

About the Alabama Scenic River Trail



**An idea by Fred Couch in July 2006
after paddling the Lewis & Clark Trail**

Our Mission

To enhance community development in recreation and tourism with emphasis on opportunities to expand safety & education on over 6,000 miles of rivers and streams with the longest historic waterway in the United States,

**We tell leaders – that waterway near you –
- - - - - we can tell you how to make \$\$\$ from it !**

ASRT Board and Staff

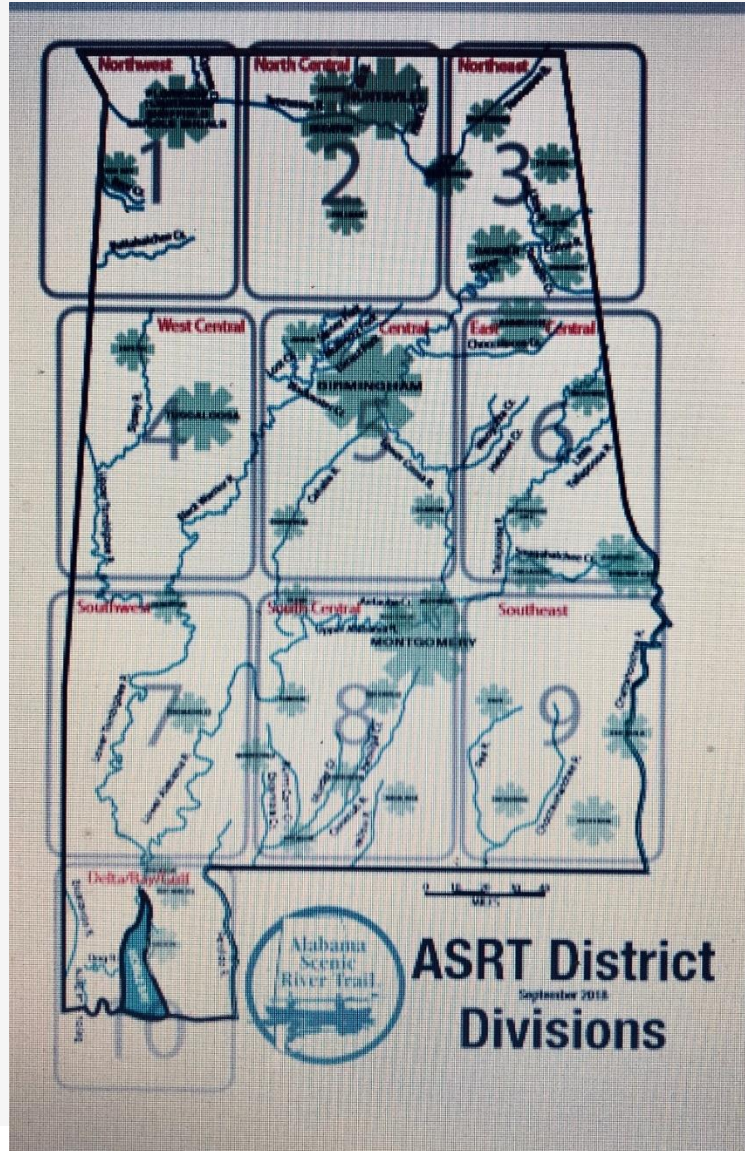
Board

- A. 5 Executive Board Members - President Linda Vice
- B. 10 District Directors - Shown on next slide
- C. Portage Trail Director - Ken Brewer

Staff

- A. Executive Director - Jay Grantland
- B. Operations Manager - Fred Couch (the Founder)
- C. Media Manager - Laura Gaddy
- D. Web Consultant - Jim Felder (first Executive Director)
- E. Membership/ Admin - unfilled

ASRT 10 District Divisions



2018 District Directors

1. Dean Hubbard
2. Don Bowling
3. Thereasa Hulan
4. Tom McLeod
5. Elyse Peters
6. currently vacant
7. currently vacant
8. Sherry Johnston
9. Mike Mullen
10. Anna Bryant

These are elected every 3 years

2006 - 2007



No camping

Alabama Power & Army Corps loved the idea & agreed to allow Portage Signs at their Dams

National Park Service assigned an Advisor

Alabama Tourism printed 25,000 river brochures we designed for the State Welcome Centers

Gave 72 State Trail Leaders a note "Longest Water Trail In One State" & a hard-boiled egg—so they would never forget !

