



# The Yakker

*Lowcountry Paddlers Club Newsletter*

*April 2009*

## From The Prez

As one LCP club member responded to my "Can you feel it? Spring is in the air!" statement I made on a previous e-mail, she said "Yes; it's also in my nose, my lungs and on my car!" Well that may be the case, but Spring also brings out the need to get back out and enjoy nature. As it starts to warm up, we begin to see the leaves budding & greening up on the trees, the flowers starting to bloom and the critters coming out to thaw themselves out from the cold winter months. To me personally, the months of March, April & May are the best times of the year to get out and go paddling in and around the lowcountry. There's so much beauty to be seen that as you all know can only be seen from a kayak (or canoe) and I do hope many of you have started to get out and appreciate what nature has to offer during this time of year!



Springtime is also the time the Lowcountry Paddlers get more active by offering more trips on the weekends to accommodate everyone's time schedules and places to go with the club. There is also the upcoming East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival (ECC&KF), the Sparkleberry Swamp campout and paddle trip and the LCP club picnic... all of which we can look forward to in the next couple of months.

The ECC&KF is April 17, 18 & 19th. We will again have our LCP booth there and we will once again be asking all of you to help out by either volunteering to staff the booth and or make & bring homemade baked goodies for us to sell to help boost our LCP funds. The ECC&KF is also a great time for all of us LCP members to get out and take a class or two to brush up on our kayaking skills and or to check out all the new kayaking equipment & boats. So please, make the time to come out and enjoy this fun and exciting festival!

As for the Sparkleberry paddle trip/campout and the LCP club picnic in the months of May & June respectfully, we will be discussing them at our April 20th and May 18th LCP club meetings and I will also be e-mailing the details of these events as the dates get closer.

And last but not least, start looking for details soon of our new and exciting LCP Photo Contest of which there will be fantastic prizes awarded. Until or next meeting, hope to see you all before then... out on the water!

*Todd*

## RACE FOR THE RIVER KAYAKALON

Form some teams, and come on down on **April 25** to join us for a triathlon-type event with kayaking instead of swimming. It's a fun time and an opportunity to experience a great paddling area on the Pamlico River. There is camping available in a beautiful setting. Check out our website:  
[www.ptrf.org](http://www.ptrf.org).

### **Black Creek Festival 9AM – 5PM May 2<sup>nd</sup> Hartsville, South Carolina**

We'll be hosting a 3.4 mile timed race down Black Creek beginning at 10AM - 12 noon and a sprint race across Lake Robinson at 2PM. Both of these races will have prizes, trophies, and ribbons for the top finishers. There will be a fun paddle with shuttle service as well. More information and registration forms are available at: [www.visitdarlingtoncounty.org](http://www.visitdarlingtoncounty.org). The only fees are for the races—if you just want to come and enjoy the day, that is free.

Numerous exhibitors will be on-hand including the Black Creek Land Trust, Pee Dee Land Trust, Kalmia Gardens, Clemson Extension Service, Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge and many others. There will be vendors doing demos all day, including Wilderness Systems, Current Designs, Hobie, Native Watercraft, Mad River Canoe, Wenonah Canoe and others. Live entertainment will be provided throughout the day. There is also a Community Market in Hartsville that morning and a state BBQ cook-off so there will be plenty to do all day long!

For more information, contact:  
Jim Money, Director, Darlington County Tourism  
Phone: 843-339-9511 or 888-427-8720 Fax: 843-332-8017  
Email: [darcotour@bellsouth.net](mailto:darcotour@bellsouth.net)

**Submit your contributions for the May Yakker  
to Jenelle by April 25<sup>th</sup> via email at  
[lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com](mailto:lowcountrypaddlers@yahoo.com)**

**NOTE: Copyright law will be upheld, and no  
anonymous submissions will be considered.**



Lowcountry Paddlers from near and far, in canoes and kayaks of all shapes and sizes, at all skill levels, share the enjoyment found in getting together to appreciate all the abundant natural beauty that surrounds us in South Carolina.

Our meetings, usually held on the third Monday of each month, are informal, open to non-members and guests, and provide a great way to learn about the club and to meet our members. Meetings normally include a guest speaker from 7:00 to 8:00 followed by a short session of club business. Meetings generally conclude by 8:30 p.m.

LCP meetings are held at:  
Providence Baptist Church  
294 Seven Farms Drive  
Daniel Island

**Join us at our next meeting:  
April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

Contact us by mail:  
Lowcountry Paddlers  
P.O. Box 13242  
Charleston, S.C. 29422

or visit our website:  
[www.lowcountrypaddlers.net](http://www.lowcountrypaddlers.net)



**LOW COUNTRY PADDLERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 16, 2009**

President Todd Beach called the meeting to order and welcomed the club members and guests. He then introduced the guest speaker.

