

## Upcoming Classes!

# Canoe and Kayak School, Intro to Kayaking and Basic River Rescue

### Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School will be held June 9-11, 2023.

Join us at the Hiwassee / Ocoee Scenic River State Park located at: 404 Spring Creek Road, Delano, Tennessee on the Hiwassee River.

This school is for beginner whitewater canoe and kayak paddlers up to advanced paddlers ages 12 and up.

Instructional opportunities will include 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. On-water instruction is based on skill level. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information and to register, [click here!](#)

### Intro to Kayaking class will be held June 17, 2023.

An FUN introductory class to make you knowledgeable about Kayaks, be comfortable and safe in the water with new Kayak Skills!!!

Participants need to provide:

- Kayak, Paddle and PFD. (rentals may be available upon registration)
- Wear Poly Clothing – No killer Cotton. (you will be in the lake)
- Water shoes – or old sneakers, hat, sun block, eye glass floater strap
- Water (2 quarts in water bottles), lunch, snacks
- 10ft length of rope with optional carabiner (bow line)
- Big Smile and Great Enthusiasm!!!

For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

**\*\*minimum age 14**

### Basic River Rescue Clinic will be held July 7-9, 2023.

Join CHOTA, Knoxville area canoe club, and TSRA for our joint Basic River Rescue Clinic. Held at Gee Creek Campground on the Hiwassee River, in Delano, Tennessee.

This class provides an opportunity for you to learn how to help yourself and your paddling friends whenever you run into trouble on the river. This course will be taught by Swiftwater Rescue trained instructors. Students will need to have some basic comfort with their paddling skills ON WHITEWATER before embarking on the training. A roll is not necessary in order to take this class.

Whitewater boats (no recreational boats), or Whitewater Canoes are required for this course.

For more information and to register, [click here.](#)

*Upcoming Events*

Full Calendar

1st Saturday Paddle	June 3
Canoe & Kayak School	June 9-11
3rd Sat Paddle	June 17
Intro to Kayaking	June 17
TSRA Board Meeting	June 22
Hot Rolls	June 25



# Trip Report: Jack Lyle Memorial Paddle

We met at 10:30 am at Leatherwood Ford to paddle in honor of Jack Lyle. One of his favorite sections to paddle was from the Confluence of the New and Clear Fork Rivers to Leatherwood Ford on Big South Fork of the Cumberland. Before we put on the river, James asked for a moment of silence in Jack's memory.

We were blessed with a beautiful day, sunny with blue skies and mild temperatures! 19 bodies started the journey: one shredder, one raft, one canoe, one Duckie and 13 kayaks. We returned with approximately the same number! There was an unusual lack of carnage on today's run!

Several paddlers knew Jack and shared stories of his humor, leadership and good fellowship. It seems that everyone loved Jack and the world was a better place with him in it.

A tradition for this memorial paddle is the awarding of the Golden Plunger. It can be a positive or negative award! This year's Golden Plunger Award went to Austin Chamberlain for hitting all of his combat rolls (3) on his PFD of this section as well as his first ever combat roll! There were a couple of honorable mentions; Chris for almost losing 2 boats during shuttle and David for wrong guidance.

It was a fun and beautiful day on the water! Thanks to James and Jonathan for your leadership and keeping us all safe on the river.

Checkout the photos in the [google gallery!](#)

Report by, Susan Korf



# Trip Report: Shelby Bottoms Paddle

On Friday, May 5th, TSRA volunteers partnered with staff from Metro Parks and the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center to lead a recreational paddle on Mill Creek and the Cumberland River. Nine intrepid paddlers braved Taylor Swift traffic and a dodgy weather forecast to come out for the event. They were rewarded with perfect temperatures, calm winds, and the Cumberland all to themselves.

The group paddled upstream from the Shelby Bottoms boat ramp and into Mill Creek. Park Naturalist, John Michael Cassidy, shared info on local bird life, karst topography, and the Nashville Crayfish endemic to Mill Creek, and everyone shared intel on the best places for urban paddling around Nashville.

The group picked up trash along the way and noted the need for a future clean up of lower Mill Creek which was harboring more than its fair share of non-endemic basketballs and other debris. A couple of participants were just getting started kayaking, so having access to Metro Parks' kayak fleet to supply them with boats was a great help.

The float ended back at Shelby Bottoms, where everyone was able to join in the Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms "Fridays by the River" event. All in all, a relaxing and beautiful trip, and a great celebration of our urban river resources.

Report by, Shawn Shepard





# Intro to Sailing Class

On May 16th, TSRA members met at Vivrett Creek Public Use Area on Percy Priest Lake for an Intro to Sailing Class. Taught by John McFadden, students learned the basics of sailing including: boat nomenclature, points of sail, and righting a capsized boat.

