Suddenly, it was on. With the help of the splashtop, Spring season on the Cartecay started early for her. We were in the duo in mid March and trying to do everything we could on the river. We were catching every eddy and surfing everything. It was craziness I tell you! We even got a run in on Chattooga 3.5. Her head was underwater when we ran Bull Sluice. By the time it was warm enough for her to paddle solo, the Cartecay was running 2.25. She was totally ready and had a perfect run. She only walked the entrance to one rapid. A Spring ERA lesson ended on the Nanty running about ⅓ of the run. Kid's camp with ERA soon followed and after that she turned it up to running almost the entire run, with a few sneaks, and skipping the falls. She asked to run the falls the last time we were there, but that memory kicked in. I knew she was tired and told her she had to wait for another day.

For the last couple of years, we've attended Families Paddle Too on the Tuckaseegee for Memorial Day weekend. It gives her the chance to paddle with other kids and pretty much ignore the parents. It's cool to watch them play together not realizing that rock is behind them, and watch them recover from it like they meant to do it.

She's a little monster now. She expects every weekend to include a paddle trip somewhere, and her preference is the Nanty. I've been in Bryson City more this year than any year before. With kids, the old adage, "Enjoy the Journey" is all too important. We adults want to master the river, and our technique. Your kid just wants to have fun. If that means a half run and extra swimming, so be it. As your kid's skill improves, so will the hunger to get it right, to try new moves, smaller eddies, and bigger waves.

So remember, it's about having fun and being safe, not hucking the gnar. Your kid will take time to learn, and won't try as hard as you did at first. They'll have birthday parties to attend, get sick, and get hurt while not kayaking, which will ruin your paddle plans more times than you have fingers and toes. Make adventures of your trips. Make an extra stop to check out Bigfoot, do a zip line, whatever sounds fun to your kid. Stay the night by the river instead of hustling home to something less important than your kid. Take it slow and easy. An extra 3 months warming up to a rapid or a move beats going too early and watching them regress for 12 months or more. Make sure they are having fun, not "yes", but "YEAH DADDY!"

- EL

Nanty Falls

Tallulah Gorge Whitewater Releases Call for Volunteers!

Tallulah releases will be here before we know it! GCA weekend is November 12 and 13. Team River Runner weekend is November 5 and 6. Eddy Line Editor, Tammy Lea, will be coordinating volunteers for both weekends.

Shifts are either 8am-noon or 11am-4pm each release day. There are positions available at registration, the bridge, the put-in and the take out. No paddling experience is necessary for registration, the bridge or the take out. You must have paddling experience to work the put-in, due to the requirements of the position.

Volunteers get drinks, snacks, and the privilege of going down to the put-in during the release. The stairs on the south rim of the gorge are closed to all but boaters and volunteers.

If you are planning to paddle Tallulah, why not volunteer for the morning shift at the put-in? You can carry your boat down the stairs at 8am when your shift starts, then hop on the river at noon when your shift is over. Volunteer and build river Karma, as well as join the dozens of volunteers who make it possible for these releases to happen.

To volunteer, please email Tammy Lea at: EddyLineEditor@gmail.com. Please put "Tallulah Volunteer" in the subject line, and in the email indicate your desired shift(s) and position(s). *-EL*

One of our amazing volunteers cleaning up the put-in. Photo courtesy of Courtney Marbry and Geoff Page

My New Boat By Dillon Brant

My name is Dillon Brant and I'm 12 years old. On August 13, after picking up my new Liquid Logic Remix 47 at ERA, I also met this really rad dog who belonged to the store. He was black and white and has a red Frisbee. He was also really smart because when you threw a Frisbee for him, he wouldn't let go of it until you put your hand on it.

I went to the Tuckaseegee River with my dad, mom, and five other boaters for my PFD. It was raining when we arrived at the put-in, but it stopped pretty quick. We started off down the river. I portaged Dillsboro drop because I was not allowed to run it. I could have run it though.

I worked with Miss Tammy and my dad on ferrying, catching eddies, edging and peeling out. Which was a lot of fun. I missed my line on Moonshot, and ended up swimming. I made it to Miss Tammy's boat and hung on to the front while everyone else helped gather my stuff. Even though I swam, it was still fun.

