

July/August 2010

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Check out the latest Chota Canoe Club news at www.paddlechota.org or on Chota's new Facebook page

Chota Swiftwater Rescue: July 17 - 18, 2010

Every boater finds themselves, from time to time, needing help on the river. Rescuing or being rescued, the skills you learn in a swiftwater rescue course are invaluable when time is of the essence.

Chota's annual swiftwater rescue course will be held on Saturday July 17 and Sunday July 18. Based out of Gee Creek Campground with river segments taking place on the Hiwassee and Ocoee River, the clinic is open to both members and non-members. No prior experience is necessary or required for the course.

Russ Miller from Wilderness Safety Consultants (WSC) will be the lead instructor. Please feel free to contact Russ through www.wsc2.com if you have any questions concerning course content or certifications.

The clinic is geared toward whitewater paddlers and will follow the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670 Standard for Water Rescue. "Awareness" and "Operations" segments of this standard will be completed. SWR certification at the operations level will be available for

those desiring certification. A skills test is required for certification and will require two to three hours of additional work on Sunday.

Time and place: An informal check-in and meet & greet will take place at the Gee Creek Campground Friday night at 8:00. Students may also check in at 8:45 Saturday Morning. Training will start Saturday and Sunday morning at 9:00.

What to Bring: Throw rope, warm river clothes (i.e. wetsuit or drysuit), life jacket or safety vest, paddle, whistle, and helmet. A rope for prusicks (A 5 foot piece of kernmantel rope of 6-8 mm diameter works great) and locking carabineers if you have them.

Student Fees: \$35.00, and \$15.00 additional for SWR certification. Please forward your payment to reserve your place in the class. Make checks made out to: CHOTA

Send your registration to: CHOTA, c/o Randy Bigbee, 5532 Woodburn Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919



Rescue "Live Bait"
with Chota Canoe Club!

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Chota Chicks Rule! Tear It Up At Boater Chick Festival 2010

Boater Chick Festival 2010 took place on May 22-23 in the Nantahala Gorge. *The Boater Chick Festival is a grass-roots event that began in 2008 to give women in paddle sports the opportunity to canoe and kayak together, learn from one another, and gather in a friendly and supportive environment.*

Chota was well represented this year by nine ladies, all looking to spend some quality time with other female boaters from around the Southeast and beyond. All events took place on the Nantahala, Ocoee and Cheoah Rivers offering Class II, III and IV river running opportunities. There were clinics for beginner through advanced play boaters and beginner through advanced creekers.

The fun started Friday afternoon for the Chota Chicks, when four of them met up to run the Ocoee. This was Jenni Hubbard's first decent down the Ocoee and she cleaned it!!! WooHoo Jenni! Later that day, the group met up with the other five Chota Chicks at our beautiful hideway cabin in Topton, NC. Although the road going up to the cabin was borderline class V, it was well worth it! The rest of the evening was filled with eating, grilling, cocktails, laughing, wearing hats and lifting cars. Yes, you read correctly, lifting cars! Just ask Leslie Stewart about it next time you see her. Apparently, she thought the driveway was class V too!

On Saturday, the Chota Chicks got up bright and early to participate in various river trips and clinics on the Nantahala, Ocoee, and Cheoah. Angela Garrison kept herself busy by taking a beginner creekboat and playboat clinic, as well as entering a playboat competition on the Nantahala. She took 3rd in the competition!!



The infamous Women's Boater Cross race on the Cheoah was also held Saturday afternoon. Mary Ann Grell (#17) once



Standing: Christy Coleman, Mary Ann Grell, Julie Clemens, Angela Garrison, Jenni Hubbard, Tisha Benton, Leslie Stewart. Kneeling: Iris Mixon, Renee Harwell

again represented Chota, and Knoxville for that matter, in this race. She held her own against some tough competitors until Yard Sale, where apparently she lost focus of the fact she was racing and decided to have her own personal free-style competition in the bottom hole. And although it cost her the downriver race, she did manage to snag 1st place in her newly created event: **MAG's Yard Sale Throw-Down!** Later that evening, we met up with all the **Boater Chicks at Nelson's Hideaway Campground to tell tales of our day's adventures.** We made some new friends, ate delicious grub, drank a few cold ones, won some great prizes in the raffle, and listened to a little live music.

