

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association

2020 Annual Edition

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A Letter from Our President

In 2009, I was asked to run TSRA's Canoe and Kayak School. I was completely unaware of the huge task ahead of me. I vividly remember my first visit to a board meeting to share how the school was shaping up. I found myself surrounded by amazing people who were carrying on the long history of addressing environmental issues, leading conservation efforts and volunteering many hours to instruct in paddling skills and rescue techniques. Little did I know I was embarking on such a rewarding personal venture.

I find myself, again, in a situation in which I have agreed to take on a huge task. But this time, I am aware of the work ahead of me. I am grateful to have the guidance and support of past President Gary Weatherford and contributions of the involved and hardworking TSRA Board of Directors.

2019 was full of TSRA successes involving Rendezvous, our whitewater and recreational kayak and canoe classes, an impressive access build on the Harpeth River, the launch of Jack Lyle's River Kids, certification of new instructors and the Lost Loon Triathlon to name a few. Thanks to the hard working team at the Southern Environmental Law Center, a settlement agreement by TVA to remove the coal ash from the

leaking pits at the Gallatin Fossil Plant marked a huge win in the protection of our waterways.

The TSRA family lost long time member, kayak instructor and good friend Craig Burr in 2019. Those of us who knew Craig will never forget this man of few words and will always remember his ability to instruct and guide someone down the river with the simplest of directions. You knew you were in good hands when you paddled with Craig.

I am excited about working with the 2020 Board of Directors, TSRA members, volunteers and sponsors to keep TSRA moving forward and maintaining our mission to preserve, protect and restore the scenic, free-flowing rivers of Tennessee. To borrow a quote from the TSRA website, "May we enjoy the friendships we form around the issues that unite us, the rivers we enjoy and the sport that keeps us young!"

~Sally Barr



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2020 TSRA Calendar of Events

- Feb. 19 – Mar. 25 Roll School
- Apr. 1 - 5 2020 Rendezvous
- May 9 Intro to Kayak Fishing
- May 16 Tons of Fun - Intro to Kayaking
- May 30 Intro to Rivers
- June 6 Tons of Fun - Intro to Kayaking
- June 13 – 14 Rescue for Rec Boaters
- June 26 – 28 Canoe and Kayak School
- July 10 – 12 Basic River Rescue
- July 24 – 26 Swiftwater Rescue
- Aug. 8 – 9 Rescue for Rec Boaters
- Sept. 12 CRC Dragon Boat Race
- Sept. 13 Lost Loon Triathlon
- Dec. TBD REI Gift Wrap
- Dec. 5 Annual Meeting/Holiday Party

TSRA Board Meeting Dates

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| Jan. 23 | July 23 |
| Feb. 27 | Aug. 27 |
| Mar. 26 | Sept. 24 |
| Apr. 23 | Oct. 22 |
| May 28 | Nov. 19 |
| June 25 | Dec. 10 |

Get Ready to Roll!

Want to learn how to roll your boat, or looking to practice and perfect your roll technique? Join TSRA at Roll School in February and March. After several years at Tennessee State University, we held the 2019 roll school at Vanderbilt University's Recreation and Wellness Center. The change was a popular one, with students citing ease of access and the helpful Vanderbilt staff as just a few benefits of the new location. We're pleased to be back at Vanderbilt for 2020 Roll School on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., February 19 through March 25.



At Roll School, students receive personal instruction and support from experienced instructors in a comfortable, non-threatening environment. Mastering a roll makes canoeing or kayaking easier and more fun. If your canoe or kayak is clean and outfitted to roll, we'll teach you the techniques for rolling it. If you already have a roll, our clinic is great for sharpening your skills before the spring paddling season. Like other TSRA schools and events, Roll School is also a great place to meet other area paddlers, trade tips and make friends. We welcome paddlers of all ages at Roll School, though students under 12 must have a parent or guardian present.

We hope to see you at the pool!