2007- 2008 Over 100 Volunteers



Became National Recreation Trail

Produced 4 Guidebooks

Hired Executive Director

Website Won National Award

23 Counties did Support Resolutions

Grand Opening – June 2008

2010 – Wilcox County – 350 Volunteers



**Cleaned every dirt road,
alley, residential street,
county road, state road
and 62 miles of the
Alabama River
in 4 hours = 20 tons !**

**Alabama Power barge boat
stayed a week after
picking up larger items**

Paddle Our Core 650 Mile Trail – Earn This Patch

**25 People Have
Paddled Our 650
Mile Core Trail**

22 Men & 3 Women

**Youngest age 18
Oldest age 79**



Fastest = Ardie Olsen
**12 Days 2 Hours 9
Minutes**

Worked His Way =
Master Carpenter
Doug Wicklund in
6 Months

Get Outdoors in Alabama



ASRT has created over \$17 Million Dollars in Free Publicity



Anniston Star – 6 feature Articles

Gadsden Times – 3 feature Articles

New York Times – feature article & video

Alabama Power – twice in their PowerGrams

USA Today – Travel Feature

Sea Kayaker magazine – 8-page article

400 + TV, Radio, Newspapers + Online Media

53 'Adopted' Waterways = over 6,000 Navigable Miles

**2008 – started
Trail Angels –
local volunteers
who assist
paddlers**



**2017 – began
opening Chapters
– and providing
grants to help local
waterways**

Signage = by Jan 2018 over 3,900 signs

213 Campsite Signs

2 Trail Angel signs

230 Safety Access Signs

Icon sign on over 300 Riverkids kayaks

100 National Recreation Trail Signs

50 National Water Trail signs

70 Portage Trail signs

3,000 Free Bumper Stickers and Decals

2 Historic Monument Signs – Start & End

– only ALDOT 'now' has more signs in the state.

4,500 Mile Markers project starts in fall of 2018

10,000 Free Decals planned soon to 50 outfitters

– will total over 18,000 signs in state



230 Safety Access Signs

\$100,000 Grant

3 Year Project

60 Different Signs

On 56 Waterways

Installation took 9 Months



Be An ASRT Trail Angel

Volunteers who help paddlers

1. **Arrange their trip**
2. **Locate Outfitters & Gear**
3. **Provide Directions**
4. **Help with Portages**
5. **And, more**

Get This Free Tee Shirt

List Name & Phone No. on Website



You Too Have Ideas & So Will Your Volunteers



**ASRT Wants To Help You
Improve Your Favorite Waterway(s)**
**Your Ideas + Our Grants
= A Win-Win for Everyone**

Basically Two Ways

- 1. Start An ASRT Chapter**
- 2. Your Paddle Club is a 501c3**

**The Rest of These Slides Tell How
or Ask Fred 256-591-0437**

Fredcanoes@aol.com

Main ASRT Projects

1. Open Waters
2. Mile Markers
3. 4H-Riverkids and River Explorers
4. Obtain Campsite Every 8 – 10 Miles
5. Inspire Kids to Enter ASRT/Ala Sport Games Kayak Race
6. Start Chapters

Project Open Waters — in infancy — partnering with RC&D offices and Rescue Squads to clear log jams, trash & strainers out of waterways



**The Childersburg Rescue Squad earned \$1,000 in One Day
Clearing Logjams on Talladega Creek**

Mile Marker Project

**Our Goal Is To Partner
With Rescue Squads to
Install These Signs on Our
Adopted Waterways to
Know Where You Are**

– Very Important for Safety





We Give Sit-On-Top Kayaks

4-H Riverkids & River Explorers

ASRT has **\$51,000** in our current budget to buy up to 12 trailers with 12 - 16 kayaks, life jackets, & paddles which we provide **FREE** to county area 4-H Riverkids locales or PARD city offices that agree to teach kids in at least 4 annual courses for **FREE**. Currently this is on going in 27 counties – soon it will be 30 counties - **goal is all 67 counties.**

