

## 2019 Ocean Skills Development

Another Ocean Skills Development course is concluded with a batch of students, both new and experienced with the ocean environment. Those who've been to the ocean before were given opportunity to refresh and build on their skills and knowledge, while those new to that environment were given a solid foundation towards a deeper understanding.

As members of Inland Sea Kayakers, Michelle and I have a mission that our club continue to develop its members to be the best they strive to be; so, we continue to develop our coaching skills and provide opportunity to club members. Thank you for this opportunity for us to serve the membership.

As promised, we kept our student/teacher ratios low to provide the best learning opportunities of individualized attention to match all skill levels. Eight students this year, so we added an extra coach (which make 3), Dawn Stewart from North Carolina.



The house we rent for the week was spacious clean and very accommodating to our group. It even has a rooftop view of the Savannah River, where we are able to extend our navigation exercises and learning. There's even a well-maintained hot tub up there where many evening sunsets were observed.



The area provides us with several options and environments for skill building to include: gradual surf environment progressions, moving current with and without obstacles, navigation while journeying through tidal marsh and rescues in moving/wavy waters.



Notes from our participants:

*“Quality of instructors - You are both clearly very knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and patient. “*

*“Style of teaching - what I was reminded of during this training is that I am a "hands-on" - "show me" kind of learner. Probably more so than most of the other attendees, I needed to be talked through some of the new situations I encountered. You were very approachable which allowed me to ask for what I needed. “*

*“Course Content - As advertised, thorough, good introduction for someone like me who was new to ocean paddling.”*

*“Lodging, food, hospitality - can't think of any way it this could have been better”*

*“ I felt fortunate to attend and to be in a supportive learning environment. “*

*“I want to thank you again for the incredible amount of work (I started to list things but the list got too long) you guys and Dawn put in to make last week possible. This includes both on and off the water. The fact that it all went smoothly and people had a good time is a testament to that work, but when things work well we tend to overlook the effort it takes to make that happen. Thanks again. “*

Stay tuned for this event to repeat in 2020.

Refresh and renew your spirit from the winter while (re)acquainting your ocean skills in a nurturing and learning environment.

## Michelle Forseth

- American Canoe Association *Level 4 Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor*
- BCU 4 Star Leader

## Jeffrey Forseth

- American Canoe Association *Level 4 Open Water Coastal Kayaking Instructor*
- British Canoeing *Sea Kayak Coach*

Visit us at: [www.seakayaksafety.com](http://www.seakayaksafety.com)