



Founded in 1880, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is the oldest and largest paddle sports organization in the United States, promoting canoeing, kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddle boarding and rescue.
www.facebook.com/ACATennessee

Andrea White, ACA Tennessee State Director 2018-pres.
TNStateDirector@AmericanCanoe.net, 615-482-5570

- Interim Chair, ACA State Directors Council
- Member, USCG Auxiliary Paddlecraft Safety Committee
- ACA State Director of the Year 2020
- ACA Level 2 River Kayaking instructor, Paddlesports Safety Facilitator Instructor Endorsement
- Former Board Member, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
- Co-founder, TSRA Rescue for Rec Boaters class

Hunter Branstetter, ACA Tennessee Deputy State Director 2018-pres.
Hunter.Branstetter@gmail.com, 615-364-7615

- Candidate to be an Elite Athlete Representative to the ACA 2022 Board of Directors
- Elite Athlete Member, Team USA, Internationally ranked in the Top 10 in Squirt Boating
- 9th Place, Men's Squirt Boating, ICF Freestyle World Championship, 2019
- 25 years paddling, primarily whitewater kayak
- 18 years as a volunteer instructor for Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, Vanderbilt University and other community-based paddlesports programs

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- I. Paddlers Believe in Safety and Conservation: Key data/Articles
 - *US Coast Guard Releases 2020 Boating Statistics: Tennessee Has a Disproportionate Share of Paddling Deaths*
 - *According to data collected by American Whitewater, Tennessee is tied for #1 in the nation for river related paddling fatalities in 2020*
 - *TSRA Has Contributed More than \$80K to Support River Conservation Through Land Acquisition*
 - *Tennessean: Dispute over fishing line reveals tension on Tennessee river, leads to criminal charges*
 - II. What has ACA Tennessee accomplished in 2021 and what is in the works for 2022? (high level)
 - III. Who do we represent? (AKA how do you find paddling leaders in Tennessee)
 - 9 community based paddling clubs
 - 5 organizations offering significant private instruction including 2 regional Centers of Excellence and a nationally renowned author/instructor/statesman
 - 5 kayak manufacturers
 - There are also ~100 flatwater liveries plus whitewater rafting companies on the Ocoee, Nolichucky and Pigeon Rivers
 - IV. What has the paddling community accomplished in 2021?
(thousands of volunteer hours)
 - V. What are our Asks/Expectations?
 - A seat at the table
 - Build solutions that make sense based on a paddlesports relevant model of public policy...not powerboat models or fishing models
 - Prioritize conservation and safety
 - Give paddlers an opportunity to reinvest in their watershed



US Coast Guard Releases 2020 Boating Statistics: Tennessee Has a Disproportionate Share of Paddling Deaths

Media Contact:

Andrea White, ACA Tennessee State Director

615-482-5570

whitea98@gmail.com

The US Coast Guard reports that boating activity increased significantly in 2020, resulting in increased accidents and fatalities. Across all types of boating, fatalities increased 25.1 percent and accidents increased 26.3 percent compared to 2019.

Paddlecraft consistently comprise about one quarter of boating fatalities. In both 2019 and 2020 the data held steady at 24% of all fatalities represented by canoe, kayak, standup paddleboards and inflatable craft. According to the USCG, paddlecraft fatalities nationwide jumped from 149 in 2019 to 182 in 2020, a 22.1 percent increase.

Tennessee represents approximately 2 percent of the US population but represents 4.9 percent of 2020 US paddling fatalities and 3.9 percent of overall 2020 US boating fatalities.

For more detailed analysis of paddling trends we look to reports from American Whitewater (AW), a national nonprofit that tracks river-related paddling accidents and fatalities. According to the AW database, Tennessee and Arkansas tied for the most river-related paddling fatalities in 2020. The underlying cause of growing paddling fatalities nationwide is attributed to the increase in activity among paddlers with little to no training having accidents on easier waterways. According to American Whitewater, in 2020 there were more incidents for paddlers on flat and class I rivers than there were on classes III, IV and V rivers combined.

“Tennessee is blessed to have amazing waterways and we are honored to serve as a destination for paddlers from many surrounding states, but that has led to a frightening increase in the fatality rate, as well,” says Andrea White, Tennessee State Director for the American Canoe Association. “We think of the whitewater destinations as being the most dangerous rivers – and on the face of it, they are. But, statistically speaking, people are getting themselves into more trouble on easier waterways. Water is a force of nature and it will always win. We can’t take our waterways for granted.”

Tennessee lost 9 paddlers in 2020. The 2021 tally is already up to 5 fatalities in paddling related accidents with 3 of those occurring on lakes.

As we embark on the July Fourth holiday weekend, White cautions folks to have fun with an eye out for safety.

“The most important thing you can do is always wear your life jacket when you are on the water, even lakes and easy rivers,” says White. “It’s going to be crazy out there this weekend and you never know what is going to happen. 85 percent of the time it’s the life jacket that saves you from the unforeseen situations.”

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From the USCG Press Release:

