Adaptive Paddling Summit
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Welcome to the 2014 ACA Adaptive Paddling Summit:

The ACA is the premier organization representing paddlers of all abilities and in all venues across the country. Whether it’s our national standard for paddlesports instruction, our far reaching stewardship initiatives, insurance for your club or event, our commitment to paddlesports events and recreation, or simply competing in a local citizen’s race, our volunteers and staff are here to serve. As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, we have initiated this signature event to bring together industry leaders so that we can learn from each other in a collaborative environment, help refine best practices, network together, share ideas and have fun.

Paddle safe - paddle often,

The ACA Staff

A Brief History of the ACA

Founded in 1880 by a group of 15 notable canoeists, the ACA has grown into the nation’s largest and most active nonprofit paddlesports organization with 30,000 members, over 150 Paddle America Clubs and 100 Affiliate Organizations across the United States and abroad. Through friendships forged in the 1870's through canoe sailing regatta's, regional canoe club events, and the canoe cruising and exploration of America's waterways, the ACA was established on the shores of Lake George, NY on August 3, 1880. Nathaniel H. Bishop, a prominent 19th century canoe explorer, was known as the 'father of the ACA'. Bishop, along with the first Commodore, William L. Alden, declared in the 1880-81 ACA Yearbook the object of the ACA "shall be the promotion of canoeing."

Original focuses of the association were centered around: camaraderie, racing, poling, canoe sailing and extended waterway exploration. Throughout the early 20th century the ACA evolved from a loose knit group to an incorporated entity whose influence began to reach across the country as well as internationally. From the 1940's through the early 1990's, the ACA placed significant resources into all aspects of paddlesport competition, from local and national races to winning two World Championships to being the National Governing Body (NGB) for paddlesports for the U.S. Olympic Committee. With strong ties to the American Red Cross, the YMCA and the Boy Scouts of America, the instruction program was formalized in 1973 with the advent of the ACA Canoe Instruction Certification Committee. Over the past 40 years this committee has also been known as the Training Committee, the National Instruction Committee and currently, the Safety Education & Instruction Council.

Publications began in the 1880's and ranged from Forest and Stream and The American Canoeist, to Canoe, Paddler and Paddle Dealer. Today, ACA has partnered with Rapid Media.

The ACA is dedicated to promoting canoeing, kayaking, rafting and stand up paddleboarding as wholesome lifetime recreational activities. We accomplish our mission by providing a variety of programs and public services in such areas as: event sponsorship, safety education, instructor certification, waterway stewardship, water trails, paddler's rights and protection, and public information campaigns. We are affiliated with over 300 organizations, such as Subaru of America, L.L. Bean, and the U.S. Coast Guard that help us to pursue our mission.

For over 130 years, the ACA has been the voice of paddlers across the country. Through the tireless efforts of volunteers, committee members, board members, and staff, the ACA continues to work at the grassroots, regional and national levels to promote fun and responsible canoeing, kayaking, rafting & stand up paddleboarding on America’s waterways.
A Letter from the Summit Chair:

Why do you paddle? Hundreds of great reasons to paddle exist: Some paddle for excitement and adventure, others for fitness and skill development, and still others for a chance to get outside with friends and family. Most of us could add a few more reasons to this list. The Adaptive Paddling Summit offers the opportunity to learn new ways to share the love of paddling with individuals who have disabilities.

The ACA has helped individuals with physical disabilities paddle as comfortably, safely and with the same potential as all others since 1990. The goal of this inaugural Adaptive Paddling Summit is to bring together industry leaders so that we can learn from each other in a collaborative environment, refine best practices, network together, share ideas and have fun. The Summit will include classroom seminars and on-water workshops led by premier adaptive paddling instructors and programmers from around the country.

Regardless of your skill level or experience, the Adaptive Paddling Summit offers something to help make your paddling life better and to help you share that passion with others.

We look forward to meeting you in Grand Rapids.

