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## Maryland Community News

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**Paddle power** by Jeffrey Lyles

*Staff Writer*

The Anacostia Watershed Society, or AWS, invites area residents to take part in Paddle Nights, an ongoing summer program, created this year to get more people out on the Anacostia River, said AWS officials.

"It's an open night where we bring folks out to the water and let them take canoes and kayaks out," said Pat Gladding, director of operations for the Bladensburg-based AWS. "We give basic instruction and it's great to get people to come out and get an awareness of the water. We fire up the grill and serve hot dogs to help everyone keep their energy up."

The next Paddle Night will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Anacostia Community Boathouse, 1105 O St. SE in Washington, D.C.

Gladding said response for the events have been positive, with the Aug. 17 event having 40 people responding to participate.

"It's growing. We hope to keep them going through October as the fall is a really nice time to get out on the water," Gladding said.

For more information, call AWS at 301-699-6204.

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