The next day, we headed back out to paddle on the Nantahala and Ocoee. Julie Clemens and Tisha Benton participated in an advanced playboat clinic on the Ocoee.

A great time was had by all that participated! There is such a wonderful comradere that exists among the female boating community. We gals strongly support each other, and truly want to see each other succeed and excel on the rivers. A special thanks to Christy Coleman for organizing the Chota Chicks and finding us a wonderful cabin to use as our base camp. Also a big thank you goes out to Ann Connolly and all her volunteers for making this event possible. The clinics were very informative and all trips were lead by highly skilled paddlers and safety boaters. We definitely recommend this festival to all the BoaterChicks out there and hope to see an even bigger turn out for next year! **Next year's organizer will be Renee Harwell**, as appointed by Christy, due to her mad spreadsheet skills and vehicle extraction leadership qualities.

Angela Garrison & Mary Ann Grell

Chota Conservation: Obed Tract Protected Through Purchase

About 20% of the land authorized for the Obed Wild and Scenic River still remains in private ownership and without the protection of easements. These fragile tracts are vulnerable to development, which would spoil the viewshed, degrade water quality, and ruin the wilderness quality of this exquisite National Park unit.

Earlier this year, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) heard about the willing seller of an 18.6-acre Obed tract on Clear Creek on the east side of Four Mile Creek (at Norris Ford). The tract has a 200-ft-wide strip above the cliff line and borders a stream with a beautiful, 70-ft waterfall. With the Park unable to make the purchase at this time, TCWP dug into its coffers and quickly purchased the tract in May to prevent its private sale and potential development. This Obed land is now assured of protection until the Park is able to purchase it from TCWP.

Through its \$875 donation to TCWP earlier this year, Chota helped to make this protection possible. This purchase continues a valuable partnership in protecting the wild rivers we cherish. In 2006, Chota partici-

pated with TCWP and several other groups to purchase and protect an 18-acre Obed tract on river left of Clear Creek between Jack's Rock and Focus Falls. TCWP is grateful to Chota for your generous collaboration!

Cindy Kendrick



Forever Green Tennessee: Conservation Success In The Legislature

We went from office to office of our State Senators and Representatives. We made phone calls, held meetings, got Facebook friends, sent e-mail blasts, set out yard signs, put bumper stickers on our cars, wore lapel stickers, sat at the Legislature for 6+ weeks, and IT PAID OFF!

The Third Annual Sustainable Tennessee Conservation Education Day, Feb. 23, 2010, was the most successful ever. Members of the Chota Canoe Club joined over 80 participants representing over 30 organizations at the Legislative Plaza. The group helped advance the Forever Green Tennessee initiative and other priority issues in the 2010 Sustainable Tennessee Agenda.

On June 4th, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a budget that restored some \$16 million for a Forever Green Tennessee. Funds will now be available to buy waterfalls, river bluffs and mountain gorges, as well as to enhance local parks with improved public access.

We are thrilled to have been successful! We will probably have to fight this same fight every year until we can get the Legislature out of its bad habit of **using "dedicated" funds for purposes outside of their "dedicated" capacity, but until then, we're going to take a break over the summer ...**

See you in the fall. Until then, stay cool, and thanks for your help in our Forever Green Tennessee campaign!

Tennessee Environmental Council & Design Resources Announce

GREENWAY ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

AUGUST 18 ~ 9AM-5PM ~ MURFREESBORO, TN
<http://www.tectn.org/>

Led by Council Executive Director, John McFadden (PhD) and Kevin Guenther, Landscape Architect and partner, Design Resource.

Greenways and parks play an important role in flood response. Learn techniques to improve storm water management.

Several \$250-\$500 grants for riparian tree planting will be given to qualified participants on a first-come, first served basis.

Learn basic ecological concepts, assessment of greenways and how to make practical and cost effective aesthetic and ecological improvements through both lecture and hands on training.

We will be building a rain garden as a part of the workshop.