TSRA Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School

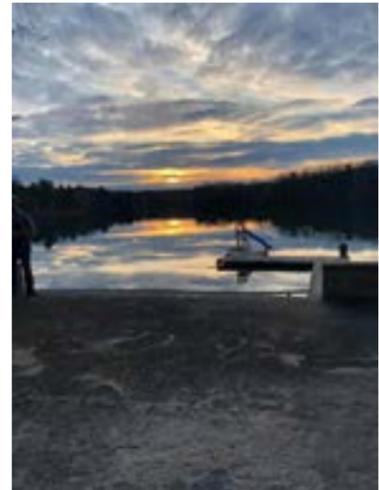
For over 50 years, TSRA has shared its love for scenic rivers and paddling by hosting Canoe and Kayak School at one of Tennessee's scenic treasures, the Hiwassee River. It's almost a tradition now, TSRA instructors and support boaters congregating annually on the river to pass along their passion of river and sport. Beginner whitewater canoe and kayak paddlers up to advanced paddlers ages 12 and up are welcome to join us June 26-28 at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park in Delano for this year's school.

Although students work in classes organized according to similar skill levels, sharing a common campground provides an opportunity to meet and swap stories with other paddlers and instructors. Instruction includes on and off-river lessons covering orientation and logistics; terminology and river signals; stroke work, self and assisted rescue; fundamentals of river features; whitewater practice such as eddy turns, ferries and surfing; assessing current environmental conditions; and paddling group dynamics. Classes may begin on Parksville Lake to work on self and assisted rescue techniques and advance to the Hiwassee River or the Ocoee River, depending upon skill level. Registration includes two nights camping, a hearty meal Saturday evening and two full days of instruction.



2020 Rendezvous

We're looking forward to another great Rendezvous on the Cumberland Plateau on April 1-5, 2020 at Camp Nakanawa, near Crossville, Tennessee. Rendezvous proceeds have allowed TSRA to hold paddler and instructor classes to improve water safety across Tennessee. Other accomplishments funded in part by Rendezvous proceeds: A \$5,000 donation to help acquire the Lone Star Tract on the Cumberland Plateau to protect the watershed of Daddys Creek/Obed River and the headwaters of Fall Creek at Ozone Falls. Participation in a lawsuit against the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) that resulted in an agreement that TVA will dig up millions of tons of coal ash from leaking pits at its Gallatin Fossil Plant. New river access structures in the Big South Fork at the Station Camp Creek and on Mill Creek by Lebanon Road in Nashville near the confluence with the Cumberland River.



The weather ultimately determines the extent of the activities at Rendezvous, but there will be paddling, hiking, biking, games, music and more. Our plateau locals always make the best of the weather and water levels to organize the paddling trips. From the beautiful lake for gentle paddles to Class IV whitewater, you can find water fun for your skill level. The silent and live auctions will once again offer great deals and lots of laughter.

Stay all four nights for the complete Rendezvous experience, or register for a Saturday-only pass to enjoy the auctions and a full day of paddling or other activities. Your early registration includes accommodations in the camp's rustic cabins (camping space is also available) and all weekend activities (meal plan is an additional cost). The silent auction begins Friday evening and a live auction on Saturday evening offers ample opportunity to go home with gear, handcrafted items, art and more, all while supporting TSRA's mission. Early registration is open January 2 through March 16. To learn more and register visit paddletsra.org.

**Check our online calendar
for more upcoming river
adventures and trips!**



Whitewater Safety Courses

TSRA's Whitewater Basic River Rescue and Swiftwater Rescue classes have served our paddling community for many years. Our whitewater rescue instructors are an impressive bunch. In 2019, they



taught over 300 first responders through their training program and are looking forward to another stellar year in 2020.

Basic River Rescue will be held July 11-12 on the Hiwassee River. This

course teaches a variety of rescue skills needed in a whitewater environment. Students learn the basics of swimming with and without a paddle, throwing and catching a rope, wading in current, and using simple mechanical advantage systems. Students also get to practice boat-based rescues in a realistic yet controlled whitewater scenario. It's worth a lot to be able to learn boat-over-boat techniques, T-rescues, bow rescues and deep water re-entry when the water is churning but consequences are low and help is readily available.