Add a Campsite every 8 – 10 miles on your waterway



1. Only Big Enough For 2 Tents
2. or Hammocks for
3. Up To 6 People
4. With A Fire Ring
5. Only A Landowner Can Drive To
6. To Camp No More Than 2 Days
7. Has an ASRT Campsite Sign
8. River Mile & Lat/Lon on Website

We teach you how to easily obtain these

Camping on Alabama Waterways

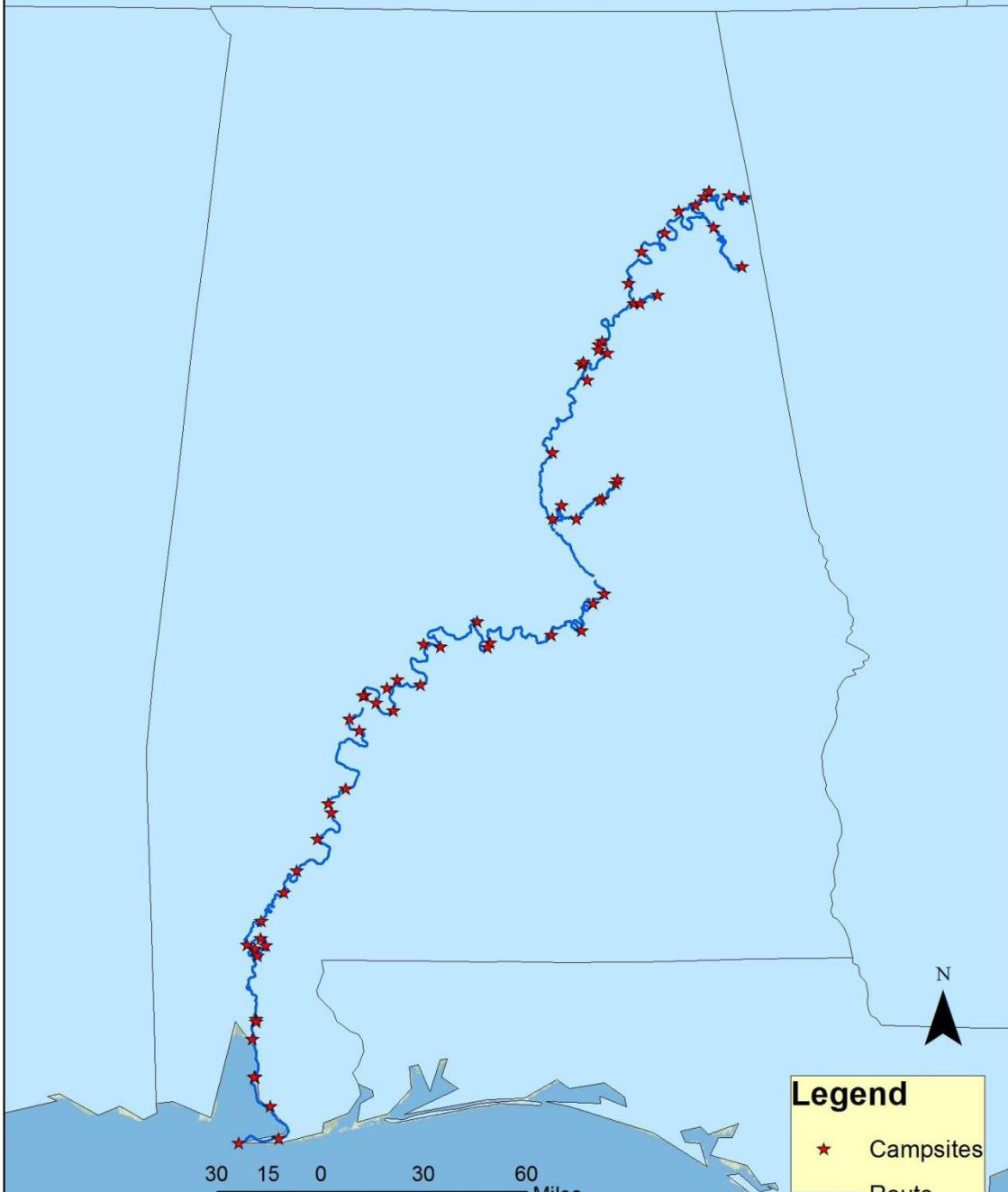
ASRT Campers are welcome in homes, on sandbars, and plentiful campsites - as listed on our website