This workshop is ideal for local park and greenway managers, and greenway design consultants, and also great for storm water managers and watershed associations.

LOCATION: Patterson Park Community Center, 521 Mercury Blvd. in Murfreesboro TN. A boxed lunch will be provided. CEUs available on request.

\$85 (\$75 for Council Members, Nonprofit or Government organizations)

July	Event	Contact
10	Clinch River - below Melton Hill Dam This will be a 7 mile paddle for recreational and touring kayaks, and flatwater canoes	Paul Alexander paulalex1947@live.com 865-679-0359 or 865-882-1149
10	Gage Reading Appreciation Party 8pm - 10 pm Adventures Unlimited Campground, Hwy 64 near Ocoee River Music stupid paddler games, beer, and schwag	www.waldensridgewhitewater.com
11	Hiwassee River Class II Beginner whitewater	Tom Rannells tomrannells@hotmail.com 865-771-4288
11	Ocoee River Class III/III+ Intermediate whitewater	Nathan Biggs nathan7193@hotmail.com 423-715-7193
17	French Broad River Recreational and touring kayaks For details call/email	Marc and Shelly Mangold mangoldmarc@hotmail.com 865-525-8059
17 - 18	Chota Swiftwater Rescue Class Chota website - www.paddlechota.org for details	Randy Bigbee rbigbee@bellsouth.net 865-567-7294
23 - 25	South Holston Lake Overnighter Self contained camping/paddle trip For details call/email	Debbie Briscoe ldcakes@hotmail.com 423-534-3636
24	Hiwassee River Class II Beginner whitewater	Trey and Christy Coleman roscoepwavetrain@yahoo.com 865-310-6243 Please call by Wed before trip
24	Upper Pigeon Class II/III Intermediate whitewater	Damon Wooten damonwooten@yahoo.com 865-207-1724
31	Upper Pigeon Class II/III Beginner whitewater Lower Pigeon Class II Beginner whitewater	Doug Klaras footer40mph@msn.com 865-806-8264
31	Melton Hill Lake Easy trip for touring and recreational boats For details call/email	Karen Catlett kcatlett@utk.edu 865-919-7963
August		
1	Touring Boat Rescue Class Meet at Cove off of Northshore, 1pm For details call/email	Jim Martin photogmartin8790@aol.com 865-548-4200
7	Hiwassee Class II Beginner whitewater	Alex Zendel alexzendel@hotmail.com 865-771-1101
7	Apalachia Lake Touring trip - One of our most scenic vistas in E. Tenn. Location is commonly known as the "Secret Spot" and not a trip to miss or you'll never know. Contact trip coordinator for details	Doug Johnstone canoeone@tds.net 865-804-5240
13	Norris Lake Night Paddle Meteor shower and potluck dinner For details on this Friday evening paddle, call or email	Steve McGaffin mtnotter@gmail.com 865-687-8681

August	Event	Contact
14	Ocoee River Class III/III+ Intermediate whitewater	Trey and Christy Coleman roscoepwavetrain@yahoo.com 865-310-6243 Please call by Wed before trip
14	Nantahala River Class II+ Beginner whitewater	Geoff Hudik thnk2wn@gmail.com 865-209-3037
21	Nantahala River Class II+ Beginner whitewater	Larry & Leslie Stewart lhstewart@gmail.com 865-206-6738
21	Chilhowee Lake For details call/email	Iris Leung irisleung@earthlink.net 865-448-8907
22	Ocoee River Class III/III+ Intermediate whitewater	David & Tish Benton tbenton@charter.net 865-966-3934
28	Nantahala River Class II+ Beginner whitewater	Angela Garrison ajwahl@gmail.com 865-577-2993
28 - 29	Upper/Middle Ocoee River - Get Ready for the Gauley Weekend! Class III/IV+ Intermediate/Advanced whitewater This will be no float trip, so be ready to work your butt off as we train hard for the Gauley River. Familiarity with both sections of the Ocoee and a solid roll required. Camping at River Rats	Mary Ann Grell magrell@yahoo.com 865-577-2993
27 - 29	Fontana Lake Overnighter Camping/Paddle self contained trip Camping in GSMNP For details call/email	Gary Kilpatrick GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com 423-914-4070
Sept	Event	Contact
4	Calderwood Lake Touring	Doug Johnstone canoeone@tds.net 865-804-5240
4	Hiwassee River Class II Beginning whitewater	Jenni Hubbard jenni.hubbard@gmail.com 205-529-0551
10 - 13	Gauley River, WV Class III-IV+ Big Water Intermediate/Advanced RSVP by 9/3 so camping reservations can be made	Mary Ann Grell magrell@yahoo.com 865-207-6250
11	Emory River - Cook out For details call/email	Paul Alexander paulalex1947@live.com 865-679-0359 865-882-1149
17- 19	Gauley River - Gauley Fest Class III-IV+ Intermediate Advanced	www.americanwhitewater.org/ content/Wiki/aw.events_gauley
18	Cheoah Class III-IV+ Advanced whitewater	Mary Ann Grell magrell@yahoo.com 865-577-2993
19	Upper Norris Lake - Big Sycamore Beautiful wilderness to explore - not to miss. For details call/email	Tom & Tere McDonough TTMCDONO@aol.com 865-406-6416