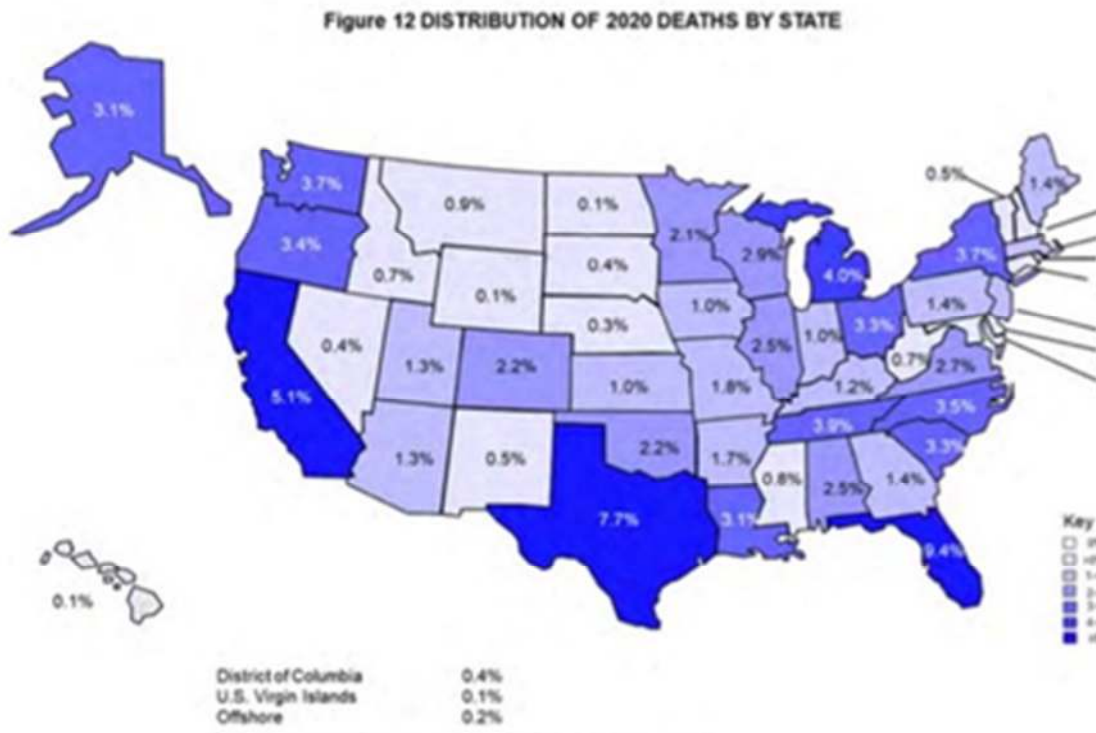
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2e60ddf>

“The U.S. Coast Guard released its 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics Report Wednesday, revealing that there were 767 boating fatalities nationwide in 2020, a 25.1 percent increase from 2019.”

“From 2019 to 2020, the total number of accidents increased 26.3 percent (4,168 to 5,265), and the number of non-fatal injured victims increased 24.7 percent (2,559 to 3,191). There is evidence that boating activity increased significantly during the pandemic, from reports of increased boat sales, insurance policies taken out, insurance claims, and calls for towing assistance. With the increased exposure (i.e., more boating hours), there was greater risk of deaths, injuries, and accidents.”

“Alcohol continued to be the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents in 2020, accounting for over 100 deaths, or 18 percent of total fatalities.”

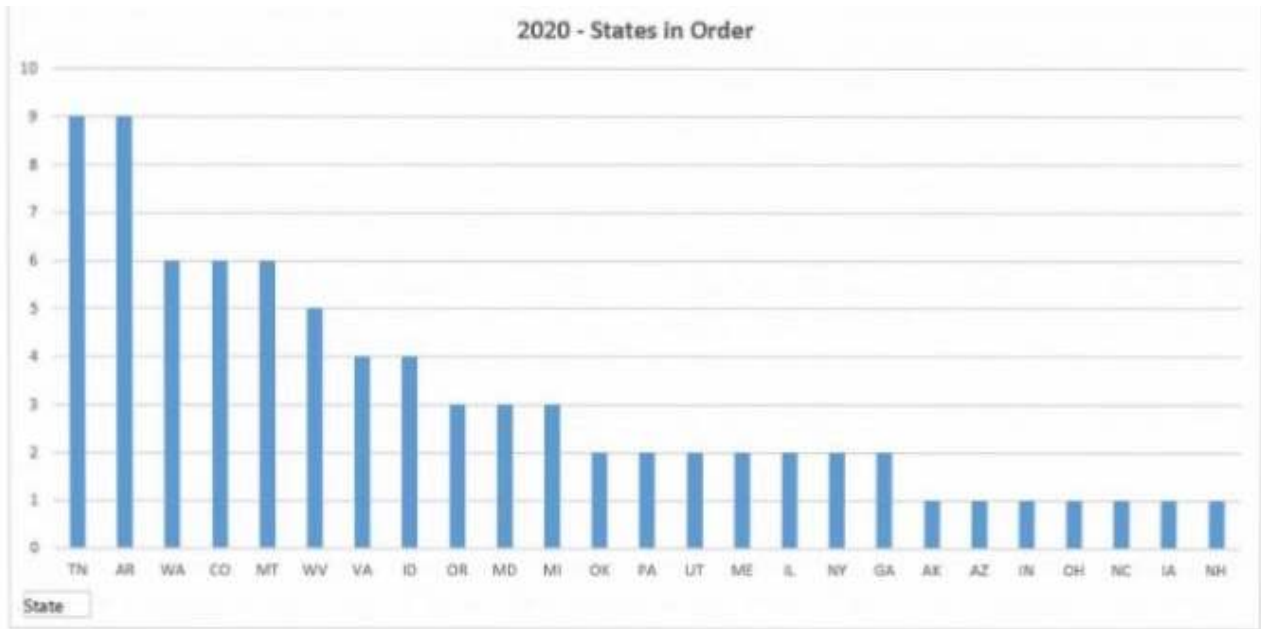
“Where the cause of death was known, 75 percent of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 86 percent were not wearing a life jacket.”