Joe Moore
ACA Education & Outreach Coordinator
ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer
ACA Board of Directors Executive Committee:

- President - Anne Maleady (MA)
- Vice President - Jim Virgin (WA)
- Treasurer - Peter Sloan (CO)
- Secretary - Tom Pitt (MI)
- At-Large - Judge Charles Strauss (VA)
- At-Large - Jerry Dunne (NY)

Board Members

- Sam Fowlkes (North Carolina)
- Gordon Dayton (Connecticut)
- Roby Hackney (Virginia)
- Robin Pope (North Carolina)
- Bill Micks (Virginia)
- Kirk Havens (Virginia)
- Andrew Tush (Virginia)
- Susan Welchman (Maryland)
- Steve Hutton (South Carolina)
- Bill Banholzer (South Carolina)
- Wayne Stacey - USCG liaison (Maryland)
- Robert Cassar - Sugar Island liaison (Pennsylvania)

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Dave Burden  International Paddlesports Ambassador  dburden@americancanoe.org
Joan Arnold & Angela Meyer

Presentation Synopsis: Benefits of Kayaking for those with Autism & their families

Benefits of Kayaking for those with Autism and their families will inspire and educate you about autism, symptoms, benefits of kayaking, various strategies to support learning on the shore and on the water safely for successful skill development to promote a lifetime of paddling enjoyment. More than 20 years of experience will be shared though this audio-visual, hands on and interactive presentation. The goal is to integrate persons with autism to have the same paddling experiences through kayaking as are available for everyone. Help us lead the way to develop autism friendly paddling throughout the nation.

Biographic Sketch: Joan Arnold and Angela Meyer are the adaptive paddling leadership for TAASC: The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition in Central Ohio. Volunteering together for 10 years developing an autism friendly organization. Joan is an ACA Level I Kayak Instructor with Adaptive Paddling endorsement. She has 35 years of experience in disability services and twenty years of adaptive kayaking experience with a focus on teaching kayaking to persons with cognitive and intellectual developmental disabilities. Angela is an ACA Level II River Essentials Kayak Instructor with Adaptive Paddling endorsement and is actively working towards becoming an Adaptive Paddling Instructor. She is an Occupational Therapist and Assistive Technology Professional with 20 years working experience.

Bill Barkeley

Presentation Synopsis 1: No Barriers Mindset & Screening of the film Sensory Overload

Join us for a journey into the fast changing world of adaptive sports and those who are transforming the ways that people with challenges live, work and play. No Barriers USA is at the forefront of this movement and will share how these pioneers, movers and shakers have pledged to live a “No Barriers” life and optimize their purpose and potential. The “No Barriers Mindset” is an actionable toolkit for pursuing the quest to become, grow and contribute our absolute best to the world. Join us as we share how people with challenges are innovating, uniting, harnessing adversity, serving others and living purposefully. In short, come learn what it means to believe that “What is within you is stronger than what is in your way.”

In September 2014, legendary adventurer and fellow No Barriers USA board member Erik Weihenmayer will be the first blind person to solo whitewater kayak the Grand Canyon. According to Weihenmayer, who has a long list of adventure firsts under his belt, "kayaking is the hardest thing I have ever done." Erik equates the chaos of kayaking to riding an avalanche, deafened by the sound of crashing water. Sensory Overload is a short film from the adventure film festival circuit and chronicles Erik’s journey to develop the skills and mindset to fight through the roar ahead and paddle forward into more uncertainty.

Biographic Sketch: Bill Barkeley is one of 15,000 – 20,000 people in the United States and 100,000 people in the world
with Usher’s Syndrome. Usher’s Syndrome is disease that robs people of both their hearing and vision over time. Bill lost 85% of his hearing from birth and in his late teens began to experience night blindness and vision loss. Usher’s Syndrome is progressive and there are no known treatments or cures.

As a deaf-blind advocate, Bill is active in community service and lives in Grand Rapids. Bill completed a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa as a project on assistive technology for the deaf-blind. His climb was covered on Good Morning America and Outside Magazine. At the invitation of Erik Weihenmayer (the first blind man to summit Mount Everest), Bill joined No Barriers USA as a board member.

Bill does motivational speaking to corporations, schools and non-profits on the Kilimanjaro climb and his ongoing adventure projects. Since his climb, he has rafted and hiked the Amazon and Grand Canyon, climbed 14’ers in Colorado, competed in the World T.E.A.M. Sports Adventure Team Challenge, cycled the RAGBRAI 400 miles and run the 2012 and 2014 Boston Marathon. He is an active SUP’er who plys the waters of Lake Michigan in Grand Haven.

Kevin Carr

Presentation Synopsis: Creating Ability, Inc.