**Guest Speaker:** Stephen Sable, Director of Education for the Center for Birds of Prey.

The Center's mission statement is to identify and address vital environmental issues by providing medical care for injured birds of prey and through educational research, and conservation initiatives. Stephen said that they study wild bird populations to understand what is going wrong in the environment in general. Birds, in general, are good indicator-species because they are very visible and are sentinels for potential health risks. For example, DDT used as a pesticide was found to be a toxin and led to the near-extinction of the Bald Eagle. Also, the 1999 Avian Flu was discovered in wild bird population. The Center treats approximately 350 birds a year. In addition to treating injured birds, the center, which houses birds from around the world, has an education program for schools and wildlife expositions. The new facility is open to the public three days a week. Birds that are unable to return to the wild are used in the educational programs. The Center depends on volunteers to help at the facility for research and field studies such as this year's Swallowtail Kite survey. Stephen asked the Lowcountry Paddlers to help ID Swallowtail Kites and notify the Birds of Prey of any sightings. He said they can be seen around tall pines near rivers. They are easily identified with black and white patterned birds with three-foot wing spans and forked tails. They catch insects in the air and eat on the wing. Stephen brought a Barred Owl that had been trained to give flight demonstrations as part of the Center's educational program. The Owl performed perfectly. See their web site ([www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.thecenterforbirdsofprey.org)) for additional information about the Birds of Prey Center and to report Swallowtail Kite sightings.

**Old Business:** The minutes of the February 2009 meeting were accepted and approved as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael Condon read the March Treasurer's report. Total receipts were \$144.00, total disbursements \$80.07 and the previous balance \$2,330.90. New check book balance \$2,394.83. The report was accepted and approved as read.

**New Business:** The East Coast Kayak Festival will be held April 17-19. The CCPRC is still looking for volunteers to help with the festival. Please call Erin at the county park if you want to volunteer. Volunteers are given free weekend passes to the event plus a free t-shirt and volunteer meals. The Low Country Paddlers also have a tent at the festival and we need two people to man the booth in 4-hour shifts each day. Please sign up with Todd if you can donate some time. If you can't donate time, you can help the club raise money by bringing baked goods for the club to sell.

**Trip leaders report:** Two trips are planned in April, due to the ECC&KF taking up one weekend. Please check the Lowcountry Paddlers web site for more detailed trip information on these and other planned club paddles.

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>** Andy Burgess will lead a paddle to the north end of Bull Island. This is a 3-star (intermediate) paddle. Meet at the Garris boat landing at 8:30.

**Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>** Ed Deal will lead a paddle to circumnavigate Coles Island. This is a 2-star or (regular) paddle. Meet at the Folly River boat landing at 8:45

**Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Sparkleberry Swamp loop trip after LCP Campout at Poinsett State Park. Two groups will leave from the landing one hour apart and will eat lunch together at Risers Lake. The Beginner/Regular group will leave the rest area at 8:30 to launch in the swamp at 9:15 (group leader, TBD). Ed Deal will lead the Intermediate group, leaving the rest area on I-95 just past town of Santee at 9:30 to launch in the swamp at 10:15.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup>. Door prizes were distributed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Maple

## Goose Creek Paddle

by Andy Anderson

Being the eternal optimist, at least in some areas of my life, I planned yet again for a St Patrick's Day celebration and paddle on Goose Creek Reservoir. It was cold and windy when we did it in 2007. It was **so** cold and **so** windy in 2008 we cancelled it twice. Undeterred, March 14<sup>th</sup> was selected as the date to try again. The purpose for paddling this seemingly uninteresting water course is its abundant bird life. At the far end of the lake (from Bettis Landing) is a snowy egret and ibis rookery and a kayak offers a stealthy approach that doesn't seem to disturb these beautiful nesting birds. Plus, this time of year the local alligator population tends to prefer basking in the warming sun instead of heading for the depths of the reservoir upon our approach. Cormorants and anhingas abound over this semi-secluded impoundment. Many opportunities for viewing wildlife would again await us, I hoped.

One of the things I've learned when planning these trips is to have a plan 'B' ready in case plan 'A' doesn't work out. This contingency planning is really more about self-preservation than anything else. When our fellow paddlers arrive at the launch point they expect to paddle and have a great day on the water. They're okay with some weather adversity, but they are not okay with being told there will be no paddle today and that they should go home. Even if being keel-hauled under a kayak wouldn't be so bad (comparatively) I still would rather forego the experience. In this case, my contingency plan was to head over to the relatively sheltered waters of the Ashley River and, due to tidal influences, paddle upriver from Jessin Landing. With these two plans in my PFD pocket, I figured the only thing that could screw up the day would be heavy rains.