Swiftwater Rescue will be held July 25-26 on the Ocoee River. This course is designed to teach swiftwater rescue techniques where limited personnel and/or safety gear are available. We cover rescue skills and techniques for dealing with situations that carry greater risks for both victim and rescuer such as strainers, entrapments and pins. Teaching scenarios provide an opportunity for participants to practice their skills both individually and within a team. Students also learn a variety of rescue vest applications. This class involves a lot of swimming, but no boat is required.

These classes sell out nearly every year, so we encourage early registration. Watch for a registration announcement at paddletsa.org or follow TSRA on Facebook.

Recreational Paddling Classes

Many of us know someone who purchased a recreational kayak "to see if they like it," and it turns out they do! But now what? TSRA's recreational paddling classes help students gain paddling skills and learn how to keep themselves and their paddling buddies safe while they enjoy the water. Every year, we hear from paddlers who have applied the skills they learned in a TSRA class to help other paddlers out of a potentially sticky situation. In 2020, TSRA is again offering courses that not only teach safety skills for recreational paddlers, but that also help students be part of the paddling community, meet cool paddling companions and learn how to let the water do the work.

This year we are planning two Intro to Kayaking classes suitable for beginner or first-time paddlers. Katherine Fulk will be the lead instructor for Rescue for Rec Boaters, where students can learn rescue skills on both lakes and Class I rivers. Mike Tossing will set boaters up for success as they move from paddling flat water to Class I rivers in Intro to Rivers. Finally, Geoff Luckett will teach beginner paddlers to safely enjoy kayak fishing on gentle rivers in TSRA's first ever Intro To Kayak Fishing class. These ACA-certified instructors are experts at teaching students solid paddling and safety skills, and they do it with enthusiasm and good humor that is irresistible. TSRA's recreational paddling classes are also a great way to involve entire families in the paddling fun. So, please join us at a class this summer, or invite a friend to join us!



Williamson County Access Build



What do you get when you combine 5 days, 92 volunteers, 416 work hours, lots of lumber, over 40 tons of riprap and record high temperatures? In September 2019, TSRA combined these elements for a new access structure along the Harpeth River at Williamson County's Franklin Recreation Complex off Fulton Greer Road.

In addition to the hard work of our fabulous volunteers, this access was made possible by a community grant from REI and a grant from the American Canoe Association (ACA) and L.L.Bean. Rogers Group and CMC

Steel donated materials for the build, and Brentwood Rental & Sales provided a discount on the jackhammer rental. REI Brentwood brought the REI tent, lounge chairs for breaks, snacks, ice and swag for volunteers.



As we start a new year, we give thanks to the many people who contribute to the success of our organization. Your gifts and talents allow TSRA to broaden our community outreach efforts to protect Tennessee's scenic rivers and train others how to paddle safely. We especially thank those who give to TSRA through direct donations, workplace giving campaigns, foundations, donor-advised funds, community grants, social networks and volunteer service programs. Thank you Community Shares, the Village Fund, HCA and the HCA Foundation, AT&T, Kroger, United Way, American Canoe Association, L.L.Bean, TWRA and REI for your charitable gifts and support.

TSRA has been a member of Community Shares Tennessee for over 29 years in the Environmental Protection category. Over 30 member organizations work together to address social, economic and environmental issues in our state. Please consider becoming a workplace giving partner or donate to Community Shares by visiting communitysharestn.org. Does your employer have a matching gift program, volunteer service or community service program?

Thank you for supporting our schools, conservation programs, Rendezvous and the Lost Loon Triathlon. We appreciate your generosity, enjoy your fellowship and hope to see you on the river!



TSRA continues to support a local chapter of Team River Runner. Team River Runner is a national non-profit organization that provides veterans and their families an opportunity to find health and healing

through adaptive paddle sports. Chapters organize pool sessions and paddling trips for veterans and their families, providing all equipment, instruction, transportation, and food and lodging for participants and volunteers. We welcome vets of any age with any disability and family members of all ages to participate.