Afterwards, I continued down the river and ran the rest of the features and did not swim anymore. I am going back on September 3rd to practice some more and this time I'm going to run Dillsboro drop and work on combat rolls. I can't wait! - *EL*

Photo courtesy of Daniel Brant

Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River
A Trip Report by Jim Tebbel

Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River - trip report
http://www.russellfork.info/upper_lower.htm
October 2013

This section is the Upper Russell Fork, from Finagan Dam to Garden Hole. This is the easier section of Russell Fork, above the class V Gorge section that starts at Garden Hole.

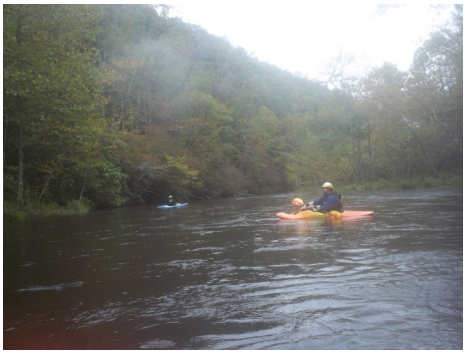
We met early Friday and loaded the Clampett-mobile, Lisa Haskell, Joanne Farrell, and myself. About a 8 hour drive with stops. Arrived early enough to set camp, get some firewood and have a campsite dinner before dark. We camped at Breaks Interstate Park, where we connected with David Luinstra from TN, who would be showing us down. I don't remember the actual campsite # at Breaks, but we were a bit too close to a noisy trash compactor down the hill that ran all night, making it difficult to sleep for me. Next time, I'll ask for a site away from the compactor.

Saturday we put in below Flanagan Dam on the Pound River and set off. Because of the federal government shutdown, the park was closed and we had to carry or drag our boats at least ½ mile. The Pound River has some nice surf waves before the confluence with Russell Fork, including All Day Wave. At Splashdam we ran the 2nd span. Railroad was fun, and I had a pretty clean run to 20 Stitches besides my usual new river jitters.

We scouted 20 Stitches from river right. Its a long rapid with lots of features and rocks to avoid and a large hole at the bottom at river right with some dynamic diagonals/curlers. I made my way thru the rocks but couldn't see the hole until I was right on top of it. I flipped and got flushed out of the hole, rolled up on the 3rd try. The rest of the rapids were uneventful. The last rapid before the takeout David described as Death Canyon, and I followed him through a creeky little line he described

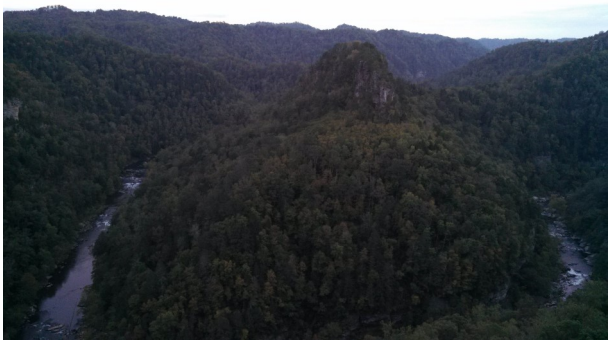
We repeated the same run on Sunday and I got a little more comfortable. 20 Stitches got me again and I missed a few roll attempts. David was able to get to me for a bow rescue, and I was able to hold onto my paddle so once I was up, I squared up just in time for the last drop. Gotta love a timely mid-rapid bow rescue!

The dirt road down to the Garden Hole takeout was extreme. Very steep, narrow, windy, lots of holes to bounce around. Most of the roads into the area are quite windy.



The closest towns in the area are Haysi, VA - population 491, and Elkhorn, KY - pop 970, and this is the most remote area I've experienced. There is a coal mine near Elkhorn that I would guess is the largest employer. Elkhorn has a restaurant and we went there for dinner Sat night. Russell Fork is part of the Big Sandy River, which eventually flows into the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

We saw the beginning of some fall colors on the return trip. We tried to stop for dinner in the college town of Mars Hill NC, only to find the sidewalks rolled up and everything closed but a gas station.-*EL*



