



Here comes summer!!! As of this writing, it feels like summer already with almost record highs (in the mid to upper 90's) just this past week. And of course with summer comes our new list of LCP club paddles which are now posted on our website. Ralph Earhart and his trip planning committee has put together some great

paddling trips for the second half of the year (June thru Dec) that should fulfill everyone's favorite paddle or two. There are 4 great paddles in the month of June alone to include our annual club picnic on the 26th. This year's picnic will include the drawing for a new kayak giveaway. More information on the picnic will be sent out as the event nears.

It is also the time of year for our LCP club officer elections (coming up at our monthly meeting in July). At this month's meeting on Monday, June 20th, we will be asking for nominations for president, vice president, treasurer & secretary. If you or

anyone you know that has an interest in running for any of the officer positions, by all means, please submit your nominations. You do not have to be present at the meeting as you can submit your nomination in writing (e-mail) to any of the club officer's e-mail address listed on our website. You must be an active member of the LCP to submit a nomination or run for office. The cutoff date for accepting nominations will be on July 15th and the election will take place at the LCP club meeting on Monday, July 18th. You must be present to vote at the club meeting.

I myself will not be seeking a 7th term as president or any other position, but I do know that there are several of you out there that can do a great job in any of the elected positions. I hope we have a lot of you that will take an interest and run to make it an exciting race. Good luck to all!!!

And may good luck be with you in winning the new kayak at the picnic!!!

Todd

CLUB PADDLES

Sat, Jun 4 **	Edisto River , 10 miles. Big Bay Creek to Otter Island and back. Todd Beach: gysgtkayaker@hotmail.com	Meet at Dawhoo Landing by 9. Leave at 9:05 and drive to launch area. Launch is from a state park and a fee is due unless you have a state park pass. (Low tide ~noon).
Sat, Jun 11 **	Deveaux Bank , 9.5 miles. Jim Miller: surfingator1@hotmail.com	Meet at Cherry Point Landing at 8:15 and launch at 8:30 AM. (Low tide ~10 AM)
Sun, Jun 19 **	Lake Moultrie and the Locks , 8 miles. Julie: jujube0708@yahoo.com	Meet at Hwy 402, Wadboo Creek Bridge Landing at 9 (consolidate cars/kayaks) and leave at 9:15.
Sun, Jun 26 ** / *	Edisto River / Club Picnic . 6.5 miles. Marsoldfield Landing to Givhans Landing. Launching from a state park (fee entry). Fast Group (**): Up to 4 Hole Swam then to Givhans Slow Group (*)	Meet at Givhans Landing at 9 (consolidate cars/kayaks) and leave at 9:15. (Low tide ~noon).



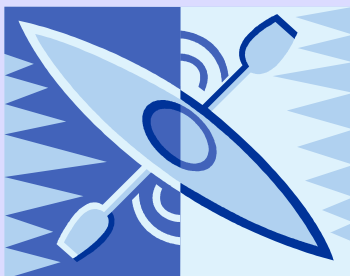
LOWCOUNTRY PADDLERS

We are a socially and economically diverse organization with one common link...a love of paddling. Whether kayak or canoe, expert or beginner, we all enjoy the camaraderie and the beauty of South Carolina's waterways.

Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except December), with club paddles scheduled throughout the year. Please join us and share in the fun!

Lowcountry Paddlers meet at:
Providence Baptist Church
294 Seven Farms Drive
Daniel Island

**Join us at our next meeting
June 20th at 7 p.m.**



LCP Club Officers

**President
Todd Beach**



**Vice-President
Dan Hoke**



**Treasurer
David Bearse**



**Secretary
Carol Smith**



Hat Trick in Rome

By Wyndy Amerson

No, we are not writing about ice hockey in Italy. It is about three first place finishers in Rome. GA – All three are members of the LCP!

