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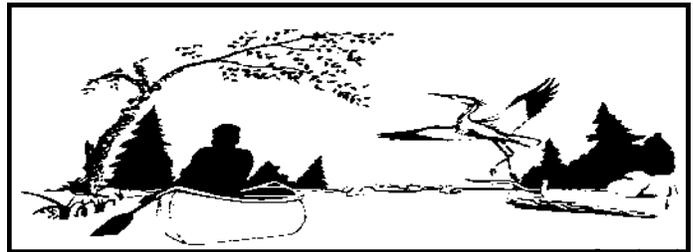
THE EDDY LINE

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VOLUME 57 NO. 6

NOVEMBER 2022



Congratulations to Roger Nott on his induction into the Southern Appalachian Whitewater Hall of Fame



GCA Holiday Paddle & Book Signing

Come paddle the Upper Hooch with the GCA to celebrate the Holidays! Meet at 10:00am at Wildwood Outfitters on Saturday, December 3rd for a Holiday Paddle, Book Signing and Fellowship.

Coffee, fruit, and goodies will be served from 10-10:30 am at Wildwood Outfitters. We'll have a short meeting at 10:30am and then get on the river. Shuttle will be provided by Wildwood. Cost for the shuttle is \$10. The after-party will be at El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant.

GCA's Suzanne Welander will be signing copies of the 3rd edition of her book *Canoeing & Kayaking Georgia*. You must purchase your copy before November 19th to have it signed by Suzanne at the Holiday Paddle. Go to gapaddle.com and follow the link on the top scroll of the homepage to make your purchase. She is donating her proceeds to the River Access Fund.

To register and/or purchase a book, go to [GCA Holiday Paddle](#)

To see who is attending, go to gapaddle.com/trip-attendees/

SCHEDULE:

10:00-10:30am - Coffee and goodies plus book signing with Suzanne Welander

10:30am - Short meeting to wrap up the year

10:45am - Paddle Section 3 - shuttle with Wildwood (cost: \$10)

3:30-5:00pm - Eat at El Sombrero Mexican restaurant, 236 Merchants Way, Cornelia, GA—EL

Guidebook Signing at GCA Holiday Paddle

Join us at 10am on December 3 at Wildwood Outfitters for a book signing of the new edition of *Canoeing & Kayaking Georgia* followed by the [GCA Holiday Paddle on the Upper Chattahoochee River!](#) The book's author, Suzanne Welander, will be donating all of the proceeds from the book sales at this event to the GCA's River Protection Fund.

Books must be pre-ordered by November 19th for pick-up at the event.

If you cannot make it to the event on December 3, a limited number of signed books are available to be shipped.

To order go to [Canoeing & Kayaking Georgia - Order Placement](#)

Whether it's whitewater, smoothwater, or everything in between, Suzanne and co-author Bob Sehlinger have it covered. The new edition of the guidebook makes the jump to full color inside. In addition to thoroughly updating all of the data in the book – descriptions, GPS coordinates, river mileages, maps, gauges, outfitters – the book also includes four new Class I and Class II runs: Augusta Canal, Nails Creek, Alligator Creek, and the Alapahoochee River.

The GCA is offering the new book to members for \$20, a \$5 discount over the book's cover price. "Members are also encouraged to make a year-end donation to the River Protection Fund over their book purchase," says Allyson Davis, incoming GCA President.

Author Welander is excited to be supporting the River Protection Fund in recognition of the significant contributions GCA members have made to these guidebooks, starting with the first books in the series published in 1980. "The renaissance in river recreation has not only made more frequent updates necessary – it's also more vital than ever that we protect paddlers' access in the state," she adds.

SYOTR – and at Wildwood – on December 3!

Author Suzanne Welander canoes Georgia's rivers, from swamps to mountain whitewater. In addition to Georgia, her adventures include multi-day self-supported canoeing trips in Alaska, Montana, Canada, Arizona, and over one hundred laps on Tennessee's Ocoee River. She writes about wilderness, food, and farmsteads from her home in Atlanta that she shares with her husband, their son, a flock of chickens, and an ever-growing fleet of canoes. - EL



Trip Report: Boat-Based Rescue With Endless River Adventures

By Charles Geis

On Sunday, September 11, 2022, a group of GCA members traveled to Bryson City NC to attend a boat-based rescue course presented by Endless River Adventures. Class started river side on the “Town Tuck” section of the Tuckasegee River.