Photos courtesy of Jim Tebbel

First Annual
Yellow River Trash Bash!
September 17, 2016 9 am to 1 pm

Land, shoreline, and river clean up

Celebration bash post-event at Yellow River Park

Inaugural T-Shirts to the first 100 volunteers

Register via Eventbrite:

http://www.eventbrite.com/e/yellow-river-trash-bash-tickets-27201948761

Meeting area at the Yellow River Park Pavilion (additional site locations TBD)

3232 Juhan Rd SW, Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Appropriate attire for participants: hat, long pants and closed toe shoes

Optionally bring: refillable water bottle, trash picker-upper

Kayak / canoe participants require pre-clearance: contact Gwinnett@YellowRiverWaterTrail.org

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DEKALB COUNTY GEORGIA 1822

Perspectives of a Newbie Kayaker
By Kathryn Brown

Somehow, the idea of a whitewater kayak gang has flourished among my friends and I. I would say half of us are all-in, the other half are moving forward sort of in a toe-in-the-water-thinking-about-jumping-in way. I fall into the later camp. Until recently my kayaking experience has been limited to a few trips down various Georgia rivers. These trips required zero skills except a good attitude if you got caught in the rain. Also my cousin is a sea kayak instructor, and I have joined her on tours of marshes surrounding Folly Beach in South Carolina. It's all been relatively simple and relaxing.

In July my friends and I took a six-hour whitewater kayaking course from Ace Kayaking School. As is often the case with new hobbies, I soon came to a newfound respect for those kayakers who can safely traverse down rivers with rapids of any size. That initial lesson was a good reminder that until you experience something, it's never really a good idea to judge how complicated it truly is.

Two days after my class, I found myself in possession of a well-worn, yellow kayak strapped to the roof of my car. I had just put my roof rack on, and my instructor from Ace had emailed me the next day saying she knew of a used kayak for sale that was the size and brand of one I considered buying. I figured it was kismet or whatever and hopped in my car after work to go buy it. I drove home filled with a combination of excitement and trepidation – feelings that often accompany my impulsive decisions. I am slowly collecting the remaining gear that I need, and as I'm coming to experience, I'm very slowly collecting the skills and vocabulary of this new found hobby to safely paddle down a river.

With the few trips I've taken down rivers, I'm finding that paddlers are all very helpful people and that joining larger, organized group trips is great for learning and testing out new skills as well as maximizing opportunities for T-rescues. As such, the kayak gang and I (we're still coming up with a name) happily joined a group from the Georgia Canoeing Association to go down the Tuckasegee River. The group as a whole was a good mix of old timers, a few experienced kids who made me long for my youthful athleticism and fearlessness, and the four of us newbies. This was also my maiden voyage on my new kayak.

The Tuck ended up being a great river to practice and gain new skills. Tammy Lea, our fearless trip coordinator, made sure that we all had a chance to practice ferrying, catching eddies, peel outs, and even how to drain our boats without breaking our backs. I had the opportunity to surf while someone held my boat in place, and my kayaker vocabulary increased immensely with the addition of various new words like "boofing." The four of us were all so grateful to have gone down the river with our fellow experienced kayakers. We all made some good progress after that trip and have since been practicing and practicing and practicing these new skills with high hopes of one day not being such newbies.—*EL*

Patrik Bruce, a member of Kathyrn's kayaking gang, learns to surf on the Tuckaseegee, assisted by Dean Shepherd.
Photo courtesy of Richard Legg

Bellyaking the Tuckaseegee
by William Blakely

Photos by Tammy Lea and Barry Kennon

My name is William Blakely and I'm 17. I have cerebral palsy and have to use a wheelchair. I like to try new things and I especially like to try things that might get me hurt. My mom says I am "Badass".

I first paddled a regular kayak in February of 2014 and it was hard for me because of the spasticity in my legs and the metal plates in my hips. Then, in March of 2014, I demoed a Bellyak at Team River Runner roll practice. My mom saw how much I liked the Bellyak and got me one for Christmas in 2014.

It feels good to be able to get out of my wheelchair and onto my Bellyak and paddle on the river. I'm normally in my chair during the day, so it feels good to be on the river, because I get to be out of my chair for a few hours of fun on the river. I've taken the Bellyak down three rivers in the last year. The first river I paddled on the Bellyak was the Cartecay river on the 4th of July in 2015 with Gre Garrard and Dan Brady. The second river was a month after the Cartecay. I paddled the Metro Hooch with Mark Mullinax and Rick Thompson.