Luckily, righting a capsized boat is the first thing covered in class, as unruly weather was forecasted. John started the class letting participants know that they may have signed up for a beginner to sailing class, but this would probably be an advanced class. Due to the incoming storm, the calm 5mph winds earlier end the day ended up reaching 12-20mph.

One vessel flipped right after departure, however, students were able to right the boat and sail on. And just as the boats pulled back into the marina, the thunderstorm let loose. Everyone did make it back safely and had a great time. We will be offering the class again in the fall. So stay tuned for a date and a call for extra volunteer support boaters for the class.



## Volunteer Highlight

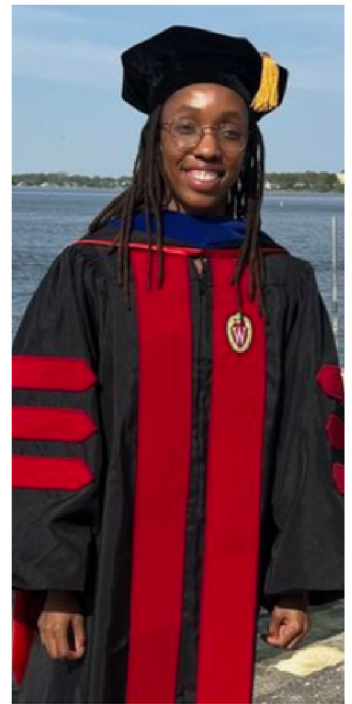


Congratulation's to former TSRA Volunteer, Rachel Stewart, who gained her PhD from Wisconsin University, concentrating on Water Science and Technology.

Rachel worked on many TSRA access builds through our partnership with [Tennessee Alliance for Progress's \(TAP\)](#), leadership program to enable people to participate in building a prosperous, just and sustainable Tennessee - by developing a new generation of grassroots leadership across Tennessee.

Rachel says she is looking at positions in wastewater and water consulting engineering firms. And she adds, "Thank you so much again! What TSRA brought to TAP was impactful for me in deciding what I wanted to do and what I was passionate about."

We look forward to seeing how Rachel utilizes her knowledge and leadership skills in supporting clean water for everyone.



# Thank you to TSRA Instructors who taught in ACA, TN State Parks and TWRA's Kayaking 101 Classes

Did you see a TSRA Member at one of our state parks during National Safe Boating week?

Thank you to the following TSRA Instructors who supported ACA, Tennessee State Parks and TWRA's partnership to conduct Kayaking 101 classes statewide on May 20, 2023:

**Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park:** Ande Demetriou, lead

**Long Hunter State Park:** Geoff Luckett, lead, supported by: Tom Christensen and team of TSRA volunteers

**Fall Creek Falls State Park:** Samantha Satterfield, lead

**Chickasaw State Park:** Daniel McKee, lead

**Hiwassee/Ocoee State Park:** Gary Weatherford, lead supported by instructors: Steve Morris, Jesse Finnamore, Renee Garside, Vinnie Finnamore

**Harpeth River State Park:** Nancy Parrott, lead supported by: team of TSRA volunteers and Brenton Petrillo from Team Pyranha.

Check out ACA's Recap video [here](#)



**According to the Tennessee State Parks:**

These low cost Kayaking 101 courses were offered to paddlers across Tennessee as a part of National Safe Boating Week. Courses were held at 13 state parks and a new addition this year, an accessible kayaking 101 course at Booker T. Washington State Park, we were able to offer opportunities for everyone to learn and grow in their kayaking skills.

Despite a statewide rain on the day of the courses, our park rangers, certified ACA instructor volunteers, safety boaters, and equipment donors from 21 organizations came together to make sure the show went on. With land and water education, our folks rallied in a big way to help spread the love of kayaking and connect local paddlers with clubs and local opportunities for training and mentorship.

After just five days of the courses being open for registration, almost all the 195 available spots were filled, showing the incredible interest and demand for these courses. And we couldn't have done it without the support of our entire paddling community. We're proud to have been a part of this effort to promote safety and education among paddlers in Tennessee, and we look forward to offering more opportunities in the future.

## TSRA Volunteer Opportunity



The dates are set and initial planning has begun for one of our wildly anticipated events: **Rendezvous 2024. April 4-7, 2024.** We are currently forming a planning committee to ensure next-years event is fantastic.

If you are interested in being a part of the planning process, the planning committee is looking for a couple of volunteers. Planning members will meet via google meet to organize the many activities for Rendezvous 2024.

Email [jason@paddletsr.org](mailto:jason@paddletsr.org), for more information or to sign up.