We will walk through the process of creating physical solutions to barriers that exist in adaptive paddling. Our journey will take us from the parking lot to the water, and will focus not just on the “hows” of physical adaptation, but also on the “whys”. We will explore the process of creation, from identifying the need to producing an intuitively simple adaptation – with a peek behind the curtain into the controlled chaos along the way. Come and join us for this hands-on celebration of opening doors to a great sport that all can enjoy.

Biographic Sketch: Kevin Carr is the owner and chief designer at Chosen Valley, LLC and its adaptive paddlesports arm, Creating Ability. He started the company 10 years ago when his aptitude for solving mechanical problems intersected with the need for safe, effective and cool adaptations for paddling. The years since have been filled with wonderful experiences watching paddlers of all ages and abilities discover (or rediscover) the freedom, independence and joy that being on the water can bring. Whether it is providing trunk support, reestablishing points of contact & control with boat & paddle or providing a path to the water, Kevin finds deep satisfaction in observing, listening and creating solutions. His favorite pre-paddling warm-up that he teaches each of his students is to stretch their facial muscles – because those smiling muscles are about to get a workout. The smiles say it all, and having ability to put them there is his greatest gift.

Cindy Dillenschneider & Greg Weiss

Presentation Synopsis: One Arm Freedom Paddle

Experience on-land and on-water opportunities to learn about One-Arm Freedom Canoe Paddle. The Freedom paddle is designed for people who would like to canoe in flatwater or slow-moving, deep water conditions but have an upper limb impairment which prevents effective use of traditional two-hand use canoe paddles. Whether you already own or are considering purchasing a canoe paddle designed for one-arm use, come to this workshop where you can test or improve
your skills. Beginner through advanced paddlers as well as non-paddlers are encouraged to come and participate.

Biographic Sketch: **Cindy Dillenschneider** is the designer and patent holder for the One-Arm Freedom Canoe Paddle a canoe paddle for people with the use of only one arm. The Freedom paddle evolved from her combined interests of improving paddling access to people with upper limb impairments and a desire to contribute to the advancement of the outdoor industry by creating a high performance paddle for people limited by two-hand use paddle technology. Cindy is a professor of Outdoor Education at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin where her teaching focuses on improving outdoor access for people with disabilities and other under-represented populations.

Biographic Sketch: **Greg Weiss** is the Founder & Director of Lost Creek Adventures in Cornucopia, WI. Greg has been a wilderness guide and paddler since 1992 and enjoys freestyle, wilderness trips, whitewater, solo and tandem canoeing. He is a former ACA Canoeing Instructor and is currently an ACA Level 2 SUP, Level 4 Whitewater Kayak, and a Level 4 Coastal Kayak Instructor.

**Tom Kersey & Bryan Wood**

Presentation Synopsis 1: PTSD & TBI: The Hidden Disabilties

PTSD and TBI, as well as other cognitive disabilities have a wide range of issues to address in a comprehensive paddling program. Tom and Bryan will give information on the various aspects and programming needs, skills, and training needed to develop a safe and therapeutic paddling program. Focus will include program successes and opportunities to utilize these paddlers in leadership roles.

Presentation Synopsis 2: Blind and visually disabled paddling instructional, guidance, and paddling opportunities

The opportunities and scope of guiding blind or visually impaired paddlers will be reviewed. While it is not unusual to see blind skiers, blind paddlers are rare. We hope recent success of blind paddlers will open the door to programs seeking athletes to paddle with volunteers. Past feedback from volunteers who have guided blind or visually impaired paddlers has been impressively positive, and this energy and willingness to guide should be enhanced on a larger scale nationally.

Biographical Sketches:

**Tom Kersey:** Tom is well known as the guru of common sense. Sought for his sage advice, and known internationally for down-to-earth wisdom, Tom emerged as an industry leader. Tom is the Executive Director of the New England Handicapped Sports Association (NEHSA) – founded in 1972. Last year NEHSA’s 296 instructors provided over 7000 hours of snow sports and 1500 hours of water sports instruction. Volunteers and participants at NEHSA can be found actively pursuing a lifestyle of healing when they are not teaching or participating in their various programs.