This past spring, Bellyak had a contest I wrote a blog post about why I like Bellyak. I won the contest and received a free lesson on the Tuckaseegee River from Bellyak Founder Adam Masters and Instructor Ambassador Trainer Jamie MacLeod . I was excited about the lesson and I loved it. I learned how to steer and turn. It was fun to run the rapids, and I paddled most of the river by myself. I flipped the Bellyak over once, at the beginning of the run. It leaned a second time, but I recovered and continued to paddle down the river. I finished off the trip with a fruit punch and a Gatorade and I also got a free hat.

A few weeks ago, I paddled the Tuckasegee River again. This time, I paddled with mom, my brother John, Greg, his wife Kelly, and a few people from GCA. This was the first time my mom, my brother and I have paddled together, so it was a big deal to my mom. Paddling with my mom and brother was a good thing, cause we rarely do that. It's normally either mom and I on the river, or mom and my brother on the river. I love to paddle my Bellyak, but I enjoy it better when my mom and I get to paddle the river together. Going through the rapids and surfing the waves with Greg was fun. I wasn't nervous, because I ran the Tuck with Adam and Jamie before the GCA trip. The high water day with Adam and Jamie was better than the low water day with Greg. The low water was harder than the higher water because there were a lot more rocks and I ended up flipping over a few times and hitting a rock with my knee and another one with my stomach. Neither one felt good. At the end of the trip, Mom took us to Manrique's and I ate a lot of food.

Going on a paddling trip has some challenges because there are a lot of things I need help with when we get to the river, like getting my gear on, and getting to the water. I get carried on the Bellyak like it's a stretcher. And the people who work at Smoky Mountain River Adventures are really nice and they lift me on and off the shuttle bus, and help carry me to and from the river. My mom appreciates all of the help they give her so I can get on the river. - *EL*

Inaugural Tallulah Race
By Laura Dillon

Tallulah Gorge will host its first ever Kayak Race on Sunday November 13, 2016. This is a trial event and will be limited to 30 pre-qualified boaters.

Boaters will need to submit the application form along with $5 for ACA Event Insurance by October 25th . The 30 boaters will be qualified by their Russell Fork and Green race history.

Safety boaters and racers will be staged at the Put In and Bridge prior to the water stabilizing, This will enable the race to begin once the Green Light is given by Georgia Power. The race route will begin at the Put-In and finish just below PowerHouse. Racers will start at 60 second intervals.

Boaters not participating in the race will have access to the stairs as soon as the Water stabilizes as per usual. Presentation of awards and videos from the day will take place at the Put In Parking lot at 5pm. Shuttle will be provided to Racers and Safety boaters to minimize the effect on parking at the take out.

If you have any questions please email them to TallulahRace@gmail.com—*EL*

ALL ABOUT THE EDDY LINE

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in print or pdf format. To subscribe, contact Vincent Payne at 404.629.5376 or Vincent.payne9354@gmail.com, or mail your request to P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

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

Deadline: The deadline for all submissions, classified ads and commercial ads is the 20th of the previous month (e.g. August 20 for the September/October issue).

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper has paddle trips and paddle cleanups through the year. If anyone is interested in safety boating for some of these trips - message Tammy Bates at tbates@chattahoochee.org.

Keeping In Touch

To contact the GCA, write Georgia Canoeing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 611, Winston, GA 30187.

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.

Facebook: Visit the GCA Facebook page for photos, video, trip reports, or to join an upcoming impromptu trip.

CLEANUP OF CHESTATEE AND ETOWAH RIVERS OCTOBER 8, 2016 SPONSORED BY LUMPKIN COALITION

GCA members are invited to participate on Saturday, October 8, in the 11th annual Rivers Alive cleanup of the Chestatee and Etowah Rivers in Lumpkin County. Many members of GCA have rendezvoused in Dahlonega over the past ten years to be part of this event sponsored by the Lumpkin Coalition. Come again, or for the first time, and clean from your boat on river or, if you prefer, as part of a land based team.