Yes, Elizabeth Prout, Richard Carter and Wyndy Amerson all traveled to the northwestern corner of Georgia for 13.1 mile kayak race down the Oostanaula River in Rome, Georgia on May 7th and came home with trophies. Rome, Georgia is home to Berry College, a college well supported by Truett Cathy of Chick-fil-A. May 7th was also their graduation which added to the traffic woes of those participating in the Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI) river race. The CRBI hosted the 11th Riverfest event to promote water quality for the north Georgia river communities.

Once the intrepid LCP members finagled their way through the traffic of the Berry College graduation to the launch site near Hwy 140, they began their individual warm-up routines in preparation for the race. The 13 mile canoe and kayak race meanders from the boat ramp on GA 140 in Armuchee to the Ridge Ferry Park in Rome, GA. It is flat water course through northwest Georgia woodlands with few glimpses of large homes overlooking the riverbanks.

Paddlers can hear the sound of the cicadas amid the lapping river waters along their kayaks. Turtles lumber up logs to lie in the sun. Huge fish jump out of the river waters in front of you. Eagles soar overhead. It is just a glorious day on the river.

The finish line is just beyond the railroad bridge. You flip out of your kayak and head up the riverbank as your time is announced.

The award are not given out for another hour so everyone has time to figure which vendor would cater their private lunch under the huge oaks surrounding the festival in the park.

Elizabeth Prout, Richard Carter and Wyndy Amerson all win first places in their divisions for the 11th Annual CRBI River Race. Quite the hat trick for the LCP.

The celebration continues onto the downtown of Rome, Ga. - a quaint town that has been revitalized over the last ten years. Shops, galleries and restaurants beckon everyone from their cars to the sidewalks. If you go up there to paddle or just go to take in the beauty of the north-west Georgia, seek out the Honeymoon Bakery. The food is as good as it looks and it is a great way to celebrate a great day in paddling along the river.

** This month's cover photo courtesy of Michael Condon @ Jehossee Island Circumnavigation*

May 16, 2011 - Minutes

President Todd Beach called the meeting to order by welcoming the attendees, including two visitors. He invited them to introduce themselves, and he then introduced the club officers.

SPEAKER

Tonight's speaker was Megan Westmeyer from the South Carolina Aquarium. She spoke about sustainable seafood and 10 years of fisheries. Megan said that the Sustainable Seafood Program is aimed at educating chefs to make good environmental choices for their menus. That means choosing fish that are caught or farmed with consideration for the long term viability of individual marine species and ecological balance as a whole.

The majority of the presentation addressed managing our wild fisheries and harvesting the fish populations by measuring the sustainability of the species. This is achieved by maintaining the status of fish stocks, fishery data and regulations and lastly the impact on the ecosystem habitat.

The Magnuson act of 1976 was passed to end foreign overfishing in our waters. It created an exclusive economic zone off the US extending 200 miles offshore for use by US fishermen only. The act was reauthorized in 2006 as the Magnuson-Stevens Act and gave more power to scientists to set fish catch limits.

US fisheries are the best managed in the world.

OLD BUSINESS

The April LCP Club minutes were approved, as published on the web and in the Yakker.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance	2455.44
Receipts	977.00
Disbursements	169.38
Outstanding Checks	0.00
Bank Balance	3263.06

Including the two new memberships received tonight, the Lowcountry Paddlers now total 151 paid members.

CLUB LIBRARY

The club maintains a library of kayak related DVDs that can be signed out by the members. If you have any DVDs at home that you no longer use and would like to donate to the library, you can bring them to any monthly meeting.

ELECTIONS

Club elections are coming up. Nominations for club officers will be accepted at the June meeting and the vote will be held at the July meeting.

CLUB PICNIC

The club picnic will be Sunday June 26th at Givhans Ferry State Park. A shelter has been reserved. There will be a one star paddle before the picnic that will end at the State Park. The menu has not been finalized yet, but will include Pot Luck and maybe BBQ. An agreement has been reached with Time Out Sports for the purchase of a kayak to be given away at the picnic. Time Out gave us a good deal and we will be purchasing a Pungo 140. There is a rumor that color might be blue. Remember, you get an entry into the drawing every time you attend a monthly club meeting or a scheduled club paddle. You still have time to get your name in the drawing.