**Bryan (Woody) Wood:** Woody is a well-known fixture in adaptive sports – recognized for his professionalism, work ethic, and creative ability. Woody often can be found tinkering with various implements of adaptive support. His co-workers marvel at the multi tasking Woody is capable of, and often marvel aloud in astonishment when he actually completes a task. Woody is the Metro Parks Director for National Sports Center for the Disabled, founded in 1970, and perhaps the
2014 ACA Adaptive Paddling Summit  
Speaker Biography and Presentation Synopsis

oldest adaptive sports program in the nation.

Upon graduation from Western Carolina University, Bryan joined the elite ranks of Monster Truck Drivers traveling and competing across the United States. After several successful seasons, Bryan hung up his oversized tires. “There is just way to much commercialism in this industry, the skill of the driver and the artfulness of the trucks is overshadowed.” He then embarked upon his legendary rise in the adaptive paddling world, which can only be described as meteoric.

**Truitt Layman & Kawika Watt**

Presentation Synopsis: **Onit Ability Boards**

During on-water session, benefits of the surf chair, the simple setup with a custom ramp, secure locking mechanism, and ease of use will be demonstrated, along with paddling techniques. Details will be provided about the board’s design and manufacturing, and attendees will be invited to try the Onit Ability Boards for themselves. In just a few minutes, riders of any ability and para-injury level will be able to experience benefits of the advanced workout and the enjoyment of independent paddle boarding.

Biographical Sketches: In December of 2012, **Truitt Layman** was critically injured in a car accident that resulted in a T-10 complete paraplegia. While visiting San Diego the following summer for advanced physical therapy to discover new para workout techniques, he met the Onit team and discovered the Onit Ability Board for himself. He is now an avid rider, spending hours on the water each day when he is home on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia, on break from his business studies at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

In 2013, Hawaiian native and avid surfer **Kawika (pronounced Ka-vee-ka) Watt**, had an idea that would enable individuals using wheelchairs to explore the open water. Kawika, an avid surfer, canoe paddler, environmentalist, innovator and father of three from Kailua on the island of O‘ahu, created Onit Ability Boards; a surf chair which adapts to all types of aquatic terrain. Kawika’s past endeavors include(s) Kini Beach; environmentally correct tote bags and paddle covers made from re-useable beach mats and plastic inflatable materials. Kini Beach was heralded by local Waikiki hotels and the Go Green initiative. Political and civic organizations, along with surfing enthusiasts, retailers, media and the disabled, have embraced the opportunity to support Kawika’s latest ground-breaking concept. The Onit Ability Boards system is a one of a type vehicle for those who dreamed of the possibility, to now take a stand in their own their reality. Kawika now calls San Diego, California home.

**Adam Masters**

Presentation Synopsis: **Bellyak**

The adaptive community has used the Bellyak extensively for the last 18 months. Originally designed as a new way to have fun on whitewater, members of Team River Runner began using the Bellyak in their pool sessions. The Bellyak offers mobility, balance, and exercise in an intuitive and easy to use format. No skirts, no straps, no cockpit or fear of
entrapment allow the Bellyak to be used with minimal adaptation for individuals with a wide variety of abilities.

Biographical Sketch: **Adam Masters** and his wife Anna run Bellyak from Asheville, NC, with their dogs Beagler and Larry Clyde. (Larry Clyde is pushing the idea of a dog specific Bellyak, but Adam and Anna aren’t so certain). Countless hours of research and testing have gone into the Bellyak’s designs to ensure ultimate comfort and safety on the water. The designs are tested and refined on the French Broad, Pigeon, Ocoee and Chattooga rivers by a dedicated and growing group of talented bellyakers… pushing the limits of fun.

**Meg McCall**

Presentation Synopsis: **Angle Oar**

A newly patented kayak paddle, called the Angle Oar, promises to open kayaking to entirely new groups of paddlers, including people with upper body disabilities, arm amputees, senior citizens and kids. This “weightless” paddle rests upon a central post which supports the weight of the paddle and eliminates the torso and back rotation typically required with a traditional paddle. Join us for an on-water demonstration, followed by active participant feedback and opportunities to try the paddle yourself.

Biographical Sketch: **Meg McCall** has been a marketing executive for the past 20+ years. She left her job at MINDBODY in San Luis Obispo, CA a year ago to work with her father to patent his newly designed Angle Oar and bring it to the masses. For the first 15 years of her career, Meg worked at United Way in Madison, WI where she helped raise and distribute millions of dollars in charitable donations to non-profit agencies. Her focus was on organizations that supported people with physical and cognitive disabilities, as well as people with mental illness.