Class started after a short transport to a spot near Devils Dip or The Devils Double Dip on the Tuck, which is a set of 2 rapids about 30 yards apart. At low water, a hole is formed by a big boulder, Devils dip, becoming a short, safe, class 2 rapid in which to hone our rescue skills. We began with group instruction, which led into a great discussion about rescue scenarios. We continued with building a list of rescue gear that should be carried on trips and a quick review, on land, of the proper usage of rescue gear. For example a throw bag, practice often overlooked, a quick accurate toss and pendulum pull to shore can make all the difference. When was the last time you practiced throwing your bag? An important skill to practice, is an accurate throw bag toss and then, if the scenario is missing the swimmer, quickly coiling the rope and a second accurate toss. Also try repetitive quick coiling and accurate full length rope toss without tangles. Try to coil without looking at the rope, keeping your eye on the swimmer or swimmers.

We then jumped into the water to have some fun with Devils Dip. We had a quick swim through the hole to wake everyone up then got into our boats. After all, this was a boat-based rescue class. Over the next several hours we worked with our instructors on boating techniques in rescue simulations such as swimmer rescue, multiple swimmers in the water, lost gear, boat rescue and team rescue scenarios. We continued with rolling techniques in a rescue situation. We practiced techniques like the T-rescue, including hand placement techniques. We practice boat-based Hand of God, as well as shore-based Hand of God. The class with a review discussion of the information presented.

The instructors from Endless River Adventures made it such a fun day. They were very confident and professional. The information presented was very informative and practical. This class should be a predecessor to the Swift Water Rescue course. It was a really great class and I suggest it to anyone interested in Swift Water Rescue.

The biggest take away and maybe the underlying theme in all the scenarios we practiced was PREVENTION. If we can prevent an emergency situation from happening, we have complet
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(Boat-based rescue, continued from page 4)

ed a rescue!!! Being smart on the river can, most of the time, prevent ever needing a rescue. "Look before you leap," If you can't see a way through or you can't see the bottom of a rapid, pull over and take a minute and scout it out.

This was another great day on the river with the Georgia Canoe Association. - *EL*

Almost Doing Little River Canyon at Over 2,500 CFS

By Fred Couch

This article is one of a series of articles about early and/or sketchy Little River Canyon trips, most of which contain some lessons to be learned. Hope these past trips will help the new and jaded be better for them.

My younger brother paid for two of his sons to take a week long whitewater kayak school at Nantahala Outdoor Center in an attempt to get them really interested in the sport. One decided to hell with that, while the other, his step-son built like an ox, loved it. Of course a day soon came when my friend, Rodney, and I were beckoned, because of the last 3 days of rain, to go paddle Little River Canyon. Rodney called me at home saying it was at 750 CFS and rising, asking if I could get the day off. In addition, I got the stepson to come along.

By the time we loaded up it was over 1,000 CFS (per Rodney's bag phone listening to Alabama Power's 800Lakes I I phone line. At a munch stop it had surpassed 1,500 CFS and we were really looking forward to a superb run. By the time we dropped my shuttle van it was at 1,900 CFS (which Rodney and I had once done). When we got to the Upper Two put-in, it was at 2,500 CFS - oh boy, yes! (we exclaimed). Well, when we got to the water, I told Rodney it was higher than 2,500 CFS; however, like kids at a candy store, it was calling to us to get started.

Unlike his normal attitude, Rodney promptly started and disappeared over a downstream horizon line. I saw a keeper hydraulic in mid-stream and warned my nephew to avoid it, while I ferried to the opposite bank under a massive rock riding a bubble to observe and be Sweep. Telling a teenager to avoid the hydraulic made him stubbornly go right to it where it held him until he could not roll up anymore or get out, so he bailed, lost his paddle, but swam to the shore taking his kayak with him. This was not good - my main guy out of sight, very high water, and a strong minded teen without rescue skills or equipment, except for a rescue rope. Despite my adult mind telling him what to do, he left to go search for his paddle - leaving me to my own recognizance.

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(Little River Canyon, continued from page 5)

Three guys, now one, on a raging river rising all the time. I paddled on downstream a bit and then got out on river right well before Humpty Dumpty, normally a Class five, probably closer to a west coast Class eight (out of ten) that day. In all the years and scores of trips with Rodney, he had never taken his rescue rope out, nor needed it with the two of us. Yet, I discovered him downstream with one arm under a tree root on the bank, while stuffing his rescue rope back into the bag. Curious, I asked him why. He replied, "See that whirlpool?" Looking up, it had to be 75 feet wide. He added "I had to throw my rope over here several times as I whirled around to lasso a rock to pull myself out!"

I told him I was not paddling any further, not knowing where my nephew had gone, and surely it was well over 2,500 CFS and not safe.