TRIP LEADER REPORT

5/22 -Michael Condon will be leading a trip on the Ashepoo River from Bennett's Point to Brickyard Landing. This is a 9 mile paddle rated one star. Meet at the BP station in Jacksonboro at 8:30 am.

5/29 -Dan Hoke will lead a trip from Folly Landing to Kiawah and back. There will time for beachcombing at Kiawah. This is a 10 mile paddle, two star rating and meets at Folly Landing at 9am.

6/4 -Todd Beach is the trip leader on the Edisto from Big Bay Creek to Otter Island and back. Meets at Dawhoo Landing at 9am and drive to launch at a State Park. You will need to pay a park fee unless you have a pass. 10 mile paddle one star rating. Great shelling.

6/11 - Jim Miller will lead a trip to Deveaux Bank and back to Cherry Point. The trip is 9.5 miles and a two star rated paddle. Meet at Cherry Point in Rockville at 8:15 am.

6/19 - Julie Feeley will lead this trip through the locks at Lake Moultrie. It is a two start paddle going 8 miles. You will be paddling across the lake. Meet at the Highway 402 bridge over Wadboo Creek by 9am.

6/26 - Cyrus Haggerty will lead this trip on the Edisto River from Marsoldfield Landing to Givhans Landing. It is a 6.5 mile, one star paddle. Meet at Givhans Landing by 9am. You will have to pay a State Park fee. The group will divide into 2 with a faster group going through 4 Hole Swamp which is a two star paddle. The club picnic begins at the end of the paddle.

- Nancy McCollum

Which is Which?

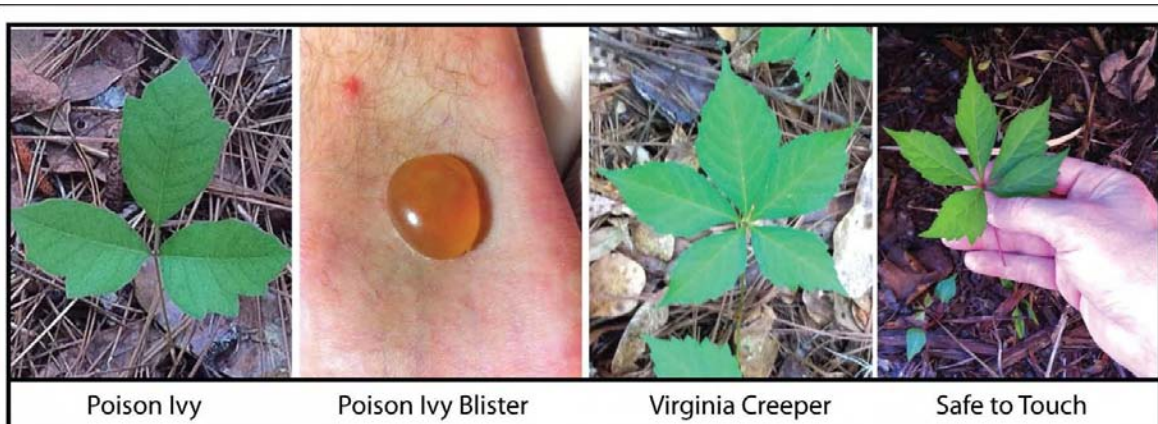
For many who are unfamiliar with identifying species, many things just look the same and the wilderness can be overwhelming. Not everything stands out like the male broad-headed skink (*Eumeces laticeps*, see photo) that visited Terry and I at our campsite in Poinsett State Park on the sparkleberry swamp club paddle in April. But with some pointers some things can be made to stand out. Furthermore, some species really should be known by all, and I will share some observations from the fantastic sparkleberry swamp club paddle (trip leader Ralph Earhart, Saturday, April 30, 2011) and other personal experiences to demonstrate how and why.



