GROUND RULES & HOUSEKEEPING

Ground Rules
1. Positive feedback and constructive comments only
2. Allow one to three minutes for discussion points
3. Be respectful of ideas and recommendations

Housekeeping
1. Please mute your camera and microphone if you are not speaking
2. Use the Chat function
3. Scheduled ‘til 11:45 Eastern so you can get a break before the Members Meeting and Awards
AGENDA

10:00-10:05 Amy Ellis Intros and housekeeping/ground rules
10:05-10:15 Andrea White (AW), TN Initiatives
10:15-10:25 Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder (AVA), WNY outreach program & national initiative opportunities
10:25-10:35 Robert Levin, New Mexico collaborative stewardship
10:35-11:00 AW/All Directors Share/Questionnaire
11:00-11:25 leadership council proposal and way forward
11:20-11:45 AW Next steps & close of meeting
TENNESSEE INITIATIVES

• Galvanizing issue: Regulation coming our way from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

• Forum to Share and Come Together

• Paddle together and Break bread: JOIN FORCES!
TENNESSEE INITIATIVES

Piney River Declared State Scenic River
Paddling During a Pandemic Facebook Live Panel Discussions

April 1, 2020

May 7, 2020
Pandemic Pursuits: 7 Online Training Sessions April - June

Special Shout Out to Scott Fisher and the Nolichucky Outdoor Learning Institute & Eric Burnett at TVCC

- Leave No Trace
- Pondering First Aid for Paddlers
- So You Want to Get Into Flatwater Paddling
- Backpacking 101
- SWR Series on Knots, Anchors & Mechanical Advantage
Leadership Meeting via Zoom to Compare Notes on ACA Covid Teaching Guidance

• Leaders from all 5 clubs plus Trey Knight, SEIC Chair

• Collaboration on USFS Risk Mitigation Plans

• Shared resources: Rescue Randy went on tour

• Compared notes on waivers, decreased volunteer base, masks

• Statewide leadership vow to require masks for land portion of all club events for any of the 5 clubs
Start Local: 2016

Build on Success: 2019

Build the Infrastructure for Growth: 2020

Training Initiatives: Rescue for Rec Boaters

• Certified 6 New ACA L2 & L3 Rescue Instructors
• Certified a New Rescue IT
ACA STATE DIRECTORS MEETING

TENNESSEE INITIATIVES

Tactical Publicity: June 2020

Paddlers from across Tennessee work to become certified rescue instructors in Erwin
Kelly Grosfield

Kayakers are dying on Tennessee's easiest rivers. This group hopes to change that.
Brinley Hineman Nashville Tennessean
Published 5:00 a.m. CT Jul. 1, 2020

NOLI, ACA team up to train certified rescue instructors in Nolichucky River
Jonathan Roberts Jun 19, 2020
So far this year, five paddlers have died in Tennessee rivers. Across the nation, paddlesports fatalities increased 30% from 2006 to 2018.
TENNESSEE INITIATIVES

NOLI, Team River Runner team up to train vets for whitewater rescue

Jonathan Roberts  Sep 23, 2020

Veterans find health and healing through water sports in Erwin, TN

WJHL.COM

United Way campaign starts

Early voting begins

Groups Join forces to teach vets

Free swift water rescue classes offer brotherhood, sisterhood for military veter...
TENNESSEE INITIATIVES

Great Smoky Mountains National Park: A vandal hung a dead black bear over a park entrance sign, along with a chilling handwritten message on a piece of cardboard that read: "From here to the lake black lives don't matter" (Greenwire, Sept. 22).

The organizations signed on to this letter stand in solidarity with the staff, family, community, businesses, and visitors of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent racist act of intimidation that occurred when a black bear skin with head attached was draped over the entrance sign to Foothills Parkway accompanied by a hateful sign that read, “From here to the Lake, Black lives don’t matter.” We oppose and condemn this repugnant act. We stand with those affected by this act, including Black staff, their families, local communities, and visitors.

Adventures Accessed, LLC
American Canoe Association, Tennessee Chapter
American Conservation Experience
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Appalachian Voices
Asheville GreenWorks
Blue Ridge Audubon
Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine
Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation
Bryant Research, LLC
Carolina Jews for Justice/West Carolina Mountain Club
Chota Canoe Club
Conservation Council for Hawaii
Defenders of Wildlife, Southeast Program
Discover Life in America
Dogwood Alliance
Don Burger-Retired NPCA Southeast Regional Director
Forest Keepers
Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Friends of the Smokies
Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce
Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau
Gatlinburg Convention Center
Great Smoky Mountains Association
Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont
Harpeth Conservancy
Knoxville Area Urban League
Knoxville Branch of the Tennessee Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Commission
MountainTrue
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation, Eastern Division
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Public Lands Alliance
Rotary Club of Gatlinburg
Sierra Club, North Carolina Chapter
Sierra Club, Tennessee Chapter
Smoky Mountains Hiking Club
Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards
Southern Environmental Law Center
Swain County Tourism Development Authority
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Conservation Voters
Tennessee Environmental Council
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Tennessee Valley Canoe Club
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
The Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks
The Wilderness Society
Wildlands Network
Great Smoky Mountains National Park: A vandal hung a dead black bear over a park entrance sign, along with a chilling handwritten message on a piece of cardboard that read: "From here to the lake black lives don't matter" (Greenwire, Sept. 22).