**Joe Moore**

Presentation Synopsis: **ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop (APW)** (Separate Registration)

APWs are designed to provide instructors, outfitters, recreation program providers, and rehabilitation professionals with the information they need to integrate paddlers with physical disabilities into paddlesport programs. Under the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, a person may not be excluded from a program just because they have a disability. Program providers need to be prepared to integrate persons with disabilities into existing programs. This two and a half day workshop includes instruction about how to compensate for a paddler’s loss of function due to a physical disability, how to adapt equipment and instruction and how to focus on the paddlers’ ability. This interactive workshop includes a classroom and hands-on learning component as well as an on-water pool session. ACA certified paddlesport instructors will receive the ACA Adaptive Paddlesport Endorsement upon successful completion of this workshop. This Endorsement can apply one time as an ACA Level 1 & 2 Instructor Certification Update.

Biographical Sketch: **Joe Moore** learned to sea kayak on a NOLS semester in 1990. Since then he has taught skills and led personal and professional day trips and expeditions from Alaska to Belize, from Baja to Maine. Joe joined the ACA as a member in 2011 and quickly earned Instructor Certifications in coastal kayak and SUP while working as the Accessibility Technician at the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. Joe became an ACA Adaptive
Jeremy Oyen

Presentation Synopsis: Adaptive Gear & Risk Management Matrix

The presentation will focus on key elements of risk management and how those factors are applied to evaluate adaptive paddlesport gear. During the hands-on water session we will work in coordination with adaptive equipment vendors to give you the opportunity to demo and evaluate equipment while learning key aspects of the assessment process necessary for program risk management. We will work both on and in the water to assess the equipment and the affect it can have on rescue strategies to benefit the paddler and the program provider.

Biographical Sketch: Jeremy Oyen has worked in the outdoor education industry developing instructional programs and training instructors for 25+ years at the local, regional, and national level. He is the current Program Manager for REI Outdoor Programs and Outreach and is responsible for alignment and development of the REI Outdoor School National Program Curriculum and Training. Jeremy is a current Instructor Trainer / Educator with the American Canoe Association in Adaptive Paddling, Stand-Up Paddleboarding, Kayaking, and Canoeing.

Kevin Pimentel

Presentation Synopsis: Adaptive kayaking benefits & partnerships make it happen

What do an old bicycle tire tube, a swimming noodle and bungee cords have in common? They are tools that have allowed us to offer kayaking tours to individuals with a disability. The partnership between the Adaptive Sports and Adventure Program and the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department has provided a new opportunity never before offered in the Charlotte area; the chance to paddle independently on the water, enjoy exercise and experiencing nature paddling offers.

Biographical Sketch: A love of the outdoors was instilled in Kevin Pimentel at an early age, growing up in Central Texas; playing outside whenever possible and looking forward to the annual family camping trip. I graduated with a degree in Camp and Recreation Management from John Brown University. After graduating, I operated the outdoor program at Tri-State Christian Camp in Port Jervis, New York, including the low and high challenge courses. I took a break from camp ministry while working at Wal-Mart, but was drawn back into the outdoors full time as an Outdoor Recreation Specialist with the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department. I have led paddling tours for seven years and started our adaptive kayaking tour in 2005. My other favorite programs include geocaching, outdoor cooking, and leading our Segway Adventure tour. In my spare time, I enjoy serving at my church and spending time with my wife and two boys.

Diana Proemm

Presentation Synopsis: Program planning for people with disabilities

This class will give you many tools to put into practice for your paddling program, and you will learn how to develop an outdoor program from start to finish. Tools you will take way will be program logistics, structuring, preparing yourself
to alleviate risk, marketing strategies, training, preparation and more.

Biographical Sketch: **Diana Proemm** is a Certified Recreational Specialist, and has been planning outdoor programs for people with and without disabilities for close to twenty years. She specializes in program planning and logistics and does it with a can-do style. Her experience includes developing summer adaptive programs for two national adaptive sports organizations, managing a large adaptive ski program and a multi-day backcountry challenge program for Philip Morris.