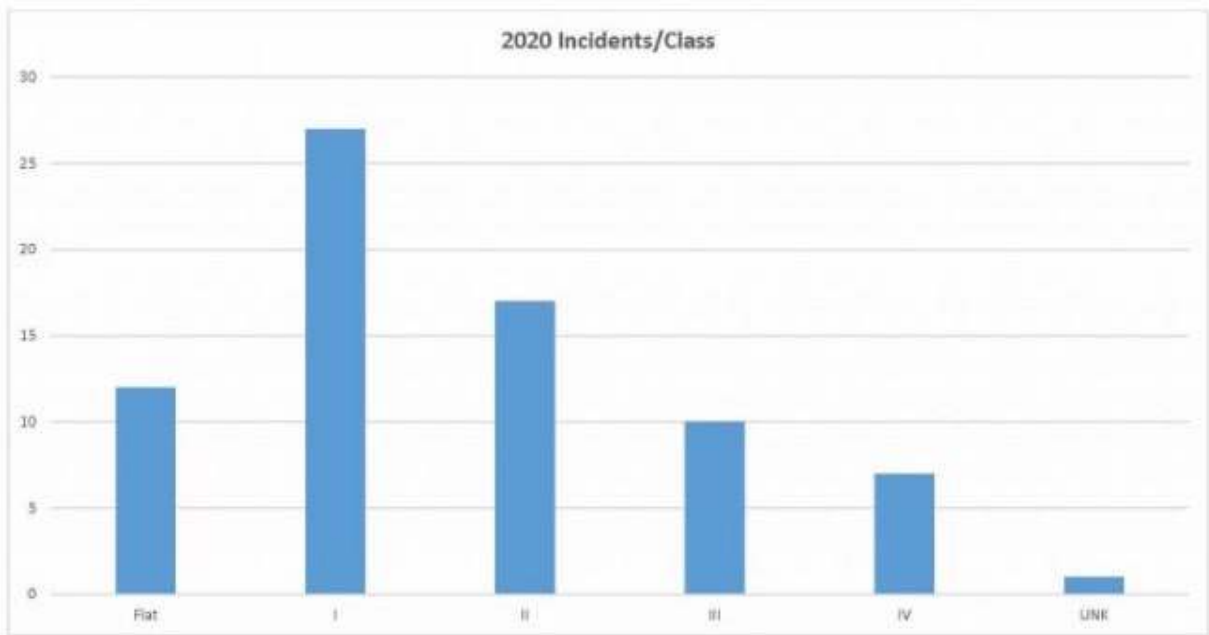
Source USCG 2020 Recreational Boating Statistics Report

<https://bit.ly/3AfNKI9>

2020 River Incidents by State



2020 River Incidents by River Classification



Source: Paddling.com based on American Whitewater database

<https://paddlingmag.com/stories/news-events/fatalities-2020-american-whitewater-accident-database/?fbclid=IwAR2sTADsJXiKFBSS4Agyx2d2PnJyr0ZOOS-4Tc1YPG9POPeoIYZUhoQGhho>



Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Protecting clean water and free-flowing rivers in TN since 1966.

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TSRA Has Contributed More than \$80K to Support River Conservation Through Land Acquisition

By [James Parnell](#) (Administrator) on Thursday, July 01, 2021 12:38 PM

You already know that TSRA serves as a paddling club for Middle Tennessee paddlers...and you probably know that TSRA has supported clean water and environmental initiatives over the years, and helped with paddler education and building new canoe and kayak accesses...but are you aware of the contributions TSRA members have made toward conservation-focused land purchases?

It turns out, over the past 20 years TSRA — on behalf of Tennessee paddlers — has donated more than \$53,000 to strategic land purchases by TennGreen Land Conservancy (formerly the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation), which have then been turned over to public lands agencies like Tennessee State Parks and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Specifically, TSRA has helped TennGreen Land Conservancy purchase land at:

- Scott's Gulf in White County on the Caney Fork River (Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness)
- Stillhouse Hollow Falls in Summertown (Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area)
- Devilstep Hollow at the headwaters of the Sequatchie River (Cumberland Trail State Park)
- Virgin Falls near Sparta (Virgin Falls State Natural Area)
- Cummins Falls on the Blackburn Fork River in Jackson County (Cummins Falls State Park)
- Happy Hollow
- Rock Island at the Caney Fork River (Rock Island State Park)
- the Lone Star tract connecting the Cumberland Trail, with river frontage on Daddys Creek and protecting the headwaters of Ozone Falls (Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail)

In addition to the funding TSRA has contributed to TennGreen, over the last 2 decades TSRA has donated more than \$30,000 to the Swan Conservation Trust to be put toward the acquisition of the land that includes the headwaters of Big Swan Creek.

And TSRA and other paddling clubs are currently working with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning on the Cumberland Plateau to support additional land acquisitions near the Obed Wild & Scenic River.

So, when you wonder what your TSRA membership dues or class fees for paddler training are going toward, rest assured that the leaders at TSRA are keeping an eye open for situations where we can add our funds to a larger effort and have a conservation impact that is greater than the sum of its parts!

We could use your help in the ongoing work to preserve our free flowing streams.

Renew your membership today. It's only \$25/year for your entire household or \$10 for a student membership:

<https://paddletsr.org/join-us>

Or make a donation of any amount:

<https://paddletsr.org/Donate>

Tennessean.

Dispute over fishing line reveals tension on Tennessee river, leads to criminal charges

By Brinley Hineman, *Nashville Tennessean*

ERWIN, Tenn. — After a kayak student was entangled in a trotline, a top kayak safety instructor cut the line to prevent injuries to other paddlers floating down the Nolichucky River over Memorial Weekend. Now he's facing criminal charges.

It was a beautiful Memorial Day weekend. Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute Executive Director Scott Fisher and other kayak safety instructors were teaching a class on the lower Nolichucky River when Fisher said a student became entangled in a trotline with up to 40 hooks. A trotline is a heavy fishing line with baited hooks attached at intervals to catch multiple fish on one line.

Kayaker David Pope untangled himself and removed the large fish hook that was embedded in his life jacket, Fisher said. Fisher cut the line in case other paddlers or tubers floated down the river later during the holiday weekend. No name was attached to the line, he said, which is required by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Association. The group assumed the line was abandoned.

Now the former Army Ranger is facing criminal misdemeanor charges of violating the Hunter Protection Act and taking of a fish caught by another after a Unicoi County grand jury indicted him in September. He was booked at the jail, fingerprinted and had his booking photo taken before he was released.