We need help to grow the chapter's small fleet of boats, with the greatest need for canoes and recreational kayaks. Team River Runner is a great way to give something meaningful to those who have given so much for us, so if you can support the chapter through volunteering or a donation, please email Arthur.Petersen@teamriverrunner.org.

TSRA Celebrates River Kids Success

In 2019, TSRA launched “Jack Lyle’s River Kids,” a program designed to introduce disadvantaged inner-city youth to the joys of kayaking. More than 20 TSRA volunteers stepped up to help make the inaugural year a success. Over the summer, we introduced 19 teenagers and young counselors to recreational kayaking. At our first event, at Couchville Lake, some teenagers said they were afraid of the water, but by the end of the day, they were flipping their kayaks and practicing self-rescues just for fun. On the Stones River, we played water football and had relay races. The teenagers left tired but eager for more. On the Harpeth, they loved seeing turtles and hunting for periwinkle shells. The Hiwassee amped up the action, with kids laughing and spinning in funyaks.

River Kids is made possible by the Jack Lyle Memorial Fund, which began with a legacy from Jack Lyle, a longtime TSRA member and past president who died in 2018. To create the program, TSRA partnered with Sierra Club’s Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) Nashville, a fellow nonprofit group with success in conducting safe outdoor events for

youth. The Jack Lyle Fund paid for kayak rentals, snacks, equipment, and other expenses for getting the kids on the water. In addition, the Fund covered CPR/first aid certification for volunteers, plus online child protection training and background checks.



Want to get in on the fun in 2020? **Volunteer:** You’ll receive free training and huge satisfaction! For details, email marymbuckner@comcast.net.

Donate: We welcome any amount. Please make checks payable to TSRA Jack Lyle Fund, and mail to TSRA, P.O. Box 159041, Nashville, Tennessee 37215-9041. You can also donate on the TSRA web site. Thank you!

Announcing Mike Tossing, Certified ACA Instructor Trainer

Congratulations to Mike Tossing for certifying as an American Canoe Association (ACA) Essentials of River Kayaking Instructor Trainer. Mike’s certification is the culmination of years of hard work including planning, co-teaching and leading instructor certification courses.

Mike was already an ACA-certified Level 3 River Kayaking instructor, and has been a lead instructor for TSRA’s Rescue for Rec Boaters for 3 years. Now, Mike is qualified to train and certify Level 1 Introduction to Kayaking and Level 2 Essentials of River Kayaking instructors, provide those instructors required updates and to deliver ACA’s Paddlesports Safety Facilitator certification and endorsement.

“I was honored to serve as Mike’s final mentoring Instructor Trainer Educator (ITE) following Mike’s initial work with ACA Instructor Trainer David

Evans,” said Larry Ausley, an ACA ITE from Cary, NC. “Mike and I did a lot of great work together and with Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association to build kayaking instructor development into Tennessee programs.”

TSRA is thrilled to have a local Instructor Trainer to train and certify kayaking instructors. The instructors Mike certifies will be vital to TSRA’s commitment to providing hands-on paddling skills and safety training for Middle Tennessee’s recreational paddlers.



TSRA Donation to Extend and Enhance the Cumberland Trail

In November 2019, the TSRA Board of Directors approved a \$5,000 donation to TennGreen for purchase of the Lone Star tract on the Cumberland Plateau. These 6,650 acres will ultimately become a significant addition to Cumberland Trail State Park, providing the opportunity to reconnect a key segment of the Cumberland Trail, restore a critical wildlife corridor and protect nearby rivers and streams. Lone Star has over 22 miles of freshwater streams that flow into three separate watersheds: Daddys Creek Lower,

Daddys Creek Middle and Piney Creek. The tract includes a section of river frontage on Daddys Creek and the headwaters of Fall Creek at Ozone Falls. Because much of the Lone Star property has been impacted by timber harvest and mineral extraction, this acquisition is imperative to protect the water quality of these streams and watersheds. TSRA is pleased to contribute to this project. We thank all the TSRA supporters who ultimately make important conservation donations such as this one possible.