Sept	Event	Contact
24-26	Nantahala River - NOC Guest Appreciation Festival	www.noc.com
25-26	Santeelah Lake Overnighter Camping/Paddle self contained Enjoy the brisk air and early fall colors	Doug Johnstone canoeone@tds.net 865-804-5240
Oct	Event	Contact
3	French Broad River to Seven Islands Touring trip	Ed McAlister ed@riversportsoutfitters.com 865-250-2188
7- 10	Hammocks Beach State Park - Bear Island Unique environment begins with three mile paddle to island, sandy beach dunes, and base camping with the Atlantic Ocean as your front porch. Day trips around islands and in wetlands marsh.	Gary Kilpatrick GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com 423-914-4070
9	Tellico Lake - Fort Loudoun State Park Garrison Weekend - the daily lives of the men, women, and children of Ft Loudon are recreated for the public. On these days, park visitors will find living history re-enactors in costume at the Fort - an infirmary, blacksmith shop, barracks make great photos and a great spot for lunch.	Sharon Cogburn onehappidog@aol.com 865-567-1072
23 - 25	Tellico Lake - Blueway Overnighter Beautiful 11 mile paddle of the upper stretches of Tellico Lake. Chota Canoe Club has partnered with TVA to establish this new paddling Blueway.	Clay Guerry scguerry@tva.gov 865-723-3963
23	Upper Tellico Lake Upper section of this scenic mountain lake will be explored	Iris Leung irisleung@earthlink.net 865-448-8907
Nov	Event	Contact
11	Carolina Extended Weekend Touring, whitewater, mountain biking, hiking, camping. This weekend has it all	Gary Kilpatrick GWKilpatrick@misincinfo.com 423-914-4070

Event Spotlights

Paddles to the Grill – Evenings on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of Month

On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, Paddle to the Grill launches at 6pm. These are typically 4 miles in length, include dinner at a marina, with a return trip in the dark (lights are required). Usually we are back loading boats at 10pm. Occasionally, trips will be less than 4 miles in length. **Recreational kayaks (15' or less) and canoes** are suitable for these shorter length evening paddles. Jack Graham organizes these events. Announcements via email relative to the location and marina issue periodically. Contact Jack Graham at bikrsall@tds.net.

Gauley Fest: September 19-21

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Gauley Fest. Originally started 1983 to celebrate the derailment of a hydro-electric project that would have dewatered the upper river, Gauley Fest today is one of the largest whitewater festivals in the world. Gauley Fest remains a celebration of American Whitewater stewardship success across the country. No river in the country defines fall paddling quite as well as the Gauley, in the heart of wild and wonderful West Virginia. Be sure to mark this on your calendar for a legendary weekend of paddling and comradeship. Visit the website at www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/aw:events_gauley for more information.