Broad-headed Skink

This guy was at our campsite in Poinsett State Park Sunday morning. Wish we could all be so handsome. RTK

One item in particular is something everyone really should be able to identify correctly. Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a vine (or shrub) that produces a very sticky, invisible resin called urushiol that induces an allergic reaction in many people producing an itchy rash that can also form blisters. Shown in the figure below are my most recent poison ivy blisters from a hiking trip in 2010. Poison ivy is easy to identify because it always has three leaves. Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is another vine (or shrub) that is just as common as poison ivy, and it is often accused of being poison ivy although it is a distinct genus and species. Virginia creeper has five leaves and is completely harmless (see photo). Both species can grow as individual shrubs, as ground cover, or as vines up a tree or wall. Some people commonly call the form of poison ivy that grows up a tree “poison oak” but it is actually the same species as the shrub. True poison oak only grows in the western US.

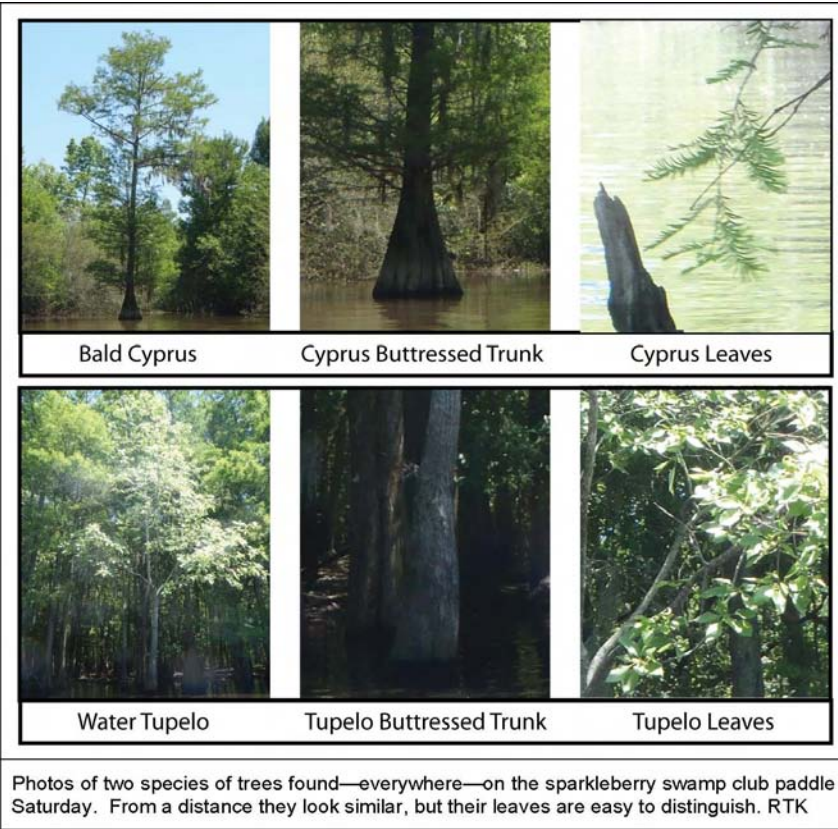


Poison ivy has three leaves and can induce rashes and blisters. This is my most recent poison ivy blister on an ankle in 2010. Virginia creeper always has five leaves and is safe to touch. RTK

While kayaking with the Low Country Paddler group in the sparkleberry swamp Saturday we spotted a Brown water snake (*Nerodia taxispilota*, see photo). This is a nonvenomous snake that looks very much like (in fact it mimics) a water moccasin. Terry and I also saw a water moccasin late that afternoon while walking the Coquina trail in the swampy portion where shanks creek flows into Levi lake. This inspired the creation of this article. The venomous water moccasin (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*, also called a Cottonmouth) is a pit viper meaning that it has a heat-sensing pit between the eye and nostril. This distinguishes it from the water snake. Other distinguishing features that make it easy to differentiate from water snakes are its triangular-shaped head and vertically-slit eyes. The water snake has a more oval-shaped head and round pupils.