Coffee, juice, and bagels will be available while participants organize into river and land crews and obtain a free Rivers Alive T-shirt. After cleanup, return for beverage and burger (you may want to bring a snack for lunch).

Cleanup will cover on-river as much of the Etowah from Hightower Church Road to Highway 136 and as much of the Chestatee from Copper Mine to Highway 400 as the number of paddlers and interest allow. Land crews will clean around the bridges and access points.

Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual volunteer waterway cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources. Rivers Alive is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Keep Georgia Beautiful Program.

On Saturday, October 8, 2016, Lumpkin Coalition will sponsor cleanup of publicly accessible areas of the Chestatee and Etowah Rivers in Lumpkin County (and possibly Yahoola Creek, Zwerner Reservoir, and Etowah River through Dawson Forest).
Cleanup will include paddling teams on-river and land-based teams for sites at public access points. Participants will determine which teams they wish to join. Interested individuals; paddling, environmental, and special-interest outdoor groups; students and youth groups; civic organizations; and church groups are invited to participate. All ages will be welcomed. All receive a Rivers Alive t-shirt (to the extent they last).
The following land sites and river sections will be targeted by need and by number and interests of persons participating.

LAND TEAMS – Persons will be needed to comprise teams for the following sites:

CHESTATEE
Coppermine Road bridge area and around Coppermine Rapid

- Highway 52 bridge area
- Highway 60 bridge area
- Highway 60 launch area
- Highway 400 bridge area
- Lumpkin County Recreation Park

ETOWAH
Hightower Church Road bridge area

- Jay Bridge Road bridge area
- Highway 52 bridge area
- Highway 9 bridge area
- Castleberry Road bridge area
- Highway 136 bridge area

PADDLING TEAMS – Persons will be needed to comprise paddling teams (at least 2 boats per team, preferably more) for the following river sections (times are for normal paddling only; total time will be longer due to shuttle and cleanup):

CHESTATEE

- Coppermine Rapid to Highway 52 – about 2.5 hours. Experienced paddlers.
- Highway 52 to Appalachian Outfitters – about 2 hours. Easy paddle – no experience required. (continued on page 11)

Etowah and Chestatee Clean-up (continued)

- Appalachian Outfitters to Highway 60 Launch – about 2 hours. No experience required.

- Highway 60 Launch to Lumpkin County Recreation Park – about 3 hours. No experience required.

ETOWAH

- Hightower Bridge to Jay Bridge – about 5 hours. Experienced paddlers.

- Jay Bridge to Chuck Shoals - about 2 hours. No experience required.

- Chuck Shoals to Castleberry Bridge – about 3 hours (with mandatory portage at Etowah Falls). Some experience required.

- Castleberry Bridge to Highway 136 – about 6 hours (water level will determine). The "tunnel" section - some experience required.

- May add Dawson Forest section in Dawson County – about 3 hours plus shuttle – no experience required.

YAHOOLA CREEK AND ZWERNER RESERVOIR
May add these, depending on number of participants.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE
Meet at 9:00 AM at the Hilyer residence, 3865 Dawsonville Highway, Dahlonega (directions below).
Enjoy coffee, juice, and bagels.
Organize into land and river teams.
Obtain Rivers Alive t-shirt.
Sign liability release and disperse to various areas.
Return for burgers/dogs and beverage.
Submit report on trash-collected.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, call or e-mail:
Elvin or Nancy Hilyer, Coordinators
Elvin cell 706 429 6011 or elvin3865@gmail.com
Nancy cell 706 429 7079

RSVP IF POSSIBLE
Would be helpful, but not essential, to know if you are coming. Notify Elvin at email address or telephone number above and let him know your preference to be on a land team or an on-river team (and type boat you will be paddling if on-river).
Let him know also:
(1) if you have a tandem boat and have a "vacant seat" for a paddler without a boat;
(2) if you wish to paddle and need such a "vacant seat" – will match to extent possible.