**Anita M. Twardesky**

Presentation Synopsis: **How To Make a Splash!**

Participants will learn about what opportunities adaptive kayaking offers to individuals. In addition, they will leave with an understanding about the programming and resources needed to start their own adaptive kayaking program, including necessary infrastructure, instructor training, kayak equipment and adaptions, and paddling lessons / field instruction.

This session will take a look at all aspects of developing an adaptive paddling program: infrastructure, equipment, instructor and participant training and programming. Participants will learn about developing non-traditional partnerships from public, private and non-profit sectors to support adaptive paddling programs in their community.

Biographical Sketch: **Anita M. Twardesky**: Public Relations & Community Outreach for Riverside Kayak Connection in Wyandotte, Michigan. Responsible for promoting outdoor recreation, paddle sports and the eco-tourism, she serves as the Huron River Watershed Council RiverUp! Trail Towns Coordinator. Prior positions include: Parks & Recreation Director for the cities of Woodhaven and Flat Rock. Project manager for over 15 million dollars of recreation programs and improvements. Recipient of MRPA Facilities Award, Innovative Programming, Community Service, DTE Energy Community Luminary Award. Detroit Komen Race for the Cure Volunteer of the Year Award, Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce Image Award.

**Nancy Uschold**

Presentation Synopsis 1: **Teaching to All Learning Styles**

Teachers and Instructors know there are a variety of learning styles and teach to include all of them. But, what happens when individuals fall outside “typical” learning styles? This may be due to a visual, hearing or other sensory impairment…. or due to a learning or cognitive disability. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder learn differently and may process sensory information differently. In this session, participants will brainstorm use of instructional tools and techniques through discussion, guided discovery and hands on learning. Risk management and programming considerations will also be included in the presentation and discussion.

Presentation Synopsis 2: **Choosing the Right Life Jacket / PFD**

The first PFD Nancy used came with her used kayak. The best thing in her early paddling career was losing the PFD after she left it on top of the car. That forced her to shop and discover more effective and comfortable options. For some
individuals with disabilities, the right PFD is the key to success for comfort in the water and effective rescues. Join Nancy in the pool to look at and try a variety of PFD’s. Discover pro’s and con’s of different styles for different folks, to maximize comfort and ability in the water and in a boat!

Biographical Sketch: Nancy Uschold’s background as a physical therapist and new found passion for kayaking merged immediately when she bought a kayak in 1993. She worked several summers at a therapy camp for people with disabilities, and in 1993 the camp director became interested in including kayaking. In the following years, her love of paddling and instructing grew while developing the camp’s kayak program. She is an ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer as well as an L3 Coastal Kayak IT and L4 Coastal Kayak Instructor. Share your experiences and learn from hers so everyone can paddle!

Christy VanHaver, Val Romeo, Jeremy Sorenson, John King

Presentation Synopsis: Putting it all together.

Equipment manufacturers and local adaptive sports participants will join us for a hands-on experience, learning how to teach individuals with physical and or cognitive disabilities to canoe and kayak. Session participants will have the opportunity to get hands-on during a demo time.

Biographical Sketches

Christy VanHaver, Recreational Therapist and Water Safety Instructor for the past 20 years at Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital. Clinic Coordinator for the Wheelchair and Adaptive Sports Department. I enjoy teaching individuals with disabilities adaptive sports!

Val Romeo, CTRS and Community Inclusion Coordinator for Kentwood Parks & Recreation for 15 years. Implement and develop various community based recreation programs for individuals with various physical and cognitive disabilities including a successful adapted waterski and wakeboard program serving hundreds of participants across Michigan.

John King, C.P. retired, worked as a Certified Prosthetist at Mary Free Bed for over 22 years. He volunteers annually at the MFB Adaptive Paddle Clinic and demonstrated adaptive options to increase stability of canoes and kayaks. John has also introduced amputees to competitive paddling at the Extremity Games and USCA Nationals. He will provide vessels for recreational and competitive paddling.

Ann Yoshida

Presentation Synopsis: Road to Rio

On the Road to Rio is a story based on my personal journey with SCI and TBI to Brazil for the 2016 Summer Paralympics. I will share stories of the barriers, benefits and goals that were encountered and set on the path of trailblazing a sport that is debuting in the 2016 Summer Olympics. The audience will sit back and gain an insight while traveling on the path of a personal account of cultural, physical, spiritual, social and mental growth. My professional
perspective as a rehabilitation provider is a unique view of necessary assistive equipment, activity modifications and constant education required to build the sport of outrigger canoeing.