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E&E NEWS

NATIONAL PARKS
Park chief leads on race. Could he be next to lead NPS?
Rob Hotakainen, E&E News reporter • Published: Friday, October 9, 2020

Cassius Cash, superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, leads a group of hikers through the park. He believes the National Park Service needs to increase its efforts to become more diverse.
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SURVEY

• 18 responses out of 45 State Directors plus other statewide offices

• Hours of volunteer time range from 4 hours per month to 15 hours per week
  → multiplies out to 48 – 780 hours each per year
  → For the 16 respondents alone = 3,996 hours volunteer time

Marketing/PR/Media  
Government Relations  
Writing/Editing  
Researching  
Fundraising/Development  
Event Planning  
ACA Instructor  
Accounting/Finance  
Social Media Management  
Health Professional/Covid Procedures  
Technology/Web/Software/Apps  
Environmental Expertise  
Other:
  Networking, Strategic Partnerships, Stewardship/coalitions, Conservation/LNT, Legislative/legal support for paddlers
SURVEY: INITIATIVES IN EACH STATE

- OK: Annually offer “Essentials of River Paddling” class for new paddlers
- MA: Ocean Guardian initiative to promote environmental awareness and keep MA/New England beautiful
- MD: Advocating for paddler access to public waterways when local land owners are blocking access
- MO: Winter Paddling Clinic/First Day Float Dec 31-Jan 1
- IN: Creation of Indiana Paddle Association, youth leadership training, BSA training
- CA: Heroes of Paddling Awards, CA Safe Boating Day engagement, Paddle Green events
- PR: established a program using Green Bags for trash cleanup and then making art with collected trash
- RI: water trails, partnering with environmental groups, grant development
- NE: instructing Nebraska Game and Parks employees, partnering with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
ACAA STATE DIRECTORS MEETING

SURVEY: SAFETY HOTSPOTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

• THEMES:
  ➔ Areas with casual paddlers/outfitters/tubers with little safety training
  ➔ Environmental awareness/Leave No Trace ethics for new users
  ➔ Need access to more ITs
  ➔ User group dynamics between paddlers, fishing and boating
SURVEY: SAFETY HOTSPOTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

• OK: Work with staff at Broken Bow Spillway on whitewater management policy development
  Offer Quick Start classes in Tulsa and Oklahoma City
  Market ACA at Oklahoma City Whitewater park

• VT: Train staff at paddlesports outfitters/rental liveries
  Offer summer training at Lake Champlain and Waterbury Reservoir

• MA: Offer training for seasonal visitors at Cape Cod, North Shore and Central Mass

• MD: Training for rec paddlers on Chesapeake Bay
  Training for kayak anglers

• MO: Meramac River needs awareness campaign for life jackets
  “Safe Paddling on Big Rivers” for the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers
  “Intro to Whitewater” on the St. Francis River

• RI: Paddling safety in Narragansett Bay
  Coast interaction among user groups: paddling, fishing, boating
SURVEY: SAFETY HOTSPOTS & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- **NM:** Basic safety for casual paddlers at the Rio Grande Race Course and Lower Taos Box
  Teaching river stewardship to new users

- **TN:** Address safety concerns on Caney Fork River with outfitters and other class I and class II rivers
  with many outfitters but little training

- **NE:** Safety training and environmental awareness at Niobrara Wild and Scenic River and Elkhorn
  and Platte Rivers

- **NY:** Lake Erie, Buffalo River, Outer Harbor Buffalo, NY

- **CA:** Need more ITs to meet the demand in Southern California

- **MT:** Would like to bring in ITs from different disciplines
SURVEY: DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- VT: Partnering with Vermont Adaptive to reach out to those with physical or cognitive disabilities
- MA: Non-profit events to bring in paddlers typically excluded for the cost of gear and training
- MD: Working to develop strong female paddlers and instructor base who are now maturing into leaders in the paddling community
- FL: Monthly paddling trips with Lighthouse for the Blind
- MO: Paddling with POC on the Mississippi and tying in to the regional history
- IN: Clubs trying to do a better job to attract and communicate all inclusive policies
- RI: Raising awareness about outdoor sports and DEI in urban communities
- NE: Offering classes to Ponce Tribe of Nebraska and Latino population in Lincoln and Omaha
- NY: Paddling opportunities and free training for physically disabled paddlers
STATE DIRECTOR PROGRAM PROPOSAL

• Form a Leadership Council
  • Elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer (elected by the State Directors)
  • Lead national and multi-state initiatives that we support and staff amongst ourselves
  • Do fundraising and development specifically for our initiatives
  • Support each other to grow training initiatives and awareness campaigns
ACA STATE DIRECTORS MEETING

OTHER IDEAS FOR THE STATE DIRECTOR PROGRAM

• Formalize roles and expectations of State Directors

• Standard marketing materials/toolkit to promote ACA trainings, raise awareness about ACA and recruit ACA members

• Regional partnerships with summer camps, youth organizations, non-PAC clubs

• Standard messaging of paddling/ACA impact per state: # ACA members, safety statistics, dollars spent on paddlesports, etc.

• State Directors trade training: we have a director willing to trade Wilderness First Aid and Leave No Trace training for paddling and rescue training

• River Stewardship initiatives

• Support each other to grow training initiatives and awareness campaigns

• Collaboration among regional clubs to amplify impact in the region
Thank you for your participation in today’s session. Please let us know how we did and what we can do to improve.

We look forward to hearing from and working with all of you!

Contacts

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Andrea Vaillancourt-Alder, NY State Education Director, seabird.ava@gmail.com, 716.392.2708