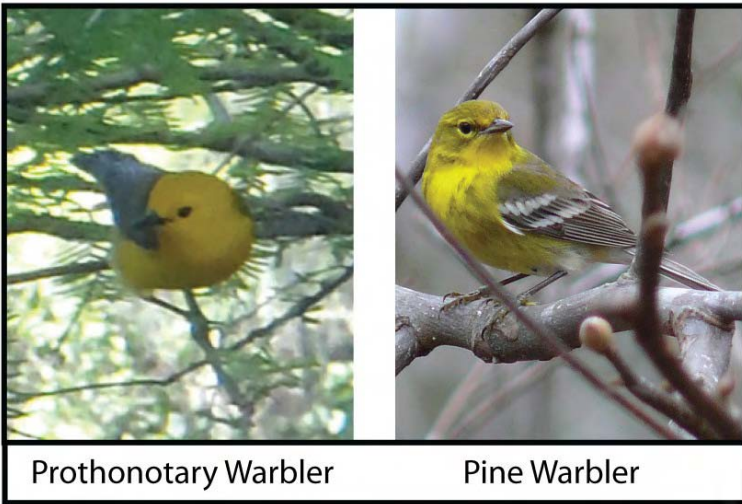
Both snakes were photographed Saturday, April 30, 2011 while on the Sparkleberry swamp trip. The non-venomous water snake was found on the Kayak trip in Sparkleberry swamp. The venomous water moccasin was spotted later that afternoon while hiking the trail around Levi lake in Poinsett State Park. RTK



Photos of two species of trees found—everywhere—on the sparkleberry swamp club paddle Saturday. From a distance they look similar, but their leaves are easy to distinguish. RTK

If you easily get lost in the sparkle berry swamp, it may help to know the two main trees that grow in the water—the bald cyprus and the water tupelo. Both have buttressed trunks for stability in the relatively loose, wet soil. The largest distinction between the two is the leaves. The bald cyprus (*Taxodium distichum*, see photo) is a conifer (a type of gymnosperm, see the leaves), and the water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) do not have “knees” and are is a broadleaf angiosperms (photo). Another distinguishing feature is that the bald cyprus has “cyprus knees” that poke up from the ground around the base of the tree, whereas the water tupelo does not have these knees. These trees are everywhere

in sparkleberry swamp as well as most other swamps in the southeast United States.



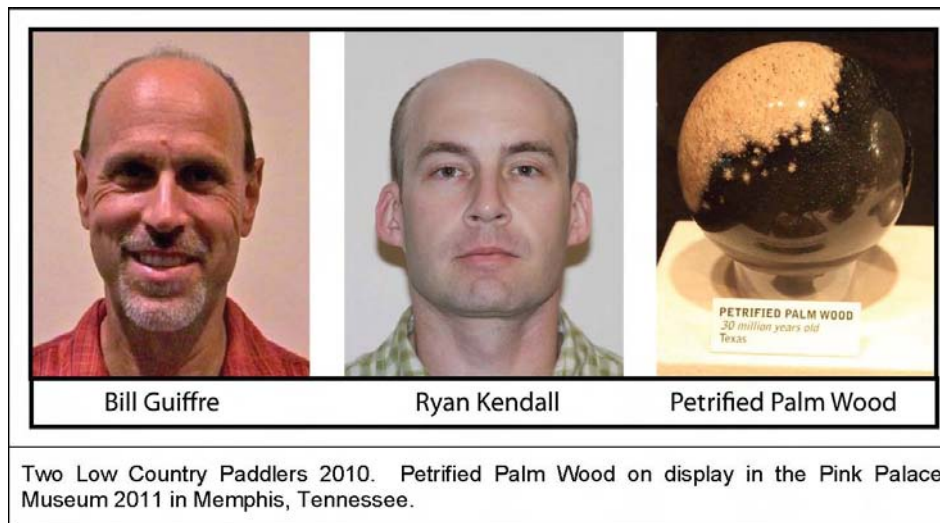
Prothonotary Warbler

Pine Warbler

This prothonotary warbler was photographed just before landing on the Sparkleberry swamp paddle trip (RTK). The pine warbler is easily confused with the prothonotary. The pine warbler photo was made by Ken Thomas in 2007, and reproduced from Wikipedia Commons. Image used by permission.