Biographical Sketch: **Ann H. Yoshida**, is a Doctoral student in Occupational Therapy at Pacific University. Ann continues to acquaint herself with her true potential by competing in canoeing, surfing and off-road handcycling. Winning a bronze medal in 2012 at the world sprints and being the first woman to trek Nepal on an off-road handcycle in 2011, she continues to challenge her abilities. Wherever her community is, Ann strongly believes in giving back to the community. Her passion is helping people experience full community inclusion through meaningful and purposeful occupation. Ann lives by her saying: "When we focus on being normal, we exclude the possibility of being extraordinary."

Water sports are nothing new to Ann Yoshida, having grown up swimming and surfing in her native Hawai‘i, but recent endeavors found her skimming across the still waters of Duisburg, Germany at the ICF World Sprint Championships, where she ultimately won a bronze medal. Paddling seems to be in her blood as many family members are well known paddlers. But in particular for Ann, the sport of paddling is considered a great equalizer—when seen from the shoreline, all paddlers appear the same poised in their Va‘a—and when her own grace and strength is observed, one would never suspect that a wheelchair serves as her primary mode of mobility on land.

**Janet Zeller**

Presentation Synopsis: **What’s Different & What’s Not.**

Do you really understand the potential paddlesports instructors and programs have to make a change, positive or negative, in the life a person who has a disability? This session will look more closely at what is involved when instructing paddlesports to a person with a physical disability including less obvious issues. What’s different and what’s not different from working with a person who doesn’t have a disability. Whether you currently instruct paddlesports to individuals who have disabilities or you’re considering it, this session will give you some things to think about.

Biographic Sketch: After a 1984 accident resulted in quadriplegia, **Janet Zeller** was determined to return to paddling. Janet developed ACA’s adaptive paddling program in 1989. Janet is an ACA Adaptive Paddling Instructor Trainer Educator and author of the ACA’s 2009 book *Canoeing and Kayaking for People with Disabilities*. Janet is National Accessibility Program Manager for U.S. Forest Service. She is responsible for accessibility on the 193 million acres of the National Forest System including thousands of lakes and wate
Saturday, September 13
6:30pm – 9:30pm Dinner / Social at Uccello’s Ristorante (2630 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546)

Sunday, September 14
(Adaptive Paddling Summit begins at 6:00pm)
7:00am – 8:30am Breakfast served in Hotel Breakfast Area
8:30am – 5:00pm ACA Board of Directors Meeting (President’s Dining)
3:00pm – 7:00pm Registration check-in table open (Fireside Room)
4:00pm – 6:00pm Midwest Division Meeting (Blue Spruce Room)
6:00pm – 7:00pm Legends of Paddling Reception (Fireside Room)
(All Adaptive Paddling Summit registrants are encouraged to attend)
7:00pm Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony (Great Hall)
Opening Presentation by Bill Barkeley: No Barriers Mindset & Screening of film “Sensory Overload”
(All Adaptive Paddling Summit registrants are encouraged to attend)

Monday, September 15
(Adaptive Paddling Summit)
6:30am – 9:00am Breakfast served in Hotel Breakfast Area
8:00am – 8:45am Breakfast can be enjoyed in President’s Dining Room for a viewing of Sarah Gulick’s video: Adaptive Paddling Congaree Wilderness
7:00am – 6:30pm Registration check-in table open (Fireside Room)
9:00am – 10:30am Janet Zeller: What’s Different and What’s Not. CTRS CEU Available. (Willow Room)
9:00am – 10:30am Diana Proemm: Program Planning for People with Disabilities. CTRS CEU Available. (Board Room)
10:45am – 12:15pm Tom Kersey & Brian Wood: Blind and Visually Disabled Paddling Instructional, Guidance, and Paddling Opportunities (Willow Room)
10:45am – 12:15pm Kevin Pimentel: Adaptive Kayaking Benefits & Partnerships Make it Happen (Board Room)
12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch served in Hotel Lobby / Breakfast area. President’s Dining Room available for seating
1:45pm – 3:15pm Joan Arnold & Angela Meyer: Benefits of Kayaking for Those with Autism & Their Families. CTRS CEU Available. (Willow Room)
1:45pm – 3:15pm Anita M. Twardesky: How To Make a Splash! (Board Room)
3:30pm – 5:00pm Tom Kersey & Brian Wood: PTSD & TBI: The Hidden Disabilities (Willow Room)
3:30pm – 5:00pm Nancy Uschold: Teaching to All Learning Styles. CTRS CEU Available. (Board Room)
4:30pm – 6:30pm Exhibit Hall open. Set-up begins at 4:00pm. (Blue Spruce & Elm Rooms)
6:30pm – 8:00pm Ann Yoshida: Dinner Keynote Presentation: Road to Rio (Great Hall)
Tuesday, September 16 (Adaptive Paddling Summit)