NOC Guest Appreciation Festival (GAF): September 24-26

GAF is the famous end-of-season festival for outdoor lovers across the Southeast. Fantastic deals on used and **new gear can be found at the annual NOC's Used Gear Sale**, the Gear Marketplace, and Blowout Deals in the **Outfitter's Store**. **There will also be paddling of course**, along with games, clinics, and live music. Be sure to visit the website at www.noc.com/nocom/festivals-a-events/guest-appreciation-festival for more information and a complete schedule of events.

ACA National Paddlesport Conference: Nov 5 - 7, Asheville, NC

The 2010 ACA National Paddlesport Conference will provide attendees with courses and workshops, opportunity to attend national membership meetings and time to paddle with friends from around the country.

There will be Instructor Updates and Trainer Sessions offered, Safety & Rescue Sessions, Wilderness First Aid & CPR Course, Adaptive Paddling Sessions and Public Workshops. Additionally, there will be keynote speakers, a silent auction and award presentations.

2010 Chota Canoe & Kayak School ~
Going to school is a great idea when your class is on the water!



Amy Campbell created this year's t-shirt design. If you need design work, reach Amy at campbellcreative@charter.net



Father and son enjoying **Father's Day** weekend at the Chota School: Miledge III and Miledge IV Austin



Instructor Clay Guerry watching his advanced beginner class practicing the T-Rescue at the lake



David Benton, pictured, and Tisha Benton continue to help Chota each year teaching whitewater kayaking



Paul Alexander, touring instructor, assists in a boater rescue drill



Saturday's catered dinner: (foreground) Gary Kilpatrick, school dir., Jim Martin and Doug Johnstone, touring instructors.



Justin Melden hitting a good line at Oblique Falls during his advanced beginner class on the Hiwassee.



Ben Thatcher returned to **Chota's school** to continue improving his whitewater skills, here at funnel rapids



Touring instruction was led by Jim Martin. In all there were almost twenty boaters on the water for flatwater school.

River Spotlight - The Little River

The Little River originates near Clingman's Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and flows about 60 miles to the confluence with the Tennessee River. This river offers spectacular scenery and a wide variety of paddling opportunities.

The sections of the Little River in the park are popular with whitewater paddlers in the winter or spring or after heavy rain when water levels are high. The upper section of the river is fairly continuous series of class III and IV rapids and includes a **12+ foot waterfall called "The Sinks"**. The middle section is a great class III+ run. The best known and most difficult rapid in this section is the class IV Elbow, where the whole river constricts into a chute less than 6 feet with a large undercut rock on the left.



Former Chota President Trey Coleman on the Little River

Between the Elbow and the Townsend Wye, the river offers class II water that can challenge those who aren't ready for the whitewater above the Elbow. Downstream of the Wye, the river widens and long pools separate class I and II rapids. During the summer, this section is popular with tubers. Further downstream, beyond Walland, terrain begins to flatten out and the land is largely agricultural and suburban. This section is a great place to fish for smallmouth bass or sunfish from a kayak or canoe. Downstream of Rockford, the Little River is impounded by Fort Loudoun Lake. Sweet P's Barbeque, located at Willow Point Marina on the Little River embayment of Fort Loudoun, is one of the **Chota touring group's "Paddle to the Grill" destinations**.

The river's water quality within the park is excellent although there is concern about impacts of acid rain on high elevation headwater streams. The section of the river within the National Park is classified as an Outstanding Natural Resource Water and is used as a benchmark to assess the health of other Blue Ridge Mountain streams. The Little River supports several state and federally protected species [including the endangered duskytail darter (federal and state listed); finere-rayed pigtoe mussel (state listed); the threatened snail darter (federal and state listed) and longhead darter (state listed)].

Downstream of the Park, water quality slowly degrades with increasing distance from the Park. **Several of the Little River's tributary streams are** classified by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as impaired [2008 303 (d) report]. Bacteria, sediment, and habitat alteration are the primary causes of impairment. The main sources of these pollutants are agricultural and development practices, urban runoff, and failing septic tanks. Rapid population growth and the resulting development will place increasing pressure on the river. The State of Tennessee has classified an 18 mile section of the lower Little River as threatened. This designation means that if current trends continue the Little River will be impaired in the near future.