"If that line had hooked a 7-year-old girl in the face, if it hooked her, God forbid, it would've pulled her under and she would've drowned," Fisher said. "And that's not exaggerating. That's me as a rescue professional saying what would happen."

Although trotlines are illegal in some states, they are allowed to run across moving bodies of water in Tennessee. The part of the Nolichucky River where the class was paddling was only two miles from the North Carolina border, where trotlines can only run parallel to the shore.

Fisherman says trotlines are way of life for people in Erwin

The line belonged to A.J. Silvers, and Fisher returned the line to him. Silvers' home is on the bank of the river, and he came to check his line when the kayaking group was floating by.

Silvers confronted the group of kayakers and posted video of the confrontation on Facebook, where it's garnered more than 40,000 views and hundreds of comments. Many of the comments highlighted tension between the paddler and fishing communities over sharing the river.

Silvers said his line couldn't have floated up as it was on the bottom of the river floor secured by bricks. He said he's had as many as five trotlines cut this year. Lines can cost up to \$250 each to make, he said.

"We've not liked each other for a long time — the fisherman and rafters," he told The Tennessean. "It's like the Hatfields and McCoys."

The 19-year-old said he believes the lines are cut by out-of-towners using the river for recreation since people in Unicoi County are familiar with the fishing style and likely use it themselves.

Silvers said what kayakers view as a nuisance is a way of life for the people of Erwin. He's been making and setting trotlines since he was at least 5 years old as a bonding activity with his papaw. Now a young adult, he and his friends spend time making trotlines with each other.

Trotlines are primarily used to catch catfish, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency spokesman Barry Cross said. They're submerged and baited to attract catfish that lurk along the riverbed.

The efficiency of the lines helps people looking to pack their freezers. Silvers said it's the only way some people in Erwin have access to food.

"A lot of people up there are not fortunate enough, and that could be the only way they eat," he said. "We all come together in this town, and fishing's the way to do it. We're old mountainous people basically, and we want to keep that alive."

Silvers was hoping to catch catfish that Memorial Day weekend for an annual fish fry at his church. Cross said trotlines pose little to no danger to people in the water and aren't a risk to the environment. There's no limit to how many catfish a fisher can catch in Tennessee as they quickly and easily reproduce.

While Cross said there's some feuding between trout fishers and kayakers who disturb the water in heavily fished areas, most are happy to share the river.

"We just ask anyone on the river respects everybody else while you're out there enjoying it," he said.

Could arrest spark change to law?

Fisher is hopeful his charges will be dismissed and he'll be off the hook, but his arrest has sparked a push by paddlers to pressure the state into changing the trotline law.

They want the state to require trotlines to run parallel to river shores, like in North Carolina, in hope of curbing any safety risks. Paddlers have launched a petition calling on the state to make the change.

A man in Perry County drowned in September 2019 while swimming in the Buffalo River. When authorities recovered the man's body, they discovered fishing lines around his legs and said he may have been snagged by a trotline.

What do you think? Reach Brinley Hineman at bhineman@tennessean.com and on Twitter @brinleyhineman. To stay updated on Williamson County news, sign up for our newsletter.



2021 ACA Tennessee Accomplishments

- **2021 Facebook Live Spring Series:** 15 Facebook Live broadcasts in 10 weeks. Designed to bring information about local resources, mentorship opportunities, training opportunities and safety information to a large audience of new paddlers who did not know where to go for information or guidance. Broadcasts are archived on the ACA Tennessee Facebook page.
- **Instructor Training:** After March 31 Broadcast calling for experienced flatwater paddlers to become instructors, ACA Tennessee organized 3 Level 2 River Kayaking Instructor Certification Courses as well as coaching sessions to pair currently certified instructors with new Instructor Candidates. We also helped recruit Instructor Candidates for Instructor training at Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute in Erwin, TN.
 - 2021 Instructor Count:
 - 31 newly certified instructors + 25 Instructor updates/upgrades
 - 2 Instructor Trainer updates/upgrades + 1 new Instructor Trainer
- **Partnerships with State Agencies:**
 - May, 2021: TVCC partnered with State Park Rangers at Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park to offer low cost Kayaking 101 classes for new paddlers.
 - May 25-26: Working with instructors from TSRA, ACA Tennessee provided 2 Days of Rescue for Rec Boater training (Lake and Class I River) + Paddlesport Safety Facilitator certifications for 16 TWRA Wildlife Officers
 - June and July, 2021: TSRA built on their 25+ year partnership with TWRA by helping to teach paddling skills at the annual Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) and Tennessee Outdoor Youth Summit (TOYS) events.
 - In 2020, the organizers of Daddy's Creek Go Fast Day (held at Catoosa Wildlife Management Area) made a \$2,500 contribution to TWRA leveraged through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Federation to achieve an exponential federal match. We don't know the exact amount specifically because the match is based on funds usage and the paddlers asked that 80% of the funding be designated in whatever way the TWRA managers at Catoosa see fit. They asked that the other 20% pay for signage specific to paddlers uses of Catoosa to improve relations between the different user groups. The event was cancelled in 2021 for Covid, but we are anxiously awaiting January of 2022!
 - Initiatives currently in the planning stages:
 - Memorial Day Weekend, 2022: national test class for Hooked on Safety: Safety & Rescue for Kayak Anglers to be held at TWRA Buffalo River Refuge facility in Hurricane Mills, TN. This class will be an adaptation of the Rescue for Rec Boaters curriculum targeted specifically for Kayak Anglers. Lead Instructor will be the Chairman of the Board of Directors for ACA National.
 - May 21, 2022: Statewide ACA Tennessee partnership with Tennessee State Parks to offer Kayaking 101 classes at 12 State Parks as part of National Safe Boating Week.