Directions to 3865 Dawsonville Hwy., Dahlonega
From any direction: Park in eyebrow turnoff or along highway.
From Dahlonega: Drive west on Highway 9 toward Dawsonville about 6 mi. from town square. Cross Etowah River and go about 1/10th mile to second driveway on left. Note sign "3865."
From Dawsonville: Drive east on Highway 9 toward Dahlonega about 9 miles. Note sign "3865" on right. If cross Etowah River, turn around and go back 1/10th mile.
From Atlanta: Drive "north" on Highway 400 about 42 miles above 285 to third redlight beyond North Georgia Premium Outlets. Take left on Highway 136. In 6 miles take right at 4-way stop on Highway 9. Drive 7 miles to "3865." If you cross Etowah River, turn around and go back 1/10th mile.

The Etowah and Chestatee Rivers will need cleaning, rain or shine. The cleanup had great participation last year, even with an all-day drizzle. Only seriously hazardous weather or too-high water levels will affect plans.
More detailed information at www.lumpkincoalition.org - click on "River Cleanup" at top of home page. *-EL*

GCA
GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION

Trip Report: Upper and Middle Ocoee
By Jay Davis

We had nine paddlers on the Upper and three of them for the first time. We had one paddler joining us on the middle for his second Ocoee trip. The weather was really nice: warm, but not hot, and sunny skies with puffy clouds. This was my first Upper Ocoee run all year. At the beginning of the season my roll was a little sketchy, and then I had an injury that kept me away. I'm the kind of guy that doesn't go to the Upper without feeling solid about my roll. I had sorted out my roll issues, and "mostly" rehabilitated my shoulder and wanted to have some fun before a busy weekend of instruction coming up. Instructing is fun, but it's also a lot of work. Instructors need time to maintain and develop their own skills. You can't spend all your time on class 2 if you are trying to be an L4, so you have to balance teaching with "me" time.

The Upper/Middle Ocoee is always a long day. But, it's even longer when you have 11 swims!!! Now, most of the paddlers had a good day, no swims, and few rolls. But the swimmers tended to be repeat offenders! I also got to see somebody dry out at Alien Boof. I had been warned about this scenario, but this was the first time I've seen it happen. We also had one swim there. And then another at Blue Hole. And then Alien Boof swimmer swam the 2nd or 3rd drop of the Olympic section. The swimmer dragged himself onto a rock shelf and just kinda laid there. So we had to jump out and grab that dude! His boat got a big old giant dent in the front of it from shredding the gnar sans paddler. That kayaker then redeemed himself with a roll in roach motel. Somehow, we also had a swim the class 2 above edge of the world. I'm chalking that one up to just a fluke. All these guys were hitting flatwater rolls no problem. They all had plenty of Middle Ocoee experience and I had seen one of them hitting all kinds of rolls at the Combat Roll Clinic. I guess sometimes the nerves of stepping up get to you. Our Alien Boof and Olympic Swimmer, then swam at Grumpy's and, unsurprisingly, took a hard lick. He tried to soldier on, but made the wise decision to call it a day a couple of rapids down. At this point, I'm shifting from safety boating to guiding the guy there for his second run. He had a swim near Walk the Plank. He has a solid line at Broken Nose, but flips and swims the aerated backwash of the bottom hole. One of the guys who pfd'ed the upper was now sneaking Slice and Dice. I joked with him that he needed a T shirt that says, "Runs the Upper but sneaks Slice and Dice".

We get to Double Suck and I look up, and the one person getting his PFD (same dude who snuck slice and dice) of the Upper who didn't swim is now side surfing bottom hole.....Swimmer! Apparently a raft blocked his route and forced him into the hole. His boat went all the way to jump rock. I think a couple of boat rescuers need to practice their techniques! So he got a raft ride. I think we need to amend the T shirt to "Runs the Upper, sneaks Slice and Dice, Side Surfs Double Suck". At this point me and the guy there for his second middle run "mostly" sneak Double Trouble, but he bites off enough wave to get flipped and swims again... He decided to call it a day at Go-Forth. A couple of other boaters did the same just from the length of the paddle. I can understand. At that point, I'm no longer playing, just bombing it. I wasn't trying to test my shoulder a whole lot anyway! Double Suck side surfing dude also swims at Flipper. So, I was pretty happy the six remaining paddlers made it through Tablesaw in their boats! Bulldozing and towing boats/swimmers is hard work. I get to the top of Cat's Pajamas and see the same dude carping multiple rolls at the bottom of the rapid in the swirly stuff. Duuuude! I was feeling bad for him, because I understand the mental game. That guy has been me so many times. There's something that happens to your brain sometimes after you finish the upper and get to the middle. The routine suddenly becomes hard? I didn't swim on the middle after my first upper run, but I remember messing up some lines and feeling "off". Maybe you relax too much? I don't know.