The River is heavily used for recreational purposes, provides drinking water to thousands of residents in Blount County and adds millions of dollars in recreational tourism to the local economy. Improving and protecting the quality of the river was identified as a priority issue by county residents during public input workshops conducted in 1997 by the Blount County Planning Department and in 2004-2005 by the University of Tennessee.



Little River near Stock Creek

The Little River Watershed Association (LRWA) is non-profit organization, formed in 1998, that is committed to engaging watershed residents in taking action on behalf of the river; providing vital education and information to neighbors, friends and businesses partners; and helping leaders understand the vital importance of protecting the river. LRWA projects include: quarterly river clean-ups though promotion of the Adopt-a-Stream program, taking elected officials and community leaders on a hands on an educational canoe trip, teaching a wetland ecology class at the Blount County Environmental Camp, researching the potential to develop a Little River Blueway, and working with the National Park Service to restore the natural vegetation in the riparian corridor near the Foothills Parkway by removing invasive exotic species.

In response to concerns about deteriorating water quality, local, state, and federal agencies, the University of Tennessee, and the LRWA are working together to improve and protect water quality in the Little River. These efforts are being coordinated through the Little River Water Quality Forum (LRWQF). LRWQF, a partnership of 25 agencies and organizations, was formed in 1997 to plan and coordinate water quality improvement and protection initiatives. LRWQF partners bring to the table a wide range of knowledge and skills including education and outreach, capturing community concerns and recommendations, monitoring and assessments, pollution load modeling, best management practice implementation, writing grants, stream-bank restoration and stabilization, planning, permitting and enforcement.

TVA developed a detailed geographic watershed database and pollution load model for the Little River Watershed in 2003 to identify pollution sources, evaluate restoration options and strategies and target pollution reduction efforts. The pollution model estimated amounts for pollutants being washed into each tributary watershed from residential, commercial, industrial, and agriculture areas. The model was also used to forecast amounts and sources of the pollutants in the year 2020 based on projected land use and population change.

Collaborative efforts of the LRWQF, measurable pollution reduction goals, and a strategy for accomplishing these goals along with strong community support for improving and protecting the Little River has resulted in over \$3.5M from a variety of grants being acquired for on watershed improvements to date.

Funding from these grants is being used to:

- Conduct an outreach campaign and provide financial incentives to encourage the use conservation practices on farms that minimize water quality impacts.
- Carry out a residential homeowner educational campaign to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of residential land management practices on water quality. The program focuses on stormwater management, maintenance of septic systems, restoration and stewardship of wetlands and riparian buffers, and management of pet waste and lawn care.
- Implement a septic system cost-share program to assist low-income families in repairing failing septic systems.
- Conduct a water quality monitoring program to track and document progress and demonstrate measurable improvements

Mark Whited, the Executive director of LRWA, says, **"I am excited about all the work being done to improve and protect the Little River. I hope that Chota members will help out with activities like river cleanups, evaluating the potential for a Little River blueway, and educational canoe/kayak trips."**

Tom McDonough



For more information:

www.littleriverwatershed.org
 email: snaildarter@littleriverwatershed.org
 or check out the LRWA Facebook page

1006 East Lamar Alexander Parkway
 Maryville, TN 37804
 Phone: 865-980-2130
 Fax: 865-980-2130

Sequatchie River Trip Report, May 22, 2010

On Saturday, May 22, a group of Chota paddlers met in Kingston to travel to and paddle the Sequatchie River in south central Tennessee. The day promised to be warm, sunny and free of rain although we did encounter some sprinkles on the trip to the river.

In attendance were Marc Mangold, Doug Johnstone, Paul Dalhaimer, Jen Jones, Debby Alexander, and Paul Alexander. None had paddled the river before and were not sure what to expect, especially since middle Tennessee had torrential rains just weeks prior.

The trip was planned around a write-up in **Bob Lantz's/Bob Sehlinger's book *A Canoeing and Kayaking Guide to the Streams of Tennessee***, published in 1979. It indicated that the Sequatchie was suitable for beginners, intermediates, and families. The only hazards indicated were dams, deadfalls, and low bridges. Also, the minimum runnable water was defined as 150 cfs. Early in January Paul and Debby scouted the river and determined with adequate water it appeared to be an excellent river to paddle although the takeouts were not the greatest. As the trip date arrived, the TVA river flow chart was consulted and the Sequatchie was running at 359 cfs.