Other creatures are simply interesting. My wife Terry and I keep a Lifetime Bird List that lists the species, location, time, notes, and if possible a photo of every bird we spot in the wild. I found and photographed a prothonotary warbler in a cyprus tree just before we landed at the end of the sparkleberry swamp paddle trip on Saturday (see photo). The prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) is very similar to the pine warbler (*Dendroica pinus*, see photo). Terry and I also spotted a summer tanager (*Piranga rubra* – the first time we have spotted this bird) at our campsite # 38 in Poinsett State Park that would sing very loud

at dusk each evening. There was not enough light to get a photo, but I could distinctly see its bright red body, the black streaks in its wings, and its ivory-colored beak. This species looks very similar to the scarlet tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), but the scarlet tanager has completely black wings.



Bill Guiffre

Ryan Kendall

Petrified Palm Wood

Two Low Country Paddlers 2010. Petrified Palm Wood on display in the Pink Palace Museum 2011 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Another useful item may to distinguish two of our Low Country Paddler members. Some people think that Bill Guiffre and I are identical twins but in fact we developed from separate eggs (...and mothers ...and fathers). I'm told that petrified palm wood also has remarkable similarity (see photo), but it is just not as dense.

These not-well-known and often difficult-to-differentiate organisms can make the wilderness seem chaotic. However, with some pointers they can easily be differentiated in the wild. Hopefully these pointers will be useful on our paddle trips and bring more order to your view of the wilderness. Remember, do NOT step in the poison ivy!

Ryan T. Kendall, PhD



Upcoming CCPRC Events!



Local Sea Kayak Trips

Botany Bay Sea Kayak Tour (Intermediate)

We'll launch from Cherry Point and paddle to a local dolphin playground. After lunch on the beach, we'll return with the incoming tide.

Jun 4 Sat 9:00am-5:00pm Course # 25202
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters
Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

Lake Marion Islands Tour

As Lake Marion filled, its waters covered old roads, homesteads, and pastures. Today the old landscape is a watery maze of islands and cypress forest. We'll explore these islands and the tannin rich blackwater as we dip our paddles in the lily pads.

Jun 26 Sun 9:00am-5:00pm Course # 25207
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters
Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Trips

Folly River Marsh SUP Tour

Let's go hiking through the salt marshes behind Folly Island. You may have done this trip in a kayak, but the stand up view and the chance to use some new muscles makes this a brand new experience.

Jun 4 Sat 9:30am-12:30pm Course # 25248
Meets at: Off-Site Location
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

Wappoo SUP Tour

We'll launch our boards at Wappoo Cut and head off towards Charleston Harbor and the City Marina and let the tide carry us back to the boat landing.

Jun 19 Sun 10:00am-1:00pm Course # 25244
Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters
Fee: \$36/\$30 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up

ACA Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Classes

Jun 9 Thu 6:00pm-7:30pm Course # 25225
Jun 18 Sat 9:30am-11:00am Course # 25226
12:00pm-1:30pm Course # 25236
2:30pm-4:00pm Course # 25237
Jun 22 Wed 6:00pm-7:30pm Course # 25227

LCP members receive a 20% discount on all water-based programs when registering by phone with CCPRC Park and Program Services. Please call (843) 795-4FUN or visit www.ccprc.com.