Member Clubs in Tennessee:

9 Paddling Clubs statewide representing more than 315 years of citizen activism for our sport and our waterways



Founded in 1966, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association is a statewide volunteer organization based in Nashville, TN. TSRA's mission is to preserve, protect and restore the scenic, free-flowing rivers of our state. It is a conservation organization run by paddlers who are committed to promoting safety in our sport through training classes, paddling events and community outreach. www.paddletsr.org



Founded in 1967, Tennessee Valley Canoe Club is based in Chattanooga, TN. The Club focuses on bringing together those who are interested in canoeing, kayaking, and related activities; to increase the knowledge, safety and appreciation of paddle sports; and to support conservation and preservation of recreational waterways. www.tvccpaddler.com



Founded in 1969, Chota Canoe Club is based in Knoxville, TN. The Club seeks to promote community paddle sport activities, safety awareness and techniques while being actively environmentally responsible. www.paddlechota.org



Founded in 1986, Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts is based in Johnson City, TN. The premier paddling club in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Northwest North Carolina, our members enjoy paddling all types of self-propelled watercraft along the rivers of our region. The APEs work to help advance the sport of whitewater paddling, the skills of fellow paddlers, share information, and protect the rivers we love. www.riverapes.org



Founded in 1968, Bluff City Canoe Club is based in Memphis, TN. Our members seek to promote interest in and appreciation of natural and wild waterways for outdoor recreation and activities such as canoeing, kayaking, camping and float fishing, and to cooperate with other organizations which are working toward the conservation and preservation of wilderness areas and streams. www.bluffcitycanoecub.org



Founded in 1962, the East Tennessee Whitewater Club is a whitewater paddling club based out of the Oak Ridge/Knoxville/East Tennessee area. ETWC promotes safe boating practices, support conservation, and provide paddling trips and training for our club members and guests.

www.etwcweb.com



Born out of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the East Knox Yacht Club is an inclusive group that brings people together - in a socially distanced way - to make new friends and enjoy the beautiful waterways of Eastern Tennessee. Based in Knoxville, EKYC is a community-based, recreational group of folks with kayaks, canoes, SUPs and inner tubes.

www.eastknoxyachtclub.com



Founded in 2019, the West Tennessee Canoe & Kayak Club is a community-based club in the Humboldt/Jackson area of Tennessee catering to folks ranging from beginners to advanced paddlers. Recreational paddlers and kayak anglers come together for paddle trips, river cleanups, and more.

www.westtennckc.com



Founded in 2016, the Beaver Creek Kayak Club is a group of friends based in Karns/Knoxville area or Tennessee who enjoy the fun and excitement of recreational kayaking. We are dedicated to the clean up, preservation and promotion of the Beaver Creek watershed in Knox County, Tennessee and encourage its use as a public water trail.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1682230425349003/>

Schools and Private Training:



ACE Kayaking, led by Joe Gudger and Morgan Cox, is staffed with ACA certified instructors and specializes in whitewater kayaking, offering private lessons on the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers. Senior Statesman in the paddling community/Author Kirk Eddlemon also teaches for ACE on the Cumberland Plateau.

www.acekayaking.com



Scott Fisher, owner of The Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute in Erwin, TN, offers a full spectrum of classes for outdoor enthusiasts and is a center of excellence for outdoor training in the region. Scott has a staff of ACA certified instructors who help him deliver training. He is not only certified as an instructor in several disciplines. He is also certified as an Instructor Trainer, so he is actually helping us expand the instructor base across Tennessee.

www.nolilearn.org



Founded in 1967, Tennessee Valley Canoe Club is based in Chattanooga, TN. The Club focuses on bringing together those who are interested in canoeing, kayaking, and related activities; to increase the knowledge, safety and appreciation of paddle sports; and to support conservation and preservation of recreational waterways.

www.bluescitykayaks.com

Nashville Kayak Lessons

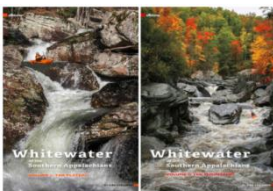
Leslie Dunn, an ACA certified instructor and owner of Nashville Kayak Lessons, offers private training for beginner/recreational (flatwater) paddlers. She has trained more than 2,500 Middle Tennessee paddlers over the last 12 years.

<https://www.meetup.com/Nashville-Kayak-Lessons/>

Scenic River Rescue, LLC

Scenic River Rescue, LLC is a team of ACA certified Swiftwater Rescue instructors that began as club instructors with the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association. After the Nashville Flood of 2010 they began training firefighters and other first responders who were being called upon to conduct rescues on flood stage rivers without adequate training in river related safety and rescue. Since 2010 this team of instructors has worked an average of 8 weekends each year training approximately 1,400 firefighters, first responders, Tennessee State Park Rangers and paddlers. In 2021, they also assisted in training 16 TWRA Wildlife Officers.

Author



Kirk Eddlemon, is the renowned Knoxville-based author of the definitive guide to whitewater paddling in the Southeast, ***Whitewater of the Southern Appalachians***. He is considered a local statesman among whitewater paddlers and teaches with ACE on the Cumberland Plateau.

www.wwsouthernapps.com

Kayak Manufacturers in Tennessee:



Jackson Adventures originated in 2004 with the launch of Jackson Kayaks, a made-in-America whitewater brand. From its headquarters near Rock Island, Tennessee, the brand quickly established itself as the leader in innovation and build quality and soon diversified into a line of recreational and fishing kayaks equally distinctive for thoughtful design and elite performance. www.jacksonadventures.com



In 2018, Pyranha announced they were moving their North American distribution base to Erwin, TN. After over 40 years of research and development, award winning designs, world-class expeditions, supporting top class boaters and expanding to become Europe's leading specialist manufacturer of canoes and kayaks, we still design and build all our boats in Britain. We do not know where our kayaks will be paddled so they are all built to the same high standard – to be pushed to the limit by our world class team of paddlers on the world's toughest rivers in the Himalayas, Rockies and Andes. www.pyranha.com