The group arrived, 2 hours after leaving Kingston, at the old Ketner Mill (built in 1824). The only dam on the river was just above the mill - a significant hazard with no real warning signs. We put in at the sandy beach below the dam. The day was already starting to warm and several fishermen were preparing to float the same section of river that we had planned.



The group comprised of four touring boats and one flat water canoe. Paul Dalhaimer was borrowing a boat from

Doug and despite the absence of a rudder or drop down skeg he managed to keep the boat on course and finished the trip with only 2 wet exits and a sore back. The river proved to be an exceptional trip, one that paddlers with all skill levels could enjoy.

There were no low bridges encountered on our 12 mile sojourn (although originally



advertised as an 11 mile trip). One noticed that during high water or perhaps from some of the rain that Nashville received, logs and trees were pushed high on the surrounding banks, sometimes as much as 10-15 feet above the current water level. There were numerous sections of class 1.0 rapids that required close attention to stay in the channel that fish-tailed all over the river. Based on the water flow we encountered I would not recommend the trip below 250-300 cfs if glass boats are used. The conditions could not have been better.

Doug had contemplated bringing his white-water solo canoe, but decided at the last minute to bring his glass touring boat a decision he was satisfied with. Debby and Paul with their Kevlar Sawyer canoe and bent shaft paddles aptly negotiated the turns and maintained a steady pace for the **group. Through the 's' turns, if one listened closely, a squeal of glee or maybe that was just a smile of excitement that Jen emitted as she experienced her first moving water (that required negotiation) in her touring boat. Jen indicated that she would be back to tube the river and the only thing that she would want to finish this trip for was a Vegan Pizza. Marc was happy to be out on the river and not at a High School graduation that was previously planned. Doug is still saying 'hut' and his wife cannot understand why he turns every time he says it.**

The river was plenty deep and wide through the entire trip. The only takeouts are at bridges and one needs to plan ahead as many have no parking for a shuttle car and no adequate takeout. This trip is one that should be on the Chota agenda every spring. All enjoyed the trip and returned to Knoxville and Kingston by different routes.

Paul Alexander

General Trip Information

Contact your trip leader by the Thursday before the scheduled trip (unless otherwise noted). The trip may be cancelled if there are too few participants.

Trips are for Chota members. E. TN Whitewater Club (ETWC) members are welcome too.

To join Chota, use the membership form in this newsletter issue or visit our website at www.paddlechota.org. You can also take your membership form and dues to the trip leader on the day of the trip.

Club equipment (boats and gear) are available to Chota members at no charge. We want to assure all club members have fair access to gear so return your borrowed Chota equipment by the Tuesday following the trip. A \$20 late fee is charged for late returns.

If you are interested in using club equipment, please contact Mary Ann Grell at (865) 207-6250 or magrell@yahoo.com

Contact Mary Ann Grell or Doug Johnstone if you are interested in leading a whitewater or touring trip.

If you are a member of the Chota listserv, you can sometimes learn of informal trips being taken by the membership.

Visit our website at www.paddlechota.org to **join, click on "Members Online"**.

Our Chota facebook page is also a good source of info on breaking news and **"after rain" trips**.

CHOTA CANOE CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership for one year from July 1 thru June 30



\$20 Membership Fee Enclosed
 New Member Renewing Member Change of Address

Name(s): _____
Street: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Phone: (home) _____ (work) _____
E-mail address: _____

Please indicate boats currently paddled: K1 OC1 OC2 C1 Touring K1
Other (please specify): _____
Skill level: Beginner Novice Intermediate Advanced Expert

Interest Area:

- Whitewater Class 3 and above trips
- Hairless whitewater Class 1/2/(3) trips
- Touring Adventure Trips
- Overnight canoe camping trips (rivers/lakes)
- Touring kayak overnight trips
- Day trips
- Weekday evening local trips
- Youth Activities
- Weekday evening paddle trips
- Hairless trips
- Whitewater trips
- Conservation Activities
- Safety Activities
- Canoe School
- Whitewater canoe or kayak
- Touring kayak
- Western Trips
- Whitewater
- Touring kayaks
- Gulf kayak touring Trips
- Day trips
- Self contained overnight trips

Time to
Renew your
Membership?

