



Registration Open for Canoe and Kayak School **June 9-11, 2023**

[Participants Register Here!](#)

The **2023 Annual Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School will be held June 9-11, 2023** 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.

Classes may begin on Parksville Lake to work on self and assisted rescue techniques and advance to the Hiwassee River or the Ocoee River. Our registration form will request information about paddling skill to help our instructors organize classes. Our main goal is to provide participants with quality skill-level based instruction on all the tools to have fun and be safe on the water! This is a fun-filled, educational weekend for family and friends and is a unique occasion to learn new skills from certified instructors and to meet experienced paddlers who love to teach and enjoy developing new enthusiasts for the sport. You must furnish and keep up with your own equipment for the school. If you do not have kayak or canoe equipment, you should be able to rent from a local outdoor retailer near your home. For more information, email [Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School](#).

Volunteer opportunities for Canoe & Kayak School are available now!

We need your help in the following areas - Set-up, Check-in, Lead Instructors, Support Boaters, Meal set-up, other miscellaneous tasks. As a volunteer you get 2 days camping at Hiwassee State Park (Gee Creek Campground overflow area), a T-shirt, and a meal on Saturday night. Friends and family are welcome, but we cannot cover the cost of their meals and lodging.

This is a TSRA member only event. We need your help to make this a successful event! [Volunteers Register here](#), or email [Whitewater Canoe and Kayak School](#), for more info.

*Upcoming
Events*

[Full Calendar](#)

Paddle w/Shelby Bottoms	May 5
Jack Lyle Memorial Paddle	May 6
Basic CPR	May 11
Intro to Sailing	May 16
3rd Sat Paddle	May 20
TSRA Board Meeting	May 25

New Legislation to Protect the Duck River and Chickamauga Creek

In March, the House passed House Bill HB150, to designate parts of the North Chickamauga Creek as a Class 1 Scenic River, and a corresponding Senate Bill (SB) was recommended for passage with amendments. In April, the Senate passed SB464, which designates Maury County segments of the Duck River as a Class II Scenic River.

Duck River: House bill 447 sponsored by Rep Cepicky and Senate bill SB464 sponsored by Senator Hensley has been approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Lee. It designates a section of the Duck River in Maury County from Industrial Park Rd (river mile 128) downstream to the Hickman County line (river mile 98) as a class II Scenic River. A total of 30 miles!

In 2001, under the administration of Governor Sundquist, the section of the Duck River from the Marshall County line (river mile 173.7) downstream to Iron Bridge Rd (river mile 136.4) was protected under the Scenic Rivers Act. A total of 37.3 miles! Do the math and you will see that this leaves only an 8.4 mile gap between these two sections in Maury County. An incredible 67.3 miles of the Duck under the protection of the Scenic Rivers Act!!

Kudos to Rep Cipicky, Senator Hensley, Maury County Officials and the citizens of Columbia and Maury County! Without their support and countless hours of their time this would never have come to fruition. We must remain diligent in our stewardship of the Duck River. Sadly, with the stroke of the pen by future legislative action, any or all of the river can be declassified as has happened with the Harpeth River except for a short section in Davidson County. There have been others as well.

Historical footnote: In the late 1980's our friend and Lifetime member of TSRA, Frank Fly, stopped the construction of a TVA dam on the Duck River. Remarkably, he followed up on that effort by making sure that the partial dam structure the TVA had already constructed was removed from the river! (excerpt by Daniel Boone).

In Tennessee, Scenic Rivers receive additional environmental and other protections, preserving our State's free flowing and unpolluted rivers with unique value. Class I rivers are designated as "Natural River Areas" — meaning "shorelines and scenic vistas essentially primitive and generally inaccessible except by trail." Class II rivers are "Pastoral River Areas," meaning "shorelines and scenic vistas partially or predominately used for agricultural and other recreational activities which do not interfere with public use and enjoyment of the river and shores. (Tennessee Sierra Club May Newsletter)"

The Duck River and the North Chickamauga Creek are particularly good candidates for this designation, and each river already has other segments with scenic river designations. The Duck River is North America's most biologically diverse freshwater river and one of three hotspots in the world for fish and mussel diversity. Beyond the value of the Duck River's biodiversity, the river is also the sole water source for hundreds of thousands of people living in middle Tennessee, and adds value to the Tennessee economy through its immense outdoor recreational opportunities. North Chickamauga Creek also contains significant biodiversity, including threatened species, and outstanding recreational opportunities. Protecting these rivers ensures future generations will continue to have access to their incredible resources. Keep an eye on these bills as they continue through the Legislature (Tennessee Sierra Club May Newsletter).



Save Lick Creek

Public Hearing: Show Up for the Duck River Watershed (Reprinted from Harpeth Conservancy)

Middle Tennessee's Duck River is North America's most biologically diverse freshwater river, one of three hotspots in the world for fish and mussel diversity, and the drinking water source for 250,000 people — but a plan for a new sewer plant on one of its tributaries, Lick Creek, and potentially spur unmanaged growth in a rural area of our state could imperil its exceptional qualities. The Friends of Lick Creek organized to analyze options and push back on this new sewer plant.