**In Eleven Years With
213 Campsites
We Have Had
NOT ONE Complaint**



Alabama Scenic River Trail Campsite Map



Map shows legitimate 2012 campsites

Statewide in 2018 - 213 campsites

- 1. Primitive**
- 2. Army Corps campgrounds**
- 3. Private fee campgrounds.**
- 4. Private homes**
- 5. Alabama Power places**
- 6. State Parks**

Pluses:

- 1. Plan your trip on our website**
- 2. Tell spouse/friend exact trip**
- 3. Rescuers find you sooner**
- 4. You are not trespassing**
- 5. Every 8 to 10 miles !**

Goal for our 6 000 Miles= 600 Campsites

Add Access Steps and a 'Kayak/Canoe Railroad'



Railroad Ties for Steps

**Four-inch UV Treated PVC Pipe
18" Apart**

**Add a Steel Post at Top with Eye
Bolt for Belays**

**This Access on Big Wills Creek
near Attalla**

ASRT – Alabama State Games annual Kids Kayak Lake Race



ALABAMA STATE GAMES XXXVII
June 7-9, 2019

OLYMPIC DAY

KAYAK SPRINT

Saturday, June 8

Brahan Spring Park Lagoon - East Side
2213 Drake Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35805

Tournament Directors Fred Couch & Pete Smith

Online Registration Opens Friday, March 1st

100 Meter (384 Feet) Sprint Race

Event Fees
\$10 per racer for the first 100 racers
\$25 per racer after the first 100 racers

Age Divisions (Boys & Girls)
7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18

Alabama Scenic River Trail will provide all racing boats and equipment.

Sponsored By:

HOSTED BY:

HUNTSVILLE
The Star of Alabama

HUNTSVILLE
Parks & Recreation

HUNTSVILLE
we've got space

FOR INFO:
WWW.ALAGAMES.COM
800-467-0422

@ASFFFOUNDATION

For kids 7 to 18

Short distance = 384 feet

Kayaks, paddle, pfd's supplied by ASRT

Photo finish timing

Opening Olympic Friday Night Ceremony

Race on Saturday June 8

Register March 1- May 15

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Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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ASRT Kayak – Alabama State Games Opening Ceremony



Friends Enjoying Alabama Waterways & ASRT



How to become an ASRT Chapter

1. Ask Fredcanoeb@aol.com for Chapter details
2. Just need 3 people to start an ASRT Chapter
3. Visit and enjoy website = www.ASRT.me or www.AlabamaScenicRiverTrail.com
4. Do Bylaws, Obtain free EIN and (if you wish) become IRS Non-Profit status (\$275 IRS fee)
5. Eligible then for Chapter grant up to \$1,500 – and get your \$275 reimbursed
6. Do 'Open Waters,' Get Campsites, Install Mile Markers, Add Ramps Etc. to Your Waterway
7. Add waterways for ASRT to 'Adopt' – Campsites increase Tourism \$\$\$ to your area
8. Enlist kids – ages 7 to 19 – in annual June Olympic ASRT / Alabama State Games

The IRS has a two-tiered filing fee structure. Organizations filing the standard Form 1023 pay a \$600 filing fee when sending their application to the IRS. Organizations filing Form 1023-EZ pay a reduced \$275 filing fee.

Any organization that has gross receipts in each taxable year of normally not more than \$5,000. Only certain organizations are eligible to apply for exemption under section 501(c)(3) using Form 1023-EZ. To determine if you are eligible to file Form 1023-EZ, you must complete the Form 1023-EZ Eligibility Worksheet.....Jan 1, 2018.

Historic Monument 650 Mile Trail End sign at Fort Morgan

**Dedication set for
February 4, 2019**



**An Anonymous Donor Contributed this Theme Song
Which Captures the Concepts and History of Our Alabama Waterways**