Photo by Alan Cressler

Lost Loon Triathlon



How much fun can you have cycling, paddling and trail running or walking? Join us and find out at the Lost Loon Triathlon, TSRA’s fall fundraiser, on September 13, 2020 at Long Hunter State Park. Outdoor events are always full of fun surprises and the

Lost Loon Triathlon showcases festive triathletes every year. A wedding party, King Tut and super heroes of all ages were a few of the guests at the 2019 Lost Loon.

How is Lost Loon unique? Our family-friendly event does not time racers. Awards are based on other fun criteria selected by a secret panel of Lost Loon volunteers. This event is perfect for not-so-serious triathletes of all ages and generations. The full course (if you choose to complete it) is nine miles biking on a paved road, two miles tandem canoeing on Couchville Lake and two miles running or walking on a path around the lake. Time and distance are up to you and costumes are optional. Lost Loon is a great way to introduce children and adults to outdoor sports and triathlons. You may even get a few pointers from some of our TSRA volunteers on the waterfront.

TSRA is honored to continue the Lost Loon tradition founded by Willy Stern in 2004. Since its inception, this event has raised over \$136,000 for conservation organizations. We also give special thanks to our founding families, friendly volunteers and dedicated partners that make this event possible every year. Thank you to long-time Lost Loon supporters: Bobbie’s Dairy Dip, Kroger, Moondog Web Design, Papa John’s Mt. Juliet, Publix, Tennessee Paddler, Vanderbilt Outdoor Recreation, Vanderbilt LifeFlight, Long Hunter State Park, Friends of Long Hunter State Park and our new supporter, REI. All Lost Loon proceeds benefit TSRA conservation projects.



How do you sign up? Join the email list at lostloons.com and like our Facebook page, The Lost Loon Triathlon, for registration updates during the year. An enthusiastic mix of teams, volunteers and partners make this event special and unique every year. Be a part of the Looniness. We look forward to seeing you on September 13, 2020!

Victory for Clean Water in Coal Ash Lawsuit Against TVA



A June 2019 settlement agreement regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) violation of state clean water regulations at its Gallatin Fossil Plant is a clear victory for clean water in Tennessee. TVA agreed to dig up millions of tons of coal ash from leaking pits at its Gallatin Fossil Plant as part of a pair of settlements entered into with TSRA, the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) and the State of Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). TCWN and TSRA were represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) as interveners in the state case.

Under the settlement, TVA is required to dig up the majority of the coal ash it stores in the leaking manmade, unlined pits at Gallatin (approximately 12 million cubic yards of ash). Based on the settlement terms, this ash will be removed and either recycled or placed into a permitted landfill. TVA must submit their removal plan to the State by September 30, 2020.

The settlement also requires TVA to address contamination from a second, smaller storage facility on-site at Gallatin, which contains about 2 million cubic yards of coal ash. TVA has five years to develop a plan and demonstrate it can correct groundwater pollution in this area of the power plant. TDEC will then select a remedy to address impacts from coal ash, such as any remaining groundwater pollution. The public will be invited to provide feedback on the specifics of TVA's plan to correct on-site contamination at Gallatin from both storage facilities. TSRA and TCWN will also continue to monitor implementation of the settlement throughout the course of the excavation and future coal ash cleanup at the facility.

Gary Weatherford, TSRA President, commented, "The settlement is a prime example of the difference we can make as citizen advocates to protect our state's waterways, but there is more work to be done. We intend to continue to hold TVA responsible as it pursues the appropriate actions needed to safely remove this pollution, and we hope that others will join us as citizen watchdogs."