A public hearing is scheduled on the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC)'s proposal to deny the Water Authority of Dickson County (WADC)'s application to build a sewage treatment plant in Hickman County with effluent discharge into Lick Creek. The public hearing will occur on May 25th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Hickman County High School.

Please attend the TDEC public hearing to support the state's recommendation and learn more about the process of approval for wastewater treatment plants, water pollution issues impacting rural communities, and how to advocate for responsible policy that protects clean water and healthy ecosystems for the rivers of Tennessee!

Here is what else you can do:

- Email water.permits@tennessee.gov explaining why you oppose the WADC plant
- Educate your friends and neighbors about the matter and encourage them to call or email

For more information: www.savelickcreek.com

TSRA Outreach and Events Call for Volunteers:

TSRA joined a couple spring festivals in April: The Nashville Outdoor Recreation Festival and Expo, on April 15th. And attended the Big South Fork Spring Planting and Music Festival on April 29, 2023.



Nashville Outdoor Recreation Festival and Expo at Bells Bend.

WANNA VOLUNTEER?

Interested in helping out with TSRA outreach? We have the following Volunteer opportunities:

Volunteers to represent our organization at partner events.

Communication intern to update materials and website.

To add your name to our list email: ops@paddletsra.org.



TSRA members hanging at the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area 23rd annual Spring Planting and Music Festival.

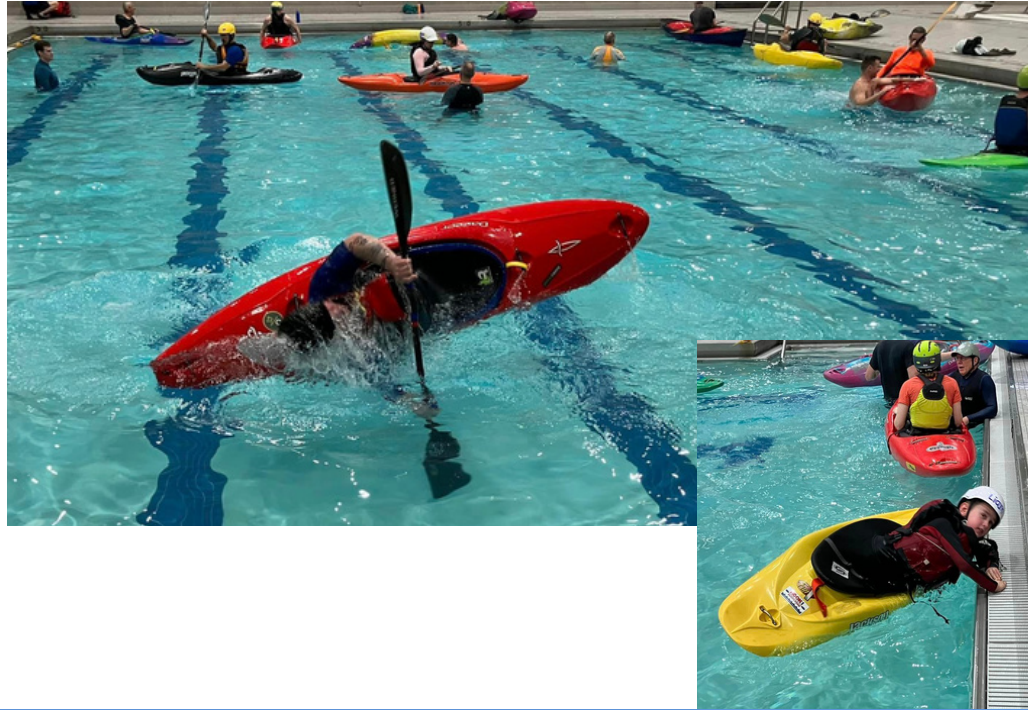
Roll School

In cooperation with the Metro Parks and the Centennial Sportsplex, TSRA held a 6 sessions roll school, starting on February 20th.

From new paddlers, to season paddlers, folks ducked the cold and practiced rolls in the pool. New folks learned the finer art of how to wet exit, T-rescue, as well as both the sweep and C-to-C Roll.

We had over 25 students and over 15 instructors participating.

Thank you to instructors and students who attended!



Jack Lyle River Kids- Call for Volunteers

TSRA sponsors **“Jack Lyle’s RiverKids”** to introduce inner-city youth to the wonders of nature via **paddle-sport**. This year, RiverKids events will be held for three Thursdays in June, all at locations near Nashville. We will teach basic water skills and safety for recreational kayaking, and we’re seeking volunteers who feel comfortable helping kids learn paddle-sport on Class I water.

In return for your service, you’ll receive free CPR/First Aid training. This is optional, but it’s a great opportunity to gain life-saving skills. You’ll also receive free Sierra Club membership and, of course, a free T-shirt, plus the immense satisfaction of showing kids the joys of boating. Please join us for this playful adventure!

How to Volunteer: email MaryMBuckner@comcast.net.

Thank you for your generosity!