In 2016, Lifetime Products set up their East Coast manufacturing location in Knox County bringing approximately 500 manufacturing jobs.. Lifetime Products makes blow-molded plastics including kayaks, paddle boards and outdoor play equipment. Lifetime is a leading supplier of kayaks to stores like Walmart, Sam's Club, Dick's Sporting Goods, Fred Meyer, Costco and many other leading retailers. www.lifetime.com



Big South Paddle Co. is an entrepreneurial company founded in Lewisburg, TN in 2020. They are innovating new designs for recreational, fishing and whitewater kayaks; SUPs; dry suits; and many other types of paddling related equipment and gear. www.bigsouthpaddle.com



Apex Watercraft was founded by Olympian, 4 Time World Champion, and Professional Fisherman, Eric Jackson. Eric has been responsible for hundreds of kayak designs. His experience and leadership have culminated in the creation of this advanced composite company. Our boats are not for everyone. They resonate with those who demand the best and have the means to obtain it. There are 37 brands that offer lower-cost plastic fishing kayaks to choose from; that is not Apex Watercraft. We stand alone, at the top, and we are always climbing higher. www.apexwatercraft.com



Tennessee Valley Canoe Club 2021

TVCC Annual Membership costs \$20. Training trips are available free to members. Classes are open to anyone, taught by volunteers, money raised supports club conservation and instruction investments to expand training and mentorship opportunities.

- Facebook Live Panel Series including sessions with ACE Kayaking and a SWR Roundtable with International Rescue Training Expert Jim Coffey.
- Rescue Rodeo (+/- 30 students): Intro to Whitewater Safety & Rescue
- Kayaking 101 in partnership with Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park
- Whitewater Paddle School (+/- 100 students): Includes basic whitewater safety, basic hydrology, proper use of safety equipment, paddling skills
- Weekly Roll Clinic on flatwater (locations vary depending on time of year)
- Flatwater training trips
- Ocoee River Race: always used as a fundraiser for a local nonprofit organization. In recent years the fund raised have been donated to Team River Runner for their “River to Recovery” paddling programs for veterans and the the Friends of the Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park
- Big Brother/Big Sisters paddle trip: club volunteers mentor kids paddle trip
- Annual Girl Scout raft race: club volunteers mentor kids raft race
- Average of 20 training trips in 2021 including whitewater and flatwater training trips. Whitewater trips include trips on Hiwassee, Ocoee, Nantahala, Pigeon, Green Rivers with paddlers escorted by trip leader and multiple support boaters. We typically have a 2:1 student to support boat ratio.



Appalachian Paddling Enthusiasts 2021

- **Ongoing Maintenance of Doe River access at Green Bridge Landing**
 - Club members empty trash from trash cans on site
 - APES has facilitated grounds maintenance at Green Bridge Landing; we petitioned county for money to pay for mowing and trash bags, and we facilitate payments to contractors for mowing and landscaping

- **Classes and Events:**
 - Weekly Pool Sessions to practice rolling and other skills (Spring)
 - Summer Kick-Off, June 5-6
 - Swift Water Rescue mini clinic: rope throwing, knot tying, cold water paddling techniques
 - River trips with experienced guides
 - Beginner Whitewater Open Canoe class
 - Swift Water Rescue June 12
 - Mini Clinic on Gasket Repair for Dry Suits, July 29
 - Swiftwater Rescue Downriver Scenarios Clinic, August 14

- **Clean ups:**
 - Nolichucky River Clean up, May 20
 - Rocky Fork River Clean Up – supported by APES, organized by Northeast Tennessee Outdoor Coalition, July 22

- **Training Trips:**
 - Toecane River, May 19
 - Lower Nolichucky River, May 29
 - French Broad River Section 11, May 31
 - French Broad River Section 11, June 7
 - Lower Doe River, June 13
 - Lower Nolichucky River, June 13
 - Nolichucky Gorge, June 19
 - Lower Watauga River, June 19
 - French Broad River Section 11, June 26
 - Nolichucky Gorge trip, June 27
 - Lower Doe Trip, July 2
 - Lower Doe Trip, July 3
 - Lower Watauga Trip, July 3
 - Lower Nolichucky River, July 5
 - Pigeon River, July 14
 - Watauga Lake, Paddle to the Grill flatwater trip, Jul

- Lower Watauga trip, July 15
- Lower Nolichucky River, July 19
- Lower Nolichucky River, July 20
- Watauga Lake, Paddle to the Grill flatwater trip, July 22
- Tuckaseegee River, July 24
- Nantahala River, July 24
- Watauga Lake, Paddle to the Grill flatwater trip, July 29
- “First Timers” trip on French Broad River, Section 9, July 31
- Pigeon River “Paddle in Pink” – Confidence Building Series, July 31
- Upper and Middle Pigeon River , “Babes on the Waves”, August 1
- Watauga Lake, Paddle to the Grill, flatwater trip, August 5
- Hiwassee River, “Babes on the Waves”, August 6-8
- Watauga River, August 14
- Watauga River, August 28
- Hiwassee River, September 3-6
- Nolichucky Gorge “First Timers Trip”, September 11
- Lower Nolichucky River, September 11

Other Contributions to Community Safety on the Rivers:

- June 9: APES Officer successfully rescued a kayaker who had capsized on Lower Nolichucky River
 - Victim had no helmet, no pfd, and no spray skirt, and had been drinking alcohol
 - Having trained paddler on the river potentially saved the victim’s life, and prevented Search and Rescue involvement
- Strainer Removal: deadfall creates potentially lethal hazards on the river. Strainer removal is done as a public service to make river use safer for all users.
 - July 5: Strainer reported in Nolichucky Gorge, near Maggie’s Rock
 - 3 attempts were made to remove strainer which was successfully removed by club members and volunteers
 - July 20: Strainer reported on Lower Nolichucky River
 - Strainer removed by APES members and volunteers
- Gauge on Nolichucky River
 - July 30: Visual Gauge installed at put in for Nolichucky Gorge
 - USGS Gauge for Nolichucky river level is several hours downstream from the put in. This can make actual river levels hard to determine for inexperienced boaters. A private boater collected data over a year to correlated actual river level at Nolichucky Gorge put in with reading on Nolichucky River USGS online gauge.
 - Goal is to increase safety on river for all users



TSRA charges for paddlesports classes and uses the funds raised to contribute to conservation initiatives, conservation-based land purchases, access builds, and scholarships for instructor training.