So, of course, it rained. The trip was rescheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 21<sup>st</sup> dawned clear but cold. I attempted to convince Carol this would be good practice for our upcoming kayaking trip in Alaska. She didn't seem to share any of my enthusiasm for this 'acclimation paddle' but in short order, we had our gear stowed and were heading down I-26 for Goose Creek. Upon arrival, the winds had kicked up a bit and the mercury remained snuggled in the bottom of its tiny bulb. One fellow arrived in a dress, claiming it to be a kilt. I guess one wears what one has. Another couple began dancing a jig across the ol' waffle iron, debating the merits of launching in such conditions. But in the end, we all decided to head out onto this lovely little water course. Lisa repeatedly spotted 'gators along the shore line before anyone else was even close; the woman has an eye for spotting critters!! Finally, we came upon the rookery we had come to see. Dozens of snowy white birds were seen tending their seemingly haphazard nests. The wonder that everyone felt was evident by the hush that fell over our little fleet. The only sounds came from the birds. Those with cameras floated noiselessly along the shore line to capture images of these magnificent birds. Those without cameras simply sat back and attempted to take it all in.

Even though this was a relatively short paddling trip, I believe everyone had a good time of it and had an opportunity to view something truly unique.

# EAST COAST CANOE & KAYAK FESTIVAL EXTRAS

## ECCKF Pre-Festival Offerings

**ACA Essentials of River Canoe IDW/ICE** Fee: \$400 Course # 20397 Apr 13-16 9-6 MW/9-1 TH  
This is an ACA Level 2 Instructor Canoe Course that will allow an individual to become familiar with the knowledge & techniques needed to teach participants in a Level 2 or below canoe course. Skills include strokes for traveling backwards, side slips, tight turns, braces, & heeling. In depth rescues, how to travel safely, wind & waves management will also be covered. This course is taught on flat water to gentle moving rivers with mild currents. The course will culminate in an examination that will determine the level of instructor certification to be awarded. Instructor Trainer: Chris Stec. Pre-registration required.

**ACA Coastal Kayak Open Water IDW** Fee: \$300 Course # 20398 Apr 14-16 8am-9pm  
The Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor Development Workshop prepares candidates for the Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor Certification Exam. Candidates will learn to competently manage groups in wind, waves, tidal currents, & while paddling in traffic. For more information, visit <http://www.americancanoe.org>. Pre-registration required.

**ACA Coastal Kayak Training Lev 3** Fee: \$75 Course # 20400 Apr 15 9am-4pm  
Work your way up to gain the Level 3 Coastal Kayak Award with the help of this training focused on strokes, maneuvers, and rescues. For more information go to: <http://www.americancanoe.org/pdf/CKLevel3.pdf>

**ACA Coastal Kayak Training Lev 4** Fee: \$75 Course # 20399 Apr 16 9am-5pm  
Continue on through the ACA Level 4 Coastal Kayak training to achieve the respective kayak award in an open water venue. For more information go to: <http://www.americancanoe.org/pdf/CKLevel3.pdf>

**Discovery Learning with Foster** Fee: \$80 Course # 20396 Apr 16 9am-5pm  
Join Nigel, author of five technical paddling books, multiple magazine articles, designer of several sea kayaks & a series of instructional videos, for a day on the water. This on-water class will examine why a kayak weathercocks & how to keep it in a straight line. It will also explore the different ways you can turn your kayak & which turns work best for specific situations. If you've wondered why a bow rudder doesn't work well when you turn from the wind; or are puzzled about which way to edge when you turn, come & find some answers to your questions.

**Greenland Paddle-Making with Chris Raab** Fee: \$120 Course # 20401 Apr 16 9am-4pm  
We will take you through the steps to make your own Greenland paddle, from selecting wood, using the tools to carving your first paddle. No special skills are needed. Instruction, a paddle blank, and all the tools are provided. You provide the elbow grease and at the end of the day go home with a new paddle!

## ECCKF Post-Festival Offerings

**Sea Kayak Surfing** Fee: \$75 Course # 20405 Apr 20 9am-5pm  
Ben Lawry will teach the skills needed to play safely in the surf, followed by a practice session in small waves. He will cover how to launch, break through the surf zone, pick and catch a wave, and riding the wave and foam pile. Also covered are stroke timing, wave timing, and other useful surf tactics. Pre-registration required.