In light of the settlement in the state case, in September 2019, TSRA and TCWN requested dismissal of a petition before the Supreme Court of the United States that asked the Court to consider whether the federal Clean Water Act applies to groundwater pollutants like those in Gallatin. Because the settlement in the state case accomplishes the primary goals we hoped to achieve in the federal case, TSRA and TCWN decided to stop pursuing the federal action. In early November 2019, the Supreme Court heard argument in a separate case raising the same legal question.

TSRA thanks SELC for representing TSRA and TCWN in these cases and for generously and tirelessly working on behalf of clean water in Tennessee. We also thank TSRA members and everyone who participates in the TSRA events that help fund our conservation efforts.



TSRA is a Kroger Community Rewards partner.

Kroger gives back \$2,500,000 annually to Middle Tennessee nonprofits, and TSRA can be part of that if you register with Kroger. Once you've enrolled and selected Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association as your organization, just use your Kroger Plus Card or Kroger Alt ID when you shop, and TSRA will receive a percentage of your spending. Thank you for your generous support of TSRA!



In Memoriam: Craig Burr



Craig Burr, long time TSRA member and past Vice President, died on August 21, 2019 at his home in Chattanooga following a hard fought battle with cancer with his devoted wife Lanette by his side. Craig was a skilled kayaker and a raft guide on the Ocoee. For many years, he was always on hand to instruct paddlers at TSRA Canoe and Kayak School, Roll School and to assist at swiftwater rescue clinics.

David Cole and Gary Weatherford, TSRA Board members, shared some memories of paddling with Craig.

One morning, David and several other paddlers met for breakfast, and when the meal was over someone asked, "What should we paddle today?" After debating their options for an hour, someone said, "Craig's going to paddle White Oak Creek. Anyone want to do that?" That's all it took. Forty minutes later, they found Craig leaning against the guardrail, peacefully staring up into the trees, already dressed for the river. If he'd been a bit taller and wearing a cowboy hat instead of a helmet, he could have been Butch Cassidy waiting for the "Wild Bunch" gang to show up. The look on his face suggested that he knew all along that this was where the group would end up. But all he said was, "Who's running shuttle?" Craig was the king of one-liners.

Gary recalls his first descent on the Middle Ocoee. At one point, they were tucked into an eddy above a rapid that you can't see the bottom of from the top. Gary asked Craig, "What do we do here?" Craig must have noticed that Gary was doing just fine so far, because he shouted back over his shoulder, "I don't remember!" as he peeled out and headed on down river. Another one of his great one-liners. Following Craig's lead, Gary was fine.

David remembers his first trip down Craig's favorite stream, Yellow Creek. It's a twisty, steep, boulder-strewn creek. On surveying a tortuous and gnarly rapid, with a little nervous quaver in his voice, David asked Craig, "How do we run this?" Craig pointed downstream and said, "See that wet rock on the right? Be sure you go left of it, and you'll be fine."

Who knew Craig was such a philosopher, living like he paddled, one wet rock at a time.

Kayaker, raft guide, photographer, husband and father, Craig Burr quietly did it all. We'll miss you, Craig.



2019 Membership Drive

In 2019, TSRA conducted our second end-of-year membership drive. For a limited time, we gave new and renewing members the option of expanded membership levels with an additional donation. The \$100 Star membership included a TSRA water bottle and a \$15 voucher for any 2020 TSRA event or class. The \$200 3-Star membership included a TSRA water bottle, limited edition TSRA cap and a \$40 voucher for any 2020 TSRA event or class. These members were also able to identify how they would like their extra donation to be used, such as for river access builds, the general fund or the Jack Lyle Memorial Fund.

2019 also marked TSRA's first year to offer student memberships with \$10 annual dues and a four-hour volunteer requirement. We hope this membership level will help us attract the next generation of TSRA members and leaders.

Thanks again to the Star members and 3-Star members who gave a little more and can flaunt their TSRA limited edition gear with pride!



Looking For Members

ACA, American Whitewater and Tennessee Paddling Clubs Partner on Policy Initiative

In October 2019 paddling leaders in Tennessee made history. Led by Andrea White, former TSRA Board Member and ACA Tennessee State Director, the five largest paddling clubs in Tennessee came together on the banks of the Nolichucky River for a historic meeting to better align on key policy issues that affect paddlers in the state of Tennessee.