Recreational Classes:

- Rescue for Rec Boaters-River Day
- Intro to Rivers (Class I)
- 2 sessions of Intro to Kayaking (flatwater)
- Several sessions of Intro to Kayak Fishing
- Intro to Stand Up Paddleboard
- Intro to Sailing

Whitewater Classes:

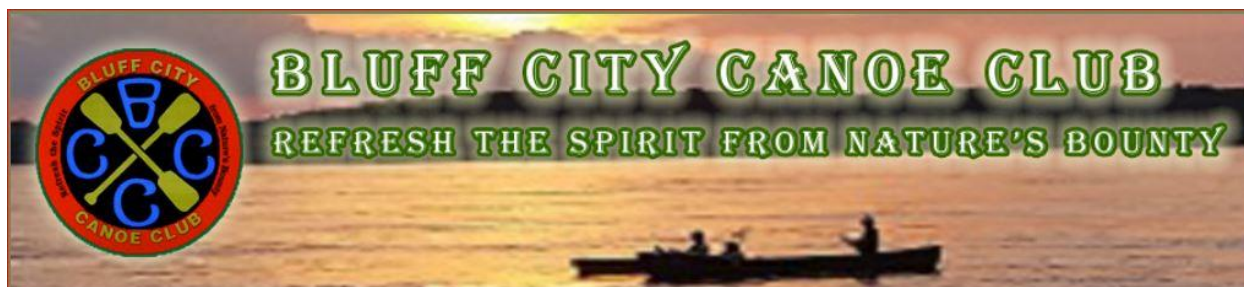
- In place of the annual Whitewater Canoe & Kayak School, in 2021 we offered a training series of 3 whitewater mentorship paddling trips on the Hiwassee, Nantahala, and Ocoee.
- Whitewater Basic River Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue

Other Contributions:

- TSRA volunteers support the TSRA Jack Lyle River Kids program, introducing kids from inner city Nashville to paddlesports.
- TSRA volunteers support several Boy Scout training initiatives, including this year offering whitewater training to the statewide Boy Scout Aquatics Officer.
- In 2021, TSRA volunteers helped teach paddlesports (canoe, kayak, SUP) at the annual TWRA Becoming and Outdoor Woman (BOW) event as well as the TWRA Tennessee Outdoor Youth Summit (TOYS). TSRA has partnered with TWRA on the BOW and Beyond BOW events for nearly thirty years, beginning in the early 1990's.
- This year, TSRA is raising the funds, securing in kind donations and donating the labor to build a canoe and kayak access on Mill Creek at Whittsett Park. This will be the 26th access build that TSRA has secured funding for and donated labor to effectuate in the last 15 years.
- TSRA makes an annual \$5,000 contribution to Tennessee Conservation Voters and typically makes an annual donation to a conservation-based land purchase, either through TennGreen Land Conservancy or another Conservation organization. This year we are working to fulfill a pledge to the Swan Trust. Over the last 20 years, our conservation-based land purchase donations total more than \$80,000. More information available here:

<https://paddletsra.org/news/10718298>

Bluff City Canoe Club (BCCC) 2021



Since 1967, we've been devoted to enjoyment of the outdoors through canoeing, kayaking, biking, hiking and camping.

54 Year History of Training, Safety and Conservation

- Life jackets (PFDs) are always required to be worn by all paddlers on any body of water when paddling with the Bluff City Canoe Club (members are required to sign an annual waiver which includes this from the bylaws).
- No alcohol is consumed on paddle trips while on the water, as stated in the bylaws.
- Training and Safety is featured on the home page of the website, rich with online content
- The Safety tab on the website includes multiple pages of information on First Aid kits, kayak safety rules, paddling traffic rules, life jackets (PFDs), tips on proper paddling clothes and essential safety gear.
- To support paddling safety and training, the website also includes information about checking gauges before paddling to insure safe water levels on rivers, trip reports of past trips, and information about specific paddling locations and hazards.

Training

- First Aid, CPR (adult, child, infant), and AED training is encouraged. BCCC and Wolf river Conservancy often sponsor this training for our members. One BCCC member is a Red Cross certified instructor and offers multiple trainings per year.
- Multiple BCCC members are certified trainers for both open canoe and kayak for recreational paddling.
- Historically, BCCC hosts 2 major multi-day training initiatives per year focusing on whitewater training and recreational boater training. This includes classroom time learning safety and paddle techniques, flat water training on a safe body of water that is not moving, then paddling on moving water. This training was halted with the COVID pandemic and has not yet resumed.
- June 2021 BCCC offered Class I River Safety and Rescue training
- Trip leader training has been offered annually to a large group of volunteers every spring to review guidelines, provide checklists, and ensure safe and consistent practices as per club guidelines. We hope to resume in 2022.

Monthly Public Meetings

- During COVID we switched to Zoom meetings. Group is currently meeting outdoors publicly beginning June, July, August and continuing through the rest of 2021. Typically, 60-80 people attend monthly (pre-pandemic)
- Monthly speakers on conservation, safety, environment, nature, and paddling-related topics featuring outdoor organizations with shared presentations and discussions.

- The July 2021 outdoor meeting offered free training on how to rescue canoes or kayaks stuck on the river using ropes and pulleys called a Z-drag. Demo included canoe, multiple ropes, and experienced Z-drag trainers. All were given ropes to try the knots and learn this rescue technique.