6:30am – 9:00am  Breakfast served in Hotel Breakfast Area. President’s Dining Room available for additional seating

7:00am – 5:30pm  Registration check-in table open (Fireside Room)

7:30am – 9:00am  Exhibit Hall open (Blue Spruce & Elm Rooms)

9:00am – 12:00pm  On-water equipment demonstrations: 45 minutes each (Venema Aquatic Center)

* Presenters need to be set up and ready to go at 8:50am. Pool opens at 8:30am

9:00 - 9:45  Nancy Uschold: The Right Life Jacket
10:00 - 10:45  Cindy Dillenschneider: One Arm Freedom Paddle
11:00 - 11:45  Truitt Layman: Onit Ability Boards

12:00pm – 12:30pm  Boxed lunch from Calvin Catering (Hoogenboom #380)

12:30pm – 3:30pm  On-water equipment demonstrations continued (Venema Aquatic Center)

12:30 - 1:15  Meg McCall: Angle Oar
1:30 - 2:15  Adam Masters: Bellyak
2:30 - 3:30  Kevin Carr: Creating Ability, Inc. Adaptive Paddlesports & Accessibility Equipment

4:30pm – 5:30pm  Exhibit Hall social hour (Blue Spruce & Elm Rooms)

Dinner on your own in Grand Rapids

Wednesday, September 17 (Adaptive Paddling Summit)

6:30am – 9:00am  Breakfast served in Hotel Breakfast Area. President’s Dining Room available for additional seating

7:00am – 10:30am  Registration check-in table open (Fireside Room)

9:00am – 3:30pm  On-water classroom presentations at Millennium Park (Venema Aquatic Center as bad weather backup)

9:00am – 11:00am  Jeremy Oyen: Adaptive Gear & Risk Management Matrix

11:00am – 1:00pm  Christy VanHaver, Val Romeo, Jeremy Sorenson, John King: Putting it All Together

1:00pm – 1:30pm  Boxed lunch from Calvin Catering delivered to water venue

1:30pm – 3:30pm  On-Water Try-It Zone: Free time to get hands on with equipment

Friday, September 19 – Sunday, September 21 (Separate Registration Required)

Joe Moore & Kevin Carr lead an ACA Adaptive Paddling Workshop. CTRS CEU Available.
Prince Conference Center
1800 East Beltline Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  (616) 526-7200

Prince Conference Center is the primary facility for the Adaptive Paddling Summit. ACA has reserved a block of discounted rooms at the hotel within Prince Conference Center for $99 per night, including all of the facility’s ADA Compliant and Wheelchair accessible rooms. We have reserved a second block of wheelchair access rooms at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel.
With 7 days prior notice **Prince Conference Center** offers a free shuttle service, between 6am and 11pm, to and from Gerald R. Ford airport. Cancellation of 24 hours required or a $25 fee will be added to the guest bill. Under circumstances of delayed and cancelled flights, we will do our best to accommodate these changes. Please contact (866) 526-7200 or (616) 526-7200 for more information.
Gerald R. Ford Airport (GFIA) to Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

ACA has reserved an additional block of wheelchair access rooms for $99 per night at:

**Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel**

4747 28TH STREET SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  (616) 957-0100

Free shuttle from airport. Wheelchair accessible shuttle requires 48 hours notice.

(Transportation will not be provided from the Hilton to Prince Conference Center.)
Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel to Calvin College’s Prince Conference Center
Venema Aquatic Center - Calvin College
Part of Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex  3195 Knight Way SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Walking Map from Prince Conference Center Above. Driving Map Below
Millennium Park - Kent County, Michigan

1415 Maynard Ave SW, Walker, MI 49534  (616) 791-2357