Please do.

Waiver: Chota Canoe Club activities may involve risk to persons or property. I agree to hold harmless from any liability the Chota Canoe Club, its officers and its members, collectively or as individuals, for any damage or loss of property or any personal injury or death to myself, anyone in my boat, or any member of my family covered by this membership while at any Chota Canoe Club function or on the way to or from it.

Date / Signature(s) / (Parent or Guardian if under 18)

Send to: Chota Canoe Club
PO Box 51194
Knoxville, TN 37950-1194

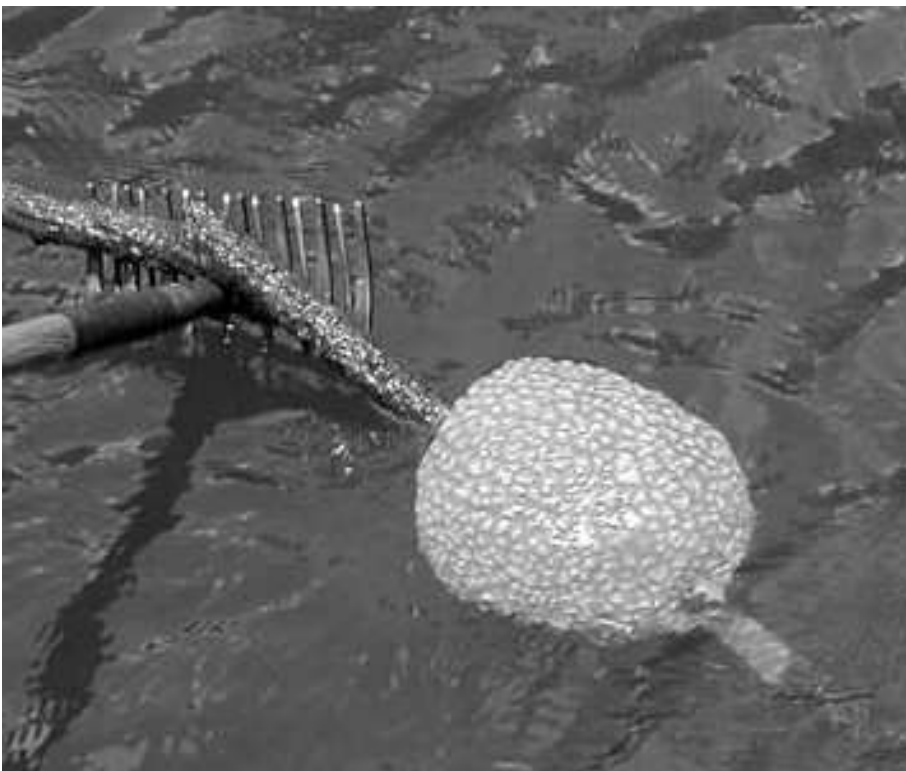
Chota Canoe Club ~ Promote community paddle sport activities, safety awareness and techniques, while being actively environmentally responsible.



Chota Canoe Club
PO Box 51194
Knoxville, TN 37950-1194

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Boater Discovers BRAIN POD In Murky Depths



Have you ever paddled the Class II+ section of Abrams Creek down from the campground or paddled Abrams creek up from Chilhowee Lake?

Did you see those balls of "goo" just below the surface. What the heck are they???

New Chota member Steve Davis did some research, checked a few web sites, and reports that they are Fresh Water Bryozoans.

Actually, it is a colony of them forming the gelatinous cauliflower-like ball. A life-form dating back some 500 million years, this bivalve is a member of the animal phylum **Ectoprocta** and it is one of Earth's oldest life-forms.

See something weird in the water?

Take a pic, send your query or guess-planation to the newsletter guy at rsc@w3st.com