There was an all star cast at this first time collaboration! Three club presidents attended along with other board members from all five clubs. Additionally, paddlers benefitted from the national leadership of ACA Public Policy Chief, Brett Mayer, and American Whitewater National Stewardship Director, Kevin Colburn, as well as Jack Henderson from the River Management Society. ACA Tennessee State Director Andrea White was also supported by ACA Tennessee Deputy State Director Hunter Branstetter.

“As far as we can tell, this is the first time all of these paddling leaders have come together on behalf of Tennessee paddlers and Tennessee waterways,” said White. “There was an electric sense of what we might be able to accomplish working together.”

So what are the issues in play?

1. Paddling in Tennessee State Parks

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has implemented an impounded lake usage fee for people bringing their own paddlecraft to certain state parks. Although these fees may at first glance seem like a negative development, paddlers actually enjoy a net gain in access because these

impounded lakes were not previously available for paddling. Some have, however, expressed concern that state parks may see private boaters as revenue sources rather than as constituents.

TDEC is willing to work with paddling organizations to help bring ACA-certified instructors to help with state park programming by teaching classes and providing instruction. The clubs are trying to make ACA certified instructors more available to state parks for instructional opportunities that will offer income for the instructors and training for the paddling community at large.

2. TWRA Proposed Rulemaking and Outfitter Fees

There is a current moratorium on Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) outfitter fees until July 2021. State universities and outfitters operating under permit from Cherokee National Forest or TDEC are exempted from these regulations and excluded from any fees.

In the coming season, 2020, outfitters will need to apply for a TWRA permit and submit quarterly reports to the TWRA on the number of vessels (canoes, kayaks, paddle boards or tubes) in their fleet, their put-in/take-out location information, as well as the number of vessels they are putting on any given waterway in a day. The data collection will inform TWRA rule making .to determine a new outfitter fee structure that will go into effect in the 2021 season.

There are no formal proposed regulations of the private boating community, but in public testimony to the

Joint Committee on Government Operations at the state legislature, the TWRA indicated private regulation might be necessary in the future. Paddlers can take a proactive stance by contacting their TWRA Commissioner to tout the benefits of outdoor recreation to Governor Lee’s Rural Tourism initiative and to highlight that floating public waterways should not require additional regulation or fees.

3. Designating the Nolichucky as a Wild and Scenic River

A functional coalition of grassroots support is advocating for the establishment of the Nolichucky as a Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Designating the Nolichucky as a federally protected Wild and Scenic River would permanently protect eight miles of the Nolichucky River to forever remain wild, free and unimpeded by any future dam proposals. This would require support from both Tennessee and North Carolina legislators.

You can help this initiative by adding your personal endorsement to the #NoliWildandScenic movement. By going to NoliWildandScenic.org and clicking TAKE ACTION, you can contact your local congressional representative and both of Tennessee’s senators. They will receive an email asking them to carry a bill and support Wild and Scenic designation for the Nolichucky.

Moving forward, all five paddling clubs have high hopes that more collaboration will result in more effective outreach on key policy issues that affect paddlers throughout the state. If you have further questions, or would like to be more involved in any of our efforts, please contact Andrea White, ACA Tennessee State Director, at instatedirector@americancanoe.net.

PADDLE  PROTECT  PRESERVE



ACA Founded 1880

TSRA Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Founded 1966

TVEC Tennessee Valley Canoe Club Founded 1967

CHOZA CHOZA CANOE CLUB - Knoxville, TN Founded 1969

AMERICAN WHITewater Founded 1954





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SAVE THE DATE!

April 1 - 5 Rendezvous
September 13 Lost Loon Triathlon



STAY CONNECTED:

For more information on the latest paddling trips, events, schools and news follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram (TN Scenic Rivers). Don't forget to come explore all we have to offer at www.paddletsra.org