**ACA Coastal Kayak Assessment Level 3** Fee: \$65 Course # 20404 Apr 20 9am-1pm  
ACA Instructor Trainer Tom Nickels will assess your Level 3 Coastal Kayak Skills. For more information go to: [www.americancanoe.org/instruction/kayak\\_instruction.lasso](http://www.americancanoe.org/instruction/kayak_instruction.lasso)

**Sea Kayak Fine Tune w/Karen Knight** Fee: \$120 Course # 20407 Apr 20-21 9am-5pm  
Let Karen Knight help you fine tune your current sea kayak skills and abilities. She will focus on improving your strokes, working on your roll, practicing your rescues, or developing any other aspect of your paddling. This is a great opportunity for sea kayakers to take it to the next level. Video review will be available. Instructor: Karen Knight

**ACA Coastal Kayak Open Water ICE** Fee: \$300 Course # 20406 Apr 20-22 9am-5pm  
The Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor Certification Exam certifies candidates as an Open Water Coastal Kayak Instructor. Candidates must competently manage groups in wind, waves, tidal currents, & while paddling in traffic. For more information, visit <http://www.americancanoe.org>.

**ACA Coastal Kayak Assessment Level 4** Fee: \$75 Course # 20403 Apr 21 9am-5pm  
ACA Instructor Trainer Tom Nickels will evaluate your Level 4 Coastal Kayak Skills. For more information go to: [www.americancanoe.org/instruction/kayak\\_instruction.lasso](http://www.americancanoe.org/instruction/kayak_instruction.lasso)

# THE BACK PAGE

## East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival

East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival is a full weekend event immersed in the history, technique, hands-on experience, and fun of canoeing and kayaking. Located at James Island County Park from April 17-19, this action-packed festival features a multitude of on-water classes, demonstrations, and classroom presentations by leading instructors, along with over 40 commercial exhibits by the finest retailers and manufacturers. Registration packages start at \$15 and range from sampler passes to full-weekend passes – perfect for all levels and abilities! Children 17 and under are admitted free with an accompanying adult registration. For more information, a daily festival schedule, and to register call (843) 795-4FUN or visit [www.ccprc.com/ecckf](http://www.ccprc.com/ecckf).

## Caw Caw Self Guided Canoe Tour

Relax and enjoy a day paddling historic rice fields. Our knowledgeable staff will update you on wildlife activity and share the unique history of the site. For more information call Caw Caw Interpretive Center at (843) 889-8898.

Course # 20310	Sat	Apr 4	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20311	Sun	Apr 5	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20312	Sat	Apr 11	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20313	Sun	Apr 12	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20314	Sat	Apr 18	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20315	Sun	Apr 19	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20316	Sat	Apr 25	10:00am-4:00pm
Course # 20317	Sun	Apr 26	10:00am-4:00pm

## Kayaking

Introduction to Kayaking Course # 19990	Sat	Apr 4	Fee: \$42/\$35 CCR Discount 9:00am-1:00pm
ACA Essentials of Kayak Touring Course # 19991	Sat	Apr 11	Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount 9:00am-4:00pm
Charleston Harbor Kayak Tour Course # 19972	Sun	Apr 5	Fee: \$42/\$35 CCR Discount 2:00pm-5:00pm
Folly River Float Course # 19997	Tue	Apr 7	Fee: \$42/\$35 CCR Discount 5:30pm-8:30pm
Morris Island Lighthouse Kayak Tour Course # 19973	Sun	Apr 12	Fee: \$54/\$45 CCR Discount 10:00am-4:00pm
Kayak Quickstart Course # 19992	Fri	Apr 24	Fee: \$18/\$15 CCR Discount 5:30pm-7:30pm

## Canoeing at Caw Caw

Enjoy an interpretive paddle at dusk. Witness the sun as it slips below the trees of Caw Caw Swamp and watch the moonrise over Tea Farm Creek.

Course # 19926	Wed	Apr 8	5:45pm-8:15pm
----------------	-----	-------	---------------

Enjoy an interpretive canoe trip and travel back to the age of rice as we paddle through rice fields and canals that now serve as one of the richest wildlife habitats in the Lowcountry.

Course # 19923	Sat	Apr 18	9:00am-11:30am
----------------	-----	--------	----------------

Explore mysterious ruins of a factory, a gnarled ghost forest, and long abandoned rice fields, while looking for elusive Clapper Rails and other creatures during our paddle into the tidal salt marshes of Caw Caw.

Course # 19925	Sat	Apr 25	9:30am-12:30pm
----------------	-----	--------	----------------



**Pre-registration is required for all programs and some special events.  
Please call (843) 795-4FUN or visit [www.ccprc.com](http://www.ccprc.com) to register.**