Community Support

- BCCC members has conducted training with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and their leaders many times over the years.
- BCCC typically sponsors outdoor booths at 4-8 public events per year such as Cooper-Yonge festival and Earth Day hosted at Shelby Farms, Shelby Forest, Lichterman Nature Center, Wolf River Conservancy events and park openings, and the Great Outdoors Mississippi Canoe and Kayak Race where we talk with the public about the sport, stressing safety and fun.
- 2021 Volunteering in the community:
 - Safety boats for the St. Jude's Half Iron Man on October 2, 2021.
 - WRC partnership to introduce inner city kids to conservation and paddle sports (Summer 2021)
 - Safety boats for the 2021 Memphis and May Triathlon
 - Safety boats for Great Outdoors Mississippi Canoe and Kayak Race benefitting Church Health Center (20+ years)
 - Teaching paddle sports to special Olympics participants with training, equipment and safety in mind

Ongoing Partnerships

- The Bluff City Canoe Club partners with the Wolf River Conservancy by:
 - BCCC members provide the majority of the River Guides to the Wolf River Conservancy (WRC) paddling events. BCCC paddlers are certified as "River Guides" with the WRC with rigorous training to introduce the public to paddling the diverse and at times wild Wolf river.
 - The first Saturday of the month, River Guides support public paddle trips with safe leadership, PFDs worn, no alcohol, and fun times. Safety briefings are always provided. Advance signup is required.
 - VA Kayak/Canoe clinics have been supported by members of both BCCC and WRC, working with the VA Recreational Therapy department to provide boats, ACA certified instructors, and paddling support
 - Community cleanups BCCC and WRC paddlers partner on land and water (e.g., Harbor Cleanup, Wolf River Cleanup)
- Memphis Whitewater, a Memphis-based whitewater kayak meet up group, hosts weekly roll practice at the YMCA to teach and support kayak safety. Memphis Whitewater also plays boat ball every Tuesday at Shelby Farms Hyde Lake as posted on their website, with experienced paddlers offering coaching and support to new paddlers. All are welcome.
- Friends of our Riverfront, Mississippi River Corridor-TN, Friends of Mississippi River are among our associates
- American Canoe Association (ACA) is prominent with BCCC members:
 - ACA safety and informational materials are included as part of BCCC new member welcome packages and shared publicly at in-person community events and monthly meetings

- BCCC is an ACA member, following their guidelines and purchasing their associated insurance for club trips and events, ensuring PFDs worn, no alcohol on the water, and other recommended practices
- BCCC members are encouraged to join ACA annually. Any paddlers that attend official BCCC trips must purchase an ACA single use event pass or show ACA annual membership
- BCCC sponsors and encourages members get ACA training and certifications. The BCCC paddling and safety instructors are ACA trained.



Chota Canoe Club -- 2021

Classes and Training:

- Winter Roll practice Friday nights from Nov 1 to April 1 at Westside YMCA, Knoxville
- Summer Whitewater Skills practice Friday Nights on the Little River at the Townsend Wye
- June 12-13 -- The 2021 Annual Chota Paddle School included Whitewater School on the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers and Flatwater School at The Cove at Concord Park in Knoxville
- Weekly Roll practice at a pool or, in summer months, at The Cove at Concord Park
- Aug 7 – Annual Chota Safety Sampler on the Hiwassee River: Training/practice for rescue skills
- Offering Chota Instructor Scholarship for 2022 SWR Instructor Candidate

Whitewater Mentorship and Training Trips:

- June 26, Saturday – Hiwassee River
- July 10, Saturday – Lower Pigeon – River
- July 17, Saturday – Hiwassee River
- July 24, Saturday – Hiwassee River
- July 31, Saturday – Lower Pigeon River
- Aug 7, Saturday – Hiwassee River
- Aug 8, Saturday – Hiwassee River
- Aug 14, Saturday – Nantahala River
- Aug 21, Saturday – Nantahala River
- Aug 28, Saturday – Lower Pigeon River
- Sept 4, Saturday – Upper Pigeon River

Flatwater Mentorship Trips:

- Aug 1 – South Knox Bridge
- Aug 15 – Tellico Lake
- Annual destination trips to places like Pensacola, FL or paddling the Mississippi River.

Conservation

- Ijams River Rescue March 27, 2021 (TN River, multiple Knoxville locations)
- Little River Watershed Association Cleanup April 17. 2021

Donations

- \$500 Little River Watershed Association
- \$500 CWEET Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee (conservation efforts with the Pigeon & Nolichucky Rivers)
- \$500 American Whitewater
- \$500 Daddy's Creek Go Fast Day(proceeds donated to TWRA)

Safety

- Chota providing in water safety for Bridge to Bluffs swim event 9/21/21



East Tennessee Whitewater Club -- 2021

- Weekly roll practice all year long at Clark Center/Carbide Park, Oak Ridge Civic Center, Clinton Rec Center or Townsend Fishing Hole
- June 7 Whitewater Beginner Clinic (1 week long)
- Training Trips:
 - July 10 Hiwassee River
 - July 17 Nantahala River



Beaver Creek Kayak Club - 2021

- 4th Annual Beaver Creek Flotilla Assisted ~200 kayaks/canoes with mandatory life jackets. Planning, assisting with creek entry, on water assistance, creek exit, and shuttle.
- 4 Adopt a Street cleanups (BCKC has adopted Harrell Rd.)
- Assisted neighboring communities with their trash pick ups.
- Participated in work day for Collier Preserve (planting trees, trail work)
- Participate and promote Powell Station Celebration each year.
- Participate and promote Karns Community Fair and Parade. Assist with Karns Christmas Parade.
- Use Social Media to promote water safety and "Don't Splash Your Trash" clean water effort.
- Hosted "No-Yak 2021" to connect with more members and promote another hidden local gem, Cherokee Caverns.