ACA Sea Kayak Instructional Classes

ACA Kayak Quickstart - Level 1

Come learn about the fun-filled sport of kayaking. During this 2-hour hands-on informal program, our experienced instructors will teach you how you can safely enjoy kayaking on Charleston's beautiful waters.

Jun 10 Fri 6:00pm-8:00pm Course # 25214

ACA Strokes and Maneuvers Refinement-Level 3

Paddling hard and getting nowhere in your kayak? It's time to perfect your technique! Using on-water practice, our ACA certified instructors will assist you in performing your strokes and maneuvers with efficiency, fluidity, and control.

Jun 12 Sun 9:00am-1:00pm Course # 25216

Sea Kayak Self-Rescue Skills - Level 3

Can you recover from an unplanned capsize in rough water? If you're not sure, you need this class! Certified instructors will cover self and assisted rescues and the skills that make the rescues efficient.

Jun 12 Sun 2:00pm-5:00pm Course # 25353

ACA Introduction to Kayaking - Level 1

Let our ACA certified instructors help you learn a new skill comfortably and enjoyably. Using a variety of boats, this entry level course teaches you basic strokes and skills to have fun on the water!

Jun 19 Sun 1:00pm-5:00pm Course # 25352

ACA Fundamentals of Coastal Kayaking - Level 3

ACA certified instructors will cover basic strokes and maneuvers, rescues, navigation, wind, waves, tides, and currents. After an evening of classroom instruction and a day on the water practicing strokes and rescues, you'll plan a short trip.

Jun 23, 25-26 Thu 7:00pm-9:00pm Course # 25224

Sat-Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

Meets at: CCPRC Headquarters
Fee: \$108/\$90 CCR Discount Age: 16 & up



(Continued from page 7)

Kayak Rolling and Rescues

Introduction to Kayak Rolling Class

The greatest self-rescue tool a kayaker has, rolling also sharpens other boating skills. Small classes ensure your comfort throughout the process.

Jun 13-17 Mon, Wed, Fri 6:30pm-8:30pm Course # 25198

June Racing Calendar

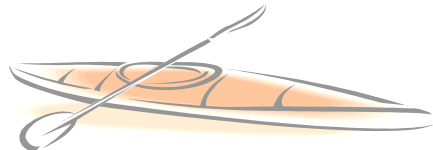
For those who enjoy endurance training as well as paddling the Lowcountry waterways, there are several races to consider. Entering a race helps you set benchmarks for your physical conditioning. It is also a great way to meet other paddlers from across the region and gain new insights about kayaking. Two upcoming races to consider:

Tybee Island, June, 4, 2011, Saturday, 9 AM.

Two Courses. One heads up the river for 3 miles and then turns around to head back to the dock. The 8 mile course heads out to the ocean before turning around and heading back to the launch site. This year for the first time, you have the option to race or to paddle. (Gee, where have we seen that this year? Good ideas spread).

Chattahoochee River Race, June 11, 2011, Saturday, 9 AM.

A huge race that attracts paddlers from all over the Southeast. All types of kayaks and canoes come out to paddle near Roswell, GA just north of Atlanta, GA. The course is six miles of a flatwater course. About 300 paddlers of all ages and abilities come out to celebrate the joy of being out on the water. A festival food and music awaits all participants at the finish.



WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS!

O.J. Gilstrap

- REMINDER - NEWSLETTER HAS GONE GREEN!

If green is not your favorite color, you can still request that a newsletter be mailed to you each month. Anyone who would still like to receive a hard copy may please contact Dave Bearse.

Email: dave.bearse@gmail.com

Phone: 843-216-3793

Letter: 3300 Barkla Ave.,

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466



WANTED

- Newsletter Submissions -

If you have an article or announcement for us to include in the next issue, please e-mail it to lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com before **June 24**.

Also be aware that copyright laws prevent us from printing published items without permission.

NOTE: Articles submitted anonymously will not be accepted for publication.



P.O. Box 13242
Charleston, S.C. 29422



Visit us on the Web!
www.lowcountrypaddlers.net