Don't get me wrong, I had a great time, and I'll paddle with any of these folks again. I hope a couple of them take a step back and work on their roll in some easy rapids/current a little for a trip or two. That's certainly the most swims I have ever seen on an Ocoee trip by a large margin and probably the most I've seen on any trip, or at least tying some combat roll clinics. Kayaking is always an adventure, but sometimes it's a different kind of adventure! - *EL*

GCA Awards Recognition
By Vincent Payne

The GCA Award and Recognition Program will be continued this year, culminating with a presentation of awards at the annual Holiday Party. During the year, each of you should keep your eyes open for potential nominees. While we cannot recognize everyone that works hard to make this such a great group we surely must call out some of them.

We have provided a structure for the awards in tiers, which we hope will somewhat equalize the awards. The top tier is our Lifetime Service Award aimed at those who have worked in club roles for many years. There will be no more than one of these awards given per year, and it is not required to have even one. This award should be a big deal.

Next, we want to recognize people who have been continuous supporters of GCA activities and values. These people have helped out for several years, probably in several roles, helping the club to achieve its mission. This award recognizes an individual for breadth of work.

We also have a category for single events and the person that drives an event. The nominee may do fifty things with excellence or just one thing. This award will just focus on a single contribution. It is a good way to bring attention to some of the best activities and the people that make them happen.

Finally, we have the fun awards. These encourage participation and you get to make up the category. For example, we can give an award for "Longest Swim", "Best Shuttle Bunny", "Best Minor Achievement" (Limited to people that cannot yet sign their own waiver), "Stinkiest Shuttle vehicle", or "Best Example of Why to Wear a Helmet".

Now is the time to be watching for those who excel (at either end of the spectrum) and capture those thoughts so we can recognize and honor them at this year's event.

Send your nominees to me at: Vincent.payne9354@gmail.com or message me on Facebook. I will compile the list of nominees to present to the Board around November. Be sure to tell us the reason for the nomination, even though it may be obvious. The board will approve them and then we will get The Legal Committee to take a look. *EL*

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 an email to you bounces back, you will be deleted from the recipient list until we get an updated email address.

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

TRIP AND EVENT SCHEDULE

GCA Fall Gala: September 16-18 at Smoky Mountain Meadows Campground

Stone Mountain Roll Practice: Wade Walker YMCA, second Wednesday of each month.
Next session: September 12

Membership Paddle and Officer Elections: October 18 at the Metro Hooch

Please see the GCA Calendar for details, updates, and to sign up at www.gapaddle.com.
For any questions or class suggestions, e-mail **gapaddletraining@gmail.com**.

Thinking of joining a paddling trip?

When deciding to join a GCA trip, whether an "official" trip posted on the website, or a pop-up trip posted on the Facebook page, please keep the following bit of river etiquette in mind:

Always check with the trip coordinator before inviting a guest to come along on the trip with you, especially if your guest is an inexperienced paddler. This is to insure the skill level of your guest matches the targeted skill level of the group. Many pop-up trips will not have safety boaters., and it's considered rude to expect the other paddlers in the group to be responsible for an unexpected paddler. Please don't put the trip coordinator in the uncomfortable position of having to turn someone away because their experience level doesn't match that of the group.

Your Trip Could Be Listed in This Space — email Cruisemaster James Wright at jwrightnmaul@hotmail.com

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS
Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.
Beginner - mild current, occasional Class I 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.

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: Email Cruisemaster Lesley Symington at lslysym@mindspring.com. 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.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

The GCA web site now features a "GCA Supporters" web page with links to those who support GCA financially by advertising in *The Eddy Line*. Help those who help us — patronize our advertisers. And when you do, let them know you saw their *Eddy Line* ad and appreciate their support. Thanks!

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GCA Members in action

Debbie Reed executes an ender.
Photo by Jay Davis

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THE EDDY LINE

GEORGIA CANOEING ASSOCIATION, INC.

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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 500 family and corporate memberships comprising more than 1500 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.