My nephew found his paddle by then and was coming back up the bank. With our 3 seventy-five foot ropes, my metal figure 8, my slide up rope gripper, two prusiks, carabiners, and other climbing gear that I always brought on our remote trips, Rodney led off the climb for 400 feet up, which included the two trees, now cut down, that people would skinny down to reach the talus and narrow cliff entry between the Chairlift and Upper Two entries.

We started up at 11 a.m. and I (last one up) got just over the lip at 5 p.m., to see the sun setting as it became dark. Yeah, we got the two kayaks and canoe out, and had a fair hike to get the shuttle car; but we were safe for another run another day. It's never too late to walk away, or climb if you must.—EL

GCA Officer Elections were held October 16 during the Membership Meeting. The following slate of officers, having been nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, was confirmed for the upcoming 2023 term:

President: Allyson Davis

Vice-President: Diane Windham

Secretary: Angi Hansen

Treasurer: Vince Payne

The term will run from November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2023. Please give these great volunteers your support. Without them, the club could not operate.

TRIP AND CLINIC SCHEDULE

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

To Volunteer To Coordinate Trips email Cruisemaster Terri Abbott: abbott.terri@gmail.com.

As usual, we need trip coordinators for all types of trips, from flatwater to Class 5 white-water. Our excellent trip schedule depends on the efforts of volunteers, so get involved and sign up to coordinate a trip on your favorite river today! The GCA needs YOU!

KEY TO GCA SKILL LEVELS

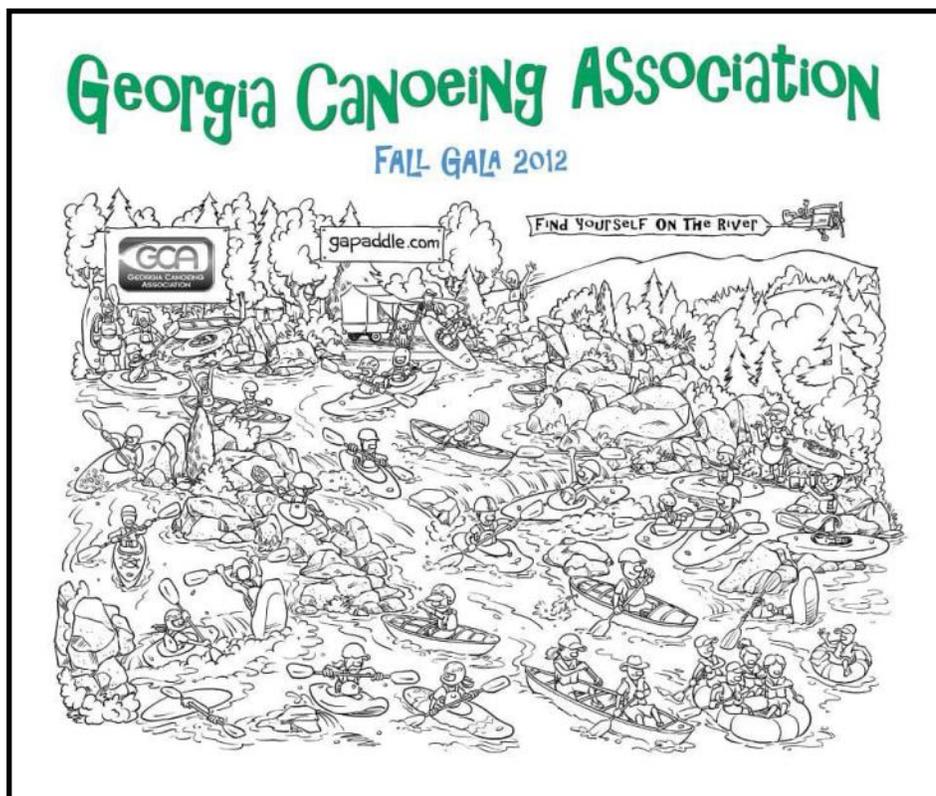
Flat Water - no current will be encountered; safe for new paddlers.

Beginner - mild current, occasional Class 1 riffles; 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.



Blast from the past,
courtesy of Laura Dillon.

GCA welcomes paddlers from all races, genders, and sexual orientations. We will continue to strive to promote diversity among the paddling community and work to create a safe space for all to enjoy our paddling adventures.

Thank you to our supporters.



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@groups.io.

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.

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.

ALL ABOUT THE EDDY LINE

The Eddy Line, the official GCA newsletter, is available in pdf format. To subscribe, contact Vincent Payne at 678-343-5292 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.

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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 individual 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.